



# Cayuga Bird Club

## October 2018

### In This Issue:

[Cayuga Bird Club Meeting, October 8](#)  
Kyle Horton, Cloudy with a Chance of Migration

[Calender](#)

[From the President](#)  
Wes Blauvelt

[Membership renewal](#)

[2018 CBC Officer Nominations](#)

[Montezuma Muckrace Report](#)  
Bob McGuire

[Upcoming Field Trips](#)

[Field Trip to Dryden Lake](#)  
Meena Haribal

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Cayuga Basin First Records](#)

[CBC Meeting November 12](#)

[An Interview with Betsy Darlington](#)  
Diane Morton

[Paul C Munding Distinguished Lecture](#)

[Field Trip Report - Sapsucker Woods](#)  
Gladys Birdsall

---

## Calendar

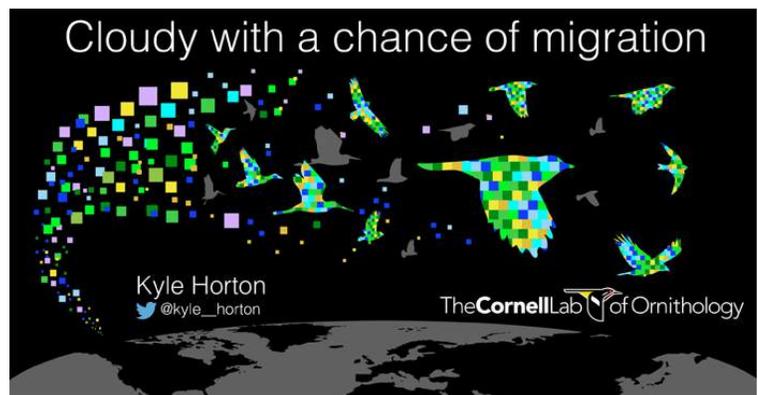
Oct. 5-7 NYSOA meeting, Henrietta NY

Oct. 6 eBird October Big Day

Oct. 6 & 7 Sparrow Identification

## [Cayuga Bird Club Meeting](#) [October 8, 2018](#)

**Speaker: Kyle Horton**  
Cloudy with a Chance of Migration



The notion of hundreds of millions, if not billions, of migratory birds passing in and out of broad geographic areas is of considerable public and ecological interest – and of conservation concern. Capturing and quantifying these large-scale movements has remained a principal challenge. Kyle will discuss how he uses weather surveillance radar to quantify and forecast migratory movements across the United States.

Kyle Horton received his B.S. in Biology from Canisius College in 2011, M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Delaware in 2013, and Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Oklahoma in 2017. He is currently a Rose Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He uses a range of tools to study migratory birds, including radar, acoustics, and citizen science data. He is currently working on understanding changes in migratory timing, population estimates, impacts of artificial light, and developing migration forecasting systems.

**Walks** 8:00 am - 10:30 am  
Leader: Mark Chao  
Cornell Community Gardens, Freese Road

**Oct. 8 Cayuga Bird Club Meeting**

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Speaker: Kyle G. Horton, PhD  
Cloudy with a Chance of Migration

**Oct. 14 Field Trip: West Side of the Lake** 8:00am - 12:30pm

Leader: Ken Haas  
Meet at the Ithaca Children's Garden

**Oct. 15 Paul C. Munding Distinguished Lectureship, 5:00 pm**

B25 Warren Hall, Cornell University  
Speaker: Gail Patricelli, University of California, Davis  
Robots, Telemetry, and the Sex Lives of Wild Birds: Using Technology to Understand and Protect an Enigmatic Bird

**Oct. 20 Happy Owl-ween at Montezuma Audubon Center, 2295 Route 89, Savannah, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Jean Soprano will have live owls on display during her presentation about the silent hunters of the night. Then, join our staff for a hike through the forest and grassland to explore the night sights and sounds. Fee: \$5/child, \$10/adult, \$25/family. Pre-registration required. 315-365-3588 or [montezuma@audubon.org](mailto:montezuma@audubon.org).

**Oct. 28 Field Trip: Up the Lake**

7:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Leader: Bob McGuire  
Meet at Stewart Park, east end

**Nov. 3 Owling Field Trip** (Rain date Nov. 4)

Leaders: Suan Yong and Bob McGuire  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Meet at Cornell Lab of Ornithology parking area

**Nov. 10 Loon Watch at Taughannock Falls State Park**

Leader: Wes Blauvelt  
6:40 am- 8:40 am

**Nov. 12 Cayuga Bird Club Meeting, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Speaker: Adriaan Dokter, Ph. D.  
Moving with the Tides: Shorebird Foraging in the Wadden Sea

See our [Web Calendar](#) for more events and field trips.

