



Bittle Gull

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

Rochester Birding Association, 5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618

JANUARY 2018 EVENTS & BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

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*

JAN 13
Saturday

***BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP* — IRONDEQUOIT BAY, LAKESHORE, GENESEE RIVER OUTLET**

In open areas of water, we'll look for some of the spectacular waterfowl that visit each winter, and with luck even see a few rarities! The spots we visit feature good, close looks with very little walking. Dress warmly as we may be standing outside for some time. Wear boots with good traction. 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. **Bring your spotting scope if you have one, or share ours in turns.**

Leaders: *Tom Nash & Sheryl Gracewski 585-360-4537*

JAN 13
Saturday

RBA WINTER DINNER AND ELECTION, 6:00 p.m., Summerville Presbyterian Church, 4845 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, NY 14617. See the notice on p. 7 for more information.

JAN 14
Sunday

NYSOA January Waterfowl Count

See the notice on p. 6 for more information.

Compiler: *Bob Spahn 585-671-5690, rspahn@prodigy.net*

JAN 14
Sunday

LAKESHORE PLAINS WEST

A driving tour of the farm fields and open lands to the west of Rochester, this trip will search for Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Northern Shrikes, and hawks in the plains and country roads of western Monroe and Orleans Counties. If the weather cooperates, we may venture as far as Golden Hill State Park for a look at the lake and a short walk. Dress warmly in layers, bring a snack and a thermos filled with cocoa, and drive along for a few hours. Barring the possible walk at Golden Hill, this trip should be handicapped-accessible. Meet at Braddock Bay State Park on East Manitou Road in Greece at 9:00 a.m. **Extra FRS radios would be very helpful.**

Leaders: *Kimberly Sucky 585-503-2534 and Co-leader TBA*

JAN 20
Saturday

***BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP* — MENDON PONDS PARK SONGBIRD TRAIL**

This trip will be a leisurely winter walk featuring some very close looks at our winter passerines! Bring some sunflower seeds and your camera! Meet at the Visitor Center on Pond Road near Clover Street at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: *Janet Miles 585-787-0507.*

JAN 27
Saturday

AVON AND LIMA RURAL TOUR

We'll revisit the Nations Road area to look for Northern Shrikes, hawks, Snow Buntings, and other birds of the fields and farmland in winter. We'll be mostly driving, with frequent stops. -Carpooling would be appreciated! Meet at Tops Plaza in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, 2 miles west of I-390 at 3:00 p.m. **Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

Leaders: *Kimberly Sucky 585-503-2534 and Rick Stevens 585-689-1882*

RENEW your RBA Membership for 2018!

Welcome to the Flock



Join me in welcoming these 4 new members to the RBA.

Loretta Morrell
Leah Mould
Martha Price
Kelly Spring

Current RBA membership is 392.

We also have Young Birders (6), *Little Gull* subscribers (5), and complimentary members (22).

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The 3 month membership renewal campaign is coming to an end with over 50% of our membership not having renewed! On 12/13 a renewal form and return envelope were USPS mailed to all members (214) who have not renewed for 2018. Thanks to Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash, Norma Platt, Mary and John Gordon, Janet Miles and Dave Strong for helping with this substantial mailing. Sometime in the middle of January, I will update the database and remove all those who have not renewed. This means no more *Little Gull*, no entry in the new roster, and no access to the member's area of the website. Don't let this happen. Renew NOW!

John Boettcher
Membership Chairman

President's Column

Amy Kahn



Happy New Year! I want to thank Nancy Poeth, Sarah Compter, Becky Krautwurst, and Cindy Marino for their service on the RBA Board. Nancy will stay, serving as our

RBA item sales committee chair. I

welcome back our returning board member candidates: Jeanne Verhulst as vice president, Andrea Patterson as director, and Laura Kammermeier as past president. Brian Rohr is our new treasurer candidate, and he pitched in and actively served as a director the last 2 months of last year. Thank you, Brian, and welcome. We also welcome candidates for 2018: Kim Weeks as secretary, Liz Magnanti, Wanda Thistle, and Kevin Farrell as directors. Nick Kachala will be our Young Birder liaison. I am excited and ready to work hard for our club.

