



# Rochester Birding Association

## 2021 Field Trips

(As of November 23, 2020)

**Please note: Leaders and trip details are subject to change. Please check the most recent issue of the *Little Gull*, the online schedule at <https://rochesterbirding.org/>, or the Rochester Birding Association Facebook Events page for updated information prior to departure! Trips run approximately 2 to 4 hours! Bring binoculars. All field trips will go rain/snow or shine unless there is a travel advisory issued. Online registration <https://rochesterbirding.org/> for each trip is required and opens 7 days before the trip date. Until COVID restrictions are lifted, participants are required to wear masks. When COVID guidelines allow, if at all possible, PLEASE CARPOOL!**

- JAN 1**  
Friday  
**IRONDEQUOIT BAY OUTLET and DURAND-EASTMAN PARK – YEAR LIST JUMP-START**  
Get started on your annual list! We'll look for winter waterfowl on the Bay, then move to Durand-Eastman Park where we will stroll Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road looking for finches, waxwings, and resident birds. This trip is mostly on paved roads. No restrooms available. **New rendezvous location:** Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the large parking lot at Sandbar Park. It's about 0.6 miles east of the outlet bridge on the north side of Lake Road (across from the Bay Side Pub at 279 Lake Road). **Dress warmly! Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leaders:** *Norma Platt and John Boettcher 585-671-9639*
- Jan 9**  
Saturday  
**WEBSTER PARK-CAMPGROUND AREA**  
In mature forest and scrubby areas we'll look for overwintering resident birds, lingering migrants such as Hermit Thrush and special winter visitors such as Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged and Red Crossbills and Bohemian Waxwings. This is a flat walk. Dress warmly as we may be outside for 2-3 hours, although you are free to leave at any time. Wear boots with good traction. No rest rooms available. Trip length will depend upon trail and weather conditions. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on the south side of Lake Road across from Kanatota Lodge.  
**Leaders:** *Pat Martin 585-301-5485 and Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*
- JANUARY 16–24 (with January 17, 2021 as the target date)** is the time for the **NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT** organized by the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. *Bob Spahn (585-671-5690)* coordinates several local teams and would be pleased if other birders would join up. Go to <https://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm> for more information.
- Jan 16**  
Saturday  
***BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP* -- MENDON PONDS PARK SONGBIRD TRAIL**  
This trip will be a leisurely winter walk along rolling trails (approx. 1-1/2 miles) featuring some very close looks at our winter passerines! Bring your binoculars, some sunflower seeds, and your camera! This is a family-friendly field trip. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the visitor center on Pond Road near Clover Street. Restroom available at the visitor center.  
**Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*
- Jan 23**  
Saturday  
**AVON AND LIMA RURAL TOUR**  
We'll search the Nations Road area, looking for Northern Shrikes, hawks, Snow Buntings, and other birds of the fields and farmland in winter. We'll be mostly driving, with frequent stops along the road. If COVID-19 guidelines allow, please **carpool!** Meet at **2:00 p.m.** at Tops Plaza (restroom) in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, two miles west of I-390. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leaders:** *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754*
- Jan 31**  
Sunday  
**LAKESHORE PLAINS WEST**  
A driving tour of the farm fields and open lands to the west of Rochester, this trip will search for Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Northern Shrikes, and hawks in the plains and country roads of western Monroe and Orleans Counties. If the weather cooperates, we may venture as far as Golden Hill State Park for a look at the lake and a short walk. **Dress warmly** in layers; bring a snack and a thermos filled with cocoa. We will drive along backcountry roads for a few hours, stopping where we see bird activity. Barring the possible walk at Golden Hill, this trip should be handicapped-accessible. No restrooms available. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the



Braddock Bay Park main parking lot. Use the East Manitou Road exit from the Ontario State Parkway. **Bring your own FRS radios and spotting scopes, if you have them.**

**Leader:** Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Robert Buckert

**Feb 14**  
Sunday

### **WINTER WATERFOWL AND OTHER POSSIBILITIES**

We will look for Long-tailed Ducks, mergansers, scaup and others that may be present. We will then drive over to Summerville and Charlotte to see what is in the river. If crossbills and redpolls are being seen, we may stop at Durand-Eastman Park on the way. Flat walking on pavement or boardwalk. Restrooms are available at Charlotte. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in the large parking lot on the west side of Irondequoit Bay outlet. **Dress for the weather. Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Robert Buckert