Cayuga Bird Club meetings start at 7:30 pm, the second Monday of every month. September - June. Doors open at 7:00 pm and all meetings are open to the public. Seating is limited; if room capacity is reached, the building will be locked.

---

## **From the President**

Wes Blauvelt



As the fall equinox passes, migration is in full swing. Many eBird reports have told the story of numerous warblers moving through the area; multiple kettles of Broad-winged Hawks have been seen in the past few weeks moving through the highlands of

Danby and rare shorebirds including a Red Knot and White-rumped Sandpiper have been seen on the mud bars of Salmon Creek fueling up before their long distance flight to South America. Soon other raptors will be moving along the ridges in large numbers, the annual flight of Northern Saw-whet Owls will begin and Common Loons will soon be assembling on Cayuga Lake in preparation for their movement in early November to the Chesapeake Bay and points south. A trip to the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch in Delaware County just outside of Oneonta, a visit to the Hammond Hill for SWOW's or an early morning stop at our annual Loon Watch on November 10 at Taughannock Falls State Park will each offer great opportunities for you to personally observe the wonder of migrations.

While on the topic of migration, The Cayuga Bird Club participated in the Migration Celebration hosted by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology this past month. Our club station offered information on club membership, provided a sign-up sheet to recruit "young birders" wishing to learn more about birds, bird conservation and participation in a bird walk at Stewart Park. We conducted a survey in which over 50 participants evaluated their "style" of birding and we offered instruction on the use of [eBird](#) and [Merlin](#). Thanks to Jody Enck, Diane Traina, Gladys Birdsall, Sandy and Ed Buckles for volunteering their time to make the Migration Celebration a success.

One of my tasks at the Migration Celebration was to answer questions from the public on how to use eBird and

### Minutes

of the September 10, 2018 Cayuga Bird Club meeting are [available](#) on the Cayuga Bird Club website.

## **Time to Renew Your Membership**

**Autumn is the time to rejoin the Cayuga Bird Club!**

**Annual dues are \$15 per household or \$10 for students** and cover your subscription to this newsletter from September through June as well as other bird club activities. Keep informed about birding trips, meetings, and other bird-related happenings in and around Ithaca.

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 renewal to keep your newsletter subscription current.

## **Officer Nominations for 2018 Elections**

At the October 8 Cayuga Bird Club Meeting, we will be voting for Club Officers and one Director. Nominated officers are listed below. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, but if you'd like to nominate someone, please make sure that person wishes to be nominated!

### **President: Diane Morton**

Diane is currently vice president of the Cayuga Bird Club as well as editor of the club newsletter and co-chair of the field trip

Merlin. One especially interesting conversation was with a middle school teacher from the New Paltz area. She teaches science and has a keen interest in natural history. We discussed eBird and Merlin and how these applications could be used in her curriculum in the classroom. The school is in a rural setting with a wetland along the edge of the school property. The teacher has placed bird feeders on the windows of the classroom to draw birds in close for observation by her students. She noted that many of the kids bring smartphones into the classroom. With this in mind we discussed how a student could photograph a bird at the feeder and by using the power of Merlin identify the species. This merging of technology with the observation of nature offered an attractive learning opportunity that this teacher will explore. Some of you may have also noticed that Merlin is now linked with eBird on your smartphones. By inputting a data count on an observed species, a Merlin icon will appear on your screen providing a quick link to photographs, sound recording and range maps of the bird.

Finally, I too will be migrating this fall. After a year as club president, I will be moving on to become a Director. A new slate of officers will be elected at the October meeting to serve for the next year. A big thank you to everyone for your support during the past year and best wishes to the new leadership.



## **Montezuma Muckrace 2018**

Bob McGuire





committee. She has enjoyed sharing a love of birds with others through being a field trip leader for the Cayuga Bird Club, Spring Field Ornithology, and the

weekend walks at Sapsucker Woods. Diane recently retired from Cornell University, where she was a senior research associate in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. Diane enjoys birding year-round, both locally and further afield.

### **Vice President: Donna Scott**



An active member of the Cayuga Bird Club, Donna, along with several other stalwart CBC-ers, put together the New York State Ornithological Association's Annual Meeting in Ithaca

hosted by CBC in Fall of 2014. In addition, Donna is a Director of the Friends of Salt Point, Inc., which helps the Town of Lansing manage the Salt Point Natural Area by Salmon Creek and Cayuga Lake. Not having enough to do since retiring from Cornell in 2002, she is also the President of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Finger Lakes (see [www.fingerlakesfunerals.org](http://www.fingerlakesfunerals.org))! This cuts into birding time, but is important volunteer work.