The Rochester Birding Association (RBA) has been invited to become a member of the POWER (**Protecting (Lake) Ontario's Waterfront, Environment, and Resources**)

coalition of organizations working together to prevent the siting of up to 70 620+ foot tall wind turbines along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Since 2007, RBA has held the position of supporting 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 mission statement and guiding principles of the POWER organization are available on the website and in this issue of the *Little Gull*. The board has agreed to bring the possibility of joining this coalition to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting **January 13th**. Please join us for a festive meal, the election of the board, and this vote.

Mission Statement – POWER Coalition Protecting Lake Ontario's Waterfront, Environment and Resources

The mission of the POWER coalition is to prevent the current proposal by Apex Clean Energy to site up to seventy 620+ ft. tall wind turbines along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Each member organization opposes this project based one or more of the following concerns:

that this project is being proposed in a major bird migratory corridor and will be devastating to large populations of birds and bats, will visually degrade the waterfront, negatively impact tourism, violate the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans (LWRP) adopted by the towns of Somerset and Yates and accepted by New York State, usurp the power of local governments to decide the appropriateness of this project, disrupt hunting and fishing opportunities, and potentially interfere with operations at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, potentially jeopardizing the future of the base in the next round of base closures.

It is the position of all the members of the POWER Coalition that renewable energy is a legitimate and important goal for New York State to pursue.

But no energy project should ever be free of assessing and balancing **ALL** of its impacts on other vital aspects of our environment, economy and quality of life.

The POWER Coalition acknowledges the importance of proper siting of these projects based on eliminating or significantly mitigating the negative aspects any project might present.

The POWER Coalition believes that the Apex proposal for Somerset and Yates fails to meet these standards and should be rejected by New York State.

Governing Principles for the POWER Coalition

The partners of the POWER Coalition [Protecting (Lake) Ontario's Waterfront, Environment and Resources] agree to the following principles for governance and decision making on all issues requiring a coalition response:

1. All issues requiring any action by the coalition will be submitted to the leadership of each individual member for consideration.
2. Each member group has the right to decide if it wishes to be included in a coalition action.
3. No statements will be made on behalf of the coalition without unanimous approval of the member organizations.
4. If the member organizations agree that a public statement by the coalition is warranted, that statement will be reviewed by all members and approved before it is released.
5. If a member organization wishes to be excluded from an action proposed by the coalition, the remaining organizations may speak out as individual entities without reference to the coalition or use of coalition stationery or any coalition symbols.
6. For the purposes of conducting coalition business, issues or actions shall include any public statement in the form of a press release, op-ed piece, letters to the editor, media interview, any and all letters to an elected or public official, any and all personal outreach to and lobbying of an elected or public official.

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."

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

RBA IN THE FIELD

Niagara Falls Field Trip: RBA/BOS 12/3/17

The RBA part of this field trip started at the Ontario Beach Park parking lot in Charlotte at 7:00 a.m. in the fading darkness. Walking to the pier and setting up a scope, the first bird was a Snowy Owl perched on the railing about ¾ of the way out. It remained for the only RBA member to join us, Rosemary Riley. Right before we left, a lone Snow Bunting flew over, calling. After about 7:15, we headed west, with a stop at the Braddock Bay Marina off East Manitou Road to scope for Snowy Owls on the East

Spit. Both owls there had head markings indicating previously banded birds. Driving west on the Lake Ontario Parkway, we added one large flock of Cedar Waxwings near Hamlin Beach, 3 Bald Eagles together at the lake edge in Kendall, and a couple of Sharp-shinned Hawks crossing, and a few Red-tailed Hawks. Other than that, the birding was very quiet; only the few expected waterfowl on the lake at close points near Point Breeze, and then farther west along Route 18.

At 9:30 a.m. we joined the rest of the group at Old Fort Niagara, adding 5 more RBA members, the Bertola family with young birders Chris and

Joe, a group of 4 birders from Ithaca, and 3 BOS members bringing us to 18 total. As usual, Tom O'Donnell had arranged free access to the fort for the field trip, though a family emergency trip had called him and Sue away.

The trip started well in the fort, with an adult Little Gull appearing close in the river mouth immediately and staying around for good looks by all. The usual array of waterfowl and gulls was slowly picked up out in the river and later into the lake to the north and east. Typical of a nice day with light southerly breezes, numbers of birds were low and there were few passing passerines. There was a nice raft of scoters, mostly White-winged but with

all 3 species seen. Loons and grebes were scarce, but both regular loons and Horned Grebe were seen by most. A lone Snow Bunting was picked up by a few as it passed far out over the lake.

