



Rochester Birding Association

2023 Field Trips

(As of August 3, 2023—Fall updates)

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!

- Jan 1**
Sunday
Irondequoit Bay Outlet and Durand-Eastman Park – Year List Jump-Start
Get started on your annual list! We'll look for winter waterfowl on the Bay, then move to Durand-Eastman Park where we will stroll Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road looking for finches, waxwings, and resident birds. This trip is mostly on paved roads. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the large parking lot next to the Outlet bridge on the west side of Irondequoit Bay Outlet (Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park). **Dress warmly! Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leaders: *Norma Platt and John Boettcher 585-671-9639*
- Jan 7**
Saturday
Webster Park – Campground Area
In mature forest and scrubby areas we'll look for overwintering resident birds, lingering migrants such as Hermit Thrush and special winter visitors such as Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged and Red Crossbills and Bohemian Waxwings. This is a mostly level walk, partly on dirt road, partly on wooded dirt trail that can be uneven in places. Wear boots with good traction and dress warmly as we may be outside for 2-3 hours, although you are free to leave at any time. Trip length will depend upon trail and weather conditions. No rest rooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on the south side of Lake Road across from Kanatota Lodge.
Leaders: *Pat Martin 585-301-5485 and Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*
- January 14–22 (with Sunday, January 15, 2023 as the target date)** is the time for the **New York State Waterfowl Count** organized by the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. *Bob Spahn* (585-671-5690) coordinates several local teams and would be pleased if other birders would join up. Go to <https://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm> for more information.
- Jan 14**
Saturday
Beginner Birder Trip – Mendon Ponds Park Songbird Trail
This trip will be a leisurely winter walk along rolling trails (approx. 1-1/2 miles) featuring some very close looks at our winter passerines! Bring your binoculars, some sunflower seeds, and your camera! This is a family-friendly field trip. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the visitor center on Pond Road near Clover Street. Restroom is available at the visitor center.
Leader: *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*
- Jan 21**
Saturday
Avon and Lima Rural Tour
We'll search the Nations Road area, looking for Northern Shrikes, hawks, Snow Buntings, and other birds of the fields and farmland in winter. We'll be mostly driving, with frequent stops along the road. Please carpool, if possible! Meet at **2:00 p.m.** at Tops Plaza (restroom) in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, two miles west of I-390. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leaders: *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and Rick Stevens 585-425-7849*
- Jan 29**
Sunday
Lakeshore Plains West
A driving tour of the farm fields and open lands to the west of Rochester, this trip will search for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Northern Shrikes, falcons (possible Merlin or Peregrine) and hawks (hoping for Rough Legged and Northern Harriers) in western Monroe and possibly into Orleans County. **Dress warmly** in layers; bring snacks (lunch if you wish to continue on into the early afternoon with us) and a thermos filled with a warm beverage. We will drive along backcountry roads for a few hours, stopping where we see bird activity. No restrooms available until we reach Hamlin Beach SP. 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. Plan on coordinating carpooling, if possible, as this is a driving tour. Fewer

cars are better as we pull over on roads potentially with snowbanks. **Bring your own FRS radios and spotting scopes, if you have them.**

Leader: Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Robert Buckert 585-269-4206

Feb 12
Sunday
Winter Waterfowl and Other Possibilities
Starting at Irondequoit Bay Outlet, we will look for beautiful Long-tailed Ducks, mergansers, scaup and other ducks. We will also concentrate on locating wintering gulls like the occasional Lesser Black Backed, Iceland and Glaucous gulls. We will then drive over to Summerville and Charlotte to see what might be in the Genesee River. If redpolls or winter finches are being seen, we will stop at Durand-Eastman Park along the way. Flat walking on pavement. Restrooms are available in the Charlotte area. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** in the large parking lot next to the Outlet bridge on the west side of Irondequoit Bay Outlet (Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park). **Dress for the weather. Spotting scopes would be useful.**
Leader: Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Robert Buckert 585-269-4206

Mar 11
Saturday
Lake Shore Marshes East Wildlife Management Area
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 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

Mar 18
Saturday
Hamlin Beach State Park
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 at the Braddock Bay 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 Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422

Mar 25
Saturday
Beginner Birder Trip – Owl Woods and Hawk Watch Site
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 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 and Daena Ford

