



**Rochester Birding  
Association**

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

# Little Gull

## July/August 2023 Events and Birding Field Trips

**Please note: Eventbrite pre-registration has ended. Just show up at the designated meeting spot.**

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. 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!

### **July 29 Conesus Inlet State Wildlife Management Area**

Saturday

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-leader Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*

### **[August Is a Great Time of Year to Watch for Migrating Shorebirds](#)**

**A good place to look for shorebirds is at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. For the last few years the staff there has advertised open dike walks at Knox-Marsellus and Puddler Marshes. The walks start from the visitor center at 7:00 a.m. on alternate Saturdays and Sundays in August and early September. Visit the Montezuma NWR website for more detailed information as the time approaches.**

### **Aug 6 Beginner Birder Trip – Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge**

Sunday

Learn more about the fall migration of shorebirds in this nearby birding treasure. We'll visit key spots you'll want to revisit again and again! There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Restrooms are available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **1:00 p.m.** in the Bushnell's Basin Park and Ride lot. The lot is off Route 96 just south of Exit 27 from I-490. Alternatively, meet up with the group at the first stop, the Montezuma Visitor Center at **2:00 p.m.** **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.**

**Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

### **Aug 19 Braddock Bay East Spit, a Field Trip for Young Birders**

Saturday

This trip is open to young birders ages 8 to 18 accompanied by a parent. The East Spit of Braddock Bay is a well-known spot for migrating shorebirds in late summer. Herons, eagles, Osprey and early warbler migrants are also possible. The trail is a woodland path between Lake Ontario and the Braddock Bay Marshes. We will walk out to the end of the spit and back, about 1 mile. The trail is muddy, narrow and has uneven, rocky footing in places. Sturdy waterproof shoes or boots and bug spray will be needed. Crossing the channel to the barrier island will be completely optional and dependent on water levels. Restrooms are usually available next to the Marina building. Meet at **10:00 a.m.** in the East Spit parking lot beyond Westport Marina at Braddock Bay. **Note: You must drive through the Marina to reach the East Spit parking lot. Spotting Scopes will be provided by the leaders.**

**Leader:** *Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

- Aug 20**  
Sunday  
**Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge**  
We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Expect to see herons, eagles and possibly falcons. There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Restrooms are available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the Montezuma Visitor Center. Pack a lunch. **Bring your own FRS radios and spotting scopes, if you have them.**  
**Leaders:** *Dominic Sherony 585-298-4260 and Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838*
- Aug 26**  
Saturday  
**Braddock Bay East Spit**  
The East Spit of Braddock Bay is a well-known spot for migrating shorebirds in late summer. Herons, eagles, Osprey and early warbler migrants are also possible. The trail is a woodland path between Lake Ontario and the Braddock Bay Marshes. We will walk out to the end of the spit and back, about 1 mile. The trail is muddy, narrow and has uneven, rocky footing in places. Sturdy waterproof shoes or boots and bug spray will be needed. Crossing the channel to the barrier island will be completely optional and dependent on water levels. Restrooms are usually available next to the Marina building. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the East Spit parking lot beyond Westport Marina at Braddock Bay. **Note: You must drive through the Marina to reach the East Spit parking lot. Spotting Scopes would be very helpful.**  
**Leader:** *Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*
- Sept 2**  
Saturday  
**Beginner Birder Trip – Charlotte and Turning Point Park**  
We'll be looking for shorebirds, warblers, and other fall migrants along the river and lakeshore. At Charlotte Beach, we'll look for gulls in many plumages and some shorebirds, too. At Turning Point Park, we will look for local resident birds and fall migrants. Bring binoculars. The Charlotte Beach area is mostly flat and paved; one long, steep grade at Turning Point Park. Length about 2.0 miles total. Restrooms are available at Charlotte only. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Ontario Beach Park in Charlotte in the northeast corner of the parking lot, beside the Genesee River outlet. **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.**  
**Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

## Janet B. Smith, In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the recent passing of Janet Buchanan Smith, an independent, passionate, intelligent woman who cared deeply about local land conservation and the birds that used those lands.