Moving down to Lewiston via the parkway, we stopped at the St. Peter's Church to observe 5-7 Black Vultures (depending on where you walked and whether you caught the early departing one) and a couple of Turkey Vultures. On down at the river at the usual stop, we had 3 adult Little Gulls working the river with the Bonaparte's Gulls and added Double-crested Cormorant and Great Blue Heron to the day list as well as a few other common species.

Heading across the border late morning we were down to 13, as several had to leave early. At the Sir Adam Beck overlook, there were probably as few large gulls as I have ever seen there at this time of year. However, there was a moving carpet of some 500+ Bonaparte's Gulls passing or wheeling below and enough large gulls to keep us interested. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull and a 1st cycle "Thayer's" Iceland Gull on the rocks across the river were a good start, and with time at least 1 each adult "Thayer's" and an adult and a 1st cycle "Kumlien's" Iceland were picked out plus a 1st cycle Lesser Black-backed. Hearing of birds and locations of sightings up river, we elected to drive right up to parking around Dufferin Island and walking from there down river to the falls.

We added the usual few passerines while coming and going from Dufferin Island, with some of the group catching 2 Common Ravens overhead as a bonus. There was some separation of the group at times, with some walking faster and the BOS carload finding a closer parking spot by surprise. The water level in the river and in the Dufferin Island ponds was as high as we can recall for this trip. We added most of the usual waterfowl species for the area, including the beautiful Hooded Mergansers, plus added a group of 5 male Harlequin Ducks among the rocks between the barge and the falls that others had reported and was a target species and life bird for some of the group. After

that, most headed to where they could look down below Horseshoe Falls where an immature Black-legged Kittiwake had been seen. This put on a great show for most of the group and was again a life bird for some. Sue and I elected to head back from about the conservatory area given, the time to walk that far with our arthritis slowing us. All met back at the parking area and then drove on up above the control gates to view the large flocks of waterfowl plus another Snowy Owl on the breakwall. There were thousands of scaups of both species, hundreds of Canvasbacks, Redheads, and Common Goldeneyes, and smaller numbers of Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, both mergansers, and Ruddy Duck.

About 3:30 we finally ended the formal trip, and groups split up to head home. Sue and I and Rosemary headed back via the Lewiston Bridge and ended up with a long wait. Stick with the Rainbow Bridge if headed back to the U.S., unless you are looking for one more peek at Sir Adam Beck. The Ithaca group plus Bill Howe crossed over and headed south with a stop at Three Sisters Island until dark. They were rewarded with at least 15 Lesser Black-backed Gulls (10+ adults plus other ages) and an adult and two immature Glaucous Gulls.

All in all, it was a successful field trip on a very pleasant day. We totaled about 60 species total plus "Thayer's" Gull and a Herring x Great Black-backed Gull. I did not attempt to count and produce eBird lists for each

stop, although some of the participants did for some of the stops. I do have an estimated total for all the species which mixes counties and countries and so will offend the "sensibilities" of a few.

Bob Spahn

Conesus Lake 12/9/2017

It was cold and breezy as we met at Vitale Park this morning, but it turned out to be a beautiful morning for our RBA trip around Conesus Lake. From the park we had good looks at 35 Tundra Swans and more distant looks at flocks of Buffleheads and Common Goldeneyes and the first of several rafts of Redheads. Redheads were the most numerous of our count birds, with 3,000 or more overall. Other birds of special interest seen at the north end included American Wigeon, Canvasback, Common Loon and an immature Great Black-backed Gull. The drive around Old Orchard Point gave us great looks at waterfowl on glassy smooth water, including 2 Northern Pintails and 4 Pied-billed Grebes. Birds of note at the south end of the lake, the inlet swamp and the small boat launch area, included 3 Northern Shovelers, a large flock of Hooded Mergansers, the first of 2 Bonaparte's Gulls, 3 Bald Eagles and Tree and White-throated Sparrows. One of the best birds of the day was a Northern Shrike spotted by Kimberly along the west side of West Lake Road near Long Point. It was a good morning, we had 45 species in all, and thanks all who participated.