Donna has been birding for more than 45 years, and took the Spring Field Ornithology (SFO) course two times. She has participated in the CBC's Christmas count for over 15 years and has been going to Lab of O. seminars for years. Her birding ventures include field trips with SFO, the CBC, and birding during her many travels, including to Florida, Maine, Ontario Canada, Peru, Ecuador and Costa Rica, and soon she will go birding in the Four Corners area of southwest USA.

### **Treasurer: Ken Kemphues**

The Montezuma Muckrace is a 24-hour birdathon and fundraiser organized by the Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. For the past few years the Cayuga Bird Club has sponsored our team, the Arrogant Bustards, by paying our entrance fee. In return, we endeavor to make the Club proud by finding as many species as possible within the designated boundaries. Last year we tallied 98 species; this year we blew past that number to record 114, the third highest total for the entire event. Our team consisted of Deirdre Anderson, Susan Danskin, Ken Kemphues, Gary Kohlenberg, Bob McGuire, Ann Mitchell, Diane Morton, and Dave Nutter.

We met early Saturday morning, September 15th, at Stewart Park and headed up the lake. Our first stop was Mud Lock where, while it was still dark, we called for owls. In past years we have been successful with both Eastern Screech and Northern Saw-whet, but this year we struck out. Our first bird tally was the croak of a Great Blue Heron, followed by cormorants, crow, cardinal, Marsh Wren, and surprisingly, a fly-over Common Nighthawk.

The next stop was just north of the Village of Cayuga where we added several ducks, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, and Eastern Phoebe. We drove back through Mud Lock and River Road, picking up Great Egret, Green Heron, Warbling Vireo and both Chipping and House Sparrows. At this point we were feeling fortunate because the sparrows, phoebe, and Green Heron were all birds that we thought would be difficult to find during the day.

We continued to the Montezuma Refuge visitor center where we scoped the pool, climbed the observation tower, walked the Seneca Trail along the river, and then drove Wildlife Drive. Here we picked up most of the rest of our ducks (teal, pintail, wigeon, shoveler), our first warblers (magnolia, bay-breasted) and our first shorebirds (Long-billed Dowitcher, both yellowlegs, Pectoral, Least, White-rumped, and Semipalmated Sandpipers). We were initially stumped by a whistling call emanating from the sedges alongside the drive. Gary had the presence of mind to record it on his phone and, after considerable deliberation, we agreed that it was the seldom-heard call of Virginia Rail.

Esker Brook Trail has always been good to us; this year was no exception. We came up with a couple of flycatchers (least and wood pewee), a Brown Thrasher, and had great looks at



Ken is a retired Cornell professor and has been a member of the Cayuga Bird Club since 2013. He served as chair of his department at Cornell

for six years and has twelve years of experience as treasurer for another local non-profit organization.

**Recording Secretary:  
Poppy Singer**



Poppy is a native of Ithaca who has always enjoyed long walks in the wilderness. After raising 2 children 20 years apart in age, she finally lived out her dream of

attending Spring Field Ornithology in 2017. Since then, she likes nothing better than being outside with the birds and her binoculars. She has been searching for a way to volunteer in the birding community, so when Diane asked if she would like to be secretary of CBC she accepted!

**Corresponding Secretary: Colleen Richards**



Colleen is willing to continue as corresponding secretary. Besides occasional volunteer acknowledgements, etc., she corresponds with our program

speakers each month to assure they have all they need for their engagement. She also organizes the club dinner which honors the speaker and encourages member interaction.

**Director: Wes Blauvelt**

Wes has been a member of the Cayuga Bird Club for about 18 years and is currently president of the club. He has actively

a Hooded Warbler.

We had lunch and then headed for some staked-out birds around the Village of Montezuma (Sandhill Cranes) and on to East Road and the Knox-Marsellus Marsh. Over the summer this area had been good for shorebirds, but the water level continued to drop, and most of the shorebirds were gone. We were only able to add Turkey Vulture and Northern Harrier to our total. Our luck returned as we walked in on Towpath Road, finding a Solitary Sandpiper in one of the mud puddles as well as Yellow-rumped and Wilson’s Warblers in the low trees.

From there we drove north, checked in at the Montezuma Audubon Center (the MAC - event headquarters), and walked out to check the ponds. That is where we ran into most of our swallows (Purple Martin, bank, barn, and rough-winged) and both dowitchers.



