



# Bittle Gull

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

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

## JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2021 BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

**Please Note:** Pre-registration is now required for all field trips (see the COVID-19 field trip guidelines in the revised field trip schedule or on the [RBA website](http://www.RochesterBirding.org)). Bring your own binoculars and scopes if you have them, as there will be no sharing of equipment. Social distancing will be practiced, and masks will be required.

**Jun 5**  
Saturday

### **GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE STATE PARK**

This trip has generated large species lists due to the many habitat types we will travel through. We will start from the parking lot to the longhouse and the meadowlark field and then head down a wide trail through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and is suitable for most. *Moderate difficulty in spots—hills. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip.* After we reach the overlook, those who wish can continue for another 2 miles on the narrower Seneca Trail through field and woods, across County Route 41, and along a wooded stream valley to the Bobolink field. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the main parking lot off County Road 41/Boughton Hill Road. The parking 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 at the bottom of the hill.)

**Leaders:** Amy Kahn (RBA) 585-310-2330 and June Summers (GVAS)

**Jun 6**  
Sunday

### **LETCHWORTH STATE PARK**

This trip frequently boasts more birds than any other RBA field trip. Of course, it gets an early start! We'll look for birds not frequently seen on other trips, such as Acadian Flycatcher and Barred Owl. We'll do a fair amount of walking: one somewhat steep but short forest trail and a dirt road down to the river level, as well as some roadside birding. Restrooms available at several locations along the way. Meet at **5:30 a.m.** at the Dam Overlook Gifts and Grill parking lot (use the Route 36 entrance to Letchworth Park). Pack a lunch and snacks, as the trip will likely last well into mid-afternoon. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** Mike Landowski 585-493-3681 and co-leader TBA

**Jun 19**  
Saturday

### **BERGEN SWAMP**

A trip to this unique place is by special permit from the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and will feature nesting birds. The mix of vegetation zones provides secluded nesting habitat for the usual western N.Y. species, as well as those more characteristic of the Canadian zone such as Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Canada and Nashville Warblers. This is a walking trip of 3–5 miles on variably wet and slippery corduroy trails that must be followed closely for safety reasons and because of the fragile habitat. **Sturdy boots** (rather than sneakers) are **STRONGLY** recommended, and hiking or ski poles may be useful. Massasauga rattlesnakes are **VERY** rarely encountered. We will meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the main trailhead entrance to Bergen Swamp: 6646 Hessenthaler Rd, Byron, NY 14422. From Rochester, take I-490 west to Exit 2. Take Rt. 33 west and turn right (north) onto Route 19. Turn left at the fire station onto Hunter Road, which becomes Swamp Road. Follow Swamp Road west past Pocock Road and turn right onto Hessenthaler Road. The swamp entrance is at the kiosk on the right. Park along the right shoulder, but do not park in front of the caretaker's house.

**Leader:** Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553 and co-leader TBA

**Jun 20**  
Sunday

### **ODONATA SANCTUARY**

The 100 acre privately owned Odonata Sanctuary, 20 Parrish Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472, is the former home of Joseph W. Taylor, who was a founder of the American Birding Association and president of Hawk Mountain Association. The sanctuary participates in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) that provides nesting acreage for grassland nesting birds such as Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, and Dickcissels. The sanctuary is an access point for the observation

of migrating birds and monarch butterflies and is also home to one of the largest Eastern Bluebird nest box trails in the USA. The trails pass over streams, around a pond and through woodlands. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the sanctuary. Enter the sanctuary at 20 Parrish Road and drive up the long, one-lane driveway.

**Leaders:** *Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski 585-261-6975 and co-leader Steve Melcher 585-746-8078.*

**Jun 27**  
Sunday

### **BARNHART'S CAMP AND KEENEY SWAMP**

We will be birding as we drive (and stop) throughout the diverse landscapes of Northern Allegany County, 20 minutes south of Letchworth State Park. Grassland, woodland, pond and swampland species such as Prairie and Mourning Warblers, Eastern Bluebirds, Pied-billed Grebes, and maybe a bittern or two should be seen. This trip generally goes all day so we can see as much as possible! Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Shop N' Save in Nunda on Route 408 where restrooms are available. **Spotting scopes and FRS Radios would be useful.** Lunch at Barnhart's camp is a trip tradition—they grill the hot dogs! Bring a dish to pass—your choice (but this is optional).

