



Bittle Gull

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

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

April 2022 Events and Birding Field Trips

Please Note: Pre-registration is 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.

- Apr 9**
Saturday
Woodcock Courtship Flight at Owl Woods
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! Fields may be wet and muddy in spots. **Boots are strongly recommended. Bring a flashlight or headlamp.** Meet at **7:00 p.m.** in the parking lot across from Owl Woods. Take the Manitou Beach Road exit from Ontario State Parkway. Turn north then right into the large parking lot.
Leader: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Robert Buckert 585-269-4206
- Apr 14**
Thursday
RBA Monthly Meeting—see information below
- Apr 16**
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 mostly flat trails will explore about 250 acres at HANA and include some wet spots requiring ankle-high waterproof shoes or boots. No restrooms available. 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 20**
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 585-362-0803 and co-leader Amy Kahn 585-310-2330
- April 22-24**
Bird of Prey Days at Braddock Bay Park *Volunteers needed, see below*
- Apr 30**
Saturday
Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout
This trip is for the spring hawk flight and migrating songbirds. 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. 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 585-748-5838 and Neal Reilly 518-256-9147

- May 1**
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 3**
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. Species numbers should be excellent. This trip will involve about three miles of hiking over mostly level ground. 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. Huckleberry has a boardwalk except for a short dirt road back to the parking area. Port-a-john available at both locations. 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. If meeting at Beechwood, meet at the main parking area off Lake Road, (**not** at the stream area parking) at about **8:00 a.m.**
Leaders: *Doug Daniels 585-394-9274, Jim Wood 585-967-8687 and co-leader Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- May 4**
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 have 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 585-362-0803, Sue Robertson 585-427-2535 and Pat Martin 585-301-5485*
- May 7**
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, 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 7
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 a flat trail, which can be muddy, but has one small stream with steep banks to cross. Waterproof boots are advisable. 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 8
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 10
Tuesday

Ontario Pathways (Flint Creek section)

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 is a level grade, easy to walk, linear trail, 1.6 miles in and 1.6 miles back out. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the trailhead. It is on the south side of Rt. 96 just east of the Rt. 488 intersection. For anyone who wishes to use a bathroom before heading out on the trail, there is a Byrne Dairy on the corner of Rts. 96 & 488.

Leaders: *Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

May 12
Thursday

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 the Monroe County Fair Site, 6565 East River Rd, Rush, NY. Park and meet in front of the large barn straight in and just to the left of the entrance road.

Leaders: *Ann McMican 585-533-1222 and Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*



President's Corner, Randi Minetor—

Have you enjoyed your membership in the Rochester Birding Association so far? Chances are you've attended some field trips (or maybe even lots of field trips), and perhaps you've seen some presentations via Zoom in our monthly meetings over the last two years. If you were a member before 2020, you know how much fun it is to come to meetings in person, hobnob with fellow birders, and share stories about the birds you've seen and the trips you've taken.

If you've participated in any of these activities, you may have wondered just how all of these trips, meetings, and speakers come together so smoothly. Rochester Birding

Association is blessed to have a terrific team of committee chairs and members who plan field trips, lead trips, find and schedule speakers, set up Zoom meetings, plan events, attend outreach events, write and edit articles for the *Little Gull*, and so much more. We also have a wonderful team led by Amy Kahn who fulfill the conservation side of our mission, whether they teach members and others about native plants that are good for birds, or work with other organizations to take on big issues like protecting birds from poorly placed wind farms.

Here's our secret: Volunteer power! Every person involved in these activities is a volunteer. We absolutely could not function as effectively as we do without all of the enthusiastic volunteers who make RBA activities happen.

Right now, RBA has more members than ever before—and we need your help to continue to meet the demands of an organization of this size. We need more folks for all kinds of activities. Consider this my call to every RBA member to help us keep up with the demand.

Here are some positions that we need to fill as soon as possible:

Outreach Coordinator. When organizations ask us to set up our booth at their events—like Bird of Prey Days, Adirondack Outdoor Expo, and Letchworth Park's new Outdoor Recreation Fest—our Outreach Coordinator gets in touch with our volunteers and schedules people to take shifts throughout the day. We need someone who likes to be in contact with people, who is good at scheduling, and who will make sure that RBA is well represented out in the community.

