



Bittle Gull

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

Rochester Birding Association, 5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618

DECEMBER 2017 AND EARLY JANUARY 2018 EVENTS & BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

DEC 3
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 Old Fort Niagara parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring beverage and snacks, for this is an all day trip. There is heightened security at the border: participants should bring passports. **Dress warmly and in layers. Extra spotting scopes would be very helpful.**

Leaders: *Bob Spahn 585-671-5690 and members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS)*

DEC 9
Saturday

CONESUS LAKE AREA

We'll be looking for Tundra Swans, Canvasbacks, Redheads, and other waterfowl. Meet at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville at 8:00 a.m. The park is between Nothnagle's and the U.S. Post Office on the south (lake) side of 20A. **Extra spotting scopes would be very helpful.**

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

DEC 10
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 the Tops Plaza in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, 2 miles west of I-390 at 2:00 p.m. **Dress warmly. Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

Leaders: *Kimberly Sucky 585-503-2534 & Judy Gurley 585-582-2349*

DEC 14
Thursday

RBA General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., the Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover Street, Rochester NY 14610 (in Brighton). Speaker: Alan Singer. Title: Arthur Singer, My Father: His Artwork, and the Culture of the Times in Which He Lived. See the article on p. 3 for more information.

DEC 17
Sunday

Rochester Christmas Bird Count. See the notice on p. 7 of this issue for more information.
Compiler: *Norma Platt 585-671-9639*

DEC 23
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*

JAN 1
Monday

DURAND EASTMAN PARK – YEAR LIST JUMP-START

Get started on your 2018 list! We'll look for winter 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 or at the Lake Shore Boulevard parking area between Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road (Parking Lot D) at 8:45 a.m. Dress warmly!

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



Don't forget to make your reservation for the RBA Dinner on January 13! See the notice on p. 8 for more information.

RENEW your RBA Membership for 2018!

See the notice on p. 3 for more information

Welcome to the Flock



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

Cynthia Culbert
Liz Magnanti

Current RBA Membership is 391.
We also have Young Birders (6), *Little Gull* subscribers (5) and complimentary members (22).

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
See the article on p. 3 in this issue.

John Boettcher
Membership Chairman

President's Column

Amy Kahn



Welcome to December! A lot has been happening, and there is more to come. If you have recommendations for a recipient(s) of the 2017 Little Gull Award please send

the name(s) and your reasons why the award is deserved, to me or someone else on the board.

The 2017 NYSOA conference was held in Niagara Falls November 10–12. The weather took a decidedly wintery flavor that required pulling out all the winter layers to continue birding in the wind and ice. BOS specifically chose to hold the conference late in the year to take advantage of the great collection of gull species, waterfowl and winter field birds that concentrate in their territory. It made for some great field trips. During the paper session, 6 papers were presented, including one by Garret VanGeider, the 17 year old president of the New York State Young Birder's Club. During the delegates' meeting, we learned that the next Breeding Bird

Atlas will start in 2020. A great deal of information was shared by the DEC, including that the third draft of a management plan for Mute Swans is currently available for public comment until December 13, 2017 at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7076.html. Rochester is well represented in NYSOA; Lucretia Grosshans, Greg Lawrence, Shirley Shaw, and Bob Spahn are all on the board and Dominic Sherony is on the nominating committee.

An Update on Lighthouse and Other Wind Projects. APEX has filed an application with the state for the Galoo Island wind project on the St. Lawrence in the migratory flyway. You can Google for more information. Save Ontario Shores held a strategy forum in November to formulate a coordinated public relations and government lobbying effort to counter APEX as they get ready to submit their permit application for the Lighthouse Wind project, the poorly sited wind project within 5 miles of the Lake Ontario lakeshore in the heart of the migratory flyway for raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds.

