

FINAL  
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.  
April 6, 2013  
Montezuma Audubon Center, Savannah, NY

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at the Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah, NY, on April 6, 2013. The meeting was called to order by President Gail Kirch at 9:40am.

Present were Janet Allison, Linda Benedict, Barbara Butler, **Joan Collins, Michael DeSha, Kevin Griffith, Gail Kirch, Bill Ostrander, Kathy Schneider**, Cyndy Tkachuk, Richard Tkachuk, **MaryBeth Warburton**, and **Angus Wilson. Seth Ausubel**, Berna Lincoln, **Shai Mitra**, and Carena Pooth attended via teleconference.

**Summary of Action Items:**

Approved February 9, 2013, Board Meeting minutes with changes. (Item 1)

Approved the Proposed 2013 General Operating Fund Budget as presented. (Item 5: Finance)

Approved the appointment of Chris Wood and Doug Gochfeld to 3-year terms on NYSARC through December 31, 2015. (Item 5: NYSARC)

Approved a motion to continue making a PDF edition of *New York Birders* available for members and, as of January 2014, to stop sending the paper copy to those who opt in. (Item 5: Publications)

Approved a donation of \$50 to the Montezuma Audubon Center for use of their facility. (Item 7)

1. Approval of Minutes: Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the February 9, 2013, minutes with changes. Joan Collins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.
2. President's Report: Gail Kirch gave the report. Dick Zeccola, long-time caretaker for Nuthatch Hollow, passed away in February and Gail sent a card from the Board. Angus Wilson is working on finding additional candidates to serve on NYSARC. Stoner Award letters, seeking applications to support students who attend the Annual Meeting, have been sent to all the presidents of member clubs and to professors who teach ornithology at New York State colleges. Bi-weekly teleconferences about the Annual Meeting continue. Gail is pleased and impressed with the progress made. Seth Ausubel and the QCBC committee are competent and enthusiastic. Shai Mitra has also taken an active role in planning. The meeting will blend new innovative ideas and the traditional NYSOA meeting.
3. Andy Mason's report is posted on the boardplus page of the website. His report includes the Balance Sheet, General Operating Fund Activity, and Fund Balances through March 31, 2013. The report showed a deficiency of income over expenses of \$3,093.55.
4. 2013 Annual Meeting: Seth Ausubel gave the report. The Annual Meeting website *NYbirdersconference.org* is now live and registration has begun. Information and a registration form will be in the April newsletter. An updated budget and report on expenses and income to date is posted on the boardplus page. Donations have been received from Meopta, NYC Audubon, and the Linnaean Society, with more to come. QCBC may need a \$4500 loan by July 12 to cover fees. Kathy sent a letter to member clubs with publicity to promote the event. There will be poster sessions both Friday and Saturday, paper sessions, display tables, workshops, and featured speakers. James Currie will be the featured speaker for the banquet. Maxwell Wheat will read poetry before

dinner and there will be a “birder jam” during social hours. They have waived the registration fee for full time students giving papers, but other full time students will pay a \$60 registration fee. A current list of speakers and presenters, as well as a copy of the Call for Papers, is posted on the boardplus page.

5. Committee Reports:

Archives: Linda Benedict had nothing to report.

Awards: There was discussion about the Stoner Award -- the number of students to receive awards, the criteria for the awards, and future funding for the awards. There is presently \$5912 in the Lillian C. Stoner Fund. A committee to deal with the Stoner Award was created, to be chaired by Kevin Griffith and with members Richard Tkachuk, MaryBeth Warburton, Shai Mitra, and Linda Benedict.

Bylaws: No report.

eBird: No report.

County Lists: Carena Pooth gave the report. The deadline was March 15 and 97 lists were submitted. Carena has added older reports to the website archives. She currently has completed all back through 2006 and intends to get all old reports online eventually. Carena also reported that 2012 lists will be published in the April *New York Birders*.

Conservation: Joan Collins gave the report. She wrote an article for the newsletter on Bicknell's Thrush and its likely listing under the Endangered Species Act this year. The DEC has extended the bobcat hunting season despite 90% of public comments being against the plan. The Spruce Grouse recovery plan for New York is the same as Vermont's, which failed. Sixty birds will be taken from Algonquin Park in Canada and moved to the Adirondacks. Joan also reported on the decline of Rusty Blackbird and that searches were taking place in April and May for these birds.

