

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. 76TH ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

The 76th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) was held on 23 September 2023, hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon Society, at the Sleepy Hollow Conference Center, Westchester County, NY.

Roll Call – Pat Aitken called the meeting to order at 3:51 pm. A quorum was reached with 39 delegates present. [Supplementary documents referenced below can be accessed here: <https://nybirds.org/docs2023>].

2022 Minutes – Alison Van Keuren made a motion to approve the 2022 minutes. Brian Dugan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. 3:59 pm.

President’s Report – Pat Aitken

This was an executive summary of the other reports. In the interest of time it was not read but was available to be picked up.

Treasurer’s Report and Audit Report – read by Pat Aitken

NYSOA has a total fund balance of \$185,506.82 and a cash balance of \$63,778.48. Andy asked if the bequest funds from Arie Gilbert and Herb Lightner are included in the report. Pat stated yes and explained that the funds have not been allocated towards any projects at this time but will be a topic of future discussion. An audit has been conducted and is included in the report. Auditors consisted of Stephen Chang, Thomas Burke, and Peter Capainolo.

DEC Report – Angelena Ross, Avian and Mammal Unit Leader, NYSDEC

Angelena discussed her work involving translocating Spruce Grouse from Northern Ontario to the Adirondacks to boost population numbers in New York. She performed a Population Viability Analysis on the grouse and determined that new genetic material and additional birds were needed in order to ensure they persist in NY. Northern Ontario was the closest available population to take individuals from. The project was started with a handful of birds and found success by radio tracking their movements to determine survival, movements, and productivity. It was found that many of the birds did not move far from the area they were released at. Translocated birds had 72% annual survivorship and similar nest survivorship as resident birds. They are now releasing 50 birds per year and continuing to monitor them. If you see banded birds please email: angelena.ross@dec.ny.gov

Committee Reports

Awards – Pat Aitken for Jerry Thurn

Report not discussed but available to pick up.

Conservation – Andy Mason

Andy noted that the committee had a full year of letter writing to support conservation initiatives for birds around the state. He also put out a call for *The Kingbird* 2023 September; 73 (3)

member clubs to continue to reach out to him regarding conservation issues in their local areas that NYSOA can support through letter writing and other methods.

Marketing and Publicity – Brian Dugan

The business cards and postcards have been updated and were provided in the registration packets. The tri-fold display board was updated by Pat, Anne, and Carena. A NYSOA store was created on Zazzle so members can purchase wear and gear (https://www.zazzle.com/store/nysoa_zazzle). This also helps NYSOA by reducing time spent inventorying items. Marketing and publicity continues to make the society more attractive for members.

New York State Avian Records Committee – Shai Mitra for Willie D’Anna

NYSARC continues to stay caught up on reviews. Their annual meeting is occurring next weekend and the committee will use the time to catch up on 2022 reviews. NYSARC is currently working on reviewing eBird records not specifically submitted to the committee. There is a small lag in the writing of annual reports and they expect to complete 2019 by the end of this year. They are developing a more formal procedure for the review list and created a subcommittee to perform this so that it is not just based on personal feelings. Willie D’Anna will be stepping down after serving for seven years as Chair. Mike McBrien will take over as Chair and Tim Healy will join the committee. Tim Healy will join the NYSOA Board of Directors subject to their approval.

New York State Young Birders Club – Rosanne Vinson

The club is now in its 16th year. The youth leaders are all attending this meeting and are setting the bar high with their hard work for the club. Susan Joseph is the field trip coordinator and she has organized monthly field trips so far this year but due to the workload this requires, she is seeking a co-chair. Current stats: 50 members and 37 supporting adults and 19 partner clubs. Scholarships were created to send members to birding events and this meeting. NYSYBC has given out \$40K in scholarships since 2010! Rosanne gave thanks to partner clubs; through their and others’ donations, 17 young birders were able to attend this event. The treasurer will be stepping down and they will be looking for someone else by the end of 2023. Many alumni have helped run field trips and Anne Swaim and Saw Mill River Audubon are hosting the 2024 kickoff event. The club raised nearly \$5000 to donate to 2 environmental groups including the Grassland Bird Trust in New York and Birding Central Valley, a Costa Rican organization. Members have been performing scientific studies and some were reported at this meeting. If anyone has extra birding books or other items, email Emily Van Gelder to give to the club.

