NEW YORK STATE
ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
For the Birders and Birds of the Empire State since 1948

Delegate's Meeting Agenda
NYSOA Annual Meeting 2026
79th Annual Meeting, held via Zoom, September 26, 2026

Roll Call - Pat Aitken
Approval of Minutes of 2025 Meeting - Anne Swaim
President's Remarks - Pat Aitken
Treasurer's report and Audit Report - Anne Swaim

Committee Reports
Membership Report - Pat Aitken
Conservation - Andy Mason
NYSYBC – Carena Pooth
County and State Listing - Carena Pooth
Research
    Breeding Bird Atlas BA – Pat Aitken

Election of Officers and Directors - Pat Aitken
Election of Nominating Committee
Election of Auditing Committee

Old Business

New Business
    Approve NYC Plover Project, Rockland Audubon Society, Four Harbors Audubon Society, Bronx River – Sound Shore Audubon Society and North Fork Audubon Society as member organizations.

Adjournment

NYSYBC Challenge – Anne Swaim
Presentation by Sophie Osborn, author of *Feather Trails*

2027 Annual Meeting -2027 – Rochester Birding Association
2028 – Hudson Mohawk (80th annual meeting)
2029 – Buffalo Ornithological Society (their 100-year anniversary)

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
78th ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

The 78th Annual Meeting of the New York Ornithological Association (NYSOA) was held on 20 September 2025 at the Ithaca Downtown Conference Center, Tompkins County, NY.

Roll Call – Pat Aitken performed a roll call of member club delegates; a quorum was reached with 27 present representing 18 clubs.

Approval of 2024 Minutes – A motion was made to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes; this was seconded and approved unanimously.

President's Remarks – Anne Swaim
Anne Swaim shared that moving forward, NYSOA hopes to combine the Secretary and Treasurer roles. This will be possible as the accountant is reducing the workload for the Treasurer, and the Board has identified ways to reduce the workload for the Secretary as well. Anne reported that a Request for Proposals to update and maintain the NYSOA website had solicited 12 proposals; it is hoped a contractor will be selected in early 2026. She thanked the many Board and Committee members for the invaluable gift of their time.

Treasurer's Report and Audit Report – Anne Swaim
The 2024 Treasurer's Report was presented, showing that as of December 31, 2024, NYSOA's total annual income was $76,903.64, with annual expenses of $76,138.48, and an ending balance of $240,789.39. This elevated balance was thanks to kind bequests from the Herbert Lightner and Arie Gilbert estates. These funds will soon be moved from the General Operating fund into the Memorial Fund and some will go towards special projects NYSOA has planned, such as the website update and a research fund. Anne mentioned that there may be a small issue in the report regarding the exact amount allotted to individual membership dues—the accountant will look into this. The expenses for *The Kingbird* were higher than expected due to the exemplary efforts of the team to produce more issues than expected to catch up with the backlog. Anne also pointed out the generous support the NYS Young Birders Club has received which allows the club to provide support to numerous young birders. She thanked the Auditing Committee for their efforts—Steve Chang, Tom Burke, and Peter Capainolo.

DEC Report – Amanda Dahms
(Separate handout) Angelina Ross (Angelina.Ross@dec.ny.gov) authored this comprehensive report which covers, among other topics, the Endangered and Threatened Species Mitigation Bank Fund; plans for monitoring of and development of guidance for grassland breeding and wintering birds in New York; Spruce Grouse habitat management, monitoring, genetics, translocations, and population monitoring; Peregrine Falcon monitoring; and non-lead ammunition for eagle conservation.

Committee Reports

Membership – **Pat Aitken**
Pat reported that individual and club membership has held fairly steady over the years despite some turnover in participating clubs.

Awards – **Pat Aitken**
Lillian C. Stoner Awards were presented to three young birders at the Annual Meeting banquet. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to two rare bird homeowner hosts. The Emanuel Levine Memorial Award was also presented at the Annual Meeting Banquet.

Conservation –**Andy Mason**
NYSOA weighed in this year on a number of statewide issues by submitting comments and contacting the governor. The most recent letter was to Governor Hochul, asking for her signature on Horseshoe Crab protection legislation, and Andy Mason asked member clubs and individuals to consider writing a letter on that issue as well. Four articles covering conservation issues were submitted to *New York Birders*. Andy Mason noted that NYSOA is always open to contact from clubs or individual members on local issues that NYSOA may be able to assist with, via a letter or comments during a public participation period.

