



# Cayuga Bird Club

## NEWSLETTER

ESTABLISHED 1914

OCTOBER 2006

### *Tenth Annual Montezuma Muckrace*

On September 8 and 9 a record-breaking 80 birders on twenty-one teams gathered for the tenth annual Montezuma Muckrace, a 24-hour birding competition to raise funds for bird conservation projects in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. This year money raised will help fund a study of the habitat characteristics of the Cerulean Warbler. A record 188 species were seen during the event. No Strings Attached, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, won the Muckrace with a record 146 species. Complete results and photos will be posted on the Montezuma Wetlands Complex web site at <friendsofmontezuma.org>. The Cayuga Bird Club sponsored two teams, an adult team captained by Asher Hockett and a youth team captained by Perri McGowan.

### *Downy Chicks Win Youth Category for Second Consecutive Year*

BY PERRI MCGOWAN

Rachel Rosenberg, Olivia Rosenberg, Sarah Beckwith, and I would like to thank the Cayuga Bird Club for sponsoring our team, the Downy Chicks, in the Montezuma Muckrace again this year. We also would like to thank Ken Rosenberg, Anne James, and Kevin McGowan for driving us around. Thanks also to Jay McGowan for helping Sarah and me improve our shorebird identification skills prior to the race.

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### *Mudhens Find Godwits, Falcons, and a Phalarope*

BY ASHER HOCKETT

As the clock struck 9:00 P.M., a brilliant full moon climbed the eastern sky and heralded the start of this year's Montezuma Muckrace, casting its orange welcome to the 21 teams poised for another Big Day effort. It found Gladys Birdsall, Linda Clougherty, Ann Mitchell, and me at the Knox-Marcellus Marsh overlook where last year Sandhill Cranes serenaded us in the darkness. Although conspicuous all summer, the cranes were seen by only one team this year, and it was not ours.

The Mudhens' luck continued in that fashion overnight and through the soggy next day. At the finish line, we had tallied only 90 species. But on that short list were five Hudsonian Godwits, a Red-necked Phalarope, and a cavorting pair of Peregrine Falcons over Towpath Road, which flushed the aforementioned shorebirds for the teams to follow. The numerous falcons were, for many, the highlight of the event and solid proof of the successful restoration of these magnificent creatures here in the east.

Frustrating as our low tally was, it did succeed in raising more than \$500. We thank the Cayuga Bird Club for its sponsorship and the many folks who pledged. Undaunted, we are already looking forward to next year and an even better result. 🐦



Jillian Liner

Perri McGowan, Sarah Beckwith, Rachel Rosenberg, and Olivia Rosenberg pose in their team T-shirts with the youth category trophy.

# CAYUGA BIRD CLUB

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The Cayuga Bird Club meets on the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 7:30 P.M. in the Auditorium of the Johnson Center on Sapsucker Woods Road. All programs and field trips are free and open to the public. Membership costs \$10/year, payable in September. To join, send a check (made out to "Cayuga Bird Club") to Cayuga Bird Club Treasurer, c/o Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Bird club members receive the Cayuga Bird Club Newsletter monthly from September through June. Send newsletter submissions to Anne Marie Johnson, contact information above. Of particular interest are articles about local bird sightings, bird behavior, or birding hot spots, as well as original poetry, art, and photos.

*Chickadee illustration in masthead by Karen Confer, waxwing illustration for native plants column and duck silhouette by Lena Samsonenko.*

Visit the Cayuga Bird Club website at:  
[WWW.BIRDS.CORNELL.EDU/CAYUGABIRDCLUB](http://WWW.BIRDS.CORNELL.EDU/CAYUGABIRDCLUB)

# CAYUGA BIRD CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT

BY KIM KLINE

## INCOME AND EXPENSE 9/1/2005-8/31/2006

### INCOME

Member dues	\$1,450.00
Donations	\$650.00
Interest	\$23.66
Christmas Bird Count net	\$20.00
Recording workshop	<u>\$116.20</u>