**Leaders:** *Jerry and Carolyn Barnhart 585-385-4026 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-473-9229*

***July: many birds are on nests—CONSIDER HELPING WITH THE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS!***

**Jul 31**  
Saturday

### **CONESUS INLET STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

Explore this expansive wetland for Virginia Rails and Wood Duck families. We've seen eagles on a reliable basis, Cliff Swallows and more. This trip is a combination of driving, stopping at overlooks and short walks on trails. It is not handicap/wheelchair accessible. Length about 1.5 mile walking. Restrooms are available at the meeting place only. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Vitale Park on Route 20A in Lakeville. The park entrance is by the Lakeville post office on the south (lake) side of Route 20A and across the street from Smith's Hardware. There's a possibility of a trip extension to the Geneseo Airport area. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and co-leaders Christina Hoh 973-224-7009, Nick Kachala 585-750-5536, and Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754*

### **AUGUST IS A GREAT TIME OF YEAR TO WATCH FOR MIGRATING SHOREBIRDS**

***A good place to look for shorebirds is at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. For the last few years the staff there has advertised open dike walks at Knox-Marsellus and Puddler Marshes. The walks start from the visitor center at 7:00 a.m. on alternate Saturdays and Sundays in August and early September. Visit the Montezuma NWR website for more detailed information as the time approaches.***

**Aug 8**  
Sunday

### **BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP -- MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Learn more about the fall migration of shorebirds in this nearby birding treasure. We'll visit key spots you'll want to revisit again and again! There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. Bring binoculars. Restrooms may not be available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **1:00 p.m.** in the Bushnell's Basin Park and Ride lot. The lot is off Route 96 just south of Exit 27 from I-490. Alternatively, meet up with the group at the first stop, the Montezuma visitor center at **2:00 p.m.** **Bring binoculars and, if you have them, spotting scopes.**

**Leader:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639 co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

**Aug 22**  
Sunday

### **MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

We'll be looking for waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Expect to see herons, eagles and possibly falcons. There will be a number of stops during this mostly driving trip. There's a possibility of a walk on the dikes. Restrooms may not be available at the Visitor Center. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the Montezuma visitor center. Pack a lunch. **Spotting scopes would be useful.**

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

## Welcome to the Flock



Join us in welcoming these 20 new and returning members (16 memberships) who joined in the last month.

Amy Corcoran  
 Basia Kruszezwska  
 Robert Crandall  
 Sondra Grotz  
 Roni Walker  
 Chris Erdos  
 Michael & Griffin Kutny  
 Winona, Sarah, and Bob Brown  
 Adrienne McHargue  
 Anthony Rotoli  
 Jim & Carole Rudman  
 Margaret Crowley  
 Susan Markel  
 Peggy Dempsey  
 Janet Siegel  
 Joseph Delehanty

**Current RBA Membership as of May 15 is 433:**  
**416 Household memberships**  
**2 Young Birders**  
**1 Corporate (The Bird House)**  
**1 Little Gull membership**  
**13 Complimentary**

Jo Taylor  
 Membership Data

Adrianna Anderson  
 Membership Outreach



*President's Column*  
 Liz Magnanti

The sounds of spring are in the air! Although this season has welcomed us with snow, rain and some very windy weather, the birds are determined to complete their migration north and we reap the benefits. Every morning the chorus of bird song seems to grow stronger. When I see the first Yellow-Rumped Warbler of the season I can't help but to get excited about what is yet to come!

Migration is an amazing endeavor, and it's incredible the journey some birds take. But not all migration is the same. Most of the time when I think about migration I think of "Complete" migration- when a population of birds moves from its winter habitat to its breeding habitat, and ultimately back again. This trip can be hundreds, or thousands, of miles depending on the bird and the species. The birds don't always have to be coming from a tropical location either. Rough-legged hawks, for example, will spend the winter in our area and throughout a good portion of the continental US. Come spring, they will make the flight to Northern Canada and Alaska to breed.

