

FINAL
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
April 5, 2014
Montezuma Audubon Center
2295 New York 89, Savannah, NY

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah, NY, on April 5, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Schneider at 9:40am.

Present were Barbara Butler, Linda Clark Benedict, **Joan Collins**, **Kevin Griffith**, Andy Mason, **Carena Pooth**, **Kathy Schneider**, Bob Spahn, Richard Tkachuck. Janet Allison, **Seth Ausubel**, **Jeff Bolsinger**, Berna Lincoln, **Shai Mitra**, and Angus Wilson attended via teleconference.

Summary of Action Items:

Approved February 8, 2014, Board meeting minutes as presented. (Item 1)

Approved the Stoner Award proposed guidelines developed by the award committee. (Item 5, Awards)

Approved the Finance Committee's proposed 2014 General Operating Fund budget for 2014. (Item 5, Finance)

Approved the corrected version of the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes with the name of the president of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club changed to Jory Langner. (Item 6)

Approved the appointment of Angus Wilson and Jim Pawlicki to NYSARC for 3-year terms to end December 31, 2016. (Item 6)

1. Approval of Minutes: Kevin Griffith made a motion to approve the February 8, 2014, minutes as presented. Carena Pooth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report: Andy Mason presented a report (posted on boardplus) of balances and funds as of March 31, 2013, and March 31, 2014. He noted that since the report was posted \$3000 had been added to the assets for 2014.
3. President's Report: Kathy Schneider's full report is posted on boardplus. Kathy wrote more thank you notes to Kingbird members and donors; an email introduction for a free issue of eNYB for NYS Birders Conference and Bashakill field trip attendees who are not NYSOA members; a draft of a letter about eBird/NYSOA relations to John Fitzpatrick for review; correspondence with John Ozard and Bryan Swift of the DEC; an article about the Bashakill Birding weekend she organized and attended for the Bashakill Area Association; and a From the President article for *NY Birders*. Kathy answered inquiries from the Cayuga Bird Club regarding the 2014 Annual Meeting and met twice with the planning committee of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club regarding the 2015 meeting. Via conference call, she met with the Field Trip Committee; the Stoner Award ad hoc committee; and the ad hoc committee about advertising, marketing, and sponsorship on the NYSOA website. She acquired information on NYSARC and NYSYBC leadership that has been incorporated into the NYSOA directory posted on the boardplus page and requested any changes be sent to Janet Allison.
4. DEC Report: No direct DEC report as John Ozard was unable to attend. Kathy was contacted by Bryan Swift for a NYSOA representative to attend an April 17 meeting of a mute swan task force. Discussion involved whether and how NYSOA should be involved. Kathy will write a letter of response declining participation but expressing our continued interest in the discussion and outcome. The feasibility of putting the last Breeding Bird Atlas book online was discussed. There was concern about the cost of the project and the ownership of the e-rights. Regarding the next Breeding Bird Atlas, there is uncertainty about the level of DEC involvement, which previously included funding of a paid coordinator and block busters as well as processing and online publication of data and database management. Kathy will contact Gordon Batcheller to get a

sense of commitment from the DEC. Linda Clark Benedict noted that there are documents in the archives on putting together the last atlas.

5. Committee Reports:

Annual Meetings: For the 2013 meeting, there was discussion about QCBC's response requesting financial information on past meetings to our suggestion that they make a donation to NYSOA out of profits from the November 2013 meeting. Discussion centered on what has been done historically; what contribution the NYSOA membership base and resources bring to the success of the meeting; the risk NYSOA was required to assume for the 2013 meeting; and whether we should share in the profits. Kathy Schneider will write a letter to Arie Gilbert about the matter. It was agreed that something should be included in future agreements that spells out these arrangements. The 2014 meeting will be held in Ithaca, NY, hosted by the Cayuga Bird Club. Richard Tkachuck explained that the high costs of the registration and hotel fees reflect costs in that city.

Archives: Linda Clark Benedict reported that the online finding aid has been updated with the new materials she sent to Cornell. Old materials submitted need to be in hard copy for now, as Cornell won't house our e-files. Linda encouraged submissions and said that she could print out any e-files she was sent.

Awards: Kevin Griffith gave the report. The committee has developed new recommendations for the Stoner Award (posted on boardplus). Criteria for selection would be a combination of the nominee's passion to attend the Annual Meeting plus the nominator's description of past accomplishments. Joan Collins made a motion to accept the updated recommendations as written. Carena Pooth seconded and it passed unanimously. Committee tasks will be distributed as follows: Carena will update the nomination form on the website; Kathy Schneider will send out a notice via the member clubs listserv inviting nominations; Richard Tkachuck will include a notice in the April issue of *NY Birders*; Kevin Griffith, Linda Clark Benedict, and Kathy Schneider will decide the winners; Kevin will contact the winners and make sure they are registered to attend the meeting and arrange for their checks; Carena will create the certificates they receive at the dinner; and Kevin will make the presentations at the dinner. Regarding the Elliott Award, Shai Mitra will continue to determine the award. Regarding the Meade Award, we need ideas for candidates. Regarding general Certificates of Appreciation, anyone can make a suggestion for a recipient.

