

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. 75TH ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 2, 2022

The 75th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) was held on 2 October 2022, hosted by the Onondaga Audubon Society at the Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center, Oswego, NY.

Roll Call – Vice President Andy Mason called the meeting to order. Recording Secretary Anne Swaim did a roll call of clubs who had registered with all of those present. A quorum was present with greater than 10% of the possible number of delegates. [To access the full meeting documents which will be referenced through these annual meeting minutes, visit: <https://nybirds.org/docs2022/>]

Andy noted with sadness the passing of Sherri (Gerry) Smith, a long-time member of both Onondaga Audubon and NYSOA including work on the Conservation Committee. Andy said there would be further remembrances at Saturday night's dinner.

2021 Minutes – The 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion from Shirley Shaw and a second from Brian Dugan with all delegates voting in favor. Andy highlighted that the full **NYS DEC report to NYSOA** is linked online at <https://nybirds.org/docs2022/> with only the summary cover page included in the delegates packet.

Field Trips – Mary Beth Warburton reported via email before the meeting that she and Joan Collins would welcome ideas for NYSOA field trips.

President's Report – Andy Mason for Pat Aitken

Pat's report is on pages 8-9. Andy highlighted the 2022 change from quarterly board meetings to bimonthly, held via Zoom.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Jane Dugan

Mary Jane presented an updated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021 and a single sheet summary financial statement for 2021 that were not included in the delegates packet before the meeting. Digital copies will be available at the board plus site. She noted that the auditors have a strong preference for combining Atlas funds with NYSOA funds for the purposes of the audit because of the shared Federal ID # on these otherwise separate accounts. However, for quarterly reports, we plan to keep these listed separately. Mary Jane Dugan reviewed the single sheet statement as a summary financial statement for calendar year ended 2021. This statement shows only a summary of NYSOA income received and expenses paid in 2021 and is in a format that is recommended for not-for-profit organizations like NYSOA. Andy noted that **the Audit Committee** statement is on page 16.

Bylaws Proposed Changes – Shirley Shaw

Shirley noted the summary of proposed changes is on page 17, and these include two amendments plus some improvements in language, punctuation, and consistency in capitalizations. Article IV, Section 1 will allow NYSOA to choose to allow virtual attendance at the Annual Meeting to the extent allowed under NY State law, if the Board chooses to do so. The NY Department of State's temporary 2-year provision allowing virtual meetings during the pandemic has now expired. The second amendment involves Article XVII to clarify that only elected committee members and chairs of special committees—not all committee members—are required to sign conflict of interest statements. A motion was made by Randi Minetor and seconded by Chita McKinney to approve these bylaw changes and passed unanimously.

County and State Listing – Andy Mason on behalf of Carena Pooth

Andy referred to Carena's report on page 35 with much thanks for her work on this area of NYSOA outreach.

Marketing and Publicity – Brian Dugan

Brian reviewed the NYSOA postcards and business cards to promote NYSOA.

Membership – Andy Mason on behalf of Pat Aitken

Andy referred to the report on page 36 and noted the key figures listed there. Annual membership is at 476 and member organizations at 44. There has been some drop in individual memberships from 5-6 years ago but an increase from last year. Those with connections to non-renewing organizations were urged to encourage renewal.

New York State Avian Records Committee – Andy Mason and Shai Mitra

Willie D'Anna's report on page 37 was noted by Andy. Shai noted that NYSARC is discussing its use of eBird reports and the ongoing reviews of species that have become more common. Gary Chapin's amazing work to review the online sightings records was especially noted and appreciated.

New York State Young Birders' Club – Andy Mason for Roseann Vinson

Andy emphasized how the NYSYBC has benefitted NYSOA with upcoming leaders both for NYSOA and in conservation. He also noted the importance of support from NYSOA organizations and individuals. The full NYSYBC report is on pages 38-39.

Publications – Shai Mitra and Dan Miller

Shai noted the use of a new printer for *The Kingbird* and that the transition was easier than expected with the exception of some adjustment for the mailing process. The last issue was printed and mailed with the new process. The digital publication has been well received. An issue is just about to go to printer now and probably another issue before end of calendar year. Five issues were budgeted this calendar year. *New York Birders'* new editor Dan Miller introduced himself and stated the next deadline is November 1st. The value of an ongoing exchange between *NYB* and *KB* was noted by Shai with each editor passing along articles that may be more appropriate for the other publication. Future issues of *The Kingbird* will use an improved regional map. Andy encouraged *New York Birders* content contributions.

NYSOA Checklist – Andy Mason and Shai Mitra for Carena Pooth

Carena's helpful summary of expected 2023 checklist changes on page 40 was noted. Shai noted the future need for the newest addition of Mottled Duck.

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas III – Julie Hart

Julie highlighted key information from the full report on pages 41-45. An additional NYSDEC grant was received to support the BBA through the next five years and the subsequent publication/web portal. This grant also pays for an assistant coordinator/editor and some field technicians as well as funding for final publication. An additional side research project will look at abundance counts over the next couple of years. There was a question about whether the point count will be open to utilizing experienced volunteers as well as paid technicians. Details for the abundance counts are still in discussion. Andy Mason noted again that Atlas funds are kept separate from NYSOA's main account including funds from Sponsor-a-Species which has been an excellent fund-raising effort.

Waterfowl Count – Andy Mason for Bill Ostrander

Andy noted the report from Bill is in the delegates packet on page 46.

Website and Information Services – Andy Mason for Carena Pooth

Andy summarized Carena's report on page 47 and highlighted once more Carena's tremendous value to NYSOA in multiple areas.

Awards – Jerry Thurn

Jerry noted the list of certificates of appreciation awarded in 2021 on page 48. Jerry highlighted an email link available on nybirds.org to encourage additional submissions. Other awards will be at the dinner including three Lillian Stoner Awards for young birders.

Conservation – Andy Mason

Andy noted the report on page 49. He also summarized the recent advocacy initiated by Putnam Highlands Audubon to encourage Audubon New York to ensure adequate public parking at Constitution Marsh Sanctuary. Andy noted that we always welcome requests for assistance from our member clubs if a letter from NYSOA would be helpful.

Elections – Andy Mason and Anne Swaim

The NYSOA 2022 Nominating Committee, consisting of Joan Collins (Chair), Bob Adamo, and Anne Swaim presented the slate below to serve as NYSOA Officers with terms expiring in 2023, and five Directors with terms expiring in 2024. There were no floor nominations.

Officers:

President: Patricia Aitken
Vice President: Anne Swaim
Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan
Recording Secretary: Alison Kocek

Directors:

Sean Camillieri
Mary Jane Dugan
Alison Kocek
Carena Pooth
Steve Rappaport

Motion was made by Shai Mitra and seconded by Kathryn Schneider to approve this slate, which carried unanimously.

The following committee slates for 2023 were recommended from the NYSOA Board of Directors for the Delegates Meeting for approval:

Auditing Committee

Stephen Chang, Chair

Tom Burke

Peter Capainolo

Nominating Committee

Joan Collins, Chair

Bob Adamo

Charlie Scheim

A motion made by Mike DeSha and seconded by Barbara Butler to approve these committee nominations was approved unanimously by assembled NYSOA Delegates.

Old Business

Andy Mason noted that the 2023 Annual Meeting will be held in Westchester County and hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon, Friday, September 22 to Sunday, September 24, 2023.

No New Business was presented.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Kathryn Schneider and seconded by Diane Morton; the motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anne Swaim, Recording Secretary