



Little Gull

Visit the RBA's website at www.RochesterBirding.org

Rochester Birding Association, P.O. Box 92055, 1335 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14692-9998

November 2021 Events and Birding Field Trips

Please Note: Pre-registration is now required for all field trips (see the COVID-19 field trip guidelines in the revised field trip schedule or on the RBA website). Registrations via Eventbrite open 7 days before the date of the field trip. Bring your own binoculars and scopes if available, as there is limited sharing of equipment

- Nov 11** **November monthly meeting @ 7:00 via Zoom** — Jared Clarke, see description below! Email with link will be sent out a few days before the meeting.
- Nov 18** **Birds and Brews**
- Thursday Birds & Brews is a casual evening for members to get together and share birding stories, compare travel destinations, and catch up all while having a pint of Rochester's finest ale. Our November get together will be on Thursday, November 18th from 6-9pm at Swiftwater Brewing. This brewery not only has a wide variety on tap but has a full menu of food as well. Please note proof of vaccination is required. Hope to see you there! Please contact Liz Magnanti at lizmagnanti@gmail.com with questions.
- Nov 28** **NIAGARA RIVER**
- Sunday Join us on our birding venture along the Niagara River in both the US side of the border (due to Covid restrictions we will not be crossing into Canada this year). 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.. Dress warmly and in layers. Spotting scopes would be very useful.
- Leaders:** Tom O'Donnell 716-284-5569 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147
- Dec 4** **CONESUS LAKE AREA**
- Saturday 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



American Golden Plover - Hamlin -
© Candace Giles - Sep 22, 2021

Calling all bird lovers—Volunteers needed!

The RBA is looking for a **Webmaster**. Our website is in Wordpress, so knowledge of this platform is critical. The Webmaster will handle all the minor issues that come up with websites—broken links, software updates, and so on—as well as construction of new pages and more complex tasks. We are willing to pay hourly fees for this work! We'd love to find someone within the membership who is willing to take this on. Contact Randi Minetor at writerrandi@gmail.com, or at (585) 737-3449.

The **RBA Records Committee** is looking for additional members to help with the gathering, screening, and summarizing of local bird records.

Currently, records are gathered monthly from sources such as eBird, geneseebirds, the Braddock Bay hawkwatch, the BBBO banding station, other project data, and personal records submissions. From these, a monthly Noteworthy Records table is prepared for posting to the RBA website along with a set of field notes including a list of contributors. From these, a summary is included in the Little Gull. Additional responsibilities of the committee include preparing quarterly summaries for The Kingbird, the journal of NYSOA, and for submission to the appropriate regional editors for North American Birds.

An aim has been for the committee to meet once per month enough after the end of a month for that prior month's data to be available and early enough to allow preparing information for a 15th of the month Little Gull input deadline. In person meetings are preferred, but COVID issues have led to Zoom meetings over the past year plus. Please contact rspahn@prodigy.net if you are interested.



Welcome to the Flock!

Join us in welcoming these 10 new or returning members (6 new memberships) who joined in the last month:

Robert Crumrine
Bonnie Hewett
Susan Mack
Mary McEvoy
Current RBA Membership as of September 14 is 460:
443 Household memberships
2 Young Birders
1 Corporate (The Bird House)
1 Little Gull membership
13 Complimentary
Note: Those 443 household memberships represent far more than 443 birders belonging to RBA. One hundred fifty-two of those joining or renewing listed other birders in their households.

Jo Taylor
Membership Data
Adrianna Anderson
Membership Outreach



President's
Column
Liz Magnanti

Happy fall everyone! I hope you have been able to enjoy some of the most beautiful time in Western New York. Nothing can quite compare to spring and its migrants, but fall is truly exquisite. It's bittersweet to see the first Dark-eyed Junco or Rough-legged Hawk of the season. Their appearance is a sign of much colder things to come. Now is a good time to clean out those nest boxes if you haven't already. Birds may use them in the winter as a place to roost and stay out of the elements. To clean a nest box first remove any nesting material and debris. Check for any signs of mold or mildew that have formed on its walls. While you may not need to scrub it out each year, it can't hurt if you have the time. The house can be cleaned with a small brush or even toothbrush and a cleaning solution. You can use a light bleach solution of one part bleach to nine parts water,

or if the house is made of a recycled plastic composite, dish soap and hot water. Make sure to rinse or spray the house out well and let it dry before putting it back out for the birds.

