

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. 70TH ANNUAL MEETING, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, 11 NOVEMBER 2017

The 70th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held on 11 November 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, located at 401 Buffalo Avenue in Niagara Falls, New York. President Joan Collins called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM. Roll call of member clubs revealed 29 delegates from 20 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Alison Kocek made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting. Alison Van Keuren seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Joan Collins

Joan presented her written report, which she made available to the delegates. The first item in the report covered the 2016 Annual Meeting, which was hosted by Chemung Valley Audubon Society and was a great success. Ninety five participants enjoyed a weekend of birding activities, including field trips that tallied 122 species. Bill Ostrander, on behalf of the Awards Committee, presented the Lillian C. Stoner award to Kai Victor. Bill also presented several other awards during the banquet, all of which are listed on the NYSOA website.

The NYSOA archive continues to be maintained by Linda Clark Benedict. It is housed at the Cornell University Library. The Conservation Committee has been active, meeting regularly with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as well as writing letters on behalf of NYSOA. Carena Pooth once again compiled the annual County and State Bird List Report, which was published in the April issue of *New York Birders*. The Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trip Committee came up with popular give-away items for the 2016 and 2017 Annual Meetings. They also held a winter weekend in Oswego and a weekend shorebird workshop at Montezuma, both of which were well-attended and successful. The committee is in need of a new Chair.

Treasurer's Report and Audit Report – Andy Mason

Andy submitted the following written reports: Balance Sheet from 12/31/16, Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity from 12/31/16, Statement of Fund Activity and Balances from 12/31/16, and Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity from 9/30/17. There was nothing unusual to report. Joan reported for the Auditing Committee on behalf of Stephen Chang. Stephen sent a letter to Joan expressing thanks to John Cairns for his long service to the committee, and wishing him well in his distant new home. Joan also read the committee's brief report on their audit of NYSOA's records as of 12/31/16, which found that the documents present fairly the financial condition of the association.

NYSOA Committee Reports

Awards Committee – Bill Ostrander

The following awards were to be presented at the banquet: Three certificates of appreciation, two Lillian C. Stoner Awards, and two Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Awards.

Conservation Committee – Andy Mason

Andy submitted a written report summarizing the past year's activities. Members of the committee met with the new DEC Division of Fish and Wildlife Director and his staff. Issues discussed included cormorant management, Young Forest Initiative, lead ammunition, and funding for landowner incentive programs to protect grasslands. Other issues that the committee worked on include the proposal for increased anchorages for petroleum barges on the Hudson River, the closure of the Doodletown area at Bear Mountain State Park on a May weekend due to a footrace, and habitat conservation issues on eastern Long Island. The committee also prepared columns on conservation issues for *New York Birders*, and got Tom Salo's article about lead ammunition alternatives published in *The Conservationist*. Joan Collins reported that the state has still not made a decision on the Boreas Ponds land classification.

County and State Listing Project – Carena Pooth

Carena submitted a written report. She received and compiled 112 county and state list reports for 2016, up from 103 the previous year. Four of the participants were under age 18. The compiled 2016 report was published in the April issue of *New York Birders* and is available on the website.

Marketing and Publicity Committee – Tim Baird

Tim thanked Carena Pooth for designing the NYSOA winter hat that was given away to Annual Meeting participants, and Kathy Schneider for doing the work of getting the hats made. Tim mentioned that the committee needs a new chairperson. Greg Lawrence reported that he continues to update the NYSOA Facebook page, which has 646 "likes". Kathy Schneider reported that Mary Beth Warburton is working on plans for a weekend field trip and program in the Adirondacks this winter, concentrating on winter finches.

Membership – Pat Aitken, Berna Lincoln

Joan Collins presented the written report that was submitted by Pat and Berna. Membership statistics were consistent with recent trends.

New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) – Willie D'Anna

Joan Collins read the written report that was submitted by Willie. NYSARC is making good progress catching up with the backlog of reports. They recently had a full-day meeting in Coxsackie, New York. A NYSARC Special Report

covering 2013 and 2014 potential first state record reports was recently published in *The Kingbird*. Another report covering 2015-2017 potential first state records will be issued soon. Proposed changes to the list of review species are expected to be announced soon as well. NYSARC is developing a policy concerning the acceptance of records that were submitted to eBird, but not directly to NYSARC. It was agreed that only records supported by hard evidence would be considered. The details have not yet been finalized. In order to speed progress on eliminating the backlog of reports, the committee plans to begin to meet more frequently than once per year, and is investigating ways to conduct online meetings. The committee also wished to thank Carena Pooth for her work on behalf of the committee, keeping the review list and checklist up to date.

