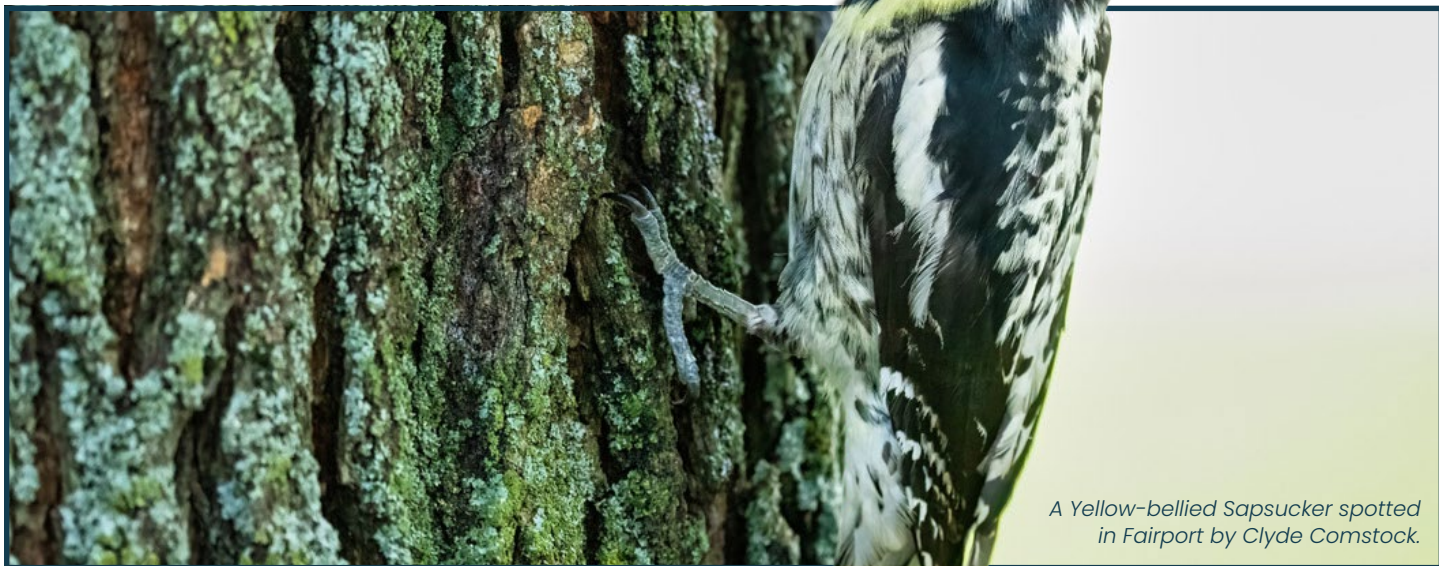




Rochester Birding  
Association

# Little Gull



*A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker spotted  
in Fairport by Clyde Comstock.*

## JUNE 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](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!

**JUNE 1**  
Sunday

### LETCWORTH STATE PARK

This trip frequently garners one of the higher bird lists among RBA field trips. Of course, it gets an early start! We'll look for birds not frequently seen on other trips, such as Acadian Flycatcher. We'll do a fair amount of walking: one somewhat steep but short forest trail and a dirt road down to the river level, as well as some roadside birding. Restrooms are available at several locations along the way. Meet at **5:30 a.m.** at the Dam Overlook Gifts and Grill parking lot (use the Route 36 entrance to Letchworth State Park). Pack a lunch and snacks, as the trip will likely last well into mid-afternoon. Spotting scopes would be very useful.

**Leaders:** Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147

*Field Trips continue on [page 3](#)*



### Best Time of the Year

I hope everyone was able get out for some spectacular birding in May. It's my favorite time of the year. How could it not be? The landscape is greening up. The smell of nature's renewal is in the air. The weather is getting warmer – there are even days I can drink my morning coffee on the patio and not worry about frostbite. Birds I haven't seen in 6-7 months are showing up in my backyard. Best of all, the warblers are here!

I see warblers every year, but most of them are just passing through so I only get a few glorious weeks a year to practice identifying them. Every year a little more has stuck with me, but I still need to refresh my memory: What are the field marks of the less common ones? How do you tell similar ones apart? What do the females look like? Perhaps most challenging of all, what do they sound like and how do you tell their songs and calls apart from one another? As I used to say to my work colleagues: I know just enough to be dangerous, but not enough to be useful.

