



Rochester Birding
Association

Little Gull



Pine Warbler, Cobbs Hill
Park © Jeffrey Eichner
April 27, 2023

APR 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, 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!

APR 4
Saturday

WOODCOCK COURTSHIP FLIGHT AT OWL WOODS

This will be an evening trip for American Woodcock courtship flight. If you've never seen this spectacle, prepare to be amazed: birds call noisily (peenting) from the ground in grassy fields before spiraling rapidly up high, making twittering, kissing-like sounds at the apex of their ascent and descending silently back down, only to start the cycle anew. An amazing sight! Fields may be wet and muddy. **Boots are strongly recommended. Bring a flashlight or headlamp.** Meet at **7:00 p.m.** in the parking lot across from Owl Woods. Take the Manitou Beach Road exit from Ontario State Parkway. Turn north, then right into the parking lot.

Leaders: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Robert Crandall 585-278-3455

Field Trips continue on [page 4](#)



Deep Listening

A friend who knows I'm into birding sent me the following passage from the Jenny Odell book *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy*.

"... I've always found it funny that it's called bird-watching, because half if not more of bird-watching is actually bird-listening. (I personally think they should just rename it "bird-noticing.")"

I think Odell nails it. Odell advocates the practice of Deep Listening, a concept from musician and composer Pauline Oliveros which Oliveros defines as "listening in every possible way to everything possible to hear." She goes on to say that "to hear is the physical means that enables perception. To listen is to give attention to what is perceived." This includes the "sounds of daily life, of nature, and of one's own thoughts." Oliveros began developing the idea of Deep Listening during the tumult of the 1970's Vietnam War era as a way to find inner peace.

If you made it through that last paragraph, you're probably thinking – he's getting pretty philosophical, where is he going with this? Well, the concept of Deep Listening is what we train ourselves to do as birders. When we're out in nature, we often have to stop and do nothing except listen, sometimes for extended periods. During a dawn chorus, there's often a cacophony. Picking out calls and songs requires sifting through various layers of sound and adjusting your attention.

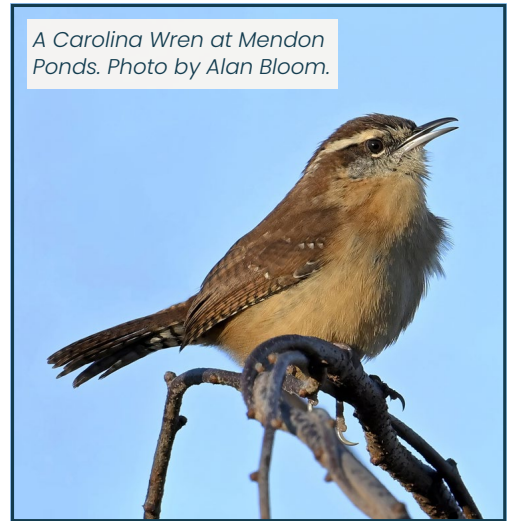
I remember once leaving an outdoor concert venue and hearing Blue Jays creating a ruckus. I stopped and looked up in the trees for the Jays and the cause of their consternation – maybe a raptor or even an owl. Someone saw me and asked what I was looking for, so I pointed out the loud calls of the Jays. They stopped, listened, and you could see the look on their face change as they "discovered" the sound. "That's really loud, how come I didn't notice that?", they asked. You just weren't listening for it, I said.

Similarly, I've been out birding with my spouse and she's asked me, "Do you hear the Carolina Wren?" Now, that's a bird with a loud presence and an unmistakable song, but sometimes I miss it because I am focused on a specific pitch or timbre while trying to target a different bird. When I adjust my attention, the sound becomes obvious and I'm surprised I didn't hear it before. Is the lesson here not to seek the bird but instead, let the bird find you?

At the risk of getting even more philosophical, can Deep Listening really bring inner peace? I'll let you be the judge. In my last column, I mentioned that Gayle and I had joined a birding tour to Sax-Zim Bog in Minnesota. We had some target birds, including Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers.

One afternoon, our group stopped at an area of a recently burned forest. This was prime real estate for these woodpeckers, which forage on conifer trunks, chipping away the burned bark to get at beetles and grubs underneath. Their activity is readily evident because the underlying lighter wood stands out distinctly from the black burnt bark. Their tapping is relatively soft and they tend to remain in one spot for an extended time with only their head moving, so finding them takes patience. We had seen a couple of Black-backed Woodpeckers previously in the same area and were hoping to find the more elusive Three-toed.

