



# Little Gull

Visit the RBA's website at [www.RochesterBirding.org](http://www.RochesterBirding.org)

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

## June 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

### Jun 4 Ganondagan State Historic Site

Saturday

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

### Jun 5 Letchworth State Park

Sunday

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

**Leader:** Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754 and co-leaders Leah Mould 585-402-1097 and Neal Reilly 518-256-9147

### Jun 9 RBA Annual Picnic—5:30 pm at BANC, see below for details

### Jun 18 Bergen Swamp

Saturday

A trip to this unique place is by special permit from the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and will feature nesting birds. The mix of vegetation zones provides secluded nesting habitat for the usual western N.Y. species as well as those more characteristic of the Canadian zone such as Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Canada and Nashville Warblers. This is a walking trip of 3 miles on variably wet and slippery corduroy trails that must be followed closely for safety reasons and because of the fragile habitat. **Sturdy boots** (rather than sneakers) are **strongly recommended**, and hiking or ski poles may be useful. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the main trailhead entrance to Bergen Swamp: 6646 Hessenthaler Rd, Byron, NY

14422. From Rochester, take I-490 west to Exit 2. Take Rt. 33 west and turn right (north) onto Route 19. Turn left at the fire station onto Hunter Road until it becomes Swamp Road. Follow Swamp Road west past Pocock Road and turn right onto Hessenthaler Road. The swamp entrance is at the kiosk on the right. Park along the right shoulder, but do not park in front of the caretaker's house.

**Leader:** *Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*

**Jun 19**  
Sunday

### **Odonata Sanctuary**

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

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

**Jun 26**  
Sunday

### **Barnhart's Camp and Keeney Swamp**

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

**Leaders:** *Jerry and Carolyn Barnhart 585-385-4026 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*

**July: Many Birds Are on Nests – Consider Helping with the Breeding Bird Atlas!**

**Jul 30**  
Saturday

### **Conesus Inlet State Wildlife Management Area**

Explore this expansive wetland for Virginia Rails and Wood Duck families. We've seen eagles on a reliable basis, Cliff Swallows and more. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on dirt trails and dikes. Length about 1.5 miles of walking. Restrooms are available at the meeting place only. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville. The Park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of Route 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware. There's a possibility of a trip extension to the Geneseo Airport area. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

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



Worm-eating Warbler -  
Firehouse Woods - © Dick  
Horsey - Apr 26, 2022



Photo by Richard Ashworth

## President's Corner, Randi Minetor—

What an exciting spring it's been! With appearances by Worm-eating Warbler, Curlew Sandpiper, Piping Plover, and many other unusual birds here on the North Coast, we had a wonderful migration season. Now it's time to think about breeding birds and the challenges they face as they build nests and raise young throughout our area.

This is the third year of the New York Breeding Bird Atlas III (NYBBA), so if you are participating in this fascinating and important citizen science project, June is a prime month for getting out into the field and recording what you see. You'll find all the information you need at <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about> to understand how to observe bird behavior and record it on the NYBBA site on eBird. There's still plenty of time to get involved—only a small fraction of birding blocks (3 x 3 mile squares) have been completed, so your participation is vital to help complete the statewide atlas.

Birds need places to nest, but manicured lawns and well-pruned trees do not attract them. You can make your yard a safe place for birds, whether they nest in cavities in trees or birdhouses, on ledges with cover (like the insides of barns), or deep in brush piles. It's tough to resist the urge to clean up every leaf and twig in your yard and whisk them off for compost, but many birds love piles of brush and leaves. Consider turning your yard into a habitat for many species of birds by letting the seasons pass naturally, leaving your leaf and twig detritus where it falls and creating piles that help birds hide from predators. You will be thrilled to welcome the new birds that move in.