Some birds, like the Eastern Bluebird, are considered "short-distance" or "partial" migrators. They migrate, but sometimes not on a schedule or to predictable locations, like the complete migrators. These migrations are usually a significantly shorter distance, and can be based upon food availability.

Irruptive migration is a scenario we saw this past winter. It is usually a trait of northern birds that is due to food shortages and abundances. It is not necessarily a straight north to south direction of movement, but a dispersal in many directions. Snowy

Owls, Pine Siskins, Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks are some examples of irruptive migrators.

All of this being said, you don't have to worry about if keeping your oriole or hummingbird feeder out in the fall will keep birds from migrating. There are many factors that cause birds to migrate and food is just one of those. As migration season approaches, birds enter a period called "zugunruhe," which is a fancy term for restlessness. As the amount of daylight changes, the endocrine system of birds begins to produce hormones to cause this restlessness in birds and also causes them to eat more.

Regardless of the type of migration, birds need to fuel up for the trip. Before leaving for a migratory flight, birds will feed in an almost manic fashion called "hyperphagia." Hyperphagia, also defined as an excessive appetite, will cause birds to consume a large amount of food, and therefore, calories which are converted into fat. Birds have two types of fat: white and brown. The brown fat, also known as migratory fat, is unique to birds. This fat is specialized to help birds make their migratory flights and is quickly made in their bodies and then also quickly burned off during flight.

Migration takes place during different times of the day. We are so close to Braddock Bay, most of us are pretty familiar with the daytime hawk flight that can be seen on the Hawkwatch platform over Braddock Bay. There are plenty of birds like this that migrate during the day, taking advantage of the thermals that rise up from the ground. This thermal air pushes birds up, helping with lift and resulting in the bird not having to use as much energy. They will glide from thermal to thermal as they travel. Many small birds however, migrate throughout the night. Flying in the night has its perks. It generally has less turbulence, fewer predators, and cooler temperatures which minimizes dehydration.

(continued on page 6)

## RBA IN THE FIELD

### High Acres Nature Area April 17, 2021

We all know how fickle our spring weather can be. So after two days and nights of rain, we caught a break. It was a damp and wet morning for a field trip at HANA. But, hurrah! There was nothing leaking from the sky. Our group that day was comprised of a few seasoned birders and a good showing of excited new birders.

You never know what bird species will pop up at High Acres. You need to have your eyes and ears open at all times. Over 170 different birds have been spotted there. As it often does, the trip started in the parking lot. A Northern Harrier was spotted flying low over the grassy landfill, as well as a Northern Mockingbird and sparrows. And then we were off!

Passing the frog pond, we found a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets. One Golden-crowned Kinglet was in the mix, for excellent comparisons. While advancing on the red trail to connect with the blue, the group skirted the edge of the eastern marshes. Participants and leaders were treated to Sora whinnies! A strange sound to be sure, but one that experienced birders long to hear.

Crossing the dike, still following the blue trail, the Virginia Rails (3) were actively calling and doing their peek-a-boo act at the base of the near fallen cattails. What a delight for all of us. Pretty big sounds from some pretty small birds! Pretty big smiles of wonder on birders' faces!

The Vernal Pool was entertaining a show of its own. Several Wilson's Snipe were heard and seen. The courtship aerial display was 'on'! It also meant that there was a new 'whinny' to remember, different from the last.

The Quarry Pond and the North and South Marshes produced Ring-necked Duck, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards and the constant Canada Geese.

Frankly, that was a little disappointing.

And, as our trip list began, it ended in the parking lot. Two American Kestrel (M/F) were spotted hunting the sides of the road, the male scoring a small snake. They are always a fun bird to watch in flight and perched.

The tally for the day was 45 species.

*Rosemary Reilly, Gayle Lazoration  
and Brian Rohrs*

### Highland Park April 21, 2021

April can bring surprises, and the seven intrepid birders who showed up for the Highland Park trip on April 21 were not disappointed—32 degrees and two-plus inches of wet snow that continued throughout the trip! Undaunted and enchanted with the beauty of the snow clinging to every surface, we began with a robin or two and after a quiet walk through the Poet's Garden, Tom Nash spotted a Fox Sparrow under some bushes. Following came a few Dark-eyed Juncos, and as we proceeded through the magnolias, we were treated to some Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a Song Sparrow.

