



Little Gull

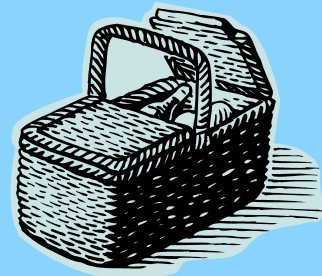
Visit the RBA's website at www.RochesterBirding.com

Rochester Birding Association, 5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618

JUNE 2018 EVENTS & BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

Don't Miss the RBA Annual Picnic

Thursday, June 14, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine!
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club
Railroad Mills Rd., Victor
(directions below)

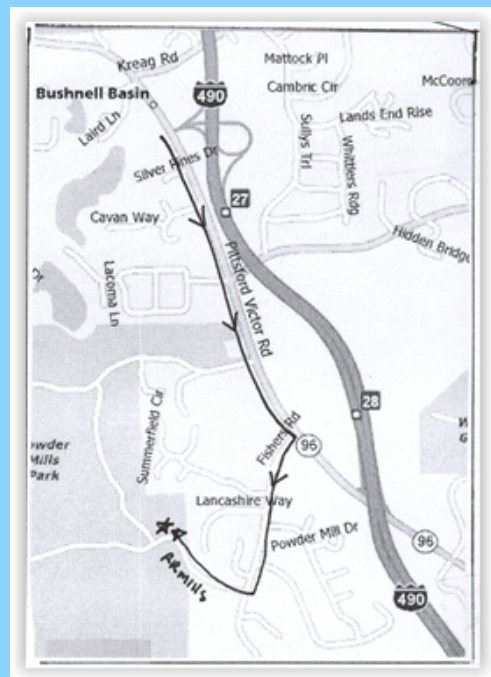


A grill and charcoal will be provided. You bring:

- your own meat to grill
- a dish to pass
- your place setting
- your beverage
- your binoculars!

To make reservations, contact
Wanda Thistle by phone (585-236-1834) or
e-mail (thistlew@yahoo.com)

Directions: From Route 96 turn onto Fishers Road,
go 1.3 miles. Turn right onto Railroad Mills Road, go
0.2 miles. BANC parking is on the right.



JUN 2
Saturday

CANADICE LAKE

We'll go down the east side of the lake for a variety of nesting passerines, especially warblers and vireos. There will be a short walk at the south end of the lake, but mostly we'll drive and park along the shore. Meet at the Rush Town Hall parking lot on the southwest corner of East Henrietta Road (Route 15A) and Rush-Mendon Road (Route 251) at 7:00 a.m.

Leaders: Lucretia Grosshans 585-467-2474 & Diane Henderson 585-334-9400

JUN 3
Sunday

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 3–5 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. Massasauga rattlesnakes are **VERY** rarely encountered. Parking at the trailhead is limited, so we will meet in the parking lot of the 7-11 gas station at the junction of Routes 33 and 19 at 7:30 a.m. Drive about 20 miles west of Rochester on I-490 to exit 2. Turn right (west) onto Route 33 and go about one mile to the junction with Route 19. Turn left onto Route 19, then immediately turn left into the parking lot.

Leaders: Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485 and Kimberly Sucy 585-503-2534.

JUN 9
Saturday

ALLEGANY COUNTY BREEDING BIRDS

Bring a picnic lunch. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the former Border's Books lot (near Pizzeria Uno, 1000 Hylan Drive) off I-390. Others may want to join the group in Almond at the 7-11 gas/ convenience store on Route 21 at 8:00 a.m. We'll begin our day along Route 21 overlooking Almond Dam looking for Bald Eagles, and possible shorebirds. We'll bird in Christmas tree plantations in the town of Andover for nesting Magnolia, Prairie, and Yellow-rumped Warblers and possible Clay-colored Sparrows. We'll check mature conifer plantations for Red-shouldered Hawks, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Blackburnian Warblers, Winter Wren, Mourning and Canada Warblers, and Blue-headed Vireo. We'll have a picnic lunch at Foster Lake where we often have Common Ravens. And we'll check local ponds for nesting Hooded Mergansers, Green Herons, White-throated Sparrows, and more.