Birds also need food that they recognize, beyond what you may offer in your feeders. Many birds are fruit eaters that will never come to half an orange or a dish of grape jelly—they need berries and other fruits they can glean from fruiting trees, like serviceberry, spicebush, and winterberry. These native trees provide year-round fruit for birds like waxwings, robins, blackbirds, bluebirds, thrushes, and even some warblers and vireos. Native wildflowers—black-eyed Susan, gray coneflower, common and butterfly milkweed, Joe-Pye weed, cardinal flower, wild bergamot, blazing star, common yarrow, boneset, tickseed coreopsis, and many others—provide familiar foods to local birds as well, turning your yard into Bird Central throughout the summer and fall.

There's one more thing you can do to help birds nest, feed, and care for their young throughout the breeding season. Now that a variety of apps have put birdsong in the palms of our hands, many birders find it very easy to use playback—playing a recording of a bird's song in the field. Hearing the song can make the bird think that a rival individual has entered its territory, so the bird may rise from its nesting area to defend itself and its mate. Sometimes a female will emerge from the nesting area to check out the new singing male, to see if he may be preferable to the one she's already chosen. The bird's response to playback briefly disrupts its process of nesting, breeding, and raising young. While there is precious little research about whether playback hurts birds or disrupts breeding, experts agree that the responsible thing to do is to resist the temptation to draw birds out with recordings, especially during breeding season. Let's do everything we can to help bird populations increase this summer.



Do you love helping with events?

Do you enjoy keeping in touch with a group of enthusiastic volunteers?

Are you comfortable sending emails and following up?

**Then you may be our next Volunteer Coordinator!**

**We're looking for someone who can make sure that we have volunteers to staff tables at events throughout the year—**

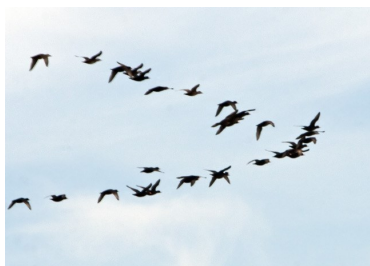
**Birds of Prey Days, Adirondack Outdoors Day, Halloween at the Public Market, and others.**

**The position also includes management of our volunteer database, and our display materials used at events.**

**Sound like you?**

**Contact Randi Minetor at [writerrandi@gmail.com](mailto:writerrandi@gmail.com) to learn more.**

## Welcome to the Flock!



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

Christa Eliot  
Nancy Gombert  
Merri-Lou McKeever  
Sheila Murphy  
Sandie Ville  
Nancy Warth & Family (Mark, Kelly, Ella)

Current RBA Membership as of May 15 is 418:

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

Jo Taylor  
Membership Data

Adrianna Anderson  
Membership Outreach

## RBA ANNUAL PICNIC

Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club,  
301 Railroad Mills Rd., Victor

This year, we invite everyone to bring their own food and place settings. We hope this will decrease Covid concerns, and look forward to returning to a potluck in the future.

RBA will provide ice and charcoal if you would like to grill. Please sign up by calling Wanda Thistle @ 585-281-0956 or email at thistlew@yahoo.com

The picnic is always informal and fun. The BANC facility is located in an ideal location to see birds. If you haven't been to the picnic then you haven't had the opportunity to enjoy this lovely spot.

Looking forward to see you there!

## RBA in the Field

### Braddock Bay Hawkwatch— April 30 2022

14 birders and 2 leaders gathered at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch site on a sunny spring day. Temperatures were cool in the 40s to near 50 despite the bright sun, partly due to cool light breezes out of the north and northeast. The group joined hawkwatcher David Brown on the platform and over the course of 2 hours spotted a nice variety of birds. 4 Adult Broad-winged Hawks were seen. Other raptors included: Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagles, and 2 American Kestrels. Other notable birds seen included Purple Martins, Caspian Terns, several American Wigeon and Wood Ducks.