We headed over to Howland’s Island, driving in on Carncross Road, through the gate, and down the slope to the south where we left the cars. We walked the gravel

road all the way out to the marsh and back, running into several beautiful flocks of forest birds. Deirdre’s laser pointer was a great help, and we literally wore ourselves out following the birds as they moved through the canopy. We ended up with Great Crested Flycatcher, both nuthatches, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and six warblers (redstart, northern parula, pine, black and white, black-throated green, and bay-breasted).

As we left Howland’s Island we got a report of shorebirds at Knox-Marsellus Marsh and rushed back down only to find that a Merlin had just come through and flushed all of our targets. By then it was nearly 6 pm, and we headed to Van Dyne Spoor Road for our last stop of the day. Walking along the road as it passed through the forest we heard several Wood Thrushes. Once we got to the open marsh, we scoped the resident Trumpeter Swans and then were gifted with a passing Northern Goshawk.



participated in the Christmas Bird Count and the November Loon Watch. Wes's interests in birding began as a boy and he has been fortunate to travel around the

world chasing birds.

## Upcoming Field Trips

**Mark Chao** will lead a walks on **Saturday and Sunday mornings October 6 and 7, 8:00 am -10:30 am**, with a focus on **sparrow identification. Meet at the Cornell Community Gardens on Freese Road at 8:00am**. Be prepared to walk among very tall, wet weeds and uneven, slippery surfaces. We may also visit other nearby sites as birding conditions warrant.

Join **Ken Haas on Sunday, October 14**, for a half-day field trip on the **west side of the lake. We'll meet at the Ithaca Children's Garden at 8:00 am** (near the big turtle) to car pool and will return around **12:30 pm**. We'll walk up the Black Diamond trail for a short distance, then travel on to Allen H. Treman State Marine Park and the Hog Hole fields looking for field, water and forest edge birds. We will be walking in wet grass so be sure to wear proper footwear. From there it's off to the Taughannock Falls State Park for a walk-about. Will it be too early to see Loons? Then it's a short distance to the Taughannock Falls Overlook Visitors Center to hopefully see a Common Raven or two. We also may go other places, depending on available time.

Bring a scope if you have one and dress for the weather. A wise man once said "there is no such thing as inclement weather - only inappropriate attire". No, it wasn't Ken. Bring a snack and something to drink if you want.

**Bob McGuire** will lead an **all-day trip to Montezuma on Sunday, October 28. Meet at Stewart Park (east side) at 7:30 am**. Bring your optics, snacks, and lunch. There will be opportunities to purchase food.

We arrived back at the MAC shortly before 7 pm, turned in our list, and waited for the compilation. We had entered the event as a "recreational" team, with more relaxed rules than the "competitive" teams and figured that we would be happy with a performance comparable to last year's. The fact that we surpassed that by 16 species was satisfying. The highlight for all of us was the large number of warblers, something we always try for but seldom achieve.

## Field Trip Report - Dryden Lake

Meena Haribal



Six of us assembled in the morning at the Lab of O for a CBC trip. As it had been raining the previous night and was a bit foggy and cloudy, I thought this would be a good day for "Dryden Lake effect" birds, so we decided to head to Dryden Lake Trail. We drove via Ferguson Road, hoping to see something interesting in the fields, but, unfortunately, they were all planted with corn. Along the road there were only European Starlings and Rock Pigeons.

Once we hit the Jim Schug Trail on Chaffee Road, we decided to first walk towards the north side of the trail. We found a few warbler species and many Red-winged Blackbirds in the cattails. But the best birds were three Brown Thrashers that seemed annoyed with something. Then we headed towards the lake and the south side of the trail. I was hoping for something like Sabine's or Franklin's Gulls, but we did not see any birds on the lake

We will get home around 5:00 pm.  
Questions: email  
bmcguire@clarityconnect.com.

Join **Suan Yong and Bob McGuire** in exploring the area's woodlands to look and listen for various **owl species on Saturday, November 3. Meet at the Cornell Lab parking lot at 6:00 pm**, dress warmly (as there will be much standing still in the cold), and bring a headlamp or flashlight. If conditions are right, we might visit John Confer's HHOWLS saw-whet banding site to learn about the banding process, and if we're lucky, see an owl being banded. **If weather is inclement, we will try again on Sunday** (note that this is "Fall back" weekend). For questions, contact Suan at suan.yong@gmail.com or Bob at bmcguire@clarityconnect.com.

**Wes Blauvelt** will lead a **Loon Watch at Taughannock Falls State Park on Saturday, November 10, at 6:40 am**. Meet at the north end of the main entrance on the lake side, which is before the bridge on the creek if you are coming from Ithaca. The loon watch location is at the north end where the creek enters the lake. We will count loons for two hours as they fly south over the lake. Dress very warmly as standing on the lake with a north breeze can be very cold. If you are lucky you may see hundreds of Common Loons flying overhead. There is also the possibility of seeing waterfowl such as scoters and Long-tailed Ducks on the lake.

