



# Cayuga Bird Club

## January 2020

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### [Cayuga Bird Club](#) T-shirts Are In!



Cayuga Bird Club T-shirt orders will be ready for pick-up at the January 13 Cayuga Bird Club meeting. We had more T-shirt orders than anticipated; this resulted in our actual cost for the T-shirts dropping into a new price category, significantly less than the original quote. We are passing this savings on to our members.

The new cost of the short-sleeved T-shirts is only **\$13** each and just **\$19** for long-sleeved shirts.

Please come to the January 13 meeting a little early to pick up your shirt order (7:00pm -7:20pm), with a check made out to Cayuga Bird Club for your order total.

Showcase our club by wearing a Cayuga Bird Club T-shirt! Thanks to

## Cayuga Bird Club Meeting Share Your Photos Night



Host: Kevin McGowan, Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Monday, January 13, 2020  
7:30pm, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Club members can share a maximum of five photos during the 3 minutes you will have to take the stage. Send them by January 10 to Kevin at [kjm2@cornell.edu](mailto:kjm2@cornell.edu). The Subject Line on the email *must be* "Bird club photo submission Jan2020." Kevin will send an acknowledgement when he receives them. If you do not get an acknowledgement, contact Kevin again WELL before the meeting date. Remember, you must attend the meeting to show your photos. Don't be shy! Share! Although submission is limited to club members, the meeting is open to all!

NOTE: We would like permission to use a selection of photos in the Cayuga Bird Club newsletter (scaled down to 400px) and on our monthly rotating Facebook banner (scaled to 820px). *Please let Kevin know if this is okay.* Your permission is optional - you can share photos at the meeting without having them appear online.

*Cayuga Bird Club meetings start at 7:30pm on the second Monday of every month September through June, and are*

the T-shirt committee for making this project happen.

open to the public. Building doors open at 7:00pm and are locked at 7:45pm.

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## Calendar

Jan 1 (Wed): Ithaca Christmas Bird Count

Jan 12 (Sun), 8am-4:30pm: Field Trip Around the Lake with Bob McGuire. Meet at Stewart Park (east end).

Jan 13 (Mon), 7:30pm: CBC meeting, "Share Your Photos Night", hosted by Kevin McGowan. Lab of O.

Jan 18 (Sat), 8am-12:30pm: Field Trip with Diane Morton and Ken Kemphues. Meet at Stewart Park (east end).

Feb 8 (Sat), 8am-4:30pm: Field Trip Around the Lake with Bob McGuire. Meet at Stewart Park (east end).

Feb 10 (Mon), 7:30pm: CBC meeting. Speaker: Andrea Patterson, "A Bird in the Hand." Lab of O.

Feb 22 (Sat), 8am-12:30pm: Field Trip with Bob McGuire. Meet at Stewart Park (east end).

Nov 2020: CBC Trip to Colombia

*Please check our web calendar for up-to-date field trip information, including schedule changes, at [cayugabirdclub.org](http://cayugabirdclub.org).*

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## January Field Trips

*Cayuga Bird Club field trips are open to all.*



### **Around the Lake, with Bob McGuire**

*Sunday, Jan. 12, 8am-4:30pm*

Join Bob for a full day trip around Cayuga Lake, with a focus on waterfowl. Meet at the east end of Stewart Park at 8:00 am for carpooling. Dress very warmly and bring a

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## From the President

*Diane Morton*



Happy New Year! I'm starting out the New Year counting birds for Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count. By the end of the day, we'll know how many species have been found within our Ithaca count

circle, and which species had high or low numbers this year. We'll also be out looking for additional bird species during "count week" that might add to the Ithaca totals before count compiler Paul Anderson sends our numbers to Audubon. See details of our Ithaca Christmas Bird Count totals [here](#):

Another citizen science project focused on birds is beginning January 1, 2020: the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (NYS BBA III). This will be a five-year effort to document breeding birds all across New York. New York is the first state to embark on a third atlas; it has been 20 years since the last NY atlas was initiated! This time around, all data submissions will be through eBird via a dedicated NYS BBA III portal. You can learn how to contribute to the atlas at

<https://ebird.org/atlasny/about/surveys>

which includes a downloadable Volunteer Handbook, a map of atlas blocks across the state, and a detailed guide to breeding codes. To join the atlas effort, you can start by becoming familiar with eBird entry to record bird sightings and with the eBird codes used to report breeding behaviors.