New York State Young Birders Club –**Roseanne Vinson**
Rosanne Vinson thanked the many new parents that stepped up to help run field trips, membership, the scholarship program, and the website. The club now has 46 members. The average member is 15 years old and members age out of the Club at 20. Three of the members received Lillian C. Stoner Awards to attend this annual meeting. A NYSYBC team participated in the World Series of Birding and won second place in the high school division. Rosanne Vinson also thanked the many individuals and clubs who ran field trips for the club, including their kickoff meeting hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon that had great presentations from researchers and club members. The Young Birders chose the Wild Bird Fund as the recipient of 50% of this year's fundraising total.

New York State Avian Records Committee **– Shai Mitra for Michael McBrien**
NYSARC has managed to claw back from a backlog of several years of unreviewed records to the point where all formal submissions have been reviewed through to 2024 at this point. The Annual Report for 2023 is complete and will be published in *The Kingbird* as soon as possible. The committee consists of Mike McBrien (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Shawn Billerman, Tom Burke, Mike Cooper, Tim Healy, Patricia Lindsay, and Jay McGowan. They instituted criteria for how to deal with birds that are reported only from eBird and not formally submitted to the committee, including those from retroactive years. Because certain species that used to be very rare are much less rare now, through careful deliberation, NYSARC instituted a variety of criteria for determining when species no longer need formal review by the committee—this was published in last year's volumes of *The Kingbird* and shows the removal of multiple species.

Interestingly, in 2024, they did not find any additional species that needed to be removed. There have also been several new additions to the New York State list, which is now at 517 species—the latest are Taiga Bean-Goose and Red-footed Booby.

Publications:
The Kingbird – Shai Mitra
Shai reported that much of the content of *The Kingbird* this year has been devoted to NYSARC as both *The Kingbird* and NYSARC have been catching up on delays in their respective processes. Tim Healy's article in Volume 74 No. 3 is worth looking up and reading just for the 'wow' factor of how many amazing species records (2021 through 2024) have occurred over the last several years. To catch up with the several years of only three *Kingbird* issues going out, in 2023, six were published; in 2024, we published five issues; and this year so far we've published three, with a fourth to come out very shortly and a fifth to either come out at the end of December or in January. Following that issue, *The Kingbird* will essentially be caught up. This year's winner of 'Best contribution to *The Kingbird* for the 2024 volume' was Kim Hartquist for her article 'Two Brown-capped Black-capped Chickadees in Rochester During Summer of 2023.'

New York Birders – Dan Miller
Dan Miller, *New York Birders* editor, thanked the many editors and contributors to the newsletter over the years including Carena Pooth, Andy Mason, Julie Hart, Pat Aitken, and Anne Swaim. The next deadline for *New York Birders* will be for the winter issue, on November 1st.

Checklist of the Birds of New York State – Carena Pooth
Carena Pooth shared that she has been working on the Checklist for 22 years now and it is one of her favorite things to do as she has learned so much from it. Carena noted that the list recently underwent several changes, including splits in the genus *Accipiter*, Herring Gull into four species, and Warbling Vireo into two species, all resulting in changes to the names of affected species, (new genus names for some, new species names for others, and Eastern and Western Warbling-Vireo acquiring a hyphen!). Other changes include some sequences getting shuffled, and the addition of two new species: Taiga Bean-Goose and Red-footed Booby.

***County and State Listing* – Carena Pooth**
The year that had the highest ever number of submissions was 2020, the first COVID year and the year the Atlas started. This year's (2025) records are due March 1, 2026 and the forms are going to be online in November.

***Website and Information Services* – Carena Pooth**
The report highlights the most accessed pages which include NYSARC activities, and reports, and *The Kingbird* archive, which has a keyword search feature allowing searches going way back to the beginning of the organization when the publication was first published. Each year Carena adds another year to the search. Some features that are not commonly used will probably be removed when

NYSOA successfully transfers responsibility for website updates to an external person or organization.

***Research* – Anne Swaim for Alison Kocek**
Ornithological research is one of the core focuses of NYSOA. NYSOA's recent bequest from the Herb Lightner estate was significant and the organization wants to use it in a responsible, sustainable way and felt this was a perfect fit to reach that goal. We are expecting to have research grant details available to interested applicants later this winter with a likely proposal due date in early 2026. Students, professionals, amateurs, or organizations seeking a small grant to support upcoming research on New York's birds should keep an eye out for that to gain financial support.

Bird of the Year Update – Anne Swaim for Alison Kocek
This year NYSOA started a New York Bird of the Year initiative. The American Kestrel was picked as our inaugural NYBOTY, voted in by New York birders. NYSOA is still soliciting photographs, artwork, and poems on kestrels which will go towards the content for upcoming *New York Birders* newsletters. Voting for the 2026 New York Bird of the Year using suggestions from the 2025 voting poll will begin later this year. We hope to begin building a little conservation buzz around our NYBOTY and hope members can help by publicizing it more widely beyond our organization to stimulate greater interest in the initiative.