Many of the birds found were sensibly sheltering under bushes, making it a challenge to see them. As we meandered along, a few Common Grackles, some with nesting material, were spotted in a tall pine tree, and a little later on, two Hermit Thrushes and some more Kinglets showed fairly well.

Up on the circular flat area, we again had some Kinglets, and Sheryl Gracewiski found five or so Chipping Sparrows. One Chipping Sparrow hopped along the path edge right up to within a few feet of us giving us great looks! The lower Pinetum area yielded a Red-breasted Nuthatch.

We finished the trip along Reservoir Avenue, where several Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Brown Creeper were well seen and rounded out our morning with a total of 21 species. Not too bad considering the weather! Thanks to all for participating!

*Jeanne Verhulst and Amy Kahn*



### A cold, wet April morning in Highland Park, April 21, 2021

© Jeanne Verhulst



**Taylor Marsh  
May 1, 2021**

It was May Day, but it felt more like March. At the start of the trip, it was just above freezing with a brisk northerly breeze and a dusting of fresh snow on some of the nearby fields. All of the available 15 sign-up slots were full, and women participants outnumbered men by 14 to 4, if you include the leaders. The trip was led by Lynn Braband and Jay Greenberg on behalf of the RBA and Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and Geoff Gretton on behalf of the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society.

We totaled 36 species for the trip, which was less than usual, perhaps because of the chilly conditions and a bit of a delay in spring migration. Wood warblers were notably absent, except for a single Common Yellowthroat. Thrushes were also absent, except for American Robin and Eastern Bluebird. The iconic Sandhill Cranes of Taylor Marsh were heard, but not seen. Other marsh birds included a Virginia Rail that was heard repeatedly without playing a recording, Swamp Sparrow, the aforementioned Common Yellowthroat, a Northern Harrier, numerous Red-winged Blackbirds, and Canada Geese. Two Bald Eagles, an adult and an immature, were seen by some participants. We eked out a single Eastern Meadowlark and a single Bobolink at a nearby hayfield.

By the end of the approximately 2-hour trip, it had warmed up to the 50s. The participants generally seemed happy with the trip in spite of the initially chilly conditions and a relative lack of birds.

*Jay Greenberg, Lynn Braband, and Geoff Gretton*

**Camp Beechwood/  
Huckleberry Swamp  
May 4, 2021**

In fog and with temps in the mid-40s, we began the trip at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of Webster Park where, in about 15 minutes, we had eleven species including a Palm Warbler, two Eastern Phoebes, and a Chipping Sparrow. At our next stop at B. Foreman Park east of Pultneyville, we added a few more to our group and to our tally: eleven species including Red-breasted Mergansers on the lake, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and White-throated Sparrows. A usually quiet spot, we had to tear ourselves away from all the bird activity to head to our primary location, Camp Beechwood State Park.

Our group now totaled eight, including leaders (two others didn't make it). At the east parking lot/Maxwell Creek, we enjoyed seeing two Belted Kingfishers and a Blue-winged Teal. Ruby-crowned Kinglets flitted, a Carolina Wren sang, and most caught a glimpse of a House Wren.

We moved to the west parking lot and walked the dirt road bordered by huge oaks and a hedgerow. Things were quiet at first, but then all of a sudden birds were everywhere in the conifers and shrubs. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers were the most numerous, with a few Palm Warblers, a Blue-headed Vireo, a Pine Warbler, a Northern Parula, and a Yellow Warbler. We stayed for a period of time, sorting them out in the gloom and mist.

Moving on to the lake overlook at Maxwell Bay, we saw a Great Blue Heron, watched a number of Barn and Tree Swallows and Caspian

Terns, and could make out about 30 Red-breasted Mergansers on the lake. We then walked to the old orchard where Yellow Warblers were close, a Brown Thrasher sang loudly, and a Hermit Thrush and a Green Heron were seen. Beechwood totaled 41 species.

