



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

September-October 2021

Vol. 49, No. 1

President's Column

By June Summers

It has been a difficult year and a half for everyone. In an effort to keep you well the Board of Genesee Valley Audubon Society has decided to keep in place precautionary measures until January 2022. We will continue to hold our monthly meetings by Zoom. We will continue to ask you to register for hikes. That way we know who is coming. On field trips we will not ask participants to wear masks but we ask that you bring a mask with you in case someone is uncomfortable. Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks on field trips. In enclosed spaces we will mask based on CDC guidelines.

As I said at the beginning, it has been a difficult year and a half for all of us. I would like to take this opportunity to point out what GVAS what has accomplished since July 1, 2020, the beginning of our fiscal year. GVAS's first events last year were two water chestnut pulls in Salmon Creek where it runs into Braddock Bay. On our first pull we partnered with the

Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-Prism) and the New York Parks Boat Stewards to pull



735 pounds. On our second pull eight of our members and four members of the FL-PRISM pulled 740 lbs. This brought the total for that area to 1470 lbs, cleaning most of that area. The European water chestnut is an invasive species that would cover the top of Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area in a few years. This area is also a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area because a large number of birds use the area, such as ducks and hawks. That is why we do so much work there.

GVAS's next activity to get you outside was the Coastal Cleanup on the east side of Braddock Bay.

Twelve members showed up in mid-September to pick up 105 pounds of trash to keep it from becoming micro-plastics in Lake Ontario. I hope you will join us this September to make a difference to this ecosystem.

It took us a while but we figured out how to offer you seven monthly programs by Zoom to keep you informed. The Board Members offered you 13 wonderful field trips to go on. If you read the May/June Meadowlark you learned how to keep birds from hitting your window. If you missed it you can access it at our website, www.gvaudubon.org.

Beach Cleanup at Braddock Bay, Volunteers Needed

Join GVAS at Braddock Bay for the annual International Coastal Cleanup on September 25 at 9:00 am at Westpoint Marina, 105 E. Manitou Rd. in Greece. We will meet in the public parking loop before the Marina.

GVAS has picked up over a ton of trash at Braddock Bay over the years and we need your help again this year to keep the bay clean.

Trash entangles wildlife and plastic bags cover the bottom of the bay, preventing plants from growing. We have now learned that plastic trash that enters the lake can be ground down into small plastic pieces called microplastics. Microplastics get into the food chain from the bottom, then into the fish, and then into people who eat them. Help us stop this process.

So join us on September 24. Register with June at Summers@frontiernet.net, or call (585) 355-1824 to let me know you are coming. Bring a mask and we will social distance.



Programs

September Program

September 28, 2021, 7:30 pm, By Zoom
GVAS: Where We've Been and Where We Are Going

GVAS invites members, volunteers, and anyone who is interested in knowing more about the local chapter of the National Audubon Society to join us on Zoom for a Power Point presentation and informal conversation. We will be taking a brief look back at the past 45+ years, and reveal some of our plans and dreams for the upcoming year. We will also be sharing ways that you can become involved no matter what your abilities or time constraints may be. If you don't know much about us, now is a great time to get more acquainted.

You need to register to receive the Zoom link; email June at summers@frontiernet.net, by Sept. 26.

October Program

October 26, 2021, 7:00 pm (Please Note the Change of Time) By Zoom

BIRD OF PREY

"Bird of Prey" is the stunning story of the critically endangered great Philippine eagle with the remarkable story of wildlife cinematographer Neil Rettig and a small group of conservationists

from the Philippine Eagle Foundation, who work tirelessly to save the bird from extinction. The film follows Rettig's return to the Philippines 36 years after he and his crew captured



the first-ever recorded images of the eagle in the wild. Decades later, Rettig returns to the Philippine jungle on a grueling expedition to find the reclusive raptor and once again films a pair of eagles as they attempt to raise a newborn chick.

With fewer than 400 breeding pairs left in the wild, the Philippine eagle is considered the world's

rarest bird of prey and the future survival of the species is in doubt.

– Pat Leonard

You need to register to receive the Zoom link; email June at summers@frontiernet.net by Oct. 24.

