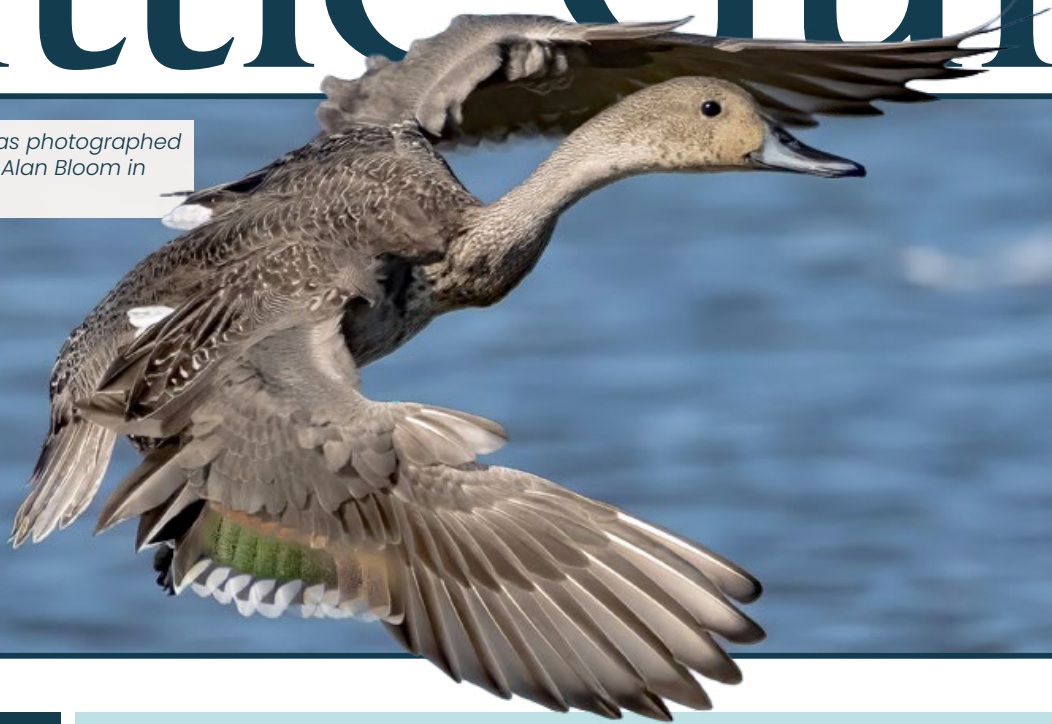




Rochester Birding
Association

Little Gull

This Northern Pintail was photographed over Braddock Bay by Alan Bloom in October of last year.



OCT 2025 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!

OCT 4
Saturday

GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE, A FIELD TRIP FOR ALL AGES

This trip is open to all ages (ages 15 and younger must be accompanied by a responsible adult). This trip goes through four habitat types and has the potential for many birds including fall migrants. We will start from the parking lot and walk wide mowed or packed dirt trails through grasslands, then head down hill through shrubland and wetland, to travel back up the hill through hardwood forest. The round trip is about 2 miles and includes hills. Restroom facilities are available at the Seneca Arts and Culture Center (SACC) at the end of the trip. Meet at **10:00 a.m.** in the main parking lot situated below the SACC, 7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564.

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

Field Trips continue on [page 4](#)

Reputation

Humans remember negative experiences with greater emotional intensity than positive ones. This is likely due to an evolutionary survival mechanism – after all, who wouldn't want to avoid situations that almost got us killed? It is called negativity bias. This bias has been attributed to phenomena like negative political ads (people remember bad things about candidates more than good things) and portfolio management (investors tend to hang on to poorly performing stocks because it hurts to sell them for a loss). One negative event can turn an otherwise pleasant outing into a long-remembered terrible experience. Remember that vacation where the return flight was delayed/your car broke down/you got sick/you had to take your kid to the emergency room/etc.? How much harder is it to recall something good from that trip?



My spouse and I were birding at a large marsh with vast swaths of mudflats, pools and reeds. There was a lot of bird activity, and we kept seeing new ones pop up on small mounds and out from behind reeds. In the far distance, we spotted an American Golden-Plover. They tend to be less abundant around here than their cousins, the Black-bellied Plover, so we were pretty excited. It was the only one we saw in the marsh. Another birder who had arrived just a little after us was also scoping the marsh. We called out, "Hey, did you get on the Golden-Plover?" Their only vocalization was a semi-annoyed, "Yeah." Now, I wasn't expecting gushing thanks or a prolonged conversation, but I also wasn't expecting this person to be so unfriendly. My wife said under her breath, "Geez, what a grouch."

