



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society
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Where are they now?

by Lisa McKeown

You might have seen a news article earlier this year regarding the death of a Peregrine Falcon that hatched in Rochester in 2015. It was at that time that I realized that many of our members may not be aware of the successes that the Rochester falcons have had in helping to restore the species.

A pair of Peregrine Falcons named Mariah and Cabot-Sirocco first started nesting on Kodak office in 1998. From 1998 to 2001 they successfully hatched 14 young falcons. While there were various sightings through those years, it wasn't until 2002 that Ranger from the 2001 brood was seen nesting in the Toronto area. The excitement of seeing the Mariah and Cabot-Sirocco lineage continue was soon squashed as Ranger's eggs did not hatch. Unfortunately Ranger died in 2013 without ever hatching any eggs, despite repeated efforts by her and her life-long mate, Hunter.

In 2002 Mariah had a new mate, named Kaver. They hatched a total of 29 falcons during the seven years they were together. The first year Mariah and Kaver were together they produced two falcons; the young male was named Freedom. In 2005 we received the wonderful news that Freedom was seen with a mate in Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada, on the north shore of Lake Erie. They had successfully hatched two young falcons that year. I was invited to accompany a group from Kodak on a trip to Canada during which we stopped at Port Colborne to see Freedom and his family. We met the workers at the plant where Freedom was nesting, saw Freedom, his mate and the two young female falcons hatched that year. It was very exciting to finally see the next generation of our falcon family. Freedom would continue nesting at Port Colborne until 2008 and during those four years would produce eleven young falcons.



One of Freedom's daughters from his first brood in 2005 was named Millie. In 2007 we learned that she had taken up residence at a power plant in Oregon, Ohio, on the southern shore of Lake Erie. Just like her father, she hatched two young falcons that year and three in 2008. It appears that Millie was displaced from the power plant in Ohio and was reported to be the resident female at a site in Monroe, Michigan in 2009. She would produce two young in 2009 and four in 2010. Again just like her father, Millie's known total contribution to the falcon population would be eleven.

In 2009 Rochester Falcon Watchers were delighted to learn that the new male in town, who was courting the new female, was Freedom's son, Archer. There was not a successful nesting that year. But 2010 was a new year ;Archer and Beauty, the new female in Rochester ,would fledge two young female falcons that year, named Calidora and Jemison. The year 2011 was another unsuccessful year for Archer, and then he disappeared in 2012. Add two more to the total of Peregrine Falcons on the Rochester family tree. The total so far is 67 if you have been counting and we have just begun.

In the spring of 2007 there were sightings of a falcon that hatched from Rochester in 2006. It was Rhea Mae. A picture of her perched in a tree in a provincial park near Whitby, Ontario, Canada was sent to us in Rochester. It wasn't long before three other falcon watchers and I were planning an adventure to look for Rhea Mae. It would be the first of many such ventures. We wandered through the provincial park with the picture of Rhea Mae in a tree asking people "Have you seen this bird?" Or "What about the tree, does it look familiar?" Yes, the crazy Americans had arrived. While we did see a falcon on that trip, we were unsuccessful in finding Rhea Mae. Still we met and made a lasting friendship with the people at the Canadian Peregrine Foundation (CPF). The next year, 2008, the Canadian Peregrine Foundation informed us that Rhea Mae was nesting at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Toronto. She would hatch three young falcons that year. Thus began

many road trips to Toronto to see Rhea Mae, her mate Tiago, and her offspring. In 2008 and 2009 we were given the honor of naming one of the young falcons; the names chosen were Unity and Liberty. Rhea Mae and Tiago have been the resident pair at the Sheraton Hotel since 2008. As of 2016 they have produced 27 offspring.

While visiting Toronto in 2011, we were informed the Rhea Mae's son Stormin, hatched in 2009, had displaced the male at a nest site in the Toronto area. Off we headed to see a second generation Rochester falcon that had reached adulthood. Upon peering through the spotting scope, I exclaimed, "He looks just like Kaver." Stormin looks exactly like his grandfather Kaver, who was last seen in Rochester in 2008, how nostalgic. Stormin would nest at this site for three years and contribute nine more falcons to the population. Stormin's son, Simcoe, hatched in 2012, would be found nesting in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada with Alfreda. Alfreda also has a Rochester connection that will be revealed later. Simcoe and Alfreda have produced a total of three falcons since 2014. Another one of Rhea Mae's son, Ralphie, hatched in 2012, is the male at the Statler Building in downtown Buffalo. He and his mate hatched two falcons in 2016. This makes the total from the Rhea Mae branch of the family tree 41, for a grand total of over 100.

Sometimes determining the gender of a young falcon is not always obvious. Thus is the case of Rhea Mae's sibling from 2006. Originally thought to be a female and named Sabrina, the gender error became apparent when he reached adulthood. Sabrina turned out to be a big male and in 2009 nested with a female on the Prescott–Ogdensburg Bridge over the St. Lawrence River. Between 2009 and 2010 they produced five offspring.

