



# Little Gull

Visit the RBA's website at [www.RochesterBirding.com](http://www.RochesterBirding.com)

Rochester Birding Association, 5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618

## DECEMBER 2018 AND EARLY JANUARY 2019 EVENTS & BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

### DEC 2

Sunday

#### NIAGARA RIVER

We'll be looking for special gulls and waterfowl. The Niagara River area is famous for the variety and number of gulls in winter. Can you pick out the rarities? This is a joint trip with the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Meet in Charlotte's Ontario Beach parking lot at **7:00 a.m.** or at the Old Fort Niagara parking lot at **9:00 a.m.** Bring beverages and lunch, for this is an all day trip. There is heightened security at the border. Participants must bring passports or enhanced licenses. **Dress warmly and in layers. Extra spotting scopes would be very helpful.**

**Leaders:** Rick Stevens 585-689-1882, RBA, and Tom O'Donnell of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS)

### DEC 8

Saturday

#### CONESUS LAKE AREA

We'll be looking for Tundra Swans, Canvasback, Redhead and other waterfowl. Meet at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville at 8:00 a.m. The park is across the street from Smith's Hardware on the south (lake) side of 20A. **Extra spotting scopes would be very helpful.**

**Leaders:** Jim Kimball 585-243-0316 and Andrew Consler

### DEC 9

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. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Tops Plaza in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, 2 miles west of I-390. **Dress warmly. Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

**Leaders:** John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and Rick Stevens 585-689-1882

### DEC 13

Thursday

**RBA General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., the Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover Street, Rochester NY 14610 (in Brighton). Speaker: Tom Snyder. Title: Nature, Zoos, and Conservation.** See the notice on p. 3 for more information.

### DEC 16

Sunday

**Rochester Christmas Bird Count.** See the notice on p. 4 of this issue for more information.

**Compiler:** Norma Platt 585-671-9639

### DEC 29

Saturday

**Little Lakes Christmas Bird Count.** See the notice on p. 5 of this issue for more information.

**Compiler:** Pat Martin 585-301-5485 [emartin139@earthlink.net](mailto:emartin139@earthlink.net)

### JAN 1

Tuesday

#### **IRONDEQUOIT BAY OUTLET and DURAND-EASTMAN PARK—YEAR LIST JUMP-START**

Get started on your 2019 list! We'll look for winter waterfowl at the outlet then move to Durand-Eastman Park where we will stroll Log Cabin and Zoo Roads looking for finches, waxwings, and resident birds. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in one of the several convenient parking lots on the west side of the outlet at the north end of Irondequoit Bay (end of Culver Road) or at **8:45 a.m.** at the Lake Shore Boulevard parking area between Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road (Parking Lot D) **Dress warmly!**

**Leaders:** Norma Platt and John Boettcher 585-671-9639



**Don't forget to make your reservation for the RBA Dinner on January 12! See the notice on p. 6 for more information.**

## Welcome to the Flock



**Join me in welcoming these 16 new and returning members to the RBA.**

Glenn Cummings  
Rian Dewit (Young Birder)  
Cindy Kindle  
Susan Lucchesi  
Kathleen Marks  
Vincent Maxwell  
Ann McMican & Jack Mould  
Margy Meath  
Gabriel Moore  
Rebekah Olson  
Yvonne Parker  
Joellen Popma  
Mary Racinowski  
Bobby Reynolds  
Jeffrey L. Stein  
Jeffrey Ward

**Current RBA Membership is 417,** including Young Birders (7), one corporate member, *Little Gull* subscribers (4) and *Little Gull* complimentary subscribers (21).

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**  
See the article on p. 4 in this issue.

Jo Taylor  
Membership Data

## President's Column

Amy Kahn



Our early start to winter has one fun side effect—lots of interesting bird visitors. Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to brave the weather and see some of them.

Thank you to those of you who have promptly renewed your membership and special thanks to those of you who have also made donations beyond your dues. We will also welcome your participation in one of our

committees. Check out the back cover and contact a committee chair or board member to volunteer.

