



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

May 2022 Events and Birding Field Trips

Please note: Leaders and trip details are subject to change. Please check the most recent issue of the Little Gull, or the online schedule at the RBA website <https://rochesterbirding.org/>, 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 at 7:30 PM, 7 days before the trip date and ends at 1 PM the day before the trip. If not mentioned, trip limit is 20 plus leaders. When COVID guidelines allow, if at all possible, please carpool!

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.**

Leader: 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, 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*

RBA General Meeting, 7:00 pm, Asbury Methodist please see below

May 12
Thursday

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.

Leader: *Ann McMican 585-533-1222 and co-leader Sue Robertson 585-427-2535*

May 14
Saturday

Powder Mills Park and 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 adjacent tree lines have produced a variety of migrating warblers. Both locations are mostly flat trails, 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 585-362-0803*

May 15
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 17
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: *Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*

May 19
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 on uneven, sometimes muddy trails, 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 Jack-

son 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 <https://thegreenjay.jalbum.net/Thousand%20Acre%20Swamp/>

Leaders: Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485 and Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189

May 21
Saturday

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

We will search for Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Cerulean Warblers, and other 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. Mostly flat but uneven trails. Length about 3.5 miles total, walking. Port-a-john available about midway through trip. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at the Brockport Wegmans' 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.** 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 22
Sunday

Norway Road

This unassuming trip usually racks up a long bird list. 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 as we walk along a paved country road making 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 Ridgemont Plaza off Route 104 in Greece (opposite Heritage Drive).

Leader: Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621

May 24
Tuesday

Taylor Road – Headwaters of Irondequoit Creek

We will walk the woods and 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 585-362-0803 and co-leader Linda Roca 585-624-2697

May 26
Thursday

Birds and Brews, Three Heads Brewery, see information below

May 28
Saturday

New! Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail)

The Brickyard Trail is a wide, flat, fine gravel, multi-use trail situated between Elmwood Avenue and Westfall Road in Brighton (across from the east end of Buckland Park). It contains woods at both ends and ponds and marsh in the middle, providing good bird habitat. We will walk the full length of the trail and back (1.7 miles) to look for Song Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed Vireo, and others. Green Herons and woodpeckers nest here. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Westfall Road entrance. There is parking in the five spots next to the trail. (Enter from Westfall Road at The Landing at Brighton complex---make the first right, drive about 100 feet to the parking spots.) There is additional parking across Westfall Road at the Buckland Park Headquarters at Buckland House (where the eagle statue is). Cross Westfall Road at the crosswalk to the trail entrance. RTS "South Clinton" bus stop is a few yards from trail head on Westfall Rd. Dress for the weather. Insect repellent may be needed for the wooded sections. No restrooms. Wheelchair friendly.

Leaders: Jeanne and Tom Verhulst 585-362-0803

Trip List continues below



Photo by Richard Ashworth

President's Corner, Randi Minetor—

Let's get together! It's time to be in one place at the same time again, more than two years after we shut down our general membership meetings and went to an all-Zoom format. I'm so excited to share with you that our May general meeting will be the first at our new meeting location. Mark your calendars:

Back in the Before Times, we met at the Clover Center near East and Highland Avenues. That facility has been sold and is no longer available to us, but a committee that included Wanda Thistle, Jeanne Verhulst, and Liz Magnanti found us a new venue—one with an even larger meeting space, plenty of parking, and many conveniences. We look forward to a long relationship with the folks at Asbury.

We will continue to follow COVID protocols at our general meetings, with socially distanced seating and masking for those who prefer to wear one. Should another variant require us to increase our precautions, we will always comply with local health department guidance—and we will let you know in advance if this becomes necessary.

If you're just not ready to join us for an indoor meeting, we will continue to offer a hybrid Zoom option. Attendance at our Zoom meetings over the last two years has been quite impressive, with our annual meeting reaching a whopping 122 people! We want to continue to reach as many people as possible, so if you would prefer to enjoy a program about birds from the comfort of your living room, we will bring you this option as well. As always, the Zoom link will be distributed to members via an email on the morning of the meeting.

