



Rochester Birding  
Association

# Little Gull



*Lesser Scaup on Irondequoit Bay.  
Photo by Barbara Smith.*

## FEB 2026 FIELD TRIPS



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 [rochesterbirding.org](http://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. Registration is not required, 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!

FEB 8  
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. Walking is flat 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.**

**Leaders:** Rick Stevens 585-689-1882 and co-leader Robin Morey 973-715-6049

*Field Trips continue on [page 4](#)*



### Birds Connect Us

When Gayle and I travel, we will research birding clubs at our destinations before we go. If nothing else, we can get the lowdown on local hotspots from their websites, but occasionally we can find bird walks hosted by the club. It's always great to have someone along with local knowledge about which trees contain raptor nests, where hummingbirds hang out, etc. It's also interesting to contrast the culture of those field trips with our own here in the RBA.

Recently, Gayle and I visited family in Seattle and since our sleep cycle was on East Coast time, it was no struggle to get out early in the mornings to do some birding. In the Seattle area, there is an organization called Birds Connect Seattle which combines conservation, science education and community outreach initiatives. Based on their IRS tax fillings they appear to be about 20 -30 times larger than the RBA (Note: this is the kind of information you folks get to sift through when you let your former treasurer be president). They host a number of field trips, which cost money and have restricted attendance numbers, but they also host free Neighborhood Bird Outings at 18 sites around the greater Seattle area. On any given week there are about 3-5 such outings, so whenever Gayle and I visit there, we try to join one of them.

This time, we found one at Washington Park Arboretum, described as a "welcome oasis on the shores of Lake Washington." The park is in a neighborhood and is linear in design with several meandering paths and a stream running south to north eventually emptying into the lake just south of the University of Washington campus.

The day started cool and a bit drizzly (it was Seattle, after all) but the rain soon dissipated and later we even caught occasional glimpses of sun. About 30 people showed up, a mix of beginner, intermediate and experienced birders. After an enthusiastic, albeit somewhat goofy, introduction from one of the co-leaders, we got started. Thirty people are a lot to corral, and we quickly got spread out on the paved path like an amorphous bo. It became evident that there were some very social individuals among this group, which is a nice way of saying that if you wanted to hear any birds, you had to find a different part of the snake to travel with.

We found it interesting that the trip leaders had lots of information to share, but it felt like the main objective was not to get people on birds, but to connect them more broadly to nature. At one stop we learned about a long-term plan to take spring waters from the surrounding area that is now just drained into storm sewers and divert it into the stream that runs through the middle of the park. That way, flowing water would be available in the park year-round, not just during the wet season. At another stop, a leader pointed out the start of an eagle's nest. We learned that there was a long-standing eagle monitoring program, that there are surprisingly few nesting pairs of eagles around the area and that this nest appeared to represent a new pair.

As for finding birds, Gayle and I helped out with spotting and identification. We saw and/or heard many species commonly seen in our area including various raptors, waterfowl and songbirds. Sparrows out west tend to be darker than here on the east coast, so our typically quick identification of Song Sparrow was not quite as automatic as here. Just as we started to get accustomed to them, we got eyes on a dark chunky sparrow in a bush that seemed different. It was a bit bedraggled because of the earlier morning rain, and it took longer than I'd care to admit to recognize some chevron patterning on the breast. It was the Sooty subspecies of Fox Sparrow - much darker than the Red subspecies we are used to seeing here in the east. Another western



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER, BRIAN ROHRS

subspecies we saw was Red-shafted Flicker with its beautiful rosy-red underwing and undertail markings, much different than the yellow we normally see. We did manage to get some western species as well, like Anna's Hummingbird, Bewick's Wren, and Varied Thrush as well as a couple of Chestnut-backed Chickadees flitting about a Douglas Fir and a Spotted Towhee skulking around under a bush.

My takeaway from the event was that calling it a "neighborhood bird outing" was a perfect way to describe the experience. People came with different agendas – some wanted to teach, some wanted to learn, some wanted to bird, some wanted to meet new people, some wanted to socialize with old friends, some just wanted to enjoy a nice walk on a Sunday morning. It dawned on me that the name of the sponsoring organization, Birds Connect Seattle, was ultimately describing using the magic of birds to connect people together and create community.

### Some RBA highlights for this month:

It was great to see so many of you at our annual dinner. A big thank you to Niki Banke and the other volunteers for helping make it so successful!

We have a couple of field trips scheduled for February – one targeting gulls and waterfowl along the lake shore and a young birder trip to Mendon Ponds.

Our member's meeting is on February 12th and features Richard Fadok talking about bird/building collisions. Some of our members participated this past fall in Smash the Crash in downtown Rochester, so Richard's talk should be highly relevant to our local efforts. I hope to see you in person or on Zoom.

