

FINAL

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
April 21, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes
Nuthatch Hollow, Vestal, NY

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at Nuthatch Hollow in Vestal on April 21, 2012. The meeting was called to order by President Gail Kirch at 9:30 a.m.

Present were, **Tim Baird, Mike DeSha, Gail Kirch, Joan Collins, Victor Lamoureux** (after lunch), **Andy Mason, Kathy Schneider, Bob Spahn, and Angus Wilson.** Linda Benedict, Berna Lincoln, **Shai Mitra,** and **Carena Pooth** attended via teleconference.

Summary of Action Items:

- Approved February 4, 2012 Board Meeting minutes with changes. (Item 1)
- Approved appointments of Willie D'Anna and Tom Burke to NYSARC terms ending on 12/31/14. (Item 2)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Bob Spahn made a motion to accept the February 4, 2012 meeting minutes with changes. Tim Baird seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
2. **President's Report** – Gail Kirch gave the report. Gail sent thank you notes to members who renewed at the Kingbird level of \$100. Albert and Nancy Loomis were sent a letter of appreciation for hosting the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

Willie D'Anna and Tom Burke would like to serve another term on NYSARC. Andy Mason made a motion to approve the appointments of Willie D'Anna and Tom Burke to NYSARC terms ending on 12/31/14. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report** – Andy Mason gave the Treasurer's Report. Andy presented the Balance Sheet and the Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity through March 31, 2012. He changed the checking account, due to a \$29.95 monthly maintenance fee on the Bank of America account, to a different type of checking account at Bank of America with lower fees. The savings account was rolled into the checking account.
4. **Annual Meeting:** Gail Kirch gave the report. There will be no additional charges for the meeting from the Treadway Inn. Kevin McGowan will send Gail his presentation topic for the Annual Meeting. We need a policy on whether we pay for speakers. There will be a special rate for Treadway Inn hotel rooms. Gail and Bill Ostrander are working on field trips. Tim Baird agreed to design the flyer, and prepare the registration form to be included in *New York Birders*. Andy Mason will receive the registration checks and keep a list of attendees. Kathy Schneider will greet lunch attendees and bring name tags.

NYSOA has some electronic documents to help future clubs plan Annual Meetings.

5. Committee Reports

Archives – Linda Benedict gave a written report. She is trying to use a more traditional archive organization for the files than what was used in the past. There will be an easier finding key when people request documents from Cornell.

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Awards – Gail Kirch gave the report. She reiterated that the purpose of the Stoner Award is to encourage participation in the Annual Meeting, and not simply for merit. We do not need a resolution for one-day Annual Meetings for Stoner Awards. Carena will put a notice on the website that the 2012 Annual Meeting is a one-day meeting.

Elliott Award: Shai Mitra would like a small committee to look over nominations. Berna Lincoln mentioned that historically, *The Kingbird* editor, the season's highlights editor, and the regional reports' editor decided. Shai would like the regional reports' editor involved and publications chair plus himself to be the committee. So Bob Spahn, Tim Baird, and Shai Mitra will be the Elliott Award committee. Angus also volunteered to be on the Elliott Award committee. Berna Lincoln reminded everyone that the Elliott Award winner receives a certificate plus \$100 and that we need to reinstate this money award.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn had no report.

Conservation – Andy Mason gave the report. Joan Collins authored comments on the NYS DEC Spruce Grouse Recovery Plan. The issue of Double-crested Cormorant control in the North Country was discussed. The committee is concerned about the new DEC program to train local residents in how to harass cormorants on Black Lake.

eBird – Bob Spahn gave the report. Carena Pooth provided historical information on the eBird – NYSOA relationship. Historically, Cornell wanted a \$900 annual maintenance fee for the NYS eBird portal, with half coming from NYSOA and half from Audubon NY. Jillian Liner, Audubon NY, emailed Carena to ask if NYSOA has been paying this fee. NYSOA has never entered into a contract to pay for the NYS portal. (Carena worked on the website, and Bob worked on filters for each region and screeners for the NYS eBird page.) The consensus of the board is that eBird is a good place to input and store data, but we do not need a NYS eBird portal.

eBird provides instantaneous information. The board discussed NYSOA's position in the new electronic world. NYSOA needs to focus on things it does well: historical perspective in regional reports, journal articles, newsletter, NYSARC, field trips, annual meeting, and Young Birders' Club.

