The following young birders, club alumni, adult speakers, and adult advisors were in attendance:

- Garret Van Gelder (President)
- Nick Kachala (Vice President)
- Ryan Zucker (Secretary)
- Josh Cantor
- August Davidson-Onsgard
- Clay Davidson-Onsgard
- Elizabeth Hayes
- Silas Hernandez
- Gabriel Loomis
- Teresa Loomis
- Michael Malone
- Hannah Mirando
- Aidan Perkins
- Avery Scott
- Jordan Spindel
- Kai Victor
- Adam Vinson
- Filip Vujanic
- Eliza Wein
- Rion Yoshimura
- Jacob Drucker (NYSYBC alumnus)
- Brendan Fogarty (NYSYBC alumnus, NYSOA director)
- Lila Fried (NYSYBC alumna, adult advisor, guest speaker)
- Alan Peterson (guest speaker)
- Anne Swaim (Director of hosting club, Saw Mill River Audubon; guest speaker)
- Mary Batcheller (NYSYBC adult advisor)
- Susan Joseph (NYSYBC adult advisor, field trips co-chair)
- Carena Pooth (NYSYBC adult chair/advisor, NYSOA director)

Meeting called to order at 10:21am

Welcome by Carena Pooth and Anne Swaim (10:22 – 10:25)
- Thanks to Anne Swaim for arranging this for us!
- Turned over to NYSYBC President Garret Van Gelder to lead the meeting

Introductions (Garret asked the young birders to share their name, home county, and the bird they would most like to see) (10:25 – 10:28)

Year in Review 2017 by Garret Van Gelder (10:28 – 10:35)
- 57 young birder members, a third of whom are in attendance today
2017 began with the 9th annual kickoff meeting in this very room – highlight Eastern Screech-Owl
Current leadership team was elected afterward – President
February field trip – Jones Beach led by Steve Schellenger – highlights Harlequin Duck, Razorbill, Peregrine Falcon, seals
April – Liberty Marsh by Tait Johansson – highlight Rusty Blackbird
May – Bashakill WMA led by Lance Verderame – highlights American Bittern and Cerulean Warbler
June – Doodletown led by Gerhard Patsch – highlights Cerulean Warbler
July – Nickerson Beach led by Josh Cantor – highlights nesting Black Skimmers and Common Terns
August – Montezuma NWR/shorebird workshop by Kevin McGowan; field trip led by NYSYBC alumnus Greg Lawrence – highlights Caspian Tern and Sandhill Crane
September – Central Park led by Jordan Spindel
October – Croton Point Park led by Tait Johansson – Vesper Sparrow
November – NYSOA Conference (Niagara Falls) — club members Eamon Freiburger and Hannah Miranda were awarded the Lilian C. Stoner Award – Garret Van Gelder gave a presentation at the Paper Session
Today marks our third trip to Croton Point Park in one year

- Club Records by Jordan Spindel (10:35 – 10:36)
- A Young Birder’s Guide to College by Lila Fried (10:37 – 11:02)
- American Museum of Natural History has high school volunteer options in their ornithology department

- **iPhone Year Listing by Jordan Spindel (11:05 – 11:16)**
  - Digi-binning is the practice of taking pictures with a cell phone through binoculars – requires steady hands and much harder than digiscoping
  - Jordan got very interested in digi-binning during ABA Camp Colorado (which he recommends) during a workshop on digiscoping/binning
  - Jordan is doing a “Digibin Big Year” in 2018 and aims to document 100 species this way – incentive to photograph more and more
  - 22 species so far
  - Strange...“bird” at conclusion
  - Demonstrated proper technique/posture

  - “Grade School Taxonomy” – feathered, endothermic, hollow bones, lays eggs, wings, most can fly
  - Linnaean taxonomy overview – flawed system
  - Cladistics – group defined by a common ancestor – no bother with levels of classification
  - Basal – more primitive, derived – most recent evolutionary step
  - Birds are descended from dinosaurs – a great many dinosaurs are known to have had feathers
  - Theropod dinosaurs were more closely related to birds
  - Earth has existed for 4.55 billion years – for today’s presentation we will be dealing in million year periods (mya = million years ago)
  - Honorable mention of pterosaurs, ceratopsians, and heterodontosaurus, which had pycnofibres – not quite feathers
  - Ornithomimids, Oviraptorids, Mononychus/Therozinosaurus, Gigantoraptor, Yi qi, Dromeosaurids (raptors), Microraptor, Hesperornithenes, etc all were remarkably bird-like and feathered
  - Yi qi probably flew on bat-like wings
  - Microraptor likely capable of four-wing flight
  - Archaeopteryx no longer considered a bird
  - Hesperornithenes and Icthyornis were closest relatives to birds, but they had teeth and thus are not birds