At Huckleberry Swamp, the second part of the trip, we paused for some lunch. It was much warmer and the sun came out, but it was quiet at the Swamp. We had a total of 18 species including quick looks at a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The highlight was a brilliant Baltimore Oriole singing from a treetop—the first of the year for all of us!

The day produced a total of 51 species. Thanks to all who joined us; the good company and sharp eyes made for a great trip.

*Jeanne and Tom Verhulst*

**Cobbs Hill Park/  
Washington Grove  
May 5, 2021**

If measured by the enthusiasm of the twenty participants, the May 5th field trip to Cobbs Hill Park was a great success. If measured by the number of species seen on an unseasonably cool and overcast day, maybe a little bit less.

Two groups, one led by Jeanne and Sue and the other by Pat and Tom, formed and went their separate ways in the Washington Grove area of the park. While the groups' sightings were not identical, they were substantially the same, and the consolidated tally was 41 species of birds seen and/or heard.

Highlights were Pileated Woodpeckers close to the ground, Great Crested Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush,

and hoped for colorful warblers—Black and White, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and much-appreciated Blackburnian. Not a huge haul by historical standards, but at least a nice introduction to the park for those to whom this lovely location was unfamiliar.

*Tom Verhulst, Jeanne Verhulst, Pat Martin, and Sue Robertson*

**Lakeshore Warbler  
Hotspots  
May 8, 2021**

It was cold but at least free of rain. Thirteen folks met with we three leaders at the Lakeside Church parking lot to hopefully find some warblers. After some preliminary remarks, we were able to find a very cooperative Warbling Vireo, the usual European Starling nest, and the treat of a Merlin enjoying its latest catch.

The narrow trail from the church forced the division of the group into smaller units, but all were able to find and at least get fleeting looks at the many Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. As we moved further south to where the trail widened, the birds seemed to be more cooperative, allowing everyone to get good looks at the Palm and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Other warblers heard but not seen

were the Northern Waterthrush and the Ovenbird. All during this time we were serenaded by orioles, cat-birds, and blackbirds.

Our visit to the Firehouse Woods on the other side of the street was not very productive. We finished the trip with 40 species.

*Lynn Bergmeyer, Greg Lawrence, and John Boettcher*

**Amy's Ponds and  
Hundred Acre Wood  
May 9, 2021**

This year RBA was invited back to bird the private conservation lands of Janet Smith in Ontario. Janet has two conservation easements with Genesee Land Trust, Amy's Ponds and Hundred Acre Wood, totaling 187 acres.

The group walked counterclockwise this year, beginning with the ponds, and were treated to a number of warblers including Common Yellowthroat, Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler. Continuing around the ponds, a Solitary Sandpiper, Green Heron, and a few Great Blue Herons were observed, along with many of the other usual suspects for this field trip making appearances.

Tree Swallows dancing over the ponds enjoying bountiful insects, the cackle of a Kingfisher and the noisy Canada Geese were ever present. One of the highlights from the field trip was the observation of a Black-crowned Night-heron, of which many participants got a nice view. While trying to reacquire the night-heron, a Virginia Rail made a brief appearance in the same area. The rail continued with a few moments of calling.

When we got into the woods, there wasn't much going on bird-wise, but we did see a number of spring ephemerals and beautiful wetlands. After getting out of the woods, we walked along the hedgerow looking for some grassland birds, but we did not see or hear any this year.

We are grateful to Janet and Bob Smith and Amanda and Keith Hatch for welcoming RBA, helping with parking, and guiding us through their gorgeous property.

*Kevin Farrell*



**Golden-winged Warbler, Durand Eastman Park  
May 14, © Candace Giles**

(continued from page 2)

After this nighttime flight birds need to spend time refueling at their stopover point for the day. As bird-watchers this is why we see so many birds being active during the early morning hours. This period of feeding will fuel the bird for its next leg of migration.

Birds migrate for a reason, and this time of the year it tends to be for breeding! I urge you to keep the New York Breeding Bird Atlas in mind. Reporting any kind of nesting or breeding behavior you see via eBird is important for the Atlas initiative. Thank you all for your continued support and I hope you are enjoying your spring! See you on the trails!