**Mar 13**  
Saturday

### **LAKE SHORE MARSHES EAST WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

This extensive driving tour of the large natural area to our northeast always turns up some great birds! We'll look for unusual ducks, late winter birds, and interesting migrants like Fox Sparrows. One portion of the trip is walking on a wide, flat trail. Bring a snack to munch on to keep your energy up, and dress for the weather! Restrooms available at Sodus Point Park. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in Webster Plaza at the junction of Route 404 and Hard Road near Starbucks. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** Kinsley Whittum 585-872-7334 and co-leader Christina Hoh 973-224-7009

**Mar 20**  
Saturday

### **HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK**

We will gather at Braddock Bay Park and drive to Hamlin Beach State Park where we will be looking for migrating waterfowl as we work our way back east. We will stop at Owl Woods in search of migrating owls. We will end at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch in hopes of spotting Rough-legged and Red-shouldered Hawks and Bald Eagles. **Dress warmly** as the lakeshore can be cold this time of year. Trails are flat. Waterproof boots strongly recommended. Restrooms available at Hamlin Beach only. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot. Use the East Manitou Road exit from the Ontario State Parkway. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** Mike Tetlow 585-425-7849 and co-leader Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422

**Mar 27**  
Saturday

### **BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP -- OWL WOODS AND HAWK WATCH SITE**

We'll look primarily for our smallest visiting owl, the Northern Saw-whet, which returns to this spot on a yearly basis. Long-eared Owls generally put in an appearance, too, although they're quite shy and great at hiding. After the owl walk, we'll head to the Hawk Watch site to learn how to identify raptors on the wing. At this time of year, we might witness spectacular flights of thousands of raptors! The Owl Woods trails are flat and likely will be wet and muddy. **Boots are STRONGLY recommended – they're almost mandatory!** No restrooms available. **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.** Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in the parking lot on the right side of Manitou Beach Road across from the Owl Woods trail head

**Leader:** Liz Magnanti 585-748-0309 and co-leaders Daena Ford 585-321-1616 and 2 TBA

### **APRIL IS AN EXCELLENT MONTH TO OBSERVE THE HAWK FLIGHT**

Counters gather at the Hawk Watch platform at Braddock Bay Park (exit at East Manitou Road from the Ontario State Parkway). Most of the birds are Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks, but other *buteos*, *accipiters*, *falcons* and eagles are also seen.

**Apr 9**  
Friday

### **WOODCOCK COURTSHIP FLIGHT AT BRADDOCK BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY**

This will be an evening trip for woodcock courtship flight. If you've never seen this spectacle, prepare to be amazed: birds call noisily from the ground in grassy fields before spiraling rapidly up high, descending back down in a zigzagging noisy frenzy, only to start the cycle anew. An amazing sight! Following the Woodcock display, owl banding is a possibility at the banding station. Fields may be wet and muddy in spots. **Boots are STRONGLY recommended. Bring a flashlight or headlamp.** Port-a-john available. We will meet at **7:00 p.m.** in the parking lot of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, 10 Braddock Avenue, Hilton, NY 14468. Take the Manitou Beach Road exit from Ontario State Parkway. Turn north and follow Manitou Beach Road until it forks. Take the left fork to the small dirt road (there is a sign for BBBO). The parking lot is at the end of the dirt road.

**Leader:** Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361 co-leader Robert Buckert

**Apr 17**  
Saturday

### **HIGH ACRES NATURE AREA**

Over 130 bird species have been observed at HANA including more than 70 that nest in the diverse habitats found there. During this field trip we expect to see at least 40 species returning to nest or on their way to northern nesting grounds. Our approximately 2 mile walk over flat trails will explore about 250 acres at HANA and include some wet spots requiring ankle-high waterproof shoes or boots. No restrooms available. We will



meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the parking lot on Perinton Parkway approximately 1/4 mile east of the Waste Management offices.

**Leader:** *Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leaders Brian Rohrs and Gayle Lazoration 585-281-9534*

**Apr 21**  
Wednesday

### **HIGHLAND PARK**

We'll be looking for spring migrants while enjoying lovely flora. This walk would be gorgeous even without the birds, but it does have birds in abundance! Find out where people have spotted the rarities that pop up in this urban treasure. Dress for the weather. Paved walkways, gentle hills. Walking in grass a possibility, if you chose to. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** on Reservoir Avenue in front of the Conservatory building.