- **Scholarships by Carena Pooth (11:40 – 11:45)**
  - In the eight years of the scholarship program’s existence, over $30,000 has been given to young birders
  - Thanks to all the fundraisers in the NYSYBC for a significant percentage of the funds
  - **Certificates of Appreciation for Fundraising** given to Eamon Freiburger (top fundraiser, received Crossley *Waterfowl* Guide) and Josh Cantor (second place, received *Lost Among The Birds* by Neil Hayward), Elizabeth Hayes, Teresa Loomis, Gabriel Loomis, Aidan Perkins, Avery Scott, Isaiah Sigman-Wender, Jordan Spindel, Kai Victor, Adam Vinson, and Ryan Zucker
• **How to do a Big Day by Alan Peterson (11:46 – 12:10)**
  - WSB (World Series of Birding) is expensive, time-consuming, conflicts with school, carbon-consuming, hazardous
  - WSB has county-level competitions in addition to state-level
  - Pick a date that is extremely productive - May 5th is too early, May 15th is too late
  - New Jersey is a compact state, lots of different habitat
  - Maximize your Big Day – scout, pick the best times to be at different habitats/location
  - Scout to find where the rare breeders are, then link everything up together
  - Don’t spend too much time on the bird
  - Learn your calls
  - Scout prolifically
  - NFCs (Nocturnal Flight Calls) are very important to Big Day success
  - Have fun!
• **Meeting adjourned from 12:12 to 1:41 for lunch, book & stuff swap**
• **Big Day Birding by Nick Kachala (1:42 – 1:59)**
  - Nick did his 2017 Big Day on May 20th
  - Big Day is 24 hours – requires stamina
  - Challenge to bird with speed and skill
  - Fundraising
  - Nick has done 6 Big Days
  - Montezuma Muckrace is a 24 hour Big-Day-like competition
  - May 20th 2017 – 20 hours, 25 stops, 220 miles, 151 species
  - Did well with owls – Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
  - Prothonotary Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher, lots of warblers at Iroquois and Bergen Swamp
  - Tennessee Warblers and Cerulean Warblers at Iroquois
  - Saw localized/rare breeders
  - Found a locally very rare Piping Plover
  - Last bird was Common Nighthawk while searching for Eastern Whip-poor-will
• **Events and Field Trips by Susan Joseph (2:00 – 2:05)**
  - Registration forms – why they are necessary
  - Potential trip suggestions: Nickerson Beach, Jamaica Bay, kayaking in Great South Bay, Adirondacks, banding, Robert Moses State Park (morning flight), Sterling Forest, Shawangunk Grasslands, Buffalo, Floyd Bennet Field, Liberty Marsh, Pelham Bay Park, Staten Island green belt, club Big Day, pelagic trip
• **Birding Panama by Adam Vinson (2:10 – 2:22)**
  - More to Panama than the canal!
  - Over 1000 recorded bird species – 120 are migrants
  - 11 endemics, 107 regional endemics
  - 70% of the country is forested
  - Highly recommends birding in Panama
  - Went to Pipeline Rd, saw 43+ species there
• Saw Great Potoo, Yellow-throated Toucan, Broad-billed Motmot, etc.
• Went to the Chiriquí, got great looks at several species of tanagers at fruit feeders
• Went to Boca Brava Island, saw several seabird and raptor species

• **Hawk Watchers Count! by Anne Swaim (2:24 – 2:39)**
  o Migrating raptors follow “edges” – shorelines, mountains, ridges, etc.
  o Hawkwatches provide great study opportunities
  o Raptors ride thermals and use them to migrate
  o Resources for raptor ID – Hawk ID Facebook group, Crossley *Raptors* ID Guide, *Hawks in Flight, Hawks At A Distance, Carrier* Guide, etc.
  o Learn at hawkwatches!
  o Important hawk ID field marks – overall impression, flight behavior, flight silhouette, then “bird field marks”
  o Study common birds so you know when you’re looking at something different
  o Check out resources (Cornell webinar, Hawk ID FB, etc.)
  o Visit a hawk watch

• **Photo/Audio Quiz by Nick Kachala (2:40 – 3:02)**
  o Photo 1 – Blackpoll Warbler
  o Photo 2 – White-throated Sparrow
  o Photo 3 – Redhead
  o Photo 4 – Eastern Phoebe
  o Photo 5 – Short-eared Owl
  o Photo 6 – Philadelphia Vireo
  o Photo 7 – Pileated Woodpecker
  o Audio 1 – Ovenbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Robin, Hermit Thrush
  o Audio 2 – Common Raven, Eastern Kingbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Least Flycatcher, Tennessee Warbler, American Robin

• **Leadership and Elections (3:02 – 3:16)**
  o **Leadership Awards**: Signed copies of Victor Emanuel’s *One More Warbler* awarded to Garret Van Gelder and Avery Scott
  o **Extra Mile Award** given to Garret Van Gelder, along with *Bird Dropings*
  o **Extra Mile Award** given to Ryan Zucker, along with a signed Peterson’s *A Field Guide to Western Birds*
  o **Great Idea Award** given to Nick Kachala, along with *Good Birders Still Don’t Wear White*
  o Three elected leadership roles – President, Vice President, and Secretary
  o Non-elected roles – Past President, Records Chair, Gilded Flickr

• **New Jersey Avian Migration Project by Silas Hernandez (3:17 – 3:29)**
  o Project headed by Gavin Aquila
  o Aimed to survey the number of migratory birds in a given area
  o Up to 17 warblers per day, in addition to a whole host of other migratory passerines
  o High count for Broad-winged Hawk in one day was over 1000
• Project helped Silas hone skills of scientific bird counting, differentiating migrant birds from local birds, and how to use behavior as a large part of identification (for example, BLVU vs TUVU, BOGU vs other small gulls)
• 154 species by project’s conclusion

• **Wrap Up by Carena Pooth and Garret Van Gelder**
  o **Unsung Hero Awards** given to some of the adults who have given significant amounts of time and effort to NYSYBC:
    - Valerie Freer
    - Gerhard Patsch
    - Bob Slechta
    - Anne Swaim
    - Lance Verderame
  o Thanks to all the presenters
  o Thanks to Anne Swaim and other SMRA adults for leading the morning bird walk
  o **Certificate of Appreciation** for leading a field trip given to Jordan Spindel
  o **Certificate of Appreciation** for leading a field trip given to Josh Cantor
  o **Certificate of Appreciation** for leading a field trip given to Isaiah Sigman-Wender
  o Thank you for coming!

• **Meeting adjourned at 3:36pm.**

Submitted by Ryan Zucker
NYSYBC Secretary