These trips are open to all. Please check the [Cayuga Bird Club calendar](#) for updates in case there are date or time changes for these or any other field trips.

---

## **Treasurer's Report**

from the north edge.

At the edge of the parking lot we ran into another small flock of migrants with a few warblers and a couple of Eastern Phoebes. A little later along the trail we found a few



Common Mergansers on the lake and then two adult Bald Eagles on separate trees. One was eating something and oblivious to our viewing.

We did finally manage to see one Swamp Sparrow and a couple of Wood Ducks along with Mallards. On the way back, we again hit a small flock of warblers. The highlight was a female Hooded Warbler; both Diane and Leigh were able to clinch its identity by its outer white tail feathers. We ended the trip via a stop at Mount Pleasant, where we saw a couple of Kestrels and a lone Turkey. It was not such a bad morning; the temperature was mostly in the 50s and it was windy.

Photos by Diane Morton

---

## **An Interview with Betsy Darlington**

Diane Morton

Last month I had the opportunity to talk with Betsy Darlington at her home in Ithaca. Betsy is a long-time member of the Cayuga Bird Club, a well-known conservation activist, and a founding board member of the [Finger Lakes Land Trust](#). I asked her about her work teaching children about nature, her activism that resulted in moving Cornell's planned Theory Center out of Cascadilla Gorge, and about the Logan Hill property that she and her husband, Dick Darlington, recently donated to the Finger Lakes Land Trust.

**How long have you been volunteering as an environmental educator at Belle Sherman Elementary School?**

I've been doing this since 1971. I took a course at Cornell, Field Natural History, taught by Richard B. Fischer in the Education department. Dick Fischer was the most incredible teacher. We would have one or two lectures a week and then we'd have a field trip all afternoon. Every week there was a

Susan Danskin

	BUDGETED 2017-2018	ACTUAL 2017-2018
<b>Budgeted Income</b>		
Donations Received	\$ 550.00	\$ 925.00
Dues Received	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,200.00
Interest Income (Savings)	\$ 10.00	\$ 13.77
<b>Budgeted Income Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,138.77</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>		
Donations Paid	\$ (450.00)	\$ (400.00)
Dues Paid	\$ (300.00)	\$ (300.00)
Gifts Given	\$ -	\$ (150.00)
Insurance	\$ (461.04)	\$ (466.48)
Muckrace	\$ (100.00)	\$ -
NYSOA Delegate Reimbursement	\$ (350.00)	\$ (350.00)
Paypal Fees	\$ (40.00)	\$ (45.62)
Speaker Dinner	\$ (250.00)	\$ (143.85)
Speaker Travel	\$ (300.00)	\$ (300.00)
Supplies	\$ (30.00)	\$ (9.80)
Website/Software Fees	\$ (14.99)	\$ -
<b>Budgeted Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ (2,296.03)</b>	<b>\$ (2,165.75)</b>
<b>NET BUDGETED INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 63.97</b>	<b>\$ 973.02</b>
<b>Non-Budgeted Income</b>		
Holbrook Travel Donation	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00
Basin Birding Book Sales	\$ -	\$ 1,915.20
Native Plants Native Birds Book Sales	\$ -	\$ 306.99
<b>Non-Budgeted Income Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,822.19</b>
<b>Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>		
none	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Non-Budgeted Income Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,795.21</b>

Book Sales September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2018 by Susan Danskin

