



**Rochester Birding
Association**

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

Little Gull

March 2024 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!

Mar 14 Monthly Meeting—see details below

Mar 16 Hamlin Beach State Park

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

Leader: Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838 and co-leader Pat Martin 585-301-5485

Mar 23 Beginner Birder Trip – Owl Woods and Hawk Watch Site

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

Leader: Liz Magnanti 585-748-0309 and co-leaders Dick Horsey 585-435-2837, Doug and Elizabeth Rabjohns 585-690-6296

Mar 24 Lake Shore Marshes East Wildlife Management Area

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

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

April Is an Excellent Month to Observe the Hawk Flight. Counters gather at the Hawk Watch platform at Braddock Bay Park (exit at East Manitou Road from the Ontario State Parkway). Most of the birds are Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks, but other buteos, accipiters, falcons and eagles are also seen.

Apr 6 Woodcock Courtship Flight at Owl Woods

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

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

Cornell's Spring Ornithology Course March 26-May 14 – on Zoom or In Person

Would you like to learn more about birds and their lives? Register now for the Cayuga Bird Club's *Spring Ornithology with Steve Kress*, held Tuesday evenings March 26 through May 14 at Kendal at Ithaca. You can attend each class either in person OR via Zoom this coming spring! This course is perfectly timed to help people identify spring migrants and better understand bird behavior. Each weekly meeting features a group of birds that are at the peak of their spring migration, with discussions about bird song, migration, courtship, family life, conservation, and how to create a bird-friendly habitat on your own property. Dr. Kress enhances each presentation with bird song recordings, videos, and gorgeous photos. Dr. Kress served for many years as Director of the Audubon Seabird Restoration Program and Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine, and has written numerous books, articles, and online courses about birds and wildlife conservation. Classes are recorded for viewing or reviewing at your convenience. Details and registration at:

www.cayugabirdclub.org/spring-ornithology Questions? email: cbc.ornithology@gmail.com

Spring Ornithology

with Steve Kress

Explore birds and their lives in this 8-week course with renowned Ornithologist, author, and speaker Dr. Stephen Kress



Presentations Include:

- Bird Identification
- Family Life of Birds
- Bird Song
- Migration Mysteries
- Attracting Birds
- Bird Conservation



Dates: 7 to 9 PM, Tuesdays, March 26 – May 14, 2024

Location: Kendal at Ithaca (2230 N. Triphammer Rd.) **or** via Zoom
(Classes also will be recorded for viewing/reviewing at your convenience.)

Cost: \$125 (includes Cayuga Bird Club membership)

Registration & Information:
www.cayugabirdclub.org/spring-ornithology

Questions? Contact:
cbc.ornithology@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Cayuga Bird Club



President's Corner, Randi Minetor

With the mild temperatures and nearly snowless February days, visitors to Nic's and my backyard feeding stations took a startling turn in the second week of February. Red-winged Blackbirds, Northern Flickers, and American Robins put in the earliest appearances I can remember. Even European Starling numbers were way up. Northern Cardinals and Tufted Titmice began singing weeks before their usual vocalization dates. Perhaps Punxsutawney Phil actually knew something when he hopped out on February 2.



Photo by Richard Ashworth

Flocks of these birds do overwinter in upstate New York even during cold, snowy seasons, so this does not signal an absurdly early start to spring migration—but these birds usually congregate in large flocks in parks and nature centers, where they find ample supplies of berries throughout January and February. Their visits to yards suggest that their natural food supplies may be running low—or that they feel confident about straying farther from their usual winter foraging flocks, spurred on by the springlike weather.

It's a cheery reminder that spring migration will not be far behind, when birders' eyes turn to the skies and to BirdCast, the remarkable system that uses weather radar to tell us when and where billions of birds are on the move (check it out at <https://birdcast.info>). Thanks to BirdCast, we now have a tool not only to tell us when a spring morning may yield particularly exciting bird sightings, but also to inform municipalities of which nights birds are crossing our skies.

Remember the 3 Billion Birds study released in September 2019 (<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back/#>)? One of its main findings told us of migrating birds flying headlong into brightly lit skyscrapers in big cities, and either suffering injuries or actually dying from the impact. Birds are attracted to light, so there's a simple way to reduce the number of these strikes: Turn off the lights while large numbers of birds are moving through.

