

Hawthorn Orchard

Proposed UNA-193 Documentation

Old site code: none

Location: Town of Ithaca and City of Ithaca

USGS Quad.: East Ithaca 7.5'

Tax parcel numbers:

503089-60.-1-1, 503089-60.-1-5, 503089-60.-1-2, 503089-60.-1-4.22, 503089-60.-1-7, 503089-60.-1-18, 503089-60.-1-6, 500700-85.-6-14.2, 500700-86.-2-1, 503089-59.-2-18, 503089-59.-2-19, 503089-59.-2-24, 500700-86.-2-2, 503089-59.-2-25.2, 503089-59.-2-25.1, 500700-85.-6-14.1, 503089-60.-1-37, 503089-60.-1-19

Lat-Long: 76°28'8.17"W 42°26'3.71"N

Reasons for Selection

- Birding site
- Cultural site
- Designated natural area/preserve
- Diverse fauna
- Important teaching site
- Rare or scarce animal
- Recreational value
- Urban green space
- Scenic/Aesthetic value (views)

Special land use information

- The Tompkins County Greenway Coalition has identified a biological corridor that includes this site.
- The Tompkins County Greenway Coalition has identified a multi-use trail on this site.

Wetland resources

- A stream runs through this site
- All or some of a lake or pond is on this site

Conservation of the Site

- Site is a Cornell Natural Area

Location

The Hawthorn Orchard natural areas are south of Mitchell Street and west of Pine Tree Road, near the Cornell tennis and equestrian centers. The best access is via the East Ithaca Recreation Way, which runs between Honness Lane and Mitchell Street. This wide path follows the old railroad right-of-way and is usable year-round, and in all weather. There are parking areas off Mitchell Street.

Site and Vegetation Description

These parcels are good examples of abandoned agricultural land, much of which was used relatively recently for pasture. The thicket is dominated by thorny shrubs and small trees. It has an understory of grasses and forbs. Hawthorns (*Crataegus*) and European buckthorn are the dominant species, but alder-leaved buckthorn, honeysuckles, multiflora rose, and privets are also abundant. Scattered trees, including box elder, white ash, bird cherry (*Prunus avium*), white pine, bitternut hickory, and red oak are emerging through the canopy of tall shrubs. The herb layer has a weedy component and includes moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), willow-herb (*Epilobium coloratum*), forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), grasses (*Poa*), and self-heal.

In early spring, when the hawthorns are in bloom, the area attracts an unusually high assemblage of migratory songbirds, including 35+ species of warblers (Blue-winged Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Lawrence's Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American

Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler). More than 100 species of birds have been observed at this site, including other important passerines, such as hermit and wood thrushes, scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, orchard and Baltimore orioles, and rose-breasted grosbeaks.

A small meadow west of the recreation way has been mowed regularly and is dominated by hay grasses (*Phleum pratense* and *Festuca elatior*). Forbs include white bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*), tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), self-heal, wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), field garlic (*Allium vineale*), plantains (*Plantago*), chickory (*Cichorium intybus*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

Behind the Reis Tennis Center, a small section section of grassland grows beneath scattered white oak and shagbark, pignut and red hickory (*Carya ovalis*) trees. It resembles an oak opening. The hay meadow north of Honness Lane has a wonderful open view down the Six Mile Creek valley. This field has been used for bird studies for many years, especially studies of meadow-loving species such as bluebird and goldfinch.

The area near the small creek that runs parallel to Mitchell Street is a mix of meadow species, with trees and shrubs becoming increasingly dominant. Here rough goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*) and tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*) are the dominant species.

Physical Characterisitics of the site

- Size: 50.13 acres
- Elevation:800-920 feet
- Aspect: Primarily south and west
- Topographic features: Mid-upper slope, with a gentle gradient to the southwest
- Geological Features: Groundwater discharge in springs, generally laminated lacustrine silt and clay, deposited from proglacial lakes, generally calcareous, low permeability
- Slope %: Gently sloping 2-40%
- Topographic position: Upper slope, mid-slope

