



# Little Gull

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

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

## DECEMBER 2019 AND EARLY 2020 EVENTS & BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

**DEC 1**  
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 beverages and lunch, for this is an all day trip. We will be crossing into Canada. There is heightened security at the border. Participants MUST bring passports or enhanced driver's licenses. Dress warmly and in layers. Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.

**Leaders:** Rick Stevens 585-698-1882 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621 and Tom O'Donnell of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) 716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)

**DEC 7**  
Saturday

### **CONESUS LAKE AREA**

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

**Leader:** Jim Kimball 585-243-0316 and co-leader Christina Hoh 973-224-7009

**DEC 8**  
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.** Carpooling strongly advised. Dress warmly. Extra spotting scopes and FRS radios would be very helpful.

**Leader:** John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Rick Stevens 585-689-1882

**DEC 12**  
Thursday

**RBA General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., the Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover Street, Rochester NY 14610 (in Brighton). Speaker: Daniel Baldassarre. Title: Linking Behavior and Biodiversity in Birds.** See the article on p. 3 for more information.

**DEC 15**  
Sunday

**Rochester Christmas Bird Count.** See the notice on p. 4 of this issue for more information.  
**Compiler:** Norma Platt 585-671-9639

**DEC 28**  
Saturday

**Little Lakes Christmas Bird Count.** See the notice on p. 5 of this issue for more information.  
**Compiler:** Pat Martin 585-301-5485 [emartin139@earthlink.net](mailto:emartin139@earthlink.net)

**JAN 1**  
Wednesday

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

Get started on your annual list! We'll look for winter waterfowl at the outlet, then move to Durand-Eastman Park where we will stroll Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road looking for finches, waxwings, and resident birds. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the large parking lot on the west side of the Irondequoit Bay outlet bridge. Dress warmly!



**Don't forget to make your reservation for the RBA Dinner on January 11, 2020! See the notice on p. 6 for more information.**

## Welcome to the Flock



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

Kevin Ayrault  
 Kimberly Denise  
 Pamela Mortensen  
 Rod Mortimer  
 Frank Palumbo  
 Ardath Wolcott

**Current RBA membership as of November 15 is 449.** In addition to 416 household memberships, there are 10 young birders, 1 corporate member, 3 *Little Gull* subscribers and 19 complimentary memberships.

Jo Taylor  
*Membership Data*

Adrianna Anderson  
*Membership Outreach*

## President's Column

Andrea Patterson



In my work at the bird banding observatory, I come to know birds as individuals. Each bird gets a unique tracking number, which allows us to create a living digital file that contains

everything we know or learn about that particular individual.

So, for example, I know that Veery #2281-89229 was banded in Rochester as a young bird on September 1, 2008. He weighed 27.3g (just under an ounce), and he wasn't carrying any fat. I also know that he was recaptured in Belize on May 8, 2017. At almost 9 years old, he holds the record for the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest Veery, and assuming that

he consistently summers in Rochester and winters in Belize, he's flown at least 32,685 miles.

Alone, Veery #29 doesn't tell us much about his species except to hint at what is possible. And while his story fires the imagination, it's just a small piece in the puzzle of understanding the biology, ecology, and behavior of his species.

Recently, I spent several days in Cape May at a meeting of ornithologists and avian wildlife biologists. I attended nearly 40 talks, and I learned that Northern Mockingbird alarm calls are specific to certain kinds of predators, that wintering Ipswich Sparrows use the saltmarsh as much as they do the dunes, and that Kirtland's Warblers make significant movements of up to 12 miles during the breeding season – perhaps to scout out the nesting success of pairs in other areas. I won't mention what I learned about Phainopepla . . . you'll have to attend the December RBA meeting and hear it first-hand from the researcher himself.

One plenary lecture focused on the Greater Ani, a South American member of the cuckoo family. All 3 species of ani (Greater, Groove-billed and Smooth-billed) form small cooperative breeding groups, in which 2-3 pairs of birds will use a communal nest and will share incubation and feeding duties. Because they need to synchronize egg-hatching, each female in a group will toss eggs out of the nest until she has laid her first egg. Once all the females have laid at least one egg, no more egg-tossing will occur and the group will fill the nest with up to 12 well-synchronized eggs. The first female to lay may lose a rather large number of eggs to her later-laying groupmates, and researchers have found that groups that have been together longer synchronize more quickly which shortens the nesting attempt and hence provides a hedge against predation.

