

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. 77th ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

The 77th Annual Meeting of the New York Ornithological Association (NYSOA) was held on 15 September 2024, a virtual meeting via Zoom, with President Anne Swaim presiding and 81 attendees participating.

Anne Swaim called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and presented an overview of NYSOA focus areas, draft goals, and upcoming projects. These include Ornithology: maintaining NYS bird records and encouraging NYS ornithological research; Birding: promoting NYS birding and fostering interest and appreciation of birds through NYSOA projects and our member organizations; and Conservation: advocating for NYS birds and their habitats. Long term and short term goals to accomplish these focus areas include: revitalizing a research grant program using recent bequest funds; having a NYS Bird of the Year; continuing support for the Breeding Bird Atlas; regional birding events (already in progress); an expanded Speakers Bureau; continuing NYSOA involvement in regional issues; and continuing strategic affiliations with habitat conservation efforts.* NYSOA welcomes members to help with accomplishing these strategic plan initiatives; it is not necessary to join the Board to do this.

*Supplementary documents to this overview, as well as to the committee and financial reports and other matters discussed at this meeting can be accessed here: <https://nybirds.org/docs2024>

Roll Call – Alison Kocek performed a roll call of delegates; a quorum was reached with 38 present.

Approval of 2023 Minutes – Carena Pooth made a motion to approve the 2023 NYSOA Annual Meeting minutes. John Loz seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report and Audit Report – Anne Swaim

NYSOA does not currently have a Treasurer. Anne thanked the new accountants for this year’s financial report. The 2024 total income was \$21,393.91 with an actual income of \$47,750.41 which is well above the expected budget thanks to bequests. 2023 actual expenses were \$4,415.26, above the budgeted expense of \$29,952.00. Memberships make a big difference in supporting NYSOA and its initiatives. Anne thanked the Auditing Committee (Stephen Chang, Thomas Burke, and Peter Capainolo) who have examined these documents as of December 31, 2023 and deemed they fairly present the financial condition of NYSOA and the results of its operations for the year.

Committee Reports

Conservation – Anne Swaim on behalf of Andy Mason

Anne thanked Andy Mason, Joan Collins, Brian Dugan, Brendan Fogarty, and Mary Beth Warburton for their work on the committee this past year. This committee took action on the Birds and Bees Protection Act; circulated information on the question of Barred Owls vs. Spotted Owls in the Pacific Northwest; urged the Governor to sign the horseshoe crab legislation; wrote a letter in support of the New York City Plover Project to protect Piping Plover at Rockaway Beach; joined as a member of the Jamaica Bay Refuge Task Force; and worked to protect the EPCAL grasslands on Long Island. Andy prepared *New York Birders* columns to share these important issues with the membership.

County and State Listing – Carena Pooth

Carena recounted that the County and State listing project started in 1992, a fun and friendly competition that focuses on NY life listing for all participants. Carena asked that anyone wishing to submit their County List Report for 2024, please get the list in by March 1, 2025, and to please use the online submission form if at all possible; the paper version will be in the next *New York Birders* issue.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

The Kingbird searchable archive online is a frequently accessed tool. For anyone wishing to look up information about birds or birders in NYS, this is a good resource and is updated through 2022 currently. The New York State Avian Record Committee's (NYSARC) 2019 and 2020 reports are now posted on the website. The CBC Calendar will be updated for 2024/25; Carena asked that CBC coordinators please share their information with her.

Membership – Pat Aitken

Pat reported that membership has held fairly steady. She encourages clubs that have not renewed to please do so (the organization lost five recently). There are currently 360 dues paying members and 42 member clubs.

New York State Young Birders Club – Carena Pooth for Roseanne Vinson

The Adult Chair of the club, Rosanne Vinson, was unable to attend. The club continues to have ~50 young birders and seven adult volunteers. The average age of members is 14. Fifteen trips were scheduled for this year; two were cancelled due to weather. Carena thanked all of the donors, supporting adult members, and partner organizations for their generous support.