Birding is a lot of fun, but warbler season seems to take it to a whole new level. Yes, warblers are colorful and charismatic, but is that it? I think there's more and it's all about brain chemistry. (But then again, isn't everything?) When you are birding, your sympathetic nervous system is activated. This is the autonomous nervous system responsible for the body's fight-or-flight response. There's a little movement in that bush or a sound from behind those leaves – what is it? Even though our brains quickly rationalize it's likely not one of those dire wolves that have been in the news lately, our adrenal glands still pump out a bit of adrenaline. Our pulse quickens, our senses sharpen, our mental alertness increases.

Now that we know we're not in danger, a different part of our brain gets activated. What is that bird? We know there's a finite number of possibilities, yet we sometimes only get fleeting glimpses. Is it yet another yellow-rump that we've been tripping over all morning, or is it something we haven't seen yet? Can we make out any field marks? Did all that homework on bird calls help, or do we need Merlin to remind us that our auditory skills can always improve? Sometimes we have to give up, just not enough information gathered before the bird disappears. Often enough though, we get what we need to make an identification. We've solved the puzzle! Our brain releases a tiny bit of dopamine and we get a little hit of pleasure. We like that. We want more. We go search for another little movement.

No wonder we can't stop birding. Finding birds is a rush and is hard-wired into us from our hunter-gatherer ancestors. Identifying them makes us feel good. It stimulates neurotransmitters that make us want to do it again and again and again. Thank goodness warbler season only lasts for a few weeks. Otherwise, I'd never get anything else done!

#### **Some RBA highlights for this month:**

There is no speaker this month because we have our annual picnic. It is June 12th at BANC – see elsewhere in the Little Gull for details. I hope to see many of you there!

Check out our June field trips, there are good ones coming up. Join your fellow birders in the field!

Finally, a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped us reach our goal for the TASK Charitable Fund matching grant. We'll put the final numbers in our July/August Little Gull where we'll have the room to thank all our donors, but as a teaser – over 42% of our members contributed!

Until next month, Happy Birding!

# FIELD TRIPS

**JUNE 7**  
**Saturday**

## **GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE, A FIELD TRIP FOR ALL AGES**

This trip is open to all ages (ages 15 and younger must accompanied by a responsible adult). This trip has generated large species lists due to the many habitat types we will travel through. Ganondagan has miles of trails for the leaders to choose from. We will walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through fields, woods, and shrubland. The round trip is about 2 miles and includes some 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 (Boughton Hill Road), Victor, NY 14564.

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

**JUNE 7**  
**Saturday**

## **TAYLOR MARSH (JOINT TRIP WITH THE BERGEN SWAMP PRESERVATION SOCIETY)**

Taylor Marsh is a preserve owned by the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and located in Ontario County north of Honeoye Lake. It is best known for marsh birds, including both American and Least Bittern and Virginia Rail. However, the star attraction is the Sandhill Cranes that have been present in this area all year around for many years. Breeding has been confirmed. They are occasionally heard at Taylor, although seldom seen. Taylor also has brush-shrub and wooded upland habitat with a good variety of spring migrants and breeding birds. An adjacent hay field is home to Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks. It has a checklist of nearly 145 species that can be downloaded at [https://bergenswamp.org/TaylorMarshBirdList\\_19\\_03\\_03.pdf](https://bergenswamp.org/TaylorMarshBirdList_19_03_03.pdf). This is mostly a flat trail, which can be muddy, and has one very small shallow stream to cross. Waterproof boots are advisable. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Taylor Marsh parking area on the west side of Allen's Hill Road just south of Nighan Hill Road. From Rochester, take I-390 south to the Avon exit. Turn left onto Routes 5&20 and go east. In the town of Lima, turn right onto Route 15A and follow it south. Turn left onto Richmond Mills Road (Livingston County Road 41). It becomes Ontario County Road 15. Follow County Road 15 past County Road 37 and turn right at the next stop sign onto Allen's Hill Road. (There is no road sign at the intersection.)