Until next month, Happy Birding!

## Birds and Brews

Join us for craft beers and conversation!

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

Thursday, February 19, 2026

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Swiftwater Brewing Co.

378 Mt. Hope Ave.



Come enjoy the creative menu and a wide range of beers, as well as a full bar!

[swiftwaterbrewing.com](http://swiftwaterbrewing.com)



# FIELD TRIPS

**FEB 15**  
Sunday

## **YOUNG BIRDER TRIP – MENDON PONDS PARK | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Mendon Ponds Park has mixed woods, fields, and bird feeders. Birds possible here include chickadees, nuthatches, sparrows, cardinals, titmice, finches, and woodpeckers. We will meet in the parking lot of Wild Wings and the Nature Center on Pond Road. Bring binoculars and a camera. Sunflower seed will be provided. Trails are mostly flat with some easy hills. Bathrooms are available inside the Nature Center.

Trip will go forward rain or shine unless there is a travel advisory. All young birders must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. **Wear sturdy shoes/boots and dress for the weather. Bring binoculars.** Extra binoculars will be available to borrow. A spotting scope will be available for up close looks at birds thanks to a very generous donor!

**Leader:** Neal Reilly 518-256-9147



*Some birds spotted on previous trips to Mendon Ponds Park*

**MAR 14**  
Saturday

## **BRADDOCK BAY AND HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK**

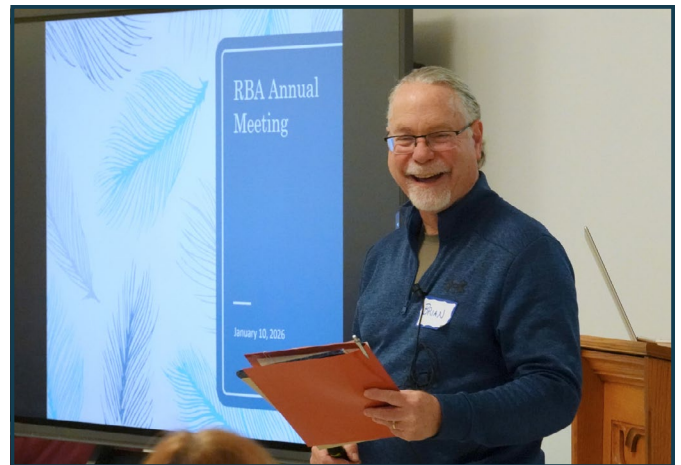
We will gather at Braddock Bay Park and drive to Hamlin Beach State Park where we will look for waterfowl. On the way there, we will look through fields for migrant waterfowl (Snow, or other rarely seen geese) and lingering winter field birds (Horned Larks, Snow Buntings or Lapland Longspurs). We may stop at Owl Woods in search of migrating owls, if they have been reported that morning. We will end back at the Braddock Bay Park Hawk Watch in hopes of spotting Rough-legged Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Bald Eagles. Dress warmly, as we will be out of the cars often at multiple locations—the lakeshore can be cold this time of year. Trails are flat but can be muddy/snowy. Waterproof boots are strongly recommended. Restrooms are available at Hamlin Beach only. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot. Use the East Manitou Road exit from the Ontario State Parkway. Bring your own FRS radios (walkie-talkies) and spotting scopes, if you have them.

**Leaders:** Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838 and co-leader Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422



# 2026 Annual RBA Winter Dinner

We had 53 people join us for our annual dinner. It was great to reconnect with long-time friends and make some new ones. After a delicious potluck dinner, we had the business portion of our meeting and then were entertained by three wonderful talks from our members about their birding adventures. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this happen, from supplying the ham and turkey, organizing the food and table service, setting up and cleaning up. A special thanks to Niki Banke for organizing the dinner, Richard Ashworth for emceeding the speaker portion, and to Jeanne Verhulst, Dominic Sherony, and Randi and Nic Minetor for their engaging presentations.



