



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Geneesee Valley Audubon Society

Fall 2026

Vol. 54, No. 1

From the President *June Summers*

Audubon's International Focus: How Audubon links together conservation work across the Americas

Audubon works in 11 countries and 500 communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, working on 120 projects focusing on 1,842 bird species. This international work provides the foundation for achieving real and enduring conservation results at the scale necessary for birds to survive into the future. By focusing on the conservation of shared species on their key wintering and migration areas in Latin America and the Caribbean and on their breeding areas in the United States and Canada, our network can achieve the conservation of these species over their entire life cycle.

To achieve enduring concrete results, Audubon's work is based on:

1. Building strong and effective partnerships with local conservation organizations and supporting them in taking concrete on-the-ground conservation actions based on our shared goals around local contexts and specific conservation threats. Helping strengthen their technical, operational, and strategic capacity to carry out effective conservation actions in their countries over the coming decades.
2. Bringing to these partnerships expertise in institutional strengthening, bird-based science, sustainable economic activities, community engagement, education, advocacy and high-level policy development to help achieve conservation success in the region.

Geneesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) and the other Audubon chapters in New York and Connecticut have been asked to partner with communities or

research projects to gain more information about birds for their conservation. GVAS has decided to accept the challenge of partnering with a Latin American project or community to help them reach their conservation goals. To do that we will need your support. In the future we will be asking for your contributions to help us fund this project. As soon as we have more information about which project we are assigned, we will let you know.

While searching for information on Audubon's work in Latin America and the Caribbean, I ran across this press release from Feb. 2025 about an Audubon study on the hemispheric-scale of risk to bird populations from global climate change and habitat loss. They used data that had already been collected by band re-encounters, satellite tags, GPS tags, and more. This shows how data from one tracking study can be used for other studies as well. I read this article and asked what is meant by "combine connectivity patterns across many species (exposure)," "projected climate and land-cover changes (hazard)," and "conservation status (vulnerability)." So I went to the research paper to find out.



NEW YORK — Today, scientists with the National Audubon Society published research in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* that will help inform global efforts to protect migratory birds. In the study, [*Multispecies migratory connectivity indicates hemispheric-scale risk to bird populations from global change*](#), researchers propose a new way to measure risk and identify where conservation efforts are most needed for species that travel between specific breeding and non-breeding regions across North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

"There is still so much to understand about how migratory birds will fare under global change across the Americas," said Dr. Sarah Saunders, Audubon's senior manager of quantitative science and lead

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Programs

September Program

Audubon's Focus on Conservation in the Western Hemisphere via Zoom

September 22, 2026, 7:30 pm, by Zoom,

This spring National Audubon Society released four short videos about their work throughout the Western Hemisphere, from Canada to South America. In these videos you will meet some of Audubon's top scientists leading their conservation efforts to save habitat for birds and people too by choosing significant breeding, migratory stopovers, and wintering habitat to conserve for birds to use. Join us to learn about their process and how you can get involved. We will watch three out of four of the videos for the program and discuss them. I will put the link for the first video on the GVAS Facebook page and we will talk about it too.

Register by Sunday, September 20 <https://mobilize.us/s/SXO5yG>

The Extraordinary Caterpillar Movie explores how caterpillars and moths, as they become prey in the food web, are a true pillar of the web. They are especially important for birds: 95% of songbird species hatchlings are fed insects exclusively until they fledge. Juicy caterpillars are particularly good protein for hatchlings. There are so many more moth species than butterflies. They are everywhere, or would be if we would stop killing them. If we stop using pesticides and leaving bright lights on all night, more moths would survive the night. Bright lights in white or bluish hues attract moths to their death. They can't leave. Try putting your lights on a timers, use motion-sensor lights, or just put in a yellow light bulb to save the lives of moths and leave more for birds to eat. Take the pledge to help caterpillars, moths, and birds.

