

Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society
January/February 2012 Vol. 39, No. 3

President's Column by June Summers

Now for Someone Different

The Board of Genesee Valley Audubon Society is looking for one new board member who is willing to take on a lot: we want a new President. We are prepared to send you to the Chapter Leadership Camp on Hog Island, August 26 – 31. We need someone who is prepared to be President for two years, someone to help us inspire our members to become more involved and to reach out to the community. Other duties include: presiding over meetings of the board and, in consultation with the board, developing agendas for those meetings; leading the board in developing goals, objectives, annual plans and budgets; identifying and cultivating emerging leaders.

Of course the President is also the spokesperson for the chapter in the community, maintains a relationship with the New York State Audubon office, and makes sure the annual Chapter Report is filled out and returned to the National Audubon Society with the assistance of the treasurer. Also he or she stays alert to any activities that may be inappropriate for a 501(c)(3) organization, oversees administrative matters of the chapter, and writes the President's column in the Meadowlark.

The Audubon Hog Island Camp is located on the coast of Maine. The Chapter Leadership Camp is an introduction to Maine coastal ecology, how the National Audubon Society works, how to run a local chapter, and how to eat a lobster. There is great fellowship there because everyone has the same interest in preserving the environment. Last year a Board member of Onondaga Audubon, in the Syracuse area, went; this is what he had to say, "If you have the opportunity to attend a program at Hog Island I cannot recommend it highly enough. The place has a magic all its own. As a biologist I was worried that the programs may be dumbed down or boring but quite the contrary occurred. I was stimulated throughout the week and the staff made

the material understandable to all people attending... By far the best 'camp' food I have ever eaten. Really top notch... A truly inspirational week and the scenery is hard to beat on this coast. Thumbs way up!"

To find out more about the Hog Island Camp and the Chapter Leadership Camp go to <http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCampsDescriptionACLP.html#Programs>. The Leadership Camp costs \$750.00 for shared housing for the summer of 2012. GVAS will pay \$500.00 of the camp cost, the "camper" is expected to pay \$250.00. GVAS will reimburse the President the \$250.00 after his/her first year in office. The "camper" must provide transportation to and from the Audubon dock in Berman, ME.

To apply for the position as President write an essay on what you believe you can bring to GVAS, email it to June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net, or mail it to her at GVAS, P.O. Box 15512, Rochester, NY 14615-0512. The GVAS Board plans to start interviewing applicants by the end of February so please have your letters in by February 15th. If you have any questions call June at (585) 865-6047.

GVAS GOES GREEN

The Meadowlark is on-line at www.gvaudubon.org. If you still want to receive a paper Meadowlark newsletter, do nothing and GVAS will still send you the newsletter. If you wish to view the Meadowlark on-line and not receive it via the mail, please notify Genesee Valley Audubon Society at the following email address: gvaudubon@rochester.rr.com

Please title the email "Meadowlark Newsletter" and include your full name and zip code from the address label on the Meadowlark. We will send you a reminder by email when a new issue is available on line. Thank you for helping GVAS "go green."

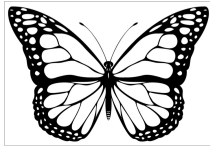
Programs

Secret Life of Butterflies

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, 7:30 pm
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room

2300 Elmwood Ave., Brighton

Did you watch the Monarch Butterflies in your garden this summer and wonder where they were going? Carol Southby, botanist and butterfly expert, will give us insight into the lives of Monarch caterpillar development, chrysalis formation, and emergence of the adult butterfly from the chrysalis. She will also let us in on some of the unusual behaviors of other local butterflies.



Peru

Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 7:30 pm
Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room
2300 Elmwood Ave., Brighton

Join Margaret and Ken Reek as we take you to Peru. Starting in Lima, we learn about the coca plant and visit a shanty town. Then we spend a week on the Amazon River where we fish for piranha, eat giant grubs, and see how to make a dugout canoe. Our trip ends at Machu Picchu, with its amazing Inca craftsmanship, where we see the famous Inca Trail. With photos of the people, birds and animals, and plants, you'll feel as if you were there.

Getting Ready for Bluebirds

Attracting bluebirds to our area is our mission. Would you like to help?

On Saturday, March 3, 2012, several hearty nature lovers will meet at Black Creek Park to help ready the bluebird trail for the new season. We'll clean out the nest boxes and may even relocate several boxes to improved habitat.

Your hands are needed! Dress warmly with boots, hats and gloves - and bring your binoculars. Some bluebirds winter over and might be spotted during our work session. We'll meet at 10 a.m. in the Sunnyside Lodge parking lot (toward the creek). If you have any questions or wish directions, please call Carolyn Emerson at (585) 889-1887. (in case of too much snow on March 3, the "snow date" is March 10, but please call to confirm this.)

Weekly monitoring will begin in April. If you are interested in helping with this task but cannot join us on March 3, call as well. Help us continue to raise the numbers of our beautiful state bird.

Field Trips

February 11, 2012 - Valentine's Walk in the Woods

Joni & Jon Dubner will be leading a hike (no more than 2 hours) in Mendon Ponds Park. Come out, walk a trail and feed the chickadees, tufted titmice & nuthatches while enjoying nature. Fun for your sweetheart and the whole family!! All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure on Saturday, February 11, 2012. **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) Dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.) Seed will be provided – donation optional.



See Big Year Field Trips on page 3.

Great Backyard Bird Count Perfect for New Birders

Feb. 17-20, 2012

The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species.