Soils Present on the Site

Code--new	Name	Hydric rating	Drainage	Erodibility
Ab	Alluvial land	Partially hydric	Very well- to very poorly-drained	Non-highly erodible
ArB	Arkport fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not hydric	Well drained	Moderately erodible
BtF	Bath, Valois, and Lansing soils, 35 to 60 percent slopes	Not hydric	Somewhat poorly drained	Highly erodible
HsB	Hudson silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not hydric	Moderately well drained	Moderately erodible
HsC3	Hudson silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not hydric	Moderately well drained	Moderately erodible
HsD3	Hudson silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not hydric	Moderately well drained	Highly erodible
Mc	Made land	Not hydric	Well drained	Potentially Highly Erodible Land
OaA	Ovid silt loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not hydric	Somewhat poorly drained	Highly erodible
RkB	Rhinebeck silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not hydric	Poorly drained	Erodible
RnC3	Rhinebeck silty clay	Not hydric	Moderately well	Potentially Highly

	loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded		drained	Erodible Land
Ua	Unsurveyed area	Unknown	Well drained	

Biological Characteristics of the Site:

General Cover Types:

- Wet meadow
- Wetland shrub thicket
- Old fields
- Upland shrub thicket
- Upland forest

Ecological Communities:

Pastureland G5 S5 L4

Agricultural land permanently maintained as, or recently abandoned from, use as pasture. Permanent or semi-permanent sod is present. Dominants are forage grasses and legumes, usually some combination of timothy, orchard grass, smooth brome, alfalfa, bird-foot-trefoil, and clovers.

Cropland (Ostman and Wesley) G5 S5 L4

49a. Cropland/ field crops

An agricultural field planted in field crops such as alfalfa, wheat, timothy, and oats. This community includes hayfields that are rotated to pasture.

49b. Cropland/ row crops

An agricultural community planted in row crops such as corn, potatoes, and soybeans.

Successional old field G4 S4 L4

A meadow on sites cleared, plowed, and then abandoned. The ragweed type occurs on fields 1 to 3 years after last cultivation; ragweed, daisy, Queen Anne's lace, crab grass, golden foxtail, and chickweed are common. The golden rod subtype occurs 3 - 15 years after last cultivation. Dominant species are perennial composites: goldenrods and asters. Other herbs include timothy, orchard grass, smooth brome, bluegrasses, quackgrass, sweet vernal grass, evening primrose, old-field cinquefoil, wild strawberry, and hawkweeds. Shrubs represent less than 50% cover but include gray and silky dogwoods, arrowwood, raspberries, sumac, and eastern red cedar.

Successional shrubland G4 S4 L4

A shrubland with at least 50% cover of shrubs that occurs on agricultural fields 10 - 25 years after abandonment, following other disturbance, and especially on sites with restricted drainage. Characteristic shrubs include gray dogwood, raspberries, hawthorn, serviceberries, chokecherry, sumac, nannyberry, arrowwood and buckthorn. Herbs are of those of old-fields. Seedlings of white pine, red maple and white ash are usually present.

Successional northern hardwoods G5 S5 L4

A forest that occurs on sites that have been cleared or otherwise disturbed. Dominant trees are usually two or more of the following; red maple, white pine, white ash, gray birch, quaking aspen, big-tooth aspen, and, less frequently, sugar maple. Tree seedling and saplings may be of more shade tolerant species. Shrubs and ground cover species may be those of old-fields. In abandoned pasturelands apples and hawthorns may be present in the understory.

Appalachian oak -hickory forest G4G5 S4 L4

A hardwood forest that occurs on well-drained sites, usually on flat hilltops, upper slopes, or south and west facing slopes. Dominant trees include one or more of red oak, white oak, and black oak. Mixed with oaks, are one or more of pignut, shagbark, and sweet pignut hickory. Common associates are white ash, red maple, and hop hornbeam. Small trees include flowering dogwood, witch hazel, shadbush, and choke cherry. Shrubs and groundlayer flora are diverse. Shrubs include maple-leaf viburnum, blueberries, red raspberry, gray dogwood, and beaked hazelnut.

Appendix

Bird inventory, Hawthorn Orchard

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>NYS trend</i>	<i>Allegany Plateau trend</i>
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common Loon		
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant		
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron		
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green Heron		
<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Snow Goose		
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose		
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck		
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	American Black Duck		
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard		
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture		
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey		
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle		
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier		
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk		
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered Hawk		
<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Broad-winged Hawk		
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk		
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk		
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle		
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin		
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ring-necked Pheasant	-4.2779	-3.8888
<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Ruffed Grouse		
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Wild Turkey	11.1803	5.0504
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Northern Bobwhite		
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer		
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe		
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	American Woodcock		
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Ring-billed Gull		
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull		
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull		
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove		1.6703
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove		
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo		-2.4974
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-billed Cuckoo		
<i>Otus asio</i>	Eastern Screech-Owl		
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Great Horned Owl		-3.9379
<i>Strix varia</i>	Barred Owl		
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl		