We received a generous profit from the NYSOA conference and the board is discussing how to make the best use of the money. Some of the money will be used to set up a scholarship program for our young birders to attend birding programs and camps. We will also make a donation back to NYSOA. I'd like to again thank our 3 members who represented us at the business meeting and the many members who helped put on a successful conference. We next host in 2028!

I would like to publicly thank Richard Ashworth and his reviewers for updating our daily check list to the AOS 59<sup>th</sup> Supplement. The new list can be [downloaded](#) on the RBA website. Richard also pitches in and gives talks at libraries and other groups when we've needed a speaker.

I hope to see you at our December meeting and at the annual meeting in January where we hope to be electing our next president as well as re-electing our board and officers.

## We need your help

Cathy and her committee have been working very hard to find our next president. She has spoken with more than 30 members who unfortunately have all declined. Thus we do not yet have a candidate to elect in January. We are an entirely volunteer-run organization. Many hands do make the work lighter. We need your help; recommend someone or, even better, volunteer yourself.

What does it take to be president? The president's job is part cheerleader, part administrator/ manager. Beyond that it is up to the individual.

- A one year commitment. Our by-laws only allow for a maximum of 2 consecutive years.
- Most weeks, spend 5 hours or less on RBA stuff.

- Monthly duties include chairing the board and general meetings; being present for most is preferred.
- The president also writes a monthly column for the *Little Gull*, usually just a few paragraphs. Anything else is optional.

This is a great time to be president. You will be supported by an enthusiastic and involved board of 9 members.

We are also still looking for leaders to take on field trip chair and outreach chair. The field trip chair oversees a committee that helps the chair get information and equipment to and from trip leaders. The chair notifies field trip leaders with a packet of information by e-mail 7 to 10 days before the date of their trip. In the fall, the committee plans the annual RBA trip calendar, and makes sure it gets distributed to the membership.

The outreach chair undertakes activities that could lead to new members and retain existing members. This position needs someone with enthusiasm about the RBA and attention to the details.

Thanks for pitching in to keep RBA welcoming and dynamic.

## Editor's Corner

Jay Greenberg



This issue is an important one because it contains information about:

- The RBA annual dinner and election.
- Christmas Bird Counts.

Please note that, as of this writing, the RBA still does not have a candidate for president for 2019. Without a president, this wonderful organization can't function very well. See Amy Kahn's column for more information.

The issue is slightly delayed because I was on a birding trip to Cuba at a time when I would normally be working on the issue. Possibly, there will be more about the trip in a future issue.

## December Talk and Speaker

### Nature, Zoos, and Conservation

The Seneca Park Zoo works in multiple countries. The zoo has supported more than 20 organizations over the last few years, conserving wildlife and the wild places of animals it represent. In this talk, Tom will take you through his path from a pet store employee to zookeeper to his current role as a zoo director. He will talk about a childhood of exploration, and about his early field days in the Bahamas through his most recent trip to Guatemala. He will give you a glimpse of what it is like to have to balance partnerships, technology, governmental regulations, the need for transparency, program delivery, and a dedicated staff to increase conservation impact while telling a compelling story.

Tom Snyder is currently the director of programming and conservation action for the Seneca Park Zoo Society. His department is responsible for programming onsite and off, and working on various zoo conservation projects. He grew up in the Finger Lakes, and has spent time in Central America, Bahamas, Africa and in various parts of the U.S. working in zoos and conservation. Initially a zookeeper, the power of zoos as conservation organizations was a driving force in steering Tom to his current position.



## RBA IN THE FIELD

### Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant 10/21/2018

Twelve hardy souls dressed for winter descended on the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant on a brisk and somewhat breezy day. To start off, we spent some extra time deciphering the subtleties of male and female plumage patterns and size comparison between the various waterfowl species. We had a good selection of Northern Shoveler, Mallard, American Black Duck, Ruddy Duck, Lesser Scaup, Gadwall, Common Merganser, Bufflehead, Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal to pick from. With a fair number of spotting scopes available, everyone was able to get some close-up views. This generated a good discussion of the sometimes confusing aspects of waterfowl identification. Farther along, a nice group of Bonaparte's Gulls let us get some close-up views as they picked various food items off the surface of the water. A handful of Dunlins was found picking along the rocky pond edges. Everyone keyed in on their droopy bills, short primary extension and very grayish non-breeding plumage filling in their usual brown plumage. Some lingering Tree Swallows, a collection of Song, Swamp and White-crowned Sparrows, along with a Red-tailed Hawk drew our attention away from ducks and Dunlin for a while.

