

FINAL
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
February 9, 2013
1099 Powderhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met via teleconference due to a bad weather event. The meeting was called to order by President Gail Kirch at 9:40am.

Present were Janet Allison, **Seth Ausubel**, **Tim Baird**, Linda Benedict, Barbara Butler, **Joan Collins**, **Michael DeSha**, **Kevin Griffith**, **Gail Kirch**, Berna Lincoln, Andy Mason, **Shai Mitra**, **Bill Ostrander**, Carena Pooth, **Kathy Schneider**, **MaryBeth Warburton**, and **Angus Wilson**.

Summary of Action Items:

- Approved November 3, 2012, Board Meeting minutes with changes. (Item 1)
- Approved a motion to make loans to the Queens County Bird Club to cover cash flow requirements for their sponsorship of the 2013 Annual Meeting. (Item 4)
- Approved a motion to provisionally accept the Audubon Society of the Capital Region as a reinstated member club. (Item 6 / Membership)
- Approved a motion to experiment with electronic email distribution of the newsletter for the April issue and do a follow-up satisfaction survey afterwards. (Item 6 / Publications)

1. Approval of Minutes: Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the November 3, 2012, meeting minutes with changes. Tim Baird seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.

2. President's Report: Gail Kirch gave the report. She mailed the Elliott Award to Mike Manske. She also spoke to Victor Lamoureux about getting the display printed and will send digital files. She will assume the responsibility for introducing the Board at the Annual Meeting. Gail noted that Kathy Schneider had a successful field trip to Canton, NY. Three NYSARC members are leaving the committee (Jeff Bolsinger, Andy Guthrie, and Tom Johnson) and Chris Wood has agreed to join. Angus Wilson is looking for additional candidates. Gary Chapin was asked to send thanks to the three members leaving the committee. The Queens County Bird Club (QCBC) has agreed to host the Annual Meeting in November. Cyndy and Richard Tkachuck have taken over as editors for the newsletter.

3. Treasurer's Report: Andy Mason's report is posted on the boardplus page and includes the Balance Sheet, General Operating Fund Activity, and Fund Balances through December 31, 2012. The General Operating Fund showed a deficiency of income over expenses of \$3,196.34 for the year. Berna Lincoln noted that the printing of *The Kingbird* was getting more expensive and we need to look at that deficit.

4. 2013 Annual Meeting: Seth Ausubel gave the report. Seth reviewed details of the planning, including the venue and food arrangements, speakers, marketing, and fundraising. He requested a cash flow commitment from NYSOA immediately in order to sign a contract with the hotel by the end of February and pay additional monies to the hotel required in June. He noted that QCBC only had \$2000 and could not make a commitment unless NYSOA agreed to loan the money for these costs. Berna Lincoln, speaking as chair of the Finance Committee, recommended that NYSOA agree to the required loans and that these advances were to be repaid in full by November 30, 2013. A discussion about what legal arrangements were appropriate given the risk being assumed by NYSOA concluded that Andy Mason would draft a Memorandum of Understanding and circulate it to the Board. (Seth's draft budget for the 2013 Annual Meeting is posted on the boardplus page.)

Shai Mitra made a motion that NYSOA make an immediate loan of \$2840 and a second loan, amount to be determined, in June; he also moved that QCBC make a good faith effort to raise revenues, that NYSOA would be the first creditor to be paid, and paid by the end of November. Kevin Griffith seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Seth Ausubel, Tim Baird, Gail Kirch, and Shai Mitra will be the committee for the Annual Meeting and will hold bi-weekly teleconferences on arrangements. Gail Kirch will moderate these. Tim Baird agreed to write updates on progress for the newsletter and website to start building interest in the meeting. It was agreed that costs associated with the teleconferences would be borne by QCBC.

5. *New York Birders* newsletter: Kathy Schneider gave the report. She worked with the new editors on their first issue for Winter 2012-13. Kathy thanked Tim Baird for his assistance in the transition and everyone who contributed articles for the issue. There was discussion about target dates for publication and the naming of the issues by season instead of specific dates. Berna Lincoln noted that the proposed naming change would make it harder to process postal returns. It was agreed to table this until the July meeting. The deadline for contributions to the spring issue is March 1.

6. Committee Reports:

Archives: Linda Benedict had nothing to report.

Awards (Stoner): Gail Kirch gave the report. The email soliciting nominations needs to go out in early March as the deadline is in June, before the summer Board Meeting. Need to get post office addresses on the form. Carena Pooth will do something to emphasize that part of the form. A resolution as to whether to give out a Stoner Award for a one day Annual Meeting was put off until the April Board meeting.

Bylaws: No report.

eBird: No report.

