



Little Gull

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

Rochester Birding Association, 5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618

SEPTEMBER 2018 EVENTS & BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

SEP 1

Saturday

DURAND-EASTMAN PARK

We'll be looking for thrushes and other migrants. Durand can be surprising this time of year. Just when you thought the birding was quieting down, you run into a pocket of birds here that boggles the mind. Meet in the Lake Shore Blvd. parking lot between Zoo Road and Log Cabin Road (Parking Lot D) at 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Shirley Shaw 585-385-3907 and co-leader TBA

SEP 8

Saturday

***BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP*—CHARLOTTE AND BADGEROW PARK**

We'll be looking for shorebirds, warblers, and other fall migrants in Greece and environs. George W. Badgerow Park is a small area that offers good vantage points along pleasant trails, with the occasional surprise rarity. We'll look for gulls in many plumages and some shorebirds, too. 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.

Extra spotting scopes would be very helpful.

Leaders: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and Rosemary Reilly 585-381-1425

SEP 9

Sunday

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

We'll be looking for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Bald eagles and other migrants are likely. Meet in the Bushnell's Basin Park and Ride lot at 1:00 p.m. The meeting site is off Route 96 just south of Exit 27 from I-490. **Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

Leaders: Mike Tetlow 585-425-7849 and co-leader TBA

SEP 13

Thursday

RBA General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., the Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover Street, Rochester NY 14610 (in Brighton). Speaker: Janet Allen. Title: Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard. See the notice on p. 3 for more information.

SEP 22

Saturday

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Meet in the Bushnell's Basin Park and Ride at 10:00 a.m. Pack a lunch. The meeting site is off Route 96 just south of Exit 27 from I-490. **Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

Leaders: Mike and Joann Tetlow 585-425-7849.

SEP 23

Sunday

GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE

We'll start near the longhouse and the meadowlark field and then go down a wide trail through woods, shrubland, wetland and to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and is suitable for most, including knobby tire electric wheel chairs. 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 Rte. 41 and along a stream to the Bobolink field. **THE MEETING TIME AND PLACE ARE DEPENDENT ON CONDITIONS. Please see the RBA Website for up-to-date details.**

Leaders: Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and June Summers

Welcome to the Flock



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

Jayne Dean
Mary Hansen
Philip Hinkelman
Christina Hoh
Jim and Patti Morris
Cisca and Robert Peszynski
James Sharpless
Emmy Smart
Robert Veeder
Paul Wolter

Current RBA Membership is 362.

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

John Boettcher

President's Column

Amy Kahn



Welcome back, everyone! It's been a busy summer. Many birds fledged young in my yard in spite of the crazy hot droughty early summer we had. With our partners, Genesee Land Trust and Genesee Valley

Audubon Society, we introduced 400 or so people to gardening for birds and butterflies through the Backyard Habitat Tour. Young Great Crested Flycatchers, House Finch, and Red-tailed Hawks cooperated by showing up during the garden tour as did 5 species of butterflies.

On a more sorrowful but grateful note, I want to send abundant thanks to John Boettcher and Kimberly Sucy as they go on to new adventures and leave their long-held volunteer positions of membership and field trip chairs.

Behind the scenes, many lovely people keep RBA running, and with some of our longest-serving volunteers stepping aside from critical roles, it means we need new people stepping up. RBA simply cannot operate without everyone pitching in. Please, if you have not dedicated time to RBA in the last few years, we need you to raise your hand and help RBA keep serving birds and birders in Rochester. *'Many hands make light work'* is true! Please contact Nominating Chair Cathy Ballard if you have suggestions for our next president.

NEEDED: Membership Chair

Help! RBA is in need of a replacement Membership Chair!

- The membership chair oversees our membership renewal campaigns and tracks individual memberships as they come in.
- The chair maintains the database of RBA members and oversees undertaking activities that could lead to new members and retain existing members.

We have an IMMEDIATE NEED for 2-4 members for committees:

- Membership (this involves computer work and/or outreach)
- Field Trips (planning and/or leading)

Other volunteer committee opportunities in newsletter, conservation and education are available.

To learn more, please contact me or anyone listed on the back cover. Thank you for supporting RBA and happy birding!

•Most of our renewals are done online. The membership chair accepts some memberships via paper and sends the checks and a report to the treasurer.

•The chair also provides the circulation committee with a file of names and e-mails of members being sent the *Little Gull* via e-mail as well as printed labels for those members receiving a paper copy.