## April 2021 Sightings Report

Just a typical see-saw April. The first half was on the warm side and the latter half cooler. A few days with measurable snow were scattered through the month. Winds were a bit less than usual for a spring month. Temperatures averaged 47.2°F, 0.9° above normal. The warmest day was 79°F on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation totaled 3.38", 0.65" above normal. There was some rainfall on 16 of the 30 days. Snowfall at 4.7" was 0.8" above normal. Early leaf-out was coated with 2.8" of snow over 20-21 April.

General comments are still complicated by the effects of the coronavirus restrictions and data gathering related to NY BBA III, with its year-round data dumping into the BBA portal. The eBird download for the month for this region was about 66,401 lines, compared with 72,406 in April 2020, probably a change within the noise level. The spring seemed advanced until shut down a bit by the cooler latter half month. Species numbers for the month and year to date were very close to last year. There was a nice mix of expected arrivals plus a few rarities.

Among the waterfowl, we have the usual—essentially all expected species recorded. Again, there was clear feeling that the bulk of the migrants had moved on by early in this month. Peak counts were low, especially for diving ducks. Nothing stood out as an especially high count. Waterfowl gathering and counts in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in Wayne County were limited by low water. This story continued for the grebes, though, again, there were some good Red-necked Grebe counts from Hamlin Beach. An Eared Grebe was reported off Greece later in the month, photographed by Mitchell Barry.

Late in the month, Eastern Whip-poor-will showed up in the usual Manitou Beach area and elsewhere. Our regular marsh birds were reported at typical arrival dates, but low numbers without easy viewing in the NMWMA. Again, Sandhill Crane numbers, passing the hawk watch and elsewhere at other expected locations, were good. With water levels on Lake Ontario back to more normal, even below average, there was good shorebird habitat at lakeshore sites, but birds seemed slow to arrive. Another spring, sixth in a row, with Piping Plover stopping at the barrier beach at Braddock Bay this time was another nice surprise. There were no other exceptional shorebirds.

The gulls and terns were again generally at routine numbers and arrival dates. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low, and unsurprisingly, there were no reports of Little Gull or the other rare gull species that often accompany them. The last of the winter gulls were relative scarce. Among the terns, Black Tern again had not arrived in our re-

gion at month's end, and the other regular terns were found in below average numbers.

Numbers for both our regular loon species were low. Double-crested Cormorant increased through the month, especially in Irondequoit Bay just south of the bay bridge, where they are hard to count. An American White Pelican circled near Braddock Bay on the 22<sup>nd</sup> but did not linger. Great Egrets hung around the Braddock Bay area most of the latter half of the month to be joined by a Snowy Egret on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Glossy Ibis was reported in the NMWMA, at Braddock Bay, and near Spencerport, sometimes seen by many. The lone Black Vulture was seen at the hawk watch on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hawk watch numbers are so driven by weather details that comparisons year to year probably mean little. That said, a quick summary is that for April, most species were 20-50% higher this year over last other than all the falcon numbers were down, Golden Eagle was about the same, and Rough-legged Hawk was up. Year to date for the two years, numbers for most species are relatively close, again other than the falcons well down, especially American Kestrel; Broad-winged Hawk was way down, and Rough-legged Hawk was up. Turkey Vultures again doubled Broad-winged Hawks for the month. Ten days saw 1000-bird counts, more than double that for last year. Lots more fun details are presented in the Hawkcount site online. The DEC owl surveys produced double digit Short-eared Owls through the final count on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Jim Adams' data summarizing the owl counting at the "Owl Woods" area on Manitou Beach Road showed the big start for Northern Saw-whet Owls, dropping off to only 8 added this month, while Long-eared Owls added 14 more birds. The Northern Flicker movement was noted again at the hawk watch and passing Beechwood State Park in Wayne County; peaks 51 and 147, respectively.