**Leader:** *Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229 and co-leader Amy Kahn 585-310-2330*

**Apr 25**  
Sunday

### **BRADDOCK BAY HAWK LOOKOUT**

This trip is for the spring hawk flight and migrating songbirds. This is a joint trip with the Buffalo Ornithological Society. We will be working to identify distant raptors and meet some great new people, too! This requires a short walk across grass to the viewing platform (wheelchair accessible). Port-a-john may be available. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot. Use the East Manitou Road exit from the Ontario State Parkway. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *Mike Tetlow 585-425-7849 and Members of the BOS*

**May 1**  
Saturday

### **TAYLOR MARSH (Joint trip with the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society)**

Taylor Marsh is a preserve owned by the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and located in Ontario County north of Honeoye Lake. It is best known for marsh birds, including both American and Least Bittern and Virginia Rail. However, the star attraction is the 2-3 Sandhill Cranes that have been present in this area all year around for many years. They are occasionally heard at Taylor, although seldom seen. Taylor also has brush-shrub and wooded upland habitat with a good variety of spring migrants and breeding birds. An adjacent hay field is home to Bobolinks and meadowlarks. It has a checklist of well over 100 species, and we usually rack up 40-50 in just a couple of hours. This is mostly flat trail walking, which can be muddy. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Taylor Marsh parking area on the west side of Allen's Hill Road just south of Nighan Hill Road. From Rochester, take I-390 south to the Avon exit. Turn left onto Routes 5&20 and go east. In the town of Lima, turn right onto Route 15 A and follow it south. Turn left onto Richmond Mills Road (Livingston County Road 41). It becomes Ontario County Road 15. Follow County Road 15 past County Road 37 and turn right at the next stop sign onto Allen's Hill Road. (There is no road sign at the intersection.)

**Leaders:** *Lynn Braband 585-436-9388 and Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485*

**May 2**  
Sunday

### **FOUR MILE CREEK PRESERVE, WEBSTER**

We will look for spring migrants along the approximately 2 to 3 miles of gently rolling hiking trails. The trails will most likely be muddy, so appropriate footwear is recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the preserve parking lot at the SE corner of Lake Road and Phillips Road in Webster.

**Leader:** *Christina Hoh 973-224-7009 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

**May 4**  
Tuesday

### **CAMP BEECHWOOD AND OLGA FLEISHER WILDLIFE PRESERVE**

Camp Beechwood is on the shoreline of Lake Ontario in Wayne County and should attract warblers, vireos, thrushes and other migrants. It also boasts a robust Bank Swallow colony. Bring beverages, snacks or lunch if you plan to attend the second part of this trip to the Olga Fleisher Preserve (known locally as Huckleberry Swamp), a bottomland forest and wetland with an excellent boardwalk and trail. Beechwood is mostly flat, wide trail walking; Huckleberry has a wheelchair accessible boardwalk except for a short dirt road back to the parking area. Port-a-john available. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at Webster Park, corner of Lake and Holt Roads, or at **7:30 a.m.** at B. Forman Park, 4507 Lake Road, Pultneyville, 14538. We will continue to Beechwood from there.

**Leader:** *Doug Daniels 585-394-9274 and co-leader Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229*

**May 5**  
Wednesday

### **COBBS HILL PARK**

With spring in full swing, come to one of Rochester's best-kept birding secrets: Cobbs Hill Park's Washington Grove. Colorful warblers and other spring migrants arrive *en masse* at this urban oasis of tall stately trees. Pat will demonstrate birding by ear as we search for Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green, Nashville, Black-and-white and Hooded Warblers among others. We will likely hear the flute-like Wood Thrush and see Hermit Thrushes searching the ground for food. Sparrows, orioles, and perhaps a Scarlet Tanager will make an appearance. Washington Grove is one of the best spring birding spots in the area. The entrances to the grove has two short steep trails, the main trails are gentle hills. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** opposite the reservoir in the grassy area between the road and the woods; use the entrance off Highland Avenue, just east of Monroe Avenue.