TOTAL INCOME \$2,259.86

### EXPENSES

Newsletter postage	\$311.50
Newsletter printing	\$594.23
Newsletter labels	<u>\$27.47</u>

Total Newsletter	\$933.20
Insurance	\$543.00
Niagara trip	\$205.82
Muckrace	150.00
Radios	\$142.54
Donations	\$86.00
Supplies	\$34.91
Dues	\$30.00
Meeting expenses	<u>\$24.88</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,150.35

NET GAIN \$109.51

## NET WORTH AS OF 8/31/2006

### ASSETS

Checking	\$382.32
Evans Fund	\$481.79
Special Projects Fund	\$770.20
General Savings	\$1773.96
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$6,408.27</u>

## Events Calendar

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<b>OCT. 2</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Monday Night Seminar</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Janis Dickinson	In her presentation, "Environmental and Social Determinants of Behavioral Variability: Examples from Western Bluebirds," Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will present results from a 20+ year project to find the rules male Western Bluebirds use to make decisions regarding dispersal, helping at the nest, and parental care.
<b>OCT. 7</b> Saturday	<b>Field Trip:</b> Hawk Mountain Leader: Linda Clougherty	Linda will lead an all-day trip to Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, for hawk migration. Rain date will be Sunday, October 8. Contact Linda at 539-7546 or at <lindaclougherty@yahoo.com> for details and to reserve a spot.
<b>OCT. 9</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Cayuga Bird Club Meeting</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Richard Marx	In his presentation, "Purple Martins: History, Lives, Housing, and More," Richard Marx will give an overview of the Purple Martin's long history of association with humans. Richard will also describe the life cycle and biology of Purple Martins and provide hints to attract them to manufactured martin houses. See the speaker profile on page 6 for more information.
<b>OCT. 11</b> Wednesday 6:30 P.M.	<b>Special Seminar &amp; Reception</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: George Archibald	George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, will present "The Challenges and Rewards in International Crane Conservation" as part of his Indianapolis Prize seminar tour. Learn more about George's work and the Indianapolis Prize on page 9. The Lab of Ornithology is issuing free tickets to the event, available at the Front Desk of the Lab's Visitor Center. Seating will be limited to 120. Note special day and time.
<b>OCT. 15</b> Sunday 7:30 A.M.– 11:00 A.M.	<b>Field Trip:</b> Dryden Lake Leader: Bard Prentiss Meet: Dryden Lake pavillion	Meet at the Dryden Lake pavillion for a morning walk to look for fall migrants. Contact Bard at <prentissb@frontiernet.net> or at 844-4691 with questions.
<b>OCT. 16</b> Monday	Newsletter deadline	Note the early deadline this month. Send newsletter submissions to Anne Marie Johnson, contact information on page 2.
<b>OCT. 16</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Monday Night Seminar</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Catherine Graham	In her presentation, "A Spatial View of Foraging Behavior in Toucans," Catherine Graham, Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University, will describe some of the factors that influence the foraging and distribution of toucans in the forests of Mexico.
<b>OCT. 18</b> Wednesday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Special Seminar</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Ray Troll	Ray Troll, an artist originally from Corning, New York, will present "An Artist's View of the History of Life." Ray is the author of the children's book, <i>Sharkabet, a Sea of Sharks from A to Z</i> , and has illustrated several other books and provided artwork for various conservation organizations including the Sierra Club and Greenpeace. Note the special day of this seminar.
<b>OCT. 23</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Monday Night Seminar</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Kevin A. Parker	In his presentation, "New Zealand Conservation and Avian Translocations: the Intersection of Management, Science, and the Wider Human Community," Kevin Parker, from the Institute of Natural Resources at Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand, will talk about the history of conservation and translocations to facilitate the recovery of native biodiversity in New Zealand. He will focus on his research, which examined the impacts of translocation on dialects in the New Zealand Saddleback.

