



# Little 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

## October 2022 Events and Birding Field Trips

Please note: Leaders and trip details are subject to change. Please check the most recent issue of the Little Gull, or the online schedule at the RBA website <https://rochesterbirding.org/>, for updated information prior to departure! Trips run approximately 2 to 4 hours! Bring binoculars. All field trips will go rain/snow or shine unless there is a travel advisory issued. Online registration <https://rochesterbirding.org/> for each trip is required and opens at 7:30 PM, 7 days before the trip date and ends at 1 PM the day before the trip. When COVID guidelines allow, if at all possible, please carpool!

**Oct 6**

### **Birds & Brews**

**Thursday**

Join Rochester Birding Association members on Thursday, October 6th from 6:00-9:00pm 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 Three Heads Brewing on Atlantic Ave.

Location: Three Heads Brewing: 186 Atlantic Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

**Oct 9**

### **Hamlin Beach State Park**

**Sunday**

We'll start off walking flat wooded and brushy areas of the park, looking for thrushes, sparrows, and maybe a half-hardy warbler or two. After that, we'll stop by the lake watch to view ducks on the water and in flight, learning about the lake watch process. Dress appropriately for cooler weather along the lake, and wear comfortable footwear. Restroom facilities are available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in Hamlin Beach State Park, Parking Lot 1. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *Dominic Sherony 585-298-4260 and co-leaders Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975*

**Oct 13**

### **October Monthly Meeting 7:00—9:00 pm, Asbury Methodist Church**

**Oct 15**

### **Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant**

**Saturday**

Why a wastewater treatment plant? Open water and a great location mean that this spot appears regularly on fall birding lists. We will drive on the banks of the ponds, getting out wherever the birds are congregating. Discover the great opportunity this spot (and its helpful staff) offers. Restrooms might be available at the plant offices. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the wastewater treatment plant (17 Treadeasy Ave.) at the end of Industrial Blvd., which is off Pearl Street (Route 33) at the western edge of the city of Batavia. From the NYS Thruway (I-90) at Batavia, exit 48, go south on Route 98 into the city of Batavia. At the second light (candy store), make a right turn onto Oak Street, which is Route 33. Continue on Rt. 33 west approximately 0.5 miles to Industrial Blvd. and make a left. Proceed south past the railroad tracks and straight up the hill and through the open gates to the entrance building of the treatment plant (first building on your left). Or, from Rochester, take I-490 W, to Exit 2 (Route 33 west). Follow Route 33 west through Batavia; turn left onto Oak Street (Route 33), stay right at roundabout, continue on Route 33, 0.5 miles to Industrial Blvd., turn left. Continue straight across the railroad tracks and up the hill. Turn left into the parking lot of the offices. If possible, we will carpool from the plant offices. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** *Christina Hoh 973-224-7009 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*

**Oct 29**  
Saturday

### **Durand-Eastman Park**

Waxwings, winter finches, and lingering migrants are possible. We may visit Irondequoit Bay to look for waterfowl. Steady moderate grade at one point. Length about 2.5 miles, total. Restrooms may be available on this route. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** in Parking Lot D on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd. between Zoo Road and Log Cabin Road. Please dress for the weather.

**Leaders:** Amy Kahn 585-310-2330, Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975

**Nov 27**  
Sunday

### **Niagara River**

Join us on our birding venture along the Niagara River in both the US and Canada. We will start at Lake Ontario and work our way south to the Falls. Our focus will be on waterfowl and gulls, including Bonaparte's Gull and Little Gull, with possible late migrating Common Tern, with additional stops for Red-headed Woodpecker, Black Vulture and late migrating passerines. Meet at **9:00 am** at the Old Fort Niagara parking lot. Bring beverages and lunch, for this is an all-day driving trip. If COVID guidelines allow, carpooling is strongly advised, as we will be crossing into Canada. **Participants must adhere to the latest US/Canadian requirements for crossing the border: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>.** Dress warmly and in layers.

**Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

**Leader:** Tom O'Donnell 716-284-5569 and co-leaders Cathy Ballard 585-322-262, Neal Reilly 518-256-9147

## **Welcome to the Flock**

Join us in welcoming these 20 new members (15 memberships) who joined since May 15.

