



**Rochester Birding
Association**

P.O. Box 92055, 1335 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14692

Little Gull

December 2023 Events and Birding Field Trips

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! All field trips go rain/snow or shine unless there is a travel advisory issued. Trips run approximately 2 to 4 hours. Bring binoculars. Wear weather appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Registration is not required, please arrive at the designated meeting location 10 minutes before the start time of the trip. Colds, flu, and COVID are still around—if you're not feeling well, please stay home. Please carpool when possible. Enjoy your trip!

Dec 2 Conesus Lake Area

Saturday We'll be looking for Tundra Swans, Canvasback, Redhead and other waterfowl. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on mostly level dirt trails and dikes. Length is about 1.5 mile walking. Dress warmly and in layers. Restrooms are available at Vitale Park only. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville. The park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leader: *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leader Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*

Dec 10 Beginner Birder Trip – Nations Road

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

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

Jan 1 Irondequoit Bay Outlet and Durand-Eastman Park – Year List Jump-Start

Monday Get started on your annual list! We'll look for winter waterfowl on the Bay, then move to Durand-Eastman Park where we will stroll Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road looking for finches, waxwings, and resident birds. This trip is mostly on paved roads. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the large parking lot next to the Outlet bridge on the west side of Irondequoit Bay Outlet (Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park). **Dress warmly! Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leaders: *Norma Platt and John Boettcher 585-671-9639*

Jan 6 Webster Park – Campground Area

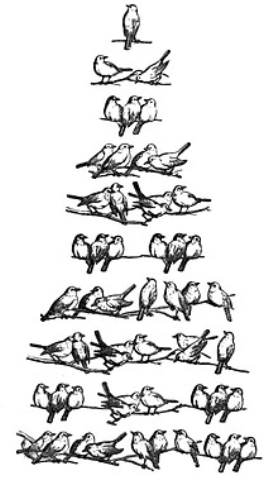
Saturday In mature forest and scrubby areas we'll look for overwintering resident birds, lingering migrants such as Hermit Thrush and special winter visitors such as Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged and Red Crossbills and Bohemian Waxwings. This is a mostly level walk, partly on dirt road, partly on wooded dirt trail that can be uneven in places. Wear boots with good traction and dress warmly as we may be outside for 2-3 hours, although you are free to leave at any time. Trip length will depend upon trail and weather conditions. No rest rooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on the south side of Lake Road across from Kanatota Lodge.

Leaders: *Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

Little Lakes Christmas Bird Count

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

This year marks the 124th count nationwide and the 72nd count for the area. The count date is Saturday December 30, 2023. Birds seen during the count week of December 27th to January 2nd may be called in to the leaders for inclusion in the tally. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle is the outlet of Hemlock Lake, at the north end of the lake. The circle includes all of Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice and Honeoye Lakes and a large area to the north. The dividing line between the areas is the height of land between the lakes. It is important for the coverage in each of the five areas to be as consistent as possible, year to year, for meaningful evaluation of the count area. Your participation in this worthy endeavor would be greatly appreciated. New birders can be paired up with experienced birders. If you are interested, contact one of the leaders.



The afternoon compiling meeting will be held at 4:30 pm at the American Hotel, located at the SE corner of Routes 15A & 20 in the village of Lima. As an expression of our appreciation for letting us meet at this location, please order something from the menu. They are known for their tasty soups.

Pat Martin, Compiler

Cell: (585) 301-5485 emartin139@earthlink.net

Area	Leader	Phone	email
Conesus Lake	Jim Kimball	519-9211	kimball@geneseo.edu
Hemlock Lake	Bill Howe	301-2646	whhowe60@gmail.com
Canadice Lake	Phil Opdycke	385-6189	popdycke@rochester.rr.com
Honeoye Lake	John Boettcher	298-3404	john2w3b@gmail.com
Northern Area	Robert Buckert	269-4206	avbrro@hotmail.com

December Monthly Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds by Scott Weidensaul