A shorter talk focused on the White-necked Jacobin – a medium-sized hummingbird of Central and South America. The

males have bright blue heads, shiny green backs, white bellies, and white crescents on the back of their necks. Females are . . .

complicated. In most sexually dimorphic birds, young males and females both wear a drab female-like appearance and males eventually transition to more ornamented plumage. In the White-necked Jacobin, this is reversed. Young birds first wear an ornamented male-like plumage and females eventually transition to a more subtle plumage. At least, some of them do. Nearly 25% of the females retain a male-like plumage aspect their entire lives.

There are 10,000 known species of birds, and I'm sure all have an interesting story to tell. I encourage everyone to take time in their birding ventures to learn more about the birds we love. Birds do amazing things, and we've barely scratched the surface!

## Editor's Corner

Jay Greenberg

## RBA Nominations



I am resting easier, now that the RBA has a full slate of officer and director candidates for 2020. Congratulations to Tom Verhulst and his

committee for their excellent and speedy work that was done under pressure. See their report on p. 5.

## 2020 Field Trip Schedule

I am also resting easier now that a last minute problem with the schedule has been cleared up only a couple of days from the deadline for sending it to the printer. Members should know that my expert proofreader, Monika Herrmann, and I edit the field trip schedule for accuracy, style, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization of bird species names just as we edit the *Little Gull*.

## December Talk and Speaker

### Linking Behavior and Biodiversity in Birds

Daniel Baldassarre is interested in evolutionary biology and biodiversity and especially love studying birds. To study avian biodiversity, I focus on small populations of birds and look for connections between unusual behaviors and broad-scale patterns. For example, how does the promiscuous sexual behavior of subspecies of the Australian Red-backed Fairy-wren affect whether or not they will interbreed? Does the Galápagos Vampire Finch's bizarre habit of drinking blood mean it is on a trajectory to become a new species? In the southwestern U.S.A., is the Phainopepla really two cryptic species that breed in different locations at different times of the year? Come to my Rochester Birding Association talk to find out!

Daniel an Assistant Professor of Zoology in the SUNY Oswego Department of Biological Sciences. I grew up in Tully, NY, got my undergraduate degree at Syracuse University, went to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for my Ph.D., and did postdoctoral research at the University of Miami and Princeton University. I have been fortunate to study birds in Alaska, Namibia, New York, Costa Rica, Australia, the Galápagos Islands, and California. See my website for more info about his research:  
[www.danbaldassarre.weebly.com](http://www.danbaldassarre.weebly.com)  
 and follow me on  
 Twitter: @evornithology.



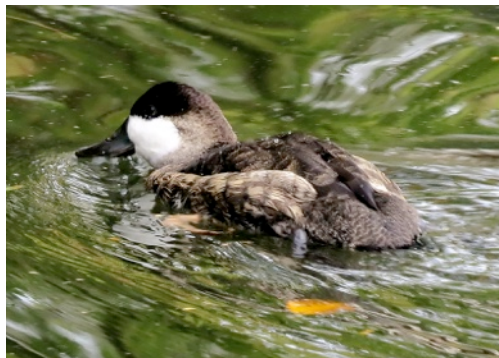
## RBA IN THE FIELD

### Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant 10/19/2019

The annual trip to the BWWTP was a comfortably warm and sunny experience for our group of 19 birders. But such balmy conditions do not bring big numbers of waterfowl as much as a foul, nasty day can. However, most of the usual suspects were located.

Dabbling ducks such as Mallard are common here, along with Northern Shoveler and Wood Duck. Diving ducks use this site as much and sometimes more than the dabblers. We didn't have big numbers of Common Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Lesser Scaup or American Wigeon, but they were all present in varying amounts. If you are a fan of the short, squat, low riding, stiff tailed Ruddy Duck, BWWTP never disappoints. Even with numbers low for some waterfowl species, our group did see plenty of Ruddy Ducks.

Shorebird migration has mostly filtered past us now, but Dunlin are late comers and were expected for the day. It took a little extra searching, but we did get Dunlin (one to be exact) and a couple of Pectoral Sandpipers as well. However, the star of the show was not the anticipated waterfowl diversity, but a marshland cattail loving bird that is sometimes heard and only occasionally seen: the secretive Virginia Rail. But this rail stayed close to the cattail edge in plain sight no more than 20 feet away for almost 10 minutes, so every birder in the group had a good look. That was amazing!



