

The Meadowlark



The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Vol. XXX, No. 5
May/June 2003

www.ggw.org/gvas

Birdathon Annual Fundraiser

GVAS is growing by leaps and bounds, but growth unfortunately also means expense. We need each member to help us meet our financial demands. Birdathon is the easiest and most enjoyable way to do so.

The requirements for Birdathon are simple. From now until Saturday, May 17th ask your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers if they would consider sponsoring you for Birdathon. You can obtain sponsorship and pledge forms by calling Loretta Morrell at 338-3683. On May 17th please consider joining us at Mt Morris Dam, or go birding on your own. You can bird while you walk the dog, take your lunch break, watch your bird feeders, or drive back and forth running errands. The only rule is that your birding has to take place within a twenty-four hour period. If the weather is inclement, or you aren't available on May 17th, choose another day that week that works for you. Birdathon is flexible, and it is meant to be fun. After you complete your Birdathon go back to the people written on your sponsor sheet, and collect your pledges. Make checks out to GVAS and mail to June Summers, 208 Rhea Crescent, Rochester NY 14615 before June 18th.

The funds raised for Birdathon are used in several different ways. Historically GVAS has used a majority of the funds raised to finance

a National Audubon Classroom Curriculum called Audubon Adventures. In 2003 we supported over fifty classrooms. We also send a portion of our earnings to NY Audubon to back their lobbying efforts for our environment, as well as other worthwhile projects they take part in on the behalf of all of New York and the nation. With your help we can also earn enough to cover many of the expenses this chapter also incurs bringing programs into classrooms and around the community, programs that are outlined monthly in this newsletter.

Please consider how much you believe in your environment, and the advocacy, education, and recreation you have come to expect from Genesee Valley Audubon and give. We can't do it without our members. If you are unable to participate, but you would still like to make a donation to this worthy cause, please mail in your check to the same address written above, and note Birdathon somewhere on your

Acknowledgement

Genesee Valley Audubon Society would like to express its heartfelt thanks to Alison Brown for lending her expertise to the editing of the Genesee Valley Audubon Nature Center Business Plan.

Birdathon Gathering at the Mt Morris Dam Visitor Center 2003

This year let's make it a party! Have you thought about volunteering for Genesee Valley Audubon, but you haven't had the time? Would you like to join GVAS bird watching out at the Mt Morris Dam and along the edge of Letchworth? Well, on Saturday, May 17th you have the one opportunity this year to bird and raise much needed funds at the same time. What's the catch? Each member of the team needs to have raised at least twenty dollars in pledges before May 17th. On May 17th we will be meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the Mount Morris Dam Nature Center. We will bird along the parking lot, gorge, and entrance road until 10:30 a.m. and break for refreshments. Those who wish to stay are welcome to do so; please plan on packing a lunch. Those who wish to join us late, please plan on meeting us inside the Visitor Center at 11:00 am. From 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. we will check out the birds along the roadside as we travel by car to River Road, a hot birding spot in Livingston County. We will stop our vehicles frequently to check out what birds we may see around us. At 3:00 p.m. we will meet back at the Visitor Center and review our checklist for the last time as we enjoy light refreshments.

First Sunday Hikes

Come join other outdoor (and bird) enthusiasts as we explore two Important Bird Areas (IBA's) within the Rochester City limits. An IBA is a site that is essential for sustaining naturally occurring populations of bird species as designated by National Audubon Society with a goal to protect and manage those sites. 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.

1st Sundays Time/Park
May 4th 7 a.m. Highland
June 1st 7 a.m. Cobb's Hill, guest leader Jay Greenberg
July 6th 7 a.m. Highland
August 3rd 7 a.m. Cobb's Hill
September 7th 7 a.m. Highland

Falcon Watch

Mariah has laid her fourth egg and she and Kaver are incubating. They may be viewed on the web at the Kodak web site <http://www.kodak.com/go/birdcam>. Volunteers are still needed for the Fledgling Watch. Fledgling Watchers keep track of the fledglings just before and after the young falcons take flight. The commitment involves a weekly shift of three to four hours once a week for four weeks. To become a fledgling watcher you need binoculars and access to a computer with email service. The camaraderie among the falcon watchers is outstanding.

