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Land Conservancy Invites Community to Birdwatching Hike in the Niagara Gorge

Spring bird migration is in full swing in Western New York. On Saturday, May 20, the Western New York Land Conservancy is hosting a birdwatching hike in the Niagara Gorge from 8am to 10am. Attendees will look for colorful songbirds as they pass through the region on their way to their breeding grounds. The Niagara River is famous for its gulls and other migrating birds and is a globally significant Important Bird Area, a designation shared with Yellowstone and the Everglades!

This tour is a part of the Land Conservancy's multi-year 'Restore the Gorge' project, which will maintain and enhance the ecological diversity of the remarkable Niagara Gorge. According to the Land Conservancy's Executive Director Nancy Smith, "The Gorge is home to many unique ecological communities and is one of the most biologically diverse places in the Great Lakes. We are excited to offer this hike and several other new events this year that will allow us to showcase this special place to our community."

The hike will be led by Tom Kerr, Buffalo Audubon Society Naturalist. Birders of all levels, from beginner to expert, are welcome to attend. Attendees should bring binoculars and wear sturdy footwear. This is a strenuous hike and attendees should be prepared to hike up and down steep steps and on difficult terrain.

The hike is free and open to the public, but space is limited and **attendees must register** in advance online at www.wnyc.org/events or by calling the Land Conservancy at (716) 687-1225. The Land Conservancy will share directions and parking instructions with everyone who registers for the event.

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which meadows, forests, farmlands, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of 1,700 land trusts nationwide, including 90 in New York State. Land trusts have protected 40 million acres over the last 20 years. For more information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or the mission of the Western New York Land Conservancy, please call (716) 687-1225 or visit www.wnyc.org.

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