



# 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

## May 2023 Events and Birding Field Trips

**Please note: Eventbrite pre-registration has ended. Just show up at the designated meeting spot.**

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! All field trips go rain/snow or shine unless there is a travel advisory issued. Trips run approximately 2 to 4 hours. Bring binoculars. Wear weather appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Please arrive at the designated meeting location 10 minutes before the start time of the trip. Colds, flu, and COVID are still around--if you're not feeling well, please stay home. Please carpool when possible. Enjoy your trip!

**May 2**

### **Beechwood State Park and Olga Fleisher Wildlife Preserve**

Tuesday

Beechwood State Park is on the shoreline of Lake Ontario in Wayne County and should attract warblers, vireos, thrushes and other migrants. The Beechwood trip will involve about two miles of walking over mostly level ground (Port-a-john available) and will last until about noon. Bring lunch if you plan to attend the second part of the trip to the Olga Fleisher Preserve (known locally as Huckleberry Swamp), a bottomland forest and wetland. Huckleberry has a boardwalk except for a short dirt road back to the parking area. (No restroom.) Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at Webster Park, corner of Lake and Holt Roads, or at **7:30 a.m.** at B. Forman Park, 4507 Lake Road, Pultneyville, 14538 (Port-a-john). We will continue to Beechwood from there. If meeting at Beechwood, meet at the main parking area off Lake Road, (**not** at the stream area parking) at about **8:00 a.m.**

**Leader:** Jim Wood 585-967-8687 and co-leader Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803

### **Wednesday Evening Warblers is BACK!**

Evenings can be a great time to bird, and the trees surrounding the Lakeview Community Church parking lot in Greece can hold a wealth of warblers in Spring. Join us for some casual birding on Wednesday evenings. We might also check out Church Woods Trail or Firehouse Woods. Rain or shine. Bring binoculars. The trails are flat, but can be muddy. No restrooms. Meet at **6:30 p.m.** each Wednesday, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, through June 7, Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14612.

**Leader:** John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and co-leader Lisa Talpey, and others TBD.

**May 3**

### **Cobbs Hill Park**

Wednesday

With spring in full swing, come to one of Rochester's best-kept birding secrets: Cobbs Hill Park's Washington Grove. Colorful warblers and other spring migrants arrive *en masse* at this urban oasis of tall stately trees. Pat will demonstrate birding by ear as we search for Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Nashville, and Black-and-white Warblers among others. We will likely hear the flute-like Wood Thrush and see Hermit Thrushes searching the ground for food. Sparrows, orioles, and perhaps a Scarlet Tanager will make an appearance. Washington Grove can be one of the best spring birding spots in the area. The entrances into the grove have two short steep trails, the main trails are gentle hills. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** opposite the reservoir in the grassy area between the road and the woods; use the entrance off Highland Avenue, just east of Monroe Avenue (NOT the Nunda Street entrance).

**Leaders:** Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803, Sue Robertson 585-427-2535 and Pat Martin 585-301-5485

**May 6**

### **Beginner Birder Trip – Lakeshore Warbler Hotspots**

Saturday

The shoreline of Lake Ontario is a haven for migrating warblers and other passerines. We will stop at several areas where these birds tend to congregate in spring. Learn the basics of identifying our most colorful migrants on this trip. We'll be looking for color patterns, song, and the distinctive behaviors to

enhance identification skills with these fast-moving beauties. Though flat, trails may be very muddy. **Waterproof boots are strongly recommended!** Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. No restrooms available. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the parking lot behind Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road in Greece (near Edgemere Drive).