[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 8
Saturday
Woodcock Courtship Flight at Owl Woods
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

- Apr 15**
Saturday
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 field trip we expect to see at least 40 species returning to nest or on their way to northern nesting grounds. Our approximately 2-mile walk over mostly flat trails will explore about 250 acres at HANA and include some wet spots requiring at least ankle-high waterproof shoes or boots. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the parking lot on Perinton Parkway approximately 1/4 mile east of the Waste Management offices.
Leader: *Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leaders Brian Rohrs and Gayle Lazoration 585-281-9534*
- Apr 19**
Wednesday
Highland Park
We'll be looking for spring migrants while enjoying lovely flora. This walk would be gorgeous even without the birds, but it does have birds in abundance! Find out where people have spotted the rarities that pop up in this urban treasure. Dress for the weather. Paved walkways, gentle hills. Walking in grass a possibility, if you chose to. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** on Reservoir Avenue in front of the Conservatory building.
Leader: *Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leader Amy Kahn 585-310-2330*
- April 28-30**
Bird of Prey Days at Braddock Bay Park
- Apr 29**
Saturday
Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout
This trip is for the spring hawk flight and migrating songbirds. We will be working to identify distant raptors and meet some great new people, too! This requires a short walk across grass to the viewing platform. Port-a-John may be available. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot. Use the East Manitou Road exit from the Ontario State Parkway. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leader: *Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838 and Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*
- April 30**
Sunday
Four Mile Creek Preserve, Webster
We will look for spring migrants along the approximately 2 to 3 miles of gently rolling hiking trails. The trails will most likely be muddy, so appropriate footwear is recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the preserve parking lot at the SE corner of Lake Road and Phillips Road in Webster.
Leader: *Christina Hoh 973-224-7009 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*
- May 2**
Tuesday
Beechwood State Park and Olga Fleisher Wildlife Preserve
Beechwood State Park is on the shoreline of Lake Ontario in Wayne County and should attract warblers, vireos, thrushes and other migrants. The Beechwood trip will involve about two miles of walking over mostly level ground (Port-a-john available) and will last until about noon. Bring lunch if you plan to attend the second part of the trip to the Olga Fleisher Preserve (known locally as Huckleberry Swamp), a bottomland forest and wetland. Huckleberry has a boardwalk except for a short dirt road back to the parking area. (No restroom.) Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at Webster Park, corner of Lake and Holt Roads, or at **7:30 a.m.** at B. Forman Park, 4507 Lake Road, Pultneyville, 14538 (Port-a-john). We will continue to Beechwood from there. If meeting at Beechwood, meet at the main parking area off Lake Road, (**not** at the stream area parking) at about **8:00 a.m.**
Leader: *Jim Wood 585-967-8687 and co-leader Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- Wednesday Evening Warblers is BACK!**
Evenings can be a great time to bird, and the trees surrounding the Lakeview Community Church parking lot in Greece can hold a surprising number of warblers in Spring. Join us for some casual birding on Wednesday evenings. We might also check out Church Woods Trail or go across the street to Firehouse Woods. Rain or shine. Bring binoculars. The trails are flat, but can be muddy. Dress for the weather and bring bug spray. No restrooms. Meet at **6:30 p.m.** each Wednesday, May 3, 10, 17, 14, 31, through June 7, Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14612.
Leader: *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Lisa Talpey, and others TBD.*
- May 3**
Wednesday
Cobbs Hill Park
With spring in full swing, come to one of Rochester's best-kept birding secrets: Cobbs Hill Park's Washington Grove. Colorful warblers and other spring migrants arrive *en masse* at this urban oasis of tall stately trees. Pat will demonstrate birding by ear as we search for Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green, Nashville, and Black-and-white Warblers among others. We will likely hear the flute-like Wood Thrush and see Hermit Thrushes searching the ground for food. Sparrows, orioles, and perhaps a Scarlet Tanager will make an appearance. Washington Grove can be one of the best spring birding spots in the area. The entrances into the grove have two short steep trails, the main trails are gentle hills. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** opposite the reservoir in the grassy area

between the road and the woods; use the entrance off Highland Avenue, just east of Monroe Avenue (NOT the Nunda Street entrance).