Income	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Basin Birding Book Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Basin Birding Book Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,400.80	\$ 8,060.80	\$ 2,374.30
Basin Birding Book Sales Tax Received	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.29	\$ 5.62
Native Plants Native Birds Book Gifts	\$ 6,035.00	\$ 43,351	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Native Plants Native Birds Book Sales	\$ 4,224.08	\$ 3,845.27	\$ 1,908.22	\$ 1,081.30	\$ 564.21	\$ 633.54
Native Plants Native Birds Book Sales Tax Received	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.52	\$ 4.25	\$ 13.78
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 11,149.08</b>	<b>\$ 3,488.52</b>	<b>\$ 1,908.22</b>	<b>\$ 11,249.38</b>	<b>\$ 8,635.34</b>	<b>\$ 3,026.24</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Basin Birding Book Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (145,662.46)	\$ -	\$ -
Native Plants for Native Birds Expenses	\$ (5,005.54)	\$ (2,112.20)	\$ (161,000)	\$ (2,074.80)	\$ -	\$ -
Custom Tax Subsidized by NY State	\$ (21,511)	\$ (14,448)	\$ (55,638)	\$ (1,422)	\$ (19,503)	\$ (8,741)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (26,526.54)</b>	<b>\$ (16,560.20)</b>	<b>\$ (161,638)</b>	<b>\$ (149,159)</b>	<b>\$ (19,503)</b>	<b>\$ (8,741)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (15,377.46)</b>	<b>\$ (13,071.68)</b>	<b>\$ (159,729.78)</b>	<b>\$ (137,909.62)</b>	<b>\$ 6,032.04</b>	<b>\$ (2,714.76)</b>
<b>Income</b>						
Basin Birding Book Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Basin Birding Book Sales	\$ 873.80	\$ 3,468.80	\$ 950.40	\$ 1,915.20	\$ -	\$ 21,104.11
Basin Birding Book Sales Tax Received	\$ 20.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89.98
Native Plants Native Birds Book Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,968.26
Native Plants Native Birds Book Sales	\$ 327.58	\$ 425.35	\$ 284.25	\$ 306.99	\$ -	\$ 34,499.29
Native Plants Native Birds Book Sales Tax Received	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10.82
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,222.19</b>	<b>\$ 3,894.15</b>	<b>\$ 1,234.65</b>	<b>\$ 2,222.19</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 42,612.46</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Basin Birding Book Expenses	\$ -	\$ (2,161,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (160,222.46)
Native Plants for Native Birds Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (120,122.81)
Custom Tax Subsidized by NY State	\$ (48,631)	\$ 9.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (185,579)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (48,631)</b>	<b>\$ (2,150,990)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (285,924.27)</b>
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME 2008-2018</b>						<b>\$ 32,137.26</b>

## First-of-Year Birds Reported for the Cayuga Lake Basin

Listed Below are Cayuga Lake Basin first arrivals reported in the last month.

Sept. 23 Connecticut Warbler

**2018 total count through September:  
272 species**

Thanks to Dave Nutter for compiling these records for the club. Details are available on the [CBC website](#).

## Cayuga Bird Club Meeting November 12

**Speaker:** Adriaan Doktor, Ph.D.;  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Cornell Lab of Ornithology



different topic — it was so much fun. One of the requirements was that you taught somewhere. I thought maybe my kid's third grade teacher would let me teach in her class. That's when I started. And it was so much fun, I decided, well, why not keep doing this?

When you started, were you mostly in

the classroom or did you take students outside right away?

Right away. Back then, I was mostly taking kids outside. We'd go up behind the annex. There was a lot of stuff growing next to the grass — really nice — like goldenrod, which has so many interesting insects.

We also looked at animal tracks in the snow and we did things with ice. A little layer of ice can form over snow and it gets really warm underneath the ice. Even though it's cold — maybe 15 or 20° out there — you can stick a thermometer under the ice layer and it'll be close to 32° under this ice window. We'd also take the temperature under different depths of snow and put different colored pieces of paper on the snow to see what the effect was.

What are you able to do in the classrooms now?

I bring things in.

Like owl pellets? I remember my son dissecting owl pellets at school.

Yes, I've had former students from years ago tell me they still have the bones from their owl pellets!

I just did my first activity for the year, on salamanders. I collected two kinds for the kids to see. Red efts — immature red-spotted newts — are one kind. If the kids are out there when it's wet they'll see them in the woods. The other is the red-backed salamander. I talked about reptiles and

**Title:** Moving in the intertidal: shorebirds and geese foraging in the Wadden Sea

**Description:** The Wadden Sea is the largest intertidal wetland area in western Europe, a key stopover for millions of migratory waterbirds and shorebirds. Adriaan will introduce you to two species he has recently studied at this World Heritage Site in the Netherlands: the Dark-bellied Brent Goose and the Eurasian Oystercatcher. He will show how these birds fuel for the winter and their migration on the mudflats and at neighboring pastures and saltmarsh. Adriaan studied these birds by combination of field observations, food sampling and GPS tracking of individual birds. He hopes to illustrate the unique role of the Wadden Sea in these birds' annual cycle, as well to show you how traditional field work and high-tech tracking technology can complement each other, allowing us to understand the habitat requirements and movements of these animals in ever higher detail.

**Bio:** Adriaan Dokter is a migration ecologist with a background in physics, with an interest in animal movement and foraging ecology. His research bridges the disciplines of physics, meteorology, computer science and ecology, addressing questions on the effects of global change on the distribution and seasonal migration of birds. At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology he studies the migration of small songbirds at the scale of a full continent, a perspective that is still largely missing, but that has come into reach through the use of meteorological weather radar networks in animal migration studies. At the University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Institute of Ecology he studied the migration and habitat requirements of Brent Geese and Oystercatchers in the Wadden Sea. Adriaan obtained a PhD in physics at the Institute of Atomic and Molecular Physics, University of Amsterdam.