## Events Calendar continued

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<b>OCT. 28</b> Saturday 7:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M.	<b>Field Trip: Fair Haven</b> Leader: Steve Fast Meet: Johnson Center*	Steve Fast will lead a trip to Fair Haven on Lake Ontario (about a 1½ hour drive). The group will spend three hours looking for waterfowl, shorebirds, and more. Susie Fast will talk about the geology of the area. There will be a food stop along the way, but participants are encouraged to bring a lunch and snacks. Dress for windy conditions. Contact Steve at <sfast@usadatanet.net> or at 539-6967 with questions.
<b>OCT. 30</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Monday Night Seminar</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Jack Barclay	Burrowing Owls are a Species of Special Concern in California. Jack Barclay, senior wildlife biologist with Albion Environmental, Inc., will describe the challenges of managing a Burrowing Owl colony at San Jose International Airport that seems to be beating the odds. His presentation, "Burrowing Owls in California—an Abundant Endangered Species?" gives special emphasis to understanding the basic biology and natural history of this charismatic species, as well as the conflicts that arise when managing Burrowing Owls at a major airport.
<b>NOV. 5</b> Sunday 8:00 A.M.– 4:00 P.M.	<b>Field Trip: Montezuma</b> Leader: Bob McGuire Meet: Johnson Center*	Bob will lead an all day trip to the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge to look for waterfowl and other birds. Bring lunch and snacks. Dress appropriately. Contact Bob at <rss@lightlink.com> or at 256-0460 with questions.
<b>NOV. 6</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Monday Night Seminar</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: David N. Kitler	The Harpy Eagle, one of the most powerful birds of prey in the world, which once ranged from Mexico to Argentina, has disappeared almost entirely due to hunting and loss of habitat. During his presentation, "Observing and Portraying the Harpy Eagle and its Habitat," nature artist David N. Kitler, of World-wide Nature Artists Group (WNAG), will take the audience to the jungles of Panama where David observed and gathered reference material on this amazing raptor and its habitat.
<b>NOV. 11</b> Saturday	<b>Field Trip: Loon Watch</b> Leader: Bob Meade Meet: Johnson Center*	Join Bob Meade at Taughannock State Park to count loons migrating over Cayuga Lake. See the next newsletter for details.
<b>NOV. 13</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Cayuga Bird Club Meeting</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Andrew Hendry	A finch ancestor colonized the Galapagos Islands and diversified in 14 recognized species, each with a bill that is unique in size and shape—corresponding with unique food types. Andrew Hendry, Assistant Professor at Redpath Museum & Department of Biology at McGill University studied these finches to learn how natural selection can cause speciation. In his presentation, "Darwin's Finches of the Galapagos Islands," Andrew will describe the Galapagos Islands and their unique residents, summarize the finch radiation, provide insight into evolutionary processes, and discuss his ongoing research.
<b>NOV. 20</b> Monday 7:30 P.M.	<b>Monday Night Seminar</b> Johnson Center Auditorium Speaker: Andrew Farnsworth	Many birds produce distinctive flight calls, especially during nocturnal migration. These relatively short, generally high frequency, and occasionally identification-defying vocalizations are of broad interest to birders, ornithologists, and conservationists. However, there are numerous gaps in our understanding of these calls. In his presentation, "Perspectives on Function, Evolution, and Ecology of Flight Calls," Andrew Farnsworth, Ph.D. candidate at Cornell University, will discuss flight call research, highlighting his research on flight calls in wood-warblers.

\*Meet for field trips in the front parking lot.

# MINUTES: CAYUGA BIRD CLUB MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

BY DEIRDRE ANDERSON AND ANNE MARIE JOHNSON

Deirdre Anderson, President, introduced herself and welcomed new members and visitors including Matt Medler who was visiting from Vermont. In honor of Matt's long-time service reading the list at Cayuga Bird Club meetings and Monday Night Seminars when he lived in Ithaca, Deirdre invited him to read the list later in the meeting.