Leaders: *Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803, Sue Robertson 585-427-2535 and Pat Martin 585-301-5485*

May 6
Saturday

***Beginner Birder Trip* – Lakeshore Warbler Hotspots**

The shoreline of Lake Ontario is a haven for migrating warblers and other passerines. We will stop at several areas where these birds tend to congregate in spring. Learn the basics of identifying our most colorful migrants on this trip. We'll be looking for color patterns, song, and the distinctive behaviors to enhance identification skills with these fast-moving beauties. Though flat, trails may be very muddy. **Waterproof boots are strongly recommended!** Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. No restrooms available. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the parking lot behind Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road in Greece (near Edgemere Drive).

Leaders: *John Boettcher 585-671-9639, Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553, Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422*

May 6
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. 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 meadowlarks. It has a checklist of well over 100 species, and we usually rack up 40-50 in just a couple of hours. This is mostly a flat trail, which can be muddy, but has one small stream with steep banks 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 15 A 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*

May 7
Sunday

*****CANCELLED** Amy's Pond and Woodsmith – (Joint trip with Genesee Land Trust)***

This is a field trip to the private property of Janet Smith for spring migrants, early nesters and waterfowl. Two adjacent easements make up 187 acres that include two large ponds, mature woodland, and open fields all within 0.5 mile of Lake Ontario. Past trips have yielded eagles, bitterns, herons, many warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, etc. We'll walk along uneven trails, so bring a walking stick if needed, and prepare for a medium-long hike in an outstanding sanctuary open only by special arrangement -- many thanks to Genesee Land Trust! No restrooms available. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at Webster Park on the west corner of Holt and Lake Roads, or at Amy's Pond at **7:30 a.m.** 484 Lake Road, Ontario, NY about 1 mi east of County Line Road, turn down the long gravel driveway (on the south side of Lake Road) until you reach the marked parking area.

Leaders: *Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975 and co-leader Kevin Farrell 585-748-6919*

May 9
Tuesday

Ontario Pathways (Flint Creek section)

We'll look for warblers and other spring migrants along this level, rails-to-trails, pathway in Ontario County. This well-maintained trail is an established favorite for wildlife viewing and scenic views. Wear comfortable walking shoes. At times, the weather can be fickle, but we've seen better warblers in the snow on this trip than many trips get on sunny days. Dress accordingly! This is a level grade, easy to walk, linear trail, 1.6 miles in and 1.6 miles back out. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the trailhead. It is on the south side of Rt. 96 just east of the Rt. 488 intersection. For anyone who wishes to use a bathroom before heading out on the trail, there is a Byrne Dairy on the corner of Rts. 96 & 488.

Leaders: *Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

May 11
Thursday

Rush Riverside Refuge (in association with Rush Recreation and Parks Association)

The town of Rush has recently acquired a new patch of land containing old-growth woods, farm fields in various stages of succession, and a mile of Genesee River frontage. Join us as we explore this "new" birding spot. Trails may be wet and muddy, so waterproof shoes/boots are recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Monroe County Fair Site, 6565 East River Rd, Rush, NY. Park and meet in front of the large barn straight in and just to the left of the entrance road.

Leader: *Ann McMican 585-533-1222 and co-leaders Sue Robertson 585-427-2535, Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*

