

# The Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Vol. XXXII, No. 4  
March/April 2005



## From the President

June Summers

### Living with Black Bear in Western New York

*Living with Black Bear in Western New York*, is the title of a new exhibit to open April 2 at the Mt. Morris Dam Visitor Center.

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has been kind and offered to share the space in their visitor center to house this exhibit.

Come learn about the biology of the black bear, *Ursus Americanus*, and learn how the black bear compares in size to the Alaskan brown bear. The exhibit will focus on how to live with black bear without conflicts. Black bears, like dogs and other animal, are driven by the reward of food. Whether that food is in your trash can, birdfeeder, cooler, or bee hives, they will return to that spot frequently for food and eventually become a nuisance. Unfortunately interaction with humans often leads to the death for many black bears. More than 90% of black bear deaths after the age of a year and a half are the result of motor vehicle accidents, gunshots or interactions with humans. Bears play an important roll in the ecosystem, dispersing seeds of the plants they eat and consuming large numbers of colonial insects. Knowledge and better understanding can help to reduce the 90% statistic.

On April 9 at 2:00 p.m. John VanNiel, Conservation professor at Finger Lakes Community College, will present *Bears in Your Back-*



*yard*, a PowerPoint presentation.

Join us at the Visitor Center to learn about bear behavior and how we can help keep them alive. On April 16 at 2:00 p.m. Greg Feurst, Biology

Technician, Bureau of Wildlife, New York Department of Environmental Conservation will present *Bears in Western New York*, a PowerPoint presenta-

tion. Greg will cover how to coexist with bears and what the DEC has learned from radio collaring bears. Both presentations promise to be very informative.

### Volunteers Needed, Double Bookings

On Friday and Saturday, May 6+7, we will participate in Our Fragile World at the Seneca Park Zoo and on May 7 the annual Open House at the Mt. Morris Dam Visitor Center. We need help at both events. At the zoo we need people to meet and greet school groups and families, and talk to them about birds and GVAS. If you don't think you know much about birds, you'll be surprised by how much you already know and we can teach you more.

On Saturday, May 14, we could use help at the International Migratory Bird Day Festival at Braddock Bay Park. Can you meet and greet people, or make a large pot of coffee and sell doughnuts? We can use your help!

On Saturday, June 11, the ADK Outdoor Expo will be held in Men-

don Pond Park and the second annual Rubber Ducky Race will be held in Fairport. We need volunteers to man a booth at the ADK Outdoor Expo to tell people about birds and GVAS, our fieldtrips, falcon watch, etc. The second annual Rubber Ducky Race is a fundraiser to support BirdCOR, a collation of groups that we belong to that spreads the word about the importance of birds in our world. This is the group that we work with to put on the International Migratory Bird day Festival and sponsor Flying Wild Workshops. At the Rubber Duck Race GVAS would like to have a display on migratory birds and need a volunteer to meet and greet the public. We could also use volunteers to pour ducks into the canal and be in canoes to help pick them up.

On Saturday, September 17, the International Coastal CleanUp and Public Lands Day are schedule across the Nation. Last year and in the past GVAS has headed up the Coastal CleanUp at Braddock Bay Park in Greece. We need someone to head up this effort this year. It requires soliciting donations of doughnuts and juice for the volunteers and organizing the day of the CleanUp. This person would need to start work in June. We are also involved in Public Lands Day at the Mt. Morris Dam Visitor Center. Volunteers there will man the GVAS store and nature center.

If you are interested in helping out at any of these events call June Summers, (585) 865-6047

## MARCH

7:30 pm Wed., March 23, 2005  
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs  
Meeting Room  
2300 Elmwood Ave., Brighton

### **Wildflowers and other Plants—Classification and Identification**

If you think that ...

- Buttercup is something on the table at dinnertime and butter-and-eggs is something served at breakfast...
- Lady's Slippers are worn on your feet before bedtime...  
...then you should attend our March meeting where Mr. Fred Arnold will talk about plant classification and identification emphasizing wildflowers and other interesting local plants. Many of you remember him from the hikes he has led us on in Black Creek Park looking for woodcocks and along the Finger Lakes Trail in the Bristol Hills area.

Mr. Arnold has a unique way of going well beyond the boundaries of classification and identification and providing ample interesting tidbits. (e.g. Chicory root is used to make coffee and yarrow was used by Revolutionary War soldiers to treat their wounds against infection?)