We finished up again this year at the nearby Williams Park for passerines, bringing our total for the day to 43 species. Not bad for a quiet day. Then, to finish it off, we had an impromptu birthday party for one of our members with an awesome spread of cheese, crackers, little meats and wine (only for the non-drivers).

*Rick Stevens and Cathy Ballard*

### Durand-Eastman Park 11/2/2019

Partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the mid-forties greeted the 11 hardy birders who showed up for an early morning walk through Durand-Eastman Park. Several hundred cormorants and some Common Loons were spotted from the parking lot near Lake Ontario. The group then moved into the park itself, where we encountered the expected robins, woodpeckers, goldfinches, jays, and nuthatches. Highlights were at least 2 Red-tailed Hawks flying close overhead and a total of over 50 smart-looking Wood Ducks on several of the small lakes.

Most then went on to the Irondequoit Bay outlet, adding American Coot, Bonaparte's Gull, and a hovering adult Bald Eagle. A walk on the pier produced White-winged Scoter, Brant, and distant Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and more loons. Braving the chilly winds which had sprung up proved rewarding, as a Dunlin and a very handsome Snow Bunting were discovered nestled in the rocks along the pier.

The trip ended up with a fairly respectable total of 43 species seen.

*Tom and Jeanne Verhulst*

A non-breeding male **Ruddy Duck**.  
 Photo by Jay Greenberg.

**Please Renew Your Membership NOW**

A big THANK YOU to all those who have already renewed!

As I write this on November 15, we are halfway through the membership campaign and so far only about a quarter of the current membership is on the roster for 2020. Memberships are for the calendar year. Please [renew your membership](#) and commitment to RBA—and doing it on-line at [rochesterbirding.com](http://rochesterbirding.com) is a smart and easy choice.

**2020 Dues:**

- Household membership **\$25**
- Junior membership (9-18) **\$15**  
(both above with *Little Gull* via e-mail)
- Little Gull* by USPS mail - **add \$15 to membership dues**

If you prefer to pay by check, please mail your payment

together with the [membership form](#) from the RBA website or the November *Little Gull*. No printer—send your renewal check to:

Rochester Birding Association Membership  
P.O. Box 92055  
1335 Jefferson Road  
Rochester, NY 14692-9998

Please be sure to indicate what the payment is for, and include your current email address and phone number.

If we haven't heard from you by mid-December, you will be sent a reminder letter by postal mail. By making your membership gift **NOW**, it saves RBA volunteers' time printing and stuffing envelopes to send reminders in the mail, it saves RBA the cost of printing and mailing, and helps reduce RBA's carbon footprint.

*Jo Taylor*  
*Membership Data*

*Adrianna Anderson*  
*Membership Outreach*

**Rochester Christmas Bird Count  
Sunday, December 15, 2019**

Enjoy the company of other birders! Participate in Citizen Science!

Join us for the 120<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count of the National Audubon Society and the 116<sup>th</sup> Rochester CBC. If you cannot bird in the field, watch your feeder and phone results to the area leader. We'll pair new observers with experienced birders.

In the evening of the count day, we will gather at Newport Yacht Club (on Seneca Road in Irondequoit) at 6:00 p.m. for pizza (there will be a \$5 charge to cover costs) and pot-luck followed by a species tally. Hot cocoa and cider will flow! The tally will start about 7:30 p.m. We will be finished by 9:00 p.m. Come to the tally even if you don't come to dinner. Please reply to Norma Platt at 585-260-5221/ [normap1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:normap1@rochester.rr.com) by Tuesday, December 10.

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

Bob and Susan Spahn 671-5690	Braddock Bay to Long Pond Road
Greg Lawrence <a href="mailto:glawrence21@yahoo.com">glawrence21@yahoo.com</a>	Long Pond Road to Dewey Avenue
Jay Greenberg <a href="mailto:littlegulleditor@gmail.com">littlegulleditor@gmail.com</a>	Dewey Avenue to Charlotte Harbor
Dominic Sherony 223-7353	Summerville to Culver Road
Tom & Nancy Poeth 872-5344	Culver Road to Baker Road (Webster)
Shirley Shaw 385-3907	Parks and neighborhoods (Highland, Genesee Valley, Mt. Hope Cemetery), crow roost
Andrea Patterson <a href="mailto:ajpforbusiness@gmail.com">ajpforbusiness@gmail.com</a>	Seneca Park
Rosemary Reilly <a href="mailto:reilly.rosemary@gmail.com">reilly.rosemary@gmail.com</a>	Maplewood & Turning Point Parks, Holy Sepulchre and Riverside Cemeteries
John Boettcher <a href="mailto:johnwb2@rochester.rr.com">johnwb2@rochester.rr.com</a> 298-0404	West of airport/south of the canal/north of the river

*Norma Platt, Compiler 585-260-5221*

ps. Birds seen during the count week, December 12 to 18, may be called in to the area leaders.

