



Cayuga Bird Club

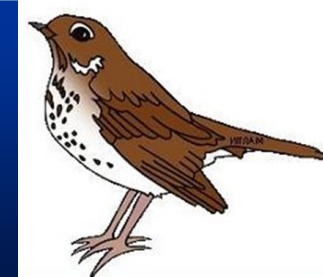
Established in 1913

Cayuga Bird Club Conservation Action Committee

Remembering our rich history
Using public engagement to build conservation
capacity



Jody Enck
and
Paul Anderson



Built on foundation established by Louis Agassiz Fuertes



Bird Lore, vol. 17, Sep-Oct 1915

Founding in fall 1913 → First order of business was to prevent Renwick Woods from being cleared for industrial development as proposed to the City Council by the Board of Public Works.

Collaboration with community groups → director of Cornell Biological Field Station, Ithaca Business Association, City Parks Commission, Op-ed by Ithaca Journal, and public lectures.



Bird Lore, vol. 17, Sep-Oct 1915

Public engagement → Ithaca Journal headline May 8, 1915: “Eight Hundred Children Enjoy Big Field Day...Arbor Day Celebration in Renwick Wildwood a Big Success – Games on Athletic Grounds – Much Good Work Accomplished.”

Conservation activities of the Cayuga Bird Club through time



Design plans for
Fuertes memorial
From Cornell Daily Sun
March 22, 1928

1928-30s → Creation and dedication of the swan pen as a memorial to Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

Late 1940s → Helped to found New York State Ornithological Association.

1950s → Incorporation as an NGO.

1960s → Started to participate in Christmas Bird Count.

Early 2000s → Lots of action; but little plan.

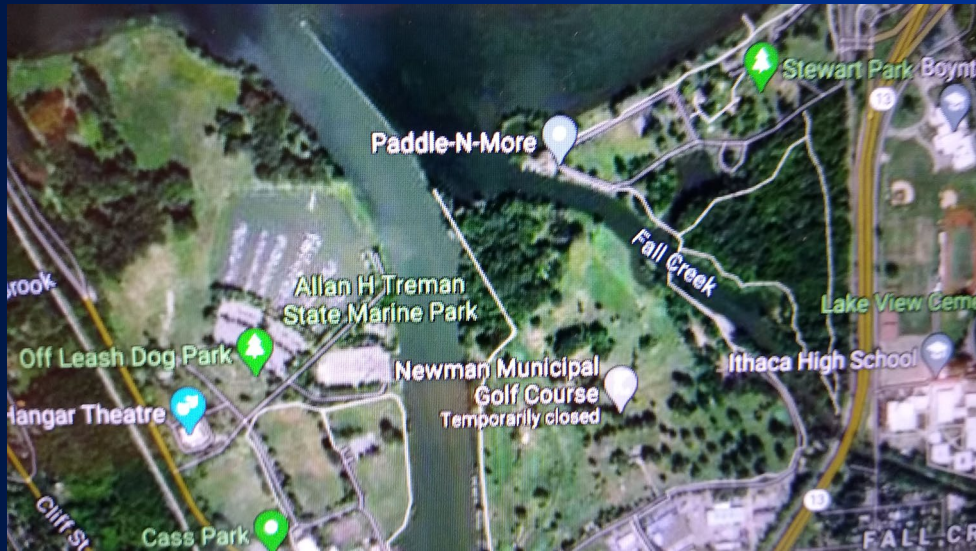
Osprey nests, outdoor cats, cut fishing line, Bluebird boxes...

Decade of renewed focus and capacity building

2015 → Initiative to grow beyond birdwatching to taking an active role in bird conservation.

2016 → Inspiration drawn from visiting clubs in Honduras.

2017 → Reactivation of Conservation Action Committee.



Goals

- Habitat focus concentrated at south end of Lake.
- Necessitating collaborations
 - Renwick Woods (City of Ithaca)
 - Lighthouse Point Woods (Cornell Botanic Garden)
 - Hog Hole (City and Treman State Marine Park)
- Focus on bird species of concern
 - Purple Martin
 - Wood Thrush
 - Prothonotary Warbler

Decade of renewed focus and capacity building

2018-19 → Community nest box build (Purple Martins, Prothonotary Warblers).
Remove non-native, invasive plant species, plant native trees and shrubs.