Even as scientists make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feats that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, go weeks without sleep or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch, humans have brought many migrants to the brink. Based on his bestselling new book "A World on the Wing," author and researcher Scott Weidensaul takes you around the globe — with researchers in the lab and field probing the limits of what migrating birds can do, to the shores of the Yellow Sea in China and the remote mountains of northeastern India where tribal villages saved the greatest gathering of falcons on the planet — to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind* and his latest, the New York Times bestseller *A World on the Wing*. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for *Audubon* and writes for a variety of other publications, including *BWD* and *Living Bird*. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and an active field researcher, studying saw-whet owl migration for more than two decades, as well as winter hummingbirds, bird migration in Alaska, and the winter movements of snowy owls through Project SNOWstorm, which he co-founded.

Look for the Zoom link in your email the morning prior to the meeting. The Zoom Room will open at 6:45 PM. Don't wait until the last minute to sign on, you might be left out!

Rochester Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 17, 2023

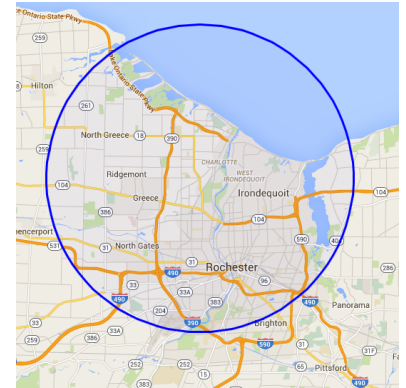
Sunday Dec. 17, 2023 is the day of the 120th Rochester Christmas Bird Count. With this traditional activity we will renew our commitment to science and birding.

This is a significant opportunity:

- to develop your birding skills in the field
- to make connections in the birding community
- to contribute to Citizen Science
- to attend the tally dinner, exchange stories, enjoy pizza and make birdy friends.

We need your help and welcome all skill levels. Please join us!!!

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



John Boettcher 585-298-3404	Braddock Bay to Long Pond Road
Greg Lawrence glawrence21@yahoo.com	Long Pond Road to Dewey Avenue Dewey Avenue to Charlotte Harbor
Andy Garland 585-329-1577 andrew.garland@yahoo.com	Summerville to Culver Road & Seneca Park
Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash sheryl.gracewski@rochester.edu tnashny@earthlink.net	Culver Road to Baker Road (Webster)
Shirley Shaw 585-752-4770 shirley@jashaw.com	Parks and neighborhoods (Highland, Genesee Valley, Mt. Hope Cemetery)
Rosemary Reilly reilly.rosemary@gmail.com	Maplewood & Turning Point Parks, Holy Sepulcher and Riverside cemeteries
Brian Morse 585-269-9576 brianmorse2000@gmail.com	West of airport/south of the canal/north of the river
Rob Buckert 585-269-4206	Crow Roost

Norma Platt, Compiler 585-260-5221

normap1@rochester.rr.com



Red-necked Phalarope, Charlotte Pier
© Niki Banke November 4, 2023

President's Corner, Randi Minetor

Happy holidays! As the year draws to a close, I want to be sure to draw your attention to some important information in this month's Little Gull.

1. At the monthly membership meeting on Thursday, December 14, we'll be voting on a change to the RBA Bylaws. I know that everyone kind of glazes over as soon as a board member says "bylaws," so I want to be sure you understand why this change is required. The fact is that our Nominating Committee (a one-man operation, conducted by Dominic Sherony) contacted many people to ask them to become President in 2024, and no one wanted the job. What must the organization do if no one wants to be President? A Board subcommittee took on the challenge of figuring that out, and it resulted in this new Bylaw to address this specific issue:

- a. The outgoing President agrees to remain for an additional year. (This is a term-limited position of two years, so we had to make an adjustment for a limited time.)
- b. The Board unanimously agrees that the outgoing President should stay in the position for another year. (This is required to avoid a "power grab," and to make sure that a President who has not done a good job for the organization cannot simply stay on by default.)
- c. The majority of the attending membership then votes at the January annual meeting to retain this President for the following year.