- May 13**
Saturday
- Powder Mills Park and BANC Sanctuary (Joint trip with Burroughs Audubon Nature Club)**
Powder Mills Park is a mature woodland and wetland park that can be productive for many late-migrating or nesting species. In recent years, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-tailed Hawks, American Woodcocks and Blue-winged Warblers have all nested there. The trip will continue with a visit to the BANC Sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road, where we'll walk the trails around the woodland, wetland, and creek habitats. Nesting species there include Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, Eastern Phoebes, and adjacent tree lines have produced a variety of migrating warblers. Both locations are mostly flat trails; waterproof footwear is advised. Please note that no restroom facilities will be available at the Sanctuary. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the Powder Mills Park Fish Hatchery parking lot on Park Road.
Leader: *Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- May 14**
Sunday
- Manitou Beach Preserve**
Our trip to this lakeside treasure should rack up good numbers of warblers, flycatchers, and other spring arrivals. Owned by the Genesee Land Trust, the Manitou Beach Preserve consists of 5 acres of flat, field, forest and hedgerow, shrub, and cattail wetlands extending into Braddock Bay. Wear waterproof, sturdy shoes and don't forget the bug spray! No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the Owl Woods parking lot on Manitou Beach Road (Route 261) at the Lake Ontario State Parkway. We will shuttle to the preserve, as parking space is limited.
Leader: *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Christina Hoh 973-224-7009*
- May 16**
Tuesday
- Oatka Creek Park**
Woods and meadow provide great habitat for nesting species such as Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Blue-winged Warbler and Field Sparrow. This will cover about 3 miles of mostly flat trails. Port-a-john available at trailhead. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the park entrance at the intersection of Quaker Road and Union Street in Garbutt. Take Route 383 (Scottsville–Mumford Road) west 1.5 to 2 miles from its intersection with Route 386 in Scottsville and turn south on Union Street for about 0.5 miles.
Leader: *Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- May 18**
Thursday
- Thousand Acre Swamp**
Thousand Acre Swamp is a preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy of Western New York. It has a bird checklist of 120 species. This level 2.5-mile walk on uneven, sometimes muddy trails, goes through varied habitats, resulting in a variety of breeding bird species and migrants. The habitats include swampy woods, drier woods, a marshy area, meadows, and a pond. Shorter routes are possible. The entrance and parking lot are on the west side of Jackson Road opposite Penfield Center Road in Penfield. Boots and mosquito repellent are recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking lot. For more information, including photos, go to <https://thegreenjay.jalbum.net/Thousand%20Acre%20Swamp/>
Leaders: *Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485 and Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189*
- May 20**
Saturday
- Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge**
We will search for Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Cerulean Warblers, and other birds at this local natural treasure. This trip is a combination of driving and walking and includes a boardwalk, forest trail, and dirt road. Mostly flat but uneven trails. Length about 3.5 miles total; walking. Port-a-john available about midway through trip. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at the Brockport Wegmans' parking lot (restrooms available). For those traveling from the west: meet at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY at **7:30 a.m.** It is advisable to bring water and snacks or a picnic lunch since there may be no local resources and the trip may last into the afternoon.
Spotting scopes would be very useful.
Leaders: *Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski 585-261-6975 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*
- May 21**
Sunday
- Norway Road**
This unassuming trip usually racks up a long bird list. From nesting Cerulean Warblers to Purple Martins along the lake. This trip showcases roadside birding in spectacular fashion! There are no long walks, no rough terrain as we walk along a paved country road making multiple stops to bird along Norway Road. No restrooms except at Wegmans. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** toward the upper end of Wegmans' parking lot in Ridgemont Plaza off Route 104 in Greece (opposite Heritage Drive).
Leader: *Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*

