

Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Spring 2024

Vol. 51, No. 3

President's Column

By June Summers

After the Leadership Conference in Colorado the first week of November, I found out that I received an award from the National Audubon Society, the William Dutcher Award. The William Dutcher Award was established to recognize outstanding Audubon volunteers who exemplify the standard of service to Audubon established by William Dutcher. As beneficiaries of Dutcher's legacy, Audubon members can be proud to emulate him.

William Dutcher was the first chairman of the National Association of Audubon Societies in 1905. A tireless birder, researcher, and scholar, he was one of the first to promote the idea of bird sanctuaries, conservation education and bird photography. He was instrumental in convincing President Theodore Roosevelt to set aside Pelican Island, the first federal wildlife refuge, and fought for early wildlife laws. Recognizing the need for effective local organizations, Dutcher helped create the first Audubon chapters and

oversaw Audubon's growth from a loose-knit federation to a powerful society.

This award is not just for me; it was for every member of GVAS who has helped to work on Braddock Bay and Cranberry Pond. We lobbied for funding for the restoration projections at Braddock Bay, and we worked with Audubon Great Lakes when they were looking for an area to restore.

Cranberry Pond became our choice for the restoration project. The problem with these wetlands is that they have been taken over by a non-native fast-growing cattail that leaves little room for birds and fish to nest in. This project is the first of many projects to be constructed to enhance habitat for birds. GVAS organized a group of people to monitor the marsh birds for three years. GVAS has been doing the fall Coastal CleanUp for over 15 years. We have also been pulling invasive water chestnuts for over ten years. GVAS still has lots to do at the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area.



Left to right, Laura McCarthy, Chapter Coordinator with Audubon New York; June Summers; Mike Burger, Executive Director of Audubon New York

Save the dates!

Water chestnut pull
July 20

Coastal CleanUp at Braddock Bay
September 21

March Program

March 26, 2024, 7:30pm by Zoom

Lights Out! Why Birds Need Them!

Birds navigate by many methods: the stars, gravitational pull, and landmarks, to name a few.

Passerines (small perching birds) migrate at night and need the darkness to make their way. If they run into bright lights they become confused and lose their way. There are things we can do to help.

We borrowed this video from Menunkatuck Audubon Society because they have experts that can tell us what to do help birds migrate safely.

You need to register; email June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net by March 23. If I don't reply within several days please call (585) 355-1824.

World Economic Forum Feb. 7, 2024

Climate and Nature

It will Take Hope, Inspiration and Action to Save the Earth:

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE

Founder, UN Messenger of Peace

The Jane Goodall Institute

- We depend on the natural world for our wellbeing but we are destroying it.
- We need a new mindset but to change behaviours, we need to be more persuasive. Storytelling is one way to speak to the heart.

Board of Directors

Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

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The Meadowlark is published online the first week of March, June, September, and December. If you are interested in receiving a reminder when the new Meadowlark is released, send an email to

gvaudubon@gmail.com.

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

- Our youth are the key to our survival – we must instill hope and empower them to find a collaborative approach to protect nature, animals and communities.

I travel around the world 300 days a year, and everywhere, I meet young people who have lost hope. And we know that suicide rates are going up. If all our young people lose hope, then we are doomed. Because if you lose hope, you become apathetic. You give up and you do nothing. The future depends on all of us getting together now and doing something to try and heal the harm we have inflicted on this planet. How long can the earth survive if we continue as we are now?

I've spent many years in the rainforest, understanding the interconnection of all living thing. I learned about chimpanzee behaviour and about this amazing ecosystem of the forest, where every plant and animal has a role to play. I see it as like a beautiful tapestry of interconnected life forms. As humans move in with their cattle, development and deforestation, a strand of the tapestry is gradually pulled away, one after the other, as a particular animal or plant disappears from the ecosystem. And if enough threads are pulled, the tapestry will hang in tatters and the ecosystem will collapse.

We must realize that we humans are not separate from the natural world. So many people live in cities and are unaware that we depend on the natural world for everything: food, water, and clothing. We rely on healthy ecosystems. But as we continue our selfish development of this materialistic lifestyle, we destroy these ecosystems. We need a new mindset.

I spend a lot of time talking to different people around the world – to children, CEOs, government officials and anybody who will listen. I have realized that if you want to change somebody, there's no use arguing with them. It's no good pointing fingers and saying, "What you're doing is bad for future generations." They're not going to listen. They don't want to listen.

So, how do you change people? You have to change people by reaching their hearts. I think that when people change, it's got to be their decision to change from within. So, when I'm talking to these decision-makers who have such sway over us, I try to find a way to reach the heart. The way that I see the most effective is to tell stories.

Meadowlark Nature Walks Spring 2024

As part of our mission Genesee Valley Audubon Society wants to encourage all to get out and appreciate nature. To support that mission, we offer several local bird walks throughout the year. Our hope is that you will see something that piques your interest enough that you will want to come out and experience one or more of our offerings, and bring along your family and friends. Everyone is welcome.