Many RBA members may have met Janet in the past, at the annual Mother's' Day field trip to Amy's Ponds with Genesee Land Trust. Janet was one of the first private landowners ever to donate conservation easements to Genesee Land Trust with Amy's Ponds in 1994 and Hundred Acre Wood in 2001. Janet, her husband Bob, daughter Amanda, and son-in-law Keith, always welcomed RBA with open arms and would help lead this annual field trip. They were always excited to have visitors to the land, showing off beautiful wetlands, woodlands, and open meadows through well maintained trails.

In addition to her involvement with Genesee Land Trust, Janet volunteered as a literary educator for third graders at Rochester City School #22. She partnered with former Genesee Land Trust staff member Margaret Potter to create and host a popular field trip to historic Alasa Farms on Sodus Bay.

"Children living in the city have so few opportunities to experience the true natural world that I wanted to give them a chance to enter it," Janet said in 2014. Janet reflected on land conservation in a 2011 Genesee Land Trust newsletter. "It gives me peace of mind and happiness... If you love something and want to save it, this is a very, very beneficial thing to do."

Thank you, Janet, for taking such wonderful care of the land you loved, ensuring it will be protected for wildlife, and the children of today and tomorrow, forever. You will be missed.





Photo by Richard Ashworth

## President's Corner, Randi Minetor

This issue of the *Little Gull* is our last until September, and our next membership meeting is on Thursday, September 14. So this is a good time to share some general news about RBA and what we've been up to over the last few months.

**Logo news:** In our June issue, we introduced our new logo: still a Little Gull, but with an updated look. The board undertook the logo update because the digital files we had of the old, hand-drawn one were deteriorating—what the writers of a *Star Trek: TNG* episode once called “replicative failure” (though they, of course, were talking about clones). Most organizations update their logo and fonts every 20 years or so, but it's been nearly 50 years since our logo's original design. Kevin Farrell led the update

project for the RBA Board of Directors, and the board unanimously agreed on the final design, developed by graphic artist Aiden Guinnip. The new logo gives us a 21<sup>st</sup>-century vibe, and we now have a booklet of brand guidelines (logo usage, fonts, colors, and so on) that is available to anyone who plans to use the logo in their correspondence or materials. Stay tuned for some branded items to come: t-shirts, hats, and maybe more.

Why a Little Gull? Most of our members are aware that the Little Gull doesn't hang out in the waters around Rochester these days, but back when the Rochester Birding Association was in its formative years, we experienced an irruption of Little Gulls that turned out to be one of the biggest ever recorded in the northeastern states. RBA members decided to own that moment in birding history by naming the newsletter the *Little Gull*, and by honoring the bird in our logo. The current Board discussed whether we should replace this bird with something more common in our region, but we decided that changing the look of the logo was enough for now. If you feel strongly that the logo should be some other bird, maybe this is your cue to follow me as president and work toward that change. (We're still looking for the next president, as I noted last month. I'd be pleased to talk with whomever would like the position.)

**Grantmaking news:** We are so pleased to provide \$1,000 in grant funding to ReTree Webster, an organization committed to planting new trees and shrubs in Webster preserves. Many thanks to Norma Platt and John Boettcher for their grant proposal for this very worthwhile ongoing effort. You can read much more about ReTree Webster in an article in this newsletter on page 4.

This is a good reminder to think about how RBA may be able to help other organizations in and around Rochester with initiatives that provide access to birds and birding, and that improve habitat for birds. Are you involved with other nature-focused organizations that would benefit from our assistance? Please submit a proposal (it doesn't have to be long; just tell us about your project) to [info@rochesterbirding.org](mailto:info@rochesterbirding.org).

**Speaker news:** I'm delighted to report that we have a full schedule of speakers for this fall (you can see the whole lineup at <http://rochesterbirding.org/events-trips/monthly-meetings-speaker/>) so Board vice-president David Laiacona is working on the 2024 roster. Is there someone you would like to see/hear speak? Please let David know at [dlaiacona@live.com](mailto:dlaiacona@live.com). We can reach out to anyone and have them speak over Zoom, so you don't need to be bound by geography.

Have a wonderful summer! We'll look forward to seeing you in September.