Publications:

The Kingbird – Shai Mitra

Shai presented the Emanuel Levine Memorial Award for best 2023 *Kingbird* article to John Confer *et al.* for “Banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius*

academicus) at a field station in Central New York State”. Shai noted his willingness to serve as Chair of the Publications Committee. In 2023, six issues of *The Kingbird* were published (normally there are four annually). In 2024, a total of five will be published which will bring the publication up to date and on schedule by January 2025.

New York Birders – Anne Swaim for Dan Miller

Anne noted that the *New York Birders* Winter issue deadline is November 1; those interested to be listed in the Speakers Bureau were asked to please share their information soon.

Checklist of the Birds of New York State – Carena Pooth

Carena reported that the 2025 NYSOA checklist booklet will follow the 65th supplement published by the American Ornithological Society (AOS), incorporating five splits and three lumps. NYSARC review list changes, including removal of 11 species and several review code updates, will be included in the new booklet as well.

Research:

NYS Breeding Bird Atlas III – Julie Hart

Julie presented a synopsis of the Atlas effort. 2024 was the last year of field work for the Atlas. All but three of the most remote and inaccessible Center-East Blocks were completed which far exceeded expectations. Raw data maps of interest: Red-bellied Woodpecker expansion northward across the state along with Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren, these likely due to more feeders and warmer winters. Sandhill Crane has also expanded its range from no breeders in the first Atlas, a handful of breeding points in the second Atlas, and now populations in many areas across the state, likely due to wetland restoration efforts. Eastern Meadowlark breeding range appears to have declined, likely due to loss of grassland habitat, especially in Central NY. Barn Swallow has also shown declines across the state, likely due to loss of insect prey. American Three-toed Woodpecker appears to possibly be extirpated from the state; there was no documentation of the species despite targeted efforts using broadcast call playbacks. Additional efforts may be performed next year to confirm this. A single Mississippi Kite pair began breeding in the state during this Atlas which is a far northern record for this species. Next step: aiming for a book and a website that will hopefully be out in early 2028. Currently working to collect external datasets; the data will be vetted, analyzed, and mapped and then writing will begin to complete the publication.

Summary statistics were presented, listing 4,331 atlasers, 578,222 checklists, 1,662 completed blocks, and 233 confirmed species to date (additional species probable or possible as well).

Election of Officers and Directors

Alison Kocek

The NYSOA 2024 Nominating Committee, consisting of Anne Swaim (Chair), Bob Adamo, and Charlie Scheim, presented the slate below to serve as NYSOA Officers with terms expiring in 2025, and five Directors with terms expiring in 2026.

Officers: (Terms expire in 2025)

President: Anne Swaim
Vice President: Sean Camillieri
Treasurer: Vacant
Recording Secretary: Alison Kocek

Directors: (Terms expire in 2026)

Tim Healy
Alison Kocek
John Loz
Carena Pooth
Steve Rappaport

Charlie Scheim made a motion to approve the Officers and Directors, which was seconded by Randi Minetor and approved unanimously.

Election of Nominating and Auditing Committees

The following committee slates for 2025 were recommended by the NYSOA Board of Directors for the delegates' approval.

Auditing Committee:

Steven Chang (Chair)
Thomas W. Burke
Peter Capainolo

Nominating Committee:

Anne Swaim
Patricia Aitken
Charlie Scheim

Debbie Mullins made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee, which was seconded by Shai Mitra and approved unanimously.

Charlie Scheim made a motion to approve the Auditing Committee which was seconded by Randi Minetor and approved unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business:

NYSOA's 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in-person on 19-21 September, hosted by the Cayuga Bird Club in downtown Ithaca with Keynote Speaker Peter Kaestner presenting "In Search of the Orange-tufted Spiderhunter".

Adjournment

John Loz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Chita McKinney and unanimously approved at 5:51 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Kocek, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was followed by a special program, “Raptor Quest: Chasing America’s Raptors” by Scott Harris, followed by the New York State Young Birders Club bird quiz. d