



Little Gull

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

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

January 2023 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!

- Jan 1**
Sunday
Irondequoit Bay Outlet and Durand-Eastman Park – Year List Jump-Start
Get started on your annual list! We'll look for winter waterfowl on the Bay, then move to Durand-Eastman Park where we will stroll Log Cabin Road and Zoo Road looking for finches, waxwings, and resident birds. This trip is mostly on paved roads. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the large parking lot next to the Outlet bridge on the west side of Irondequoit Bay Outlet (Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park). **Dress warmly! Spotting scopes would be very useful. Leaders: Norma Platt and John Boettcher 585-671-9639**
- Jan 7**
Saturday
Webster Park – Campground Area
In mature forest and scrubby areas we'll look for overwintering resident birds, lingering migrants such as Hermit Thrush and special winter visitors such as Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged and Red Crossbills and Bohemian Waxwings. This is a mostly level walk, partly on dirt road, partly on wooded dirt trail that can be uneven in places. Wear boots with good traction and dress warmly as we may be outside for 2-3 hours, although you are free to leave at any time. Trip length will depend upon trail and weather conditions. No rest rooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on the south side of Lake Road across from Kanatota Lodge.
Leaders: Pat Martin 585-301-5485 and Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802
January 14–22 (with Sunday, January 15, 2023 as the target date) is the time for the New York State Waterfowl Count organized by the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. **Bob Spahn (585-671-5690) coordinates several local teams and would be pleased if other birders would join up. Go to <https://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm> for more information.**
- Jan 14**
Saturday
Beginner Birder Trip – Mendon Ponds Park Songbird Trail
This trip will be a leisurely winter walk along rolling trails (approx. 1-1/2 miles) featuring some very close looks at our winter passerines! Bring your binoculars, some sunflower seeds, and your camera! This is a family-friendly field trip. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the visitor center on Pond Road near Clover Street. Restroom is available at the visitor center.
Leader: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621
- Jan 14**
Saturday
RBA Annual Dinner, 5:00—9:00 pm, Asbury First United Methodist Church, see details page 2
- Jan 21**
Saturday
Avon and Lima Rural Tour
We'll search the Nations Road area, looking for Northern Shrikes, hawks, Snow Buntings, and other birds of the fields and farmland in winter. We'll be mostly driving, with frequent stops along the road. Please carpool, if possible! Meet at **2:00 p.m.** at Tops Plaza (restroom) in Avon on Routes 5 and 20, two miles west of I-390. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**
Leaders: Jim Kimball 585-519-9211 and Rick Stevens 585-425-7849

Jan 29
Sunday

Lakeshore Plains West

A driving tour of the farm fields and open lands to the west of Rochester, this trip will search for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Northern Shrikes, falcons (possible Merlin or Peregrine) and hawks (hoping for Rough Legged and Northern Harriers) in western Monroe and possibly into Orleans County. **Dress warmly** in layers; bring snacks (lunch if you wish to continue on into the early afternoon with us) and a thermos filled with a warm beverage. We will drive along backcountry roads for a few hours, stopping where we see bird activity. No restrooms available until we reach Hamlin Beach SP. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot. Use the East Manitou Road exit from the Ontario State Parkway. Plan on coordinating carpooling, if possible, as this is a driving tour. Fewer cars are better as we pull over on roads potentially with snowbanks. **Bring your own FRS radios and spotting scopes, if you have them.**

Leader: Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Robert Buckert 585-269-4206

Feb 12
Sunday

Winter Waterfowl and Other Possibilities

Starting at Irondequoit Bay Outlet, we will look for beautiful Long-tailed Ducks, mergansers, scaup and other ducks. We will also concentrate on locating wintering gulls like the occasional Lesser Black Backed, Iceland and Glaucous gulls. We will then drive over to Summerville and Charlotte to see what might be in the Genesee River. If redpolls or winter finches are being seen, we will stop at Durand-Eastman Park along the way. Flat walking on pavement. Restrooms are available in the Charlotte area. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** in the large parking lot next to the Outlet bridge on the west side of Irondequoit Bay Outlet (Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park). **Dress for the weather. Spotting scopes would be useful.**

Leader: Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Robert Buckert 585-269-4206

RBA Annual Dinner

Saturday, January 14, 5:00—9:00 p.m.

Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester

Reservations: Wanda Thistle, thistlew@yahoo.com

No admission fee; suggested donation: \$5.00 per person

Dish to pass: We will supply roast turkey and ham; please let Wanda know what side dish, salad or dessert you will be bringing to pass.

Annual Business: We will vote on the 2023 slate of officers, so we need a quorum of at least 35 members.

Member Presentation: If you would like to make a short presentation of photos from your travels, interesting local observations, or other topics, please contact Richard Ashworth at ashworth@rochester.rr.com to be added to the agenda, Richard will provide instructions for bringing your presentation.

“White Albatross” Table: If you have gently used field guides, books, artwork, or optics that you would like to sell, please bring them for the table. Let us know if you would like to keep the cash or donate it to RBA.

THIS EVENT WILL NOT BE BROADCAST ON ZOOM,

so please plan to join us in person!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



Photo by Richard Ashworth

President's Corner, Randi Minetor— Let's Talk About Zoom

I'm not going to hide behind my age (which is 64). I've had a personal computer since 1984, and as a freelancer for the last 24 years, I troubleshoot my own technology issues regularly. I learn to use new apps all the time. When the world shut down in 2020, I learned to use Zoom, just like the rest of you.

So why is it so tough for us to get a "hybrid" meeting—one where the presenter and part of the audience are live in a room, while everyone else is live on Zoom—to work properly?

My goal here is not to make excuses. It's time to be clear, however, on what our challenges are as we move from the all-online format we used during the two pandemic years to this new, more complicated system.

First, RBA does not have a dedicated person in charge of all the technology, nor does the organization own any of the technology we're using now. (I had to laugh when one member asked if our Tech Support person could call her. I wish Tech Support would call me!) The very valuable and dependable Tom Nash knows how to make all the projector/laptop connections, but connecting the presenter and their visuals to Zoom turned out to be trickier than expected.

One of the challenges is that presenters want to run visuals from their own laptop—which I completely understand, as I speak to audiences regularly. It does mean, however, that for each new meeting, we work with different tech.

To overcome this, we met with our hosts at Asbury First United Methodist Church, where our meetings are held, and we walked through all of their technology step by step, working with several different laptops to understand the differences. We also found the right sequence for screen sharing on Zoom. (We have a couple of Zoom-savvy members who understand this part of the process, but they don't always come to every meeting.)

So with help from Tom and from Sheryl Gracewski, the October and November meetings went fairly smoothly. We were all set for the December meeting. It looked like we were past the worst.

What happened? You got the wrong Zoom link. I sent two links out to the Board on the Monday before the meeting: one for our Board meeting, and one for the General Membership meeting. The wrong link went out in the email you received.

All I can do is apologize for this, and take steps to be sure that it doesn't happen again. We recorded the presentation, so you can still see Ben Van Doren's excellent talk on changing migrations (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thCy2wLdBwU>).

But the fact is that there are too many disparate people involved, with too many points where the system can break down. We need to have one person who is facile in all of the tech steps required, from setting up and sending out the link to the members, to running the tech in the room and online.

Is there such a person in our membership? **Would you volunteer to take on the new position of Meeting Technology Manager?** If so, please contact me at info@rochesterbirding.org, and let me know if you can commit to coming to the membership meeting each month. This will help us make sure that our members watching online have the same quality experience as the people in the room.

.... Continued on page 4

President’s Corner, Randi Minetor— Let’s Talk About Zoom continued

While we are working to ensure that you can participate in RBA meetings no matter where you are, there’s one thing I’d like you to consider: Come to the meetings in person! We see the in-person audience growing with every meeting, so please join us if you are able. Attending the meeting is the best way to be sure you won’t miss a presentation that interests you. Also, we have cookies.

