



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Inc.
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Editor — Bob Miller

COMING ACTIVITIES

- Apr. 14 Step It Up Event — for Global Warming Awareness National Rally. See page 5.
 - Apr. 17 Board Meeting. Home of Andy Mason.
 - Apr. 20 General Meeting. *The Flora of Otsego County* by Connie Tedesco , graduate student at SUCO .
 - Apr. 21 Sanctuary Work Day. See page 4.
 - Apr. 28 Milford State Forest Cleanup. See page 4.
 - Apr. 29 Earth Day Celebration at Mead-Westvaco in Sydney. See page 4.
 - May 5 Earth Day Festival at Milford. Page 4.
 - May 6 Bird Walk for Beginners —at the Sanctuary with Andy Mason. See page 4.
 - May 15 Board Meeting. John Davis' home.
 - May 18 General Meeting.
 - May 19 Big Day Bird Count
 - May 23 Wildflower Walk at Gilbert State Park with Jean Miller
 - May 27 Weaver Lake Trip with Bob Donnelly
 - Oct. 16 Fall Sanctuary Open House
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DOAS field trips are open to the public. Participants should meet at the stated time and location — please be prompt We encourage carpooling — please help with expenses if you are sharing a vehicle. Most trips include a moderate amount of easy walking; leaders will note any strenuous hiking. Please expect to provide your own food and drink unless a food stop is indicated. In case of bad weather, check with the leader about cancellation.

Title of Program: The Flora of Otsego County

Presenter: Connie Tedesco

Our native plant health is an indicator, in many ways, of the ecological status of our area. The results of a recent Biodiversity Research Institute grant funded by the Nature Conservancy, SUNY Oneonta, and the Otsego County Conservation Association almost doubled the vouchered flora of Otsego County and more than doubled the vouchered flora of Montgomery County. Connie Tedesco, a SUNY Oneonta Biology graduate student under the direction of advisor Dr. Donna Vogler, will review the study and results with a discussion of conserving native flora and rare plants.

This program will be offered at 7:30PM on Friday, April 20th at the Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Refreshments will be served. For further information contact Gerianne Carillo, 607-286-3855, e-mail gerianne@earthlink.net.

Cancellations and Communications

Winter returned in force in mid-March. Unfortunately this noreaster arrived on the day of our program. For the second month in a row we canceled a program because of weather. It isn't something we do lightly. Our events, trips and programs are a critical part of our activities. The board works hard to provide a range of experiences and opportunities to enhance members' and the community's knowledge of nature. The cancellations required a major effort to let people know our plans changed. If you were one of the people who did not get the news and traveled to a canceled program, we apologize.

Communicating, whether to announce an event or to alert people to a cancellation, is critical to our success. This newsletter serves us well except when news must get out quickly. We use traditional media such as local newspapers and radio for a crisis and for routine news. Lately, we have been embracing newer technologies. Our DOAS e-mail news Group (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DOASnews/>) provides timely updates on club events and activities. If you are on that list, you received a message about each of the program cancellations. Our e-mail list for hawk migration alerts (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hawkcast/>) lets people know when we think there will be a good flight at the hawk watch.

E-mail has also facilitated board business. Last year when an important board meeting was canceled due to weather, critical business got done without anyone risking their life on the roads. E-mail also allows for most of the board to engage in discussions that could not take place in the limited time frame of a meeting. Instead of sitting down once a month for 2 hours, there is a regular dialog. Decisions of consequence are still made at the board meetings but most Directors arrive better informed than they would be otherwise.

Our web site (www.doas.us) has grown in importance. It is constantly being updated and improved. There is always a current calendar. You can find short biographies of the Directors and photos from past activities. You can even download issues of our newsletter. Calendar changes and cancellations are posted as soon as that information becomes available.

Much of our efforts at communication are organized and distributed by Publicity Chair John Davis. Many thanks to him for his efforts to promote our activities and for alerting people to the February and March cancellations.

I think we do a good job keeping members and the public informed about our activities. Certainly, there is always room for improvement. If you have ideas on how we can better communicate, please share them with us. ...Tom Salo

CAN YOU HELP?

Refreshments at our monthly meeting provide an enjoyable informal time before and after the programs. I have taken on the new responsibility as Hospitality Chairman and would like to initiate, once again, the help from interested members and friends in bringing something to share for refreshments at a meeting. Cookies, crackers, cheese, fruit, or whatever you choose. Cold beverages are welcome also. I will have a sign-up sheet at each program for anyone who is willing to be called for contributions now and then. Another job is to set out our "DOAS box of supplies" (stored at the Elm Park Church), heat water, and make the various instant drinks available on the table. We have a sheet of 'job description' instructions for guidance, and board members are always there to assist if necessary.

Our board members have been doing this at every program for a number of years. They would appreciate the help of our members.

