

Town of Canandaigua News

January 2019

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Natural Resource Protection News *From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board*

Taking a CLOSER LOOK At the OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & SCENIC VIEWS MASTER PLAN

In the coming year the Environmental Conservation Board (ECB) begins an exploration of the new Open Space Master Plan. For more than a year, a dedicated Committee of residents undertook the task of updating the previous 2006 Plan. In the late summer of 2018, after participation of residents in many public meetings and an online survey, the Town Board adopted a revised Plan. The Master Plan can be viewed [here](#).

As residents we do enjoy a wonderful quality of life. We value the beauty of Canandaigua Lake and the rural nature of our Town. The Plan articulates this vision and provides tools to achieve it.

"Preserve the Town's open spaces for their health, economic, social and environmental benefits and to maintain a high quality of life for residents of the Town of Canandaigua."

".....the Plan documents the Town's open spaces and identifies those with the highest potential impact as

conservation lands. It describes tools that the Town can use to protect its open space resources. Finally, it presents a detailed implementation strategy and actions steps to ensure the protection of the Town's high priority open spaces and its rural character."

This year the ECB will actively begin to engage in these Strategies and Implementation Action Steps that have been assigned to us in the Plan. And we will discuss these Action Steps in upcoming newsletter articles and relate our progress in 2019. We have chosen five ambitious goals for this year:



Encourage land stewardship by landowners. Schedule a forum for landowners to encourage the benefits of the value of trees as a hydrologic feature; develop a land stewardship training for residents; provide information on sources of technical assistance and financial incentives for conserving land.

Enhance wildlife habitat. Reach out to the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District for a possible tree giveaway program; schedule a forum to encourage landowners to plant native species; provide forest management, effective habitat management and technical assistance information; manage Town-owned land to enhance wildlife habitat.

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Conserve open space through land use regulations. Review stream corridor, lakeshore, and other regulations pertaining to open space protection; develop recommendations for the Ordinance Committee.

Acquire land and/or conservation easements for land with exceptional conservation value. Partner with Finger Lakes Land Trust to develop a list of top priority parcels of conservation value; plan a public workshop for landowner participation in a Conservation Easement Program; provide information on sources of technical assistance and financial incentives for conserving land.

Increase understanding among government officials and the general public about the benefits of open space. Conduct periodic workshops and other educational events and programs to celebrate the Town's open space; plan a Bird Habitat presentation at Miller Park in the spring; prepare newsletter articles on open space topics throughout the year.

The ECB looks forward to serving our community in its open space initiatives. Please join us in learning more about natural resource protection and preservation in the coming months.

Parks and Recreation News and Notes



**From Director of Parks and Recreation,
Dennis Brewer**

Senior Activities

Our recurring program Thursday mornings at the building at Richard P. Outhouse Park has been well received. Head over to enjoy time visiting, have coffee and snacks, and play games and other activities. The program runs weekly every Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

This year we will again offer a few trips with Covered Wagon. Last year we enjoyed a trip to a play in Auburn, a day in the Thousand Islands, and a visit to the Country Museum in Cortland. More information on this year's trips will be coming in early February so stay tuned.

Summer Recreation Guide

The Town will be offering a number of programs for children ages 6 to 14 again this summer. The Town and City will run the very popular six-week Day Camp as well. The guide should be out by the end of February.

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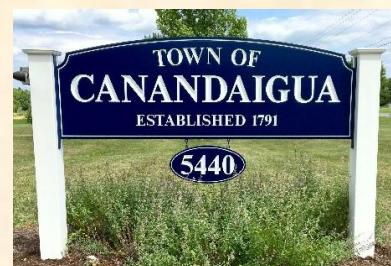
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Natural Resource Protection News *From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board*

Eagles among us

by: Patricia Venezia, ECB Member

Here in Canandaigua, Eagles are among us, as are hawks, osprey, falcons and turkey vultures. These amazing birds are all categorized as birds of prey and/or raptors. The word "raptor" is a Latin word which means "to grasp or seize." Raptors use their powerful, sharp talons to defend themselves and to capture their prey. Owls are considered nocturnal raptors who can fly almost silently due to their special feather structure. In this article I would like to concentrate on bald eagles and osprey.

There are several areas around our beautiful lake where bald eagles have been observed. However, only about 50 years ago this was a very rare occurrence. When the bald eagle was added to the federal Endangered Species list in 1967, the local eagle population consisted of a single pair which nested at the south end of Hemlock Lake. It was one of only 417 nesting pairs found in the lower 48 states. Since then, with the federal ban on DDT and the phasing out of lead



Adult Bald Eagle

shot, the bald eagle has made a remarkable comeback. In 1995 the species was reclassified as "Threatened" rather than "Endangered," and in 2004 it was delisted entirely. In New York State, the bald eagle is still designated as "Threatened" by the NYS Department of Conservation (DEC).



Adult Bald Eagle

Majestic in their appearance, with their brown bodies accentuated by their distinctive white heads, bright yellow bills and feet, bald eagles are one of the largest raptors in North America. An adult can stand 30 inches high, weigh between 8-14 pounds and have a wingspan of 72-84 inches. A juvenile bald eagle bears the appearance of, and can be mistaken for, a golden eagle, which are rare in New York. The primary prey for eagles is fish. They will also take some mammals and waterfowl, which is why they nest near the shoreline of the Lake.

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Adult Osprey

Bald eagles have a pretty long life span of approximately 30 years. They mate for life and return to nest in the general area which they were hatched. The same nest that can be more than six feet in diameter is used by a pair for the rest of their lives, which is why such care and conservation are focused on the nesting pair. In our area, when an individual wishes to construct a new house and an eagles' nest is nearby, there are certain rules enforced by the local towns in conjunction with the DEC which come into play. Each nest is evaluated individually. The DEC recommends minimum buffers of 330-350 feet around the nesting tree to protect

the birds and a secondary buffer zone of 660 for various activity categories based on time of year and visual and noise buffers which already exist. Nests are protected for a minimum of 5 years.