Breeding Bird Atlas III Update – Julie Hart
Julie Hart reported that currently there is a lot of data reviewing and proofing happening, and that she will reach out to experts across the state for input. A post-doc just started at the Cornell Lab who will be doing occupancy and abundance analyses. A spatial ecologist that is on staff with New York Natural Heritage will be spearheading the habitat and the change analysis to look at species presence change and where the state has lost or gained species. There will be both a book and a website produced with the results of the Atlas and the BBA is in the final stages of getting the book contract nailed down. Julie spent quite a bit of time over the winter and the early part of this year working with the State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator at DEC to review all of the lists of species that are of greatest conservation need in New York and update them using BBA data. Julie hopes to attend the 2027 NYSOA meeting to give an update and possibly have a photo contest.

Election of Officers and Directors

The 2025 NYSOA Nominating Committee, consisting of Anne Swaim (Chair), Patricia Aitken, and Charlie Scheim, presented the slate below to serve as NYSOA Officers with terms expiring in 2026, and four Directors with terms expiring in 2027.

Officers: (Terms expire in 2026)
President: Patricia Aitken
Vice President: Alison Kocek
Secretary/Treasurer: Anne Swaim

Directors: (Terms expire in 2027)
Craig Braack
Russ Comeau
Anne Swaim
Joseph Wallace

A motion to approve the slate of Officers and Directors was made by Shai Mitra and seconded by Craig Braack and approved unanimously.

Election of Nominating and Auditing Committees

The following committee slates for 2026 were recommended by the NYSOA Board of Directors for the delegates' approval.

Auditing Committee:
Steven Chang (Chair)
Thomas W. Burke
Peter Capainolo

Nominating Committee:
Anne Swaim (Chair)
Patricia Aitken
John Loz

A motion to approve the appointment of the Auditing and the Nominating Committees was made by Shai Mitra and seconded by Carena Pooth and approved unanimously.

Old Business
None

New Business:
NYSOA's 2026 Annual Meeting will be a virtual meeting. The 2027 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, and the 2028 meeting by the Rochester Birding Association.

Adjournment
A motion to adjourn was made by Carena Pooth; it was seconded and approved unanimously.

Supplementary documents to the committee and financial reports and other matters discussed at this meeting can be accessed here:
https://nybirds.org/docs2025

President's Remarks

Greetings to all! Thank you for attending our virtual annual meeting. Reports have been submitted by committee members, and they will be published online for review. Some highlights of our committee's activities will be presented during the course of this meeting. NYSOA has been very active this year, and I want to express my thanks to our board members and volunteers who have worked to advance NYSOA's initiatives and projects. I especially want to thank Anne Swaim for her role in coordinating this meeting. As I heard once at a conference I was attending "the mind cannot absorb what the seat cannot endure" so I will keep my remarks short! We will proceed with the Delegate's meeting, which is the business portion of the Annual Meeting and will then proceed on to the Young Birder's Club Challenge, which is often a quite humbling experience and then on to a presentation by Sophie Osborn, author of *Feather Trails*. Once again, thank you all for taking the time to be here.

Election of Officers and Directors

The board slate for 2026 is as follows:
President: Patricia Aitken
Vice President: Joseph Wallace
Secretary/Treasurer: Anne Swaim

Directors (term expires fall 2028):
Tim Healy
Alison Kocek
John Loz
Wendy Tocci

Nominating Committee:
Anne Swaim, Chair
Patricia Aitken
John Loz

Auditing Committee:
Stephen Chang, Chair
Tom Burke
Peter Capainolo

Intro for Keynote Speaker Sophie Osborn
Feather Trails was Named ABA Birding Book Club's Best Book of the Year.
In *Feather Trails*, wildlife biologist and birder Sophie A. H. Osborn reveals how the harmful environmental choices we've made—including pesticide use, the introduction of invasive species, lead poisoning, and habitat destruction—have decimated Peregrine Falcons, Hawaiian Crows, and California Condors.
More than a deeply researched environmental investigation, *Feather Trails* is also a personal journey and human story, in which Sophie overcomes her own obstacles—among them heat exhaustion, poachers, rattlesnakes, and chauvinism.

Visit www.wordsforbirds.us to learn more about her writing including her latest book on the adventures of women biologists.