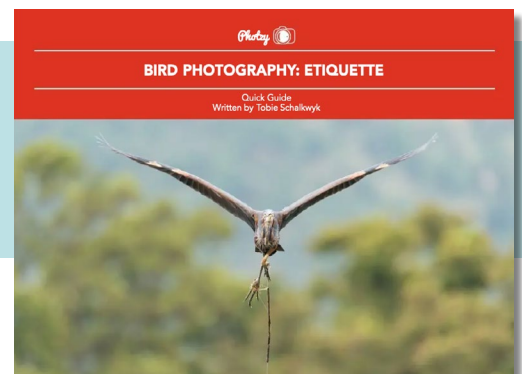
We got some good birds that day, had a really nice time, but that interaction stuck with us. What if we had been new to birding? Would we have dismissed the whole community as a bunch of grumps? A negative impression of birders can turn people off from a pastime where the more people we have interested, the more likely we'll have better conservation of our land and resources.

I thought about this incident after a friend sent me an article drawn from Tobie Schalkwyk's Bird Photography: Etiquette eBook. It was about how to conduct yourself as a respectful bird photographer, and after I read it, I thought it really applies to birding in general. Tobie advocates four behaviors:

- Be friendly
- Be patient
- Be approachable
- Be helpful

These behaviors are pretty self-explanatory. A nod or a wave to fellow birders to acknowledge their presence; a "Thanks, it's pretty cool, huh?" to the eager hiker pointing out the obvious Bald Eagle right in front of us; a brief explanation to the passerby's question, "What are you looking at?"; a thoughtful correction to a mis-identification. All this takes is an understanding that everyone deserves respect.

On a field trip, we had a participant who had driven a long distance tell us that he loves coming to RBA field trips because everyone is so nice. What a wonderful reputation for our organization to have! It happens because we embody those four principles.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER, BRIAN ROHRS

Some RBA highlights for this month:

As fall migration continues, we have several field trips throughout October. Join your fellow birders in the field!

Our speaker at 7 pm on October 9th is Bobby Harrison talking about his search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Please join us in person at Asbury First Methodist Church or on Zoom.

Our October Birds and Brews is at Swiftwater Brewing on the 16th from 6–9. Come out and join us for some lively conversation.

Until next month, Happy Birding!



Birds and Brews

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

**Thursday, October 16, 2025
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Swiftwater Brewing
378 Mount Hope Avenue, Rochester**

Swiftwater has a wide range of beers, ciders, wines, and canned cocktails, and a menu of small plates, large plates, sandwiches and cookies. Check it out at <https://swiftwaterbrewing.com/>

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK

Please welcome our new members:

Josephine Chase	Michael Lanzillo
Carol Dunn	Sharon Lunt
Claudia Foti	Crawford Stephanie

As of September 15, total 2025 membership is 387

Individual Members: 250

Family Members: 97

Supporters: 4

Sponsors: 3

Corporate Sponsors: 1

Complimentary Memberships: 32

Doug Rabjohns, RBA Membership Data



Pectoral Sandpiper & White-rumped Sandpipers seen at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge by Niki Banke.

FIELD TRIPS

OCT 4
Saturday

HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK

We will be walking flat trails in the wooded and brushy areas of the park, looking for thrushes, sparrows, and maybe a half-hardy warbler or two. We'll stop by the lake watch to view ducks on the water and in flight, learning about the lake watch process. We will also explore the former CCC Camp adjacent to the park where there is a pond and brushy/forest areas. Dress appropriately for cooler weather along the lake and wear sturdy footwear. Restroom facilities are available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in Parking Lot 4 (note location change due to construction in Parking Lot 1), Hamlin Beach State Park. **Spotting scopes would be useful.**

Leaders: Roger Clark 505-231-7369 and co-leader Rick Stevens 585-689-1882

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

A BIG SIT AT SILVER LAKE STATE PARK BOAT LAUNCH

8:00 AM-4:00 PM. Matt Nusstein 716-446-3376. Details on [RBA website](#).

OCT 12
Sunday

HIGH ACRES NATURE AREA

Over 130 bird species have been observed at HANA including more than 70 that nest in the diverse habitats found there. During this fall field trip we expect to see various species of migrating birds such as ducks, kinglets, warblers and thrushes, and summer resident birds getting ready to migrate south. As a bonus, the fall colors should be in full glorious display. Our approximately two-mile walk over mostly flat trails will explore about 250 acres at HANA and may include some wet spots if it has been a wet fall. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the parking lot on Perinton Parkway approximately 1/4 mile east of the Waste Management offices.