**Leaders:** *John Boettcher 585-671-9639, Greg Lawrence 585-730-2553, Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422*

**May 6**  
Saturday

**Taylor Marsh (Joint trip with the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society)**

Taylor Marsh is a preserve owned by the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and located in Ontario County north of Honeoye Lake. It is best known for marsh birds, including both American and Least Bittern and Virginia Rail. However, the star attraction is the Sandhill Cranes that have been present in this area all year around for many years. They are occasionally heard at Taylor, although seldom seen. Taylor also has brush-shrub and wooded upland habitat with a good variety of spring migrants and breeding birds. An adjacent hay field is home to Bobolinks and meadowlarks. It has a checklist of well over 100 species, and we usually rack up 40-50 in just a couple of hours. This is mostly a flat trail, which can be muddy, but has one small stream with steep banks to cross. Waterproof boots are advisable. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Taylor Marsh parking area on the west side of Allen's Hill Road just south of Nighan Hill Road. From Rochester, take I-390 south to the Avon exit. Turn left onto Routes 5&20 and go east. In the town of Lima, turn right onto Route 15 A and follow it south. Turn left onto Richmond Mills Road (Livingston County Road 41). It becomes Ontario County Road 15. Follow County Road 15 past County Road 37 and turn right at the next stop sign onto Allen's Hill Road. (There is no road sign at the intersection.)

**Leaders:** *Lynn Braband 585-436-9388 and Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485*

**May 7**  
**May 9**  
Tuesday

**\*\*CANCELLED\*\* Amy's Pond and Woodsmith – (Joint trip with Genesee Land Trust)**

**Ontario Pathways (Flint Creek section)**

We'll look for warblers and other spring migrants along this level, rails-to-trails pathway in Ontario County. This well-maintained trail is an established favorite for wildlife viewing and scenic views. Wear comfortable walking shoes. At times, the weather can be fickle, but we've seen better warblers in the snow on this trip than many trips get on sunny days. Dress accordingly! This is a level grade, easy to walk, linear trail, 1.6 miles in and 1.6 miles back out. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the trailhead. It is on the south side of Rt. 96 just east of the Rt. 488 intersection. For anyone who wishes to use a bathroom before heading out on the trail, there is a Byrne Dairy on the corner of Rts. 96 & 488.

**Leaders:** *Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802*

**May 11**  
Thursday

**Rush Riverside Refuge (in association with Rush Recreation and Parks Association)**

The town of Rush has recently acquired a new patch of land containing old-growth woods, farm fields in various stages of succession, and a mile of Genesee River frontage. Join us as we explore this "new" birding spot. Trails may be wet and muddy, so waterproof shoes/boots are recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Monroe County Fair Site, 6565 East River Rd, Rush, NY. Park and meet in front of the large barn straight in and just to the left of the entrance road.

**Leader:** *Ann McMican 585-533-1222 and co-leaders Sue Robertson 585-427-2535, Nick Kachala 585-750-5536*

**May 13**  
Saturday

**Powder Mills Park and BANC Sanctuary (Joint trip with Burroughs Audubon Nature Club)**

Powder Mills Park is a mature woodland and wetland park that can be productive for many late-migrating or nesting species. In recent years, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-tailed Hawks, American Woodcocks and Blue-winged Warblers have all nested there. The trip will continue with a visit to the BANC Sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road, where we'll walk the trails around the woodland, wetland, and creek habitats. Nesting species there include Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens and Eastern Phoebe, and adjacent tree lines have produced a variety of migrating warblers. Both locations are mostly flat trails; waterproof footwear is advised. Please note that no restroom facilities will be available at the Sanctuary. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the Powder Mills Park Fish Hatchery parking lot on Park Road.

**Leader:** *Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*

- May 14**  
Sunday  
**Manitou Beach Preserve**  
Our trip to this lakeside treasure should rack up good numbers of warblers, flycatchers, and other spring arrivals. Owned by the Genesee Land Trust, the Manitou Beach Preserve consists of 5 acres of flat, field, forest and hedgerow, shrub, and cattail wetlands extending into Braddock Bay. Wear waterproof, sturdy shoes and don't forget the bug spray! No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the Owl Woods parking lot on Manitou Beach Road (Route 261) at the Lake Ontario State Parkway. We will shuttle to the preserve, as parking space is limited.  
**Leader:** *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Christina Hoh 973-224-7009*
- May 16**  
Tuesday  
**Oatka Creek Park**  
Woods and meadow provide great habitat for nesting species such as Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Blue-winged Warbler and Field Sparrow. This will cover about 3 miles of mostly flat trails. Port-a-john available at trailhead. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the park entrance at the intersection of Quaker Road and Union Street in Garbutt. Take Route 383 (Scottsville–Mumford Road) west 1.5 to 2 miles from its intersection with Route 386 in Scottsville and turn south on Union Street for about 0.5 miles.  
**Leader:** *Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leaders Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- May 18**  
Thursday  
**Thousand Acre Swamp**  
Thousand Acre Swamp is a preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy of Western New York. It has a bird checklist of 120 species. This level 2.5-mile walk on uneven, sometimes muddy trails, goes through varied habitats, resulting in a variety of breeding bird species and migrants. The habitats include swampy woods, drier woods, a marshy area, meadows, and a pond. Shorter routes are possible. The entrance and parking lot are on the west side of Jackson Road opposite Penfield Center Road in Penfield. Boots and mosquito repellent are recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking lot. For more information, including photos, go to <https://thegreenjay.jalbum.net/Thousand%20Acre%20Swamp/>  
**Leaders:** *Jay Greenberg 585-256-0485 and Richard Ashworth 585-381-2189*
- May 20**  
Saturday  
**Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge**  
We will search for Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Cerulean Warblers, and other birds at this local natural treasure. This trip is a combination of driving and walking and includes a boardwalk, forest trail, and dirt road. Mostly flat but uneven trails. Length about 3.5 miles total walking. Port-a-john available about midway through trip. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at the Brockport Wegmans' parking lot (restrooms available). For those traveling from the west: meet at the Upper Stafford Marsh Overlook near 5999 Albion Road, Oakfield, NY at **7:30 a.m.** It is advisable to bring water and snacks or a picnic lunch since there may be no local resources and the trip may last into the afternoon. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**  
**Leaders:** *Tom Nash and Sheryl Gracewski 585-261-6975 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*
- May 21**  
Sunday  
**Norway Road**  
This unassuming trip usually racks up a long bird list, from nesting Cerulean Warblers to Purple Martins along the lake. This trip showcases roadside birding in spectacular fashion! There are no long walks, no rough terrain as we walk along a paved country road making multiple stops to bird along Norway Road. No restrooms except at Wegmans. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** toward the upper end of Wegmans' parking lot in Ridgmont Plaza off Route 104 in Greece (opposite Heritage Drive).  
**Leader:** *Nick Kachala 585-750-5536 and co-leader Cathy Ballard 585-322-2621*
- May 21**  
Sunday  
**Wyoming County Fields and Forest—New Compehner Farm**  
This is a great opportunity to explore an upland region of northeastern Wyoming County including New Compehner Farm (6340 LaGrange Road Wyoming, NY 14591). We will look for migrating and resident warblers, a variety of native sparrows, hopefully returning cliff swallows, both oriole species and open country birds, in a nice mixture of open fields and wooded habitats and bird friendly plantings. We will focus on locating several nesting species. This trip has a little of everything on a beautiful farm. Easy walking, but will cover a mile or two; wear sturdy shoes. The trip will last until noon. Use a restroom *en route*, if possible, otherwise a bathroom is available at the home of the leader. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at 6340 LaGrange Road, Wyoming, NY 14591.  
**Leaders:** *Hans Kunze 585-813-2676 and Rick Stevens 585-689-1882*