Meanwhile, we hope to see many of you at the annual dinner on Saturday, January 14 (more information on page 2).

The January meeting will NOT have a Zoom component. Please come and vote on the new slate of officers (listed on page 5), enjoy what is always a great meal, and see presentations by our members. See you soon!



Pine Grosbeak - Webster Park - © Barbara Smith - December 9, 2022

American Robin - Webster Park - Alan Bloom - December 13, 2022



RBA in the Field

Conesus Lake—12/03/22

We had 16 birders on the RBA trip around Conesus Lake on December 3rd. The weather was a factor, windy and cold, with some rain later; but we had some good birding regardless – thanks to persistence and good birding skills. Early on, there was a Merlin perched by the Vitale Park parking lot. This has become something of a tradition, with a Merlin often showing up in that area. Birds of special note from Vitale Park, in spite of the wind, included a Lesser Black-backed Gull (in flight with numbers of Ring-bills), two Bald Eagles (an adult and an immature), good looks at a Horned Grebe, and, further out on the lake, a Red-necked Grebe. Stops along the lake turned up more Grebes (Horned and Pied-billed), several Common Loons and scattered numbers of ducks. Rafts of Redheads were limited to the northern area, off Peb-

ble Beach Drive and included both Scaup and Canvasbacks. Noticeably missing were Tundra Swans, which had been there a week earlier. Waterfowl hunting, starting a week earlier, may have spooked them off. Song birds were predictably scarce, given the weather, with most turning up at the south end inlet swamp and boat launch areas. We had 45 species in all.

Jim Kimball, Nick Kachala and Christina Hoh.

Nations Road— 12/04/22

Beautiful day (40F, clear sky, light wind), beautiful scenery, but none of the target birds for this trip. One of our party might have gotten a glimpse of a Short-eared Owl but it was dark. No Northern Harrier or Shrike were seen. Matter of fact, few birds were seen at any of our stops except for a small woodlot on Hogmire Road near Rt. 39. Our party of 13 plus leaders ended the day with 18 species.

Judy Gurley, John Boettcher

Nominations for the 2023 RBA Board

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers who are nominated and have agreed to serve on the RBA Board for 2023:

President	Randi Minetor
Vice President	David Laiacona
Secretary	Robert Buckert
Treasurer	Brian Rohrs
Director	Lynn Bergmeyer
Director	Kevin Farrell
Director	Wanda Thistle
Director	Rosemary Reilly

The election will take place at the January general membership meeting. A quorum consisting of at least 10% of current members eligible to vote is required.

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

Dominic Sherony

Nominating Committee Chair

Welcome to the Flock

Join us in welcoming these 7 new members who joined in the last month (6 new memberships).

Sara Burch & Jacob McCartney

Lauren Doucette

Chad Lewine

Carmel Merrill

Julie Oldfield

Noreen Salerno

Current RBA Membership as of December 15 is 449:

432 Household memberships

4 Young Birders

1 Corporate (The Bird House)

12 Complimentary

If you have renewed for 2023, thank you! The 3 month membership renewal campaign is coming to an end with about half of the members who are up for renewal not having renewed yet! This is pretty much the same as in previous years. In mid-December a renewal form and return envelope were USPS-mailed to all members (around 250) who have not renewed for 2023. Thanks to Sheryl Gracewski and the Circulation Committee for helping with this substantial mailing. Sometime in the middle of January, we will update the database and remove all those who have not renewed. This means no more Little Gull. Don't let this happen to you. Renew NOW!

