

**New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
July 22, 2017

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at the Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville on July 22, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President **Joan Collins** at 9:46 AM. Present were **Joan Collins, Rich Guthrie, Kathy Schneider,** Tim Baird, Andy Mason, Brian Dugan, Mary Jane Dugan, and John Kent. Shai Mitra, **Carena Pooth,** Berna Lincoln, **Peter Capainolo, Greg Lawrence,** and **Bob Spahn** were present via teleconference. **Shirley Shaw** joined the teleconference shortly after the start.

**Summary of Action Items:**

- Approved minutes from April 8, 2017 board meeting
- Received nominations for officers and directors
- Approved purchase of NYSOA winter hats as giveaway item for annual meeting attendees
- Tabled discussion of hiring a consultant to transfer NYSOA's membership data to an online database, pending a cost estimate

**Secretary's Report** – John Kent

The draft version of the minutes from the April 8, 2017, board meeting was presented. Some minor corrections were made. Kathy Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Joan Collins seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**President's Report** – Joan Collins

Joan reports that she sent thanks to all of the members who renewed at the Kingbird level. Joan also brought up the issue of the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). The board previously decided to make the *Kingbird* archive available through the BHL, and Joan is currently completing the forms to make that happen. After discussion, it was decided to require a two year delay before recent issues are added to BHL's online archive. This is in line with what is done with the archive on the NYSOA website.

**Treasurer's Report** – Andy Mason

Andy submitted a detailed written report. There is nothing unusual to report. A correction to the 2016 year-end report was included, since the expense of having new checklists printed was not included in the original 2016 report.

**Committee Reports:**

**Auditing Committee** – Stephen Chang

Joan Collins reported on behalf of Stephen. Peter Capainolo has agreed to being nominated for the Auditing Committee next year, to take the position being vacated by John Cairns. The other Auditing Committee members to be presented for election at the annual meeting in November are Stephen Chang (chair) and Tom Burke, both currently on the committee.

**Annual Meeting** – Kathy Schneider

The upcoming issue of *New York Birders* will include all of the details on the 2017 annual meeting in Niagara Falls. Preparations are going smoothly and people are already signing up. The board decided that we will order NYSOA winter hats as a giveaway for annual meeting attendees. Tim Baird and Kathy Schneider will decide on the design.

**Archive** – no report

**Awards** – Bill Ostrander

Bill was not present. The board has not been notified so far of any applicants for this year's Lillian C. Stoner Award, but Carena stated that three members of NYSYBC have been nominated. The committee is authorized to make the award without the board's approval, once it has received and evaluated applications.

**Bylaws** – Berna Lincoln

Berna reminded the board that there is a current member of NYSARC who has not renewed his NYSOA membership for the past couple of years. The bylaws require NYSARC members to be paid members of NYSOA. Joan Collins will address the situation.

**Conservation** – Andy Mason

Andy reports that the committee took action on two issues since the last board meeting:

First was the proposal to allow increased use of the Hudson River as an anchorage area for petroleum-laden vessels. NYSOA previously commented to the US Coast Guard opposing the proposal. Recently the committee sent letters to New York legislative leaders supporting a proposed law which would give the state increased authority to oversee anchorages on the Hudson. The bill subsequently passed the legislature and awaits the governor's signature. The Coast Guard received more than 10,000 comments on the proposal, almost all of them in opposition. They have withdrawn the proposal for now, pending a formal risk evaluation process.

The other issue involves Doodletown in Bear Mountain State Park. This is one of the state's top birding locations, and birders were denied access to the area on a prime birding weekend in May due to an all-day running race. In addition to the access issue, there is concern about the race organizers' use of vehicles on the normally-closed roadways at Doodletown, posing a threat to the endangered timber rattlesnakes that live there. The committee wrote a letter to the Executive Director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission requesting that birders have input in planning next year's race. It is hoped that the race might be moved to an earlier date, before peak bird migration, and that potential harm to the snakes can be mitigated.

The committee also considered involvement in an issue at Hempstead Lake State Park, where work is being undertaken in an effort to control shoreline erosion. This could pose a threat to bird habitat. Seth Ausubel looked into the issue and found that local conservation groups are involved in the process and providing good input. It was determined that there was not a need for NYSOA to send a letter at this point.

Joan Collins reports that the state has still not made a determination on the classification of the Boreas Ponds tract of land in the Adirondacks.

### **County Listing** – Carena Pooth

Carena reports that the 2016 report was published in the April *New York Birders*, and will be posted on the website soon.

### **Finance** – Mike DeSha

No report, other than the amendment to the 2016 budget report reflecting the change mentioned in the treasurer's report above.

### **Marketing/Publicity** -

Joan reports that a chair is still needed for this committee.

### **Facebook** – Greg Lawrence

There have been four posts since the beginning of May. Greg welcomes contributions of material for Facebook posts, preferably including photos. Shai Mitra will provide material for a post about the upcoming NYSARC report once it is available. Andy Mason will keep Greg apprised of the conservation committee's activities, so that Greg can report the information on Facebook.

### **Field Trips** – Mary Beth Warburton

Kathy Schneider reported on behalf of Mary Beth. The Montezuma shorebird trip August 26-27 is open for registration and is being publicized. Kevin McGowan will present a shorebird identification workshop on Saturday, and will also be a leader on the Sunday morning field trip. Kevin is working with the refuge staff in hopes of getting special access to the shorebird areas for the group. There is a NYS Young Birders Club field trip at Montezuma the same weekend. The young birders will participate in the Saturday workshop, and Greg Lawrence will lead them on a separate field trip Sunday morning. Kathy is working on finding a venue for a group dinner Saturday night. Joan Collins reports that there are plans to do a weekend trip in the Adirondacks this winter. Joan plans to ask Matt Young of Cornell if he is available to do a presentation about crossbills.