Event staff. Do you like talking to people about birds and birding, and about membership in RBA? Then you will love taking a shift at one of the events we attend each year. You'll meet lots of people who want to talk about the birds in their yard and birds they've seen in area parks. Many of them stop at the table because they're looking to deepen their birding experience—so you can tell them all about our field trips and speakers. It's easy and fun!

Speakers Bureau. Since I've become RBA president, I've been amazed at the number of requests we get for someone to come to an organization and talk about birds and birding—especially Scout troops and other children's groups. We need a “stable” of folks we can call on who are ready to go out and help kids learn about birds. If you're enthusiastic about birds and you love kids (or if you are or were a teacher), you are exactly what we're looking for.

How can you get started right away? Get in touch with me at writerrandi@gmail.com, and I'll hook you up. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help!



Long-eared Owl - Owl Woods - ©
Candace Giles - Feb 20, 2022

Welcome to the Flock!



Join us in welcoming these 11 new and re-
turning members (8 memberships) who
joined in the last month.

Mary Dannhauser
Fiona McGoldrick
Maureen McIntosh
Jennifer & Holly Meininger
Mason Price & Abby McCarthy
Laura Schramm & Jameson Kaweck
Alan Swire
Jennifer Tuffley

Current RBA Membership as of March 14 is
401:

385 Household memberships
3 Young Birders
1 Corporate (The Bird House)
12 Complimentary

Jo Taylor
Membership Data

Adrianna Anderson
Membership Outreach

RBA in the Field

Winter Waterfowl & Other Possibilities—February 13, 2022

We often have very cold weather before this trip, making find-
ing open water difficult. Finding those few spots that are open
leads to productive concentrations of waterfowl. Hence, the
recent cold snap resulted in many birds at the Irondequoit Bay
Outlet. However, we experienced heavy snow fall at the start of
the trip, so we only had about 100 feet of dim visibility. Along
the lakeshore, the road conditions were among the worst en-
countered this winter. I was totally amazed that most of the
group, 15 participants, showed up! I'd like to thank those that
couldn't make it because of the road conditions for contacting
us. So nice for worried trip leaders! As always at this location,
there were high numbers of Mallards and Mute Swans. We
were able to view Redheads, Scaup, Mergansers and Long-tailed
Ducks alongside a few Common Goldeneye and White-winged
Scoters.

Despite the weather, many of the participants agreed to travel
to the next stop, Ontario Beach Park and Charlotte Pier. We
were able to view many of the same waterfowl and everyone
got a good look at a nice treat, a beautiful male Canvasback.
When an eagle flushed the mass of resting gulls, Robert was
able to pull a nice first-cycle Iceland Gull out from the hundreds
of Ring-billed and Herring for everyone to see, a lifer for many.
Unfortunately, the weather turned again. A few brave souls
continued to Rigney's Bluff to view large numbers of the same
waterfowl, although a bit more distant than previous stops, and
then on to Burger Park where we experienced another lifer for
most, a Snowy Owl, four (!) Rough-legged Hawks (including one
dark morph) and a close, hunting Northern Harrier!

At this point, the remaining trip participants did not continue
due to the inclement weather, but the trip leaders carried on for
"the other possibilities" and were able to get the field bird tri-

fecta of Horned Larks, two Snow
Buntings and a Lapland Longspur at
Greenwell Farm as well as a flock of
60 Redpolls in Hamlin, but who
would have thought that would
happen!

Lynn Bergmeyer and Robert Buckert



Tundra Swan - LaSalles Landing
Park - © Eunice Thein - Mar 02,
2022

Records Report

1. February saw a slow rise in temperatures from a very cold late January. There was light snowfall on 19 days and heavy on just two days, with 9.2" over the 2nd to 3rd and another 5" on the 25th. The month started with a snow pack of greater than one foot, then dropped slowly with periods of melting. Mid-month saw 0.95" of rain on the 17th, a record amount for that date. There was some flooding then and late in the month with the rains and snow pack melting. On Lake Ontario, there was some shoreline ice through the month, but little more general coverage out beyond that. Bays and ponds and inland lakes remained largely frozen all month. Overall, temperatures averaged 26.1°F, 1.3° below normal; precipitation totaled 3.45", 1.32", above normal, and snowfall totaled 26.3", 3.2" above normal.

