



Young Birders ROC!

2019 Field Trips

(As of January 10, 2019)

Please note: Leaders and trip details are subject to change. Please check your email and the Young Birder ROC facebook page for updated information prior to departure.

JAN 12
Saturday
ANNUAL RBA WINTER DINNER – SUMMERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Join the RBA for its annual winter dinner party! The RBA provides roasted turkey and honey-baked ham, and attendees bring a side dish or dessert to share. After dinner, RBA members present short programs on the birds they've seen locally or abroad, and the evening wraps up with the much-anticipated bird quiz. The cost is \$5/person, and reservations are required (contact Wanda Thistle at 585-236-1834 to sign up).
Time and Place: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. 4845 St. Paul Blvd, Rochester NY 14617.

JAN 13
Saturday
NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT
Organized by the New York State Ornithological Association, the annual January waterfowl survey aims to get a picture of the waterfowl populations by counting birds from January 12-20. Bob Spahn (585-671-5690) coordinates the local teams. There is always room for enthusiastic young birders who can take the chilly January weather!

JAN 27
Sunday
RBA YB MEETING – DUCKS . . . WHERE IS THE WHITE?
Ducks are awesome, and lucky for us, they are abundant in Rochester even in the winter. Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes team with mergansers, scaup, scoter, Long-tailed Ducks, Redheads, Common Goldeneye, and more even on the coldest days. They are easy to watch because (except for the divers) they generally don't move too quickly, and they are pretty easy to identify once you know what to look for. We'll start this meeting at the home of the Kunz family, who live on the shore of Lake Ontario. We'll learn how to identify swimming ducks by focusing on features like behavior, head shape, bill length, and the all important "where is the white?" If the weather cooperates, we'll be able to head over to the bay and practice our ID skills. If the weather is crummy, we'll look for ducks and gulls from the window, and we'll play games and trivia. We'll also have a quick update on the summer birding camps that take place across the US and the scholarships available to help pay for them.
Time and Place: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Contact Andrea Patterson for address.
RBA and Birding Leader: Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. Youth Leader: Robert B.

FEB 10
Sunday
RBA YB MEETING – BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF RAPTORS WITH THE FORDS
Oftentimes when we're observing raptors, they are tiny specks a thousand feet overhead. If we're lucky, we see them perched in a tree or on a light post. This month, we have the opportunity to see Braddock Bay Raptor Research's educational raptors up close. These ambassador birds are unable to be released into the wild due to past injuries, but they do a fantastic job teaching eager audiences how awesome raptors are. If the weather is fine, we'll take a short walk through Mendon Ponds Park after our close encounter of the raptor kind.
Time and Place: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Contact Andrea Patterson for address.
RBA and Birding Leader: Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. Youth Leader: Emily F.

FEB 15-18
Fri-Mon
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
The Great Backyard Bird Count is a fun and easy citizen-science project coordinated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. To participate, all you have to do is spend at least 15 minutes counting birds on one or more of the count days (February 15-18). You can count from your backyard, from your school parking lot, from the park down the street . . . from any location at all. Then, you submit your observations to Cornell using your eBird account.



MAR 17
Sunday
RBA YB MEETING – FIELD NOTES WITH THE CAREYS
The Careys live on the Ganargua Creek in Farmington, and their backyard is a fantastic woodlot filled with wintering birds. If the weather cooperates, we'll take a walk through the woods and do some banding of the local feeder birds. We'll also work on our birding skills by practicing on taking good field notes and making sketches to document our sightings.
Time and Place: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Contact Andrea Patterson for address.
RBA and Birding Leader: Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. **Youth Leader:** Ty C.

APR 27
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – OWL WOODS AND NORTH MARINA
This weekend is the Bird of Prey Days, and we'll take advantage of the timing by taking a walk through the Owl Woods. We may see lingering Northern Saw-whet Owls and Long-eared Owls, and we'll search for a host of early-migrating passerines like Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes. Afterwards, we'll take a walk down to the bay to scan for waterfowl. The woods will be muddy, so wear muck boots or wellies if you have them!
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Owl Woods Parking Lot on Manitou Beach Road. 43.31826, -77.72589
RBA Leader: TBD. **Birding Leader:** TBD. **Youth Leader:** TBD.