**Paul C. Munding**  
**Distinguished Lectureship**

amphibians and vertebrates and what they do and about their skin — a lot of stuff.

The next unit I am doing is with Staghorn Sumac. Then we'll do Evergreens. The kids will make little books with different pieces of evergreens to take home and teach their families. And then I do two lessons on birds. I have a lot of bird skins, many from Dick Fischer — when he retired he gave me his collection. The second lesson for that is drawing; the kids pick a bird to draw and take it to their desk and copy it. Then I do two units on wildflowers; the kids make cards to help them identify the real things.

**In the springtime do you still take the kids down to Six Mile Creek?**

Yes, that's my final lesson; we walk down to Six Mile Creek. The kids bring along their wildflower cards so they can see what they actually look like. We focus on the wildflowers, but I do a little reviewing of the evergreens too. It's amazing how well some of the kids remember. And I teach them a couple of other trees on the way down there like Shagbark Hickory and White Oak, which are right near the entrance path.

On that walk to Six Mile Creek, we often we find big millipedes, these very colorful ones. So of course we have to pick those up and look at them and sniff them. They smell like almond paste — they give off a cyanide-like poison. It's actually a very pleasant odor. I love marzipan — the millipede smells like marzipan — but better not eat it!

**When did you get interested in nature education?**

I think when we moved to Ithaca, in 1963. There were so many birds around and we put up a bird feeder at the apartment we rented that first year. And I was seeing all these neat birds. I guess I was always interested but I didn't know anything. I knew House Sparrow, crow, blue jay, chickadee and white-breasted nuthatch and that was about it. Once I was here, I really wanted to know about all that was around us. It's such a rich area. There is so much variety in terms of places you can go and take a hike. I still feel like I've hardly scratched the surface!

**You were one of the founding members of the Finger Lakes Land Trust. Those preserves are a wonderful resource for everyone. Did you imagine the land trust growing so big as it has?**

**Speaker:** Gail Patricelli, Evolution & Ecology, University of California, Davis

**Title:** Robots, Telemetry, and the Sex Lives of Wild Birds: Using Technology to Understand and Protect an Enigmatic Bird

**Where:** B25 Warren Hall, Cornell University

**Description:** Animals use a dizzying array of sounds, smells, colors, dances, electrical fields, and seismic vibrations to convince each other to mate. Gail Patricelli will talk about using robotic female birds and other technology to study courtship behaviors in the Greater Sage-Grouse, and how such research informs conservation of this iconic North American bird and its habitat.

This lectureship was established in honor of the late Paul Mundinger, who received his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from Cornell.

---

## **Field Trip Report - Sapsucker Woods**

Gladys Birdsall

Ann Mitchell and Susan Soboroff met me at the Lab of Ornithology and we decided to stay and bird on the trails there. It was cool and cloudy to start, but there was plenty of bird activity and it turned into a beautiful sunny day. We counted up to 265 migrating Blue Jays that came overhead in groups, and some strung out more loosely.

We spent most of our time on the Wilson Trail North. There were Blue Jays, Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, and American Goldfinches. As we slowly walked out to the Sherwood Platform we noticed activity high in the trees and realized birds were feeding on the ash tree seeds. There were eight Purple Finch juveniles and/or females, dark-striped with notched tails. We heard or saw Northern Cardinals, Gray Catbirds, White-breasted Nuthatches, Tufted Titmouse, Song Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadees, Cedar Waxwings and Woodpeckers that included Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, and Northern Flicker. We had nice looks at a Black-throated Green Warbler, and on the

I had no idea it would be this big by this time. I didn't know what it might ultimately be, but the first couple of years I kept thinking — oh, we're never going to get a conservation easement, we're never going to get a nature preserve. It seemed so slow, but actually we did get some within about a year or year and a half or so. One of the first conservation easements was with Katy Payne in Ellis Hollow; it's all wetlands. She put a conservation easement on her place, which was I think 13 acres. And then Nancy Gabriel put a conservation easement on her place which went down to the city watershed lands. The land trust was targeting Six Mile Creek. We contacted all the owners of land over 10 acres to see if they were interested in doing something to protect their land and she was the first one along Six Mile Creek to do that. And then it just kept happening.

