



NYSOA Annual Meeting in the Southern Tier

Chemung Valley Audubon Society hosted the 69th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) September 9-11, 2016. Birding opportunities along the Chemung River, which flows through the heart of Elmira, were just steps away from the weekend's headquarters at the Holiday Inn-Elmira Riverview.

Historic reenactor Brian "Fox" Ellis twice treated his audience to skillful performances in the role of John James Audubon. He led a Friday afternoon river walk to an oversized bronze rendering of the extinct Labrador Duck, one of the Lost Bird Project series by sculptor Todd McGrain. The bird is memorialized at Brand Park in Elmira, where legend has it that the last known individual was shot on December 12, 1878, by a boy in search of food for the family table. Ellis once again took on the role of Audubon, as the early American artist and ornithologist, during the Friday evening buffet, interweaving historical events and people with his bird stories.



The guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet, Dr. Rob Bierregaard, who is a research associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, presented "Tracking Ospreys in the Age of Silicon: Migration, Ecology, Conservation." Since 2000, he has fitted satellite transmitters on 52 juvenile and 43

adult Ospreys. He shared his discoveries about the dispersal and migration of juveniles as well as the hunting behavior of adult males feeding their families.



Members of the NYS Young Birders Club enjoy the Annual Meeting Banquet

Field trips, the paper session, and of course, the delegates' meeting filled out the weekend. Birders tallied 122 species, taking with them memorable checklists and a network of new friends.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers and participants who contributed to the success of the weekend. We look forward to the 70th annual meeting in Fall 2017, hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society!
- Anita Seaberg



*Greg Lawrence presents
at the Paper Session*

2016 NYSOA Awards

During 2016, NYSOA presented several certificates and awards. Certificates of Appreciation can be awarded for various reasons. This year, two were awarded to rare bird hosts and two to liaisons between the rare bird hosts and the birding community. John and Marilyn Paarlberg hosted a Harris's Sparrow at their home in Loudonville. Richard Guthrie worked with the Paarlbergs to give birders access to their property to see the western bird. Certificates also went to the Prospect Park Alliance, which hosted a Painted Bunting and to Rob Bate for making sure that birders could view the Painted Bunting without harming the park's plantings. Laurie LaFond received a certificate for her untiring work to advocate and raise funds for the preservation of the Washington County Grasslands.

At the NYSOA annual meeting in Elmira, Kai Victor received the Lillian Stoner Award given to students to help finance their attendance at the annual meeting. Kai is the President of the New York State



Kai Victor receives Lillian Stoner Award

Young Birders Club. He started a birding club at his school. He was a volunteer for the Wild Bird Fund, worked with biologist Eric Powers to help maintain Northern Bobwhite populations on Long Island; surveyed salamanders and breeding birds as an intern for New York Parks Department; independently conducted research on attracting birds to mist nets at the Huyck Preserve; and worked on Sandhill Crane banding protocol, surveyed summer bird populations, and worked on habitat restoration as an intern for the Swaner Preserve in Utah.



Kathy Schneider receives Emanuel Levine Award

Also at the annual meeting, *Kingbird* Editor Shaibal Mitra presented the Emanuel Levine award for the year's best *Kingbird* article to Kathryn Schneider for "The Case for Adding Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) to the Checklist of the Birds of New York State".

President Joan Collins presented the President's Award to Irving Cantor for his many years of service on the Auditing Committee.

- Bill Ostrander



Sabine's Gull, photo by Gale VerHague

Mark Your Calendar Now!

2017 NYS Birders Conference and NYSOA 70th Annual Meeting November 10-12, 2017

The Buffalo Ornithological Society is hard at work planning the 2017 NYS Birders Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting. The conference will be held at the new Hilton Hotel right at the entrance to Niagara Falls State Park, November 10-12, 2017 (Veterans Day weekend). Why so late in the year? Because the birding is fabulous then (think Sabine's Gull)! Mark your calendar now and watch for more details in upcoming *New York Birders* issues, and on NYSOA's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nybirds/) and website (www.nybirds.org/).



"John J. Audubon" (Brian "Fox" Ellis) leads a field trip and gives a presentation at the Annual Meeting.