



*The*  
**L I N N A E A N S O C I E T Y**  
*of New York*

P.O. Box 801, New York, NY 10024 • [linnaeannewyork.org](http://linnaeannewyork.org)

## ANNUAL MEETING 2020

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

There are a total of 461 members, an increase from last year. The membership breaks down into the following categories:

Active members:	258
Associate/other members:	44
Supporting members:	65
Life members:	74
Fellows:	12
Honorary members:	8
(International	14)

I am saddened to report that the following members have passed away during the last year:

Barbara Abel	Active, 1985	Patricia Houlihan	Life, 1970
Jean Cantor	Supporting, 1970	James Munves	Active, 1976
Jean Dorman	Life, 1976	William Yates	Active, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lydia Thomas, Secretary

### TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2020, the Linnaean Society had total income of \$23,045. Major components of income were membership dues and generous donations from members.

Expenses for the year were \$18,735, with the largest expenses going toward monthly lectures, speakers' expenses, including hotel and airfare, and installing the new Archives Cabinet.

We are pleased to report that in 2019 the Society had income greater than expenses by \$4,310. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed and helped support the organization.

At year end, the Society's total Fund balances were \$108,277. Major achievements included: raising the necessary capital to purchase and install an archival cabinet for our historical artifacts, as well as a fundraiser to underwrite expenses for tonight, our annual meeting, so we can continue to keep costs reasonable, so all members are able to attend.

I would like to thank the 2019 Audit Committee of Tom Burke and Kathleen Matthews for their review of the financials. It has been my pleasure to serve as treasurer, and I look forward to the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Hart, Treasurer

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives Committee: The LSNY Archives, located in the Ornithology Department at the Museum of Natural History houses a great assortment of valuable documents, notes, records, artwork and photographs that date from the Society's earliest days to the present. Many of these items represent important accomplishments and mark key events in the life work of many noted members, naturalists, writers, artists, and amateur birders.

Thanks to the generosity of LSNY members, a new archival storage cabinet has been purchased, assembled, and successfully installed into its permanent location within the Department. It is now being used for the storage of some of the most valuable items and records of the Society. More items are being catalogued as they are planned to be transitioned to the new storage cabinet. The need now is to prioritize the cataloging of the Minutes from some of the more recent years of the Society. This project is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Chaya, Chair

Conservation Committee: On Saturday, September 21, 2019 the Linnaean Society of New York's Conservation Committee, in partnership with The American Littoral Society, New York City Audubon, Wild Bird Fund, The National Park Service, Oceana and Sadhana, participated in the International Coastal CleanUp Day. Participants organized by these groups cleaned the North Channel Bridge Beach, adjacent to the Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This initiative began more than 30 years ago with a goal of collecting and documenting trash littering coastlines around the world. Volunteers recorded data on the trash that was collected to be assessed in the aggregate by the event coordinators.

Throughout the program year the Conservation Committee disseminated information about several local conservation issues, in addition to attending public hearings on initiatives with potential impact on important bird habitat in the greater New York City area. Recent issues include the building of a wind-turbine base-station in sensitive shore bird breeding habitat at Jones Beach, the proposed renovation of Central Park's Lasker pool and ice rink, and new rules to prohibit the feeding of wildlife in New York City parks. The Conservation Committee encourages members to contact the Committee Chair about local conservation concerns so that the society can continue to keep the membership abreast of important issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rochelle Thomas, Chair

Great Gull Island: In 2019 volunteers marked about 2,000 Roseate Tern nests and 9,000 nests of the Common Tern on Great Gull Island, New York. During the season the Roseate Team banded 500 Young Roseate Terns, the maximum of this species they were allowed to band by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During the same period 2500 young Common Terns were banded.

Due to a shortage of bait fish, the season was probably the least productive one in decades. One of the students on the daily check of the island mentioned to me seeing a lot of dead young in one of the first checks after young began hatching. I immediately gave check participants bags and asked them to collect all dead young they found on future checks and to count and record the dead banded and dead un-banded for each day.

I thank all those who volunteered during 2019 a year when our work crew was smaller than in previous years. We would welcome any of you who would like to help mark nests on Great Gull Island on any weekend in May or, if

you can stay a week, come to Gull Island in June to help band chicks. If you are interested in volunteering call Helen Hays (646-877-4834).

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Hays, Chair

Field Observations Committee: Spring 2019 migration in Central Park was lackluster, with few star visitors. The celebrity mandarin duck left with the wood ducks in early spring and did not return in the fall. A cooperative male golden-winged warbler was near Azalea Pond and later Warbler Rock putting on a show until he was scared away by electronic pishing, not to be seen again.