Pileated Woodpecker, location undisclosed  
© David Laiacona May 25, 2023



## Welcome to the Flock

Join us in welcoming these 9 new or returning members who joined in the last month (8 memberships).

Adam Melinis & Sabrina  
Franek  
Anthony Critelli  
Miranda Salsbery

Molly Weimer  
Mary Ann Mitchell  
Stephanie Bane  
David Killius

Linda Ziemba  
Sandra Glantz



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

### Current RBA Membership as of May 15 is 390:

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

Jo Taylor, Membership Data

## ReTree Webster: "To everything there is a season" Sarah White

*"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy." – William Blake*

We are in the seed time, and ReTree is building on what we learned last year and putting it into practice for this year.

The seedlings nurtured in the plant nursery last year are finding their way into Webster's open spaces, and new seedlings are taking their place. Already, more than 25 new trees and shrubs have been added to Whiting Road Nature Preserve, and the Earth Day workday saw 45 volunteers potting bare-root seedlings to ready them for planting later this year or next.

"Winter is a season of recovery and preparation," according to Paul Theroux, and this spring's planting activity is a direct result of the preparation ReTree did over the winter. In addition to the planting and potting already done this year, the 2023 plan includes:

- Clearing woody invasives in Whiting Road Nature Preserve (completed in January).
- Nurturing the seedlings in the nursery for future planting in our open spaces.
- Monitoring what was planted last year in Whiting Road Nature Preserve and the Gosnell Big Woods, and clearing invasives around the new trees and shrubs as needed.
- Moving larger seedlings from the nursery into new areas and planting a smaller number of larger saplings on an autumn workday.

Partnering with Genesee Land Trust to plant seedlings in Gosnell Big Woods.

These activities should result in more than 100 new trees and shrubs being planted this year, helping to ensure the future forests of Webster, and ReTree needs your help. Volunteers can help in many ways:

- Watering the seedlings in the plant nursery, especially over the drier summer months.
- Assisting with clearing invasives around our newest trees.
- Participating in the autumn workday to plant additional trees.



## Field Reports

### **Powder Mills Park/BANC Sanctuary 5/13/ 2023**

It was a beautiful sunny morning with a cloudless blue sky – as yet cool, but comfortable – when twenty of us gathered at the Riedman Fish Hatchery in Powder Mills Park, Pittsford. We birded the immediate area for some time, recording many of the common residents, including the reliable Great Blue Heron surveying the raceways for a potential breakfast. However, although the classic ‘sunny (tree)tops’ were much in evidence, the only migrants we saw here were Blue Jays and only one Yellow Warbler was present.

We moved on to the Daffodil trail with its mixture of woodland, creekside and wetland habitats. All along the trail the most numerous songsters were the enthusiastic Gray Catbirds and we added five woodpecker species. One Black-and-White Warbler and a few Common Yellowthroats at least represented their family. Perhaps the best spot was the ‘blue’ loop overlooking one of the wetland areas. Here we saw several spectacular male Wood Ducks and two Green Herons. A highlight (and a lifer for at least one participant) was a Hooded Merganser cruising along with four young ones in tow, in the same place as last year.

After a brief stopover at the south end of the park, thirteen of us drove to the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road. Here we walked through the drier and wetter woodland areas, across the swamp and along Irondequoit Creek, before gathering at the clubhouse to review our morning’s observations. Additions to our list included Great Crested Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker busy at a nest hole.

It had been a beautiful morning for a walk, and most were satisfied with the 45 species recorded, although it was disappointing not to encounter more warblers. I would like to thank my co-leaders, Tom and Jeanne Verhulst, for their tremendous help, including Jeanne’s management of our

eBird checklists.

*Richard Ashworth, Tom and Jeanne Verhulst*

### **Braddock Bay-Manitou Beach Preserve 5/14/2023**

Christina Hoh and Amy Kahn led 12 others on a lovely Mother’s Day walk which got better in each passing hour. It was cool, partly sunny with a stiff wind out of the north and appeared quiet when we first gathered. We quickly discovered that though the birds were not singing, it was because they were actively foraging. We had a total of 42 species including 5 species of warbler. Several of us had nice close views of an adult Bald Eagle flying directly overhead at tree height. It was also exciting to witness a Carolina Wren carrying food back to the nest. Those of us who continued on to the West Spit had an additional 7 species including 5 more warbler species - Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Northern Parula, many Palm, and one Northern Waterthrush on the spit. We also had several Warbling Vireos and a Spotted Sandpiper.