Call Jean Miller if you are willing to help out in some way. 432-5767. Thank you.



Draft Report on Wind Turbine Wildlife Mortality

Much of the debate about wind power is focused on "viewsheds" and noise. Wildlife impacts have not been as prominent. We feel information that will contribute to a better understanding of wildlife impacts should be made public. In pursuit of that goal, we recently submitted a Freedom of Information Law request for the preliminary Avian and Bat Mortality Study for the 195 turbine Maple Ridge Project near Lowville. We have placed a draft report on this study on our web site (www.doas.us). When the final report is available, we will replace the draft with that document.

A more refined and comprehensive mortality study will be conducted at Maple Ridge in 2007.

Tom Salo

Conservation and Legislation

by Andy Mason

Budget time in Albany help needed for DEC—NY Governor Eliot Spitzer's first executive budget bodes well for his commitment to the environment. Among the most important inclusions were 109 badly needed positions in the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Pataki administration had regularly cut DEC staff, leaving critical shortages in many areas of the agency, including permit reviewers, biologists, and rangers and conservation officers. It is estimated that DEC lost 800 positions under Gov. Pataki, jeopardizing the agency's ability to carry out its mission.

Gov. Spitzer has proposed adding these staff, as well as establishing a brand new Office of Climate Change to guide the state's role in the country's first-ever regional climate pact.

that these are not bonus or extra positions; they are critical to protecting NY's environment and public health and safety. They will help ease the backlog of projects and work that had fallen by the wayside in recent years.

The state Assembly agreed with the Governor's assessment of DEC's personnel needs, including all 109 positions in its proposed budget. However, the state Senate cut this in half, continuing DEC's staff shortfall. As the budget is hashed out in Albany, the Senate needs to know that DEC has been short-changed for too long.

What you can do—Contact your state Senator and urge that the DEC positions be fully funded and that the agency be empowered to do the important work of keeping the state's land, air and water clean.

Environmental Advocates has a prepared email letter to Senators on this topic. Visit their website at www.eany.org to learn more.

Truly protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—As Auduboners are well aware, one of the hardest fought and longest environmental battles of recent years has been the effort to keep oil companies from exploiting the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

To date, this battle has been successful, but our side has come within a hair of losing this irreplaceable ecosystem to drilling on more than one occasion. In addition, it has repeatedly required the time, energy and money of conservation groups and their members to hold the pro-drilling lobby at bay.

This January, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act (HR 39) was introduced in the House. The bill would "preserve the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans."

By designating ANWR as wilderness, its legal protections will be enhanced, making it more difficult for the drillers to gain access to the refuge. There is no question that these lands are wilderness. When the refuge was originally established as part of the Alaska Lands Act decades ago, wilderness designation was withheld only because of the need to achieve a political compromise to get the bill approved.

The current legislation has 123 co-sponsors, but neither of our new US Representatives, Kirsten Gillibrand nor Michael Arcuri, is on this list. For ANWR to receive the protection it needs and deserves, a strong showing from the Democratic majority in Congress is needed.

What you can do—This is an excellent opportunity for these newly elected lawmakers to make a difference in Washington on an important issue. Contact your representative in Congress and ask them to cosponsor HR 39, and protect ANWR for future generations.

Addresses	
<p style="text-align: center;">State Senate</p> <p>State Sen. James Seward/ John Bonacic NY State Senate Albany, NY 12247 Seward—(518) 455-3131 seward@senate.state.ny.us Bonacic—(518) 455-3181 bonacic@senate.state.ny.us</p>	<p>Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5076 fax: (202) 225-5077 www.house.gov/tmcnulty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">US Congress</p> <p>20th Congressional District (Otsego Co. towns of Cherry Valley, Remondou, Decatur, Worcester, Maryland, Westford, Middlefield, and Middlefield) Delaware Co., except towns of Deposit, Hancock and Tompkins)</p>	<p>22nd Congressional District (Delaware Co. Towns of Deposit, Hancock and Tompkins) Rep. Maurice Hinchey US House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-6335 fax: (202) 226-0774 www.house.gov/hinchey</p>
<p>Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand US House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5614 www.gillibrand.house.gov</p>	<p>24th Congressional District (Otsego Co. towns of Springfield, Otsego, Hendrick, Leavenworth, Oneonta (including City of Oneonta) and west All of Chenango Co.) Rep. Michael Arcuri US House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-3665 fax: (202) 225-1891 www.arcuri.house.gov</p>
<p>21st Congressional District (All of Schoharie Co.) Rep. Michael McNulty US House of Representatives</p>	

Phone Numbers of DOAS Officers & Directors

- Tom Salo. 965-8232 tomsalo@localnet.com
- John Davis. 547-9688 davi7js4@hughes.net
- Bob Donnelly ___ rsdonn@yahoo.com
- GerianneCarillo 286-3855
- Nancy Cannon 746-6037
- Lisa Gorn 263-5703 lgorn@localnet.com
- AndyMason 652-2162 andymason@earthling.net
- Barbara Marsala ___ barbaramarsala@bassett.org
- Stephen Rice 829-3111

Bluebirds!