A concerned member alerted me to the recently begun **Erie Canal Vegetation Management Project**. It will be stripping vegetation from canal embankment slopes along elevated sections from Medina to Fairport. They have neglected management for many years and are now concerned about roots destabilizing banks holding water in the canal from low lying surrounding grounds (they don't want another Bushnell's Basin-type collapse). Member Bruce Cady has been trying to work with them to preserve some habitat for birds.

Halloween at the Market. Amy Kahn, Lynn Bergmeyer, Nick Kachala, and Robert Buckert represented RBA at the Halloween at the Market on October 29. RBA worked cooperatively with Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Braddock Bay Raptor Research, Genesee Valley Audubon, Genesee Land Trust, and Save Ontario Shores. To get their prizes, kids did games that taught about birds (or bats) with all

the groups. It was cold, windy and rainy, but we still gave out 500 stickers and information about the RBA Young Birders Club. Hopefully, we'll hear from a few families by spring.

The RBA Board has appointed Nick Kalacha to a non-voting (he is not 18) Young Birder Liaison position, a type of internship, with the board for next year. Theboard also appointed Brian Rohrs to fill the last two months of our vacant board seat for 2017. Brian has been nominated to be our treasurer next year.

I am thrilled to be nominated to a second term as your president. I look forward to continuing our efforts to bring more young and diverse people into RBA to join us in our love of birds and their habitat.

Editor's Corner

Jay Greenberg



This issue is full of useful information for RBA members. Of course, it has the usual features,

including the event calendar (p. 1), membership report (p. 2), president's column (p. 2), the December RBA meeting talk and speaker (p. 3), field trip reports (pp. 4, 6), and sightings report (p. 5). In addition, it has notices for 2 Rochester area Christmas bird counts (pp. 5, 7), a notice for the RBA winter dinner (p. 8), a notice about membership renewal (p. 3), and a list of candidates for the RBA election which will be held at the winter dinner (p. 3). It also has biographical sketches for the candidates who would be new to the board (p. 9). Additional bios will appear in the January, 2018 issue. Enjoy!



December Talk and Speaker

Alan Singer will speak on, "Arthur Singer: My Father, His Artwork, and the Culture of the Times in Which He Lived".

"I will speak from my experience. I grew up in a family of artists, and my father had been a child prodigy. He had artwork published by the time he was a junior in high school. He was noticed by curators at The American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and by the administrators of the Bronx Zoo.

My father had his first exhibition there at the zoo in 1942. After World War II, he had the great fortune to work with some of the greats in mid- 20th century ornithology, and he was employed by book publishers and magazine publishers who served the public with books and articles that my father illustrated. He loved nature, he was an ardent conservationist, and later in life he was awarded the kind of recognition that few ever achieve.

I will show examples of his art, and speak about his life and times. I was fortunate in having the chance to collaborate with my dad on a number of projects like the Birds and Flowers stamps, and also the revision of his famous Golden Guide to *Birds of North America*. We worked together for 9 years towards the end of his career. Those years proved to be very important in the scope of his work."



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Amy Kahn |
| Vice-President | Jeannie Verhulst |
| Treasurer | Brian Rohrs |
| Secretary | Kim Weeks |
| Director | Kevin Farrell |
| Director | Liz Magnanti |
| Director | Andrea Patterson |
| Director | Wanda Thistle |

Past President, Laura Kammermeier, automatically retains a voting position on the board for 2018 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.

Of special note, the board has appointed Nicholas Kachala to a non-voting position for the 2018 board to be known as "Young Birder Liaison."

Additional nominations, with the consent of the nominee, will be accepted at the December meeting.

Officers and directors-at-large will be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the annual dinner on January 13, 2018. We urge all members to attend this event because a quorum consisting of 10% of current members at any meeting is required for the transaction of any business including the election of the RBA board of directors.

The Nominating Committee recommends the election of the entire slate of nominees.

Catherine Ballard (Chair), Thomas Nash, and Kimberly Sucky

Editor's note: Biographical sketches of candidates new to the board are on page 9. Additional bios will appear in the January 2018 issue before the election.