There's more RBA fun coming up in June: We will hold our annual picnic on the evening of Thursday, June 9, at Burroughs Audubon Nature Center, 301 Railroad Mills Road in Victor. The picnic offers our members and newcomers a great opportunity to enjoy a social event with fellow birders in a lovely natural setting, just down the road from the Auburn Trail. More details on this outdoor event will be forthcoming as the date gets closer.

Now, a quick word about avian influenza and bird feeders: The latest information from the USDA (April 26) tells us that domestic and wild waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, wading birds, and a few individual raptors and owls have contracted the flu across the country in recent weeks. The disease is mostly carried by wild waterfowl, but birds that share nesting and feeding ground with waterfowl can catch it as well. Cornell Cooperative Extension advises that if you live near water and regularly have ducks and geese in your yard, or if you raise poultry, it's best to take down your bird feeders "for a little while" until this flu has passed. Be sure to clean your feeders thoroughly and wash them in a solution of warm water and bleach before you put them out again.

We're looking forward to seeing you in May! Until then, enjoy the colors and sounds of the spring migration.

Rochester Birding Association

General Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Asbury First United Methodist
Church

1050 East Avenue

Rochester, NY

Welcome to the Flock!



Join us in welcoming these 14 new and returning members (7 memberships) who joined in the last month:

Shawn & Cynthia Cappiello
 Amber Eallonardo & Family
 (Asa, Levi, Tony)
 Melike Erkan
 Carrie Guarino & Ryan McNally
 Ash Harper
 Ann Ladd & Corliss Varnum
 Samuel Norman-Haignere & Jorie Koster-Hale

Current RBA Membership as of April 15 is 409:

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

Jo Taylor
 Membership Data

Adrianna Anderson
 Membership Outreach

RBA in the Field

Hamlin Beach State Park – March 19, 2022

Eleven birders overcame delayed flights, car trouble, and pea-soup fog to venture along the Lake Ontario shoreline in western Monroe County in search of migrating ducks and other early signs of spring. We gathered in the fog at Braddock Bay State Park and were able to pick out Mute Swans on the water and a handful of backyard birds, but decided to try our luck along Hogan Point Road before traveling down the shoreline. We were treated to a nice variety of waterfowl in the flooded fields, including pairs of Mallards, American Black Ducks, and Blue-winged Teal, and a small flock of Green-winged Teal. We spotted our first raucous pair of Killdeer here, and would find more at many of our stops.

We made stops at a handful of farm fields and brushy creek crossings throughout the morning, dodging rain showers as the fog steadily lifted. Horned Larks were everywhere, evident by the tinkling songs rising from acres of corn stubble. Along these stops, we found a beautiful pair of Hooded Mergansers, Eastern Bluebirds, American Kestrels, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet working the earliest tree buds next to the roadside. A few skeins of Snow Geese flew past at a distance, and an immature Bald Eagle also made an appearance overhead. Other birds feeding in the fields included more Mallards, an American Wigeon, Canada Geese, and loads of Herring and Ring-Billed Gulls, with a lone Lesser Black-backed Gull in the mix for us to puzzle over for a few minutes.

The rain became steadier as we pulled into our last stop at Hamlin Beach State Park, which was just fine for finding the ducks that we had hoped for. A handful of species were out on the lake, a great opportunity to compare sizes and plumages of our winter divers. The scaup were a little too far out to determine species, but White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneye, a Bufflehead, and some flyby Common Mergansers were a nice way to wrap up a day that started with less-than-ideal conditions. With ducks sufficiently counted, we decided to head out and dry off, ending the trip with a total of 41 species. *Christina Hoh and Lynn Bergmeyer*

Owl Woods Trip—March 26, 2022

The morning of the Owl Woods trip was chilly and overcast. Temperatures were in the 30's and the participants were greeted with some rain drizzling early on in the walk. Although the weather was lackluster, the Saw-whet Owls did not disappoint! The group of 16 were able to see two different Saw-whets (see photo by Dick Horsey!) in the classroom area of Owl Woods. After everyone was able to see the owls the group split into two to explore the looping trail. The calls of Northern Cardinals echoed through the woods and there was an occasional call of



an American Crow and Blue Jay. Overall, a quiet walk through the woods.

