



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

March 2023 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. When COVID guidelines allow, if at all possible, please carpool!

Mar 9 **March Monthly Meeting—7:00 pm, Asbury Methodist, see details below**

Mar 11 **Lake Shore Marshes East Wildlife Management Area**

Saturday

This extensive driving tour of the large natural area to our northeast always turns up some great birds! We'll look for unusual ducks, late winter birds, and interesting migrants like Fox Sparrows. One portion of the trip is walking on a wide, mainly flat, sometimes muddy, trail. Bring a snack to munch on to keep your energy up, and dress for the weather! Restrooms available at Sodus Point Park and Chimney Bluffs State Park. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in Webster Plaza at the junction of Route 404 and Hard Road near Starbucks. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leader: Kinsley Whittum 585-872-7334 and co-leader Christina Hoh 973-224-7009

Mar 18 **Hamlin Beach State Park**

Saturday

We will gather at Braddock Bay Park and drive to Hamlin Beach State Park where we will look for waterfowl. On the way there, we will look through fields for migrant waterfowl (**Snow or other rarely seen geese**) and lingering winter field birds (**Horned Larks, Snow Buntings or Lapland Longspurs**). We may stop at Owl Woods in search of migrating owls if they have been reported that morning. We will end at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch in hopes of spotting **Rough-legged**, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Bald Eagles. **Dress warmly** as we will be out of the cars often at multiple locations--the lakeshore can be cold this time of year. Trails are flat but can be muddy/snowy. **Waterproof boots strongly recommended.** Restrooms available at Hamlin Beach only. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot. Use the East Manitou Road exit from the Ontario State Parkway. **Bring your own FRS radios and spotting scopes, if you have them.**

Leader: Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838 and co-leader Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422

Mar 26 **Beginner Birder Trip – Owl Woods and Hawk Watch Site**

Saturday

We'll look primarily for our smallest visiting owl, the Northern Saw-whet, which returns to this spot on a yearly basis. Long-eared Owls generally put in an appearance, too, although they're quite shy and great at hiding. After the owl walk, we'll head to the Hawk Watch site to learn how to identify raptors on the wing. At this time of year, we might witness spectacular flights of thousands of raptors! The Owl Woods trails are flat and likely will be wet and muddy. **Boots are strongly recommended – they're almost mandatory!** No restrooms available. **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.** Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in the parking lot on the right side of Manitou Beach Road across from the Owl Woods trail head

Leader: Liz Magnanti 585-748-0309 and co-leaders Dick Horsey 585-435-2837, Daena Ford

Apr 8 **Woodcock Courtship Flight at Owl Woods**

Saturday

This will be an evening trip for woodcock courtship flight. If you've never seen this spectacle, prepare to be amazed: birds call noisily (peenting) from the ground in grassy fields before spiraling rapidly up high, making twittering, kissing-like sounds at the apex of their ascent and descending silently back down, only to start the cycle anew. An amazing sight! Fields may be wet and muddy. **Boots are strongly recommended. Bring a flashlight or headlamp.** Meet at **7:00 p.m.** in the parking lot across from Owl Woods.

March Monthly Meeting: Efforts to maintain a newly colonized Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) population on Lake Ontario, NY

The federally endangered Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), once common in the Great Lakes, became extirpated from Lakes Ontario and Erie as of the early 1980s. At that time, the Great Lakes-wide population had dropped to only 17 nesting pairs. Three decades of conservation efforts for the remnant population in the western Great Lakes pulled the species from the brink of extinction and has led to recolonization of some eastern areas, including Lake Ontario's New York shoreline. New York has maintained one to two nesting pairs since its recolonization in 2015 despite many differences in habitat configuration from Michigan beaches, where this species has maintained a stronghold. To help ensure that the species maintains its foothold in New York, SUNY ESF has helped to lead partnerships among several federal, state, local and non-governmental organizations focused on monitoring, research, advocacy, and nesting habitat restoration. These efforts have led to an increase in pair numbers, fledglings, and site use, and in 2022 New York hosted three nesting pairs, with individuals that we know have connections to nesting sites around the Great Lakes, including the University of Minnesota's captive rearing and release program.

