



# Cayuga Bird Club

## October 2019

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## Calendar

Oct 6 (Sun), 8am-12:30pm: Field Trip with Ken Haas. Meet by the big turtle at Ithaca Children's Garden (Cass Park).

Oct 12 and 13 (Sat, Sun), 8am-10:30am: Sparrow Walk with Mark Chao at Cornell Community Gardens

Oct 14 (Mon), 7:30pm: CBC meeting, Speaker: Bryant Dossman. Lab of O.

Oct 19 (Sat), 2pm: Motus Tower Installation with Bryant Dossman, Myers Park, Lansing.

Oct 20 (Sun), 8am-noon: Field Trip with Phil McNeil. Meet at Lab of O.

Oct 27 (Sun), 7:30am-5pm: Field Trip with Bob McGuire. Meet at Stewart Park (east side).

Nov 1 (Fri), 6pm-10pm: Owling Trip with Bob McGuire & Suan Yong. Meet at Lab

## Cayuga Bird Club Meeting

### Birds Take Flight Over Border Wall:

### Linking Winter Events to Migration Timing and Speed in a Migratory Passerine



Speaker: Bryant Dossman  
PhD student

Cornell Dept. of Natural Resources  
and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Monday, October 14, 2019  
7:30pm, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Given technological limitations in tracking most of the world's migratory animals, our knowledge of the ecology of migration itself is severely limited. It is known that the quality of non-breeding habitats can result in seasonal interactions, or carryover effects, whereby individual survival or performance are impacted in subsequent breeding seasons. However, an understanding of how events during breeding and nonbreeding periods directly influence events during migration is still lacking. My research seeks to tackle these knowledge gaps,

of O. Rain date Nov 2.

Nov 11 (Mon), 7:30pm: CBC meeting.  
Speaker: Christina Hoh, "Monitoring New York's Winter Raptors". Lab of O.

Nov 16 (Sat), 8am-noon: Field Trip with Paul Anderson. Meet at Lab of O.

Nov 23 (Sat), 7:30am-5pm: Field Trip to Franklin Mountain, Oneonta, with Gary Kohlenberg. Meet at East Hill Plaza. Rain date Nov 24.

Feb. 14-23, 2020: CBC Trip to Costa Rica

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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## October Field Trips

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

### **Ken Haas: West Side of the Lake**

*Sunday, Oct 6, 8:00 am-12:30pm*

Join Ken for a half-day field trip on the west side of Cayuga Lake. We will meet by the big turtle at the Ithaca Children's Garden at 8am to car pool and will return there around 12:30pm. We'll walk up the Black Diamond trail for a short distance, then travel on to Allen H. Treman State Marine Park to walk around 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. At that point we will figure out where to go next based on the time left available.

### **Mark Chao: Sparrow ID Walk at Cornell Community Gardens**

*Saturday and Sunday, Oct 12 and 13  
8:00 am - 10:30 am*

Mark will lead a pair of walks with a focus on sparrow identification. Meet at the

making use of a long-term demographic study of American Redstart (25+ years) on the non-breeding grounds in Jamaica with a proposed large-scale automated radio telemetry array spanning across the Caribbean and through Florida, overlapping the migratory route of this population of redstarts.

**About the Speaker:** Bryant Dossman is a Ph.D student at Cornell University working with Dr. Amanda Rodewald and Dr. Pete Marra (at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center). He obtained his Masters degree in Environment and Natural Resources at the Ohio State University (2012-2015) working with Dr. Paul G. Rodewald and Dr. Stephen N. Matthews, and his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Biology and Environmental Studies at Bowdoin College (2007-2011) under Dr. Nathaniel T. Wheelwright. Broadly, his research interests lie in conservation, movement ecology, and population biology of migratory organisms, especially birds. In particular, he is interested in understanding how seasonal interactions influence population dynamics, movement, and behavior between different periods of the annual cycle.

*Cayuga Bird Club meetings start at 7:30pm on the second Monday of every month September through June, and are open to the public. Building doors open at 7:00pm and are locked at 7:45pm.*

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## From the President

*Diane Morton*



At last month's meeting, club members voted to approve two new initiatives: to offer a lecture course on birds to be taught by Steve Kress in spring 2020, and to build a Motus receiving station at Myers Park for detection of radio-tagged migratory birds. I am pleased that 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.