After the walk through Owl Woods, a few of the hardy members of the group moved to the Hawkwatch, where the winds were unforgiving. The raptor movement was minimal due to poor weather conditions, but the group was able to see a Northern Harrier, Turkey Vulture, and a few Bald Eagles! *Liz Magnanti, Dick Horsey and Daena Ford*

Woodcock Courtship Flights—April 9, 2022

Twenty birders and two leaders gathered at the Brad-dock Bay Owl Woods parking lot on a cool, cloudy, and breezy evening. The group introduced themselves and talked about our target bird for the evening, the American Woodcock. This shorebird is unique in that it nests in upland second growth, breeds throughout the eastern USA and has a wonderfully odd courtship display. In the twilight hours, around dusk and dawn, male woodcocks find an open space of field and begin their buzzy calling, *peent... peent... peent...* to attract females. Suddenly, the male launches up in a circling, headlong flight up to 200- 300 feet high with wings twittering all the way. At the height of the sky dancing, the male bird adds his own vocal twitters to his wing sounds. Then he drops from the sky in a zigzag, like a falling leaf and the process starts again. The display is just one reason for the Woodcock's rich variety of folk names including Timberdoodle, Bogsucker, and Labrador Twister, among others.

The group was not disappointed. At least two displaying male Woodcock were heard and one male was seen high up in the dim light twittering away, seemingly oblivious to us. Several times this male completed the cycle *peenting* on the ground and then launching into his frantic noisy flight. Other notable sightings included a migrant Sharp-shinned Hawk over the parking lot, a flock of 20 Cedar Waxwings, a Common Loon whizzing west over the field, a Great Blue Heron flying over, several Wood Ducks flying by, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. Thanks to all the participants! *Neal Reilly and Robert Buckert*

Highland Park Field Trip— April 20, 2022

On a bright, sunny, but chilly morning, eleven birders gathered across from the Highland Park Conservatory. We heard a Tufted Titmouse in the distance, many American Robins were singing and a couple of Turkey Vultures floated by. As we strolled Reservoir

Avenue we found Dark-eyed Juncos and Chipping Sparrows in the valley below and a Common Raven flew overhead. Up on the former Children's Pavilion area, we were treated to close views of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and good views of a busy Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was also spotted near a nest site. Following along the base of the reservoir, we found White-throated Sparrows, a Song Sparrow, more Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a Brown Thrasher was heard by some, but not seen. A Red-tailed Hawk hunted low over us giving good views. Further along, we, finally found Fox Sparrows scratching in the leaf litter. Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers showed up, an Eastern Towhee was seen by some, and all had good views of Cedar Waxwings. By the Poet's Garden, two Eastern Phoebe and a White-breasted Nuthatch were seen and as we were going over the list, a Brown Creeper and Downy Woodpecker showed nicely. Thanks to all for coming and adding the many keen eyes and ears that made it a successful trip with a total of 35 species. A special thanks to Bill Haake for sharing his scope for really close views! *Jeanne Verhulst and Amy Kahn*



Great Horned Owl (Juv) - Mendon -

© Clyde Comstock - Apr 17, 2022

Records Report

1. A typical seesaw, transition month. It was mild with little snow and no major snow events. There was only one serious wind event, which brought down a few tress and limbs on the 6th. Near month's end there was a period of bitter cold for about 10 days. A maximum of only 22° on the 28th was only the 7th time that a high temperature that low has been recorded on or after 28 March. Temperatures averaged 37.4°F, 2.2° above normal, while precipitation totaled 1.55", 0.94" below normal. Snowfall at 12.3" was 5.6" below normal.