Mr. Arnold is a science teacher at Monroe County BOCES #2, where he has worked for over twenty years. He received his bachelor's degree from Hobart College, a master's degree in elementary education at SUNY Buffalo, and a second master's degree in environmental science from Cornell University. He also was the director of a nature center in Maryland prior to moving to the Rochester area.

See the Wildflower Field Trip information at the far right.

## APRIL

7:30 pm Wed., April 27, 2005  
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs  
Meeting Room  
2300 Elmwood Ave., Brighton

### **Flying Mammals—Bats**

Of all the species of mammals, nearly a quarter are bats. There are about 4,000 kinds of mammals and more than 900 of those are bats – the only mammals that can fly. They range in size from the flying foxes or fruit bats, which have a body the size of a dove and a wingspan of over five feet, to the Kitti's hog-nosed bat of Thailand, which is the size of a bumblebee and weighs less than a penny. Although most bat species make their homes in the tropics, about 40 species live in Canada and the United States. New York State is home to nine species of bats, the most common being the little brown bat. This 3½-inch bat has a wingspan of 8 inches and weighs about ¼ ounce. It is commonly seen flying at dusk while feasting on mosquitoes and other flying insects.

Ms. Martha Zettel, who gave us an interesting presentation on local amphibians a couple years ago, is also an expert on bats. Ms. Zettel and her husband have conducted research at the University of Rochester on echolocation – the process by which bats navigate. Ms. Zettel will share her knowledge on bats at our April meeting, just about the time that local ones are emerging from hibernation. You won't want to miss this talk nor the opportunity to see one of these featherless flyers up close and personal. The insights we'll gain should help us appreciate the order "Chiroptera" and its usefulness in the web of life.



## *First Sunday Hikes*

GVAS will host our First Sunday Hikes at Braddock Bay Wildlife Manage Management Area nest year We will explore this beautiful and often forbidding area near Lake Ontario. Always dress or bring clothes for the windy cool environment along Lake Ontario. We will meet in the lodge parking lot at Braddock Bay Park on East Manitou Road off the Lake Ontario State Parkway. If you have a question, call June at (585) 865-6047.

March 6	3:00 p.m.
April 3	3:00 p.m.
May 1	8:00 a.m.
June 5	8:00 a.m.
July 3	8:00 a.m.
August 7	8:00 a.m.
September 4	3:00 p.m.
October 2	3:00 p.m.
November 6	3:00 p.m.
December 4	3:00 p.m.

## **Wildflower Field Trip**

Fred Arnold, our March speaker, will lead a wild flower field trip on Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 a.m. on the west side of Black Creek Park. Take I-490 west to the 259/Union St. exit. Turn left heading south a short distance, turn right onto Chili Ave./33A and continue west to a Y in the road. Take the left fork, staying on 33A/Chili-Riga Center Rd., continue to the first left turn (Betteridge Rd), take Betteridge Rd. to the first left (Green Rd.). Green Rd. leads you directly into the parking lot of the park. Reservations please, call June at 865-6047. Please dress for the weather and wear BOOTS





## 2005 GVAS–Sponsored Spring Birding Course:

# The Basics of Birding:

**Instructor: Brett M. Ewald**



**Three classes, held at the Greece Town Hall:**

Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

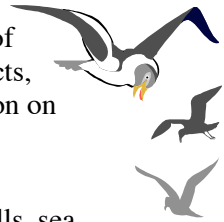
**Two field trips:**

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> (8:00 a.m.-noon)

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> (7:00 – 11:00 a.m.).

This in-depth course will help you identify and appreciate the many species of birds, through the use of slides, hands-on equipment, and field trips.

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 recently co-authored a publication on waterbird movements on Lake Ontario.



The three evening classes will focus on many aspects of birding, including identification skills, seasonal occurrence, and regional hotspots. We will also discuss backyard birdwatching through the use of feeders and birdhouses, and compare some of the tools of the trade, binoculars, spotting scopes, and field guides, and how to take care of them.

The two morning field trips will provide an opportunity to observe and learn about a wide variety of species at local habitats.

