

# Bird Garden

Surrounding the Birding Kiosk is a small demonstration garden of native plants that provide food and shelter for birds.

## PLANT LIST

### TREES

Picea glauca	White Spruce
Amelanchier lamarckii	Serviceberry
Alnus rugosa	Alder
Tsuga canadensis	Canadian Hemlock
Sorbus americana	Mountain Ash
Corylus americana	American Filbert
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras
Betula nigra	River Birch
Crateagus phaenopyrum	Washington Hawthorn
Prunus serotina	Black Cherry

### SHRUBS

Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	Coralberry
Aronia arbutifolia	Red chokeberry
Spiraea alba	Meadowsweet
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush
Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac
Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry
Cornus amomum	Silky Dogwood
Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry Holly
Rosa palustris	Swamp Rose
Myrica pennsylvanica	Northern Bayberry

### VINES

Campsis radicans	Trumpet Vine
Celastrus scandens	American Bittersweet

### GRASSES

Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed
Andropogon gerardii	Big Bluestem
Panicum virgatum	'Shenandoah Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum	'Heavy Metal' Switchgrass

### PERENNIALS

Heliopsis helianthoides	Oxeye Sunflower
Silphium integrifolium	Cup Plant
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed
Rudbeckia laciniata	Cutleaf Coneflower
Echinacea angustifolia	Narrowleaf Coneflower

Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed
Liatris spicata	Blazing Star
Eupatorium purpureum	Joe Pye
Helianthus sp.	Sunflower
Solidago rigida	Goldenrod
Agastache foeniculum	Anise Hyssop
Echinacea angustifolia	Narrowleaf Coneflower
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot
Rudbeckia hirta	Blackeyed Susan
Rudbeckia fulgida	Goldsturm Blackeyed Susan
Miscanthus	Gracillimus Maiden Grass
Chasmanthium latifolium	Northern Sea Oats
Salix discolor	Pussy Willow
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower
Rudbeckia maxima	Giant Coneflower
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower

In your travels around Cass Park, notice that long grass meadows are being allowed to grow around the bird garden and elsewhere along the trail. Letting these attractive long grasses grow will not only enhance the habitat for birds and butterflies, but also reduce mowing expenses and greenhouse gas emissions.

Check out these resources more information on birding and bird gardening:

•*Native Plants for Native Birds: A Guide to Planting for Birds In and Around Ithaca New York* by Joel Baines

•*The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small* by Stephen W. Kress

•*Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* by Douglas W. Tallamy

•Cornell Lab of Ornithology website <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/> and their Spring Field Ornithology course <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/sfo>

The Birding Garden and Kiosk are a project of the Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative, a partnership of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Ithaca. To learn more visit [www.cayugawaterfronttrail.com](http://www.cayugawaterfronttrail.com), email [info@cayugawaterfronttrail.com](mailto:info@cayugawaterfronttrail.com), or call the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce at 607-273-7080.



## CASS PARK TRAIL BIRD GARDEN & KIOSK



# Birding Kiosk Panels

## Fair Weather Friends

These birds visit us in spring and summer to breed, but they winter further south, some spending more than half the year in the tropics.

**KILLDEER** Killdeer are large birds with long legs and a long neck. They are often found in open areas and are known for their distinctive long-leaping ability. The parents call and fly in a series of wing to direct parental attention. Killdeer can run very fast after hatching. Killdeer are in season from May to June.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD** The eastern kingbird is a small bird with a black cap and a white body. It is known for its distinctive call, a series of chirps that sound like "king-bird, king-bird." The parents call and fly in a series of wing to direct parental attention. Killdeer can run very fast after hatching. Killdeer are in season from May to June.

**GRAY CATBIRD** Gray catbirds are named for the whistling note. They sing in a series of nearly identical notes. Killdeer can run very fast after hatching. Killdeer are in season from May to June.

**HOUSE WREN** House wrens are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**ROCK-BREASTED GROUSE** Rock-breasted grouse are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**YELLOW WARBLER** Yellow warblers are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** Baltimore Orioles are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** Common yellowthroats are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**COMMON GRACKLE** Common grackles are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** Brown-headed cowbirds don't have their own young. Females will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**WOOD THRUSH** Wood thrushes are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**WARBLING VIREO** Warbling vireos are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**AMERICAN ROBIN** American robins are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**NORTHERN FLICKER** Northern flickers are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** Chipping sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**TREE SWALLOW** Tree swallows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**BARN SWALLOW** Barn swallows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**GREAT BLUE HERON** Great blue herons are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** American redstarts are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** Double-crested cormorants are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**SING SPARROW** Sing sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

## Just Passing Through

These birds can be found at Cass Park during some part of the year but mainly as migrants instead of breeders. When and how long to expect them varies greatly by species.

**CASPIAN TERNS** Gull-sized Caspian terns visit the north end of Cayuga Lake in late summer during their northward migration. They also fly for fish and rest on the beach during the day. When they fly they are noisy, but you may hear an adult wing empty towards a rock to which they fly to begin to form a young pair.

**OSPREY** Osprey hunt over water along the lake from July to fall, and their nest is in a tree. Osprey populations were decimated by pesticides in the 1950s and 60s, recovering through the 1970s. Several pairs nested at the north end of Cayuga Lake, including huge white nests they prime on rocks. Migration is in Cayuga Lake. Sometimes they are seen over the water.

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** Ruby-crowned kinglets are small birds with a red patch on their forehead. They are known for their distinctive call, a series of chirps that sound like "king-bird, king-bird." The parents call and fly in a series of wing to direct parental attention. Killdeer can run very fast after hatching. Killdeer are in season from May to June.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** Common nighthawks are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**CEDAR WAXWING** Cedar waxwings are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**BLUE GRAY Gnatcatcher** Blue gray gnatcatchers are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** White-crowned sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**FIELD SPARROWS** Field sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** White-throated sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS** American tree sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** Double-crested cormorants are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** American redstarts are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**SING SPARROW** Sing sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

## Permanent Residents

These birds include some species that nest in Cass Park and some that nest nearby and commute daily to or through the park.

**COMMON MERGANSER** Common mergansers are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**EUROPEAN STARNING** European starnings are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**AMERICAN CROWS** American crows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE** Black-capped chickadees are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** Red-bellied woodpeckers are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**MOURNING DOVES** Mourning doves are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**BLUE JAYS** Blue jays are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRDS** Eastern bluebirds are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**HOUSE SPARROWS** House sparrows are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**CAROLINA WREN** Carolina wrens are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**NORTHERN CARDINALS** Northern cardinals are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**HOUSE FINCHES** House finches are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**ROCK PIGEONS** Rock pigeons are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTCRACKERS** White-breasted nuthatches are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**MALLARD DUCKS** Mallard ducks are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS** Northern mockingbirds are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

**DOWNY WOODPECKERS** Downy woodpeckers are in late fall with lots of chattering song in bushes and the edge of woods. Males will often sing and will have throughout their territories, and females become silent as the nest is built.

This birding kiosk illustrates the birds that trail users can see from the Cass Park Trail. The research team included the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Steve Kress, and Dave Nutter.

A 4th panel tells the story of bird migration for selected species breed in or pass through the park. Visit [www.cayugawaterfronttrail.com](http://www.cayugawaterfronttrail.com) to see this panel and the panels shown here.

The bird illustrations were drawn by Evan Barbour, the panels were designed by Iron Design and the kiosk fabricated locally by Accufab. This project was funded by the Triad Foundation.