Dr. Jonathan Cohen got his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in 2005, studying the breeding ecology of Piping Plovers on Long Island, NY, and he earned his master's degree in 1998 from the University of Connecticut, where he studied contaminant exposure to Greater Scaup in the Long Island Sound region. Dr. Cohen's lab conducts research in support of conservation and management of wildlife, with a focus on birds of conservation concern. His projects have included conservation of breeding Piping Plovers on the Atlantic Coast of New England and New Jersey, the effect of human disturbance on Snowy Plovers in Florida, Saltmarsh Sparrow nesting success in New York City, the effectiveness of forestry practices at conserving songbird diversity in Pennsylvania, and (his one mammal-focused project) habitat restoration for the New England cottontail. He has also been working actively with several partners to restore the Piping Plover to eastern Lake Ontario.



Jonathan Cohen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Wildlife
Ecology and Management
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry

Thursday, March 9, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Asbury First United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue



Red-breasted Merganser courting, Port of Rochester © Clyde Comstock February 3, 2023



President's Corner, Randi Minetor

As I write this, I can see my snowless green lawn through my home office window, and watch Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers all plunder our suet and peanut feeders at the same time. The mild temperatures and sunny days after a full month of gray skies seem to have brought all of the birds in the area into our backyard—with nearly one hundred House Sparrows, two kinds of nuthatches, our endlessly entertaining Black-capped Chickadees, singing Northern Cardinals, American Goldfinches still in their dull winter plumage, our overwintering Carolina Wren in fine voice, and a small flock of Blue Jays making a delightful racket.

Photo by Richard Ashworth

So many birds in the middle of February! The birds devouring seed, nuts and suet in our yard are all non-migratory species, so while they appear to have clustered in numbers we usually don't see in a typical winter, nothing else is particularly surprising here. It does make us wonder, however, if the warmer temperatures and lack of snow may trigger earlier migration among the birds that move through here in April and May.

A number of studies around the world have found that birds are beginning to migrate earlier than they did before climate change became so pronounced, though the difference is a couple of days, not weeks or months. We can see exactly when large numbers of birds are on the move, however, because of an amazing retraining of digital weather surveillance radar to track other kinds of data—specifically bird flocks—as they cross the North American continent.

Our friends and neighbors at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have used a recent upgrade in Next Generation Radar (NEXRAD) technology and computing power to parse through the targets seen by radar, separating the birds from the weather information. Cornell explains the technology very nicely on its website at <https://birdcast.info/news/a-primer-for-using-weather-surveillance-radar-to-study-bird-migration/>, but I will move past that to give you an idea of what we can learn from watching for migrating birds on BirdCast, the exciting, easy-to-use new tool now available to birders.

From March 1 through June 15 during spring migration, and from August 1 to November 15 in fall, BirdCast provides summaries of birds' movements over the continent, including their direction, altitude, and even the speed at which they fly. The BirdCast Migration Dashboard allows you to enter the county you want to explore, and see how many birds have crossed the area between the previous sunset and sunrise. You can even watch the numbers increase in real time as birds fly over the county you've chosen. The Peak Migration Traffic window provides the direction the birds are flying, as well as their approximate altitude and their speed calculated in miles per hour.

What does this mean for birders? BirdCast can tell us when migration is in full swing, when there are peaks and valleys in birds' movements, and even which birds we are most likely to see after a night's migration. While the majority of birds may move on across Lake Ontario during a spring night, many will stop and rest, especially along the lakeshore in places like Firehouse Woods, Lakeview Community Church, Island Cottage Woods, Durand Eastman Park, Burger Park, Braddock Bay Park, Webster Park, Whiting Road Nature Center, Gosnell Big Woods and Big Field, Cornwall Preserve, Beechwood State Park, and many other woods and meadows within a mile of Lake Ontario.

The first migrants begin to arrive in late March—ducks, geese, open land birds including Red-winged Blackbirds and Killdeer, and some swallows—so even if the weather keeps us guessing, it can be well worth it to use BirdCast to check what's on the move, and see if you can find these harbingers of spring. Good luck and good birding!

