

# The Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Vol. 33, No. 4  
March/April 2006



## From the President

June Summers

Late last year the New York State Invasive Species Task Force issued their final report. The report studies the scope of the problem, existing efforts, and recommends the best way for the State to handle the problem. In January the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced that it is now accepting applications for \$1 million in grants for eliminating aquatic alien species. This is only the first in many steps that must take place to turn the tide on a relatively few species that are impacting our economy and changing state-wide ecosystems. One species is harmful to humans. Specific recommendations of the Task Force are as follows:

1. Establish a permanent leadership structure to coordinate invasive species efforts.
2. Prepare and implement a comprehensive invasive species management plan.
3. Allocate appropriate resources for invasive species efforts.
4. Establish a comprehensive education and outreach effort.
5. Integrate databases and information clearinghouses
6. Convene regular invasive species conferences.
7. Formalize New York State policy and practices on invasive species.
8. Establish a center for invasive species research.
9. Coordinate and streamline the regulatory process.
10. Encourage nonregulatory ap-

proaches to prevention.

11. Influence Federal actions to support invasive species prevention eradication and control.
12. Recognize and fund demonstration projects.

For some of us this process is taking too long. So we thought we would inform our members about three of the top six alien invasive plant species in New York State. This list is from the Invasive Plant Council of New York State, [www.ipcnys.org](http://www.ipcnys.org). The purpose of the Invasive Plant Council of New York State is to provide an information clearinghouse for invasive plant identification, research and management.

### **Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)**

Giant Hogweed is native to central and southwest Asia. It was introduced to the U.S. as a garden plant. The earliest U.S. record, 1917, is from Highland Park, New York. Giant Hogweed is well established in New York and Pennsylvania and continues to spread; it was a new plant for Connecticut in 2001.

The sap of Giant Hogweed causes the skin to be sensitive to UV light. Individual reactions to the sap vary. For this reason, removal or treatment of the plants should be done with extreme care.

### **Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)(a.k.a *Fallopia japonica*)**

Japanese Knotweed is a member of the Polygonaceae family, originating in Asia. It was introduced to the United Kingdom in 1825 as an ornamental. It was introduced into the United States as an estate planting in the 1870s. By 1905, the invasive nature of Japanese Knotweed was already known and the Journal of the Royal Horticulture Society no longer advised its planting. The present range of Japanese Knotweed along the East Coast of North America extends from Nova Scotia to North Carolina. It is also well established in Washington, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Japanese Knotweed has bamboo-like stems that can grow as tall as 15 feet. It thrives in disturbed areas; however, once it is established in an area, it spreads rapidly, creating monoculture stands. It is a threat to natural areas; however, it does not appear to be a threat in low-light habitats.

### **Pale Swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*)(a.k.a. *Cynanchum rossicum*)**

**also Black Swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*)(a.k.a. *Cynanchum louiseae*)**

Pale swallow-wort is native to the Ukraine region of Eastern Europe. It was introduced to the U.S. about 120 years ago and is currently expanding its range at an alarming rate. The seeds are wind-borne,

(Continued on page 4)

## MARCH MEETING

7:30 p.m. Wed., March 22, 2006  
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs  
Meeting Room  
2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton

## WATERFALLS OF WESTERN NEW YORK

Mr. Derek Doeffinger, who works in Technical Marketing Communications at Eastman Kodak Company, is also an avid amateur photographer. His photographs are awe-inspiring and reveal a skill level well beyond the typical photographic hobbyist. He has published a book on waterfalls of western New York and therefore he should be officially classified as a professional photographer, although he humbly denies being qualified for that lofty distinction.

Although when people think of waterfalls in western New York, they often think of the mighty Niagara, Mr. Doeffinger's forays took him into lesser known valleys and gullies in search of cascades whose beauty and uniqueness radiate in all seasons of the year. By looking for converging contour lines crossing a stream on a topographic map, he was able to locate waterfalls seldom sighted by others, as well as many known only to a few residents living in that general locale.

Mr. Doeffinger's photography will cover the popular waterfalls at state parks such as Stoney Brook, Watkins Glen, and Taughanock as well as many of the lesser known ones at such places as Grimes Glen, Clark's Gully, and Conklin Gully.

Please join us for a scenic and educational tour of the backcountry of western New York just as the spring thaw turns these waterfalls into majestic cascades.

## APRIL MEETING

6:30 p.m., Wed., April 26, 2006  
Carmen Clark Lodge, Brighton  
Town Park  
777 Westfall Road, Brighton

## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS NIGHT

Please bring a dish to pass, slides, pictures or an item to share.

Don't forget your plate and silverware. If your last name begins with A – L please bring a vegetable or dessert. If your last name begins with M – Z please bring a main dish. We will provide lemonade and iced tea.