Leaders: Betsy Brooks 607-587-9571 and Kimberly Sucy 585-503-2534.

JUN 10
Sunday

LETCHWORTH STATE PARK

This trip frequently boasts more birds than any other RBA field trip. Of course, it gets an early start! We'll look for birds not frequently seen on other trips, such as Acadian Flycatcher and Barred Owl. We'll do some vigorous walking, if you're able, as well as some roadside birding. Meet at the west side (inside the park near the Route 36 entrance) Mt. Morris Dam Overlook parking lot at 5:30 a.m. Pack a lunch or snacks as the trip may last into midday. **Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

Leaders: Doug Daniels 585-394-9274 and Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754

JUN 16
Saturday

NATIONS ROAD FIELDS & FARMS

We will look for nesting bluebirds, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows as well as meadowlarks, Bobolinks, and maybe even a Red-headed Woodpecker. Meet at Tops Plaza in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, 2 miles west of I-390 at 7:00 a.m. Carpool if possible. Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful. **Leaders:** Lucretia Grosshans 585-467-2474 and Rick Stevens 585-689-1882

JUN 17
Sunday

TRAILS AT HIGH ACRES NATURE AREA (PERINTON PONDS AREA)

Our approximately 2 mile walk will explore about 250 acres at HANA and include some wet spots requiring ankle-high waterproof shoes or boots. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot on Perinton Parkway approximately 1/4 mile east of the Waste Management offices. Extra spotting scopes would be very helpful.

Leaders: Bruce and Mary Ann Cady home: 585-248-8959, cell 585-261-8618.

JUN 23
Saturday

GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE

We will start near the longhouse and the meadowlark field and then head down a wide trail through woods, shrub land, wetland, and to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and is suitable for most, including knobby tire electric wheelchairs. After we reach the overlook, those who wish can continue for another mile or 2 on the narrower Seneca Trail through field and woods across County Route 41 and along a stream to the bobolink field. Meet at the longhouse on State Route 444 (Victor-Bloomfield Road near Boughton Hill Road) at 7:00 a.m.

Leaders: Amy Kahn (RBA), Alexis Van Winkle (Ganondagan), and June Summers (GVA)

JUN 30
Saturday

BARNHART'S CAMP AND KEENEY SWAMP

Travel 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, bluebirds, Pied-billed Grebes, and maybe a bittern or two should be seen. This trip generally goes all day so we can see as much as possible! Meet in the parking lot between Pizzeria Uno and Yolickity on Hylan Drive (across from Marketplace Mall) at **6:30 a.m.** where possible car pool arrangements can be made, or at Shop N' Save in Nunda on Route 408 at **7:30 a.m.** Lunch at Barnhart's camp is a trip tradition. Bring a dish to pass—your choice (but this is optional).

Leaders: Jerry & Carolyn Barnhart 585-385-4026.

Welcome to the Flock



Join me in welcoming these 7 new members to the RBA.

Carl Hoffman
Pat McGovern
Patrice Mitchell
Mary Moore
Mary Pond
Jack Thomas
Chera Van Burg

Current RBA Membership is 343.

We also have Young Birders (6), one corporate member, *Little Gull* subscribers (4) and *Little Gull* complimentary subscribers (22).

Membership Tidbits

Where do our members live? I sorted our database by city, and here are the numbers for the 13 cities having 4 or more entries: Brockport (10), Canandaigua (8), Fairport (25), Henrietta (5), Hilton (7), Honeoye/Honeoye Falls (13), Penfield (8), Pittsford (31), Rochester (165), Rush (4), Spencerport (5), Victor (4), Webster (18). These cities account for 72% of the database entries.

