



# Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Spring 2023

Vol. 50, No. 4

## President's Column

By June Summers

Audubon Connecticut and New York is involved in a number of different conservation projects to help birds, following the American Bird Conservation Initiative. Proactive conservation was identified as the fastest most effective strategy to reverse the steep decline before birds become endangered. The year 2022 was the most impactful year of proactive conservation action across Connecticut and New York.

### Preserved Forest

According to the 2022 State of the Birds Report, eastern forest bird populations have decreased by 27% in the past 50 years. Audubon Connecticut and New York focused on two new programs to drive the bird-friendly forest management at scale: the Bird-Friendly Maple program and our Forester Training and Endorsement Program.

### The Bird-Friendly Maple Program

The Audubon Bird-Friendly Maple Program recommends that forest owners add diversity to their forest. One Bird-Friendly Maple syrup producer amended their forest habitat plan to include the recommendations from Audubon staff and they observed an increase in the diversity of bird species that visit or nest in their forest. In the year 2022 the program expanded to nine Bird-Friendly Maple syrup producers. Look for Bird-Friendly Maple syrup at your dealer; it has a Scarlet Tanager emblem on it.



### New Forester Training and Endorsement Program

Audubon works with conservation partners such as the Society of American Foresters, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Forest Stewards Guild to implement strategies and apply management to create dynamic forested landscapes that provide quality habitat for a suite of forest birds while achieving climate resiliency and other critical ecosystem services.

Audubon foresters and partners work with professional foresters to give them the tools to prepare impactful forest management plans to ensure that habitat requirements for important bird species are met.

### Saltmarsh Sparrows

To address the steep decline of the Saltmarsh sparrow, Audubon and partners restored 34 acres of Connecticut's largest unditched salt marsh. A key component of this project was building "hummocks," small mounds of earth planted with salt marsh grasses, to help Saltmarsh sparrows nest above the rising high tide line.

### State Wide Policy and Advocacy Wins

Our policy team secured historic legislation to protect one million acres of freshwater wetlands in New York by co-leading the Save New York State Wetland Coalition of 95 organizations including Audubon chapters, organized a grassroots campaign, and garnered over 6,900 actions taken by Audubon members. On Election Day the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act was approved by a large majority of NY voters. Passage of this \$4.2 Billion measure will pay for projects that will protect clean drinking water and tackle climate change.

### Youth Climate Summit

The first Youth Climate Action Summit was held at Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, on the Hudson River across from the West Point Military Academy. Forty middle- and high school- aged students attended workshops led by Audubon staff and partners over several weeks to learn how to think critically about the threats and challenges brought to the fore by climate change. Students designed Climate Action Plans that target climate challenge in their communities.

### Wildlife Rehabilitation Leadership and Training at the Sharon Audubon Center in Sharon, CT

Sharon Audubon Center's Wildlife Rehabilitation and Outreach Specialist presented a virtual training class for new wildlife rehabilitators in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and led their Teen Rehab Internship Program, an intensive week-long summer camp for teens that

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# Programs

## 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](mailto: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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provides training in animal care and basic wildlife rehabilitation practices.

Other Audubon centers across the State have other youth programs such as the Montezuma Center, which has a Youth Hunting program that matches the young men and women with mentors to teach them about where deer fit into the ecosystem and that hunting is only one method of deer population control.

If you would like to learn more about Audubon Connecticut and New York go to "Audubon Connecticut and New York Impact Report, Fiscal Year 2022," <https://ny.audubon.org/sites/default/>

## **BIRD OF PREY FESTIVAL 2023**

**April 28-30**

Braddock Bay Raptor Research is excited to announce the dates for their annual migration celebration! All the programming will be in-person at Braddock Bay Park. The full schedule and registration information will be posted soon at [BBRR.org](http://BBRR.org). Also, check the website for Owl Prowls.

GVAS has a field trip at Braddock Bay on Saturday April 29 before the BOP programming starts. See page 3 for details.