2. Once again, all of the expected waterfowl were reported, with a King Eider and continuing Common Eider and pair of Harlequin Ducks as bonuses. As small open areas appeared on bays, there was some start of spring migration in the appearance of new species and increasing numbers; probably low end typical for this month. There were no unusually high peak counts. The usual influx of Snow Geese was still limited and mostly outside of our region. Grebe numbers were also low and no Red-necked Grebes were reported. American Coot also remained scarce, and there were no rail reports. The group of 10 Sandhill Cranes in the area between Taylor Marsh and parts of the Town of Livonia continued, with reports to mid-month. None were reported from the NMWMA.

3. The late month warmth brought the first spring Killdeer on the 22nd. The only other shorebird was a lone Wilson's Snipe, likely a wintering bird moving about. All of our usual winter gulls were present, but in unexceptional numbers. There was only a single report of 10 Bonaparte's Gulls; back to historically typical. Loon reports were very few, and Double-crested Cormorant was again down to scattered reports of 1-2.

4. Among the hawks, wintering numbers were typically relatively low, though there were local concentrations of Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle numbers were good, there were three locations reporting Red-Shouldered Hawk, and Rough-legged Hawks were scattered about, with several appearing to settle in in the general Braddock Bay area. A Golden Eagle found

by Dave Tetlow in the Town of Ogden on the 26th was a nice surprise. David Brown is back again as this year's official hawk counter starting on March 1. The Cooper's:Sharp-shinned Hawk ratio remained at the usual about 3:1, with 153:45 eBird lines. There were no Black Vulture or Northern Goshawk reports. About 12 Snowy Owls were reported from ten locations, some over extended stays. Short-eared Owl numbers on the DEC surveys were relatively low, and the Tuesday dates for the Avon counts were again plagued by iffy weather. Jim Adams noted that the owl count in the Owl Woods area was off to a great start, with 17 Northern Saw-whet Owl reports the highest for the month in the 11 years he has been summarizing the data. A Long-eared Owl was reported there on two dates, likely an individual found there off and on earlier this winter. The regular falcons were all well reported through the season. Northern Shrike was a bit hard to find, with about six reported from three locations over the month.

5. As usual, woodpeckers are the major component of the other non-passerine land birds. There were no reports of Red-headed Woodpecker for the month. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was well down at less than half from the numbers of the last two winters, but still above typical winter expectations at 20 reports of 12 individuals.

6. Again, nearly all of the really expected late-winter passerines were reported this month. A surprise miss was Swamp Sparrow. There was also very limited sign of early migrants, and possibly most of those were lingering locally and just moving about a bit more. Winter finches were down to Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin. Apparently the long period of cold and snowpack took its toll on the lingering half-hardy species, as variety was down from the past couple of years and numbers of individuals down across the board. Those present (with some numbers in parentheses) included: Winter Wren (5), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Hermit Thrush (12), Eastern Towhee (1), Chipping Sparrow (1), Field Sparrow (5), Savannah Sparrow (1), Fox Sparrow (max. 2), many White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warbler (7 rep. of 1-3). Again, peak blackbird numbers were very low. More illustrations are provided in the Noteworthy Records table to be posted on the RBA website. Among these there are a number of entries of the number of lines of reports in the eBird

download and comparing with the same from last year, most were down 30% or more this year; certainly a combination of fewer birds and less birder activity.

7. The total number of records in the data download for the region was 28,991, down 20% from last year. The number of observers contributing to eBird records was 556 this month, about 10% down from last year.

