

# New York State Breeding Bird Atlas

## NY BBA III begins in 2020!

If you attended the 2018 NYSOA Annual Meeting, you could feel the excitement. It was here that Ian Davies of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology introduced NYS birders to the basics of atlasing in an eBird world. In 2020 New York will become the first state to embark upon its third breeding bird atlas project. For five years, birders throughout the state will document breeding evidence of birds—entering all their data in eBird as the official BBA data platform ([see an example](#)).

## Julie Hart Hired as Atlas Project Coordinator NEW 1/29/19



We are excited to announce that Julie Hart was hired to fill the position of Atlas Project Coordinator beginning January 14, 2019. Julie beat out an outstanding field of nearly 80 applicants who sought this position. She impressed the Search Committee with her combination of scientific training, field work, large-scale citizen science, and project management experience. Some New York birders will remember Julie from the years she spent in New York working on the Important Bird Areas program with Audubon New York. During this time, she was based at the Cornell Lab where she had the opportunity to work on eBird during its development. From 2007 to 2009 Julie was

a Conservation Biologist for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. In this position she recruited, trained, and organized more than 150 volunteers for Mountain Birdwatch, a project that monitors high-elevation birds in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Julie has participated in bird atlases in Vermont and Connecticut and she has trained volunteers to use eBird. Her most recent position as a Database Manager for Yale's Map of Life project involved managing large datasets not unlike those generated by a bird atlas. Julie will work in DEC offices in Albany as a part of the staff of the New York Natural Heritage Program and she will be supervised by Matt Schlesinger, Co-chair of the NY BBA III Steering Committee.

### **NY BBA III Steering Committee**

The BBA III Steering Committee, co-chaired by Matt Schlesinger of the New York Natural Heritage Program and Kathy Schneider of NYSOA, is holding quarterly meetings and making good progress.

### **NY BBA III Chooses Logo** POSTED 8/8/18

It's official. The third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas has a logo. This spring the Atlas Steering Committee announced a logo design contest with a \$250 cash prize donated by NYSOA and Audubon New York. The Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee, chaired by Ian Davies, received 22 submissions.

They forwarded three finalists to the Steering Committee which selected the winning design at its April meeting. This Pileated



Woodpecker graphic will serve as the visual identity for the project, which is slated to begin in 2020 and continue through 2025. It was created by **Evan Lipton**, a young birder from Massachusetts. Congratulations Evan!

## **NY BBA III Partners**

The **New York State Ornithological Association** is working with these six parties on NY BBA III:

- [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)
- [New York Natural Heritage Program](#)
- [State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry](#)
- [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology \(eBird\)](#)
- [New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit](#)
- [Audubon New York](#)

## **History: New York's First Two Atlas Projects**

In the early 1980s, New York was one of the first states to undertake an Atlas project, mapping the breeding distribution of its birds. Twenty years later came the second Atlas project, named "Atlas 2000."

Throughout the five years of study for Atlas 2000, field observers visited various habitats within assigned blocks and recorded evidence of breeding for as many species as possible. They were provided with instructions, field cards, and maps, and asked to use specific criteria to rate each species as a possible, probable, or confirmed breeder.

[Learn more about the first two New York State Breeding Bird Atlas projects.](#)