New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) – Carena Pooth

Carena submitted a written report with many details on the club's membership and activities. The club is in its tenth year, and now has 56 youth members, 30 supporting adults, and 20 partner organizations. Their field trips have been well-attended, and the Montezuma shorebird weekend was especially popular. The club's scholarship program continues to be very successful. More than \$30,000 has been awarded to help young birders attend birding camps and other conservation-related programs. About half of the scholarship money is raised by the young birders themselves.

Publications – Seth Ausubel

Seth reported that progress is being made getting *The Kingbird* caught up to schedule. He also wanted to thank Bill Ostrander for developing a software tool which enables *Kingbird* Regional Editors to sort through large volumes of data from eBird that would otherwise be overwhelming. Seth also mentioned the need to discuss making *The Kingbird* available electronically, to save on both financial and environmental costs of printing and mailing. He also mentioned that NYSOA has been approached by EBSCO Information Services, which wishes to make *The Kingbird* available through its online academic and scientific library service. Seth will bring this up at the next Board of Directors meeting. Joan Collins mentioned that she is always in need of material for *New York Birders*, and encouraged everyone to submit articles. One suggestion for subject matter is reviews of birding-related phone apps. Carena Pooth reported that the next update of the printed version of the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* will be coming out in early 2018, and will incorporate the recent taxonomy changes from the American Ornithological Society.

Research – Greg Lawrence

Greg reports that the committee is still looking into the details of how to proceed with the proposed NYSOA research grant program. It is hoped that they will begin making grants by late 2018.

Bob Spahn presented a written report on the status of planning for the New York Breeding Bird Atlas III (BBA III). The preliminary Steering Committee met again on October 25 and reaffirmed an interest in a New York BBA III. There is much work to be done to be ready to start fieldwork in 2020—see the Wisconsin BBA II website for a look at what is needed. Clearly eBird will be the data input tool and project database and archive. At this point we lack a long-term Steering Committee chair, a position held by NYSOA (FNYSBC) people in the previous two New York BBAs. It is also clear that there is interest from the users of the data in trying to obtain more quantitative data. A Science Committee is working on the details. Bob emphasized that there is a need to find a Steering Committee chairperson soon, as time is short. A significant amount of planning time was lost due to delays in DEC funding. A discussion ensued about what NYSOA's role will be. There is concern about whether it will be possible for NYSOA to find enough people to commit to the work needed to do a thorough job with the BBA III. This issue will be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Bill Ostrander reported that the 2018 Waterfowl Count will take place January 13-21. A coordinator is needed for region 9.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

Carena Pooth supplied a printed report on usage of the NYSOA and NYSYBC websites, which she continues to maintain and update regularly. Other than the home page, the most popular page on the NYSOA site is the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. The checklist is available in a printable tri-fold format on the site.

DEC Report

Connie Adams, DEC Senior Wildlife Biologist, provided an extensive printed report on DEC activities of interest to NYSOA's membership. She expanded further on these issues in an informative talk. DEC conducts monitoring of alpine forest birds, lowland boreal birds, Common Loons, marsh birds, Eastern Whip-poor-wills, and Prothonotary Warblers, as well as wintering grassland birds, and several other species and groups. The report also covers DEC's management plans for game birds, Mute Swans and Double-crested Cormorants. Included in the report are web links to more information on the various DEC programs.

Election of Officers and Directors

Bob Adamo presented the following 2017-2018 slate of Officers and Directors on behalf of the **Nominating Committee**:

Officers

President: Michael DeSha; Vice President: Tim Baird; Treasurer: Andy Mason; Secretary: John Kent.

Directors 2017-2019

Brian Dugan, Brendan Fogarty, Lucretia Grosshans, Carena Pooth.

Janet Allison made a motion to elect these officer and director nominees, and Kevin McGowan seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Joan Collins presented the nominees for the **Nominating Committee** for 2017-2018, consisting of Bob Adamo (Chair), Kathryn Schneider, and Dominic Sherony. Kevin McGowan made a motion to elect these nominees, and it was seconded by Andy Mason. It was approved unanimously.

Joan Collins presented the nominees for the **Auditing Committee** for 2017-2018, consisting of Stephen Chang (Chair), Tom Burke, and Peter Capainolo. Barbara Butler made a motion to elect these nominees, and it was seconded by Kevin McGowan. It was approved unanimously.

New Business

Andy Mason made a motion to elect the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development as a new member organization. Janet Allison seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Next year's NYSOA Annual Meeting will be held October 5-7, 2018, in Rochester. A host is being sought for the 2019 meeting, and one potential host is looking very promising.

Tim Baird made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Kevin McGowan. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kent, Recording Secretary