On May 10th at the IMBD Festival, in Braddock Bay Park at 2:00 PM Jim Pisello, a fledgling watcher, will give a presentation on the watch. Another presentation will be scheduled downtown this summer closer to the time the fledglings take off. For more information on the Fledgling Watch, contact June Summers, (585) 865-6047 or summers@frontiernet.net.



ADK Outdoor Expo

Saturday, June 14th 9 am—4 pm
Mendon Ponds Park, Beach area
No admission charge

Join GVAS and several other groups as we celebrate the great outdoors. ADK will be on hand with free kayak and canoe instructions on the pond, and you will be able to attend talks/demonstrations on many outdoor topics and go on guided hikes. Don't forget to stop by the GVAS table and say hi.

A schedule of events for this day is on the ADK web site, www.gvc-adk.org.

Family Nature Program Mt Morris Dam Visitor Center

GVAS will be offering monthly programs at the Mt. Morris Dam Visitor Center. On Saturday, June 21st, we will present a program on backyard wildlife for the entire family. This program will begin with a half-hour presentation of creatures that we can find just by stepping out our own back doors. It will end with a short hiking exploration to discover creatures we can find along the trail. This program will go from 10:30 am—11:45 am.

Woodcock Walk

Thursday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m..

Not only is the Woodcock an unusual looking bird, it also has a very interesting courtship display. This courtship display includes the male spiraling up to a considerable height, circling, and then plummeting back to earth, calling as he descends. We will meet in the Greece Olympia High School parking lot at 1139 Maiden Lane, and stroll through the woods on our way to the field where the woodcock's courtship dance, the timberdoodle dance, has been previously observed. Please wear long pants and sturdy walking shoes. Conditions may be wet. Free. Donations appreciated.

Fabulous Falcons

Saturday, May 31st
from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Genesee Valley Audubon, Wild Wings and Bird House (3160 Monroe Avenue, Pittsford) invite you to come out and meet two Peregrine Falcons and an American Kestrel up close and personal. This presentation is in anticipation of our fifth Operation Fledgling Watch season. See the Peregrine Falcons and learn about their natural history and the efforts that have been undertaken to bring them back from the brink of extinction in the Northeast. Also come see the colorful American Kestrel, the falcon that shares the gorge with the Kodak pair here in Rochester. It is a great opportunity to learn more about our Operation Fledgling Watch program, which we anticipate being underway by the end of June. Donations to Wild Wings would be greatly appreciated.

Birds: Catalysts for Conservation

A Festival Celebrating International Migratory Bird Day, May 10

May 10, 2003, 10:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
at Braddock Bay Park (Admission Free)

Presented by BirdCOR - a non-profit coalition of local environmental organizations and agencies

The festival will celebrate the beauty and wonder of migratory birds while calling attention to the need to conserve their habitats. There will be educational demonstrations, fun learning activities and games for the kids and families, and many opportunities to find out more about migratory birds and the organizations that support their conservation. After the festival, projects and conservation activities planned and carried out as part of IMBD will leave a lasting legacy to benefits birds in the Rochester area.

Organizations, artists, and crafts persons participating in the festival include the following: Jessie Barry, wildlife artist; Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO); Braddock Bay Raptor Research (BBRR); Don Buss, wood carver; Environmental Education and Conservation Global (EECG); Genesee Country Nature Center; Genesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS); Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Pam Johnson Brickell, wildlife artist; Terry Kozakiewicz, nature photographer; Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources; Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; New York Sea Grant; New York State DEC, Project WET and Project WILD; Rochester Birding Association (RBA); Linda Sabha, wildlife artist; Sea Kayak Rochester; Seneca Park Zoo; The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Water Education Collaborative; Wild Wings; Wildlife Society, student chapter at Finger Lakes Community College.