Deirdre provided cookies for the meeting and asked for someone to bring cookies to the next meeting. Linda Clougherty volunteered.

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

- Sightings of migrant warbler flocks were reported.
- Several teams that competed in the Montezuma Muckrace over the weekend reported about their experiences. A team from the Lab of Ornithology won, and one of the teams sponsored by the Cayuga Bird Club, the Downy Chicks, won the youth category. Jane Graves and Jillian Liner reported on the overall competition and said that at least \$6,000 had been raised so far for the Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Asher Hockett and Linda Clougherty reported that they had done some work at the beginning of the summer on the new club brochure but that everything was put on the back burner over the summer. Deirdre proposed that interested club members meet again and bring the project to the front burner and indicated that Jane Graves, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, and Mark Chao have expressed interest in helping.
- No Purple Martins were seen in the new houses at Myers. Laura Stenzler suggested that we talk to Richard Marx, who will be speaking at next month's meeting about how to attract Purple Martins.
- Deirdre reported that she went back and forth with the state to find a report needed to apply for 501(C)(3) status only to have the state send a report that the club already had. A lawyer who has been helping the club with the application process will investigate further.
- Deirdre proposed raising the club dues to \$15, with the student rate remaining at \$10. A club member asked the treasurer, Kim Kline, to report on the financial status of the club. Kim gave the current bank account balances but noted that the information should be taken in the context of the

entire fiscal year. Kim will present a complete report in the next newsletter and at the October meeting. Deirdre indicated that although Kim's numbers made it sound like we had plenty of money in the bank, the club is short on the cash that will be needed to pay the new insurance bill. Deirdre said that she will present the proposal for a vote at the October meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Deirdre reported that club officers will be up for election soon and, although all of the current officers have agreed to serve another term, we still need a secretary. Deirdre talked about the importance of volunteering. Nominations for officers will be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting. Deirdre invited those who would consider being nominated and those who would like to nominate someone to talk to Deirdre.
- Deirdre reported that Chris Tessaglia-Hymes is interested in leading a night flight workshop this fall. Chris will contact the people who signed up for the spring workshop if a good night presents itself this fall. Anyone else interested in joining the workshop can contact Deirdre or Chris to be placed on the call list. Chris will contact the interested group members at the last minute.
- The New York State Ornithological Association's (NYSOA) annual meeting is September 29-October 1. Based on the size of our club, we are allowed to send two delegates to the NYSOA business meeting. Delegates vote on behalf of the club at the business meeting and report back to the club (usually writing a short report for the newsletter). The meeting is in Oneonta, New York, this year. The club pays the expenses for delegates to attend the meeting. Deirdre invited club members to serve as delegates, but no one volunteered.
- The Cayuga Bird Club's Executive Committee nominated Matt Podolsky for the Lillian Stoner Award, and he won. He will give a presentation to the club in the spring.

Deirdre announced upcoming club field trips. Matt Medler read the basin list. Deirdre introduced the evening's speakers: Mike Anderson and Gerrit Vyn, who presented "Bird Songs of Alaska's North Slope," a recounting of their recent trip to Alaska to record breeding birds. 🐦

# FIELD TRIP REPORT: LOCAL BIRDS, SEPTEMBER 17

BY MARK CHAO

Twenty people(!) joined me for the Cayuga Bird Club field trip on Sunday morning, September 17. Four hours of patient searching in all of the best migrant spots I know in Sapsucker Woods revealed some fine birds, but alas, nothing close to the riot of warblers (21 species) that was present the previous day. It felt as if all of a sudden, we had moved from the peak to the later stages of migration. Still, I was very pleased with the birds and, even more, with the opportunity to spend time with a large, universally congenial group representing various stages of life and levels of birding experience.