MAY ??
Saturday
GLOBAL BIG DAY
On a big day, a person or a team of people try to see as many birds as possible in a single 24-hour period. On the Global Big Day, thousands of birders join together to collectively see how many birds can be seen across the entire planet. Last year, 28,000 birders in 170 countries saw 1.6 million birds of 6,899 species! Every list counts, so try to get out at least once today!

MAY 18
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – WHITING ROAD NATURE PRESERVE
The Whiting Road Nature Preserve is a 240-acre preserve with a variety of habitats ranging from grass fields to mature forest. Passerines are the star attraction in May, and we'll spend the morning walking the trails in search of migrating warblers. Common Yellowthroats, Hooded Warblers, American Redstarts, Yellow Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Black-throated Blue Warblers are all likely, and several other species are possible.
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Whiting Road Preserve Parking Lot, near 403 Whiting Road.
RBA Leader: TBD. **Birding Leader:** TBD. **Youth Leader:** TBD.

JUN 15
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – MENDON PONDS PARK: QUAKER POND TRAIL
The Quaker Pond Trail at Mendon Ponds Park is a 2.7-mile loop that circles a large marshy area and pond. We may pick up lingering migrants, but we'll be especially on the alert for local nesting birds setting up territories. Woodpeckers are practically a given, as are blackbirds, finches and sparrows. We may be able to coax a chickadee or titmouse to steal seeds from our hands.
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. QP Trail Head Parking Lot off Pond Road. 43.015551, -77.571852
RBA and Birding Leader: Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. **Youth Leader:** TBD.

JUL 13
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – OATKA CREEK PARK
Woods and meadow provide great habitat for nesting species such as Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Blue-winged Warbler and Field Sparrow. We'll walk a trail that circulates through forest and field, looking for breeding birds.
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Park Entrance at the intersection of Quaker Road and Union Street.
RBA and Birding Leader: Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. **Youth Leader:** TBD.

AUG 9-11
Fri-Sun
BIG TRIP!!! – JAMAICA BAY AND LONG ISLAND
The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is a summer birder's dream! Covering 9,000 acres of salt marsh, mud flats and two large ponds, Jamaica Bay supports breeding populations of more than 70 species including breeding colonies of night herons and other long-legged waders like Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron, the amazing American Oystercatcher, and neat beach-nesting birds like plovers and terns. By mid-August, shorebirds are migrating through the refuge in incredible numbers. Avocets, dowitchers, yellowlegs, sandpipers, and plovers all collect on the mudflats.
Note: This trip is open only to members of the RBA Young Birders Club, and a guardian must accompany each child. This trip is very much still in the planning stages. Even the dates are tentative as we are trying to coordinate the trip with the young birders from downstate. Watch your email for updates!



AUG 24
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – EAST SPIT AND BRADDOCK'S ISLAND
The newly constructed barrier beach off what is known as the East Spit has become a major attraction for migrating shorebirds including a half-dozen sandpipers and both yellowlegs, plus occasional sightings of Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, and Ruddy Turnstone. In order to view them, however, we will need to get to the island by wading across a small channel that can be knee-deep water depending on the water level and wave action. Wear boots or water shoes, and shorts or pants that roll up.
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. *Parking lot at the end of 105 E Manitou Road. 43.307584, -77.703949*
RBA and Birding Leader: *Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. Youth Leader:* **TBD.**

SEP 13-14
Fri-Sat
MONTEZUMA MUCKRACE – MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
This is it – the biggest bird race in upstate New York! Organized by the Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, the Muckrace is a 24-hour birding competition in which teams try to see as many species of birds as possible on the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. In reality, the Muckrace is a cleverly disguised fundraiser, and the RBA Young Birders have participated for many years. If you are interested, be sure to let us know!

SEP 21
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – HIGHLAND PARK
If you've been to the Lilac Festival, then you've been to Highland Park. Is it a little weird here to bird in September? Maybe – but someone has to do it, and this will be a nice relaxing trip after the craziness of the Muckrace the weekend before. We'll take a walk around the reservoir and through the pinetum, and we may even head across the street to the Lily Pond and the Sunken Garden.
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. *Parking lot near the new playground on Highland. 43.12862, -77.60806*
RBA Leader: **TBD.** **Birding Leader:** **TBD.** **Youth Leader:** **TBD.**