The Osprey, another fish-eating raptor also frequents Canandaigua Lake. Like the bald eagle, the osprey or "Fish hawk" is also a large bird. It measures 22-25 inches in height with a wingspan of 4-6 feet. The female is slightly larger than the male and they are nearly alike in plumage. They have a white head with a dark crown and prominent dark brown streak on each side. Unlike the eagle which nabs its prey from the water's surface, the osprey plunges deep enough into the water to submerge its whole body. Ospreys are also monitored by the DEC and are considered to be of "Special Concern" and no longer "Endangered." Local osprey sightings have been made throughout the Canandaigua area, especially near Airport Road and near Muar Lakes.

All Photos Courtesy of Brendan Gooding

References

- Adamski, John. "The Bald Eagle." *Life in the Fingerlakes*, www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/the-bald-eagle. Accessed February 2019.
- Adamski, John. "The Osprey is a Wildlife Success Story." *Life in the Finger Lakes*, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/osprey-wildlife-success-story>. Accessed February 2019.
- Murphy, Mike. "What's Up with That Osprey Nest at the Canandaigua Transportation Garage?" *Daily Messenger* [Canandaigua] May 10, 2016: www.MPNNNow.com. Web. February 2019.
- [NYS DEC bald eagle fact sheet](#)
- [NYS DEC osprey fact sheet](#)
- [NYS DEC Raptors of New York](#)

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Woodlands in the Town of Canandaigua

by: Saralinda Hooker, ECB Member

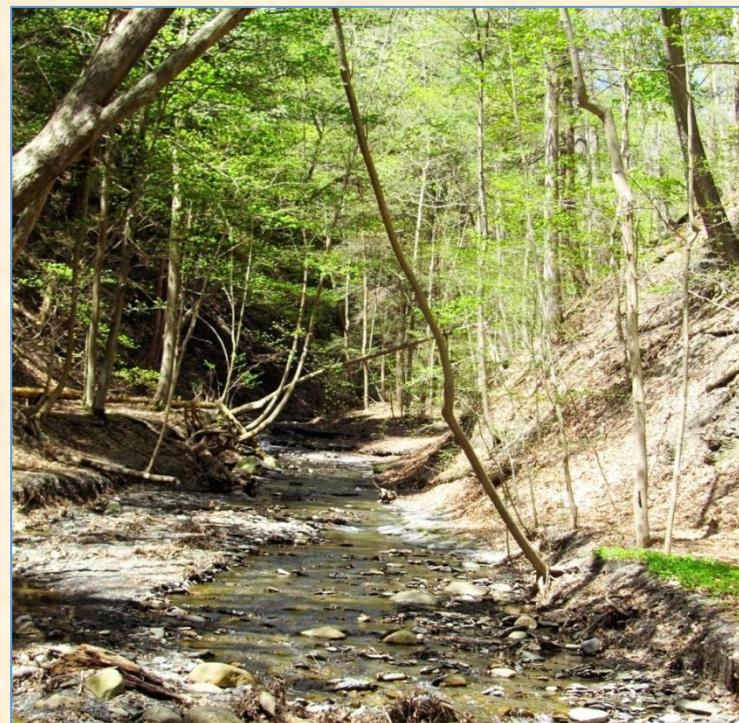
The Town's [Open Space Master Plan](#), completed and adopted in 2018, makes for good reading on the subject of the various ecological communities found within the Town boundaries. Based on a land cover survey from 2002 and a category system developed by the NYS DEC's Natural Heritage Program, all undeveloped parcels were mapped according to their ecological community type. Even more so than an aerial photograph, the resulting maps give a bird's eye view of the character of the Town's open space - where to find active farms, abandoned farms returning to shrub lands, wetlands, and forests of different types. Follow this [link](#) to explore the map in detail.

What and where are the main types of woodlands and forested wetlands in the Town?

Successional Northern Hardwood Forest – This is the most common forest type in the Town, with 6,748 acres. These are hardwood or mixed forests on sites which were historically cleared for farmland or logging, and were abandoned to reforestation over the past 40 to 90 years. They occur most densely in the southern half of the Town, where the land is steeper and less productive for farming than the northern half. These large continuous forest stands provide habitat for breeding birds and for mammals such as deer, fox and bobcat. Shallow seasonal wetlands (vernal pools) within these forested areas are also critical habitats for some amphibians.

Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest – This type of forest is found on the steep slopes along streams leading to the lake. We have about 147 acres of this forest type in the Town, mainly along Tichenor Point Creek, Menteth Creek, Barnes Creek, and a few other gullies at higher elevations. The

Hemlock Overlook trail at the top of Onanda Park offers a terrific example of this forest type. The majestic hemlocks are well adapted to steep slopes, and their evergreen shade moderates the temperature fluctuations in summer and winter, providing valuable habitat to deer, fox, porcupines and coyotes.



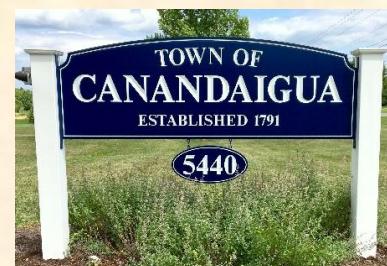
Looking up the gully at the hemlock-northern hardwood forest in Barnes Creek

Floodplain Forest – When a hardwood forest occurs within a seasonal floodplain, the result is a floodplain forest. These areas flood regularly in the spring and typically dry out during the summer months, sometimes flooding again during wet periods later in the year. These areas, which total about 325 acres, are particularly important for flood control, as they allow swollen waterways to expand their footprint, slow their momentum and drop their heavy loads of silt and debris. The Town's largest areas of Floodplain Forest lie *continued on next page...*

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Example of a silver maple-ash swamp

along the Canandaigua Outlet, between Routes 5&20 and Ontario Street Extension, and on the north side of Grimble Road, along Schaeffer Creek. Floodplain Forests are rated as

"very vulnerable" by the DEC, with fewer than 100 occurrences of this type of forest in the state.

Silver Maple-Ash Swamp – We have roughly 1,687 acres of Silver Maple-Ash Swamp scattered around the central and northern parts of the Town. This type of forest community happens in a poorly-drained depression, and usually has standing water year round. Some of the Town's largest areas of this forest type are between Middle Cheshire Road and Route 21, south of Nott Road (108 acres), east of Woolhouse Road between Nott and Bliss Roads, north and south of Buffalo Street Extension east of Cooley Road, and along Padelford Creek in the northern part of the Town. Silver Maple-Ash Swamps are considered "somewhat vulnerable." They provide important habitat for birds, amphibians, especially breeding salamanders, and mammals such as beaver.