As we headed out for a bathroom break, a call from the Buffalo Ornithological Society field trip that was also on site a little earlier, let us know of 2 Red-necked Grebes on one of the far treatment ponds. We took a quick vote, and not wanting to leave any bird undiscovered, headed back in and located at least one Red-necked Grebe for the day. With the earlier-observed Horned Grebes, it made for a good comparison of body size and shape between the 2 species. Since our passerine list was pretty small, we headed out to Williams Park just down the road from the treatment plant. We picked a nice pocket of trees and shrubs to play a mobbing call, and were rewarded with a large and busy group of robins, House

Finches, woodpeckers, nuthatches, Chipping Sparrows and chickadees. As a highlight, 3 Hermit Thrushes with their bright rufous rumps and tails showed up to see what all the commotion was about, while they continued to dine on the Virginia creeper berries like popcorn-munching moviegoers.

Our rugged group ended the day with 48 species and fun for all. Some even stayed for a shared dinner and conversation at a local food establishment. It was a good day, and we are looking forward to our upcoming field trips, especially the gull trip to the Niagara River area. Only birders get excited about "seagulls" and wastewater treatment plants!

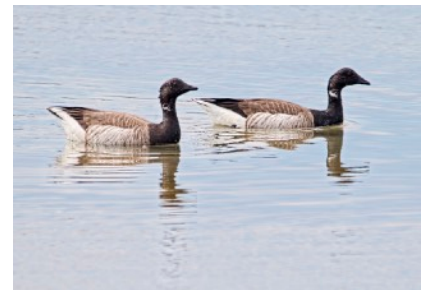
*Rick Stevens and Cathy Ballard*

### Durand Eastman Park 11/11/18

Seventeen birders gathered at Durand Eastman Park on a chilly but mostly sunny and calm Sunday morning. Jays, robins, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and other expected fall species caught our attention, but the hoped-for Evening Grosbeaks that had recently been seen here and elsewhere did not put in an appearance. We were pleased, however, to find Cedar Waxwings, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers.

Most people continued on to the Irondequoit Bay outlet, where the highlights were a Brant, a Red-throated Loon, 3 Common Loons, and 2 Long-tailed Ducks. As the group was dispersing, those remaining were treated to a Bald Eagle soaring almost directly overhead, a fine finish to a lovely day of fall birding.

*Tom and Jeanne Verhulst*



A pair of Brants. Photo by Jay Greenberg.



## Please Renew Your Membership!

As I write this, we are halfway through the membership campaign period with less than 40% of the current membership on the roster for 2019. Many thanks to the folks that have renewed! Membership renewal ends December 31. The dues for 2019 are \$25 for household membership, \$15 for Young Birder membership. If you wish the *Little Gull* to be sent by USPS mail, add an additional \$15. Renewal can be done by using the website. You can also print out the renewal form on the website and send it in with payment. Renewal forms will be sent by

USPS mail to all members not having renewed by the end of December. Renew now and help RBA save dollars in mailing costs.

*Jo Taylor*  
*Membership Data*

## 2019 Membership Renewal Campaign

Current Membership=417  
2019 Paid Membership =155=37% (as of 11/13/2018)

## Rochester Christmas Bird Count Sunday December 16, 2018

Enjoy the company of other birders! Participate in citizen science!

Join us for the 119<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count of the National Audubon Society and the 115th Rochester CBC. New observers will be paired with experienced birders. If you cannot get out to bird in the field, watch your feeder and phone results to the area leader.

In the evening of the count day, we will gather at Newport Yacht Club (on Seneca Road in Irondequoit) at 6:00 p.m. for pizza (there will be a \$5 charge to cover costs) and pot-luck followed by a species tally. Hot cocoa and cider will flow! The tally will start about 7:30 p.m.. We will be finished by 9:00 p.m. Come to the tally even if you don't come to dinner. Please reply to Norma Platt at 585-260-5221/ [normap1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:normap1@rochester.rr.com) by December 13.