**Leaders:** *Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229, Sue Robertson 585-427-2535 and Pat Martin 585-301-5485*



- May 8**  
Saturday
- BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP - LAKESHORE WARBLER HOTSPOTS**  
The shoreline of Lake Ontario is a haven for migrating warblers and other passerines. We will stop at several areas where these birds tend to congregate in spring. Learn the basics of identifying our most colorful migrants on this trip. We'll be looking for color patterns, song, and the distinctive behaviors to enhance identification skills with these fast-moving beauties. Though flat, several trails may be very muddy. **Waterproof boots are STRONGLY recommended!** Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. No restrooms available. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the parking lot behind Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road in Greece (near Edgemere Drive.).  
**Leaders:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639, Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553, and Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422*
- May 9**  
Sunday
- AMY'S POND AND WOODSMITH -- GENESEE LAND TRUST / RBA JOINT TRIP**  
This is a field trip to the private property of Janet Smith for spring migrants, early nesters and waterfowl. Two adjacent easements make up 187 acres that include two large ponds, mature woodland, and open fields all within 0.5 mile of Lake Ontario. Past trips have yielded eagles, bitterns, herons, many warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, etc. We'll walk along uneven trails, so bring a walking stick if needed, and prepare for a medium-long hike in an outstanding sanctuary open only by special arrangement -- many thanks to Genesee Land Trust! No restrooms available. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at Webster Park on the west corner of Holt and Lake Roads, or at Amy's Pond at **7:30 a.m.** To get to Amy's Pond, take Route 104 east to County Line Road. Drive north until it ends at Lake Road. Turn right and travel approximately one mile to 484 Lake Road, Ontario, NY and turn down the long gravel driveway (on the south side of Lake Road) until you reach the marked parking area.  
**Leaders:** *Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975 and co-leader Kevin Farrell 585-748-6919*
- May 11**  
Tuesday
- ONTARIO PATHWAYS**  
We'll look for warblers and other spring migrants along this level, rails-to-trails pathway in Ontario County. This well-maintained trail is an established favorite for wildlife viewing and scenic views. Wear comfortable walking shoes. At times, the weather can be fickle, but we've seen better warblers in the snow on this trip than many trips get on sunny days. Dress accordingly! No restrooms available. This trip is wheelchair accessible. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** in the Bushnell's Basin Park and Ride lot (off NY Route 96 just south of Exit 27 from I-490). If COVID guidelines allow, carpool arrangements may be made before we commute to the trail area parking.  
**Leaders:** *Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*
- May 13**  
Thursday
- NEW!! RUSH RIVERSIDE REFUGE** (in association with Rush Recreation and Parks Association)  
The town of Rush has recently acquired a new patch of land containing old-growth woods, farm fields in various stages of succession, and a mile of Genesee River frontage. Join us as we explore this "new" birding spot. Trails may be wet and muddy, so waterproof shoes/boots are recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Rush Riverside Refuge on Rush-Scottsville Road (Route 251), west of the intersection with East River Road, on the north side of 251. Either park on Route 251 or in the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum parking lot.  
**Leader:** *Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leader Ann McMican 585-533-1222*
- May 15**  
Saturday
- POWDER MILLS PARK AND BANC SANCTUARY (Joint trip with Burroughs Audubon Nature Club)**  
On the east side, Powder Mills Park is a mature woodland and wetland park that can be productive for many late-migrating or nesting species. In recent years, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-tailed Hawks, American Woodcocks and Blue-winged Warblers have all nested there. The trip will continue with a visit to the BANC Sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road, where we'll walk the trails around the woodland, wetland and creek habitats. Nesting species there include Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Screech-Owl, and adjacent tree lines have produced a variety of migrating warblers. Both locations are mostly flat trail-walking but waterproof footwear is advised. Please note that no restroom facilities will be available at the Sanctuary. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the Powder Mills Park Fish Hatchery parking lot on Park Road.  
**Leader:** *Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229*
- May 16**  
Sunday
- MANITOU BEACH PRESERVE**  
Our trip to this lakeside treasure should rack up good numbers of warblers, flycatchers, and other spring arrivals. Owned by the Genesee Land Trust, the Manitou Beach Preserve consists of 5 acres of flat, field, forest and hedgerow, shrub, and cattail wetlands extending into Braddock Bay. Wear waterproof, sturdy shoes and don't forget the bug spray! No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the Owl Woods parking lot on Manitou Beach Road (Route 261) at the Lake Ontario State Parkway. If COVID guidelines allow, we will shuttle to the preserve, as parking space is limited.  
**Leader:** *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Kevin Farrell 585-748-6919*



