



Bittle Gull

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

Rochester Birding Association, 144 Greystone Lane #24, Rochester, NY 14618

SEPTEMBER & EARLY OCTOBER 2019 EVENTS & BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

SEP 7
Saturday

BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP—CHARLOTTE AND BADGEROW PARK

We'll be looking for shorebirds, warblers, and other fall migrants in Greece and environs. We'll look for gulls in many plumages and some shorebirds, too, at Charlotte Beach. George W. Badgerow Park is a small area that offers good vantage points along pleasant trails, with the occasional surprise rarity. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Ontario Beach Park in Charlotte in the northeast corner of the parking lot, beside the Genesee River outlet. **Extra spotting scopes would be very helpful.**

Leader: *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

SEP 8
Sunday

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

We'll be looking for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Bald eagles and other migrants are likely. Meet at the Montezuma visitor center at **2:00 p.m.** **Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

Leaders: *Mike Tetlow 585-425-7849 and Dominic Sherony 585-223-7353*

Sep 12
Thursday

RBA General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., the Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover Street, Rochester NY 14610

(in Brighton). Speakers: Randi and Nic Minetor. Title: Birding New England. See the notice on p. 3 for more information.

SEPT 14
Saturday

NEW! EAST SPIT

Canceled because of high water!

Leaders: *Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553 and Dick Horsey 585-435-2837*

SEP 21
Saturday

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Meet at the Montezuma visitor center at **11:00 a.m.** Pack a lunch. **Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.**

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

SEP 29
Sunday

GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE

We'll meet in the main parking lot off County Road 41/Boughton Hill Road at **9:00 a.m.** The lot is situated below the new museum at 7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564. (From Route 444 from Victor, turn right onto Boughton Hill Road and go down the hill. The main parking lot will be on your right.) From there we will car-pool down Route 41 about 0.5 mile to a small parking area on the left. We will look for sparrows in the brush and other migrating birds near the parking area, and then walk about a 2 mile round trip on the mostly flat Seneca Trail beside fields and in the woods along a stream to the Bobolink field.

Leader: *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader June Summers*

OCT 5
Saturday

IROQUOIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

We'll look for migrant ducks, owls, and various passerines in this "get to know Iroquois in autumn" trip. Meet at the Brockport Park and Ride on Route 31 (west of Route 19 and Wegmans) at **11:00 a.m.** For those traveling from the west. Meet at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY at **11:30 a.m.** Bring a lunch and beverages as needed.

Leaders: *Sheryl Gracewski & Tom Nash 585-261-6975 and co-leader Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

Welcome to the Flock



Join me in welcoming these 10 new members to the RBA.

Marc & Lindy Cirigliano
Richard Gudel & Lisa Lancaster
Maggie Kearney
David Laiacona
Matthew Prinzing
Annie Schiffer
Deborah Snyder
Beverly Strohm
Taine Vinci & Jean Sikora
Wayne & Marcia Walter

Current RBA Membership as of June 14 is 430. The total comprises household members (397), young birders (10), corporate member (1), *Little Gull* subscribers (3) and *Little Gull* complimentary subscribers (19).

Membership Tidbits

About half of our current members joined since the beginning of 2015. Nearly 20% have been members for more than 20 years.

Jo Taylor
Membership Data

Adrianna Anderson
Membership Outreach

President's Column

Andrea Patterson



The bird that launched a thousand memes . . .

If you are like many, you may not really know what a meme is. In its simplest version, a meme is a picture accompanied by a bit of text that highlights something in our culture that is instantly recognizable. The picture and text serve as a sort

of template, and clever folks fill them in with messages that make everyone else say "That is SO true . . . I know EXACTLY what you're talking about!"

Confused? Here's an example . . . imagine a photo of Oprah Winfrey. You can caption the photo, "The boardwalk at the Biggest Week," and caption Oprah to say, "You get a warbler! And you get a warbler! Everybody gets a warbler!" Birders, especially those who have been to Magee Marsh in May, will immediately relate to that image, and so it serves as a way to bind us together as people who share a common experience.

Now, if you are like me, you may not really know what a Wandering Tattler is. It's apparently a shorebird of Alaska and the Pacific coastline, and (at least to the inexperienced) it looks very similar to any one of a half dozen other shorebirds.