Jim Kimball



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

Christmas Bird Count for Young Birders at Mendon Ponds Park 12/9/2017

by Nick Kachala

At 9:00 a.m. 10 young birders, their parents, and 3 guides from the RBA gathered in the classroom at Wild Wings in Mendon Ponds Park. We began with a short presentation on ID and local birds. After a quick lesson on finding birds with binoculars efficiently, the group headed over to Quaker Pond Trail. We divided into 2 teams of 10 each, and split down different trails. The birds on the east side of the trail were relatively quiet, but calling Pileated Woodpecker, a few American Tree Sparrows, and a puffed up female Northern Cardinal reminiscent of a Mourning Dove brought good discussions about behavior and shape. My team got distracted at the Virginia Rail spot by the abundance of Black-capped Chickadees, and after I went ahead to lay seed down on the bench and rocks, we spent about 10 minutes feeding them. Continuing onward, 6 Eastern Bluebirds were spotted, and all participants got decent views; they were lifers for a few younger participants. Scanning Quaker Pond, we were surprised to find it nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ iced over. Only a handful of Canada Geese and 2 American Black Ducks were present. We deviated from Quaker Pond Trail and walked uphill to the meadow. A Downy Woodpecker flew over, a Northern Mockingbird dashed into a spruce tree, and all of my group members got better looks at the 6 Eastern Bluebirds around a nest box and some other pine trees.

The group that took the western half of the trail quickly found a cooperative flock of chickadees, and spent

several minutes hand-feeding them. Both local nuthatches and a Red-tailed Hawk were exciting, but the best moment was when the group heard a Downy Woodpecker that was nowhere to be seen until it popped its head out from a hole in a tree!

With time dwindling, we walked briskly back to our cars and eventually gathered back at Wild Wings to compile our findings, accompanied by hot chocolate, snacks, and discussion of the birds we encountered. Overall, it was a successful end to a little bird count in a little bird haven.



Black-capped Chickadees being hand-fed at Mendon Ponds Park. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

NYSOA Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls, November 10-12

by Dominic Sherony and Shirley Shaw

The NYSOA meeting took place in Niagara Falls, NY hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel. The Friday evening talk was by Paul Guris on pelagic birding off the northeast coast. He focused on what has been learned about the habits of pelagic species over the past 20 years. Saturday morning started with field trips, and the afternoon included technical papers and vendor displays which were open every day. The highlights for Saturday night were the banquet and keynote speaker, who this year was Big Year birder and author Neil Hayward. He gave a very informative talk about his experiences which were mixed with a great deal of humor. The Saturday morning delegates meeting brought focus to all the NYSOA activities and is recapped in the following summary.

President Joan Collins opened the 2017 NYSOA delegates meeting with a busy agenda and a summary of the NYSOA committee activities for the past year. The range of activities that this organization carries out is quite remarkable in spite of the difficulty of finding enough volunteers. Of the 44 member clubs, 29 were represented, sufficient for a quorum. The Catskills Center for

Conservation and Development was approved as a new member organization. Individual membership in NYSOA remains about constant at 569 members currently. Andy Mason gave the treasurer's report. NYSOA continues to lose money annually due to higher expenses than income, and this year was no exception. The biggest cost to the organization is the journal, the *Kingbird*. The need to publish the *Kingbird* electronically was briefly brought up from the floor but not discussed in any detail. Bill Ostrander cited several awards to homeowners who opened their property to allow access to view rare birds.

Ralph Adamo presented the slate of new NYSOA officers for 2018: Michael DeSha for president, Tim Baird for vice-president, Andy Mason for treasurer, John Kent for secretary, and directors Brian Dugan, Brendan Fogarty, Lucretia Grosshans, Carena Pooth, Shirley Shaw, Robert Spahn, Greg Lawrence, Richard Guthrie, and Doug Futuyama.

NYSOA's conservation efforts focused on three issues: prevention of an increase in the number of petroleum barges on the Hudson River, protecting important habitat, and working to eliminate the use of lead ammunition. The NYSOA committee can also advocate for local concerns and welcomes hearing from member clubs about topics.