Leaders: Brian Rohrs and Gayle Lazoration 585-281-9534

OCT 18
Saturday

BATAVIA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Why a wastewater treatment plant? Open water and a great location mean that this spot appears regularly on fall birding lists for ducks as well as passerines. 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 (5 Treadeasy Ave.). Follow Rt. 33 West from Main Street, take the second exit on the roundabout to continue on Rt. 33W. Turn left on to Industrial Blvd., continue over railroad tracks, cross over Treadeasy Ave, go up a small hill, and through the gates at the end of Industrial Blvd. Turn left after the gates, follow the driveway around to the back side of the building. If possible, we will carpool from the plant offices. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

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

*A Spotted Sandpiper photographed
by David Laiacina at the Batavia
Wastewater Treatment Plant.*



FIELD TRIPS

OCT 26
Sunday

DURAND-EASTMAN PARK

Dark-eyed Juncos, woodpeckers, Winter Wrens and, if lucky, Red-headed Woodpecker, are possible. After checking out Lake Ontario and Eastman Lake for ducks, we will drive to and walk a section of Horseshoe Road. We will then drive to Log Cabin Road where we will walk the non-motor vehicle section and parts of Zoo Road, traversing the Blue Trail to return to Log Cabin Road. Steady moderate grades at sections. Length about 2.5 miles, total. No restrooms available. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Parking Lot D on the right side of Lakeshore Blvd. opposite Log Cabin Road. Please dress for the weather.

Leaders: Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leaders Doug and Elizabeth Rabjohns 585-690-6296

October and November are excellent months to observe the parade of waterbirds on Lake Ontario. Several experienced birders are active at the lake watch many mornings during these months. Go to the lakeside of the Lakeshore Pavilion at Parking Lot 4, Hamlin Beach State Park. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes, if you have them. Visitors are welcome!

Geese at Hamlin Beach State Park.
Photo by Alan Bloom.



SAVE THE DATE!

Rochester Christmas Bird Count 2025

An Opportunity to Contribute, Learn, and Be a Part of the Birding Community

Save the date of Sunday, December 21 to participate in the 122nd year of the Rochester Christmas Bird Count!

Each year around the end of December, we count the diversity and abundance of birds in the Rochester "count circle." The data is compiled and sent to the National Audubon Society, who uses it to identify trends and influence conservation policy.

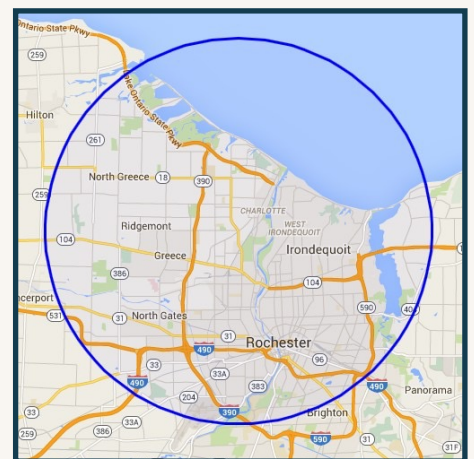
This is a significant opportunity to:

- Develop your birding skills in the field
- Make connections in the birding community
- Contribute to a longstanding traditional citizen science project
- Attend the count tally dinner, exchange stories of the day, enjoy pizza, and make more birding friends!

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

Please contact Nick Kachala for further information or to sign up
nicholaskach@gmail.com or 585-750-5536

Further details will appear in the November Little Gull Newsletter



My Search For the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Speaker: Bobby Harrison

The struggle to prove the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still exists has obsessed believers and exasperated doubters for a century. Photographer Bobby Harrison has been working for decades to document the species once and for all before the government declares it extinct. He and Tim Gallagher, at the time the editor of Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Living Bird magazine, were the last to see a bird that may have been an Ivory-billed during an expedition to the Big Woods of the Arkansas Delta in 2004. Harrison has captured video of what may have been an Ivory-billed since then, but the controversy continues—and he continues to search the swamps of eastern Arkansas to get a definitive image of the elusive bird.



Bobby Harrison is an award-winning nature photographer, speaker, writer and educator based in Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Harrison holds a B.F.A. in Photography from Andrew's University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and a M.S. in Media Technology from Alabama A&M University. He served as the Director of the Art Program at Oakwood University from 1992 until his retirement in 2022, holding the rank of Associate Professor. He is also a charter member of the North American Nature Photography Association and served on the Board of Directors from January 2001 to February 2004.

Mr. Harrison has published articles and photographs in various national and international magazines and calendars such as: Audubon, Living bird, Birder's World, Wildbird, Nature's Best, Bird Watchers Digest, Natural History, National and International Wildlife, American Photo, Birds and Blooms, Sinra, Outdoor Photographer, Outdoor and Travel Photographer, as well as other publications. Calendars include Birder's World, Audubon, and Sanibel Island. He is currently a columnist for the magazine, Creation Illustrated.

His travels have taken him from the Pribilof Islands and the Alaska mainland to Venezuela, from the Arizona deserts to coastal Maine to photograph his favorite subject: birds. He has traveled widely throughout North America giving presentations on birds and bird photography.

