

MEET THE MEMBERS OF NYSARC

In order to "put a face" so to speak on NYSARC, a short biographical note of each member is shown below. They are in alphabetical order and each one was written by the member himself.

KENNETH P. ABLE

I began to watch birds seriously and to keep records around age 11. Since that time, I have birded throughout North America, in Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, New Zealand, Australia, Iceland, England, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and South Africa. I established five first state records for Kentucky and one each for Indiana and Louisiana. As a teenager I decided that I wanted to study birds professionally and pursued that career at the University of Louisville, Louisiana State University and the University of Georgia where I completed a Ph.D. in Zoology in 1971. Since then I have been on the faculty at the University at Albany, SUNY, where I am a Professor of Biology.

My professional life has been devoted to studies of bird migration and orientation, about which I have published more than 100 scientific papers. A recent book (*Gatherings of Angels — Migrating Birds and Their Ecology*, Cornell University Press, 1999) treats these subjects for a lay audience. I am a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and the Animal Behavior Society and a Corresponding Fellow of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft. In 1996 I was awarded the William Brewster Medal of the AOU. Currently I serve on the Council of the AOU and the Board of Directors of the American Birding Association (ABA). I am editor of the Monographs in Field Ornithology series published by the ABA and of the Gleanings From the Technical Literature column that appears regularly in *Birding*. I was one of the original members of NYSARC and, except for one term, I have served continuously since its inception.

ROBERT ANDRLE

My interest in birds began in boyhood, and later my particular interests became distribution, abundance and ecology. Educated at Canisius College, University of Buffalo and Louisiana State University, my doc-

toral research (Ph.D. in biogeography) was conducted in the Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz, Mexico. Employed at the Buffalo Museum of Science as Curator of Vertebrate Zoology, Associate Director, and currently Research Associate. I am a Life and Elective Member of the AOU, Past President and Fellow of the BOS, member of its avian records committee for several decades, and a member of the FNYSSBC NYSARC since its creation in 1977, and Chair of same from 1988 to 1999.

I have conducted ornithological research in twenty countries in the Western Hemisphere, Europe and Africa, with specific studies on endangered bird species in Mexico, Guatemala, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, and have studied 23 gull species on four continents.

Have authored some 65 scientific and popular articles, was principal editor of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, wrote part of and edited Beardslee and Mitchell's *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* and its *Supplement*, edited Eaton's *Birds of Cattaraugus County, New York*, Rosche's *Birds of Wyoming County, New York*, contributed data to Bull's *Birds of New York State*, and species accounts to Levine's *Bull's Birds of New York State*.

Have received research grants from 12 U.S. and foreign institutions, led tours in the US, Canada, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Trinidad and Africa, and have been consultant and advisor on environmental matters to several federal, state, municipal and private organizations.

In 1999, I received the Gordon M. Meade Award of the FNYSSBC for distinguished service to the Federation.

THOMAS W. BURKE

As a lifelong resident of southern Westchester County, with higher education at Yale University (undergraduate in economics) and New York University (graduate in accounting), and currently pursuing a career in public accounting, I began actively birding in the summer of 1972. To this end, I have traveled through much of the United States and Canada and have taken several trips abroad to Europe, Africa and South America. Over the years I have led numerous regional field trips for various organizations. I published a comprehensive birding newsletter, the *Mianus Field Notes*, covering eastern Westchester and western Fairfield Counties for 15 years. In 1976 I established and still am co-compiler of the Greenwich - Stamford Summer Bird Count. I have been the editor and voice of the New York Rare Bird Alert since early 1984.

I served on the Connecticut Rare Records Committee from its inception in 1985 to 1995 and have been a member of the New York State Avian Records Committee since 1989. I have also been involved with numerous avian and environmental projects in the region and have provided editorial assistance for various published works relative to birds. I remain extremely active in the field, fortunately still enjoying birding immensely and still learning.

WILLIE D'ANNA

I have been birding seriously for nearly twenty years and enjoying every minute of it. While I have lived in western New York my entire birding life, yearly trips have taken me to every corner of North America. The Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS), one of the first groups to make use of the written verification system, helped me to develop good birding skills during my early years. As an active birder discovering several rare and unseasonal birds, I got plenty of experience with the verification process. While birding on your own is a great way to learn, having an eager companion is even better. I have been fortunate to have my life-partner, Betsy Potter, along on most of my days in the field.