- May 23**  
Tuesday  
**Taylor Road – Headwaters of Irondequoit Creek**  
We will walk the woods and mowed grassy trails of the 65-acre property of RBA member Linda Roca. Hedgerows, fields, Irondequoit Creek, brushy habitat, and woods should be productive for thrushes, late warblers, and woodpeckers among others. No restroom available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at 66 Taylor Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. Park in the wide driveway or on Taylor Road.  
**Leader:** *Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leader Linda Roca 585-624-2697*
- May 24**  
**May 27**  
Saturday  
**NEW! Oatka Field and Game club, see our website for details.**  
**Sandra L. Frankel Nature Park (Brickyard Trail)**  
The Brickyard Trail is a wide, flat, fine gravel, multi-use trail situated between Westfall Road and Elmwood Avenue in Brighton (across from the east end of Buckland Park). It contains woods at both ends and ponds and marsh in the middle, providing good bird habitat. We will walk the full length of the trail and back (1.7 miles) to look for Song Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed Vireo, and others. Green Herons and woodpeckers nest here. Dress for the weather. Insect repellent may be needed for the wooded sections. No restrooms. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at 1341 Westfall Road, the Buckland Park Headquarters (Buckland House), (about ¼ mi. east of the Buckland Park main entrance). RTS “South Clinton” bus stop is a few yards from trailhead on Westfall Rd. Wheelchair friendly—please call leaders for accessibility questions.  
**Leaders:** *Jeanne and Tom Verhulst 585-362-0803*
- May 27**  
Saturday  
**Ganondagan State Historic Site, a Field Trip for Young Birders**  
This trip is open to young birders ages 8 to 18 accompanied by a parent. 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 walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through the Meadowlark field and then head down through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and includes some hills. 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. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip. Meet at **10:00 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.)  
**Leader:** *Amy Kahn 585-310-2330 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*
- June 3**  
Saturday  
**Ganondagan State Historic Site**  
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 walk wide mown or packed dirt trails through the Meadowlark field and then head down through woods, shrub land, and wetland to an overlook in grassland. The round trip is 1.5 miles and includes some hills. 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. Restroom facilities are available at the museum center at end of trip. 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 585-310-2330 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*
- June 4**  
Sunday  
**Letchworth State Park**  
This trip frequently garners one of the higher bird lists among RBA field trips. Of course, it gets an early start! We’ll look for birds not frequently seen on other trips, such as Acadian Flycatcher. 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 are 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:** *Elijah Kruger 585-329-7754 and co-leader Neal Reilly 518-256-9147*

## Welcome to the Flock

Join us in welcoming these 15 new or returning members who joined in the last month (10 memberships).

Michelle Geiger  
 Karen Genett  
 Curt & AnnMarie Hamlin  
 Joe Kosciol

Matthew Nusstein  
 Julie & Rich Putrelo  
 Mary & Craig Royce  
 Robert Schultz

Gayle & Bob Stiles  
 Sally & George Thurston

### Current RBA Membership as of April 15 is 372

353 Household memberships  
 2 Young Birder (other young birders are included in Household memberships)  
 1 Corporate (The Bird House)  
 15 Complimentary



Snow Geese, Hamlin  
 © Alan Bloom February 20, 2023

### Jo Taylor, Membership Data

*Join us for Birds & Brews!*

*A chance to meet up and socialize with people who love birds.*

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 • 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Sager Beer Works • 46 Sager Drive, Suite E, Rochester

Come and tell us about all the warblers you've seen! Sager Beer Works has its own selection of beers and ciders, a menu of dinner items, and lots of space for hanging and chatting.

Check them out at <https://sagerbeerworks.com/>

## Field Reports

### Hamlin Beach State Park 3/18/2023

Twelve birders gathered at the parking area at Braddock Bay Park where we were able to view 18 species right off the bat. These included what appeared to be a pair of Cooper's Hawks in the nearby trees, a nice close overhead flock of Snow Geese (SNGO), two Common Ravens, a migratory Red-shouldered Hawk (RSHA), an immature Bald Eagle and a very noisy flyby Pileated Woodpecker. It was explained to the group how this was the beginning of the northward hawk, etc. migration and Dave Brown was our hawkwatcher again this year. We caravanned from here to Hamlin Beach SP. Ring-billed Gull and Canada Goose migration was in full swing. We scoped many fields to sift through thousands of these in hopes of finding more SNGO, a rare goose or rare gull. We were happy to get looks on the ground at the Orleans county line of many SNGO including at least two blue morphs!