2026 New York State Ornithological Association Budget

Income	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2026 YTD	% YTD
Member Organization dues	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,977.65	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,952.98	98%
Member Dues	$ 17,000.00	$ 16,780.00	$ 17,000.00	$ 14,075.00	83%
Total Dues	**$ 18,000.00**	**$ 18,757.65**	**$ 19,000.00**	**$ 16,027.98**	**84%**
Contributions	$ 500.00	$ 381.20	$ 500.00	$ 454.00	91%
Annual Meeting Contribution	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Total Bequests & Contributions	**$ 500.00**	**$ 381.20**	**$ 500.00**	**$ 454.00**	**91%**
Kingbird Subscriptions	$ 650.00	$ 575.00	$ 600.00	$ 100.00	17%
Other Sales--patches, decals	$ 150.00	$ 128.00	$ 150.00	$ 22.00	15%
Checklist Sales	$ 600.00	$ 614.00	$ 600.00	$ 109.00	18%
Field Trips			**$ 840.00**	**$ 750.00**	**89%**
Uncategorized Income	$ 50.00	$ -	$ 50.00	$ 24.00	48%
Total Other Income	**$ 1,450.00**	**$ 1,317.00**	**$ 2,240.00**	**$ 1,005.00**	**45%**
Interest Income	**$ 5,000.00**	**$ 2,253.32**	**$ 2,000.00**	**$ 2,749.72**	**137%**
Total income	**$ 24,950.00**	**$ 22,709.17**	**$ 23,740.00**	**$ 20,236.70**	**85%**

2026 New York State Ornithological Association Budget

Expenses	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2026 YTD	% YTD
Program Expenses					
Kingbird					
Printing	$ 15,000.00	$ 9,013.78	$ 12,000.00	$ 7,289.26	61%
Postage	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,962.70	$ 1,400.00	$ 974.93	70%
Other Expenses	$ 100.00	$ -	$ 2,000.00	$ -	0%
Total Kingbird	**$ 16,600.00**	**$ 10,976.48**	**$ 15,400.00**	**$ 8,264.19**	**54%**
New York Birders					
Printing	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,206.01	$ 2,400.00	$ 1,496.92	62%
Postage	$ 1,500.00	$ 442.16	$ 500.00	$ 667.49	133%
Other Expenses	$ 1,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,000.00	50%
Total NY Birders	**$ 4,500.00**	**$ 4,648.17**	**$ 4,900.00**	**$ 3,164.41**	**65%**
Other Program Expenses					
NYSARC	$ 50.00	$ -	$ 50.00	$ -	0%
Member Organization Grants	$ 100.00	$ -	$ 100.00	$ -	0%
Decals/Patches	**$ -**	**$ 121.37**	**$ 1,000.00**	**$ 933.66**	**93%**
Checklists	$ 750.00	$ -	$ 685.00	$ 649.72	95%
Awards	$ -	$ -	$ 50.00	$ -	0%
Field Trips	**$ 250.00**	**$ -**	**$ 1,315.00**	**$ 1,535.00**	**117%**
Annual Meeting	$ 200.00	$ 200.00	$ 200.00	$ 750.00	375%
Website	$ 200.00	$ 344.89	$ 1,446.00	$ 310.19	21%
Total Other Program Expenses	**$ 1,550.00**	**$ 666.26**	**$ 4,846.00**	**$ 4,178.57**	**86%**
Total Program Expenses	**$ 22,650.00**	**$ 16,290.91**	**$ 25,146.00**	**$ 15,607.17**	**62%**

2026 New York State Ornithological Association Budget

Expenses (continued)	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2026 YTD	% YTD
Admin/General Expenses					
Affinipay (2 yr) Membership Software	$ -	$ 4,896.00	$ 50.00	$ -	0%
AffiniPay fees	$ 600.00	$ 693.61	$ 500.00	$ 571.65	114%
PayPal fees			$ 200.00	$ 50.50	25%
Membership Promotion	$ 100.00	$ -	$ 50.00	$ -	0%
Dues/Subscription Notices	$ 150.00	$ 80.00	$ 80.00	$ 80.00	100%
Data backup	$ 100.00	$ -	$ 99.00	$ -	0%
Archives	$ 40.00	$ -	$ 40.00	$ -	0%
Officer and Board Expenses	$ 100.00	$ 56.68	$ 100.00	$ -	0%
Office Expenses	$ -	$ 457.58	$ 200.00		0%
Marketing/Publicity	$ 1,000.00	$ -	$ 50.00	$ -	0%
Other Committee Expenses	$ 50.00	$ -	$ 50.00	$ -	0%
Shipping and Postage	$ -	$ 516.25	$ 500.00	$ -	0%
Misc (including general mail)	$ 400.00	$ 15.42	$ 100.00	$ 207.16	207%
Travel	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Bank Fees	$ 50.00	$ -	$ 50.00	$ -	0%
Insurance	$ 2,072.00	$ 2,072.00	$ 2,072.00	$ 2,072.00	100%
Accounting Fees	$ 2,700.00	$ 7,217.50	$ 4,000.00	$ 1,575.00	39%
Tax Compliance	$ 600.00	$ -	$ 100.00	$ -	0%
Charities Registration	$ 150.00	$ 25.00	$ 25.00	$ -	0%
Total Admin/General Expenses	**$ 8,112.00**	**$ 16,030.04**	**$ 8,266.00**	**$ 4,556.31**	**55%**
Total Expenses	**$ 30,762.00**	**$ 32,320.95**	**$ 33,412.00**	**$ 20,163.48**	**60%**
Income – Expenses	**$ (5,812.00)**	**$ (9,611.78)**	**$ (9,672.00)**	**$ 73.22**	
	2025 Budget	**2025 Actual**	**2026 Budget**	**2026 YTD**	**% YTD**