Canandaigua Lake may be our most impressive natural resource, but our forests and wetlands also contribute to our special rural character, and make a good home for our feathered and furry friends too.

The following story is brought to you by the Town of Canandaigua Agricultural Advisory Committee. Follow this [link](#) to learn more about the committee.

'Just' a farm kid is a job prospect extraordinaire

By Rudy Taylor
February 21, 2013
Montgomery County Chronicle

While attending a job fair last week where Taylor Newspapers manned a booth, I met lots of job seekers.

Some brought resumes. Others just moseyed by, picked up the free stuff on our table and asked a few questions.

But one young woman created a memory for me.

She was a senior in high school, seeking summer employment before starting to a community college in the fall.

"Are you hiring?" she asked.

We said probably not, but we're always looking for good resources, such as part-time photographers and writers.

"We'd be happy to take your resume," I told her.

Then she said something that stuck with me. "I'm afraid my resume wouldn't be too impressive," she said. "I've spent all my life working on my parents' farm. I go to school in the *continued on next page...*

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domestically. Creating jobs and valuable materials in the process.

What can you do to help? Cut contamination! According a recent



*Join the Environmental Conservation Board for an
ARBOR DAY inspired workshop:
'PARTNERING WITH TREES'*

- Attendees receive a **free White Spruce** bare root tree with planting instructions.

- Presentations include: The Value of Trees; Invasives Species; How to Plant a Tree; Notes from the Field.
- Presenters are recognized professionals in tree ecology.
- Many handouts will provide information for home use.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Onnalinda Room
Lower Level, Canandaigua Town Hall
5440 Rts. 5 & 20 West

See poster for more details, click [here](#).

Natural Resource Protection News
*From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental
 Conservation Board*
The Value of Trees to a Community

The following are some statistics compiled by the Arbor Day Foundation on just how important trees are in a community setting.

If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%.
Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research

A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000. *Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers*

Having large trees in yards along streets increases a home's value from 3 percent to 15 percent. *Wolf, Kathleen L, PhD, University of Washington (2007) City Trees and*

translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO₂ every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs. *National Wildlife Federation*

Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20–50 percent in energy used for heating. *USDA Forest Service*

Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent. *The Arbor Day Foundation*

Property Values. Arborist News. 16, 4:34-36.

Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent. *Management Information Services/ICMA*

One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.
U.S. Department of Agriculture

There are about 60– to 200-million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This

The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams. *USDA Forest Service*

In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension. *Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University*

From the office of Jean Chrisman, Town Clerk / Receiver of Taxes

Automatic Water Bill Payments: Water customers in the Canandaigua Consolidated Water District (including the new customers on the east side of Canandaigua) and Bristol Water District may sign-up for the automatic payment of their quarterly water bill at any time.

If you wish to sign-up for this payment option, you will need to submit an original signed authorization form and a voided check. The authorization form can be found on the Water Bill Payments page on the Town's website
www.townofcanandaigua.org.

To establish this payment option for the July 2019 billing cycle, the authorization form and voided check must be submitted to the Town's Clerk's office no later than Monday, July 1, 2019.

Dog Licensing Fees: Beginning April 1, 2019, the new license fee for a spayed / neutered dog is \$15 and for unspayed / unneutered dogs is \$25. The minor increase is due to equalizing the cost of the Town's contract with Ontario County for dog services and to be more equal to what other municipalities charge throughout Ontario County. Please remember that if you do not renew your dog's license within the month that it is due, there will be a \$5.00 late fee.

Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

The Environmental Conservation Board has been talking about **TICKS**. We wondered if you've been curious about how to protect yourselves, family and pets from the potential illnesses these little critters can carry. Therefore, we've partnered with three organizations that offer information to help us understand our relationship to these...

...Nasty Little Things

By Jacqueline Stuhmiller

Deer Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

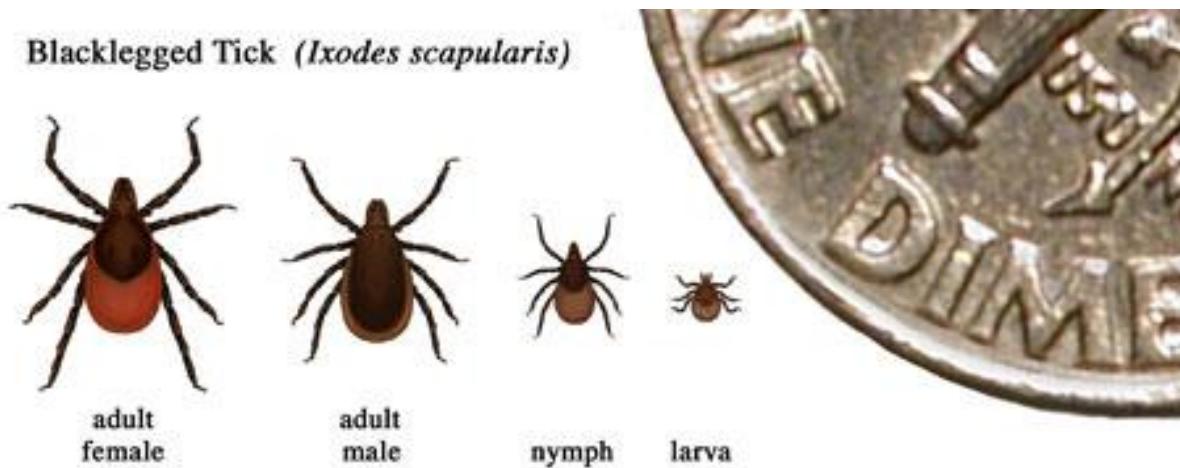
The black-legged or deer ticks were already sucking the blood of, and transmitting pathogens to, dinosaurs in the Cretaceous Period.

Although it is best known for carrying Lyme disease, it is also a vector for several other viral, bacterial, and parasitic illnesses.



