



# Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society  
March-April 2017 Vol. 44, No. 4

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

### The Future of Audubon's Conservation Work Under the New Administration

**"Birds are common ground, something that America has a profound shortage of these days."**

On Monday evening, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017, members and chapter leaders of the National Audubon Society joined president and CEO David Yarnold, chief conservation officer David O'Neill, vice president for conservation Sarah Greenberger, and chief network officer David J. Ringer in a live telephone town hall meeting about Audubon's conservation mission under the new Congress and White House administration.

**David Yarnold:** We're a centrist organization. Our membership spans the political spectrum. 52 percent of our members identify as progressive, and 48 percent identify as moderate to conservative. And that makes this call unusual, because this is common ground. Birds are common ground, something that America has a profound shortage of these days. So we can talk to one another about the things that birds and kids need, and understand that we're all actually coming from the same place despite political differences... We start with the premise that, whether it's climate or water or coastlines, it's a bird issue. So rather than focusing on the things that divide us, we focus on the things that unite us.

**David O'Neill:** Being centrist is not about being complacent, or appeasing institutions that are working against our core values and our conservation priorities... It would be naive to insist that all we need to do today is to continue to do what we did before. There are indeed serious threats to bedrock environmental statutes like the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Antiquities Act, and the use of public lands. There are also serious threats to funding that is used to protect and restore treasured places like the Everglades and the Chesapeake Bay. So we won't sit on the sidelines when these threats present themselves and we're taking quick action now... In many cases, we're going to need to accomplish in the next 6 to 8 months what we thought we had 3 to 5 years to accomplish.

Sarah Greenberger presented ten Audubon conservation priorities for defending existing environmental protections, and making progress in new areas. In her words, these conservation priorities are:

- 1) Ensuring continued federal support to protect and restore national treasures like the Everglades, Great Lakes, Long Island Sound, and the Colorado River and its delta.
- 2) Ensuring protections for threatened and endangered species. The Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee has made clear he intends not only to remove protections species by species, bird by bird, but to—and this is a quote—"repeal and replace the Endangered Species Act altogether."
- 3) Holding Scott Pruitt and his Environmental Protection Agency accountable to protect the clean air and water our families and birds both need.
- 4) Protecting the Arctic Refuge and other important protected areas in the Arctic from drilling. It's a battle Audubon has fought every time threats to the Arctic appear.
- 5) Defending the historic sage-grouse conservation agreements, which protect 67 million acres of the iconic western landscape for birds and 350 other species. We've already seen several attempts this Congress, which is 20 days old, to undo this historic agreement.
- 6) Lead on climate solutions at the state and local levels, and on the international front, particularly in Latin America.
- 7) Build a diverse coalition for coastal conservation.
- 8) Work with states and federal agencies to ensure the full commitment to meaningful Gulf and Mississippi River Delta restoration as dollars resulting from the BP oil spill begin to flow to the region.

*Continued on page 2*

# Programs

## MARCH PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 7:30 pm

Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room  
2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton

Bird banders and ornithologists have found that some migratory birds store more fat than they need to make the spring journey north. The question is why do they put on so much fat. A recent study done at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banding station led by graduate student Jennalee Holzschuh and Mark Deutschlander, a biologist at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, seems to have found the answer.



Holzschuh and other students collected and analyzed data from 12 different warbler species—including Black-throated Blue, Nashville, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. They measured fat deposits and scaled mass indexes (similar to body mass indexes), and found that females consistently have higher fat and energy reserves than males. They detected the biggest difference in Blackpoll Warblers; female Blackpolls averaged 18 percent more weight than males.

Join us to find out why this happens. Our speaker will be Jennalee Holzschuh.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Genesee Valley Audubon** needs the help of a few effective volunteers. We want to involve young people by offering them opportunities to volunteer to plant trees, and pull European Water Chestnuts and other invasive species. There are a number of college alumni who graduated with degrees in environmental science and conservation in the Rochester area who are not working in their field. These young people have knowledge and skills we can use. We need someone who is an excellent communicator to contact the alumni directors of area colleges such as SUNY Brockport, RIT and Finger Lakes Community College to negotiate a deal that would allow us to contact these alumni. If you have these skills to work with college professionals let me know, June, summers@frontiernet.net.