2. At times, arrivals seemed slow, but the species total added one more to the record high species count for the month at 150. The year-to-date total was down just a bit, but well above average. Only four species arrived at dates earlier than our 1985 Monroe County Checklist earliest, with Laughing Gull, Great Egret, and Yellow-rumped Warbler at new record early dates and Dunlin with only three other intervening years earlier. In addition there were several rarities with no date distributions for comparison: A regional first and state 2nd **Tundra Bean-Goose**, found first by Tim Lenz at the top of Seneca Lake on the 10th, then the next day there and plus four more days in the mucklands in Wayne County just north of Rt. 31, with Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and Eurasian Wigeon also in the mucklands. A 2nd regional **Cinnamon Teal** was found by John & Karla Gordinier in the flooded flats near Groveland in Livingston County and seen by many from the 21st to month's end. And a 1st regional, well-documented **Smith's Longspur** was found by Jim Kimball in the fields SE of Geneseo on the 13th and by many others through the 15th. Several other regional rarities included: Cackling Goose, King and Common Eiders, Black Vulture, and Hoary Redpoll. Then add six identified waterfowl hybrids. Again this year, most of the typical March arrivals were reported. Many of the lingering half hardies were still reported, but numbers were way down for most. The various irruptive species and winter finches were scarce. The eBird data download for the region was ~ 50,175 lines of reports, down about 6% from last March (basically in the noise). Once more we have David Brown back as the official hawk counter at Braddock Bay; applause please!

3. Among the waterfowl, the trend continued that all expected species were reported, with many bonus species added. Peak counts remained low for most species, but large numbers were reported for Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, and decent numbers for a few other species. The Snow Goose counts could prompt some discussion among interested birders around the issues with arriving at such numbers. The trend to earlier passage on from the region also continued and was very apparent by month's end. Snow melt was basically done and water levels for Lake Ontario were a foot or more high and also high for many other bodies of water, and many puddles scattered about in fields. Grebes were generally poor, with only two double-digit Red-necked Grebe counts. Sandhill Cranes numbers passing the Hawkwatch and elsewhere were very good.

4. Shorebirds remained scarce through the month, with only token numbers of the few early arrivers noted: Killdeer, a very early Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, and both yellowlegs. The first spring Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on 17 March, but numbers remained low through the month. Again, overall, gull numbers were relatively low. The three usual winter gulls, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous, were reported through the month in low numbers. A Laughing Gull on Conesus Lake was a surprise and appeared to possibly be injured.

5. The typical spring loon movement was very slow through month's end. Double-Crested Cormorant numbers increased, after essentially disappearing with the February cold, but remained low. Great Blue Herons were on nests in several areas, and Great Egret arrived at a record early date. The hawk count was off to a modest start, but bumped up to 14,113 for the month by a record high Turkey Vulture count of 10,083 on the 31st to a total 13,062 for the month. As usual, no Northern Goshawk and only a lone, hawkwatch Golden Eagle, with three others elsewhere. Numbers were good for Rough-legged Hawk. A table with all the details and daily notes can be found on the Hawkcount website.

6. There were many reports, but only about five Snowy Owls were noted from about five locations, fortunately including the Braddock Bay area. The DEC Short-eared Owl surveys out of the Avon office con-

tinued, but with fairly low numbers of owls through this season. Jim Adams reported numbers from the usual Owl Woods counts, with a very good 76 N. Saw-whet Owls and nine more Long-eared Owls for this month; a very good season to date. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were back to more normal numbers for the time of year after a couple of very high years. Once more, no Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported. The three regular falcons were all reported in good numbers at the hawkwatch and elsewhere.

7. There were basically few surprises among the passerines. New arrivals were about as expected for dates, but light on numbers, likely due to the deep cold snap at month's end. There were no really outstanding peak counts. Many of our lingering, overwintering, half-hardies were very scarce. A lone Hoary Redpoll was the only rarity until the mega-rarity event of the Smith's Longspur. The table of Noteworthy Records to be posted on the RBA website will provide more details and illustrations.