*Christina Hoh and Amy Kahn*

### **Oatka Creek Park 5/16/23**

Fifteen birders – some familiar faces, some new ones – gathered at Oatka Creek Park early on a cool Tuesday morning in anticipation of warblers dripping from the trees after a night of favorable winds. Instead, they were treated to these same winds, increasing in strength, blowing the trees around such that finding flitting warblers was difficult, well at least for the migrants. The breeders didn’t seem to mind the moderate wind as they sang from territory, as shown by the 70 species the group pulled in 4.5 hours of effort. Of the 70 species, 58 breed/might breed in the park or the surrounding area. Highlights include a small feeding flock of warblers – our only one – in the oaks above the parking lot near the cabin, insanely close listens (and views for some) of a Mourning Warbler, a Baltimore Oriole building a nest, a Solitary Sandpiper on a random rock in the middle of Oatka Creek near the bridge, an Orchard Oriole zipping through, perching, and singing once from a snag before continuing on, and close looks of multiple perched Ruby-throated Hummingbirds over the duration of the outing. A rewarding day out with many year birds for some and lifers for others.

*Nick Kachala & Tom & Jeanne Verhulst*

### **Thousand Acre Swamp 5/18/2023**

The morning started with frost on the grass. However, there was no wind, so it was not uncomfortable as ten of us gathered in the parking lot, bundled in appropriate gear, for what we characterized as the ‘RBA Winter Field Trip to Thousand Acre Swamp’. For three members of the group, it was their first visit to the Swamp. Unsurprisingly, there was no insect activity and very few birds in evidence. We usually leave the parking lot with around



## Field Reports continued

fifteen species on our list, but this year we had scarcely half that number.

Our fortunes revived on a brief visit to the Duck Pond, where we saw two Green Herons and, most notably, an Osprey first perched and later flying with a large fish, which it successfully defended against several harassing crows.

As we continued along Founders' Way, it was unusually quiet. We heard a few American Redstarts (and saw two) and Yellow Warblers, and some of the party saw a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, but the customary Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Warbling Vireos and migrating warblers were all absent or hidden and silent. We heard only one Wood Thrush some considerable distance away – one of only two recorded for the day.

Although the common residents were present in the swamp, we had to work hard to find them. We spent quite some time on the boardwalk trying to locate a close, persistently singing Common Yellowthroat, before one person finally spotted him and most of the group had a clear but very brief look.

The trip through Warbler Fen and Hermit Walk was generally uneventful, except for good views of a spectacular male Scarlet Tanager. We were pleased to see that the Meadow had been cleared of the previous head-high vegetation: Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds were both active at the nestboxes and Baltimore Orioles were spotted in the surrounding trees. There were no birds of note at the Way Pond.

After the initial freeze abated, it was a very pleasant morning walk enjoyed by all the participants, although the species tally of 41 was significantly lower than average for this trip and the lack of migrating warblers was disappointing.

*Jay Greenberg and Richard Ashworth*



Red-headed Woodpecker, Hamlin Beach State Park © Alan Bloom May 30, 2023

### Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge 5/20/2023

A small number of birders met at the Stafford Marsh overlook on a cool (for May), cloudy, rain threatened day. We were greeted by a large flock of nesting Purple Martins in the nesting boxes in the parking lot. Upon scanning the ponds, we were able to locate some water species: Pied-billed Grebe, Common Gallinule, Mallards, and some saw Blue-winged Teal. In the fields we found the ubiquitous Red-winged Blackbirds, but also several Bobolinks.

