

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
July 13, 2013
1099 Powderhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at 1099 Powderhouse Road, Vestal, NY, on July 13, 2013. The meeting was called to order by President Gail Kirch at 9:40am.

Present were Janet Allison, **Tim Baird**, Barbara Butler, **Mike DeSha**, **Kevin Griffith**, **Gail Kirch**, Andy Mason, **Shai Mitra**, Carena Pooth, **Kathy Schneider**, Bob Spahn, Cindy Tkachuck, and Richard Tkachuck. **Seth Ausubel**, **Joan Collins**, and Berna Lincoln attended via teleconference.

Summary of Action Items:

Approved April 6, 2013, Board meeting minutes with changes. (Item 1)

Approved the awarding of three Stoner Awards to students for attending the Annual Meeting in November. (Item 5: Awards)

Approved a motion to approve Gail Kirch's reappointment of Andy Guthrie to the NYSARC committee, to serve a three-year term ending 12/31/15. (Item 5: NYSARC)

1. Approval of Minutes: Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the April 6, 2013, minutes with changes. Gail Kirch seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.
2. President's Report: Gail Kirch gave the report. Annual Meeting planning with Queens County Bird Club has been excellent and it is sure to be a success. Berna Lincoln forwarded a copy of a letter from a member who wants to continue to receive a paper copy of *New York Birders*. Gail assured him of the continuing paper option. Ken McDermott of the Mearns Bird Club recommended Ralph Tabor for a certificate of appreciation for his work at the old Galeville Airport (Shawangunk National Wildlife Refuge) and Gail sent it out. Ken spoke of "...all he has done and continues to do on behalf of birds in general and of birders," as the "unofficial mayor of Galeville." Bill Lee of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club has encouraged his Board to put on the 2015 Annual Meeting. They are interested and he is exploring what would be involved and how they would begin organizing for it. Cayuga is doing the 2014 meeting, and the Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Bill Ostrander's club, may do 2016.
3. Treasurer's Report: Andy Mason gave the report (posted on the boardplus page of the website). The report includes the Balance Sheet, General Operating Fund Activity, and Fund Balances through June 30, 2013. The report showed a deficiency of income over expenses of \$6,014.20, partially reflecting the loan to QCBC for the Annual Meeting.
4. Annual Meeting: Seth Ausubel gave the report. A new advertising flyer and an updated financial report are posted on the boardplus page. They are working on final details of the schedule of events and a listing will be included in the July *New York Birders*. Special presentations include Kim Bostwick of Cornell University speaking on birds and climate change and workshops on environmental advocacy and warbler identification, among others. Still not complete are student paper presentations and other workshops, but these should be arranged by August 21. QCBC made a \$4500 payment to the hotel and have about \$7000 on hand, including the NYSOA loan. They won't need any additional loans

from NYSOA. They have 60 registrants now and need 109 to break even, but are expecting about 165 attendees. They have just sent a new publicity flyer to the listservs and expect additional registrations from that, and are also expecting a \$2500 donation from Zeiss Optics.

5. Committee Reports:

Archives: Linda Benedict's report is posted on boardplus. The archive procedures are complete and have been submitted for the Organizational Handbook. The documents for 2012 are ready to go to Cornell, but not deposited yet.

Awards: Kathy Schneider gave the report. Applications were received for the Stoner Award and two were chosen to receive the \$200 check to attend the NYSOA Annual Meeting. There was discussion about the number of awards given. Issues raised included concern that we should have a consistent policy as to the number given (presently just two), that we should be encouraging serious young birders to attend, and that we encourage more applications to enhance the prestige of the award. Kevin Griffith made a motion to give the award to all three applicants this year. Joan Collins seconded the motion. It passed with six votes for, one vote against, and two abstentions.

Bylaws: Bob Spahn had nothing to report.

eBird: Bob Spahn provided a brief summary of the relationship between NYSOA and the eBird program at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (posted on boardplus). Concerns remain including our lack of a contract or other written agreement with Cornell Lab, communications, and our ongoing ability to be able to access records in a timely fashion in formats of use to us. There are details around data entry and access that would be useful to discuss with the eBird team. Still, Bob sees eBird as an important data collection and archiving tool of great potential use to NYSOA and urges that the Board consider what we should do relative to the contract issue and to improve the communications problem.

County Lists: Carena Pooth gave the report. 2012 results were published in the April *New York Birders*.

Conservation: Andy Mason and Joan Collins gave the report. They have not met with the DEC this year. Gail Kirch will make contact with the DEC when Andy gives her possible dates. There is a new Unit Management Plan for Hammond Hill State Forest. They will advise the local bird club that it is happening. MaryBeth Warburton forwarded an email (posted on boardplus) regarding a proposed wind energy development on Amherst Island, near Kingston, Ontario. Joan reported that the bobcat season has been extended and that there has been no response from the DEC to requests for the science behind the decision. The price of pelts has increased to \$600.