Mr. Harrison has published photographs and more than 100 articles in various national and international nature magazines. He is also one of the featured photographers in a thirteen-part television series entitled "Nature's Best Photography". His bird photography has garnered numerous awards including the 2021 Lucie Awards competition for wildlife photography, the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards top 100 images, and three awards in the widely acclaimed Nature's Best International Photography Awards competition.

In 2005 Mr. Harrison was elected a Fellow of The Explores Club in New York City. On March 18, 2006 he, along with his colleague Tim Gallagher of Cornell University received The Explores Clubs Presidents Award for Conservation at their annual gala. This prestigious award is given for a significant contribution to science through exploration.

Mr. Harrison will be joining us via Zoom, although we will still gather at Asbury First Methodist for socialization before and after the meeting. If you will be attending by Zoom, look for the Zoom link in your email prior to the meeting. The Zoom Room **will open at 6:45 PM**. Don't wait until the last minute to sign on, you might be left out!

Whiting Road Nature Preserve September 6, 2025

It was sixty degrees and much needed light rain fell as 13 people gathered in the parking lot of Whiting Road Nature Preserve. Despite the weather, there was excitement among the group because an Olive-sided Flycatcher, an infrequent visitor, had been found three days earlier during the leaders' scouting trip. A very active flock of birds flitting among the vines was spotted almost immediately. Magnolia, American Redstart and Bay-breasted Warblers were identified as well as a number of soggy-looking Cedar Waxwings. On the Black Trail, we came across a Brown Thrasher, many more waxwings, Gray Catbirds, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Swainson's Thrush, and Red-eyed Vireos. We moved to the Red Trail where the flycatcher had been found—no luck this time—but at least the rain stopped. The Blue Trail produced a Veery, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird among others. The Brown Trail with its open meadow ringed with trees was our last hope for the Olive-sided. Eastern Bluebirds were seen and an Eastern Wood-Pewee caused a stir, then just as we were coming to the end of the meadow, another flycatcher was spotted—an Olive-sided! Wait, there were two Olive-sided Flycatchers in a large dead tree! Wow! What an great end to the trip with 43 species found. Thanks to everyone who joined in!

**Jeanne and Tom Verhulst and
Anne (AP) Salverda**



*Olive-sided Flycatcher
spotted on the Whiting
Road Nature Preserve trip.
Photo by Jeanne Verhulst.*

Beginner Birder Trip Charlotte Beach and Turning Point Park September 7, 2025

A gorgeous day for this beginner trip with 12 folks participating. The beach had lots of Ring-billed Gulls of various ages, but we really had to search for the few Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls. Keen-eyed scouting by Sheryl Gracewski got us onto some Bonaparte's Gulls, shorebirds, and a mystery tern. We were distracted by the arrival of the cement boat, but did catch flyovers of Bald Eagle and Osprey.

Relocating to Turning Point Park, we did some of the boardwalk to gather a few duck species and Mute Swans with cygnets but, strangely, no sign of Great Blue Heron. Stops along the paved and dirt trails provided some very brief views of warbler species to the frustration of the beginning birders in the group. We finished the day with 39 species.

John Boettcher and Norma Platt



*Great Black-backed Gull & Ring-billed Gull
seen by Wendelin Long at Charlotte Beach.*

Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail) September 10, 2025

Well, to paraphrase Garrison Keillor of A Prairie Home Companion fame, it was a quiet day on the Brickyard Trail, our home patch. The pleasantly cool and mostly clear morning drew 15 birders, and we eventually encountered 35 species of birds. In addition to the more common and expected ones, we also found

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

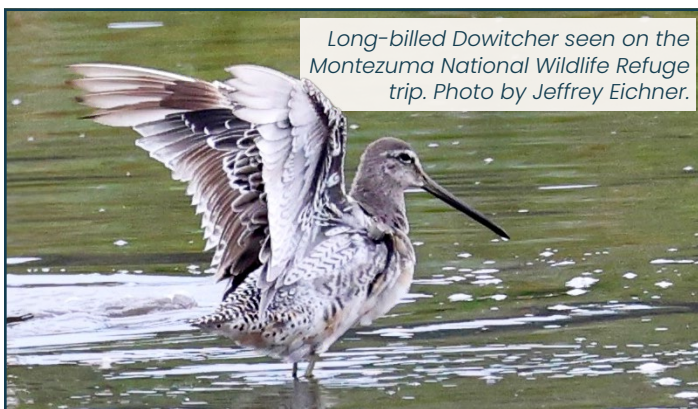
Common Yellowthroats, American Redstarts, and Nashville, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Warblers. We dipped on the recently reported Olive-sided Flycatcher, but a Scarlet Tanager offered some consolation, as did the pair of Ospreys seen distantly as we returned to the parking area.