Take the Manitou Beach Road exit from Ontario State Parkway. Turn north then right into the large parking lot.

Leader: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Robert Buckert 585-269-4206

Apr 15
Saturday

High Acres Nature Area

Over 130 bird species have been observed at HANA including more than 70 that nest in the diverse habitats found there. During this field trip we expect to see at least 40 species returning to nest or on their way to northern nesting grounds. Our approximately 2-mile walk over mostly flat trails will explore about 250 acres at HANA and include some wet spots requiring at least ankle-high waterproof shoes or boots. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the parking lot on Perinton Parkway approximately 1/4 mile east of the Waste Management offices.

Leader: Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leaders Brian Rohrs and Gayle Lazoration 585-281-9534

Apr 19
Wednesday

Highland Park

We'll be looking for spring migrants while enjoying lovely flora. This walk would be gorgeous even without the birds, but it does have birds in abundance! Find out where people have spotted the rarities that pop up in this urban treasure. Dress for the weather. Paved walkways, gentle hills. Walking in grass a possibility, if you chose to. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** on Reservoir Avenue in front of the Conservatory building.

Leader: Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leader Amy Kahn 585-310-2330



RBA in the Field

Avon and Lima Rural Tour—1/21/23

A little over twenty birders gathered on a somewhat mild winter afternoon to search the Nations Road area for wintering birds. This is not the trip to have a long list of species that adds big numbers to the beginnings of your 2023 bird list. But with patience and perseverance it can deliver three very sought after species, the Short-eared Owl, Northern Shrike and Northern Harrier. Our group located good numbers of Northern Harriers throughout the afternoon with at least one adult male with the beautiful silvery blue gray plumage. Success would be just one Northern Shrike, but we had two give us long and good looks at them. A few Eastern Bluebirds, a Northern Mockingbird, American Kestrel, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Canada Goose helped fill our species numbers. The number one draw for this area, the Short-eared Owl kept our group continuing to dusk, when two appeared hunting over one of the few remaining fields with any tall grass. One perched in a tree long enough to have some of our group get a better look in the scope. At the end of the day it was a successful trip with a group of enthusiastic winter birders.

Rick Stevens

Mendon Ponds Park—1/14/23

Eleven folks joined Cathy and I for this beginner birder trip. I had thought we were going to get a whole lot more folks but suspect that the cold weather kept some away. The parking lot was full of cars, and it turns out that there were several trips from other organizations meeting. After sorting out who belonged to our group and who did not, we went on our short walk. We did not have to go far to find a hot spot where others were already feeding birds. There were no little ones on our trip, but we did have some folks new to birding and the joy on their faces when birds landed on their hands to fetch a seed was priceless. We had the usual mix of Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, Slate-colored Juncos, White-breasted Nuthatches, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinals, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Red-bellied Woodpecker. After spending a fair amount of time feeding and watching birds, we continued the short loop through the fairy trail and then back to the nature center. The bird feeders had been jumping when we first arrived, but were now totally absent of birds. We attributed this change to a hawk in the vicinity, but we were unable to locate it. Many in our group retired to the welcoming warmth of the Wild Wings facility before heading home.

Catherine Ballard, John Boettcher

A New Volunteer Opportunity

Are you technology-savvy? Would you be willing to come to eight RBA general membership meetings per year at Asbury First United Methodist Church (1050 East Avenue) to be sure that our members at home can enjoy the presentation as much as the people in the room?

We are looking for a **Meeting Technology Manager** who will do the following for each meeting:

- Create a Zoom link and send it out to the members the day before the meeting, using our MailChimp account.
- On the evening of the meeting, arrive at 6:30 p.m. and connect the speaker's laptop to the projector, and test that the presentation can run smoothly.
- Open the Zoom link and set up the presenter to share his/her screen properly.
- Set up the OWL device in the room to track the speaker's face and voice.
- Admit viewers into the Zoom room as they arrive.
- Mute everyone online except for the speaker.
- Record the meeting via Zoom.
- After the meeting, send the recording to Liz Magnanti for editing and posting to Youtube.