*Dinner and Brian Rohrs presenting. Photos by Richard Ashworth.*



# 2026 ANNUAL RBA WINTER DINNER



Table photos by Niki Banke



# 2026 ANNUAL RBA WINTER DINNER

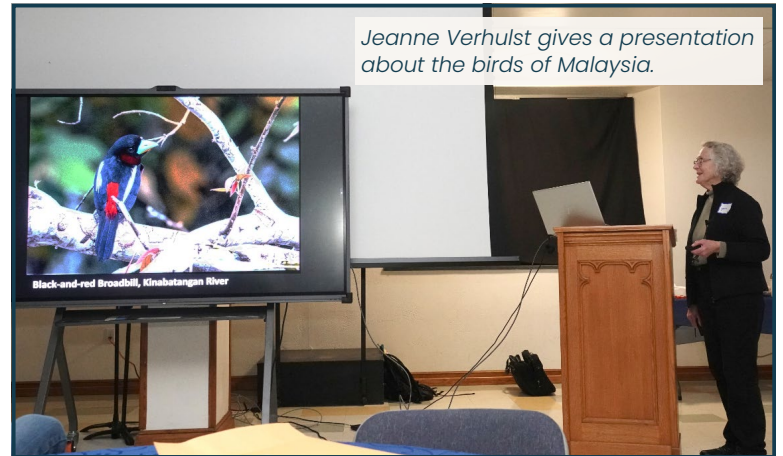
Nic and Randi Minetor discuss the birds of Hawai'i.



Dominic Sherony talks about hawks.



Jeanne Verhulst gives a presentation about the birds of Malaysia.



## 2026 Little Gull Award

Presented to Liz Magnanti in recognition of her service as President leading the RBA through difficulties during the COVID years, service on the Board of Directors and as Communications chair, and her continued support of the RBA through corporate sponsorship by The Bird House. Congratulations, Liz!



All photos on this page by Richard Ashworth



## Irondequoit Bay Outlet and Durand-Eastman Park January 1, 2026

It was cold (18°F) but the new snow in the park made for breathtaking scenery. Almost twenty folks met at the Bay Outlet but there were few birds to see other than hundreds of gulls (Ring-billed and Herring) and the flock of Long-tailed Ducks in the channel. Moving on to the beautiful park, things were pretty quiet except for two exceptional sightings. The first was a Common Raven announcing his presence and then flying directly in front of our group and perching in a nearby tree. The second was the finding of several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Total species for the day was 28.

**John Boettcher and Norma Platt**



Common Raven seen at Durand-Eastman Park. Photo by Alan Bloom.

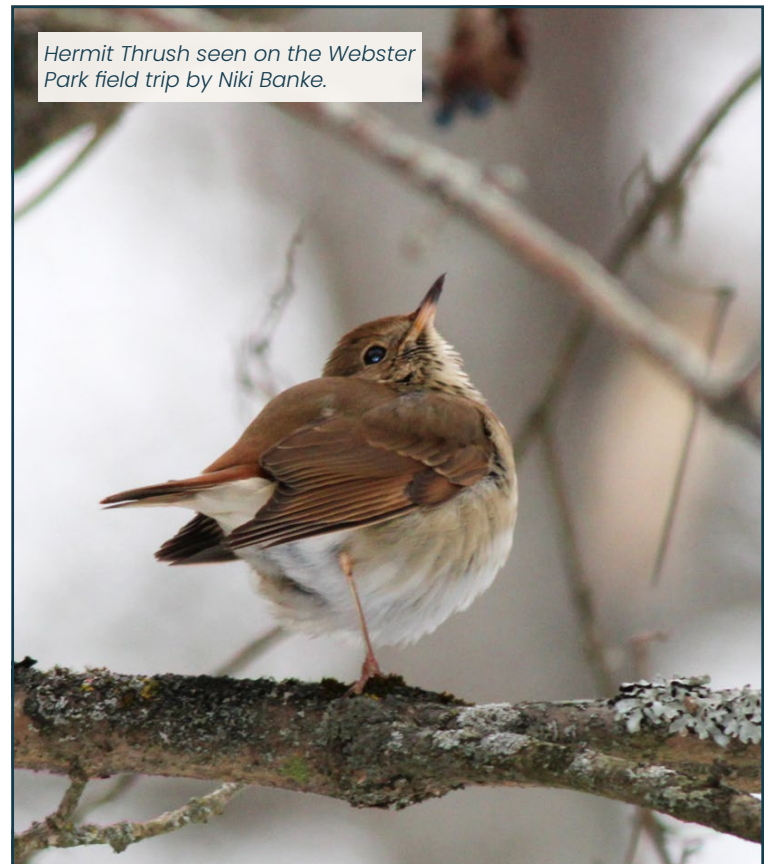
## Webster Park January 3, 2026

Twenty hearty souls joined Rosemary Reilly and myself at Webster Park on January 3rd. Temperatures in the low twenties with west winds of about 15 mph made for considerable wind chill. We started on the campground loop, then did a road and trail loop which included visiting Cattaraugus Lodge, and finished on the Brush Loop, aka West Loop.

