



Rochester Birding Association

2026 Field Trips

(As of November 11, 2025)

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 Irondequoit Bay Outlet and Durand-Eastman Park – Year List Jump-Start

Thursday 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 **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 warmly! Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leaders: Norma Platt and John Boettcher 585-671-9639

Jan 3 Webster Park – Campground Area

Saturday 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 a 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 on trail and weather conditions. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** Enter the park at 999 Lake Road (not the parking lot nearby). Drive the park road about .6 miles, park in the pull-offs before the gate. Don't block the gate.
Leaders: Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leader Pat Martin 585-301-5485

January 17–25 (with Sunday, January 18, 2026 as the target date) is the time for the New York State Waterfowl Count organized by the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. Kim Hartquist (kahartquist@gmail.com) coordinates the several local teams and would be pleased if other birders would join up. For more information about the count, go to <https://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>.

Jan 10 Beginner Birder Trip – Mendon Ponds Park Songbird Trail

Saturday This trip will be a leisurely winter walk along rolling trails (approx. 1.5 miles) featuring some very close looks at our winter passerines! Bring your binoculars, some sunflower seeds, and your camera! This is a family-friendly field trip. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the visitor center on Pond Road near Clover Street. Restroom is available at the visitor center, and there is a port-a-john.
Leader: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Ann McMican 585-533-1222

Jan 18 Nations Road Area

Sunday We'll search the Nations Road area of Avon and southward toward Geneseo to Huston Road, looking for Northern Shrikes, hawks, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and other birds of the fields and farmland in winter. We'll be mostly driving, but will be getting out of the car at frequent stops along the road. Dress for the weather. Meet at **2:00 p.m.** at Tops Plaza (restroom) in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, two miles west of I-390. The roads in this area are narrow and busy. Please plan to carpool from Tops, as the number of cars allowed will be limited to ten. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leaders: Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leader Niki Banke 585-317-3751

Feb 8 Winter Waterfowl and Other Possibilities

Sunday

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. Walking is flat 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: Rick Stevens 585-689-1882 and co-leader Robin Morey 973-715-6049

Mar 14 Braddock Bay and Hamlin Beach State Park

Saturday

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

Leader: Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838 and co-leader Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422

Mar 21 Beginner Birder Trip – Owl Woods and Hawk Watch Site

Saturday

We'll look primarily for our smallest visiting owl, the Northern Saw-whet, which returns to this spot every year. Long-eared Owls generally put in an appearance, too, although they're quite shy and great at hiding. After the owl walk, we'll head to the Braddock Bay Park Hawk Watch site to learn how to identify raptors on the wing. At this time of year, we might witness flights of hundreds 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.

Leaders: Doug and Elizabeth Rabjohns 585-690-6296 and co-leader Bridget Watts 585-615-1545

[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. Visitors are welcome.

Apr 4 Woodcock Courtship Flight at Owl Woods

Saturday

This will be an evening trip for American 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 parking lot.

Leader: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Robert Crandall 585-278-3455

Apr 18 High Acres Nature Area

Saturday

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 two-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 22 Highland Park – A joint trip with the Highland Park Conservancy

Wednesday 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 and bring binoculars. We will be mostly walking on paved walkways with gentle hills; walking in grass is a possibility. Restrooms may be 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 24-26, 2026 Bird of Prey Days at Braddock Bay Park, Greece, New York

April 25 Braddock Bay Hotspots—Braddock Bay Park, East Spit, Burger Park, West Spit, Owl Woods

Saturday Locations to be determined based on where the birds are at the time. The trip will end at the Braddock Bay Park, where Bird of Prey Days will be in full swing. Carpooling is encouraged. Dress for the weather and muddy trails. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot.

Leader: *Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Robert Crandall 585-278-3455*

April 26 Four Mile Creek Preserve, Webster

Sunday 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.

Leaders: *Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

April 29 Cobb's Hill Park—Washington Grove

Wednesday With spring in full swing, come to one of Rochester's best-kept birding secrets: Cobb's Hill Park's Washington Grove. Colorful warblers and other spring migrants arrive *en masse* at this urban oasis of tall, stately trees. We will search for Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, 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. 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.** under the conifers opposite the reservoir at the flat section of Reservoir Road. Access to Reservoir Road is from Highland Avenue. Look for two stone pillars at the road entrance; the road goes up a hill. (DO NOT use the Nunda Blvd. entrance to Washington Grove).