Please note: if registration ink is not working, copy and paste the URL into your browser

Duck, Duck, Goose, Swan: Ontario Beach Park and Seabreeze

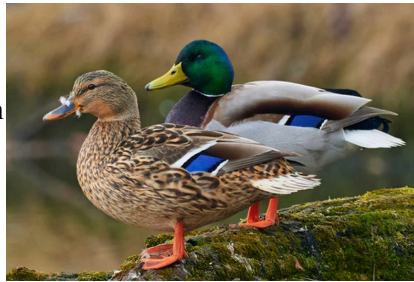
50 Beach Avenue

Wednesday, April 10, 10:00am

Register no later than Sunday, April 7 at

<https://tinyurl.com/mzbmz49z>

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. It's important that you dress for the



weather and wear proper footwear for possible icy conditions. Crampons added to the bottom of your boots are highly recommended, if icy conditions exist. Binoculars may enhance your enjoyment. Any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Loretta at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com Find a map and more details below **Charlotte** <http://tinyurl.com/u89kt4cw>

SeaBreeze: <http://tinyurl.com/34xssnhz>

Brickyard Trail at Sandra Frankel Nature Park, Spring Evening Walk

Tuesday, May 7, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Registration is required. Register at

<http://tinyurl.com/5y4tsmzt>

Register no later than Sunday, May 5

This is a joint nature walk with Burroughs 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? The trail surface is finely crushed stone and plenty wide enough to accommodate any wheelchair or stroller. We have to cross the road to get to the path, which is relatively flat. Public facilities are available inside the library during hours of operation. Any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net.

Mount Hope Cemetery

Sunday, May 19, 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 Victorian cemetery, founded in 1838.

The large mature trees and bushes are very attractive to migrating birds. Bring your binoculars. We will walk about one mile. The route will be partly on pavement and partly on uneven ground, and there is a hill. This route is not suitable for wheelchairs or strollers.



The North Gate is on Mt Hope Ave across from Robinson Dr. (This is NOT the gate that is across from the Distillery Restaurant.) meet inside the Gatehouse. Preregistration will be available at <https://fomh.org/tours-events/tours/> starting one month before the event. Preregistration is not required. There is a \$15 charge for this tour; the money goes toward restoration work at the cemetery. If you have questions, email Joanne Mitchell at jwmitchell@rochester.rr.com.

A Spring Bouquet of Birds: A Sit and Bird event PREMIER

**Lakeview Community Church, 30 Long Pond Road
Saturday, June 1, 8:00am-9:30am**

Register no later than Thursday, May 30, Register at <http://tinyurl.com/3yvnaa7r>

Come join us in a new birding opportunity from GVAS for all abilities as we host our inaugural Sit and Bird event. Some call it Slow Birding, Some Call it Mindful

Birding. Most just call it bird watching. We are inviting you to bring a chair, your binoculars, the non alcoholic beverage of your choice, and spend a quiet morning just sitting in nature enjoying the birds. The southern shore of Lake Ontario is along the Atlantic flyway. The geography of central and western

New York concentrates large numbers of birds as they travel up to their summer breeding grounds. On a beautiful day in June we have the opportunity of seeing many different species of birds all in their brightest breeding

plumage. It is a feast for the eyes and heart even if you don't know a robin from an eagle. GVAS volunteers will be on hand to help with the names of the birds if you care to learn. Prompts will be suggested to allow you to just view, breath in, and hear nature. There will be time to share and time to just sit and soak it all in. We hope this is an event that you will enjoy and invite friends and family to at future events. We will be setting up along a parking area. Sunscreen, a hat, and water bottle are highly recommended. Sorry, but there are no public facilities available at this site. Any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Loretta at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com (Co-leader: June)



**Nature Walk at Tinker Nature Park,
1525 Calkins Road**

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:00am

Registration is required. Register at

<http://tinyurl.com/mrycztb7>

Register no later than Thursday, June 6

Come join GVAS Saturday, June 1st at 9:00am for an early summer morning walk along the trail at Tinker Nature Park, an accessible area that features a crushed stone and grass trail that circles the perimeter of the park and is 1.2 miles long. Be aware that there are gentle slopes. We will park in the paved 1525 Calkins Road lot where there are accessible



designated spaces and a bathroom available. We will discover what wildlife waits for us around a pond, wetland, open field, and woodland. We should see many spring migrants and birds that come visit for short period every summer to brood and raise their families. Any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Loretta at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com For more information about this trail we invite everyone to check out the details on Birdability.org, <http://tinyurl.com/4uuse77n> (Co-leader: Lisa)

Celebrate the spring raptor migration!

April 26-28

Braddock Bay Park

For schedule of events:

<https://www.bbrr.org/bird-of-prey-days/>

