



Cayuga Bird Club

Established in 1913

Contents:

The Club

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 3 Special September Meeting
By Linda Orkin
- 9 Club Meeting Minutes
By Becky Hansen
- 10 Club Officers and Contacts

Year-end Meeting

- 2 Dish-to-pass, Myer's Point

Features

- 4 Some notes on the Salt Point Osprey
By Candace Cornell
- 5 A Ruff Time
- 6 Signage proposed for Stewart Park
By Linda Orkin
- 7 Lewis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Sanctuary: A Chronology PartII
By Jane Graves

Notes and Comments

- 8 Trip Report: Hamond Hill
- 10 Trip Report: Owasco Flats and Bear Swamp

2 Monday Night Event

This month Cayuga Bird Club will be holding its annual dish-to-pass event at Myer's Point, celebrating the end of a year of bird club activities.

4 Candace Cornell spends some time with the Salt Point Ospreys.



5 A Ruff is seen at Montezuma.



7 Jane Graves, club historian, continues with her series on the Lewis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Sanctuary

Editors' Note:

With this issue we bring to a close the club newsletter for another year. Since taking on the editorship, we have had the opportunity to meet with a whole new group of birders. This has enriched our lives, and we thank you. After taking the summer off, we will again publish starting in September.

Due to computer difficulties (a new one is on the horizon), we apologize for getting this to you a few days late.

Cheers,
Cyndy and Richard Tkachuck
cbceditor1@gmail.com

From the President

Birds fly, and that's one of the things we love about them. Time flies, and that's one of the things we don't like about that. We come to another final newsletter of our bird club year. It truly feels like only a moment ago that we were setting out in September on a whole new familiar set of beginnings. My first mention refers to two of these, our new newsletter editors and our switch to an all email newsletter format. Richard and Cyndy Tkachuck have turned out a wonderful newsletter each month this year, even succeeding at this while netting toucans and aracarís in Costa Rica. Thanks to all the members who have been flexible and modern in their thinking and have embraced this electronic publication. It is lovely and informative and far reaching. We are lucky.



We have had wonderful speakers stimulating our intellect and teaching us: about genetics (no more tanagers, just cardinals), meteorology (a night in which the overflow crowd engendered strict enforcement of occupancy rules), birds of India, the joys of volunteering, the symbolism of ancient Rome, meanderings along the coast of Chile, an evening of bird soap opera, wanderings in Texas, and our especially wonderful evening of member photos. Thanks so much to Laura Stenzler for her work on contacting and securing all of these lecturers.

Field trip leaders took us near and far to find birds in all kinds of weather, and this year was notable for the inclusion of more students and club members' determination to make sure transportation was available for them. We have tried a few new formats such as Share your Patch with limited success, and many of us will go on a kayak bird "walk" at Montezuma this July. Thanks so much to Paul Anderson for his great work on our field trips. We wouldn't be much of a bird club without them.

We formed a new committee, the Conservation Action Committee, thanks to Candace Cornell; and there are actually five members, all with special areas of concern, as we contemplate the anthropogenic dangers that birds face each moment of their lives. The committee meets each month, and Candace has written several pertinent articles along with publishing minutes from each meeting.

We have a new historian, Jane Graves, who has been assiduously researching and compiling club history, especially in the context of the community at large. Several of her articles have appeared in the newsletter and have been read with much interest. This work is especially valuable as we approach our 100th year as a club. Thanks to Jane for this work.

We have formed a committee to organize the hosting by the Cayuga Bird Club of the annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association in September of 2014. Donna Scott agreed to be chairperson and, together

with Colleen Richards and Marie Read, has already booked hotel and banquet space, found a speaker, and set aside the Laboratory of Ornithology for the Friday night events.

Carol Schmidt has, as always, done a fantastic job of making sure that all of our wonderful events are well advertised, thus ensuring great attendance and energy.

Anne Marie Johnson was quick to design and commission a beautiful poster for the bird club when I asked for her help. This will be great when tabling, as Jane Graves and I did at the Native Plant Symposium. Some other events at which we will table include the Celebrate the Waterfront event at the Farmer's Market in July and the Dryden Lake Festival, also in July. Thanks Anne Marie, for helping us to stand out.

We continue to sell guide to basin birding and native plant books at a good pace. I would like to take this moment for thanking Susan Danskin, our treasurer, for her service in all things financial and her attention to detail, which often has kept me out of trouble. She does a big job keeping track of all of us.