As we gathered in the Johnson Center parking lot, an Indigo Bunting flew over, sounding its shrill call note. The Wilson Trail in Sapsucker Woods was quiet on our first pass; the highlight was seeing the first of the day's several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the snag by the lone bench. We headed to the road, where Bob McGuire saw a Blue-headed Vireo south of the East Trail gate. In the same area we also saw several Dark-eyed Juncos and Chipping Sparrows, plus one sparrow whose markings seemed to me to be consistent with Clay-colored Sparrow (rather bright buffy brown underparts, distinct markings on face). Regrettably,

I didn't see this bird long enough to observe marks conclusively nor to help others find it.

The clouds started to dissipate, revealing a clear blue sky behind. We saw a few small formations of Canada Geese flying overhead, looking unusually picturesque, as if through frosted glass.

In the trees next to the feeder garden, we saw a Black-throated Green Warbler, a Philadelphia Vireo, and another Blue-headed Vireo. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet gave us some close views in the hawthorn trees. We walked slowly around the parking lots, where we saw another Philadelphia Vireo, another Blue-headed Vireo, a Yellow-rumped Warbler or two, and one of the day's highlights, a male Purple Finch.

By about 10 A.M. the fog had largely cleared and sunshine was lighting up the woodland edges. Anticipating increased activity by insects and insectivorous birds, we headed for the Wilson Trail North again. This time we saw at least two Blackpoll Warblers, a couple of Magnolia Warblers, and another Blue-headed Vireo. An Osprey, the morning's only raptor, spent several minutes perched on the largest snag in the pond. 🐾



David Ruppert

One of two Blackpoll Warbler seen by trip participants on the Wilson Trail in Sapsucker Woods.

## October Speaker Profile: Richard Marx

Rick is a Senior Environmental Engineer with the law firm Nixon Peabody LLP. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Genesee Land Trust and the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Rick was instrumental in the formation of two species reintroduction projects: the Rochester Peregrine Falcon Project and the New York River Otter Project, Inc. In conjunction with the Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Rick is currently leading the Purple Martin Conservation Project, which is focused on establishing properly managed nesting colonies of Purple Martins on Lake Ontario,

Canandaigua Lake, Honeoye Lake, and Hemlock Lake. He also manages his own 95 acre property for habitat diversity with an emphasis on nesting songbirds. His work has included design and construction of wetlands and the construction and installation of more than 100 nestboxes and structures for songbirds, waterfowl, birds of prey, and bats. Birding has been a lifelong passion, and he has had the opportunity to birdwatch throughout North America, Mexico, the Caribbean, Great Britain, Brazil, and Bolivia. 🐾

## The Downy Chicks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After setting up our tents on Friday evening, we started birding for the night. Although we got a late start, we had fairly good luck. When we reached the spot where we hoped to hear Eastern Screech-Owl, another team (my brother, Jay's) was just leaving, and they informed us that they had not heard the owl. We decided to try our luck. After listening for awhile, Sarah and I whistled our imitations of a screech-owl. After about two minutes, one started



Jillian Liner

The Downy Chicks show off their self-designed team T-shirts.

calling very close to us! We were really excited to hear the owl so close, and we were pleased to find a bird that Jay didn't find! After trying for Barred and Great Horned owls with no success, we returned to our tents to sleep.

In the morning we looked for birds around our camp site as we ate some breakfast. The Ospreys that have a nest near the campsite were calling so loudly that they got a little annoying!

After breakfast, we walked the Esker Brook Trail looking for land birds. We found a few birds, such as Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse, but not as many as we would have hoped. We went to a gas station to get some more food and then went on the wildlife drive to look for shorebirds and ducks. We did very well, finding lots of shorebirds, all the common ducks, and several gulls. We were happy with our look at dowitchers because we saw Short-billed and Long-billed right next to each other! We got a great look at a Bald Eagle flying over. We also got a chance to compare a Lesser Black-backed Gull with a Great Black-backed Gull. All in all, the main drive gave a nice boost to our list.

After the drive Kevin arrived to trade off with Anne, and we decided to go to lunch for a small

break from birding. At lunch we tallied our list to see how many birds we still needed. We were slightly disappointed that the count wasn't higher but were motivated to reach our goal.