William Chamberlain

Kim Denise

Christa Eliot

Marilyn Feuerstein

Amy & Quinn Geiser-Getz

Diane Killigrew & Family (Dan, Kevin)

Michael Lanzillo

Judith Marcus

Megan Murante

Leslie Nicholas

Amy & Daniel Palka

Dave & Judy Pollatta

Jennifer Richter

Miranda Salsbery

Barbara Starr

Current RBA Membership as of September 14 is 432:

416 Household memberships

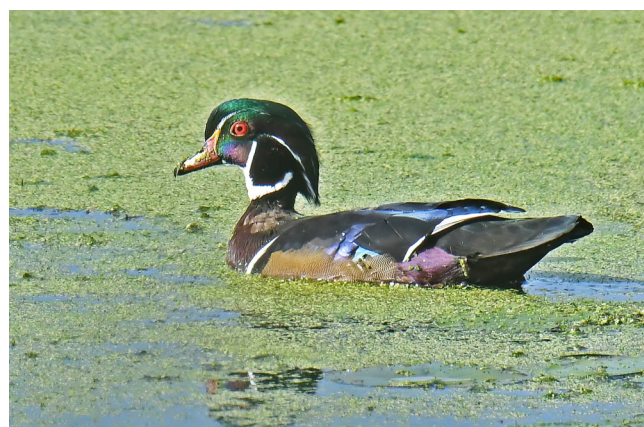
3 Young Birders

1 Corporate (The Bird House)

12 Complimentary

Jo Taylor

Member Data



Wood Duck - Braddock Bay East Spit -  
© Dick Horsey - September 13, 2022

Red-necked Phalarope - Braddock Bay East Spit -  
© Candace Giles - August 31, 2022





Photo by Richard Ashworth

## President's Corner, Randi Minetor—

In the name of all that is birdy, stop the fall cleanup madness!

Clearing and bagging all of the leaves, twigs, and small branches in your yard every fall can steal winter shelter from the birds we all love. At the same time, mowing your gardens flat before the snow flies eliminates the nesting and egg-laying materials that butterflies need in fall and winter—so there are fewer caterpillars in spring, and reduced numbers of butterflies in summer.

Not that I want to go all Rachel Carson-y on our RBA membership, but the facts are the facts. Piles of leaves and brush in our yards help to make up for all the bird habitat that has already been lost to manicured, monocultured, herbicide-doused lawns. Birds rest and roost in these brush piles, often gathering in large groups to huddle together and block out wind and cold.

If your neighbors are horrified by the idea that you would let leaves lay where they land all winter, try raking or blowing them into your flower beds or into one corner of your property. You'll still get that emerald expanse, but you'll be helping birds and butterflies at the same time.

The rewards will be significant: You'll find birds congregating in these piles as the snow flies, using them as shelter from the elements. American Tree Sparrow, House Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, American Robin, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Brown Creeper, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Tufted Titmouse, and finches arriving from northern regions (Red and White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeak, and Common Redpoll, for example, if we're lucky enough to have a "finch winter") all may look for shelter on or near the ground in winter to get out of the wind. A big pile of brush may come alive with rustles and chirps as the days grow colder. Won't that make winter fun?

Most birders also enjoy butterflies, and we all know how important these tiny, colorful creatures are to pollinating our native flowers in summer. Butterflies require certain "host plants" to breed, laying their eggs on the specific plants or trees that caterpillars will need for food when they hatch the following spring. When you clean up your gardens in fall, however, you may cut down the dead stalks of the very plants on which your local butterflies have laid their eggs. Snipping off an unsightly milkweed, coneflower, or Joe-Pye weed stalk, for example, may eliminate an entire generation of butterflies. Meanwhile, the seed head that remains at the top of the stalk after the flowers die can feed birds throughout the winter, bringing them to your dormant garden just when you're craving some entertainment outside your window.

So that's my pitch for helping our birds and butterflies make it through our upstate New York winter. If you need to explain this to your neighborhood homeowners' association when they come over to scold you, show them this column (and you might give this plea a little more clout by mentioning my latest book, *Backyard Birding and Butterfly Gardening*, that arrived in bookstores nationwide in August). Let's all try to be part of the solution for birds and butterflies this winter, by getting comfortable with a few piles of leaves and some skeletal stalks left standing in the snow. I am giving you official permission to skip raking your yard this month. Isn't that great? Relax and watch your birds!