## Little Lakes Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 28, 2019

This year marks the 120<sup>th</sup> count nationwide and the 68<sup>th</sup> count for the area. The count date is Saturday, December 28, 2019. Birds seen during the count week of December 25 to January 2 may be called in to the leaders for inclusion in the tally. The center of the 15 mile diameter circle is the outlet of Hemlock Lake, at the north end of the lake. The circle includes all of Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice and Honeoye Lakes, and a large area to the north. The dividing line between the lakes is the height of land between the lakes. It is important for the coverage in each of the 5 areas to be as consistent as possible, year to year, for meaningful evaluation of the count area. Your participation in this worthy endeavor would be greatly appreciated. New birders can be paired up with experienced birders. If you are interested, contact one of the leaders.

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

Pat Martin, Compiler  
Home: 582-2761  
Cell: 301-5485  
[emartin139@earthlink.net](mailto:emartin139@earthlink.net)

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

### Nominations for the 2020 RBA Board

The following people have been nominated to serve on the RBA Board of Directors in 2020:

President        Liz Magnanti  
Vice-President    Jeanne Verhulst  
Treasurer        Brian Rohrs  
Secretary        Greg Lawrence  
Directors         Kevin Farrell  
                      Randi Minetor  
                      Rosemary Reilly  
                      Wanda Thistle

Additional nominations, with the consent of the nominee, will be accepted at the December general meeting. The election will take place at the annual dinner on Saturday, January 11. In accordance with the by-laws, if there are more nominees than open positions, the vote shall be by ballot. A quorum consisting of at least 10% of current members eligible to vote is required.

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

*Tom Verhulst (Chair), Christina Hoh, and Gayle Lazoration*

### Birders Exchange

Birders' Exchange collects and redistributes new and used binoculars, spotting scopes, digital camera equipment, old and new field guides, and other relevant material. Sponsored by the American Birding Association, it supports critical research and conservation programs in the Caribbean, Central and South America. Won't you help? Please bring your donations to the RBA monthly meetings or contact Lucretia at 671-1310 or [lucretia@frontiernet.net](mailto:lucretia@frontiernet.net) for alternate arrangements. Remember to include a list of the items and your name and address with your donation.

Lucretia Grosshans

# RBA WINTER DINNER

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m.  
Summerville Presbyterian Church, 4845 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester NY 14617

Cost per person: \$5.00

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



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

She will need the following information:

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

We will be providing the place settings & cutlery

## WHITE ALBATROSS TABLE

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

## EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

## Update on the Heritage Wind Project, Case No. 16-F-0546, in Barre NY

The Rochester Birding Association remains concerned that migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, warblers, thrushes and rarer Species of Greater Conservation Need have not been adequately assessed as part of the bird studies completed by Heritage Wind. The only migratory studies they did were for raptor species. Many songbirds and shorebirds migrate at night and would not have been noted during raptor surveys.

Three turbines (T 1 – 3) will be 2.6 miles from Iroquois National Wildlife Management Area, and along with turbines T 4 – 6, all 6 are 0.75 miles from the northern boundary of Oak Orchard State Wildlife Management Area. At the Community Forum held February 28, 2019, Apex experts gave a lot of information not previously released. The transcript is available on the DPS website. These 6 turbines (out of a total of 31) make a cluster with the tip of the blades at 655 feet and a rotor diameter of 489 feet (for the model N149). Blades moving at 210 mph are going to be a challenge for birds trying to land in these two wildlife management areas.

RBA is concerned that the current survey areas for mortality studies do not reflect the taller turbine heights or longer blade lengths. Mortality studies were done when average turbine height was less than 300 feet.

While the distance between turbines is based on a formula (so wind generated is not impacted by other turbines), we see no indication that a formula is used to estimate areas to test for mortality. Simply, those used are standard distances from older studies. At the community forum it was stated that raptor mortality searches go out 100 meters (328' or 0.062 mile) from the tower. Is that far enough with the taller towers and longer blades and faster speed?

