

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
65TH ANNUAL MEETING, OWEGO, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

The 65th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held at the Treadway Inn in Owego, NY on September 29, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed 28 delegates from 19 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Shai Mitra made a motion to approve the September 24, 2011 Annual Meeting minutes as published in the December 2011 issue of *The Kingbird*. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

President's Report by Gail Kirch:

Gail thanked Tim Baird for his nine years of service as Editor of *New York Birders*. Tim is retiring from this role, and NYSOA is in need of a new editor for the newsletter. Gail highlighted the active work of the Conservation Committee. She announced that the NYS Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) is working hard and suggested members check the website for accepted records. Gail thanked Jeanne Skelly for her years of service as the NYSARC secretary, and announced that Gary Chapin is the new NYSARC secretary. Gail informed members that the NYS Young Birders Club is doing well under Carena Pooth's guidance. She thanked Kathy Schneider for organizing field trips and presentations around New York State. Finding hosts for annual meetings can be challenging, and a host club for 2013 is still needed. Cayuga Bird Club has volunteered to host the 2014 meeting. Thanks to Robert Schumann's generosity, the NYSOA Board has utilized his facility, Nuthatch Hollow, in Vestal, as a meeting place for many years. Mr. Schumann passed away this year, and left his facility to SUNY Binghamton. NYSOA hopes to continue holding some of the board meetings at this facility.

Treasurer's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy provided the Treasurer's Report for January 1 through September 29, 2012. He also provided the Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity for the following dates: September 30, 2011, December 31, 2011, June 30, 2012, and September 28, 2012. Andy encouraged members to renew at a higher level, since most income comes from memberships.

NYSOA Committee Reports and Elections:

Joan Collins gave the **Nominating Committee Report**. The committee nominated the following 2012-2013 slate of Officers/Directors for election:

Gail Kirch – President
Kathy Schneider – Vice President
Janet Allison – Recording Secretary
Andy Mason – Treasurer
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Seth Ausubel – Director (2013)
Mary Beth Warburton – Director (2013)
Joan Collins – Director (2014)
Mike DeSha – Director (2014)
Kevin Griffith – Director (2014)
Shai Mitra – Director (2014)
Bill Ostrander – Director (2014)

Jerry Lazarczyk made a motion to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Gail Kirch announced the following names for election to the 2012-2013 **Nominating Committee**: Andy Mason (Chair), Bob Adamo, and Kevin Griffith. Shai Mitra made a motion to elect the Nominating Committee. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Gail Kirch announced the following names for election to the 2012-2013 **Auditing Committee**: John Cairns (Chair), Peter Capainolo, and Irving Cantor. Kathy Schneider made a motion to elect the Auditing Committee. Shai Mitra seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Gordon Batcheller

Gordon informed everyone that his group is holding regular meetings with the NYSOA Conservation Committee. DEC resources continue to be stretched. They have wildlife money but cannot use the funds (at the same time that their employees are being laid off). Ten million dollars in federal aid is available for hunting programs, but it is also under spending restrictions. Public pressure could help the DEC address this problem. The number of deer hunters is declining. DEC has a program to encourage young people to hunt deer. The DEC is also encouraging hunters to use alternatives to lead ammunition. Gordon has been writing articles to encourage hunters to use these alternatives. The DEC has successful programs for helping endangered birds. Gordon answered questions from the group.

There was no **Auditing Committee Report**.

Linda Clark Benedict gave the **Archives Committee Report**. Linda added a finding key for information in the archives. She is writing up a procedure for the Organizational Handbook to document the archivist's tasks.

Gail Kirch gave the **Awards Committee Report**. The following awards were presented:

Kathy Schneider presented the **Gordon Meade Distinguished Service Award**

to Carena Pooth for her many years of service. Carena served as Director, Vice President, and President, but her contributions far exceed the job duties of these positions.

Carena was instrumental in developing the framework that has allowed NYSOA to support and nurture the New York State Young Birder's Club. She worked with the club to develop a set of bylaws and a job description for an adult coordinator. She researched liability issues for field trips and developed a workable procedure that allows the young birders to pursue their passion for birds all over New York State. Carena spearheaded the recruitment of partner organizations and supporting adults by designing a PowerPoint presentation that was used by directors to teach NYSOA member clubs about the group. She also created the Young Birders website, a powerful recruitment tool for this tech savvy generation.