The weather was not kind to us and the winds were at the strong breeze to near gale category with short periods of low visibility, near white-out conditions. We found a nice flock of Horned Lark (HOLA) at the west end of Church Road but due to visibility were unable to locate any other

more interesting field birds. Along with many migratory Turkey Vultures, birds seen along the way included a few Killdeer, a Northern Harrier, an American Kestrel, and more RSHA and HOLA. The group concluded the trip at a very cold and windy Braddock Bay North Marina where they were able to view a large raft of ducks. Total species count for the trip was over 40 species!

*Lynn Bergmeyer reporting for Mike Tetlow*

### Winter Waterfowl and Other Possibilities 2/12/2023

Met at Irondequoit Bay Outlet at 9am, group of 16 in total. Fair weather with bright sun and light southwest winds, 37°F. Incredibly nice weather and lots of cooperative birds. Scanned birds on the bay then walked to the outlet, making it halfway out the west pier. Spent an hour and a half there with close looks at all sorts of waterfowl in the channel including Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe, and Common Loon. A group of noisy Fish Crows kept us company for our entire visit. A distant group of three Ruddy Ducks were on the bay as well as a lone adult Iceland Gull. We then made a brief ten minute stop as the river was almost totally empty. Kept moving west along the lakeshore, stopping at Crescent Beach to scan a large group of gulls on the ice at



## President's Corner, Randi Minetor

They're coming! The songbirds we wait all winter to see and hear are beginning to arrive in upstate New York. Soon local birders will be regulars in places like the parking area and trails behind Lakeview Community Church on Long Pond Road, as well as the Firehouse Woods across the road from the church, and in Island Cottage Woods on Edgemere Drive and Island Cottage Road. Washington Grove at the top of Cobb's Hill Park offers some of the best warbler and vireo birding in the area throughout May, as birds stop at this high point to rest and feed before proceeding north.

While these hotspots attract the most birds and birders, just about any wooded area throughout greater Rochester may harbor these passerines (perching birds), so remember to listen and watch in your own backyard and in your favorite neighborhood green spaces as well.

Longtime RBA member John Boettcher has graciously offered to host Warbler Wednesdays once again. Meet him and co-leader Lisa Talpey in the Lakeview Community Church parking lot at 6:30 p.m. on May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and June 7, for birding until dusk. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn birdsong, differences between male and female plumage, and other warbler lore from a true master.

When I first started birding back in the 1980s, older birders were fond of saying, "Yes, this is an exciting day for migrating birds, but you should have seen it twenty years ago." I heard those exact words come out of my own mouth last year, and it gave me pause—especially in light of the now-famous *3 Billion Birds Gone* study that made global news headlines in 2019. Thrilled and grateful as we are for the phenomenon of spring migration and the bright jewels that dot our trees this time of year, we older folks can't help but note that there are fewer birds than there were when we started. It's an important reminder that every individual who loves birds needs to take whatever steps we can to help preserve the bird populations we have now.

One way we can have a positive impact on birds is by supporting legislation designed to protect them. There's a bill moving through the New York State Legislature now: the Birds and Bees Protection Act (S1856/A3226) could really use our support—in fact, RBA sent a letter in support of the bill last month. This bill will curb the use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds in some agricultural practices. Neonicotinoids, also known as neonics, are insecticides that are poisonous to birds, but growers of corn, soy, and wheat use seeds treated with neonics because they ward off bugs that eat their crops. The neonics on the seeds are absorbed by the roots of the plants that grow from the seeds, killing insects that sample the new plants— just about all of which are the insects that birds eat, leaving them with a dramatically reduced food supply. Meanwhile, eating just one of these seeds can kill a songbird. These chemicals can be devastating to bird and insect populations.