**And you just recently donated land in Candor to the Finger Lakes Land Trust.**

Yes, the [Logan Hill Preserve](#). We gave away 285 acres to the Land Trust. We have a little cabin on the remaining 15 acres. It's a very bird-rich preserve. In the spring, woodcocks do their courtship displays in the fields, and you can hear Indigo Buntings, Eastern Towhees, Prairie Warblers, Brown Thrashers, Scarlet Tanagers, Hermit Thrushes, and so much more. I go down about once a week and spend the day there. The land trust put in a very nice trail that makes a 2 ½-mile loop. It's a beautiful trail through mature forest and fields. There's so much variety in that short trip, with a big pond and big wetland up on the top. When I go down there mostly what I do is walk the trail.

**I read a little bit about the Cornell Theory Center and your role in changing the location of that in the 1980's. That was real grassroots activism on your part.**

That was all thanks to our dog! I was walking our dog through Cascadilla Gorge and I saw all these flags going through the woods and I thought, "What? We don't need another trail in here - there are plenty of trails here." So when I got home I called Cornell Plantations and talked to the director, and he said, "Oh, that's not for a new trail. That's where the Theory Center is going to go." And I thought, "What?! They're going to put a building in here?!" I was pretty alarmed.

**I'm very impressed that you then, instead of just grumbling to your friends about it, took action.**

Sherwood Platform a Magnolia Warbler. There was a burst of activity around the end of the platform as a group of Yellow-rumped Warblers came by.

Out on the pond we saw Wood Ducks, Mallards, Canada Geese, two very active Kingfishers, and an American Kestrel sat up high in a dead tree. On our way back we came upon several American Robins feeding on wild grapes up in the trees, and a Swainson's Thrush popped up from the bushes below and sat on a tree limb.

We met Laura Stenzler just before reaching the Owens Platform. She had just seen some different birds including other warblers around the Owens Platform. So we continued in that direction to hopefully find some of them. We walked around the trail towards Kip's barn and did find a Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, and another Black-throated Green Warbler.

It was a beautiful morning to be out and thanks to Susan and Ann for joining me.

---

Well, I kind of had to. Something that was very fortuitous was the College Avenue road bridge was closed that summer for repairs so everybody had to walk across the trolley bridge. So I set up a card table just south of the trolley bridge with a sign and petitions. People would stop by there and when they heard what was going to happen they would sign the petition. I got lots and lots of signatures very easily there. If people hadn't cared, it wouldn't have gone anywhere, but people were alarmed, so we got a lot of support.

**Ultimately Cornell not only moved the building but redesigned it?**

Yes. It was basically going to be a generic big block (big!) and it would have come down from the edge of the gorge down into the gorge. And they would have had to have a driveway on the south side of it so that would have eaten even more of the gorge and it just would have been disastrous. My husband and I — it was Dick's idea — we put up balloons showing how high it was going to be — so people could see how gigantic it would be. That helped.

I think it was in September or October 1987 when Cornell announced that they were not going to build it there. They were going to take a year to redesign the building and move it somewhere else. The new design was so much better. At least it wasn't in the gorge, and I think it's a reasonably attractive building. Since then I think Cornell has been much more concerned about public opinion, like this whole Maplewood apartments project. At least they're making an effort to get community feedback.

**A bit more about you - You are a musician as well?**

I played violin in the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra for 36 years, but I retired a year-and-a-half ago. I also used to teach the violin years ago.

Before I left her home, Betsy showed me a beautiful Green Lacewing insect that she had found (dead) and placed in a small plastic box with a magnifying lid. She pointed out the iridescence in the wings - I had never looked carefully at a Lacewing before. She was just delighted to share this wonder of nature with me.

Photo of Betsy Darlington at Logan Hill Preserve by Bill Baburchak

---

## 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 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. Payment may be made via Paypal at [cayugabirdclub.org](https://www.cayugabirdclub.org) 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.

Newsletter submissions may be sent to Tracy McLellan, [newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org).

Of particular interest are articles about local bird sightings, bird behavior, birding hot spots, book reviews, bird conservation news and original poetry, art, and photos.

Cayuga Bird Club Officer Contact Information is available on the [Cayuga Bird Club website](#).

Chickadee illustration in masthead by Karen Allaben-Confer

---

**Don't miss** an issue of the newsletter: add [newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org) to your email contacts.

**Stay in touch** with the Cayuga Bird Club through our [Facebook](#) page and [Cayuga Bird Club Website](#).



Facebook CBC Website



You are receiving this email  
as a member of the Cayuga Bird Club.  
We do not share our email list with any other organization.

Cayuga Bird Club  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road  
Ithaca NY 14850

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The MailChimp logo is centered within a grey rectangular box. The text "MailChimp" is written in a white, cursive script font.