

The Meadowlark



The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Vol. XXXI, No. 3
January/February 2004

From the President

June Summers

Volunteers Needed

Public Relations Specialist for International Migratory Bird Day:

If you have fax machine and a few hour a week that you could use it to fax information to the media we need your help. This person would work closely with the IMBD media partner and other members of the team. IMBD is the second Saturday in May.

Rubber Duck Race: This event is being planned to raise money for the International Migratory Bird Day Festival held in May. We need people to help coordinate the distribution of the rubber ducks/entry numbers, put numbers on the ducks, do public relations, figure out how we are going to get these ducks in the water and out, prize solicitation. There is lots of room for significant contribution to this fun project.

Inkjet and Toner Cartridge Recycling: Do you own a small business that doesn't recycle inkjet or toner cartridges because it is too much trouble? Even if you recycle them would you consider giving them to GVAS? Let us set you up with a collection box. We also need someone to coordinate this program; this will require a few hours a month.

Sprawl Prevention: This volunteer would work closely with the Common Good Planning Center to develop a program to teach developers about planning communities using conservation planning, and its economic and environmental benefits.

To volunteer, call June Summers, (585) 865-6047.

Army Corp of Engineer Winter Lecture Series at the William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center

Every Saturday beginning January 17 through April 10, at 1:00 pm. The focus of the series is Lake Ontario. Dates of note: March 20, the Geology of Lake Ontario; March 27, the Biology of Lake Ontario; and April 3, Bird Migration.

On April 3 at 1:00 pm, Bob Marcotte, author, Just Ask Columnist for the Democrat and Chronicle, and Rochester birder, will discuss how Lake Ontario influences the annual spectacle of migrating song birds, hawks, and waterfowl.

For more information regarding all of the winter series offerings contact the staff of the William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center at Mt Morris at (585) 658-9320 or check the web site <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/brochure/mmd.html>.

Genesee Valley Audubon Center

Winter 2004 Programs

Saturday, January 10.

Short-Eared Owls of Nations Road. Classroom presentation at 2:30 pm will be immediately followed by a field trip to Nations Road beginning in Avon. Presented by Brett Ewald of Lakeshore Nature Tours and Genesee Valley Audubon Center. Contact Loretta Morrell at (585) 338-3683 for more information. Cost to GVAC members is \$20.00/non-members \$25.00.

Meet at the William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center at the Mt Morris Dam

From the North: Take 390 to Exit 7 Mt. Morris and Letchworth Park. Turn left onto 408S. In town 408S will turn left followed by a very quick right. Follow 408S for 1.9 miles. Turn right at the William B Hoyt II, Mt Morris Dam Entrance. Drive up to the visitor parking lot (1.7 miles).

From the South: Take 390N to Exit 6 Sonyea. Take Route 36 North for seven miles. Turn Left onto Route 408S and travel for 1.9 miles. Turn right at the William B. Hoyt II, Mt Morris Dam Entrance. Drive up to the visitor parking lot (1.7 miles).

William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center

Nature walks Free and open to the public. Walk and then stay for the lecture at 1:00 pm.,
Sat., Jan. 31 11:00 am to noon
Sat., Feb. 14, 11:00 am to noon
Sat., Mar. 27, 11:00 am to noon

JANUARY

6:30 pm Wed., Jan. 28, 2004
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 vegetable, beverage, or dessert. If your last name begins with M through Z, please bring a main dish.

FEBRUARY

7:30 pm Wed., Feb. 25, 2004
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs
Meeting Room
2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton

PURPLE MARTINS

Mr. Rick Marx, who is an environmental engineer with the law office of Nixon Peabody LLP in Rochester, is a purple martin enthusiast who has agreed to share his wealth of knowledge on this species at our February meeting. Rick has admired these acrobatic songsters since he was a small child and currently manages two purple martin colonies near his home a few miles southeast of Naples, New York.

The purple martin is one of the few species that prefer to nest in man-made colonial houses or in clusters of natural or artificial gourds. Mr. Marx will provide valuable advice about choosing the proper location for a purple martin colony nest house as well as useful tips for the successful management of it. Protecting the house from predators and practices for controlling European Starlings and English Sparrows will be discussed.

Purple martins are on the Cor-

nell Laboratory of Ornithology Birdhouse Network's "Most Wanted" list. The need to provide suitable housing for this species is of paramount importance for its resurgence in this geographic area. If anyone wishes to become a "purple martin landlord," or just learn more about this beautiful songbird, you won't want to miss this informative and educational PowerPoint presentation.

Field Trips

Mendon Ponds Park

Walk a trail and feed the chickadees, titmice and nuthatches at Mendon Ponds Park. The entire family is welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure. **We will meet at 9 am in the Nature Center Parking lot on Pond Rd off of Clover St** (the southernmost of the 3 park entrances off Clover). Bring sunflower seeds and dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.). Joni Van Delinder will lead the hike, which will last about 2 hours.