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## Guide to Public Access Wetlands in and Near Monroe County

Christine Sevilla's guidebook *Guide To Public Access Wetlands In And Near Monroe County* is now available on Amazon.com and Lulu.com for \$18.00. This is a must-have book for exploring the great outdoors in the Monroe County area. Learn which watershed you live in, and the importance of wetlands in our environment. Christine's photographs displayed in the book are worth the price and the information is good, too.

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## Thank you!

GVAS would like to thank Ms. **Jill McDowell** for her donation of a 19-inch color television with remote control. This will go to the Genesee Valley Audubon Center at Mt. Morris for education programs.

## *First Sunday Hikes in 2006*

GVAS will host our First Sunday Hikes at the South end of Irondequoit Bay. 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 back corner of the parking lot of Froggy's Restaurant, 1129 Empire Blvd. We will caravan or car pool from there. Have a question, call June at (585) 865-6047.

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.
December 3	3:00 p.m.

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## Last Winter Field Trip Mendon Ponds Park Saturday, March 18, 2006

Walk a trail and feed the chickadees at Mendon Ponds Park.

Come and share this wonderful experience with friends & family.



All are 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.) Joni Van Delinder will lead the hike which will last no more than 2 hours.

# Genesee Valley Audubon Center at Mt. Morris

## Nature Walks

**Saturday, March 4** Nature Walk or Snowshoe Trek  
9:30 am-10:30 am

**Saturday, April 1** Nature Walk or Snowshoe Trek  
9:30 am-10:30 am—bring a lunch and stick around  
for the talk at 1:00 pm on John James Audubon - It  
Wouldn't Fly By Today's Standards

## Winter Lecture Series

You are invited to attend the winter lecture series out at the Mount Morris Dam Visitor Center every Saturday from now until April 1. The talks begin at 1:00 pm. These lectures are sponsored by the Army Corp of Engineers. This year's theme is the Famous and Infamous of the Genesee Valley.

On **April 1** Loretta Morrell will be revealing John James Audubon. The title of the talk in "It Wouldn't Fly By Today's Standards." Shooting birds for observation purposes was not the only questionable practice of this coloring early American naturalist. Come hear about Audubon the romantic, the historian, the artist, and the entrepreneur.

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

**From the North:** Take 390 to Exit 7 Mt. Morris and Letchworth State 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 Visitor Center and Recreation Area at the Mount Morris Dam. The parking lot is 1.7 miles.

**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 at the Mount Morris Dam. The visitor center parking lot is 1.7 miles.

For further information regarding the walk contact Loretta Morrell at (585) 338-3683. For further directions contact the William B. Hoyt II Visitor Center at (585) 658-4790.

## Bird of Prey Week + International Migratory Bird Day Festival Same Place, Same Time

This year the annual Bird of Prey (BOP) Week sponsored by Braddock Bay Raptor Research and the International Migratory Bird Day Festival (IMBD) will be held concurrently at Braddock Bay Park in Greece. Bird of Prey Week will be held April 14 through April 23. IMBD will be held on Saturday, April 22. There are no admission charges for any event.

As part of the IMBD celebration, David Bonter will speak on the "The Wonders of Song Bird Migration," at 2:00 p.m.

David Bonter is Project Feeder Watch coordinator at the Cornell University, Laboratory of Ornithology, and a bird bander at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Through his work at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory David has learned the answers to many of the mysteries of bird migrations. David will share his knowledge of how, when, and which species pass through the Braddock Bay area and along the lake shore. Some of the most beautiful birds in North America pass through the Rochester area. Join us to learn more.

You may obtain the BOP Week and IMBD schedules closer to the time of the events from [www.bbrr.org](http://www.bbrr.org) and from [www.gvaudubon.org](http://www.gvaudubon.org).

## Eat Invasive Plants!

From the Editor

On page 1 June Summers writes about the

invasive alien plant

Japanese knotweed.

My field guide on edible wild plants says that the

young shoots (8 inches or

less) of this plant can be steamed or boiled for 4 - 6 minutes and then eaten like asparagus. They are supposed to have a somewhat tart, citrus-y flavor, and some people prefer them with a sweet dressing or sauce.

Hmm...



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

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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 NEW web site, [www.gvaudubon.org](http://www.gvaudubon.org)**

## 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](mailto:GJMitch@localnet.com).

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

(Continued from page 1)

which facilitates long-distance dispersal. It often is associated with disturbed areas; once established, it tends to move readily into nearby, less disturbed habitats. It is speculated that pale swallow-wort's effect on the composition and diversity of the soil microbial community may contribute to the displacement of the resident vegetation.

Pale swallow-wort is well-established in New York State. In the past decade, Christmas tree growers have reported increased pressure from this invasive plant. Also, the New York State Forest Owners' Association has expressed concern that infestations in central New York may be negatively impacting forest regeneration.

You can see what these plants look like by going to Google, clicking on "images," and typing in the name of the plant.

If these plants are growing in your yard or garden please take the time to dig them out. In the future I will provide more information on invasive species.