John Boettcher
Membership Chairman

efforts to gain Bird Conservation Area status. It is a wonderful place, actively being restored to native vegetation to showcase the relationship the Seneca have as stewards of the environment. We will walk through woodland, shrub, wetland and grassland habitats teeming with breeding birds from Brown Thrasher to kingfisher to Bobolinks. Join us if you can.

Join us as well earlier in the month for our picnic at Burroughs Audubon, held the night we would normally have our monthly meeting, June 14. It's a great way to get to know members better, and we always have a short but lovely birding walk. We have grills again this year, so in addition to your dish to pass, bring something to throw on the grill if you like.

Conservation efforts will be continuing throughout the summer. Please contact me if you would like to become more involved. We have many issues and can use help for short term or long term efforts.

I hope those of you who have gardens enjoyed the two articles last month about planting with birds in mind. My yard is included in this year's Genesee Land Trust Backyard Garden tour. You can contribute to our worthy partner in conservation efforts and see my and other properties which are gardened with birds and wildlife in mind. The tour this year is on July 23rd.

Editor's Corner
Jay Greenberg



New E-mail Address

I have a new e-mail address to be used for *Little Gull* and other RBA-related correspondence. It is LittleGullEditor@gmail.com. (It is not case-sensitive.) My very old multi-purpose e-mail address, conservationist@earthlink.net, will soon stop working due to problems with Earthlink.net.

RBA IN THE FIELD

Highland Park 4/25/2018

It was a chilly day with drizzle. Only 4 participants showed up. The nominal leader, Janet Miles, was unable to come. The 4 who came took a walk anyway and observed 19 bird species.

Amy Kahn

Four Mile Creek Preserve 4/29/2018

The trip was cancelled due to rain and snow.

Cobb's Hill Park 5/2/2018

On a beautiful, sunny, spring morning, singing Chipping Sparrows greeted all of us as 38 people gathered for the annual Cobb's Hill Park field trip. Of the group, 10 were new to RBA field trips. There was a slight breeze with temperatures around 68° (ending at 75°!), and primarily only Norway Maple trees were in bloom.

We decided to split the group into 3, and Tom and Nancy Poeth were kind enough to step up and take one group, while Tom and Jeanne each took the other 2. Sue Robertson and Amy Kahn assisted Jeanne's group, and Dick Horsey assisted Tom's.

Northern Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were abundant. Everyone enjoyed seeing a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers going in and out of their nesting hole. Tufted Titmouse and Black-capped Chickadees made their presence known. Warblers were just beginning to arrive, and Black-throated Green and Black-and-white Warblers were a pleasure to see. Only a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Pine Warbler, and a Palm Warbler were present. Brown Creepers and both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches showed. A Red-tailed Hawk flew in and stayed on a low branch for many to see; and a Broad-winged Hawk and three Turkey Vultures

President's Column

Amy Kahn



I hope you all got out on one of our many field trips in May. We have frequent trips all the way through June as well. I will be

leading a trip on June 23 to Ganondagan State Historical Site in Victor. While this is our first official field trip to this location, I along with others, helped with their

were spotted overhead. Quite a few White-throated Sparrows were seen on the lawn as well as American Goldfinches in the pines. People in Tom and Nancy's group were thrilled to see a Baltimore Oriole, while the other groups only heard it. All in all, it was a great trip, considering it had snowed only 3 days before!

Tom and Jeanne Verhulst



A male **Pileated Woodpecker** digging a nest hole at Cobbs Hill Park. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

Thousand Acre Swamp 5/3/2018

Probably because of the weather, we had a modest turnout of 8 participants plus the 2 leaders, Richard Ashworth and myself. It had rained overnight, and there was more rain in the forecast, including thunderstorms. (Sometimes, it seems as though all of my trip reports start this way.) When we gathered, the skies were gray and gloomy, and the lighting was poor. The air was still and damp. Someone reported seeing a catbird. "All birds look like catbirds in this light", I quipped.