After hearing reports that a Worm-Eating Warbler was still being seen at Firehouse Woods, the group thanked David for his help and knowledge and headed over to look for the long staying uncommon warbler. The trip got good looks at the Worm-eating along the trail nearest the Firehouse. We then explored the loop trail of Firehouse picking up Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-throated Sparrow, and Eastern Phoebe among other birds. Thanks to everyone who participated! *Mike Tetlow and Neal Reilly*

### Cobbs Hill Park—May 4 2022

Sixteen brave souls (about half of the pre-registrants) greeted us at Cobbs Hill Park on a dark and rainy morning. The one saving grace was that it wasn't particularly windy and the temperature was in the mid-50's and not lower. Birds were understandably mostly hunkered down. We had the full complement of 5 species of woodpeckers and a fly-over by the resident Red-tailed Hawk. A glimpsed Ovenbird was a nice treat for many at the start of the trip, and from the rim of the lawn area we observed a pair of soggy Blue Jays tending a nest. Later in the morning the rain finally stopped and some of the birds became active. We had looks at Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers. An unusual-for-Cobbs Blue-winged Warbler was a nice surprise. Hermit Thrush and Veery appeared side-by-side and lingered, providing a nice teaching moment. We totaled a respectable 44 species. Thanks to all for coming.

*Jeanne and Tom Verhulst, Sue Robertson and Pat Martin*

### **Taylor Marsh—May 7 2022**

It was an overcast day and cool (in the 40s) with light northeast winds. We had a smallish group of 11 participants and 2 leaders. The participants seemed to be in good spirits in spite of what turned out to be a slow day of birding. We ended up with a very modest 28 bird species, which is probably a record low species count on this annual field trip. Taylor Marsh is best known for its marsh birds, but the only one found was a Virginia Rail that responded briefly and faintly to a recorded call. Probably for the first time ever, we were skunked on Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks at Dick Knight's hayfield next to the marsh. One participant may have glimpsed a meadowlark, but she wasn't sure. Perhaps the most exciting sighting was a Blue-winged Warbler that was first heard by Leah Mould. Just about everyone got at least a brief glimpse of this often elusive species. One of the more interesting finds was not avian and came at the very end of the trip. There was a small tree that was missing a patch of bark. The bare patch looked similar to a bear scrape. Furthermore, there were animal droppings on the ground nearby that seemed consistent with a small black bear!

After the field trip was officially over, Lynn visited the northeast part of Taylor Marsh and reported seeing an adult Bald Eagle perched next to a nest, 3 Carolina Wrens, a Northern Flicker, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers, an Eastern Phoebe, 2 Bobolinks, and an Eastern Meadowlark.

*Jay Greenberg and Lynn Braband*

### **Field Trip Report for Camp Beechwood and Olga Fleisher Wildlife Preserve—May 3 2022**

Even with sunshine, a lake breeze kept temps in the mid 40s and we did not linger at the Webster Park meeting place. At a brief stop at B. Foreman Park east of Pultneyville, we tallied eight species including Red-breasted Mergansers on the lake, Palm Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, and Goldfinch in leafing willows. Our group totaled 13 by the time we assembled at Beechwood State Park. A bright Baltimore Oriole showed from the parking lot. Walking the dirt road, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Palm, Yellow-rumped, and Yellow Warblers flitted in the hedgerow. A Pine Warbler was singing and seen later on. A singing Brown Thrasher, Northern Flicker and Red-bellied

Woodpeckers gave us all great looks out in the meadow and a pair of Eastern Phoebes appeared to be nest building under a large excavating machine. At the lake overlook and Maxwell Bay, a pair of Belted Kingfishers darted and called, 6 Red-breasted Mergansers, a Common Goldeneye and a Common Loon were visible. A Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron, Mute Swan and a number of Tree and Rough-winged Swallows were seen. In the old orchard, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow Warblers were seen well, and Wood Ducks flew over the pond. There was a lot of action overhead throughout the morning: 6 Bald Eagles, about 50 Broad-winged Hawks, 6 Sharp-shinned Hawks, Turkey Vultures, Osprey, and a Northern Harrier passed by. We ate lunch at Maxwell Creek and were treated to a Green Heron, a Spotted Sandpiper, a House and a Carolina Wren. Beechwood totaled 61 species. At Olga Fleisher Wildlife Preserve (Huckleberry Swamp), the second part of the trip, it was surprisingly quiet. We had a total of 16 species including a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a heard Common Yellowthroat. The day produced a total of 65 species. Thanks to all who joined us, the good company and sharp eyes made for a great trip. *Jim Wood and Jeanne Verhulst*

