

At the Annual Meeting held on September 23, 2010, delegates voted to adopt this resolution.

LEAD AMMUNITION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, among the stated purposes of the New York State Ornithological Assoc. (NYSOA) is “, , , to preserve and protect birds and other wildlife and their environment . . .”; and

WHEREAS, there is abundant evidence that doves, pigeons and loons and other waterfowl ingest lead shot from spent hunting ammunition; and

WHEREAS, there is documentation that other birds including eagles, vultures and other scavengers ingest lead bullets and fragments from wounded and unretrieved prey, or discarded animals or entrails; and

WHEREAS, scientific data shows that lead exposure for eagles, vultures and other scavengers is on the rise, especially during hunting seasons; and

WHEREAS, lead is a known toxic substance with serious health effects for wildlife and humans alike, including neurological damage, retarded growth and cognitive development, sensory loss, behavioral impacts, and death, among others; and

WHEREAS, use of lead ammunition has been banned for waterfowl hunting in the United States, and lead fishing tackle has been banned in some jurisdictions, including New York State, as a result of these threats to birds and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, alternatives to lead hunting ammunition are available for most centerfire rifles, muzzle loaders and shotguns, and hunting activities continue successfully, using less toxic materials such as copper, where lead ammunition is not permitted, and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that lead restrictions have been successful in reducing lead levels in birds and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife Society supports the replacement of lead-based ammunition with non-toxic products and a phased-in approach to replacing lead ammunition in hunting; and

WHEREAS, lead consumption from ammunition poses a significant threat to wildlife, including a number of endangered, threatened, or declining species of birds, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED; that NYSOA calls on the New York State Legislature and NY State Department of Environmental Conservation to address the issue of the dangers of lead ammunition to wildlife, including birds, and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSOA calls upon the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation to create and disseminate educational information for hunters emphasizing the threat to wildlife from lead ammunition, and be it further

RESOLVED; that should educational and voluntary efforts to reduce the use of lead ammunition in NY State fail to significantly lessen the impacts of these materials on wildlife, NYSOA calls upon the NY State legislature to enact laws banning the use of lead hunting ammunition in the state for those hunting activities where proven effective non-toxic alternatives are readily available.