We can make this happen right here in New York State, a stopover point for birds flying much farther north to breed. A bill moving through the NY State Assembly (2023-A5632A), the Dark Skies Protection Act, "regulates outdoor night lighting to preserve and enhance the state's dark sky." Read it here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/A5632/amendment/A>

This bill addresses outdoor lighting—searchlights, spotlights, and floodlights—and requires that they be shielded to project their light downward rather than into the sky. It also requires that all such lights be shut off at 11 p.m. and remain off until sunrise. (Lighting required for worker or public safety will be exempt from this.) Downtown Rochester features many decorative lighting displays on its tallest buildings, so passage of this bill would require the buildings' management to shut off these lights after 11 p.m.

While the bill does not mention birds, the benefits for birds cannot be overstated. Without bright lighting to attract them, most migrating birds will fly over the city and continue to the shores of Lake Ontario, where they rest and feed before making the crossing over the Great Lakes. Not only will this happen in Rochester, but cities including Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, and New York also will dim their lights overnight, allowing many more birds to pass through unscathed.

If you would like to show your support for this bill, visit its page on the state's website and look for the box that says "Do You Support This Bill?" on the right side of the screen: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/A5632/amendment/A>

RBA's Conservation Committee will have a table at the Roc The Eclipse Festival at the Rochester Museum and Science Center on April 6, 7, and 8, to promote birding in general and the Dark Skies bill in particular. If you'd like to join this effort and take a shift at the table, contact Lauren Doucette at lannedougherty@gmail.com.

Welcome to the Flock

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

Joyce DeBlieck
Melissa & Ted Wiggins

Current RBA Membership as of February 14 is 333:

312 Household memberships
21 Complimentary

Jo Taylor, Membership Data



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



RBA Monthly Meeting—Thursday, March 14, 2024

Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue

Alli Smith, Project Coordinator, Merlin Bird ID, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The Merlin Bird ID app, created by the Cornell lab of Ornithology, is a global field guide and a powerful tool to help identify the birds around you. Merlin can help you identify 1,000+ bird species by sound even when you can't see them—but how does it work? We'll take a behind the scenes look at Merlin to learn how Sound ID was developed, and how you can help expand Merlin to cover more species worldwide.

Alli Smith connects people to the Cornell Lab's Merlin Bird ID by doing talks, webinars, and other outreach activities, and assists Merlin users by managing the help desk. She loves supporting birders both new and experienced, and Merlin is an amazing tool that can help anybody learn. She has a B.S. in Wildlife Science, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

*Look for the Zoom link in your email on the day of the meeting. The Zoom Room **will open at 6:45 PM.***

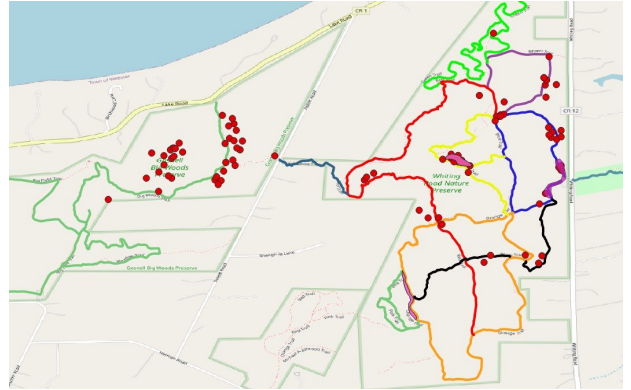


ReTree Webster at Whiting Road Nature Preserve

By Norma Platt

In 2023, the Rochester Birding Association awarded a \$1000 grant to the Friends of Webster Trails. This was for ReTree Webster to improve the forest and habitat in the Whiting Road Nature Preserve (WRNP). The grant was primarily used to fund clearing of invasive species to expand patches of existing native forest, along with durable goods to protect seedlings in the field.

ReTree began in 2021 with the mission of improving species diversity and ecological resiliency of the forested habitat in



Map of ReTree Webster activities: Red dots indicate planting locations, and pink shaded areas indicate areas cleared of invasive plants.