- May 18**  
Tuesday  
**OATKA CREEK PARK**  
Woods and meadow provide great habitat for nesting species such as Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Blue-winged Warbler and Field Sparrow. This will cover about 3 miles of mostly flat trails. Port-a-john available at trailhead. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the park entrance at the intersection of Quaker Road and Union Street in Garbutt. Take Route 383 (Scottsville–Mumford Road) west 1.5 to 2 miles from its intersection with Route 386 in Scottsville and turn south on Union Street for about 0.5 miles.  
**Leader:** *Judy Gurley 585-582-2349 and co-leader Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*
- May 20**  
Thursday  
**THOUSAND ACRE SWAMP**  
Thousand Acre Swamp is a preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy of Western New York. It has a bird checklist of 120 species. This level 2.5-mile walk goes through varied habitats, resulting in a variety of breeding bird species and migrants. The habitats include swampy woods, drier woods, a marshy area, meadows, and a pond. Shorter routes are possible. The entrance and parking lot are on the west side of Jackson Road opposite Penfield Center Road in Penfield. Boots and mosquito repellent are recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking lot. For more information, including photos, go to <http://thegreenjay.com/thegreenjay.com/New TAS Gallery/index.html>.  
**Leaders:** *Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485 and Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189*
- May 22**  
Saturday  
**IROQUOIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
We will search for Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Cerulean Warblers, and other nesting birds at this local natural treasure. We'll drive to various spots in the refuge and take an easy walk along one of the very scenic trails. This trip is a combination of driving and walking and includes a boardwalk, forest trail, and dirt road. Not wheelchair accessible in the forest trail. Low difficulty--flat. Length about 3.5 miles total, walking. Port-a-john available about midway through trip. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at the Brockport Wegman's parking lot (restrooms available). For those traveling from the west: meet at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY at **7:30 a.m.** It is advisable to bring water and snacks or a picnic lunch since there may be no local resources and the trip may last into the afternoon. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leaders:** *Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski 585-261-6975 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*
- May 23**  
Sunday  
**NORWAY ROAD**  
This unassuming trip usually racks up one of the longest bird lists of the year. From nesting Cerulean Warblers to Purple Martins along the lake, this trip showcases roadside birding in spectacular fashion! There are no long walks, no rough terrain, and it is handicapped accessible as we make multiple stops to bird along Norway Road. No restrooms except at Wegmans. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** toward the upper end of Wegmans' parking lot in Ridgmont Plaza off Route 104 in Greece (opposite Heritage Drive).  
**Leader:** *Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*
- May 25**  
Tuesday  
**NEW!! TAYLOR ROAD – HEADWATERS OF IRONDEQUOIT CREEK**  
We will walk the mowed grassy trails of the 65-acre property of RBA member Linda Roca. Hedgerows, fields, Irondequoit Creek, brushy habitat, and woods should be productive for thrushes, late warblers, and woodpeckers among others. No restroom available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at 66 Taylor Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. Park in the wide driveway or on Taylor Road.  
**Leader:** *Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229 and co-leader Linda Roca 585-624-2697*
- May 29**  
Saturday  
**CANADICE LAKE**  
We'll go down the east side of the lake for a variety of nesting passerines, especially warblers and vireos. We will make multiple stops as we drive along the road. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at the Rush Town Hall parking lot on the southwest corner of East Henrietta Road (Route 15A) and Rush-Mendon Road (Route 251) (restroom may be available at the town hall park).  
**Leaders:** *Lucretia Grosshans 585-467-2474 and Diane Henderson 585-334-9400*
- Jun 5**  
Saturday  
**GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE STATE PARK**  
This trip has generated large species lists due to the many habitat types we will travel through. We will start from the parking lot to the longhouse and the meadowlark field and then head down a wide trail through woods, shrubland, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and is suitable for most. *Moderate difficulty in spots--hills. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip.* After we reach the overlook, those who wish can continue for another 2 miles on the narrower Seneca Trail through field and woods, across County Route 41, and along a wooded stream valley to the Bobolink field. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the main parking lot off County Road 41/Boughton Hill Road. The parking lot is situated below the new museum at 7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564. (From Route 444 from Victor, turn



right onto Boughton Hill Road and go down the hill. The main parking lot will be on your right at the bottom of the hill.)