As we round out the year we are sticking to many of the COVID precautions that we have had over the last year. Monthly meetings will be via Zoom and field trips will still require sign ups through the end of the year. We plan to be able to get together in-person again for the Annual Dinner in January. One in-person event that has started up again is "Birds & Brews." This event is a fun opportunity to get to know members and share birding stories! It's also a great opportunity to find new birding buddies.

And with the end of the year approaching, it is that time to renew your membership! In order for the RBA to save on paper and postage, I encourage you to renew your membership online. Our membership numbers have remained strong, despite COVID challenges and limits to field trips and in-person events. Thank you for your continued support!



Sora - Braddock Bay East Spit - © Dick Horsey -
Sep 18, 2021

Rochester Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 19, 2020

On Sunday Dec. 19, 2021 we will conduct the Rochester Christmas Bird Count. This traditional activity demonstrates our commitment to science and birding. This will be the 118th count in the Rochester area.

Below find the sector leaders for the RCBC, who have consented to coordinate the field work for the count of our winter birds. **To participate in the count**, contact them or Norma Platt. Be sure to ask your leader for details.

Bob and Susan Spahn 671-5690	Braddock Bay to Long Pond Road
Greg Lawrence glawrence21@yahoo.com	Long Pond Road to Dewey Avenue
Jay Greenberg conservationist@earthlink.net	Dewey Avenue to Charlotte Harbor
Dominic Sherony 223-7353	Summerville to Culver Road
Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash sheryl.gracewski@rochester.edu tnashny@earthlink.net	Culver Road to Baker Road (Webster)
Shirley Shaw 385-3907 shirley@jashaw.com	Parks and neighborhoods (Highland, Genesee Valley, Mt. Hope Cemetery), crow roost
Andrea Patterson ajpforbusiness@gmail.com	Seneca Park
Rosemary Reilly reilly.rosemary@gmail.com	Maplewood & Turning Point Parks, Holy Sepulcher and Riverside cemeteries
Brian Morse 269-9576 brianmorse2000@gmail.com	West of airport/south of the canal/north of the river

Norma Platt, Compiler 585-260-5221
normap1@rochester.rr.com

November Meeting—Birding Newfoundland & Labrador

Birds of Newfoundland & Labrador: Perched on the Edge of North America

Located at the edge of North America, Newfoundland & Labrador is home to a unique mix of birdlife. Join Jared Clarke to learn more about the diversity of species that might be found there – Atlantic Puffin, Northern Gannet, Boreal Chickadee, Mourning Warbler, Willow Ptarmigan ... and so many more! From some of the world's most spectacular (and accessible) seabird colonies to lush boreal forests; subarctic tundra to tranquil lakes and wetlands – Canada's easternmost province is a wonderful birding destination.

Jared Clarke grew up on the northeast coast of Newfoundland and was introduced to the outdoors at a very young age, mostly by his grandfathers. Always a nature enthusiast, he became interested in birds while working for a local conservation group. Jared soon becoming one of the most avid birders in the province. Despite his "official" training as a health researcher (Ph.D. Medicine), his love of nature and sharing it with others increasingly led him astray. He currently runs a small bird and nature tour business, called Bird•The•Rock, and routinely leads trips at home and abroad for various tour companies. You can follow his adventures at www.birdtherock.com.



RBA in the Field

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

September 18, 2021

On a warm, partly cloudy day a small group of seven participants gathered at the Visitor Center at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. This year, the ponds on the Wildlife Drive had high water levels with extensive vegetation cover. At the Visitors Center pond we viewed four species of puddle ducks that included a few Northern Pintail. Ducks in eclipse (basic) plumage are always a challenge. After leaving the Visitors Center, we spent two and a half hours on the Wildlife Drive. There were many birds to focus on, especially at Seneca Meadows. A small pocket of shorebirds was very close and allowed great views. There were Wilson's Snipe, Stilt Sandpipers, Dunlin, a Long-billed Dowitcher, and both yellowlegs. Almost all these shorebirds were juveniles. Unexpectedly, we found no small shorebirds here. Nearby, a pair of adult Bald Eagles sat perched on the east side of the canal allowing photo opportunities for our participants. The highlight of the Meadows was a Glossy Ibis. It had been discovered several days previously and was still present. We had brief views before this dark ibis flew into a grove of pickerel weeds.