Deserving also of thanks are Becky Hansen for a great job taking minutes; to Colleen Richards for arranging all of our speaker dinners; Marie Read, Laura Stenzler, and Bob McGuire who take their roles as directors very seriously and are always available for solid advice. I end with hope that I have not forgotten any one person, but would like to also thank all club members for their support and enthusiasm.

It has truly been an inspiring year. Now, I hope you will all, both members and not yet members, come to the picnic at Myer's Point, 6:30 p.m., June 10, dish-to-pass. That will be the topper!

Cayuga Bird Club Year-end Meeting at Myer's Point June 10, 6:30 PM Dish-to-pass dinner

Cayuga Bird Club celebrates another great year of birds and the people who watch them. Bring a dish to serve several, a place setting for yourself, your binoculars and your good spirits. Beverages would be appreciated also.

We will meet at Pavilion A, as usual, to socialize, eat and then go for a short bird walk.

All are welcome; we hope to entice members and non-members alike to join us. Please feel free to contact me, Linda Orkin, wingmagic16@gmail.com, if you have any questions or concerns.

Come one, come all!!!

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
Please note that details of field trips may change at short notice. Please check the calendar on the website (http://cayugabirdclub.org/calendar) for the latest updates.		
June 10 Monday 6 PM – 8:30 PM	Cayuga Bird Club Meeting Dish-to-pass Picnic	Myer's Pavilion A, Myer's Point
July 13 Saturday 8 AM – 1 PM (times provisional)	CBC Field Trip: Kayak Tour Montezuma area, exact spot to be determined	We will have a trip through some of the waterways up by Montezuma, probably around the Howland Island area. Southern Tier Kayak Tours will provide kayaks and leadership. There will be a charge of \$50-\$60 per person, depending on numbers with a \$15 discount if you wish to bring our own boat. See http://stktours.com for guidelines on using your own boat. Call Paul at 216-5389 or email paul@gram-matech.com if you wish to join this trip. Numbers will be limited so members take priority. Watch this space as we firm up more details.
September 9 Monday 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Cayuga Bird Club Meeting	A special meeting will be held to focus on the Stewart Park Project, as well as a discussion on the New York State Ornithological Association annual meeting.
September Date uncertain	Annual Muckrace	The friends of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Wetland will be sponsoring their annual Muckrace. See the Calendar at the Cayuga Bird Club website for information.

Special September Meeting Details

September 9, 2013, 7:30 PM

By Linda Orkin

Our September 9, 2013 meeting will be a great one and something to really look forward to and participate in. First read the Stewart Park project article (p.6) and then read on....

This meeting will be in two parts: for the first part of the meeting, we are asking willing members to pick out three wonderful photos for presentation, which they have taken in Stewart Park. We will be looking for pictures which illustrate some of the amazing birds and moments associated with this place so special to the Cayuga Bird Club. The format will be the same as that of the January meeting except that people will be limited to three photos and two minutes of narration. This should prove to be as enjoyable as the January picture sharing event always is. The impetus will be to have these photo presentations REMIND us of how valuable and wonderful Stewart Park, the Renwick Wildwood Sanctuary, and the Fuertes Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, aka the Swan Pen, are to us all. There will be a reminder about this photo request in the September newsletter along with instructions for submitting, so please be sure to look for those details. The deadline for photos will be Friday, September 6.

The second very important part of the meeting will start after about 40 minutes of photo sharing when we will begin discussion of the Stewart Park project as detailed in the article I have written here. The meeting will be devoted to this project that so nicely dovetails our mission statements of educating and conserving and provides a wonderful way to honor the past 100 years of the Cayuga Bird Club.

Although the meeting will focus on the Stewart Park project, we will allot some time at the end for a discussion of the Cayuga Bird Club's hosting of the annual New York State Ornithological Association meeting in September of 2014. This is a new idea, a members' meeting with no lecture, just people attending who are prepared to discuss some major club projects. We strongly and sincerely request that all members attend. New and past members are welcome. Just bring your fifteen dollars that night, and you will be able to vote along with the rest of us .

Rick Manning, Executive Director of the Friends of Stewart Park will be in attendance, as will Jane Graves and Dave Nutter. The designer that we are working with, Todd Edmonds of Irondesign, will plan to be there also. Concept drawings and cost estimates will be available for you to examine.