A reminder that bluebird house plans and ready-built bluebird houses are available from DOAS. Plans are free and houses are \$11.00 each. Plans and houses can be obtained at DOAS functions or by mail. Contact Andy Mason, 1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net.

Help Needed at Earth Events

DOAS has been invited to participate in three events organized around this Spring's Earth Day celebration. We need assistance in staffing tables to provide information on our organization to visitors. Members are invited to help with these efforts a commitment of 2 or 3 hours would be helpful.

Events include:

- Step it Up global warming rally in Oneonta, April 14 (see details elsewhere in this issue).
- Earth Day celebration at Mead-Westvaco in Sidney, April 29, 12 noon to 5 p.m.
- Earth Fest at Milford Central School, May 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you are able to help out with any of these events, please contact Tom Salo, (607), 965-8232, tomsalo@localnet.com, or Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net.

Work Day at Sanctuary

A work day at the DOAS Sanctuary has been scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. We will be cleaning out the barn on the property, so pickup trucks would be most helpful. If there are enough volunteers, we also will be clearing and marking the trails on the property.

Please come and help us maintain this special place! Contact Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net for more information.

Beginners' Bird Walk

Interested in learning the basics of bird identification? DOAS is sponsoring a beginners' bird walk Sunday, May 6 at the DOAS Sanctuary. We will meet at 8 a.m. to explore the various habitats on the property and seek out returning Spring migrants and resident birds. Focus will be on common species and using binoculars and field guides.

For further information, contact Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net.

Milford State Forest Cleanup

On Saturday, April 28th, from 9 AM to 12 noon, there will be a trash cleanup at Milford State Forest. Although it will be held a week later, this event is intended to be a way to celebrate Earth Day by doing something constructive. In addition, each participant will receive a wildlife shrub seedling to take home. Meet at the DEC warehouse on Kelly Corners Road (about 1/2 mile south of its intersection with State Land Road) and bring gloves. For further information, contact Lisa Gorn at 263-5703, lgorn@localnet.com.

DOAS February Field Trip

On a cold and windy Feb. 24, a group of 14 set out to look for birds in the late afternoon. We found three large mixed flocks of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks in the grasslands of northern Otsego and southern Montgomery counties. American Robins and Tree Sparrows were abundant. Two rough-legged Hawks and three Red-tailed Hawks were also found. The highlight of the day was finding two small flocks of Short-eared Owls. Some posed on fence posts in the bright afternoon sunshine, and one was seen catching a mouse and flying away with the rodent clutched in its talons while another owl chased it.

... Bob Donnelly

For The Birds

In each sentence, fill in the blanks with two words that will go together to name a bird.

1. The thieves plan to ___ the bank, if they can figure out how to get ___.
2. We watched the boxers ___ from our seats in the first ___.
3. One boxer kept getting knocked to the ___ but he always got ___ up.
4. Barbie felt so ___ in her new clothes that she dumped her long time boyfriend ___.
5. Only a ___ would ___ a scheme to attack a country without having an exit strategy.
6. ___ of their farm is on the other side of the Blue ___ Mts.
7. The customer was extremely ___ when he received a 2nd ___ for the same service.
8. The patient received a ___ of the wrong blood, which made him ___ even more.
9. He received a ticket because the light was ___ when he decided to ___ through the intersection.
10. On a ___, we decided to buy a CD of songs by Jacques ___.
11. The evangelist's sermon on the wrath of ___ had little wisdom and no ___.
12. The train ride was so ___ because we were forced to wait on a ___.
13. When graphing the equation $x=0$, do not let your pencil ___ from the ___ axis.
14. As a gesture of royal forgiveness, the ___ the political prisoners go free.
15. A good teacher ___ her attention away from the student who uses a rude ___ of voice.
16. My uncle sprained his ankle at the family reunion, leaving him as the only person with a ___ among all our ___.

... Bob Donnelly

**DOAS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT APRIL 14
GLOBAL WARMING RALLY IN ONEONTA**

Environmentalist Bill McKibben's call for a nationwide rally to educate citizens about the threat of global warming has resulted in "STEP IT UP" programs being scheduled for April 14 in hundreds of cities across the country. In Oneonta an ad hoc citizens group has planned an ambitious program beginning the evening of April 13 with a film showing at the Oneonta Theater, and continuing with numerous events through Saturday the 14th. Mayor John Nader is enthusiastically behind this effort, and the Mayor's Office, the Environmental Board of the City of Oneonta and the Coalition for Democracy of Central New York are official co-sponsors.