This is a mission-critical role that must be filled by October.

Editor's Corner
Jay Greenberg



The Bug Shortage: A Grim Follow-up

In an article in the July-August issue, I reported that there is a global decline of insects and other invertebrates. I also predicted that it would adversely affect

bird populations. Unfortunately, this prediction is already coming true. A March article in the British publication *The Guardian*¹ reported that bird populations in the French countryside have declined by a third in the last 15 years, with some species being affected more severely than others. The decline is being blamed on a lack of insects to feed them. The lack of insects is

blamed on overuse of pesticides on food crops.

In Germany, where flying insects have declined around 80% in recent decades, bird populations have decreased 15% in 12 years.² Our country is much larger than France or Germany, and there seems to be less data available. However, it would be folly to think that we are immune to the problem and ignore the issue.

¹'Catastrophe' as France's bird population collapses due to pesticides. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/21/catastrophe-as-frances-bird-population-collapses-due-to-pesticides>

²Insect and bird populations declining dramatically in Germany. <https://www.dw.com/en/insect-and-bird-populations-declining-dramatically-in-germany/a-41030897>

September Talk and Speaker

Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard

Do you enjoy watching birds in your yard? Learn some interesting facts about some favorite backyard birds and how to provide food, water, cover, and places for them to raise their young. Learn about the vital role of native plants in providing for their needs. Finally, learn how you can help birds beyond your own yard. Create a bird-friendly yard and enjoy the daily companionship of birds right at home! Janet Allen, co-founder and president of Habitat Gardening in Central New York, based in Syracuse, will present.

Habitat Gardening in Central New York is a chapter of the national organization Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, an education and advocacy organization. She writes articles for various publications and gives presentations for garden clubs, libraries, and conferences. She is also the creator and webmaster of Our Habitat Garden and Our Edible Garden websites. Her yard is certified as Monarch Waystation #581 by Monarch Watch and as a Certified Wildlife Habitat #27815 by the National Wildlife Federation.



NEEDED: Field Trip Coordinator

Help! RBA is in need of a replacement field trip coordinator.

What does it take to be a field trip coordinator for RBA?

- Willingness to plan and coordinate local field trips and find local leaders to fill them.
- Familiarity with local sites.

For leaders, kindness and curiosity are key! And while knowledge of our local birds is helpful, you needn't be a full-on expert. It's okay to say "I don't know" on a few and use that as a teachable moment for how to evaluate shape, color, sound, and use a field guide.

This is a mission-critical role that must be filled by October.

Quick, Three Beers! A Night of Birds and Brews with RBA

Join Rochester Birding Association members on Wednesday, September 5th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This will be a casual evening for members to get together and talk about birds and enjoy a brief opening by an RBA board member about our volunteer program. We'll provide snacks; drinks and tacos are on you. Bring a friend or partner for this fun night out. The more the merrier.

Location: Three Heads Brewing: 186 Atlantic Avenue. Rain or shine.

Questions? Call Andrea Patterson at 585-490-5361 or e-mail Laura Kammermeier at aurakamms@gmail.com. If you're on Facebook, go to the Events tab of the Rochester Birding Association page, find our event, and click GOING or INTERESTED to signal your attendance.

RBA IN THE FIELD

Young Birders Trip to Braddock Bay Park 4/29/2018

The Young Birders Club took a walk around Braddock Bay, looking for some birds (especially birds of prey), for Bird of Prey Days. Bird of Prey Days is a festival that Braddock Bay Raptor Research (BBRR) puts together to help people learn about raptors, and how to protect them. The Young Birders Club does some of those things, too. On April 29th, we took a walk to find some birds that might be seen, but we didn't see too many birds, because of the snowy/rainy weather. It felt like the coldest day in April, but, on the bright and sunny side, 11 people showed up and went on the walk. Lucky us!

When we started, the wind was fierce, but as soon as we came back

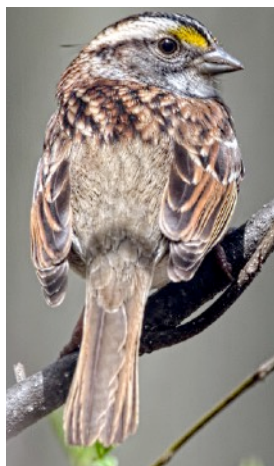
to the lodge, the wind decided to let up a little. What did we see? There were many different birds, in spite of the bad weather. There were quite a few Red-winged Blackbirds. There were Canada Geese that were pretty quiet. We also saw at least 6 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which are more uncommon than the Golden-crowned. One amazing find (well, we heard its call) was the White-throated Sparrow. That was pretty awesome. The Common Loons were neat, too. We saw 2 loons, and a couple of Mute Swans out in the bay. But the best part was the Northern Harriers. We saw 4! The first 2 were females, and the others were too far away to know.