## Peregrine Falcons

Spring is in the air and Rochester's Peregrine Falcons, Nova and Neander, will soon be starting courtship rituals. This year marks an important anniversary for Rochester falcons and the Falcon Watch. Peregrine Falcons made their comeback in Rochester in 1998, 25 years ago. Follow the falcons on [Rfalconcam.com](http://Rfalconcam.com) for updates on the 25th anniversary and to watch the falcons from multiple cameras. Both Nova and Neander have been seen on camera at various times.

Hopefully Nova will start laying eggs near the end of March. While typically Peregrine Falcons lay 3-4 eggs, we will just have to wait and see how many eggs are laid this year. The eggs should hatch approximately 33 days after the last egg is laid, usually around early to mid-May. Falcon chicks are called eyasses and the next 42 to 45 days will be spent watching the eyasses

grow. They will go from cute white fluffy eyasses with large feet through an awkward stage when their feathers come in, ultimately becoming a beautiful falcon before fledging around 42 to 46 days after hatching.



It is around this time that the Rochester Falcon Watchers shift into overdrive, as we watch the young falcons from the ground. We are ready to spring into action if a young falcon inadvertently lands on the ground. If you are interested in helping with the Falcon Watch this year please contact June at [summers@frontiernet.net](mailto:summers@frontiernet.net) or 585-355-1824.

## 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://](https://hogisland.audubon.org/)

[hogisland.audubon.org/](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.



# Field Trips

**Monday, March 13, 10:00am-11:00am, Nature Stroll, Log Cabin Road, Durand Eastman Park.** Celebrate winter turning into spring with an easy stroll along a paved road with gradual elevation. Park in the Lot D parking lot on Lakeshore Blvd. Wear comfortable footwear and dress for the weather. Bring binoculars, if you have them. There are no available facilities. Consider that we will need to cross Lakeshore Blvd. For questions or to register email Loretta Morrell at [loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com). Preregister no later than Saturday, March 11.

**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](mailto:loretta.morrell@gmail.com). This trip is before the Bird of Prey Day celebration at Braddock Bay Park.

**Tuesday, April 25, 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. 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](mailto:summers@frontiernet.net) no later than Sunday, April 23.



**Sunday, May 7, Mount Hope Cemetery, 8:00am-10:00am.**

Join us at the North Gate of Mount Hope Cemetery for birding and history as we stroll through the older section

of this 1838 Victorian cemetery. The large mature trees and bushes are very attractive to migrating birds. This walk is partly on paved roads and partly on a dirt path on uneven surfaces. 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](mailto:jwmitchell@rochester.rr.com). There is a fee of \$12 for this tour, which goes to the Friends of Mount Hope for restoration work in the cemetery.

**Saturday May 13, 9:00am, Christine Sevilla Outlook Loop at High Acres Nature Area**

We will enjoy the wildflowers and early spring migrating birds as we walk the trails in Christine Sevilla Outlook Loop. This is reclaimed land from Waste Management and has been certified wildlife habitat since 2006. Dress for the weather. Trails are relatively flat, but will more than likely be muddy so wear appropriate footwear. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Bug spray and sunscreen are recommended. Registration is required by Thursday, May 13. There are no available facilities. For questions or to register email [loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com). Preregister no later than Thursday, May 11.

**Monday, June 5, 9:00am-12:00pm, Burger Park, part of the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area, 99 Hogan Point Road, Hilton NY 14468.** Spring migration is winding down and the summer breeding season has begun. We will be looking for grassland bird species as well as osprey, eagles and hawks that could be migrating overhead. We also will be checking out the woods near the lake hoping to catch sight of some of the songbirds and other species fueling up and getting down to establishing their territories and nesting. Trails could be muddy so wear sturdy footwear. Sunscreen and bug spray are recommended. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. There are no available facilities. For questions or to register email [loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com). Register by Saturday June 3.



# 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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Follow Genesee Valley Audubon Society on Facebook for program and field trip reminders and much more.  
Also see [gvaudubon.org](http://gvaudubon.org).

## Board of Directors

### Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

**Officers:** *President*, June Summers; *Vice President*, vacant; *Secretary*, Joni Dubner; *Treasurer*, Karen Curtis.

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*The Meadowlark* is published the first week of March, June, September, and December. 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.

## 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 with four issues per year. 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](mailto: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,