Finance – Berna Lincoln gave the report. The Finance Committee discussed changes made to the bank account type due to the monthly fees.

Marketing/Publicity/Field Trips – Kathy Schneider gave the report. Coffee mug proposal: We are working with Sue Adair to obtain artwork to use on mugs. The NYSOA logo will be on the other side. Sue will offer her artwork to us for half the price.

Pat and John Thaxton will do a workshop/field trip up Whiteface Mountain for high elevation species in early July. The presentation will be held at the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge and Rehabilitation Center in Wilmington at 3p.m., followed by the field trip the next morning.

Membership – Berna Lincoln gave the report. There are 501 individual members. 465 paid for this year. 36 members have July expiration dates. To date, 79 members have not renewed (expired in Jan.) 31 club renewals are back, with 13 left to go. Last year was first year for email renewals. Response to email renewals is disappointing. Carena Pooth suggested sending more reminder email renewals – more than just two.

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Nominating Committee – Joan Collins gave the report. Travel to board meetings has been an issue. It was suggested that the board might consider holding one of its meetings at the time of the Annual Meeting. There was a question regarding filling Carena Pooth's unexpired term, since she will hit the upper limit of 8 continuous years on the board in the middle of her current two-year director term. Berna Lincoln stated Carena should resign a day before the Annual Meeting and we will fill the position at the Annual Meeting.

NYSARC – Angus Wilson gave the report. Angus Wilson gave the 2010 Annual Report to Shai for *The Kingbird*. Angus is reviewing 2011 now. Two committee members' terms expire in December 2012. Jeanne Skelly wants to retire from being NYSARC secretary, but there is no one to replace her yet.

NYS Young Birders Club– Carena Pooth gave the report. She provided a written report. Carena created a new hall of fame web page on the Young Birders' website. She sent a publicity article to partner clubs and all NYSOA clubs. The club has mostly younger members now, with many of the older club members having moved on to college. The World Series of Birding is the most important fund raiser of the year for the club.

Organization Handbook – Mike DeSha gave the report. Mike has been reviewing earlier minutes to make sure everything was covered. He is still awaiting more board/committee chair inputs.

Publications – Tim Baird gave the report. Tim will send out the April issue of *New York Birders* soon. Tim still needs a replacement as Editor. He needs information for the July issue by June 1st.

Shai Mitra reported the March issue of *The Kingbird* is going to the printers this week. Shai is still working on printing issues including missing page signatures. He queried 50 people and 3 had defective copies. He replaced their copies with extras. Shai is working on solutions.

Research – Victor Lamoureux had no report.

Website & Information Services – Carena Pooth gave the report. See written report for website updates.

County Lists - Reports for 2009 and 2011 will be in the April issue of *New York Birders*.

6. Old Business:

Annual Meeting 2013 and 2014: 2013 – Chemung Valley Audubon may hold the Annual Meeting in Bath. 2014 – Joan Collins will ask Northern NY Audubon. Bedford Audubon is also a possibility. 2015 - Bill Lee will ask Hudson Mohawk Bird Club to host the meeting in Albany.

Retention of Present Members & Attracting New Members - Need Membership Chair: Someone who could run campaigns to recruit new members is needed. Shai Mitra requested that Berna Lincoln create a list of people who are about to lapse so board members can personally contact them. Berna and Barbara Butler will prepare the list of names for the board. Board members will let other board members know when they plan to contact a potentially lapsed member.

Review of Mailings to members/member clubs before sending out: Kathy Schneider, Andy Mason, and Shai Mitra, volunteered to be a group that will review mailings. Carena Pooth will send out the mailings and there will be an email address within the body of the message for replies.

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Location of future board meetings: Kathy Schneider worked with Craig Thompson and found an Albany location at Five Rivers for our board meetings. This location is free. The November board meeting will be in Albany.

7. New Business:

HANA request (RIT): Executive Committee will decide on a possible club award to the Rochester Birding Association, which could then contribute to HANA (High Acres Nature Area) for their research, monitoring, and habitat restoration projects.

Muckrace: We have not yet been approached to sponsor a team this year.

8. Adjournment – Andy Mason made a motion to adjourn at 2:43 p.m. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary