

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
68TH ANNUAL MEETING, ALBANY, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 3, 2015

The 68th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held at the Radisson Hotel in Albany, NY on October 3, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed 24 delegates from 19 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Nancy Kern made a motion to approve the September 20, 2014 Annual Meeting minutes as published in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 64 No. 4. Kevin Griffith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

President's Report by Kathryn Schneider:

Kathy presented her written report which she made available to the delegates. Three issues of *The Kingbird* were printed last year. To address publication delays of *The Kingbird*, a new position, Production Editor, was formally established to help the Editor with proofreading, and to work as a liaison with the printer and the U.S. Postal Service. Patricia Lindsay has filled this new position. Kathy stated that additional Regional Editors are needed and provided a map of *The Kingbird* reporting regions along with a list of Regional Editors indicating vacancies. Regional Editors play a vital role beyond reporting sightings by analyzing regional data and documenting notable exceptions in the context of long-term trends and environmental changes. NYSOA also continues to organize the annual statewide waterfowl count. Bill Ostrander is the coordinator and compiles the results, which are published in *The Kingbird* and on the NYSOA website. The 2015 *Checklist of Birds of New York State* was published reflecting new state records accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) and taxonomic changes dictated by the American Ornithologists Union. Looking ahead, NYSOA participated in the planning meetings for the third Breeding Bird Atlas for New York State, set to begin in 2020.

The Annual Meetings continue to provide a special opportunity for birders—not only to learn more about birds during field trips, educational workshops, scientific presentations, and special tours, but also to mingle with other birders. NYSOA's newsletter, *New York Birders* is published quarterly. Kathy encouraged members to opt for the electronic version, which saves time, money, and natural resources. A spring field trip was held in the Adirondacks with 22 participants. The New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) held a field trip nearly every month. The NYSYBC has grown from 11 members in 2008 to 54 members in 2015. Kathy highlighted the work of the Marketing and Publicity Committee to help NYSOA grow its membership. The committee started a NYSOA Facebook page and ran the great hat give away at the conference.

Kathy highlighted the work of the Conservation Committee which published four informative articles in *New York Birders*. The committee represented NYSOA in the Birders Coalition for Gateway, working to influence the restoration of West Pond at Jamaica Bay, provided comments on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) State Wildlife Action Plan for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and provided comments on the DEC's Bald Eagle Conservation Management Plan. NYSOA also approved a member organization grant to Delaware-Otsego Audubon to create and distribute educational materials about alternatives to lead ammunition.

Treasurer's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy provided the following documents: the Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity for December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2015. He also provided the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Fund Activity and Balances for December 31, 2014. Andy encouraged members to support NYSOA by renewing at a higher level.

Audit Report by Andy Mason:

Andy Mason reported that the Audit Committee had completed the 2014 audit and found NYSOA's finances in good order.

New Member Club Vote: Pat Aitken moved to accept **Seatuck Environmental Association** as an organizational member of NYSOA. Bill Lee seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

NYSOA Committee Reports:

Linda Clark Benedict gave the **Archives Committee Report**. The archives are located at the Cornell University Library. The NYSOA website has a list of what is included in the archives.

Bill Ostrander gave the **Awards Committee Report**. The following were this year's awards: The Lillian C. Stoner Award recipient was Joseph Hernandez. Certificates of Appreciation were given to Brian White and Connie Soja for hosting the Townsend's Solitaire in Erieville in December 2014; Candace Giles for hosting the Varied Thrush in Irondequoit in April 2015; and Aidan Perkins and his parents for hosting the Bohemian Waxwing in Suffolk County in January 2015. The Emanuel Levine Memorial Award recipients were Guy A. Baldassare and Joshua Stiller for *Habitat Use and Migration Chronology of Waterfowl on the Upper Hudson River, New York*. *Kingbird* 64(2): 90-101.

Andy Mason gave the **Conservation Committee Report**. Andy introduced the Committee members and highlighted some of the year's activities. He also provided a written report. Comments were submitted on the NY State Open Space Conservation Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, and the DEC's draft 2015

Bald Eagle Conservation Management Plan. 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 monitored the Remsen-Lake Placid Unit Management Plan calling for creation of a recreation trail along an existing rail bed. There is continued involvement in future management plans for the Gateway National Recreation Area, primarily led by Seth Ausubel. Seth discussed Jamaica Bay and how it was breached in 2012 by Hurricane Sandy. He discussed Phase 1 of the plan, which will restore water control structures and reestablish fresh water habitat for birds. There will be a public comment period for the plan. The Committee continues to publish a quarterly conservation column in *New York Birders*. Andy encouraged members to bring conservation issues to the Committee.

Carena Pooth gave the report on **County Listing**. She provided a written report. There were 114 submissions last year, a new high. New for 2015 is the NYS Pelagic Zone. The form and additional information will be in the October issue of *New York Birders* and the deadline for 2015 data submission is March 1, 2016.