There will be a variety of cookie selections and tea, coffee and water.

This bears repeating: If you are not currently a member, this meeting will be a perfect time to join and then add your voice to this discussion. Just bring your \$15 and you will be admitted immediately. So 7:30 on September 9. Hope to see EVERYONE there.

Some Notes on the Salt Point Osprey

By Candace Cornell

If I calculated correctly, the first possible day the Osprey eggs could begin hatching is June 6 (day 33), assuming the first egg was laid on May 5. (Incubation time first egg to first hatch varies between 33-40+ days.)

It will be easy to tell when they eggs are hatching by behavioral changes in both the male and the female. Now, during incubation, the male brings fish to the nest for the female, which she takes and eats while perched in their favorite tree. The male takes over incubation while the female has a meal break and stretches her wings. When she returns to the nest, she may preen and clean her bill before trading places on the eggs. This behavior will change, however, as soon as the eggs start hatching. From then on, she will stay at the nest, feeding the chicks first, and later catching a bite for herself. The male will also become a full-time fisher, ramping up the rate of his fish deliveries to meet the needs of his growing clutch.

It will be exciting to watch!

Summary of notes

- For the last two plus weeks, there have been intruder ospreys flying around the nest. Except for the pairs that visited during the first week of April 22 and on May 17, all intruders have been single (most have been slender and pale chested, which I presume are males). Most encounters are low key, lasting a few minutes, and are successfully thwarted by the pair crying out. Occasionally, the male takes chase after the intruder. One day, an intruder stayed in the area harassing the pairs and circling the nest for 42 minutes. The two males ended up flying in dramatic circles around one another high over the lake until the intruder finally left the area. I wish I knew if they are repeat visitors or not and if these interlopers are late unmated migrants from the south. Clearly, the platform is an attractive nest site.



Successful nest defense by uttering their piercing cry.

- The male continues to occasionally bring sticks, grass, and mud to the nest and the female tosses out those sticks she does not like. The other day, one came down with a loud crash. The female occasionally brings small loads of grass to line the nest after her meal breaks and will do so throughout the nesting season.

- Their copulation frequency has decreased significantly since incubation started on May 5, but still occurs. The percentage of successful copulations has steadily increased during the season. The female seems more receptive of the male than in the beginning and assumes a solicitous position (necessary for cloacal contact) more often than before. According to the literature, the female trades copulations for food, but I have not seen this. The pair did copulate during the extended 42-minute encounter with the intruder the other day—textbook sperm competition theory and mate guarding. She also does not beg for food very often, as many are reported to do. The male must be feeding her adequately.

They preen with their eyes closed, probably to protect them



The female in the solicitous position necessary for a successful copulation.

during their vigorous preening marathon sessions (15-55 minutes at a time) unless interrupted. The male preens whenever possible and frequently, since he's always getting wet and needs to keep his feathers oiled. The female has at least one good preening bout each day while standing on a perch. I wonder if this routine will change once the chicks pip.

When the male brings a fish to the nest, the female usually grabs it and takes it to their favorite perch in a nearby cottonwood. This behavior will stop on the days the eggs pip.

- All the literature says that during incubation, the male eats the head of the fish before feeding the rest to the female. However, I've seen him deliver whole fish just as much as partial ones. Once the chicks hatch, he will bring mostly whole fish to the nest.

- The female usually leaves the nest for one or two extended periods (15-55 minutes) during my watch and does not leave the nest until the male takes over incubation. I'm guessing these exercise trips will be very short once the chicks pip.
- Today, after eating a fish and having a 40-min. preen

Continued on p.6

A Ruff Time

On May 10, 2013, Tim Lenz reported finding a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) at the Kipp Island Fields, Montezuma. With a breeding range in the northern Europe and Asia and a wintering range mostly in Africa, the Ruff occasionally is found in North America. Below is an e-bird map showing sighting for the last ten years.

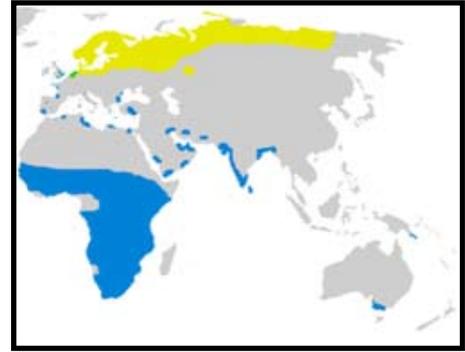


Photo by Arjan Haverkamp



The Montezuma Ruff taken by Gary Kohlenberg. This bird still shows some of its display plumage which is lost when not breeding.



