



**For immediate release:**

## **Buffalo Audubon's Position on the Zoar Valley Forest Demonstration Project**

Buffalo Audubon Society is committed to the **conservation, sustainability, and responsible management** of natural resources across Western New York. As stewards of over 1,000 acres of diverse ecosystems, our primary mission is to protect and enhance habitats that support the long-term health of wild birds, animals, and the forests they depend upon.

While we understand the goals of the Zoar Valley Forest Demonstration Project, we do **not support the project at the current Zoar Valley location**. Zoar Valley is one of only seven old-growth forests remaining in New York State and should be valued as an **extraordinary ecosystem** deserving a high standard of environmental care and preservation. Any forest management decisions in this area must prioritize sustaining this unique forest ecosystem.

We believe that **conservation-based forest management practices** should focus on birds, wildlife, and the long-term generational health of biodiversity across every forest ecosystem. It is essential to maintain a balance that supports ecosystem diversity. These principles guide our approach to the seven preserves we manage throughout Western New York, ensuring that each is cared for with the same commitment to conservation and sustainability.

Buffalo Audubon remains dedicated to scientifically sound conservation efforts and will support initiatives that align with our mission to protect New York's most critical natural habitats. We advocate for the **relocation** of the Zoar Valley project or the consideration of alternative solutions to ensure the highest standards of environmental care are upheld.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to safeguard the natural world for current and future generations.

**Sincerely,**

**Edward Sirianno**

Edward J. Sirianno, Executive Director, Buffalo Audubon.