

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

NYSOA held its annual meeting in Kingston, NY, September 13-15. This year the Catskill Center was our host organization and combined the meeting with its annual Taking Flight conference. Thanks to the organizing committee for held its annual meeting in Kingston, NY, September 13-15. This year the Catskill Center was our host organization and combined the meeting with its annual Taking Flight conference. Thanks to the organizing committee for providing such an enjoyable weekend.

Friday featured afternoon field trips, an evening cruise on the Hudson River, and a trivia workshop for those of us who did not take the cruise. Saturday's agenda included more field trips, the delegates' business meeting, a paper and poster session, workshops, and the banquet with keynote address by Nathan Pieplow, author of the *Peterson Guide to Bird Sounds*. Everyone enjoyed his informative presentation about the language of birds: how bird songs and calls communicate territory, relationships, presence of food, and danger.



Young Birders enjoy the Annual Meeting Banquet. Photo © Carena Pooth

The conference concluded with field trips on Sunday morning.

Under NYSOA's bylaws, member organizations send delegates who, among other duties, hear reports of NYSOA's activities, elect directors and officers, and vote on business and other matters. This year, the following people were elected to serve NYSOA for 2020: Shirley Shaw, President; Greg Lawrence, Vice President; John Kent, Recording Secretary; Mary Jane Dugan, Treasurer; Patricia Aitken, Brian Dugan, Brenda Fogarty, and Lucretia Grosshans, Directors 2020-2021; Joe Brin, Douglas Futuyma, Richard

Guthrie, Robert Spahn, Directors who served in 2019 will continue in 2020; and Gerald Thurn, Director to complete Shirley Shaw's term through 2020.

Outgoing President Mike DeSha reported on the year's activities, including our many conservation activities: endorsement of the American Bird Conservancy's letter to the Department of Homeland Security and U. S. Customs and Border Security opposing the environmental damage, and encroachment on natural areas by the building of the border wall; raising awareness about the need to find a solution to harassment of birds by people who are alerted to the location of rarities and nesting sites by postings on electronic media; and ongoing work to develop a stance with respect to large-scale solar farms' impact on birds.



Delegates' Field Trip, Photo © Carena Pooth

A major initiative of NYSOA for this year and five years to come will be the organization's role in the survey work for NY Breeding Bird Atlas III. This major citizen science project will require the work of volunteers across the state to survey small areas to find evidence of breeding by the birds of that area. This survey work is open to anyone who enjoys birding, and I hope large numbers of NYSOA members will participate.

By far, though, the best part of any NYSOA Annual Meeting is the opportunity it gives to meet fellow birders from across our state, hear about the latest ornithological research through the papers session, learn lots about birds at the workshops, go on field trips in areas we don't visit frequently, and just have a good time!

Next year's meeting will be in the Syracuse area October 2-4, 2020, hosted by Onondaga Audubon Society. Please mark your calendars now. NYSOA's Annual Meeting and Birders' Conference should be a must-attend event on your calendar. I look forward to seeing you there!

- Shirley Shaw



Shai Mitra with young birders Elliot and Rion. Photo © Carena Pooth

2019 NYSOA AWARD WINNERS:

President's Awards:

- **Joan Collins**, to recognize her many years of service to NYSOA, particularly as editor of *New York Birders* and for volunteering to step into the role of Membership Manager after the passing of Berna Lincoln in 2017.
- **Kathy Schneider**, to recognize her many years of service to NYSOA, most recently by capably serving as co-chair of the NY BBA III Steering Committee.
- **Robert Spahn**, to recognize his many years of service to NYSOA, including about 40 years during which he took on roles of Regional Editor and Regional Reports Editor for *The Kingbird*.

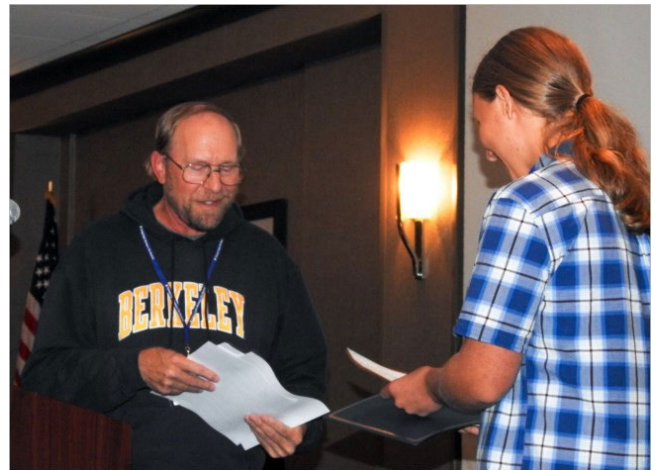
The **2019 Emanuel Levine Award** was presented to **Waheed Bajwa**, for "West Nile Virus infection and other causes of Bird mortality in New York City," which was published in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 68, No. 3, September 2018. This award honors the author of the best *Kingbird* article for the year.



Shai Mitra presents the Levine Award to Waheed Bajwa.
Photo © Carena Pooth

In 1975 Lillian C. Stoner, a founding member of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (now NYSOA), donated money to the organization to establish a fund to enable a student to attend the Annual Meeting each year. This year's Stoner Award winners:

- **August Davidson-Onsgard**, high school senior, Brooklyn, NY
nominated by the New York State Young Birders Club



Bill Ostrander presents the Lillian C. Stoner Award to August Davidson-Onsgard. Photo © Carena Pooth

- **Adam Vinson**, high school junior, New York, NY
nominated by the New York State Young Birders Club
- **Ryan Zucker**, high school sophomore, New York, NY
nominated by The Linnaean Society of New York



Adam Vinson and Ryan Zucker accept their Lillian C. Stoner Awards..
Photos by Carena Pooth.