DOAS and a number of other groups have been invited to participate in a Saturday afternoon rally at Muller Plaza. Our president, Tom Salo, will give a short presentation on how climatic change is already affecting the wild fauna and flora of New York State, and what the prospect is for the future. DOAS will also be providing information and pertinent literature (including membership applications) at a table set up in the plaza. The table will be set up at 10AM Saturday, and will be maintained until the end of the rally at 3 pm. If you would like to help staff the DOAS table, please call Joe Richardson at 263-5645.

DOAS members and friends should find much of interest at this event. Those with bicycle riders of any age in their families are especially invited to participate in the gala bicycle parade down Main Street. The schedule of events is as follows:

Friday, April 13 - Film, "Who Killed the Electric Car" will be shown by UCCCA at the Oneonta Theater at 7pm
Saturday, April 14 - 10 am to 3 pm - Educational Fair on Global Warming in Muller Plaza (in front of Clarion Hotel) (nearby businesses will also host pertinent window displays)

12:30 - Parade of decorated bicycles - all welcome! Participants gather to decorate their bicycles in Dietz Street Parking lot; parade to Muller Plaza goes off at 1 pm.

1-3 pm - Rally in Muller Plaza; mayoral proclamation followed by speakers (including Tom Salo), interspersed with award presentations and live music.

3:30-5:30 - Panelists' forum and workshop, probably at Main Street Presbyterian Church. Presenters include Mayor Nader, Peak Oil expert Gene Marner, local action advocate Karl Seley, and SUCO biologist Dona Vogler

Evening - Special Program of music and film for Teens at the Oneonta Teen Center. A film by local filmmaker John Miglietta in which students interview global warming experts will be featured.

... Joe Richardson

March Bird Sightings

The spring explosion is here. Birders in our area have reported numerous Spring migrants and first of the year birds. Maybe it's just my imagination, but they seem to be arriving earlier each year.

On 2/23 Eleanor Moriarty saw 5 American robins at Charlotte Creek, Marge Mathis had a fox sparrow in Morris and a red-bellied woodpecker was seen by Deb Fox in Oneonta. On 2/26 Charlie Dahan reported 2 Carolina wrens and a red-breasted nuthatch in Otego while Dorian Huneke heard 2 Eastern screech owls calling back and forth in Treadwell. Bob Howard saw 3 Eastern bluebirds in Walton on 2/27. 2/28 brought a small flock of American robins to Sharon as reported by Cindy Campbell.

On 3/2 Bob Donnelly had 2 saw-whet owls in Milford. 3/3 was a big birding bonanza. John Birkett saw 7 red-winged blackbirds and 3 common grackles in Bainbridge. In Milford Gerianne Carillo had 2 red-winged blackbirds and 2 common grackles. Dorian Huneke reported a common grackle, 12 brown-headed cowbirds and 2 red-winged blackbirds in Treadwell. In W. Burlington Tom Salo saw 20 red-winged blackbirds.

On 3/6 Andy Mason reported flocks of 30 horned larks and 15 snow buntings in Kortright. On 3/10 Warren Ryther spied a killdeer in New Lisbon. 10 turkey vultures and a Cooper's hawk were seen by Sandra Perry in Oneonta and a pair of wood ducks were reported by Tom Whitney in Delhi on 3/11.

On 3/12 Dave Kiehm had a Northern shrike in Milford. A pair of ruffed grouse were seen by Tom Whitney in Walton on 3/13. Becky Gretton reported an American woodcock in the Canadarago Lake area on 3/14. On 3/16 Marge Mathis saw a fox sparrow in Morris and Warren Ryther reported 2 hooded mergansers in New Lisbon.

An Eastern meadowlark was seen by Tom Salo in W. Burlington on 3/19. A female red-winged blackbird was seen by Marge Mathis in Morris, 4 great blue herons were reported by Kay Crane in Deposit and Tom Whitney saw a ring-necked duck in Delhi on 3/20.

Please send sightings to Dianne Benko at (607) 829-5218, at 6815 Co. Hwy. 16, Delhi, NY 13753, or at caged@wpe.com by 4/15/07 for the next issue of The Belted Kingfisher.

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
 PO Box 544
 Oneonta, NY 13820-0544
www.doas.us

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Membership Application

Membership in the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. includes 9 issues of our newsletter, *The Belted Kingfisher*. Cost is \$12 annually or \$20 for 2 years. Please make check payable to DOAS and mail to DOAS Membership Chair, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820-0544, with name, address and phone.

(NOTE: Please mail National Audubon renewals to address on renewal notice.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

To contribute notes or articles for *The Belted Kingfisher*, please send to: Kingfisher Editor, DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820-0544.

All meetings are free and open to the public.