

## DON'T BE SALTY, NY!

In a new public awareness campaign called “Don’t Be Salty, New York!”, the NYSDEC is encouraging New Yorkers to minimize rock salt use to help reduce pollution of waterways and drinking water supplies. According to DEC commissioner Amanda Lefton, “**It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water.**”

One of the products Lamont uses is **calcium magnesium acetate**, which is considered a better choice than rock salt, as it is:

- **Low corrosion:** safer for concrete, metals, and infrastructure (such as bridges and vehicles)
- **Ecologically safer:** biodegradable; no harm to vegetation and soil; low aquatic toxicity; no chlorides to build up in groundwater and soils

## SNAPSHOTNY UPDATE

LEISC installed a trail camera on Campus as part of [SnapshotNY](#), a Cornell University/NYSDEC effort to monitor animals (mostly mammals) of NY. To date, LEISC has submitted over 400 images to the program for image processing. Images are run through a series of convolutional neural networks (CCN) to eventually identify and label species.



Some of our four-legged Lamonters. Left: A fluffy red fox dashes through the snow. Right: A snowy-muzzled white-tailed deer checks out the camera.

## BIRD-FRIENDLY MAPLE PROGRAM: Look for the Scarlet Tanager!

Pretty soon the sap will start running in the maple trees on the Lamont Campus!

The second largest maple-producing state (Vermont is first), New York has started a bird-friendly maple syrup program. Initiated with Audubon Vermont (naturally!) in 2014, the Audubon Bird-Friendly Maple Program supports producers who are committed to managing their sugarbush (a forest stand from which sap is harvested to produce maple syrup) in ways that benefit nesting and migratory birds.

The majority of Eastern forest-dependent birds – whose populations have dropped by [over 25 percent](#) in the last 50 years - inhabit privately owned land. Maple producers, large and small, voluntarily enroll in the program, and agree to implement practices to improve habitat for birds and overall forest health.

These practices earn Audubon’s public recognition and a coveted Scarlet Tanager seal of approval! You can find a list of producers [here](#). Don’t forget to pair your pancakes with a cup of [bird-friendly coffee](#)!