County Lists: Carena Pooth gave the report. The deadline for submitting county lists is March 15. So far 55 people have sent lists. She is hoping to get these into the spring issue of *New York Birders*. (Report posted on boardplus page.)

Conservation: Andy Mason gave the report. A column on feral cats was submitted for the winter issue of *New York Birders*. They aim to have one article in each issue.

Finance: Berna Lincoln gave the report. She plans to have the operating funds budget ready for the April meeting; it will be a lot like last year with no big changes. She noted the increased cost of *The Kingbird* and the deficit, which needs to be dealt with.

Marketing / Publicity / Field Trips: Kathy Schneider gave the report. She thanked Joan Collins for scouting and leading the Canton field trip. A full report on the trip will be in *New York Birders*. She is planning another to Fort Drum for Memorial Day weekend, led by wildlife biologist Jeff Bolsinger. She is unable to do the waterfowl trip planned for April and is looking to do another on loons in August in the Adirondacks.

Membership: Barbara Butler and Berna Lincoln gave the report. Membership is mostly stable over the last eight years. Renewal notices went to the printer last week. Two clubs that had not renewed for 2012 – Queens County Bird Club and Roger Tory Peterson Institute Bird Club -- now have renewed; four clubs

did not. There have been 31 new or reinstated members since November, including 20 from the December promotion. The Audubon Society of the Capital Region has not paid dues for the past two years. Recently Kathy Schneider reestablished contact with their new president and we will include them in the 2013 renewal notices. Gail Kirch made a motion to provisionally accept ASCR as a member club pending payment of 2013 dues. Shai Mitra seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (Report posted on boardplus page.)

Nominating: Andy Mason gave the report. The committee will begin work shortly. Andy asked how the Board felt about bringing a Young Birders Club Youth Member or alumnus on the Board as a Director. The response was very positive and Carena Pooth suggested several candidates including Hope Batcheller, now in her twenties. To be considered for a position as a NYSOA Director, any candidate is required to be at least 18 years old.

NYSARC: Angus Wilson gave the report. The new secretary, Gary Chapin, is very diligent and very good. Angus is working on finding candidates to replace the three members whose terms have expired. Chris Wood has agreed to join. Gail Kirch will send an email to the Executive Committee to vote on the appointment. If approved, it goes to the full Board for ratification at the next meeting.

NYS Young Birders Club: The fifth annual Kick-off Meeting was held January 20 at the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Westchester County, with the highest participation of any NYSYBC event to date at 16 youth members. There is lots of interest in the World Series of Birding, with possibly three teams participating. Sue Freiberger, parent of two Youth Members, has taken on the job of Field Trips Coordinator. (Report posted on boardplus page.)

Organization Handbook: Mike DeSha gave the report. He has added Joan Collins' description for the recording secretary position. He needs membership and finance descriptions.

Publications: Kathy Schneider discussed electronic distribution of *New York Birders*. She cited the cost of printing and mailing at about \$900 per issue. Board members expressed varying opinions about whether it would be read if sent via email, about the quality of the email list we have, and about surcharges for those who get the print version. Also discussed was whether to send it as an attachment or send a link. Barbara Butler and Berna Lincoln expressed concern about how the circulation and distribution would work. Berna Lincoln noted that she has not had good response to renewal reminders via email. Kathy Schneider, Carena Pooth, Barbara Butler, and Angus Wilson will form a committee to investigate electronic distribution.

Kathy made a motion to experiment with the April issue by sending it both ways to a sample of the membership and follow this up with a satisfaction survey afterwards. Shai Mitra seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Shai Mitra reported that the December issue of *The Kingbird* was delayed due to problems with several articles. It is now complete and being proofread and should mail at the end of February. He plans in future to hold to strict deadlines for submission of articles. Deadline for the March issue is February 20; for the June issue, April 15.

Research: No report as Kevin Griffith had to leave the meeting early.

Website and Information Services: Carena Pooth gave the report. A new checklist has been published with changes from the AOU 53rd Supplement of July 2012. We are selling fewer of them than in the past. Berna Lincoln reported that we are getting the same number of member requests but fewer large orders from businesses or organizations. Carena noted that using the checklist as an incentive (free bonus) for

renewal by end of year worked well with the Young Birders Club. Carena added Volume 60 of *The Kingbird* (2010) to the online archive. (Report posted on the boardplus page.)

7. Policy on payment for speakers at one-day meetings: Berna Lincoln offered that it was too late to address the issue for the last Annual Meeting. If it happens again, we should discuss in advance.

8. Gail Kirch made a motion to adjourn. Bill Ostrander seconded and it was unanimously approved at 12:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Allison
Recording Secretary
4/20/13