Publications:

The Kingbird – Shai Mitra

The next issue will be published imminently. Shai is working on splitting the fall reports between two issues in order to catch up, which is anticipated to happen by the end of 2024. Shai noted that Regional Editors do a huge amount of work and their submissions are used frequently for research. Consider giving

encouragement to your local Regional Editor to keep these reports coming. Amish and Mennonite birders in Central NY have become more connected with NYSOA and they are a big fan of the printed *Kingbird*. One of these birders, Reuben Stoltzfus, was thrilled to take Valerie Freer's complete set of printed copies.

New York Birders – Dan Miller
Not present. No current update.

County and State Listing – Pat Aitken for Carena Pooth
Detailed report available which focuses on the Northern Goshawk split and re-lump of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers. The NYSOA checklists were updated July 2023 and the 2024 booklet will be available by early 2024.

***Website and Information Services* – Carena Pooth**

Handout available with information on top website activities in 2023 and the ongoing maintenance of other useful features that are most commonly accessed. Carena also asks Christmas Bird Count Coordinators to email her CBC count dates and contact updates for the website.

Research:

Breeding Bird Atlas – Julie Hart

We have just finished year 4 of the 5-year atlas. There has been a lot of progress made so far: ~3700 atlases, ~500,00 checklists, 228 species confirmed breeding, 34% or priority blocks finished, 1.9 million breeding behavioral codes used. However, there are still big gaps in block completion. The biggest gaps are in the southern tier, including the Catskills and the Adirondack north country. All hands on deck are needed to finish this project. Targeted atlasing in priority blocks is especially needed. Julie suggests that member clubs host trips, talks, and trainings for the atlas to get people involved. There will definitely not be a sixth year to the atlas as there is no funding. Email Julie at nybba@gmail.com with questions. Shai noted that many blocks are missing nocturnal effort and encouraged people to get out a little bit earlier in the season and do some nocturnal birding in priority blocks. Julie stated she will be sending more frequent emails next year and reaching out for help. This will be the premier conservation resource for the state over the next 20 years so it is very important to complete it. Jennifer suggested leveraging the Christmas Bird Counts for owling.

Waterfowl Count – Bill Ostrander
No update.

Election of Officers and Directors

Charlie Scheim and Pat Aitken

The NYSOA 2023 Nominating Committee, consisting of Joan Collins (Chair), Bob Adamo, and Charles Scheim, presented the slate below to serve as NYSOA Officers with terms expiring in 2024, and five Directors with terms expiring in 2024-2025. There were no floor nominations.

Officers: (Terms expire in 2024)
President: Anne Swaim
Vice President: Sean Camillieri
Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan
Recording Secretary: Alison Kocek

Directors: (Terms expire in 2025)
Pat Aitken
Craig Braack
Brian Dugan
Charles Scheim
Tim Healy (Term expires in 2024)

Mike Bochnik made a motion to approve the slate of Officers and Directors, which was seconded by Jane Briggs and approved unanimously. 4:48 pm.

Pat noted that Mary Jane has expressed a request to step down and NYSOA is currently looking for someone to replace her.

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

Auditing Committee:

Stephen Chang, Tom Burke, Peter Capainolo

Nominating Committee:

Anne Swaim (Chair), Bob Adamo, Charles Scheim

Andy Mason made a motion to approve the nominating committee, which was seconded by Brian Dugan and approved unanimously. 4:49 pm

Jennifer-Wilson Pines made a motion to approve the auditing committee which was seconded by Alison Van Keuren and approved unanimously. 4:50 pm

New Business

Pat Aitken announced that two groups have asked to become NYSOA member groups – Central Westchester Audubon Society and Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

Mike Bochnik made a motion to approve the two member groups (Central Westchester Audubon Society and Putnam Highlands Audubon Society), which was seconded by Alison Van Keuren and approved unanimously. 4:50 pm

Adjournment

Mike Bochnik made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Charlie Scheim and approved unanimously. 4:51 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Kocek, Recording Secretary.

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