- May 21**
Sunday
- Wyoming County Fields and Forest—New Compehner Farm**
This is a great opportunity to explore an upland region of northeastern Wyoming County including New Compehner Farm (6340 LaGrange Road Wyoming, NY 14591). We will look for migrating and resident warblers, a variety of native sparrows, hopefully returning cliff swallows, both oriole species and open country birds, in a nice mixture of open fields and wooded habitats and bird friendly plantings. We will focus on locating several nesting species. This trip has a little of everything on a beautiful farm. Easy walking, but will cover a mile or two; wear sturdy shoes. The trip will last until noon. Use a restroom *en route*, if possible, otherwise 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*
- May 23**
Tuesday
- Taylor Road – Headwaters of Irondequoit Creek**
We will walk the woods and mowed grassy trails of the 65-acre property of RBA member Linda Roca. Hedgerows, fields, Irondequoit Creek, brushy habitat, and woods should be productive for thrushes, late warblers, and woodpeckers among others. No restroom available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at 66 Taylor Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. Park in the wide driveway or on Taylor Road.
Leader: *Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leader Linda Roca 585-624-2697*
- May 27**
Saturday
- Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail)**
The Brickyard Trail is a wide, flat, fine gravel, multi-use trail situated between Westfall Road and Elmwood Avenue in Brighton (across from the east end of Buckland Park). It contains woods at both ends and ponds and marsh in the middle, providing good bird habitat. We will walk the full length of the trail and back (1.7 miles) to look for Song Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed Vireo, and others. Green Herons and woodpeckers nest here. Dress for the weather. Insect repellent may be needed for the wooded sections. No restrooms. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at 1341 Westfall Road, the Buckland Park Headquarters (Buckland House), (about ¼ mi. east of the Buckland Park main entrance). RTS “South Clinton” bus stop is a few yards from trailhead on Westfall Rd. Wheelchair friendly—please call leaders for accessibility questions.
Leaders: *Jeanne and Tom Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- May 27**
Saturday
- Ganondagan State Historic Site, a Field Trip for Young Birders**
This trip is open to young birders ages 8 to 18 accompanied by a parent. This trip has generated large species lists due to the many habitat types we will travel through. We will start from the parking lot to the longhouse and walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through the Meadowlark field and then head down through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and includes some hills. After we reach the overlook, those who wish can continue for another 2 miles on the narrower Seneca Trail through field and woods, across County Route 41, and along a wooded stream valley to the Bobolink field. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip. Meet at **10:00 a.m.** in the main parking lot off County Road 41 Boughton Hill Road. The parking lot is situated below the new museum at 7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564. (From Route 444 from Victor, turn right onto Boughton Hill Road and go down the hill. The main parking lot will be on your right at the bottom of the hill.)
Leader: *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*
- June and July: Many Birds Are on Nests – Consider Helping with the Breeding Bird Atlas!**
- June 3**
Saturday
- Ganondagan State Historic Site**
This trip has generated large species lists due to the many habitat types we will travel through. We will start from the parking lot to the longhouse and walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through the Meadowlark field and then head down through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and includes some hills. After we reach the overlook, those who wish can continue for another 2 miles on the narrower Seneca Trail through field and woods, across County Route 41, and along a wooded stream valley to the Bobolink field. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the main parking lot off County Road 41 Boughton Hill Road. The parking lot is situated below the new museum at 7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564. (From Route 444 from Victor, turn right onto Boughton Hill Road and go down the hill. The main parking lot will be on your right at the bottom of the hill.)
Leaders: *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*

- June 4**
Sunday
Letchworth 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 Park)). Pack a lunch and snacks, as the trip will likely last well into mid-afternoon. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leader: *Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*
- June 17**
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, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Canada and Nashville Warblers. This is a walking trip of 3 miles on variably 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.
Leader: *Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*
- June 18**
Sunday
Odonata Sanctuary
The 100 acre privately owned Odonata Sanctuary, 20 Parrish Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472, is the former home of Joseph W. Taylor, who was a founder of the American Birding Association and president of Hawk Mountain Association. The sanctuary participates in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) that provides nesting acreage for grassland nesting birds such as Eastern Meadowlarks, and Bobolinks. The sanctuary is an access point for the observation of migrating birds and monarch butterflies and is also home to one of the largest Eastern Bluebird nest box trails in the USA. The trails pass over streams, around a pond and through woodlands. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the sanctuary. Enter the sanctuary at 20 Parrish Road and drive up the long, one-lane driveway.
Leaders: *Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski 585-261-6975 and co-leader Steve Melcher 585-746-8078.*
- June 25**
Sunday
Barnhart's Camp and Keeney Swamp
We will be birding as we drive (and stop) throughout the diverse landscapes of Northern Allegany County, 20 minutes south of Letchworth State Park. Grassland, woodland, pond and swampland species such as Prairie and Mourning Warblers, Eastern Bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, and maybe a bittern should be seen. This trip generally goes all day so we can see as much as possible! Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Shop N' Save in Nunda on Route 408 where restrooms are available. **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 Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- July 29**
Saturday
Conesus Inlet State Wildlife Management Area
Explore this expansive wetland for Virginia Rails and Wood Duck families. We've seen eagles on a reliable basis, Cliff Swallows and more. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on dirt trails and dikes. Length about 1.5 miles of walking. Restrooms are available at the meeting place only. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville. The Park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of Route 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware. There's a possibility of a trip extension to the Geneseo Airport area. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leader: *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leader Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*