We left the overlook for the Swallow Hollow Nature Trail. In the parking lot we heard Great-crested Flycatcher and Common Yellowthroat and saw a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks carrying nesting material. On the trail we heard and saw several Veery, Cerulean Warblers (one of the trip's target birds), and a Northern Waterthrush. There were many Yellow Warblers and American Redstarts throughout the loop. In the woods near the end of the loop we heard an Ovenbird, a Wood Thrush, and a Scarlet Tanager. We started the walk in a drizzle and the rain intensity increased near the end of the loop, so we ended the trip early. As we were getting into our cars, a Scarlet Tanager flew into a tree above the parking lot to make a great ending to the trip. We accumulated 47 species on the truncated trip.

*Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash, and Cathy Ballard*

### 66 Taylor Road, Headwaters of Irondequoit Creek 5/23/2023

A sunny and comfortably cool morning greeted six birders as we gathered at Linda and Charlie Kenyon's beautiful property in Honeoye Falls. As usual, the walk was made easy by Linda's and Charlie's preparations for our visit. The trails around the fields had been mowed and Charlie and Linda had cleared downed ash trees from the trail in the woods—no small amount of work! Field Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, a Great Crested Flycatcher, American Goldfinches, and Song Sparrows greeted us from the driveway. In the hedgerows along the fields, a House Wren and Carolina Wren were seen. Cedar Waxwings and an Eastern Towhee were viewed high in the trees. Eastern Bluebirds nested in at least one of the boxes and Tree Swallows had commandeered another. Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats and Gray Catbirds were well represented along the creek. All in all, we garnered 29 species while having a very enjoyable walk on a beautiful spring day. Many thanks to Linda and Charlie for opening their property for an RBA field trip, and to all who joined in.

*Jeanne Verhulst and Linda Kenyon*

### Oatka Fish and Game Club 5/24/2023

The inaugural field trip to the private Oatka Fish and Game Club took place on a cool and partly sunny morning. Thirteen eager birders showed up to check out this beautiful property, generously made available to us by the club's



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board and members. And with Jim Mott leading and everyone contributing their observations, we managed to find lots of good birds.

The parking area alone produced a Scarlet Tanager, a singing Black-billed Cuckoo, and three singing Mourning Warblers. On the lovely and well-maintained trail running along Oatka Creek we saw a Wood Duck with young, two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and a variety of warblers, including Hooded and Blackpoll. Six Cerulean Warblers—our main target—were detected, with at least one seen well by all. On the return, we all got a bonus in the form of great views of two Acadian Flycatchers.

In all, we encountered 51 species of birds, and we probably would have found more had the trip not been cut slightly short by the threat of impending wind and rain. In short, we all had a wonderful morning at this new field trip location.

*Jim Mott and Tom and Jeanne Verhulst*

### **Ganondagan State Historic Site 5/27/2023**

On a gorgeous morning, sunny and low 70s Neal and I were surprised to have only one 11 year old and his grandmother. Fortunately he didn't mind hanging out with adults and is a budding expert birder. We also got him 5 new species. We had 50 species total, a nice combination of field, forest and riparian species. We had 2 vireo species, 4 woodpecker species, 6 flycatcher species (including Least, Alder and Willow), 4 raptors and 5 nesting warbler species including Hooded. We now have another young birder to welcome to our program. Please encourage any kids you know to join us for our August 19th trip to the Ontario lake shore.

*Amy Kahn and Neal Reilly*

### **Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail) 5/27/2023**

A beautiful, sunny, 51-degree morning made for a great start to our stroll down the wide Brickyard trail in the middle of Brighton. Thirteen participants and two leaders scanned the leafy canopy and bushes for passing migrants and resident birds. American Robins, Northern Cardinals, Red-winged Blackbirds and Song Sparrows were the most numerous species, but Gray Catbirds, Swamp Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, American Goldfinches and Marsh Wrens put in appearances. A Green Heron made several swoops around the marsh, as did both Chimney Swifts and Tree Swallows. A Great Blue Heron hunted in the large pond. In the wooded area towards the northern end of the trail, a Great Crested Flycatcher and Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos were seen. Absent were hoped-for migrating warblers and the often seen Belted Kingfisher, but an Eastern Bluebird perched on a snag in the marsh was a nice

surprise. We totaled 36 species for the day. Thanks to all who joined us.