This summer GVAS will be joining the NYS-DEC and the FL-PRISM to pull European Water Chestnuts from Braddock Bay and plant the new breakwall with native plants. Watch for the May-June Meadowlark for more information.

## APRIL PROGRAM

Evening Walk on the Brickyard Trail

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 7:00 pm

Brighton Town Hall Parking lot near the  
Library

2300 Elmwood Ave., Brighton

Join us for an evening walk on the Brickyard Trail across the street from the Town Hall. We are going to look and listen for flowers, frogs and other creatures. This short walk of about a mile and a half round trip will give us a chance to explore an urban wetland at dusk. Who knows what we will find? We will visit a local restaurant for hot cocoa afterwards.

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*President's Column, continued from page 1*

9) Secure additional Farm Bill funding for wildlife, habitat conservation, and the 2018 Farm Bill, which is the largest source of conservation funding that we have.

10) Achieve 12 state and 50 local actions that advance our climate, water, coasts, and working lands priorities.

**David Ringer:** The way that we will make progress to continue to protect our birds, protect the natural resources that we all share, and protect the special places that we treasure, is because of you. It's because of Audubon members, it's because of Audubon chapters, it's because of volunteers that will raise their voices, that will get their hands dirty. You are more important now than ever...Get others involved. You have family members, you have friends, you have neighbors; they need to hear from you about the things that are important to you...It's by continuing to build our network and engaging more people that we can build a movement that can't be ignored.

The above article came from the **www.audubon.org** website. Now more than ever Audubon needs you to express your voice to support or oppose issues that matter to us and birds. Please go to **www.audubon.org** website and click on Take Action. Sign up for email Action Alerts. Help us take care of the birds.

# Field Trips

## Mt Hope Cemetery, May 15, 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 hillsides are very attractive to migrating birds. Bring your binoculars and \$7 for the tour fee to Mt. Hope Cemetery. Bring your mother on a Mother's Day walk.

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 14, if you have questions or for directions.

## Bird of Prey Days

### Braddock Bay

April 28-30, 2017

Celebrate the spring raptor migration with live bird programs, owl prowls, hawk watches, and more. See schedule of events at [www.bbr.org](http://www.bbr.org).

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who gave to the GVAS 2016 Annual Campaign. We know that each and every gift came from the heart.

### Donor Levels: \$100 and Over

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## Oatka Creek Park

Thursday, May 18, 10:00 am

Oatka Creek Park is a mostly undeveloped Monroe County Park that is home to a wide variety of wildlife not readily found elsewhere in the county. The second half of May is the peak of warbler spring migration with Oatka Creek as a main highway for this movement. Cuckoos and tanagers are active at this time. Trilliums, bluebells, and Jack-in-the-Pulpits are in bloom, and several species of swallowtails and other butterflies flit and sun among the flowers. Finally, there are artifacts of the rich history of the area starting from the exploits of Ebenezer Allan in the late 1700's to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century when the park was first established. Meet at the park, 9797 Union Street, Scottsville, 14546 (across from Quaker Rd.) in the parking lot near the entrance.

Bring binoculars, water, and a snack, with lunch optional after the walk. This is a joint field trip with the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club.

Leader: Jim Adams, 402-5534.

Or call June Summers at (585) 865-6047.

David and Mary Lou Zimpfer

### \$25 - 49

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# 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)

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*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 [jw Mitchell@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jw Mitchell@rochester.rr.com).

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

## Your Audubon Membership

When you joined the National Audubon Society (NAS) you also joined Genesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS). If you have problems with your membership, such as an incorrect address or other problems, contact NAS at 844-428-3826 or [customerservice@audubon.org](mailto:customerservice@audubon.org).

Please renew your membership with one of the forms that NAS sends you.

To be removed from the GVAS Meadowlark mailing list please email June Summers at [summers@frontiernet.net](mailto:summers@frontiernet.net) or call her at 585-865-6047 and give your full name and full zip code, zip + 4.

If you know someone in the Rochester area who wants to join NAS please have them send a \$20 check to GVAS, c/o June Summers, 208 Rhea Cres., Rochester, NY 14615-1212. The check should be made out to NAS. GVAS gets extra credit for attracting new members and we have to report them before sending the check in.

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