Tim Baird gave the **Marketing and Publicity Committee Report**. Tim talked about the NYSOA hat give-away for members who attended this year's Annual Meeting. He is looking for more marketing ideas and plans to use press releases to publicize the work of NYSOA. The goal is to increase membership. Greg Lawrence discussed the new NYSOA Facebook page and announced it now has 195 "likes". Mary Beth Warburton discussed field trips and would like more ideas on where members would like to go.

Pat Aitken gave the **Membership and Circulation Committee Report**. Pat provided a written report. Annual memberships through September 2015 show 486 total members and 42 club and organization memberships.

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

Carena Pooth gave the **New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) Report**. She provided a written report. It details the membership numbers, ages, and geographic distribution of members. The club has entered its eighth year. There are currently 54 members, up from 11 members in 2008. Members range from 10 to 19 years old. The January Annual Kickoff meeting is the most heavily attended event each year. The club holds monthly field trips around the state. Carena encouraged those in attendance to donate bird books and other birding stuff for the club's Book & Stuff Swap. The club gives out scholarships, and gave out \$3000 to nine young birders this past year. New this year is the

NYSYBC Independent Big Day activity which enables Youth Members unable to participate in the World Series of Birding to help raise money for the Scholarship Fund.

Publications Reports:

Shai Mitra gave ***The Kingbird Report***. Shai talked about the new Production Manager position filled by Patricia Lindsay. He said that Regional Editors are needed for ***The Kingbird***. Shai is looking into revising the style sheet for the Regional Reports.

Joan Collins gave the ***New York Birders Report***. She became Editor with the January 2015 issue. She plans to include poetry and a NYSOA volunteer feature in each issue. Joan asked attendees to send articles since this is a publication for the birders of NYS. She also encouraged members to opt for the electronic version of ***New York Birders*** which features color, live links for email and web pages, and arrives much quicker than the paper copy sent through Post Office mail.

Research Committee Reports:

Joan Collins gave the **Atlas 2020-2025 Report**. Joan reported that there have been two conference calls and one face to face meeting so far this year among NYSOA, DEC, Cornell Lab, and Audubon NY representatives. Data entry for the third NYS Breeding Bird Atlas will most likely be through an eBird portal. The Atlas will need the participation of as many NY birders as possible.

Bill Ostrander gave the **NYS Waterfowl Count Report**. Bill is the coordinator, and compiles the statewide regional data results for publication in ***The Kingbird*** and on the website.

Carena Pooth gave the **Website and Information Services Report**. She provided a written report which lists the most visited pages on the nybirds.org and nysyoungbirders.org websites during the past year. The NYS Avian Records Committee page was the most visited on the nybirds.org website. The field trip reports was the most visited page on the nysyoungbirders.org website. The online NYS checklist of birds incorporates the most recent AOU and NYSARC updates. The NYS Young Birders Club website has lots of current and historical information. Photo quizzes, created by the club VP, are new this year.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Report:

Dan Rosenblatt gave the report. He provided a 20-page Bureau of Wildlife Report. Dan highlighted the Young Forest Initiative, Grassland Incentive Program, Breeding Bird Atlas, State Wildlife Funding, Bald Eagle Plan, Piping Plover nest on Lake Ontario, and Plum Island. Dan answered questions from the group on the Mute Swan plan, Young Forest Initiative, Cormorant control, and Bobwhite hunting season on Long Island.

Election of Officers: Seth Ausubel presented the **Nominating Committee Report**. The committee nominated the following 2015-2016 slate of Officers/Directors for election:

Joan Collins – President
Seth Ausubel – Vice President
Mary Beth Warburton – Recording Secretary
Andy Mason – Treasurer

Peter Capainolo – Director (2017)
Dawn O’Neal – Director (2017)
Carena Pooth – Director (2017)
Kathryn Schneider – Director (2017)

Kevin McGowan made a motion to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Bill Lee seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Election of Nominating Committee: Kathy Schneider announced the following names for election to the 2015-2016 **Nominating Committee**: Bob Adamo (Chair), Janet Allison, and Dominic Sherony. Tim Baird made a motion to elect the Nominating Committee. Andy Mason seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Election of Auditing Committee: Kathy Schneider announced the following names for election to the 2015-2016 **Auditing Committee**: John Cairns (Chair), Irving Cantor, and Stephen Chang. Shai Mitra made a motion to elect the Auditing Committee. Nancy Kern seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Old Business: None

New Business: The 2016 Annual Meeting will be hosted by Chemung Valley Audubon Society at the Holiday Inn Elmira-Riverview Hotel September 9-11, 2016.

The Catskill Center is planning to hold a Birding Conference the second weekend in June 2016.

Kevin McGowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Kern seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Secretary pro tem