Warblers were the first birds that I really studied hard. Next came shorebirds. In recent years gulls have been my main focus with the late fall and early winter finding me on the Niagara River at every opportunity. For over ten years I compiled bird sighting records for the BOS and wrote the Region One report for *The Kingbird* for four years. Currently, I write the "Highlights of the Season" for *The Kingbird*. I have written various other articles for *The Kingbird*, *Birder's Journal*, *Texas Birds*, and *Ontario Birds* and contributed several species accounts to *Bull's Birds of New York State*.

My education culminated with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1984. Since that time I have worked as a bridge design engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation and was part of the team that won the 1997 Bridge Design of the Year award from the Association for Bridge Construction and Design.

KEVIN MCGOWAN

I have been the Curator of birds and mammals at Cornell University since 1988. I am directly responsible for the extensive collections of bird and mammal skins, skeletons, tissues, and birds' eggs and nests. I received my Ph.D. in biology in 1987 from the University of South Florida for a study of the social development of young Florida Scrub-Jays. My current research deals primarily with the social and reproductive biology of crows. As a broadly-trained ornithologist, I am also interested in a wide range of topics, including systematics, evolution, biogeography, natural history, and ecology. I am an Elected Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, former Secretary of the Ornithological Societies of North America (OSNA), and the former editor of the Ornithological Newsletter a bi-monthly publication of OSNA. Blurring the line between my professional and private life, I have been an avocational birder since my childhood in Ohio (my written notes date to 1971). I have traveled throughout North America, as well as to Europe, Central America, South America, and Africa, watching and studying birds. I have led birding field trips for groups of all skill levels in Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Hawaii. I have been a member of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's "Sapsuckers" World Series of Birding team for ten years. (We finished second overall in 1999 with 220 species seen in one day.) I am very interested in the topics of bird distribution and identification, and am equally interested in educating the birding public about those subjects.

ROBERT O. PAXTON

I was born in Lexington, Virginia, in 1932. I have been an avid field birder since the age of nine. Professionally, I worked as a professor of modern European history, publishing works on the history of France during the German occupation of 1940-44. taught at the University of California at Berkeley from 1961 to 1967, at the State University of New York at Stony Brook from 1967 to 1969, and at Columbia University from 1969 until retirement in 1997.

In California, I participated in founding the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and served as one of the regional editors for *Audubon Field Notes* for the Middle Pacific Coast Region from 1963 to 1967. After moving to New York, I continued to write for *Field Notes* and its successors

(*American Birds*, *North American Birds*) as one of the regional editors of the Hudson-Delaware Region.

As a licensed bird bander since 1970, I have banded birds in France and California as well as in New York. I served as president of the Linnaean Society of New York from 1978 to 1980.

ANGUS WILSON

An enthusiastic birder for the last 23 years, with field experience from a variety of European countries as well as North and South America and the Far East. After travelling widely as a child, I spent my formative years in suburban North London, England, a breeding ground for serious birders. Particularly interested in the identification and distribution of seabirds, gulls, shorebirds and swifts. A firm believer in importance of the Internet as a way for birders throughout the world to rapidly exchange information. To this end, I maintain a heavily-visited web site known as "Ocean Wanderers" (<http://www.best.com/~petrel/index.html>), devoted to bird identification, most notably of pelagic birds. I have also been a regular contributor to the "ID-Frontiers" internet discussion group since its inception. Currently at work on a pair of articles focusing on Red-necked and Little Stints for the ABA's *Birding* magazine.

Educated at the University of St Andrews, Scotland (studied zoology and genetics) and King's College, University of London (Ph.D. in molecular biology). Came to New York in 1991 as a post-doctoral research fellow at world-renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island. Spent a year in California as a visiting scientist at UC Berkeley and Tularik, Inc, a biotech start-up company based in San Francisco, before returning to Cold Spring Harbor Lab. Currently, an Assistant Professor at New York University School of Medicine in Manhattan, where I maintain my own research group studying the regulation of gene expression and the life cycle of human herpes viruses.