Tom and Jeanne Verhulst

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge September 13, 2025

It was a mostly cloudy day, very moderate temperature and little or no wind when eighteen people joined the RBA trip to Montezuma NWR for a day of birding. The youngest participant was 18-month-old Henry Manning. He spent most of the day picking up rocks. This is normally billed as a shorebird trip but the lack of rain had created drought conditions that led to only a few small ponds and one other large very distant pond for viewing shorebirds. Our five-hour birding day included only five stops. We recorded 45 total species which is a low number for this annual trip. This includes fly-over species and as well as some species seen by only a few people.

We began on the Wildlife Drive going directly to Seneca Flats. There the group of ten or more Long-billed Dowitchers, that had been present for more than two weeks, gave us our first opportunity to spend time with scopes. Both Yellowlegs and a Virginia Rail were seen in this pond. Nearby were two active Marsh Wrens and a few people saw or heard Bobolinks.



Long-billed Dowitcher seen on the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge trip. Photo by Jeffrey Eichner.



This Virginia Rail was also photographed by Jeffrey Eichner on the trip.

One highlight was good views of an American Pipit that landed on the mudflat. Several other species gave brief views.

At the pond on the north end of Eaton Marsh we settled in to watch some shorebirds. Here we studied five species including over 40 Pectoral Sandpipers, a number of White-rumped Sandpipers, as well as the more common shorebirds. It was an opportunity for close-up views and also seeing Hooded Mergansers and Green Herons. A few participants picked up a late lingering Osprey.

May's Point was mostly dried up; we did not spend much time there. There were many Great Egrets but the highlights were two adult Bald Eagles, two Kildeer, and an overhead Northern Harrier. Knox-Marsellus also had low water. We spent our time seeing distant Sandhill Cranes. There were other species seen but we did not struggle with the long distant views.

We finished our day spending over an hour at the Sandhill Crane Unit on Van Dyne Spoor Rd. Common fall species were close for viewing including: Pied-billed Grebe, Common Gallinules, American Coot, Ring-billed Gulls, and Double-crested Cormorants. While searching for the Purple Gallinule, we saw Wood Ducks, a single Redhead, and a Mute Swan among others. The focus of our search was finding a Purple Gallinule that had been present for less than a week. After a long search, one of our participants, Sheryl Gracewski, found the bird on some distant lily pads and all were able to get scope views of the unusual sighting.

Dominic Sherony and Mike Tetlow



Mute Swan on the trip to Braddock Bay East Spit. Photo by Wendelin Long.

Braddock Bay East Spit September 14, 2025

Pleasant sunny weather with 70-degree temperatures and light breezes brought a large group of 30 birders out to the Braddock Bay East Spit. A Merlin gave long looks and allowed many photos while perched on a snag at the base of the spit. As the group moved down the trail, passerines were moving through including Cape May Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, and Nashville Warbler. The channel between the end of the spit and the barrier island was very productive. Shorebirds identified included Stilt Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, both Yellowlegs, Solitary, Semipalmated, and Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plover, and Sanderling. An immature Northern Harrier soared high overhead and two Sora were seen and photographed in the reeds along the channel. Overall, the group found an impressive 52 species. Thanks to everyone for a fun trip!

Neal Reilly, Sheryl Gracewski, and Tom Nash

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge September 21, 2025

Twenty birders assembled at the Oak Orchard WMA to start our Iroquois field trip. Our weather was a sunny and very comfortable temperature, that kind of day when it is not too hot nor too cold. After initial introductions, our species list started out slowly but included a Sandhill Crane or two, heard but not seen. We tried a woodland stop along a seasonal road that

produced a couple Cedar Waxwings. On to Iroquois in the northeast corner to an often times productive shorebird location. Two Semipalmated Plovers with a few Lesser Yellowlegs were found. Next, it was on to the parking lot and a walk down the dead end section of Sour Springs Road. It was very quiet at first, but as we were considering our next stop a nice mixed group of warblers, vireos, chickadees and woodpeckers became very active in the tree tops. Our day was passing quickly due to the beautiful weather and enjoyable conversation, so on to the next stop at Kumpf Marsh which provided our largest species tally for the day. Taking our time with a good number of spotting scopes, we located a mix of ducks and a diverse species grouping of shorebirds. The highlight of the trip came as we were sorting through the different waterfowl species and an American Golden Plover appeared for all to get a good view. Half of our species total came here at Kumpf with patient scope work and many sets of eyes. By now the afternoon was passing on, the sun on the open dike was starting to convince our group to get a drink and move on. We decided to end our day with a stop at neighboring Cayuga Overlook. A couple more species at the overlook brought our tally for the day to 67 species. At the end, everyone agreed it was a beautiful day to be out birding. I want to say thank you to our group of birders who made it an enjoyable day and to a job well done by our co-leader Niki Banke. Until the next time.