American Goldfinch, winter plumage, photo by Nic Minetor



## RBA in the Field

### Braddock Bay East Spit 8/20/2022

Six birders gathered at the East Spit Parking lot on a sunny and warm August morning. Two Black-crowned Night-Herons visible from the parking lot started our trip. The group walked out to the end of the East Spit looking for shorebirds and warblers. We discussed how Braddock Bay has mudflat habitat that shorebirds need for feeding sites on their long migrations. The group enjoyed close up looks at many Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Sharp eyed young birder Lorenzo picked out Semipalmated Plovers and a Stilt Sandpiper on the mudflats. Short-billed Dowitchers, both Yellowlegs species, Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers were also seen. Other birds included; Yellow-rumped Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Osprey, and Yellow Warbler.

*Neal Reilly, Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash*

### Montezuma NWR 8/21/2022

The annual early fall trip to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge is usually focused on shorebirds since this is prime time for their migration. The weather was similar to last year's— partly cloudy, warm and humid with little breeze. Rain had been predicted all day but never materialized. This year our group of nine participants covered the visitor's center pond, the wildlife drive, and Knox-Marsellus Marsh.

The visitor's center pond had been cut, disked, and flooded. There were shorebirds scattered about; it took some effort to get good views of Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. There were about 70 sandpipers of 6 species. We watched a Merlin make a pass at the shorebirds, then attack a Mourning Dove, and finally it gave us good view after landing on a spruce tree. Highlights included an American Bittern making a long flight towards the main pond, and distant views of a Broad-winged Hawk migrant.

A surprising result was the lack of Wilson's Snipe in the ponds along the wildlife drive. We saw a total of eight Sandhill Cranes along the drive. These included a family group of two adults and one juvenile. This immature is likely the progeny of the local pair of adults and it was able to fly. The main pond was mostly open, but there were few ducks and waterbirds. On the drive, only a few of our participants got to hear a Virginia Rail call only once. At the north end we found a small group of shorebirds that included many Semi-

palmated Plovers, a molting adult Black-bellied Plover, and a Ruddy Turnstone. The only Pectoral Sandpipers seen on the trip were too distant to appreciate.

In the afternoon, heat shimmer at Knox-Marsellus greatly obstructed the one-half mile distant viewing opportunities at this marsh. On East Road hundreds of swallows were amassed on the powerlines. Most were Bank Swallows with Barn and immature Tree mixed in. There were fifteen Sandhill Cranes counted at the marsh. About 40 yellowlegs were visible, about equal numbers of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. The size differences could be easily seen here. Other distant shorebirds that could not be identified to species included dowitchers, a flock of small shorebirds, and what might have been several Pectoral Sandpipers.

*Dominic Sherony & Michael Tetlow*

### Braddock Bay East Spit 8/27/2022

Fourteen birders gathered at the East Spit parking lot on a day that started cool and breezy but warmed up nicely. We discussed how the East Spit is an important stopover site for migrants including shorebirds and warblers. The group observed a Common Gallinule and two Black-crowned Night Herons before we left the lot. The channel between the Spit and the island had a nice variety of shorebirds. A pleasant surprise and a life bird for at least one member of the group was a Red Knot still showing some breeding feathers. The group had nice looks at the long staying Willet, one Sanderling, several Short-billed Dowitchers, two White-rumped Sandpipers, a Baird's Sandpiper and other more common species. In the grove at the end of the spit we found Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a Warbling Vireo. Thanks to Sheryl phoning ahead several of the group continued over to the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Andrea very kindly allowed us to watch the banding process with several birds including a young Philadelphia Vireo. Thanks to everyone who participated.