**Leaders:** Lynn Braband 585-436-9388 and Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485

**JUNE 8**  
**Sunday**

## **WYOMING COUNTY FIELDS AND FOREST—NEW COMPEHNER FARM**

This is a great opportunity to explore the beautiful upland region of northeastern Wyoming County including New Compehner Farm, the home and farm of Hans and Leslie Kunze. First, we will look for a variety of native sparrows (Savannah, Vesper), hopefully, returning Cliff Swallows, both oriole species, open country birds, and nesting species in a nice mixture of bird friendly plantings and open fields. Next, we will head toward Silver Lake with stops along the way at wooded and marshy habitats to look for nesting Veery, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warblers, hopefully, a Louisiana Waterthrush, and, if lucky, a Virginia Rail. We will end the trip at Silver Lake to look for ducks and gulls and to observe a colony of Purple Martins. Easy walking, but will cover a mile or two; wear sturdy shoes. The trip will last at least until noon; bring snacks or lunch, or eat at the Charcoal Corral (a local favorite). A bathroom is available at the home of the leader. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at 6340 LaGrange Road, Wyoming, NY 14591.

**Leaders:** Hans Kunze 585-813-2676 and Rick Stevens 585-689-1882





# FIELD TRIPS

**JUNE 14**  
Saturday

## BERGEN SWAMP

A trip to this unique place is by special permit from the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and will feature nesting birds. The mix of vegetation zones provides secluded nesting habitat for the usual western N.Y. species as well as those more characteristic of the Canadian zone such as Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Ovenbird, and other warblers. This is a walking trip of 3 miles on possibly wet and slippery corduroy trails that must be followed closely for safety reasons and because of the fragile habitat. Sturdy boots (rather than sneakers) are strongly recommended, and hiking or ski poles may be useful. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the main trailhead entrance to Bergen Swamp: 6646 Hessenthaler Rd, Byron, NY 14422. From Rochester, take I-490 west to Exit 2. Take Rt. 33 west and turn right (north) onto Route 19. Turn left at the fire station onto Hunter Road; it becomes Swamp Road. Follow Swamp Road west past Pocock Road and turn right onto Hessenthaler Road. The swamp entrance is at the kiosk on the right. Park along the right shoulder, but do not park in front of the caretaker's house.

**Leaders:** Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147

**JUNE 29**  
Sunday

## BARNHART'S CAMP AND KEENEY SWAMP

Beginning with Keeney Swamp, we will spend the morning birding as we drive (and stop) along forest roads and ponds. As we make our way to Camp, we will stop to look for the Prairie Warbler. After lunch, we will make our way back towards Nunda, driving back roads to cover the diverse landscapes of northern Allegany County. Grassland, woodland, pond and swampland species such as Mourning and Hooded Warblers, Eastern Bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, and maybe a bittern could be seen. This trip has very little walking and generally goes all day so we can see as much as possible! Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Shop-n-Save on Rt. 408, (Mt. Morris-Nunda Rd), Nunda, NY. No restrooms until Barnhart's Camp. Spotting scopes and FRS Radios would be useful. Lunch at Barnhart's Camp is a trip tradition—they grill the hot dogs! Bring a dish to pass—your choice (but this is optional).

**Leaders:** Jerry and Carolyn Barnhart 585-385-4026 and co-leaders  
Rick Stevens 585-689-1882 and Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803

## WELCOME TO THE FLOCK

### Please welcome our new members:

Emily Daggar	David & Susan Murray
Joe & Lynn Ferry	Bek Orr
Cana Fuest	Brett Peters
Jenny Gibson	

### As of May 15, total 2025 membership is 365

Individual Members: 231  
Family Members: 95  
Supporters: 3

*Doug Rabjohns, RBA Membership Data*



*Wood Duck on Braddock Bay East Spit.  
Photo by Candy Giles.*

Sponsors: 3  
Corporate Sponsors: 1 (The Bird House)  
Complimentary Memberships: 32



## High Acres Nature Area April 19, 2025

It was a warm day at HANA and bird song filled the air. But, just at the start of sign-in, the skies began to leak and the wind strengthened. Participants and leaders began to re-evaluate clothing choices. Then we were off. Unfortunately, about 100 feet down the trail, an ominous roll of thunder sent us rushing back to the safety of our vehicles.

'Officially', the outing was canceled. A core group decided to wait out the quick moving storm. When the rain began to dissipate, the remaining group of 12 headed into the woods.