We have concern about the height of turbines continuing to get taller in each draft of the scoping document for the Heritage project. The world's tallest turbines are now over twice the height of the ones for which most bird study parameters were set. If Apex were to decide to go larger than the N149, then the impact studies on bird species should be redone and/or added.

The Heritage Apex team is now in the process of reviewing public comments from their latest version; comments were due in late September. They are likely to submit their application to the state this spring. Once the application is submitted, there will be another opportunity for public comment. The Rochester Birding Association has not signed any stipulations as of this date, as our concerns are still not addressed.

*Amy Kahn*  
RBA Conservation Chair

## Halloween at the Market

Annually, the Rochester Public Market hosts an event the Sunday before Halloween, aptly named Halloween at the Market. For the past 3 years, RBA, as well as several other local nature clubs, have manned stations at this event, aimed at recruiting for their cause. We were fortunate to be staffed by an experienced crew of 5, ready to recruit for the young birders club! Unlike other years, the temperature peaked in the 60's! Usually, we have experienced wet evenings plunging into the 30's. Although sustained wind speed was over 15 miles per hour out of the southwest, thousands of children attended. We were able to connect with a large group of people, as we were fortunate enough to be located in the stall directly next to the kettle corn vendors! Children played our bird matching game as their parents admired the collection of photos taken by RBA members, displayed on a trifold board. As a reward for stopping at our table, participants received stickers and maybe even an apple! This was something new provided by the market this year: bushels of apples to hand out to the kids, as a healthy alternative to the candy. What a great thing! Overall, many business cards were handed out

and much interest in birds was either revealed or sparked.

*Robert Buckert*



## October Sightings Report

It was again a split month; the first half was flat and average, then the last 12 days mild and well above average.

Temperatures averaged 53.6 °F, 3.0° above normal. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, record highs for the date were set for both the high and low temperatures. The 88° was only the 9<sup>th</sup> time that high in October and the first time since 1951. A drop to 33° on the 19<sup>th</sup> brought the first killing frost to many parts of the area and ended the growing season for the Rochester metro area. Precipitation at 4.84" was 2.12" above normal. There was no snow. Six days with 0.50" of rain or more tied the record set in 1872, and 1.09" on the 31<sup>st</sup> was a record for that date. Strong winds accompanying the storm on the 31<sup>st</sup> dropped some trees and caused some power outages.

The species total for the month was well below last year and below the 10-year average for the month. This is likely due to the combination of no NYSOA meeting here, many heavy rain days, and the very high waters across the region. Shorebird variety was down significantly, and many other families had a few species not found this year. There were no record late departures, and only 3 at dates beyond the old Monroe County checklist distributions. The eBird records downloaded this month for the region totaled 17,589, a drop of almost 50% from last year, again likely a result of both no NYSOA meeting here and the very wet October. At the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding station, the number of new bands was down about 1/3 from last year. This low banding number is repeated at many banding stations across the Northeast and Upper Midwest this fall. There are many theories that provide possible partial explanations, none conclusive or overwhelming.

Most of the expected waterfowl were reported, though generally at relatively low numbers, other than a few of the puddle ducks in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). Diving ducks were noted only in relatively low peak counts. The only real surprise miss was Canvasback. Greater White-fronted Goose and Cackling Goose were the only relatively rarer species.

From pheasants through hummingbirds, we had most of the expected species reported in typical numbers and departures; no really late departures. Grebe maxima were unexceptional. Again there were no Eurasian Collared-Dove reports. No large Chimney Swift gatherings were noted into this month, and the gallinules and coots in the NMWMA back to more normal numbers.

Only 16 shorebird species were reported, certainly a function of high water levels in our region. Peak numbers were very low, and departure dates were typical; there were no really late dates. There were no particularly interesting finds.

Again, there was a reasonable number of about 6 Parasitic Jaegers and one other not ID'd to species. Black-legged Kittiwake put in a first appearance for the year, and the adult Franklin's Gull found last month was seen again on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Mill Seat Landfill in Riga and a few elsewhere. Terns were missing, other than Caspian Tern to a typical departure date.