Anyone can participate in this free event and no registration is needed. Watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the count, February 17-20, 2012. Enter your results at www.birdcount.org, where you can watch as the tallies grow across the continent. The four-day count typically records more than 10 million observations.

The 2011 GBBC brought in more than 92,000 bird checklists submitted by participants from across the United States and Canada. Altogether, bird watchers identified 596 species with 11.4 million bird observations.

Although it's called the Great "Backyard" Bird Count, the count extends well beyond backyards. Lots of participants choose to head for national parks, nature centers, urban parks, nature trails, or nearby sanctuaries. For more information, including bird-ID tips, instructions, and past results, visit www.birdcount.org.

The count also includes a photo contest and a prize drawing for participants who enter their bird checklists online.

2012 Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine

The National Audubon Society has opened registration for their legendary 6-day birding programs for adults, teens and families at the historic Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, Lang Elliott, Don Kroodsma, Bill Thompson III and many more expert ornithologists, naturalists, educators and authors will be in residence during the 2012 sessions. Website: <http://hogisland.audubon.org>

Hog Island Audubon Camp is run by the Seabird Restoration Program (Project Puffin) of the National Audubon Society. All summer programs include field trips to nearby Eastern Egg Rock, where Dr. Steve Kress and his team of biologists have successfully restored an island colony of Atlantic Puffins, and Roseate, Arctic and Common Terns. Immerse yourself in the joy of birding with expert-led workshops, lively evening presentations, saltwater birding tours and trips to diverse habitats on the Maine coast. Participants live in restored wooden buildings dating back to the early 1900's and are treated to three fabulous meals each day, prepared by chef extraordinaire Janii Laberge.

2012 Programs:

Maine Seabird Biology & Conservation - June 3-8 & Sept 9-14

Joy of Birding - June 10-15 & June 24-29

Field Ornithology - June 17—22

Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens - June 17—22 & June 24—29

Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week- July 19—24

Family Camp - August 19—24

Audubon Chapter Leadership Program - August 26—31

Living on the Wind: Fall Migration and Monhegan Island - September 16—21

There is a \$50 earlybird discount for registrations received by Dec 15th and \$25 'snowbird' discount for registrations received by January 15th (all programs except Maine Seabird Biology & Conservation).

Most programs sell out months in advance, so it is worth registering early.

For more information or to enroll, visit <http://hogisland.audubon.org> or call (607) 257-7308 x 14. You may also contact Erica Marx, registrar, at hogisland@audubon.org.

Genesee Valley Audubon Society's BIG YEAR 2012

Join the Fun!

Did you see the movie "The Big Year" released this fall? Or maybe you attended our October program "Extreme Birder" with Lynn E. Barber. Both are about people traveling the country in attempts to see rare birds and counting as many different species as they can see in one year. The GVAS Board has decided to do a Big Year in 2012; however, we have limited ourselves to Monroe County.

GVAS will be tracking the number of different bird species seen by a GVAS Board members in Monroe County from January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2012.

We will be leading family nature walks and other various outings to see and add birds to our Big Year List. Whenever possible we will take pictures of some of the birds seen. We will include updates in our newsletter and on our website. Or follow our adventures on GVAS's Facebook page. We will list the birds seen on our website and facebook page.

Join us, form your own Big Year team and try to beat the GVAS Board. Remember that all birds must be seen with the boundaries of Monroe County. You too will be able to post your list of birds on the GVAS Facebook and ask questions about the birds you have seen. Join the fun.

Big Year Field Trips

Jan. 28, Saturday, 9:00 AM GVAS Big Year Irondequoit Bay to the Genesee River Outlet, Charlotte.

Beginning birders will enjoy this trip to watch for waterfowl that visit the open area on the lake each winter. Dress warmly, we will be standing outside for a while and the wind will be blowing. Wear boots with good traction. Bring your spotting scope if you have one, we will share ours. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the Irondequoit Bay Outlet, parking area near the outlet. The leaders are June, 865-6047, and Lisa.

Feb. 11, Saturday, 9:00 AM GVAS Big Year

Winter Field Birds in Northwestern Monroe County.

Join us on an adventure on the roads through the farm country of northwestern Monroe County to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and other field birds. We will be driving mostly with frequently stops. We will meet at the parking lot at Braddock Bay Park, off E. Manitou Rd, at 9:00 AM. We will head west to Hamlin Beach State Park then south into farm country. Please bring your spotting scope. Leader: June, 865-6047, and Lisa.



Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Meadowlark

P.O. Box 15512, Rochester, NY 14615-0512

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The vision of Genesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) is to promote environmental conservation. Our mission is to educate and advocate for protection of the environment, focusing on birds, wildlife and habitat.

Keep up-to-date with our web site, www.gvaudubon.org

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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 jwmitchell@rochester.rr.com.

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

Shop online and give to GVAS at the same time! Join iGive and a portion of your purchase will be donated to GVAS

Who hasn't said, "I wish there was something I could do to help"? Now you can. Start shopping! At www.iGive.com/GVAS, buy the items you've always wanted— like that DVD box set, expensive cologne, or the wall-mounted flat-panel TV you've had your eyes on - only without the guilt. It's FREE, no invisible costs or tricky obligations. Shop for everyday items at the over 650 stores at the Mall at iGive.com. Up to 26% or more of each purchase is donated to Genesee Valley Audubon Society.

Join now at www.iGive.com/GVAS