For such a primitive animal, the black-legged tick has a very complex life cycle. After the egg hatches in spring, the larva attaches to its first host, a bird or small mammal and very often a white-footed mouse, which appears to be the main reservoir for Lyme disease. Unlike other animals, such as opossums, mice do not effectively remove ticks by grooming; furthermore, since their reproductive strategy is to breed early and die young, their immune systems have not evolved to be particularly robust and they cannot rid themselves of the Lyme pathogens. After three to five days of feeding, the larva drops to the ground, where it overwinters.

The next spring, it molts into a nymph and attaches to a second host, which may be a wild or domesticated mammal or a human being. It is at this stage that it is most dangerous because not only is it likely to be infected with pathogens, but it is also tiny enough to escape all but the most careful inspection. The blood-engorged nymph then drops to the forest floor and molts once again. In autumn, the adult feeds on a third and final host, usually a white-tailed deer. The fully-fed female drops to the ground a final time, overwinters, and lays eggs the next spring.



The tick seems to be moving into new areas and its population seems to be increasing, though the reasons for these changes are complex and poorly understood. Upstate New York is becoming ideal tick habitat as farmland reverts back to forest and new subdivisions carve into the countryside. A more fragmented landscape has fewer small predators and more mice. In addition small mammals such as skunks and raccoons, along with white-tailed deer, are attracted to so-called edge habitat, places where forests intersect with meadows, fields, or lawns.

The arachnid favors moist, shady areas, dries out easily, and becomes inactive when the temperature drops below freezing (though it is unaffected by subzero temperatures, thanks to antifreeze-like proteins). As our region becomes warmer

and wetter, both the tick and its preferred hosts will thrive.

Reprinted with permission from the 2016 'Land Steward' by the Finger Lakes Land Trust

And our friends at Ontario County Public Health Urge the Public to:

'Take a Hike'

By: Christy Richards RN, MPH

The warm weather has finally arrived! Hiking is good for your mind and your body. Remember, before you head down the hiking trail, protect yourself and your loved ones from ticks that often lurk in tall grass, thick brush, and wooded areas. Many ticks carry disease. Prevention of tick-borne illness is important.

To prevent tick bites and tick-borne diseases:

- Help keep ticks off your skin by wearing long sleeves, long pants, and long socks.
- Ward off ticks by using an insect repellent that contains at least 20% DEET (for the skin) or permethrin (for clothes).
- Avoid ticks by walking in the center of trails and steer clear of tall vegetation.
- If you've been in an area where ticks are common, bathe or shower as soon as possible, and wash or tumble your clothes in a dryer on high heat.
- Check your body carefully for ticks. They dig and burrow into the skin before they bite and feed.
- Removing ticks right away can help prevent disease.
- If you develop a rash or fever, see your doctor.

FREE TICK REMOVAL KITS AT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

The Environmental Conservation Board has partnered with Ontario County

Public Health to provide “Tick Removal Kits” and other educational materials to our Town residents. Beginning today you can pick up a kit at the Town Clerk’s office. Supplies are limited.

Natural Resource Protection News

*From the Town of Canandaigua
Environmental Conservation Board*

Gulls Breed on Squaw Island

By Doug Daniels

I was asked to write an article for the environmental newsletter. I had published an article in The Kingbird, the journal of the NYS Ornithological Association in December 2017 regarding nesting gulls on Canandaigua Lake. This is a simplified summation of that article.

History of Breeding

In the spring of 2009, Lyn Jacobs, a Canandaigua birder, kayaker and lakeside resident observed and confirmed that gulls were breeding on Canandaigua Lake. While many view gulls (often called seagulls) as nuisance birds, this was remarkable news for birders and nature enthusiasts. While gulls are omnipresent in the Finger Lakes region, they have rarely bred, and never on Canandaigua Lake.



Photos of first breeding Ring-billed Gulls by Lyn Jacobs

Squaw Island, located in the northwest corner of Canandaigua Lake, and the subject of dubious Native American legends, is one of only two islands in the eleven Finger Lakes. The other is Frontenac Island in Cayuga Lake, near Union Springs. Squaw Island is designated both a NYS Unique Area and a Wildlife Management Area -- at 0.20 acres, the smallest in NYS. This island was a popular

spot for boaters to anchor, get out in the shallow area and picnic on the island.

When Lyn first observed the breeding gulls from her kayak in 2009, there were 11 adult Ring-billed Gulls, 5 juveniles and 2 eggs. Since 2009, Lyn and I have both observed the annual breeding on Squaw Island, but it was not until 2012 that we began to document our observations in eBird and to make counts. At first, the growth of the breeding colony was slow, but from 2012 on, it has been dramatic. By 2014, there were 150 adults and an estimated 25 juveniles. In 2016, 600 gulls occupied all areas of the island, with 75 young and an estimated 50 more eggs to hatch. Additionally, that year I observed and photographed Herring Gulls also breeding. Of interest, the Herring Gulls' nests occupied the north and south ends of the island. One could speculate that the ends of the island are "choice locations," which the larger Herring Gulls claim; the adults can watch over the lake for predators (Bald Eagles have nested on the west shore) or interfering humans. I have not kayaked to the island yet this year, but I have observed the colony from City Pier with a telescope. I would estimate about 400-500 adult gulls on the island. This will be the eleventh consecutive year that gulls have bred on Squaw Island.



Photos of Herring Gull on nest and with chick by Doug Daniels

In 2014, an unnamed person attempted to disrupt the breeding of these birds. The DEC became involved since that behavior is prohibited by the Migratory Bird Act of 1918 – gulls are included. This joint legislation between Canada and the USA is one of the great pieces of environmental legislation and has stood for over one hundred years. It is, however, being threatened by the current administration in Washington.

The Future of Gulls on Squaw Island

Time will tell whether these two species of gulls, masters of adaptation, will continue to breed on Squaw Island. Human intervention, environmental law and decisions regarding land usage and land preservation will impact the status of their breeding. Cormorants have followed gulls in breeding on islands in eastern Lake Ontario (Little and Big Galoo Islands). Cormorants are despised by fisherman due to their diet of fish. Cormorants have been observed the past two years on Squaw Island by Lyn and me, but they have not bred. In addition to gulls, large predatory birds, Ospreys and Bald Eagles, are now gracing the skies over Canandaigua Lake due to the banning of DDT and NYS conservation efforts. These magnificent birds now breed in the Canandaigua watershed.