As it turned out, not a drop of rain fell during our 3+ hour hike. Also, the clouds largely dissipated, and a breeze sprang up that lessened the humidity and helped us to stay more or less comfortable in our rainwear. (The temperature started out in the

60s, but rose to around 80° during the trip.) In spite of the forecast, the weather could scarcely have been more pleasant.

The birds seemed to be enjoying it, too, and there was a modest fallout of warblers, most of which were first of year birds for most of the participants. They included Northern Waterthrush (heard only), Black-and-white, Nashville, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green Warblers. These were the highlights of trip, but it was also a treat to hear a number of Wood Thrushes. We ended up with a respectable 45 species.

In addition to the birds, we saw many spring flowers in bloom, including marsh marigolds, red and white trilliums, trout lilies, and blue cohosh. All of the abundant spicebushes were covered with tiny green flowers. Amphibians seen included northern leopard frogs and a wood frog. Spring peepers were heard. Reptiles included painted turtles and a northern brown snake. Although large snapping turtles with an appetite for goslings are known to be present at Way Pond, they were not in evidence. It turned out to be a really lovely day at the swamp.

Jay Greenberg

Taylor Marsh 5/5/2018

It was a beautiful spring day, albeit one with near lethal levels of tree pollen, when a large group gathered for the annual Taylor Marsh Pilgrimage of the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society (BSPS) and the second annual RBA field trip to Taylor Marsh. There were at least 30 participants plus Lynn Braband and I, who were leading for both BSPS and RBA. The temperature started out in the low 60s, but had climbed into the 70s by the end of the 2.5-3 hour trip.

Because of the large size of the group, we split up, with one subgroup led by Lynn and one by me. I was accompanied by Dick Knight, a local conservation-minded farmer

who is a member of the BSPS Taylor Marsh Committee and a frequent visitor to the marsh. He helped to make sure that we didn't lose our way.

My group's first destination was the edge of the marsh at the southern end of the trail. Along the way, we were serenaded by numerous Yellow Warblers and a Wood Thrush or 2. We all had nice looks at a singing male Eastern Towhee. Taylor Marsh is known for its marsh birds, especially the pair of Sandhill Cranes that have been present for over 20 years and are in the area all year around. At the edge of the marsh, I proceeded to play recorded calls for Virginia Rail, Sora, American and Least Bitterns, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Gallinule, and even Sandhill Crane. It was all to no avail, but we were somewhat consoled by seeing an adult Bald Eagle.

Our next stop was Dick's hayfield adjacent to the marsh where we got distant glimpses of a few Bobolinks and a meadowlark. We passed the other group along the way and found out that they had seen a Sandhill Crane and flushed a Wild Turkey. At the hayfield, we had no luck with cranes, but not be outdone, we got a glimpse of an adult male Northern Harrier not seen by the other group. Also, a couple of people heard a Virginia Rail calling from the adjacent marsh. We next headed back to the parking area to rendezvous with the other group and work on the checklist. At this point, we had around 42 species, which is fairly typical for this trip.

One of the participants was a woman from Texas who was in Rochester for her son's graduation from the Eastman School of Music. She seemed thrilled by the new birds she had seen and even took photos of both sides of the checklist with her cell phone. Her hometown is Orange, TX, which is near the Gulf Coast. No doubt, her hometown would have many new birds for some RBA members.

After a break for lunch, Lynn and a couple of other participants returned to the marsh to look for aquatic in-

vertebrates. They also added 9 more bird species, including snipe and Rusty Blackbird. These brought the trip total to 51 species.

Jay Greenberg

Amy's Pond 5/13/2018

It was a beautiful day with a clear sky and calm wind, but a chilly temperature of 40 °F greeted the 36 folks that came for this trip. There was a mixture of RBA and Genesee Land Trust members. One of the highlights of the trip for me was meeting Amanda, the daughter of Janet Smith, who gave the ponds their name. In the usual manner, the large group was split into 2 smaller groups which surveyed the property's various habitats (field, pond, open woods, dense forest and brush) in opposite clock directions in a little over 2 hours. Birding conditions were ideal, since the calm wind meant that anything that moved in the trees was likely a bird, and the low sun angle in the



Birders on the Amy's Pond field trip. Photo by John Boettcher

early morning made for some stunning looks. A total of 45 species was seen or heard by most. They included 11 warbler species.