NYS Ornithological Association, Inc.
Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity - Expenses
August 31, 2026

		YTD 8/31/26	2025 ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Expenses				
Kingbird	Printing	7,289.26	4,271.78	3,017.48
	Postage	974.93	1,197.38	(222.45)
	Other	-	-	-
	Total Kingbird	8,264.19	5,469.16	2,795.03
NY Birders	Printing	1,496.92	1,931.01	(434.09)
	Postage	667.49	224.95	442.54
	Other	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
	Total NY Birders	3,164.41	3,155.96	8.45
Other Program Expenses				
	NYSARC	-	-	-
	Member Org. Grants	-	-	-
	Archives	-	-	-
	Checklists	649.72	-	649.72
	Awards	-	123.00	(123.00)
	Decals	933.66	-	933.66
	Website	310.19	298.51	11.68
	Data backup	-	-	-
	Field Trips	1,535.00	-	1,535.00
	Office Expenses			
	Marketing/Publicity	-	-	-
	Total Program Expenses	3,428.57	421.51	3,007.06
Membership Promtion	Membership Promotion Exps	-	-	-
Officers & Board	Officer & Board Expenses	-	56.68	(56.68)
Annual Meeting	Annual Meeting Expenses	750.00	1,431.28	(681.28)
Other General Expenses				
	Other Committee Expenses	-	-	-
	Circulation		-	-
	Dues/Subscriptions	80.00	80.00	-
	Paypal and related	50.50	43.96	6.54
	Miscellaneous(incl gen mail)	207.16	358.15	(150.99)
	Travel			
	Bank Fees		-	-
	Insurance	2,072.00	2,072.00	-
	Accounting	1,575.00	5,642.50	(4,067.50)
	Membership Management (2 yrs)	-	4,896.00	(4,896.00)
	Affinipay Fees	571.65	485.80	85.85
	Tax Compliance			
	Charities Registration		25.00	(25.00)
	Total Other General Expenses	4,556.31	13,603.41	(9,047.10)
Total Expenses		20,163.48	24,138.00	(3,974.52)
Execess (deficiency) of income over expenses		73.22	(6,215.56)	6,299.78

NYS Ornithological Association, Inc.
Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity - Income

August 31, 2026

		YTD 8/31/26	2025 ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Income				
Dues	Member Organization Dues	1,952.98	4,845.85	(2,892.87)
	Member Dues	14,075.00	10,615.00	3,460.00
	Total Dues	16,027.98	15,460.85	567.13
Bequests & Contributions				
	Contributions	454.00		454.00
	Annual Meeting contribution	-		-
	Total Bequests & contributions	454.00	-	454.00
Other Income				
	Kingbird Subscriptions	100.00		100.00
	Decals	22.00	54.00	(32.00)
	Checklists	109.00	436.00	(327.00)
	Other	24.00	24.00	-
	Total Other Income	255.00	514.00	(259.00)
	Field Trips	750.00		
Dividend Income	Vanguard	-		-
Interest Income	First Internet Bank		1,947.59	802.13
Transfers	Transfer from ...			-
Total Income		**20,236.70**	**17,922.44**	**1,564.26**

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2025

	12/31/2025	12/31/2024
Assets		
Checking Account	120,836.30	139,307.46
Atlas	3,632.25	4,206.17
First Internet Bank CD's	101,532.18	97,025.36
NYSOA - Paypal Account	132.79	250.40
Vanguard	-	-
Total Assets	226,133.52	240,789.39
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Operation	111,196.09	121,025.14
General Memorial	73,884.81	72,357.58
Temporarily Restricted Funds		
Atlas	3,732.37	4,206.17
Emanuel Levine	1,224.29	1,199.48
Lillian C. Stoner	1,440.83	2,841.63
NYS Young Birders Club	34,655.13	39,159.39
Total Fund Balances	226,133.52	240,789.39