After lunch we looked for some more land birds, including Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves. A stop at our secret House Finch spot provided us with five different species of swallows and an American Goldfinch but no House Finch. In the Mucklands, we looked for and found a Horned Lark, but we failed to get everyone (or even two people) to see the bird. We did successfully find *and* identify a Savannah Sparrow.

After we stopped for a bathroom and ice cream break (very helpful), we were in much better spirits and eager to break our record. Along the road, we stopped to pish, and I found a Downy Woodpecker in a sumac patch that was practically in the middle of a field. Next we stopped at Tschache Pool and found Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Common Moorhen, and Gadwall. May's Point Pool was our next destination, where we saw Great Egrets and a Green Heron but, much to our disappointment, no American Bittern.

We went to Towpath Road next to look for more shorebirds. We got very good looks at a Red-necked Phalarope. Several Peregrine Falcons kept flying over, keeping the shorebirds up in the air half of the time, but we did manage to find a Black-bellied Plover. Once the light got so bad that we couldn't see details anymore, we had to stop looking at shorebirds.

We sat at the overlook of the Knox-Marcellus Marsh on East Road to tally our birds again and to watch for anything new that might come out of the marsh. We heard some Black-crowned Night-Herons from the marsh, and we got to see a hundred thousand or so Purple Martins swirling all together over the marsh getting ready to roost. The sheer mass of them was awe-inspiring. They looked like big, black clouds.

We went back to May's to check for anything else, but besides lots of Black-crowned Night-Herons, there wasn't anything of interest left.

Our 73 species, which was six more than last year, was a very satisfactory total and gave us first place in the youth category. Although we didn't have a song and dance like last year, our matching t-shirts, jokes, and riddles managed to keep us going through the day. Last year seemed better, with more warblers, but we found so many more ducks and shorebirds that we made up for the lack of warblers. 🐦



## Native Plants for Native Birds: *Cornus amomum* (Silky Dogwood)

BY JOEL BAINES, PHOTOS BY DAVID RUPPERT

In case you haven't noticed by reading a few of these native plant articles, the dogwoods are very important plants to birds. Silky dogwood is much like red osier dogwood except that fine hairs, which reminded someone of silk fibers, cover the stems. The leaves are opposite, oval, and 2-4 inches long with prominent veins. They lack teeth at the margin (and therefore are termed entire). The white flowers occur in smallish bracts that appear in late spring, and the flowers are monoecious, meaning they are efficient harbingers of fruit. Unlike red osier dogwood, the fruit matures in late summer to become a deep cobalt blue, somewhat like blueberries. These berries are quickly consumed by a variety of mammals and birds, especially Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Blue Jay, and Cedar Waxwing.

Silky dogwood is a suckering, many-stemmed shrub that can look

a bit unkempt. Its stems have a red to purple color, but they have more green than red osier dogwood stems and therefore are not as brilliantly ornamental. The color can be enhanced by cutting the stems to the ground in late winter, as new growth sports more red than green. In time, the stems tend to get a bit top heavy and arch downwards, potentially rooting where they touch the ground. (This is, in fact, a useful diagnostic trait). In this way, thickets can slowly expand into bird friendly copses or hedges. In the wild this expansion rarely happens if deer pressure is even moderate, since our ungulate friends trim the stems before they can hit the ground and cut the new sprouts before they can become established.

Perhaps the most striking feature of this plant is its very rapid growth: it is one of the fastest growing native shrubs in our area and will easily double in height in a single season. Consequently, it very quickly provides valuable cover for birds and can rapidly become a bird friendly thicket if planted in mass, making it a very gratifying plant to grow. Deer love the taste of the leaves, but the plant can outgrow modest browsing. Under heavy pressure, however, it would be best to fence the plants when they are young and vulnerable. They will reach six feet in height rapidly, at which point you can remove the fence if you can tolerate the vase-like habit that the combination of deer browsing and rapid top growth will produce. Continuous protection (or a larger mass planting where the central plants remain untouched) will



*Song Sparrow in silky dogwood near the Johnson Center in Sapsucker Woods.*

preserve a roundish shape that provides more bird cover. In addition to cover, the plant provides sugar-laden fruit after a few years of age. In short, this is not a showy plant, although I find the fruit very attractive. The real importance of this plant is as a wildlife hedge.