Please attend the December 14 meeting, either in person or by Zoom, to vote on this change to the Bylaws. And if you feel that we should not be making this change, then by all means, run for President! I will be happy to step aside so someone new can step into the position. If you'd like to know more about what the President position entails, please get in touch with me at writerrandi@gmail.com, and I will fill you in.

2. We also have a terrific speaker on December 14: Scott Weidensaul, author of *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*. All the more reason to come to this meeting! I saw Scott speak at last year's NYSOA meeting, and he is a dynamic speaker on a fascinating topic. We had originally intended that this meeting be by Zoom only, as Scott will be coming to us electronically, but because of the Bylaws vote, **we will be meeting in person at Asbury First Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue.**

3. It's time to register for the Annual Dinner on Saturday, January 20. If you're planning to come, please let Wanda Thistle know at thistlew@yahoo.com, or at (585) 281-0956. All the details are in this newsletter.

4. The Christmas Bird Count is right around the corner—Sunday, December 17! All the info you need is in this newsletter. There's also information about the Little Lakes Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 30, a fun way to get out and see lots of waterfowl in December.

5. I'm very excited to share with you that we have **RBA Logo Merchandise** again! Just go to the website at rochesterbirding.org and look for the **blue Merchandise button in the top right corner**. Kevin Farrell has been working on this for more than a year, and saw us through the process of getting an updated logo, a merchandise vendor, and a selection of great stuff. Order yours today! I'll look forward to seeing many of you on December 14. Good birding!



Photo by Richard Ashworth



Wild Turkey, Buckland Park © Candace Giles
November 2, 2023

Welcome to the Flock

Join us in welcoming these 7 new or returning members who joined in the last month.

David & Dawn Bennett
Lauren Doucette
Kaitlin & Abigail Lee

Kathleen Lynn
Michael Price

Current RBA Membership as of November 15 is 414:

391 Household memberships
2 Young Birder (other young birders are included in Household memberships)
1 Corporate (The Bird House)
20 Complimentary



Snow Geese, Hamlin
© Alan Bloom 2/20/23

Jo Taylor, Membership Data

Time to Renew

Renew Online and Help the RBA

What's your favorite part of being part of the RBA community? Attending field trips? Monthly speakers sharing unique insights into the world of birds? The Little Gull newsletter? Whatever the reason, your annual RBA membership makes all of this possible. This year RBA has been able to start returning to pre-pandemic normalcy and has been able to drop the requirement for preregistration for field trips and to bring you a full schedule of in-person monthly meetings while still providing a Zoom option.

As the year end approaches, it's time for you to renew your RBA membership, which will help set RBA up for another rewarding year come 2024.

Three years ago we started transitioning to **all-online membership renewal**. You responded! Over that time the percentage of all renewals that were made online has gone from 45% to nearly 75%. Let's continue that trend. When you renew your membership online at rochesterbirding.org you're making even more of an impact with your contribution. Renewing online reduces paperwork and saves our membership chair and treasurer multiple trips to the post office and bank. In addition to helping RBA, renewing online also helps lower your carbon footprint—which we can all agree is a good thing.

Renewing in November saves RBA the printing and mailing costs and volunteer time needed for sending out membership reminder letters.

To renew online, just go to the RBA website at rochesterbirding.com, and click on the "Renew" button at the top of the home page. This will take you directly to the membership renewal form.

2024 Dues

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

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

Your renewal will be good until January 1, 2025, and bring you and the RBA community another great year of birds.

Thank you,
Jo Taylor
Membership Data

NOTE: New members joining after September 1 of this year are paid up through all of 2024.

