



# BIRDING IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

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*Paul Anderson, Jody Enck*

*Cayuga Bird Club*

*February 2021*

# OUTLINE

What makes Tompkins County great for birding

*Location*

*History*

Cayuga Bird Club

*Activities*

*Conservation*



# LOCATION

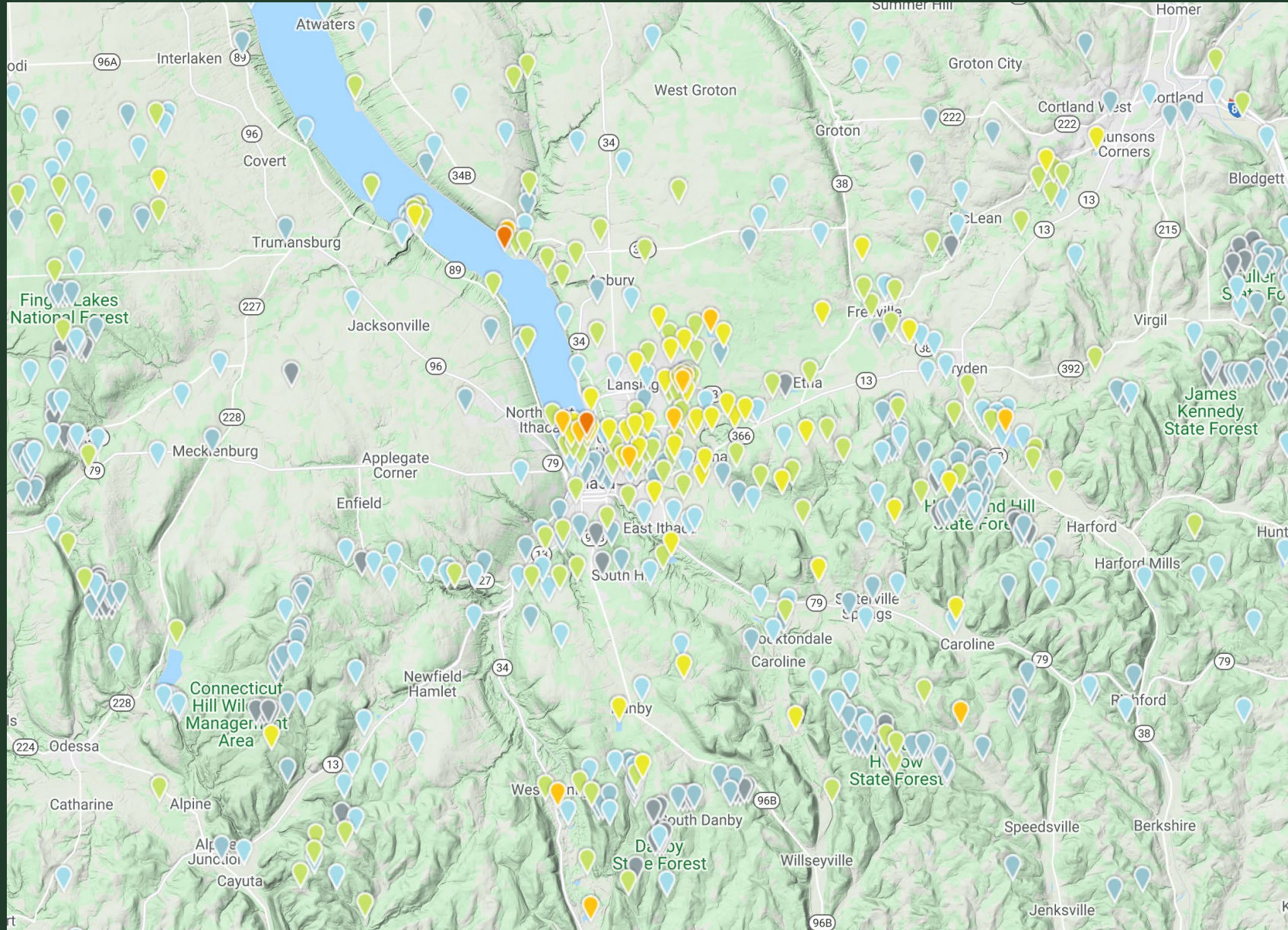


Hudson Bay

Flight path for  
migrating  
waterfowl

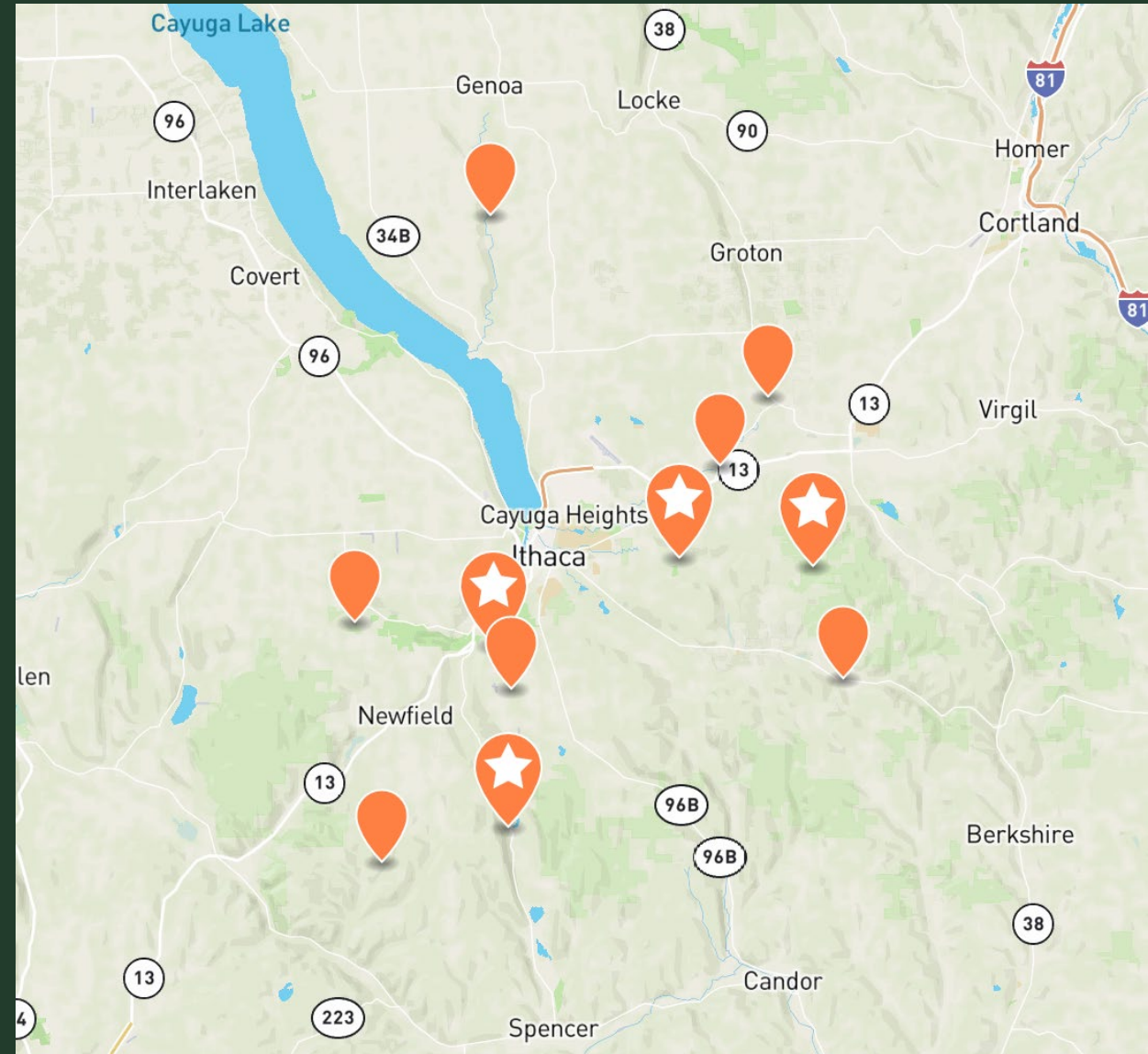
Chesapeake Bay

# LOCATION – BIRDING HOTSPOTS



# LOCATION – IMPORTANT NATURAL AREAS

- FLLT properties
- Montezuma NWR
- State Forests



# ABUNDANCE

- Approx 250 species seen per year (650 species native to the US)
- 343 species total
- New species seen every 2-3 years

**eBird** Submit Explore My eBird Science About News Help

Change location All years

## Tompkins

New York, US

**Overview**

**343** Species observed

**228.5K** Complete checklists

**5256** eBirders

**478** Hotspots

**Illustrated Checklist**

**VIEW MY...**

- My eBird
- Life List
- Target Species
- Needs Alerts
- Checklists

**EXPLORE...**

- Hotspot Map
- Bar Charts
- Media
- Top 100
- Rare Bird Alerts
- Printable Checklist