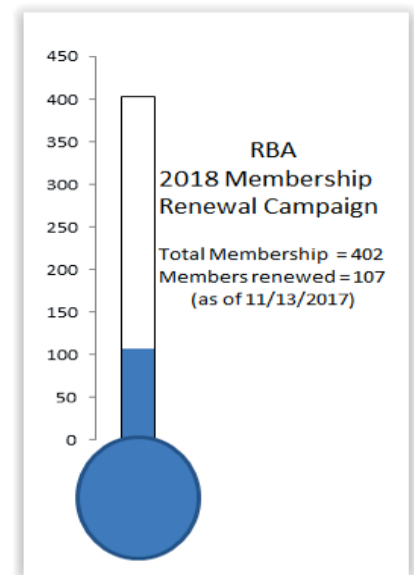
Please Renew Your Membership!

As I write this, we are halfway through the membership campaign period with only one quarter of the membership having renewed for 2018. Much thanks to the folks that have renewed! Membership renewal ends December 31.

The dues for 2018 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 early December.

*John Boettcher
Membership Chairman*



RBA IN THE FIELD

**Hamlin Beach State Park
10/15/2017**

Today was yet another warm day in the continuing warm spell since mid-September. It reached 80 °F with strong southwest winds today. Our group of 7 birders started the day at Hamlin Beach State Park and spent about an hour at the Parking Lot 4 lake watch. Common Loons and Horned Grebes were readily seen on the lake. Andy Guthrie was very helpful in pointing out some of the more subtle fly-bys, including Red-necked Grebes, Horned Larks overhead, Bonaparte's Gulls, a flock of Dunlins, and very few ducks. The highlights for the lake watch were 2 Black-bellied Plovers flying around and on the beach, a Peregrine Falcon close up, and an immature Bald Eagle. A walk at Yanty Creek trail produced almost nothing, but we did enjoy the new boardwalk over the marsh.

On our route back to Rochester, we made 3 stops, including Salmon Creek, Braddock Bay East Spit, and Irondequoit Bay outlet. The water level at Salmon Creek remains high following this spring's record levels. The only shorebird on a very small mudflat was a Lesser Yellowlegs. Among the ducks were Mallards, 2 Blacks, 8 pintails, and 2 Green-winged Teals. Pied-billed Grebes and a few Common Gallinules were seen. The East Spit of Braddock Bay is open to the public for walks to the new jetty. We had a few species here that included Bonaparte's Gulls, 4 Bald Eagles, a Black-bellied Plover in the air, and 2 Spotted Sandpipers. The highlight was a female Surf Scoter seen close to shore. Our trip to Irondequoit Bay outlet was to search for the Harlequin Duck that had been present all day yesterday. The strong southwest winds and possibly the boat traffic left the outlet devoid of birds, but we did see a flock of Dunlins, 4 Caspian Terns, and a single Great Black-backed Gull in the area. Later

in the afternoon, other birds were discovered on the bay, including Grater Yellowlegs, Lesser Scaup, American Coots and 2 more Surf Scoters.

For the day, the total trip list was about 50 species. Shorebirds and ducks were seen in lower than expected numbers, probably due to the high lake level and the strong southern winds. Although we did not make a big effort for passerines, they were also seen in lower numbers than expected. But it was an unusually beautiful day, partially sunny and shirt-sleeve weather, rare for mid-October.

Kimberly Sucky and Dominic Sherony



A **Dunlin** in basic plumage. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

Durand Eastman Park 11/12/2017

Leaders: Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash, and Rosemary Reilly.

Fifteen people showed up at the park on a relatively cold, cloudy day. From the parking lot, we soon picked out a kingfisher flying over Eastman Lake, along with a floating flock of Mallards. On Log Cabin Road, we saw some of the smaller woodpeckers: Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied, as well as some White-breasted Nuthatches. At the southern end of Log Cabin Road, we had a good look at a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, along with more woodpeckers, American Robins, White-breasted Nuthatches, House Finches, Northern Cardinals, and White-throated Sparrows.