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows
December 31, 2025

CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
CASH RECEIVED FROM DUES & MISC.INCOME	$ 29,121.85	
INTEREST INCOME	4,506.82	
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		$ 33,628.67
RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
NET INCOME (LOSS)		$ (14,655.87)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS:		
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS		-
NET CASH PROVIDED TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES		$ (14,655.87)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH:		
CASH BEGINNING OF YEAR		240,789.39
NET CASH PROVIDED TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(14,655.87)
CASH END OF YEAR		$ 226,133.52

Prepared by James P. Phelan CPA, PC
September 23, 2026

NYSOA Membership Report

Annual Meeting

9/27/2026

Joan Collins
Patricia Aitken

Membership by category

Individual	**326**
Life	**27**
Total	**353**
Clubs & Organizations	**47**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	Sept 2016	Oct 2017	Nov 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Sept 2024	Sept 2025	Sept 2026
Young Adult	8	6	6	3	1	2	5	3	7	5	8
Individual	334	345	366	376	291	254	262	208	200	187	182
Family	82	82	92	90	81	74	72	67	58	59	62
Contributing	58	66	71	72	75	59	67	60	49	51	43
Kingbird Club	23	29	34	31	23	37	38	37	33	27	31
TOTAL	497	528	569	572	471*	426	444	375	347	329	326
Life Memberships	42	41	40	37	33	33	32	30	29	27	27

CLUB & ORG MEMBERSHIP	Sept 2016	Oct 2017	Nov 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Sept 2024	Sept 2025	Sept 2026
TOTAL	42	43	45	40	44	40	44	44	42	43	47

Notes on Clubs:

Lapsed: Buffalo Audubon Society, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. NYS Bluebird Society declined to renew membership.

New Members this Year: Four Harbors Audubon Society, North Fork Audubon Society, NYC Plover Project

NYSOA CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT
September 27, 2026

Andrew Mason, Committee Chair

Past year's activities :

- Wrote Governor Kathy Hochul regarding proposed changes to the State Environmental Quality Review Act.
- Submitted comments to the NY State Department of Public Service regarding siting of a major renewable energy project in the Fort Edward grasslands.
- Wrote Governor Kathy Hochul urging her signature on legislation regulating horseshoe crab harvesting.
- Participated in online hearing with NYS DEC on implementation of the Birds and Bees Protection Act.
- Continued involvement in efforts to protect the EPCAL grasslands in eastern Long Island, with assistance from Pat Aitken.
- Continued participation in the Plum Island Coalition.
- Prepared *NY Birders* columns on*: Crow Hunting; Russ Comeau's listing of environmental successes and losses in the 2025 NY State Legislative session; Passage of Horseshoe Crab Protection Legislation.*

The committee welcomes communications from members and member organizations concerning issues involving conservation of birds, as per the organization's policy.

New York State Young Birders Club

Now in its 19th year

Leaders

Youth Leadership

President Vincent Cassetta, *age 15*
Vice President Reed Wilford, *age 15*
Secretary Rook Schucker Mallo, *age 16*

Adult Team

Chair (acting) * Carena Pooth
Field Trips * Samantha Cassetta, Susan Ells,
* Patrick Markee
Membership Susan Ells, Carena Pooth
Scholarships * Julia Kaplun, *Jonathan Schlosser
Treasurer Charlie Scheim
Website/Tech Carena Pooth