Birds seen during the count week, December 13 to 19, may be called in to the area leaders.

To participate in the count, call an area leader. Be sure to ask your leader for details.

Bob and Susan Spahn 671-5690

Greg Lawrence cell 730-2553

Jay Greenberg [littlegulleditor@gmail.com](mailto:littlegulleditor@gmail.com)

Dominic Sherony 223-7353

Tom & Nancy Poeth 872-5344

Shirley Shaw 385-3907

Andrea Patterson [andrea.j.patterson@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.j.patterson@gmail.com)

And Young Birders/Robert Buckert

Rosemary Reilly [reilly.rosemary@gmail.com](mailto:reilly.rosemary@gmail.com)

John Boettcher [jwb2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jwb2@rochester.rr.com)

Braddock Bay to Long Pond Road

Long Pond Road to Dewey Avenue

Dewey Avenue to Charlotte Harbor

Summerville to Culver Road

Culver Road to Baker Road (Webster)

Highland Park, Genesee Valley Park, Mt. Hope Cemetery

Seneca Park

Maplewood & Turning Point Parks, Holy Sepulchre and  
Riverside Cemeteries

Area west of Rochester-Monroe County Airport

## 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, 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](mailto:lucretia@frontiernet.net) for alternate arrangements. Remember to include a list of the items and your name and address with your donation.

Lucretia Grosshans

## Little Lakes Christmas Bird Count Saturday December 29, 2018

This year marks the 119<sup>th</sup> count nationwide and the 67<sup>th</sup> count for the area. The count date is Saturday, December 29, 2018. Birds seen during the count week of December 26 to January 1 may be called in to the leaders for inclusion in the tally. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle is the outlet of Hemlock Lake, at the north end of the lake. The circle includes all of Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice and Honeoye Lakes and a large area to the north. The dividing line between the lakes is the height of land between the lakes. It is important for the coverage in each of the 5 areas to be as consistent as possible, year to year, for meaningful evaluation of the count area. Your participation in this worthy endeavor would be greatly appreciated. New birders can be paired up with experienced birders. If you are interested, contact one of the leaders.

The afternoon compiling meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the American Hotel, located at the SE corner of Routes 5 & 20 in the village of Lima. As an expression of our appreciation for letting us meet at this location, please order something from the menu. They are known for their tasty soups.

*Pat Martin, Compiler*

Home: 582-2761

Cell: 301-5485

[emartin139@earthlink.net](mailto:emartin139@earthlink.net)

Area	Leader	Phone	E-mail
Conesus Lake	Jim Kimball	243-0316	<a href="mailto:kimball@geneseo.edu">kimball@geneseo.edu</a>
Hemlock Lake	Bill Howe	301-2646	<a href="mailto:whhowe60@gmail.com">whhowe60@gmail.com</a>
Canadice Lake	Phil Opdycke	385-6189	<a href="mailto:popdycke@rochester.rr.com">popdycke@rochester.rr.com</a>
Honeoye Lake	Bob Spahn	671-5690	<a href="mailto:rspahn@prodigy.net">rspahn@prodigy.net</a>
Northern Area	Robert Buckert		<a href="mailto:avbrro@hotmail.com">avbrro@hotmail.com</a>

### ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: To be decided

Vice President: Jeanne Verhulst

Treasurer: Brian Rohrs

Secretary: Kimberly Weeks

Directors-at-Large: Kevin Ferrell, Elizabeth Magnanti, Andrea Patterson, Wanda Thistle

Past President, Amy Kahn, automatically retains a voting position on the board for 2019 and shall assist the president in the performance of the duties of the president's office and in the promotion of the efficient operation of the association.

Additional nominations, with the consent of the nominee, will be accepted at the December meeting. We hope to have a nominee for president at that time, and we are diligently pursuing every lead and suggestion for this critical position.