IMBD Festival Schedule

7:00 a.m. Bird walk at Thousand Acre Swamp. Call Richard Ashworth at 381-2189 or Jay Greenberg at 256-0485 for information.

7:30 a.m. Bird walk at Cobb's Hill Park, sponsored by RBA. Meet on the top of the hill in the wide grassy area between the road and the woods. Call Tom at 461-0992 or Jan at 787-0507 for information.

Throughout the day, at Braddock Bay Park, Live Birds of Prey from Wild Wings, Braddock Bay Raptor Research and The Seneca Park Zoo will be on display, Migration Game, Kids Crafts, Birdy Activities, Bird Carving Demos and the Hawk Watch will be open throughout the day

10:00 a.m. Exhibits open

Tour of Owl Woods Habitat Diversification Project
Hawk Watch open
Bird Walk

10:30 a.m. Bluebird Program, Norm Wolfe, Learn where to put your bluebird box and care for it to attract Bluebirds.

11:00 a.m. Live Bird Demo, Wild Wings will show live birds of prey including a Peregrine Falcon and an eagle
Raffle Announcements

Noon Purple Martin Presentation, Rick Marx, What it takes to be a landlord for these amazing birds.
Musical Presentations throughout the afternoon
Tour of the Banding Station, Hosted by Braddock Bay Raptor Research

1:00 p.m. Liberty the Bald Eagle and Paul Schnell
Blue Goose, National Wildlife Refuge System Mascot, throughout the afternoon
Raffle Announcements

2:00 p.m. Kodak Falcon Watch Presentation, Jim Pisello, Learn how you can be involved in this fun and fascinating program.
Bird Walk
Raffle Announcement

3:00 p.m. Bird Banding Demo, Braddock Bay Raptor Research
Raffle Announcements

4:00 p.m. Environmentally Friendly Landscaping, Laurie Broccolo.
Raffle Announcements

5:00 p.m. Close

Find more details here: www.eecg.org/imbd.htm.

Directions to Braddock Bay Park:

Take Rt. 390 north to the end. Exit onto the Lake Ontario Parkway, West. Go to the second exit, the East Manitou Rd/Braddock Bay Exit, turn right (north). Less than 50 yards down the road turn left into the Park.

Board of Directors

Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

Officers:

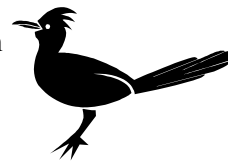
President, June Summers; *Vice President*, vacant; *Secretary*, Joni VanDelinder; *Treasurer*, William Gruenbaum.

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; *Directors-at-Large*, Carolyn Emerson and Marilyn Marino; *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.

Limited Offer to Non-members Only

We are please to announce that from now until May 31st Genesee Valley Audubon Society is able to offer all non-members an eight-month trial membership. The cost of this membership is \$20.00. It includes four issues of the Audubon magazine, at least four months of receiving the Meadowlark, and at least one issue of the New York State newsletter, The Advocate. During this trial membership individuals who join can also enjoy member pricing for programs that require a fee.



A normal individual membership for 1 year is \$35.00. This membership is mailed directly to National Audubon, and GVAS gets back only a few dollars of these proceeds. For this limited time National Audubon is returning 100 percent of these trial subscriptions back to the local chapters. In other words you are making a donation plus enjoying eight months of a great product. How can you lose? For more information, or for details as to where to send your check to take advantage of this great offer, please contact Loretta Morrell at 338-3683. Remember, this offer is not valid after May 31st.

Consider giving a gift membership!

Keep up-to-date at <http://www.ggw.org/gvas>

The Meadowlark

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

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The mission of 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.

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ADAMS BASIN, NY
PERMIT NO. 1