### **Membership/Circulation** – Berna Lincoln

Berna reports the following membership statistics: Of 513 annual memberships in 2016, 72 of them have not yet renewed for 2017. There were 24 renewals at the Kingbird level, which was the highest number ever. There are 42 life members. Of 42 club/organization members, 34 have renewed. A second notice will be sent to the other eight shortly. A volunteer is needed to take over the position of circulation manager.

### **Nominating** – Bob Adamo

Bob sent a report to Joan. He reports the following nominations for the coming year, to be up for election at the annual meeting in November:

- **President:** Michael DeSha
- **Vice President:** Tim Baird
- **Recording Secretary:** John Kent
- **Treasurer:** Andy Mason
- **Board of Directors:** Carena Pooth, Lucretia Grosshans, Brian Dugan, Brendan Fogarty

The following Nominating Committee slate will be presented at the annual meeting for election by the delegates: Bob Adamo, Kathy Schneider, Dominic Sherony.

Joan commented on the small percentage of women among NYSOA's officers and directors, and mentioned research showing that boards with more gender diversity are more productive. A discussion ensued about the reasons for the imbalance. The nominating committee will be asked to make an effort to improve the gender balance.

#### **Young Birders Club** – Carena Pooth

Carena submitted a written report. There are currently 52 youth members. The club's big day event in May has raised around \$3000 so far, with more on the way. One of the members recently led the group on a field trip at Nickerson Beach. The next field trip will be at Montezuma in August, associated with the NYSOA field trip. The shorebird ID workshop with Kevin McGowan will be for both groups. The Young Birders Club also has plans for a field trip in Central Park in September, and is considering organizing a waterfowl trip in October. Carena reports that a number of the young birders have expressed interest in attending the NYSOA annual meeting in Niagara Falls.

#### **NYSARC** – Willie D'Anna

Joan Collins reports that Willie and the rest of the committee have been working hard to catch up with the backlog. The last report that NYSARC issued was for 2012. An interim report covering potential new additions to the state list is expected to be issued soon, and work is also progressing on all of the outstanding reports.

#### **Organizational Handbook** – Mike DeSha

Mike reported that he had received an update for the handbook from Andy Mason, concerning the treasurer's duties.

#### **Publications** – Seth Ausubel

Shai Mitra reports that he is very close to finishing *The Kingbird* 2016 No. 4 (December). The content for the two subsequent issues is in good shape. Bill Krueger has agreed to be the new Region 7 editor for *The Kingbird*. Shai brought up the issue of whether and when the species listings in *The Kingbird* regional reports need to be resequenced to reflect recent changes in taxonomy. There are several reports that have already been prepared based on the old taxonomic order, but have not yet been published. Shai suggested that the *Kingbird* reports remain in the current format until the committee decides on a future date to switch. He can then notify the regional editors in advance so that reports won't need to be rewritten.

Joan Collins hopes to start work on the July issue of *New York Birders* shortly. She expects to have it out in early August. Joan's work schedule precludes her from getting the July issue finished in July, so if anyone is available to help with that issue in future years they should get in touch with Joan.

Carena Pooth noted that the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* on the NYSOA website has been updated to reflect the new American Ornithological Society taxonomic order.

#### **Research** – Greg Lawrence

Greg has become the New York State coordinator for the USGS Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). He reports that there are numerous BBS routes around the state that are not being covered due to lack of

volunteers. Anyone interested in helping should contact Greg. The USGS BBS website has a map of which routes need coverage.

There has been little progress in planning for the third Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA III) due to ongoing delays at the NYSDEC. Bob Spahn expressed concern that planning is far behind schedule and time is running out. Since NYSDEC provides needed funding for the project through grants and possible contracts, it has been important that they have taken the lead with Dan Rosenblatt at the NYSDEC as the early NY BBA III planning committee chair. For a number of reasons the funding piece has dragged on. We are at the point where we must resume the rest of the planning activities if there is any hope for a 2020 NY BBA III field work start. Bob Spahn, Greg Lawrence, and Joan Collins will assemble an agenda for a meeting to resume the detailed planning, including interface with eBird around their database as the data input and archive tool and the science committee addressing the major issue around the potential for adding a quantitative data gathering part to the fieldwork. This meeting must occur by early this fall. Joan Collins will contact Dan Rosenblatt with our tentative agenda. His presence, or an appointed alternate from the DEC, at the meeting is an essential part.

#### **Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth**

Carena submitted a written report on the status of the NYSOA and Young Birders Club websites. The UberConference service was used for the board meeting conference call and it worked well for everyone. This service will reduce NYSOA's costs by \$100 to \$200 per year compared to the old conference calling service.

#### **DEC –**

No report was submitted.

#### **Old Business**

A discussion was held about the planned move of the NYSOA membership database to an online service (Wild Apricot). It is expected that we will need to hire a consultant to help with the transfer of the data from our current spreadsheet system into an actual database format. The board will need to get cost estimates before deciding how to proceed. Joan Collins will investigate and send information to the board via email.

#### **New Business**

Next year's Annual Meeting will be October 5-7, 2018, in Rochester. Hosts are needed for the 2019 and 2020 meetings. Onondaga Audubon Society hosted in 2010, and it is hoped that they will again in 2020. Southern Adirondack Audubon Society was suggested as a possibility for 2019, though they are a small club and would need to partner with another club to host the meeting. Joan Collins will contact both groups to discuss it.

Rich Guthrie moved to adjourn, and Kathy Schneider seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Kent  
Recording Secretary