A Carolina Wren at Mendon Ponds. Photo by Alan Bloom.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER, BRIAN ROHRS

As we spread out on the road, the guides encouraged everyone to stop moving as even the soft crunch of boot on snow and rustle of clothing can cover up the taps. As the absolute stillness of the place settled over us, faint tapping could be heard all around us. The trick now was to follow the taps to their sources. Within a few minutes, we had found 3-4 Black-backs but no Three-toed. I decided to head away from the rustle and soft chatter of the group down to a crossroad. More tapping, and more Black-backs. Further along, even more tapping. I was reminded of Hansel and Gretel getting lured into the forest by the thought of some reward, but I couldn't help myself.

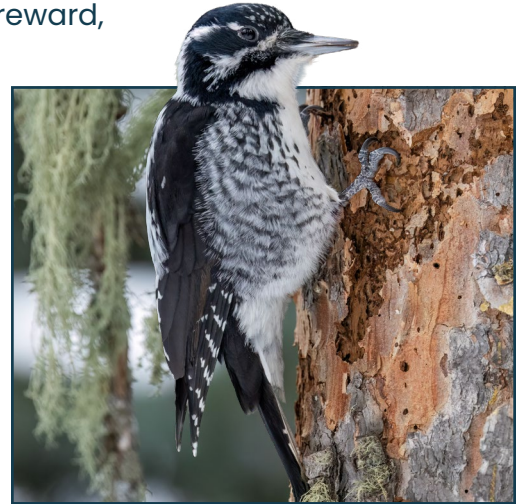
Eventually, I was alone on the side road, intensely listening to identify tapping directions. There must have been at least a half dozen woodpeckers. I closed my eyes, listening carefully and slowly turned my head until it felt like I was facing the right direction. Then, opening my eyes, I started searching for the slightest movement. I was alone. I had a purpose. I had that anticipation of discovery – maybe the next woodpecker was a Three-toed. It was magical, I could have stayed out there for hours just listening to the landscape and searching for woodpeckers. A total calmness washed over me. I didn't want to leave. Inner peace?

Some RBA highlights for this month:

The number of RBA field trips begins to ramp up in April as we expect more and more migrants to arrive. Check out the offerings elsewhere in the Little Gull or on our website.

Our members' meeting is on April 9th and features photographer Mary D'Agostino presenting on birds of the high arctic. I hope to see you in person or on Zoom.

Until next month, Happy Bird-noticing!



Three-toed woodpecker from Wikimedia Commons/Polinova.

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK

Please welcome our new and returning members:

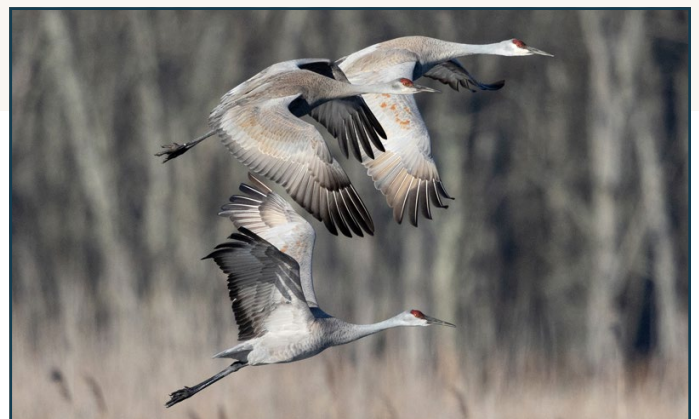
Charles Acquaviva
Mike Druzynski
Ann Glanton
Phil Irons

Chelsea Procopio & Jake Wingate
Lois & Ed Reich
Judy Russell
Erin Strobl

As of March 15, total membership is 338

Individual Members: 201
Family Members: 80
Supporters: 18
Sponsors: 2
Corporate Sponsors: 1
Complimentary Memberships: 36

Doug Rabjohns, RBA Membership Data



Sandhill Crane at Montezuma NWR. Photo by Alan Swire.

FIELD TRIPS

APR 18
Saturday

HIGH ACRES NATURE AREA

Over 130 bird species have been observed at HANA, including more than 70 that nest in the diverse habitats found there. During this field trip, we expect to see at least 40 species returning to nest or on their way to northern nesting grounds. Our approximately two-mile walk over mostly flat trails will explore about 250 acres at HANA and include some wet spots requiring at least ankle-high waterproof shoes or boots. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the parking lot on Perinton Parkway, approximately 1/4 mile east of the Waste Management offices.