Dates: Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004
Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004
Saturday, Mar. 20, 2004

First Sunday Hikes

GVAS will continue our First Sunday Hike Series for the fourth year. We will be hiking in Durand-Eastman Park in 2004. We will be meeting at the Golf Course Club House parking lot on King's Highway, which runs through the park. King's Highway may be accessed from Lakeshore Blvd.

The purpose of these hikes is to familiarize our members and friends with the beauty of our area parks as Audubon Important Bird Areas. Most of all we have fun discovering what nature has to offer. Children are welcome.

DATES AND TIMES

January 4	3:00 p.m.
February 1	3:00 p.m.
March 7	3:00 p.m.
April 4	3:00 p.m.
May 2	8:00 a.m.
June 6	8:00 a.m.
July 4	8:00 a.m.
August 1	8:00 a.m.
Sept. 5	3:00 p.m.
Oct. 3	3:00 p.m.
Nov. 7	3:00 p.m.
Dec. 5	3:00 p.m.

Bluebird Trail Monitoring

By Carolyn Emerson

Thanks to all who helped monitor the bluebird trail at Black Creek Park for the breeding season of 2003. Last March Jim Emerson, Lisa McKeown and son AJ, Marylynn Marino, Jerry Roether, Harvey Seymour and family, Hans Strasser, and George Zakielarz met to prepare the nest boxes for the new season. Many of these same individuals helped monitor the bluebird population throughout the spring and early summer. Special thanks to Hans, who replaced several vandalized boxes with his own handcrafted creations.

This year our annual preparation will occur on Saturday, February 28th, 2004, at ten o'clock in the morning. We will meet at Black Creek Park near the new lodge area. Dress warmly for the probably cold and wet weather. Please contact Carolyn Emerson with any questions at 585-889-1887.

FYI: The North American Bluebird Society Convention will be held at Ithaca, New York, in July 2004.

2004 GVAS–Sponsored Spring Birding Courses:

<p>The Basics of Birding</p> <p>Three evening classes and two field trips.</p> <p>The classes, held at the Greece Town Hall: Thursday, March 4 (7:00-9:00 p.m.) Thursday, March 18 (7:00-9:00 p.m.) Thursday, April 29 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)</p> <p>The field trips: Saturday, March 20 (8:00 a.m.-noon) Saturday, May 1 (7:00 – 11:00 a.m.).</p>	<p>Masters of the Air - Raptors</p> <p>One evening class and one field trip.</p> <p>The class, held at the Greece Town Hall: Wednesday, April 14 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)</p> <p>The field trip: Saturday, April 17 (9:00 -2:00 p.m.)</p>
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Instructor: Brett M. Ewald, Lakeshore Nature Tours

Your instructor is a naturalist and biologist with over 20 years of birding experience, much of it in Western New York. He has been involved in numerous research and educational projects, specializing in bird migration and distribution patterns. He has conducted raptor migration counts from the mountains of New Mexico to the beaches of New Jersey. He recently co-authored a publication on waterbird movements on Lake Ontario

Registration Form

The Basics of Birding Course and Masters of the Air Course

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Basics of Birding Course

Number of students (GVAS members) _____ x \$25 each = \$ _____

Number of students (non-GVAS members) _____ x \$30 each = \$ _____

Masters of the Air Course

Number of students (GVAS members) _____ x \$20 each = \$ _____

Number of students (non-GVAS members) _____ x \$25 each = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Please mail registration form & check to: →

Questions? Call June Summers, 585-865-6047.

JUNE SUMMERS
 208 RHEA CRESCENT
 ROCHESTER, NY 14615

Board of Directors**Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.****Officers:**

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

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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.

**Keep up-to-date with our web site,
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.

Genesee Valley Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges the following donations for its new nature center in Mount Morris:

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ingalls for a steel door

Sandy Glantz for a Puppet Theatre

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Help scientists track birds in our community on February 13 – 16, 2004. Count the birds at your feeder for least 15 minutes February 13 – 16, then submit your count on the internet to <http://www.birdsource.org>. You can also take a walk in a park or visit a wildlife refuge to count birds. The data that you submit will help scientists take a “snapshot” of our North American bird populations in mid-winter. Scientists will use the data to gain a better understanding of how weather fronts, snow cover, and other factors affect bird populations in winter.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint venture of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. For more information access <http://www.birdsource.org> then click on Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Join GVAS on February 7 at 11:00 a.m. at the Bird House, 3016 Monroe Avenue for Identification of Feeder Birds, a slide show. Watch the Outdoor calendar in the Sunday Democrat and Chronicle for other dates and times of this show.

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