

Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

March-April 2022

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President's Column

By June Summers

Last year the National Audubon Society had a number of successes to protect birds. There were 78,000 individuals who took action by telling their legislators to save the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). All they did was go to the Audubon website and click on a button. The MBTA is the ground-breaking, 100-year-old law that protects birds from harm by people.

Audubon lobbied for the Growing Climate Solutions Act; 33,209 individuals contacted their members of Congress to get this bill passed. This bill provides support to ranchers and farmers wanting to adopt sustainable land practices. These practices will capture carbon naturally.

One piece of legislation that National Audubon lobbied for is important to us here, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. These funds will continue to be used to clean up areas of contamination known as Areas of Concern and wetland restoration. Funds will also be used to make the lake shore more sustainable during climate change events.

A coalition of groups in Philadelphia including two Audubon chapters and a regional office, Mid-Atlantic Audubon, formed Bird Safe Philly. Bird Safe Philly is working with building owners to have them turn off the lights in their buildings at night during migration, so birds won't hit them. Their other initiative is working with building owners on reflective and transparent glass exteriors. Birds often fly into windows while seeing the reflection of the sky, thinking that they can fly through, hitting hard enough to kill themselves.

Audubon has been lobbying to protect the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. It is the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. It's home to 30 endemic animals and plants found nowhere else. The Tongass is a unique blend of forest, wetland, glacial fjords and coastal estuaries that are important for over 300 species of migratory

birds. In February 27,500 Audubon members expressed their support for the Roadless Rule, which keeps 9 million of the 17 million acres protected for birds.

Audubon is working to protect the Greater Sage Grouse habitat. The Bureau of Land Management brought out a new plan in 2019 to save Sage Grouse habitat and 350 species of wildlife and plants from oil and gas development. Audubon is commenting on the plan. Greater Sage Grouse have declined 80% in the last 30 years.

Audubon is working to make sure that the Build Back Better Act brings significant carbon reduction. They are also working to end drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon is lobbying for a national Bird Safe Building Act to incorporate bird-safe building materials and features to the maximum extent possible and would build that into the base of all future guideline updates.

Audubon's Policy Agenda for 2022

Significant Carbon Reduction

Achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2050

- Advance renewable energy
- Promote responsible clean energy
- Support natural climate solutions

Habitat Protected and Enhanced

Ensure Resilient Lands and Waters

- Protect bird habitat
- Enhance climate resiliency

Bedrock Bird Protection

Prioritize efforts to protect birds

- Strengthen existing laws
- Protect habitat hemisphere-wide

If you want to find out more about National Audubon's work go to www.audubon.org and click on [Our Work](#) at the top.

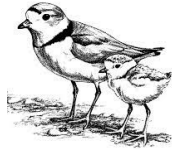
Programs

March Program

Tuesday March 22, 7:30 pm
by Zoom

Monty and Rose 2

“The World of Monty and Rose” is a new feature-length documentary film about the endangered Piping Plovers that have nested at Chicago’s Montrose Beach the past three summers. They are the first Piping Plovers to successfully nest in Chicago since 1948. The film—a sequel to the “Monty and Rose” short—tells the story of how the birds took up residence on one of the busiest stretches of the busiest beach in Chicago. It also follows their story from hatching in western Michigan in 2017 through the 2020 and 2021 nesting seasons.



Bob Dolgan is a filmmaker and consultant who lives in Chicago. “Monty and Rose 2: The World of Monty and Rose” is the second documentary he’s made about Chicago’s endangered Piping Plovers. Bob is the author of This Week in Birding and is working on his next film, “The Magic Stump,” due out later this year.

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

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club invites GVAS members to their Friday, March 11, meeting at 7:30 via zoom.

Why Native Plants Matter: Healthy Yards Monroe County

Recent scientific studies have shown that our native pollinators are in decline. Douglas Tallamy’s research reveals that our native insects depend on native plants to survive. We are all called to take action to preserve and replant more native plants in our wild areas and home gardens to protect the biodiversity that we depend on for a healthy ecosystem that supports us. Megan Meyer, a local Master Gardener with a background in landscape design and plant propagation, will share how Tallamy’s work has inspired and influenced the new resident-led environmental group Healthy Yards Monroe County, and will tell us what they aspire to do. Registration is required. To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-whynative> or email BANCrsvp@gmail.com with your name. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to all registrants the day before the meeting.