*Neal Reilly, Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash*

### Charlotte Beach and Turning Point Park 9/6/2022

This successful 'Beginner' field trip started off in the beach parking lot. Two Fish Crows announced their presence from a nearby light pole. As in the past in this location, participants were quite taken with these birds. Firstly, people have never heard of a 'Fish' crow and secondly, the call is so entertaining. New birders

have a 'life bird' without even leaving the sides of their cars! The beach itself was thin in terms of species with only a few Herring Gull amidst over a thousand Ring-billed Gulls. But, being able to distinguish a RBGU from a HERG was a new skill and one that made people happy to learn. Luckily, we also found a small group of Semipalmated Sandpipers along with a Semipalmated Plover foraging in the wrack at the water's edge. The boardwalk at Turning Point was not as rich as in years past, perhaps due to the drought along with cattail and lily pad growth. However, all appreciated the fine looks at Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and a noisy Belted Kingfisher. We were able to put the scope on a trio of Lesser Yellowlegs picking around the edge of the mudflat, not really visible with the naked eye. Our explorers were delighted to have another new bird! The trail south of the boardwalk was pretty quiet but birds came from all directions with the mobbing call tape. Along with the usual suspects, several species of warblers answered the call. With leaves thick on the trees, it was especially difficult to get our inexperienced birders on the small, active warblers. Once again we lucked out! A beautiful Great-crested Flycatcher posed for several minutes on a branch out in the open for all to see. Yes! Another new bird! We ended the day with 41 species. While this trip was lightly attended (5), it allowed us leaders to pay a lot of individual attention to each participant.

*Rosemary Reilly, John Boettcher*

#### **Whiting Road Field Trip 9/10/22**

We couldn't have asked for a better day. Warm but not too hot and a nice breeze. Perfect blue skies for cameras and binoculars. Ten birders joined us bright and early at 8am.

We started by looking into the surrounding woods from the parking lot but the birds were quiet so we headed off to the ponds across the street, one of which is completely dried up. We saw a beautiful Common Yellowthroat and a Green Heron made a brief appearance for a select few. In the background were the cries of several Northern Cardinal fledglings begging for their breakfast.

We then started in on the Blue Trail for our long walk. We had numerous Gray Catbirds along the way as well as Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and three Song Sparrows that

entertained us flying back and forth across the path.

As soon as we got to the big field we had five Eastern Bluebirds, which was a nice surprise since we had not had one on our two scouting trips. A juvenile Red-tailed Hawk sat in a tree in the distance and then flew off. One Eastern Phoebe sat in a nearby tree.

On the orange trail we had a couple of Red-eyed Vireos and the highlight of the day was a brief appearance of a Swainson's Thrush. Just a couple of us saw it but it sang for several minutes. Such a beautiful song! Also a Common Yellowthroat, a Carolina Wren singing nearby and a shout out by an Eastern Towhee.

When we came to the next field it was very quiet but we noticed a Cooper's Hawk sitting in a large dead tree with his wings and tail all spread out. So beautiful with the sunlight shining through his feathers. We thought he might be wet from being in the heavy dew earlier with his prey.

To add to our list we had a Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpeckers, two Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, a House Finch, Goldfinches, Tufted Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, a couple of American Robins and one American Crow. On the way out a nice surprise was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. All in all it was a great day with 30 species of birds.

*Candace Giles, Eunice Thein, Dick Horsey*

#### **Durand Eastman Park 9/11/2022**

If any of the five participants and two leaders who took part in this field trip on an unrelentingly cloudy day with temperatures in the high 60s were looking for peace and quiet, well, they found it. Certainly they were not disturbed by the sights and sounds of lots of birds, though we did manage to amass a meager list of 26 species. Unlike some previous years, warblers were in short supply, and Red-headed Woodpeckers were nowhere to be found. Blue Jays, Red-Bellied Woodpeckers, flickers, robins, cardinals, catbirds, and chickadees were the main species encountered, though we also found some Chimney Swifts, one Yellow-rumped Warbler, a Brown Creeper, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, a Belted Kingfisher, and a cooperative Green Heron. And we ended our lovely leisurely walk by finding a Pileated Woodpecker just before the rain finally set in.

*Tom and Jeanne Verhulst*

## October Monthly Meeting: Ecology in action through wildfire, woodpeckers, and birders like you

How do we harness new scientific knowledge and use it as a tool for change? In this program, Dr. Andrew Stillman will share new findings from ongoing research efforts and describe what it means for bird conservation. We will hear stories about the emerging pattern of giant wildfires in the Western U.S., elusive fire-loving woodpeckers of California, and new approaches to leverage eBird data for conservation policy across the continent.