On the other side of the drive there were a few Northern Harriers flying over the Main Pool. At one point, a Northern Harrier flushed about 150 yellowlegs from the smartweed stands. We looked for and located the two Red-necked Phalaropes that were found the previous week. They were active and feeding in a stand of decaying smart weeds which made searching for them difficult. We enjoyed extended scope views of these dainty long billed, strikingly marked birds.

We then finished the trip at Knox-Marsellus Marsh. Several Sandhill Cranes were there and a few more came flying in. The family group of Trumpeter Swans was still present but there was no sign of the Roseate Spoonbill. The water level at Knox was ideal for shorebirds. There were hundreds of shorebirds in the marsh but they were too far to identify under the viewing conditions because the thermals caused by the bright sunshine. We watched a Peregrine Falcon make a pass at the shorebirds and a little while later, we saw another Peregrine, possibly a second bird, attack the shorebirds and made a kill.

The trip found a total of 44 species but some of these were either too far to appreciate or were noted by sounds only. There is no doubt that we missed shorebirds at Knox, but the participants seemed delighted with level of activity.

Michael & Joann Tetlow and Dominic Sherony

Hamlin Beach State Park

October 10, 2021

For the past six years the RBA field trip to Hamlin Beach State Park has been scheduled in the first two weeks of October and very few waterbirds have been seen on the Lake Ontario. It was a warm day, partly sunny, 74 F, with moderate southeast winds. It was an unusually beautiful fall day to be out for a walk. This year 15 participants gathered with the three trip leaders at Parking Lot 1. We spent most of our morning in the park at three locations: the lake-watch site, Devil's Nose trail, and Yanty Creek trail. At the end of the trip on our way back to Rochester, we stopped at two plowed fields on North Hamlin Rd.

In the early morning sunlight, we watched about a half dozen Eastern Bluebirds, a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Blackpoll/Bay-breasted Warbler, and a few other species around parking lot 1. At the lake-watch there was a lot of shimmer on the lake, we had good views of only two species of ducks.

A leisurely walk on the Devil's Nose trail netted a number of expected fall passerine migrants. Highlights included both kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Brown Creepers, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. We found mostly resident species at Yanty trail, but at the outset we had nice views of a Merlin.

On the ride home we stopped at two farm fields. Horned Larks were numerous on both fields. In the field east of Martin Rd, we found two Wilson's Snipe and two Lapland Longspurs. One of the longspurs was a male because the dark breast was visible but the birds were in basic plumage already. Only five of our participants came to the last two stops.

For the day, we found 37 species and the participants saw most of these.

Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash, and Dominic Sherony

Renew Online and Help the RBA

What's your favorite part of being part of the RBA community? Attending field trips? Monthly speakers sharing unique insights into the world of birds? The Little Gull newsletter? Whatever the reason, your annual RBA membership makes all of this possible. This has been another challenging year, but RBA has worked hard to bring you programs by Zoom and field trips with all the necessary precautions—as well as every issue of the Little Gull on schedule. We want to be sure that you enjoy the full value of your membership, even in a difficult year.

As the year end approaches, it's time for you to renew your RBA membership, which will help set RBA up for a better year come 2022.

Last year we started transitioning to **all-online membership renewal**. You responded! The percentage of all renewals that were made online went from 45% to 65%. Let's continue that trend. When you renew your membership online at **rochesterbirding.org** you're making even more of an impact with your contribution. Renewing online reduces paperwork, and saves our membership chair and treasurer multiple trips to the post office and bank during the pandemic. In addition to helping RBA, renewing online also helps lower your carbon footprint—which we can all agree is a good thing.

Renewing in November saves RBA the printing and mailing costs needed for sending out membership reminder letters. To renew online, just go to the RBA website at rochesterbirding.org, and click on the "Renew" button at the top of the home page. This will take you directly to the membership renewal form.