All the expected woodpeckers, except for Pileated, showed nicely, including two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Flocks of American Robins, estimated at 125 individuals, were swirling about, joined at one point by a few Cedar Waxwings. We encountered multiple flocks of Black-capped Chickadees. Red-breasted Nuthatches were particularly abundant, even tripping the ebird filter for a high count of 18. They have been abundant here all fall. We saw a single Brown Creeper, heard a Winter Wren and got good looks at two Hermit Thrush. The surprise of the morning was a fly-by light phase Rough-legged Hawk, rare here in winter. We saw it fly from east to west looking north from the apex of the Brush Loop. Sadly, we did not encounter last fall's Pine Grosbeaks, nor did we hear a Barred Owl, an almost annual treat at this location. All in all, a birdy morning, with 246 individuals of 24 species.

Thanks to all for coming.

**Pat Martin and Rosemary Reilly**



Hermit Thrush seen on the Webster Park field trip by Niki Banke.

## **Beginner Trip to Mendon Ponds Park Birdsong Trail January 10, 2026**

We had a good turnout of folks for the trip, but no youngsters. Still, there were several in the group who were impressed with the chickadee or titmouse that landed in their hand to fetch a seed. The usual spot provided several other species. The remainder of our walk yielded few birds and we had to be content with marveling at the variety of trees and the whimsical fairy constructions. A total of 16 species recorded.

***John Boettcher and Ann McMican***

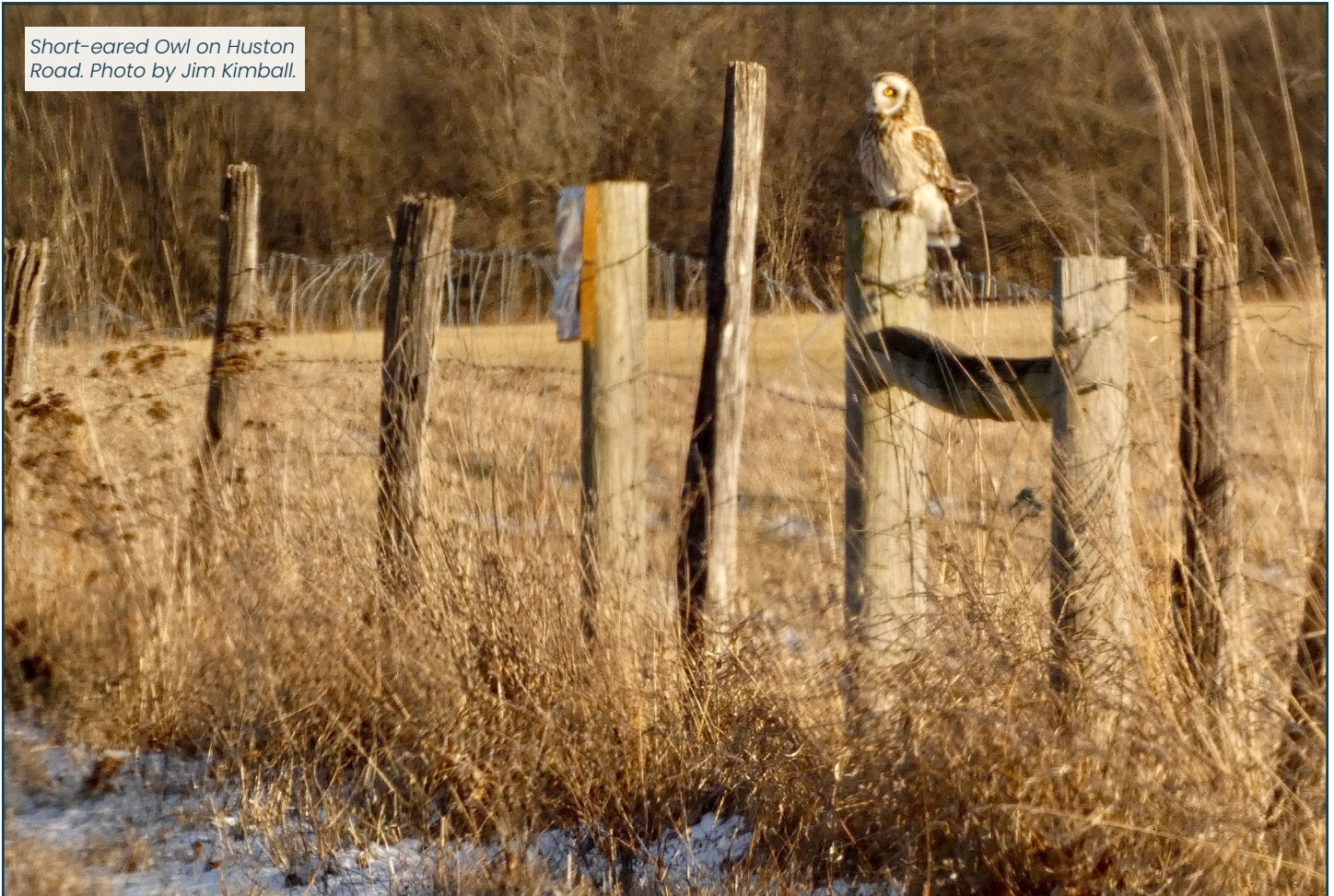
## **Nations Road January 18, 2026**

Niki Banke and I led a group of 17 hardy birders on the annual RBA January Nations Road trip. It was a cold day (low 20s), but beautifully clear and sunny. Little birds were scarce, though