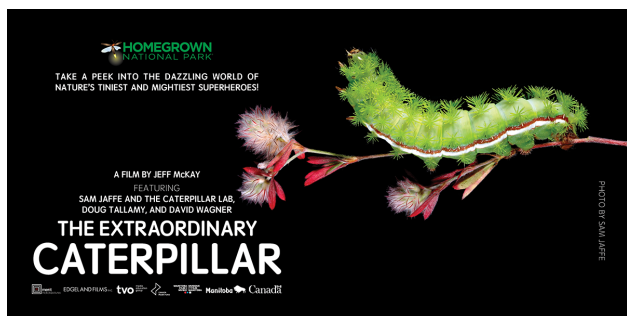
Register by using the Mobilize link below by Sunday, October 25 at <https://mobilize.us/s/5xQEss>

October Program

The Extraordinary Caterpillar

October 27, 2026, 7:30 pm, by Zoom

If you didn't get to see this film this summer you get a second chance. "**The Extraordinary Caterpillar** follows scientists and community activists with a peek into the dazzling world of nature's tiniest superheroes." The film by Jeff McKay features Dr. Doug Tallamy, founder of the Homegrown National Park, Sam Jaffee, and Dana Buchbinder. It shines a spotlight on the vital—but often overlooked—role caterpillars play in biodiversity by acting as a tremendous engine of life.



Pledge to Protect Caterpillars and Moths

I, _____
pledge to help moths and caterpillars by turning off outdoor lights, use timers, or change to yellow light bulbs, and refrain from using pesticides particularly in spring, summer, and fall. These two simple things will save millions of moths in the Rochester area.

Signature _____

More I can do and reasons why:

- Billions of moths die each year fluttering around outdoor lights. They are attracted to the bright light and can't leave to feed or mate and lay eggs.
- By turning off the lights from dusk till dawn or using yellow lights, we will release moths and other insects from these light traps.
- Plant native plants to feed native moths and insects, which then become food for native birds.

Field Trips

Sunday, September 20, Sit and Bird, Seneca Park off 2222 St Paul Blvd, 9:00am-10:30am. Register by Friday, September 18 at <https://mobilize.us/s/2BmnFj>

GVAS invites you to bring a chair, blanket, or cushion and sit quietly and let nature come to you. Sit and Bird is a relaxing, meditative way to connect with nature, and where better than while also enjoying a beautiful Frederick Olmsted-designed park. The event leader will offer prompts to help you explore with your senses, or you can stroll around the trout pond and take it all in. Supplies will be offered if you would like to journal or sketch. Binoculars may enhance your experience, but are not necessary. This is a great opportunity for all abilities.

Parking and Meet Up: From St. Paul Blvd you will turn into the Seneca Park Zoo entrance. Drive past the zoo and down the hill to the trout pond. There are unmarked gravel parking spots on the west side of the pond. At this point the road is one way, continue down and around the east side of the trout pond past the Wegman Lodge to unmarked gravel parking spots along the west side.

Amenities and Trail Conditions: From the parking area to the trout pond trail it is necessary to navigate a thin strip of lawn before reaching the paved pond trail. We will set up our chairs off the trail in a comfortable spot where there is a chance of viewing some wildlife. There are a couple of benches along the trail that may be available as well. Some binoculars and adaptive optic options will be available for your use during this event. For more details regarding accessibility see our Birdability.org trail assessment at <http://tinyurl.com/bdfjnbmr> If you have any questions about accessibility, please reach out to our Inclusion Point of Contact at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com



Rita Marie trying out adaptive equipment

Saturday October 17, Nature Outing, Thomas Creek Wetland, Fairport, Box Factory Parking Lot at 2 Liftbridge Lane Box, 9:00 -10:30amc. Register by Thursday, October 15 at <https://mobilize.us/s/819oeK>

Come explore a pocket of nature within a busy village setting. This outing is perfect for anyone new to birding or someone who needs an easy, slower-paced experience. No binoculars? No problem. We have options for you to borrow adaptive equipment for the duration of this field trip. All our outings are rain or shine unless reports of dangerous conditions.

Parking and Meet Up: This is a busy municipal parking lot located behind the Box Factory at 2 Liftbridge Lane. We will park as close to the canal as possible. We will notify participants in advance of what vehicle to be on the lookout for, and signage will be in place. Accessible parking with van access is available.

Restrooms are available inside the Box Factory during business hours or on the west side of Main Street near the lift bridge.