Happy FWT volunteers planting a young tree in WRNP.

the Webster open spaces. Since inception, the group has

cleared invasives from several plots and planted more than 300 native trees and shrubs, sourced from New York State, Monroe County Soil and Water and White Oak Nursery, in addition to growing seedlings from seed.

The majority of clearing and planting has been in WRNP and Gosnell Big Woods. Most of the species we planted provide habitat and food -- seeds or insects -- for birds. These include sycamore, white oak, swamp white oak, witch hazel, white pine, red maple, ninebark, balsam fir, eastern redbud, sweetgum, chokecherry and American elm.

With more invasives removed, thanks to the RBA grant, we are set for additional planting work later this year. ReTree is truly grateful that you saw fit to help fund our work!

Thomas Fuller said, "He that plants trees loves others besides himself."

ReTree is always looking for volunteers to enjoy the outdoors, help the environment, and make like-minded friends. Contact us at <https://webstertrails.org/retrieve/>

Friends of Webster Trails, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that partners with the Town of Webster Parks and Recreation Department to help maintain the open spaces in the town. ReTree is an ongoing project of Friends of Webster Trails that seeks to build resilience of the future forests.

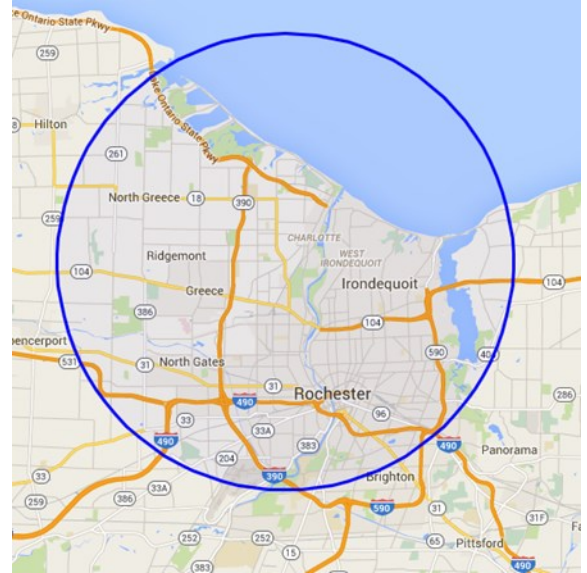


Bald Eagle, Irondequoit Bay ©
Jeffrey Eichner February 15, 2024

Rochester Christmas Bird Count (RCBC) – December 17, 2023

Perspective: This year marked the 120th RCBC. The RCBC's purpose is to count all the birds within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered at Dewey Avenue and Stone Road, seen in the Figure. The circle location has remained constant since 1901, although the habitat has not. The vast majority of farmland in Greece and Irondequoit is now residential and commercial space, but preserved and managed natural land at the town, county, and state levels remains scattered throughout the circle, allowing easy access to observe all families of birds.

Count Organization: Historically, the RCBC is held on the third Sunday in December. The count circle is divided into several "sectors," each with a sector leader. The sector boundaries have remained somewhat the same for the history of the RCBC. The "complier(s)" work with the sector leaders to ensure that each sector has adequate field volunteers to cover the habitat in each sector. Sector leaders compile data for their respective areas of the count circle. That evening, the field volunteers, sector leaders, and CBC complier(s) gather for a "tally" dinner. After a social hour (or two), a "round table" occurs where the bird and effort data from all the sectors is compiled into one list. After some further analysis by the compliers and checks by the local records committee, the data is uploaded to a portal for Audubon: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.



2023 Count Leadership: I joined Norma Platt for my first year as co-complier. I've been participating in the RCBC since 2015, when I was considered a "young birder." Well, I suppose I'm still on the young side, but not young enough to be in the "young birders club." Thank you, Norma, for your detailed planning, booking the dinner location, and getting the pizza! The sector leaders this year were: John Boettcher for Sector 1, Greg Lawrence for Sectors 2&3, Andy Garland for Sectors 4&7, Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash for Sector 5, Shirley Shaw for Sector 6, Rosemary Reilly for Sector 8, and Brian Morse for Sector 9.