The Birds and Bees Protection Act will not ban the use of neonics entirely—just the use of these chemicals as seed coatings for specific crops. You can learn more about the bill by visiting <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/s1856>. If you agree with what the bill will do for birds, please write an email to your New York State Senator or Assembly representative, and tell them that you're in favor of passage of this important bill. And if you're really motivated, add your voice on the national level, where the Environmental Protection Agency is re-evaluating its approval of this class of pesticide: write to Elissa Reaves, director of the Pesticide Re-evaluation Division, at [reaves.elissa@epa.gov](mailto:reaves.elissa@epa.gov).

Let's do all we can to ensure that the next generation of birders has plenty of birds to enjoy throughout spring migration. Good luck and good birding!

## May Monthly Meeting—Thursday, May 11 Asbury Methodist and Zoom

### Managing Water Levels for Migrating Waterfowl and Shorebirds and Nesting Marsh Birds

Linda Ziemba, Wildlife Biologist, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife conservation is at the heart of the National Wildlife Refuge System. It drives everything we do at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, from the recreational activities we offer to the resource management tools we use. While a visit to Montezuma can transport you deep into nature, it is important to know that refuge habitats are continuously monitored and managed. We restore marshes by building dikes with heavy equipment to hold water, and use water control structures to adjust water levels for optimum habitats within the marshes. Please join us as Refuge Biologist Linda Ziemba discusses how staff at the Montezuma NWR make water level management decisions for migratory and nesting birds.

Linda has been the wildlife biologist at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge since 2006. Her passions are providing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife and providing opportunities for people to work together as land stewards. She began her career in wildlife biology as a volunteer at E.B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey in 1994 and has also worked at Izembek, Cape May, and Supawna Meadows Refuges.

Link to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/montezuma>



### Field Reports Continued

Buck Pond. No special gulls mixed in, but good numbers of distant waterfowl in open water at the back edge of the pond including Gadwall and Tundra Swan. 3 Bald Eagles were also seen here. A brief stop was made at the Braddock Bay South Marina (Westpoint Marina) before relocating across the bay. The trip ended here with satisfactory views of 17 (!) species of waterfowl, including the earliest movements of Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, plenty of overwintering *Aythya* and a group of Ruddy Ducks and American Coot that also spent the winter.

*Lynn Bergmeyer and Robert Buckert*

#### **Braddock Bay Owl Woods, 4/8/2023**

26 Birders gathered in the parking lot of Owl Woods on a cool partly cloudy Saturday evening. Our target bird was the American Woodcock. The group listened to a recording of Woodcock calls and display sounds and looked at some photos. On our way in to the field two roosting Northern Saw-whet Owls were a very nice bonus. All of the group was able to get looks without getting too close or disturbing the birds. Out in the open field a Great-Horned Owl unexpectedly flew over and was seen perched. Three American Woodcock were heard displaying. One cooperative bird was repeatedly seen on the ground doing his strange peent call and then launching into his twittering display. Thanks to all who participated!

*Neal Reilly and Rosemary Reilly*

#### **Lake Shore Marshes East WMA - 3/11/2023**

Eleven birders bundled up and joined us for a trip across

coastal Wayne County to search out open-water ducks and early spring migrants. This annual trip is tough to predict, weather-wise, and a strong north wind and recent snow kept us on our toes this year. Our first stop at Sodus Point Beach Park provided a large flock of Long-tailed Ducks bobbing and diving between the impressive waves, plus Common Goldeneyes and White-winged Scoters in the channel. Heading down along the more protected parts of Sodus Bay, we found Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks, Red-heads, Scaup, Mallards, Gadwalls, and all three species of merganser for some nice side-by-side comparisons. It was great to get out of the wind and pick up some smaller birds at Chimney Bluffs State Park. It was easy to get excited over some feeder birds here like woodpeckers, cardinals, robins, and a gang of chickadees. Our best stop was at the north overlook on East Bay Road, overlooking the heron rookery at Nanny Marsh. No early herons this year, but a Bald Eagle might have been eyeing the area up for a potential nest. After a few minutes, a nice flock of songbirds flew into the staghorn sumac, letting us pick out robins, bluebirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Cedar Waxwings, and a Pine Siskin. With country roads getting snowier, we ended the trip at the south overlook, where we found some American Wigeon, American Black Ducks, and Ring-necked Ducks among the Canada Geese starting to stake out territories. We tallied 37 species for the trip, not a bad showing for the day's conditions!