Amenities and Trail Conditions: Our outing will begin on the canal footpath. Our route is out and back. Trail length is less than two miles. Thomas Creek Trail is a combination of tarmac, fine crushed stone, and boardwalk. While the boardwalk is relatively flat, the railing will more than likely hinder views for wheelchair users. The width of the boardwalk is 50". The pace will be stop and go as we look and listen for birds and other wildlife. If you have any questions about accessibility, please reach out to our Inclusion Point of Contact at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com or Linda Howell h31884@rochester.rr.com



On the Thomas Creek Wetland boardwalk last June

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Field Trips, continued from page 3

Nature Outing with Chickadees and Friends along the Birdsong Trail at Mendon Ponds Park (27 Pond Rd, Honeoye Falls 14472), Saturday, November 7 at 10:00 am. Register by Wednesday, November 4 at <https://mobilize.us/s/8uspeb>

All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure. Get back to nature by taking a walk in the woods, of no more than 2 hours in Mendon Ponds Park. Walk a trail and feed the chickadees, tufted titmice & nuthatches while enjoying nature. Fun for the whole family!! Binoculars may enhance your enjoyment; please bring your own, if you have them. Dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.). Seed will be provided.

Parking and Meet Up: meet at the Nature Center Parking lot on Pond Rd off of Clover St (the southernmost of the 3 park entrances off Clover).

Amenities and trail conditions: Trail surface is all natural but well groomed. For trail details, check out the Birdsong trail assessment on Birdability here <http://tinyurl.com/yrpudn4u>

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Joni Dubner at bajacool416@gmail.com

For regarding accessibility feel free to reach out to our Inclusion Point of Contact at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com



Chickadee



Tufted titmouse

Braddock Bay Beach Cleanup Volunteers Needed

Saturday, September 19 at 9:00am Register at <https://mobilize.us/s/yeacPI>

Join GVAS at Braddock Bay for the annual International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 19 at 9:00am at Westpoint Marina, 105 E. Manitou Rd. in Greece. We will meet in the public parking loop at the beginning of the Marina. GVAS has picked up over a ton of trash at Braddock Bay over the years and we need your help this year to keep the bay clean. Trash entangles wildlife and plastic bags cover the bottom of the bay, preventing plants from growing. We have now learned that plastic trash that enters the lake can be ground down into small plastic pieces called microplastics.



Trash at the 2025 Cleanup

Microplastics get into the food chain from the bottom then into the fish and into people who eat them. Help us stop this process. Thank you to the event sponsor, the Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation. GVAS will have gloves and trash bags available. Register by Thursday, September 17. Please contact June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net or call (585)335-1824 for questions or concerns.



author of the study. “Migratory birds rely on a network of habitats across continents, and our findings highlight where conservation efforts are most needed to ensure their persistence.”

The study integrates movement data from more than 329,000 birds of 112 species, generously shared with Audubon by dozens of data contributors, to identify the areas where migratory birds face the greatest threats from climate change and habitat loss. Researchers introduce a **new metric, multispecies migratory connectivity, to quantify exposure to global change**. Despite a growing understanding of migratory connectivity – the linking of bird populations across different regions and seasons – for individual species, the study developed a new metric to combine connectivity patterns across many species. By synthesizing this metric (**exposure**) with projected climate and land-cover changes (**hazard**) and conservation status (**vulnerability**), researchers identify the geographic connections at the highest risk throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The findings show that connections between some breeding regions in Canada and non-breeding regions in South America are particularly vulnerable, emphasizing the risks faced by long-distance migrants like Common Terns and Blackpoll Warblers. Alarming, over half of the geographic connections at very high risk involve breeding regions in the eastern United States.

The study also found that multispecies migratory connectivity was the greatest predictor of risk for bird population declines, *stressing the importance of international collaboration to ensure that birds are protected across their full annual cycle*.

“Bird migration is one of the most incredible and impressive phenomena in nature,” said Dr. Jill Deppe, senior director of Audubon’s Migratory Bird Initiative. “Migratory birds tell us they need our help, and this new science highlights the need for continued investment and international efforts to reduce the hazards migratory birds encounter across the entire hemisphere.”

Migratory birds are in particular need of conservation action. A 2019 study determined that there are nearly three billion fewer birds in North America than in the year 1970, with two-and-a-half billion of those birds

considered migratory. More information about migratory birds and their journeys can be found using the [Bird Migration Explorer](#) tool.

The survival of many of these migratory species remains uncertain if countries do not take action to reduce climate pollution and the impacts of human activities that threaten birds and their habitats. By learning more about the threats these birds are facing during their annual cycle, we can focus on the places and actions that will have the biggest impact for securing their future.