When one allegedly showed up in Quebec in July, it was big news. A lucky birder had allegedly followed the bird on the beach for hours and finally managed to snap a single photo which he uploaded to eBird and shared with the ABA rare bird alert. Frantic birders from several states and provinces had their optics packed and were ready to head out, when the word came that the sighting was faked. The birder used a photo he had taken in Hawaii a year earlier.

You can imagine how this situation might inspire dozens of birders to make hundreds of memes. There were memes mocking the format of the original report, memes mocking the birder for faking a sighting, memes based on the alpha code for Wandering Tattler (i.e. WATA . . . you can see how that one could get out of hand!), memes calling out the general practice of faking and/or consistently misidentifying birds, and meta-memes desperately calling for the end of all Wandering Tattler memes.

I find the original episode to be mildly interesting, but I find the reaction to it to be intensely interesting. What does it say about birders that

we spent ergs and hours of energy and time, dipping into a creative wellspring to communicate shared thoughts of contempt and exasperation?

I hope that it says we are a group who values integrity. I hope it says we value finding actual birds and reporting only what we actually find. I worry it says we enjoy too much the schadenfreude that comes from seeing a "good" birder laid low, but I hope it says we want to be able to trust in people and in their reputations.

Rochester is blessed with a lot of really great birders who are crack shots at identifying almost anything that flies, and I'm grateful for them. But I'm also grateful – and inspired – when those same folks are willing to say they are unsure of what they are seeing or hearing. It helps me remember that perhaps one measure of success in birding is in the honest attempt, and that's a measure we can all fill.

Happy birding!

Editor's Corner
Jay Greenberg

What to Do with an Injured Bird



Yesterday evening, Aug. 18, I got an interesting e-mail from my non-birding son who lives with his family in Eastham, MA on the eastern side of Cape Cod where it runs north-south.

The e-mail had a close-up cell phone photo of a bird on an ocean beach that he thought was unable to fly, and he wanted to know what it was. It was a beautiful adult Northern Gannet. His e-mail got me to thinking about what to do with an injured bird, a situation with which I have little experience. My first thought was to call a nearby bird sanctuary, the Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary. I once took an injured robin there,

(continued on p.7)

September Talk and Speaker

Birding New England

Just in time for fall migration and colorful foliage, local author/photographer team Randi and Nic Minetor will present insights on birding in New England. The Minetors will share their experiences traveling throughout the region identifying and documenting birding locations. Their efforts culminated in the recently published *Birding New England, A Field Guide to the Birds of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont*. Their many books and guides are available locally at the Bird House on Monroe Avenue, Pittsford, and *Birding New England* will be available for purchase after the presentation.

Randi and Nic Minetor are the author/photographer team behind more than 30 books and field guides, including *Backyard Birding: A Guide to Attracting and Identifying Birds*, *The New England Bird Lover's Garden*, and folding Quick Reference guides to the birds, trees, and wildflowers of New York City, New York State, and the Mid-Atlantic states. They also work together on books about America's national parks, historic cities, and

eight books on hiking throughout New York State. Randi is a journalist in the theatre technology and medicine/healthcare industries, while Nic is the resident lighting designer for Eastman Opera Theatre, Finger Lakes Opera, and theater productions at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. They live in Rochester, New York.



noon. Surprisingly, the rain stopped about that time.

Dominic Sherony and Rosemary Reilley



A Yellow-throated Vireo. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

Odonata Sanctuary 6/23/2019

We had a very successful first RBA birding trip to Odonata Sanctuary on June 23rd. Twenty-seven birders joined us for the walk around the old farmlands. Now that the migrant birds have settled down for their nesting activities, the goal of this trip was grassland birds. Odonata Sanctuary is the perfect habitat for these birds.

After watching the half dozen barnyard geese (domesticated Graylag Goose), wandering around the yard, we were entertained by several Bobolinks. Both male and (the more difficult to identify) female birds were quickly located in the first field. The first field also had several Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Bluebirds, and Tree Swallows, the latter with juveniles. An unexpected bird that made several calls.

After crossing the driveway, a second target bird was sighted: the Eastern Meadowlark. Most participants had a chance to view these distant birds through a scope. The third target bird, the Dickcissel, failed to appear—maybe next year! Other field birds found were Field Sparrows and cowbirds.

The fields were followed with a nice walk through the woods, where we picked up several woodpeckers and Eastern Towhees.