As we approached the fruiticetum, a Pileated Woodpecker was seen. In

a few moments, it wonderfully presented itself to the group. Soon thereafter a Common Raven cawed in the woods east of us, adding a very special bird to the day.

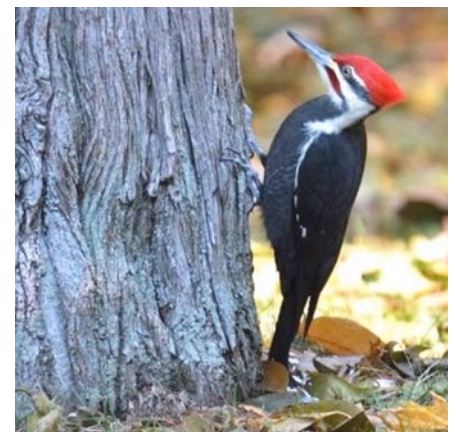
Back by the lake we found both a Common and a Red-throated Loon. At first, they were their usual diving selves, but eventually they stayed on top of the water long enough for most people in the group to see some distinguishing field marks. A Bonaparte's Gull flew past, giving us a chance to ID the bird in flight.

While observing the lake, a passerby pointed out an injured bird on the beach. It turned out to be a Horned Grebe with an injured wing. After several futile calls, we were able to locate an open rehabilitator, so Rosemary drove the bird to him for emergency surgery. Thank you Rosemary, and we hope for the best for the bird.

At this point, the trip relocated to Irondequoit Bay outlet, where we found a Bald Eagle perched on Inspiration Point. From the west jetty, we saw a few Long-tailed Ducks and several more Common Loons. We worked with the participants on field marks of the 4 gull species on the shore.

In all, we had 38 species with a life bird added to several personal lists.

Tom Nash



A **Pileated Woodpecker** at Durand-Eastman Park. Photo by Dick Horsey on Nov. 12, 2017.

**LITTLE LAKES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017**

This year marks the 118th count nationwide and the 66th count for the area. The count date is Saturday, December 23, 2017. Birds seen during the count week of December 20 to December 26 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

| <u>Area</u> | <u>Leader</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>E-mail</u> |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| Conesus Lake | Jim Kimball | 243-0316 | kimball@geneseo.edu |
| Hemlock Lake | Bill Howe | 505-238-1908 | whhowe60@gmail.com |
| Canadice Lake | Phil Opdycke | 385-6189 | popdycke@rochester.rr.com |
| Honeoye Lake | Bob Spahn | 671-5690 | rspahn@prodigy.net |
| Northern Area | Greg Lawrence | 730-2553 | glawrence21@yahoo.com |

October 2017 Sightings Report

It was a warm month with pleasant afternoons for outdoor activities. The mid-September to mid-October period was the warmest on record, then it cooled towards month's end, with showers and finally lake effect rain. It was the 6th warmest October on record, though the only daily record was a tie for record high low on the 8th. Temperatures averaged 57.7 °F, 7.1° above normal. It was also the 4th wettest October on record, with the total 6.71" at 3.99" above normal. There were 2 days of record rainfall, with 2.39" on the 9th and 2.10" on the 29th. Both were from remnants of tropical storms.

This year, the species total for the month was back to right on the average for the past 10 years. Apparent arrivals and departures were about as expected relative to their old distributions and experience in the years since. There were a few species that often linger into October that were missed, e.g. Virginia Rail, Sora, the cuckoos, Philadelphia Vireo, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but the interquartile ranges of their departure distributions all overlap October 1, so not being seen in October is not really surprising. Still, there was a feel of lack of numbers for many migrants, backed by relatively low peak counts in most cases as illustrated by numbers in the Noteworthy Records table.

Again, waterfowl, loon, and grebe numbers in our region were generally low. The peak counts for many species are captured in the noteworthy table. All really expected species were reported. The number of days with Brant

reported and the peak numbers recorded were both again up a bit.. But again there were no really big days for either loon species. Cackling Goose was typical of recent years. Harlequin Duck at several sites was interesting for this early. So far Northern Gannet remains missing for yet another fall. There were no special herons in our region, though some appeared nearby.