Officers and directors-at-large will be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the annual dinner on January 12, 2019. We urge all association members to attend this event because a quorum consisting of 10% of current association members at any meeting is required for the transaction of any business including the election of the board of directors.

The nominating committee recommends the election of the entire slate of nominees.

*Catherine Ballard, Nominating Chair, with Mary Gordon and Richard Ashworth*

# RBA WINTER DINNER

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m.  
Summerville Presbyterian Church, 4845 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester NY 14617

Cost per person: \$5.00

Main entrees: roasted turkey, honey basted ham. Guests will provide additional dishes.



To make reservations: e-mail Wanda Thistle at [thistlew@yahoo.com](mailto:thistlew@yahoo.com) or call (585) 236-1834

She will need the following information:

- ✓ Your name
- ✓ Number people attending
- ✓ Side dish you will be bringing

We will be providing the place settings & cutlery

## WHITE ALBATROSS TABLE

If you bring something for the White Albatross Table, be sure to price it, and let us know if you want the sale price to go as a donation to RBA or back to you.

## EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT

If you plan to give a presentation, please let us know and how long it will take. Artwork, carvings, photos, and slides are welcome. Please contact Richard Ashworth at 381-2189, or [richarda@rochester.rr.com](mailto:richarda@rochester.rr.com) , if you will be showing slides.

If you can help with this event, please contact Wanda Thistle!  
Many hands make light work.

## Wind Energy and Birds Can Coexist, But Only If Turbines Are Sited Properly

By Amy Kahn, RBA President and Conservation Chair

In the case of wind energy, careful wind generation siting is crucial in preventing unintended impacts on our native bird species, and the Rochester Birding Association (RBA) is concerned that the proposed site for the Lighthouse Wind project poses an unacceptably high risk to protected wildlife species.

The RBA first publicly stated our position on Wind Energy and Birds in 2007, stating that we support wind energy as an alternative to fossil fuel power generation, provided that the facilities do not cause undue harm to nesting and migrating birds.

The southern shore of Lake Ontario is a critical migratory corridor for vast numbers of both raptors and other neotropical migratory birds. Based on an abundance of biological data obtained from long-term studies, the proposed Lighthouse Wind project area is likely to have unacceptable levels of avian mortality. The Lighthouse Wind or any other large-scale wind turbine facility along the lake shore will put millions of birds in danger of collision and death.

The RBA concludes that development of wind turbines along the south shore of Lake Ontario is ill-advised. The cost in birds and wildlife will be too high for the people and the ecological balance of New York State. We respectfully advise that the Lighthouse Wind project be relocated to an area that will result in fewer avian casualties.

RBA looks forward to continuing to work with government, industry and citizens to ensure that wind energy comes to our region in a way that does not cause significant harm to birds, bats and the ecosystems they inhabit.

You also may wish to check out this new article based on a 20 year study.

**Wind Turbines Can Act Like Apex Predators - Scientific American** <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/wind-turbines-can-act-like-apex-predators/>

### October 2018 Sightings Report

It was a split month, weather-wise; the first 10 days were warm, followed by the rest of the month being cold and damp. The warmth led to late foliage color and very late foliage drop, but also to more than usual numbers of later departure dates. Temperatures averaged 50.9 °F, just 0.3° above normal. There were 3 days in a row above 80° from the 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, and record highs set on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, with 72° on the 9<sup>th</sup> an all-time high for October. Two to 3 inches of rain fell in the first 10 days over much of Western New York, followed by cold, gray skies and light rain or drizzle most days the rest of the month. Precipitation at 3.83" was 1.11" above normal, with 0.1" of snow on the 18<sup>th</sup> right at normal. The first freeze of the season was on October 30.

The species total for the month was the highest on record at 213, yet there were no really outstanding rare birds. Apparent arrivals and departures were about as expected relative to their old distributions, arrivals in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile and interquartile range and departures interquartile range (13) and largely 4<sup>th</sup> quartile (42), with 9 more species past the late date in the old guide but with several dates each later than this year in the intervening years. Record late departures were recorded for Chimney Swift, Wilson's Phalarope, and Warbling Vireo. If some of the comments seem in strange order, both you and I are, starting with last month and now this, trying to adjust to the move by NYSOA and eBird to the new order of the AOS checklist. This will also appear in the Noteworthy Records tables to be posted (awaiting some late input) on the RBA website. The eBird records downloaded this month for the region totaled 30,786, a jump of 50% over last year and certainly

bolstered by the observers visiting for the NYSOA annual meeting here on October 5-7.