To become our Meeting Technology Manager,
contact Randi Minetor at info@rochesterbirding.org

Welcome to the Flock

Terri Dale

Sandy Podulka

Linda Schriever & Jean Oswald

Join us in welcoming these 4 new or returning members who joined in the last month (3 new memberships).

Current RBA Membership as of February 14 is 347

332 Household memberships

2 Young Birder (other young birders are included in Household memberships)

13 Complimentary

Jo Taylor

Membership Data

Short-eared Owl, Avon ©
Barbara Smith

February 12, 2023



January 2023 Records Report

1. A very cloudy January got off to a mild start, with all but three days in the first half of the month having highs above freezing. In fact, the temperature failed to drop below freezing for the first six days of the month, continuing a period of warmth from late December. Temperatures averaged 32.8°F, which is 6.6° above average. 28 days had highs above average by month end, with 12 of those days having highs at or greater than 10 degrees above the daily average. Precipitation totaled 3.54", an inch below normal. Significant rain events contributed to most of the precipitation totals on the 3rd-4th and the 12th. The snowfall deficit continued, with the Rochester airport reporting only 8.6" of new snowfall, bringing the season total to 17.9", the 6th lowest to date and the lowest since 1944 by month end. A strong Pacific jet stream and unusual wind patterns to the north over Canada are to blame for the lack of winter weather for January.

2. The eBird download for January came out to roughly 34,700 lines, +1.0% over January 2022. Half-hardy passerine reports improved from a dismal December, partly due to occasional dustings of snow and also increased year-lister effort to begin the year. Waterfowl were reported in mixed numbers, with geese experiencing high counts but dabblers feeling scarcer than in winter's past. The New York State Winter Waterfowl Count took place on January 14th-22nd. Nothing statistically significant stood out in the data. Almost all expected species were reported plus two additional – Greater White-fronted Goose and Harlequin Duck – in the count timeframe by observers other than the official counting party.

3. Waterfowl showed decent numbers and diversity, with the only misses being Wood Duck, Ross's Goose, and King Eider. Besides those three, everything else was found in varying numbers. Snow Goose numbers appeared very strong with multiple reports of 1000+ groups along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Michelle Gianvecchio found 20 Greater White-fronted Geese at Salmon Creek near Braddock Bay in Greece on the 19th. Scores of birders reported anywhere from a few to all 20 through the 30th from the same location. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry reported a Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrid from LaSalle's Landing Park on the south side of Irondequoit Bay on the 1st after it

had been absent since early December. Roger Clark found a Harlequin Duck on the 14th at the Lake Ontario overlook at the north end of Monroe-Orleans County Line Road, historically called Troutburg. The Harlequin Duck stayed until the 15th, and a few others added it to their year lists as well. The eBird download gave the impression that scoter numbers, particularly Surf Scoter and Black Scoter, were poor, with two and five, respectively, being the highest count for both species. Ruddy Duck was reported in higher numbers than in recent winters with the highest counts coming from Conesus Lake.

4. A smattering of Horned Grebes was found on the Conesus Lake and the Lake Ontario shoreline (highest of 24 from Lake Ontario). Andy Guthrie continued diligent surveying of the waterfowl off Hamlin Beach State Park, turning up 21 Red-necked Grebes on the 6th. The region's only observed overwintering Virginia Rail turned up at the traditional spot along Quaker Pond Trail in Mendon Ponds Park. Pat Martin found this bird in the third week of January, when "real winter" sets in. Observers reported three Sandhill Cranes from Braddock Bay to North Hamlin from the 9th-11th. In terms of shorebirds, Janet and Scott Brooks observed two Killdeer from Braddock Bay's East Spit on the 2nd. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry also had a Killdeer from Salmon Creek on the 1st. Michelle Gianvecchio had the region's only other shorebird, a Sanderling, at the East Spit on the 3rd. Purple Sandpiper was missed this month.