### Sightings

Updated ~13 hr(s) ago. [Show all details](#)

**Last seen** **First seen** **High counts**

SPECIES NAME	COUNT	DATE	OBSERVER	LOCATION
1. <b>Canada Goose</b>	X	5 Feb 2021	Dave Nutter	NY:TOM:Ithaca: Allan H Treman State Marine Park: lakeshore
2. <b>Gadwall</b>	7	5 Feb 2021	Dave Nutter	NY:TOM:Ithaca: Allan H Treman State Marine Park: lakeshore
3. <b>American Wigeon</b>	1	5 Feb 2021	Dave Nutter	NY:TOM:Ithaca: Allan H Treman State Marine Park: lakeshore
4. <b>Mallard</b>	X	5 Feb 2021	Dave Nutter	NY:TOM:Ithaca: Allan H Treman State Marine Park: lakeshore
Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid)	1	5 Feb 2021	Dave Nutter	NY:TOM:Ithaca: Allan H Treman State Marine Park: lakeshore
5. <b>Canvasback</b>	X	5 Feb 2021	Dave Nutter	NY:TOM:Ithaca: Allan H Treman State Marine Park: lakeshore
6. <b>Redhead</b>	X	5 Feb 2021	Dave Nutter	NY:TOM:Ithaca: Allan H Treman State Marine Park: lakeshore

# HISTORY

- Cayuga Bird Club founded in 1913  
*First president: Louis Agassiz Fuertes*
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology established in 1915  
*By Arthur A Allen*



# CAYUGA BIRD CLUB ACTIVITIES

- Approx 150 members
- Monthly meeting and seminar
- Local and Overseas Field Trips
- Spring Ornithology Class
- Two publications and website
- MOTUS tower (tracking)
- Conservation
- Christmas Bird Count

**Major Hotspots**

Location	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Sheep Park	****	****	**	****
Sagepost Woods	**	****	**	****
Myers Point	***	**	*	****
Acety Woods	*	****	*	****
Hampton Orchards	*	****	*	****
Summer Hill	***	**	****	****
Park Preserve	***	****	****	****
Oviden Lake	**	****	*	****

**Minor Hotspots**

Location	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Comstock School	**	**	**	**
East Ithaca Recreation Way	**	**	**	**
Freese Road	***	**	*	****
Ithaca Zoo Cemetery	*	****	**	****
Mulholland Wildflower Preserve	*	****	**	****
Mundy Wildflower Garden	*	****	**	****
Reynolds Game Farm	****	***	*	****
Sullivan Green	**	****	****	****
Stewart Preserve	**	**	**	**
Goetzlows Preserve	*	***	*	**
Hammock Hill	****	****	****	****

This is a work in progress. Volunteers are needed to write sections on other hotspots for which we need descriptions: Hog Hole, Freese Road, Gardens, Mt. Pleasant, Cornet Complex Park, Shadrigh Hollow, Lindsay Persons Biodiversity Preserve, Seneca Meadows, Monkey Fun, Helmi Road, all the MWVR sites, Empire State Farm Days Fairgrounds, MAC, Helmer Marsh, Long Point, Aurora boothouse, Union Springs, Ellis Hollow Preserve, Beech Lane, Edwards Lake, Cliff Preserve, Newman Alcockton, Edward Baltock, Hiram Hill Natural Area, Genney Preserve, Arnot



# BIRD CLUB PUBLICATIONS

The Cayuga Bird Club guide to

## Birding the Cayuga Lake Basin



Edited by Bob McGuire  
With an introduction by Kevin McGowan

### 10. Stewart Park



#### Description

Maintained by the City of Ithaca, Stewart Park occupies the entire eastern half of the south end of Cayuga Lake. It is one of the premier birding spots in the Basin, offering great views of the lake and both lighthouse areas, extensive shoreline, and a patch of bottomland forest. A loop road runs through the park with numerous pull-offs for parking. The Swan Pin, at the west end of the park, is a major migrant trap. The Borewick Sanctuary, at the south edge of the park, has a walking trail and provides access to Jetty Woods (Site 10).

