



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2023

Vol. 50, No. 3

President's Column

By June Summers

Over the years I have mentioned the importance of biodiversity for animals and humans, and why it is important to preserve habitat for all. Genesee Valley Audubon has been working to keep invasive European water chestnuts out of Braddock Bay. We also monitored the marsh birds at the restoration project at Cranberry Pond for three years. We should find out later this year when Great Lakes Audubon finishes the analysis how well the restoration went. What have you done to plant native plants, use less energy, become more sustainable? The piece below is about one of the things that National Audubon is doing to help our planet.

Birds and Biodiversity – Building a Shared Future for All

NEW YORK (December 7, 2022) — A delegation from the National Audubon Society, the leading bird conservation organization in the Americas, will join world leaders as they reconvene for the second part of the UN Convention on Biodiversity COP15 in Montreal in December. Audubon CEO Elizabeth Gray will head the delegation, which also includes Chief Conservation Officer Marshall Johnson, Board Director and acclaimed wildlife advocate Jane Alexander, Senior Vice President of Audubon Americas Aurelio Ramos, and Vice President for Boreal Conservation Jeff Wells, among others.

COP15's theme, "Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth," is in full alignment with Audubon's mission and current ambitious agenda to protect birds and the places they need. Birds are the canaries in the coal mine of biodiversity loss. In 2019 Audubon scientists discovered that in North America alone, two-thirds of bird species are vulnerable to extinction due to climate change. But birds can also point the way to nature-based solutions that will deliver benefits for all life on Earth.

"Across the globe, the loss of bird populations has been a harbinger of biodiversity loss, but birds can also point the way forward," says Audubon CEO Elizabeth Gray. "Ensuring that they have healthy habitats and flyways is critical not only for birds and their ecosystems, but for all life. It is essential that conservation organizations work together with Indigenous governments and communities, local groups, governments, and the private sector. At Audubon, we are taking urgent and ambitious collective action to safeguard the future for both people and wildlife."

Today, Audubon works directly across the Americas and in partnership with organizations across the world to protect birds and the places they need.

Audubon partners with the clean energy industry and lawmakers to ramp up renewable energy production and mitigate wildlife interactions, and leads research on the resiliency of hundreds of bird species and their



habitats as well as the impact of climate change on the places they live. The Audubon Americas program brings a hemispheric approach to protecting birds over their entire lifecycle in partnership with numerous other countries and Indigenous governments and communities.

"The natural world that birds and other species are fundamentally dependent upon does not respect international borders and divisions. Environmental challenges and solutions in any part of the globe can affect us all," says Audubon Board Director and acclaimed wildlife advocate Jane Alexander, "At this conference, we must come together as a global society to overcome these divides and safeguard the common future of all living beings."

At COP15, Audubon will be engaging with world leaders, Indigenous leaders, the NGO sector, the business community, youth, and others to develop, advocate for, and help implement effective strategies for

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Programs

January Program

January 24, 2023, 7:30 pm, by Zoom

Snow Birds

Ken Elkin, Community Conservation Manager for the Menunkatuck Audubon Society, in New Haven, CT, will enlighten us about how birds stay warm in the winter. There are methods that birds employ to keep from freezing to the branches and freezing in general. Join us to learn more than you imagined. You need to register; email June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net by January 22. If I don't reply within several days please call me at (585) 355-1824.



February Program

February 28, 2023, 7:30 pm, by Zoom

In Search of the Great Gray Owl

Kyle Dugdeon is a young aspiring writer and photographer from Oneida, NY, who set out to make a difference in life. He found himself in Bozeman, Montana, documenting the ecosystem of the Bridgerton



Mountains range. Once he came across Great Gray Owls he became hooked. His search for them in the Bridgerton began. The photographs are fantastic. He also tells of his work to save at least part the forest from a US Forest Service project that would have wiped out all of the old growth forest the owls use.

This video was brought to GVAS by Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society. You need to register; email June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net by February 26. If I don't reply within several days please call me at (585) 355-1824.

March Program

March 28, 2023, 7:30pm, by Zoom

Doug Tallamy : The Nature of Oaks

Doug Tallamy is well known for his admiration of oak trees because of the high numbers (500 and up) of insect larva they support. Native plants support native insects that support native birds. In this video he is going to outline what is happening in and on oaks during each month of the year. You need to register; email June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net by March 26. If I don't reply within several days please call me at (585) 355-1824.



