



# Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2022

Vol. 49, No. 3

## President's Column

### By June Summers

We hope that you are all well and have joined us for one of our nature walks. In the summer of 2021 GVAS held two European water chestnut pulls, in Braddock Bay and Salmon Creek. Unfortunately, not very many volunteers showed up so we were only able to survey the area to see how many water chestnut were there. The work that we do in the bay is to keep water chestnuts from taking over the top of the water so the sunlight can continue to make it through the water and keep the habitat usable for fish and birds. Braddock Bay is not only a NYS Fish and Wildlife Area, but also an Audubon Important Bird Area.

In mid-September of 2021 GVAS sponsored the Coastal CleanUp on the East Spit at Braddock Bay. This year GVAS picked up 55 lbs of trash. One reason for the lesser amount compared to previous years is that the neighbors have been picking up more trash during the Covid pandemic. We could use additional volunteers for these cleanups with access to canoes and kayaks, so that visible trash that is floating on the top of the water can be fished out. These cleanups remove plastic before it gets into Lake Ontario and is turned into micro plastics. Micro plastics get into the food chain in the Lake, going all the way up to large fish and humans.

GVAS offered a beginner birding class in May. We were also able to provide transportation to bring four city recreation center groups of children out to Braddock Bay to learn how to use binoculars and how a watershed and wetland works. We also offered twenty-four nature walks designed for all ages and abilities to just appreciate the beautiful nature of Rochester and its surrounding areas. We brought our monthly information meetings into the Zoom format, so that we could still share conservation news with the community even though getting together in person indoors is currently risky.

We can do so much more with your help. GVAS needs volunteers to do everything from staff

tables at events to joining the Board. GVAS could use conservation volunteers to assist with NYS Breeding Bird Atlas surveys or to participate in NAS Climate Watch Projects and other conservation projects. GVAS could use help giving presentations to school classrooms and other groups or identifying speakers for membership meetings.



With additional manpower GVAS could start research on which buildings in downtown Rochester have birds fly into the windows most often. We could also start a lights out program to get building and home owners to turn out their lights during spring and fall migration to keep birds from striking them.

There is no secret that GVAS could use some assistance on our Board. We could use some help with bookkeeping and accounting, someone to keep minutes and correspondence, publications, and website management.

As you can see, GVAS could be so much more with your help. What do you get out of it? A lot of new knowledge and satisfaction.

### Action Alert

I wrote in the Nov. Dec. 2020 Meadowlark that the century-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act had been given a reprieve from the Trump Administration's attempts to weaken it. Unfortunately, on Nov. 27, 2020 a rule change was published easing companies' liability for killing birds, saying that it would not cause unacceptable environmental harm. This rule change will extend the MBTA's protections only to activities that *purposefully* kill birds, exempting all industrial hazards from enforcement. Hopefully we can work with President Biden to reverse this problem.

Help Audubon to protect the MBTA and other environmental laws by monitoring the **Audubon.org** web site and visiting the Take Action icon in the top navigation bar or sign up for Audubon Alerts to come to your email.

# Programs

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:summers@frontiernet.net) by Feb. 20.

## Spotted Lantern Fly

By Loretta Morrell

They have been all over the news this past year. The invasive Spotted Lantern Fly arrived somehow in a county in Pennsylvania in 2014 and eight years later it continues to spread, causing destruction to hardwood trees such as maple and apple and grapevines.

Unchecked, this one species could seriously cripple New York’s agricultural industry. Its advance through New York is inevitable, but with vigilance we hope it can be contained as much as possible until a viable management technique can be discovered. In the meantime the DEC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS Agricultural Management and their partners are asking us all to be vigilant.