The Ruff is most unique in that it develops a very ornate breeding plumage which it displays to intimidate other males in a lek rather than to attract females. Leking is rare amongst sandpipers.

Anna Rosina Marquart, 1642, by Michael Conrad Hirt (1613-1671)



According to Wikipedia, The current name was first recorded in 1634, and is derived from the ruff, an exaggerated collar fashionable from the mid-sixteenth century to the mid-seventeenth century, since the male bird's neck ornamental feathers resemble the neck-wear.



Sir Christopher Hatton ca. 1575. Artist unknown.

Signage Proposed for Stewart Park

By Linda Orkin

For several months now, four Cayuga Bird Club members, Dave Nutter, Jane Graves, Lynn Leopold, and Linda Orkin, have been working with Rick Manning, Executive Director of Friends of Stewart Park, on plans for interpretive signs to be placed in relevant areas of the park, to coordinate with other planned Stewart Park improvements.

These signs will educate people about bird species they may find, will detail Cayuga Bird Club's interwoven history with the park, and will discuss natural history subjects such as habitat, flyways, and lake dynamics.

The picture on the right shows the Renwick Wildwood Sanctuary as seen peering from the boardwalk. One panel will be placed along the railing. Bird illustrations on these panels will be by Evan Barbour, illustrator of "The Birds of Sapsucker Woods" and the Cass Park Bird Kiosk. The panels will be set in and angled so that people can see over them. The panel will include the Cayuga Bird Club's early history with this sanctuary and discussion of the habitat they see before them.



The cost of this is estimated at \$4,000-\$5,000. The panel itself will be about \$1,000. The remainder of the fee will be allocated for design, research, text, and installation. Some very preliminary ideas we have had about fund raising include offering a person or group of people the opportunity to sponsor a panel, some fund raising events such as a music event, or perhaps Ithaca's own Big Day complete with pledges. In addition, we would ask the club treasury to match all funds raised. We have very tentatively proposed a completion and dedication date of late October 2013 for this phase of the project. We did this in order to have a concrete goal to work towards, and it is subject to discussion and approval.

The second phase of this project is a panel at the swan pen/Fuertes Memorial Wild Life Sanctuary detailing its genesis, its original concept to attract water birds, and its current usefulness as a more wild and tangled safe haven for migrating and nesting songbirds. Important to this will be the Cayuga Bird Club's role in the completion of the project.

The third phase, the most ambitious, would be for three to four slanted, mounted panels near the lake that would have photos of birds of the land, water, and air that you

could hope to see. In addition to bird photos, these lake shore panels will inform about the water dynamics, the significance of the flyway, the importance of the lake edge and driftwood, and other natural history facts that will help people appreciate the lake and what makes this such a great place for birds. The panels could be set close to the path, close to the shore, or on a constructed overlook extending out toward the water.



I would like everyone to read this over and think about this project. Completing each phase, step by step, would be a wonderful project and worthy of the club's 100-year anniversary celebration. We had a fairly brief discussion about this at the May club meeting and decided to table it and have a special members' meeting for our first meeting in September 2013, which will be dedicated to discussing this and putting plans and people into place. Please see the article announcing details of this meeting, it will be fun and very important! 

Salt Point Osprey continued

(including scratching and bill wiping), I saw the male wash his feet by flying along and dipping them in the lake. They bath by wading from the shore in the creek.

It's easy to ID the female from the notch in the female's 5th left primaries. She is also about a pound heavier than the male and larger all over. She also has a darker bib around her neck. Here, she has a fish tail in her mouth. 



Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Bird Sanctuary: A Chronology

Part II

By Jane Graves

As stated in Part I of this article, construction of the sanctuary began in March 1928. As reported in the "Ithaca Journal-News," March 15, p.5: "Dredging Pond at Park for Bird Sanctuary...Excavation of the moat, surrounding the island which will be one of the features of the Fuertes Memorial Sanctuary in Stewart Park, has been completed by the Miscall Crane Service Company, and work has started this week dredging out the pond. The moat connects at each end with the pond. The moat is 12 feet wide and four feet deep. The pond will be about four deep in the center with sloping sides forming a basin. Outlets to Cayuga Lake on the north and to Fall Creek on the southwest will be formed to provide a current through the pond. The connections of the moat will also provide circulating water in that part of the area. The island formed by the pond on one side and the surrounding moat will be planted for the attraction of water birds. The moat is designed to keep cats and other marauding animals from the birds.... Drilling will be started in the near future for an artesian well from 80 to 100 feet deep which will be located to the southeast of the pond. The well is expected to provide flowing water throughout the year and aide in keeping the pond clear of ice during the Winter months..."

Although work on the sanctuary did go forward during the remainder of the spring, it was slowed by high lake levels, as noted in an article headlined "High Level of Lake Will be Investigated," which stated that work on the Fuertes Memorial had been halted and that other sections of the park had been damaged due to high water ("Ithaca Journal," Apr. 26, p.7).



The Memorial Gateway and Lookout at the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Water-Fowl Refuge. Photograph reprinted from "Bird Lore," Sept-Oct 1934, p.283.

According to Arthur Allen's article, "A Living Memorial to Louis Agassiz Fuertes," in the Sep-Oct. 1934, issue of "Bird Lore": "The pond itself with its encircling fence was built in 1928 and 1929...and while it almost immediately became popular with the water-fowl, observing the birds

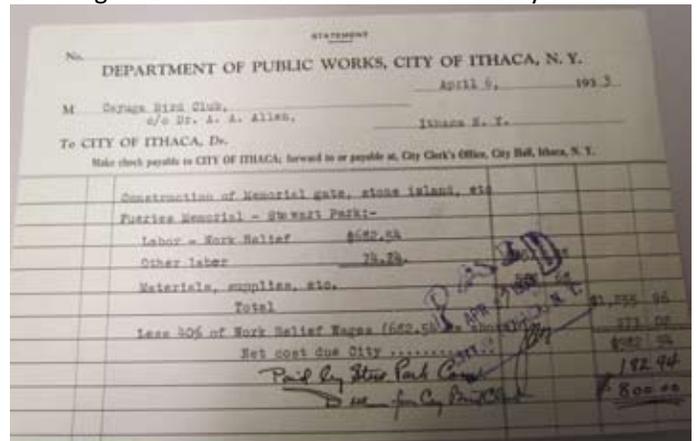
at close range was always more or less obstructed by the fence."

Although the bird club had played an active role in fundraising, the Fuertes Memorial Fund had been initially administered by a Citizen's Committee. The fund was transferred from its treasurer, Albert W. Smith (husband of Ruby Green Smith, founder of the CBC), to the Cayuga Bird Club treasurer, Mrs. A. H. Wright, on March 7, 1929. The bank account book exists in the Bird Club archives in the Kroch Library #1996, Box 1.

To continue with Arthur Allen's description of the need for an observation platform from his 1934 "Bird Lore" article: "After visiting the Detroit Zoo at the time of the A.O.U. Meeting in 1931, a group of us decided that we ought to have some method of observing the Ducks in our refuge without having to look through or over a fence. Accordingly, we drew up a tentative design, which, after passing through the hands of more experienced draftsmen, finally resulted in the stone gateway and look out shown in the accompanying photograph...."

In the "Cornell Alumni News," Apr. 30, 1931, an announcement reads: "Fund Sought to Finish Bird Sanctuary. The Cayuga Bird Club will campaign for a \$500 fund this Spring to complete the memorial to Louis A. Fuertes '97 at Stewart Park. The memorial, in the form of a refuge for waterfowl, was begun two years ago. Funds are now required to complete grading and planting and to erect stone pillars upon which bronze plaques are to be placed...."

The funds were raised by a public lecture given by George Miksch Sutton, which was covered in the "Ithaca Journal-News," May 2, 1931, p.5: "Large Audience at Bird Club Lecture for Fuertes Fund" and reads as follows: "A large audience last night attended an illustrated lecture given by George Miksch Sutton, noted painter and explorer. Mr. Sutton's lecture was on 'A Year in Arctic with Camera and Brush.' The lecture was given under the auspices of the Cayuga Bird Club and the proceeds will be used to help complete the Louis Agassiz Fuertes memorial bird sanctuary at the head



Paid invoice for the construction of the Memorial Gateway and Lookout, April, 1933. From Cayuga Bird Club archives, Kroch Library.