Leaders: *Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803, Sue Robertson 585-427-2535 and Amy Kahn 585-310-2330*

Wednesday Evening Warblers!

This is your chance to follow the spring migration. Just come out on successive Wednesdays to the Lakeview Community Church parking lot in Greece. This is one of the prime birding spots in the area. Come directly from work. No special footwear needed. We will check out the parking lot, Church Woods Trail, and Firehouse Woods. Trails are flat but can be muddy. Dress for the weather and bring bug spray. No restrooms (port-a-john around the corner on Edgemere Dr.). Meet at **6:00 p.m.** each Wednesday, May 6, 13, 20, 27, at Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14612. **Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and/or others TBD*

May 2 Beginner Birder Trip – Lakeshore Warbler Hotspots

Saturday 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 their 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, Rochester, NY 14612 (near Edgemere Drive).

Leaders: *Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash 585-261-6975, Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Ann McMican 585-533-1222*

May 2 Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout

Saturday 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.**

Leaders: *Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838 and Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*

- May 2 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 round 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. 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
- May 3 Sunday 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 both boardwalk and flat forest trails. (No restroom.) Meet at **7:00 a.m.** in the Webster Park east parking lot (with Port-a-john and playground) on Holt Road, just before Lake Road, 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 coming from the east, meet at about **8:00 a.m.** at Beechwood's main parking area (Gates Road on Google maps) on the north side of Lake Road, near Maxwell Road, (**not** at the Salmon Creek area parking).
Leader: Jim Wood 585-967-8687 and co-leader Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803
- May 5 Tuesday Ontario Pathways (Flint Creek section)**
We'll look for warblers and other spring migrants along this 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; 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 needing a bathroom before heading out on the trail, there is a Byrne Dairy on the corner of Rts. 96 & 488.
Leader: Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leaders Doug and Elizabeth Rabjohns 585-690-6296
- May 6 Wednesday 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 co-leader Robin Morey 973-715-6049
- May 9 Saturday Manitou Beach Preserve**
Our trip to this lakeside treasure should rack up good numbers of warblers, flycatchers, and other spring arrivals. Owned by Genesee Land Trust, 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.** at the entrance to the Preserve. Exit the Ontario State Parkway at Manitou Beach Road (Route 261); turn north. Follow Manitou Beach Road until you see the Reserve sign on the right. Pull off the pavement and park along the road on either side.
Leader: Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Christina Hoh 973-224-7009

- May 10 Sunday Amy's Pond and Woodsmith – Joint Genesee Land Trust / RBA Trip**
This is a field trip to the private property of Amanda Smith-Hatch 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 miles 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.** in the Webster Park east parking lot (with Port-a-john and playground) on Holt Road, just before Lake Road, or at **7:30 a.m.** at the parking lot of Genesee Land Trust's Deer Creek Woods Preserve East, 600 Lake Road, Ontario, New York 14519 about a mile east of County Line Road.
Leaders: Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975 and co-leader Kevin Farrell 585-748-6919
- May 12 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 is available at the trailhead. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the park entrance at the intersection of Quaker Road and Union Street in Garbutt.
Leader: Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leader Bill Haake 585-755-8253
- May 14 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 15 Friday Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail)**
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 a nice variety of bird habitat. We will walk the full length of the trail and back (1.7 miles) to look for Song Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Red-eyed Vireo, and warblers. Green Herons, Gray Catbirds, Common Yellowthroat and woodpeckers nest here. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Insect repellent may be needed for the wooded sections. No restrooms. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking area near the entrance to Temple B'rith Kodesh (2131 Elmwood Ave.). The trail entrance is nearby. Wheelchair friendly—please call leaders for accessibility questions.
Leaders: Jeanne and Tom Verhulst 585-362-0803
- May 16 Saturday Rush Riverside Refuge/White Springs Farm**
The town of Rush acquired acreage containing old-growth woods, farm fields in various stages of succession, and a mile of Genesee River frontage. Join us as we explore this birding spot. Trails may be wet and muddy; waterproof shoes/boots are recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the White Springs Farm, 6565 East River Rd, Rush, New York (43.012578, -77.710672). From East River Road, turn into the tree-lined entrance road (no name on Google Maps), stay straight, park, and meet in front of the large barns.
Leader: Ann McMican 585-533-1222 and co-leaders Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and Sue Robertson 585-427-2535
- May 17 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 on Route 104 in Greece (opposite Heritage Dr.).
Leader: Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leader Luanne Pignataro 585-301-2695