*Christina Hoh and Kinsley Whittum*

## March 2023 Records Report

1. The dynamic nature of a transitional month was on full display for March 2023. Although there were no temperature extremes during the month, the weather varied day to day, either with snow, wind, rain, or a mix of all three. Temperatures averaged 35.0°F, which is exactly average. The highest daily high was 59° on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9° below the average warmest day for March. Above average and below average days were split at 15 and 14 days, respectively. The Rochester airport recorded 3.27" of liquid precipitation, about 0.75" above average. 17.9" of snow fell, 6.2" of that on the 10<sup>th</sup>. This month was the first this season to have above average monthly snowfall. The highest wind gust of 69mph occurred on the 25<sup>th</sup> with a passage of a strong cold front. In terms of birding, the snowfall on the 10<sup>th</sup> provided the only real chance birders had to do winter "field birding," that is look for anything concentrated to the sides of the road to forage for food and grit. Looking through the monthly download, species, numbers, and dates appeared average, with only waterfowl seeming slightly lower. The total number of records in the data download for the region was just over 49,500 lines, down 1.2% from 2022.

2. Starting with the waterfowl, a Ross's Goose was found at Shore Acres in Hilton by Brad Carlson on the 9<sup>th</sup>, stayed for two days, and was observed by a mob of birders. Greater White-fronted Goose appeared a little scarcer than previous winter months this year, with the only representatives for the region being a single individual out of Clyde on the 5<sup>th</sup>, one out of Twin Cedars Environmental Area on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and two on Church Road in Hilton on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Numbers of expected migrant waterfowl grew throughout the month, with Wood Duck appearing in consistent numbers as anticipated and dabblers like American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, and Gadwall moving through, although no significant counts outside of the Montezuma area stood out. Brad Carlson found a Eurasian Wigeon in the Conesus Inlet area on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The same bird likely stayed through the 26<sup>th</sup>. Two or three additional Eurasian Wigeon were observed by many in the NMWMA, where they are more expected. Nate Ukens found the region's duck of the month, or perhaps the year, a **Tufted Duck** on the northeast corner of Irondequoit Bay on the 9<sup>th</sup>, which stayed through

the end of the month. This represents the first widely observed Tufted Duck in Monroe County since 1996.

3. Individual Pied-billed Grebes and a few counts in the low single digits started showing up the last 10 days of the month. Red-necked Grebe numbers increased over March, with the highest count of 67 coming out of Hamlin Beach SP on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The Mendon Ponds Park overwintering Virginia Rail along Quaker Pont Trail was reported on two days spread throughout the month. Numbers of Sandhill Cranes continued to build throughout the month, with the highest count of 34 coming from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch by David Brown and Kim Steininger on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Sandhill Cranes were also increasingly found throughout the NMWMA.

4. One telltale and welcomed sign of spring's arrival is the return of consistent Killdeer in the first half of the month and then consistent American Woodcock in the second half of the month. Small numbers of other shorebirds also started to make their way back into our region. Three Pectoral Sandpipers were found on Tunley Road in Sodus on the 28<sup>th</sup>, within the expected arrival date range for this species. Small numbers of Wilson's Snipe appeared in the last 10 days of the month. Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs finish off the shorebirds for the month, also being found exclusively at Tunley Road in Sodus in the last days of the month, with counts of two and one, respectively. Among the gulls, Bonaparte's Gull continued to build in stronger numbers, with a maximum of 75 observed from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The largest Larus gull flocks along the Lake Ontario shoreline occurred on Irondequoit Bay. Braddock Bay almost appeared void of Larus gulls, especially in the second half of the month. Iceland Gull was reported in typical numbers. Glaucous Gull continued scarcer this winter, with only eight lines representing three or four individuals. No significant counts of either Red-throated Loon or Common Loon were reported, even by the last days of the month. Double-crested Cormorant were moving and increasing in numbers toward the end of the month, although peak movements do not occur in March.