John Boettcher

Oatka Creek Park 5/15/2018

Nine brave souls headed into the rain and thunder in search of birds. And birds were found! Forty-four

species, which included 12 warbler species, populated the checklist. Highlights included seeing a drenched Swainson's Thrush trying to dry off while other Swainson's in the area sang their spiraling songs; Northern Rough-winged Swallows hawking insects over the creek, and one of the better views of a Bay-breasted Warbler. Among the other warblers, Northern Parulas serenaded us while Palm Warblers pumped their tails and Blackburnian Warblers set the trees on fire with their orange heads. The rain

encouraged an abbreviated route through the park, so we missed a few habitats that would have produced a number of additional species. It was a rewarding trip for those who braved the elements!

Jim Adams

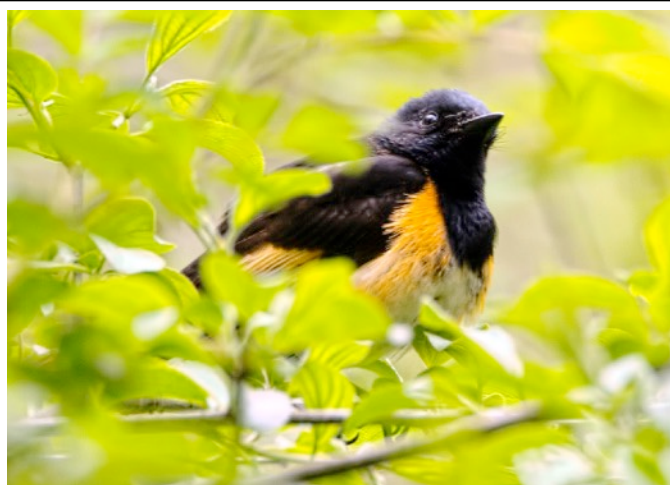
Wednesday Evening Warblers Update

We started May 9th and will meet every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. until dark at the Lakeview Community Church parking lot on Long Pond Road near Edgemere Drive in Greece. This will continue until June 13th or so. Come out and join in.

May 9 – It was a beautiful evening with very light wind and 70's temperature with 12 people attending. Five warblers cooperated: Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and redstart.

John Boettcher

Right: an **American Redstart** male. Photo by Jay Greenberg.



Birders Exchange

Birders' Exchange collects and redistributes new and used binoculars, spotting scopes, digital camera equipment, old and new field guides, and other relevant material. Sponsored by the American Birding Association, it supports critical research and conservation programs in the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Won't you help? Please bring your donations to the RBA monthly meetings or contact Lucretia at 671-1310 or lucretia@frontiernet.net for alternate arrangements. Remember to include a list of the items and your name and address with your donation.

Lucretia Grosshans

**New York State Ornithological Association
71st Annual Meeting
Hosted by Burroughs Audubon Nature Club & Rochester Birding Association
October 5 – 7, 2018,
RIT Inn and Conference Center, Henrietta, NY**

The 71st annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will be held October 5 – 7, hosted by Burroughs Audubon Nature Club (BANC) and the Rochester Birding Association (RBA). This will be the 70th anniversary of the first meeting of the organization, formerly called the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, which was held in Rochester in 1948, with each following 10th anniversary meeting and associated activities will be centered at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467. This location has ample space for our inside activities and easy access to the Thruway and highways for travel to nearby birding spots.



State Ornithological Association 2018 in Rochester. This meeting will be Club (BANC) and the Rochester Birding anniversary of the first meeting of the tion of New York State Bird Clubs, with each following 10th anniversary ing and associated activities will be centered at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467. This location has ample space for our inside activities and easy access to the Thruway and highways for travel to nearby birding spots.