August and September is a great time of year to watch for migrating shorebirds wherever mudflats occur. A good place to look for shorebirds is at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. For the last few years the staff there has advertised open dike walks at Tschache Pool, Knox-Marsellus or Puddler Marshes. This year, the walks will start at Tschache Pool tower (off Rt. 89, north of the I-90 overpass) at 7:00 a.m. on Saturdays in August and September 2. Reuben Stoltzfus will lead the first two in August. Call 315 568 5987 ext. 4228 for information. To sign up go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montezumas-guided-shorebird-walk-tickets-694164985157?aff=oddtcreator>

- Aug 6**
Sunday
Beginner Birder Trip – Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
Learn more about the fall migration of shorebirds in this nearby birding treasure. We'll visit key spots you'll want to revisit again and again! There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Restrooms are available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **1:00 p.m.** in the Bushnell's Basin Park and Ride lot. The lot is off Route 96 just south of Exit 27 from I-490. Alternatively, meet up with the group at the first stop, the Montezuma Visitor Center at **2:00 p.m.** **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.**
Leader: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975
- Aug 19**
Saturday
Braddock Bay East Spit, a Field Trip for Young Birders
This trip is open to young birders ages 8 to 18 accompanied by a parent. The East Spit of Braddock Bay is a well-known spot for migrating shorebirds in late summer. Herons, eagles, Osprey and early warbler migrants are also possible. The trail is a woodland path between Lake Ontario and the Braddock Bay Marshes. We will walk out to the end of the spit and back, about 1 mile. The trail is muddy, narrow and has uneven, rocky footing in places. Sturdy waterproof shoes or boots and bug spray will be needed. Crossing the channel to the barrier island will be completely optional and dependent on water levels. Restrooms are usually available next to the Marina building. Meet at **10:00 a.m.** in the East Spit parking lot beyond Westport Marina at Braddock Bay. **Note: You must drive through the Marina to reach the East Spit parking lot. Spotting Scopes will be provided by the leaders.**
Leader: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975
- Aug 20**
Sunday
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Expect to see herons, eagles and possibly falcons. There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Restrooms are available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the Montezuma Visitor Center. Pack a lunch. **Bring your own FRS radios and spotting scopes, if you have them.**
Leaders: Dominic Sherony 585-298-4260 and Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838
- Aug 26**
Saturday
Braddock Bay East Spit
The East Spit of Braddock Bay is a well-known spot for migrating shorebirds in late summer. Herons, eagles, Osprey and early warbler migrants are also possible. The trail is a woodland path between Lake Ontario and the Braddock Bay Marshes. We will walk out to the end of the spit and back, about 1 mile. The trail is muddy, narrow and has uneven, rocky footing in places. Sturdy waterproof shoes or boots and bug spray will be needed. Crossing the channel to the barrier island will be completely optional and dependent on water levels. Restrooms are usually available next to the Marina building. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the East Spit parking lot beyond Westport Marina at Braddock Bay. **Note: You must drive through the Marina to reach the East Spit parking lot. Spotting Scopes would be very helpful.**
Leader: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975
- Sept 2**
Saturday
Beginner Birder Trip – Charlotte and Turning Point Park
We'll be looking for shorebirds, warblers, and other fall migrants along the river and lakeshore. At Charlotte Beach, we'll look for gulls in many plumages and some shorebirds, too. At Turning Point Park, we will look for local resident birds and fall migrants. Bring binoculars. The Charlotte Beach area is mostly flat and paved; one long, steep grade at Turning Point Park. Length about 2.0 miles total. Restrooms are available at Charlotte only. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Ontario Beach Park in Charlotte in the northeast corner of the parking lot, beside the Genesee River outlet. **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.**
Leader: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802
- Sept 9**
Saturday
Whiting Road Nature Preserve
This preserve includes about 240 acres of land that is made up of a variety of birding habitats. This results in decent birding lists throughout the year. The trails are well marked and maintained. However, they do get muddy at times, so appropriate footwear is recommended based on the weather leading up to the trip date. Most of the trails are flat, but there definitely will be a bit of up and down trail climbing in some sections. Our trek will take us on parts of the blue, brown, orange, and red trails. Moderate difficulty in a few spots, length about 2.5 miles. No restrooms. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on Whiting Road in Webster, 0.6 miles south of Lake Road.
Leaders: Candace Giles 585-281-1643 and Eunice Thein 585-746-2919 and co-leader Dick Horsey 585-435-2837
- Sept 10**
Sunday
Durand-Eastman Park
We'll be looking for thrushes and other migrants. Durand can be surprising this time of year. This will be an easy 2-3 hour walk mostly along paved roads, with a steady medium grade at one point. Length about 2.5 miles, total. Restroom

facilities are not available on this route, but are in other areas of the park. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in Parking Lot D on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd. between Zoo Road and Log Cabin Road.