RBA IN THE FIELD

High Acres Nature Area 6/16/2019

It was a cloudy, windless day in the mid 50's when 6 participants braved the intermittent but persistent morning rain. We walked several trails, mostly on the west side of High Acres Nature Area (HANA). It was a day for boots because part of the Blue Trail was flooded by high water caused by beavers. Surprisingly enough, we did see a beaver chomping on reeds on the edge of the quarry pond. In addition to the high water, we had to contend with a lot of wet foliage that kept getting us soaked. Nevertheless, we birded the entire morning.

The official trip checklist ended with 46 species, but that included some species only heard. Perhaps the biggest surprise was the sighting of 3 Virginia Rails. On this dreary day, the

rails seemed to be active. One flew up and later crossed the trail when we were near the eastern wetland, and we saw another walking on the far east side of that wetland at the platform. The third was actively calling and walking among the reeds at another pond. Other highlights included 3 Marsh Wrens and a singing Yellow-throated Vireo. Our group had poor looks at a female Hooded Merganser on a small pond on the Red Trail. It is likely that they may be nesting at HANA again. There are several Common Gallinules at HANA, and we saw one on the eastern wetland. Many of the other species were expected, but sightings were difficult under the weather conditions, and there was not as much song as we expected. Some common birds like Black-capped Chickadee and others failed to make an appearance.

After almost 4 hours and the vast majority of that walking, the trip ended at

At the end of the trip we posed by the pond for a group picture.

Tom Nash



An **Eastern Meadowlark**. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

Conesus Lake Inlet 8/3/2019

We had a good trip to the Conesus inlet swamp and Geneseo Airfield today. Twelve birders met at Vitale Park, picked up a few birds there, and then headed down the lake to the inlet swamp area. Our first stop, at the main west side overlook and boardwalk out, gave us the first 3 of 4 Bald Eagles for the day. The swamp area was pretty quiet, however, with a few Swamp Sparrows singing and little else. We missed Virginia Rail, gallinule and Marsh Wren. Bob Spahn, on the other hand, stayed up by the road and worked the woods edges with his skill at doing owl calls, bringing in a couple of Hooded Warblers, a Blue-winged, and the first of 3 sapsuckers. From the north end dike, we saw Wood Duck families, Canada Geese and others, but there was an untypical absence of swallows, with

only a few martins calling overhead. A hit of that area was a Northern Waterthrush, seen well by the whole party as it worked the edge of the inlet creek. We added more species and numbers along East Swamp Road and Guiltner Road, including a particularly photogenic Green Heron at the south end of the swamp. Several of us continued the trip to the Geneseo Airfield. A long walk around the field failed to turn up an Upland Sandpiper, but we did add a number of meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows, a few Bobolinks, and enjoyed interesting butterflies in the grass field. We had 73 species in all on a beautiful day. Thanks to all who participated.

Jim Kimball



A **Savannah Sparrow**. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

Beginner Field Trip to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge 8/11/2019

Our group of 17, including leaders, had a beautiful day (75 °F, light wind, hazy) for this trip. The refuge was drawn down to simulate drought and encourage vegetation beneficial to migrating birds. The

consequence of this was that there were few wet places to examine for birds, and most of the places were thinly populated. We started with the Wildlife Drive which offered a nice starting selection. With scopes and help from the experienced birders in addition to us leaders, the new folks could get good looks at both yellowlegs and a few peeps in addition to the usual ducks, herons and egrets. The next and last stop for most was the overlook at Knox-Marcellus Marsh. While most birds were distant, the number and assortment was impressive. In addition to many herons and egrets, there were Ring-billed Gulls, Caspian Terns, and a number of Sandhill Cranes, a few Northern Harriers, and several species of swallow. We could see many shorebirds and ducks, but, from our vantage point, identification, even with a scope was tricky and time consuming and beyond the scope of this trip. We ended the day with 42 species of birds.

Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash, Norma Platt, and John Boettcher



A **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Photo by Jay Greenberg.

September Birds and Brews

Join Rochester Birding Association members on **Wednesday, September 25th** from **6:30-8:30pm** for **Birds and Brews!** This is a casual evening for members to get together and share birding stories, compare travel destinations, and catch up, all while having a pint of Rochester's finest ale. This month, join us at **Swiftwater Brewing on Mount Hope Ave.**

Location: Swiftwater Brewing: 378 Mount Hope Ave, Rochester, NY 14620.