## Registration Form

### The Basics of Birding 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 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

# Events at the GVAS Center in Mount Morris

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## 2005 Nature Walk Schedule

Again in 2005 Genesee Valley Audubon Center in Mount Morris is offering a monthly nature walk through the month of November. The schedule is listed below. If there is enough snow cover, snowshoes or cross county skies are recommended. Dress appropriately for weather conditions. Trails may be wet. Binoculars will enhance your enjoyment. Contact Loretta Morrell at (585) 338-3683 for additional information.

Saturday, March 26, 11:00am - Noon, Nature Walk

Saturday, April 9, 12:30pm - 2:00pm, Nature Walk

Saturday, May 7, 8:00am - 10:00am, Bird Walk

Saturday, May 21, 10:00am - Noon, Warbler Walk

Saturday, July 2, 8:00am - 10:00am, Warbler Walk

Saturday, August 6, 8:00am - 10:00am, Warbler Walk

Saturday, September 10, 12:30pm - 2:00pm, Mushroom Walk

Saturday, October 1, 12:30pm - 2:00pm., Tree Identification Walk

Saturday, November 12, 12:30pm - 2:00pm, Nature Walk

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## Open House

Join GVAS at Genesee Valley Audubon Center on Saturday, May 7th for the Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area Annual Open House from 8:00am until 2:00pm. We begin the day with a bird walk from 8:00am - 10:00am. At 10:00am feel free to enjoy refreshments and check out the work of all of our partners inside the Visitor Center. Make sure you stop into the nature center store while you are there. Games and craft activities will be offered for children of all ages up at the nature center throughout the day. A Powerpoint presentation on the natural history of the Turkey Vulture will also be offered. Time for this presentation is yet to be determined. This is a great opportunity to come on out to Mount Morris, enjoy the scenery, welcome the birds back from their winter travels, and see what we have been up to. For more information, or to see how you can volunteer for this fun day, contact

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## Plant Donations Appreciated

Is it time for you to divide those perennials, and would you like to find them a good home? Genesee Valley Audubon Center is looking for native perennials that attract wildlife. Call Loretta Morrell at (585) 338-3683.

## Directions to the Genesee Valley Audubon Center in Mt Morris

**From the North:** Take 390 to Exit 7 Mt. Morris and Letchworth Park. Turn left on to 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 and Recreation Area Entrance. Drive up to the visitor parking lot (1.7 miles). Meet hike leader inside the Visitor Center Lobby.

**From the South:** Take 390N to Exit 6 Sonyea. Take Route 36 North for seven miles. Turn Left on to 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). Meet hike leader inside the Visitor Center Lobby.

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## Earth Day

Genesee Valley Audubon Society and the Army Corp of Engineers are teaming up again this year for the 2005 Earth Day celebration out at Genesee Valley Audubon Center at the dam. Earth Day is Saturday, April 23. This year's projects include preparing a wildflower bed bordering an open field, and adding planting to the field to further attract wildlife. There are also trails to clean and bluebird boxes to monitor, and garden beds to prepare for the spring planting. If you are a youth group leader, and you would like you group to participate, please contact Ross Ratcliffe at (585) 658-4790 or Loretta Morrell at (585) 338-3683 no later than Wednesday, March 24. We are also looking for any gardeners out there who would be interesting in supervising projects. Our work day will start at 9:00am. Many hands make light work.

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## Birds and Breakfast

Join GVAS on Saturday, May 21 at 8:00am for a leisurely morning of eating breakfast and enjoying the songbirds of the Genesee Valley River Gorge. A continental breakfast will be served under a pavilion at the Mount Morris Dam Visitor Center and Recreation Area located off Rt 408S in the village of Mount Morris. At 10:00am participants are invited to join in a leisurely nature walk to seek out additional bird species. Reservations are required. Cost \$5.00 for Audubon members and \$8.00 for non-members to cover the cost of food. Call reservations to Loretta Morrell at (585) 338-3683. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, May 18.

## Photographer works with GVAS to create book of local wetlands and preserves

Over the past year, photographer Christine Sevilla has been working on a project photographing wetlands, as shown in the Democrat & Chronicle article from June, 2004: <http://www.luminguild.com/DemocratChronicle62204.htm>.

