



**Rochester Birding
Association**

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

Little Gull

September 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!

- 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: *Robert Buckert 585 269-4206, and co-leader Kimberly Sucy*
- Sept 9**
Saturday
Whiting Road Nature Preserve
This preserve includes about 240 acres of land that is made up of a variety of birding habitats. This results in decent birding lists throughout the year. The trails are well marked and maintained. However, they do get muddy at times, so appropriate footwear is recommended based on the weather leading up to the trip date. Most of the trails are flat, but there definitely will be a bit of up and down trail climbing in some sections. Our trek will take us on parts of the blue, brown, orange, and red trails. Moderate difficulty in a few spots, length about 2.5 miles. No restrooms. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on Whiting Road in Webster, 0.6 miles south of Lake Road.
Leaders: *Candace Giles 585-281-1643 and Eunice Thein 585-746-2919 and co-leader Dick Horsey 585-435-2837*
- Sept 10**
Sunday
Durand-Eastman Park
We'll be looking for thrushes and other migrants. Durand can be surprising this time of year. This will be an easy 2-3 hour walk mostly along paved roads, with a steady medium grade at one point. Length about 2.5 miles, total. Restroom facilities are not available on this route, but are in other areas of the park. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in Parking Lot D on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd. between Zoo Road and Log Cabin Road.
Leaders: *Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- Sept 13**
Wednesday
Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail)
The wide, flat, multi-use Brickyard Trail winds between Elmwood Avenue and Westfall Road in Brighton. With woods at both ends and ponds and marsh in the middle, it provides varied bird habitat. We will walk the full length of the trail and back (1.7 miles) to look for migrating fall warblers, kinglets, sparrows, wrens, and finches. There might even be a late Green Heron hanging around. Dress for the weather. Insect repellent may be needed for the wooded sections. No restrooms. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking area just inside the entrance to Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester. (Note: This is a different meeting location than in the

Spring.) The trail entrance is nearby on Elmwood. Wheelchair friendly—please call leaders for accessibility questions.

Leaders: *Jeanne and Tom Verhulst 585-362-0803*

Sept 14 **RBA Monthly Meeting @ 7 pm, Asbury Methodist and Zoom, see page 4 for more details**

Sept 16 **Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge**

Saturday

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. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leaders: *Mike and Joann Tetlow 585-748-5838 and Dominic Sherony 585-298-4260*

Sept 23 **Ganondagan State Historic Site**

Saturday

This trip has generated large species lists due to the many habitat types we will travel through. We will start from the parking lot to the longhouse and walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through the Meadowlark field and then head down through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and includes some hills. After we reach the overlook, those who wish can continue for another 2 miles on the narrower Seneca Trail through field and woods, across County Route 41, and along a wooded stream valley to the Bobolink field. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the main parking lot off County Road 41 Boughton Hill Road. The parking lot is situated below the new museum at 7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564. (From Route 444 from Victor, turn right onto Boughton Hill Road and go down the hill. The main parking lot will be on your right at the bottom of the hill.)

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

Sept 24 **Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge**

Sunday

We'll look for migrant ducks and various passerines in this "get to know Iroquois in autumn" trip. This trip is a combination of driving and walking and includes a boardwalk, forest trail, and dirt road. Length about 3.5 miles total on mostly flat trails. Port-a-john available about midway through trip. Meet at **11:00 a.m.** at the Brockport Wegmans' parking lot (restroom). For those traveling from the west, meet at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY at **11:30 a.m.** Bring a lunch and beverages as this trip can go into the afternoon. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leaders: *Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

[October and November are Excellent Months to Observe the Parade of Waterbirds on Lake Ontario.](#) Several experienced birders are active at the lake watch beside the Lakeshore Pavilion at Parking Lot 4 of Hamlin Beach State Park many mornings during these months. Visitors are welcome!

Oct 8 **Hamlin Beach State Park**

Sunday

We'll start off walking flat wooded and brushy areas of the park, looking for thrushes, sparrows, and maybe a half-hardy warbler or two. After that, we'll stop by the lake watch to view ducks on the water and in flight, learning about the lake watch process. Dress appropriately for cooler weather along the lake, and wear comfortable footwear. Restroom facilities are available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in Hamlin Beach State Park, Parking Lot 1. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leader: *Dominic Sherony 585-298-4260 and co-leader Rick Stevens 585-689-1882*

Oct 14 **Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Saturday

Why a wastewater treatment plant? Open water and a great location mean that this spot appears regularly on fall birding lists. We will drive on the banks of the ponds, getting out wherever the birds are congregating. Discover the great opportunity this spot (and its helpful staff) offers. Restrooms might be available at the plant offices. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the wastewater treatment plant headquarters at the end of Industrial Blvd. (17 Tredeasy Ave.), which is off Pearl Street (Route 33) at the western edge of the city of Batavia. If possible we will carpool from the plant offices. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leader: *Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*



Photo by Richard Ashworth

President's Corner, Randi Minetor

Sunlight comes at us from a different, more southerly angle as September arrives, and there's less sun to go around—a sign not only to humans to begin pulling out our snuggly clothes for the coming chill, but also to millions of birds to start moving south. In the greater Rochester area, this means a return of all of our feathery friends from the forests and tundra of the far north—and most of them have shed their bright spring finery for earth tones.

I don't know about you, but nothing makes my head pound like sorting out hundreds of tiny shorebirds into their respective species, examining bill length, leg color, posture, and length of wingtips in hopes of finding a single rarity among the regulars. The magic of photography has relieved me of the burden of attempting definitive calls in the field, desperately peering through a scope with one eye as the little critters scurry back and forth across sand and drying mud. Now I can sit at a 32-inch screen, and zoom in to study mantle patterns or to determine if a shorebird's legs are truly black or just caked in mud.

With so many LBJs (that's "little brown jobs" to birders) running about in prime locations like Braddock Bay Park's East Spit, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to the west, or Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge east of Rochester, how are we ever supposed to learn which is which? That's where RBA comes in. Fall is one of the best times of the year to come along on one of our many field trips, where highly experienced birders can help you learn the field marks that differentiate a Least Sandpiper from a Sanderling, or a Stilt Sandpiper from a Lesser Yellowlegs. Our trip leaders are helpful, knowledgeable, and very understanding of beginners (or seasoned birders) who struggle to determine which bird is which.

Just as exciting in fall, the winter waterfowl begin to return. They're back in their technicolor breeding plumage in October and November, making it fairly easy to tell the males apart, at least, and providing another prime opportunity to hone our identification skills. What makes a Redhead different from a Canvasback? Which scaup has the peaked head, and how do you tell a Ring-necked Duck from a Greater Scaup? These and dozens of other questions will be answered on field trips to places like Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Montezuma NWR, Durand-Eastman Park, Hamlin Beach State Park, and the Niagara River.

As for the aptly-named "confusing fall warblers" that Roger Tory Peterson labeled in his original field guide ... trips to Durand-Eastman Park and the woods along Hamlin Beach, as well as to Sandra Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail) in Brighton and Ganondagan State Historic Site in Victor, will help you begin to see the subtle differences between these flitting, fleeting birds.

We've made it easier for you to find field trips on days that are best for your schedule: our website (rochesterbirding.org) now features an easy-to-use calendar, as well as photos and descriptions of each field trip. Remember, all RBA field trips are free, and you don't need a reservation to come along. Just show up at the appointed time and place, bring your binoculars and a scope if you've got one, and get ready to see some terrific birds.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Montezuma NWR

© Nic Minetor

Do you enjoy field trips? Ever thought about becoming a leader-in-training? We need you! Expert birding skills not required, but good people skills is ideal. Contact Jeanne Verhulst at Jeanne.verhulst@gmail.com or talk to any of our leaders while in the field. Thanks!!

Welcome to the Flock

Join us in welcoming these 7 new or returning members who joined in the last month (6 memberships).

Andrew Consler
Thomas Diekwisch
Sarah Johnstone
Wendy & Mark Annal

Andrew Romanowski
Susan Brassett

Current RBA Membership as of August 15 is 396:

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

Jo Taylor, Membership Data



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



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

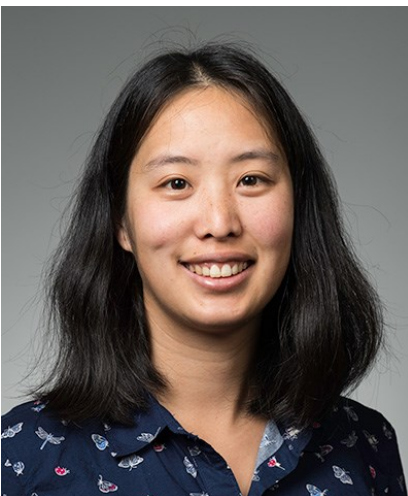
Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave., Rochester

Zoom: *Link will be distributed two days prior to the meeting*

Nancy Chen, Assistant Professor and lead researcher of the Pop Gen Chen Lab at the University of Rochester

The Chen Lab seeks to understand the evolutionary processes that shape patterns of genetic variation over contemporary timescales. Much of Chen's work combines genomics with extensive pedigree data from long-term demographic studies to answer questions in evolutionary biology and conservation genomics.

Nancy Chen is an evolutionary biologist interested in the genomic basis of contemporary evolution in natural populations. Her research integrates genomics and long-term demographic studies to characterize the evolutionary processes shaping



patterns of variation across the genome through space and time. Nancy earned her Ph.D. with Andy Clark and John Fitzpatrick at Cornell University, and then did a postdoc with Graham Coop at UC Davis before moving to Rochester. She is committed to promoting equity and inclusion in STEM.



Ruddy Turnstone, Braddock Bay East Spit
© Alan Bloom August 10, 2023

Field Reports

Barnhart's Camp and Keeney Swamp 6/25/2023

The legendary trip to Barnhart's Camp got off to a great start with 25 species including a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat seen or heard from the parking lot at the Shop-N-Save in Nunda. The eighteen people (including leaders) who assembled were excited to set off on the all-day trip. The weather was hazy and humid with temperatures in the high 60s in the morning to later reaching high 70s.

Chimney Swifts were confirmed while driving through town to our first stop near the Nunda Water Plant on Nunda Dalton Road. Here, the hoped-for Blue-winged Warbler and Hooded Warbler did not show, but among other species, a good view of an Indigo Bunting and Cedar Waxwings was had. Further along, Eastern Meadowlarks, Field and Savannah Sparrows, and a Brown Thrasher were found. Two Black-billed Cuckoos, an American Redstart and Baltimore Oriole were highlights at the next stop at Keshequa Creek. An American Kestrel flew close to the last two cars in the convoy before the stop on Cheese Factory Rd. There a Chestnut-sided Warbler and Belted Kingfisher were highlights. Along Morse Road we garnered Bobolink, Eastern Towhee, Ovenbird and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Our final stop before lunch was on Old State Road where, with some encouragement, two Prairie Warblers were seen well by all. Over a delicious lunch and during a walk down to the Barnhart's beaver pond, at least 21 species were recorded, including nesting Eastern Kingbirds. Around 4:30 a smaller group headed off to Keeney Swamp and surrounding area. Over several stops 16 new species were found including an American Bittern (rare for that date and location), and Mourning, Hooded, and Canada Warblers. In Klipnocky State Forest, a Blackburnian Warbler, a Barred Owl, and a Black Bear sighting brought the trip to a close at dusk! The day's total was 83 species. See RBA Field Trip eBird Report: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/142825>. (Thanks, Annette Teng, for many of the photos.) Thanks to Carolyn and Jerry Barnhart for sharing their camp and providing the main portion of lunch and to all who contributed delicious side dishes. Can't wait for next year! Jeanne Verhulst for Carolyn and Jerry Barnhart, Rick Stevens, and Tom Verhulst

Conesus Inlet Swamp 7/29/2023

The July 29th RBA trip around the Conesus inlet swamp was sparsely attended, likely due to wet, stormy weather in the forecast. Nonetheless the three of us had a good morning of birding with no significant weather issues. After a few birds at Vitale park, including the first of four Ospreys, we headed to the swamp westside overlook and boardwalk out, Nick spotted a Least Bittern as it flew briefly from spot to spot in the marsh grass. We also had

the first of many Belted Kingfishers, Wood Ducks, Green Herons and Swamp Sparrows, flyover Purple Martins and one flying and calling Greater Yellowlegs. As we walked into the Sliker Hill dike area we all had good looks at a Northern Waterthrush, bobbing its tail as it fed along the outlet creek. East Swamp Rd. gave us a few singing woodland birds: Wood Thrush, Towhees and Hooded Warbler among them. It was a successful morning overall with a count of 67 species.

The ebird trip list can be found at <https://ebird.org/tripreport/148314>

Jim Kimball, Nick Kachala

Montezuma Wildlife Refuge 8/6/2023

Fifteen folks joined us for this beginner trip to Montezuma. Many of the people had never been to the refuge and the place was decked out in flowers and young birds. We first walked to the nearby creek at the start of the Wildlife Drive where we got good binocular and excellent scope views of a Greater Yellowlegs, a Green Heron, and Solitary Sandpipers. The early part of the car caravan around the Drive yielded families of Mallard, Wood Duck and Common Gallinule. The Main Pool was populated by families of Pied-billed Grebe with their cute young. The bird of the day was a very cooperative Black-crowned Night Heron only 50 ft away. Most of the wetlands were dry, obscured by vegetation, or absent any birds. Few of the group remained after we exited the Drive and went to Tschache Pool where Nick Kachala pointed out the distant Sandhill Crane and young and a pair of Trumpeter Swans. Notably absent were Bald Eagles and only a few Osprey were seen. Total species for the trip was 35.

Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash, John Boettcher

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge 8/20/2023

It was a very warm, hazy summer day when ten members of the RBA gathered at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge to search for fall migrants. In the four stops we made we found approximately 45 species. The focus of this trip is always shorebirds, however, very few were seen: only about ten shorebirds of four species because water levels were high, grass covered many of the expected shorebird sites, and we could not get permission to visit the one mud flat that has been attracting shorebirds.

We started out the trip by covering the Wildlife Drive. At the channel connecting the Main Pond with the canal, we saw three species of shorebirds and several Green Herons. On the Drive, the common waterfowl were in abundance. Highlight birds included a Cooper's Hawk, two lingering Black Terns, and an adult Black-crowned Night Heron. Ospreys and two Bald eagles were seen and a Northern Harrier made a brief appearance.

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Records Report June

Notes:

1.) June 2023 had two distinct weather periods. The first half of the month saw a continuation on the dryness from May. The second half of the month was wetter. Wildfire smoke from Quebec periodically blanketed Western NY, at times thick enough to smell, drastically reduce visibility, and issue air quality warnings. Temperatures averaged 65.8°F, -1.8° below average. The wildfire smoke likely played a role in this, with several days not hitting the forecasted highs. Precipitation totaled 2.55" at the Rochester Airport, 0.82" below average. Localized downpours created heavier precipitation events elsewhere in the region towards the end of the month.

2.) Weather conditions were overall decent for birding, at least when it was healthy to be outside. Lake Ontario continued to be two feet above average in the beginning of the month and 18 inches higher than last year, creating less than ideal conditions for shorebirds. Many observers noted an unusual number of historically non-breeding species of warbler along the lakeshore throughout the month. Experienced birders suggested the possibility of failed breeding in southern Quebec as a result of the wildfires as a potential explanation for the abnormally high numbers of Magnolia Warblers, among others. It should be noted that most of these species have historically occurred and have often been banded in maximum numbers for the spring well into June; just not regularly and particularly not recently. Some of this lack has been due to limited banding into June in some years. The monthly eBird download came in at 57,062 lines, representing a 12.5% increase from 2022. It should be noted that one must use caution in interpreting numbers like this, as this month we saw an unusually high number of shared bird lists from club field trips adding many lines to the eBird download total that do not represent different records. This results in much additional personal effort required to determine real numbers of reports and individuals for any species of interest.

3.) With the majority of migrant waterfowl tapering off earlier in recent years and most gone by late May, only a few lingering migrants like Northern Shoveler and Red-breasted Merganser were reported, mostly in the first 10 days of the month. The NMWMA held the highest diversity of waterfowl, as expected, with small numbers of Red-head, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, and Hooded Merganser, all breeding there, being reported. Interestingly, a single Green-winged Teal was reported on the 27th in Hamlin and another report came out of Lucien Morin Park on the 28th. For geese through ducks, that is about all that is interesting for an unusually rather quiet month for waterfowl.

4.) Non-waterfowl waterbirds such as American Coot and

Common Gallinule also had the regional high reports from the NMWMA. Adam Farid reported 19 Pied-billed Grebes from Van Dyne Spoor Road on the 24th. It is good to see that the marshes off of Van Dyne Spoor Road are healthy again this year. The high counts of American Coot and Common Gallinule were 34 and 32, respectively, also from Van Dyne Spoor Road. A family of Sandhill Cranes, maximum of four, were also observed from Van Dyne Spoor Road. Among the miscellaneous taxa before shorebirds, the last Common Nighthawk of the spring migration season was observed on the 20th over the City of Rochester. Jennifer Rycenga and Peggy Macres had the high count of Chimney Swift at a low 15 from downtown Rochester several times throughout the month.

5.) Despite reduced shorebird habitat with the mudflats of Braddock Bay under water, patient observers recorded a cumulative 13 species of shorebirds for the month of June. Charlotte Pier was the best location to spot shorebirds, usually in passing flocks and occasional touch-downs on Summerville Pier. Departure dates in the first 10 days of June are within average. No outstanding high counts of any species stand out. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry reported the only Red Knot of the season on the 8th passing Edgemere Drive in Greece. Chris Wood also had the first fall migrant shorebird, a Greater Yellowlegs, on the 23rd along Hogan Point Road in Greece. Moving on to the gulls, Alan Bloom had the maximum count of Bonaparte's Gulls of 19 on the 10th. A Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared to be moving around the Hamlin fields for most of the month. A Laughing Gull continued around Braddock Bay in the beginning of the month. Laughing Gull was also reported from Charlotte Pier on the 10th and Sodus Point on the 13th. Whether these three are the same individual or three separate individuals is not known, although three different Laughing Gulls would not be unprecedented.

6.) Late-season raptor migration continued on days with good southwest winds. Glenn Wolford observed the best raptor flight on the 27th from Lakeshore Marshes WMA. Glenn tallied 29 Bald Eagles and 86 Broad-winged Hawks. Glenn noted all of the Broad-winged Hawks were immatures showing signs of molt. Dave Tetlow found a Black Vulture feeding on a deer carcass in the median of the Lake Ontario State Parkway on the 15th. The bird stayed through the 17th. Chris Wood reported a Black Vulture from the same general area on the 23rd, although as a flyover with Turkey Vultures. Whether this was the same bird is unknown. Among the falcons, Peregrine Falcon nested on the gorge walls at Letchworth State Park.

7.) Passerines were interesting for June. Acadian Flycatchers continued to be found at select lakeshore sites. An individual found by Andy Guthrie in May continued through the end of the month in the campground section of Hamlin

June Reports continued

Beach State Park. Christopher Goetz had another individual in his backyard in Mendon on the 1st. David Brown and Kim Steininger found one at Manitou Beach Preserve also on the 1st. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry observed one at Firehouse Woods on the 11th. Gray-cheeked Thrush and Swainson's Thrush numbers were low, with a maximum of 12 Swainson's Thrushes banded on the 1st. The migration of these two species continues into the middle of the month for our region, but they are rarely diurnally reported, speaking to both their inconspicuous natures and the shifting attention of birders from searching for migrants to searching for breeders. The BBBO banded a Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush on both the 1st and the 2nd, with "held in-hand measurements insufficient to distinguish" between the two. Occasional White-throated Sparrows and Winter Wrens were observed from lakeshore woods. George and Katie Ford found a Clay-colored Sparrow in the meadow past the Fairy Trail at Mendon Ponds Park on the 10th. The singing bird stayed through the end of the month and was observed by many birders. The Golden-winged Warbler(s) continued through the 2nd at Whiting Road Nature Preserve. Most boreal-bound warblers had average departure dates. Magnolia Warbler was an outlier. There were 74 lines of Magnolia Warbler in the eBird download. The phenomenon was first noted on June 8th with increased numbers of Magnolia Warbler located at several Braddock Bay locations. 25 lines of Magnolia Warbler occurred between June 10th and the end of the month. Could failed breeding attempts from the Quebec wildfires be to blame? To finish out the passerines, visiting birder Noah Reid found a singing **Dickcissel** at Webster Big Field (Gosnell Big Woods Preserve) on the 27th. This represented the first chaseable Dickcissel in Monroe County in at least 10 years – a county bird for many! Thanks Noah!

8.) Please submit reports to eBird, post them on Genesee-Birds, and/or email in by the 5th of the month to Nick Kachala, nicholaskach@gmail.com

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, Rosemary Catlin, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Robert Cicotta, Jeanne Cimorelli, Roger Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen 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, Celia Lewis, Joan Lindberg, Lee Ling, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, 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, 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, Jennifer Rycenga, 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 June).

	2023	2022	10-year Average
Species for June	197	187	190.9
New for the year	2	4	2.4
Total for the year to date	274	280	269.8

July Records Reports

1.) July 2023 was a wet month mixed with occasional hot days and periodic smoke from Canadian wildfires. Temperatures averaged 71.9°, 0.4° below normal. Precipitation totaled 6.81", 3.25" above average. July 2023 was the 6th wettest for Rochester since records have been kept. This is in direct opposition to last year, where a moderate drought became worse as the summer progressed. Persistent thunderstorms dumped even more rain on scattered locations, with the City of Canandaigua flooding on the 9th. Interestingly, there were 14 days with thunder recorded at the Rochester airport, which is more than double the typical amount of six days for July. The month was also noted to be cloudier than normal.

2.) In summary, the month was relatively quiet, not so untypical of a July, with occasional rarities mixed in. Breeding activity dipped towards the end of the month. Early migrating passerines like Yellow Warbler built in numbers along the lakeshore. Fall shorebird migration picked up. The eBird download came in at 48,809 lines after out-of-region filtered out, a 9.8% jump from 2022.

3.) Among the first group of taxa, the waterfowl, typical numbers of Mallard and Wood Duck, our two main breeding ducks, were observed. Other species such as Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, and Redhead were reported within the NMWMA, where they either breed or may breed depending upon the year. A male/female pair of American Black Ducks were also reported from Greece by Chris Wood on the 9th. Chris Wood also had the only scaup, a Lesser Scaup, of the month pass along Lake Ontario on the 4th. Andy Guthrie observed the region's only Red-breasted Merganser of the month also on the 4th along Lake Ontario.

4.) The highest counts of other waterbirds continued to come from the NMWMA along Van Dyne Spoor Road. Wade and Melissa Rowley had the maximum Pied-billed Grebe count of 20 on the 14th. The couple also had the high count of Common Gallinule, also 20, also on the 14th. Brad Carlson recorded 55 American Coot on the 19th. Lynn Braband reported four Sandhill Cranes from Taylor Marsh in Honeoye on the 3rd – two adults and two immatures. Rosemary Reilly had three Sandhill Cranes fly over Mendon Ponds Park on the 4th. Among the miscellaneous taxa before shorebirds, the maximum count of Chimney Swift was 26 on the 18th in downtown Rochester. Reports of both cuckoo species dipped off with six lines of Yellow-billed Cuckoo and eight lines of Black-billed Cuckoo, respectively.

5.) Fall shorebird migration picked up progressively throughout the month. Braddock Bay's East Spit Island continued to be an island, completely the opposite of last

year, where drought conditions lowered the lake level enough to create extensive mudflats and a shorebird spectacle rivaling that of Montezuma on some days, especially in August and September. This year, Lake Ontario finished the month out at 246.46', 10" higher than the end of last July. The extensive rainfall over the region and up the pipe from the Lake meant that lowering the Lake level was impossible. The IJC more or less decided to maintain the lake level after dropping it a foot from the May high. Despite the loss of a dependable spot, observers reported 20 species of shorebirds between Charlotte Pier, the wet fields of Hamlin, Geneseo fields, and Sodus Point. Among the noteworthy finds, Andy Guthrie found an American Avocet along North Hamlin Road on the 16th. Chris Wood had a flyover Upland Sandpiper from Northrup Creek on the 10th. Jessie Barry spread word about a photographed Whimbrel in a private yard near Slater Creek starting on the 15th. The photogenic individual stayed for a few days, was at one point joined by another individual, and was widely seen as folks traveled from as far as Buffalo to partake in the extraordinary views of this species. The region's first Baird's Sandpiper was observed from Sodus Point on the 21st, a tad early. The only report of Willet for July also came out of Sodus Point by Carmen Gumina on the 27th. Among the gulls and terns, numbers of Caspian Terns were low, with 39 as a maximum. There were no observations of Forster's Tern for the month.

7.) Mike Gullo noted strong movements of raptors before storms on the 1st. He counted 43 Bald Eagles and 27 Broad-winged Hawks from Pultneyville. Mike Tetlow and Mike Gullo also noted high raptor migration from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch on the 11th. Their list has counts of 119 Turkey Vultures, 20 Bald Eagles, and 14 Red-tailed Hawks. The 26th was another good hawk watching day. A list from Braddock Bay included 15 Bald Eagles, two Red-shouldered Hawks, and 40 Red-tailed Hawks. An extralimital Swallow-tailed Kite was reported through a rare bird alert in Niagara County on the 26th. On high-alert, Mike Gullo found and photographed a Swallow-tailed Kite on the 27th near Beechwood SP in Sodus. Nick Kachala spotted another individual on the 28th from Burger Park near Braddock Bay while hawk watching on a day with favorable winds. Swallow-tailed Kite is a species that appears to be increasing across New York State as a summer wanderer. More work is needed to understand reasons for the sudden increases since 2019 however.

8.) Rounding out with the passerines, diversity dropped for July, as expected. Signs of migration appeared towards the end of the month, with numbers of Bank Swallow approaching 200, increased Yellow Warbler numbers along the lakeshore, and Bobolink flocking up at places like Burger Park. The first Swainson's Thrush was banded on the 23rd at the BBBO. Two Sedge Wrens were reported singing

July Records Reports continued

from the Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah on the 26th and stayed through the end of the month. The Clay-colored Sparrow at Mendon Ponds Park found by George and Katie Ford in June continued through at least the 6th of July. White-throated Sparrows continued at lakeshore hotspots in Monroe County. A rare summer Magnolia Warbler was reported from Firehouse Woods on the 9th, continuing a large number along the lakeshore, possibly due to the wildfires in Quebec in May/June. Two early Tennessee Warblers were banded by BBBO on the 23rd and 24th, as well as two others observed in Tom and Pat Smith's yard. The Dickcissel at Webster Big Field found in late June stayed through at the least the 12th of July.

9.) Please submit reports to eBird, post them on Genesee Birds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Nick Kachala, nicholaskach@gmail.com.

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, 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, Kathleen 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, Celia Lewis, Joan Lindberg, Lee Ling, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Marces, 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, 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, Jennifer

Rycenga, Jackie Salisbury, 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, 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.

Field reports continued

Tschache Pool has been partially drained due to a broken retaining gate. This has created a mud flat on the north-east side which is not visible from the tower. The refuge management has granted access to this site for three Saturdays but would not permit us to visit the mudflat on Sunday. From the tower, we saw four Sandhill Cranes, Lesser Yellowlegs, and common gulls, terns and ducks.

At Knox-Marsellus Marsh, we scoped swallows on the power lines, finding four species in this mixed flock, which allowed us to compare plumages. Distant views of the marsh provided a pair of Trumpeter Swans. Perhaps the highlight of this stop was the Peregrine Falcon found by Neil Riley.

Our last stop of the day was the Visitor Center at the Montezuma Audubon Center. We searched for a Sedge Wren that had first appeared in late July. The acute hearing sense of two in our group led us to the general location of this bird. We were fortunate to see it fly a short distance. We ended the day with a brightly colored male Indigo Bunting.

Dominic Sherony & Mike Tetlow

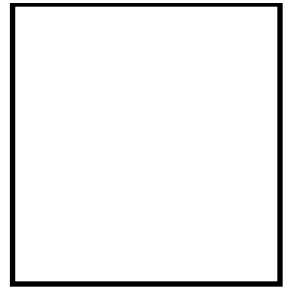


Swallow-tailed Kite, Ellison Park
© Candace Giles August 22, 2023

	2023	2022	10-year Average
Species for July	183	180	180.3
New for the year	6	1	2.5
Total for the year to date	280	280	272.3



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Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Brighton
© Jeffrey Eichner August 5, 2023