Trail conditions had worsened in the two days since scouting due to rain. We pushed through on the red trail to the Eastern Marshes. A nice variety of waterfowl wove in and out of the logs and cattails while Tree Swallows bubbled in flight and lit momentarily on snags.

Thanks to some much appreciated trail work, leaders had a great place to set up a spotting scope. We all enjoyed nice views of Northern Shovelers, Ring-necked Duck, Coot, American Widgeon, Blue-winged Teal and Hooded Merganser.

Arriving at the blue trail impoundment, 'calling' brought no Virginia Rail response. Too bad! As we moved on, a rail suddenly jumped the path and gave some quick good looks first in the air and then in the rushes. Just one of those unexpected fun birding moments.

Next up were the Vernal Pools. We really hadn't even gotten there yet when 2 Wilson's Snipe flushed in front of us at our approach. Several snipe could be heard tukking and winnowing from the depression. Above our heads, a Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawk shared space with a Bald Eagle.

Heading to the Quarry Pond, we were all mesmerized by a pair of Green Heron swaying in the willow tree tops. Here was actual hope that spring migration was happening! Once

again a snipe flushed and although not seen by all, a Palm Warbler gave it's signature tail bobbing low in a tree. More hope!

The Quarry Pond and its surrounding habitat gave up Green-winged Teal, Barn and Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Song and Field Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher and Eastern Bluebird. A pair of Kestrel seen from the parking area, put a nice finishing touch on 51 species observed.

The trails were in great shape (except for what the recent rains did). Earlier this spring, there were numerous trails that were almost impassible because of fallen trees. Our easy passage was because of Dominic Sherony. He has invested many hours personally grooming trails. When it is dire like it was this year, he alerts Waste Management (property owners) and reminds them of a commitment to give back to the area/community that they operate in. They did and we had a wonderful day despite the shaky start.

**Rosemary Reilly, Gayle Lazoration  
and Brian Rohrs**

## Braddock Bay Hotspots April 26, 2025

Despite overcast, breezy weather that threatened rain, 15 birders gathered to explore the Braddock Bay area. We gathered on the Hawk watch platform, hoping for a rare Lark Sparrow seen earlier that morning but unfortunately the bird did not appear again. After good looks at Brown Thrasher and an American Tree Sparrow among other birds we decided to move to the East Spit. There we had better luck including scope views of Red-throated Loon and Common Loon. Birds found on the Spit included; Palm, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, two Spotted Sandpipers, Hermit Thrush, Osprey, and Northern Harrier.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

**Neal Reilly and Bob Crandal**



## **Cobb's Hill Park—Washington Grove** **April 30, 2025**

While people were still arriving, the Cobb's Hill-Washington Grove trip got off to a good start with someone calling out that a Red-tailed Hawk was being chased by two crows, and then two newly arrived Brown Thrashers were spotted across the lawn by the bench! After that initial excitement, the 24 participants divided into two groups, each taking a different entrance trail. Temps were in the 40s, overcast, and no wind. The leaves had not yet fully emerged on most trees, which helped with scanning for birds. Brown-headed Cowbirds, Northern House Wrens, and American Robins were seen in the grassy area, Red-winged Blackbirds and a Carolina Wren were seen by the tanks, and a Hermit Thrush gave brief views to a few, but otherwise, things were pretty quiet in terms of migrants. The two groups met up at the Nunda entrance just as someone spotted a few flitting birds high in an oak--a Northern Parula and a beautiful Blackburnian Warbler!



*This Blackburnian Warbler was photographed by Dick Horsey on the Cobb's Hill trip.*

Then a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak showed well. The migrants had finally started to arrive! It was difficult to tear everyone away from that thrilling encounter, but the search was on for more. A Black-throated

Blue Warbler, Black-and-White Warblers, a Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Piliated Woodpecker, and early Chimney Swifts were other highlights. We finished with 52 species! Thanks to all who attended and contributed their good eyes and ears. The good camaraderie made for a fun trip!

***Jeanne and Tom Verhulst, Pat Martin, and Sue Robertson***

## **Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout** **May 3, 2025**

It was a rainy, chilly morning when the leaders were joined by two birders at Braddock Bay park. The Braddock Bay Raptor Research hawk watcher, Maili Waters and her visiting family joined us briefly.