### **RBA Trip Lakeshore Warbler Hotspots – May 7 2022**

Over 20 people joined three leaders on this beginner birder trip. The plan was to find a lot of warblers in the Firehouse Woods and on the Lakeview Community Church Trails between Long and Buck Ponds. We divided the group in half and sent each half in opposite directions to begin. Things were very slow in the beginning, everything seemed to be a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The usual suspects of the habitat like Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Swamp Sparrow were noted but no warblers. Switching locations and more searching located four species of warbler – Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Palm and for a very few, Common Yellowthroat. Participants were especially thrilled with recently arrived Baltimore Orioles and at least three individual Bald Eagles, including a cooperative immature eagle perched in a nearby tree over Long Pond. The Bird of the Day was a somewhat rare adult Red-headed Woodpecker located by Bob Crandall's keen eyes as Lynn insisted on looking in the direction of woodpecker drummings for what seemed to be an eternity knowing that the Red-headed Woodpecker had been seen the day before

on the Lakeview Church Trail. Total species for the trip was over thirty although several species only gave brief glimpses as so many participants were unable to see them with a group this size. The benefit of having larger groups during spring migration is that many more birders get an opportunity to experience a large number of migratory birds with the added benefit of many pairs of eyes. Greg's impressive knowledge/abilities and John's vast experience highlight this trip. *Lynn Bergmeyer, John Boettcher, Greg Lawrence*



RBA and BANC members (photo credit Richard Ashworth)

### High Acres Nature Area - April 16, 2022

It was a wet and unseasonably cold day at HANA. Light rain fell on and off. At one point the rain was white. With several cancellations and 2 'no shows', our group went from 25 participants down to 15. But, you know what? Someone forgot to tell the birds the weather forecast. They were there! Right away in the parking lot we had a Northern Mockingbird, a Common Raven being chased by a crow and an American Kestrel.

Moving off on the green trail, an American Bittern flushed at the pond. It buried itself in the shoreline brush but trip leader Brian Rohrs was able to locate it using a spotting scope. With a little patience, every person was able to get a look at this secretive marsh bird. And then, it flushed up to a low tree branch in a full and unobstructed view for all. Then the bittern flew off across the water. A 'jewel of the marsh', it was a 'life' bird for many and a pretty special find for all.

In the eastern marsh via the red trail, we found Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, a single Greater Scaup, Pied-billed Grebe and an American Coot. The rattle of a

Belted Kingfisher alerted us to its presence as it lit on to the top of a dead snag in the wetland. Again the spotting scope let our interested birders have a better look. With a nice variety of waterfowl, woodpeckers calling and frogs peeping, the magic of the spring marsh was 'on'.

Traversing the western perimeter loop, we were treated to the sights and sounds of Wilson's Snipe and side by side Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets. A bright Pine Warbler came in to a call while a Fox Sparrow adorned the top of a budding out shrub.

Exploring the Quarry Pond and North Marsh our group scored Green and Blue-winged Teal, a very handsome Northern Shoveler and Wood Duck. A Great Blue Heron looked on.