**Phil McNeil: Where the Birds Are**

*Sunday, Oct 20, 8:00am-noon*

Phil will lead a half-day trip to "where the birds are". This may include late fall migrants as well as returning waterfowl. Meet at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology parking lot at 8:00 am. Bring something to drink and snacks. We should be back by noon. Dress warmly according to the weather.

**Bob McGuire: Up the Lake**

*Sunday, Oct 27, 7:30am-5:00pm*

For this all-day trip to Montezuma, meet at Stewart Park (east side) at 7:30 am. Bring your optics, snacks, and lunch. There will be opportunities to purchase food. We will get home around 5 pm. Questions: email [bmcguire@clarityconnect.com](mailto:bmcguire@clarityconnect.com).

**Bob McGuire & Suan Yong: Owling**

*Friday, Nov 1, 6:00pm-10:00pm*

*(Rain date: Nov 2)*

Join Suan and Bob in exploring the area's woodlands to look and listen for various owl species. Meet at the Cornell Lab parking lot at 6pm, dress warmly (as there will be much standing still in the cold), and bring a headlamp or flashlight. If conditions are right, we will 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 Saturday. For questions, contact Suan at [suan.yong@gmail.com](mailto:suan.yong@gmail.com) or Bob at [bmcguire@clarityconnect.com](mailto:bmcguire@clarityconnect.com).

**Beginner Bird Walks at Lab of O**

*Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30am-10:30am*

There is a free beginner bird walk at the Lab of Ornithology every weekend morning, led by Cayuga Bird Club volunteer docents. Meet at 8:30am by the Visitor Center entrance. Note that the

club whole-heartedly voted to support both proposals. We have now opened registration for Spring Ornithology with Steve Kress on our website ([cayugabirdclub/spring-ornithology](http://cayugabirdclub/spring-ornithology)). This should be a fun and valuable course for anyone interested in learning more about our native birds.

Bryant Dossman, a graduate student at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, has advised us at every step about our Motus tower project, and has offered to hold a special event to build our club Motus Station on Saturday, October 19, 2:00 pm, at Myers Park in Lansing. Bryant will explain the components of the Motus tower and operation of the receiver as he builds the station. I hope you will join us at this event to learn more about Motus tracking of birds and how it works - and to see our own Motus tracking station come together! Bryant will also be the program speaker at our October 12 Cayuga Bird Club meeting, telling us about his studies of American Redstarts and their migration, using radio-tagging to track them.

The October 14 meeting will also include election of our club officers. Please see the profiles of the nominated candidates that are included in this newsletter; most are standing for re-election. The October meeting is also the time for our annual report of the club's activities for the past year. We have had a very active year, and gained new members, with more than 200 club members at present. We've had increased participation in field trips (more leaders, more frequent trips, and more participants), an increased number of Christmas Bird Count participants, and a very active Conservation Action committee. This committee has made connections with other groups to initiate habitat improvements at Lighthouse Point/Jetty Woods, removing invasive plants and planting native trees, and involving students from New Roots School in this project. Last Spring the club held a Nest Box building event for families at Stewart Park and installed a Purple Martin house there. We've had activities

Visitor Center does not open until 10am, and there are no restroom facilities. The walks last approximately 2 hours, and are timed to allow participants to take the 11am Behind-the-Scenes tour offered on most weekend days.

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## **Cayuga Lake Basin First-of-Year Birds Reported**

September, 2019

8/31 Anhinga\*  
9/2 Connecticut Warbler  
9/7 Cattle Egret

**2019 year count so far: 273 species**

*\* The Anhinga was seen by David Wheeler and Andy Francis at May's Point on the evening of 8/31, and did not make it into the last newsletter. It is the second-ever Basin record (first in 1996), and fifth for NY state.*

Thanks to Dave Nutter for compiling these records for the club. More details for first sightings of the species listed are on the [CBC website](#).