Dr. Andrew Stillman is an Atkinson Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. A Western New York native, Andrew holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut. His research program stems from an interest in applied ecology—studying wildlife and applying that knowledge to key questions in conservation and management. Current projects span the fields of disturbance ecology, global change, and citizen science while providing opportunities for student mentorship and science outreach. Find out more at <https://andrewstillman.weebly.com/>



## Remembering Anna Hrycin, by Lynn Bergmeyer

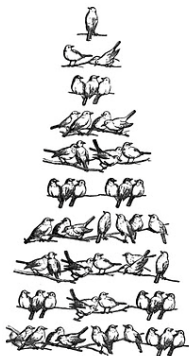
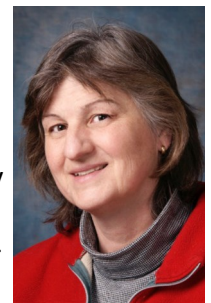
The world has lost another wonderful person and dear friend of mine.

Many will know of her in my circle as a former VP of the Rochester Birding Association and a Little Gull Award winner in 2016 for her leadership role as VP and for setting a precedent of bringing to the club many speakers from around the country. She was also very active in many gardening/plant communities in and around the Rochester NY area related to hostas, orchids, perennials and bonsai. She was a professional at Eastman Kodak and later at Rochester Precision Optics and holds a number of patents in the optical engineering area.

Anna loved to travel. I was able to join her on a number of birding trips (US, Central America, Europe) and she can be credited with my renewed interest in the birding world and subsequent involvement in the RBA. She loved to travel to visit national parks, lighthouses, historical landmarks, and interesting architecture, especially cathedrals.

Anna was passionate in helping stray/feral cats to find loving forever homes. In fact all of my kitties are a result of her efforts in trapping kittens born to feral mothers or through her work at Verona Street Animal Shelter. In her younger years she played basketball for the University of Rochester and retains friendships with her team members.

She was a devout Catholic and helped many people through struggles in life. Anna was a tremendously caring person and as such has many lasting friendships. She will be sorely missed.



## Save the Dates!

<i>Rochester Christmas Bird Count</i>	<i>Sunday, December 18</i>
<i>Letchworth/Silver Lakes Bird Count</i>	<i>Saturday, December 17</i>
<i>Little Lakes Bird Count</i>	<i>Saturday, December 31</i>

## Heritage Wind Permit Major Modification Request, Amy Kahn, RBA Conservation Chair

On August 4, 2022, Heritage Wind, LLC submitted a modification request (Request). Heritage seeks to remove six (6) turbines, relocate fourteen (14) turbines, and utilize a newer turbine model with a greater generating capacity. This proposed modification will increase the overall nameplate generating capacity of the Facility from 184.8 MW to up to 200.1 MW. Also note that they have renumbered all of the turbines.

ORES has determined that this Request is a major modification consistent with 19 NYCRR § 900-11.1(c). The Office will make its determination of completeness or incompleteness of the Request on or before sixty (60) days from August 22, 2022, or before October 20, 2022. Pursuant to 19 NYCRR § 900-8.1(a), the Office will publish an amended draft permit no later than sixty (60) days following the date upon which the Request has been deemed complete, (December 6, 2022). Thereafter, the draft permit will be subject to a minimum sixty (60) day public comment period (through February 4, 2023)(19 NYCRR § 900-11.1(c)(3)).

The good news is that Heritage has decided to remove the 6 turbines closest to the Wildlife Management Areas. Twenty-seven (27) turbines are located in row crops but unfortunately they now have twelve (12) turbines or access roads impacting forested areas including eight (8) impacting wooded wetlands. Four (4) of those have significant impacts to the continuity of large wooded corridors and one of those 4 (formerly T8, now T03) is in forested wetland. This area of the town of Barre was listed in the last two Breeding Bird Atlases as being one of two areas in the state with significant habitat for Cerulean Warblers. Numbers are looking down considerably for the first 3 years of the current Breeding Bird Atlas although effort is still low.