The weekend meeting will include Friday afternoon field trips for early arrivals and a welcome reception and buffet followed by 2 workshops, each run twice and in parallel on Friday night. On Saturday morning there will be field trips. A papers session will be held in the afternoon, and there will be a banquet and speaker in the evening. Sunday morning will bring more field trips. Friday and Saturday afternoons will also provide an opportunity to visit vendors and other exhibits while meeting with birding friends. We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

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**Saturday Night Banquet Speaker: Greg Miller
A Big Year: Life After**



The banquet speaker will be Greg Miller of *The Big Year* book and movie fame. This is the 20th anniversary of Greg's Big Year. He will approach the subject from the viewpoint of what followed from his adventures: the book, the movie, and his future involvement in birding. He was able to spend time on the movie set interacting with Jack Black (who played him), Steve Martin, and Owen Wilson and served as Bird Consultant to the movie. He has become an advocate of bringing birding to as many people as possible through talks and leading tours, makes bird records contributions through eBird, and has a special interest in encouraging young birders.

In 2016, he embarked on another Big Year, this one non-traditional. It consisted of 11 one-week tours aimed at introducing many to target species birding, with a goal of surpassing 500 species with that limited-time, focused approach. He currently lives in Sugarcreek in the heart of Amish Country in Northeast Ohio.

**New York State Ornithological Association
70th Anniversary Meeting
Hosted by BANC & RBA
Henrietta, NY
October 5 – 7, 2018**



Please use this form to register by mail. For Online Registration: <https://rochesterbirding.com/nysoa-reg/>

Registrant #1 Name

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) - ____ - _____ Email: _____
 Delegate? Yes ___ No ___ Name of Club _____

Registrant #2 Name

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) - ____ - _____ Email: _____
 Delegate? Yes ___ No ___ Name of Club _____

	Number/ Selection	Per Person/Each	Total	Mail completed form and payment to: Rochester Birding Association c/o Chita McKinney 198 Parkview Drive Rochester, NY 14625 chitamckinney@gmail.com 585-482-3588 Checks payable to: Rochester Birding Association
Registration postmarked by August 15, 2018		\$50.00		
Registration postmarked by September 15, 2018		\$60.00		
Student Registration fee		\$35.00		
Friday evening buffet (three entrees)*		\$35.00		
Saturday evening banquet-buffet*		\$35.00		
<i>*For those with special meal restrictions, please let us know at registration and at the meeting. A special meal will be provided.</i>		TOTAL		

Room reservations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467, to be held through September 14, 2018. Rate for all rooms is \$109.00 plus tax. Contact the RIT Inn and Conference Center directly at 585-359-1800 to make your reservation. Be sure to mention the NYSOA meeting for the special rate. For information about the hotel: www.rit.edu/ritinn/

An email will be sent to confirm your registration. Registration refunds will be available through September 15, 2018.

April 2018 Sightings Report

It was a generally cold April with a bit above normal precipitation. The first 10 day period was the coldest on record for that period. Into the 4th week of the month, we were still 2nd coldest on record, but then there were a few warm days, and we ended the 10th coldest April on record, with temperatures averaging 40.8 °F, 5.5° below normal. Precipitation at 3.50" was 0.77" above normal, with 1.34" of that falling on the 16th. Most of the snow that fell was in the first half of the month, with 5.2" total, just 1.3" above normal. The April snowfall was enough to push the winter's total just over 10 ft. There was a wind storm on April 3th-4th that did some damage, but mostly to our west, and an icing event that caused much concern on April 14th-15th, but little damage locally. Water levels were above average on Lake Ontario, but a repeat of last year's flooding seems unlikely. At month's end, leaf-out and flowering was way behind. A persistent frontal boundary and line of heavy storms to our south and southwest delayed the arrival of many species of birds. The total species counts for the month and year were well behind the last few years, yet the birds that were found arrived mostly in the 1st quartile of their arrival date distributions. It is always interesting to compare data with feelings.

