

New York State Ornithological Association

73rd Annual Meeting

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held by videoconference on October 3, 2020, with 31 delegates from 24 member clubs present. President Shirley Shaw delivered her report on the year's activities. Although the pandemic has precluded field trips and other gatherings, work continued on Breeding Bird Atlas III (NY BBA III), NYSARC, *The Kingbird*, *New York Birders*, and other NYSOA activities. Shirley recognized Carena Pooth for the many hours of work she has spent to prepare for conversion of NYSOA's membership data to an online membership management system. Once the new system is operational, it will greatly reduce the workload of managing memberships and allow members to view and update their profile information.

Shirley reported that Onondaga Audubon, which had planned to host this year's annual meeting, will now host it in 2022. Since the pandemic situation for 2021 remains too uncertain, Saw Mill River Audubon will host the 2023 meeting rather than 2021.

Shirley briefly reported on NY BBA III progress and thanked Kathy Schneider and the other NYSOA members who have been serving on the Atlas committees. Andy Mason has volunteered to handle accounting for the atlas donations fund. The pandemic stopped Atlas kick-off activities in which NYSOA hoped to play a large part, so we are exploring other ways to connect with potential new members through Atlas-related contests and events.

Treasurer Mary Jane Dugan presented her reports, including one that showed the rapid increase in printing and mailing costs that led the board to institute a fee for those who wish to continue to receive printed copies of *The Kingbird*.

The delegates voted unanimously to approve the

Orange County Audubon Society as a new member organization.

Matt Palumbo of the New York State DEC delivered a report on DEC's bird-related activities. Matt's section has been spending a lot of time reviewing proposed renewable energy projects for their potential impacts on threatened and endangered species, especially the impacts of large-scale solar developments on grassland birds.

Kathy Schneider, NY BBA III Steering Committee Co-Chair, presented a report on the first year of the project, including summaries of the work being done by each subcommittee. She reported that the steering committee is still looking for a regional coordinator for the Syracuse area. It appears that the pandemic contributed to high levels of atlas participation this year, with over 100,000 checklists submitted through the atlas portal. Dan Miller is developing a Sponsor-a-Species program to raise needed funds to complete the atlas.

Shai Mitra presented the Emanuel Levine Memorial Award for the best 2019 article in *The Kingbird* to Deborah Dohne. Deborah's article, entitled "Breeding between Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows in a Syracuse, New York Cemetery", appeared in *The Kingbird*, Volume 69, Number 4. Shai reported that the backlog in publication dates of *The Kingbird* has been nearly eliminated. He and Pat Lindsay have worked diligently over the past couple of years to catch up with the schedule.

Joan Collins presented a summary of the columns and articles published in *New York Birders* through the year. She also reported that a successful field trip was held last winter in the Adirondacks, and the field trip committee is looking forward to being able to plan field trips again in the future.

Carena Pooth reported that there were some minor changes to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* resulting from the updates in the AOS 61st supplement. She also provided updates on the County and State Listing program, which

had record participation in 2019, and on the NYSOA website.

Andy Mason reported on the activities of the Conservation Committee. The committee worked on the endangered and threatened species list, Lake Ontario wind power issues, and potential development projects in Suffolk County. The committee is concerned about the state's proposed revision of its environmental review process for alternative energy projects, and will be submitting comments. Andy encouraged member clubs to review and comment on the proposal as well. The committee's documents can be found on the conservation page of the NYSOA website.

Rosanne Vinson reported that the New York State Young Birders Club had a successful 12th annual kickoff event in January, before the pandemic canceled the remainder of the club's scheduled in-person activities for the year. However, they have continued to hold monthly meetings online. Two *(Continued from page 1)* young birders received scholarships to help cover the cost of their participation in online educational programs.

Election of Officers

On behalf of the nominating committee and the board, Bob Adamo presented the following slate of nominees for officers and directors:

Officers: (one year terms)

President: Shirley Shaw

Vice President: Greg Lawrence

Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan

Recording Secretary: Anne Swaim

Directors: (terms ending in 2022)

Corey Finger

Gerry Thurn

Joe Brin

Patricia Riexinger

Shane Blodgett

Bob Adamo moved to elect the nominees on the

slate. Shai Mitra seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Shirley Shaw presented the following committee nominees:

Nominating Committee: (one year term)

Bob Adamo (Chair)

Mike DeSha

Tim Baird

Greg Lawrence made a motion to have the secretary cast a ballot for these three individuals for the Nominating Committee. Diane Morton seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Auditing Committee: (one year term)

Stephen Chang (Chair)

Tom Burke

Peter Capainolo

Thomas O'Donnell made a motion to have the secretary cast a ballot for these three individuals for the Auditing Committee. Barbara Butler seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Shirley Shaw thanked Doug Futuyma, Rich Guthrie, and Bob Spahn for their service on the board for the past few years.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

- John Kent, Recording Secretary