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## **Spring Ornithology with Steve Kress**



### **Registration Now Open!**

*Explore our local birds in this 8-week course with renowned ornithologist, author, and speaker Dr. Stephen Kress*

**Dates:**

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

**Location:**

Foundation of Light  
391 Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, NY

**Cost:**

\$125 for Cayuga Bird Club Members  
\$140 for Non-members

for children at the Sciencenter and at the Cornell Lab's Migration Celebration. Through our online auction of bird-related items donated by Richard Tkachuck, we were able to purchase materials to build nest boxes to put up in Stewart Park and Jetty Woods, and to provide a monetary gift to ASHO, a Honduran Ornithological Association, for bird conservation efforts there. We also contributed to shorebird conservation efforts last spring with a gift toward a land purchase in Delaware Bay that will provide critical stopover habitat for migratory shorebirds. And the club purchased five new pairs of binoculars to lend out on bird walks; these have been especially useful on bird walks for the public at Stewart Park.

Thank you all for the ways in which you contribute to making Cayuga Bird Club an effective organization, promoting interest in birds and their conservation.

Good birding,

*Diane*

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## **Jetty Woods Habitat Improvements**

**Conservation Action Committee and New Roots Charter School students team up for bird conservation**

*Jody Enck*



On Monday, September 23rd, we teamed up again with environmental science students from the New Roots School to continue habitat improvement work in the Lighthouse Point / Jetty Woods. Thirteen students, their teacher, and a recent grad joined six Club members and a graduate fellow from the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (who also is a Forbes Under 30 Scholar, and whose research focuses on

(includes membership)

**Registration:**

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

**For more information:**

cayugabirdclub.  
president@gmail.com



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**Field Trip Report**  
**Lansing Area**

September 15, 2019  
Bob McGuire

Ten folks joined me for an early fall trip to “where the birds are”. The weather could not have been better: warm, sunny, and a light southerly breeze. We started out on the spit at Myers, moved over to Salt Point, and finished the morning exploring the Edwards Lake Cliff Preserve in Lansing.

Most of the usual suspects could be seen from Myers Park: gulls on the spit, Cormorants and Mallards on the water, Osprey and Bald Eagle overhead, Fish Crow and Flicker calling from the trees. By far the highlight was the arrival of a Peregrine in close pursuit of a Cormorant out over the lake. We followed them for several minutes before the Cormorant finally hit the water and dove to escape the falcon.

I scouted the Salt Point Preserve the day before and came up with an interesting feeding flock of forest birds and was hoping for the same today. While the big flock eluded us, we did encounter a variety of interesting birds including Phoebe, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and two migrating Broad-winged Hawks. The highlight was an Eastern Screech-owl that responded to the all-call mobbing tape.

More than anything, I enjoy showing folks new birding spots. The Edwards Lake Cliffs Preserve is a Cornell Natural Area with well-maintained trails, a variety of habitats, an impressive gorge, and access to Cayuga Lake, all just a short hop from East Shore Drive. Here we did come across a flock of migrating birds that included Ovenbird, Black-and-White, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided Warblers,

strategic planning and impact investing for environmental conservation). The previous week, we bought 70 potted, native plants using funds approved by the Club last spring. These plants are of 9 species: Swamp White Oak, Black Cherry, Bitternut Hickory, Hackberry, Yellow Birch, Nannyberry, Arrowwood Viburnum, Winterberry, and Spicebush. We selected these species for their value in attracting native insects which provide an important food source for birds especially during spring migration and nesting season, high-fat fruits to support birds getting ready for fall migration, and good habitat structure needed by birds year-round.

On the 23rd, we got 20 plants in the ground and fencing around the ones most vulnerable to browsing by deer and other herbivores. While some of us worked on the planting (and of course removing more privet), others groups of students how to use eBird and the Merlin app to identify birds. This on-going collaboration with the New Roots School represents an important and fun form of outreach from our Club to the broader Ithaca and Finger Lakes area communities.



We have more plants to get in the ground and fence, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Jody Enck at [jodyenck@gmail.com](mailto:jodyenck@gmail.com).