Finance: Berna Lincoln had nothing to report.

Marketing/Publicity/Field Trips: Kathy Schneider gave the report. The Jefferson County field trip included many members of the Young Birders Club. A report on the trip is on the website and in *New York Birders*. A hoped-for loon trip in August will not happen. She will hold off on new trips until after the Annual Meeting on Long Island, but is planning a raptor trip to Point Peninsula over the winter.

Membership: Berna Lincoln and Barbara Butler gave the report (posted on boardplus). Of those whose memberships expired in July 2012 and January 2013, 15% did not renew. Berna noted that she and Barbara handle the mechanics of membership, but that we don't have a committee for membership recruitment and retention. Seth Ausubel had suggestions for this and will consider taking it on after the Annual Meeting is over. Two clubs have not renewed: Shai Mitra will approach Great South Bay Audubon and Tim Baird the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Berna will send material to a possible new member club, the South Shore Audubon Society.

Nominating: Andy Mason gave the report. The slate of officers and directors for election at the 2013 Annual Meeting is published in the July issue of *New York Birders*. The committee attempted to include a current or former Young Birders Club member but were not successful. The slate will be:

President: Kathy Schneider

Vice-president: Carena Pooth

Treasurer: Andy Mason

Recording Secretary: Janet Allison

Directors: Seth Ausubel, Tim Baird, Jeff Bolsinger, MaryBeth Warburton

NYSARC: Kathy Schneider gave the report. Unable to find a suitable third candidate this year, Angus Wilson requested that Gail Kirch reappoint Andy Guthrie as committee member instead. Kathy made a motion to approve Gail's reappointment of Andy Guthrie, Shai Mitra seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Young Birders Club: Carena Pooth gave the report (full report posted on boardplus). Carena reported a high level of membership with 37 youth, 26 adult regular, and 6 adult student-rate members. In July, they are having an "unofficial" day trip (using the NYSYBC mailing list but not organized or chaperoned by NYSOA) to Great Gull Island off the coast of Connecticut. Upcoming programs include a behind-the-scenes tour of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Hope Batcheller in September and Saw-whet Owl banding with Valerie Freer in October. Two NYSYBC teams participated in the World Series of Birding. Fundraising connected to the WSB for this year was poor relative to previous years – only 50% of the amounts raised in 2012 and 2011.

Organization Handbook: Mike DeSha gave the report. He noted that an official announcement of the NYSOA Annual Meeting to conduct the business of the Corporation needs to be included in the July issue of *New York Birders*. The editors will include it. He also noted that Carena Pooth has been a big help to him with updating and formatting of the Organization Handbook. He needs a write-up from the Finance Committee from Berna Lincoln.

Publications: Richard Tkachuck gave the report on *New York Birders*. Discussion centered on the shift to two editions of the newsletter, print and electronic. Lack of color and page count limitations in the paper version are reasons to encourage the move to the e-newsletter. An insert will be included in the October issue to give the option to get the emailed version. The option to switch will also be included in the renewal notices that go out in December and in the online form as well. There was a policy discussion on the use of donated photos or artwork in the newsletter. The editors will indicate that the work is donated when used.

Shai Mitra gave the report on *The Kingbird*. The June issue features the NYSARC annual report, is in print production, and will mail in two weeks. The September issue is running on time. Barbara Butler will send Shai a new mailing list. Bob Spahn discussed issues related to Regional Reports and their editors (see also posting on boardplus), including the current difficulty in finding knowledgeable editors, and dealing with all the new reporting mechanisms (eBird, listservs, social media) that generate thousands of records. Kathy Schneider suggested an article be put in the newsletter on what's involved in being a Regional Editor and seeking volunteers. Shai wants to give more leeway to the editors in writing reports, for example, in narrative form only without lists.

Research: Kevin Griffith gave the report (posted on boardplus) on volunteer research opportunities and ongoing research projects in New York State. He will write a newsletter article about volunteer opportunities for *New York Birders*.

Website: Carena Pooth gave the report (details posted on boardplus).

6. Old Business: The November Board meeting will be at Five Rivers Environmental Center in Delmar, NY, on November 16, 2013.
7. New Business: Bob Spahn again raised the issue of our not having worked out a contract with the Cornell Lab, making it difficult to get them to arrange data by NYSOA Regions. The NY portal is not accessible or maintained at this point, and there are also concerns about digital storage. Kathy Schneider will include this topic for discussion at future meetings to develop a plan to finalize the contract with Cornell.
8. Adjournment: Tim Baird made a motion to adjourn, Kathy Schneider seconded, and it passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Allison
October 26, 2013