

# Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society  
May-June 2015 Vol. 42, No. 5

## President's Column by June Summers, President of GVAS

Welcome to the newest members of Genesee Valley Audubon Society! We added Wayne County to our membership territory. Not only did we add 115 new members, we added the Montezuma Audubon Center, at the southeast corner of Wayne County.

Members of GVAS are also members of the National Audubon Society in the geographical area around Rochester as far south as Genesee, west to the Orleans County line and now east to the Wayne County line.

We invite all our members to join us at the **9th Annual Wildlife Festival at the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC), on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The purpose of this event is to spread the word on the likely impact of climate change on birds and provide a set of personal actions that can be taken to help protect birds and decrease carbon emissions.

Highlights at the Wildlife Festival will be live animal presentations, delicious food, live music, children's games, crafts and activities, guided bird watching hikes and canoe trips, a native plant sale, a garlic mustard pulling contest, and over 40 vendors and exhibitors. Fee: FREE for children under 5, \$2/school-aged child, \$4/adult. NO Registration Required!

So carpool with your friends and neighbors to the MAC, 2295 State Route 89, Savannah, NY 13146, 315-365-3588.

### Great Lakes Day

As I mentioned in my column in the March-April newsletter I went to Washington D.C. on a grant from the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition for Great Lakes Day. There were advocates from all of the Great Lakes states. I joined other advocates from New York including Laura McCarthy from Audubon New York, Brian Smith with Citizens Campaign for the Environment, David Klein with The Nature Conservancy, and others. We



went to a number of Congress people's offices. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter was very generous with time and spent a half an hour with us. We were also able to visit Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office.

We asked the legislators to maintain funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) at the \$300 million level for Fiscal Year 2016 so that it can continue to be used to clean up contaminated areas in the lakes and restore the wetlands such as Braddock Bay. We also asked them to enact new legislation to continue the GLRI fund past 2016 to guarantee continued restoration success.

We lobbied for support for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) communities depend on for low-interest loans to implement costly wastewater infrastructure repairs. Without these repairs sewage can and does seep into our drinking water supply. Just this evening an interview with one town public works director estimated that they need to repair or replace 10% of the sewage pipes in the town this year. The SRF is so important for keeping our waters clean.

Finally we asked the legislators to support the IJC's Plan 2014 to control the water level of Lake Ontario. It is the only hope of restoring the coastal wetlands and to some degree the shore of Lake Ontario.

### NYS Audubon Council Meeting

In mid-March representatives from about 20 of the 27 New York Audubon chapters met to exchange information on what each of us has been doing and to learn about the topic, Forest Resiliency in a Changing Climate. We had a number of excellent speakers and field trips. Our first speaker was Neil Gifford with the Albany Pine Bush Commission. He introduced us to the Pine Bush's unusual fire-dependent ecology. The pitch pine that are part of this ecosystem need fire to open the pine cones; the fires also keep the shrub cover under control for this inland pine barren, which is a globally

*Continued on page 2*

# Programs

## Birds of Cuba

May 21, 2015 7:00 p.m. (Note the time change)  
Brighton Town Hall, UPSTAIRS Auditorium  
2300 Elmwood Ave., Brighton

GVAS will be joining the Rochester Birding Association for a vicarious trip to Cuba. Our speaker will be Arturo Kirkconnell, a native of Cuba and the Curator at the Ornithology Department at National Museum of Natural History in Cuba. He is the co-author of two books: A Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba, and A Birdwatchers' Guide to Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico and the Caymans.

Arturo has been leading birdwatching tours in his native Cuba since 1988. To date he has guided more than 200 groups of birdwatchers and bird surveys. He designed the present birding itinerary and the main birding strategies in Cuba.



*The Bee Hummingbird of Cuba,  
the smallest bird in the world*

---

*President's Column, continued from page 1*

rare ecosystem. They are doing extensive research at the Preserve. They have a number of bird banding projects going on. In the fall they are removing a feather from some of the warblers and having them analyzed to find out where the bird was living during the summer when the feather was grown.