*Tom and Jeanne Verhulst*

### **Letchworth State Park 6/3/2023**

At 5:30am on Sunday, June 4th 15 eager birders were already gathering on the gorge edge high above the Genesee River for RBA's annual field trip through Letchworth State Park. The weather was perfect throughout the day, with temperatures ranging from low 50s to low 70s and pure sunshine over the course of the 10 hours the group spent together. This year's trip included 15 stops along the 17-mile-long road on the park's west side. The habitats explored by the group ranged from cliffside to roadside to riverside. The group was treated to great views of target birds including Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler and Peregrine Falcon. Three Bald Eagles – two adult and one juvenile – soaring together overhead while the group stood at the bank of the river was also a welcome treat. Though the group was not able to lay eyes on one, Mourning Warbler was also heard at multiple stops. When all was said and done the group had observed a total of 79 species for the day.

*Elijah Kruger, Neal Reilly*

### **Ganondagan State Historic Site 6/3/2023**

We had a lovely group of 20 for our trip. Ganondagan did a wonderful job promoting the trip so in addition to our 5 members we had 13 visitors or soon to be members. We ranged in age over a 50+ year spread, dressed in everything from beige field clothes to punk clothes, tats, piercings and green and purple hair. We had a great time and got everyone on birds. We had 47 species with great views of Kestrels, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, Yellow, Blue-winged Warblers and Common Yellowthroats, Song and Field Sparrows. We heard Hooded Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink and Red-eyed Vireo. At one spot on the trail by the brook we had 14 species in 2 minutes standing in one place.

*Amy Kahn and Neal Reilly*

Canada Warbler, Firehouse Woods  
© Jeanne Verhulst May 25, 2023



## Records Reports

1. May 2023 started off cold and wet and ended hot and dry. Temperatures averaged 55.6°, 3.2° below normal. Below average temperatures outweighed above average temperatures by 18 to 8 days for the month, contributed to by a large storm system that stalled over the Great Lakes region. The hottest temperature for May was 85°, which occurred on the last day of the month. A late frost on the 18th brought a low of 32° to the Rochester airport, although it dipped into the mid-20°s further south in the region. Lakeshore orchards and Finger Lakes vineyards reported mild to severe crop loss as a result. Precipitation totaled 1.39", 1.47" below normal. The last two weeks of May were essentially without precipitation, but fears of drought did not set in unlike last year, as the soil was still in decent condition, aided by the above average precipitation in the preceding months. There were no thunderstorms recorded at the Rochester airport and no severe storm warnings in the greater region either. Winds were light and gentle for most of the month, with a northerly direction prevailing most days.

2. The month got off to a slower-than-usual start, noted by several region birders, feeling like a continuation of late April in terms of low numbers of migrants in general. Despite the low numbers, most species arrived within the expected windows, just not in full force. In contrast, once the weather cleared around May 10th, migration picked up. As it seems in years where rough weather has kept migrants from the Rochester area early, most species seemed rushed to get to their northern breeding grounds, and the "warbler window" appeared narrow this year, with breeders starting to dominate the woods by the month's end. In all, there were just under 161,000 eBird lines in the download, up 18.5% from 2022. 739 eBird observers contributed these sightings, up 11.5% from 2022.

3. Starting with the waterfowl, the month of May saw the numbers of overwintering ducks and geese present in April drop off to a few stragglers by month's end. The monthly download gave the impression of less lingering waterfowl than in recent memory, especially around the Braddock Bay and Greece Ponds area, but also in the Northern Montezuma WMA. Species like Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged Teal seemed scarcer than usual. Low counts that stood out were: Mallard (38), Wood Duck (34), and Common Merganser (16). Brant was missed, and there were no late reports for the rarer Eurasian Wigeon, eiders, or Harlequin Duck. There was only one report of Red-necked Grebe from Hamlin Beach SP on the 5th.