Once more, all the expected waterfowl were recorded. Also again, by late in the month the numbers of lingering birds were very low, continuing the trend. Peak numbers for most species were also low, as illustrated in the maxima in the Noteworthy Records table. A few isolated good counts were caught for diving ducks, loons, and grebes, often passing or resting birds on Lake Ontario. Highlights of the month included: an early Brant, 2 male Eurasian Wigeons, and a passing King Eider. Other water and marsh birds are usually scarce this month, so photos of an American Bittern walking through Martha Zettel and Bill O'Brien's backyard in Rush early in the month was interesting.

The hawk watch was slow with the weather blockage to the south and winds consistently from wrong directions. The warmup late in the month finally brought some Broad-winged Hawks on the 21st, then a burst for nearly all species on the 24th and a couple of decent days towards the end the month. Turkey Vultures still outnumbered Broad-winged Hawks at month's end. Eagle numbers, while down a bit, were still good. A single Black Vulture was the only rarer "raptor" of month. For all the negative feel, there were still 8 days with totals over 1000 birds, only 2 less than last year.

Shorebirds were again one of the weak families, with only 11 species reported and numbers very low. Water levels were high across the region, and puddles and pools in the fields first devoid of birds, then dried up. Carncross Road in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Managemewnt Area (NMWMA) was the best site in our region. In spite of this, there was a wonderful highlight, with a near-breeding-plumaged Ruff found near Port Byron not far east of our region into Region 5 on April 10th,

joined by a reeve on April 12th, and then both re-found at Carncross Road on the 14th by the Rowleys. The reeve was next located on Van Dyne Spoor on the 15th and the Ruff back to Port Byron on the 16th, and the reeve (female Ruff) there on the 20th. To top it off, on May 6th the Ruff, now in full breeding plumage, showed up at Benning Marsh along the wildlife drive. There are many gorgeous photos online in eBird.

Gulls provided another set of highlights mainly related to a large die-off of gizzard shad and other fish species in Irondequoit Bay with the harsh late winter and heavy ice cover. For much of the month, there were on the order of 10,000+ gulls on the bay feeding on this bounty, with a large percentage of the gulls in the larger, Herring Gull +-size species. This included many good counts of Herring, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls. There was also a sighting and photos of a possible Yellow-legged/Lesser Black-backed Gull. There were good numbers of some of these species noted elsewhere, too. A Little Gull was seen offshore in the town of Wolcott. The regular terns of our region all were reported at relatively early arrival dates.

The last Snowy Owl report was on the 19th near Retsof, but a bird in the field adjacent to the hawk watch much of the day on April 2th was a special treat. The DEC owl surveys on the 10th and 24th continued to turn up Short-eared Owls late in the season. The owl counting at the "Owl Woods" area on Manitou Beach Road had a very weak month, with 16 Long-eared but only two Northern Saw-whet owls tallied. But a visit from a Boreal Owl on April 25th, the Region's 18th record, made up for that. Eastern Whip-poor-will arrived on the 28th, a typical date. A very good Northern Flicker movement was noted at several points on the lakeshore on the 24th.

The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding effort was off to a fairly slow start, with only 897 new bands and 654 of those were kinglets. The late season led to many Golden-crowned Kinglets banded, whereas usually most of their movement is done before the banding starts. It is hard to imagine working the nets with 164 Ruby-crowned Kinglets banded on April 27th. It was clearly a "down" year on the Black-capped Chickadee seesaw, with 0 banded vs. 441 banded last April. Many passerines arrived at nearly normal dates. However, there were only 11 species of warblers reported and only Common Yellowthroat really early and only Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers in the first half of the month. Only 3 warbler species and only 5 total individuals were banded! The species that often pass in large numbers, such as Blue Jays, American Crows, and American Robins, were not tallied in any really sizable numbers. The few counts noted in the noteworthy table were most often the lone number of note for the month for a species. The only really rare passerine was a Western Meadowlark found singing on the Wayne County side of Armitage Road on April 14th and still present well into May. It is the first Western Meadowlark found in the region since 2008. To the joy of some county listers, the bird sometimes moved across the road to sing in Seneca

County. Winter finches again included only a lone Common Redpoll and some Pine Siskins.