Our next speaker, Tom Rawinski with the USDA Forest Service, spoke on the Threat of Overabundant Deer. Tom connected a number of dots together for me and suddenly a large LED light bulb went on. The overabundance of deer has affected the health of our forest. If you can see through a forest from eye level to the ground, you are looking at the deer browse line. Deer are eating our replacement forest, selecting which trees they leave behind to grow, causing beech tree-dominated forest. Deer browse on native vegetation on the forest floor, preventing it from growing, allowing alien invasive plants to take over our forest, LIGHT BULB MOMENT.

Deer cost our society economically in agricultural crop losses, landscape shrub destruction, and automobile collisions. Ecologically the cost is biodiversity. As a society we need to stop controlling the deer population by hunting them with the front of our cars and give them the respect this beautiful creature deserves, a quick death. See the article below on youth sportsman summer camp.

## The Montezuma Audubon Center is now accepting Registration Forms for the Youth Sportsman Summer Camps

Girls and boys ages 11-15 are invited to the Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah, NY for three weeks of Sportsman Education Camps this summer. Young hunters will earn their hunter safety, waterfowl identification, bow safety, and trapper safety certificates in three weeks of hands-on learning and outdoor experiences. The camps will run from July 13<sup>th</sup> – July 30<sup>th</sup> and will be taught as home study courses to maximize our time in the field. Campers will be given the course manuals and workbooks prior to camp. Each week will feature exciting and engaging classroom-style learning, covering the basics of each course, enhanced by hands-on outdoor field lessons including target practice, orienteering, canoeing, tracking and more. Participants will also take part in conservation projects that enhance habitats for game and non-game species at the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. **Space is limited and registration is required. Registration forms can be found at <http://ny.audubon.org/montezuma>. For more information, please call (315) 365-3588 or email [montezuma@audubon.org](mailto:montezuma@audubon.org).** Support for the Montezuma Audubon Center's Youth Sportsman Summer Camps is provided by Bass Pro Shops.

Camp schedule:  
Week 1 – Hunter Safety/ Waterfowl ID – July 13-17  
Fee: \$125  
Week 2 – Bow Safety – July 20-23 Fee: \$100  
Week 3 – Trapper Safety – July 27-July 30 Fee: \$100  
Multi-Camp Discount: 5% two weeks; 10% three weeks

### Meadowlark Opt-Out/Go Green

If you would like to Go Green and reduce the amount of mail you receive, send GVAS an email to [gvaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:gvaudubon@gmail.com). Put Opt-Out in the subject line, include your name, nine digit zip code and email. If you don't have email call June at 585-865-6047, leave the above information, and phone number.

# Field Trips

## Mt Hope Cemetery, May 17, 8:00 am

Join us at the North Gate of Mt. Hope Cemetery for birding and history as we stroll through the older section of the historic cemetery for two hours. The large old trees and bushes along the hillside are very attractive to migrating birds. So bring your binoculars and \$7 for the tour fee to Mt. Hope Cemetery.

The North Gate is located on Mt. Hope Ave. across from Robinson Rd., which runs through Highland Park. (This is NOT the gate that is across from The Distillery.) No advance signup is needed. Call June at (585) 865-6047, by Saturday evening, May 16, if you have questions or for directions.

## Braman Preserve, May 30, 8:00 am

Join GVAS and the Genesee Land Trust at their Braman Preserve in Webster. This Preserve is in transition from all shrub/scrub to grassland. This old farmland habitat promises to offer a variety of birds and wildflowers in the spring. Join us for an adventure close to the lakeshore.

**Driving Directions:** The Preserve is located at 1775 Ridge Road in Webster. From 104 East, turn right onto Basket Road. Turn left onto Ridge Road, continue to follow Ridge Road. The Braman Preserve will be on the right, across the street from the intersection with Ridge Road Junction. Park along the eastbound shoulder of Ridge Road. Call June Summers at (585) 865-6047 with questions.

**Approximate Address of Parking:** Parking is along shoulder near 1717 Ridge Road, Webster, NY.

### Thank You!

Thank you to all of you who gave to the GVAS 2014 Annual Campaign. We know that each and every gift came from the heart.