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

Sept 13
Wednesday

Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail) (Note: meeting location changed)

The wide, flat, multi-use Brickyard Trail winds between Elmwood Avenue and Westfall Road in Brighton. With woods at both ends and ponds and marsh in the middle, it provides varied bird habitat. We will walk the full length of the trail and back (1.7 miles) to look for migrating fall warblers, kinglets, sparrows, wrens, and finches. There might even be a late Green Heron hanging around. Dress for the weather. Insect repellent may be needed for the wooded sections. No restrooms. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking area just inside the entrance to Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester. (Note: This is a different meeting location than in the Spring.) The trail entrance is nearby on Elmwood. Wheelchair friendly—please call leaders for accessibility questions.

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

Sept 16
Saturday

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Expect to see herons, eagles and possibly falcons. There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Restrooms are available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the Montezuma Visitor Center. Pack a lunch. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

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

Sept 23
Saturday

Ganondagan State Historic Site

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

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

Sept 24
Sunday

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

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

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

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

Oct 8
Sunday

Hamlin Beach State Park

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

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

Oct 14
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. We will drive on the banks of the ponds, getting out wherever the birds are congregating. Discover the great opportunity this spot (and its helpful staff) offers. Restrooms might be available at the plant offices. Meet at **9:00**

a.m. at the wastewater treatment plant headquarters at the end of Industrial Blvd. (17 Treadeasy Ave.), which is off Pearl Street (Route 33) at the western edge of the city of Batavia. If possible we will carpool from the plant offices.

Spotting scopes would be very useful.

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

- Oct 28**
Saturday
Durand-Eastman Park
Waxwings, winter finches, and lingering migrants are possible. We may visit Irondequoit Bay to look for waterfowl. Steady moderate grade at one point. Length about 2.5 miles, total. Restrooms may be available on this route. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** in Parking Lot D on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd. between Zoo Road and Log Cabin Road. Please dress for the weather.
Leaders: Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803
- Nov 26**
Sunday
Niagara River (Joint trip with the Buffalo Ornithological Society)
The Niagara River area is famous for the variety and number of gulls in winter. Join us on our birding venture along the Niagara River in both the US and Canada. We will start at Lake Ontario and work our way south to the Falls. Our focus will be on waterfowl and gulls, including Bonaparte's Gull and Little Gull, with possible late migrating Common Tern, with additional stops for Red-headed Woodpecker, Black Vulture and late migrating passerines. This is a joint trip with the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the large parking lot next to the swimming pool of Fort Niagara State Park Beach, 1 Scott Avenue, Rt. 18F, Youngstown, NY. Bring beverages and lunch for this is an all day trip. We will be crossing into Canada, carpooling would be very helpful. **Participants MUST bring passports or Enhanced Driver's licenses. Dress warmly and in layers. Spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**
Leaders: Tom O'Donnell of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) 716-284-5569
or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com and Neal Reilly 518-256-9147, co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621
- Dec 2**
Saturday
Conesus Lake Area
We'll be looking for Tundra Swans, Canvasback, Redhead and other waterfowl. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on mostly level dirt trails and dikes. Length is about 1.5 mile walking. Dress warmly and in layers. Restrooms are available at Vitale Park only. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville. The park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leader: Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leader Nick Kachala 585-750-5536
- Dec 10**
Sunday
Beginner Birder Trip – Nations Road (Note date change)
Sharpen your skills on wintering hawks and Short-eared Owls. Other wintering birds such as Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and Lapland Longspurs are often present. This trip is a combination of driving and viewing at stops along roads. Length about .5 mile walking along the road. Restroom facilities are not available except at Tops. Bring binoculars. Meet at **2:00 p.m.** at the Tops Plaza in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, 2 miles west of I-390. If possible, carpooling strongly advised. **Dress warmly and in layers. Spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very useful.**
Leader: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Judy Gurley 585-582-2349