Documenting breeding birds for the Atlas is slower-paced than typical birding outings, requiring careful attention to the behaviors of individual birds that may give clues to whether they are breeding in that area. eBird breeding codes cover a range of behaviors, from observations that suggest



Thanks to Dave Nutter for compiling these records. Complete lists can be found on the [CBC website](#).

## Winter Weekend in the Central Adirondacks!

Sat-Sun, February 22-23, 2020



NYSOA's winter weekend in the central Adirondacks will feature field trips on Saturday and Sunday and a late afternoon presentation on Saturday by Julie Hart, NY Breeding Bird Atlas III Project Coordinator, followed by a social group dinner. Both the presentation and dinner will be held at the Adirondack Hotel in Long Lake. Red Crossbills nested in the central Adirondacks this past summer, and will likely be nesting again during the winter weekend, allowing members to begin adding Atlas data! To register, contact Mary Beth Warburton via email at [msmarybeth.warburton@gmail.com](mailto:msmarybeth.warburton@gmail.com).

*Save the dates  
for the inaugural*



### Finger Lakes Birding Festival March 26-29, 2020

Featuring birding tours, lectures, and workshops at the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, Braddock Bay, Sterling Nature Center and Onondaga Lake.

Discounted hotel accommodations and program registrations will be available

May birds bring joy to your New Year.

Good birding!

*Diane*

## Ithaca Christmas Bird Count Summary of Results

by Dave Nutter



Here's a brief run-down of what was reported at the compilation this evening. Some numbers may be revised (final counts will be posted to the club website).

- 2770: Canada Goose
  - 1: Wood Duck
  - 4: Gadwall
  - 2: American Black Duck
- 458: Mallard
  - 1: Canvasback
- 3700: Redhead
  - 5: Greater Scaup
  - 6: Lesser Scaup
  - 1: White-winged Scoter
  - 2: Long-tailed Duck
  - 3: Bufflehead
- 133: Common Goldeneye
  - 11: Common Merganser
  - 30: Hooded Merganser
  - 6: Ruddy Duck
  - 1: Ring-necked Pheasant
  - 6: Ruffed Grouse
- 58: Wild Turkey
  - 5: Common Loon

shortly, so save the dates and stay tuned.

Organized by: *The Montezuma Audubon Center, Braddock Bay Raptor Research, Sterling Nature Center, Onondaga Audubon.*

## Field Trip Report Around the Lake

December 7, 2019

Ken Kempfues and Diane Morton led a trip around Cayuga Lake on December 7th, with a focus on winter waterfowl. In spite of a brisk wind with temperature in the 20's, 7 stalwarts arrived at Stewart Park to join our group. We scanned through the raft of Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup that clustered out on the lake. Buffleheads, Common Mergansers, and distant swans were also visible. Beautiful Hooded Mergansers, with their hoods up, were fun to watch in Fall Creek, and we watched a mixed flock of songbirds flitting in the shrubs nearby. The juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron that has been hanging out at the swan pen was hiding from us, although other birders did see it later that day.

Ladoga Park turned out to be a good spot, with a Common Loon not too far out, a small flock of Common Goldeneye, a Pied-billed Grebe and great scope looks at male and female White-winged Scoters. Myers Park was harshly windy, so after a quick scan of the gulls, finding only the common species, we departed for the King Ferry area for a snack and to look for winter field birds. Some of the fields near Belltown Dairy had been recently plowed, but were favored by crows, rather than smaller birds. A small flock of Horned Larks flew by us, traveling too far for viewing.