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conserving and restoring biodiversity. Audubon engages its diverse membership and numerous partners in promoting the most effective nature-based solutions to the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.

“Conserving and protecting birds and their habitats is the answer to many of the resource challenges that will be discussed at this conference,” says Audubon Chief Conservation Officer Marshall Johnson. “We must adopt strategies that are collaborative, equitable, and harmonious with nature. Audubon and our partners at the forefront of the conservation movement can help lead the way.”

“Hemispheric cooperation to protect birds and biodiversity, which includes Canada and countries across the Americas as well as Indigenous governments and communities, can serve as a model for how leaders at COP15 can collaborate to protect nature anywhere in the world,” says Senior Vice President of Audubon Americas Aurelio Ramos.

Field Trips

Saturday, February 18, 9:00am

Mendon Ponds Birdsong Trail GVAS will be partnering with the great staff from the Birdhouse to lead a walk (no more than two hours) in Mendon Ponds Park. Come get up close and personal with nature. We will hand-feed some of the park's winter resident songbirds. All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure. Birdsong Trail is natural surface with few grade changes and can be muddy or icy depending on weather conditions, but don't let that stop you. Walk leaders can direct you to an easier approach to a portion of the trail, so that you can still enjoy the hand-feeding experience. Facilities are available. Registration is required no later than Thursday, February 9. For questions or to register contact Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com



Monday, February 20, 3:00pm
Burger Park, Greece NY

Join GVAS to see what wintering birds are visiting Burger Park in Greece, NY this winter. In past years there have been sightings of Snowy Owls and Rough-Legged Hawks. What will we encounter this year? We never know what birds will show up, so it is always an adventure. We will meet at Braddock Bay Park parking lot near the pavilion, then drive over to Burger Park. Please dress warmly, it can be very cold in February. Please register with June at summers@frontiernet.net or 585-355-1824.

Monday, March 13, 10:00am-11:00am, Nature Stroll, Log Cabin Road, Durand Eastman Park. Get out and enjoy a wintery morning with an easy stroll along a paved road with gradual elevation. We will more than likely be parking in the Lot D parking lot on Lakeshore Blvd. Wear appropriate winter footwear. The road should be plowed, but we may encounter some snow and patches of ice. Bring binoculars, if you have them, because as always we will be looking to see what birds might be out and about along the sides of the road. Please preregister no later than Saturday, March 11. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com

Saturday, April 29, 8:00am-11:00am, Looking for Early Migrants at Firehouse Woods, parking at Lakeview Community Church at 30 Long Pond Road – April may be a little early for many of the migrant songbirds to return to our area, but we will start the day by checking out the woods along Lake Ontario to see what may be showing up early. If there is no activity we will go back to our cars and reconvene at the Westpoint Marina at 105 East Manitou Road. Wear sturdy footwear. The trail is usually muddy in spots this early in the spring. You may want to wear waders if you own them. The trail is a combination of natural surface and boardwalk. Preregister by Thursday, April 20. For questions or to register email loretta.morrell@gmail.com



ROC the Day

Thank you to everyone who donated to GVAS and Rochester Falconcam during the 2022 ROC the Day on Nov. 29, 2022. Our amazing supporters donated \$367.20 to Genesee Valley Audubon Society. Once again the Rfalconcam followers came through with the most number of donations from midnight to 2:00 am, giving Rfalconcam the \$500 bonus. This was followed by donating an

additional amount of \$1,853.80

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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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Follow Genesee Valley Audubon Society on Facebook for program and field trip reminders and much more. Also see 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.

GVAS GREEN INITIATIVE

The *Meadowlark* newsletter will be undergoing changes over the next few months. In an effort to conserve production and transportation resources that it currently takes to print five issues of the *Meadowlark* per year the GVAS board is looking at going digital some time in the early part of 2024. We understand that everyone doesn't have easy computer access. If you would still like to receive a hard copy of the news letter, please send a note stating your name and address using the PO return address on this newsletter, or email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Note depending on demand we may elect to charge a fee just large enough to cover our costs. The cost of printing the newsletter has increased exponentially over the past few years. Freeing up this expenditure will allow GVAS to offer more opportunities to offer outreach for conservation, education, and advocacy.