we had good success with targeted species. Among our first birds were young Bald Eagles south of Oxbow Lane, attracted to the area by dead carrion in the field – in company briefly with a couple ravens. While we were there, two adult eagles flew over, sailing high and beautifully in the clear blue sky. At the western end of Huston Road we had both Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls, flying about in the bright sunlight – a couple of the owls also nicely perched on fence posts for scoped views. Further up Huston Road we spotted a Northern Shrike, which flew from a wire to a tree top, staying there long enough for everyone to see it through a scope. We ended the day at Nations and Little Roads at about sunset (and a nice one), with close views of a hunting Harrier and one more Short-eared Owl flying about. We had 17 species in all; thanks to all who participated.

***Jim Kimball and Niki Banke***

*Short-eared Owl on Huston Road. Photo by Jim Kimball.*



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING • Thursday, Feb 12th, 2026 @ 7 PM

Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue, Rochester NY

Free and open to the public. Parking and entrance at rear of church.

## Politics and Prevention: Window Strikes in Rochester

Speaker: *Richard Fadok*

Fatal collisions with glass windows claim the lives of a billion birds or more every year in the United States. This talk will cover the history, biology, and politics of collisions to understand why they occur and what is being done about them. It will also discuss a multi-university and community research initiative to study this conservation crisis in Rochester, New York.

**Richard Fadok** is an assistant professor of anthropology at the Rochester Institute of Technology. A multispecies ethnographer and anthropologist of design, his research asks how the built environment shapes ordinary relations of violence, care, and justice between humans and other animals. He is currently working on a multi-sited ethnography about the environmental politics of bird-window collisions and bird-safe design in the United States. Alongside his anthropological research, he is the founder and director of Smash the Crash, a university and community initiative to end bird-window collisions in Rochester, New York.

*Dr. Fadok will be joining us in person at Asbury First Methodist. Please join us for socialization before and after the meeting. If you will be attending by Zoom, look for the Zoom link in your email prior to the meeting. The Zoom Room **will open at 6:45 PM**. Don't wait until the last minute to sign on, you might be left out!*



## WELCOME TO THE FLOCK

**Please welcome our new and returning members:**

Douglas Bicket & Lori Packer  
Laura DeConinck  
Kathy Peterson

Alan Pollard  
Dave Pope  
Carolyn Ragan

Brenda Reeb  
Rachel & Brian Roberts  
Daniel Silber

**As of January 15, total membership is 420**

Individual Members: 267

Family Members: 100

Supporters: 15

Sponsors: 3

Corporate Sponsors: 1

Complimentary Memberships: 34

*Doug Rabjohns, RBA Membership Data*



*Cedar Waxwing at Whiting Road Nature Preserve seen by Candy Giles.*



# SEPTEMBER 2025 RECORDS SUMMARY

The pattern of pleasant weather continued for September, with extended dry durations and plentiful sunshine. Temperatures averaged 63.8°, which is only 0.2° above average. Temperatures were relatively steady the entire month, with the warmest temperature only being 84° on 18 September. September typically features periods of dryness contrasting with late-season tropical moisture, but this September was remarkably dry, with precipitation totaling 0.3", 2.88" below average. This represented the second driest September on record for Rochester. The three-month period from July to September was also the driest ever on record for Rochester. This contributed to substantial increases in land designated as severe drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

As typical of September, waterfowl migration became more obvious as the month progressed. Canada Geese flocks grew in numbers, dabbling ducks passed lakeshore hotspots in larger numbers, and diving duck species increased in diversity and abundance, particularly towards the end of the month. The first Brant of fall migration were noted passing along Lake Ontario on 20 September. The highest concentrations of dabbling ducks were mostly once again found in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). High counts of dabbling ducks in the NMWMA included: Wood Duck (150, 5 September); Gadwall (50, 26 September); and Green-winged Teal (200, 13 September). Northern Pintail were noted in decent flocks (maximum 160, Port Bay, Wayne County, 30 September), but these

flocks typically increase substantially in size in October. Diving duck numbers started to creep up by the end of the month, with flocks of 15-30 scaup (both species) and small groups of White-winged Scoter and Surf Scoter moving past lakeshore vantage points.