Jo Taylor

Membership Data

November 2022 Records Report

1. November 2022 started off unseasonably warm. Eleven out of the first fifteen days of the month had highs above 60°F. The first week of the month saw two records highs set: 77° on the 5th and 72° on the 6th. The night of the 5th had the warmest November nightly low ever, where temperatures only dipped down to 62°. Even though the second half of the month was contrastingly colder, temperatures averaged 43.3°, finishing out at 1.9° above the long-term average. The remnants of Hurricane Nicole brought anywhere between 1-3" of rain to the region the weekend of Veterans' Day with the Rochester airport measuring 1.69". A record warm Lake Erie coupled with the right wind direction and air temperature produced a historic snowstorm that buried the suburbs south of Buffalo in as many as 88" of snow. Rochester only recorded 3.8" of snowfall during the event on the 16th-20th. In total, the airport recorded 4.5" of snowfall for the month, about 3.6" below normal. A major windstorm ended the month with peak gusts of 51mph.

2. As with most Novembers, each one is different. This November had differences to last and next will be different from this. Waterfowl diversity was good this year, with peak days covered diligently by those at the Hamlin Beach SP lakewatch. Less half-hardies and lingering warblers seemed to be around this year continuing the trend from last year, but lack of snowfall to concentrate and bountiful food supplies should be considered for an explanation. Things will be found in December. Winter finches continued to dominate the rare bird alerts with lakeshore hotspots hosting the first Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings of the season. The eBird download came out to around 24,500 lines, representing a 19.1% increase from 2021. Surely a factor of the nice weather in the first half of the month and scores of birders scrambling to see the winter specialties.

3. Observers noted strong movements of waterfowl along the lake at places like Hamlin Beach SP, Braddock Bay, and Sodus Bay. Two regulars at the Hamlin Beach SP lakewatch reported a Ross's Goose in flight with a few Snow Geese on the 7th. Michelle Gianvecchio and Andy Guthrie reported a maximum of 37 Cackling Geese from Hamlin Beach SP on the 6th. Greater White-fronted Goose was missed. Good numbers of Tundra Swan, around 100, came in from both Braddock Bay and the northern end of Conesus Lake, two historical spots for such totals in November. Among the ducks, November 8th stood out as a good movement day for scoters and Long-tailed Ducks. Most ducks were reported in decent numbers with counts of 380 Hooded Mergansers on the 29th at Sodus Bay by Brad Carlson and 5000 Red-breasted Mergansers on the

6th at the Manitou Beach Overlook by Bob and Sue Spahn standing out. One Eurasian Wigeon report came out of the NMWMA. Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala found a rare hybrid Mallard x Northern Pintail at LaSalle's Landing Park on the 19th. The same hybridization was observed at the same spot in the fall of 2020. No Harlequin Ducks or King Eiders were reported.

4. Nothing amazing stood out among the grebe numbers. A single report of Common Gallinule came out of the NMWMA. A flock of American Coot on Braddock Bay grew to a maximum of 320 in the first half of the month. A maximum of 127 Sandhill Cranes was reported from Olmstead Rd. in Savannah, with higher numbers just over the border into Region 3. Observers reported 12 species of shorebird, with most having average departure dates. A single American Golden-Plover was reported from the Northrup Creek mudflat on the south side of Long Pond on the 22nd-23rd. Three Purple Sandpipers were reported this month, one continuing at the East Spit from late October and two more towards the end of the month, more aligned with typical arrival dates.

5. Sodus Point stayed hot, with two more Pomarine Jaegers; the first on the 11th by Mike Gullo, Melissa Rowley, and Wade Rowley, and the second on the 29th by Elliot Ross and his fellow Cornell students. Birders along the lakeshore reported six Parasitic Jaegers, five of which on the 8th. Jim Miles observed the only report of Black Legged Kittiwake along the lakeshore in Hilton. The first Iceland Gulls showed up by the 24th. Michelle Gianvecchio had the highest count of Bonaparte's Gull anywhere in the region with 300 from LaSalle's Landing Park on the 28th. There were no reports of Little Gull or Glaucous Gull.

6. Andy Guthrie was treated to an impressive 1850 Common Loons sitting on the water off the Hamlin Beach lakewatch on the 6th. The maximum count for Red-throated Loon was 188 on the 8th past Hamlin Beach as well. Irondequoit Bay Park West hosted a late Great Egret on the 26th. A Great Egret was reported from the same location in the first half of December as well, so the 26th will not be the last for the year. Dave Kennedy reported the region's only November Cattle Egret from Armitage Road on the 4th. It stayed through at least the next day.