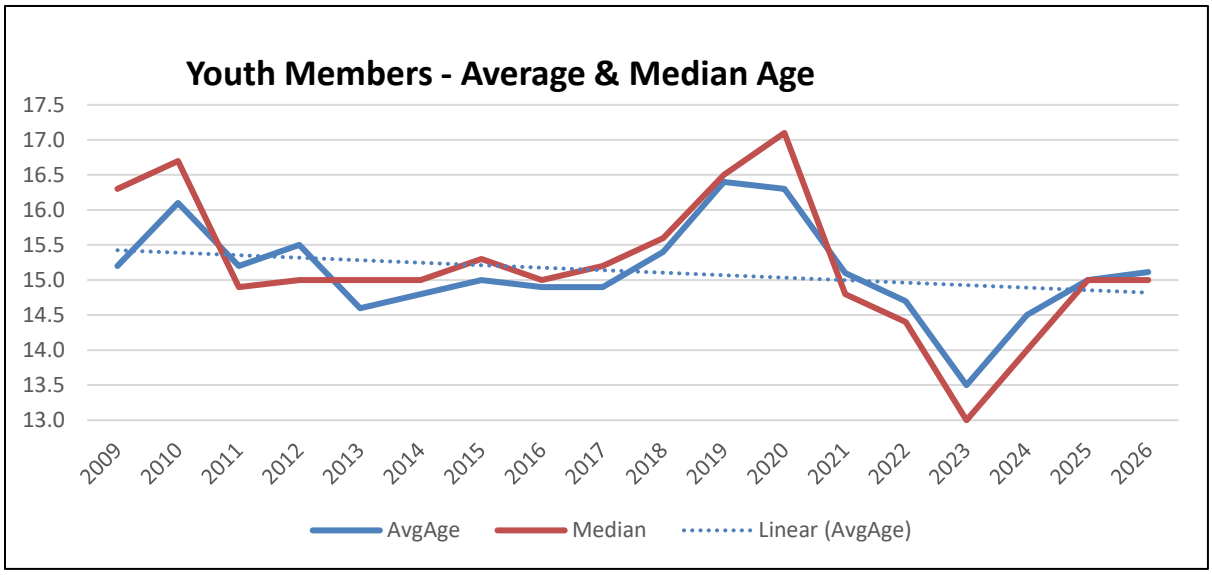
* *Parent of NYSYBC member or alum*

NYSOA Annual Meeting, Ithaca
September 2025

Membership

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2011 & '12	2010	2009
Youth:	44	47	48	50	44	44	31	32	49	56	52	56	44	42	38	23	19
Supporting Adult:	59	56	59	37	42	49	22	22	24	30	50	44	41	43	25	20	20
Partners:	24	24	24	24	21	22	24	24	23	22	21	22	21	20	18	17	19

Age Range: 10-19, inclusive. Current average age is 15.0



2026 Field Trips – NYS Young Birders Club

DATE	LOCATION	SPONSOR	ATTENDEES	AGES
Jan 5 (Sun)	Brooklyn / offshore	Nearshore Pelagic, American Princess Cruises CANCELLED (weather)		
Feb 28	Sullivan & Ulster Finch Quest	John Burroughs Natural History Society	7	10-15
Mar 15	Teatown Lk Reservation (Westchester) *Agenda on next page*	SMRA. Annual Kickoff. Bird Walk & 1-day conf. Speakers: 6 Youth, 1 guest speaker (Sean Camillieri). Book Swap. Photo Quiz. Awards.	16	10-17
Mar 29	Wallkill River NWR (Orange)	Orange County Audubon	8	10-17
April 19	Prospect Park (Brooklyn)	Brooklyn Bird Club	10	12-17
May 9	World Series of Birding	New Jersey	5	15-16
May 17	Harlen Valley Rail Trail (Columbia)	Alan Devoe Bird Club	4	12-17
June 20	Marshlands Conservancy (Westchester)	Led by NYSYBC members Vincent Cassetta & Reed Wilford	11	10-17
July 26	Nickerson Beach (Nassau)	Led by Brendan Fogarty plus Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay	6	10-16
Aug 22	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (Queens/Brooklyn)	Led by NYSYBC members Julian Batista & Elias Markee-Ratner	8	13-17
Sep 19	Governors Island	The Linnaean Society	10	10-17
Sep 27	NYSOA Ann Mtg (online)	NYSYBC photo quiz once again	TBD	TBD
October 11	Jug End Sate Reservtn (MA)	Berkshire Bird Observatory – Bird Banding	TBD	TBD
November	Fall Birding in Brooklyn	Brooklyn Bird Club	TBD	TBD
December 6	NYSYBC Winter Bird Count	Areas not included in CBC circles (Westchester)	TBD	TBD
Dec 14-Jan 4	Audubon's 127th CBC	We encourage YBers to participate locally		

NYSYBC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Many thanks to our 24 partner organizations who support us with annual dues!

Extra special thanks to those who sponsor NYSYBC field trips (and to their individual volunteers who donate their time to organize and lead those excellent trips)!

Next Annual Kickoff - January 2027 (1-day conference)

Please email ybc1@nybirds.org by 11/30/26 if you have books or other items to donate for our Book & Stuff Swap.

Scholarships

NYSYBC has awarded over $50,000 since the Scholarship Program began in 2010.

A big THANK YOU to all of our generous donors!

New York State Young Birders

18th Annual Kickoff | March 15, 2026
Teatown Lake Reservation

10:00–10:15 am Beverages and Snacks

10:15–10:20 am Welcome — Carena Pooth

10:20–10:35 am 2025 Year-in-Review and Introductions — Julian Batista

10:35–11:05 am Guest Speaker: *Birding NYC Reservoirs* — Sean Camillieri

11:05–11:10 am Break

Presentations—Session 1

11:10–11:25 am *Patch Birding* — Reed Wilford
11:25–11:40 am *Camp Chiricahua* — Pranav Kumar
11:40–11:55 am *Southwest Birding* — Ben de Jonge

11:55–12:00 pm Break

Presentations—Session 2

12:00–12:15 pm *World Series of Birding* — Julian Batista
12:15–12:30 pm *Ballon Project* — Emma Murphy (Zoom)
12:30–12:45 pm *Western NY Hotspots* — Rook Schucker Mallo