Field Reports

Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant—10/14/2023

Eighteen birders and two leaders gathered on a showery and cool morning. After introductions and signing in on the facility book, the group carpooled down the dirt roads surrounding the treatment plant ponds. Batavia is well known as one of the few water treatment plants that still allows the public inside and for having consistently good birding. The group was treated to good looks at large numbers of Northern Shovelers, Wood Ducks, Mallards and Ruddy Ducks. Smaller numbers of Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Common Merganser, Bufflehead, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup and American Coot were mixed in. One Pied-billed Grebe was seen briefly. A lone Surf Scoter giving good scope views was the bird of the trip, a lifer for at least two birders. Several of the group were pleasantly surprised by two North American River Otters playing in one of the ponds. Flyovers by a Merlin, two Eastern Meadowlarks, and a calling Pine Siskin were the non-waterfowl highlights of the trip for a total of 44 species. Thanks to everyone who came out and to the staff of the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant!

Neal Reilly and Jeanne Verhulst

Durand-Eastman Park— 10/28/2023

The rain stopped just as our late fall trip to Durand-Eastman Park began. After a brief scan of Lake Ontario and Eastman Lake, fourteen birders including three leaders headed to Horseshoe Road. A large number of American Robins and Am. Goldfinches flitted high in the trees. Sever-

al Downy Woodpeckers gave close views, two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were spotted, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets were found, and our first Hermit Thrush gave all a good view. The weather improved throughout the morning and eventually the sun came out with temperatures in the mid 50s. The fall color was spectacular throughout the park! We moved on to Log Cabin Road and began our walk along the non-vehicle section where, first off, two Hermit Thrushes were spotted, one posing on a sign for great looks! A Golden-crowned Kinglet and three White-throated Sparrows were seen and a Great Blue Heron was spotted perched high in tree above Trimble Lake. On Trott Lake, Mute Swans, Mallards, and Canada Geese were seen (alas, no Wood Ducks on Pat Lake!). A Pileated Woodpecker flew over getting everyone excited and a little later we all had amazing close looks of one low on a stump right beside Zoo Road. Along Zoo Rd. we searched for Brown Creepers and Red-breasted Nuthatches with no luck, but a small flock of Dark-eyed Juncos were seen feeding under the pines. The Orchard turned up many House Finches, Mourning Doves and American Robins. At least three Red-tailed Hawks as well as Turkey Vultures were seen. We returned to our cars at about 2:00 p.m. Thanks to all who came—we had some great ears and eyes among us! A special thanks to Elizabeth and Doug Rabjohns who filled in as co-leaders for Amy Kahn, and to Doug who also kept the eBird lists. View the eBird Trip Report here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/168115>

Jeanne Verhulst and Elizabeth and Doug Rabjohns

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual RBA Winter Dinner

Saturday, January 20, 2023, 5:00pm - 9:00 pm

Asbury First United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue Rochester, NY

Reserve your seat:

Wanda Thistle, 585-281-0956, thistlew@yahoo.com

Please include: your name, the number of people attending, and the side dish you will be bringing.

Come hungry! Everyone brings a dish to pass (gluten free and vegetarian dishes are gladly welcomed, as are your usual favorites). The main entrees are Roasted Turkey and Honey Basted Ham.

No Alcohol: The church requests that no alcoholic beverages be consumed on the premises.

The White Albatross table returns! Sell or trade artwork, field guides, and other gently used items. If you bring something for the Table, be sure to price it, and let us know if you want the sale price to go as a donation to RBA or back to you.

Member presentations: Our evening entertainment will be presentations by members of photos from their travels or from local birding adventures, as well as artwork or carvings. If you plan to give a presentation, please let us know and how long it will take. Please email or call Richard Ashworth, who will be coordinating this segment, at ashworth@rochester.rr.com, or (585) 381-2189

Many hands make light work. If you can help with this event, please contact Wanda Thistle at 585-281-0956.