5. Brad Carlson reported the region's only jaeger on the 5th. The bird was not identified to species, but his comments indicate that he was leaning towards Pomarine Jaeger. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry found a Black-legged Kittiwake at the south end of Irondequoit Bay from LaSalle's Landing Park on the 1st. Michelle Gianvecchio had a Black-legged Kittiwake from the East Spit on the 3rd, possibly the same individual. Jim Miles reported the region's only Little Gull from LaSalle's Landing Park on the 16th. This species has become quite rare along the Monroe County lakeshore in recent years. Observers reported decent numbers of Iceland and Glaucous gulls, with 66 eBird lines of Iceland Gull representing about 11 individuals and 37 lines of Glaucous Gull representing about 10 individuals. Common and Red-throated loons appeared in low numbers, with high counts of five and

three, respectively.

6. Observers noted high numbers of Bald Eagles, with the highest counts of 19 on the 1st and 2nd overwintering on Irondequoit Bay. Rough-legged Hawk continued scarce, with a maximum of six individuals found throughout the region in January. Nothing else exciting stands out in the data for hawks. There were no reports of Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, or Golden Eagle, although Golden Eagle is uncommon in January and the other two have declined in numbers in recent years. Dave Tetlow continued his New Year's morning owling tradition, turning up a Long-eared Owl and two Northern Saw-whet Owls in the usual Bergen Swamp area. It was the only report of Saw-whets for the month. Chris Wood observed another Long-eared Owl in Hamlin on the 28th. Short-eared Owls showed up in larger numbers than in December 2022 and were found at Buckland Park in Brighton as well as a few more individuals at Nations Road in Avon. Melissa Mance observed as many as 12 Short-eared Owls at an undisclosed site in eastern Genesee County; the highest count so far this winter. Falcon numbers were average.

7. Passerine reports, specifically half-hardy species, improved over December 2022 – but were still not impressive by any means. Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found, one at Turning Point Park and the other at Firehouse Woods. Observers reported two Marsh Wrens, one at Turning Point Park on the 1st and one from Irondequoit Bay Park West from the 1st-17th. Lakeshore park reports of Hermit Thrush were decent, with as many as three from one checklist from Webster Park on the 7th. The remaining Evening Grosbeaks from this past fall's flight continued to concentrate on feeders in the Bristol Hills. As many as 51 could be found at a private feeder along South Hill Road south of Canandaigua. The homeowner welcomed small numbers of visitors for a brief period. The Pine Grosbeaks at Webster Park continued to entertain the masses of birders, with near-daily reports. Small numbers of Common Redpolls were still found in isolated locations and reported as occasional flyovers. Cooperative Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks caught the attention of many birders along Church Road in Hamlin during a brief period of snow cover. Bruce Hoover reported an Eastern Meadowlark from the Genesee County airport on the 28th. Other icterids, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and

Brown-headed Cowbird, were reported in better numbers than in December, but the highest count among these icterids was 300 Common Grackles, still very low by historical comparison. Andy Guthrie reported the only Rusty Blackbird as a flyover from Hamlin Beach State Park on the 1st. There were only a handful of reports of Yellow-rumped Warbler, likely reflecting an effort issue. There were no reports of Common Yellowthroat. The **Yellow-throated Warbler** in the Village of Conesus from December 2022 continued until it succumbed to the elements on the 4th.

8. 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

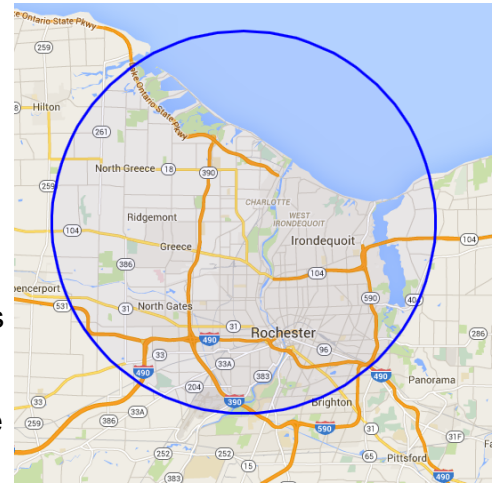
Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Ted Barnett, Mitchell Barry, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict & Steve Benedict, David Benvent, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Linda Birkel, Nancy Bloechl, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, David Brown, Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Bob Buckert, Sara Burch, Ken Burdick, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Keigan Case, Nancy Casper, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Chris Chappell, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Jayne Dean, Peggy Dempsey, Steve Donohue, Ted Drozdowski, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, Joe Fell, Debra Florio, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Janis George, Jessica George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, Kimber Godfrey, John Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Linda Howes, Pam Inzinna, Carolyn Jacobs, Blaise Jenner, Alyssa Johnson, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Annette Kalinoski, Jacob Kearney, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Evelyn Kirkwood, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Observers continued on page 9