*If there's blank space below, it's been clipped by gmail. [Click here to view the full newsletter on the web.](#)*

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**Montezuma Muckrace**

Friday-Saturday, September 6-7, 2019

The Muckrace is an annual 24-hour birding competition and fundraiser covering the Montezuma Wetland Complex at the north end of

Northern Parula, and a tough-to-identify Blackpoll Warbler. On the way out we encountered a kettle of thirteen Broad-winged Hawks and a fly-over Cooper's Hawk.

This was the second of our weekly field trips this fall; I hope more of you will join us as the season, and the birds, continue to change.

### 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.

Cayuga Lake. This year, 176 species were seen in total (discounting the Traill's and Dowitcher sp) by 34 teams and a total of 152 participants. A new species was added this year to the Muckrace Checklist: Laughing Gull.

\$10,978 was raised for the Friends of the Montezuma Wetland Complex. Thanks to all participants and donors, and if you missed out this year, think about taking part next year.

The Cayuga Bird Club sponsored two recreational teams this year, *The Arrogant Bustards* and *Gull For It!* Here are their reports.



### **Arrogant Bustards**

*Bob McGuire*

This year's Muckrace posed a unique challenge: FINDING THE BIRDS. The weather was fine, and we followed pretty much the same itinerary as last year. By the end of a 13 hour day we were only able to come up with 91 species; last year we totaled 114. Some felt that the passing of a recent cold front had encouraged the birds to move on. Good shorebird habitat was certainly limited.

We began in the dark at Mud Lock hoping for a response from one of the small owls (no luck). The croak of a Great Blue Heron gave us our first bird. As it got light we picked up our only

### **NYSOA 2019**

*Jane Graves*

The 72st Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association took place



at the Best Western Plus in Kingston, NY, from September 13-15. The meeting was hosted by the Catskill Center, with field trips being planned and led by members of the John Burroughs Natural History Society.

Field trips were held Friday afternoon as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings to several Ulster County hotspots, including Ashokan Reservoir, Scenic Hudson High Banks Preserve, and John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary. There were also a few more unusual field trips, including looking for shorebirds by kayak on the Hudson River at the Great Vly WMA, and a 3AM hike up Slide Mountain on Sunday morning to search for Bicknell's Thrush (seven were heard). One of the most interesting birding locations was not covered by a field trip, but was visited by many: the Weston Road swamp, where 12 Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed on Saturday morning.

The usual Friday evening social hour, dinner, and workshops were preempted by a sunset Hudson River Birding Cruise. Great Blue and Green Herons, Great Egrets and a rising full moon were lovely to view from the boat. Those of us who opted not to go foraged for dinner locally and were treated to a very funny Bird Trivia competition directed by NYC Audubon's Tod Winston.

Diane Morton and I served as the CBC's delegates at the ever-fascinating Saturday morning business meeting. For CBC members, the most interesting of the 11 committee reports was that given by Research Committee member Kathy Schneider about the upcoming Breeding Bird Atlas. NYSOA is one of several entities involved with NYSBBA III, which is being administered by the NYSDEC's Natural Heritage Program, along with the CLO (eBird), New York Audubon, SUNY-ESF, and Cornell's Cooperative Research Unit.

Organizers of the conference made the somewhat unusual decision to hold the workshop and paper sessions simultaneously on Saturday afternoon. Papers included the following: "Bird's-eye View of Urbanization: how can we create better suburban habitats for wildlife and humans" (Kara Belinsky, SUNY New Paltz); "A Bird in the Hand – what bird banding teaches us about forest conservation" (Kristyn Gessner, SUNY New Paltz) and "Influence of Agricultural Grains on Diets, Body Condition, and Stress in Black Ducks and Mallards

Great Black-backed Gull and then Osprey, Carolina Wren, and other common birds.

The next few hours were spent around the south end of the Refuge. We walked the Seneca Trail, finding Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The wildlife drive gave us Great Egret, several ducks (Pintail, Shoveler, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck), Coot and Gallinule, then Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and Bobolink.