Leaders: Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leaders Brian Rohrs and Gayle Lazoration 585-281-9534

APR 22
Wednesday

HIGHLAND PARK – A JOINT TRIP WITH THE HIGHLAND PARK CONSERVANCY

We'll be looking for spring migrants while enjoying lovely flora. This walk would be gorgeous even without the birds, but it does have birds in abundance! Find out where people have spotted the rarities that pop up in this urban treasure. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. We will be mostly walking on paved walkways with gentle hills; walking in grass is a possibility. Restrooms may be available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** on Reservoir Avenue in front of the Conservatory building.

Leaders: Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803 and co-leader Amy Kahn 585-310-2330

APR 17-19

BIRD OF PREY DAYS

Braddock Bay Park, Greece, New York



*Red-tailed Hawk
by Eunice Thein*

APR 25
Saturday

BRADDOCK BAY HOTSPOTS—BRADDOCK BAY PARK, EAST SPIT, BURGER PARK, WEST SPIT, OWL WOODS

Locations to be determined based on where the birds are at the time. The trip will end at the Braddock Bay Park. Carpooling is encouraged. Dress for the weather and muddy trails. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Braddock Bay Park main parking lot.

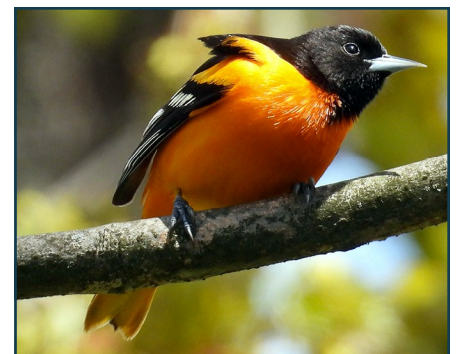
Leader: Neal Reilly 518-256-9147 and co-leader Robert Crandall 585-278-3455

APR 26
Sunday

FOUR MILE CREEK PRESERVE, WEBSTER

We will look for spring migrants along the approximately 2 to 3 miles of gently rolling hiking trails. The trails will most likely be muddy, so appropriate footwear is recommended. No restrooms available. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the preserve parking lot at the SE corner of Lake Road and Phillips Road in Webster.

Leaders: Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash 585-261-6975



Baltimore Oriole seen by Eunice Thein on a previous trip to Four Mile Creek Preserve.



FIELD TRIPS

APR 26
Sunday

YOUNG BIRDER TRIP – TINKER NATURE PARK—10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

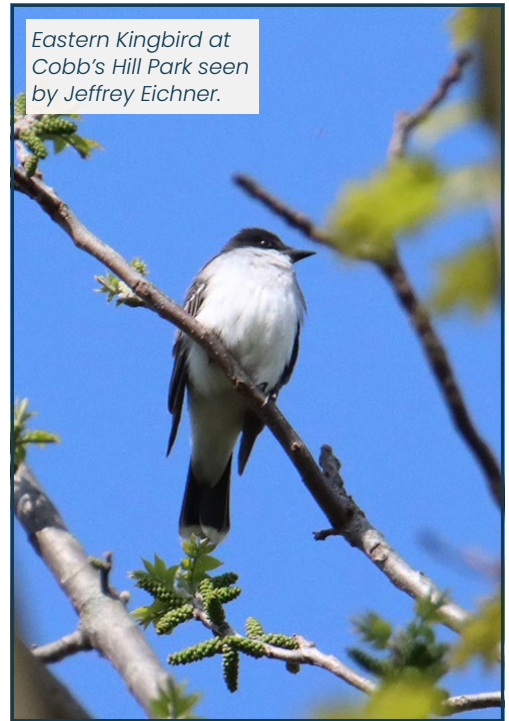
Tinker Nature Park has ponds, woods, and bird feeders. Birds possible here include: ducks, geese, cardinals, woodpeckers, and many others. We will meet in the Tinker Nature Park parking lot at 1525 Calkins Road, Henrietta. Trails are flat and gravel but can be damp. Public restrooms may be available. Note: Trips will go forward rain or shine unless there is a travel advisory. 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 or neal.f.reilly@gmail.com

APR 29
Wednesday

COBB'S HILL PARK—WASHINGTON GROVE

With spring in full swing, come to one of Rochester's best-kept birding secrets: Cobb's Hill Park's Washington Grove. Colorful warblers and other spring migrants arrive en masse at this urban oasis of tall, stately trees. We will 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. 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.** under the conifers opposite the reservoir at the flat section of Reservoir Road. Access to Reservoir Road is from Highland Avenue. Look for two stone pillars at the road entrance; the road goes up a hill. (DO NOT use the Nunda Blvd. entrance to Washington Grove).