Decade of renewed focus and capacity building

2019-20 → Expanding Collaborations: New Roots Charter School, Cornell Cooperative Extension Rural Youth Educators afterschool groups, Trees Up Tompkins



2020-21 New Goal added Focused on Capacity Building

Champions are the movers and shakers providing leadership, inspiration, and guidance. Visionary, dedicated, focused.



Ambassadors are the communicators who inform and encourage others. People persons, educate, mentor.



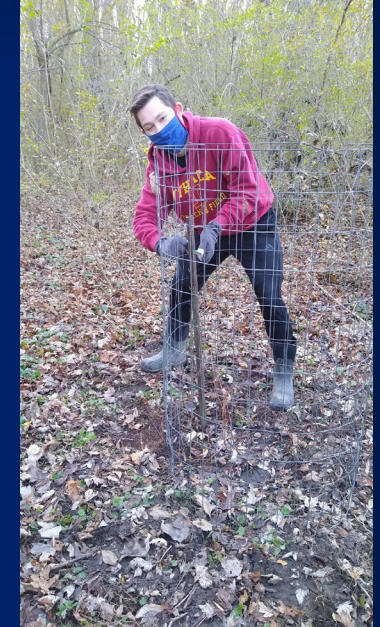
Photo: Alex Alvarado

Capacity Building

Dirt Warriors roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty improving habitat for birds.



Photo: Beth Bannister

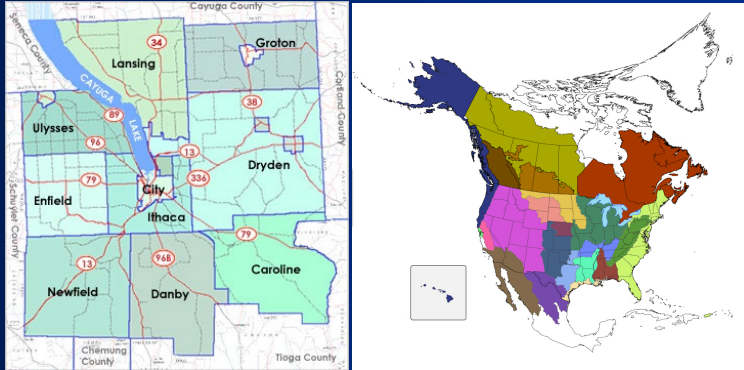


Gawk Stars go beyond just looking at nature, and participate in citizen science to evaluate outcomes and collect data to monitor bird and plant responses.

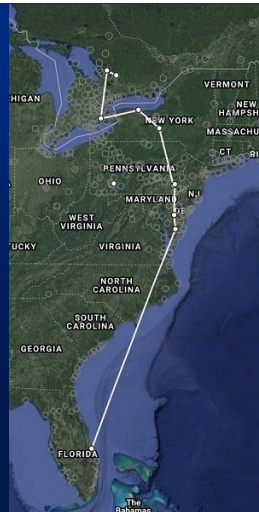


Connecting to Other Municipalities

Municipalities already collaborate on many issues.
Include bird conservation.



Amplify impact locally / regionally. Give credit for collaborations with other municipalities nearby.



Use MOTUS or similar technology to connect communities throughout the hemisphere.
Which municipalities in Latin America are connected to us because we share the exact same birds?

Two National Honor Society students are helping with planning and research.

Looking to the Future



Office of the Mayor

Staff

Parks and Recreation
Municipal Golf Course
Forester

Enhance opportunities to municipal buy-in. Motivation comes from local *Champions*.

Facilitate what municipalities already are doing; don't create new work

- link to efforts to obtain sustainability grants to limit or remove threats to birds.
- ordinances regarding bird-friendly glass, lights out campaign, keeping cats indoors

Help address pressing municipal needs → humanitarian and ecological crises of homeless encampments. Engagement with a non-served community to contribute to success.

Public education (engagement) → co-create means for building conservation capacity. Municipalities take ownership. Locally define and increase Champions, Ambassadors, Dirt Warriors and Gawk Stars.

Capacity Building for Mutual Benefit



Continued success for all collaborators

Bird conservation actions are not a “one and done” initiative. Continued success requires demonstrated achievement of all goals, especially capacity building.

Help municipalities reflect on how the Cayuga Bird Club conservation efforts can support the achievement of municipal goals (e.g., sustainability grants received, underserved communities engaged, homeless encampment cleaned up, improved outdoor recreation...)

Thank You



Photo: Cornell Lab of Ornithology K-12 Education