#### Species

In winter scrape the ice edge for loafing gulls and an occasional Bald Eagle. Massive flocks of Redheads, Canvasbacks, and both scap are usually present as well as Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes. In recent years the Borewick Sanctuary has hosted a pair of breeding Great Horned Owls. In spring the first Tree Swallows appear here along with American Pipits, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeons, and Northern Shovelers. Bonaparte's Gulls, Captain Terns, and later, Boats all stop here on their way north. As songbird migration picks up in April, walk around the Swan Pin to look for Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Working Vireos, and White-crowned Sparrows. Downys, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Green Herons occasionally can be spotted across the creek from the boat house. Fish Crows are found throughout the park, and several Northern Mockingbirds and Carolina Wrens are usually present.



7 Little Gulls were still at Stewart Park at 4:15 with 70 Bonaparte's Gulls. The McGowan's had seen 7 other Little Gulls fly off before I arrived. Unbelievable, 14 Little Gulls in with about 110 Bonaparte's Gulls.

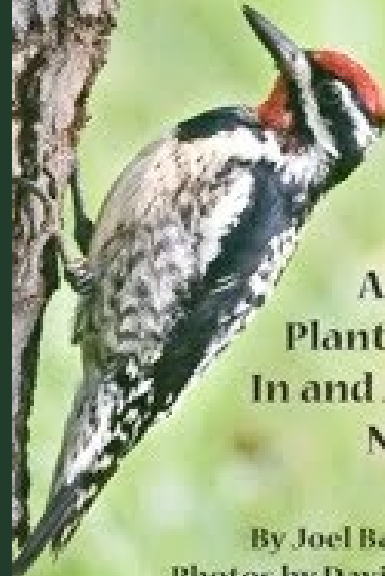
— Matt Young

#### Directions

42.4613° -76.5054° City of Ithaca  
From downtown Ithaca take either Rt 13 or Cayuga Street north and exit onto East Shore Drive (Rt 24 north). Turn left immediately after passing under Rt 23 onto James Gibb Way and then turn right into the park. Once in the park, you can go right to the lakeshore parking or left on the loop road to farther parking, the Swan Pin, and the Borewick Sanctuary.



## Native Plants for Native Birds



### A Guide to Planting for Birds In and Around Ithaca New York

By Joel Baines  
Photos by David Ruppert

Cayuga Bird Club

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

- Organized by Audubon Society in US and abroad

*For a single day, count all birds observed in a 15-mile diameter circle*

- Bird club participation since 1963

*Our day is traditionally January 1<sup>st</sup>.*

- This year's results:

*181 participants, 400 hours, 315 miles*

*88 species, 30,000 birds*

*15 record high counts!*



Turkey Vulture

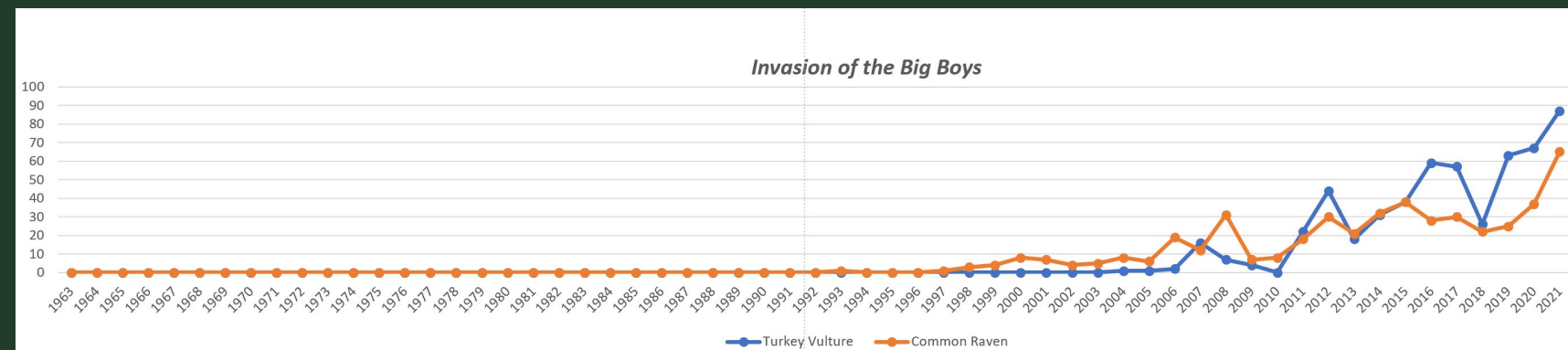
10-year average: 43  
All-year average: 29  
Previous Record: 67 <sup>2020</sup>  
New Record: 87



Common Raven

Josh Snodgrass

10-year average: 28  
All-year average: 16  
Previous Record: 38 <sup>2015</sup>  
New Record: 65



# CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES AND CONCERNS

- Over to Jody!