*Eastern Kingbird at
Cobb's Hill Park seen
by Jeffrey Eichner.*

Leaders: Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803, Sue Robertson 585-427-2535 and Amy Kahn 585-310-2330

MAY 2
Saturday

BEGINNER BIRDER TRIP – LAKESHORE WARBLER HOTSPOTS

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 their 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, Rochester, NY 14612 (near Edgemere Drive).

Leaders: Sheryl Gracewski, Tom Nash 585-261-6975, Lynn Bergmeyer 585-576-0422 and co-leader Ann McMican 585-533-1222



FIELD TRIPS

MAY 2
Saturday

BRADDOCK BAY HAWK LOOKOUT

This trip is for the spring hawk flight and migrating songbirds. We will be working to identify distant raptors and meet some great new people, too! This requires a short walk across grass to the viewing platform. Port-a-John may be available. 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. **Spotting scopes would be very useful.**

Leaders: Mike Tetlow 585-748-5838 and Neal Reilly 518-256-9147

MAY 2
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 round for many years. Breeding has been confirmed. 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 Eastern Meadowlarks. It has a checklist of nearly 145 species that can be downloaded at https://bergenswamp.org/TaylorMarshBirdList_19_03_03.pdf. This is mostly a flat trail, which can be muddy, and has one very small, shallow stream 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 15A 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 3
Sunday

BEECHWOOD STATE PARK AND OLGA FLEISHER WILDLIFE PRESERVE

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 both boardwalk and flat forest trails. (No restroom.) Meet at **7:00 a.m.** in the Webster Park east parking lot (with Port-a-john and playground) on Holt Road, just before Lake Road, 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 coming from the east, meet at about **8:00 a.m.** at Beechwood's main parking area (Gates Road on Google maps) on the north side of Lake Road, near Maxwell Road, (not at the Salmon Creek area parking).

(No restroom.) Meet at **7:00 a.m.** in the Webster Park east parking lot (with Port-a-john and playground) on Holt Road, just before Lake Road, 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 coming from the east, meet at about **8:00 a.m.** at Beechwood's main parking area (Gates Road on Google maps) on the north side of Lake Road, near Maxwell Road, (not at the Salmon Creek area parking).

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



Alan Bloom spotted this American Redstart at Beechwood State Park.



FIELD TRIPS

MAY 5
Tuesday

ONTARIO PATHWAYS (FLINT CREEK SECTION)

We'll look for warblers and other spring migrants along this 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; 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 needing a bathroom before heading out on the trail, there is a Byrne Dairy on the corner of Rts. 96 & 488.

Leaders: Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leaders Doug and Elizabeth Rabjohns 585-690-6296



Some birds seen by Richard Horsey last year at Ontario Pathways.

MAY 6
Wednesday

WHITING ROAD NATURE PRESERVE

This preserve includes about 240 acres of land that is made up of a variety of birding habitats. This results in decent birding lists throughout the year. The trails are well-marked and maintained. However, they do get muddy at times, so appropriate footwear is recommended based on the weather leading up to the trip date. Most of the trails are flat, but there definitely will be a bit of up and down trail climbing in some sections. Our trek will take us on parts of the blue, brown, orange, and red trails. Moderate difficulty in a few spots; length about 2.5 miles. **No restrooms.** Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot on Whiting Road in Webster, 0.6 miles south of Lake Road..

Leaders: Rosemary Reilly 585-748-0802 and co-leader Robin Morey 973-715-6049

Wednesday Evening Warblers!

Meet at **6:00 p.m.** each Wednesday, **May 6, 13, 20, 27**, at Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road, Rochester.
Leader: John Boettcher 585-671-9639 and/or others TBD

This is your chance to follow the spring migration! Just come out on successive Wednesdays to the Lakeview Community Church parking lot in Greece. This is one of the prime birding spots in the area.

*Yellow-rumped Warbler
seen by David Laiacona.*



Beginner Birder Trip Owl Woods & Hawk Watch Site March 15, 2026

The trip began in the low thirties, overcast skies and a moderate breeze blowing from the east. Twenty-six birders, mostly beginners, met in the parking lot across from Owl Woods. The woods were quiet for the most part. Although the group was unable to locate any owls, we managed to identify 13 other species. The highlights were a Tundra Swan flyover and an immature Bald Eagle. The rest of the species list included: Canada Goose, Ring-Billed Gull, Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpecker, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle.