Finance: Berna Lincoln gave the report. The Proposed 2013 General Operating Fund Budget is posted on the boardplus page. The largest expense is the printing and mailing of *The Kingbird* (\$17,500 for four issues) and *New York Birders* (\$4000). The projected deficit of \$5860 comes out of the reserve in the General Operating Fund, and was approximately \$3000 in 2012. Berna noted that we cannot keep drawing down the GOF in this way. There was discussion about raising dues for next year and exploration of ways to lower costs on these publications. Mike DeSha made a motion to adopt the budget as presented. Bill Ostrander seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.

Marketing/Publicity/Field Trips: Kathy Schneider gave the report. The Fort Drum trip was cancelled (by Fort Drum) because of the federal budget sequester. A trip to Perch River WMA and Chaumont Barrens was substituted for the same date of May 25.

Membership: Berna Lincoln and Barbara Butler gave the report (also posted on boardplus). The number of individual memberships is high at 577 because the non-renewals have not been dropped yet; the actual number is about 453. In general, new members keep pace with drop-outs and membership remains stable from year to year. Club renewal notices went out March 25 with 14 renewing as of April 5.

Nominating: Kevin Griffith gave the report. They are working and making progress.

NYSARC: Angus Wilson gave the report. He is looking for an additional candidate for the committee. They have started the 2012 review with a deadline at the end of May. Copies of the sighting reports and supporting materials for a controversial eagle sighting from Derby Hill in 1993, previously rejected, were requested by one of the original observers and supplied to him as per the guidelines. Based on subsequent correspondence with the NYSARC Chair and Secretary, the requester may petition Gail Kirch or a future President for the actual vote scores and written critiques, something that is currently not permitted. It is also possible that NYSARC will be asked to revisit the sighting based on new knowledge. Kathy Schneider made a motion to approve Gail's appointment of Chris Wood and Doug Gochfeld to the committee, with terms ending December 31, 2015. Bill Ostrander seconded the motion and it was unanimously accepted.

Young Birders Club: Carena Pooth gave the report (also posted on boardplus). A Flickr site for photos was started by one of the NYSYBC members. Seven young birders went to Jamaica Bay in March; upcoming trips include Central Park, Bashakill, and Doodletown. Two teams will compete in the World Series of Birding in Cape May. Most partner clubs have renewed with three outstanding. The current life list for YBC is 275 total species.

Organizational Handbook: Mike DeSha gave the report. There have been no changes or additions since the last meeting. He is still missing some.

Publications: Discussion centered on converting *New York Birders* to a PDF edition distributed via email, which would allow for color, links, no constraint on the number of pages, and save the club money. Options were to convert all members for whom we have emails and allow them to opt out if they preferred the paper copy, or to continue to have members opt in to the PDF edition. Kathy Schneider made a motion to continue the experiment of making a PDF edition of the newsletter available for members to opt in and, as of January 2014, to stop sending the paper copy to those who do. Joan Collins seconded the motion and it was unanimously accepted.

Shai Mitra gave the report on *The Kingbird*. The December issue was delivered and the March issue was going to the printer. He is working on keeping production and mail costs down, and looking for a production manager to handle non-editorial parts of the job.

Research: Kevin Griffith gave the report. He is working on a job description for the position and looking for input on what has been done historically. Bill Ostrander is compiling the Waterfowl Count results and is still getting reports.

Website and Information Services: Carena Pooth gave the report. The membership form was changed to a PDF that can be written in, printed out, and mailed in.

6. Old Business: July and November board meeting locations and dates were discussed. Gail Kirch will check into status of Nuthatch Hollow for the July 13 meeting. MaryBeth Warburton will look into places in the Syracuse area. The November meeting is moved to the 16<sup>th</sup> to move it away from the Annual Meeting on November 1-3. Kathy Schneider will investigate the use of the Five Rivers Center in Delmar.

7. New Business: Andy Mason made a suggestion that we make a donation of \$50 to the Montezuma Audubon Center for allowing us use for that day's meeting. Gail Kirch made the motion, MaryBeth Warburton seconded, and it was accepted.
8. Adjournment: Janet Allison made a motion to adjourn, Gail Kirch seconded, and it was unanimously accepted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Allison  
July 14, 2013