Life History of Gulls

There are 27 species of gulls in North America. To my knowledge, 9 species have been observed on Canandaigua Lake. Only Ring-billed and Herring are common and Ring-billed are 90% of the gulls you are likely to see. Ring-billed weigh about one pound and have a 48-inch wingspan. Herring Gulls weigh 2.5 pounds and have a 58-inch wingspan.

All gulls are found near water both fresh and salt. They have adapted to life near man, benefitting from landfills and farming. Gulls are perhaps the most opportunistic of all birds. They are found on all 7 continents. A challenge to

identify, gulls go through two molts a year and both Ring-billed and Herring Gulls take three years to mature to adults. That means six different plumages! Adults are primarily white and immature birds are gray-brown.

Gulls nest colonially on the ground in a hollow or a mound of weeds and grasses. They prefer islands or protected beaches where they have some protection from man and predators. Adults form monogamous pair-bonds. Females lay clutches of 3-4 eggs. Both adults incubate the eggs which hatch in 22-26 days. The young fledge (leave the nest and are independent) in 4-7 weeks. Female gulls who have not bred may assist in guarding the young. When disturbed, the entire colony becomes very vocal and collectively act to protect the colony.

Most gulls migrate south to warmer coastal areas in fall and winter. They do not migrate as a species but rather as individuals or in smaller groups. Waterfowl often migrate in massive flocks. You may have witnessed Snow Geese (some springs numbering ten thousand on Canandaigua Lake) all rise up in one massive flock from the ice or water to fly north to their breeding territories in the Arctic. As long as there is open water, some gulls will remain throughout the winter. Those birds typically spend night on the water and then move to agricultural fields to feed during the day.



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Dry Cleaning Bags

Retail Bags

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Prewashed Salad Bags • Frozen Food Bags**



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PlasticFilmRecycling.org



Town of Canandaigua Transfer Station

5440 Route 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 394-3300

Natural Resource Protection News

*From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental
Conservation Board*

A PLAGUE OF INVASIVE SPECIES

By: Edith Davey

Alien invasive species afflict the Town of Canandaigua as well as the county, state, nation and continent. These species are non-natives that damage the environment, the economy, and/or human health. Typically lacking predators to control their spread in a new area, they out-compete native life forms, spread prolifically, lack habitat value and cause crop and other economic losses. Following is a rogues gallery of a few of the more common terrestrial invasive plant species found in the Town.

Japanese Knotweed



Japanese knotweed spreads quickly, creating dense thickets that degrade wildlife habitats. It reduces plant biodiversity. Thick layers of decomposing stems and leaves on the ground prevent native plant species growth.

It has a strong root system that has been known to break through asphalt and concrete.

Populations are extremely persistent. Plants are able to survive severe floods and recolonize areas. It can establish along riverbanks, where pieces of roots can break off and float downstream to start new populations.

Giant Hogweed



Giant Hogweed is a very large, very toxic plant that can cause painful burns and permanent scarring if it is touched. Often found in riparian areas where birds have deposited the seeds, it can reach heights of 12-14 feet when mature. Each flower head contains approximately 20,000 seeds.

Do not touch this plant! Call DEC, **845-256-3111** to report the location of suspected hogweed or e-mail the location and photographs to confirm the identification. DEC will destroy the plants free of charge. Consult the [**DEC website**](#) for more information and to send e-mail reports.

Black Swallow-Wort



Black Swallow-wort is related to milkweed. Monarch butterflies lay eggs on the plant, but larvae that feed on the plant will die. As Monarchs and other butterflies are currently in sharp decline, removing black swallow-wort helps to preserve these valuable pollinators.

Japanese Barberry



Japanese Barberry is a preferred plant refuge for deer ticks. Multiple studies have shown that deer tick populations are particularly dense in areas of Japanese barberry infestation. The thick foliage casts heavy shade and prevents the growth of other understory plants. Introduced into the country as an ornamental plant, it has escaped managed care and become a serious problem.

Autumn Olive



Autumn Olive can change soil characteristics where it is established. Dense thickets alter succession patterns, and reduce bird and animal diversity.

It seeds prolifically and will produce viable seeds, easily spread by birds, after only 3-5 years.

Cutting or burning this plant – without herbicide follow-up – will stimulate sprouting and vigorous growth.

What can be done?

Prevention: Pay attention to what is growing on your property. If you notice an unusual plant, don't ignore it or assume it's harmless. Cooperative Extension, SWCD, DEC and online information can help you identify any plant. If you suspect Giant Hogweed, don't touch it!

Inspect firewood and stone for insect and egg mass hitchhikers. If you purchase plants from catalogs or online, research the characteristics for spreading rapidly. Disturbed ground is prime territory for invasives to colonize. Re-seed bare areas promptly and cover the area with straw or other substance

to prevent seeding of invasives.

Controls: Early intervention is essential. If a herbicide is recommended for control, read the label and use only the amounts and concentrations listed on the label. Cover exposed parts of your body and use a breathing mask if you are spraying a herbicide. Never forget that these chemicals are formulated to kill cells – and human DNA is surprisingly similar to plant DNA. None of us gets to choose our degree of sensitivity.

We have 25 Backyard Compost Bins Still Available



Sign up today at the Town Clerk's Office! For \$20.00 you can have a 3' x 3' x 3' handmade wooden compost bin delivered to your home with educational materials and worm casting compost accelerator. This program also comes with a kitchen caddy for collecting food waste and transporting it to your backyard bin.

Natural Resource Protection News
From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

Extent and Connectivity of Wildlife Habitats in the Town of Canandaigua

By: Michael Palermo, Certified Wildlife Biologist

In 2017, a survey of Town residents identified wildlife habitat as a top priority for conservation. So how do we do that?

The primary cause of wildlife decline is habitat loss and fragmentation ([read more here](#)). There are two elements that landowners in the Town control on their land, choosing to avoid negatively impacting habitat and choosing to restore habitat.

How you manage your land makes a big difference.

Habitat loss comes in many forms, but for this discussion we'll view it as the conversion of wild, natural areas to developed cover types, such as lawns, parking lots, and buildings. Habitat fragmentation is the disruption of connected habitats, like constructing a road through the center of a forest or wetland. Habitat connectivity is important because it allows wildlife movement throughout the landscape.