June 2019 Sightings Report

The month started cool and warmed slowly to summer temperatures. Days above and below normal were about evenly matched and spread through the month. There were 9 days above 80° and none dropping down to freezing. Temperatures averaged 66.0 °F, 0.2° below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.94", 0.60" below normal, and over 1/3 of the total, 1.32", fell in the 24-hour period from the 19th-20th. There was some rain on 13 days, but only 2 days had thunderstorms. The heaviest of the rains on the 20th bypassed us to our south. Summer heat and humidity arrived in the last few days of the month. Lake Ontario warmed slowly from the upper 40s to the mid 60s by month's end. Lake levels remained record high all month.

Weather conditions were generally good for birding, but the high waters limited access to some prime birding areas, just as 2 years ago. The weather through the spring and this month has been great for growing vegetation, and it remains lush across the region. The eBird records download was very close to last year's, and removing out-of-region lines brought us to about 33,282 in-region "records", very close to last June. 196 species reported for the month is above the 10-year average, but in line with more recent years. Nearly all of the really expected species for the month were reported. The few misses, to be noted below, were species whose departure distributions have tails into early June. There were only 2 off-list rarities, a Laughing Gull and a Sedge Wren, the latter now a very rare breeder at best.

Waterfowl were generally scarce and numbers low. Most of the noteworthy reports were either passing birds along the Lake Ontario shore or from the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Area (NMWMA). One surprise was 1 or 2 female Common Goldeneye observed and photographed in the Seneca River near the Morgan Road area of the NMWMA. We have only 4 prior records of individuals in June and no other summer records.

Recall that we have moved to the new AOS checklist order, so we next look at species from pheasants to Sandhill Crane. The only noteworthy records in that grouping were counts for Common Nighthawk and Common Gallinule, and numbers for the Sandhill Cranes in both the Honeoye Creek WMA and NMWMA areas, both known breeding locations.

Late spring shorebird variety was much as expected, with the usual migrants in June reported other than White-rumped Sandpiper. In recent years, Red Knot and Sanderling have been less than annual in June. Numbers were very low other than one Semipalmated Sandpiper count. Moving to the larids, we had Bonaparte's Gull and some of the terns lingering to late in the month, when often they depart by about mid-June. The Laughing Gull, noted earlier, 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, an interesting, pale, large gull photographed at Sodus Point, and a late-June Forster's Tern were also interesting reports. Singles of both loons were reported late in the month. A Glossy Ibis that appeared along the eastern part of Carn-cross Road in the NMWMA on the 2nd & 3rd was seen and

photographed by many. Black Vulture was only reported from Letchworth State Park, with 1 or 2 birds on 3 dates.

Among the raptors, the expected species were reported, with good numbers for Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk, and no reports for Northern Goshawk, and few for Red-shouldered and Broad-winged (away from the hawk watch). Unofficial hawk counting continued at the Braddock Bay hawk watch, with 20 Bald Eagles and 49 Broad-winged Hawks on the 13th and 95 Turkey Vultures on the 25th—good numbers. Counts of 11 and 12 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in 2 parts of the H.H. Spencer State Recreation Area on the 28th are just reminders of abundance in our forests if observers take the time to count. Falcon reports were typical of this time of year. There was only one Merlin report, from Fairport, that specifically noted a nesting pair. There were about 8 Peregrine Falcon reports from 7 locations other than the breeding pair in Rochester. The ralconcam website reported that 3 male and one female young fledged between June 18 and 21, and that the female was found dead not far away on June 23.

Most of the late-migrant passerines that are banded or reported into June were recorded this month, including; Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, and Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers. Missing from this group were just Philadelphia Vireo and Cape May Warbler. Rarer passerines this season were the Sedge Wren noted earlier, Clay-colored Sparrows at the usual Cook Road sites in Hamlin plus Honeoye Creek WMA and Ganondagan, the nesting Prothonotary Warbler (maybe more than one) on Armitage Road in the NMWMA, and a Yellow-throated Warbler found and photographed in Letchworth State Park by Kyle Gage. Otherwise, passerine numbers and departure dates were typical.