All public documents can be found on the website [NYSDPS DMM 21 00026](#). Or contact Amy Kahn, RBA Conservation Chair at [rbaconservation@gmail.com](mailto:rbaconservation@gmail.com). I encourage members to comment on your concerns by the public comment deadline of February 4, 2023 but sending a letter by December 6, 2022 is even better. The Administrative Law Judges now assigned to the project are ALJ Dawn MacKillop-Soller and ALJ John L. Favreau. Houtan Moaveni remains the Executive Director of the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting.



### RBA In the Field Continued

#### Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park 9/14/2022

On a bright, sunny, 69 degree, late summer morning, 7 people gathered at the Buckland House parking lot and then proceeded across Westfall Road to the Brickyard Trail, an almost 2 mile flat trail out and back. One of our first bird encounters was a possible Pine Warbler in the conifers lining the north side of the trail. (It was not seen well enough to include in our list, however.) A little further on at the beginning of the forested area, we came upon a flurry of bird activity. A Brown Thrasher showed briefly, many American Robins and a Gray Catbird were feeding on some tiny orange fruits, and several Downy Woodpeckers gave good views. A Northern Parula and some Red-eyed Vireos flitted very quickly through the thick grape vines. A Purple Finch showed well, and a female Scarlet Tanager was seen by most! A Ruby-throated Hummingbird shot through but didn't land. After spending almost an hour there, we moved toward the open marsh area. More catbirds, a cardinal or two, a few Northern Flickers, and a Song Sparrow were seen, and amongst the Goldenrod, a Nashville Warbler flitted low enough to view. We heard and had a glimpse of a Marsh Wren. At the second forested area, there were few birds, but many mosquitos that made pausing for looks at any bird activity uncomfortable. Back at the marsh on our return trip, a Belted Kingfisher made an appearance. All considered, we had a good trip with 35 species for the day. Thanks to the congenial group whose keen eyes and ears made the trip very enjoyable for all.

## Records Report

August was a “relief” month in terms of temperature and much needed rainfall. Temperatures averaged 72.5°F, just less than 2° above average. Four days peaking at or above 90° contrasted with a nine-day period in the middle of the month with daily temperatures below normal. Periods of widespread rain and cumulative isolated thundery downpours busted the drought that had set in through parts of the Genesee Country. Rainfall totaled 3.37 inches, 0.06 inches above average. Most of the precipitation occurred in the last half of the month, with 1.09 inches falling on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a daily record.

2. Evidence of fall migration picked up, with 203 species reported in Region 2 this month. Shorebirds and warblers were reported in same diversity, 27 species of each. It was a decent month for lesser rarities, although “scare-to-rare migrants” is probably a more appropriate descriptor, all of which will be discussed in the appropriate sections. Nothing like the rarity festival that occurred last August. The bird of the month would go to a Yellow-headed Blackbird seen by Brad Carlson on the 1<sup>st</sup> while kayaking on Braddock Bay. The fall banding season at the BBBO kicked off on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with 447 new bands by the end of the month. The eBird download came in just under 38,000 lines after filtering; up 8% from 2021.

3. Waterfowl were reported in small but growing numbers from the usual locations along the lakeshore and the NMWMA. No rare waterfowl were reported, and many first fall migrants seen last year were missed entirely this year. Wood Duck numbers and Mallard numbers were down significantly from last August’s high. Only one report of Red-necked Grebe came out of Hamlin Beach SP on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first report of Common Nighthawk came out of Fairport on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Jim Kimball reported a maximum of 45 Chimney Swift at the historic York Central School roost on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

4. Rail, gallinule, and Sandhill Crane numbers were all lower, with maxima of 40 Common Gallinule, 48 American Coot, and 15 Sandhill Crane all coming out of the impoundments off Van Dyne Spoor Road in the NMWMA.

5. August saw the water levels on Lake Ontario continue to drop, with the mudflats at Braddock Bay be-

coming larger than they have been in recent years. Water levels approached 243.5 feet by the end of the month and are continuing to drop. With that, shorebirds were better than in recently past Augusts. 27 species were reported, with multiple Whimbrel, a Red Knot, the region’s first Baird’s Sandpiper of the year (the species accumulated, and as many as four were seen in the last half of the month at once), a Wilson’s Phalarope, and two Red-necked Phalaropes, one seen by one observer for one day and then the second that stuck around and was enjoyed by many. Numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were good, with several counts in the mid-200s at the East Spit. Tim Lenz found Wayne County’s first Piping Plover at Sodus Point. Mike Gullo found the region’s only Upland Sandpiper for the month in the town of Sodus.