Continued on p.10

Trip Report: Hammond Hill, May 4

By Susan Yong

“It’s just another Blackburnian.”

Okay, so maybe nobody actually said that, but the day was certainly highlighted by an unexpected overload of Blackburnian Warblers.

On this beautiful day, 23 participants were greeted at Hammond Hill by the serenade of an Eastern Towhee who presently hopped its way to the crown of a small tree for great looks by all. We ascended Yellow Trail 1 past singing Ovenbirds and Brown Creepers and jays (blue and McGowan) to a stand of evergreens from which emanated the high-pitched songs of a Blackburnian Warbler. After much patience standing amid the swarms of blackflies (which thankfully did not bite, but were just annoying), the bird flew to a leafless tree to afford great views to some.



A short distance later we were at “the Mourning Warbler spot” where we heard its loud “churry” song answered by the intricate trills of a Winter Wren. Both birds made brief appearances popping onto low perches from the ground to be seen by some in the group.

Continuing towards Canaan Road we check out the little open area at the top to find the first of several sapsuckers for the day, a silent Magnolia Warbler appearing while we were tracking down a Blackburnian, a Broad-winged Hawk flying low and close to land in a nearby tree briefly, a Black-throated Blue Warbler which some of us were able to track down after its song started appearing from the woods, an Ovenbird flushed and sort-of seen by many while chasing the black-throated blue. The aforementioned Blackburnian (or possibly a second?) came back to give good looks to all before we departed this magical spot.

Not far down the trail a curious two-part song that sounded somewhat like a Nashville Warbler turned out to be from a Yellow-rumped Warbler which obligingly perched at eye level to sing for us.

Along Canaan Road were several singing black-throated blues, one of which cooperated enough for looks by all, including those who had missed it earlier. At the intersection with Star Stanton, yet another Blackburnian Warbler gave probably the best looks of the day to everyone, when from behind us we hear the “who cooks for you” of a Barred Owl, repeated several times with the faint echo of a distant response.

Other highlights of the trip included watching a chickadee excavate a nest cavity, a flushed Ruffed Grouse seen by some, and a heard-but-unseen Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Green Warblers, Purple Finch, and Field Sparrow.

Thanks to all for a wonderful outing. 



New York State Ornithological Association 66th Annual Meeting
NEW YORK BIRDERS CONFERENCE: Connecting Birders Throughout the Region
Hosted By Queens County Bird Club
November 1—3, 2013
Long Island Marriott Hotel, 101 James Doolittle Blvd, Uniondale, NY 11553 516-794-3800

Cayuga Bird Club Minutes May 13, 2013

President Linda Orkin called this last meeting of the year to order at 7:31 p.m., welcoming all. There will be a picnic next month on June 10 at Myer's Point which is open to all. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Colleen Richardson and Becky Hansen brought cookies for the meeting tonight.

Speaking of recent birds of interest, people mentioned sandpipers at Stewart Park, waiting for the Great Blue Herons at the lab to pip, while the warblers are coming and Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks remain, and that work is going to be done at Sterling Forest to help preserve Golden-winged Warbler habitat.

Upcoming Monday night seminars at the lab are:

- 5/20, Australian Songbirds, the Music of Nature, and the Nature of Music
- 5/27, How to do Bird Conservation the UK Way

Vice President Paul Anderson gave the field trip report. There were 4 trips since the last meeting.

- 4/21, John Confer, Cayuga Lake, included seeing Eastern Meadowlarks and Upland Sandpipers
- 4/27, Stuart Krasnoff, South Hill Recreation Way, lots of Ruby-crowned Kinglets
- 5/4, Suan Yong, Hammond Hill, lots of warblers including Mourning Warbler and hooting Barred Owls
- 5/11, Laura Stenzler, Park Preserve, Prairie Warbler and a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks

Upcoming trips are:

- 5/18, Carl Steckler, Owasco Flats and Bear Swamp
- 5/25, Mark Chao, Finger Lakes Land Trust Challenge
- 6/2, Paul Anderson, Lindsay-Parsons in West Danby
- 7/13, kayak trip to Montezuma at a cost of \$50-60. If interested, email Paul@grammatech.com

The duck stamp is now also the migratory bird stamp and will be used to help preserve National Wildlife Reserve lands. They cost \$15 and can be purchased at post offices and sporting goods stores.