May 20 Oatka Fish and Game Club

Wednesday The Genesee Conservation Foundation owns and conserves 500 acres of mature woodland forest along Oatka Creek and the escarpment tablelands above it. This provides an ideal habitat for migrating and nesting passerines. Thanks to the efforts of Jim Mott and Jim Miles, Cerulean Warblers were documented as nesting there in 2022, and they've been seen each year since. The Oatka Fish and Game Club, who manage the property, generously invited RBA to hold field trips. We will walk on the wide, undulating, forest trail above the creek and possibly up on the escarpment searching for remaining migrants and nesting birds including, Pileated Woodpeckers, Scarlet Tanagers, Acadian Flycatchers, Hooded and Mourning Warblers. Sturdy shoes are recommended. Dress for the weather and insects. A bathroom is available on site. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the clubhouse parking lot (end of Wilcox Road). 8237 Wilcox Road, LeRoy, NY 14482. **Note:** If high winds are predicted, the trip will be cancelled.

Leader: *Hans Kunze 585-813-2676 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803, Dave Adams and Mike McMullen, hosts, Oatka Fish and Game Club*

May 23 Powder Mills Park and BANC Sanctuary (a joint trip with Burroughs Audubon Nature Club)

Saturday 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, and Red-tailed Hawks have all nested there. We will spend time around the hatchery, then drive to and walk the Daffodil Meadow trail (less than 2 miles total). 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. Recent nesting species there include Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, Eastern Phoebe, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Adjacent tree lines have produced a variety of migrating warblers. Both locations are mostly flat trails; waterproof footwear is advised. 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, Pittsford, NY.

Leader: *Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189 and co-leader Derek Pulhamus 585-750-2265*

May 24 Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday 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. Length, about 3 miles total, on mostly flat trails. Port-a-john is available about midway through the trip. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY. Bring a lunch and beverages, as this trip may go into the late afternoon. **Spotting scopes would be useful.**

Leaders: *Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski 585-261-6975 and co-leader Niki Banke 585-317-3751*

May 30 Ganondagan State Historic Site

Saturday 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. Wear sturdy shoes. Restroom facilities are available at the Seneca Arts and Culture Center (SACC) at the end of the trip. Meet at **9:00 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 Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*

May 31 Wyoming County Fields and Forest -- New Compehner Farm

Sunday 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*

- June 6**
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 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.
Leader: Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147
- June 7**
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 the 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: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and Matt Nusstein 716-238-3274
- June 13**
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.
Leader: Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147
- June 21**
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 28**
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 Route 408 (Mt. Morris-Nunda Rd) Nunda, NY. Restroom at 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 Rick Stevens 585-689-1882 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803