5. For raptors, David Brown is back at the Braddock Bay Hawk Count as the official counter. This is David's 5<sup>th</sup> year as counter. The count runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. David had a decent first month,



finishing off with 9,128 total raptors. The 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> were the three best days total-wise, with counts of 559, 2,049, and 4,158 respectively. Turkey Vulture migration peaks in late March/early April. Turkey Vultures composed 86.9% of the 9,128 raptors counted. The highlight was two **Northern Goshawks** observed on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the first for the count in three years. David observed 203 migrating Bald Eagles and 10 migrating Golden Eagles. David’s dedication to documenting all species both migrating past and using the Braddock Bay area is extremely appreciated. Welcome back David! For daily updates, see <https://hawkcount.org/>. For hourly updates see <https://dunkadoo.org/explore/braddock-bay-raptor-research/2023-spring-bb-raptor-watch>. David also creates daily YouTube videos summarizing his counts and anything else interesting regarding migration at Braddock Bay: <https://www.youtube.com/@LycoBirds>. Among the owls, Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported in average numbers from Owl Woods. Short-eared Owls were occasionally observed, with numbers decreasing throughout the month at usual overwintering spots and occasional migrants popping up elsewhere. It continued to be an off-year for Northern Shrike, with only a handful of individuals scattered throughout the region.

6. Lastly, the passerines. Among woodpeckers, there were no reports of Red-headed Woodpecker. The passerine of the month was an extremely early Cliff Swallow observed by David Brown on March 2nd. To put into perspective of how early this bird was on March 2nd, the other most-northernly observation for Cliff Swallow in the country was in Texas and the prior earliest date here was March 22. Many other passerines started to show up in larger numbers towards month’s end. Looking through the monthly download, other highlights included the continuing Evening Grosbeak flock in the Little Lakes hills and a Pine Grosbeak on the 3rd continuing in Webster Park. Please see the Noteworthy Table for a complete list of passerines arrival dates from this year.

8. 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](mailto:nicholaskach@gmail.com) or 1141 Rush-Scottsville Rd. Rush, NY 14543

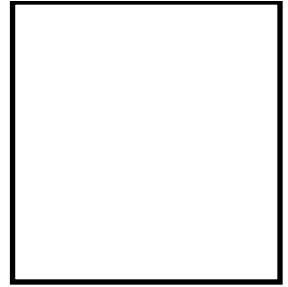
**Observers:** Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Ted Barnett, Mitchell Barry, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict & Steve Benedict, David Ben-

vent, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Linda Birkel, Nancy Bloechl, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Joe Brin, Kyle Brock, Dawn Brogan, 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, Roger Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Willie D’Anna, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Jayne Dean, Peggy Dempsey, Steve Donohue, 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, Austin Groff, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Diane Henderson, 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, Joan Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Bill Maier, 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, Mike Rizzo, Susan Roberts, Brian Rohrs, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Thomas Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salisbury, 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, Kim Steining-er, Kimberly Sucy, June Summers, Holley Sweeney, Stephen Taylor, Annette Teng, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, M. J. Thomas, 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 489 observers in the eBird download, up 2.2% from 2022).

	2023	2022	10-year Average
Species for Mar	145	150	142.5
New for the year	19	19	17.4
Total for the year to	160	140	152.4



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



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<b>Web Content Manager</b>	Shelley Patterson	shelpat22@gmail.com
<b>Webmaster</b>	Chad Lewine	chad@chadlewine.com
<b>Young Birders</b>	Neal Reilly	Neal.f.reilly@gmail.com