The fall raptor picture was again slow. Black Vulture was reported again over High Acres Nature Area as well as at Letchworth State Park. Northern Goshawk went unreported. There were no late Broad-winged Hawks, but there had been few reports through the summer locally. Rough-legged Hawks appeared late in the month in small numbers. Both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers were good, and a late report noted that Merlin nested again in the northeast part of Rochester. American Kestrel seemed scarce this month.

Twenty shorebird species is again decent variety, but numbers were generally pathetically low. Lake Ontario levels have dropped some from the flooding highs of spring, but are still not low enough to produce much shorebird habitat. Again, there were no particularly rare species or unusual dates.

There were a good number of reports of passing Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers plus a burst of Bonaparte's Gulls on the 16th and a number of adult Little Gulls with them, and then off and on for the rest of the

month. Other than that, the gull and tern scene was lackluster.

Among the non-passerine land birds, we had the token 2 Eurasian Collared-Doves seen by Andy Guthrie on the 29th and 31st, a normal Short-eared Owl arrival, reports of Northern Saw-whet Owl banding, a few Chimney Swifts lingering, and 3 reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird into this month. Red-headed Woodpecker was noted only from Hamlin Beach State Park, and 8 were found by Sheryl Gracewski while canoeing along Irondequoit Creek.

Again, most of the passerine species regularly expected were reported. Numbers were generally low. The banding total for this fall was the lowest for the past 7 years at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) (data I have easy access to). Totals for a number of species are included as illustrations in the noteworthy table. It was a down year for Black-capped Chickadee, only 5 banded this month, and Blackpoll Warbler was back to more typical low numbers. Most totals, while seeming low, are within one standard deviation of the average for the past six years. The only real rarities were two reports of White-eyed Vireo, one of these banded, and Cave Swallows passing Hamlin Beach State Park on the 23rd (others seen in nearby regions). There are no obvious irruptions of northern species at this point other than possibly Pine Siskin, for which there were some good counts later in the month. For other winter finches, we had only single reports of Red Crossbill early in the month and Common Redpoll later at BBBO.

There were about 19,250 eBird records for the month from 155 observers, essentially the same as last year, and another 16 notes posted to geneseebirds plus data from BBBO and other contributors.

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.

| | 2017 | 2016 | 10-year Average (2006-2015) |
|----------------------------|------|------|--------------------------------|
| Total species for October | 201 | 211 | 201.7 |
| New species for the year | 4 | 7 | 6.4 |
| Total for the year to date | 284 | 287 | 286.7 |

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Kevin Armstrong, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Steve Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Joe Brin, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Linda Clark-Benedict, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Jonathan Dachenhaus, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Bob Dobson, George Ford, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, Elizabeth Gordon, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Stephen Johnson, Nicholas Kachala, Jim Kimball, Mark Kimble, Renee Kittleman, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Jim Miles, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Rivka Noll, Dave Odell, Andrea Patterson, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Livia Santana, Chris Sayers, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Taylor Sturm, Kimberly Sucey, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Alison Van Keuren, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts,

Young Birders Trip to Hamlin Beach State Park 10/14/17

At 8:00 a.m., 5 young birders and their families arrived to participate in the RBA Young Birder's Club October field trip to Hamlin Beach State Park. They were joined by the expert for the trip, Andy Guthrie, and experienced Rochester birder, Pat Martin. After a brief intro and a short time spent counting passerines in parking area 4, the group headed up to the shelter for some lake watching.