6. The first Parasitic Jaeger of the season passed the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were no reports of Long-tailed Jaeger despite good coverage. Five Bonaparte’s Gulls past Hamlin Beach SP on the 11<sup>th</sup> was the highest count for the species this month – disappointing. Greg Lawrence found a Laughing Gull at the East Spit on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A Forster’s Tern showed up at the East Spit on the 8<sup>th</sup>, as well as a pair on the 21<sup>st</sup> enjoyed by a few observers. Irondequoit Bay Outlet a Forster’s Tern on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were only two lines in eBird of Lesser Black-backed Gull.

7. The region’s only report of Common Loon came from Hamlin Beach SP on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several points along the lakeshore had high numbers of Double-crested Cormorant, but nothing really that significant.

8. Dave Tetlow noted a Black Vulture in the Town of Greece on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers staffed a formal natal-dispersal Hawkwatch at Braddock Bay Park from August 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of the month. Volunteers counted exactly 3,600 raptors, specifically 318 Turkey Vulture, 196 Bald Eagle, 308 Broad-winged Hawk, 2,655 Red-tailed Hawk, and small numbers of other expected species. The best flight occurred on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

9. Among the smaller passerines, nothing significant was missed. The first migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (other than one banded in late July) were seen in the third quarter of the month. Cindy Kindel photographed an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Webster Park on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The Sedge Wren at Morgan Road (NMWMA) continued through the 8<sup>th</sup>, after that it either left or



people stopped looking for it; the later seems more likely the case. Warblers came on strong with impressive counts of Cape May Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler mid-month. Observers reported 27 species of warblers, all with expected arrival dates. The BBBO banded a Connecticut Warbler on the 31<sup>st</sup>, the first record for the region this year.

10. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Nick Kachala, [nicholaskach@gmail.com](mailto:nicholaskach@gmail.com). 1141 Rush-Scottsville Rd., Rush, NY 14543

### Observers:

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Ted Barnett, Mitchell Barry, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict & Steve Benedict, David Benvent, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Linda Birkel, Allen Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, David Brown, Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Ken Burdick, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Nancy Casper, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Chris Chappell, Robert Cicotta, Richard Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, Joe Fell, Debra Florio, George Ford, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Janis George, Jessica George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, John Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kate Graham, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Linda Howes, IBA Monitoring, Pam Inzinna, Carolyn Jacobs, Alyssa Johnson, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Jacob Kearney, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Evelyn Kirkwood, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney,

Jay McGowan, Ann McMican, Scott & Sophie Meagher, Steve Melcher, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Linda Mott, Leah Mould, Sheila Mumpton, Kevin Murphy, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Michael Palermo, Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Michael Peter, Steven Pitt, Norma Platt, Sandy Podulka, Jo Popma, Bill Purcell, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, Stacy Robinson, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jackie Salisbury, Michael Scheibel, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Dee Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Kim Suty, June Summers, Holley Sweeney, Stephen Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Nathan Ukens, Alison Van Keuren, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst,

	2022	2021	10-year Average
Species for August	203	205	200.9
New for the year	5	9	5.3
Total for the year to date	286	283	277.6

Matthew Voelker, Jules Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Jim Wood, Ryan Zucker. (There were 387 observers in the eBird download.)

left to right: Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern - Braddock Bay East Spit - © Alan Bloom - September 11, 2002



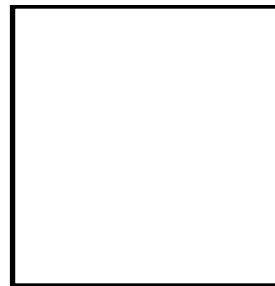


## **ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 92055**

**1335 Jefferson Road**

**Rochester, NY 14692-9998**



**Address Service Requested**

### **2022 RBA Board of Directors**

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<b>Young Birders</b>	Vacant	