



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

November-December 2021

Vol. 49, No. 2

President's Column

By June Summers

The climate deniers have been saying that climate change isn't human caused for decades, but a new book shows that the government has known about climate change for a long time. "They Knew: The US Federal Government's Fifty-Year Role in causing the Climate Crisis," by James Gustave Speth, tells the story of how the Democrats and Republicans worked against each other from one administration to the next.

J. Gustave Speth worked for the Carter administration. He was asked to write the notes on each administration's environmental policies by a think tank. These notes led to his book.

The Carter Administration put solar panels on the White House. The Carter Administration predicted the climate changes we are seeing today. He called for renewable energy, but also called for synthetic fuels using coal.

The Reagan Administration came in and took the solar panels off the White House. Reagan also gutted Carter's solar program to have the nation be 20% solar by the year 2000.

Democrats and Republicans have failed equally. We have had a forty-year experiment of relying on the government to rise to protecting us from the climate change crisis. We have had three Democratic administrations, Carter, Clinton, and Obama, who all used an all-of-the-above approach. For example, while Obama supported green energy, he also supported fracking for gas.

Each Democratic administration was followed by a Republican administration that came in shooting and took apart anything the Democrats had put in place to decrease the climate crisis. Even today there is 120 billion dollars in the budget for fossil fuel subsidies. How much is there for renewable energy, and more importantly how much is in the budget to make sure all facilities are correctly environmentally sited.

Gustave Speth proposes that now is the time to compel the US government to protect young people from

climate change. The best way to do this is through mass civic mobilizations, protests, sit-ins and more.

Summer Program

Marsh Bird Monitoring Project

This was the second summer volunteers monitored secretive marsh birds at Cranberry Pond. The first season was the spring of 2019. During the 2019 season the volunteers collected the baseline data, the number of birds that occupied the marsh before the restoration project was installed. We had seven wonderful volunteers that went out in the woods in the evenings and listened for Least Bitterns, American Bitterns, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinules, and Swamp Sparrows, to name a few.

Due to Covid-19 and other factors, the restoration project, potholes and channels were

constructed this past winter. This spring the volunteers faced a challenge of a drastically altered habitat; some felt that there were fewer birds. This year some of our volunteers were SUNY Brockport students. In all the volunteers recorded: 202 Swamp Sparrows, 66 Marsh Wrens, and 8 Virginia Rails. We believe that as the restoration project matures next year there will be more secretive marsh birds.



Lydia Culbert, one of our Marsh Monitors

Season's Greetings!

Programs

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.

January Program

**Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 7:00pm
(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 Jan. 22.

February Program

**Feb. 22, 2021, 7:30 pm By Zoom
Doug Tallamy’s “Nature’s Best Hope”**

Doug Tallamy is a leading authority on saving our planet and ourselves by restoring nature one yard at a time. He is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He has written and co-authored several books, including “Nature’s Best Hope.”

Dr. Tallamy advocates for home gardens that bridge the gaps between parks and preserves in providing habitat for native species. He has spoken on the connections between plants and insects and how those relations are important to birds. By planting native plants in your yards you can restore those relationships, feed more caterpillars to feed more baby birds, and capture carbon to help cool the Earth.

You need to register to receive the Zoom link; email June at summers@frontiernet.net by Feb. 20.

Check out audubon.org for news and information.

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

Field Trips

Saturday, November 13, 2021, Chickadee Walk at Mendon Ponds Park, 9:00am 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 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. Please register by Thursday, November 11.

Monday, November 15, 2021, Tinker Nature Park 10:00am -12:00pm 1525 Calkins Road, Pittsford, NY, 14534. Although 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.

Sunday, December 12, 2021, Durand Eastman Park, Log Cabin Road, 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 10.

Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 10:00am Mendon Ponds Park, Birdsong Trail. Come enjoy a nice stroll in the woods and take the time to feed some of our hungry winter feathered residents that have been accustomed 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.



This young man was able to visit Braddock Bay with Genesee Valley Audubon from the Trenton and Pamela Jackson Recreation Center as part of a summer program.

ROC THE DAY

Have you ever wished you could donate to Genesee Valley Audubon Society without writing a check? Well, mark your calendars because you can donate to GVAS on ROC the Day, happening this year on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. ROC the Day is United Way's 24 hours of giving. Follow GVAS on Facebook and Twitter for updates on the donation total. Let's make this year a record year!

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.

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

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

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*, Loretta Morrell; *Education*, vacant; *Hospitality*, vacant; *Director-at-Large*, Nancy Strong and Victoria Korth; *Webmaster*, vacant; *Web Host*, vacant.

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

If you want to reduce the amount of mail you receive, send GVAS an email to gvaudubon@gmail.com. Put Opt-Out in the subject line. Include your name, nine digit zip code and email address. We will send you a notice when a new issue of the Meadowlark is available on our website.