

Watchable Wildlife



Animals at Salt Point

Listed below are just some of the many animals you can see on Salt Point if you are quiet and in the right place at the correct time. If you find species that are not listed here, *please* send your name, a photo of the animal you saw, the date, and the location to: <http://www.lansingrec.com/parks/salt-point>. *Thank you!*

Fish in Cayuga Lake and Salmon Creek

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation currently list 49 fish species present in Cayuga Lake and the mouth of Salmon Creek at Salt Point. Nine species have been introduced: Atlantic salmon, brown trout, rainbow trout, alewife, rainbow smelt, sea lamprey, common carp, grass carp, and goldfish.

Lampreys

- *Petromyzon marinus* sea lamprey

Sturgeons

- *Acipenser fulvescens* lake sturgeon

Gars

- *Lepisosteus osseus* longnose gar

Bowfin

- *Amia calva* bowfin

Freshwater Eels

- *Anguilla rostrata* american eel

Herrings, Sardines, Shads

- *Alosa pseudoharengus* alewife
- *Dorosoma cepedianum* gizzard shad

Croakers and Drums

- *Aplodinotus grunniens* freshwater drum

Carps and Minnows

- *Carassius auratus* goldfish
- *Ctenopharyngodon idella* grass carp (sterile triploid)
- *Cyprinella analostanus* satinfin shiner
- *Cyprinus carpio* common carp
- *Notemigonus crysoleucas* golden shiner
- *Notropis hudsonius* spottail shiner
- *Rhinichthys atratulus* blacknose dace
- *Rhinichthys cataractae* longnose dace
- *Semotilus atromaculatus* creek chub
- *Semotilus corporalis* fallfish

Suckers

- *Catostomus commersoni* white sucker
- *Hypentelium nigricans* northern hog sucker
- *Moxostoma* sp. Redhorse

Bullhead and Freshwater Catfish

- *Ameiurus nebulosus* brown bullhead
- *Ictalurus punctatus* channel catfish
- *Noturus flavus* stonecat

Pickerels and Pikes

- *Esox lucius* northern pike
- *Esox niger* chain pickerel

Smelts

- *Osmerus mordax* rainbow smelt

Salmons and Trouts

- *Coregonus artedii* cisco
- *Coregonus clupeaformis* lake whitefish
- *Oncorhynchus mykiss* rainbow trout
- *Salmo salar* Atlantic salmon
- *Salmo trutta* brown trout
- *Salvelinus namaycush* lake trout

Trout-Perches

- *Percopsis omiscomaycus* troutperch

Sticklebacks

- *Culaea inconstans* brook stickleback

Sculpins

- *Cottus cognatus* slimy sculpin

Temperate Basses

- *Morone americana* white perch
- *Morone chrysops* white bass

Sunfishes

- *Ambloplites rupestris* rock bass
- *Lepomis gibbosus* pumpkinseed
- *Lepomis macrochirus* bluegill
- *Micropterus dolomieu* smallmouth bass
- *Micropterus salmoides* largemouth bass
- *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* black crappie
- *Pomoxis annularis* white crappie

Perches and True Perches

- *Etheostoma olmstedii* tessellated darter
- *Perca flavescens* yellow perch
- *Percina caprodes* logperch
- *Stizostedion vitreum* walleye

Sources: Chiotti, 1980. *Cayuga Lake Watershed Preliminary Watershed Characterization*, Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, 2000. Fishbase.org. Animal Diversity Web

A Note on Trout Fisheries

Salmon Creek, located in Cayuga and Tompkins counties, is a major tributary of Cayuga Lake. It originates in Scirpio Center, Cayuga County, and meanders for approximately 25 miles to Cayuga Lake between Salt Point and Myers Park. Salmon Creek is a popular trout fishing destination as it typically is heavily stocked and receives a good run of rainbow trout.

Every spring, Cayuga Lake is stocked with approximately 60,000 lake trout, 25,000 brown trout, and 40,000 landlocked salmon with 50,000 rainbow trout put in its tributaries, such as Salmon Creek. These rainbow trout will spend a year or two in the stream and imprint on it before migrating to the lake. The trout mature in the lake for 1-3 years before returning to the streams where they were stocked to spawn. Cayuga Lake serves an important role as a brood stock lake for lake trout and the Finger Lakes strain rainbow trout. Eggs are collected from adult lake trout in the fall and from rainbow trout in the spring. The eggs are then hatched at the NYSDEC Bath Fish Hatchery and there fish are used for stocking.

Sea Lamprey Control

The Sea Lamprey is a parasitic fish that attaches to its host fish and feeds off its body fluids. Many game fish are found with lamprey scars as the lamprey often

detaches before killing its host. Sea lamprey control in Cayuga Lake is done by means of barrier control at the Cayuga Inlet Fishway. Adult lampreys are stopped on their way up Cayuga Inlet during their spring spawning run, thus preventing them from spawning.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Salamanders

Common Mudpuppy *Necturus maculosus*

Toads

Eastern American Toad *Bufo a. americanus*

Frogs

Northern Spring Peeper *Pseudacris c. crucifer*

Bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana*

Snakes

Common Garter Snake *Thamnophis sirtalis*

Northern Water Snake *Nerodia sipedon*

Marsupials

Virginia Opossum

Mammals

Large Mammals

Eastern Coyote

Red Fox

White-tailed Deer

Small Mammals

Muskrat

Raccoon

Striped Skunk

Eastern Cottontail

Beaver

Mink

Otter

Rodents

Eastern Chipmunk

Woodchuck

Eastern Gray Squirrel

Red Squirrel

Meadow Vole Eastern Mole

White-footed Mouse

Flying Mammals

Little Brown Bat

Fisheries data and *Watchable Wildlife* logo courtesy of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. All other data based on personal sightings.