

The Meadowlark



The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Vol. XXX, No. 2
November/December 2002

From the President

June Summers

The Board of Genesee Valley Audubon Society met on May 21, 2002 to make plans for the future of our Society. Please let us know if you can help us accomplish any of the following goals.

Our Mission:

The mission of Genesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) is to promote conservation of the environment through education and to advocate for its protection, focusing on birds and other wildlife in Western New York.

Goals for 2002/2003 Short Range

- Increase *active* membership by 10% (5-7 members) - suggestions given include letters & brochures of ways member can become involved with the various projects
- Promote EcoTourism through the development of a birding trail
- Get Audubon Adventures classrooms more involved with Great Backyard Bird Count (get corporate sponsorship to provide bird-feeder & food for a school classrooms)
- Continue to expand programs & opportunities – (Terrific job George!)
- Get some more Fund Raising ideas like “Flamingos for hire”
- Have a table at the Public Market during Garden Sundays - to sell posters, nest boxes, etc maybe get some shade grown coffee – would like donations & we would supply people to be at the table
- Have a table at the Avon Flea market
- Increase Audubon Adventures Classrooms – (last year we had 63 that GVAS sponsored and 9 that others sponsored)
- NY Wild
- Fundraising - 2002/2003 to increase to \$2000 (2001/2002 raised \$1350)

- Increase the number of activities or the % of Activities
- Birdathon – continue this fundraiser
- Sell birdseed in the fall - letter

Goals - Long Range

- A Nature Center we can call Home - Nature Center at High Falls or Braddock Bay - will need to raise funds
- Long Range Goal - Executive Director

Donation of Peregrine Falcon Nest Box

By Loretta Morrell

Our guest speaker on October 23rd was Marcel Gahbauer from the Canadian Peregrine Foundation. Prior to the beginning of the meeting Genesee Valley Audubon Society and the local participants of the 2002 Kodak Discussion Board presented Marcel with a nest box.

Sadly, Toronto lost a pair of breeding peregrine falcons this past summer. These falcons were the paternal grandparents of the Rochester broods from 1998-2001. In the eight years that Ponce-Kingsley and Victoria graced the skies of Toronto they brooded 29 offspring. Anyone who spends any time watching these magnificent birds knows that the falcon watchers of Toronto feel this loss deeply.

This donation is one of hope that future generations of peregrine falcons will find security in its walls, and join other peregrine falcons as they are restored to all the places they once graced, as well as the cities they are finding to be new homes. Diane and Donald Hedges graciously donated this nest box. It was constructed by Donald. Diane is a participant of the Kodak Birdcam Discussion Board out of Pennsylvania.

NOVEMBER MEETING

7:30 pm Wed., Nov. 20, 2002
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room
2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton

ALASKAN WILDERNESS

Professor Martin C. Dodge, professor of conservation at Finger Lakes Community College, has been an avid enthusiast of our 49th state ever since he served three years in the United States Coast Guard surrounded by the majesty of the Alaskan wilderness. He has returned to our northern-most state many times since then, including a six-week visit this past summer. His slide presentation will focus on the natural history of the Alaskan wilderness in the context of the global human community.

Professor Dodge has taught for the Conservation Department of Finger Lakes Community College for 30 years. He holds degrees in chemistry and forestry from Colby College and Utah State. His course offerings include ecology, environmental chemistry, woodlot management, nature interpretation, and wilderness camping and survival. He has conducted more than 30 ecological field study courses of two or more weeks duration to the Florida Everglades, Costa Rica, and Alaska. His passion for wilderness and particularly Alaska will be more than evident during this exciting and meaningful presentation.

DECEMBER MEETING

No meeting in December.

Happy Holidays.

JANUARY MEETING

6:30 pm Wed., Jan. 22, 2003
Carmen Clark Lodge, Brighton Town Park
777 Westfall Road, Brighton

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS NIGHT

Please bring a dish to pass and slides, pictures, a carving, or a special item to share. Everyone is welcome. If your last name begins with A through L, please bring a main dish. If your last name begins with M through Z, please bring a vegetable, beverage, or dessert.

Announcing 2003 First Sunday Hikes

Come join other outdoor (and bird) enthusiasts as we explore two areas within the Rochester city limits.

Highland and Cobb's Hill are the parks that we have decided to explore for 2003. The hikes are slow-paced but moderately strenuous due to hills and will last about 2 hours. Wear boots and dress for the weather.

For the Highland hikes, we will meet at the Conservatory by the reservoir. For the Cobb's Hill hikes, we will meet in the parking lot near the intersection of Culver Road and Norris Drive.

For more information, call June Summers at (585) 865-6047 weekdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

1 st Sundays	Time	Park
January 5	3 p.m.	Highland
February 2	3 p.m.	Cobb's Hill
March 2	3 p.m.	Highland
April 6	7 a.m.	Cobb's Hill
May 4	7 a.m.	Highland
June 1	7 a.m.	Cobb's Hill
July 6	7 a.m.	Highland
August 3	7 a.m.	Cobb's Hill
September 7	7 a.m.	Highland
October 5	3 p.m.	Cobb's Hill
November 2	3 p.m.	Highland
December 7	3 p.m.	Cobb's Hill

Field Trips

Sunday, November 10, Durand Eastman Park. We join the Rochester Birding Association/Genesee Ornithological Society field trip to see waxwings, winter finches and lingering migrants. Meet at Zoo Rd. and Lake Shore Blvd. at 8:00 a.m. Jay Greenberg, 256-0485, is leading this hike with Diane Henderson.

