

# The Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Vol. 33, No. 2  
November/December 2005



## From the President

June Summers

It's that time of year again, time for the third Genesee Valley Audubon Annual Campaign. Let's take a few moments to reflect on the wonderful activities that we at GVAS have participated in this year. Our nature center at Mount Morris Dam in Letchworth Park is now in its second full year of activities. There was a joyous Fourth of July celebration with fireworks, sponsored by the Army Corp of Engineers. Our presence at this event certainly increased the community's awareness of GVAS and our love for the beauty of the Genesee River gorge, with all the nature it has to offer.

Again this year GVAS sponsored and organized the Peregrine Falcon watch in downtown Rochester. Many volunteers spent numerous hours watching our young falcons during their first flights. We gasped when we saw them go down the smokestacks and cheered when they appeared at the openings at the base. Many of us had on the job training on how to capture a downed falcon one morning, when young Skye was rescued by June Summers. We were very fortunate to receive a donation for transmitters for the falcons from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. These funds enable GVAS to place the satellite transmitter on a young falcon this year and tracked her movements into Canada. Satellite transmitters were

also placed on two young eagles in the Southern Tier.

This year the first Sunday hikes took place at Braddock Bay; we were thrilled when we spotted two juvenile Bald Eagles on the hike in October. We also participated in the International Migratory Bird Day festivities in May at Braddock Bay. The monthly hikes at Mendon Ponds Park in the winter continued this year and helped to increase the awareness of the participants in the number of birds that do spend the winter in the Rochester area.

We look forward to continuing all these activities next year. We also have some projects that we have started and will be finished next year, like a ramp to make the nature center handicapped accessible. Also we look forward to placing another transmitter on a young Peregrine Falcon next spring. All these projects take time and money. In the last two years we have successfully raised over \$1,000 each year through the annual campaign. We hope to meet or exceed that amount again this year. Please help us to continue to educate our community on the wonders of the birds and the environment that they live in. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Genesee Valley Audubon Society. Let's make the annual campaign this year the best yet.

## Transmitter News from the Falcons and Eagles

This summer Skye, the young falcon we placed a satellite transmitter on, left the Rochester area in August and headed west. From the satellite data we know she passed near Buffalo, then north and around Lake Ontario to Toronto. Mid-August to September 11<sup>th</sup> Skye spent her time exploring Ontario, Canada, between the East shore of Lake Huron and the West shore of Lake Ontario. On Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> it became apparent that Skye was no longer moving and the temperature data indicated that the bird was dead or the transmitter had come off. On Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> the remains of Skye were found in a farm field in Lucknow, Ontario. Skye, unlike her brother, Havoc, set out to explore areas away from Rochester. Her death is disappointing but, not unexpected; 50-75% of young birds that leave the nest die in their first year.

The two young eagles that have transmitters on are moving. One is southeast of Jamestown, NY and the other is northeast of Pittsburgh, PA along the Allegheny River.



## NOVEMBER Program

7:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2005  
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs  
Meeting Room

### 2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton **FROM GLOBAL PRIORI- TIES TO LOCAL AC- TION: AUDUBON NEW YORK'S STRATEGY FOR BIRD CONSERVATION**

Dr. Michael Burger is the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon New York. Currently stationed at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY, he will give us a presentation on the state of bird conservation in New York State. His presentation will also include a discussion of national Audubon programs such as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, the Partners in Flight program, and Audubon's Important Bird Area program and how these are manifested specifically in programs and conservation in New York State.

Dr. Burger works closely with many people in the New York State Parks Department and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to integrate bird conservation into the management of state properties. He received his B.A. in biology from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Michigan. He has taught environmental studies courses and has carried out extensive research on American Kestrels and Northern Cardinals. He has also worked as a forest ecologist, conducting research in the Adirondacks on the effects of various forest management practices on breeding birds, amphibians, and carrion beetles. Dr. Burger's credentials and experience ensure us of an enjoyable and informative talk on some relevant issues.

## DECEMBER

No meeting in December. Happy Holiday Season!

## JANUARY Program

7:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2006  
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs  
Meeting Room

### 2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton **WHERE THE WHITE DEER ROAM**

The former Seneca Army Depot be-  
coming a world  
class eco-tourism  
center for nature  
lovers. The former  
army base is home  
to the world's larg-  
est herd and only  
known breeding  
population of white



deer. These deer are not pink-eyed  
albinos, but actually have a unique  
gene that is responsible for their  
white color. There are roughly 300  
of them living today along with  
about 300 other deer on the 10,600  
acre site which is surrounded by a 7-  
foot-tall 24 mile chain-link fence.

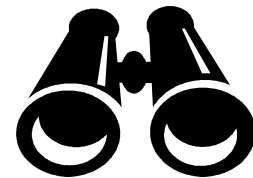
Mr. Dennis Money and others  
have formed a conservation group  
known as Seneca White Deer, Inc.  
and have initiated a campaign to  
raise public awareness of the white  
deer situation and the opportunity to  
take positive action to preserve this  
unique eco-system. He will educate  
us on the details of this project and  
discuss how various environmental  
groups can work together to turn this  
eco-tourism vision into reality.