Determining the gender of the falcons hatched in Rochester in 2007 was quite easy; there were four big girls. One of those girls, Linn, was spotted nesting in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. The director of the Canadian Peregrine Falcon foundation had often heard about the fierceness of Linn's mother, Mariah. While he never experienced the wrath of Mariah, while checking on the roof top nest of Linn in 2011, he found himself under attack by Linn. It seems that Linn has inherited her mother's

looks and temperament. Linn has been nesting in Scarborough since 2011 and has added fourteen more falcons to the population.

In 2008 a satellite transmitter was placed on a young falcon hatched in Rochester, named Quest. We watched as she flew east and spent her first winter on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Then the next spring she passed through northern New York on her way to the north shore of Lake Ontario. Quest spent the next two years wandering around the north shore of Lake Ontario. Soon we were off on road trips around Lake Ontario looking for Quest to no avail. Finally in the spring of 2011 Quest showed up on a nest ledge in North York, Ontario, Canada. She hatched only one falcon that year. Quest has successfully hatched 18 young falcons from 2011-2016. She has not been as fortunate to have just one mate as her older sister Rhea Mae. Quest has twice lost her mate just as the young falcons were fledging, causing her to raise her young by herself. She continues to persevere.

Quest's sister from the same year, Seneca, was reported at a nest site in Cleveland, Ohio in 2010 and hatched two young falcons. Unfortunately, Seneca has not been seen since 2010. Meanwhile, Diamante, also from the Rochester 2008 brood, has been the resident male at the Central Terminal nest in Buffalo, NY from 2012-2016. In 2016 Diamante was injured in a territorial battle and has been in the care of a wildlife rehabilitator. During his four years at Central Terminal, Diamante had twelve offspring. Two of those offspring have gone on to nest at other sites. Remember Alfreda, the falcon nesting in Oshawa, Ontario with Simcoe, Rhea Mae's grandson? Alfreda was hatched at Central Terminal in 2012. Yes, it is a small world. Also Diamante's daughter, Billie, who hatched in 2013, is nesting in Rochester at an undisclosed location. Billie and her mate have added four falcons to the population since 2015. The tally of falcons with a biological link to Rochester is now over 150.

In 2009 the matriarch of Rochester falcons, Mariah, was displaced by a new falcon called Beauty. As previously mentioned Beauty's first mate was Archer, a grandson of Mariah, and they hatched two young falcons. 2012 saw the arrival of a new male to Rochester named Dot.ca. From 2012 to 2016 Beauty and Dot.ca have produced fourteen young falcons.

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Field Trips

Mt Hope Cemetery

Sunday, May 14, 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,

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 20th 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.

Ganondagan State Historic Site

Saturday, June 3, 2017, 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center, on Boughton Hill Rd. just west of State Route 444 (Victor-Bloomfield Rd) in Victor.

This is an excellent chance to see birds in a transition or edge habitat, Yellow Warbler, Indigo Bunting and others. This is a good beginners birder trip. There are hills so no sandals, please. Bring binoculars and water.

Contact June Summer, (585)865-6047, for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Braddock Bay Water Chestnut Pulls

Saturdays July 22 and August 16, 9:00 am

Volunteers will be needed again this summer to pull European Water Chestnut plants. So join us at the Braddock Bay Marina on Sat., July 15 and tentatively Aug. 16, at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the public kayak and canoe launch, which is in the parking loop before you enter the marina. Bring a canoe, kayak or boat. Dress for the weather and to get wet, no cotton please. Bring sunscreen and water to drink.

Contact June Summers, 585-865-6047 or summers@frontiernet.net, if you have any questions. Check our Facebook page for more dates.

Data Entry into eBird

GVAS has been given two decades of Genesee Ornithological Society newsletters. There are at least a million bird sighting records in these newsletters that if recorded on Cornell Ornithology Lab's eBird which will help to add to the historical data and understanding of bird populations. If you have a computer, internet and time you can help GVAS make a difference in the scientific understanding of bird populations over time.

Contact June Summers if interested, information above.

Falcons, continued from page 2

We look forward to many exciting adventure as we learn where Beauty's offspring have ventured. As this article is being written we received information that one of Beauty's offspring from 2015, Cadence, is engaging in a territorial battle in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The total counts of falcons with a biological tie to Rochester are 177. While we know that some of those falcons have not survived and others may never be heard of again, we continue our search for relatives of our Rochester Falcons. Besides Beauty and Billie, who are nesting in the Rochester area, the following current nest sites all have ties to Rochester: Ralphie in Buffalo, and Rhea Mae, Quest, Linn, Stormin and Simcoe ,all nesting in Ontario, Canada.

Beauty is sitting on four eggs at the time this article was written, April 3. The eggs should hatch around the end of April or the first of May. Check it out on www.Rfalconc.com and watch the eyases, the baby falcons, grow. Stay tuned for more updates.

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

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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 jwmitchell@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.

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 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.