Rick Stevens

RBA Works with DEC to Expand NYS Birding Trail in Monroe County

Randi Minetor

When the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced the addition of twelve sites to the New York State Birding Trail in July, six of the new sites were here in Monroe County:

- Cobbs Hill Park
- Durand Eastman Park
- Highland Park
- Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park (Irondequoit Bay Outlet)
- Mendon Ponds Park
- Oatka Creek Park

"The Rochester Birding Association is excited to celebrate the addition of these sites in and around Rochester to the New York State Birding Trail," said Brian Rohrs, RBA president. "One of our key missions is to provide access to birds, so we are pleased that these sites showcase some of the rich birding habitats in our area, and that they will bring fellow nature enthusiasts to our community. We are grateful to our local and state partners who helped make this effort a reality."

Previously, while nearly 400 sites around the state were included in the NYS Birding Trail, the only one in Monroe County was Braddock Bay Park. (Four other sites in the county have since been added through nominations by Genesee Land Trust and other organizations.)

Looking to remedy that situation, former RBA president Randi Minetor contacted the trail's coordinators to find out how to nominate some sites in our area. The process turned out to be rigorous, involving considerable paperwork and direct contact with the nominated sites. Each site owner had to agree to add the NYS Birding Trail sign to the park's entrance or trailhead.

Former RBA president Lynn Bergmeyer volunteered to handle all of the paperwork, and Randi made the contact with the site owners. Several sites on Randi and Lynn's initial list had to be eliminated: Nations Road, for example, is an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area and a well-known birding hotspot, but all of the land is privately owned, so putting up the NYS sign would require all of the landowners to give permission. LaSalle's Landing at the south end of Irondequoit Bay has construction projects in progress, so while it qualified to be part of the trail, its inclusion is delayed until the projects are completed. Others that were contacted simply did not respond to our inquiries.

The six new sites are a great start, however, and RBA will continue to nominate more sites over time. If there's a site you feel should be part of the trail, let RBA know at info@rochesterbirding.org.



A bird-watching trail in Mendon Ponds Park.



APRIL 2025 RECORDS SUMMARY

The first half of April 2025 was winter's last stand, with cooler and wetter conditions giving way to warmer, yet unsettled, weather for the latter half of the month. Temperatures averaged 47.7°, 0.9° above average. Most days of the month were slightly below average. Temperatures exceeded 80° (84°) for the first time this year on 29 April. A low of 21° on 9 April was the coldest April temperature in nine years. Precipitation totaled 3.51", 0.52" above average. 1.53" was recorded at the Rochester airport on 2 April. Snowfall totaled 2.0", an inch below average, with the last flakes falling on 8 April. The second half of the month turned progressively stormy, with periodic strong thunderstorms that knocked over trees and a particularly strong storm noted on 21 April that produced golf ball-sized hail in Wyoming, Livingston, and Ontario Counties.

Observers submitted ~89,700 lines to eBird within Region 2 for the month, down 12.3% from April 2024. 604 observers contributed these sightings, down sharply 27.2% from 2024. The monthly total of 206 species is about average for April, although lower than the last few years. The apparent significant decrease in effort may have contributed to some missed species this month, like Grasshopper Sparrow, which is known to arrive in April.

Comparing this year to last year, waterfowl seemed more abundant. This was likely attributed to the later movement of waterfowl this year, about three weeks later than last year. Counts diminished significantly for most duck species after the first two weeks of the month. Species such as Canvasback departed (the last eight seen on 20 April) while species such as Black Scoter were missed (not unprecedented, but reported most Aprils).

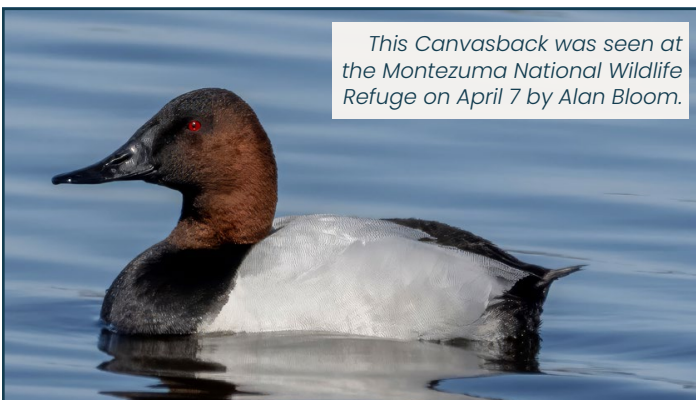
Observers reported good numbers of Red-breasted

Merganser and Long-tailed Duck migrating along the Lake Ontario shoreline, especially towards the end of the month. Silver Lake, once again, took the spotlight with Regional high counts for the month of Lesser Scaup (282, 9 April) and Bufflehead (160, 7 April). The flock of Ruddy Duck on Silver Lake (peak 150, 19 April) was also notable. Among the rarer waterfowl, observers reported two different Eurasian Wigeon, the first found by Daniel Baldassarre from Guy Baldassarre Marsh in the NMWMA on 5 April and the second reported by Terry Bohling in the Conesus Inlet WMA on 28 April. Jessie Barry observed a female-type Harlequin Duck moving along the lakeshore on 5 April.