Tschache Pool was a vast stand of cattails and offered only Trumpeter Swan, Green-winged Teal, and Pied-billed Grebe on the water bird side. But it did provide the day's highlight: a bright female Baltimore Oriole foraging in buckthorn directly below the tower. The area around the parking lot also gave us our high count of warblers (Wilson's, Yellow-rumped, and Common Yellowthroat).

We rely on Esker Brook Trail as the first good opportunity for forest birds but were sadly disappointed. All we could add were White-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker. The shrubby area just north of the Montezuma Winery is known for its resident Mockingbird, but it is often out visiting relatives and we miss it. We were lucky this year; Susan's sharp eyes picked one out as we sped past.

After a quick lunch at the Circle K we spent an hour and a half walking the dike at Knox/Marsellus Marsh. In the weeks leading up to the Muckrace the mud flats there had hosted a large variety of shorebirds, waders, and gulls. Unfortunately, today's numbers were way down. We got our Sandhill Cranes, Stilt Sandpipers, both Dowitchers, Green and Black-crowned Night-Herons, and a couple of unusual ducks for this time of year (Canvasback, Redhead, Ruddy). Fortunately, the American White Pelican was still around. Towpath Road, a portion of which we walked, has usually been good for more forest birds. This year it was rather disappointing, and we could add only Magnolia Warbler.

We checked in at the event headquarters, the Montezuma Audubon Center, just north of Savannah around 2 pm, turned in some forms, picked up our t-shirts, and ticked off Eastern Phoebe, Tree, Bank, and Rough-winged Swallows. A short drive from there to our "secret spot" gave us Chipping Sparrow.

Wintering on Long Island (Aidan Flores/Michael L. Schummer, SUNY ESF). Workshops were "Beginning Birding" (Andy Mason, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society); "Create a Bird-Friendly Yard" (Tod Winston, NYC Audubon); Breeding Bird Atlas (Julie Hart, NYSBBA III Project Coordinator).

Julie Hart's workshop presentation showed how birders can participate in the Atlas. There is a wealth of information already available on the Atlas website: [ebird.org/atlasny](http://ebird.org/atlasny), including atlas protocols and block maps. The block maps will be available on the ebird app beginning 1/1/2020.

The late afternoon poster session was combined with a book-signing event and the social hour. Posters included "Delayed domination of nests box usage by invasive House Sparrows on the suburban SUNY New Paltz campus" (Kristyn Gessner, SUNY New Paltz); "How native species use the bird feeder network on the SUNY New Paltz campus" (Callie Barth-Dwyer, SUNY New Paltz); "Scaup banding on Great South Bay, Long Island, New York" (Jake Chronister/Michael L. Schummer, SUNY-ESF).

The evening's banquet speaker was Nathan Pieplow, the author of the "Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America." Nathan discussed how learning bird sounds provides valuable insights into bird communication and behavior. He also described how visualizing bird sounds, using spectrograms, makes it easier to learn different types of songs and calls and enhances listening.

Many thanks to Peg DiBenedetto and Katie Palm of the organizing committee, along with the many others who planned and worked at a rather odd but overall successful meeting. It is always a great pleasure to meet birding friends from throughout the state.

The 2020 meeting will be held in Syracuse and hosted by the Onondaga Audubon Society on October 2-4.



The next few hours were spent walking, then driving, the roads on Howland Island. Last year we were rewarded with several feeding flocks of forest birds. This year the woods were mostly quiet, with numerous Eastern Wood-Pewees, a pair of Wild Turkeys, but little else.

We closed the day on Van Dyne Spoor Road and a vigil looking out over the marsh. As we walked the road we heard the distant call of a Barred Owl. It was not something we had expected, and the notes sounded somehow off. It must have been someone on another team imitating the owl. Then we realized that there was virtually no possibility of anyone being that deep in the woods in that area. That gave us Barred Owl, and the short "pit volley" of a Wood Thrush across the road gave us another bird. On the open water we picked up Ring-necked Duck, Black Duck, and American Wigeon. We closed out the day at 6:45 and headed back to the MAC to turn in our list and hear how everyone else had fared. It was a great, big, day of birding and our team, the Arrogant Bustards (Susan Danskin, Deirdre Anderson, Diane Morton, Ken Kemphues, Dave Nutter, Gary Kohlenberg, Bob McGuire) look forward to doing it again next year.