Records Report October

The month of October was characterized by two cycles of warm and dry conditions followed by cold and wet. The first week started as a continuation of a splendid September, with highs north of 80°F, but by the end of the week temperatures turned cooler and rain moved in. A 12-day cold and rainy spell followed. High temperatures rebounded towards the end of the month into the low 70s, but dropped into the 40s to finish the month. The last few days finished on the cooler side and the region saw its first measurable snow on 31 October - 0.2". Temperatures averaged 55.5°, 3.3° above average. The night of 27 October set a new record warm minimum of 61°, 5° below the former record. Precipitation totaled 1.83", 1.39" below average.

Luckily for birders, most of the precipitation occurred at night. Cold fronts brought shifting winds, and, with the winds off the lake, came waterfowl. The general impression, from being out in the field and talking with birders, was that October 2023 was good for shorebirds, jaegers, and sparrows, but warblers cleared out faster than usual. The eBird download, filtered for out-of-region, totaled over 34,500 lines, down 14.1% from last year.

October is often one of the best months to participate in the Hamlin Beach State Park Lakewatch (HBSP-LW), and this October held up to the precedent. Among the birds tallied at the lakewatches, there were two major movements of Brant this month. The first wave peaked with 800 past the Sodus Point Lighthouse Museum Lakewatch (SPLM-LW) on 16 October. The second large push occurred in the last few days of the month, with a maximum of 358 passing the HBSP-LW on 28 October and many records from the inland counties in Region 2 and the surrounding reporting Regions. The month started off strong for dabbling ducks, with high numbers of Blue-winged Teal on Braddock Bay and a good mix on Round Pond in Greece. A single male Eurasian Wigeon was noted passing Edgemere Drive on 8 October. Lakeshore-migrating Northern Pintail peaked on 16 October from the SPLM-LW. Numbers and diversity of diving ducks increased as the month progressed. Mitch Barry reported a female Harlequin Duck from Edgemere Drive on 26 October. An adult male Harlequin Duck was found the next day at HBSP by Jennifer Lang and

was observed through 28 October by many. For scoters, the high counts past the HBSP-LW were: White-winged Scoter - 459 on 22 October; Surf Scoter - 68 on 16 October, and Black Scoter - 110 on 16 October. Looking at the eBird data, 15, 16, 17, 22, 28, and 29 October stood out as good waterfowl migration days from the lakewatches.

Observers reported two Eared Grebes for the month, the first past Edgemere Drive on 8 October and the second past the HBSP-LW on 29 October. Common Gallinule, American Coot, and Pied-billed Grebe numbers decreased at NMWMA-VDS as the month progressed. American Coot built on Braddock Bay with a maximum of 165 reported on 14 October. Following the trend of recent years, Sandhill Crane numbers increased in the NMWMA around Armitage Road, with a maximum of 26 reported on 29 October. The first Red-throated Loon of the season was reported on 8 October, and numbers of the species grew throughout the month. A maximum of 146 Common Loons passed the HBSP-LW on 28 October.

22 species of shorebird were reported this month. The water levels on Lake Ontario fell an additional 6.72", finishing out at 244.65', just below the long-term average. This caused the mudflat at Braddock Bay to grow larger and to keep attracting shorebirds. Records that stand out as noteworthy include a flyover **Upland Sandpiper** observed at the East Spit on 1 October by a handful of the mob present that day. Six Hudsonian Godwits were found on 25 October along Armitage Road in Savannah. Joe Wing reported a Red Phalarope on the water on Lake Ontario from the Bear Creek Harbor in Ontario.

Jaeger season continued strong, with 17 more Parasitic Jaegers tallied from lakeshore hotspots. Cliff Dekdebrun and Mike Gullo reported the month's only **Pomarine Jaeger** from the SPLM-LW on 12 October. Andy Guthrie noted the Region's only **Little Gull** passing the HBSP-LW on 16 October. The last Caspian Tern was noted from LaSalle's Landing Park on 7 October. Braddock Bay hosted at least three Forester's Terns from 7-15 October.