Other waterbirds, such as Common Gallinule, arrived for the year slightly early, being reported for the first time on 7 April from the NMWMA. Virginia Rail reports became consistent and more widespread (both markers that can be used to determine arrival dates) after 6 April. Virginia Rail is a species that is very hard to judge true arrival dates, given its half-hardy tendencies in the Region. Sora arrived on 18 April. Loon migration appeared to peak in the third week of April, with high counts of Common Loon (max 70, 19 April) and Red-throated Loon (max 10, 23 April), being lower than historically expected, but still decent. There were no reports of any ibises.

Shorebirds were average in April, with most of the expected species reported plus a few rarities mixed in. As expected, Greater Yellowlegs outnumbered Lesser Yellowlegs at the beginning of the month. The opposite was true at the end of the month. Among the rarer finds, Dave Tetlow reported a single American Golden-Plover from the flooded field west of Martin Road in Hamlin on 19 April, which stuck around until 21 April, seen by many. American Golden-Plover (singular to small flocks) are expected in the spring, although not on an annual basis. Long-billed Dowitcher was reported twice, the first as two individuals on 15 April from the Railroad Marshes impoundment in the NMWMA and the second time as a single bird along Carncross Road in the NMWMA. Mike Wasilco reported six Willets on Ontario Beach on 26 April, which were seen widely by others throughout the day.

The only Iceland Gull report of the month came from Hamlin Beach on 29 April. Similarly, the only Glaucous



This Canvasback was seen at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on April 7 by Alan Bloom.

APRIL 2025 RECORDS SUMMARY

Gull report of the month also came from Hamlin on 11 April. Neither of the sightings represented the last seasonal report for either species, respectively, as they were both superseded by sightings in early May. Andy Guthrie reported a Little Gull passing the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch on 3 April, the only true rare gull for the month.

The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch continued throughout April, with 44,056 new birds tallied for the month, 400 shy of the April 2024 count, interestingly. The days of the largest movements for Turkey Vultures were 3 April (4,807 counted), 13 April (1,937), and 15 April (2,577). Broad-winged Hawk arrived at the count of 14 April. Counts of 8,795 and 7,435 Broad-winged Hawks on 18 April and 19 April, respectively, stood out as noteworthy. In fact, combined with a good Sharp-shinned Hawk and Turkey Vulture flight, the daily count for 18 April was 10,369 raptors, noteworthy by itself. Braddock Bay found itself in somewhat of a Golden Eagle drought throughout March and early April, trailing far behind its friendly rival Derby Hill, but that gap shortened with more consistent Golden Eagles on 14 April, including a miraculous day count of 10 on 19 April. Glenn Wolford once again watched the skies consistently from Lake Shore Marshes WMA in Wayne County. Many of Glenn's daily counts were comparable to the counts from Braddock Bay. Glenn also reported two separate Black Vultures. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry reported the month's only Swainson's Hawk, an annually expected, yet scarce migrant, passing along the Greece lakeshore on 18 April.

Passerines were less impressive this April than last April 2024 (which hosted a Golden-crowned Sparrow and Western Tanager). The only rarity of note was a Lark Sparrow, reported by hawk counter Maili Waters from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch on 26 April, and only seen by her and Luke Seitz. Other passerine observations of note included the last Northern Shrike of the season on 21 April in the NMWMA, a few days late, but not unprecedented. Glenn Wolford noted 17 migrating Fish Crows from Lake Shore Marshes WMA, a decent count. Jim Miles reported 20 Brown Creepers moving past his lakeshore home in Hilton on 18 April. Species such as Gray Catbird, Northern House Wren, Brown Thrasher, and Hermit

Thrush all arrived within their expected windows. Several observers had Purple Finch counts of more than 100 individuals while conducting morning flight watches along the Lake Ontario shoreline, with Maili Waters reporting the highest of 145 on 18 April. Vesper Sparrow arrived on 5 April. Savannah Sparrow became consistent (to rule out overwintering individuals) on 6 April. Grasshopper Sparrow was missed. Observers reported 21 species of warbler, with a Prairie Warbler in Firehouse Woods on 24 April standing out as an uncommon, yet expected, migrant to the Monroe County Lakeshore. Overall, a quiet month with small highlights here and there.

See the noteworthy records table posted on the RBA website for more details and records and please send in reports to eBird, the GeneseeBirds listserv, or to Nick Kachala at nicholaskach@gmail.com



Purple Finch seen in Irondequoit by Judith Slein.