	2022	2021	10-year Average
Species for Mar.	150	149	142.3
New for the year	19	19	17.7
Total for the year to date	159	163	152.6

8. Please send your reports by the 5th of the month to Greg Lawrence.

Observers:

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Diane Baillargeon, Daniel & Eileen Baldassarre, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark Benedict, David Benvent, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, Johnathan Blades, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, David Brown (official BB hawk counter), Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brian Cannon, Brad Carlson, Bernie Carr, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Gary Chapin, Larry Chen, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, John Confer, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Pete Debes, Michael DeWispelaere, Gordon Dutter, Diane Eagan, Joseph Fell, Mark Fitzsimmons, George Ford, Jim Fry, Andrew Gaerte, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janis George,

Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, Bill Gillette, Kim Goeppert, Menachem Goldstein, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Bill Haake, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Elle Heiser, Christina Hoh, Debi Holt, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Alec Humann, Pam Inzinna, John Jaenike, Alyssa Johnson, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Pat Lindsay, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Liz Magnanti, Pat Martin, Judy Massare, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Shai Mitra, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Leah Mould, Sheila Mumpton, Susie Nettleton, Raphael Nussbaumer, David Nutter, David Odell, Joe Ovsiovitch, Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Aidan Perkins, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Gerry Rising, Atalanta Ritter, Susan Roberts, David Robertson, Brian Rohrs, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salsbury, Federico Sanchez, Michael Scheibel, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Tony Shrimpton, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Wendy Stevenson, Alan Strong, Steve Taylor, Mike Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Brian Tuttle, Geoff Twardokus, Nathan Ukens, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Matt Voelker, Jules Wagner, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, David Wheeler, Joe Wing, Glenn Wolford, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Matthew Young, Ryan Zucker. [There were 478 eBird contributors. Not all could be listed here.]

May 2022 Events and Birding Field Trips Continued

May 28
Saturday

New! Ganondagan State Historic Site, a Field Trip for Young Birders

This trip is open to young birders ages 8 to 18 accompanied by a parent. 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 walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through the Meadowlark field and then head down through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and includes some hills. 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. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip. Meet at **10:00 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.)

Leader: Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147

May 29
Sunday

New! Wyoming County Fields and Forest

This is a great opportunity to explore an upland region of northeastern Wyoming County including New Compehner Farm (6340 LaGrange Road Wyoming, NY 14591). We will look for migrating and resident warblers, a variety of native sparrows, hopefully returning cliff swallows, both oriole species and open country birds, in a nice mixture of open fields and wooded habitats and bird friendly plantings. We will focus on locating several nesting species. This trip has a little of everything on a beautiful farm. Easy walking but will cover a mile or two; wear sturdy shoes. The trip will last until noon. Use a restroom en route, if possible, otherwise a bathroom is available at the home of the leader. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at 6340 LaGrange Road, Wyoming, NY 14591.

Leaders: Hans Kunze 585-813-2676 and Rick Stevens 585-689-1882

Jun 4
Saturday

Ganondagan State Historic Site

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 walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through the Meadowlark field and then head down through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and includes some hills. 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. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip. 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 585-310-2330 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147



Cedar Waxwing - Pittsford - © Alan Bloom
- Apr 01, 2022

Birds and Brews Event Information

Join Rochester Birding Association members on **Thursday, May 26th from 6:00-9:00pm** for Birds and Brews! This 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. This month, join us at Three Heads Brewing on Atlantic Ave. Please contact Liz Magnanti (lizmagnanti@gmail.com) with questions.

Location: Three Heads Brewing: 186 Atlantic Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Bird-related Scholarship Opportunity

NYSOA will be accepting nominations for the Lillian C. Stoner Award, which is awarded to promising young birders, until **June 20**. NYSOA considers nominees who will, at the time of the conference, be in high school grades 10, 11, or 12 (sophomore, junior, or senior), or in one of their first two years in college (freshman or sophomore). Candidates may be anywhere along the birding skill spectrum from beginner (feeder watcher) to advanced (self-directed researcher). Our objective is to select winners who demonstrate a strong interest in wild birds and whose attendance at the Annual Meeting will positively influence their desire to pursue birding and/or ornithology as a lifelong interest.

