

**FINAL**  
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.  
November 3, 2012  
Five Rivers Environmental Center, Delmar, NY

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at the Five Rivers Environmental Center in Delmar, NY, on November 3, 2012. The meeting was called to order by President Gail Kirch at 9:30am.

Present were Janet Allison, **Tim Baird**, Barbara Butler, **Joan Collins**, **Mike DeSha**, **Gail Kirch**, **Bill Ostrander**, Carena Pooth, **Kathy Schneider**, and **Mary Beth Warburton**. Seth Ausubel, Kevin Griffith, Shai Mitra, and Bob Spahn attended via teleconference.

**Summary of Action Items:**

Approved July 14, 2012, Board Meeting minutes with changes. (Item 1)  
Approved make-up of Executive Committee for 2013. (Item 5)

1. Approval of Minutes: Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the July 14, 2012, meeting minutes with changes. Bill Ostrander seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.
2. President's Report: Gail Kirch gave the report. We are currently in need of chairs for the Membership, Research, and Awards committees, and an editor for the newsletter, *New York Birders*. Gail will write a letter to member clubs looking for volunteers. She also got a check from Andy Mason for Mike Manske, awarded the Elliot Award for 2011. Gail also reported that Andy Mason received a thank you note from the Rochester Birding Association for the grant of \$250 that NYSOA made to the High Acres Nature Center. Gail and Victor Lamoureux updated the NYSOA display board and Gail will send the images to Linda Clark Benedict for the archives.
3. Treasurer's Report: Andy Mason posted his report on the boardplus page. His report included the Balance Sheet, General Operating Fund Activity, and Fund Balances through September 30, 2012. There is no unusual activity to report.
4. 2012 Annual Meeting: Gail Kirch gave the report. She wrote thank you letters to the speaker, Kevin McGowan, and to the Treadway Inn for their hospitality at the September annual meeting. Joan Collins suggested that, at future annual meetings, it would be good to introduce the new Board and thank those leaving at the business meeting, as this would spur interest in volunteering to work on the Board. She suggested this be put in the NYSOA Handbook as a responsibility of the President. A discussion occurred about paying speakers at NYSOA events, including field trips, an honorarium, and/or travel expenses. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the next Board meeting in February. Joan Collins will finalize the minutes of the annual meeting and get them to Shai Mitra for the December *Kingbird*.
5. Tim Baird made a motion that the Executive Committee of NYSOA for 2013 will be Gail Kirch, Kathy Schneider, and Mike DeSha. Seconded by Joan Collins, it passed unanimously.
6. Introduction of New Board Members: Kathy Schneider led new and old member introductions and supplied a draft list of key committee members. Joan Collins will update the online Board and Committee Roster. Mike DeSha suggested new members read the new Handbook online for an understanding of how the organization works and what the Board members responsibilities are. Carena Pooth noted the 50<sup>th</sup> year

special issue of *The Kingbird* (Volume 48 Supplement 1, September 1998 available on the website) includes a history of NYSOA which would be helpful to new Board members.

7. DEC Report: No report given as Dan Rosenblatt did not attend.

8. Committee Reports:

Archives: No report.

Awards: Gail Kirch reported that the chair position is not yet filled. Someone is needed to arrange for the Stoner Award, given to allow students to attend the annual meeting. Carena Pooth noted that it may not be worthwhile to give the award for a single day annual meeting. Shai Mitra will handle the Elliott Award with Bob Spahn and Angus Wilson.

Conservation: Andy Mason resubmitted a previous query to the Board about financial support for legal action to overturn the DEC endangered species incidental take permit adjacent to the Shawangunk NWR. It was generally agreed that we should not get involved in legal action in this instance. There was discussion as to how and when NYSOA might take that step.

Gerry Smith submitted an article on cormorant management to appear in the October *New York Birders*, subsequent to the Conservation Committee's discussion with the DEC regarding their decision to allow private citizens to harass cormorants as a means of control.

Joan Collins reported that the 69,000 acres of Finch-Pruyn lands in the Adirondacks purchased by the Nature Conservancy has now been transferred to state protection due to the last-minute intervention of Governor Andrew Cuomo. Joan also reported that the DEC has increased the bobcat trapping season to four months despite 16,000 public comments opposed. She foresees political action due to anger over this decision.

e-Bird: Bob Spahn gave the report of nothing new on e-Bird. There was discussion regarding the state list generated by e-Bird which summarizes data sent in but does not perform rigorous reviews to create a list as NYSARC does. Also discussion about recently issued guidelines for screeners.