The south winds and heavy fog caused unfavorable lake watching conditions, but it was nice weather to be outside. The fog eventually receded, but not entirely. In and out of the fog, many Horned Grebes, along with a couple of Red-necked Grebes were seen diving and congregating. Some of us were treated to a quick view of a pair of Surf Scoters darting by. As the fog continued to recede, a feeding flock that contained several hundred Red-breasted Mergansers, many Common Loons, many

gulls, and some Double-crested Cormorants became exposed. As the water-birds began to pick up, so did the passerines. Many flocks of Pine Siskins went over, along with flyover American Goldfinches and Horned Larks. Just to the west of the shelter, many enjoyed views of a mixed-flock that moved into the area. This included Chipping Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Pine Siskins, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. A couple of Sanderlings were seen flying onto the beach, and some members went down for better views. Immediately after that, a few Northern Pintails flew over. As the group came back together at the shelter, much of the feeding flock on the water was flushed by a passing boat. Only a few White-winged Scoters were seen flying by. With that, we decided to do some walking at Yanty Creek.

The Yanty Creek Trail was fairly active. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flew above us and into a nearby tree. Pine Siskins continued to fly over in flocks numbering in the 20's. Walking only 100 feet into the woods, the forest came alive with birds; Winter Wrens did their double chip, Hermit Thrushes dotted the trail floor, Golden-crowned

Kinglets 'seeted' from the thickets, and Tufted Titmouse sang. With some screech-owl impressions, we were able to draw out more kinglets, many chickadees, and even a very curious Downy Woodpecker. Moving to the new boardwalk section, Marsh Wren, Great Blue Heron, Swamp Sparrow, and Eastern Phoebe were new for the day. Unsuccessful calling for Nelson's Sparrow wasn't all bad, as the group got great views of a House Finch and of a flying Hairy Woodpecker. Moving along down the trail, White-throated Sparrow was the most abundant species, and another stop for spishing and owl imitations woke up 2 screech-owls! Our final stop along the trail, where it transitions into a white pine woods yielded both nuthatch species and multiple Ruby-crowned Kinglets singing partial songs. We ended the day with 55 species thanks to the serendipity at Yanty Creek.



A first winter **White-throated Sparrow** preening. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

Robert Buckert

Rochester Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 17, 2017

This is your chance to participate in citizen science and enjoy the company of other birders.

Join us for the 118th Christmas Bird Count of the National Audubon Society and the 114th Rochester CBC. New observers will be paired with experienced birders. Lots of eyes make for a better count!

In the evening of the count day, December 17th, we will gather at Newport Yacht Club (on Seneca Road in Irondequoit) at 6:00 p.m. for pizza followed by a species tally. The tally will start about 7:30 p.m. We will be finished by 9:00 p.m. Even if not coming to dinner, join us for the tally. There will be a \$5 charge to cover costs. Self-serve wine and beer will be available for \$1. Pot luck dishes would be appreciated. Please reply to Norma Platt at 585-260-5221/normap1@rochester.rr.com by Tuesday, December 12.

To participate in the count, call an area leader. Be sure to ask your leader for details. If you cannot get out to bird in the field, watch your feeder and phone results to the area leader.

Bob and Susan Spahn 671-5690

Greg Lawrence cell 730-2553

Kimberly Sucy 503-2534 ksucy@eznet.net

Dominic Sherony 223-7353

Tom & Nancy Poeth 872-5344

Shirley Shaw 385-3907

Andrea Patterson andrea.j.patterson@gmail.com

Kim Hartquist k2quist@frontiernet.net

John Boettcher 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



Norma Platt, Compiler 585-260-5221

RBA WINTER DINNER

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 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 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 , if you will be showing slides.

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

RBA Board Candidate Bios

Treasurer: Brian Rohrs (new to board)

I am currently Director of Research and Development for pharmaceuticals at Bausch & Lomb as well as sole proprietor of East Point Pharma Consulting. I have to do a fair amount of traveling for business, and I always take my binoculars and try to steal some time to find local birding hotspots. I look forward to serving as a board member for the RBA and as treasurer, being a steward of the association's financial resources to enable our mission and goals.