## Gull For It!

*Kate Graham*

At 6:30 PM on Friday, the three members of the intrepid *Gull for It!* team (Meena Haribal, Gladys Birdsall and Kate Graham) gathered at the MAC parking lot to set up our tents and get ready for the 7PM start. Although the day had been sunny, clouds had rolled in and dusk was fast approaching so we drove along Spring Lake Rd and Carncross Rd stopping at several locations to listen for owls. While we saw other birds, our owl prowls only yielded the distant call of a Barred Owl (however, we certainly heard a lot of "human" owl calls!). Despite the forecast for a very slight chance of showers, overnight we were treated to the slow pitter-patter of rain on



Seneca White Deer  
1st Annual  
**Fall Festival**  
Saturday, October 5,  
2019

11am-5pm

Free Admission

5479 Rt. 96A, Rolumus  
(315) 759-8220

- Wowie Animal Show
- Music by Ende Bros and "Pvt. Ryan"
- Food Trucks, Sweets, Crafts
- Wood carving demonstrations
- Tours of the Depot
- Birding Hikes
- Presentations on the Depot and Deer Management

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### Field Trip report

#### Dryden Rail Trail

*By Laura Stenzler*

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, 22 enthusiastic birders joined me for a walk along the Dryden Rail trail between Factory Road and George Road. The day started cool and very quiet as we slowly walked along. I was grateful that several other experienced Cayuga Bird Club trip leaders joined the walk so we could move along in smaller groups. Paul Anderson kept an ebird list while Bob McGuire used his scope to capture great views of a number of birds. The trail takes you along many different habitats, including evergreen and young mixed forest, cattail marsh, grassy fields and edges and a sewage treatment pond. While we didn't see large numbers of birds, we did end up with 40 species, including one fall-plumaged warbler that had us all guessing about its ID. Several people were able to get photos and ultimately, we decided it was a Pine Warbler.

The full ebird list is below. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Dryden Rail Trail--Freeville to George Rd,  
Tompkins, New York, US  
Sep 21, 2019 7:55 AM - 11:24 AM, 3.17  
mile(s)

our tents. The good news for the night was hearing a Great Horned owl, perched near the MAC, and later, a Barred owl.

Saturday early morning weather was drizzly. East Road was our first stop and while we found several species in the marsh, we enjoyed watching a long line of swallows migrating overhead the entire time we were there. We then headed back to Howland Island for several hours. The birding was slow but steady. Some of our highlights were viewing a Sapsucker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager, and at Coot pond, we heard an American Bittern. Our efforts at finding warblers was not very successful for we only located one Common Yellowthroat.

For the rest of day, we traveled to various areas: Route 31 Mucklands, Knox-Marsellus Marsh, Morgan Road, Wildlife Drive and more. Again, the birding was slow and areas that seemed to be perfect for migrants were quiet. We did have a great view of a Cooper's Hawk flying across the road, and an hour later a good view of a Sharp-shinned. Some common birds remained elusive for the entire 24-hour period despite our focused efforts: Red-eyed vireo, Cedar waxwing, Downy Woodpecker and a few others. Even Chickadees were few and far between, with our first sighting sometime midday. Bluebirds, however, were everywhere! We must have seen at least 25. In all, we found 91 species.

As a first-timer, I was not sure what to expect but thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Exploring areas of the Complex that are generally not open to the public and learning some of the "hot spots" for specific species deepened my appreciation for this amazing place. Many thanks to my wonderful teammates for sharing their expertise, providing good company, and their willingness add a rookie to their team.

The Tompkins County  
Quilters Guild's biennial  
**Quilt Show**

is on October 5 and 6 at TC3.

CBC member Tracy McLellan is to be the  
Featured Artist, with a display of 15 bird  
quilts based on her photographs of  
tropical birds.