Since the trail was pretty short, we went off of it a little to see what else we could find. We tried the boardwalk—but only for a few minutes because it was too windy! This is where

we saw 3 of the harriers. We also saw the Mute Swans, and a Wood Duck! There were a few Caspian Terns, too. After we came off the boardwalk, we went looking into the bushes. We saw the Ruby-crowned Kinglets. They were adorable! When we went into the trees, we saw some whitewash on a tree trunk, but no owl. Then we walked to the edge of the woods by the first pavilion (by the parking lot by the hawk watch), and we heard the White-throated Sparrow. What a sweet song to hear!

At the end of the walk, we decided to go inside. We were freezing! The only birds we saw on the way back to the lodge were a couple of American Robins and European Starlings. Oh, and don't forget the 3 Canada Geese! In spite of the cold, I think everyone had a good time! Thanks to Pat Martin for leading us, and to everyone who came.

Emily Ford



A White-throated Sparrow.
Photo by Jay Greenberg.

Ganondagan State Historic Site 6/23/2018

The weather forecast may have scared some people off, but the weather held off and we just had a few light sprinkles. We had 6 intrepid souls who met at 7:00 a.m. to walk this new-for-the-club field trip. We walked through woods, shrub land, and fields. We walked by wetlands and along a lovely stream valley. Birds seen and heard included meadowlark, kingfisher, kestrels, nesting flickers and Bobolinks. We had 40 species with great close views of towhees, a hummingbird and Common Yellowthroat. Previous trips

along the same trail have produced at least 8 additional species, including Green Heron, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, turkey, and Grasshopper Sparrow, so it's a great place to explore. We will visit again in September.

Amy Kahn



A male **Bobolink**. Photo by Jay Greenberg

Barnhart's Camp 6/20/2018

When the headline in Friday's *Democrat and Chronicle* warned of a "dangerous heat wave" due to arrive on June 20th, I assumed that the turnout for our field trip would be very low. What a pleasant surprise to encounter 12 serious birders at the Shop 'n Save in Nunda. The temperature at 7:30 a.m. was 72, reaching a high of 86 by mid-afternoon, and when we wrapped up at 9:00 p.m. it was still a muggy 78. The added humidity made for a heat index of nearly 100, and unfortunately, several participants left early because of it.

My goal became getting us on as many birds as the day's high temperature, and remarkably, we exceeded that number as we managed to track down 87 species. There were several surprises that added to the fun. Scope views of a male Ring-necked Pheasant made Sal Barragan's day. He had never seen one before, and he described it as being "beautiful from head to tail". Kim Weeks hoped to add a Prairie Warbler to her life list, and we found 2 in a new location that Jerry and I discovered last year. A scope view of an already close singing male was an added perk. Finally, upon checking out a mob of persistently indignant chickadees, we were thrilled to witness a Great Horned Owl as it beat a hasty

retreat. This was the first such owl in the 11 years of conducting this trip.

Thank you to all who trekked all the way out to our camp and joined us for this exhausting yet exhilarating day. A special thanks to Sal and Miriam Barragan, Rosemary Reilly, and Rick Stevens, for hanging on to the very end.