**Leaders:** *Amy Kahn (RBA) 585-310-2330 and June Summers (GVAS)*

**Jun 6**  
Sunday

### **LETCHWORTH STATE PARK**

This trip frequently boasts more birds than any other RBA field trip. Of course, it gets an early start! We'll look for birds not frequently seen on other trips, such as Acadian Flycatcher and Barred Owl. We'll do a fair amount of walking: one somewhat steep but short forest trail and a dirt road down to the river level, as well as some roadside birding. Restrooms available at several locations along the way. Meet at **5:30 a.m.** at the Dam Overlook Gifts and Grill parking lot (use the Route 36 entrance to Letchworth Park)). Pack a lunch and snacks, as the trip will likely last well into mid-afternoon. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *Mike Landowski 585-493-3681 and co-leader TBA*

**Jun 19**  
Saturday

### **BERGEN SWAMP**

A trip to this unique place is by special permit from the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and will feature nesting birds. The mix of vegetation zones provides secluded nesting habitat for the usual western N.Y. species as well as those more characteristic of the Canadian zone such as Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Canada and Nashville Warblers. This is a walking trip of 3–5 miles on variably wet and slippery corduroy trails that must be followed closely for safety reasons and because of the fragile habitat. **Sturdy boots** (rather than sneakers) are **STRONGLY** recommended, and hiking or ski poles may be useful. Massasauga rattlesnakes are **VERY** rarely encountered. We will meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the main trailhead entrance to Bergen Swamp: 6646 Hessenthaler Rd, Byron, NY 14422. From Rochester, take I-490 west to Exit 2. Take Rt. 33 west and turn right (north) onto Route 19. Turn left at the fire station onto Hunter Road. It becomes Swamp Road. Follow Swamp Road west past Pocock Road and turn right onto Hessenthaler Road. The swamp entrance is at the kiosk on the right. Park along the right shoulder, but do not park in front of the caretaker's house.

**Leader:** *Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553 and co-leader TBA*

**Jun 20**  
Sunday

### **ODONATA SANCTUARY**

The 100 acre privately owned Odonata Sanctuary, 20 Parrish Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472, is the former home of Joseph W. Taylor, who was a founder of the American Birding Association and president of Hawk Mountain Association. The sanctuary participates in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) that provides nesting acreage for grassland nesting birds such as Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, and Dickcissels. The sanctuary is an access point for the observation of migrating birds and monarch butterflies and is also home to one of the largest Eastern Bluebird nest box trails in the USA. The trails pass over streams, around a pond and through woodlands. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the sanctuary. Enter the sanctuary at 20 Parrish Road and drive up the long, one-lane driveway.

**Leaders:** *Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski 585-261-6975 and co-leader Steve Melcher 585-746-8078.*

**Jun 27**  
Sunday

### **BARNHART'S CAMP AND KEENEY SWAMP**

We will be birding as we drive (and stop) throughout the diverse landscapes of Northern Allegany County, 20 minutes south of Letchworth State Park. Grassland, woodland, pond and swampland species such as Prairie and Mourning Warblers, Eastern Bluebirds, Pied-billed Grebes, and maybe a bittern or two should be seen. This trip generally goes all day so we can see as much as possible! Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Shop N' Save in Nunda on Route 408 where restrooms are available. **Spotting scopes and FRS Radios would be useful.** Lunch at Barnhart's camp is a trip tradition—they grill the hot dogs! Bring a dish to pass—your choice (but this is optional).

**Leaders:** *Jerry and Carolyn Barnhart 585-385-4026 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229*

**JULY: MANY BIRDS ARE ON NESTS—CONSIDER HELPING WITH THE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS!**

**Jul 31**  
Saturday

### **CONESUS INLET STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

Explore this expansive wetland for Virginia Rails and Wood Duck families. We've seen eagles on a reliable basis, Cliff Swallows and more. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on trails. It is not handicap/wheelchair accessible. Length about 1.5 mile walking. Restrooms are available at the meeting place only. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville. The park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of Route 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware.

There's a possibility of a trip extension to the Geneseo Airport area. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leaders Christina Hoh 973-224-7009, Nick Kachala 585-750-5536, and Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754*



## [AUGUST IS A GREAT TIME OF YEAR TO WATCH FOR MIGRATING SHOREBIRDS](#)

A good place to look for shorebirds is at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. For the last few years the staff there has advertised open dike walks at Knox-Marsellus and Puddler Marshes. The walks start from the visitor center at 7:00 a.m. on alternate Saturdays and Sundays in August and early September. Visit the Montezuma NWR website for more detailed information as the time approaches.