Those of us who spend time out in nature are most likely to notice this insect or its egg casings first. Now in the winter months with the hardwood trees bare of leaves, we have an opportunity to look at trunks and see if we notice egg casings. Although the SLF prefers the Tree of Heaven, also an invasive species, as its host, it has been found feeding on seventy species of vines and trees. When out walking in the neighborhood or in the woods we have been asked to be observant and look for egg masses. If you can, carry a ziplock bag or lidded jar containing soapy water or hand sanitizer. You will also need something hard and flat like a credit card to scrape the egg casings, if you find any, into the soapy water. Note that Gypsy Moth egg casings are cylindrical. Those you can just throw in the trash, if you find any. Spotted Lantern Fly eggs are laid in 1 inch long segmented rows; egg masses may contain up to about 60

eggs. Sometime during winter, the covering begins to crack. If you suspect you have found these try to take a clear picture, note your exact location, keep the specimen if you do scrap the egg casing, if case someone wants to collect it, and contact NYS The New York State Invasive Pest Management team. The report form can be found at: <https://nysipm.cornell.edu/environment/invasive-species-exotic-pests/spotted-lanternfly/>

Please take the time to go out to the GVAS website and checkout the links we have added to our Discovery Tab (<https://gvaudubon.org/discover/>) with more detailed information. We will update this information as it becomes available.



# Field Trips

## Owl Prowl, Braddock Bay Park, January 15, 2022, 3:00pm

Join GVAS for an owl prowling on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 3:00 pm. We will meet at Braddock Bay Park by the lodge.



From there we will travel to various locations along the southern shore of Lake Ontario looking for snowy owls and short eared owls, plus any other birds seen wintering in this area.

Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Dress for the weather; it can be cold and windy by the lake. For questions and to register, email June at [summers@frontiernet.net](mailto:summers@frontiernet.net). Please register no later than January 12.

## Duck, Duck, Swan, Owl?, Ontario Beach Park/Seabreeze Irondequoit at the Outlet Bridge, January 17, 2022. 10:00am – 12:00pm

January is not the nicest time of the year to go for a walk, but it can be a great time to see ducks and other waterfowl. We will meet at the northeastern corner of the Ontario Beach Park parking lot, we will walk along the river and view what birds we can find. Waterfowl should be abundant. A snowy owl is a possibility. From there we will caravan to Seabreeze and the parking lot on the left hand side before crossing the outlet bridge in Irondequoit, and see what we can see there. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Conditions will probably be icy, crampons (Yaktrax or something similar) are highly recommended for your safety. For questions or to register, email [loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com). Please register for this event no later than Saturday, January 15.

## Valentines Walk in the Woods, February 12, 2022, 9:30 am

Joni & Jon Dubner will be partnering with the great staff from The Birdhouse to lead a hike (no more than 2 hours) in Mendon Ponds



Park. Come get up close and personal with nature. We will hand-feed wild songbirds while enjoying the park. Fun for your sweetheart and the whole family!! All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure. Registration is required as well as face covering. We will meet on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 9:30 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.). Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment.

Seed will be provided by The Birdhouse. Donation is optional. Register by Feb 10, 2022 and get event details from Joni at [bajacool416@gmail.com](mailto:bajacool416@gmail.com) or 585-338-3712.

**Shadow Pines Park at 600 Whalen Road, Webster, 14580, Monday, February 21, 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm.** We will be watching for winter birds and other interests in the winter landscape. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Dress in layers and wear warm weatherproof footwear. For questions or to register email [loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com). Register for this event no later than Saturday, February 19.

## Durand Eastman Park, Log Cabin Road, Monday, March 14, 2022, 10:00am –

**12:00pm.** We will meet across the street in parking lot D on Lakeshore Blvd. We will be on the lookout for over wintering 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.gvas@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com). Register for this event no later than Saturday, March 12.



## Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21, 2022

Celebrate 25 years of an international effort to find out where the birds are. Spend as little as 15 minutes or as long as you want to. Count in your own backyard, a park, or any location you choose. Go to [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) for instructions and to view the results from last year, when 300,000 people around the world turned out to count birds. Remember, Friday February 18-Monday February 21, 2022.

Check out [audubon.org](http://audubon.org) for news and information.

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

# 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.

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

## Board of Directors

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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](mailto: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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