Carena Pooth gave 4 reports. The popularity of published county and state annual lists holds members' interest and is growing in participation. The new checklist of NYS Birds including changes from the AOU and from NYSARC is now available. A summary of the use of both the Young Birders website and NYSOA website was presented that tracked the highest hit subjects. Finally, Carena gave a summary of the Young Birders Club. Club membership continues to grow from its beginning in 2008 with 11 participants to 56 members today. A summary of the monthly Young Birder Club field trips and number of participants was also provided.

Willie D'Anna became the new chairman of the NYS Avian Records Committee this year. He gave a summary

of its activities and efforts to clear the current backlog of reviews. The committee finalized reviews for 2015 to 2017, and new editions to the state list will be handled in a special report. The committee has also established a process to review eBird records when they involve review species.

Robert Spahn gave an update on the NYSOA committee working to plan the 2020 Breeding Bird Atlas project. The DEC will not take a leadership role in this project, only support. A grant was received to fund some of the preliminary work. Bob emphasized the need to find an atlas coordinator for the entire project. Some discussion focused on how the field work and eBird data would be used for this atlas.

Annual New York State Waterfowl Count 2018 Request for Help

NYSOA (the NY State Ornithological Association) carries out an annual New York State Waterfowl Count each year in mid-January. This is carried out by teams of volunteers recruited and organized by leaders in each Kingbird bird-reporting region. Locally we are in Region 2 (Genesee) and cover Lake Ontario from Pt. Breeze to the west side of Fairhaven and inland over all of Livingston, Monroe, and Wayne Counties and the east halves of Orleans and Genesee plus Wyoming east of Route 19 and Ontario west of Routes 64 and 21 to Naples. Historically this has been split into 11 sectors with groups covering each, some having done this for a long time. Last year we split or added some pieces as in the table below.

The goal is to census waterfowl in as many areas as possible where they are wintering. The aim is for all to count on 1 day, Sunday, January 14 this year. However, there is freedom to shift a group's count from the Saturday before to as late as a week later (13th to 21st) if weather or personal schedules require.

Late in 2015 I learned that the Region 2 coordinator could no longer do this job and was asked to try to get it done and to try to find a new leader. I'm still looking for a volunteer; please call if you have an interest. I am looking for volunteers as sector leaders, birders to help in the various sectors, as well as for a new Region 2 leader.

Bob Spahn – phone: 585-671-5690; email: rspahn@prodigy.net

<u>Party</u>	<u>Leaders</u>	<u>Area(s) surveyed</u>
A	Greg Lawrence, Robert Buckert,	Point Breeze to Hamlin Beach State Park
B	Pat Martin & Kim Hartquist	Hamlin Beach State Park to Braddock Bay
C	Kevin Griffith	Charlotte to Braddock Bay east side
D	Jay Greenberg & Monica Hermann-Kokis	Genesee River (north of falls) & east to Irondequoit Bay
D2	Jay Greenberg & Monica Hermann-Kokis	Seneca Park Pond
E	John Boettcher & Bob Spahn	Irondequoit Bay to Bear Creek
E2	Bob & Sue Spahn	Irondequoit Bay
F	Joe Wing	Bear Creek to Sodus Bay
G	Michael & Joann Tetlow	Sodus Bay to Fairhaven
H	Mike Wasilco	Finger Lakes - Conesus to Honeoye
H2	Bill Howe	Hemlock, Canadice, & Honeoye Lakes
I	Tom Smith and Dave Strong	Fairport/Pittsford; + Mendon Ponds
J	Jay Powell & Mike Klimeczko	Oatka Creek, Mumford, Caledonia, etc.
K	Carolynn & Jerry Barnhart	Penfield/Brighton
L	Jim Kimball	Silver Lake, Genesee River - Mount Morris Dam & Genesee to Avon
M	Jim Eckler	NMWMA Region 2

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.

November 2017 Sightings Report

It was an average, cool month, with rainfall a bit above normal. A nearly constant flow of Pacific air kept us warm until an Arctic surge mid-month brought cold and our first inch+ of snowfall in a day. The month started with rain on most of the first 6 days, with the most in a day at 1.65" on the 5th. This was followed by a few warm, dry days before the snow. Then it was dry again until our first lake effect event on the 19-20th, with 1.1" in Rochester, but over a foot falling in the east end of the region. The last week of the month brought 6 of the 7 days above normal. Temperatures averaged 40.5 °F, right on normal, and precipitation totaled 4.13", 1.19" above normal. Snowfall was only 2.6", 4.8" below normal. The first day for the fall averaging only 32° gave us 212 days since the last freezing day, the 2nd longest such stretch on record behind only 1938 at 216 days.