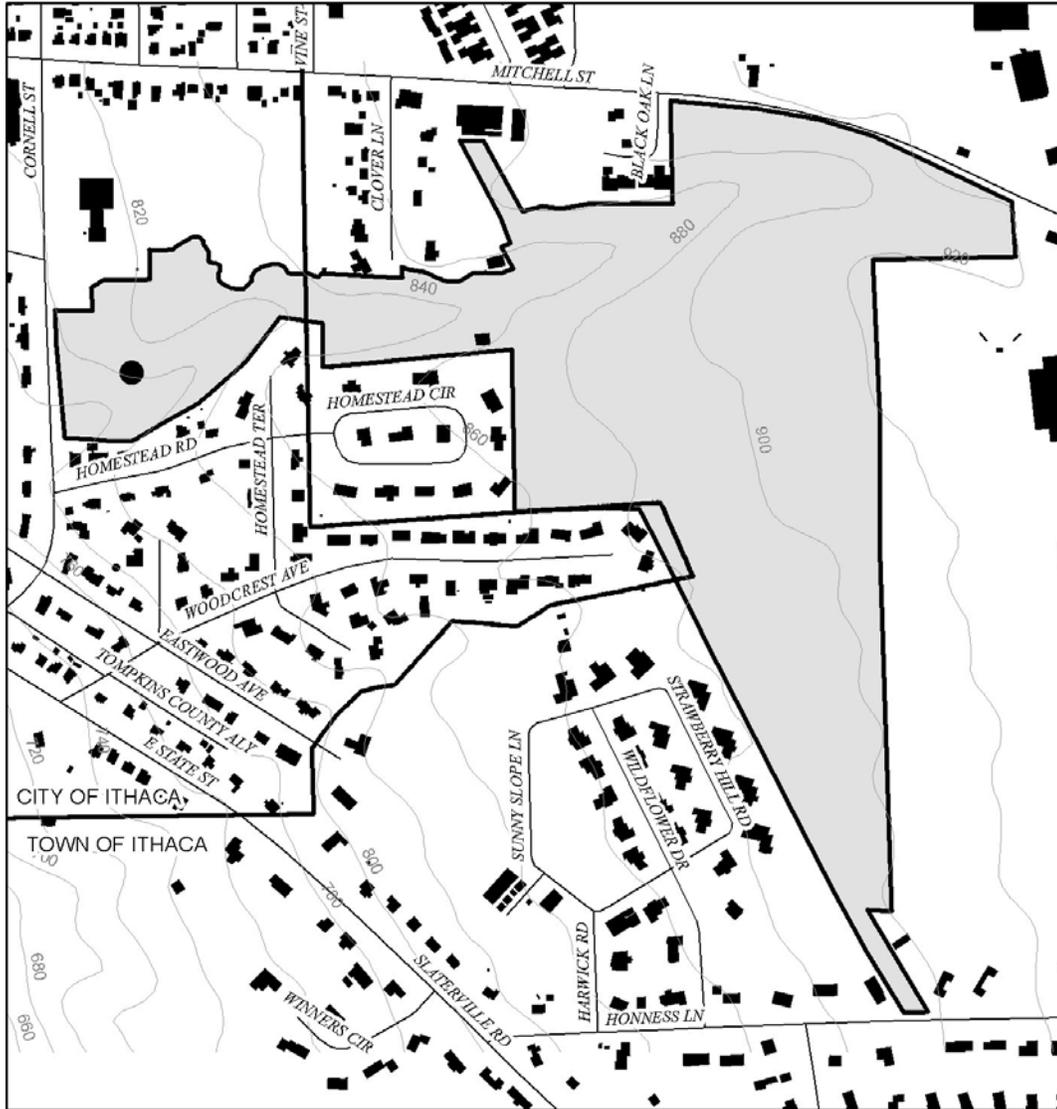
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl		
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Northern Saw-whet Owl		
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk		
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Chimney Swift	-1.7595	-1.2324
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3.4306	3.3672
<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher		
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-headed Woodpecker		
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-bellied Woodpecker	10.3359	8.4338
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker	-0.8570	-1.4496
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker		
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker		
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker	4.2025	2.8059
<i>Contopus borealis</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher	-6.2404	
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-Pewee	-1.8103	-2.6446
<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher		1.1268
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher		1.1268
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher	-1.5559	-1.3274
<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Eastern Phoebe		
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great Crested Flycatcher		
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird	-1.1473	-1.1172
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark		
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple Martin		
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow		
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow		
<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow		
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow		-0.8752
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay		
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow		
<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	Fish Crow		
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	11.8677	4.7842
<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee	2.2655	1.7990
<i>Parus bicolor</i>	Tufted Titmouse		3.5557
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch		
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper		
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina Wren	11.4033	
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren		
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren		
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		