We remember Mr. Money from  
his work on other environmental  
projects such as the Peregrine Fal-  
con Restoration Program and the  
River Otter Restoration Program.  
Mr. Money is also executive director  
of the Rochester-based Genesee Wa-  
terways.

## *First Sunday Hikes in 2005*

GVAS will host our First Sunday  
Hikes at Braddock Bay Wildlife  
Management Area in 2005. We will  
explore this beautiful but sometimes  
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. Have a  
question? Call June at (585) 865-  
6047.

November 6 3:00 p.m.  
December 4 3:00 p.m.



## *First Sunday Hikes in 2006*

GVAS will host our First Sunday  
Hikes at the South end of Ironde-  
quoit Bay in 2006. We will explore  
Bay Park East, Bay Park West and  
county-owned wetlands to the south  
of the bay. Always dress or bring  
clothes and boots for the windy cool  
environment along Irondequoit Bay.  
We will meet in the parking lot next  
to Froggy's Restaurant, 1129 Em-  
pire Blvd. We will caravan or car  
pool from there. Have a question?  
Call June at (585) 865-6047.

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

## Short-Eared Owls of Livingston County

Come celebrate the new year with Genesee Valley Audubon Society and you will have a hootingly good time!

**DATE: Saturday, January 7, 2006**

**TIME: 3:00 p.m. until ?**

### HAPPENINGS:

- Car pool from the Avon Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office parking lot at 6247 E. Avon, NY to Nations Road to view Short-eared Owls. This drive is approximately 8 miles.
- Return to the Audubon Center in Mount Morris for a chili dinner, hot beverages, and dessert.
- After dinner you are invited to join us on a night hike down to the woodlot to attempt to call up Screech Owls.
- Return to the Audubon Center to warm up before heading back to your homes.
- Cost: \$5.00 per person, to benefit 2006 educational programming. Reservations are required. RSVP by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 4.



### Road Directions to DEC office:

From the North take 390S to Exit 10. Turn left (east) onto NY Rte 5. The DEC office parking lot is 1.3 miles down Rte 5 on the right.

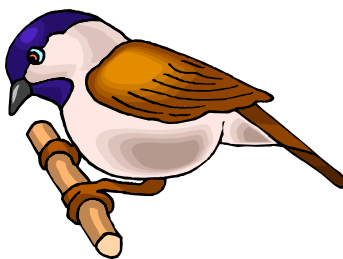
From the South take 390N to Exit 10. Turn right (east) onto NY Rte 5. The DEC office parking lot is 1 mile down Rte 5 on the right.

## Mendon Ponds Park Chickadee Walks

### Fall / Winter Field Trips

#### Save the Dates

Joni Van Delinder will be leading winter hikes (no more than 2 hours) in Mendon Ponds Park. Come out, walk a trail and feed the chickadees 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) Black oil sunflower seed will be provided with a donation or bring your own. Dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.)



Watch for more dates in 2006!

Saturday, October 15, 2005

Saturday, November 19, 2005

Saturday, December 17, 2005

## Nature Walk

Genesee Valley Audubon Center will be offering a nature walk on Saturday, November 12, from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. Participants are to meet in the lobby of the William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center and Recreation area at the Mount Morris Dam located at 6103 Visitor Center Road off 408S in the Village of Mount Morris. Participation is free and open to the public of all ages. Wear warm boots and dress in layers. For more information contact Loretta Morrell at 338-3683.

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

**From the North:** Take 390 to Exit 7 Mt. Morris. Turn left on to 408S. In the village of Mount Morris turn left onto rte 36 and then take the very next right back on to 408S. Follow 408S for 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Visitor Center Road at the William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center and Recreation Area of the Mount Morris Dam. Meet leader in 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 Visitor Center and Recreation Area of the Mount Morris Dam. Meet leader in visitor center lobby.

For further directions contact the William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center at (585) 658-4790.

We have a new web site! Visit us at [www.gvaudubon.org](http://www.gvaudubon.org)

# *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.

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

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## **Board of Directors**

**Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.,**

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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](mailto:GJMitch@localnet.com).

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

## **The White Deer Need Our Help!**

The White Deer herd that resides on the grounds of the former Seneca Army Depot is in danger of losing most or all of its current habitat. There are currently several competing proposals being considered for alternative uses of this site. A nonprofit organization known as the Seneca White Deer, Inc. needs public support for their proposal of turning the former depot into a world class eco-tourism center for nature lovers. Letters supporting this proposal should be sent to:

Glenn Cooke  
Executive Director  
Seneca County Industrial Development Agency  
1 Dipronio Drive  
Waterloo, NY 13166-1681  
[gcooke@co.seneca.ny.us](mailto:gcooke@co.seneca.ny.us)

Additional information is available on the worldwide web at [www.senecawhitedeer.org](http://www.senecawhitedeer.org) including other public officials' names and addresses. Thank you for your help in aiding this very worthwhile cause.