By the time we were finishing our trek, the weather was moderating, our boots were muddy and our check list was full. It totaled 52 species. Pretty great for the doom and gloom of the weather prediction, as well as, the time of year. *Rosemary Reilly, Gayle Lazoration and Brian Rohrs*

### Rush Riverside Refuge—May 12 2022

On a gorgeous May morning, 13 birders hiked 2 easy miles through field, meadow, along rail track, woods, creek sides and the Genesee River to see and/or hear 49 species of birds. Highlights included spectacular views of a pair of Scarlet Tanagers, a show-off Common Yellowthroat and Eastern Towhee. We also had good looks at both Nashville and Tennessee Warblers. With totals of 12 Common Yellowthroat and 13 Yellow Warblers, we were never without bird-song. For many, it was the first of year for Eastern Phoebe, Swamp Sparrow and Least Flycatcher. As hoped, Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen and heard. White-breasted Nuthatches were observed going in and out of their nest hole with food. American Crows had a raucous extended riot at the northern end of the property until the flyover by the resident Red-tailed Hawk. Other raptors seen included a Broad-winged Hawk and American Kestrel. The surprise of the day was a close flyover of three Common Mergansers as we came through the emergent meadow. The day ended with a kettle of 11 Turkey Vultures that came directly over the group at the barns. Participant Bill Haake helped with both songs (Merlin beta testing) and a scope. Co-Leader Susan Robertson set the bar high for co-leaders everywhere with her own newly developed

colorful maps of the area which were made available to everyone. *Ann McMican, Sue Robertson*

#### **Four Mile Creek Preserve, Webster—May 1, 2022**

Twenty birders met at Four Mile Creek Preserve on a cool, early May morning to seek out migrating songbirds and local species gearing up for breeding season. With freezing overnight temperatures and even some snow earlier in the week, we weren't sure what to expect!

Thankfully, we were greeted almost immediately by the loud, musical song of a Northern Waterthrush from the bushes bordering the creek. We spent much of the trip following a flock of White-throated Sparrows kicking up leaves and criss-crossing the tangles in the understory, keeping an eye and ear out for action higher up in the forest. Gray Catbirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and woodpeckers were causing a ruckus, but we were able to pick out some quieter birds, like Hermit Thrushes and White-breasted Nuthatches. We found some new arrivals in the area, including a Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, and Winter Wren.

After our relatively quiet scouting trip the previous morning, we were happy to find a handful of additional warbler species had arrived apparently overnight. Numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers picked through the flowers and buds in the canopy, Palm Warblers showed off their tail-pumping behavior, and a couple of pairs of Black-throated Blue Warblers were a great lesson in field marks. The bird of the day was probably a very cooperative Black-and-white Warbler, who hitched around trees so close to the trail that you didn't really need binoculars to appreciate his crisp, contrasty plumage. Some sweetly-singing Purple Finches rounded out our 45-species trip, a great way to kick off a very busy May for both the birds and local birders. *Christina Hoh, Sheryl Gracewski & Tom Nash*

#### **RBA Trip Ontario Pathways—May 10, 2022**

Six people joined us for this spring migration trip in the nearby county of Ontario. Sadly, we had several last-minute cancellations, but for the attendees the weather was quite cooperative. On this trip we are always hoping for a major migratory event. In the past there have been several times that it has been "passerine heaven" here (especially those beautiful, bright colored spring warblers)!

This trip also offers historical significance. The trail itself follows the bed of past railroad lines. Along the

way you will encounter remnants of these past rail systems. The two "legs" of Ontario Pathways, the Phelps Leg and the Canandaigua Leg are both railroad corridors dating back to the mid 1880's. This trip was on the Phelps Leg from Route 96 to just before reaching the next major road to the south. It passes through many different habitats and crosses several bridges over fast moving but meandering streams.