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

	2019	2018	10-year Average (2009-2018)
Species for June	196	90	183.2
New for the year	1	3	2.1
Total for the year to date	271	268	266.3

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Linda Clark-Benedict & Steve Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Johnathan Blades, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Brabant, Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Mark Burns, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Sean Carroll, Gary Chapin, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Tiffany Clay, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Kristine Constable, Keith Eric Costley, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Kim Denise, Eaton Birding Society, Judy Ferris, George

Ford, Kyle Gage, Janis George, Candy Giles, Bill Gillette, Christopher Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Shannon Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Wesley Hochachka, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carol Ingram, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Tom Kerr, Bernie Kester, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Patrick Marr, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Matt Medler, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Jim Mott, Chan Nam, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Hol-

lis Noble, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Michael Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Scott Peterson, Tom & Nancy Poeth, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Doug Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Rosemary Reilly, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jackie Salsbury, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Eric Setterberg, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, M. & C. Sporer, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, Joel Strong, Patrick Sysiong, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, M. J. Thomas, Sarah Toner, Matt Voelker, Brad Walker, Jeff Ward, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, David Wheeler, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Rochester Young Birders Club.

July 2019 Sightings Report

It was a generally warm, dry July for this area. After a warm start, then a cool few days through the 10th, heat and humidity reigned the rest of the month except for a few, brief breaks. Following the passage of the remnants of Tropical Cyclone Barry well to the south, a surge of moisture pushed the local heat index to 105° and prompted warnings for that and then for possible severe thunderstorms. Temperatures averaged 74.1 °F, 3.3° above normal. Twenty-six days rose to over 80°, and 5 days to over 90°. Precipitation totaled 2.64", 0.69" below normal, with 2/3 of that falling on the 5th-6th. Most of the rest of the rain fell on the 17th with Barry's passage to the south. The last 2 weeks of the month saw only 0.15". Lake Ontario levels remained at record high levels all month.

Waterfowl reports were again few, and numbers generally low. Most reports were from near the Lake Ontario shore or from the NMWMA. A lone Snow Goose continued in the Van Dyne Spoor/Sandhill Crane Unit area. With high lake levels persisting, there was a flooded area along North Hamlin Road, and some interesting waterfowl and shorebirds found there. Most diving ducks were conspicuously absent, a norm other than the few breeding in the NMWMA and scarce summer visitors.

On again to the new checklist grouping (hard to easily characterize), pheasants to Sandhill Crane, we start with the fairly regular-now first Red-necked Grebe of the season passing Hamlin Beach on the 31st, then a first report for the year for Eurasian Collared-Dove in Parma, only 239 lines in eBird for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, on to a decent count of 60 Common Gallinules in the Sandhill Crane Unit (way below last year's horde), and finally Sandhill Cranes near Honeoye (2) and in the Morgan Road area of the NMWMA (21).

With no special weather event to match last year's, shorebirds were back to more normal variety and counts. The 19 species reported was still a good start to the fall migration. American Avocet at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on the 11th and Irondequoit Bay outlet on the 22nd was a good rarity. Black-bellied Plover at Sodus Point on the 17th was record early. There were two good counts of Whimbrel, 25 and 38, both on the 30th at Sodus Point and Bear Creek in Wayne County, respectively. Other-

wise, arrival dates and numbers were typical to low. Upland Sandpiper is always a good find now, and Willet is still special, though annual. High lake levels and a dry latter half of the month were not helpful for shorebird habitat.

Highlights among the larids were Bonaparte's Gull on the 1st (late spring?), and again on the 16th (first fall?). Often, there is a longer gap with no sightings in this month. Seven Lesser Black-backed Gull reports is good for this mid-summer month. Peak tern counts included 138 Caspian Terns at Sodus Point and 126 Black Terns at Van Dyne Spoor.

A Common Loon on July 1 was the only loon report for the month. One hundred Double-crested Cormorants on piers at Sodus Point is a typical peak. A Great Blue Heron count of 246 and Great Egret count at 36 in the Sandhill Crane Unit on the 15th is a good number for each species. The year's first Cattle Egret was at the Rochester International Airport on the 2nd, and it or another was found at LaSalle Landing Park at the south end of Irondequoit Bay on the 11th and lingered to the 15th to be seen by many. A lone Black Vulture was seen over Pittsford on the 30th. An official summer hawk watch is in progress at Braddock Bay, staffed by a group of volunteers. Their best day for the month was on the 11th, with 45 Turkey Vultures, 67 Bald Eagles, and 8 Broad-winged Hawks. Other high numbers were 108 Turkey Vultures on the 10th and 94 Red-tailed Hawks on the 28th. There were again no reports of Northern Goshawk, only one Red-shouldered Hawk, and very few Broad-winged Hawks from the breeding areas in the hills south of Rochester. Additional non-passerine land bird reports of interest included at least 25 reports of Red-headed Woodpecker from 7 locations and another good count for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The 3 regular falcons were recorded in typical numbers for the month, with the fledged Peregrine Falcons in Rochester being watched until they appeared to move out (from rfalconcam.com website).