4. Shorebird diversity increased throughout the month. Region 2 ended the month with 19 shorebird species. Species of interest among the shorebirds include two Upland Sandpipers, in Hamlin on the 8th and Letchworth State

Park on the 14th, the region's only report of Wilson's Phalarope for spring migration by Jim Kimball in the flooded fields outside of Geneseo on the 9th, and Red Knots at two different Lakeshore hotspots on the 29th, one at each location. Whimbrel was missed this month, and no Sanderling yet for the season, though historically that is not unusual. Braddock Bay's East Spit barrier beach/mudflat did not exist for the second spring in a row. Lake Ontario's water levels continued to rise throughout April and shot up drastically in the first two weeks of May, attributed to the massive amount of rainfall in the Great Lakes Region in late April/Early May. The Lake crested at 247.41' on the 13th (a typical date for a crest). The official water level graph released by the International Joint Commission (IJC) (<https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/water-levels>) shows the water levels receding with a slope about equally as negative as in 2022. If the trend continues, Braddock Bay has a high likelihood of having mudflats for fall shorebird migration. Finishing up the shorebirds, several counts in the hundreds of peeps and yellowlegs came out from Carncross Road in the NMWMA.

5. Gulls and allies are worthy of their own section for this May. Jay McGowan found a Herrmann's Gull at Sodus Point on the 19th, the first record of this species in New York State. This wins for bird of the month. The Herrmann's Gull was observed at dawn on the 20th at Sodus and then from Charlotte Pier in Rochester three hours later by Andy Guthrie and Jim Miles. The second-best gull this month was a Franklin's Gull seen by many observers at both Charlotte Pier and Braddock Bay from the 20th through 22nd. A Laughing Gull moved back and forth along the Monroe County lakeshore from the 21st through 26th. Andy Guthrie had a very rare spring Parasitic Jaeger (3rd spring regional record) from Hamlin Beach on the 6th. Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared to pop up everywhere in the northeast United States in higher-than-usual numbers. Our region had two reports, the first by Chris Wood around Braddock Bay on the 6th and a second found by Jeanne Cimorelli at Sodus Point on the 20th, which stayed through the 22nd, allowing many to see and photograph it. Caspian Tern numbers seemed lower than in recent years, with single digit counts prevailing out of the Braddock Bay area and only occasional outlier counts approaching or exceeding 100 (max 196 Irondequoit Bay on the 2nd by Greg Lawrence).

6. May was the last month of the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch, which wrapped up David Brown's 5th season as the official counter. Kim Steininger continued to accompany David at the Hawk Watch. The season went out with a whimper, as a long pattern of northerly winds combined with clear skies meant mostly poor or difficult conditions for hawk watching. Despite this, David managed to finish the season with 50,395 raptors. Notable counts are as fol-



lows. The 19th was an excellent day for Bald Eagles with a count of 101. 1637 Broad-winged Hawks on the 21st was the highest for that species, very low for a peak count. See [https://hawkcount.org/month\\_summary.php?r=on&rsite=353&go=Go+to+site](https://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?r=on&rsite=353&go=Go+to+site) for a detailed summary of hawk count data for May. Thanks David! We hope you are back here next year to contribute to BBRR and to serenade us with your cigar box guitar!

7. Among the passerines, neotropical migrants moved through in full force in the middle weeks of the month. See the Region 2 records table on the RBA website for specifics, as one could focus this whole report on all the different passerines found this May. In other words, it was good, at least for recent years. Five Sedge Wrens were reported from a field in the Lakeshore Marshes WMA south of Chimney Bluffs SP. A Lark Sparrow was noted moving along the Lakeshore on the 7th. Clay-colored Sparrow appeared at more locations than just the “usual” Cook Road site in Hamlin. Kim Steininger found the Region’s first Lark Bunting at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch on the 12th, which was seen by birders from Buffalo to Ithaca. One to four Golden-winged Warblers were seen from the 20th and onward at Whiting Road Nature Preserve in Webster, appearing to be on territory in the successional dead ash sections. It will be interesting to see if territorial Golden-winged Warblers increase in Region 2 with the creation of more suitable habitat over the next few years with the death of the majority of ash trees. Roger Clark found a Prothonotary Warbler at Firehouse Woods on the 24th, which was observed through the 26th. Betty Beckham found the Region’s only May Connecticut Warbler at Whiting Road Nature Preserve on the 22nd. Finishing off the passerines, Mike Gullo found a Summer Tanager along Tunley Road near Sodus on the 8th, and George Ford found another Summer Tanager at Whiting Road Nature Preserve on the 23rd.

8. 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 Nick Kachala at [nicholaskach@gmail.com](mailto:nicholaskach@gmail.com) by the 5th of the month.

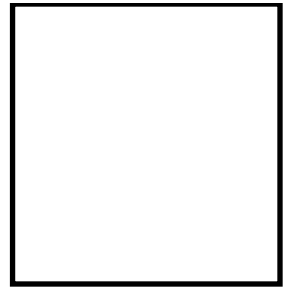
Observers: Janet Akin, Richard Ashworth, BBBO (Andrea Patterson, et al.), BBRR (Braddock Bay Raptor Research), Joshua Bacon, Diane Baillargeon, Colby Baker, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Steve Benedict, Linda Clark Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, Linda Bitkel, Johnathon Blades, Robin Blakesley, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Janet & Scott Brooks, David Brown (official hawk counter), Mark Brown, J. D. Brummer, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Posemary Catlin, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Robert Cicotta, Jeanne Cimorelli, Roger Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kath-

leen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D’Anna, Ian Davies, Peter Debes, Jim Dehnert, Sam Denenberg, Deborah Dohne, Steve Donohue, Grace Dowdall, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, Eaton Birding Society, Alexander Feinberg, Joe Fell, George Ford, Katie Ford, Tony Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, John Garrett, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Jessica George, Candy Giles, Chris Goetz, Janes Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Austin Groff, Lucretia Grosshans, Georgia & Ralph Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Bill Haake, Benjamin Hack, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, Maisie Hebrank, Christina Hoh, Debi Holt, Gabrielle Hood, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Pat Inzinna, Carolyn Jacobs, Nancy Jameson, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Ryan Kayhart, Jacob Kearney, David Kennedy, Darlene Kershner, Josh Ketry, Alexander Keyel, Ted Keyel, Jim Kimball, Mark Kimble, Cindy Kindle, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Gary Klue, Abigail Kress, Hans Kunze, Karl Kunze, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Jennifer Lang, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Schyler Lawson, Gayle Lazoration, Fred Leff, Tim Lenz, Celia Lewis, Joan Lindberg, Lee Ling, Peggy Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Pat Martin, Judy Massare, Lauri Mattle, Martha Mayo, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McQuire, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Brian & Brooke Morse, Whitney Mortimer, Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Sheila Mumpton, Kevin Murphy, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Hollis Noble, Matt Nusstein, David Odell, Andrea Patterson, Shelly Patterson, Doug Perryman, Jeremy Pete, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Derek Pulhamus, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, E. Rapchick, [Rfalconcam.com](http://Rfalconcam.com), RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Isaac Rizzo, Michael Rizzo, Susan Roberts, Susan Robertson, Brian Rohrs, Claudia Rosen, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Shawn Ryan, Kevin Rybczinski, Jackie Salsbury, Greg Sanda, Karl Schmidt, James Sharpless, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Goran Stankovic, Kim Steininger, Rick Stevens, Wendy Stevenson, Reuben Stoltzfus, Allan Strong, Joel Strong, Kimberly Sucy, Steve Taylor, Annette Teng, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Mary Jane Thomas, John H. Thomas, Brian Tuttle, Geoff Twardokus, Nathan Ukens, Bonnie VanDerMeid, Alison Van Keuren, Tom & Jeanne Verhulst, Matthew Voelker, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Kim Weeks, Richard Weilacher, Kinsley Whittum, Joe Wing, Glen Wolford, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, WNY Young Birders, Ken Zidell, plus the multitude of other casual eBird observers (739 eBird observers in May).

	2023	2022	10-year Average
Species for April	197	218	201.1
New for the year	55	71	59.6
Total for the year to date	215	230	212



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



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## Address Service Requested

### 2023 RBA Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Randi Minetor	writerrandi@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	David Laiacona	dlaiacona@live.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brian Rohrs	treasurer@rochesterbirding.org
<b>Secretary</b>	Robert Buckert	rbuck4@brockport.edu
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<b>Director</b>	Wanda Thistle	thistlew@yahoo.com

### RBA Committee Chairs

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