To keep things brief, this article will

primarily discuss forest habitats. The Strategic Forest Protection Area map ([follow this link](#)) produced for the Town's Open Space Master Plan portrays the current extent and arrangement of forests in the Town. The map shows several large forest areas (100+ acres) and multiple smaller, irregularly shaped forests that connect the larger forests (wildlife corridors). Do you own land that contains some of the forests on this map? Or perhaps you own a blank spot between some forest? If so, then you can influence habitat in the Town.

Imagine you own a 5-acre parcel that is half forest and half field, and you want to build a house on it. Hypothetically, let's say your forest is connected to a much larger forest owned by several other individuals. To avoid fragmenting the greater forest, place your house in the field rather than clearing forest for the building site. Several at-risk

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Google Maps imagery of the Town of Canandaigua showing a few large blocks of forest, several fragmented forests, and wildlife corridors between.

(...continued from above)

songbird species need large, intact forests to survive (e.g., wood thrush & scarlet tanager) and few things will drive them away faster than multiple landowners cutting driveways through the forest and each clearing a half-acre for their home site.

Another example - imagine you own a 5-acre field that is situated between two isolated, disconnected woodlots. Assuming you don't have strong reasons for keeping this field open, consider not maintaining it and

that you identify and control non-native, invasive plants as they establish. These plants often provide only marginal, degraded habitat values compared to native plants.

Your property management goals to avoid fragmentation, restore habitat, and create corridors can be applied to more than just forest. Consider expanding natural areas around wetlands, let some fields grow in as shrublands, and allow some of your lawn to become a meadow. Dedicating a portion of your lawn to

allowing it to naturally revert to trees, thus consolidating with the neighboring woodlots, creating a larger block of forest habitat.

Another option is to consider letting just one edge of the field grow wild into a hedgerow, creating a corridor of trees and shrubs that connects the two woodlots.

In any scenario where you restore forest on an open site, it is important

go wild (mow just once a year) is one of the simplest ways a landowner can benefit wildlife, and I promise you'll see more fireflies, too.

A good starting point is to explore aerial imagery on Google Maps and see how your property fits into the greater landscape, then make a plan and set habitat goals from there.

Most of the Town is private property; those landowners can greatly benefit the future of our wildlife.

The ECB is sponsoring a workshop on October 23rd at Town Hall from 6-8 pm to offer residents the opportunity to learn more about what they can do to preserve the ecological value of open space, forest areas and wildlife habitat on their lands through conservation easements and other means.

AS OCTOBER APPROACHES.....WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED IN FUTURE ARTICLES WITH THE PARTICULARS OF THIS WORKSHOP.

Stay tuned for more....



How to Protect Your Newly Planted Trees Over Winter

By: Alaina Robarge

Conservation District Educator, Ontario Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

You have planted some beautiful trees this year. You spent time deciding what tree species would work in that shady or sunny spot in your yard. You probably spent money at a local tree sale or nursery to find the perfect tree seedling. Now, with winter slowly approaching, you're starting to think about keeping your young tree alive. Here are some tips on preparing your tree for winter:

There are a variety of methods when it comes to wrapping or covering your tree. Some people cover the trunk with paper or plastic tree wrap to protect from sun, wind, or cold damage. White colored guards can help reflect the sun so that you can keep the bark at a more consistent temperature. Fluctuating temperatures can harm the bark and tissues of the tree.

Some people wrap their small trees



Example of a properly mulched tree.

in burlap to prevent any winter damage, particularly the evergreen species. Some will use excess evergreen branches (possibly from your Christmas tree) to cover the tree to protect it from sun and wind. Try to avoid pruning your evergreens after the summer months.

One thing we often do not think about in the spring and summer months is salt. Keep salt away from your trees. Think about your placement of the tree. Is there a close road where salt is going to contact it? If you are planting trees by the road or sidewalks where salt will be prevalent, try to choose tree species that have a higher salt tolerance. Some examples include: White Spruce, Red Oak, White Oak, Sand Cherry, Green Ash, Birch, Sycamore, Serviceberry, and Witch-Hazel.

(continued below...)



The mulch does not touch the trunk of the tree. (Photo by Richard Ball)

by Elizabeth Moss)

(...continued from above)

Water is also a key element in keeping your young tree alive and healthy. Moist soil can hold more heat than dry soil. Snow actually helps insulate the soil to keep heat in. It also helps to mulch around your trees (about 3 to 4 inches thick). The mulch helps insulate the soil, but be sure to avoid volcano mulching. When you mulch high up against the tree trunk, you are causing excess moisture to sit against the bark and you are inviting in potential pests. This will lead to a damaged or decaying tree trunk. By keeping the mulch away from the tree trunk, you are helping to insulate the soil/roots and helping to keep water in the soil. Try to water your tree throughout the

year, but stop once the ground begins to freeze.

We love our wildlife, but sometimes they can destroy our trees. You can try to avoid animal damage with the use of fencing, burlap, or tree tubes. When using tree tubes, try to place the bottom of the tree tube a few inches into the soil which will help prevent mice from using the tube as a home and eventually eating at the bark and base of the tree.

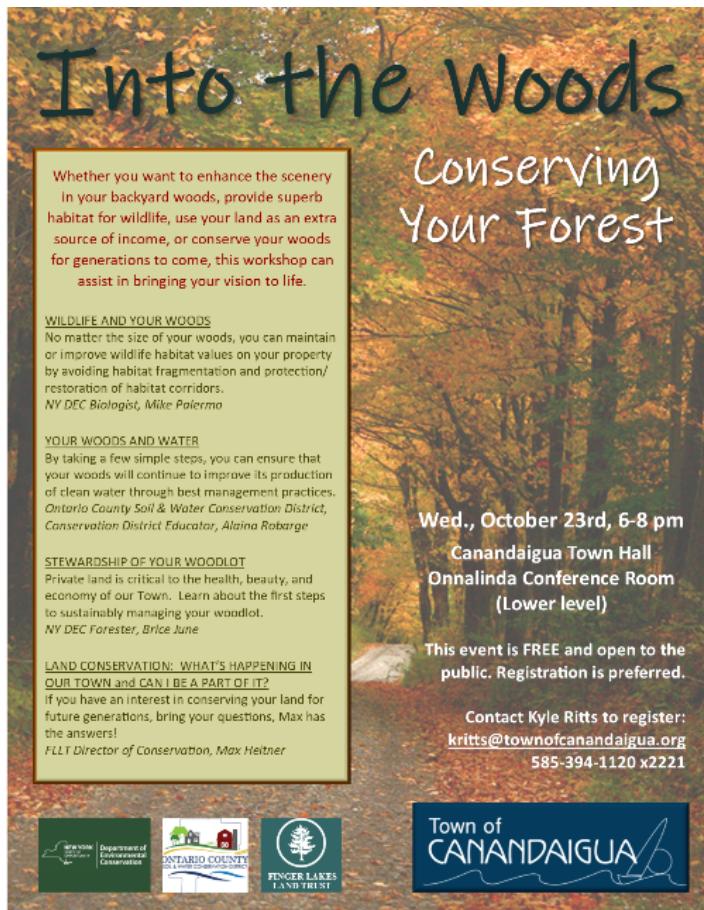
The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District has an annual tree and shrub sale! Keep an eye out in January of 2020 for our order form. Tree pick-up is around Arbor Day.