Observers: Ryan Ballard, Niki Banke, Timmy Banker, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Frederic Beaudry, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Dave Bennett, David Benvent, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Linda Birkel, Robin Blakesley, Alan Bloom & Lisa Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Scott & Janet Brooks, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Ian Campbell, Brad Carlson, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Sara Close, Lorenzo Colantoni, Robert Crandall, Doug Daniels, Thomas Davis, Cliff Dekdebrun, Peggy Dempsey, Grace Dowdall, Diane Egan, Rob Fergus, George & Katie Ford, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Candy Giles, John Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kevin Griffith, Austin Groff, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Helen Haller, Kim

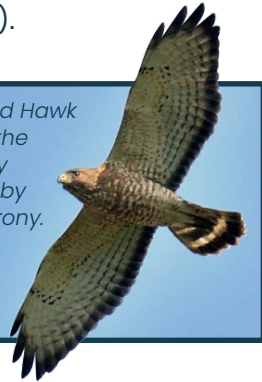
APRIL 2025 RECORDS SUMMARY

Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Pam Inzinna, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, David Kennedy, James Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Hans Kunze, Greg Lawrence, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Cynthia Marino, Patricia Martin, Judy Massare, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Ryan McGinty, Jay McGowan, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Matt Nusstein, Dave Nutter, Luanne Pignataro, Derek Pulhamus, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Rosemary Reilly, Neal Reilly,

Michael Rizzo, Susan Roberts, Chris Rockwell, Brian Rohrs, Andrew Romanowski, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Shawn Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Anne Salverda, Greg & Shannon Sanda, Mickey Scilingo, Luke Seitz, Dominic Sherony, Judith Slein, Robert Spahn, Rick Stevens, Reuben Stoltzfus, Stephen Taylor, David Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Nathan Ukens, Tom & Jeanne Verhulst, Mike Wasilco, Maili Waters, Bridget Watts, Mamie Weed, Kim Weeks, Glenn Wolford, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, & Ryan Zucker (Not all 604 observers are listed here).

	2025	2024	10-year Average (2015-2024)
Total species for June	206	221	202.9
New species for the year	65	72	59.0
Total for the year to date	219	233	215.3

Broad-winged Hawk
seen during the
Braddock Bay
Hawk Watch by
Dominic Sherony.



UPCOMING CONSERVATION-RELATED EVENTS

If you're interested in events that focus on environmental conservation, here's a list of upcoming opportunities happening in the Rochester area, outside of those hosted by the RBA.

PLASTICS + HEALTH: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A talk by Dr. Jane van Dis (U of R) on prevalence of plastics, chemical effects on health; plus ways to protect against those risks.

Webster Public Library

980 Ridge Rd, Webster, NY

Monday, Oct 6, 2025 | 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

websterlibrary.libcal.com/event/14929176

GENESEE LAND TRUST NATURE TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia night with a nature / conservation theme.

Rochester, NY

Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

www.geneseelandtrust.org/all-events

MAGIC OF MUSHROOMS WALK

Guided mushroom walk with Rochester Area Mycological Association.

Sodus Point, NY

Saturday, Oct 18, 2025 |

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM or 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

www.geneseelandtrust.org/all-events

OCTOBER 2025 TREE PLANTING

Annual family friendly planting event, moving seedlings from the nursery to the field.

Stay tuned for further details!

Saturday, October 25, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

webstertrails.org/event/october-2025-tree-planting/

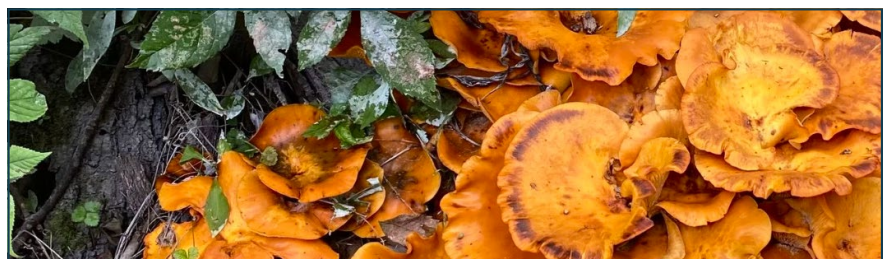
CAMPFIRE NIGHT

Outdoor community gathering with stories and nature connection, hosted by Rochester Ecology Partners.

Mt. Hope House, Rochester, NY

Saturday, October 25, 2025 | 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

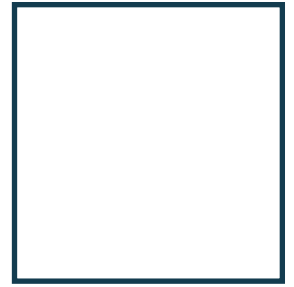
rochesterecologypartners.org





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