Waterbird trends continued recent observations, with nearly all species with any serious expectation being reported, but with numbers for nearly all low, especially the diving ducks passing the Hamlin Beach lake watch. King Eider and Harlequin Duck were present again, with a big influx of the eiders on the 18th. A Ruddy Shelduck of unknown origin was at the DEC ponds near Avon for several days early in the month. This year Northern Gannet and a *plegadis* ibis species were also added. Only Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and a few of the herons that sometimes make it into November were "missed". Peak counts for many species are listed in the Noteworthy Records table on the RBA website, but again in many cases the high count was single or one of very few such for the species. Again, peak counts for both regular loon species were also very low. Late Cattle Egrets did appear at 2 places in our region, as well as back at Goosehaven near Montezuma.

Again, raptors were generally scarce. There was only one report of two Black Vultures from Letchworth State Park. Red-shouldered Hawk was missed, and a lone goshawk report is still in review. Rough-legged Hawk reports were also low. There was a large influx of Snowy Owls late this month in several waves, with as many as 6 birds at a location together and the total in excess of 20. The first DEC Short-eared Owls survey out of Avon on the 21st located 16 birds plus 22 Northern Harriers on a nice warm evening. Numbers of reports for American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon were up a bit this month, although at times kestrels seemed hard to find. Northern Shrike was also up a bit over last year, with about 13 individuals reported.

Large numbers of Sandhill Cranes again lingered in the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) area, with a peak of 94 in our region on the 29th and over 100 just to the south in the Knox-Marcellus area. A Virginia Rail was found near the usual wintering area in Mendon Ponds Park, and Common Gallinule and American Coot were

still to be found in the Van Dyne Spoor area of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA).

Lingering shorebirds seemed scarce, and Purple Sandpiper was not located by month's end. Most of the regularly late-departing shorebirds were found to departure dates in their historical interquartile ranges. Peak counts for all species were low.

Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen off and on through most of the month. An immature Black-legged Kittiwake appeared at Irondequoit Bay outlet on the 26th and stayed around at least into the next day, feeding with a good sized flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. Two Little Gulls and a Franklin's Gull were nice finds, and Iceland and Glaucous Gulls both had their winter arrivals this month. For those keeping track, there were about 21 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a continued good showing.

Non-passerine land birds again contributed few reports: no Eurasian Collared-Doves this month, no late hummingbirds, and even relatively few Red-headed Woodpecker reports.

The passerines did not provide quite the numbers of special birds as last November. Still, there were some good finds. A White-eyed Vireo was found in the Webster Arboretum by Jim Miles on the 13th-14th. Cave Swallows were seen at several locations from the 3rd-8th, with a peak of 11 at Hamlin Beach. A late Gray Catbird was banded on the 28th at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) and an Orange-crowned Warbler there on the 15th. Finally, a female Summer Tanager made a brief stop at Johnathan Blades' feeder in Irondequoit on the 29th. There are a number of other latish dates, but all can be found in the Noteworthy table on the RBA website. Blackbird numbers reported were low. The only winter finches were a couple of Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks and a few reports of good numbers of Pine Siskins. Wade and Melissa Rowley noted and photographed a very large flock of 5000+ passerines moving by in the Town of Wolcott on the 8th, unfortunately too far away to identify to species.

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

	2017	2016	10-year Average (2007-2016)
Total species for November	156	160	150.6
New species for the year	4	4	4.2
Total for the year to date	288	291	290.9

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Katelyn Barry, Liz Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, Johnathan Blades, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, BBBO = Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Joe Brin, Taylor Brooks, Mark Brown, Lia Buckert, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Abbey Butler, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Bernie Carr, Linda Clark-Benedict, Kelly Close, Corey Collaghan, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Michael DeWispelaere, Bob Dobson, Sarah Dzielski, Diane Egan, Wayne Fidler, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brendan Fogarty, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Bill Gillette, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, L. Gullo, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Alec Humann, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Daniel & Mark Kershner, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, K. Koss, Elijah Kruger, David Laiacona, Mike Laird, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Jim Miles, Randi & Nic Minetor, Chita McKinney, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Mike Morgante, Pete Morris, Brian & Brooke Morse, David Moulton, Chan Nam, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Dave Nutter, Mike Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Carena Pooth, Jay Powell, David Prill, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, RBA Young Birders Club, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, T. Schat, Michael Scheibel, Luke Seitz, Mike Shellman, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Andrew Spencer, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, L. Stenzler, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, Taylor Sturm, Kimberly Sucey, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Herb Thompson, Eduard Trouerbach, Alison Van Keuren, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Vern Wilkens, Joe Wing, Chris Wood, Jim Wood.