The group then headed to the Hawk Watch where we were greeted by a moderately strong eastern breeze. With multiple spotting scopes, we identified 30 species. On Braddock Bay, we were not disappointed. Highlights included Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal and Tundra Swan. Mute Swan was

also present. Diving ducks included: Mergansers (Hooded, Common and Red-breasted), Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Canvasback, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. Dabbling ducks included: Mallard, American Black duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, and American Wigeon. We saw two raptors, Bald Eagle and American Kestrel, and a few Ring-billed gulls.

On the terrestrial side there were: Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, European Starling, American Robin, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and of course Red-winged Blackbird. The grassy area attracted a small flock of Canada Goose.

Trip reports available: ebird.org/checklist/S309553789 and ebird.org/checklist/S309558043

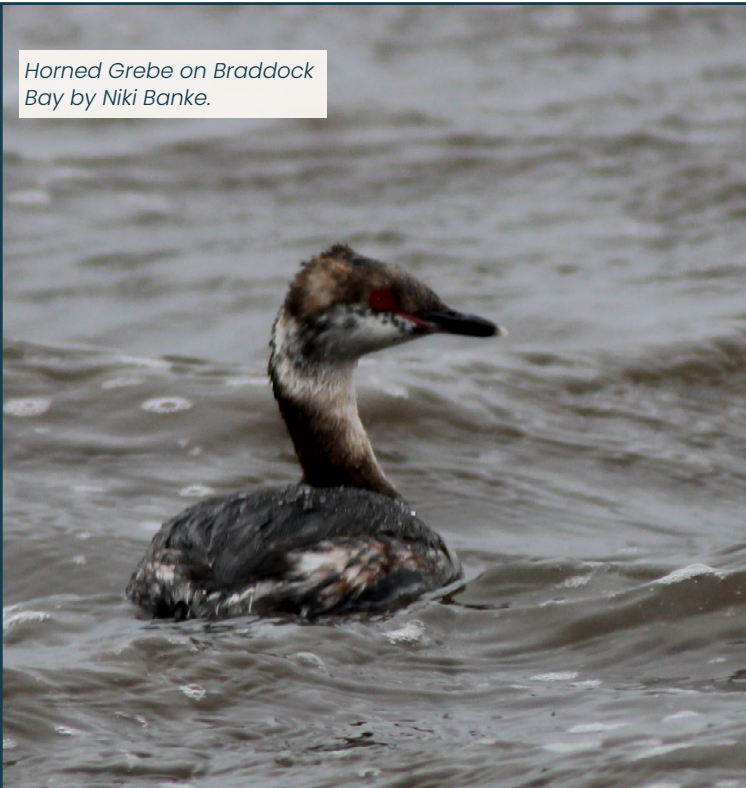
Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns and Bridget Watts

A Little Too Much Winter For The Winter Waterfowl Trip March 22, 2026

This trip was intended to be in mid-February but was cancelled due to single digit temperatures, wind chills well below zero and a great deal of ice coverage. The rescheduled trip for March 22 found a dozen birders on the north end of Irondequoit Bay eagerly searching for any kind of waterfowl.

Our first impression looking out over Irondequoit Bay was not very promising for a waterfowl emphasis field trip. However, with several scopes we were able to locate a fair number of species spread out over the bay, but a rather low count of individuals and the starting of a light rain. With our intended trip focus on waterfowl, we packed up and moved on down the road to Braddock Bay. We set up on the west side of the bay with more available waterfowl viewing to interest our group. The bay was not jam packed with waterfowl as it can be on a good day, but there were good numbers of both diving and dabbling ducks.

Horned Grebe on Braddock Bay by Niki Banke.



Several helped out with identification when there were questions, while we traded off holding the umbrellas over those scanning with our scopes. As mid-day approached, we discussed moving to the boardwalk near the hawk watch on the opposite side of the bay, but a steady and rather chilly rain had everyone calling it a day. So, we left the ducks to do what

they do, seemingly unaffected by the cold and rain, as we shed our rain gear, turned on car heaters to warm cold fingers, dry out and head off to warmer environs. Sometimes I have to wonder, which is the more adaptive species?