7. The late Osprey at Braddock Bay first reported in October stayed until the 12th. Two parties independently identified a Northern Goshawk passing Braddock Bay on the 5th. Jim Kimball had the only report of Red-shouldered Hawk, two on the 26th from the Jones Bridge and Perry Road area in Leicester. One report of Northern Saw-whet Owl came from Owl Woods. One species of note, or perhaps note lack-of, was American Kestrel, with only 23 reports representing about 21 individuals. Merlin had about double the

reports of American Kestrel. A heavy amount conservatism must be given to differentiate what are considered different birds, so these numbers are approximations. Regardless, this trend is the opposite of last year, where Kestrel was significantly up. Good thought experiment to think about possible explanations.

8. Our usual passerines and half-hardies were poorly represented. No late warbler reports showed up in the monthly download for November. The drop off of passerine diversity was exchanged for some exciting irruptive visitors from the north: Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks. Sheryl Gracewski, Judy Massare, and Tom Nash were the first to report a Bohemian Waxwing from Whiting Road Nature Preserve on the 15th. Andrew Garland reported as many as eight later the same day from the same location. The first Pine Grosbeak report came from Dave Tetlow in the Brad-dock Bay area on the 14th. Cindy Kindle found three more at Webster Park on the 16th and scores of birders traveled from all over Western New York and beyond to see the (mostly) cooperative, uncommon visitors. Andy Guthrie had the maximum count for Red Crossbill with 17 on the 5th moving past the Hamlin Beach lakewatch. Fox Sparrow was another species that showed well in November. Nate Ukens had the highest count with 14 from Mendon Ponds Park on the 14th, a place where an overwintering Fox Sparrow or two is not unheard of. It will be interesting to see if these trends continue into the Christmas Bird Count season.

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

Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Ted Barnett, Mitchell Barry, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict & Steve Benedict, David Benvent, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Linda Birkel, Nancy Bloechl, Allan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, David Brown, Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Bob Buckert, Sara Burch, Ken Burdick, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Keigan Case, Nancy Casper, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Chris Chappell, Robert Cicotta, Richard Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Willie D’Anna, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Jayne Dean, Peggy Dempsey, Ted Drozdowski, 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, Kimber Godfrey, 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

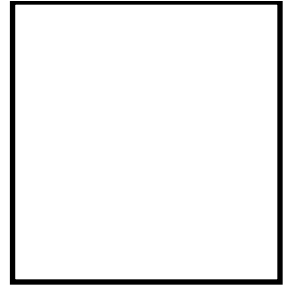
Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Linda Howes, Pam Inzinna, Carolyn Jacobs, Blaise Jenner, Alyssa Johnson, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Annette Kalinoski, Jacob Kearney, Jim Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Evelyn Kirkwood, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, Hans Kunze, Griffin & Michael Kutny, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Peggy Marces, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Mary McGreal, Ann McMican, Scott & Sophie Meagher, Steve Melcher, Jim Miles, Mark Miller, Megan Miller, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Mary Moore, 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, Joseph Petre, Steven Pitt, Norma Platt, Sandy Podulka, Jo Popma, Malise Prieto, Bill Purcell, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Thomas Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salsbury, Michael Scheibel, Karl Schmidt, Mickey Scilingo, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Rob Sielaff, Judy Slein, Dee Smith, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Kimberly Sucy, June Summers, Holley Sweeney, Stephen Taylor, Annette Teng, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Thaddeus Trzeciak, Nathan Ukens, Alison Van Keuren, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Matthew Voelker, Jules Wagner, Davey Walters, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Jim Wood, Cecile & Morris Yarrow, Ryan Zucker. (There were 333 observers in the eBird download, up slightly from 327 in 2021)

	2022	2021	10-year Average
Species for Nov	154	146	156.6
New for the year	2	1	4.4
Total for the year to date	297	296	290.7



ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION

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