A public link for the study can be found at: <https://rdcu.be/eabgN>

In biological papers exposure is typically based on one species. In this paper the authors introduced a parameter, **exposure**, to measure exposure to global change for migratory animals; **multispecies migratory connectivity**, estimated as the average proportion of individuals moving between breeding and non-breeding regions throughout Canada, USA, South and Central America. **Hazard** is the projected climate and land-cover changes while species **vulnerability** is the Partners in Flight conservation assessment score representing six biological vulnerability factors per species to estimate and map the relative risk for 921 geographic connections, defined as breeding and non-breeding pairs of migratory connectivity regions. By assigning the metrics of **exposure**, **hazard**, and **vulnerability** numeric values, the researchers identify the geographic connections at the highest risk throughout the Western Hemisphere.

As stated above over half of the geographic connections at very high risk involve breeding regions in the eastern United States. This is due to the high human population density, excess amount of light at night, bird collisions with glass, and loss of habitat.

For a better understanding of multispecies migratory connectivity, visit the study at <https://rdcu.be/eabgN>. The graphics on page 495 do a great job of explaining it.

Falcon update

This summer on rfalconcam.com Nova and Corazon raised three eyases, two males and a female. The males were named Tavorite and Casey and the female Kodak. Kodak was named by a 3rd grade class at Richard Mann Elementary Schools in Gananda, NY. Around mid-June the eyases started to learn to fly. The two males had no problems but Kodak's first flight was a little difficult. Kodak was missing for four days after her first flight. Suddenly she was seen walking on the sidewalk in front of the Canandaigua Bank on Main St. Then we received a report that she was seen sitting in front of 12 Aqueduct St. Our Falcon Watch volunteers went into action and captured her. We handed her over to the NYS-DEC, who took her to a wildlife veterinary clinic. From there she was moved to a raptor rehabilitator where she spent a few weeks working on her flying skills. She was then moved to a falconer to learn to hunt. At the publishing of this article, she was still there. Her brothers have spent the summer flying around downtown Rochester with Nova and Corazon, learning to hunt and be falcons.



Kodak in front of 12 Aqueduct Street.



Kodak in a pet carrier right after capture.

Board of Directors

Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

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

Committee Chairpersons: *Field Trips*, vacant; *Fundraising*, vacant; *Publications*, Joanne Mitchell; *Programs*, vacant; *Publicity*, vacant; *Conservation*, June Summers; *Membership*, Loretta Morrell; *Education*, vacant; *Hospitality*, vacant; *Directors-at-Large*, Nancy Strong, Linda Howell, Catherine Rainwater, and Caroline Murphy; *Webmaster*, vacant;

Community Comes Together to Fight Invasive Water Chestnut

This summer, the Town of Greece, NY, joined forces with regional conservation organizations, state agencies, businesses, and community volunteers to combat the spread of invasive water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) in Braddock Bay, Cranberry Pond, Buck Pond, Long Pond, and Salmon Creek. Throughout the summer, volunteers participated in a series of hand-pulling events organized by the Town of Greece and its partners. Working from kayaks, canoes, and the shoreline, volunteers physically removed the invasive plants before they could produce additional seeds and spread farther. The effort is especially important at Salmon Creek, where the Town reported that water chestnut covered approximately 85% of the surface in one high-priority area—about 40 acres. The dense mats can reduce oxygen levels, harm fish and native aquatic plants, and interfere with boating and other recreational uses. At the end of a series of scheduled pulls, a total of over 14,000 lbs. of invasive water chestnuts was removed. See chart below for the

amount of water chestnuts removed by date and location.

The 2026 water chestnut effort was a true community partnership involving the **Town of Greece, Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Genesee Land Trust, Seneca Park Zoo, and community volunteers**, with the Town of Greece Department of Public Works assisting with collection and disposal of the removed plants. The partners recognize that controlling water chestnut requires continued cooperation and repeated removal as these plants can spread rapidly. To learn more about this summer's effort, [watch the News10NBC interview with Mat Morris, Town of Greece coordinator of the water chestnut project](#), who discusses the importance of the project and the challenges posed by this invasive species.

Total Invasive Water Chestnut removed Summer 2026

Salmon Creek	Long Pond	Braddock Bay	Buck Pond	Braddock Bay	Braddock Bay	Salmon Creek	Total Impact
6/24/26	6/27/26	7/1/26	7/8/26	7/22/26	7/25/26	8/1/26	
2,071 lbs.	1,141 lbs.	474 lbs.	1,234 lbs.	1,685 lbs.	1,391 lbs.	2,111 lbs.	14,923 lbs.



Water chestnut



Josh Jensen, Assemblyman District 134, participating in water chestnut removal