- Aug 8**  
Sunday  
***BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP* -- MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Learn more about the fall migration of shorebirds in this nearby birding treasure. We'll visit key spots you'll want to revisit again and again! There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Bring binoculars. Restrooms may not be available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **1:00 p.m.** in the Bushnell's Basin Park and Ride lot. The lot is off Route 96 just south of Exit 27 from I-490. Alternatively, meet up with the group at the first stop, the Montezuma visitor center at **2:00 p.m.** **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.**  
**Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*
- Aug 22**  
Sunday  
**MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Expect to see herons, eagles and possibly falcons. There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. There's a possibility of a walk on the dikes. Restrooms may not be available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the Montezuma visitor center. Pack a lunch. **Spotting scopes would be useful.**  
**Leaders:** *Dominic Sherony 585-223-7353 and Mike Tetlow 585-425-7849*
- Sept 4**  
Saturday  
***BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP* -- CHARLOTTE AND TURNING POINT PARK**  
We'll be looking for shorebirds, warblers, and other fall migrants along the river and lakeshore. At Charlotte Beach, we'll look for gulls in many plumages and some shorebirds, too. At Turning Point Park, we will look for the usual suspects and fall migrants. Bring binoculars. The Charlotte Beach area can be wheelchair accessible. Low difficulty—one long steep grade at Turning Point Park. Length about 2.0 miles total. Restrooms are available at Charlotte only. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Ontario Beach Park in Charlotte in the northeast corner of the parking lot, beside the Genesee River outlet. **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.**  
**Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*
- Sept 11**  
Saturday  
**NEW!! WHITING ROAD NATURE PRESERVE**  
This preserve includes about 240 acres of land that is made up of a variety of birding habitats. This results in decent birding lists throughout the year. The trails are well marked and maintained. However, they do get muddy at times, so appropriate footwear is recommended based on the weather leading up to the trip date. Most of the trails are somewhat flat, but there definitely will be a bit of up and down trail climbing in some sections. Hopefully, our trek will take us on parts of the blue, brown, orange, and red trails. This trip is not handicap accessible. Moderate difficulty in a few spots. Length about 2.5 miles. Restrooms are not available. We will meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on Whiting Road in Webster, 0.6 miles south of Lake Road.  
**Leader:** *Dick Horsey 585-435-2837 and co-leaders Candace Giles 585-281-1643 and Eunice Thein 585-746-2919*
- Sept 12**  
Sunday  
**DURAND-EASTMAN PARK**  
We'll be looking for thrushes and other migrants. Durand can be surprising this time of year. This will be an easy 2-3 hour walk along paved roads. This trip is wheelchair accessible. Low difficulty—slight grade at one point. Length about 2.5 miles, total. Restroom facilities are not available on this route, but are in other areas of the park. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the Lake Shore Blvd. parking lot between Zoo Road and Log Cabin Road (Parking Lot D).  
**Leaders:** *Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229*
- Sept 18**  
Saturday  
**MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Expect to see herons, eagles and possibly falcons. There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Restrooms may not be available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the Montezuma visitor center. Pack a lunch. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leaders:** *Mike and Joann Tetlow 585-425-7849 and Dominic Sherony 585-223-7353*
- Sept 25**  
Saturday  
**GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
We will look for sparrows in the brush and other migrating birds near the parking area, and then walk about 2 miles round trip on the wide trails through fields, shrubland and woodlands to beautiful overlooks. This trip is not wheelchair accessible. Moderate difficulty in spots--hills. Restroom facilities are available at the center. We'll



meet at **9:00 a.m.** in the main parking lot off County Road 41/Boughton Hill Road. The parking lot is situated below the new museum at 7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564. (From Route 444 from Victor, turn right at the blinking light onto Boughton Hill Road; the main parking lot will be on your right near the bottom of the hill.)  
**Leader:** *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader June Summers (GVAS)*

**Sept 26**  
Sunday  
**IROQUOIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
We'll look for migrant ducks and various passerines in this "get to know Iroquois in autumn" trip. This trip is a combination of driving and walking and includes a boardwalk, forest trail, and dirt road. Not wheelchair accessible in the forest trail. Low difficulty--flat. Length about 3.5 miles total, walking. Port-a-john available about midway through trip. Meet at **11:00 a.m.** at the Brockport Wegmans parking lot (restroom). For those traveling from the west, meet at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY at **11:30 a.m.** Bring a lunch and beverages as this trip can go until sundown. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leaders:** *Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975 and co-leader Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

**OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER ARE EXCELLENT MONTHS TO OBSERVE THE PARADE OF WATERBIRDS ON LAKE ONTARIO.** Several experienced birders are active at the lake watch beside the Lakeshore Pavilion at parking lot 4 of Hamlin Beach State Park many mornings during these months. Visitors are welcome!