BIRD OF PREY DAYS 2022

April 22-24

BBRR is excited to announce the dates for their annual migration celebration! Look for a few virtual programs the week leading up to April 22, but most of the programming will be in-person at Braddock Bay Park. The full schedule and registration information will be posted soon at BBRR.org. Also, check the website for Owl Prowls.



GVAS has a field trip at Braddock Bay on Saturday April 23 before the BOP programming starts. See page 3.

Plants for Birds

For additional information on how to grow native plants that benefit birds and other wildlife, go to <https://ny.audubon.org/get-outside/plants-for-birds>



Hog Island Audubon Camp

If you haven’t been to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine you are missing an experience. Check out their web page, <https://hogisland.audubon.org/>, to see the offerings for this year. There is something for everyone: programs for teens, for families, for photographers, for sketching and painting, and much more.

Annual Appeal Letters

In case you noticed that our annual appeal letters had the date of January 2 but were not mailed out until the end of February, we had to wait to get enough envelopes because of a paper shortage.

Field Trips

Monday, March 14, Durand Eastman Park, Log Cabin Road, 10:00am. 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, which can be brisk and wet this time of the year. The route is paved, but it does have a gradual elevation. For questions or to register email loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com no later than Saturday, March 12.

Saturday, April 23, Braddock Bay Park, 7:50am - 9:50am. Braddock Bay is along the Atlantic Flyway, and due to the unique topography of the area concentrations of birds pass overhead during the spring and fall migration. Braddock Bay Raptor Research celebrates that by offering its annual Bird of Prey Days. As a partner with BBRR, Genesee Valley Audubon is acknowledging the beginning of spring migration as well. Participants will walk from the parking lot down to the hawk watch platform, and the short boardwalk, and then we will drive down to Westside Marina and walk to the end of the East Spit, watching for raptors, songbirds, and waterbirds as we go. The walk is fairly flat, but along the way we will be walking on crushed stone, tarmac, and natural trail that has roots and rocks in places. Wear sturdy footwear, sunscreen, and possibly bug repellent. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. The festival begins at 10:00am. We will be back to our cars on time for you to attend the first presentation, if you wish. There will also be live birds, organization and vendor displays, and food. Why not plan on making a day of it? For questions or to register please contact, loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com, no later than Thursday, April 21.

Tuesday, April 26, Brickyard Trail at Sandra Frankel Nature Park, Spring Evening Walk, 7:00pm-9:00pm.

This is a joint trip with Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. Participants will meet in the parking lot in front of Brighton Library, near the road, 2300 Elmwood Ave., 14618. This is a casual evening nature walk to watch for birds and listen for frogs and other wildlife.



This short easy 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? Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Dress for the weather. Masks and Social Distancing practices

are required. We have to cross the road to get to the path which is flat and has a small stone surface. Registration is required. To register, email June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net no later than Sunday, April 24.

Monday, May 7, High Acres Nature Area and Christine Sevilla Overlook, Fairport, NY, 9:00am.

Early May is the perfect time of the year to be out looking for wild flowers and song birds. We will be walking around a wetland area, and also exploring another trail in this Nature Preserve managed by the Genesee Land Trust. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear. They may get wet and possibly muddy. We strongly suggest you bring along sunscreen and bug spray. Binoculars will enhance your viewing. Terrain is relatively flat, natural. For questions or to register email loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com no later than Saturday, May 5.



Sunday, May 15, Mt. Hope Cemetery, 8:00am-10:00am.



Join us at the North Gate of Mt Hope Cemetery for birding and history as we stroll through the older section of this Victorian cemetery. The large mature trees and bushes are very attractive to migrating birds. Bring your binoculars.

The North Gate is on Mt Hope Ave across from Robinson Dr. (This is NOT the gate that is across from the Distillery Restaurant.) Preregistration is required and will be available at the **FOMH.org** website starting one month before the event. For questions, email Joanne Mitchell at jwmitchell@rochester.rr.com.

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/>.

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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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