Bylaws: Bob Spahn reported no action needed at this time.

Conservation: Andy Mason gave the report. The committee wrote two letters, one asking the U.S. Interior Department to reconsider a plan to give 30-year permits for eagle take at wind power facilities, the second with comments on the DEC plan to eliminate mute swans in New York State. Joan Collins raised the issue of crow shoots in Greene County and in Auburn and the hunting season on crows that the DEC has not addressed. She noted that they use lead shot and the bodies are left in the field for scavengers to eat; action may be needed to raise public awareness. She also reported that there is now more funding available for the grassland reserve program in New York. Joan has submitted a book review for the April *NY Birders*. Angus Wilson reported that there is a decision from the Park Service on Jamaica Bay restoration due in mid-May and public meetings on the restoration of the West Pond in early June. Angus and Seth Ausubel will coordinate representation at the meetings. Seth will write an article on Jamaica Bay for the July *NY Birders*.

County Lists: Carena Pooth reported 112 submissions of 2013 data (88 online). The 2013 compilation will be included in the April 2014 issue of *New York Birders*. Carena's full report is posted on boardplus.

Finance: Berna Lincoln presented the proposed 2014 General Operating Fund budget prepared by the Finance Committee. A 6% postage increase across all categories of mail has added to the cost of publications. There is some reduction in postage cost because about 20% of members now receive the newsletter via email. Projected expenses are \$25,615 and projected income \$20,500, resulting in a projected deficit of \$5,115. The Finance Committee will come to the July Board meeting with a recommendation on dealing with the deficit. Kevin Griffith made a motion to approve the proposed budget as presented; Joan Collins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Marketing and Publicity: After discussion, it was agreed that the motto of NYSOA would remain "For the Birds and Birders of the Empire State." Kathy Schneider reported on a conference call by an ad hoc committee on advertising and sponsorship. Corey Finger discussed his website, 10,000 Birds, and he will share with us the materials they use to get advertisers. Legal and philosophical issues were discussed as well as the creation and maintenance of a new page on the website and the need for a business manager.

Field Trips: The Bashakill Trip had good attendance despite the bad weather, with about 30 people attending the workshop. Potential future trips include a Jamaica Bay trip September 27-28 by Seth Ausubel, a trip to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute July 11-12 by Tim Baird, and an Adirondack trip by Mary Beth Warburton over the summer.

Membership: Barbara Butler and Berna Lincoln presented the report, posted on boardplus. Current membership is 479 individuals after non-renewals were removed, compared to 511 at this time last year. Individual members who did not renew numbered 68 for 2014. About 140 members are getting eNYB instead of the mailed paper version. There was discussion about the 13% drop in membership, causes and possible solutions.

NY eBird: Bob Spahn had nothing to report.

NYSARC: Angus Wilson reported that they are reviewing the 2012 Annual Report and 2013 submissions.

NYSYBC: Carena Pooth gave the report, also posted on boardplus. There are currently 39 youth members with three new members so far for the year. Of partner clubs, 16 have so far renewed for 2014. The annual fundraising drive is coming up around the World Series of Birding. Four birders will make up one team doing Cape May County only.

Nominating Committee: Kathy Schneider gave the report for Mike DeSha. They have some names of possible new people to fill positions.

Organizational Handbook: Kathy Schneider gave the report for Mike DeSha. The Finance Committee description is needed from Berna Lincoln.

Publications: Shai Mitra reported that the March issue of *The Kingbird* will go to the printer shortly. Richard Tkachuck reported they are working on the next issue of *NY Birders*, which will include the information and application for the Annual Meeting in September and a colored index

of county by county count lists from Carena Pooth. The July and October issues will be the last done by the Tkachucks. A new newsletter editor will be needed.

Research: Kevin Griffith encouraged everyone to participate in the Rusty Blackbird sighting and reporting.

Website and Information Services: Carena Pooth gave the report, also posted on boardplus. To the website, she has added a Field Trips list and information of NYSYBC elections with photos. Newly created for the boardplus page is a term limits map to help with tracking Board positions. Carena is investigating what is available for auto back-up of NYSOA files on personal computers.

6. Old Business: .

There was a mistake in the original November 2013 Annual Meeting minutes published in the December issue of *The Kingbird*. An erratum will be published in the March issue to state that Jory Langner is the president of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Kevin Griffiths made a motion to approve the corrected version of the minutes; Carena Pooth seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Executive Committee had previously appointed Angus Wilson and Jim Pawlicki to 3-year terms on NYSARC to end December 31, 2016. Joan Collins made a motion to approve the appointment; Kevin Griffith seconded the motion and it was approved by the full Board.

John Confer has resigned from Conservation Committee.

7. New Business: The next Board meeting will be July 19, 2014, at the Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville, NY.

8. Adjournment: Kevin Griffith made a motion to adjourn; Joan Collins seconded and it was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Allison
7/8/14