A **Snowy Owl**. Photo by Greg Crawford.

Birders Exchange

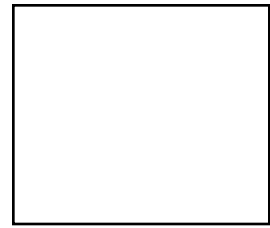
Birders' Exchange collects and redistributes new and used binoculars, spotting scopes, digital camera equipment, old and new field guides, and other relevant material. Sponsored by the American Birding Association, it supports critical research and conservation programs in the Caribbean, Central and 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 for alternate arrangements. Remember to include a list of the items and your name and address with your donation.

Lucretia Grosshans



ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION

John Boettcher
510 Lake Rd.
Webster, NY 14580



Address Service Requested

We're on the Web
www.RochesterBirding.com

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

2017 RBA Board of Directors		Address	Phone	E-mail
President	Amy Kahn	5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618	310-2330	rbaconservation@gmail.com
Vice President	Jeanne Verhulst	203 Dartmouth Street, Rochester NY 14607	473-9229	tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com
Treasurer	Sarah Compter	85 Fuller Avenue, Webster, NY 14580	410-491-2122	scompter@gmail.com
Secretary	Rebecca Krautwurst	12 Madison Terrace, Rochester, NY 14617	613-6307	rrkrautwurst@yahoo.com
Past President	Laura Kammermeier	55 Ontario Street, Honeoye Falls NY 14472	730-9279	laurakamms@gmail.com
Director	Andrea Patterson	144 Greystone Lane #24, Rochester, NY 14618	490-5361	ajpforbusiness@gmail.com
Director	Cindy Marino	10 Parkview Drive, Rochester, NY 14625	454-8051	cindymarino1952@gmail.com
Director	Nancy Poeth	1158 Lake Road, Webster NY 14580	872-5344	ngpoeth@yahoo.com
RBA Committee Chairs				
Circulation	Sheryl Gracewski	287 Willowen Drive, Rochester NY 14609	360-4537	grace@me.rochester.edu
Communication	Vacant			
Conservation	Amy Kahn	5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618	310-2330	rbaconservation@gmail.com
Editor	Jay Greenberg	15 Neville Lane, Rochester NY 14618	256-0485	conservationist@earthlink.net
Field Trips	Kimberly Sucky	216 Sandalwood Drive, Rochester NY 14616	503-2534	ksucky@eznet.net
Historian	Jeanne Skelly	420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville NY 14428	889-2557	
Membership and Member Data				
Member Data	John Boettcher	510 Lake Road, Webster NY 14580	671-9639	johnwb2@rochester.rr.com
Name Tags	Judy Gurley	1071 Honeoye Falls Five Points Rd. Honeoye Falls, NY 14472	582-2349	judygurley@hotmail.com
Nominating	Catherine Ballard	140 Eastwood Trail, Rochester NY 14622	322-2621	cballard@rochester.rr.com
Item Sales	Nancy Poeth	1158 Lake Road, Webster NY 14580	872-5344	ngpoeth@yahoo.com
Records	Andrea Patterson	144 Greystone Lane #24, Rochester, NY 14618	490-5361	ajpforbusiness@gmail.com
Social	Wanda Thistle	116 Deerhurst Lane Apt. 3, Webster, NY 14580	236-1834	thistlew@yahoo.com
Young Birders	Andrea Patterson	144 Greystone Lane #24, Rochester, NY 14618	490-5361	ajpforbusiness@gmail.com
Webmaster	Laura Kammermeier	55 Ontario Street, Honeoye Falls NY 14472	730-9279	lmk88@rochester.rr.com
Web Content Manager	Shelley Patterson	7 Falling Brook Road, Fairport NY 14450	425-2355	shelpat22@gmail.com