Post-breeding American Coots and Common Gallinules were still present along VanDyne Spoor Road in the NMWMA throughout the month, with maximum counts being 350 American Coot on 21 September and 175 Common Gallinules on 5 September, respectively. The Purple Gallinule, found in late August, continued throughout the entire month and was recorded on the Montezuma Muckrace, representing a new species recorded for the long-running Big Day Fundraiser for the Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. Sandhill Crane numbers also began to increase in the NMWMA, with a maximum of 40 reported on September 10. Small numbers of Common Loons became a consistent migrant by the end of the month, with a maximum of 19 tallied along Lake Ontario on 26 September. The Yellow-Crowned Night Heron at Perkins Park in Newark was reported once on 1 September after a two-week hiatus of sightings. Dave Kennedy found a Western Cattle Egret among a group of cattle in Savannah on 23 September, which was observed by 21 others through 26 September. The long-staying Brown Pelican on Conesus Lake was reported infrequently throughout the month.

Water levels on Lake Ontario continued to drop, although not as much as one might have expected given the historic dry conditions. Levels measured 245.41' on 1 September and fell to 244.95' by 30 September, representing a drop of 5.52", which is about average for the past few years. Mudflats expanded around Braddock Bay and Sodus Bay, leading to more shorebird numbers. Contrasting with an exceptional spring for shorebirds, the peak of fall shorebird migration this year was rather bland. The NMWMA also contained decent shorebird habitat, including areas such as VanDyne Spoor Road. Observers tallied 24 species of shorebirds for the month. Counts of interest include: 53 American Golden-Plovers (North Hamlin Road, 6 September); 74 Lesser Yellowlegs (Braddock Bay, 22 September); 17 Stilt Sandpipers (Braddock Bay, 23 September, high for the Genesee Region); and 115 Least Sandpipers

Wood Duck at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. Photo by Alan Bloom.



# SEPTEMBER 2025 RECORDS SUMMARY

A Western Cattle Egret.  
Photo by Eunice Thein.



(Braddock Bay, 11 September). The only true shorebird rarity of the month was a Marbled Godwit, found by an anonymous observer, at Braddock Bay on 5 September. The Marbled Godwit only stuck around for that day, but was seen by the Rochester birding community at large.

Parasitic Jaegers expanded their migratory presence on Lake Ontario this month, with 15 additional birds adding to the season's total, deduced from a simple timing and location assessment of the eBird data. Andy Guthrie reported a "jaeger sp." from the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch on 8 September, with the comments "seemed intriguingly small and buoyant." Luke Seitz and Maili Waters reported a Black-legged Kittiwake passing along the lakeshore near Braddock Bay on 27 September. There were no reports of Sabine's Gull. September is historically the expected migratory window for Sabine's Gulls along Lake Ontario,

although they are infrequent and are missed more years than they are found. Four Forster's Terns were observed around Braddock Bay on 24 September.

The only noteworthy raptor observations for the month were 148 Red-tailed Hawks and 18 Bald Eagles tallied from the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch on 5 September, which was the only day the post-natal dispersion count was conducted for the month.

Among the passerines, September is the month when warblers peak and sparrows start to significantly grow in diversity and abundance. Kyle Gage continued to have four Red-headed Woodpeckers on his property in the hills of the western Finger Lakes. Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed at eight different locations Regionwide this month. Counts and departures of other flycatcher species were aligned with historical expectations. Nate Ukens reported three Philadelphia Vireos at Whiting Road Nature Preserve on 13 September, a slightly high count for the species. Swallow numbers built in the NMWMA in the first week of the month before dropping off precipitously in the following two weeks. Plenty of observers reported impressive evening flights of swallows over the NMWMA, with several reporting mixed-species flocks exceeding 100,000 on the evening of 5 September. 3,000 Purple Martin over the NMWMA on the same evening stood out as equally noteworthy. Red-breasted Nuthatch continued their impressive irruption, with visible migration along the Lake Ontario shoreline and

Marbled Godwit seen by Eunice Thein at  
Braddock Bay East Spit on September 5th.



# SEPTEMBER 2025 RECORDS SUMMARY

elevated counts throughout the entire Region. Gray-cheeked Thrush and Swainson’s Thrush numbers were lower than past years, perhaps due to limited nocturnal flight call detection effort, although they were reported a good number of times diurnally. A Prothonotary Warbler observed along VanDyne Spoor Road on 5 September is noteworthy in that it was relatively late for the species in the Region. Austin Groff reported a Connecticut Warbler from High Acres Nature Area on 9 September. Two Dickcissels were reported this month, the first at Braddock Bay’s East Spit on 7 September by Nate Ukens and the second in Savannah on 25 September by Noah Brinkman. Overall, September lacked genuine rare passerines, not so unlike a typical September, but made up for this deficit with a decent spread with occasional uncommon migrants.