This month there were about 47,930 eBird records submitted and 5% or so additional records from other sources.

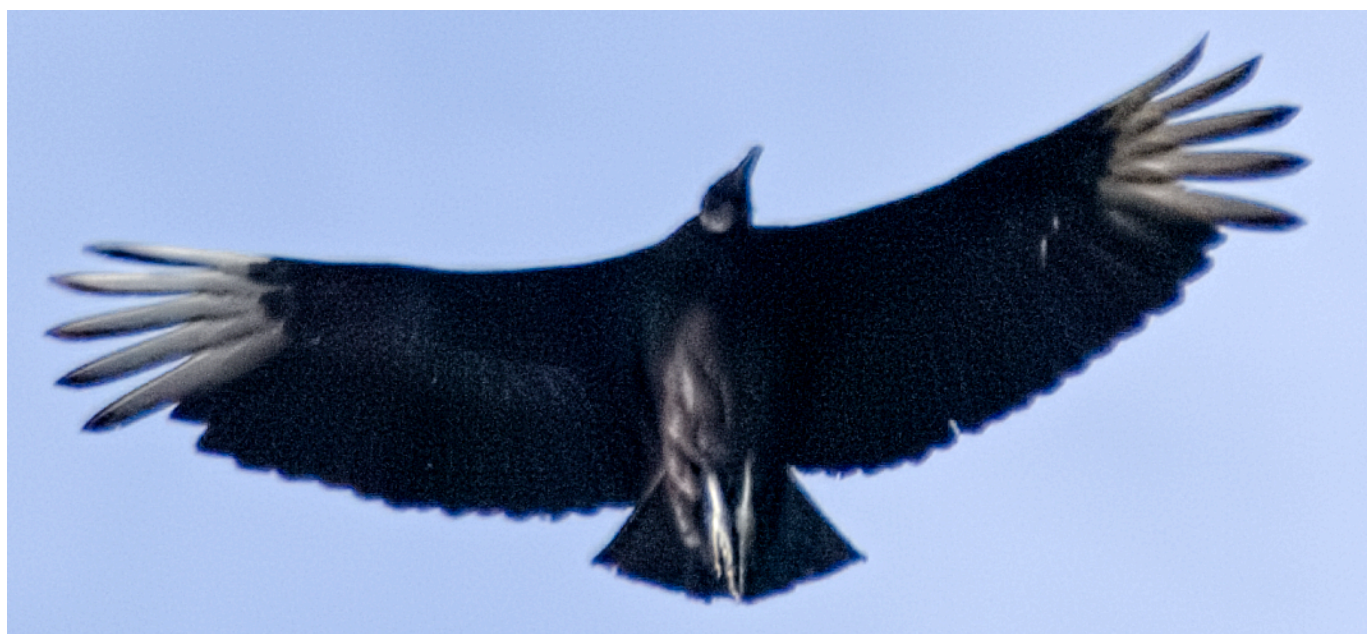
Please send your reports by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>10-year Average (2008-2017)</u>
Total species for April	193	204	195.8
New species for the year	<u>51</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>58.6</u>
Total for the year to date	202	215	209.9

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

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A **Black Vulture**. Photo by Jay Greenberg



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The *Little Gull* is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except that the July and August issues are combined and published at the beginning of July. RBA members are encouraged to contribute. Please send contributions by the 15th of the month to Jay Greenberg, Editor, LittleGullEditor@gmail.com. Contributions can consist of original birding-related nonfiction and fiction articles, poems, photos, and artwork. Humor is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact the editor.

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