Culture is relatively easy. Silky dogwood will grow well in moist clay or loam, in partial shade or full sun. Plants can be established in the spring or fall (when there is plenty of natural moisture to help establish a root system). Silky dogwood shines at woodland edges and in wildlife hedges of mixed shrub species. There are nice specimens in the Mundy Wildflower Garden near the stream just beyond the Caldwell Road entrance for your inspection. Chances are that by the time you read this, however, the diagnostic blue fruit will be consumed by birds already—a good testament to the value of this plant for birds and other wildlife. 🐦



*Silky dogwood berries in Sapsucker Woods.*

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW

If you have not renewed your membership in the Cayuga Bird Club, please send in this form with your dues today. Dues remain at \$10 per household (although this may change at the October meeting).

If your label is on the reverse side of this page and the address is correct, check here \_\_\_\_\_, indicate below which type of newsletter you would like to receive and the amount of money enclosed, and mail this page along with a check made out to "Cayuga Bird Club."

If there is no address label or if your address has changed, fill out the form below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Select newsletter format: paper (b & w) \_\_\_\_\_ electronic (color pdf sent by email) \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL TO:

Cayuga Bird Club Treasurer  
c/o Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

## GEORGE ARCHIBALD WINS FIRST INDIANAPOLIS PRIZE

George Archibald is the recipient of the \$100,000 Indianapolis Prize, an initiative of the Indianapolis Zoo and the largest international monetary award given to an individual for conservation of an animal species. The future of many crane species was once as fragile as these delicate and graceful birds themselves. But George's visionary leadership in international conservation efforts for more than 30 years has given flight to the hope for preserving cranes worldwide. Co-founder of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, George has used his charisma, diplomacy, and ability to mobilize and motivate others to conserve migratory birds by preserving wetland and grassland ecosystems across five continents.

George has pioneered several techniques to rear cranes in human care, including having human

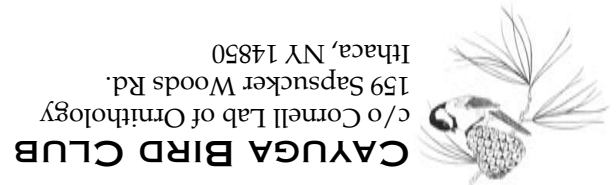
handlers wear crane costumes to avoid human imprinting and using ultra-light aircraft to lead cranes on migration. Archibald is also known for having entered some of the world's most hostile territories, including Afghanistan, Cuba, Russia, and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea, to protect the watersheds and grasslands where cranes live and to help increase migratory flight paths.

The Indianapolis Prize is given every other year to an individual who has made significant strides in conservation efforts involving an animal species or multiple animal species. Visit <[indianapolisprize.org](http://indianapolisprize.org)> to learn more about George Archibald and about the Indianapolis Prize. 🐦

September brought migrating warblers  
through Ithaca, including this Palm Warbler  
at Stewart Park on September 14, 2006.



David Ruppert



**NEXT MEETING  
OCTOBER 9**

**RICHARD MARX,  
FEATURED SPEAKER**

**“PURPLE MARTINS: HISTORY, LIVES,  
HOUSING, AND MORE”**

**SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- TENTH ANNUAL MONTEZUMA MUCKRACE
- CAYUGA BIRD CLUB TREASURER’S REPORT
- EVENTS CALENDAR
- SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES
- NATIVE PLANTS FOR NATIVE BIRDS:  
*CORNUS AMONUM* (SILKY DOGWOOD)
- DON’T FORGET TO RENEW