**Oct 10**  
Sunday  
**HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK**  
We'll start off walking flat wooded and brushy areas of the park, looking for thrushes, sparrows, and maybe a half-hardy warbler or two. After that, we'll stop by the lake watch to view ducks on the water and in flight, learning about the lake watch process. Dress appropriately for cooler weather along the lake, and wear comfortable footwear. Restroom facilities are available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in Hamlin Beach State Park, Parking Lot 1. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leader:** *Dominic Sherony 585-223-7353 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

**Oct 16**  
Saturday  
**BATAVIA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**  
Why a wastewater treatment plant? Open water and a great location mean that this spot appears regularly on fall birding lists. We will drive on the banks of the ponds, getting out wherever the birds are congregating. Discover the great opportunity this spot (and its helpful staff) offers. Restrooms might be available at the plant offices. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the wastewater treatment plant at the end of Industrial Blvd., which is off Pearl Street (Route 33) at the western edge of the city of Batavia. From the NYS Thruway (I-90) at Batavia, exit 48, go south on Route 98 into the city of Batavia. At the second light (candy store), make a right turn onto Oak Street, which is Route 33. Continue on Rt. 33 west approximately 0.5 miles to Industrial Blvd. and make a left. Proceed south past the railroad tracks and straight up the hill and through the open gates to the entrance building of the treatment plant (first building on your left). Or, from Rochester, take I-490 W, to Exit 2 (Route 33 west). Follow Route 33 west through Batavia; turn left onto Oak Street (Route 33), stay right at roundabout, continue on Route 33, 0.5 miles to Industrial Blvd., turn left. Continue straight across the railroad tracks and up the hill. Turn left into the parking lot of the offices. If COVID guidelines allow, we will carpool from the plant offices. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leader:** *Christina Hoh 973-224-7009 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*

**Oct 30**  
Saturday  
**DURAND-EASTMAN PARK**  
Waxwings, winter finches, and lingering migrants are possible. We may visit Irondequoit Bay to look for waterfowl. This trip is wheelchair accessible. Low difficulty—slight grade at one point. Length about 2.5 miles, total. Restrooms may be available on this route. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** in the Lakeshore Blvd. parking lot between Zoo and Log Cabin Roads (Parking Lot D). Please dress for the weather.  
**Leader:** *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

**Nov 28**  
Sunday  
**NIAGARA RIVER**  
Join us on our birding venture along the Niagara River in both the US and Canada. We will start at Lake Ontario and work our way south to the Falls. Our focus will be on waterfowl and gulls, including Bonaparte's Gull and Little Gull, with possible late migrating Common Tern, with additional stops for Red-headed Woodpecker, Black Vulture and late migrating passerines. Meet at the Old Fort Niagara parking lot at **9:00 am.** Bring beverages and lunch, for this is an all day trip. If COVID guidelines allow, carpooling is strongly advised, as we will be crossing into Canada. **Participants MUST bring passports or enhanced driver's licenses. Dress warmly and in layers. Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leader:** *Tom O'Donnell 716-284-5569 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*



**Dec 4**  
Saturday

**CONESUS LAKE AREA**

We'll be looking for Tundra Swans, Canvasback, Redhead and other waterfowl. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on trails. It is not handicap/wheelchair accessible. Low difficulty. Length about 1.5 mile walking. Restrooms are available at Vitale Park only. Meet **at 8:00 a.m.** at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville. The park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leaders Christina Hoh 973-224-7009 and Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*

**Dec 5**  
Sunday

***BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP* -- NATIONS ROAD**

Sharpen your skills on wintering hawks and Short-eared Owls. Other wintering birds such as Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and Lapland Longspurs are often present. This trip is a combination of driving and viewing at stops along roads. Accessible if getting in and out of car is not a problem. Low difficulty. Length about .5 mile walking. Restroom facilities are not available except at Tops. Bring binoculars. Meet **at 2:00 p.m.** at the Tops Plaza in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, 2 miles west of I-390. If COVID guidelines allow, carpooling strongly advised. **Dress warmly. Spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Judy Gurley 585-582-2349*