Rick Stevens and Robin Morey

Monthly **ECO-CHALLENGE**

UNDERSTANDING WINTER FINCH IRRUPTIONS

As winter winds down in western New York, many birders are already looking ahead to the vibrant colors of the dozens of warblers that will soon pass through on their way north to Canada. However, before that happens, it is worth reflecting on the winter finches that have graced our region since late last fall. Each fall, birders eagerly read the Winter Finch Forecast, a widely followed outlook that predicts which northern finches may move south based on the success or failure of boreal seed crops. The forecast, long compiled by Canadian ornithologist Ron Pittaway and shared widely through groups like the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, helps explain which species might appear in our region in a given winter. Birders refer to these movements as “irruption years,” when northern species suddenly appear much farther south than usual and often in impressive numbers. An irruption is a large, irregular movement of birds outside their typical winter range, usually triggered by a shortage of food in their normal northern habitats. Many of the birds involved are what we call winter finches, species that depend heavily on seeds, berries, and cones from boreal forests. When those food crops are less abundant than usual, the birds have little choice but to move in search of better feeding opportunities, sometimes traveling hundreds of miles south and showing up at feeders, parks, and berry laden shrubs across our region. Not every species irrupts in the same year because different birds rely on different foods. If one type of seed crop fails while another thrives, some finches may flood south while others remain comfortably in the north.

Two of the more exciting visitors during these years are the Pine Grosbeak and the Evening Grosbeak. Both species normally spend the winter in the boreal forests of



Photo by Chelsea Plimpton

Canada, but when food supplies decline, especially fruit and seed crops, they can wander far beyond their usual range in search of sustenance. The Evening Grosbeak, with its bold yellow, black, and white plumage and massive seed cracking bill, has long been famous for these irregular southward movements, sometimes appearing at feeders in large flocks every few years. Pine Grosbeaks, on the other hand, tend to favor berries and fruit and often move more quietly through neighborhoods and parks, feeding on ornamental plantings and mountain ash when they arrive. Their calm behavior and soft whistling calls can make them surprisingly approachable when they do appear.

This winter, local birders have been fortunate to experience a bit of that excitement firsthand. Reports of Pine Grosbeaks have been particularly notable at Webster Park, where these gentle, slow moving finches have been feeding on berries and allowing patient observers unusually good looks. Meanwhile, Evening Grosbeaks have also made welcome appearances across the region, with some lucky folks hosting them at their feeders for much of the winter. While winter is beginning to wind down, there may still be opportunities to see some of these birds as they gradually move back north during spring migration. Irruption years highlight just how dynamic bird movements can be. They also remind us of the importance of conservation here at home. Planting and protecting native trees and shrubs that produce berries and seeds, and maintaining healthy habitat in parks and neighborhoods, helps provide important food sources for these northern visitors when they arrive. By emphasizing native plants and protecting habitat, we make it more likely that when the forests of Canada send these birds south, they will find a welcoming landscape waiting for them.

For more information on winter finch movements and the annual Winter Finch Forecast, visit the Finch Research Network or the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website.



*Pine Grosbeak (male on the left, female on the right) at Mendon Ponds Park.
Photos by Eunice Thein.*

Birds of the High Arctic

Speaker: Mary D'Agostino

Photographer Mary D'Agostino will share images from a trip to Utqiagvik, Alaska, the most northerly city in North America. See photographs taken on the tundra that capture rare images of breeding plumage and behavior of countless migratory shore birds and snowy owls on their breeding grounds. An incomplete list of species to be included in the show: Owls (Snowy, Short-eared), Sandpipers (Pectoral, Buff-breasted), Dunlin, Little stint, Jaegers (Parasitic, Long-tailed, Pomarine), Eiders (King, Steller's), Willow Ptarmigan, Snow Bunting, Redpoll, Plover (American Golden, Semipalmated), Red-necked Phalarope, Ruddy Turnstone, White Fronted Goose, Tundra Swans, among others.