Finance: No report from Berna Lincoln (due to power and telephone outage from Superstorm Sandy). Kathy Schneider noted that budget requests from committee chairs need to be sent to Berna now as the budget will be voted on at the February meeting.

Handbook: Mike DeSha reported on the positive experience of assembling the new NYSOA Organizational Handbook. The reports he received from committees were all excellent and now he needs to contact those who haven't yet sent reports.

Marketing/Publicity/Field Trips: Kathy Schneider gave the report. She will represent NYSOA at Raptor Rapture Day at the NYS Museum sponsored by the Capitol Region Audubon Society for the second year, but is looking for additional help. She will use the newly updated display board. Kathy also reported that plans were underway for three field trips in 2013: one on January 12-13 for winter irruptive species, one in March for waterfowl at Bashakill WMA, and one to Fort Drum on Memorial Day weekend.

Membership: This committee is in need of a chair to promote membership. Circulation manager Barbara Butler gave a report (also posted online). As of the end of October 2012, there are 580 individual and life members, down from 603 in 2011. Although 51 new members joined this year, 69 did not renew. Of the 44 clubs represented in 2011, 39 renewed. There was discussion about the possible reasons for this and

how NYSOA should be promoted. Kathy Schneider will check if the Capitol Region Audubon Society will join. Barbara will create a new abbreviated member list to be posted on the boardplus page.

Nominating: Andy Mason, now chair, reported online that the committee had begun gathering information. There will be a need to fill the following positions in 2013: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and four directors.

NYSARC: No report. Gail Kirch will contact Angus Wilson to check if he will continue to chair this committee.

NYS Young Birders Club: Carena Pooth reported on the “amazing experience” of a two-day trip to see Saw-whet Owl banding and a visit to Bashakill WMA with nine young birders. Membership in the group remains constant. The YBC report of finances from Annette Lehner is posted online.

Publications: Shai Mitra has agreed to be chair of this committee. Tim Baird will stay on the committee but no longer be the editor of *New York Birders* after the completion of the October issue. We are still looking for a replacement for Tim.

Shai Mitra and Barbara Butler reported that the September *Kingbird* is ready to go out. The December issue is in prep. Joan Collins will send him the September annual meeting minutes for inclusion. The waterfowl summary from Bill Ostrander will likely appear in March. The NYSARC 2011 Annual Report from Angus Wilson is quite lengthy. A question arose about whether the new checklist order was used by Angus for the 2011 report. Shai will check with Angus. We need a season’s highlights editor for December.

Research: Kevin Griffith has agreed to chair this committee. Others interested in involvement with the committee are Victor Lamoureux, Bill Ostrander, Mary Beth Warburton, and Jeremy Kirchman. Bill Ostrander will manage the Waterfowl Count, compiling all bird club data and giving it to the DEC. A question arose as to whether the DEC was still compiling these counts to publish in *The Kingbird*, but compilers are still listed on the DEC website. Kathy Schneider asked if the old data would be published in *The Kingbird* and Carena Pooth thinks she may have a spreadsheet with these data.

Website and Information Services: Carena Pooth posted a full report on the boardplus web page. Highlights included changes to checklists for the AOU 53<sup>rd</sup> supplement, the 2010 NYSARC report added, and the 2012 CBC page launched.

#### 9. Old Business:

Future Annual Meetings: Possibilities for 2013 and beyond were discussed. There is still no solid commitment for 2013, which may result in another one day meeting. Presently scheduled:

- 2013: open
- 2014: Cayuga
- 2015: Hudson/Mohawk (maybe)
- 2016: Northern New York Audubon (maybe)
- 2017: open
- 2018: Rochester( maybe)

Tim Baird offered to chair a committee to explore ways to help clubs develop an annual meeting. Shai Mitra volunteered to be on the committee. Ideas included developing a how-to packet for local clubs (a document updated by Carena Pooth in 2011 is already available), and providing logistical and financial support to clubs.

10. New Business:

Dates for 2013 Board Meetings: Dates were set as follows:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| February 9    | Nuthatch Hollow, Vestal, NY                             |
| April 6 or 13 | Montezuma NWR (Joan Collins will check on availability) |
| July 13       | Nuthatch, Binghamton, NY                                |
| November 9    | Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, NY  |

11. Adjournment: Kathy Schneider made a motion to adjourn, Tim Baird seconded and it was unanimously approved at 12:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Allison  
Recording Secretary