Birds, Conditions and Numbers: 60 participants spent ~130 hours on foot and in cars. Weather for the count was mild, cloudy, and slightly windy, with temperatures rising to 52°F and a steady breeze between 8-14 mph out of the south. Observers tallied 94 species on the day of the count (97 for "count week," which includes the three days before and after December 17th). Record high counts included: White-crowned Sparrow (16), Red-bellied Woodpecker (228), and Ruddy Duck (62), plus a tie for Fox Sparrow (1) and Gray Catbird (3). Other notable sightings included two Purple Sandpipers from Braddock Bay (East Spit Island) and a Chipping Sparrow at Roger Clark's feeders.

Our talented participants: Jerry & Carolyn Barnhart, Jessie Barry, Douglas Bassett, Peter Bebes, Don Belmont, Lynn Bergmeyer, John Boettcher & Norma Platt, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Cathy Chou, Roger Clark, Robert Crandall, Andy Garland, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Sheryl Gracewski, Andy Guthrie, Bill Haake, Jill Heimrich, Nick Kachala, Kevin Kurtz, Greg Lawrence, Ben Levy, David Levy, Bill Maier, Peggy Marces & Jennifer Rycenga, Cindy Marino, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Susan Millham, Nic & Randi Minetor, Supriya Mohile, Simran Mohile, Brian Morse, Tom Nash, Claudia Nusstein, Jeremy Pete, Luanne Pignataro, Nancy Poeth, Tom Poeth, Jay Powell, Derek Pulhamus, Doug Rabjohns, Rosemary Reilly, Robert Ryan, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Robert Spahn, Mike Tetlow, Nate Ukens, Jeanne Verhulst, Bridget Watts, Kinsley Whittum, and Paula Wojtowicz.

Nick Kachala, RCBC co-complier

Records Report December

Although January is known for being cloudy, January 2024 was exceptionally so. January was also incredibly mild, with temperatures averaging 30.1°F, 3.9° above average. The month was divided into three distinct sections: mild to start, a colder middle, and mild again to finish. Temperatures turned colder on 13 January following the passage of back-to-back wind events and cold front. Rochester was mostly spared from the lake effect machine of that weekend, but a foot of snow fell the following weekend across most of the Region. Precipitation totaled 4.18", 1.63" above average. Snowfall totaled 25.6", just a couple of inches below average, a welcomed change from recent winter months of considerable below average totals. The mildness returned to finish out the last week of January with the sun showing itself on the last day of the month. The general impression of the month through solicited feedback was that the mild temperatures contributed to above average numbers of half-hardies. The snow in the middle part of the month forced many of these half-hardies to the roadsides and feeders, giving greater insight into just how many were around. The eBird download for January came out to roughly 31,750 lines, -9.2% from 2023.

Warmer temperatures kept ice levels low in the beginning part of the month. Consequently, more dabbling ducks were reported this January than last. Overwintering Gadwall continue to increase in numbers year-after-year, with a high count of 47 reported from Buck Pond on 6 January. The NMWMA held small numbers of dabblers as well, which is historically more expected. Snow Goose flocks in the thousands were again found along the lake plain in western Monroe County and eastern Orleans County. Singular Ross's Geese were observed in several mixed goose flocks throughout the western lake plain. Given the continuous movement of these foraging geese flocks, it is hard to assess exactly how many Ross's Geese were present in the Region. Using differences in timing and companion flock composition (noted with only Snow Geese, with entirely Canada Geese, or a mixed flock), there were likely at least three Ross's Geese present in January. Diving ducks were found in average numbers on the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario. Among the rarer ducks, Jim Miles picked out an adult female King Eider from Rigneys Bluff on 23 January. Observers reported it through the next day. One of the Harlequin Ducks at Webster Park's Mill Creek Outlet continued through at least 8 January. Domenic Sherony and Mike Tetlow reported an adult male Harlequin Duck from Chimney Bluffs SP on 12 January. The annual NYSOA winter waterfowl count took place on 9-21 January, with 14 January as the target date. Most species were slightly below average, but Canada Goose set a new record of

32,513. Ross's Goose was a new species for the waterfowl count.

Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe numbers dipped off in January, as expected. The noteworthy species in this grouping was a Western Grebe, at Point Breeze, originally found by Sarah Bacon on 8 January. Many chasers from around New York State descended on Point Breeze to view the bird, which often cooperated well as it moved back and forth across the Region 1 and Region 2 border (Oak Orchard Creek outlet). It was reported as present through 13 January. The Western Grebe was also a new species for the NYSOA waterfowl count. Neal Reilly was the first to report as many as two Virginia Rails at the usual overwintering location along the Quaker Pond Trail at Mendon Ponds Park on 15 January. Remarkably, the Purple Gallinule, found by Mitch Barry in late November 2023, continued at Braddock Bay's West Spit through 3 January. Among the shorebirds, three Killdeer were found throughout the Region, including one report by Bill Howe of one



Yellow-throated Warbler, Phelps © Alan Bloom January 30, 2024

being picked apart by a Merlin near Honeoye Lake. Dave Tetlow reported four Wilson's Snipes at a traditional overwintering location in the Town of Ogden. A singular Purple Sandpiper was reported starting on 9 January from Sodus Point, seen through the end of the month.

Looking at the data, Gull numbers seemed lower than usual, with the maximum count of Herring Gull at 550 (Braddock Bay). At least five or six Glaucous Gulls were present along the lakeshore, continuing scarce from December. 2023 was also a light winter for Glaucous Gulls with similar numbers scattered along the lakeshore. Analyzing the locations, timing, and ages of reported Iceland Gull yielded at least nine individuals – mostly adults. Using the same method, five or six Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also present throughout the month, mostly along the

Records Report continued

lakeshore. There were no reports of rarer gulls, such as Little Gull or Black-legged Kittiwake, this month.

Bald Eagle numbers remained strong around Irondequoit Bay, with a maximum of 14 reported on 18 January. Dave Tetlow reported two different American Goshawks; one was seen from Buck Pond in Greece on 1 January and the second in the town of Lyons on 5 January. This winter appears to be just slightly better than last winter for Rough-legged Hawks, with 10 individuals spread throughout the Region. Celebrity Short-eared Owls were found again at Buckland Park in Brighton as well as Burger Park in Greece. Somewhat interesting, Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard in the forests around the Hemlock Lake inlet (a pair), between Conesus and Hemlock lakes (single bird), as well as in Pat Martin's backyard (single bird). There seemed to be more Northern Saw-whet Owls reported than normal across the whole of western and central New York. Three possible scenarios, or a combination, could contribute: the mildness caused more individuals to overwinter further north than usual; an increased interest among birders resulted in more effort put towards the discovery of more birds that normally breed or overwinter here and would otherwise go undiscovered; and/or successful breeding in the past year meant there were more individuals around to stumble across.

Northern Shrike was reliable at several spots this month. 55 reports boiled down to about 10 individuals, with one report of three in one tree along Nations Road in Avon standing out. With snow cover essentially restricted to the middle of the month, there were less reports of Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur, with maximums of 200 and five, respectively. The extremely mild start to the month resulted in elevated reports of "half-hardy" species, or those which historically overwinter in small numbers. Numbers of half-hardies reported were: species (total number of individuals throughout the month); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3); Marsh Wren (1); Gray Catbird (12); Brown Thrasher (1), from the Quaker Pond Trail at Mendon Ponds Park; Hermit Thrush (25); American Pipit (9); Fox Sparrow (6); Eastern Towhee (3); Chipping Sparrow (2); Eastern Meadowlark (6), Orange-crowned Warbler (1), by Dave Tetlow, originally found in December off of Hogan Point Road in Greece; and Pine Warbler (1). Chris Wood reported a singular Common Redpoll from the Cook Road and Redman Road area in Hamlin on 13 January, the only winter finch report for the entire month. Despite the mild conditions, there were no reports of large flocks of black-birds within the Region. A true surprise came out of Perinton on 7 January when Mike Tetlow photographed a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at his feeders. Mike reported the bird through 25 January – a very rare winter visitor.