2022 Dues

Household membership	\$25
Junior membership (9-18)	\$15
(both above with Little Gull via e-mail)	
Little Gull by USPS mail - add to membership dues	\$15

If you prefer not to renew online, please contact Jo at jhtaylor@frontiernet.net, and she will email you the renewal form that you can print out and mail in with your check, or, if necessary, mail you a paper renewal form. We don't want to lose you as a member! We'll do our best to accommodate your needs.

Your renewal will be good until January 1, 2023 and bring you and the RBA community another great year of birds.

Thank you,
Adrianna Anderson
Membership Outreach

Jo Taylor
Membership Data

NOTE: New members joining after September 1 of this year are paid up through all of 2022.

Records Report

1. An average month to start our transition to Fall. Temperatures averaged 64.0°F, 0.4° above normal. Precipitation totaled 3.16", 0.02" below normal. There were no temperature extremes. Twenty-five days reached 70° or higher, and the first day the temperature dropped below 50° for the season was on the 20th, the 4th latest occurrence of that event. Precipitation was fairly evenly scattered through the month other than 2/3 of the rainfall over two days, 22-23 September. A mesoscale convective event on the 12th produced some heavy downpours and spawned an EF-1 tornado in the Conesus to Springwater area to our south. Generally winds averaged only slightly above average for the month.

2. Once again, essentially all expected waterfowl were reported, with the usual few early arrivals among the diving ducks. Typical of recent years, peak counts were again low, but numbers for several species were higher than usual in the Braddock Bay area near the new barrier-beach island, where several species topped counts of 100. Conditions in the NMWMA limited waterbird counts there.

3. The only Common Nighthawk count over five was 30 at the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) on the 10th. A rarely reported fall whip-poor-will was seen on the 16th in Hamlin, and a good tally of 450 Chimney Swifts reported from Blossom Road in Rochester on the 15th. Good numbers of hummingbirds were reported through the month.

4. Water levels and rainfall timing left limited shorebird habitat, and, other than a few species on plowed fields, most reports were from sites along the south shore of Lake Ontario. 26 shorebird species were reported. Only Upland Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope might be considered misses, and Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were nice finds, though they are regulars in small numbers. There were no outstanding high counts.

5. Jaeger numbers this month were down from last year's high, but about 26 Parasitic, a Long-tailed on the 24th, and five 5 additional jaegers not identified to species makes a good month. There were no rarer gull species reported and only about 11 of the now-regular Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Beyond these, we have all the usual terns reported at relatively low numbers and typical dates.

6. An early Red-throated Loon was reported on the 3rd, and Common Loon peaked at 56, again failing to reach 100 in September. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were best on Lake Ontario near Braddock Bay. There were no special herons and egrets this month in this region.

7. Among the raptors, there were again no really noteworthy reports. No Black Vultures and no Northern Goshawks were reported. There was a little excitement among the owls, with a rare summer report of Long-eared Owl in the Owl Woods area on the 19th and an individual heard on the 26th by BBBO owl banders not far from that site. The owl banders caught and banded two N. Saw-whet Owls this on the 30th. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard in Beechwood State Park on the 27th.

8. As usual, all of the expected passerines were reported. Among the rarer species reported were: the usual Fish Crows; a Bicknell's Thrush banded; a rare "Lawrence's" Warbler hybrid; seven Orange-crowned Warblers, one banded; four Connecticut Warblers, with two of these banded at BBBO; and three Dickcissels. The Noteworthy Records table to be posted on the RBA website will contain samples of numbers banded, arrivals, and departures. Migration this month seemed shifted to a bit earlier dates for many species, and numbers banded for most species were down a bit from last year. Species with high banding numbers [some of the highest in () after the species name] are: Ruby-crowned Kinglet (87), Swainson's Thrush (293), Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow (220), Magnolia Warbler (142), and Blackpoll Warbler (565). Black-capped Chickadee was back to a low year so far, with only two banded this month.

9. The 218 species for the month is near the 10-year average for this month. The eBird data download for the region for the month was about 34,200, very close to last September's number.