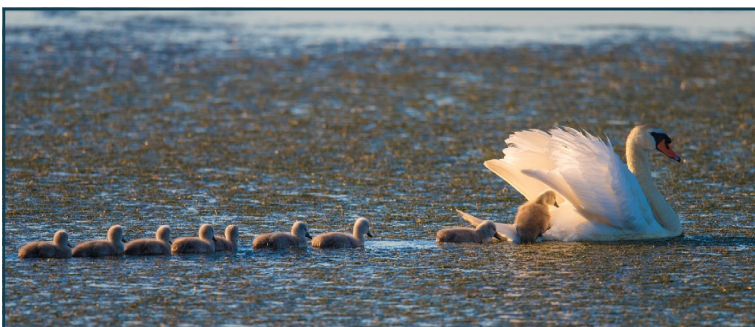
About the Photographer:

After many years in corporate life, Mary now actively pursues her passion for photography. She offers her images to the public for conservation projects and corporate and civic collections. Favorite subjects include Sandhill Cranes, birds, and bears, in locations such as Alaska (arctic and sub-arctic), Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, New York, California, and Nebraska. Mary earned degrees from Amherst College and Stanford Graduate School of Business. She is currently a semi-retired independent management consultant who works on business, non-profit, civic, and public art projects.

Mary served as Board Member of WildCare Bay Area, a California wildlife animal hospital and educational center. She received an Audubon top 100 Photography award for her Sandhill Crane image "Stick Toss." Several images have been published by the National Audubon and in juried shows. Recently she had an image published in the book accompanying *Wings Over Water*, an IMAX 3D movie. See more of Mary's work at her website, www.seenature.net.

Ms. D'Agostino will be presenting in person at Asbury First Methodist. 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!

Just a few of the stunning images from Mary D'Agostino's website.



ANNUAL NYSBS CONFERENCE 2026

Bluebirds &
Other Wonders



Julie Zickefoose

“Have You Ever Wondered:
What I’ve Learned in 40
Years of Bluebirding”



Matt Nusstein

“The Wonders of
Letchworth State Park”



Hans Kunze

Early Morning Bird Walk

April 25, 2026

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Wyoming County**

36 Center St Suite B, Warsaw, NY 14569

**Early Morning Bird Walk
7:30 - 8:30AM**

6340 LaGrange Rd., Wyoming, NY 14591
(10 min. drive from conference)

Admission: Free

Registration: 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Catered On-Site Lunch
\$15.00/person - advance reservation & payment
required by April 10th.

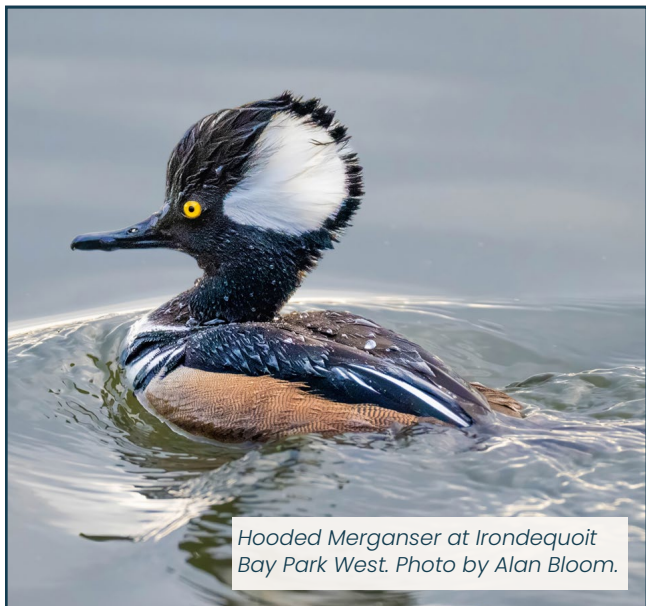
Make your check payable to NYSBS and send to PO
Box 883, Rouses Point, NY 12979-0883.