The best bird of the early fall was a Virginia rail in busy quarter-acre Abingdon Square Park in the West Village. The lack of dense foliage plus an active farmers' market did not faze the bird, which found ample food in the soft, recently turned garden soil. A saltmarsh sparrow was a late October visitor to Union Square Park.

Where are the birds? The combination of a mild winter, not much snow, and a bumper crop of seeds upstate led to relatively few winter visitors. Tufted titmice, usually abundant in Central Park and elsewhere, were difficult to find—as were black-capped chickadees and even dark-eyed juncos. A larger-than-usual flock of rusty blackbirds took up winter residence for a while in Pelham Bay Park. Duck populations were also noticeably down in the metropolitan area. An adult bald eagle made the news in Riverside Park. Prospect Park's varied thrush and Brooklyn Bridge Park's female painted bunting as well the inevitable American woodcock in Bryant Park all provided entertainment though not much challenge.

Prepared by Andrew Rubenfeld.

The committee also consists of Douglas Futuyma, Richard Fried, and Anders Peltomaa (foreign correspondent).

Field Trip Committee: (For the time period of March 2019 – February 2020) We would like to thank our dedicated and outstanding leaders for devoting their time and energy to guiding these trips. The trips were diverse. They included birds, horticulture, butterflies, and nature trips. We would also like to thank our registrars for organizing and making sure the trips ran smoothly, not an easy task. We thank the drivers without whom many trips would not take place. We thank the people who registered and attended the trips bringing their enthusiasm, birding skills and observations. We also thank our webmaster, Sherry Felix for tirelessly working to make sure the field trip reports and pictures were posted on the Linnaean website.

Our trips were fun and also educational. We learned about the ecological relationships among species. We had many exciting sightings on our trips. We started in March with a Chipping Sparrow on the Central Park feeder. Our highlights included: Red-necked Grebes at Floyd Bennett; Jamaica Bay, Tundra Swans, Wilson's Snipe in Staten Island; Nebraska Trip (please see posting on the Linnaean website.) The Pine Barrens trip highlights were various elfins, Orange Falcatetip and many more; Central Park, several Pine Siskins, Purple Finch, Bashakill; Common Gallinule, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher; Doodletown, several Cerulean Warblers, Tennessee Warbler, some Hooded Warblers, Black-billed Cuckoo; Van Cortlandt Park, invertebrates too numerous to list, a pair of nesting Eastern Wood Peewees, Eastern Kingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher and more; Staten Island; four Little Blue Herons, many Purple Martins, Needham's Skimmer; Central Park Horticultural, a vast array of native and non-native plants and their ecology; Fort Tilden, Alder Flycatcher, several Royal Terns; Greenwood Cemetery, flocks of Monk Parakeets, several Fiery Skippers; Prospect Park, Common Nighthawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Randall's Island, Nelson's Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow; Fort Tilden, Nelson's Sparrow, many Royal Terns; Floyd Bennett, Vesper Sparrow, Bald Eagle; State Line Hawk Watch, Pileated Woodpecker, a few Red-shouldered Hawks; Croton Point Park, numbers of Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawk; Rye Playland and Environs, Greater White-fronted Goose; Jones Beach, Northern Goshawk, male and female Harlequin Ducks

We welcomed 2020: Coney Island Pier to Creek, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Razorbill, Purple Sandpiper, Redhead Duck; Central Park, Red-headed Woodpecker; Shawangunk Grasslands, three Short-eared Owls, Common Merganser; Montauk Weekend, King Eiders (2), Barrow's Goldeneye (m), Iceland Gull, Red Knots, Razorbills

The Ward Pound Ridge for Butterflies was cancelled, June, 15, 2019

The following January trips were cancelled due to storms and wind: N.J. Hotspots, Jan. 4, Croton Point Park, Jan. 12, Pelham Bay Park, Jan. 25

Total number of scheduled trips, March 2019 through February 23/23, 2020: 56

Participants averaged from six to 21 participants, with an average number of 9 to 12 participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Lazarus, Mary Beth Kooper, Deborra Mullins, Miriam Rakowski

Publications Committee: The Publications Committee is busily finishing up Volume XI of Transactions, featuring recent research from the longstanding Great Gull Island Project. With more than a half dozen papers, the edition will include contemporary advances in ornithological techniques, such as using nanotags and GPS, and new findings for some longstanding questions, such as plumage variation. We have a larger, and hardworking committee this year: Jon Hyman (Editor), Dale Dancis, Joe DiConstanzo, Sherry Felix, Jill Hamilton, Mary Jane Kaplan, Chuck McAlexander, Bob Paxton, and Angus Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Hyman, Editor