The group had the opportunity to see and/or hear 49 species. Trip favorites included great views of number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (both male and female birds), a Spotted Sandpiper, several Baltimore Orioles, Least Flycatchers, many Eastern Phoebes, Blue-headed Vireos, and a very cooperative Field Sparrow. Warbler species included Blackburnian, Cape May, Nashville, many Yellow and Yellow-rumped and Common Yellowthroats. A Wood Thrush serenaded us halfway thru the trip. A few participants were able to hear the song of a Blue-winged Warbler up the hill where the local electrical company easement resides. Even fewer were able to actually see the responsible hybrid of the BWWA, the Brewster's Warbler! Quite the sighting! In terms of species, the hybrids of BWWA are not considered separate from the BWWAs. However they are very much physically different from the Blue-Winged and Golden-winged Warblers whose cross-breeding result in these hybrids (Lawrence's Warbler is the other well-known hybrid).

*Lynn Bergmeyer, Rosemary Reilly*

#### **Manitou Beach Preserve - May 15, 2022**

We had a lovely group of 5 participants and 2 leaders on a lovely May morning. We had 11 species of warblers at the preserve and an additional 3 species on the West spit. It was an amazing mix of early and late species: Black-and-white and Blackpoll, Palm and Tennessee, Northern Parula and Bay-breasted warblers. Other highlights were two Green Heron calling and flying around, and a Yellow-throated Vireo, a Spotted Sandpiper and a multitude of Ruby-throated hummingbirds. *Amy Kahn and Kevin Farrell*

## Records Report

1. April weather was about normal, though with only nine days with precipitation totaling 2.58", about 0.5" below average. There was barely any measurable snowfall in April, leaving Rochester at 87" for the season by month's end, about 15" below average. There were a few major windstorms during the month and generally cloudy weather overall with only two days the entire month having fair sky conditions. Four straight nights of good southwest winds from April 10-13 yielded some good early water bird movement followed by our first major passerine influx and subsequent flight during the last two days of that period. This period was interesting as there were good southwest winds every night to bring in migrants, though differences in precipitation and daytime winds made each day unique from a birding perspective. Rochester hit the 80-degree mark on April 24 and 25, a week earlier than average, which came with strong southwest winds and a big kickstart to Spring passerine migration. Average temperature was 46.4 degrees, 0.4 degrees below average for the month.

2. Starting with waterfowl, we had the standard assortment of species reported, all in average to below average numbers with a few larger counts of American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Ring-necked Duck all coming from the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) area and a few large counts of Northern Shoveler, Greater Scaup, and Bufflehead along the lakeshore during a minor waterbird fallout event on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This same event produced a few other noteworthy totals including Nate Ukens' count of 291 Horned Grebe on Irondequoit Bay, and a max of 62 Red-throated Loons passing by Braddock Bay. Otherwise, notable waterfowl included five continuing rarities from March including the Groveland Flats **Cinnamon Teal**, NMWMA **Eurasian Wigeon**, Rigney Bluff/Round Pond hen **King Eider**, Round Pond pair of **Harlequin Ducks**, and lastly the immature male **Common Eider** off Manitou Beach which was still reported in early May. Max counts of 112 American Coot and 34 Sandhill Cranes at Braddock Bay rounded out waterfowl through Gruiformes.

3. April brought in the typical early shorebirds, though no large concentrations with only a few small, flooded fields along the lakeshore and high Lake Ontario water levels eliminating any chance of mudflats

at Braddock Bay. Most larger shorebird counts were from the Savannah mucklands and NMWMA area. An early **Piping Plover** stopped by the Braddock Bay East Spit, now almost annual at this location in migration—hopefully some may stick around longer one of these years. A record early Spotted Sandpiper on the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Braddock Bay East Spit was noteworthy. An Upland Sandpiper photographed by David Brown passing over the Braddock Bay hawkwatch was another good find of this declining and increasingly hard to find species. Gulls passed through in good numbers with some large flocks in Hamlin and Groveland Flats plus Bonaparte's Gulls peaked with a max count of 218 passing by Greece on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The early-mid April Bonaparte's Gull push is the best chance for Little Gull here in the Spring and one was spotted passing by Hamlin Beach on the 11<sup>th</sup> with another found in gull flocks in the North Hamlin Rd. fields by Chris Wood on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The **Laughing Gull** at Vitale Park on Conesus Lake continued from March and was reported until the 10<sup>th</sup>. Further, April brought in our typical Tern species with the uncommon Black and Forster's Terns both first reported on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