All expected waterfowl were reported, though generally at relative low numbers. Only Eurasian Wigeon and Cackling Goose were relatively rarer. Good counts were noted for Cackling Goose and for American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal, with the best counts for the latter 3 species in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). Diving ducks were noted only in relatively low peak counts. Grebe maxima were unexceptional. Loons now appear after shorebirds and gulls and terns followed by egrets and the raptors; numbers were relatively low, and again there were no rarities. Again, so far no Northern Gannet.

Some of the non-passerine land birds now end up here. Among the interesting observations are Chimney Swift record late on October 22 and 30, though there will be at least one later November record, and a hummingbird reported in the town of Conesus on October 20 but not ID'd to species.

Twenty-three shorebird species was a small increase over the past few years. Again, numbers were generally very low. Departure dates followed this fall's trend to later dates, with the record late Wilson's Phalarope among them. Hudsonian Godwit at 2 locations and a Red Phalarope were the most interesting finds.

There was a reasonable number of about 8 Parasitic Jaegers and 2 others not ID'd to species. Otherwise, 3 adult Little Gulls and 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls topped the gull and tern list.



The fall raptor picture was again slow. A Black Vulture was reported from the town of Victor, and Osprey was a bit late on October 25 in both Greece and Irondequoit. There were 259 lines of Bald Eagle records in eBird that could be analyzed to arrive at some feel for the actual number of birds: many. Beyond that, numbers and arrival and departure dates were typical until we end with a relatively rare fall Golden Eagle seen in the town of Tyre, Wayne County. Northern Goshawk again was unreported. The last Broad-winged Hawk noted was on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Rough-legged Hawk first appeared on the 20<sup>th</sup>, with only one other report on the next day. All 3 regular falcons were well reported this fall.

The first Snowy Owl was reported from the Sodus Point area a bit early on the 28<sup>th</sup>. No Short-eared Owls were found by month's end, and only one Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported banded at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO). Red-headed Woodpecker was again noted only from Hamlin Beach State Park and with few reports.

Again, nearly all the expected passerine species were reported. Numbers were again generally low. The full banding data was not available for analysis at the time of this writing. Among the more interesting observations were: Warbling Vireo record late on October 24; Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskins seen later in the month; Nelson's Sparrows at Burger Park mid-month; 22 species of warbler reported, with Connecticut and 14 Orange-crowned the most interesting, but also many to relatively late departure dates. Cave Swallow was not reported, but the weather pattern gives hope of that species soon.

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

	2018	2017	10-year Average (2008-2017)
Total species for October	213	201	203
New species for the year	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5.7</u>
Total for the year to date	282	284	286.2

#### *Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*

**Observers:** Jim Adams, Richard Ashworth, Cathy Ballard, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billeman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Jeff Bolsinger, Marty Morko, Joe Brin, Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Nancy

Casper, Linda Clark-Benedict, Kelly Close, Andrew Con-sler, Cathy Contant, Willie D'Anna, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Mark Druziak, Brendan Fogarty, George Ford, Kenny Frisch, Noah Gaines, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janice George, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Shannon Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Gunther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Dave Kennedy, Mike Kidulich, Jim Kimball, M. Kitsch, Renee Kittleman, Elijah Krueger, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Pat Lindsay, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Jim Miles, Greg Miller, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Shai Mitra, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Pete Morris, Brian & Brooke Morse, David Muller, Chan Nam, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Rivka Noll, Mary Mormandia, Dave Odell, Bill Ostrander, Mike Palermo, Lynne Parsons, Andrea Patterson, Jon Podoliak, Carena Pooth, Jo Popma, Matthew Press, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Rosemary Reilly, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Karl Schmidt, Barb Sciarrino, Luke Seitz, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Taylor Sturm, Brandon Tate, Steve Taylor, Serin Tedesco, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, M. J. Thomas, Herb Thompson, Gerald Thurn, Sarah Toner, Grant Van Horn, Alison Van Keuren, W. Von Herff, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood.