**Donor Levels:  
\$100 and Over**  
Paul Forcella

**\$50 - \$99**  
Deborah Schutt,  
Sandra Glantz  
David Piedmonte

**\$25 - 49**  
Kathleen M. Gill  
Susan J. Hicks

**Other**  
Phyllis S. McCauley  
Kenneth E. Scullin  
Jeanne M. Bewicke

### Thank You!

# Volunteer Projects

## Braddock Bay Water Chestnut Pulls

**Saturdays July 18 and August 1, 9:00 am**

Volunteers will be needed again this summer to pull European Water Chestnut plants. This aquatic invasive could cover the bay in just a few years and block sunlight from reaching the bottom. So join us at the Braddock Bay Marina on Sat., July 18 and Sat., Aug. 1 at 9:00 a.m. Bring a canoe, kayak or boat. Dress for the weather and to get wet, no cotton, and bring sunscreen. Call June Summers, 585-865-6047, if you have any questions. Check our Facebook page for more dates.

## Beach CleanUp at Braddock Bay

**September 19, 9:00 am**

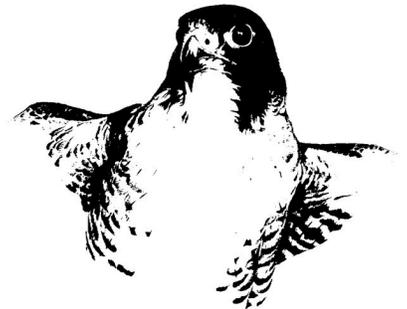
Genesee Valley Audubon Society will lead the Beach CleanUp at Braddock Bay Marina in Greece. We could use your help so mark your calendar.



## Rochester

### Falcons

Our downtown Peregrine Falcons are now incubating four eggs. Beauty, the mother, and Dot.ca, the father, are sharing duties and taking turns sitting and hunting and stretching wings. You can follow the action at <http://rfalconcam.com>. There are five cameras pointed at the nest box; as the babies hatch and grow, we will get close-up views.



### Volunteer Falcon Watchers Needed

We expect a full complement of eyases this year. If you are interested in learning about the family life and behavior of Peregrine Falcons, join us for an orientation meeting May 23, at 10:00 am at the Central Library at 115 South Avenue. When the eyases fledge, watchers are needed to make sure they do not get into trouble. Call June if you have questions, 585-865-6047.

# Genesee Valley Audubon Society

## Meadowlark

P.O. Box 15512, Rochester, NY 14615-0512

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The vision of Genesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) is to promote environmental conservation. Our mission is to educate and advocate for protection of the environment, focusing on birds, wildlife and habitat.

Keep up-to-date with our web site, [www.gvaudubon.org](http://www.gvaudubon.org)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROCHESTER, NY  
PERMIT NO. 1371

### Board of Directors

#### Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

**Officers:** *President*, June Summers; *Vice President*, vacant; *Secretary*, Joni Dubner; *Treasurer*, Karen Curtis.

**Committee Chairpersons:** *Field Trips*, vacant; *Fundraising*, Lisa McKeown; *Publications*, Joanne Mitchell; *Programs*, vacant; *Publicity*, Carol Merkel; *Conservation*, June Summers; *Membership*, vacant; *Education*, vacant; *Hospitality*, vacant; *Directors-at-Large*, Karl Reinhold, Nancy Strong, and Ravi Sampath; *Webmaster*, Jon Dubner; *Web Host*, Chad Stewart.

*The Meadowlark* is published the 1st of September, November, January, March, and April. Articles for the Meadowlark should be submitted four weeks prior to the date of publication. Send articles to Joanne Mitchell, 169 Black Walnut Dr., Rochester, NY 14615, or at [jwmitchell@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jwmitchell@rochester.rr.com).

**Meadowlark staff:** *Editor & Layout*, Joanne Mitchell; *Business Editor*, vacant; *Printing*, Minuteman Press; *Distribution*, vacant.

### The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage May 29, 30, 31, 2015

It's not too late to make arrangements for the Annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage. This year, it will be held on May 29, 30 and 31. This event is a family weekend and there will be workshops, hikes and events of interest for nature-lovers of every age! There are dawn and dusk bird walks, bird banding (an especially popular activity), beginning birding, advanced birding, workshops on butterflies, pond life, insects, dragonflies, wildflowers and more. There will be large tent presentations on Friday and Saturday evenings. There is also music and a chicken BBQ or vegetarian meal on Saturday.

Visit [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com) for more information. Hosting the event are the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club of Rochester, The Jamestown Audubon Society, Buffalo Audubon Society and Presque Isle Audubon Society.

Follow Genesee Valley Audubon Society on Facebook for program and field trip reminders and much more.