Carolyn Barnhart

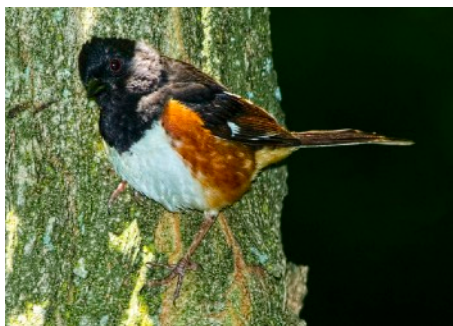


A **Prairie Warbler**. Photo by Jay Greenberg

Conesus Lake 8/4/2018

The RBA trip around the Conesus Inlet Swamp went very well Saturday morning. We had 15 people and some fine birding expertise, leading to a count of 62 species in all. Our most numerous bird of the morning was Wood Duck; they were just about everywhere that had some open water. After Wood Duck came goldfinches and Purple Martins, the latter in one large group flying about over the north end of the swamp; next were about 20 Great Blue Herons. The star of the day was a show-off towhee along East Swamp Rd. His "drink-your-teal" song stood out as we were driving toward the south end. We all got out to see if anyone could spot it in a leafy tree and, as everyone was looking, it flew out to an open branch right in front of us, keeping up the song and posing very nicely for scope and photos. Other birds of special interest included a small number of shorebirds, where the water level was much lower than normal, Cliff Swallows along Guiltner Rd., adult and juvenile Bald Eagles, an Osprey, several kingfishers, a sapsucker and goldfinches everywhere. It was a good morning.

Jim Kimball



A male **Eastern Towhee** Photo by Jay Greenberg

Beginner Field Trip to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge 8/12/2018

Seventeen people joined us on this RBA trip, about 50% beginning birders. At the Park and Ride in Bushnell's Basin, we found our first birds: a Turkey Vulture and a Cedar Waxwing. Everyone enjoyed a close look at these birds through our spotting scopes.

We then left for Montezuma in heavy traffic, finally stop and go as we came upon a recent accident 2 miles from our exit. That passed, we gathered at the visitor center and had a quick look over the field, finding very little. As we were walking toward the Seneca Trail, a thunderstorm sent us scurry-

ing back to the cars. So we started the wildlife drive in the rain.

We scanned Larue Marsh from our cars until the rains stopped. Starting from there, we had great views of many of our common birds. Many folks were impressed to see the blue colored speculum of the Mallards. Another highlight was the family of Common Gallinules with the chicks still in down with the red head patch.

Many other family groups were observed, giving the newer birders a chance to experience birding at its hardest! At the overflow dam, we got a satisfying look at the reclusive Black-crowned Night Heron and a silhouette view of a Black Tern, resting on the reeds.

The final stop of the official trip was Benning Marsh. Here we had great views of both yellowlegs and Great Egrets, as well as Great Blue and Green Herons. The highlight bird here was a well-hidden Wilson's Snipe.

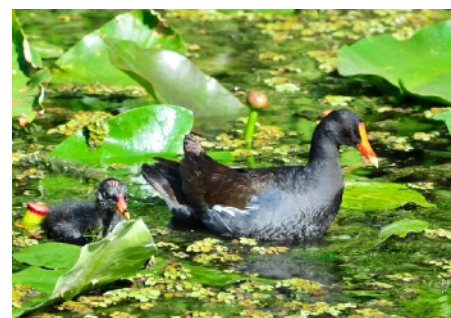
The trip was capped off here with a double rainbow!

Extension: Many trip members followed us up to Knox Marcellus Marsh

overlook, where we picked up 10 more species, including Northern Harriers, a Peregrine Falcon, and Sandhill Cranes. No luck on the Yellow-crowned-Night Heron as its roost is well beyond the viewing range from the overlook.

Conditions ranged from 70-80°, dry to downpour, infinite to zero visibility. The participants remained excited, and the bird list hit 50 for the wildlife drive and 60 species after the stop at Knox-Marcellus Marsh.

Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski



A **Common Gallinule** and chick. Photo by Katy Raits courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

June 2018 Sightings Report

It was another pleasant June, with temperatures just a bit above normal and precipitation a bit below. Typical levels of heat and humidity for the first 4 weeks were followed by a couple of oppressive days at the end, leading into a hot July. Temperatures averaged 67.7 °F, 1.4° above normal, and rainfall totaled 2.22", 1.12" below normal. There was only one record tied, a record high low on the 18th. Lake Ontario was back to only a bit high, way better than last year.

Again, weather conditions were generally good for both birds and birders, and this year had no high water problem. The eBird download was near last year's at 43,109, but fewer out-of-region lines were deleted, so we had 32,695 in-region "records", a nearly 20 % increase. The 190 species reported for the month is 6 below last year, but still well above the 10-year average. We had nearly all of the really expected species for the month reported, with only a few surprise misses to be noted below and maybe a few less waterfowl and shorebird species than normally linger into this month. There were almost no real rarities reported other than Laughing Gull which historically often shows in this

month and the now hard to find Henslow's Sparrow located at 2 sites.