More information is available at:

Canada Goose 75  
 Wood Duck 10  
 Mallard 3  
 Rock Pigeon X  
 Mourning Dove 2  
 Killdeer 1  
 gull sp. 3  
 Double-crested Cormorant 1  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 3  
 Downy Woodpecker 6  
 Hairy Woodpecker 1  
 Pileated Woodpecker 1  
 Northern Flicker 3  
 American Kestrel 2  
 Least Flycatcher 1  
 Eastern Phoebe 2  
 Blue-headed Vireo 1  
 Red-eyed Vireo 1  
 Blue Jay X  
 American Crow 3  
 Common Raven 1  
 Black-capped Chickadee 19  
 Tufted Titmouse 1  
 White-breasted Nuthatch 11  
 Carolina Wren 1  
 European Starling X  
 Gray Catbird 8  
 American Robin 20  
 Cedar Waxwing 29  
 Purple Finch 1  
 American Goldfinch X  
 White-throated Sparrow 1  
 Song Sparrow 19  
 Swamp Sparrow 2  
 Red-winged Blackbird 115  
 Brown-headed Cowbird 4  
 Common Yellowthroat 5  
 Pine Warbler 1 Immature  
 Northern Cardinal 4  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1

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## Stewart Park and Migration Celebration

**Cayuga Bird Club engages the public about birds**

*Jody Enck*

[www.tcqg.org/quilt-show.html](http://www.tcqg.org/quilt-show.html)




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## Officer Nominations for 2019 Elections

At the October 14 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 the current president of Cayuga Bird Club and has agreed to continue in that position for the coming year. She has previously been editor of the club's newsletter and co-chair of the field trip committee. Diane 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 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 CBCers, 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. She also volunteers for other helpful groups.

### **Treasurer: Ken Kempfues**

Ken is a retired Cornell professor and has been a member of the Cayuga Bird Club since 2013.



Club members participated in two local events on Saturday September 14th, 2019, to help the public learn about birds. Several members staffed a table down at Stewart Park as part of the Tompkins County Outdoor Expo and Stewart Park Paddle, Pedal, and Play Day. Other members staffed a table at the Migration Celebration event held at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. At both venues, Club members provided information about the Club, birds, and what the public can do to get involved in birding and bird conservation. We also had 'build-a-bird' activities that attracted dozens of kids and adults alike. And, of course, we offered public bird walks at both events. Highlights during the Stewart Park walk included close appearances by 5 Bald Eagles and 2 Merlins.



## The Disappearance of North American Birds

Diane Morton

Many of us have noticed a decline in bird numbers over recent years, but it has been difficult to know just how big that loss is. A new paper in Science has investigated that question and reports that 29% of North American avifauna - almost 3 billion birds - have disappeared since 1970. This alarming decline indicates how severely changes in North American



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 Ithacan. She has observed birds at a feeder all her life and began identifying birds in their natural habitat 2-3 year ago, when she enrolled in SFO. Besides being a birder, she is, among other things, a mother and grandmother, an upholsterer by profession and a gardener and a potter by hobby.

### 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: Bob McGuire



Bob is a past president of the Cayuga Bird Club, editor of the basin bird guide, veteran field trip leader and currently head of the field trip committee. His current passion is to record the vocalizations of all the North American birds.

## 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*

ecosystems have challenged bird survival in the last few decades.

The researchers, including lead author Ken Rosenberg of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, used data from bird surveys, including Breeding Bird Atlases and Audubon Christmas bird counts, for over 500 North American bird species. Grassland birds and insectivores have experienced especially severe declines, while waterfowl and raptors have experienced a slight increase in population numbers. For anyone interested in learning more, a copy of the research paper is available for download [here](#).

Most of the decline in bird populations is due to habitat loss, and expanding wildlife habitat conservation programs needs to become a higher priority. However, even smaller individual actions can be of benefit birds: the Cornell Lab suggests several simple actions, including planting native plant species, avoiding pesticides, and participating in Citizen Science to provide data on bird abundance and diversity. See their website for more ways to help birds: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back>.

### Minutes

of the September 9, 2019  
Cayuga Bird Club meeting  
are available on the Cayuga Bird  
Club [website](#).

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](mailto:newsletter@cayugabirdclub.org) to your email contacts.

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