

Brianna Denoncour

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Ecosystem Health
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4756

Education

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 1996-2000
Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Forest Biology

Professional Experience

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Ecosystem Health (f/k/a Habitat)
Wildlife Biologist 1, Avian Ecologist April 2005-present

- Coordinate agency review of wildlife and terrestrial habitat impacts from the construction and operation of energy development projects, primarily wind and solar energy, also gas pipelines, transmission lines, and other energy-related projects throughout New York State
- Extensive experience with State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) regulatory review process as it pertains to state Environmental Conservation Law (ECL 11-0535) and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR, Part 182) protecting state-listed threatened and endangered species
- Review wildlife impacts of wind energy projects under PSL Article 10 process since early 2015, primarily focusing on evaluating direct and indirect impacts of wind energy development on state-listed species and their habitats, habitat fragmentation, cumulative effects of energy development to all bird and bat species, and ensuring all projects comply with Part 182 permitting standards
- Represented NYSDEC as part of expert witness panel on bats during the hearings process for case 14-F-0490, Application of Cassadaga Wind LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article 10 to Construct a Wind Energy Project
- Coordinated the drafting and release of NYSDEC's "Guidelines for Conducting Bird and Bat Studies at Commercial Wind Energy Projects", posted January 2008. Collected and reviewed public comments, wrote summary of response to comments, and revised the Guidelines in August 2009 and June 2016
- Maintain information on pre- and post-construction wildlife studies conducted at wind energy projects in New York since 2006
- Assist in writing/reviewing state guidance, plans, funding proposals, and permitting documents for various energy development, habitat management, and conservation projects
- Previously supervised two people: Biologist 1, Trainee (Dec. 2016-June 2018) and Keyboard Specialist (Nov. 2009-July 2013). Oversaw employee training in energy project impact review, time/attendance, participation in necessary training courses, provided guidance on programmatic questions/concerns, and conducted 6-month performance reviews
- Assist staff in Bureaus of Ecosystem Health and Wildlife with seasonal field data collection, as needed
- Sub-permittee on USGS Federal Bird Banding Permit 20723 issued to the State of New York Wildlife Diversity Unit, authorized to trap and band passerines and near-passerines

Participation in the following committees/groups/actions:

- Natural Heritage Program liaison for Bureau (2008-present)
- Bird and Mammal Diversity Team liaison for Bureau (2016-present)
- State Wildlife Action Plan revision team and advisory committee member (2010-2015)
- Provided content, comments, and support for the State's "I Love NY" birding website (March-April 2015)
- Open Space Plan revision (2013-2014)
- Grassland Bird Landowner Incentive Program, review and scoring of conservation easement grant applications (2007, 2009, 2013)

NYSDEC representative to the following groups:

- National Wind Coordinating Collaborative (2005-present; attended NWCC Research Meeting VI (2006) and XI (2016))
- Great Lakes Wind Commission Pelagic Bird Management Project (2012-present)
- Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Energy and Wildlife Policy Committee (2012-present; attended "Electric Transmission 101" course, July 2014)
- Great Lakes Wind Collaborative (2008-2013)
- Clean Energy States Alliance (2006-2009)
- NYSERDA PON and RFP review panels for research proposals on a variety of environmental and energy-related projects (intermittently; 2006-present; attended "Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Protection in New York: *Linking Science and Policy*" conference, 2013)
- Project Advisory Committee member on NYSERDA-sponsored "Wind Power and Biodiversity in New York: Providing Tools for Siting Assessment and Scenario Planning at the Landscape Scale" project (2012-2014)
- Northeast Natural History Conference (2011)