Amazingly, the showers stopped and we started a slow loop around the edges of the park. A couple quick highlights in the woods included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Nashville Warbler, then 5 Eastern Meadowlarks moved around the nearby pasture. A very cooperative early Bobolink flew right up to the treetop in front of us, sang briefly and moved on.

We were able to show all the female Cooper's Hawk sitting on her nest in the heart of the woods. Then a pair of American Kestrels gave us some good views. Yay, a couple raptors!

Very good numbers of Yellow-rumped and Palm Warbler were all along the edges. Songs of Ruby-crowned Kinglet and distant Marsh Wren added to our list.

One adult Bald Eagle flew overhead and drew a couple wows despite having become so much more common.

The last leg along the hedgerow held many White-crowned Sparrows, all giving great views.

It was a short but sweet tour around the park but some new year birds and good company, as usual, made it a great morning.

***Neal Reilly and Mike Tetlow***



## Beechwood State Park

May 4, 2025

Despite overcast skies and a persistent drizzle, 11 birders turned out to visit Beechwood State Park. Beechwood is known for warblers in spring and so it proved on this trip. On the trail to the bluff the group encountered a large mixed group of warblers. Yellow-rumped and Palm were everywhere. Other species present included; Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Hooded, Northern Parula, and Black-and-white. Overlooking the small bay and marsh we had Solitary Sandpiper, a pair of Northern Pintails, and singing Marsh Wren. From the bluffs overlooking the lake we heard and had distant looks at Common Loon, and pleasant views of hundreds of swallows. Thanks to everyone who participated!

**Jim Wood and Neal Reilly**

## Ontario Pathways (Flint Creek Section)

May 6, 2025

I think of the Ontario Pathways trail as a really nice 'walk' to find birds. In the springtime, given some sunshine, it is also very beautiful. Nine of us set out from the Phelps trailhead. It was a little damp and gray for awhile and the birds were relatively quiet. We heard and saw the 'usuals', such as Cardinals, Gray Catbirds, White-throated Sparrow and Yellow Warblers. A Carolina Wren sighting revealed not one but four individuals. Two were obviously fuzzy fledglings, a family unit. Nice.

Going on this birding 'walk' takes us on a very level, comfortably wide path, out one mile and back one mile. Traditionally, we take one side trail up through a grassy power line greenway. It always seems to produce birds. And here the sun finally began to shine. We observed Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow Warblers. Right on cue, a couple of Red-breasted Grosbeak took center stage trying to outdo the beauty of Baltimore Orioles. The

birds had been waiting for that solar burst, just as we had.

Different years produce different birds. On this day, Flint Creek was high from recent rains. There wasn't much geography for the Spotted Sandpiper that we usually see. The rush and roar of fast moving water made it difficult to hear birds. No Eastern Phoebe calling at the bridge. Some birds, however, broke through the noise barrier like the Baltimore Orioles, American Redstart and Pileated Woodpecker.

With the sun fully out, and moving away from the water, birds began checking in with sight and sound. Warbling and Blue-headed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Great-crested Flycatcher, Purple Finch and an Eastern Towhee all wanted to be

Scarlet Tanager seen  
by Dick Horsey on the  
Ontario Pathways trail.



noticed. Additional Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (male and female) insisted we admire them.

To reiterate, different years/different birds. We had some 'fewer' birds but we also had some 'more' birds. That 'more' was a lot of fun. Fun, like Black-and-white, Nashville, Cape May, Wilson's, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided and both Black-throated Green and Blue Warblers, as well as, Blackburnian Warbler. Add a couple of Scarlet Tanagers and that's what I call a fun list and an a pleasurable memory.

In years past, we have had as few as six warblers. This outing produced fifteen! We never know what is in store as we head out on a trail for a field trip, but this tally of 57 birds makes me want to return!

***Lynn Bergemeyer and Rosemary Reilly***

## **Whiting Road Nature Preserve**

***May 7, 2025***

We packed up and headed out to Whiting Road even though it poured rain all night and was still raining. We really didn't expect anyone to arrive due to the weather. But much to our surprise, we had three brave birders who were willing to walk through mud and very small ponds throughout. So we all decided to give it a go.

We explored the Blue and Brown Trails, a shortened version of our trip. The highlights of the day were a Bobolink perched high in a dead tree, a Brown Thrasher, and an Osprey all in the big field. The rain finally stopped and then the bugs came out. Where were all the Warblers when you needed them!