OCT 19
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – LASALLE'S LANDING AND LUCIEN MORIEN PARK
We'll start by searching LaSalle's Landing Park and the south end of Irondequoit Bay for waterfowl, gulls, and possible lingering shorebirds. Then we'll cross Empire Boulevard and walk into Lucien Morien Park, looking for kingfishers and ducks on the creek, and woodpeckers and passerines in the woods.
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. *Parking lot at LaSalle's Landing Park. 43.1762917, -77.5257453*
RBA Leader: **TBD.** **Birding Leader:** **TBD.** **Youth Leader:** **TBD.**

OCT ??
Saturday
GLOBAL BIG DAY
On a big day, a person or a team of people try to see as many birds as possible in a single 24-hour period. On the Global Big Day, thousands of birders join together to collectively see how many birds can be seen across the entire planet. Last year, 17,000 birders in 146 countries saw 725,000 birds of 6,136 species! Every list counts, so try to get out at least once today!

NOV-APR
Saturday
PROJECT FEEDERWATCH
Project Feederwatch is a winter-long citizen science project, in which observers count the birds they see at their feeders. You can count as often as every day or as infrequently as you like. It's completely flexible! Every list is valuable, and you are contributing to our understanding of bird population trends. There is a \$18 participation fee (\$15 for Cornell Lab of Ornithology members), and participants receive a Research Kit with instructions, a bird ID poster, calendar, year-end report, and digital access to the *Living Bird* (Cornell's quarterly publication).

NOV 16
Saturday
RBA YB MEETING – DURAND EASTMAN PARK AND IRONDQUOIT BAY
We'll start by taking a walk through Durand Eastman Park. We'll likely see a mix of winter passerines like woodpeckers, robins, chickadees, titmice, Cedar Waxwings, finches and cardinals, but with a little luck they'll be supplemented by something special. Bohemian Waxwing, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Grosbeak have all put appearances in the park in November! After we've worn out our walking legs, we'll take a quick drive to Irondequoit Bay Outlet where we should be able to get good looks at several species of waterfowl and gulls. Long-tailed Ducks, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, three mergansers, and other ducks are sometimes joined by loons, scaup, scoters, and grebes. The platoons of Ring-billed Gulls are joined by Herring, Bonaparte's and Great Black-backed Gulls . . . and maybe even a gannet like the one the YB team saw in 2017.
Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. *Parking lot at the end of 105 E Manitou Road. 43.307584, -77.703949*
RBA and Birding Leader: *Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. Youth Leader:* **TBD.**



DEC 7
Saturday

RBA YB MEETING – CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS

For 119 years, adults have counted birds every winter as part of the annual Christmas Bird Count, and now it's time for kids to join the fun! The Christmas Bird Count for Kids is a family-friendly birdwatching event that builds bird identification skills and contributes to scientific bird count data. The adventure starts with a short indoor lesson to introduce the local birds and to practice using binoculars. We'll then head outdoors to count the birds! Experienced birders will lead small teams of kids (and their parents) on different routes through the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory and surrounding area (the Owl Woods, Manitou Beach Preserve, the West Spit, and long the lakeshore), as we attempt to find as many birds and as many species as possible. Each survey route will be 45-90 minutes, depending on the weather, and at the end all the teams will meet up to tally their birds and to compare their sightings.

Time and Place: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. *Parking at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. 43.323356, -77.717331*

RBA and Birding Leader: *Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. Youth Leader:* **TBD.**

DEC 15
Sunday

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – SENECA PARK

Participating in a Christmas Bird Count is an annual tradition for many birders, and this will be the 116th CBC in Rochester. In a Christmas Bird Count, birders try to count as many birds as possible within a particular "count circle." Rochester's circle is further subdivided into various sectors, and different teams of people are assigned to count the birds in those sectors. The Young Birders have our own sector – Seneca Park. Early risers may start the day shortly before dawn as we try to lure in owls – screech are the most likely. The real trip begins at 7:30 as we walk through the Seneca Park trails, counting as we go. We typically wrap up in two or three hours (depending on how cold it is), but folks are welcome to come and go when they please and stay as long as they are having fun. For the really die-hard fans, we may have opportunities to fill in with understaffed sectors later in the afternoon, and everyone can join the final compilation in the evening to see how many birds were counted in the entire circle.

Time and Place: 7:30 AM – 10:30 AM. *Parking lot near the Wegmans Lodge. 43.2130123, -77.6184839*

RBA and Birding Leader: *Andrea Patterson 585-490-5361. Youth Leader:* **TBD.**