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

**Observers:** Ryan Ballard, Niki Banke, Timmy Banker, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Lynn Bergmeyer, Linda Birkel, Robin Blakesley, Alan Bloom & Lisa Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Noah Brinkman, Scott & Janet Brooks, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Ian Campbell, Brad Carlson, Robert Cicotta, Roger Clark, Sara Close, Lorenzo Colantoni, Robert Crandall, Doug Daniels, Thomas Davis, Cliff Dekdebrun, Peggy Dempsey, Grace Dowdall, Diane Egan, Rob Fergus, George & Katie Ford, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Matthew Gavette, Janis George, Candy Giles, John Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Kevin Griffith, Austin Groff, Michael Gullo, Carmen Gumina, Andrew Guthrie, Bill Haake, Helen Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Pam Inzinna, Nick Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, David Kennedy, James Kimball, Cindy Kindle, Hans Kunze, Greg Lawrence, Joan Lindberg,



*Prothonotary Warbler spotted at Montezuma NWR by Alan Bloom.*

Peggy Mabb, Peggy Macres, Cynthia Marino, Patricia Martin, Judy Massare, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Ryan McGinty, Jay McGowan, Ann McMican, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Matt Nusstein, Dave Nutter, Luanne Pignataro, Derek Pulhamus, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, Rosemary Reilly, Neal Reilly, Michael Rizzo, Susan Roberts, Chris Rockwell, Brian Rohrs, Andrew Romanowski, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Shawn Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Anne Salverda, Greg & Shannon Sanda, Mickey Scilingo, Luke Seitz, Dominic Sherony, Judith Slein, Robert Spahn, Rick Stevens, Reuben Stoltzfus, Stephen Taylor, David Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Nathan Ukens, Tom & Jeanne Verhulst, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Maili Waters, Bridget Watts, Mamie Weed, Kim Weeks, Glenn Wolford, Chris Wood, Jim Wood (all observers could not be listed here).



*Stilt Sandpiper at Braddock Bay East Spit. Photo by Alan Bloom.*

|                             | 2025 | 2024 | 10-year Average (2015-2024) |
|-----------------------------|------|------|-----------------------------|
| Total species for September | 220  | 213  | 218.3                       |
| New species for the year    | 3    | 4    | 4.4                         |
| Total for the year to date  | 284  | 288  | 284.0                       |

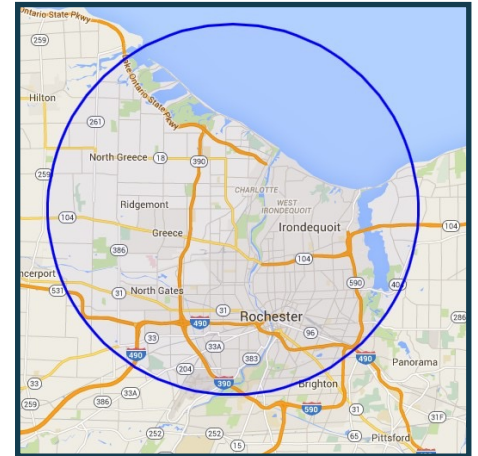


# ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

Nick Kachala, RCBC co-compiler

**Perspective:** This year marked the 122nd RCBC. The RCBC's purpose is to count all the birds within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered at Dewey Avenue and Stone Road. The circle location has remained constant since 1901, although the habitat has not. The vast majority of farmland in Greece and Irondequoit is now residential and commercial space, but preserved and managed natural land at the town, county, and state levels remains scattered throughout the circle, allowing easy access to observe and census birds.

**Count Organization:** Historically, the RCBC is held on the third Sunday in December. The count circle is divided into several "sectors," each with a sector leader. The sector boundaries have remained somewhat the same for the history of the RCBC. The count compiler works with the sector leaders to ensure that each sector has adequate field volunteers to cover the habitat in each sector. Sector leaders compile data for their respective areas of the count circle. Participants typically gather in the evening to tally up all birds observed. After a social hour, a "round table" session occurs, where the bird and effort data from all sectors are compiled into a single list. After some further analysis by the compilers and checks by the local records committee, the data is uploaded to a portal for Audubon: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.