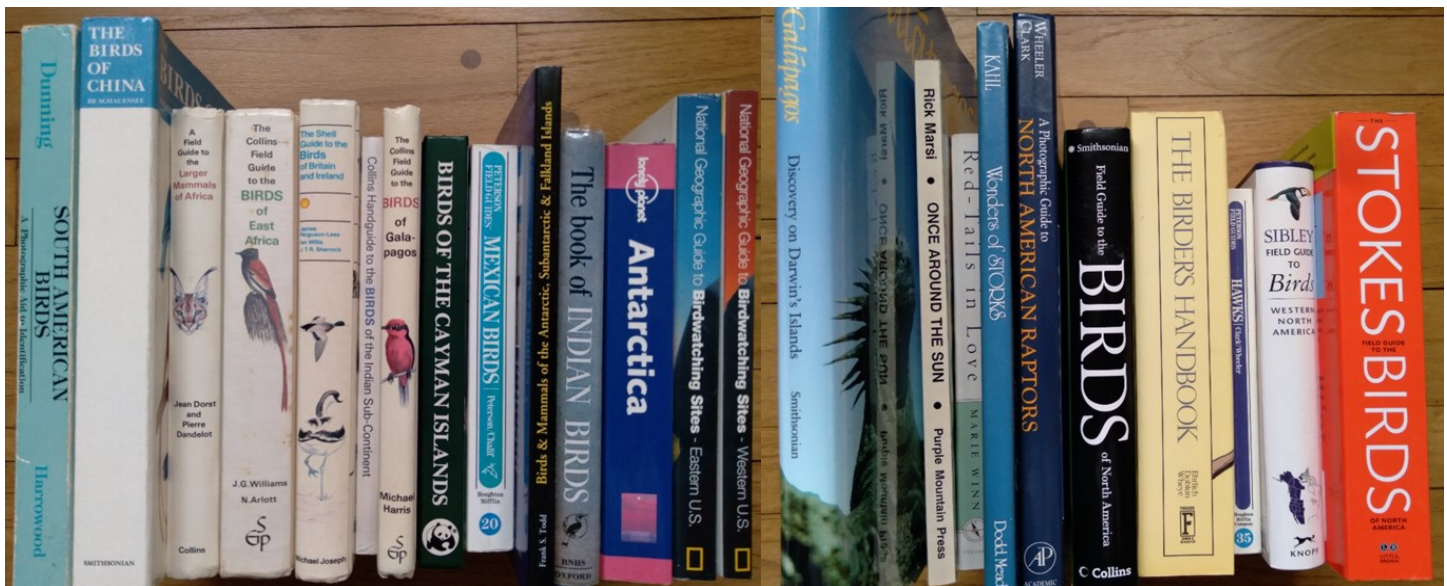
More information about the nomination process and forms can be found at <https://nybirds.org/FedAwards.html>. If you would like to nominate a budding birder (or a more advanced one) for this fall's award, your [nomination form](#) and the nominee's brief paragraph must be received by June 20, 2022.



Black-capped Chickadee [Colored pencil] by Derek Pulhamus

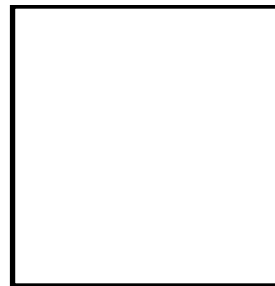
Cheap Bird Books Last Chance – J. Boettcher

Got rid of quite a few and made the RBA \$72. This is what I have left. Some nice titles. Same price as before \$2 for a soft cover and \$4 for a hardcover. Get in touch with me (585-298-3404 or johnwb2@rochester.rr.com) for more specific info on the books.





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



Address Service Requested

2022 RBA Board of Directors

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Webmaster	Vacant	
Young Birders	Vacant	

Did you know?

“For birds that winter in the tropics, it seems strange to imagine leaving home and embarking on a migration north. Why make such an arduous trip north in spring? One idea is that through many generations the tropical ancestors of these birds dispersed from their tropical breeding sites northward. The seasonal abundance of insect food and greater day length allowed them to raise more young (4–6 on average) than their stay-at-home tropical relatives (2–3 on average). “

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