



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Winter 2023/2024

Vol. 51, No. 2

President's Column

By June Summers

As I write this article on November 7, I have just returned from the National Audubon Society's Leadership Conference in Estes Park, Colorado. We had two days of intensive classes and field trips focused on Audubon's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Conservation Principles as well as Audubon's Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2028, Flight Plan.

At the conference, to help us understand how far National Audubon hopes to reach, there were participants from as far away as Native Inuits from about as far North you could go in Manitoba, Canada and people from Chile, South America.

When we arrived on Thursday evening they took us into Estes Park for dinner and a movie, Wings Over Water. The movie was sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and Audubon. I am trying to get the movie to come to the Little Theater here in Rochester. Watch for announcements on the Facebook page or in the next Meadowlark.

The rest of the time I had four classes a day and a field trip at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies. So I walked up and down hills several times a day. Saturday, I went on a walk around Bear Lake that a friend tried to talk me out of because it would be icy. I said "I'm from Rochester, I walk on ice during the winter regularly, I can do this." I only fell once, my badge of courage. The best birds I saw were a Raven and a Dipper.

Audubon's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Conservation Principles: Accountability

Audubon commits to working proactively with impacted communities to prevent or mitigate disproportionate harm resulting from policies, practices or programs associated with Audubon. We are also committed to intentionally seeking to prioritize historically and underrepresented groups in the positive impacts of our work.

Hemispheric Scope

The challenges facing birds and humans transcend the boundaries of any one community, political party, or country. As the issues we seek to address are hemispheric in nature and impact, we commit to seeking solutions that are both inclusive of the entire Western hemisphere and designed with, led by, and implemented in local communities.

Respect

Audubon will respectfully elevate and champion the concerns, needs, leadership, expertise of those organizations and individuals with whom we aim to ally ourselves. There are many more terms that Audubon uses to define their Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Conservation Principles including Reflection and

GVAS GREEN INITIATIVE:

This is the last printed Meadowlark. The newsletter will continue to be available via the GVAS website at <http://gvaudubon.org>. If you require the newsletter in paper format, please send a note stating your name and address to P.O. Box 15512, Rochester, NY 14615, or email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting GVAS and our efforts to save volunteer time, donor money and resources.

Learning, and Shared Purpose and Collaboration.

So Genesee Valley Audubon Society is asking you if you know of any cultural group, families, or people of different abilities that would like to learn about birds and bird watching. Let June Summers know, summers@frontiernet.net.

Flight Plan, Audubon Strategic Plan 2023-2028

This plan is a measurable Guiding Star to unify Audubon in a common direction. Audubon is responding to the greatest challenges facing birds, including those that threaten people and the planet, too. The Audubon Mission is to protect birds and the places

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Programs

January Program.

Homegrown National Park by Doug Tallamy Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, 7:30 pm, by Zoom

Doug Tallamy, an entomologist at the University of Delaware who started a campaign for people to use native plants in their yards to bring back native insects, has gone one step further. He shows how important it is and explains the tools on the website that one of his partners has put up for him. With these tools more of us can change our yards over to native plants. Register with June Summers, summers@frontiernet.net by Jan. 21.

February Program

Pollinator Gardening

Tuesday, Feb. 27 2024, 7:30 pm, by Zoom

I have not arranged a speaker yet but I am sure that I can find someone to speak on how to put in a pollinator garden. Pollinators are important to flowers of all kinds including the crops that we eat. Watch the GVAS Facebook page for more details. Register with June Summers, summers@frontiernet.net by Feb. 25.

Farewell to Quest

By Rochester Falcon Watcher Carol P.

On August 22, 2023, I received a text from our friend Mark Nash from the Canadian Peregrine Foundation. Quest had been found on the ground with very severe injuries by a couple of concerned folks. They remained with her until Mark arrived. He saw immediately that she was in trouble. The X-rays they took of Quest confirmed his worse fears, she wasn't going to survive. Mark shared pictures of Quest's injuries with us and explained that a decision was made to humanely euthanize her.

Quest began her life in a nest box on top of the Kodak Tower under the watchful eyes of her parents, Mariah and Kaver. She was one of five young that hatched in 2008. On May 30, 2008, Quest and her siblings were banded and given their chosen names. That was the 11th year that the Kodak Falcons had been banded. Her NYS band was Black 96 over Green V. Blue tape was placed over her silver USFW band.

Because Quest was the largest on banding day, the DEC chose her to receive a transmitter. On June 5, 2008, she received her transmitter. Because they did not have the proper glue to seal the harness that was

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they need, today and tomorrow. Our Guiding Star: A future where birds thrive across the Americas is a powerful diverse, and ever-growing force for conservation. The Purpose for this plan: When we create conditions for birds to thrive, we create conditions for people and the planet to thrive, too.

A study a few years ago by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and other partners showed that 3 billion birds are gone since 1970. Our goal is halting and ultimately reversing the precipitous decline of birds across the Americas. Bend the bird curve up is our motto.

Audubon is elevating three strategic drivers that impact our strategy throughout all aspects of this plan.

Driver 1. A hemispheric approach to bird conservation directs our work to the places where birds need us the most.

Driver 2. Climate Change poses fundamental challenges to traditional conservation approach. The impacts of climate change directly threaten two-thirds of birds and exacerbate other key threats.