12:45–1:00 pm NYSYBC Winter Bird Count — Julian Batista

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1:00–2:00 pm Lunch and Club Photo

2:00–2:15 pm Book Swap

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2:15–2:30 pm Scholarships — Emily Wein

2:30–2:45 pm Field Trips — Samantha Cassetta & Patrick Markee

2:45–3:00 pm Photo Quiz — Elias Markee-Ratner

3:00–3:20 pm Leadership & Elections, Awards — Carena Pooth

3:20–3:30 pm Wrap-up — Julian Batista

NYSOA COUNTY & STATE LISTING - 2025 Records Year

Carena Pooth 9/27/26

This is a fun, friendly competition that we run each year. The primary focus is on ***life*** lists for counties and the entire state. 122 reports were submitted this time around, up from 114 for 2025. The all-time submission high was 142 for 2020 (birding kept us sane during COVID!).

STATE LISTS: Pat Lindsay is the 5-time leader in the NYS life list category with 468 species (up 5 from last year!).

REGIONS AND COUNTIES: Bill Purcell still holds record highs for 4 counties and one region; **Jeff Bolsinger** for 3 counties and one region; and **David W. Harrison** for 3 counties. The three participants with the highest number of county list ticks in 2025 were **Jeremy Collison** 10394 (9980 last year), **Gary Chapin** 9665 (9433 last year), and **David W. Harrison** 9266 (8941 last year).

SELECTED BIRDER NOTES: Neal Reilly called out two superlative sightings: "Most Unexpected State Bird: Broad-billed Hummingbird south of Buffalo on October 25th! Best county bird: American Golden-Plover in Schenectady County on September 1st." **Gary Bletsch** braved a new frontier: "I finally made it to the last few NY counties where I had never recorded any birds. I set foot in Staten Island for the first time ever, and managed to tick 8 species around the ferry dock, to make my 62nd county list!" Congrats to **Aidan Perkins** for breaking "the Suffolk County Big Year record with 319 species, including the pelagic zone, which contained 5 species: Band-rumped, Leach's, Sargasso, Manx and Scopoli's." **Shai Mitra** was happy to report "two milestones for me, finally reaching 300 species for my patch at Robert Moses State Park (via a bird as common and widespread as Common Merganser!) and 400 for Suffolk County (via Bullock's Oriole)." **Tim Healy** reflected on two outstanding experiences he had in 2025: "It was a genuine honor to be present for the discovery of New York's first-ever Arctic Warbler while birding at my beloved patch alongside a crew of close friends, with this record resulting in the addition of an entirely new family to the official state checklist! Another noteworthy highlight was the celebrity Common Cuckoo that showed up in Riverhead, marking a major milestone as my 400th species for Region 10!" **David W. Harrison** offered some insight into what gets us hooked and what keeps us involved in county listing: "Next year's goals are to spend more time birding with friends (they keep me going), to go to under-birded counties more often, and to try a County Big Day in a new region. Almost forgot – getting Fulton County over 200 was special for me. It's the county that got me interested in the county listing project during the second BBA when I saw how poorly represented it was."

DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

Online and downloadable/printable forms are available at the end of each year, and all reports are due by March 1st. The compilation and summary are published in the summer issue of *New York Birders.*

If at all possible, PLEASE use the online form to submit your data. I understand about computer breakdowns and lack of internet for a few people, but it really helps me out if you do the data entry online (so I don't have to do it for you).

TIP: Print the paper form and fill it out first, then transcribe the numbers into the online page and click Submit. Easy-peasy!

HISTORICAL STATISTICS

Records Year:	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**	**2011**	**2010**
TOTAL Submissions:	122	114	121	127	129	142*	135*	129	129*	112	103	114*	112*	97*	80	67
Online	97%	96%	94%	94%	94%	82%	86%	83%	85%	82%	73%	81%	79%	63%	73%	63%

* New high in total submissions since project began in 1992

LOOKING AHEAD - 2026 RECORDS YEAR

The submission deadline for 2026 data is March 1, 2027. The online reporting form and mail-in form will be available at nybirds.org/ProjCountyLists.html by 12/1/26.
The paper form will also be in the Winter 2026/2027 issue of *New York Birders* .

ONLINE ARCHIVE: nybirds.org/ProjCountyLists.html

Questions? Email carena@prodigy.net

NYSOA 79th Annual Meeting
Agenda

New Business

Approval of New NYSOA Member Organizations

NYC PLOVER PROJECT EST. 2021

Four Harbors Audubon Society

Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon

North Shore Audubon Society
Serving Northern Nassau County
Established 1952

Rockland Audubon