The next Conservation Action Committee meeting will be on May 21 at 7 pm at Candace Cornell's house.

The next subject was donations to various local groups. Candace Cornell made a motion that the club support the Cornell Lab of Ornithology competitive teams—the Sapsuckers and the Redheads—at the \$100 level, to be divided equally between them, and the Finger Lakes Land Trust at the \$100 level as well as Mark Chao's Bird Quest at the \$100 level. Cyndy Tkachuck seconded the motion. Discussion

followed first, about the Cornell teams as to whether people wanted to contribute to both groups or just to the Redheads, the junior team. Some felt that the Sapsuckers were well supported by the advertising of the lab whereas the Redheads had no such backing and could use the money more.

Ton Schat moved that an amendment be made to the motion that only the Redheads be supported. Susan Danskin seconded the motion. This amendment was voted upon and passed. Next an amendment was proposed increasing the donation from \$100 to \$250. Carl Steckler so moved. Ton Schat seconded the motion. Following discussion and a vote the amendment passed.

A proposal that the club support the Redheads at \$250 level was put into motion by Ton Schat, seconded by Carl Steckler, voted on and passed.

Kathleen Strickland moved that the club support the Finger Lakes Land Trust at the \$100 level each year for three years and Mark Chao's Bird Quest at the \$100 level for one year. Paul Anderson seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Another idea was to give grants of \$50 to people interested in building outdoor cat runs to promote the concept of not letting cats roam free. It was decided that more specifics were needed for this idea, and we would take it up again in the fall.

The NYSOA annual meeting will take place Nov. 1-3 in Queens, NY.

We took up the discussion of signage in Stewart Park and our involvement in that. It was decided that it was too big a topic for this meeting and that we would devote the whole September meeting to it, hoping for widespread participation from members.

Susan Danskin read the bird list of the Cayuga Bird Basin.

Cyndy and Richard Tkachuck presented a very interesting and entertaining talk entitled "Volunteering - Getting Your Feet Wet" telling of their adventures all over the world volunteering in various birding situations.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Hansen

Fuertes Memorial Garden cont.

Cayuga Bird Club and the proceeds will be used to help complete the Louis Agassiz Fuertes memorial bird sanctuary at the head of Cayuga Lake..."

The work wasn't completed until the spring of 1933, when the "Ithaca Journal-News" reported: "Gateway Will be Dedicated by Bird Club," noting "A memorial gateway in honor of Louis Agassiz Fuertes will be dedicated by the Cayuga Bird Club in Stewart Park at 5 o'clock Memorial Day afternoon. Dr. A. A. Allen, Cornell ornithologist and president of the club which raised money for the gateway, will make the speech of dedication. Mayor Herman Bergholtz will respond on behalf of the city. The stone structure stands at the west end of the park, and gives entrance to an observation area projection over the water fowl refuge. Observers of birds will be able to stand on this platform and study the birds below without having to look over a barring fence. The bronze tablet on the gateway has been designed by Prof. A. W. Smith." Arthur Allen reported in the "Bird Lore" article that "The cost of building was considerably reduced by the City Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works, who willingly took charge of the actual construction, and by using some of the unemployed we were able to secure state aid which was available at that time." 

Trip Report: Owasco Flats and Bear Swamp, May 18.



Carl Steckler led a small group to two out-of-basin sites. The first was to the Owasco Flats where time was spent in the marsh area. The Virginia Rail was spotted there. Later, a visit to the Bear Swamp produced a number of interesting species.



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The Cayuga Bird Club meets on the second Monday of each month, September through June, beginning with refreshments at 7:15 P.M. 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. To join, send a check (made out to "Cayuga Bird Club") to Cayuga Bird Club Treasurer, c/o Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Online payment option is available at the Cayuga Bird Club website.

Bird club members receive via email the Cayuga Bird Club Newsletter monthly from September through June. Send newsletter submissions to Richard and Cyndy Tkachuck, contact information above. Of particular interest are articles about local bird sightings, bird behavior, or birding hot spots, as well as original poetry, art, and photos.

Chickadee illustration in masthead by Karen Confer and duck silhouette by Lena Samsonenko.

Visit the Cayuga Bird Club website at:

www.cayugabirdclub.org