We did, however, have a few Yellow Warblers and a Nashville Warbler for the morning. Lots of Baltimore Orioles chattering away and several Eastern Towhees singing. Lots of Common Yellowthroats and a few House Wrens, too. A Broad-winged Hawk appeared at the end of our trip. A nice surprise.

Despite the rain, mud, and bugs we all enjoyed ourselves and ended up with 30 species.

***Candace Giles & Eunice Thein***

## **Rush Riverside Refuge**

***May 8, 2025***

Six intrepid birders started off the morning in light mist. In a mere 3 miles we visited horse fields, railway tracks, thicket, meadow, forest, recovering farmland and the Genesee River. Highlights of the 58 bird species found included at least 8 Scarlet Tanagers, with many birders able to see three in a single binocular field! Two male Magnolia Warblers were a treat in

the thicket followed by a plethora of birds in the woods, including Wood Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Chestnut-sided Warblers (5) and a vireo trifecta of Yellow-throated, Blue-headed and Warbling Vireos heard and seen. Grassland birds were plentiful in the farm fields, with the resident Red-tailed Hawk soaring overhead. The large area of Virginia Bluebells in full bloom was only surpassed by the pair of Orchard Orioles singing and flying in the glen above them. Special thanks to Sue Robertson for site mapping and Bill Haake who was great with his scope! While the eBird Hotspot name remains Rush Riverside Refuge, the entrance sign on East River Road now displays the corrected name for the area, "White Springs Farm", the original name given by the early Rush farmer. Access to the site from Rte 251 now has a parking lot (just east of the Genesee River) and is called "100 Acre Park".

***Ann McMican, Sue Robertson,  
and Nick Kachala***

## **Braddock Bay – Manitou Beach Preserve and West Spit**

***May 10, 2025***

Thanks to Bob Crandall for stepping up as a co leader with Amy Kahn on short notice. We had a lovely group of 19, a combination of new members and experienced folks including many for whom this was a new place to bird on a chilly, but sunny morning. The trails at Manitou Beach Preserve were very muddy and people were great helping each other through the worst. We skipped several trails all together due to mud and downed trees. We then moved over to the West Spit where we had most of the same birds and many more. We had a total of 9 warbler species for the day as well as 48 additional species. Some highlights beyond the warblers were at least 600 Blue Jays, wonderful views of an Eastern Kingbird catching insects, and the possibility of nesting Eastern Bluebirds.

***Amy Kahn and Bob Crandall***





## Oatka Creek Park

May 13, 2025

Ignoring an uncertain forecast, 13 birders, including a serendipitous visitor from Chicago came together for a morning trip to this beautiful county park. The temperature had warmed from recent cool weather and despite the lack of much sunshine, it turned out to be a wonderful morning. American Redstarts seemed to be everywhere singing their somewhat varied songs. Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles and Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks were also plentiful and gave us some beautiful views. The highlight of the trip came in the area of the concrete bridge over the creek. A Northern Waterthrush could be heard singing from across the water as we approached the bridge but remained stealthily concealed. Persistent searching finally found the bird near the water's edge in tall grass and downed tree limbs. He cooperated long enough for all to get good looks through a scope. We also had a pair of Common Mergansers fly by heading downstream and a pair of Hooded Mergansers heading upstream. Cedar Waxwings foraged in an apple tree along the creek and occasionally made forays out over the water to catch insects. We watched as a female Baltimore Oriole worked industriously on her nest overhanging the trail on the south side of the bridge. By the end of the trip, we had seen or heard 17 species of warblers and had a total of 74 species. Thanks to all who participated.

**Nick Kachala and Bill Haake**

## Thousand Acre Swamp

May 15, 2025

For whatever reason, there was a smaller than usual turnout for this annual field trip that Richard Ashworth and I have been leading for about 30. years. There were seven of us, including the leaders. Those who did come along enjoyed very pleasant weather, an abundance of birds, and good company.



It was overcast with the temperature in the 65°-75° range and light winds. Due to dense foliage, we had to rely a lot on hearing. After birding for about 4 hours and walking 2.7 miles, we ended up with 47 species, which is better than average for this trip. The highlight was 12 warbler species, including 3 that breed at the swamp: American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat. We also heard Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush which are possible breeders. The entire checklist can be viewed at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S238180706>.