Into the Woods

Wednesday, October 23, 6-8 pm

Whether you want to enhance the scenery in your backyard woods, provide superb wildlife habitat, earn income from your land, or conserve your woods for generations to come, this workshop can assist in bringing your vision to life. [Click flyer to enlarge it.](#)



Scroll to the end of this newsletter for more.
Also check out this fantastic booklet from the USDA Forest Service about [Backyard Woods](#).

McJannett Park

By: Joe Mitrano

Former Parks & Recreation Intern

McJannett Park is a roadside picnic rest stop on Route 21 about two miles south of Cheshire and above Onanda Park that features a wonderful view of Canandaigua Lake. The Park features several picnic tables that are in great condition, and offers about an acre of open field that overlooks a valley, from which you can see a spectacular view of the lake.

Although McJannett Park is often used as a location to take a quick rest from driving and relax in the car while looking at the wonderful view of the lake, or taking care of some business on your phone, it can also be a unique spot to take the family for a picnic, or enjoy some creative outdoor

Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.



Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

nfp.org/education ©NFPA 2017

Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

HOW IMPORTANT CAN THAT LITTLE BROWN BIRD BE?

The ECB likes birds and we think you do too. We'd like to share a broader picture of what's happening out there to our bird populations in general. Remember, the protection of bird habitat is vital to important ecosystem sustainability. Read on.....

Birds Are Vanishing From North America

By Carl Zimmer

Published in the New York Times on September 19, 2019

The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 3 billion, or 29 percent, over the past half-century, scientists find.

*** Read original article on the New York Times website [HERE](#). ***

The skies are emptying out.

The number of birds in the United States and Canada [has fallen by 29 percent since 1970](#), scientists reported on Thursday. There are 2.9 billion fewer birds taking wing now than there were 50 years ago.

The analysis, published in the journal Science, is the most exhaustive and ambitious attempt yet to learn what is happening to avian populations. The results have shocked researchers and conservation organizations.

In a statement on Thursday, David Yarnold, president and chief executive of the National Audubon Society, called the findings “a full-blown crisis.”

Experts have long known that some bird species have become vulnerable to extinction. But the new study, based on a broad survey of more than 500 species, reveals steep losses even among such traditionally abundant birds as robins and sparrows.



There are likely many causes, the most important of which include habitat loss and wider use of pesticides. “Silent Spring,” Rachel Carson’s prophetic book in 1962 about the harms caused by pesticides, takes its title from the unnatural quiet settling on a world that has lost its birds:

“On the mornings that had once throbbed with the dawn chorus of robins, catbirds, doves, jays, wrens, and scores of other bird voices, there was now no sound.”

Kevin Gaston, a conservation biologist at the University of Exeter, said that new findings signal something larger at work: "This is the loss of nature."

Common bird species are vital to ecosystems, controlling pests, pollinating flowers, spreading seeds and regenerating forests. When these birds disappear, their former habitats often are not the same.

"Declines in your common sparrow or other little brown bird may not receive the same attention as historic losses of bald eagles or sandhill cranes, but they are going to have much more of an impact," said Hillary Young, a conservation biologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who was not involved in the new research.

A team of researchers from universities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations collaborated on the new study, which combined old and new methods for counting birds.

For decades, professional ornithologists have been assisted by an army of devoted amateur bird-watchers who submit their observations to databases and help carry out surveys of bird populations each year.

In the new study, the researchers turned to those surveys to estimate the populations of 529 species between 2006 and 2015.

Those estimates include 76 percent of all bird species in the United States and Canada, but represent almost the entire population of birds. (The species for which there weren't enough data to make firm estimates occur only in small numbers.)

The researchers then used bird-watching records to estimate the population of each species since 1970, the earliest year for which there is solid data.

"This approach of combining population abundance estimates across all species and looking for an overall trend is really unprecedented," said Scott Loss, a conservation biologist at Oklahoma State University who was part of the new study.

While some species grew, the researchers found, the majority declined — often by huge numbers.

"We were stunned by the result — it's just staggering," said Kenneth V. Rosenberg, a conservation scientist at Cornell University and the American Bird Conservancy, and the lead author of the new study.

"It's not just these highly threatened birds that we're afraid are going to go on the endangered species list," he said. "It's across the board."

Weather radar offered another way to track bird populations. Dr. Rosenberg and his colleagues counted birds recorded on radar at 143 stations across the United States from 2007 to 2018. They focused on springtime scans, when birds were migrating in great numbers.