	2023	2022	10-year Average
Species for Jan	132	135	128.1

Rochester Christmas Bird Count – December 18, 2022

Perspective: The count this year was the 119th for the Rochester area. We go and look for the birds in a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Dewey Avenue and Stone Road. Needless to say, habitat has changed since the circle was defined in the early 1900's. Birdy places have been paved or built out (in 1900, Irondequoit was still largely farms!). In the present-day we still enjoy a large variety of species owing to the lake and bay fronts and places that have been protected from development (like Durand-Eastman Park or NYS lands in Greece).

How the count is organized: The count is held on the 3rd Sunday in December. The 'compiler' assures that there are committee chairs or 'sector leaders', arranges publicity and the tally as well as interacts with Audubon. Sector leaders run the observation process and gather the data for their area. At the end of the day, there is a 'tally' where we share pizza and a potluck and gather the results. The compiler then inputs the species and effort data into National Audubon website <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.



The 2022 Count Leadership: I've been compiler since 2015. This year we have some 'new blood.' (It's been an ongoing concern as to what would happen if a sector leader were unable to do the 'boots-on-the-ground' work.) After 25 years, Dominic Sherony is handing over leadership of sector 4 (Durand Park and the lake front in Irondequoit) to Andrew Garland. Succession is not an issue: Andy has substantial experience in that area and Dominic is available as counter and mentor. Mike Rizzo is replacing Andrea Patterson in Seneca Park. John Boettcher split responsibilities with Bob Spahn in the far west of the circle. Mike Gullo assumed the northern area just west of the river. These additions, along with the returning sector leaders Greg Lawrence, Brian Morse, Rosemary Reilly, Shirley Shaw, Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski resulted in a strong team.

Birds, conditions and numbers: Fifty-five participants spent 127 hours on foot and in cars. Temperatures were moderate, moving from lower to upper 30's as the day progressed. Skies were cloudy and the breeze was light and westerly. Once again, duck hunters were out there stirring things up.

On the day of the count, we found **94 species** accounting for 70,350 individual birds. Some species were seen in record high numbers or numbers that matched historic highs: Cackling Goose (12/5) (this year /previous high), Bald Eagle (24/17), Common Raven (9/4), Carolina Wren (36/19) and Eastern Bluebird (40/38). Notable sightings included a Purple Sandpiper off the barrier island at Braddocks Bay. Brian Morse found a Lesser Black-backed Gull in the unlikely location of a Tops parking lot!

Our amazing observers: Carolyn and Jerry Barnhardt, Doug Bassett, Bob Bemont, Lynn Bergmeyer, Alan Bloom, Robert Buckert, Barbara Cote, Peter Debes, Sharon Galbraith, Mathew Gavette, Michelle Gianvecchio, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Nicholas Kachala, Basia Kruszezwska, Holly Lawrence, Ben Levy, David Levy, Ginny Maier, Bill Maier, Kirsten Malone, Cindy Marino, Chita McKinney, Kent and Susan Millham, Nic and Randi Minetor, Ann Parks, Jeremy Pete, Luannne Pignataro, Jay Powell, Elizabeth and Doug Rabjohns, Robert Ryan, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Susan Spahn, Annette Teng, Mike Tetlow, Nate Ukens, Jeanne Verhulst, Bridget Watts, and Kinsley Whittum.