NYSOA also credits Carena with bringing the organization into the electronic age. As a result of her efforts, nearly 60 years of *Kingbird* issues are available to anyone with an interest in the ornithology of New York State in a searchable on line archive. As the author and architect of the NYSOA website, she has made it easy for members to pay their dues on line, submit their county lists, and stay informed on bird related issues and activities. The member club listserv helps the board and committee chairs communicate with our partner organizations, and teleconferencing at board meetings is now the norm. NYSOA is proud to acknowledge Carena's dedication, leadership, and commitment to our organization.

Bob Spahn presented the **John J. Elliott Award** for the best *Kingbird* article of the year to Mark Manske for "*American Kestrel Nest Box Management Program in Northern New York State*".

Andy Mason gave the **Conservation Committee Report**. Andy introduced the Committee members and highlighted some of the year's activities. Comments were submitted on: the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for hydrofracking in NY; the NYS DEC Spruce Grouse recovery plan; the Montezuma National Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan; and the Galeville Park proposal at the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge. The Committee has continued participation in: the Enterprise Park at Calverton Coalition monitoring development proposals for this large grassland habitat in eastern Long Island; and the Plum Island Coalition and efforts to ensure that Plum Island off Long Island is protected rather than developed. The Committee regularly meets with the DEC. Recent discussions have focused on cormorant management, Spruce Grouse recovery plan, hydrofracking, and lead ammunition. The Committee continues to publish a quarterly conservation column in *New York Birders*. Andy encouraged members to bring conservation issues to the Committee.

Bob Spahn gave the **eBird Report**. *Kingbird* Regional Editors use the data from eBird to help write their quarterly reports. Bob encouraged members to use eBird to record their sightings.

There was no **Finance Committee Report**.

Kathy Schneider gave the **Marketing/Publicity/Field Trips Committee Report**. Field trips and presentations were held at Niagara in January and at Whiteface Mountain in July. NYSOA members receive preference in attending the field trips, but non-members are also encouraged to attend. The Committee is planning quarterly trips for the coming year.

Barbara Butler gave the **Membership Committee Report**. New memberships and renewals are sent to Berna Lincoln, and Barbara maintains the membership database. Barbara presented a document with the membership numbers. Individual memberships decreased slightly from last year. Member clubs declined from 44 to 38 clubs.

There was no **New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) Report**.

Carena Pooth gave the **New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) Report**. The club celebrated its fourth anniversary this year. There are currently 36 youth members, 22 supporting adults, and 18 partner clubs. Members are evenly distributed in age ranges from 10 to 19 years. The club mirrors the NYS population in distribution of members across the state. The young birders maintain a spreadsheet that keeps track of all species seen on every field trip dating back to 2008. Carena encouraged individuals to become Supporting Adult members of NYSYBC and asked those whose local clubs are not NYSYBC Partner Organizations to urge their boards to consider getting involved.

Tim Baird gave the **New York Birders Report**. Tim is retiring after nine years as Editor. The October 2012 issue will be his last. NYSOA is looking for a replacement.

Shai Mitra gave **The Kingbird Report**. Shai detailed the tasks of being Editor of *The Kingbird* for the NYSOA Handbook. Past printing issues have been resolved under the new printing company.

Victor Lamoureux gave the **Research Committee Report**. Victor responded to questions received via email over the past year.

Carena Pooth gave the **Website and Information Services Report**. Carena added the County Listing Project to the NYSOA website. 72% of 2011 reports were submitted via the online form. Reports are due by March 15 for the prior year. Every year, Carena adds four issues of *The Kingbird* to the searchable database. NYSARC reports are also added yearly. Carena maintains an online calendar of NYS Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) each year. She also maintains

the NYS Young Birders Club website.

Old Business:

A host club is needed for the 2013 Annual Meeting.

A Membership Chairperson is needed.

New Business:

A new Editor is needed for *New York Birders*.

Victor Lamoureux made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Lazarczyk seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary

