



Rochester Birding
Association

Little Gull

A Cedar Waxwing spotted at
Webster Park on December 14, 2022.
Photograph by Suzie Webster.

DEC 2024 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 rochesterbirding.org, for updated information prior to departure! All field trips go rain/snow or shine unless there is a travel advisory issued. Trips run approximately 2 to 4 hours. Bring binoculars. Wear weather appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Registration is not required, please arrive at the designated meeting location 10 minutes before the start time of the trip. Colds, flu, and COVID are still around—if you're not feeling well, please stay home. Please carpool when possible. Enjoy your trip!

DEC 1 Sunday

NIAGARA RIVER (JOINT TRIP WITH THE BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

The Niagara River area is famous for the variety and number of gulls in winter. Join us on our birding venture along the Niagara River in both the US and Canada. We will start at Lake Ontario and work our way south to the Falls. Our focus will be on waterfowl and gulls, including Bonaparte's Gull and Little Gull, with possible late migrating Common Tern, with additional stops for Red-headed Woodpecker, Black Vulture and late migrating passerines. This is a joint trip with the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the large parking lot next to the swimming pool of Fort Niagara State Park Beach, 1 Scott Avenue, Rt. 18F, Youngstown, NY. Bring beverages and lunch for this is an all day trip. We will be crossing into Canada, carpooling would be very helpful. **Participants MUST bring passports or Enhanced Driver's licenses.** Dress warmly and in layers. Spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.

Leaders: Tom O'Donnell of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) 716-622-5185 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com and Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621

Field Trips continue on [page 4](#)

I do my best not to mix birding with politics. In the field, no one cares who you voted for or what your views on issues may be, as long as you're willing to share bird sightings and help get everyone on whatever bird you've found.

No matter where you stand on the recent election, however, I think we can all agree on one thing: The results are not going to be good for birds.

So while the new administration works toward opening up public lands held by the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service for corporate mining, drilling, and logging leases, it will be more important than ever for us to help birds thrive. Each of us can do some simple things that will help create oases of habitat, provide sources of nourishment, and maintain the shelter and resources birds need to raise their young successfully.

1. **Let your leaves lie where they fell.** Piles of fallen leaves create much-needed habitat for birds, insects, and small rodents, giving them shelter at ground level throughout the winter. As leaves decay, they create a new layer of soil, something I know my yard and gardens desperately need. If you don't have an HOA breathing down your neck and insisting you clear your lawn, save yourself the trouble and leave the leaves.
2. **Keep your feeders filled.** Over the winter, natural food sources eventually run out. Even the birds most committed to eating fermented fruit all season may eventually turn to suet (especially the suet blends that contain some fruit or dried bugs) when the last berries are consumed. If we have a lot of passerine visitors from Canada, seed supplies from conifers may run out sooner than usual as well. Feeding with black oil sunflower seeds, safflower chips, peanuts, and suet keeps birds' bellies full.
3. **Clean out your nest boxes and leave them in place.** Birds need places to roost in the coldest weather, so they may collect in nest boxes and huddle together to keep warm. One way to make birds feel welcome and safe is to dispose of the remaining detritus of last spring's nests. Nests left in nest boxes can become breeding grounds for parasites and bacteria—the products of the hatching and defecating processes that go on as nestlings grow. Put on a pair of rubber gloves and pull all of that stuff out of there.
4. **Provide a water feature.** A birdbath can be a lifesaver for birds in a dry winter, when they need water just as much as they do the rest of the year. Change the water regularly to keep it clean, and if it gets cold enough to freeze, devices that heat water just above the freezing point will help keep it accessible to winter birds.
5. **Keep your cats indoors.** I can't say this enough. Cats are the number one killer of birds in the wild, according to the landmark 3 Billion Birds study published in 2019. Free-ranging cats kill birds for sport, not to eat them. It's easy to stop them from doing that: Don't let them wander around outside.

As RBA approaches its fiftieth anniversary (see the announcement of the annual dinner in this issue), it's more important than ever for us to do everything we can to provide a healthy environment for our resident and migrating birds. Please help by doing whatever you can do on your own property to let birds know that they are welcome.



Photo by Nic Minetor

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 RBA BOARD

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers who are nominated and have agreed to serve on the RBA Board for 2025:

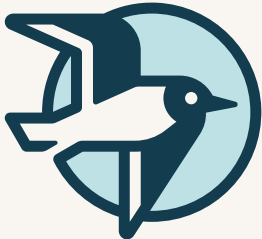
President	Brian Rohrs	Director	Kevin Farrell
Vice President	Candy Giles	Director	Neal Reilly
Secretary	Lisa Talpey	Director	Doug Rabjohns
Treasurer	Steve Taylor	Director	Clyde Comstock
	Director		Randi Minetor (<i>past president</i>)

The election will take place at the RBA 50th Anniversary party on Sunday, February 2nd. A quorum consisting of at least 10% of current members eligible to vote is required.

The Committee unanimously recommends the election of the entire slate of nominees.

Dominic Sherony, Liz Magnanti, and Lisa Talpey

Mark Your Calendar!



**Rochester Birding
Association**

50th Anniversary

Dinner Celebration

Sunday, February 2, 2024

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – Reception with cash bar

6:00 p.m. – Dinner

6:45 p.m. – Dessert and Program

RIT Inn and Conference Center • 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta

Registration in Advance Will be Required.

More details to come in the January issue, and via email



FIELD TRIPS

DEC 7
Saturday

CONESUS LAKE AREA

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

Leaders: Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leaders Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and Andrew Consler 585-991-2154

DEC 8
Sunday

BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP – NATIONS ROAD

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

Leaders: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and Niki Banke 585-317-3751



A Short-eared Owl at Nations Road. Photograph by Michelle Miner in December of 2020.

JAN 1
Wednesday

IRONDEQUOIT BAY OUTLET AND DURAND-EASTMAN PARK YEAR LIST JUMP-START

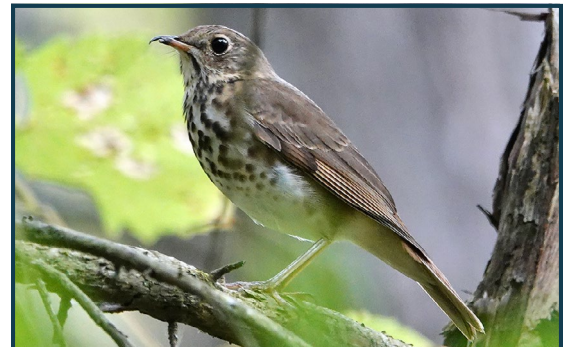
Get started on your annual list! We'll look for winter waterfowl on the Bay, then move to Durand-Eastman Park where we will stroll Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road looking for finches, waxwings, and resident birds. This trip is mostly on paved roads. No restrooms available. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the large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

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

JAN 4
Saturday

WEBSTER PARK – CAMPGROUND AREA

In mature forest and scrubby areas we'll look for overwintering resident birds, lingering migrants such as Hermit Thrush and special winter visitors such as Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged and Red Crossbills and Bohemian Waxwings. This is a mostly level walk, partly on dirt road, partly on wooded dirt trail that can be uneven in places. Wear boots with good traction, and dress warmly



Hermit Thrush in Webster Park by Candace Giles.



FIELD TRIPS

as we may be outside for 2-3 hours, although you are free to leave at any time. Trip length will depend upon trail and weather conditions. No rest rooms available. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the south side of Lake Road across from Kanatota Lodge.

Leaders: Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leader Pat Martin 585-301-5485

JAN 11
Saturday

BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP – MENDON PONDS PARK SONGBIRD TRAIL

This trip will be a leisurely winter walk along rolling trails (approx. 1.5 miles) featuring some very close looks at our winter passerines! Bring your binoculars, some sunflower seeds, and your camera! This is a family-friendly field trip. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the visitor center on Pond Road near Clover Street. Restroom is available at the visitor center or port-a-john.

Leaders: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Ann McMican 585-533-1222



Birds seen at Mendon Ponds Park (from left to right): White-breasted Nuthatch (photo by Jeanne Verhulst), Tufted Titmouse (photo by Jeff Eichner), and Black-capped Chickadee (photo by Dick Horsey).



Birds and Brews

*Join us for craft beers and conversation!
A chance to meet up and socialize with
people who love birds.*

Monday, December 30, 2024

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

TRATA

The Restaurant at the Armory

145 Culver Road, Rochester

*A full menu and a self-serve beer and
wine wall—what could be more fun
than that?*

*Our seating will be at high-top tables
in the bar.*

tratarochester.com



The Moment of Truth for Speciation: *Myzomela* honeyeaters in the Solomon Islands

Dr. Elsie Shogren

Dr. Elsie Shogren grew up exploring muddy creeks and observing wildlife around the family farm in Nebraska. She channeled her fascination with biology as an undergraduate at Cornell University, where she discovered field work and ornithology, collecting data on Tree Swallows in Ithaca, New York and Alberta, Canada. After graduating, Elsie continued developing her research interests, assisting with projects on Red-backed Fairywrens in Australia, Greater Prairie Chickens in Nebraska, and Piping Plovers in South Dakota.



Deciding to focus on the interplay of sexual and natural selection for her PhD at Kansas State University, she studied the consequences of rainfall for survival, behavior, and evolution in sexually selected Neotropical Manakins. As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Rochester, Elsie is now exploring the genetic, ecological, and behavioral factors that maintain species boundaries between two *Myzomela* honeyeaters that have recently come into contact and are hybridizing in the Solomon Islands of the South Pacific.

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK

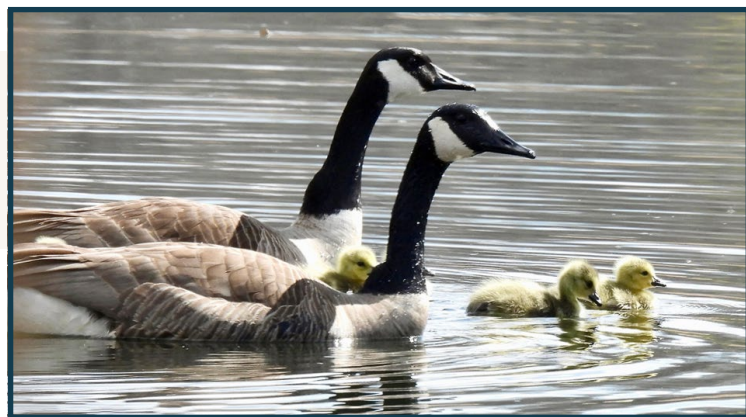
Join us in welcoming these new members who joined over the last month.

Jiwon Heo
John Loz
Ann Spencer
Kathleen & Edward Summers

As of November 15, total membership is 403

377 Household memberships
1 Junior member
1 Corporate member (The Bird House)
24 Complimentary

Jo Taylor, RBA Membership Data



Canada Geese photographed by Candace Giles

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge September 22, 2024

Editor's Note: *This listing was mislabeled as the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge last issue and is being reprinted here with the correct title.*

Six birders gathered at Goose Pond overlook on a bright, sunny and very warm first day of fall. After spotting Great Egret, Common Gallinule, and Horned Lark at the overlook, we moved to Center Marsh in search of shorebirds. There we had scope views of Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, and flyovers by Bald Eagle and Sandhill Crane. After lunch at Mallard Overlook, we moved to Kumpf Marsh spotting more Sandhill Cranes, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, both teal, and several Pectoral Sandpipers. Cayuga Overlook produced immature and adult Black-crowned Night-Herons, Pied-billed Grebe, and Northern Harrier. Overall, we had 47 species under bright warm sun. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Neal Reilly and Doug Rabjohns



This Turkey Vulture was spotted at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge by Niki Banke.

High Acres Nature Area October 19, 2024

The morning started off clear but chilly as 20 people met us at the southeast parking lot. White-throated Sparrows were singing as we started our walk. Looking west on the first peninsula at Frog Pond, we were treated to the

morning sun shining on a wall of yellow foliage with Yellow-rumped Warblers flitting about. Rusty Blackbirds were identified at the tops of some dead ash trees. At the picnic table opening to the east of Frog Pond, we drew in chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Golden-crowned Kinglets, White-breasted Nuthatches, Carolina Wrens and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

A trek to the east end of the Woodland Trail got early arrivers on a young Bald Eagle before it flew, while everyone saw multiple Green-winged Teals, Mallards and a Great Blue Heron. Heading back on the trail, we heard a large flock of Canada Geese honking in the distance. As they got closer, the honking grew cacophonous, but we still couldn't see the flock through the trees. We could soon hear the loud whoosh of wing beats and got the occasional glimpse of individuals through the yellow-green canopy, then as the honking receded and the forest grew still again we were left thrilled at the experience but wondering how many CANGs to add to the eBird count.

About halfway back along the Eastern Wetlands, we pulled off the trail to view the ponds. In addition to more Green-winged Teals, Mallards and geese, we found a number of American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, and a lone Northern Pintail. At the causeway, we called out a Virginia Rail, a life bird for one of our group! Because of the thick brush, only a couple of people got eyes on it, but everyone heard the



A Virginia Rail seen on a previous trip to High Acres Nature Area. Photo by Rosemary Reilly.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

call back. On the causeway, Swamp Sparrow and a distant Red-tailed Hawk were also seen.

Just beyond the Quonset hut, two Hermit Thrushes were moving through the pines. Because of the thick brush near the ponds, we took the high trail on the hill. The day was heating up and Turkey Vultures could be seen kettling in the distance. The quarry pond was surprisingly unproductive, but we did find a Great Egret, more Mallards and some Wood Ducks on the North Marsh. Over the northwest parking lot, we got spectacular views of two Cooper's Hawks circling and showing off both tops and undersides.



A swamp sparrow photographed by Alan Bloom at High Acres Nature Area.

Just beyond the South Marsh, we pulled out Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Downy Woodpeckers, and at the bridge in the Western Woodlands, we got good looks at a couple of Brown Creepers in addition to more Yellow-rumps and chickadees. A couple people heard the callback of an Eastern Screech-owl. Returning to the parking lot, we ended the trip with views of a Northern Mockingbird and an Eastern Bluebird on the fence across the street.

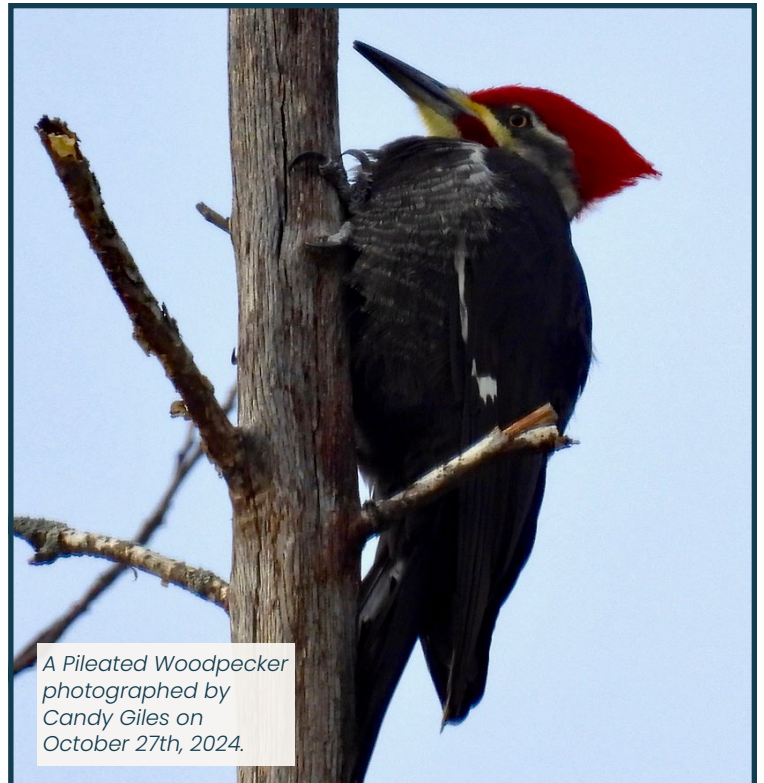
Over the four hours and 3.8 miles, we were rewarded with 46 species and some beautiful fall foliage. Thanks to all who participated!

Brian Rohrs and Gayle Lazoration

Durand-Eastman Park

October 27, 2024

Twenty of us, including leaders, gathered in Parking Lot D on a sunny 39° morning to begin our explorations of Durand-Eastman Park. After a quick check of Eastman Lake (Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker) and Lake Ontario (Double-crested Cormorant, Hooded Merganser), we headed for Zoo Road. Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet were seen. A Cooper's Hawk flew over too fast for many to see well. On Log Cabin Road, we spotted Mallards and a number of beautiful male Wood Ducks towards the back of Pat Lake; a Turkey Vulture flew close overhead. We took the Blue Trail to cross back over to Zoo Road with the hope of seeing more woodpeckers and juncos seen two days earlier, but they were no-shows this day. We then drove over to Horseshoe Road where a Red-headed Woodpecker had been seen recently. We were in luck! The bird was spotted almost immediately in an oak tree



A Pileated Woodpecker photographed by Candy Giles on October 27th, 2024.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

adjacent to the road. Everyone had good looks and a chance for photos of this beautiful bird before it flew off. We continued on Horseshoe Road with highlights being a Winter Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Pileated Woodpecker and Hermit Thrushes seen by all. Our tally for the day was 37 species. Thanks to all who attended and to Elizabeth and Doug Rabjohns for co-leading and to Doug for keeping the eBird checklists. You can view the trip report here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/288016?view=checklists>

Jeanne Verhulst



*Red-headed Woodpecker in Durand-Eastman Park.
Photo by Jeanne Verhulst*



As the year draws to a close, I want to give a shout-out to everyone involved in one of RBA's popular programs—**field trips**. We wouldn't have field trips if it weren't for our leaders. So, on behalf of the Field Trip Committee, I want to recognize and sincerely thank all the field trip leaders and co-leaders for leading our trips. We are very appreciative of your willingness to share your knowledge of birds, giving your time preparing for and leading the trips, for writing trip reports and, most importantly, for your generosity and patience in helping other birders, new and more experienced, gain confidence and knowledge to pursue this enjoyable hobby. I would also like to thank the other members of the field trip committee—Amy Kahn, Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash, and Neal Reilly—for their time and effort lining up our field trips and leaders, preparing the annual Field Trip List and reminder emails, and for occasionally pinch hitting as leaders for trips when necessary. Finally, to the many people who show up for our field trips, thank you for coming, you are the reason we do this!

See you on the trails in 2025!

Jeanne Verhulst, *Chair, RBA Field Trip Committee*

FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Dave Adams	Candace Giles	Liz Magnanti	Sue Robertson
Richard Ashworth	Sheryl Gracewski	Pat Martin	Linda Kenyon Roca
Cathy Ballard	Jay Greenberg	Mike McCullen	Brian Rohrs
Niki Banke	Judy Gurley	Ann McMican	AP Salverda
Carolyn Barnhart	Bill Haake	Steve Melcher	Dominic Sherony
Jerry Barnhart	Christina Hoh	Leah Mould	Rick Stevens
Lynn Bergmeyer	Dick Horsey	Tom Nash	Lisa Tapley
John Boettcher	Nick Kachala	Tom O'Donnell	Joann Tetlow
Lynn Braband	Amy Kahn	Luanne Pignataro	Mike Tetlow
Robert Buckert	Jim Kimball	Norma Platt	Eunice Thein
Roger Clark	Elijah Kruger	Elizabeth Rabjohns	Jeanne Verhulst
Robert Crandall	Hans Kunze	Doug Rabjohns	Tom Verhulst
Kevin Farrell	Greg Lawrence	Neal Reilly	Kinsley Whittum
Daena Ford	Gayle Lazoration	Rosemary Reilly	Jim Wood



ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday Dec. 15, 2024 is the day of the 121st Rochester Christmas Bird Count. With this traditional activity we renew our commitment to science and birding.

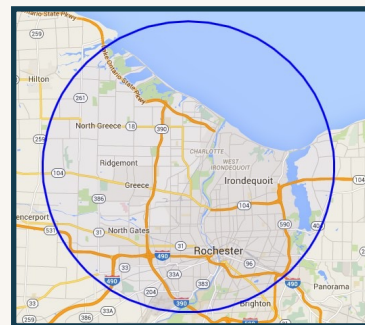
Sunday, December 15, 2024

This is a significant opportunity.

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

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

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



John Boettcher 298-3404
john2w3b@gmail.com

Braddock Bay to Long Pond Road

Greg Lawrence
glaw-rence21@yahoo.com

Long Pond Road to Dewey Avenue
Dewey Avenue to Charlotte Harbor

Andy Garland
andrew.garland@yahoo.com
585-329-1577

Summerville to Culver Road
& Seneca Park

OPEN SLOT – Contact Nick Kachala if
interested in serving as a sector leader

Culver Road to Baker Road (Webster)

Shirley Shaw 385-3907
shirley@jashaw.com

Parks and neighborhoods
(Highland, Genesee Valley, Mt. Hope Cemetery)

Rosemary Reilly
reilly.rosemary@gmail.com

Maplewood & Turning Point Parks,
Holy Sepulcher and Riverside cemeteries

Brian Morse
brianmorse2000@gmail.com
269-9576

West of airport/south of the canal/
north of the river

Rob Buckert 269-4206
avbro@hotmail.com

Crow Roost

Nick Kachala, Compiler
nicholaskach@gmail.com or 585-750-5536



A photo of a Dark-eyed Junco taken by Alan Bloom at Mendon Ponds Park in January of 2024.



LITTLE LAKES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 29, 2024

This year marks the 125th count nationwide and the 73rd count for the area. The count date is Sunday, December 29, 2024. Birds seen during the count week of December 26th through January 1st may be called in to the leaders for inclusion in the tally. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle is the outlet of Hemlock Lake, at the north end of the lake. The circle includes all of Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice and Honeoye Lakes and a large area to the north. The dividing line between the areas is the height of land between the lakes. It is important for the coverage in each of the five areas to be as consistent as possible, year to year, for meaningful evaluation of the count area. Your participation in this worthy endeavor would be greatly appreciated. New birders can be paired with experienced birders. If you are interested, please contact one of the leaders.



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

Area	Leader	Phone	email
Conesus Lake	Jim Kimball	519-9211	kimball@geneseo.edu
Hemlock Lake	Kevin Koss Sheila Mumpton	314-8306 346-0292	kkoss@frontiernet.net smumpton@gmail.com
Canadice Lake	Phil Opdycke	259-6932	popdycke@icloud.com
Honeoye Lake	John Boettcher	298-3404	john2w3b@gmail.com
Northern Area	Robert Buckert	269-4206	avbrro@hotmail.com

Pat Martin, Compiler
Cell: (585) 301-5485 emartin139@earthlink.net

LETCHWORTH-SILVER LAKES BIRD COUNT

December 21, 2024

This year marks the 50th annual Letchworth-Silver Lake Christmas Bird Count! Interested birders can help search a fifteen-mile diameter circle centered on Perry Center, NY. The purpose is to locate birds in an area encompassing all of Silver Lake and the northern half of Letchworth State Park. Please contact Matt Nusstein at Matthew.Nusstein@parks.ny.gov if you wish to participate in this community science project. There will be a pot-luck style tally at the end of the day at the Humphrey Nature Center, located in Letchworth State Park.



JULY 2024 RECORDS SUMMARY

Notes:

1. July 2024 was generally warmer and dryer than average. Temperatures averaged 74.1°F, 1.8° above average. Precipitation totaled 2.56", 1.00" below average. Of note were nine confirmed tornados across Western New York, attributed to both the remnants of Hurricane Beryl on 10 July and an area of atmospheric instability on 15 July. Of the six tornados on 10 July, only one touched down within the geographic boundaries of Kingbird Region 2 (Wayne County). 15 July brought another round of severe weather and two more Western New York Tornadoes (Genesee and Ontario Counties – outside of the bounds of our reporting Region however). In addition to the two tornados, the same mesoscale convective vortex brought damaging winds, many downed trees, and 2.5" hailstones (Ontario County). The last half of July was relatively calm and dry. Most of the month's rainfall accumulated in three significant events, two of which are mentioned above.
2. In summary, the month was relatively quiet, not so untypical of a July, with occasional rarities mixed in. Interestingly, a monthly total of 191 species is the highest species count for July since species totals have been kept (1974). This was attributed to good shorebird diversity and several early fall warblers. The eBird download totaled around 41,100 lines after out-of-region filtered out, an 18.8% decrease from July 2023.
3. July is typically the lightest month of the year for waterfowl in Region 2, and this July was aligned with those expectations. Besides a handful of presumptive stragglers from the spring – considered over-summering birds by this point – waterfowl were scarce as expected. One interesting observation is that the maximum high count for Trumpeter Swan was two, which was lower than expected given that the species breeds in the NMWMA. Other uncommon species this month included: A Northern Pintail from High Acres Nature Area on 7 July, A Ruddy Duck on Round Pond in Greece on 8 July, a Red-breasted Merganser from Hamlin Beach State Park on 5 July, and a Greater/Lesser Scaup on Braddock Bay on 6 July.
4. The highest counts of other waterbirds once again came from the impoundments in the NMWMA along VanDyne Spoor Road. A count of 65 Common Gallinule from 30 July stood out as good. Visiting birders tallied the high count of Sandhill Cranes for the month, nine, from Guy Baldassarre Marsh in the NMWMA on 3 July. Sandhill Cranes were also reported from within the Honeoye Lake basin after being absent from reports this past June.
5. As expected, fall shorebird migration picked up noticeably in July. Observers reported 23 species, with several rarities mixed in. Water levels along Lake Ontario remained high, starting at 245.87' on 1 July and finishing at 245.96', according to the International Joint Commission. Despite the high water, observers still waded out to the Braddock Bay East Spit Island, scoped shorebirds on the island from the tip of the West Spit, and found plenty of shorebirds at lakeshore hotspots such as Charlotte Beach, Irondequoit Bay Pier, and Sodus Point. Of the noteworthy, Jim Miles reported a Marbled Godwit alongside two Willets from Irondequoit Bay on 16 July, seen by many. Carmen Gumina reported a Red-necked Phalarope from the popular Pratt Road transient pond in Sodus on 21 July. Whimbrel were noted from several locations, including one at the East Spit Island (7 July), one at the Pratt Road transient pond (21 July), and six at Sodus Point (9 July). Chris Wood reported an incredible 163 Short-billed Dowitchers past the East Spit on the morning of 9 July. An American Avocet was reported on 6 July from Charlotte Pier, which was seen by a handful of observers. The bird of the month was a LONG-BILLED CURLEW, heard, and then seen, by Chris Wood flying over Burger Park. This Long-billed Curlew represents only one of a handful of records from the northeast United States, and remarkably the second record from Monroe County.
7. Raptor migration overall was weak for July. Although the majority of raptors move through Region 2 in the spring, warm days with strong southernly winds (favorable direction) can still produce smaller movements well into July. Last year, dedicated observers tallied raptors moving along the lakeshore on several days, but



JULY 2024 RECORDS SUMMARY

this year, 24 July stood out as the only day with reported decent raptor movements (emphasis on reported). Mike Tetlow counted 39 Bald Eagles, 61 Red-tailed Hawks, and three Broad-winged Hawks from the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch on this day. There were no reports of Swallow-tailed Kite this July, unlike last July where as many as three individuals were found regionwide.

8. Finishing off with the passerines, July, again, is typically slower. There were no lingering White-throated Sparrows this month. Of the uncommon breeders, Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow numbers seemed lower. Perhaps this was a true reflection of less abundance, but more likely this was a factor of effort. Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported at four locations. Interestingly, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported near Hemlock Lake on 26 July – very unexpected for the summer months. A maximum of 30 Yellow Warblers from the Braddock Bay East Spit stood out as a low count. Yellow Warbler migration can often be excellent in July right along the lakeshore. The eBird download only showed one report of Black-throated Blue Warbler and contained zero reports of Canada Warbler. On the brighter side, the first signs of core fall passerine migration were evident by the end of July with the first wandering and southbound Tennessee Warblers, a Bay-breasted Warbler, and a Nashville Warbler.

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

Observers: Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Richard Ashworth, Diane Baillargeon, Ryan Ballard, Niki Banke, Tanya Baranov, Ted Barnett, Mitchell Barry, Jessie Barry, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Steven & Linda Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Shawn Billerman, Linda Birkel, Robin Blakesley, Alan & Lisa Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Christopher

Brandt, Janet & Scott Brooks, David Brown, Robert G. Buckert, Sara Burch, Brad Carlson, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Sara Close, Kelly Close, Lorenzo Colantoni, Andrew Consler, Robert Crandall, Doug Daniels, Rod Davis, Jayne Dean, Cliff Dekdebrun, Peggy Dempsey, Diane Egan, Adam Farid, Kevin Farrell, Rob Fergus, Annabelle Foos, George & Katie Ford, Kyle Gage, Dan Gallagher, Andrew Garland, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Candy Giles, James Goetz, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Austin Groff, Lucretia Grosshans, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Pam Inzinna, Carolyn Jacobs, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Ryan Kayhart, David Kennedy, James Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Hans Kunze, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Fred Leff, Tim Lenz, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Liz Magnanti, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Patricia Martin, Lauri Mattle, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Jim Mott, Matt Nusstein, Dave Nutter, David Odell, Gabriella Orfanides, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Jeremy Pete, Luanne Pignataro, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Derek Pulhamus, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Michael Rizzo, Isaac Rizzo, Chris Rockwell, Brian Rohrs, Andrew Romanowski, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Shawn Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Anne Salverda, Greg & Shannon Sanda, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Rob Sielaff, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave & Donna Spier, Kim Steininger, Rick Stevens, Reuben Stoltzfus, Kimberly Sucy, Michael & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Nathan Ukens, Tom & Jeanne Verhulst, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Kim Weeks, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Joe Wing, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Ryan Zucker (all observers could not be listed here).

	2024	2023	10-year Average (2014-2023)
Total species for May	191	183	180.6
New species for the year	4	7	2.8
Total for the year to date	280	281	273.9



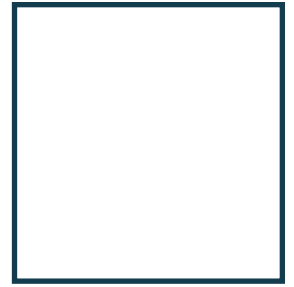
A Marbled Godwit (left) seen with two Willets at Irondequoit Bay Outlet. Photographed by Eunice Thein on July 16.





Rochester Birding Association

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