An Osprey with a fish. Photo by Jay Greenberg.



## Thayer Birding Software Is Giving Away Their Birding Software to Kids – For Free

by Amy Kahn, RBA President

Hi Rochester Young Birders! When RBA received an e-mail with this offer I was skeptical, but I checked it out, and it is for real. I used to use this software as a professional ornithologist. The software is much more in depth than Cornell's Merlin app and is not an app for cell phones. Instead it is for your computer. It has all 1007 North American bird ids, song clips, videos and quizzes. It includes an electronic copy of one of my favorite reference books - The Birders Handbook which has lots of information about what individual species eat, where they nest, what their eggs look like and other life history. The program is very large (~14 GB) so follow their instructions for downloading (except that I did not turn off my antivirus software and all went well). I do not recommend ever turning off your antivirus software when downloading. You will want your parents to do this with you or to at least give you permission first. Feel free to contact me if you have further questions. There is also a link to a YouTube video which explains the program and more about why they are giving it away to kids.

This amazing birding software, for Windows or Mac computers, features the 1,007 birds that have been seen in the continental United States and Canada. The software includes 6,856 color photos, 1,506 songs and calls, 552 video clips of birds in action, 700 quizzes and much, much more. Use the ID Wizard to identify unknown birds in your yard. Keep track of the birds you see. Compare any two bird species side-by-side. Read all about the bird's nests, eggs, feeding habits and more.

Any young birder in pre-K, grade school, middle school or high school is able to download the new version 7.7 of Thayer's Birds of North America at NO COST. The kids do this by using a Young Birder code available at hundreds of birding, nature, conservation and educational web sites.

Kids can get the software by visiting [www.ThayerBirding.com](http://www.ThayerBirding.com), clicking the Windows or Mac download button and entering the code shown below. Then click the Apply button and Free Checkout.

Thayer has created a special code that you can use: **RochesterYoungBirder**

Also college and grad students can get a 50% discount by using the code **STUDENT**

Teachers can get a 50% discount by using the code **TEACHER**

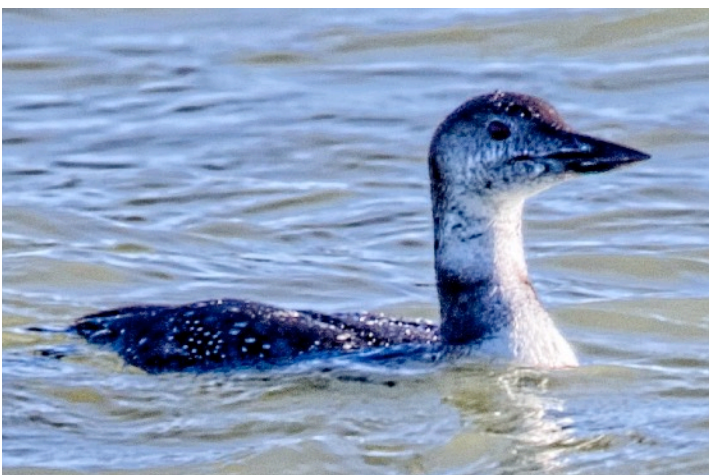
Wildlife professionals can get a 50% discount by using the code **WILDLIFE**

It would be amazing if an additional one million kids could become interested in birds and nature, conservation and the future of our planet!

Thayer Birding Software's founder, Peter Thayer, decided that this would be the perfect way to celebrate his 70th birthday!

"It is time to give back something to the birding community and to the millions of young birders (and potential young birders) who just need a spark to get them started on a life-long quest for knowledge about our natural world and the importance of preserving the habitat we still have. What better way than this to celebrate the year of the bird? Our goal is to give away one million free copies of the birding program to kids everywhere."

**Are you the local bird expert? You soon will be!**



A non-breeding **Common Loon**. 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to Jay Greenberg, Editor, [LittleGullEditor@gmail.com](mailto: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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