Working collegially with members of Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Genesee Land Trust, and Genesee Audubon Valley Society, she provide images when needed for an endangered habitat, or photographs of local parks and preserves to foster public interest. She began the project to find a way to change attitudes toward wetlands and increase participation in conservation. She said, "Doing this project led me to realize that there is no compendium of information describing the great parks and preserves in the greater Monroe County area. It seems natural that a guide like that would be an effective way to get information about protecting the environment into the hands of area residents who enjoy the outdoors." Provided sponsorship by June Summers, President of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, she sought and received the support of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks for a NYSCA decentralization grant since the book will focus mainly on Monroe County.

NYSCA awarded \$3800 to create this book, which will help with the majority of the printing costs for 1500 copies. (The work of writing, graphic and information design, layout, and photography is currently unsupported.) The book will provide educational activities to foster awareness of the issues of biodiversity, habitat, flood and erosion control, and water quality. Content will include a description of the importance and benefits of wetlands and

habitat preservation, images of habitat, endangered species and invasive species, learning activities, and ways people can get involved, including things to do immediately that will have an impact.

Two exhibits of images and artist books are planned to kick off distribution of the printed book. A reception for the first will take place on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm at the High Falls Center in Rochester. The exhibit will be up from May through mid-June. The second exhibit, in the Rochester City Hall Link Gallery, will open with a reception on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm. Entertainment and refreshments will be available. Everyone is invited. Members of local habitat preservation groups will be on hand to talk about their experiences with visitors. It's a great opportunity to meet people who share your interests, while looking at images of some of your favorite places!

### EVENTS

Friday May 13, 2005 6-8 pm  
Center at High Falls  
60 Browns Race  
Rochester NY 14614

Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm  
Rochester City Hall Link Gallery  
30 Church Street  
Rochester NY 14614

**Contributions to this Audubon-sponsored project, may be sent to Genesee Valley Audubon Society at the address below. Note PRESERVE BOOKLET on the check.**

**PRESERVE BOOKLET  
Genesee Valley Audubon Society  
208 Rhea Crescent  
Rochester, NY 14615-1212**

## Falcon Watch

Havoc is one of last year's peregrine falcon babies from the nest box on top of Kodak Office. He had a transmitter placed on him before fledging. Hope you have been keeping an eye on Havoc's movements on [www.migrationresearch.org/research/peregrine/results37123.html](http://www.migrationresearch.org/research/peregrine/results37123.html).

**[migrationresearch.org/research/peregrine/results37123.html](http://www.migrationresearch.org/research/peregrine/results37123.html)**

While he has not strayed far from home, this gives us great insight into the first year of life of one young peregrine. It will be interesting to watch his movements as spring progresses and his parents set up house keeping again.

GVAS is looking forward to another great season of falcon watching. We learned a lot last year when Alkyonis sprained the muscles in her shoulder while learning to fly. Havoc was there watching over her when she was found and picked up by our falcon watchers. Join us this summer by volunteering 3-4 hours a week for 3-4 weeks to watch over the young falcons as they learn to fly. Details will be in the next Meadowlark; call June, (585) 865-6047 if you are interested.

## Chickadee Walk

Joni Van Delinder will be leading a winter hike (no more than 2 hours) in Mendon Ponds Park. Come out, walk a trail and feed the chickadees & nuthatches while enjoying nature. 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.) Seed will be provided with a donation.

**Date: Saturday, March 19, 2005**



# *The Meadowlark*

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

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

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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.

**Keep up-to-date with our web site, [www.ggw.org/gvas](http://www.ggw.org/gvas).**

## **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 Marylynn Marino, Lisa McKeown, Ravi Sampath and Nancy Strong; *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](mailto:GJMitch@localnet.com).

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

***Thank you*** for the following memorial donations:

In memory of Genevieve Loughborough  
by Sally N. McGucken  
by Jane & Gerry Clifford

In memory of Genevieve Hunter Loughborough, Hugh Hunter,  
and Bob Hunter  
by Gail Doffins-Black

In memory of the parents of William Gruenbaum  
by Mrs. & Mrs. F.V. Summers

## **International Migratory Bird Day**

International Migratory Bird Day is May 14 this year. Once again GVAS will participate in the IMBD Festival at Braddock Bay Park in Greece. This year the theme for IMBD is aerial bird collision. The number of birds killed as a result of aerial collision each year in the U.S. alone is estimated in the billions. Come learn what you can do to reduce these collisions. We will have our usual array of exhibits, presentations and live birds of prey. The schedule will be in the next Meadowlark so mark your calendar.