The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding numbers appeared to about double last year's for the month, with about 40% more net hours. But looking at the details, most of that increase was from Black-capped Chickadee moving from a down to an up year, with bands from 1 to 505. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was up and Golden-crowned down, to account for most of the rest of the difference. Yellow-rumped Warbler was the only warbler species with more than 5 banded, for a total of 22. With the cool last half of the month, many of the late April arrivals just made it in the warm last couple of days or slipped into May. Warbler species banded jumped to seven; however, the total of 18 warbler species reported by month's end was the same as last April. Five passerine species arrived at dates early by the old (1984) summary, but none were actually record early, all having been reported earlier yet

			10-year Avg
	2021	2020	(2011-2020)
Species for April	198	197	200.4
New for the year	49	59	59.7
Total year-to-date	212	212	211.7

in the intervening years. Again, the species that often pass in large numbers, such as Blue Jay, American Crow, and American Robin, were not tallied in sizable numbers this month. There were really no outstanding passerine counts and no truly rare species, a White-eyed Vireo being the rarest. There were no glaring misses, just a number of species that sometimes arrive before May 1 that didn't this year.

Please send your reports by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

**Observers:**

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Arthur Allgauer, Osvaldo Araya, BBBO (Andrea Patterson, et al.), John Ballou, Ted Barnett, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Don & Gillian Bemont, Tom Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steven Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Chris Bigenwald, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, David Brown (official hawk counter), Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Peter Debes, Peggy Dempsey, Diane Egan, Joseph Fell, Annabelle Foos, George Ford, James Fry, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Janis George, Jessica George, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Shannon Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Ryan Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, David & Vanna Harding, Kim Hartquist, Dale Hess, Bonnie Hewitt, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill & Mari Howe, Pam Inzinna, Alyssa Johnson, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, David Kennedy, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Liz Magnanti, Cynthia Marino, Patricia

Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Daniel McDermott, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican, Scott & Sophie Meagher, Steve Melcher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Brian & Brooke Morse, Leah Mould, Sheila Mumpton, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, Dave Odell, Marc Odin, Jay Ovsiovitch, Gary Palmer, Felicia Paradise, Andrea Patterson, Shelley Patterson, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Les Preston, Nicholas Pusateri, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Susan Robertson, Gordon Robinson, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jackie Salsbury, Livia Santana, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Pat & Tom Smith, Roger Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Kimberly Sucey, Michael & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, J. H. Thomas, Geoff Twardokus, Nathan Ukens, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Alison Van Keuren, Tom & Jeanne Verhulst, Matt Voelker, Jules Wagner, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Kim Weeks, Heather Wickings, Joe Wing, Glenn Wolford, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood.

There were about 533 eBird observers for the month, only some of whom are included here.

*Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*



**Marbled Godwit, Hogan Point Road  
May 14, © Eunice Thein**



## Rush Riverside Refuge May 13, 2021

Fifteen participants plus the leaders started off on a cool, but warming, spring day by the county fair barns watching playful Barn Swallows court, a pair of Northern Mockingbirds forage, and an Eastern Bluebird sing from its telephone line perch. After catching up with each other and brief introductions, the group continued into the first habitat, a meadow filled with Field Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbird pairs. Next, entering an area of regrowth, most participants got close-range listens of a singing Black-and-white Warbler and many calling Eastern Towhees.

Two Blue-winged Warblers taunted the group by not providing any looks, but most participants were pleased with the buzzy songs of these inconspicuous warblers. Some close Ruby-crowned Kinglets flitted around in blossoming old apple trees. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang from a nearby perch.

Continuing into the hardwood section, a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers entertained the group as we tried to find them high up in the budding trees. A friendly Veery made for a good discussion on field marks. A single Bank Swallow and several Chestnut-sided Warblers sang from the west bank of the Genesee River. The group came upon an Eastern Phoebe carrying nesting material, a territorial House Wren pair, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the way to the cars. This property has great potential for breeding birds. The group finished the gorgeous morning walk with 57 species, most of which have the potential to breed here.

*Nicholas Kachala*



**Rose-breasted grosbeak**

© Nic Minetor

## Powder Mills Park and BANC Sanctuary May 15, 2021

What a spectacular morning for any outdoor activity, including a birding field trip! It was warm (after a cool but comfortable start), constantly sunny and calm. Including the three leaders, fifteen of us gathered at the Fish Hatchery, where we started our observations. As usual, the early morning sightings were mainly in the sunny treetops – including a Great Blue Heron right at the pinnacle of a large conifer.