Please submit reports to eBird, post them on genesee-birds, and/or send them by the 5th of the month to Nick Kachala nicholaskach@gmail.com or 1141 Rush-Scottsville Rd. Rush, NY 14543

Observers: Michael Adriaansen, Janet Akin, Dennis Anderson, Osvaldo Araya, Sarah Bacon, Gloria Bailey, Niki Banke, Ted Barnett, Katelyn Barry, Jessie Barry & Chris Wood, Sue Barth, Don Bemont, Steven & Linda Benedict, David Benvent, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Chris Bertola, Linda Birkel, Robin Blakesley, Alan & Lisa Bloom, John Boettcher & Norma Platt, Terry Bohling, Justin Bower, Christopher Brandt, Joseph Brin, Kyle Brock, Scott & Janet Brooks, Mark Brown, Matthew Buckert, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch & Jacob McCartney, Bruce Cady, Ian Campbell, Brad Carlson, Douglas Carpenter, Donna Carter, Robert Cicotta, Jeanne Cimorelli, Roger Clark, Barbara Clise, Kelly Close, Margaret Clukey, Lorenzo Colantoni, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Robert Crandall, Lydia Culbert, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Thomas Davis, Michael DeWispelaere, Cliff Dekdebrun, Peggy Dempsey, Diane Egan, Harold Ellingsen, Rob Ferguson, Kayla Fisk, Mark Fitzsimmons, George & Katie Ford, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, John Garrett, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Candy Giles, James Goetz, John & Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Aiden Haley, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, Christopher Hollister, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Pam Inzinna, Nathan Johnson, Colleen Josh, Nick Kachala, Paul & Laura Kammermeier, David Kennedy, James Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Hans Kunze, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Fred Leff, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres & Jennifer Rygenga, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cynthia Marino, Patricia Martin, Nathaniel Martin, Judy Massare, Lauri Mattle, Ryan McGinty, Jay McGowan, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Kent Millham & Susan Roberts, Hunter Mills, Phil Mills, Mary Moore, Celeste Morien, Brian Morse, Jim Mott, Rivka Noll, Matt Nusstein & Claudia Rosen, Thomas O'Donnell, Andrea Patterson, Jeremy Pete, Michael Peter, Luanne Pignataro, Jay Powell, Derek Pulhamus, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Michael Rizzo, Susan Roberts, Bryce Robinson, Chris Rockwell, Brian Rohrs & Cinnamon Stuart, Andrew Romanowski, Don Ross, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Anne Salverda, Greg Sanda & Shannon Moyer, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judith Slein, Roger Smith, Robert & Sue Spahn, Dave Spier, Rick Stevens, Joel Strong, Dave Tetlow, Michael & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Thaddeus Trzeciak, Nathan Ukens, Erika Venniro, Tom & Jeanne Verhulst, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Kim Weeks, Joe Wing, James Wojewodzki, and Jim Wood. (There were 372 observers in the eBird download, up 11.6% from 2023).

	2024	2023	10-year Average
Species for Dec.	135	137	133.4
New for the year	0	1	1.5
Total for the year to	297	298	292.6

Field Reports

Nations Road—1/21/2024

Rick Stevens and I led this afternoon's Rochester Birding Association trip to the Nations Road area. We had a good afternoon, 11 of us on a cold but sunny day. There were many other birders in cars, looking especially for the Short-eared Owls, but giving us a couple good tips. One of these led to 5 Eastern Meadowlarks along Hogmire Rd. Birds of special interest along Houston Road included a Northern Shrike and a large flock of Tree Sparrows. Another was five Northern Harriers on the day. We were told that the Short-eared Owls had not shown up off Houston Road the last couple days so we went up to Little Road, about 200 yards up from Boyd. At about 5:00 PM we saw one and then another, flying about, perching and appearing to catch something to eat. Sharp eyes picked out a Kestrel perching along a distant tree line. As I was leaving, another Short-ear flew across the road right at Boyd Road. A flock of about 300 Snow Geese flying over was a nice late add-on to our list. We had 25 species total for the afternoon.

Jim Kimball, Rick Steves



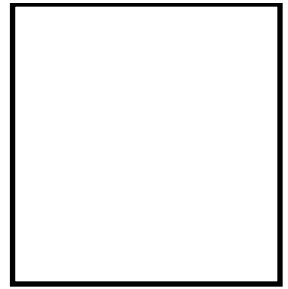
Surf Scoter, Irondequoit Bay © Candace Giles
February 19, 2024



Horned Lark, Hamlin © Alan Bloom
February 19, 2024



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