Among the waterfowl, low numbers for the formerly regular and more abundant breeding puddle ducks were obvious, and late or lingering diving ducks few. Four Red-throated Loons, a peak count of 20 Common Loons, and Red-necked Grebe on the 5th and 29th are unusual for the month.

Mike Tetlow, Ed Sailer, and a few others checking the hawk watch caught a nice flight on the 13th, with a Black Vulture, 29 Bald Eagles, 35 Broad-winged Hawks, and a late Rough-legged Hawk. There was another Black Vulture seen in Letchworth State Park on the 16th. Again, there were no reports of Northern Goshawk and only one for Red-shouldered Hawk. There were only 2 Merlin reports and 4 Peregrine Falcon reports other than the breeding pair in Rochester that fledged 3 young from June 15-20th per the rfalconcam website. A maximum of 10 Sandhill Cranes was seen along Armitage Rd., Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) on the 9th, but with no note made of young observed. A pair was also seen near Taylor Marsh north of Honeoye and another on East Bay Rd. east of Sodus Bay, both apparent areas with previous breeding.

Late spring shorebird variety was poor, numbers were very low and departure dates typical. Only a few Sanderling reports, including the first for the year, were of special note. The Laughing Gull noted earlier and a total of about 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls provided the only gull and tern records of interest. Common Nighthawk was reported to June 2nd, but with no good numbers this month.

Moving into the passerines, there were a somewhat surprising 3 Olive-sided Flycatcher reports this month, extending to June 19th. Several of the usual passerines migrating well into June were banded as expected at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding station, but Philadelphia Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Bay-breasted Warbler were missed, both in banding and other reports. Otherwise, passerine numbers and departure dates were typical. Among species that some search for, the Prothonotary Warblers were seen all month along Armitage Rd., Prairie Warblers were located in fields south of Harriett Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area, and Clay-colored Sparrow was present on Cook Rd. in Hamlin and Ballantyne Rd. in Chili. A nice surprise was Henslow's Sparrows located on Beatty Point, Town of Greece by Michelle Gianvecchio during bird survey work and staying through the month. Another Henslow's was found in the Nations Rd. IBA again during bird survey work by Mike Wasilco and Christina Hoh.

Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618

	2018	2017	10-year Average (2008-2017)
Species for June	190	196	182
New for the year	3	2	2
Total for the year to date	268	270	265.7

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Gautam Apte, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Ted Barnett, Sue Barth, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Belmont, Linda Clark-Benedict & Steve Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Timothy Boundy, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Denis Caysinger, Kelly Close, Richard Cohen, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Michael DeWispelaere, Deborah Dohne, Judy Ferris, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janis George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, Bill Gillette, James Goetz, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, Thomas Kent, Bernie Kester, Jim Kimball, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Jill Leichter, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Rachel Lodder, Sam & Judy Loomis, Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Seabird McKeeon, Matt Medler, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Randi Mineator, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Chan Nam, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Rivka Noll, Michael Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jennifer Rycenga, Ed Sailer, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Barbara Stern, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, Allan Strong, Kim Sucey, Steve Taylor, Mike Tetlow, Gerald Thurn, John & Bonny VanDerMeid, Jeff Ward, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Jim Wood.

July 2018 Sightings Report

This month was generally hot and dry, with the first 3 weeks seeing temperatures in the 80's and 90's and browning vegetation, especially west of Rochester. A pattern change starting on the 21st brought some cooler temperatures and drought-relieving rains. An upper level low near the Ohio Valley and a high over the western Atlantic pumped tropical moisture up between, with Rochester on the NW edge. Areas west remained dry, areas east greened and experienced persistent rain and flooding. Along the boundary there were some interesting birding events. Temperatures averaged 75.2 °F, 4.4° above normal for the 6th warmest July on record. Precipitation totaled 3.20", 0.13" below normal. A total of 11 days above 90° was the most for the month since 1955. There were no records set.

Waterfowl reports were again poor, there were only modest to low numbers of expected breeding birds and of the scarcer, irregular visitants found especially late in the month. One Red-throated and a few Common Loons were seen off Hamlin Beach State Park. There were no early

Red-necked Grebes this year. Peaks of about 100 Double-crested Cormorants on piers from Sodus Point to Hamlin Beach late in the month seem a bit low given apparent local nesting. Again, we had small numbers of Great Egrets through the month, but no reports of other dispersing herons and egrets.