Driver 3. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) is fundamental to our organizational culture and how we partner. This will result in saving habitat for birds and humans, too.

placed on her to hold her transmitter, they used Mexican Red ladies nail polish.

Quest successfully fledged on June 21, 2008. Her Watchers were thrilled to see her take her first flight. She and her siblings flew in the Genesee River Gorge, near the High Falls, learning to chase prey and each other. Oh, and mom and dad too! So much fun! Those were the days!

She was last seen in Rochester, NY mid-August. Her transmitter readings were started on August 18, 2008. On August 22nd, we started receiving witness reports from Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Cape Cod. The folks there were thrilled to have her during that winter and shared many pictures and stories from her adventures. Quest's travels were followed by her many fans all over the world!

Some of the Rochester Falcon Watchers followed her when her transmitter readings placed her in Canada, on the northeastern side of Lake Ontario. We actually found her and her mate flying around a power plant. Yes, you heard right. She had a mate!

In 2011, she was spotted with her mate, Kendal, on a building in Toronto across from Harlequin

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Field Trips

Field Trip Birding by car: Short-Eared Owl Nations Road in Avon, Saturday, January 27, 3:00pm until dark. Everyone is welcome. Participants will caravan looking for target species of Short-eared owls, Northern Harriers and other birds of interest encountered along the route from the warmth of our vehicles, with short stops along roadsides. Be sure to dress for the weather. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. We will meet in the Tops parking lot at 270 E Main Street in Avon (Rte 5&20). Park in the lot near the road. For questions or concerns contact June Summers at 585-355-1824. Register no later than Wednesday, January 24. <https://tinyurl.com/yjfmvby>



the group walk if trail conditions are not safe. On the hike you may have the possibility of coaxing chickadees, tufted titmice and nuthatches to drop onto your hand for a food offering of black oiled sunflowers and peanuts. Sunflower seeds and peanuts will be available at the event. Register no later than Thursday, February 8. <https://tinyurl.com/mrymx5s2>



Nature Walk Birdsong Trail at Mendon Ponds Park, Wednesday, December 13, 10:00am - 12:00pm. Everyone is welcome to participate. We will meet at the Nature Center/Wild Wings parking lot at 27 Pond Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. This is the southernmost of the three park entrances off Clover. Dress for the weather (we suggest boots since the ground can be cold even if there is no snow). The trail is compacted earth, but there may be slick spots due to wet leaves or ice. Trip leaders may use their discretion and shorten the group walk if trail conditions are not safe. On the hike you may have the possibility of coaxing chickadees, tufted titmice and nuthatches to drop onto your hand for a food offering of black oiled sunflowers and peanuts. Sunflower seeds and peanuts will be available at the event. Register no later than Sunday, December 10. <https://tinyurl.com/yme9tezd>

Nature Walk Birdsong Trail at Mendon Ponds Park, Saturday, February 10, 10:00am - 12:00pm. Everyone is welcome to participate. We will meet at the Nature Center/Wild Wings parking lot at 27 Pond Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. This is the southernmost of the three park entrances off Clover. Dress for the weather (we suggest boots since the ground can be cold even if there is no snow). The trail is compacted earth, but there may be slick spots due to wet leaves or ice. Trip leaders may use their discretion and shorten

Winter Bird Walk at Durand Eastman Park along Log Cabin Road, Wednesday, March 13, 10:00am - 12:00pm. Genesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) invites you to join us to take a walk in nature on hopefully a pretty winter day. We will be walking on a paved road which is maintained throughout the winter. We will be listening and watching for our resident birds that overwinter in our area: woodpeckers, bluejays, cardinals, etc. Binoculars may enhance your enjoyment. Dress for the weather and possible slippery conditions. We will meet on Lakeshore Blvd Lot# D directly across from Log Cabin Road. Access to the parking lots along Log Cabin road are not available during the winter months. Pre-registration is required no later than Sunday, March 10. <https://tinyurl.com/3dpchwdv>

Nature Walk at Ontario Beach Park and Seabreeze, Wednesday, April 10, 10:00am, 50 Beach Avenue. All are welcome to join Genesee Valley Audubon Society in search of overwintering ducks and other waterfowl. We will begin our day at the Genesee River harbor. We will meet in the parking area north of the Port Authority building just south of the Charlotte Pier. Next we will caravan down to the Irondequoit Outlet bridge at Seabreeze and pop over the bridge to the new Sandbar Park in Webster to see what birds we may find there. It's important that you dress for the weather, and wear proper footwear for probable icy conditions. Binoculars may enhance your enjoyment. Register no later than Sunday, April 7. <https://tinyurl.com/mzbmz49z>

Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Meadowlark

P.O. Box 15512, Rochester, NY 14615-0512

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

This is the last printed issue of the Meadowlark. For details, see the front page.

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 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.

Meadowlark staff: *Editor & Layout*, Joanne Mitchell; *Business Editor*, vacant; *Printing*, Minuteman Press; *Distribution*, vacant.

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headquarters on Don Mills Rd. She was given a nest box and the rest is legend.

On December 21, 2014, Bruce Massey, a member of the Canadian Peregrine Foundation, confirmed with us that Quest had finally lost her transmitter.

From 2011 thru 2023, she raised 42 young. She was one short of her mom Mariah's 43. Quest and many of her siblings went on to raise young and helped to increase the population of Peregrine Falcons in the United States and Canada.

We call it the Mariah and Kaver Legacy. Of course, this included Mariah's first mate, Cabot-Sirocco.