I continue to be awed at the undertaking that we call the RCBC..... leaders and participants contributing to this worthy effort. This year everyone contributed mightily. Thank you all!

ps. The count welcomes new participants! Keep a lookout for the notices for 2023 and join us!!

-- Norma Platt, compiler

Hans Kunze, Griffin & Michael Kutny, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Peggy Marces, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Mary McGreal, Ann McMican, Scott & Sophie Meagher, Steve Melcher, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Megan Miller, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Mary Moore, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Sheila Mumpton, Kevin Murphy, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Michael Palermo, Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Michael Peter, Joseph Petre, Steven Pitt, Norma Platt, Sandy Podulka, Jo Popma, Malise Prieto, Bill Purcell, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Thomas Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salsbury, Michael Scheibel, Karl Schmidt, Mickey Scilingo, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Rob Sielaff, Judy Slein, Dee Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Kimberly Sucy, June Summers, Holley Sweeney, Stephen Taylor, Annette Teng, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Thaddeus Trzeciak, Nathan Ukens, Alison Van Keuren, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Matthew Voelker, Jules Wagner, Davey Walters, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Jim Wood, Cecile & Morris Yarow, Ryan Zucker. (There were 329 observers in the eBird download, which was nearly the same as 2022).



American Pipit, Braddock Bay East Spit
© David Laiacona January 22, 2023



Bald Eagle, Onondaga Lake © Jeffrey Eichner February 11, 2023

BIRDS AND BREWS

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Knucklehead Craft Brewing, 426 Ridge Road, Webster

Join us for craft beers and conversation!

A chance to meet up and socialize with people who love birds.

Knucklehead Craft Brewing serves a selection of its seasonal and flagship beers, as well as a food menu that ranges from wings and mahi mahi tacos to pizzas, burgers, and wraps, with a number of vegan choices.

Check it out at <https://knuckleheadcraftbrewing.com/>

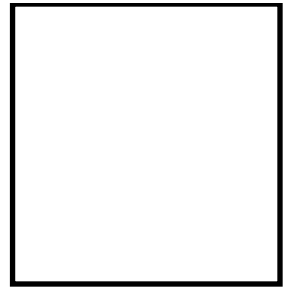


ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 92055

1335 Jefferson Road

Rochester, NY 14692-9998



Address Service Requested

2022 RBA Board of Directors

President	Randi Minetor	writerrandi@gmail.com
Vice President	David Laiacona	dlaiacona@live.com
Treasurer	Brian Rohrs	treasurer@rochesterbirding.org
Secretary	Robert Buckert	rbuck4@brockport.edu
Past President	Liz Magnanti	lizmagnanti@gmail.com
Director	Kevin Farrell	kmfarrell18@gmail.com
Director	Rosemary Reilly	reilly.rosemary@gmail.com
Director	Lynn Bergmeyer	lynnbergmeyer@gmail.com
Director	Wanda Thistle	thistlew@yahoo.com

RBA Committee Chairs

Birds & Brews	Nic Minetor	nic@minetor.com
Circulation	Sheryl Gracewski	grace@me.rochester.edu
Communication	Liz Magnanti	lizmagnanti@gmail.com
Conservation	Amy Kahn	rbaconservation@gmail.com
Editor	Leah Mould	editor@rochesterbirding.org
Field Trips	Jeanne Verhulst	Jeanne.verhulst@gmail.com
Item Sales	Kevin Farrell	kmfarrell18@gmail.com
Last 30 Days Gallery	Kim Denise	kdenise1111@gmail.com
Member Data	Jo Taylor	jhtaylor@frontiernet.net
Nominating	Dominic Sherony	dsherony@live.com
Records	Nicholas Kachala	nicholasKach@gmail.com
Social	Wanda Thistle	thistlew@yahoo.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Lauren Doucette	lannedougherty@gmail.com
Web Content Manager	Shelley Patterson	shelpat22@gmail.com
Webmaster	Chad Lewine	chad@chadlewine.com
Young Birders	Neal Reilly	Neal.f.reilly@gmail.com