	2021	2020	10-year Average
Species for Sept.	218	220	219.1
New for the year	6	3	5.4
Total for the year to date	289	282	218.6

10. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

Observers: Carol Adams, Janet Akin, Max Baber, Ted Barnett, Jesse Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Tom Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steven Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, BBBO (Andrea Patterson, *et al.*), Kyle Brock, Janet Brooks, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Peggy Dempsey, Gordon Dutter, Eaton Birding Society, Diane Egan, George Ford, Andrew Gaerte, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, John Garrett, Janis George, Michelle Gianvechio, Candy Giles, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Elizabeth Gordon, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenter, Michael Gullo, Andy Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Bill Haake, Benjamin Hack, Robert Helen & Chris Haller, Meena Haribal, Kim Hartquist, Ryan Hennessey, Jacob Hewitt, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Jack Hutchison, Pam Inzinna, Alyssa Johnson, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Kenneth Kempfues, David Kennedy, Eric

Kershner, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Jordan Klein, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Mike Laird, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cynthia Marino, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Montezuma Audubon Center, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Jim Mott, Linda Mott, Sheila Mumpton, Tom Nash, Alyssa Nowicki, David Odell, Gary Palmer, Bonnie Parton, Andrea Patterson, Emily Patterson, Doug Perryman, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, RBA Field Trips, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Bryce Robinson, Brian Rohrs, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salsbury, Livia Santana, Mickey Scilingo, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Donna Mason-Spier, Laura Stenzler, Joseph Stevenson, Wendy Stevenson, Allan Strong, David Strong, Junr Summers, Steve Taylor, Michael Tetlow, Eunice Thein, John H. Thomas, Carol Thompson, Brian Tuttle, Geoff Twardokus, Nathan Ukens, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Alison Van Keuren, Erika Venniro, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Vicens Vila, Jules Wagner, Davey Walters, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Eryn Woernley, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood.



Glossy Ibis - Montezuma NWR - © Jeanne Verhulst - Sep 24, 2021

Rochester Birding Association Delegates Report on the 2021 New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) Annual Meeting

Randi Minetor, Rosemary Reilly, and Greg Lawrence served as delegates to the 74th annual NYSOA meeting on October 2, 2021. The meeting was held virtually for the second straight year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Shirley Shaw, outgoing NYSOA president, presided over the meeting while committee chairs and a representative from the New York State DEC (NYSDEC) gave updates on their work over the past year.

NYSDEC updated NYSOA on the agency's bird monitoring and habitat work along with proposed changes to the status of threatened and endangered birds in New York State, finalization of the "NYSDEC Strategy for Grassland Bird Habitat Management and Conservation 2021-2026," and review of large scale renewable energy projects and associated creation of the Endangered and Threatened Species Mitigation Bank Fund.

The Third New York Breeding Bird Atlas continues to be a primary focus for the organization, as the project has over 2300 atlasers, up 54% from 2020. Further, the total number of observations increased by 142% in 2021 and the number of priority blocks with effort increased to 92%. However, there is still a lot of work left on the project and we encourage members of the local birding community to submit breeding bird observations and become active members of the atlas community. For more information, visit: <https://ebird.org/atlasny/state/US-NY>

The NYSOA conservation committee reported on a busy slate of activities in 2021 including submission of comments on restoring Migratory Bird Treaty Act protections and various energy project proposals, and support for the Environmental Bond Act in the state budget. The committee encourages collaboration with and submission of potential issues from member clubs.

NYSOA continues to regularly publish *The Kingbird*, its quarterly journal documenting the ornithology of New York State by publishing scholarly research articles and summarizing bird observations each season, and *New York Birders*, its quarterly newsletter summarizing the organization's conservation work, breeding bird atlas updates and book reviews, New York State Young Birders' Club articles and more. The New York State Young Birders Club continues to grow again with youth membership back up to 38 members and RBA member, Robert Buckert, as president.

Additionally, NYSOA committees updated delegates on their work on the organization's finances, website, county and state listing efforts, NYSARC work, publicity and marketing activities, and membership status. For more information about NYSOA, please visit www.nybirds.org

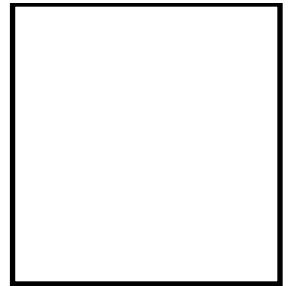


ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION

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