4. April continues to be the best Spring month in the region for rare wading birds with a **Snowy Egret** reported from NMWMA area plus **Glossy** and **White-faced Ibis** both reported from the NMWMA and Braddock Bay areas. Three Black Vultures were reported from the Braddock Bay hawkwatch this month plus another spotted by Robert Buckert passing over SUNY Brockport. April 25<sup>th</sup> brought the biggest hawk flight of the month with 12555 Broad-winged Hawks, 10 Golden Eagles, and 62 Bald Eagles as highlights. Sharp-shinned Hawks peaked on the 24<sup>th</sup> with 341 and Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures peaked on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 193 and 3223 respectively. Further, a Snowy Owl and Short-eared Owl made their final appearances in the region by Braddock Bay this month as well. The peak Northern Flicker flight this month reached 236 by Braddock Bay on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

5. Rarer passerines included a very unexpected **Western Kingbird** photographed on the 9<sup>th</sup> passing by Beechwood State Park by Tim Lenz, a **White-eyed Vireo** banded at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, a **Lark Sparrow** in Hamlin on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and two separate **Western Tanagers** in Greece and Conesus, the latter seen by many over almost a week thanks to Lynne



Parsons graciously hosting countless birders at their house. Warblers arrived this month with many first records during the big passerine influx on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> including a **Worm-eating Warbler** seen by many at Firehouse Woods and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** along Edgemere Dr. in Greece. A few winter finches were reported into April with the last Common Redpolls reported on the 17<sup>th</sup> and a larger flock of 80, high for this “down” finch year, reported from Hamlin Beach on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Western Tanager** gets my award for *bird of the month* considering we had two reports of this very rare species in only a couple days, with many getting a chance to see one of them.

6. See the noteworthy records table posted on the RBA website for more details and records and please send in reports to eBird, the GeneseeBirds listserv or to Greg Lawrence at [glawrence21@yahoo.com](mailto:glawrence21@yahoo.com)

#### Observers:

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Diane Baillargeon, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, 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, 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 Goepfert, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Elle Heiser, Christina Hoh, Debi Holt, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Pam Inzinna, John Jaenike, Alyssa Johnson, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Kathy Kirsch, Renee

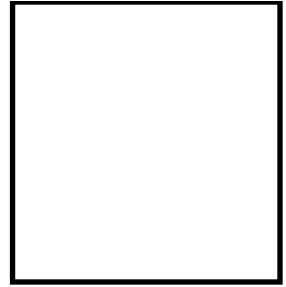
Kittleman, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Pat Lindsay, Peggy Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Pat Martin, Judy Massare, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Kent 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 Ovsiovitich, Gary Palmer, Lynne Parsons, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Atalanta Ritter, Susan Roberts, David Robertson, Brian Rohrs, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jackie Salsbury, Federico Sanchez, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sheron, 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 [and countless other eBirders].

Yellow-throated Warbler - Greece - © Candace Giles - Apr 24, 2022





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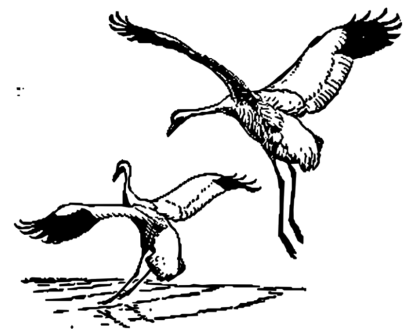
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**Did you know?**

The factors that trigger bird migration are still being researched, and thought to be a “combination of changes in day length, lower temperatures, changes in food supplies, and genetic predisposition.” Certain bird species, and even different populations within a species, may follow different migration patterns!

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