- Aug 1**
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 is 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 useful.**
Leader: *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leaders Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and Andrew Consler 585-991-2154*
- August and September** is a great time of year to watch for migrating shorebirds wherever mudflats occur. If Lake Ontario is not too high, the East Spit (Braddock Bay) and LaSalle Landing (Irondequoit Bay) are good locations to spot them.
- August 29**
Saturday **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 the Montezuma Visitor Center at **1:00 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*
- Sept 5**
Saturday **Whiting Road Nature Preserve**
This preserve includes about 240 acres of land that is made up of a variety of bird habitats, resulting in decent bird lists throughout the year. The trails are well marked and maintained; however, they can 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 will be a bit of up and down in some sections. Our trek will take us mainly on the Blue and Black trails. Moderate difficulty in a few spots, length about 2.5 miles. No restrooms. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the Preserve parking lot on Whiting Road in Webster, 0.6 miles south of Lake Road.
Leaders: *Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leader AP Salverda 585-957-6064*
- Sept 6**
Sunday **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. The Charlotte Beach area is mostly flat and paved; there is one long, steep grade at Turning Point Park. Length is about 2 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**
Wednesday **Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail)**
The wide, flat, multi-use Brickyard Trail winds between Elmwood Avenue and Westfall Road in Brighton. With woods at both ends and ponds and marshes in the middle, it provides a nice variety of bird habitat. We will walk the full length of the trail and back (1.7 miles) to look for migrating fall warblers, sparrows, wrens, and finches. There might even be a Belted Kingfisher or Osprey hanging around. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Insect repellent may be needed for the wooded sections. No restrooms. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking area near the entrance to Temple B'rith Kodesh (2131 Elmwood Ave.); the trail entrance is nearby. Wheelchair friendly—please call leaders for accessibility questions.
Leaders: *Jeanne and Tom Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- Sept 12**
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 13**
Sunday
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 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 optional and dependent on water levels. Restrooms are 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 useful.**
Leaders: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and Pat Martin 585-301-5485
- Sept 19**
Saturday
Ganondagan State Historic Site
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 downhill 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
- Sept 20**
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 miles total, on mostly flat trails. Port-a-john is available about midway through the trip. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY. Bring a lunch and beverages as this trip may go into the later afternoon.
Spotting scopes would be very useful for some of the stops.
Leader: Rick Stevens 585-689-1882 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!**
- Oct 3**
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 downhill 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
- Oct 4**
Sunday
Durand-Eastman Park
Dark-eyed Juncos, woodpeckers, Hermit Thrushes 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 in sections. Length about 2.5 miles, total. Restrooms available. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in Parking Lot D on the right side of Lakeshore Blvd., opposite Log Cabin Road. Please dress for the weather.
Leader: Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leaders Doug and Elizabeth Rabjohns 585-690-6296
- Oct 11**
High Acres Nature Area Sunday 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 17**
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 onto 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.**
Leader: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Alan Bloom 585-752-1643
- Oct 24**
Saturday
Hamlin Beach State Park
We'll spend some time by the lake watch to view ducks on the water and in flight, learning about the lake watch process. We will also walk flat trails in the wooded and brushy areas of the park, looking for Winter Wrens, sparrows, and maybe a half-hardy warbler or two. 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 1, Hamlin Beach State Park. **Spotting scopes would be useful.**
Leaders: Roger Clark 505-231-7369 and Rick Stevens 585-689-1882
- Nov 29**
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 the US and possibly Canada--if rarities are being seen there. 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 at coordinates: [43.264037](#), [-79.056969](#). Bring beverages and lunch, as this is an all-day trip. Carpooling would be very helpful. If the trip moves into Canada, participants who wish to join, **must bring passports or Enhanced Driver's licenses.** Dress warmly and in layers. **Spotting scopes and FRS radios (walkie-talkies) would be very helpful.**
Leaders: Tom O'Donnell, Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) 716-622-5185 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com and Neal Reilly, RBA 518-256-9147
- Dec 5**
Saturday
Conesus Lake Area
We'll be looking for Tundra Swans, Canvasback, Redhead and other waterfowl. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on mostly level dirt trails and dikes. Length is about 1.5 miles walking. Dress warmly and in layers. Restrooms are available at Vitale Park only. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Vitale Park, on Route 20A in Lakeville. The park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leader: Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leaders Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and Andrew Consler 585-991-2154
- Dec 6**
Sunday
Beginner Birder Trip – Nations Road
Sharpen your skills on wintering hawks and Short-eared Owls. Other wintering birds such as Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and Lapland Longspurs are often present. This trip is a combination of driving and viewing at stops along roads. Length about .5 miles walking along the road. Restroom facilities are available at Tops. Meet at **2:00 p.m.** at the Tops Plaza in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, 2 miles west of I-390. The roads in this area are narrow and busy. Please plan to carpool from Tops, as the number of cars allowed will be limited to ten. **Bring binoculars, dress warmly and in layers. Spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very useful.**
Leader: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leaders Niki Banke 585-317-3751 and Robert Crandall 585-278-3455

The 123rd Annual Christmas Bird Count is Sunday, December 13, 2026. Please consider counting a sector with your birding buddies. A bird tally and a pizza dinner (\$5) is a tradition at the end of the day! Bring a side dish to pass, if you like. Please contact Nick Kachala for further information or to sign up: nicholaskach@gmail.com or 585-750-5536.