Water was very rough in Aurora Bay; other than Black Ducks, we did not find anything new. It was much calmer at Factory Pond in Union Springs, with still water and sunny skies; Gadwall and Buffleheads there were very handsome and a wintering Mockingbird gave us a look. North Mill Pond had quite a variety of ducks, and we added American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal.

6 : Pied-billed Grebe  
1 : Red-necked Grebe  
4 : Double-crested Cormorant  
2 : Great Blue Heron  
67 : Turkey Vulture (high)  
1 : Northern Harrier  
5 : Sharp-shinned Hawk  
7 : Cooper's Hawk  
16 : Bald Eagle (high if confirmed)  
118 : Red-tailed Hawk  
2 : Rough-legged Hawk  
4 : American Coot  
458 : Ring-billed Gull  
1084 : Herring Gull  
1 : Lesser Black-backed Gull  
133 : Great Black-backed Gull  
1286 : Rock Pigeon  
439 : Mourning Dove  
22 : Eastern Screech-Owl  
5 : Great Horned Owl  
2 : Barred Owl  
5 : Belted Kingfisher  
251 : Red-bellied Woodpecker  
1 : Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
390 : Downy Woodpecker  
148 : Hairy Woodpecker  
21 : Northern Flicker  
37 : Pileated Woodpecker  
2 : American Kestrel  
5 : Merlin (high)  
1 : Eastern Phoebe  
1144 : Blue Jay  
1541 : American Crow  
15 : Fish Crow  
37 : Common Raven  
2078 : Black-capped Chickadee  
425 : Tufted Titmouse  
18 : Red-breasted Nuthatch  
407 : White-breasted Nuthatch  
16 : Brown Creeper  
1 : House Wren  
2 : Winter Wren  
84 : Carolina Wren  
52 : Golden-crowned Kinglet  
6 : Ruby-crowned Kinglet (high)  
54 : Eastern Bluebird  
22 : American Robin  
1 : Gray Catbird  
5 : Northern Mockingbird  
2118 : European Starling



Much of the Montezuma area was frozen solid and had few birds. We found a surprisingly large group of swans in a small wet patch of cornfield off of Armitage Road. Stepping out of the cars, we heard Trumpeter Swans vocalizing, and scope views showed the characteristic straight slope of bill from forehead, and black bill up to the eye on many of the birds. There were over a hundred swans here and most of them were inconveniently preening. Of those with heads up, only a few looked like Tundra Swans. Later, we were pleased to have good views of Tundra Swans at Cayuga Lake State Park's marina parking lot. The swans' bill shapes were more curved, and the black pinched off in front of the eye. They were also vocalizing with their soft whooping calls. We also found Mute Swans here, standing out with their bright orange bills.

On our way to Sheldrake, we could see a huge raft of Snow Geese in the middle of the lake. We had seen a few distant skeins of migrating Snow Geese during the day as well. They are coming back! The lake was much calmer in the late afternoon on the west side than when we started our day, and the sunshine warmed us after our very cold morning.

It was a good day of birding, and Suzanne counted 45 species for our trip. Thanks to all who joined us.

**Minutes**  
of Cayuga Bird Club meetings  
are available on the Cayuga Bird  
Club [website](#).

**Spring Ornithology**  
with Steve Kress

- 33: Cedar Waxwing
- 1: Snow Bunting
- 7: Yellow-rumped Warbler
- 209: American Tree Sparrow
- 2: Chipping Sparrow
- 3: Field Sparrow
- 706: Dark-eyed Junco
- 2: White-crowned Sparrow
- 124: White-throated Sparrow
- 89: Song Sparrow
- 9: Swamp Sparrow
- 456: Northern Cardinal
- 1: Red-winged Blackbird
- 2: Brown-headed Cowbird
- 325: House Finch
- 5: Purple Finch
- 1: Pine Siskin
- 440: American Goldfinch
- 498: House Sparrow

Total 89 species, 22,666 birds.