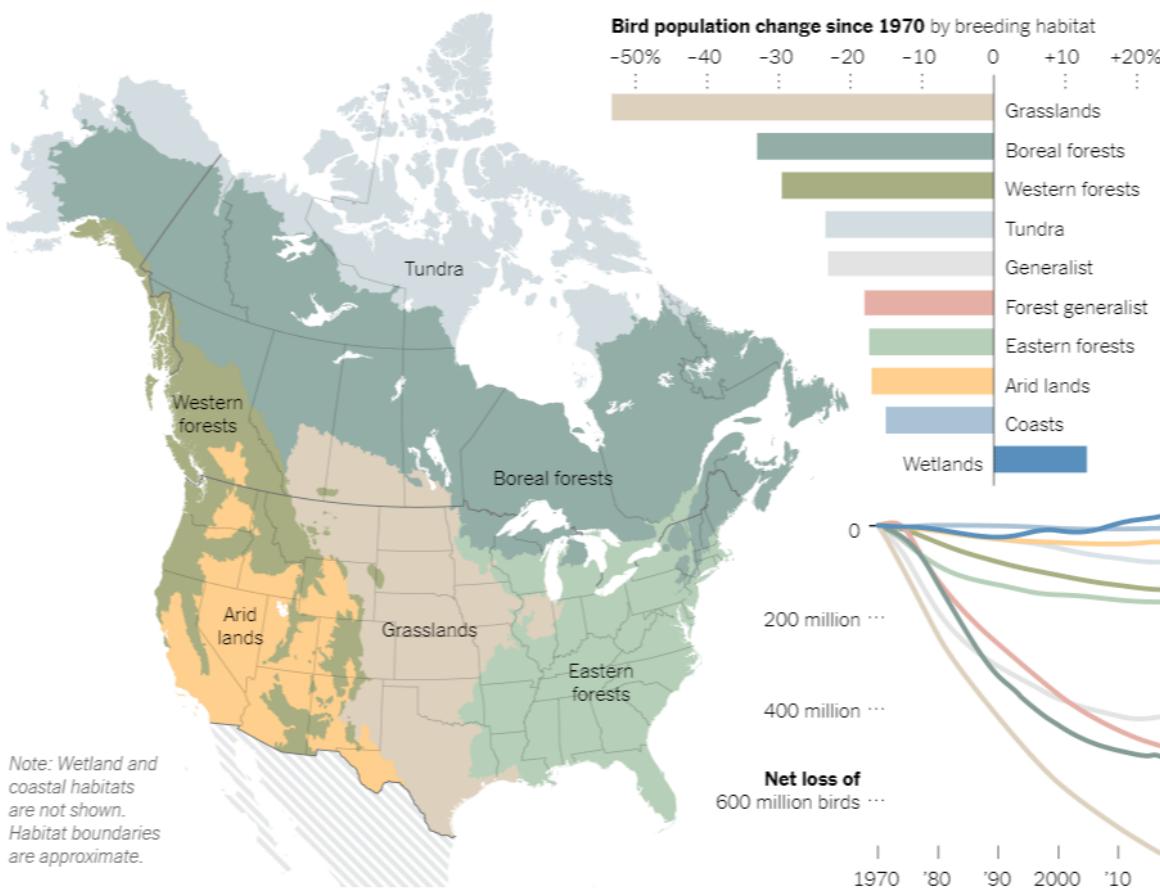
The team measured a 14 percent decline during that period, consistent with the drop recorded in the bird-watching records.

"If we have two data sets showing the same thing, it's a home run," said Nicole Michel, a senior quantitative ecologist at the Audubon Society who was not involved in the study.

Among the worst-hit groups were warblers, with a population that dropped by 617 million. There are 440 million fewer blackbirds than there once were.

Three Billion Birds

A survey of 529 bird species in the United States and Canada found that bird populations have fallen by 29 percent since 1970, a loss of nearly three billion birds.



By The New York Times | Source: Science

Dr. Rosenberg said he was surprised by how widespread the population drop was. Even starlings — a species that became a fast-breeding pest after its introduction to the United States in 1890 — have dwindled by 83 million birds, a 49 percent decline.

Europe is experiencing a similar loss of birds, also among common species, said Dr. Gaston, of the University of Exeter. “The numbers are broadly comparable,” he said.

The new study was not designed to determine why birds are disappearing, but the results — as well as earlier research — point to some likely culprits, Dr. Rosenberg said.

Grassland species have suffered the biggest declines by far, having lost 717 million birds. These birds have probably been decimated by modern agriculture and development.

“Every field that’s plowed under, and every wetland area that’s drained, you lose the birds in that area,” Dr. Rosenberg said.

In addition to habitat loss, pesticides may have taken a toll. A study published last week, for example, found that pesticides called neonicotinoids [make it harder for birds to put on weight needed for migration](#), delaying their travel.

The researchers found some positive signs. Bald eagles are thriving, for example, and falcon populations have grown by 33 percent. Waterfowl are on the upswing.

For the most part, there’s little mystery about how these happy exceptions came to be. Many recovering bird species were nearly wiped out in the last century by pesticides, hunting and other pressures. Conservation measures allowed them to bounce back.

"In those cases, we knew what the causes were and we acted on that," Dr. Rosenberg said.

"They're models of success."

But some thriving populations are harder to explain.

Tiny warbler-like birds called vireos are booming, with 89 million more birds than in 1970 — a jump of 53 percent. Yet warblers, which share the same habitats as vireos, have suffered a 37 percent decline.

"I have no idea why vireos are doing well," Dr. Rosenberg said. "I'd love to do a study of vireos and discover what their secret is."

The sheer scale of the bird decline meant that stopping it would require immense effort, said Dr. Young, of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Habitats must be defended, chemicals restricted, buildings redesigned. "We're overusing the world, so it's affecting everything," she said.

The Audubon Society is calling for protection of bird-rich habitats, such as the Great Lakes and the Colorado River Basin, as well as for upholding the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which the Trump Administration is trying to roll back.

The society and other bird advocacy groups also suggest things that individuals can do. They urge keeping cats inside, so they don't kill smaller birds. Vast numbers of birds die each year after flying into windows; there are ways to make the glass more visible to them.

To some birders, the study's findings confirmed a dreaded hunch.

Beverly Gyllenhaal, 62, a retired cookbook author, and her husband, Anders, have spotted 256 species in parks in the eastern United States. But when she visited her mother in North Carolina in recent years, it seemed there weren't as many birds as she recalled from her childhood there.

And when she talks to people around the United States on her birding travels, many say the same thing. "Oftentimes people will tell you, 'It's nothing like it used to be,'" she said.

The estimated losses have left her appalled. "If the cardinals and the blue jays and the sparrows aren't doing well," she said, "that's really scary."

*** Read original article on the New York Times website [HERE](#). ***

Holidays

Important Dates to note.

Also see the "Flyers" heading at the end of the newsletter for information on several upcoming events of interest.