A lone Black Vulture photographed over Letchworth State Park was the only record of special note in the vulture and hawk grouping. Among our scarcer regularly breeding hawks, there were only 7 reports of single Broad-winged Hawks, none for Northern Goshawk, and one Red-shouldered Hawk. Merlin reports were few, and besides the Rochester Peregrine Falcons (4 eggs; 3 fledged in mid-June; all being observed when possible by falcon watchers on into August, according to rfalconcam.com), there were 6 other peregrine reports.

The weather shift and subsequent rain boundary near Rochester brought us some great shorebirding, with numbers for some species not seen in years, e.g. peaks - 111 Whimbrels, 21 Red Knots, 255 Sanderlings, 250 Semi-

palmed Sandpipers, and many more examples in the Noteworthy Records table on the RBA website. Twenty species is a good start to fall migration and better than the last 2 years. Limited habitat in this region remains a problem. Nearly all of the reports were from piers along the south shore of Lake Ontario or a few sites in the NMWMA. Many are from the newly constructed barrier beach off the East Spit of Braddock Bay, with no more foot access.

Among the gulls and terns, we had two surprises with an adult Glaucous Gull on the 23rd far out of season and the region's 4th Least Tern on the 8th, both species seen and photographed at Braddock Bay near that newly constructed barrier beach. Continuing the trend of recent years, there were also reports of 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The peak Caspian Tern number at 92 was a bit low, and juveniles were fewer than usual. On July 14th, a Bald Eagle flushed an amazing (counted) 168 Black Terns at Van Dyne Spoor in the NMWMA. The lone one at the Summerville Pier is an event in recent years. Also in the Van Dyne Spoor area on the 14th and 21st, 140 and 200 Common Gallinules, respectively, were estimated out among the cat-tails. Sandhill Cranes with nearly full grown young were frequenting fields near Crusoe Lake, Town of Savannah by late July.

As usual, the non-passerine land birds produced few records of special note. But there was a report of a Eurasian Collared-Dove from a Pittsford location, 300 Chimney Swifts back at the York Central School site, and 376 lines of eBird "records" for Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Moving on to the passerines, again nearly all of the expected species were reported; only a few of the scarcer breeding warblers that require extra effort were missed. Continued low level banding at BBBO produced a few special surprises this year, including: an early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on the 26th; Swainson's Thrushes banded on July 18th, 22th, and 28th, with the one from the 22nd recaptured on the 23rd; Winter Wren on the 30th; Tennessee Warbler on the 22nd and 26th; and Mourning Warbler on the 16th. There were some decent peak counts for swallows, but 2,425 Bank Swallows on the ground at Hamlin Beach State Park, Parking Lot #5 photographed and then estimated by Dominic Sherony and Doug Daniels was a treat. Other interesting passerine records scattered about in the month were: Prothonotary Warbler still at the Armitage Rd. area in the NMWMA, Clay-colored Sparrows continuing on Cook Rd. in Hamlin, Henslow's Sparrow still found at Beatty Point, and a few more reports of the Western Meadowlark on Armitage Rd. Jim Adams again reported thoughts from his regular walks through Oatka Creek Park, an interesting mix of infrequent visitors to the park and observations and photographs of the breeding birds. A plus was a note of an ap-

parent "boom" year for breeding Carolina Wrens there. A Mourning Warbler, unfortunately in a relatively inaccessible area near the park boundary, is an infrequent breeder in Monroe County.

Again this season, the majority of the data used in this report generation was from a download of eBird records, initially 34,272 lines of records from the 7 counties in our region trimmed to about 27,285 actually within our regional boundaries. Additional data came from the geneseebirds listserv, banding data, and personal inputs from observers.

Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	2018	2017	10-year Average (2007-2016)
Species for July	187	177	172.4
New for the year	3	2	0.5
Total for the year to date	271	272	269.2

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Katelyn Barry, Liz Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Rachel Bonafilia, Jeff Bouton, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Kelly Close, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Tony Dvorak, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Michael Gullo, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Andrew Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Meena Haribal, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Andy Hudson, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Jim Kimball, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Jim Miles, Denyse Miller, Adrielle Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Chan Nam, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Rivka Noll, Michael Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Scott Peterson, Norma Platt, Bill Purcell, Rochester Young Birders Club, Michell Rosenbaum, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jennifer Rycenga, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Roger Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Kim Sucy, Zach S-W, Steve Taylor, Mike Tetlow, Cindy Vars, Matthew Voelker, Brad Walker, Jeff Ward, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Martha Zettel.

Birders Exchange

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