Many species had below average numbers.

Species already found during Count Week (29-31 Dec, 2019): Red-Breasted Merganser.

Some species to seek for Count Week (2-4 Jan, 2020):

- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Cackling Goose
- Mute Swan (family of 3 if they enter count circle near Myers)
- Tundra Swan
- American Wigeon
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Ring-necked Duck
- Tufted Duck
- Surf Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Red-throated Loon
- Horned Grebe
- Wilson's Snipe
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Long-eared Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Peregrine Falcon
- Northern Shrike
- Horned Lark



March 24 to May 12, 2020  
Tuesday Nights  
7:00 to 8:30 pm

Location: Foundation of Light,  
391 Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, NY.

Cost:

\$125 for Cayuga Bird Club Members  
\$140 for non-members, which  
includes a CBC membership.

Sign up now -- or give a course  
registration to someone who'd enjoy  
learning about birds!

**Course registration is available at:**

[www.cayugabirdclub.org/spring-  
ornithology](http://www.cayugabirdclub.org/spring-ornithology)

For more information, email:

[cayugabirdclub.president@gmail.com](mailto:cayugabirdclub.president@gmail.com)

- Hermit Thrush
- American Pipit
- Lapland Longspur
- Fox Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Eastern Towhee
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Rusty Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Common Redpoll

*[An earlier version of this article erroneously  
indicated that no American Kestrels were reported.  
-Ed]*

## Cayuga Bird Club

***Educating and inspiring the birding community  
of the Cayuga Lake Basin and Central New York  
since 1914***

*The Cayuga Bird Club meets on the second Monday of each month, September through June, beginning with refreshments at 7:15 pm in the Auditorium of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Johnson Center on Sapsucker Woods Road. All meetings and most field trips are free and open to the public. Membership costs \$15 annually per household, \$10 for students, payable in September. Payment may be made via Paypal at [cayugabirdclub.org/membership](http://cayugabirdclub.org/membership) or by mailing a check to: Cayuga Bird Club, c/o Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca NY 14850. Please include your email address (or addresses for family memberships) with your membership application to receive the club newsletter. Members receive the monthly Cayuga Bird Club eNewsletter, from September through June. To make sure you don't miss an issue, add [newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org) to your email contacts.*

*Send newsletter submissions to [cbceditor1@gmail.com](mailto:cbceditor1@gmail.com) by the 25th to be included in the next issue. Please contribute sightings, news, announcements, book reviews, original poetry, art, photos, and anything else that might be of interest to the local birding community.*

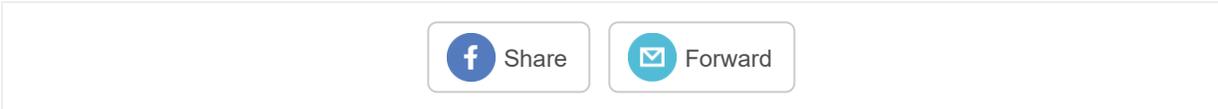
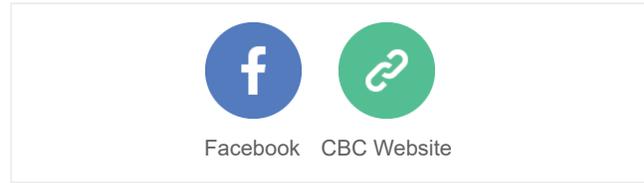
*Cayuga Bird Club Officer contact Information is available at [www.cayugabirdclub.org/about-us](http://www.cayugabirdclub.org/about-us).*

*Chickadee illustration in masthead by Karen Allaben-Confer.*

**Don't miss** an issue of the newsletter: add

newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org to your email contacts.

**Stay in touch** with the Cayuga Bird Club through our [Facebook](#) page and [Webpage](#) ([cayugabirdclub.org](http://cayugabirdclub.org)).



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