Moving on to the passerines, again all of the expected species were reported, even the scarcer breeding warblers other than Black-throated Blue Warbler, which was missed. Continued low level banding at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) and Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival (MAPS) work nearby as usual pro-

duced a few special surprises, including: 7 Nashville Warblers banded over July 14, 21, and 22; a Magnolia Warbler on the 14th; and a Yellow-rumped Warbler on the 21st. There were some interesting examples of counts of common species – 13 Willow Flycatchers, 29 Red-eyed Vireos, and 50 Marsh Wrens - and some decent counts for the swallows and blackbirds. These can all be found in the Noteworthy Records table on the RBA website. Other interesting passerine records for the month were: a White-throated Sparrow at Hamlin Beach on the 16th, Clay-colored Sparrows continuing on Cook Road in Hamlin, Prothonotary Warbler still at the Armitage Road area in the NMWMA, and a Tennessee Warbler in Caledonia on the 13th

This month's eBird data download was again very close to last year's, with about 26,350 lines for our region. Once again, this somewhat overstates the number of "records", as there is one very large group and another smaller that shared lists with a substantial number of species. E.g., is a group of 21 birding together and sharing a list of 49 species 49 records or 1029 records? This is a typical issue that users of data must work out carefully by studying the actual data, not just taking summaries at face value. Additional data came from the geneseebirds listserv, banding data, and personal inputs from observers.

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

	2019	2018	10-year Average (2009-2018)
Species for July	184	187	174.2
New for the year	3	3	3.2
Total for the year to date	274	271	269.5

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Observers: Jim Adams, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steven Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Richard Bishopp, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Carly Boyd-Dovideo, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Mark Brown, Lia Buckert, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Andrew Conslor, Cornell Lab Group (21 obs.), Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Susan Danskin, Ian Davies, Adrian Doktor, Mark Fitzsimmons, George Ford, Cindy Frisch, Kenny Frisch, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Shannon Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Michael Gullo, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Dana Kalir, Kenneth Kempfues, Jim Kimball, Renee Kittleman, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matt Medler, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Ann Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Brian & Brooke Morse, Diane Morton, Chan Nam, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Lynne Parsons, Andrea Patterson, Scott Peterson, Aidan Place, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Rosemary Reilly, Tessa Rhinehart, Rhonda Roaring, Rochester Young Birders Club, Michelle Rosenbaum, Ken Rosenberg, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Livia Santana, Esteveao Santos, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Rick Stevens, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Sarah Toner, Jeff Ward, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Lisa Welch, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, Eric Zawatski.

(Editor's Corner, continued)

and they kept it in a safe enclosure with food and water while giving it a chance to recuperate. (It did not). However, there would have been no one there on a Sunday evening, and he could only have left a message. I also suggested capturing it and keeping it overnight in some sort of container. Thinking about it a bit more, I did a little online research and found a list of wildlife rehabilitators in his town. Apparently, by the time he got back to the beach, others seemed to be interested in helping the bird, and he left it to them.

This story brings up the general question of what to do with an injured or sick bird or animal. We should keep in mind that it is generally not legal for a person to keep wild birds and animals as captives, except for wildlife authorities and licensed rehabilitators. However, it is OK to shelter the creature until it can be turned over to wildlife authorities or a rehabilitator. In our area, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC's) phone number for wildlife issues is (585) 226-5380 in Avon. However, keep in mind that it may be a long time until an overworked wildlife officer can respond. Also, they are closed nights, weekends, and holidays. A DEC wildlife officer would probably take the creature to a rehabilitator or euthanize it if appropriate. The DEC also has a web page for finding a licensed rehabilitator, depending on the location and the kind of animal. It is at https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/sls_searches/index.cfm?p=live_rehab. Rehabilitators are accustomed to getting calls at all hours of the day and night, so don't hesitate to call. If they don't want to be bothered, their phone will be turned off.

I suggest that taking the bird or animal to a rehabilitator oneself is the best option. If it requires immediate treatment, you might consider taking it to a wildlife vet. In our area, choices include Fairport Animal Hospital, 117 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450, (585) 388-1070 (where RBA member Joann Tetlow works) and East Ridge Animal Hospital, 60 Dubelbeiss Lane, Rochester, NY 14622, (585) 467-2120. They do not charge for treating wildlife, but they are required to keep the animal and place it with a rehabilitator.



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