**2025 Count Leadership:** Nick Kachala served as CBC compiler this year without the assistance of Norma Platt, who decided to retire from organizational duties after many years of dedicated service. Thank you, Norma. The sector leaders this year were a mix of returning and new volunteers: John Boettcher for Sector 1 (return), Greg Lawrence for Sectors 2&3 (return), Andy Garland for Sectors 4&7 (return), Sheryl Gracewski for Sector 5 (new, replaced Nancy Poeth), Charlie Plimpton for Sector 6 (new, replaced Shirley Shaw), Rosemary Reilly & Robin Morey for Sector 8 (return, new), and Brian Morse for Sector 9 (return). Welcome Sheryl, Charlie, and Robin. Thank you, Nancy and Shirley, for your years of dedication to the Rochester CBC.

**Birds, Conditions and Numbers:** 63 participants spent ~115 hours on foot and in cars. The weather was generally uncooperative for the count, with winds gusting as high as 32 miles per hour. Temperatures were relatively steady, ranging between 27° and 32°. Observers tallied 89 species the day of the count, plus three extras for "count week," which includes the three calendar days both before and after the day of the count. Record high counts included: Common Raven (new high of 15, previously 9 from 2022); American Pipit (tied count of 1, seen on four previous years, most recently as 1997); Yellow-rumped Warbler (new high of 16, previously 13 from 1953). Noteworthy birds included an Orange-crowned Warbler, a first for the count day, previously only count week, and a Baltimore/Bullock's Oriole. Baltimore Oriole has been observed on five previous counts.

**Our talented participants:** Niki Banke, Mitchell Barry, Don Bemont, Elana Bemont, Lynn Bergmeyer, Linda Birkel, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Peter Burns, Cathy Chou, Roger Clark, Robert Crandall, Peter Debes, Sharon Galbraith, Andy Garland, Matthew Gavette, Candy Giles, Sheryl Gracewski, Kevin Griffith, Andy Guthrie, Bill Haake, Jill Heimrich, Thomas Hilling, Nick Kachala, Ben Levy, David Levy, Bill Maier, Peggy Marces, Cindy Marino, Chita McKinney, Kent Millham, Nic Minetor, Randi Minetor, Robin Morey, Brooke Morse, Brian Morse, Caroline Murphy, Ezra Murray, Tom Nash, Jeremy Pete, Luanne Pignataro, Norma Platt, Cheslea Plimpton, Charlie Plimpton, Tom Poeth, Nancy Poeth, Jay Powell, Derek Pulhamus, Doug Rabjohns, Elizabeth Rabjohns, Robert Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Sue Spahn, Bob Spahn, Mike Tetlow, Nate Ukens, Jeanne Verhulst, Bridget Watts, Kinsley Whittum, Jim Wood





# ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026



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**TREASURER**  
Steve Taylor



**SECRETARY**  
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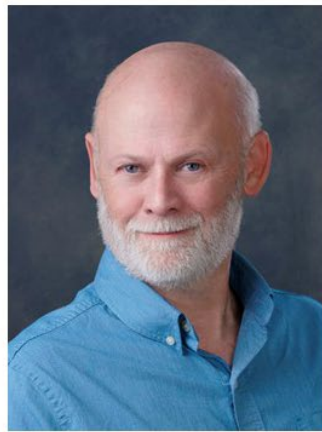
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**DIRECTOR**  
Sandy Glantz



**DIRECTOR**  
Doug Rabjohns



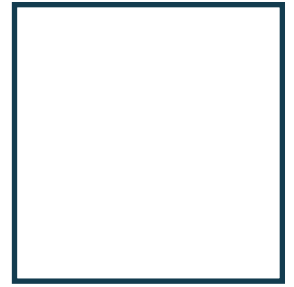
**DIRECTOR**  
Neal Reilly





# Rochester Birding Association

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



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## Address Service Requested

### 2025 RBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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| <b>Director</b>       | Doug Rabjohns  | dtrabjohns@yahoo.com           |
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| <b>Conservation</b>              | Charlie Plimpton  | plimptonc@gmail.com         |
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| <b>Field Trips</b>               | Jeanne Verhulst   | Jeanne.verhulst@gmail.com   |
| <b>Item Sales</b>                | Kevin Farrell     | kmfarrell18@gmail.com       |
| <b>Last 30 Days Gallery</b>      | Andrew Romanowski | rbabirdphotos@gmail.com     |
| <b>Member Data</b>               | Doug Rabjohns     | dtrabjohns@yahoo.com        |
| <b>Nominating</b>                | Dominic Sherony   | dsherony@live.com           |
| <b>Records</b>                   | Nicholas Kachala  | nicholaskach@gmail.com      |
| <b>Social</b>                    | Niki Banke        | jacksons.mama@hotmail.com   |
| <b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>     | Clyde Comstock    | ccomstoc1030@gmail.com      |
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| <b>Young Birders</b>             | Neal Reilly       | neal.f.reilly@gmail.com     |