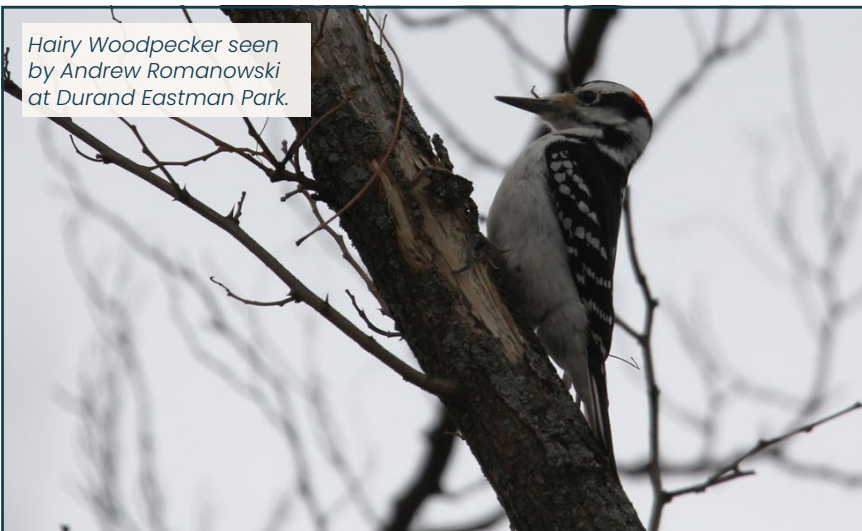
<https://nysbs.org/>



BIRDS RECENTLY SPOTTED IN AND AROUND ROCHESTER



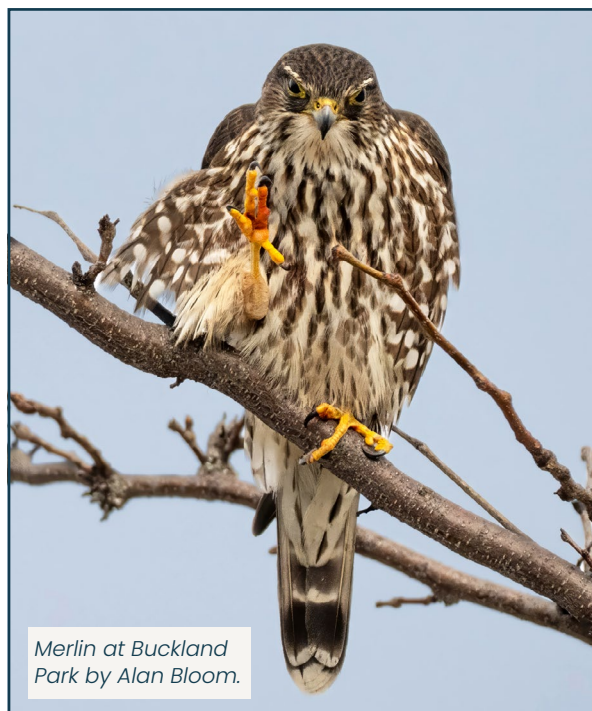
Hooded Merganser at Irondequoit Bay Park West. Photo by Alan Bloom.



Hairy Woodpecker seen by Andrew Romanowski at Durand Eastman Park.



Barnacle Goose & Ring-necked Duck on Lake Edwards in Fairport. Photo by Dominic Sherony.



Merlin at Buckland Park by Alan Bloom.



White-throated Sparrow seen at Mendon Ponds Park. Photo by Alan Bloom.



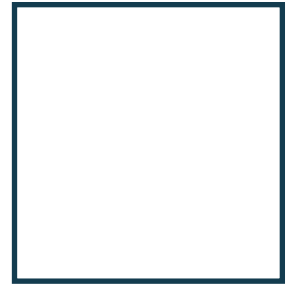
Northern Flicker at Lily Brook in Pittsford. Photo by Judith Slein.





Rochester Birding Association

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



Address Service Requested

2025 RBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Brian Rohrs	brohrs@rochester.rr.com
Vice President	Candy Giles	candymgiles@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Steve Taylor	treasurer@rochesterbirding.org
Secretary	Lisa Talpey	lisa.talpey@gmail.com
Past President	Randi Minetor	writerrandi@gmail.com
Director	Clyde Comstock	ccomstoc1030@gmail.com
Director	Sandy Glantz	sandylee14@icloud.com
Director	Doug Rabjohns	dtrabjohns@yahoo.com
Director	Neal Reilly	neal.f.reilly@gmail.com

RBA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Birds & Brews	Nic Minetor	nic@minetor.com
Circulation	Sheryl Gracewski	grace@me.rochester.edu
Communication	Liz Magnanti	lizmagnanti@gmail.com
Conservation	Charlie Plimpton	plimptonc@gmail.com
Little Gull Editor/Artist	Dan Hosek	editor@rochesterbirding.org
Field Trips	Jeanne Verhulst	Jeanne.verhulst@gmail.com
Item Sales	Kevin Farrell	kmfarrell18@gmail.com
Last 30 Days Gallery	Andrew Romanowski	rbabirdphotos@gmail.com
Member Data	Doug Rabjohns	dtrabjohns@yahoo.com
Nominating	Dominic Sherony	dsherony@live.com
Records	Nicholas Kachala	nicholaskach@gmail.com
Social	Niki Banke	jacksons.mama@hotmail.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Clyde Comstock	ccomstoc1030@gmail.com
Web Content Manager	Shelley Patterson	shelpat22@gmail.com
Young Birders	Neal Reilly	neal.f.reilly@gmail.com