**Jay Greenberg and Richard Ashworth**

## Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

May 17, 2025

Eight participants joined us for our trip to Oak Orchard WMA, Iroquois NWR and Tonawanda WMA reserves in western New York.

The first stop was the Goose Pond overlook to the Upper Stafford Marsh. We looked across the field and found a few Bobolinks flying in and out of the tall grasses. The martin houses were busy with dozens of Purple Martins, while Tree Swallows swooped in from above. In the pond we had our first Great Egret and Great Blue Heron. Through the scope we saw a busy Pied-billed Grebe that would occasionally break the water's surface.

We then traveled to the Swallow Hollow Trail. We took a long stroll around the loop, finding some 45 species along the way. Some of the non-warbler highlight species were: Willow Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, and

Eastern Phoebe. Also, four woodpecker species: Red-bellied, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were seen. The interesting one was the sapsucker, because it had a persistent Ruby-throated Hummingbird following it from tree to tree. Speculation was that it was either 'drinking' the sap left over by the sapsucker or looking for bugs at the sap. Three Wood Ducks were seen flying through the woods. For warblers, we had plenty of American Redstarts, and three Hooded Warblers. We also heard a couple of Ovenbirds and Northern Waterthrushes.

Next, we stopped at Kumpf Marsh where we found several waterfowl: Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, American Wigeon, and Northern Pintail; shorebirds: Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, and Least Sandpiper; also seen was a flock of Caspian Terns and a few Great Egrets.

The Cayuga Overlook added Redheads, Blue-winged Teals, and Ruddy Ducks to the waterfowl list. Also found were several Black Terns flying around the water's edge (an Iroquois NWR trip specialty).

The final stop was at the Tonawanda WMA Meadville Marsh. Several species of birds were found along the trail including a Marsh Wren. The target bird, Prothonotary Warbler, was quickly located and the remaining participants all clearly heard the distinct call and most got at least a glimpse of the bird, (also an Iroquois NWR trip specialty). The third Iroquois NWR trip specialty, Cerulean Warbler, was not heard nor seen this year.

In all, 73 species were recorded for the trip.

***Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash***

### **Taylor Road Headwaters of Irondequoit Creek May 20, 2025**

The brilliant sun helped to keep chilly temperatures at bay as six of us gathered in



*Blue-winged Warbler  
seen on the Taylor Road  
trip by Jeanne Verhulst.*

the driveway of our hosts, Linda and Charlie Kenyon, on Taylor Road in Honeoye, NY. Their lovely property is made up of fields, woods, and hedgerows with Irondequoit Creek running along the lower edge. We were greeted by Northern Cardinals, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and American Goldfinches. A Song Sparrow, a Red-bellied Woodpecker and the first of many Gray Catbirds were seen as we walked along the first hedgerow. A pair of Tree Swallows darted in and out of one of numerous boxes provided for Blue Birds. Common Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers gave good looks at the creek. Good views of a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a first for two in our group. A vocal Chestnut-sided Warbler was heard early on and finally gave excellent views in the woods, including an interesting display of frequent tail spreading while singing. A Magnolia and a Blackpoll Warbler was viewed briefly, but a heard close by Eastern Towhee refused to be seen. The absolute highlight and surprise of the trip was a very cooperative, visible to all, singing Blue-winged Warbler! We tallied 31 species for the morning. Thanks to all who joined in and a special thank you to Linda and Charlie who spend hours grooming the paths for our visit.

***Jeanne Verhulst and Linda Kenyon***



## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Oatka Fish and Game Club

May 21, 2025

A cloudy and unseasonably cool day with some light rain saw us once again enjoying the gracious hospitality of the private Oatka Fish and Game Club.



Just the entrance road and parking area alone yielded 28 species of birds, including Great Crested Flycatchers, Wood Thrushes, a flyover Bald Eagle, an Eastern Bluebird, singing Mourning Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, and a surprise Orchard Oriole, to our group of eight birders.

Moving to the well-maintained trail through the woods near the creek, we added Yellow-throated Vireos and a handsome male Hooded Warbler. And while successfully tracking down an Acadian Flycatcher (a lifer for some), we also discovered male and female Scarlet Tanagers. One of our main targets, Cerulean Warbler, was heard repeatedly, but we unfortunately never got one in our sights. As we returned to our vehicles, a Veery flew right over our heads and a very active pair of Pileated Woodpeckers ultimately revealed the location of their nest.