Saturday, January 11, Mendon Ponds Park. Come feed the chickadees and the nuthatches on the Birdsong Trail, bring the kids. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Nature Center parking lot on Pond Rd. off of Clover St. Bring sunflower seed, wear boots and warm clothes. June Summers, 865-6047, will lead the hike. It will be approximately 2 hours long.

Opportunities for Volunteering

By Loretta Morrell

I can assume that you have at least a casual appreciation of our environment, if you are reading this newsletter. On behalf of our community and our outdoor habitat I am going to ask you to please ask yourself, "Can I do more? What can I do to help preserve the greenspaces I love so much not only for the birds, and animals who inhabit them, but also for the generations that will be coming in the future." Below I will list many ways that you can help us in our efforts. Hopefully you will find one or more that will fit your time constraints, your monetary means, and your abilities.

I have been involved with GVAS for only a little over a year, and I promise you that whatever you sow you will reap in good fellowship, and a true sense of giving back for the beautiful world that we have been given.

Are you a gardener? Do you have perennials that need dividing? Beautify your garden and donate to a great cause at the same time. We will be looking for plant donations for our first garden days at the public market fund-raiser next spring.

Are you a woodworker? We will also be looking for nest boxes and platform feeders, or garden art to sell at this same garden day. Look for further details in the February/March Meadowlark or contact Loretta Morrell at (585) 338-3683.

Can you help with an exhibit? We are always looking for volunteers to help us with the many exhibits we take to different events throughout the county to make people aware of birds and GVAS. The only skill you need to have is the ability to share your enthusiasm and be willing to talk up GVAS and its many opportunities. Two-hour shifts are suggested, but we are willing to work with your schedule. Call Loretta Morrell at 338-3683 if you think that you would be interested. Some events that we participated in for the year 2002 are two library talks, a Sunday at Rochester Museum and Science Center, Sierra Club Forum, Adirondack Mountain Club Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds Park, Hawkout at Braddock Bay Raptor Research, International Migratory Bird Day at Kaiser/Manitou Banding Station with Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Feathered Friends Super Saturday at the Seneca Park Zoo. We hope to continue with these venues plus add many more, but to grow we need you. Contact person Loretta Morrell (585) 338-3683.

Share your nature knowledge with others. Even if your area of expertise is wildflowers, butterflies, trees, or fungus. We are interested in hearing from you.

Perhaps you could assist with a first Sunday Hike or even lead one on your own, or how about taking your knowledge into a classroom or nursing home? At the very least share your passion with your children, grandchildren, or neighborhood. Make it a point to introduce someone to the wonderful outdoors this week!

We still need an accountant who is familiar with non-profit fundraising law and income filing. If you are someone who can help us, or you are aware of someone who can help us, please contact June Summers at (585) 865-6047.

Monitoring Bluebird boxes, Operation Fledgling Watch, helping with our **Butterfly Garden** in Black Creek Park, and **Birdathon** are all activities that will occur later in 2003. We will need volunteers for these. More details will follow in later Meadowlarks.

You'd love to help, but you have no time to spare?

Consider sponsoring a classroom with Audubon Adventures. This is a series of newsletters with curriculum to be used in the elementary classroom. Each year, GVAS provides free Audubon Adventure Programs to 2000 students in the Rochester area. Without your help, however, our supporting this program is in jeopardy. Give a sponsorship as a gift, or give it in honor of someone. Want to know more? Contact Jean Barlow at (585) 392-5432.

Planned Giving. If Genesee Valley Audubon Society or the activities we take part in has touched your life in any way, please consider leaving us a gift when you create or revise your will.

All donations are accepted. No amount is too great or too small.

I hope that this index of possibilities has sparked your interest. We would love to hear from you. We're ready to grow—please come grow with us.

Type E Avian Botulism

Talk on Type E Avian Botulism, a poison affecting fish and birds in the lower Great Lakes

Speaker: Helen Domske, from the Great Lakes Program at SUNY Buffalo and from Sea Grant Buffalo.

Meeting of Adirondack Mountain Club

Wednesday, November 13, 2002; business meeting

7:30 pm, speaker immediately after, about 8:00 pm

Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center

Free and open to the public

Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc., Board of Directors

Officers: *President*, June Summers; *Vice President*, vacant; *Secretary*, Joni VanDelinder; *Treasurer*, William Gruenbaum.

Committee Chairpersons: *Field Trips*, vacant; *Fundraising*, vacant; *Publications*, Joanne Mitchell; *Programs*, George Zakielarz; *Publicity*, Loretta Morrell; *Conservation*, June Summers; *Membership*, Doug Smith; *Education*, vacant; *Hospitality*, vacant; *Director-at-Large*, Carolyn Emerson; *Webmaster*, Sid Gear, *Staff Biologist*, Brett Ewald.

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 GJMitch@localnet.com.

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

Thank You! for Donations

We would like to thank **Bird House** (3016 Monroe Avenue, Pittsford), **The Garden Factory** (2126 Buffalo Road, Gates), and **Van Putte Gardens** (136 North Avenue, Greece) for their generous donations of birdfeeders and feed in anticipation of the 2003 Great Backyard Birdcount. These gifts will be used to get classrooms in the Rochester area involved in this worthwhile citizen science project. Show how much you appreciate these businesses for their generosity by frequenting them. Please let them know you are from GVAS and that you appreciate all that they do.

Visit us on the web!
www.ggw.org/~gvas/

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P.O. Box 886, Adams Basin, NY 14410-0886

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

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