

"*Urban Ornithology* is a phenomenal compendium that combines over a century of both birding and ornithological study, resulting in an incredibly detailed look at a region steeped in bird lore. We need more studies like it!"

—GEOFFREY LEBARON, Christmas Bird Count Director,
National Audubon Society

"*Urban Ornithology*'s rich historic and current information on New York City's birdlife makes it essential and fascinating reading for all metropolitan naturalists. The Bronx remains a birding hotspot, and Van Cortlandt Park, at its core, with smart management could become the premier urban wildlife park in the United States."

—ROGER PASQUIER, author of *Watching Birds and Painting Central Park*

URBAN ORNITHOLOGY IS THE FIRST QUANTITATIVE HISTORICAL ANALYSIS of any New York City natural area's birdlife and spans the century and a half from 1872 to 2016. Only Manhattan's Central and Brooklyn's Prospect Parks have preliminary species lists, not revised since 1967, and the last book examining the birdlife of the entire New York City area is now more than fifty years old.

This book updates the avifaunas of those two parks, the Bronx, and other New York City boroughs. It treats the 301 bird species known to have occurred within its study area—Van Cortlandt Park and the adjacent Northwest Bronx—plus 70 potential additions. Its 123 breeding species are tracked from 1872 and supplemented by quantitative breeding bird censuses from 1937 to 2015. Gains and losses of breeding species are discussed in light of an expanding New York City inexorably extinguishing unique habitats.

P. A. BUCKLEY, a Riverdale native, is Senior Scientist Emeritus at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. **WALTER SEDWITZ** was a Bronx resident whose favorite field-work site was Jerome Reservoir. **WILLIAM J. NORSE** studied birds throughout the Bronx and compiled its Christmas Bird Counts. **JOHN KIERAN** was Bronx-born and a sports writer for the *New York Times*. Fervent students of New York City-area birdlife, the four have been writing extensively about it since the 1930s.

Cover photo: Adult male Least Bittern, longtime Van Cortlandt Swamp poster bird. Image courtesy of Arthur Morris/BIRDSASART-Blog.com.

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