November Program

November 16, 2021, 7:30 pm, By Zoom
Puffins, Little Fish and Climate Change (with Dr. Steve Kress - from the Lincoln Theater presentation in Damariscotta Maine, August 2018)

Dr Steve Kress talks about the Puffin Project, which is almost 50 years old. He talks about the start of this visionary project and its far-reaching impacts. The Puffin Project restored Atlantic Puffins to the coast of Maine; it restored other symbiotic seabirds as well. Once word got out about the success of the project, the model was used around the world to restore other seabirds. Many other lessons have been learned along the way including how climate change is affecting the lives of Puffins and other northern seabirds.



While this is a recording, this is an excellent source of information, and we hope you will join GVAS to learn about the Audubon Puffin Project.

You need to register to receive the Zoom link; email June at summers@frontiernet.net by Nov 14.

Field Trips

Genesee River Trailway, Petten St to Turning Point Park, Monday, September 13, 2021, 10:00am – 12:00pm. We will meet at the marina on Petten St off Lake Avenue south of the O’Rorke Bridge (Pattonwood). We will walk to the end of the boardwalk at the bottom of Turning Point Park and back and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Genesee River in late summer. We hope we’ll get one last look at our favorite migrant birds before they head to their winter feeding territories. This is an easy walk except for a slight slope from the trail down to the boardwalk and back up again. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register for this event no later than Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Yanty Creek Nature Trail at Hamlin Beach Park, Monday, October 11, 2021 10:00am -12:00pm. Located on the east end of Hamlin Beach State Park, this is an easy looped trail of 1 mile with a variety of ecosystems to observe wildlife complete with a ADA accessible bird watching platform and boardwalk. Parts of the trail could be muddy after heavy rain, so appropriate footwear is highly recommended. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register for this event no later than Saturday, October 9, 2021.



Genesee River Trailway, Petten St to Turning Point Park, Saturday, October 15, 2021, 10:00am – 12:00pm. We will meet at the marina on Petten St off Lake Avenue south of the O’Rorke Bridge (Pattonwood). We will walk to the end of the boardwalk at the bottom of Turning Point Park and back and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Genesee River in early fall. This is an easy walk mostly on tarmac and boardwalk. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register for this no later than Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Chickadee Walk Mendon Ponds Park, November 13, 2021, 9:00 am

Come and join Joni & Jon Dubner for a walk in the woods, no more than 2 hours in Mendon Ponds Park. Walk a trail and feed the chickadees, tufted titmice & nuthatches while enjoying nature. Fun for the whole family! All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure. Registration is required and we will follow NYS Covid-19 guidelines. We will meet Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 9:00 am in the Nature Center Parking lot on Pond Rd off of



Clover St (the southernmost of the 3 park entrances off Clover). Dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.) Seed will be provided – donation optional. Register to attend and obtain information about the event from Joni at bajacool416@gmail.com or 585-338-3712.

Tinker Nature Park, Monday, November 15, 10:00am -12:00pm. 1525 Calkins Road, Pittsford, NY, 14534. Though we don’t hear much bird song this time of the year, our winter residents are still out and about. We will have a walk through this beautiful park woodland and wetland and see what birds remain with us during these cold and sometimes snowy months. Bring binoculars if you have them. Wear warm and sturdy footwear to protect your feet from getting wet and cold. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register for this event no later than Saturday, November 13, 2021.

Durand Eastman Park, Log Cabin Road, Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 10:00am

We will meet at Lot D on Lakeshore Blvd, which is directly across from Log Cabin Road. We will be on the lookout for overwintering birds and other wildlife. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Dress for the weather that can be brisk and wet this time of the year. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register for this event no later than Friday, December 10th.

Mendon Ponds Park, Birdsong Trail, Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 10:00am – 12:00pm. Come enjoy a nice stroll in the woods and take the time to feed some of our hungry winter feathered residents that have been acclimated to eating from our hands in this popular park. While you are visiting you might want to check out the Wild Wings Center and their newly acquired nature center. Most of the trail is a fairly easy walk but there are a couple of steeper areas. Areas could be muddy if temperatures are warmer and there has been recent rain or snow. Birdseed will be provided for participants (a donation for seed would be appreciated). Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Dress for possible wind and standing in snow. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register for this no later than Monday, December 13.

Genesee Valley Audubon Society

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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.

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For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website, gvaudubon.org, or our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gvaudubon/>.

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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.

Meadowlark – Go Green

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