<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Eastern Bluebird		
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Veery	-1.0443	
<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Gray-cheeked Thrush		
<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Swainson's Thrush		
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush		
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush	-2.0337	-2.5317
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin		
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird		
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird	3.8897	
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Brown Thrasher		
<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	American Pipit		
<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Bohemian Waxwing		
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing		
<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Northern Shrike		
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling		
<i>Vireo griseus</i>	White-eyed Vireo		
<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Blue-headed Vireo	3.2570	3.2874
<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Yellow-throated Vireo		
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Warbling Vireo	1.6891	1.9388
<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Philadelphia Vireo		
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Red-eyed Vireo	1.9864	1.0721
<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Blue-winged Warbler		
<i>V. pinus x V. chrysoptera</i>	Brewster's Warbler		
<i>V. pinus x V. chrysoptera</i>	Lawrence's Warbler		
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler	-4.9199	-4.3437
<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Tennessee Warbler		
<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Orange-crowned Warbler		
<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Nashville Warbler		-1.7870
<i>Parula americana</i>	Northern Parula		
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler		
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Chestnut-sided Warbler	-0.8259	
<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Magnolia Warbler	2.2784	2.6853
<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	Cape May Warbler		
<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Black-throated Blue Warbler		
<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler		
<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Black-throated Green Warbler		
<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Blackburnian Warbler		
<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Pine Warbler		
<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie Warbler	2.0113	
<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	Palm Warbler		
<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Bay-breasted Warbler		
<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Blackpoll Warbler		

<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		-1.9013
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler	-1.6605	-1.8507
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American Redstart	-1.3327	
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Prothonotary Warbler		
<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	Worm-eating Warbler		-2.1586
<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Ovenbird	2.3789	2.4658
<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Northern Waterthrush	2.3357	
<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	Louisiana Waterthrush		
<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	Kentucky Warbler		
<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	Connecticut Warbler		
<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Mourning Warbler	1.5673	
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat		
<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	Hooded Warbler		1.5733
<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Wilson's Warbler		
<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Canada Warbler	-4.5272	-2.1169
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-breasted Chat		-2.7281
<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Summer Tanager		
<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Scarlet Tanager	-1.6049	-1.3539
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal	2.6047	
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-1.0150	
<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>	Blue Grosbeak		
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Indigo Bunting		
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel		
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Eastern Towhee		
<i>Spizella arborea</i>	American Tree Sparrow		
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow	-0.4767	-1.0542
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow		
<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow		
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah Sparrow		
<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Fox Sparrow		
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow		
<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Lincoln's Sparrow		
<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Swamp Sparrow		
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-throated Sparrow		
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow		
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco		
<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Lapland Longspur		
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Snow Bunting		
<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Bobolink		
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird		
<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark		
<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Rusty Blackbird		
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle		
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird		

<i>Icterus spurius</i>	Orchard Oriole		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole	-0.8366	
<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	Pine Grosbeak		
<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Purple Finch		
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House Finch		
<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Red Crossbill		
<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	White-winged Crossbill		
<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Common Redpoll		
<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	Hoary Redpoll		
<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Pine Siskin		
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American Goldfinch		
<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Evening Grosbeak		
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	-1.8493	-2.2203
	<i>Total:</i>		184
	<i>Total sp. seen IN Orchard:</i>	(Bolded Numbers):	101

Site map:



UNA-193 Hawthorn Orchard

Town and City of Ithaca

Tompkins County Environmental Management County
Inventory of Unique Natural Areas in Tompkins County

Map updated: September 2012

UNA boundaries were delineated by field biologists based on a review of air photographs, digital GIS basemap data (roads, building footprints, 20-foot contours and streams) and field visits. UNA boundaries are approximate and should be used for general planning purposes only. As a practical matter the County does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information portrayed. The end user of this map agrees to accept the data "as is" with full knowledge that errors and omissions may exist, and to hold harmless the County for any damages that may result from an inappropriate use of this map.

-  20 Foot Contour
-  Building Footprint
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Unique Natural Area UNA-193