In the end, we tallied a total of 45 species, quite a respectable sum considering the less than ideal weather conditions.

**Tom and Jeanne Verhulst and Hans Kunze**

*Hooded Warbler at the Oatka Fish and Game Club. Photo by Jeanne Verhulst.*



## BUFFALO AUDUBON SPRING BIRDING CHALLENGE

APRIL 22 TO JUNE 21, 2025

Complete fun birding tasks! Earn a patch and a chance to win a pair of Vortex Binoculars.

TO REGISTER, GO TO: [BIRD-WNY.COM](http://BIRD-WNY.COM)

BUFFALO AUDUBON  
SOCIETY





# Monthly **ECO-CHALLENGE**

## OUR CHOICES

By Norma Platt

Are you feeling overwhelmed about the degradation of the environment and how it affects both birds and people—global warming, decreasing air and water quality, the changing policies of our governments?

It's staggering to think that our personal choices and behavior can affect our world. This is one way we can affect our world—our use of gasoline-powered vehicles.

Think of yourself as the figure in the diagram. The balloon represents how much carbon dioxide, a known greenhouse gas, you would generate in one week as an average resident of the USA. For reference, the EPA estimates that the national average is 27 mpg and that the average daily drive is 37 miles.

After some serious calculating, we find that the gaseous carbon dioxide generated for just one single driver would fill a balloon that is 15 feet in diameter. There are 242 million of us. It takes your breath away to think that every week our vehicles generate 415 BILLION cubic feet of CO<sub>2</sub>.

We on the RBA Conservation Committee believe that we have a say in our future! Please think and act to reduce the size of your personal balloon by

- Driving smarter and less
- Considering the mileage of your vehicle choice

We've also reduced the size of our balloon by telling you what we just told you! Spread the word and be a good example!



## WEEKLY CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS FROM DRIVING

### PER PERSON (USA AVERAGE)

METRIC	VALUE
Average daily driving distance	37 miles
Average weekly driving distance	259 miles
Average vehicle fuel efficiency	26.4 miles per gallon (MPG)
Gallons of gasoline used per week	9.81 gallons
CO <sub>2</sub> produced per gallon of gasoline	20 pounds
Total CO <sub>2</sub> produced per week (weight)	196.2 pounds
Volume of CO <sub>2</sub> produced per pound	8.74 cubic feet
Total volume of CO <sub>2</sub> per week (one driver)	1,714.8 cubic feet

### NATIONWIDE IMPACT (ALL U.S. DRIVERS)

METRIC	VALUE
Number of U.S. drivers	242 million
Total CO <sub>2</sub> volume per week (all drivers)	~415 billion cubic feet



# 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.

## ELLWANGER GARDEN OPEN DAYS

Visit a historic garden with native and ornamental plantings. Hosted by the Landmark Society of Western NY.

**625 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY**

May & June

(during Lilac Festival and Peony Weekend)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellwanger\\_Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellwanger_Garden)

## GARDEN SERIES: INVASIVE PLANTS

Learn about invasive plant species in New York gardens, control methods, and native plant alternatives.

**Abundance Co-op**

Thursday, June 5, 2025 | 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

[swpc.org](https://swpc.org)

# RBA Annual Picnic

*Join us at*



**Thursday, June 12, 2025 – Rain or Shine!**

301 Railroad Mills Road

Pittsford, NY 14534

Picnic and an after dinner bird walk  
for those interested.

We gather at 5:30, hot dogs ready  
by 6:00. Bring your own beverages,  
utensils and a dish to pass!

Please RSVP for a head count and/or to  
volunteer for setup/cleanup & grillmasters!

**Email Niki:** [jacksons.mama@hotmail.com](mailto:jacksons.mama@hotmail.com)  
or text 585 317-3751

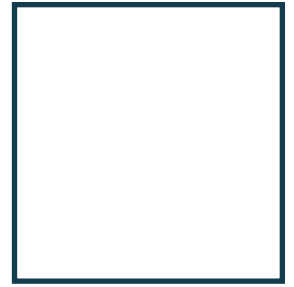
Eastern Bluebird  
by Richard Ashworth





## Rochester Birding Association

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