Observers:

Oswaldo Araya, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Linda Clark Benedict, Steve Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Alan Bloom, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Christophe Brandt, Janet Brooks, David Brown (BBRR hawk watcher), Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Robert Crandall, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, George Ford, Kyle & Margaret Gage, Andy Garland, Richard Garrigus, Matthew Gavette, Janice George, Candy Giles, Bill & Linda Gillette, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Meg Grindrod, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Debi Holt, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Jason Hull, Pam Inzinna, Joyce Johns, Alyssa Johnson, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Jacob Kearney, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Fred Leff, Tim Lenz, Maureen Leupold, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy

Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Catherine McFee, Jay McGowan, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Steve Melcher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Randi Minetor, Ann Mitchell, Brian & Brooke Morse, Jim & Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Matt Nusstein, Dave Odell, Annie O'Reilly, Jay Ovsiovitch,

	2022	2021	10-year Average
Species for Feb.	124	134	121.6
New for the year	4	6	7.2
Total for the year to date	140	144	134.9

Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, RBA Field Trips, Rochester Young Birders Club, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Don Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jackie Salisbury, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Erica Shirley, Judy Slein, Cheri Smith, Marshall Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier & Donna Mason-Spier, Joe Stevenson, Wendy Stevenson, Allan Strong, David Strong, Joyce Testa, Eunice Thein, L. Tiede, Dave Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Brian Tuttle, Nathan Ukens, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Jeanne & Thomas Verhulst, Jules Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, David Wheeler, Joe Wing, Glenn Wolford, Chris Wood, Jim Wood. [556 observers in the eBird download, cannot list all here.]

Bald Eagle - Onondaga Lake - © Clyde Comstock - Mar 04, 2022

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BIRD OF PREY DAYS

Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24, 2022

Do you like meeting new people and sharing your love of birds and birding?

Then take a seat at the RBA table for Bird of Prey Days at Braddock Bay Park!

Fill a 3-hour shift and talk to people about RBA membership, field trips, the birds they've seen in their yard, and more.

We need 2 people per shift.

Contact Adrianna Anderson

at adrianna.m.anderson@gmail.com to reserve your slot.



April Monthly Meeting—Ornithotherapy: For Your Mind, Body, and Soul with Holly Merker

Watching birds: not only fun, but good for you!

Learn why getting your daily dose of “Ornithotherapy” is just what the doctor ordered....

Ornithotherapy leads to a more mindful approach to the observation of birds, benefitting our mind, body, and soul.

We are pushed and pulled in many directions, no matter our age. If we allow birds and nature to slow us down, we are practicing a form of “self care.” Research shows that exposure to nature actively reduces stress, depression, and anxiety, while helping build a stronger heart and immune system.

Birds are gateways into deeper experiences with nature, magnifying these benefits. Through observation, we can learn not only about birds, but gain insight into our own lives while exploring our connection to the world around us. This fosters stewardship and bolsters conservation.

During the program, we'll delve into our connections to birds, how to practice Ornithotherapy for optimal benefits, and learn about the latest research in the power of nature for overall wellbeing. Come listen to how watching birds can bring you more than just the enjoyment.

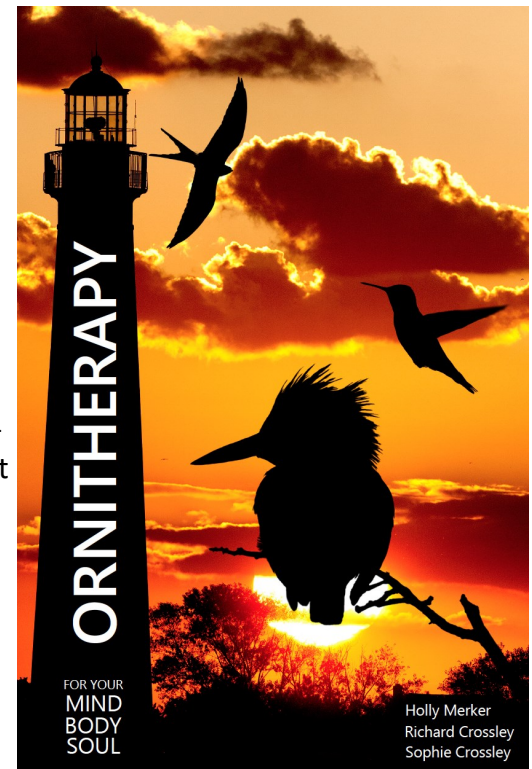
Speaker Bio:

Holly Merker has a background in art therapy, but today employs birds and nature toward the same goals of wellbeing in her work as an environmental educator and birding guide. Holly has worked as a professional birding instructor for National Audubon, the American Birding Association, Hillstar Nature, and many other organizations.