Secretary: Kimberly Weeks (new to board)

My interest in birds began on a trip to the Amazon during the mid-nineties where our daily, early morning hikes through the rain forest included spotting exotic birds such as the hoatzin. My love of birds was cemented two years later during a three-week trip to Costa Rica where I saw over 200 species including the Resplendent Quetzal. Shortly after that my husband gave me A Bird Lover's Life List & Journal for my birthday and I began recording the birds I've seen.

An avid traveler, I've been fortunate to birdwatch in some of the top birding destinations in the world, but due to career demands found little time for it outside of vacations. I retired in 2015 after a professional life spanning 35-years that included positions as a software engineer, product manager, small business owner and marketing executive. The following spring, I joined the Rochester Birding Association and, with the help of its enthusiastic and dedicated members, continue to grow my knowledge of the birds we enjoy locally and the best places to spot them. It would be a great opportunity to become more involved in the RBA and help contribute to its continued success.

Directors-at-Large:

Kevin Ferrell (new to board)

I got into birding as an undergraduate while studying abroad in New Zealand researching the effects of invasive mammals on endemic birds. Since then, I have been a casual birder, considering myself more of a generalist when it comes to the out-of-doors. I've spent my young career working for environmental organizations throughout the northeast helping connect people to nature. Since being back in Rochester and working for the Genesee Land Trust, it has been a joy getting people outside, helping them discover the great green spaces around us, and getting to manage conservation lands with birds in mind. Contributing my skills to RBA while learning about birds, and getting to connect new communities to nature would be an exciting opportunity.

Liz Magnanti (new to board)

I grew up birding with my parents on trips to Montezuma when I was a kid, which triggered my love for nature. These trips fueled my passion for the outdoors and wildlife which has grown stronger since. In college I pursued a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from the University of Delaware. I have worked for the Delaware Nature Society, Helmer Nature Center, and Tinker Nature Park leading hikes and programs on subjects including, but not limited to, wildlife, birds, insects and ecology. As the manager of The Bird House on Monroe Avenue, my focus is on helping people bring nature to their backyards. Native and habitat gardening, birding and hiking are some of my favorite things to do in my free time. I hope to unite my knowledge of business and passion for nature to assist the RBA in their fundraising and conservation efforts. I am excited for the opportunity to be a part of the RBA and to help where my skills can be used to achieve its goals.

Wanda Thistle (new to board)

My love of the outdoors was evident in my childhood as I was constantly outside riding a bike, climbing trees and checking out streams and woods. The first job I had was at 15, and the money I saved for college was used to buy a horse that was to be sold when I went to college to help pay for my studies. That horse and I were together exploring the world every day. After college I spent many weekends flying down ski slopes, obviously too fast to spy birds.

Now is the time in my life that I am thoroughly enjoying the value of viewing the world differently. I've always enjoyed learning, which is an adventure in itself and there is always something to learn about birds. Giving back to the RBA is my way of saying thank you to all the interesting birds and interesting birders that I have met.

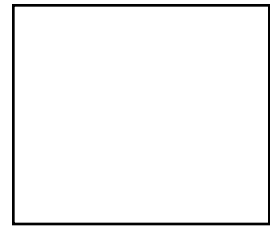
Young Birder Liaison: Nick Kachala (new to board)

I am 17 years old. Although I only started birding seriously about 4 years ago, consistent dedication and studying have introduced me to a diverse world of taxonomy that I have fallen in love with. The Young Birders program took my blossoming infatuation with birds and elevated it to include interests in ornithology, citizen science programs (like eBird) and conservation. The monthly meetings, field trips, and networking that the club offers has significantly expanded my appreciation of birds and birders alike. Outside of the RBA, I am the current Vice President of the New York State Young Birders Club, a special project of NYSOA, where my duties include running both photo and bird song identification quizzes with my personal photographs and recordings. As the local Young Birders Club has expanded, I have sincerely enjoyed my role as a youth leader, and take particular interest in planning events while also deriving joy from leading field trips.



ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION

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We're on the Web
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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, conservationist@earthlink.net. 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

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