Contrasting with 2022, there were no reports of Cattle Egret for October. Jessie and Mitch Barry reported three Glossy Ibises in flight over Buck Pond on 28 October. Continuing the trend from September, there was nothing noteworthy among the raptors besides a strong Peregrine Falcon migration (7 individu-

Records Report continued

als) noted by observers at the HBSP-LW on 8 October. The BBBO continued to band Northern Saw-whet Owls this year. Word of mouth indicated they had banded a few. The owl surveys led by Jim Adams at Owl Woods also turned up a few Saw-whets. Jennifer Lang photographed a Long-eared Owl on an owl survey at Owl Woods on 31 October. There was only one report of Short-eared Owl this month from the East Spit on 18 October. Mike Tetlow found a Red-headed Woodpecker on Roots Tavern Road in the Nations Road IBA in Avon towards the end of the month. This was an historical breeding location for this species that has seen few reports in recent years.

Finishing out with the passerines, October was the departure of the majority of neotropical migrants. The last flycatchers (Eastern Wood-Pewee and Least Flycatcher) departed in the first few days of the month. 8 October was noted for large movements of Tree Swallows along the lakeshore. Jim Miles reported the first Northern Shrike of the season on 27 October from Burger Park. 14 October was a day of large movement for both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. High numbers of Swainson's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush were reported by nocturnal flight call enthusiasts in the first week of the month. They were gradually replaced with increasing Hermit Thrush numbers by mid-month. Jennifer Lang photographed 40 passing **White-winged Crossbills** from Owl Woods on 23 October. Pine Siskins exploded in numbers, as an irruption year for this species ramped up. The majority of checklists from lakeshore hotspots contained Pine Siskin. Andy Guthrie reported close to 600 on the morning of 27 October. George Ford found a rather unusually photogenic Nelson's Sparrow at LaSalle's Landing Park on 6 October, and many observers reported it through 7 October. Warbler diversity shrunk significantly in the first week of the month. Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers appeared to peak around 9 October. There were only a handful of credible reports of Orange-crowned Warbler around the region. Jessie Barry reported a flyover **Summer Tanager** from the Buck Pond area in the last week of the month. There was only one report of Dickcissel, which was a flyover at Sodus Point reported by Mike Gullo on 6 October, during this most consistent time of the year to detect the species here. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on gene-

seebirds, and/or send them by the 5th of the month to Nick Kachala nicholaskach@gmail.com or 1141 Rush-Scottsville Rd. Rush, NY 14543

Observers: Kate Adams, Michael Adriaansen, Osvaldo Araya, Kevin Armstrong, Niki Banke, Tim Banker, Harrison Barone, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Jessie Barry, Sarah Bassit, Kim Bell, Don Bemont, Steven & Linda Benedict, Dave Bennett, David Benvent, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Linda Birkel, J.R. Blair, Robin Blakesley, Alan & Lisa Bloom, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Christopher Brandt, Scott & Janet Brooks, Mark Brown, Sara Burch, Brad Carlson, Douglas Carpenter, Donna Carter, Katie Cassidy, Caleb Centanni, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Sara Close, Margaret Clukey, Lorenzo Colantoni, Andrew Consler, Robert Crandall, Amanda Cruz, Matthew D. Medler, Kara Damon, Doug Daniels, Katelyn Davis, Thomas Davis, Lauren Davis, Cliff Dekdebrun, Peggy Dempsey, Mark Denecke, Grace Dowdall, Diane Egan, Peter Engel, Kevin Farrell, Christina Ferguson, Sadie Fero, Annabelle Foos, George Ford, Katie Ford, Scott Fraser, Robert G. Buckert, Kyle & Margaret Gage, Dan Gallagher, Andrew Garland, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Jane Graves, Derek Green, Kevin Griffith, Austin Groff, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Bill Haake, Aiden Haley, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Andy Hudson, Amy Hueber, Pam Inzinna, Jill Johnson, James Johnston, Colleen Josh, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Paul & Laura Kammermeier, David Kennedy, Tom Kerr, James Kimball, Mark Kimble, Kathleen Kirsch, Basia Kruszezwska, Hans Kunze, Michael Laird, Jennifer Lang, Sam Lawrence, Greg Lawrence, Joan Lindberg, Robin M, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Patricia Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Ann McMican, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Kris Montalbano, Mary Moore, Brian Morse, Shannon Moyer, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Matt Nusstein, David Odell, Patterson, Erma Perkins, Doug Perryman, Jeremy Pete, Luanne Pignataro, Les Preston, Derek Pulhamus, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Rosemary Reilly, Neal Reilly, Isaac Rizzo, Michael Rizzo, Chris Rockwell, Brian Rohrs, Andrew Romanowski, Claudia Rosen, Don Ross, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Shawn Ryan, Robert Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Merijn Salverda, Anne Salverda, Greg Sanda, Karl Schmidt, Mickey Scilingo, Dominic Sherony, Peter Siciliano, Gail Sielaff, Judith Slein, Robert Spahn, Dave Spier, Rick Stevens, Reuben Stoltzfus, Michael Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Paul Tribotte, Thaddeus Trzeciak, Nathan Ukens, Alison Van Keuren, Erika Venniro, Tom Verhulst, Jeanne Verhulst, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Kim Weeks, Joe Wing, Chris Wood, Jim Wood. (There were 391 observers in the eBird download, down 1.0% from 2022)