Passionate about connecting young people to birds, she co-founded the Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium, and has facilitated many young birder groups and teen birding camps. Dedicated to bird conservation, she has been state coordinator/reviewer for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird Pennsylvania since 2005, and a two-term voting member of the PA Ornithological Records Committee, as well as the Committee Chair.

Holly is lead author of the book *Ornithotherapy: For Your Body, Mind, and Soul* (along with co-authors Richard Crossley and Sophie Crossley, Crossley Books, 2021) and is currently promoting the practice of Ornithotherapy and providing workshops and programs across the U.S.

In her free time, Holly spends every possible moment practicing Ornithotherapy herself, which she credits in helping her defeat breast cancer, restoring her health mentally and physically.



Call for Volunteers ~ Help is needed for a citizen science project using eBird and the NYSBBA III. Amy Kahn, Conservation Chair—

The areas in Southwest Orleans County and especially northwest Genesee County surrounding Tonawanda, Iroquois, Oak Orchard and John White WMAs and the Tonawanda Seneca Nation are under heavy development pressure. The NYSDEC and the Seneca Nation would love our help documenting birds that use the farmland, wetlands and forested areas especially in the towns of Basom, Alabama, Shelby and Barre.

Areas of special interest are the Akron NE and CE blocks along the roads (ie. Crosby Road, Rtes 63 and 77, and Lewiston Road) between the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge, John White WMA and the Seneca reservation; an area designated to be the WNY STAMP project. The Seneca people are concerned about the development of the project and whether enough environmental studies have been done. The developer has already received two violations from the NYSDEC.

Please stay on public roads unless you have permission of a land owner. Be respectful of local traffic. If you have the opportunity to support a local business buying a meal or gas, please do so. Of particular concern are Species of Greater Conservation Need, Endangered and Threatened species, winter users such as short eared owls, migrants and breeding birds.



Genesee Valley Woodcarvers 36th Annual Show and Competition

*Saturday, April 9, 2022
10:00 AM to 4:30 PM*

*Rochester Museum and Science Center
Eisenhart Auditorium
657 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14626*

Free Admission

Birds, caricatures, animals, relief carvings, "People's Choice," demonstrations, and much more.

Raffle of carvings and related items.

For information about the show and raffle go to: www.gvwoodcarvers.com

Editor's Corner, Leah Mould—

Happy Spring everyone! The increase in sunlight hours has started to reawaken everything. As we start to make our way back into the world, please consider stepping up to help RBA build community and share our love of birding. Randi has many outreach opportunities for interested members. Our organization is amazing due to countless people's hard work and passion.

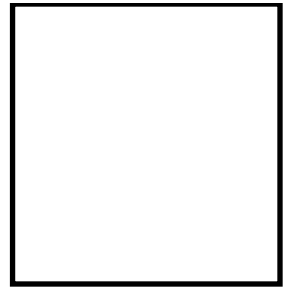
I have a special request for future Little Gull editions—I love featuring our many photographers from RBA's Last 30 days photo gallery, but I would like to feature other imagery and art as well. I have included an example—a common loon and chick made via needle felting I made last year. As long as it is birding related, I would love to see it and feature you and your work. Please send me an email with your name, the piece's title (if applicable) and your medium, with a photo of the art in a .jpeg or .png form.

My email is: editor@rochesterbirding.org





ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 92055
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Rochester, NY 14692-9998



Address Service Requested

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Did you know?

Migration is a seasonal movement of animals. Migratory animals include certain insects, fish or mammals like caribou!

There are different categories of migratory birds:

Short distance migrants travel minimally, for example moving up or down a mountain.

Medium distance migrants will move a few hundred miles.

Long distance migrants migrate across continents, and around 350 species move this far seasonally!

Adapted from "The Basics Of Bird Migration: How, Why, And Where", Allaboutbirds.org