The loon movement seemed on the low side, but the peak numbers were typical of many other years historically. Among the herons, egrets, and allies, a nice surprise was the region's 2<sup>nd</sup> White-faced Ibis first seen by Joanna Klima on the 18<sup>th</sup> at LaSalle's Landing Park at the south end of Irondequoit Bay and then re-found the next day and seen off and on to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. To the frustration of some, it spent much of its time in the marshes to the south of Empire Blvd., where access and visibility is very limited.

The fall raptor picture was again weak. There were no reports for Black Vulture, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, or Rough-legged Hawk. Even Bald Eagle reports were down, with only 110 lines in eBird. Out of order, but hard for me to separate from the raptors, all three regular falcons were again well reported this fall.

There were no winter owl arrivals by month's end. A banding effort at the BBBO area caught 15 Northern Saw-whet Owls from October 7-18, and another was heard calling near Naples on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports, surely an effort issue rather than a sudden mass departure.

Again, nearly all the expected passerine species were reported, but there were more holes than usual in the list, where species that sometimes linger into the month or arrive for the winter were not reported this month. Numbers were again generally low, illustrated earlier by the comment on low banding numbers. Warbling Vireo, record late last fall, was not reported into October this year. Winter finches were represented only by Pine Siskins arriving after mid-month. Nelson's Sparrows were found at Burger Park and at the Geneseo Airfield. Twenty species of warblers were reported, with only 7 Orange-crowned in the scarcer species column. Looking at the banding data, it is interesting that only 2 species were banded in numbers statistically different from their averages for the prior 8 years: Common Yellowthroat and Black-throated Green Warbler, both at well above average. Blackpoll Warbler was in one of its low years here, but it serves to illustrate that the lack of statistically significant differences in numbers from their averages is mostly due to the variances across years being very high. For Blackpoll, this fall, only 80 were banded, with the average 351, but with one standard deviation is 248!

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

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>10-year Average (2009-2018)</u>
Total species for October	194	214	205.0
New species for the year	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5.8</u>
Total for the year to date	286	282	286.2

*Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*



**Observers:** Jim Adams, Tom Auer, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Jeff Bolsinger, Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Robert Cicotta, Linda Clark-Benedict, Kelly Close, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Peter Debes, Andrew Dreelin, Mark Druziak, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janice George, Jessica George, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Shannon Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Gunther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Anita Gwara, Helen & Chris Haller, David Harrison, Julie Hart, Kim Hartquist, Monika Herrmann, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Dave Kennedy, Mike Kidulich, Jim Kimball, Scott & Sherry Kinzey, Kathy Kirsch, Joanna Klima, Kim LaCelle,

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**Current and Proposed Status of All Bird Species on Proposed List**

The NYSDEC is proposing changes to the list of animals with protected status in the state of New York (6 NYCRR Part 182.5). They are looking for public comments before January 24, 2020. Especially desired is information about any studies the DEC may not be aware of that provide information that could change the status of any animal on the list. The complete list of proposed changes, and how to make comments, is available on the [NYSDEC website](#).

*Amy Kahn, RBA Conservation Chair*

Species	Current	Proposed
American Bittern	Special Concern	No change
American Three-toed Woodpecker	None	Threatened
Bald Eagle	Threatened	Special Concern
Barn Owl	None	Special Concern
Bicknell's Thrush	Special Concern	No change
Black Rail	Endangered	No change
Black Skimmer	Special Concern	No change
Black Tern	Endangered	No change
Cerulean Warbler	Special Concern	No change
Common Loon	Special Concern	No change
Common Nighthawk	Special Concern	Threatened
Common Tern	Threatened	No change
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Off list
Golden Eagle	Endangered	No change
Golden-winged Warbler	Special Concern	No change
Grasshopper Sparrow	Special Concern	No change
Henslow's Sparrow	Threatened	No change
Horned Lark	Special Concern	No change

Species	Current	Proposed
Kentucky Warbler	None	Threatened
King Rail	Threatened	No change
Least Bittern	Threatened	No change
Least Tern	Threatened	No change
Loggerhead Shrike	Endangered	No change
Northern Goshawk	Special Concern	No change
Osprey	Special Concern	Off List
Peregrine Falcon	Endangered	Special Concern
Pied-billed Grebe	Threatened	Special Concern
Piping Plover	Endangered	No change
Red Knot	Threatened	No change
Red-headed Woodpecker	Special Concern	No change
Red-shouldered Hawk	Special Concern	No change
Roseate Tern	Endangered	No change
Saltmarsh Sparrow	None	Special Concern
Seaside Sparrow	Special Concern	No change
Sedge Wren	Threatened	No change
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Special Concern	Off List
Short-eared Owl	Endangered	No change
Spruce Grouse	Endangered	No change
Upland Sandpiper	Threatened	No change
Vesper Sparrow	Special Concern	No change
Whip-poor-will	Special Concern	No change
Yellow-breasted Chat	Special Concern	Threatened



**ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 92055**  
**1335 Jefferson Road**  
**Rochester, NY 14692-9998**



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The *Little Gull* is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except that the July and August issues are combined and published at the beginning of July. RBA members are encouraged to contribute. Please send contributions by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to Jay Greenberg, Editor, [LittleGullEditor@gmail.com](mailto:LittleGullEditor@gmail.com). Contributions can consist of original birding-related nonfiction and fiction articles, poems, photos, and artwork. Humor is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact the editor.

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		<b>Address</b>
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**E-mail**

- [ajpforbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:ajpforbusiness@gmail.com)
- [tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com)
- [brohrs@rochester.rr.com](mailto:brohrs@rochester.rr.com)
- [kimlw@earthlink.net](mailto:kimlw@earthlink.net)
- [rbaconservation@gmail.com](mailto:rbaconservation@gmail.com)
- [kmfarrell18@gmail.com](mailto:kmfarrell18@gmail.com)
- [tigerlily681236@gmail.com](mailto:tigerlily681236@gmail.com)
- [lizmagnanti@gmail.com](mailto:lizmagnanti@gmail.com)
- [thistlew@yahoo.com](mailto:thistlew@yahoo.com)

**RBA Committee Chairs**

<b>Circulation</b>	Sheryl Gracewski	287 Willowen Drive, Rochester NY 14609	<a href="mailto:grace@me.rochester.edu">grace@me.rochester.edu</a>
<b>Communication</b>	Liz Magnanti	63 Hamilton Street, Rochester, NY 14620	<a href="mailto:lizmagnanti@gmail.com">lizmagnanti@gmail.com</a>
<b>Conservation</b>	Amy Kahn	5 Cranswick Lane, Rochester NY 14618	<a href="mailto:rbaconservation@gmail.com">rbaconservation@gmail.com</a>
<b>Editor</b>	Jay Greenberg	15 Neville Lane, Rochester NY 14618	<a href="mailto:LittleGullEditor@gmail.com">LittleGullEditor@gmail.com</a>
<b>Field Trips</b>	Catherine Ballard	140 Eastwood Trail, Rochester NY 14622	<a href="mailto:cballard@rochester.rr.com">cballard@rochester.rr.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Jeanne Skelly	420 Chili-Scottsville Road, Churchville NY 14428	
<b>Membership Outreach</b>	Adrianna Anderson	68 Del Rio Lane, Rochester NY 14622	<a href="mailto:adrianna.m.anderson@gmail.com">adrianna.m.anderson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Member Data</b>	Jo Taylor	967 Meigs Street, Rochester NY 14620	<a href="mailto:jhtaylor@frontiernet.net">jhtaylor@frontiernet.net</a>
<b>Nominating</b>	Tom Verhulst	203 Dartmouth Street, Rochester NY 14607	<a href="mailto:tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com">tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com</a>
<b>Item Sales</b>	Nancy Poeth	1158 Lake Road, Webster NY 14580	<a href="mailto:ngpoeth@yahoo.com">ngpoeth@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Records</b>	Andrea Patterson	144 Greystone Lane #24, Rochester, NY 14618	<a href="mailto:ajpforbusiness@gmail.com">ajpforbusiness@gmail.com</a>
<b>Social</b>	Wanda Thistle	116 Deerhurst Lane Apt. 3, Webster, NY 14580	<a href="mailto:thistlew@yahoo.com">thistlew@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Young Birders</b>	Andrea Patterson	144 Greystone Lane #24, Rochester, NY 14618	<a href="mailto:ajpforbusiness@gmail.com">ajpforbusiness@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Laura Kammermeier	55 Ontario Street, Honeoye Falls NY 14472	<a href="mailto:lmk88@rochester.rr.com">lmk88@rochester.rr.com</a>
<b>Web Content Manager</b>	Shelley Patterson	7 Falling Brook Road, Fairport NY 14450	<a href="mailto:shelpat22@gmail.com">shelpat22@gmail.com</a>