	2023	2022	10-year Average
Species for Oct.	214	210	206.0
New for the year	6	4	4.6
Total for the year to	293	295	287.0

Bylaws Change: Vote at December 14 Meeting

The RBA Board of Directors has identified a need for a change to the Bylaws, specifically in Section 30: Term of Office, and the President's term limit.

Our Nominating Committee has contacted dozens of members to try to find someone to take over the position of President as Randi Minetor's two-year term of office comes to an end. **No one has stepped up to take this over, either from inside the Board or from the general membership.**

After months of attempting to fill this position, the Board has determined that the best course of action is to provide an option in the Bylaws for the current President to continue in that position under certain specific conditions. We also must address the continuation of the Immediate Past President's term, as this person also will not be replaced by an outgoing President.

We will vote on this change to the Bylaws at our December membership meeting on Thursday, December 14. **This meeting was originally planned to be Zoom only, because the speaker will be coming to us on Zoom. However, to attract as many people as possible so that we have at least 10 percent of our membership voting, we will hold the meeting in-person as well as on Zoom.**

Here is the current Bylaw regarding the President's term:

Section 30. Term of Office

Each Director elected at the first regular membership meeting of the fiscal year shall assume the duties of the position immediately upon election, and shall hold office for one year, or until a successor has been duly elected and taken office. The President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. There shall be no restriction on the re-election of other Directors for additional terms. Additional officers appointed by the Board of Directors, shall hold office for such period as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, determine.

Here are the Additional Paragraphs proposed by the 2023 Board of Directors:

If a successor to President cannot be found among the membership, the President may serve more than two consecutive terms under the following conditions: (1) the acting President agrees to serve the additional term, (2) there is unanimous agreement from the Board of Directors, and (3) the President is re-elected by the membership during the election of Directors at the first annual membership meeting of the fiscal year.

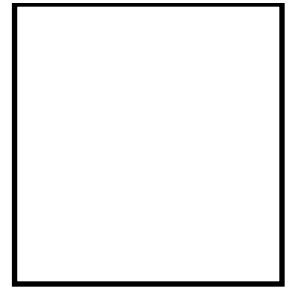
In the event that a President serving more than two years does occur, the acting Past President may also stay to serve on the Board of Directors under the conditions: (1) the acting Past President agrees to serve the additional term, (2) there is unanimous agreement from the Board of Directors. If the acting Past President does not choose to stay on the Board, their role will be filled by a past Board member with at least one year of experience. This member would be chosen by the current acting Board and needs to achieve a majority vote in favor by the Board.



Ross's Goose, Plank Road
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November 15, 2023



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