Subsequent walking of the Daffodil Meadow Trail and visits to two other wetland sites in the Park yielded most of the common resident species, but migrants were largely absent and the only warblers seen or heard were Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats – a sharp contrast to previous trips here on the corresponding dates.

Nine of us moved on to the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road, where

we walked the bugleweed and forget-me-not carpeted trails round the swamp and along Irondequoit Creek. Again most of the usual migrants were missing, but we enjoyed watching the Common Yellowthroats and Swamp Sparrows flitting around the edges of the marsh, and had good views of Eastern Bluebirds and a pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

When we gathered in the porch to review the morning's sightings, while watching a resplendent Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the feeder, we tallied a total of 38 species – far below our historical average. However, we agreed that we had enjoyed a beautiful morning, even if it was a week or two early this year.

My thanks go to Tom and Jeanne Verhulst for their invaluable co-leadership, and to the trip participants for their enthusiasm and their sharp eyes and ears. For several it was their first visit to these locations, and we hope they will enjoy returning.

*Richard Ashworth*



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



## Address Service Requested

Visit our website at [RochesterBirding.org](http://RochesterBirding.org)

The *Little Gull* is published monthly at the beginning of the month. There will be no July or August issues in 2021.

RBA members are encouraged to contribute. Please send contributions by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to [editor@rochesterbirding.org](mailto:editor@rochesterbirding.org).

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.

### 2020 RBA Board of Directors

		Address
<b>President</b>	Liz Magnanti	63 Hamilton Street, Rochester, NY 14620
<b>Vice President</b>	Jeanne Verhulst	203 Dartmouth Street, Rochester NY 14607
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brian Rohrs	104 East Pointe, Fairport NY 14450
<b>Secretary</b>	Greg Lawrence	593 Park Ave., Unit 17, Rochester, NY 14607
<b>Past President</b>	Andrea Patterson	144 Greystone Lane #24, Rochester, NY 14618
<b>Director</b>	Kevin Farrell	241 Averill Avenue Apt. 1, Rochester NY 14620
<b>Director</b>	Randi Minetor	32 Bengal Terrace, Rochester, NY 14610
<b>Director</b>	Rosemary Reilly	6 Highview Trail, Pittsford, NY 14534 NY
<b>Director</b>	Wanda Thistle	116 Deerhurst Lane Apt. 3, Webster, NY 14580

### E-mail

[lizmagnanti@gmail.com](mailto:lizmagnanti@gmail.com)  
[tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com)  
[brohrs@rochester.rr.com](mailto:brohrs@rochester.rr.com)  
[glawrence21@yahoo.com](mailto:glawrence21@yahoo.com)  
[ajpforbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:ajpforbusiness@gmail.com)  
[kmfarrell18@gmail.com](mailto:kmfarrell18@gmail.com)  
[randi@minetor.com](mailto:randi@minetor.com)  
[reilly.rosemary@gmail.com](mailto:reilly.rosemary@gmail.com)  
[thistlew@yahoo.com](mailto:thistlew@yahoo.com)

### RBA Committee Chairs

		Address	
<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>	Pending		
<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>Item Sales</b>	Kevin Farrell	241 Averill Avenue Apt. 1, Rochester NY 14620	<a href="mailto:kmfarrell18@gmail.com">kmfarrell18@gmail.com</a>
<b>Last 30 Days Gallery</b>	Richard Horsey	199 Village Lane, Rochester, NY 14610	<a href="mailto:rbabirdphotos@gmail.com">rbabirdphotos@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>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>Nominating</b>	Tom Verhulst	203 Dartmouth Street, Rochester NY 14607	<a href="mailto:tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.com">tnjverhulst@rochester.rr.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>Web Content Manager</b>	Shelley Patterson	7 Falling Brook Road, Fairport NY 14450	<a href="mailto:shelpat22@gmail.com">shelpat22@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Laura Kammermeier	55 Ontario Street, Honeoye Falls NY 14472	<a href="mailto:laurakamms@gmail.com">laurakamms@gmail.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>