



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Coming Activities

June

June 2 – Bird Walk

June 3 – Field Trip

June 16 – Water Sentinel Training

June 17 – Field Trip

June 30 – Bird Walk

July

July 28 – Bird Walk

August

August 21 – Board Meeting

September

September 21 – DOAS Program

October

October 19 – Charter Dinner

More information on page 7

**All DOAS programs
are free and open
to the public**

Let's Take a Hike

Someone recently asked me if I had a favorite hike or hiking location. This was a tough question since there are so many great places around the Oneonta area. There are many local and state parks as well as roads that lead one along scenic countrysides, but I would have to say Pine Lake or the Riddell State Park trail to Mud Lake has to be the one that fondly comes to mind.

Land including Mud Lake, was purchased by Hartwick College back in the early '70s and has been used by many as a place to do research or simply to relax and enjoy. First of all, Mud Lake is not a lake but is in fact a high altitude bog. More than 12,000 years ago during the time of the glaciers, this kettlehole lake was formed after the ice melted. Now it has filled in with peat/sphagnum moss, creating a springing mat harboring interesting flowers and plants. On a warm summer day, one can find sundew, pitcher plants, bog rosemary and others. One trip a few years ago, we came

across the beautiful fringed gentian in bloom. What a wonderful surprise!

In 2003, New York State acquired the upper track of Pine Lake, which included Mud Lake. Now one can access the trail by way of Riddell Park, south of Interstate

88 or the trail just across the Charlotte Creek Road at the Pine Lake Environmental Center. Each path begins about 2.1 miles from the entrance to the bog. Yes, the start of the trek is uphill but soon levels off. Many marked signs make it almost impossible to get lost. Along the way, listen for the many woodland birds such as the thrushes and tanager. These beautiful songsters seem to make the trip for me. I carry water, a snack, my small binoculars, a couple of field

guides and my itouch with the Audubon Guides to the Birds and Trees with me. Also, I carry a small voice recorder for observations or questions.

The Mud Lake hike is a must do and see any time of the year. I must admit the summer and fall are my favorites. Yes, the trail is a bit steep at times and you will be climbing 550 feet, but keep in mind that the path back to the car is all downhill.

Julie Smith



Pitcher Plant, By Julie Smith

President's Message
Thank you, Barbara!



Barbara Marsala

We are writing this column jointly because it takes two people to adequately present the sentiments that make it up! Over the past several months, we have shared the DOAS President position with Barbara Marsala. Barbara will be leaving the Board of Directors in May in anticipation of moving from the area in the near future.

Although her recent efforts as co-President are important, they represent only a fraction of what Barbara has done for our Chapter over the past three decades. She has always had a passion for environmental education, and in 1983 originated the John G. New Day Camp at our wildlife sanctuary. Barbara served as camp

director for several summers, and over the period camp was in operation, over 200 kids enjoyed a great outdoors learning experience that we know carried over into the adult lives of many. Earlier, Barbara had put together an innovative hands-on display for school classrooms that used portable boxes, each containing information and objects demonstrating an environmental concept. This circulated among many area schools, again letting kids interact directly.

Barbara has also coordinated our environmental grants program that provides area classrooms with funding for projects such as trout raising and release, meteorology, and pond studies. For many years she has also arranged for Audubon Adventures—a monthly newsletter and teacher's guide—to go into area elementary school classrooms. This National Audubon program has been well-received by teachers and students alike.

Her efforts have not been limited to education, however. Barbara has led wildflower field trips for DOAS, including this month's Jean Miller memorial walk at Gilbert Lake State Park. She has been instrumental in our organization's governance, serving previous terms as President and Vice-President as well as long service on the board. She has been active in the board's work to plan for the future of DOAS and a regular participant in Christmas Counts and May migration counts. Despite Barbara's frequent protestations that she doesn't know enough about birds to be a DOAS board member, let alone president of our organization, all her fellow board members know better!

Beyond Audubon, Barbara has been a hard-working and committed member of the community. Her career in social service and public health and efforts on behalf of other organizations has made Oneonta and Otsego County a better place. She will be missed by all who know her and have been touched and enriched by her good works.

Barbara's thoughtful, knowledgeable, cheerful and committed presence in DOAS has been a large influence in shaping the organization and keeping it healthy and vibrant for many years. We thank her for her dedicated service, and wish her joy and success in her new home.

Andy Mason, Joe Richardson

THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO

AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1968

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Helen McLean

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To contribute notes or articles for

The Belted Kingfisher, email:

editor@doas.us

Conservation and Legislation

Anti-environmental legislation advances in Congress—Last month we wrote about pending legislation in Congress that would make some very negative changes to our wildlife and land protection laws, including: allowing polar bear “trophies” into the country; opening virtually all federal lands to sport hunting; allowing recreational off-road vehicles to invade federal wilderness areas while permitting logging, mining and drilling in these special places; and preventing the Environmental Protection Agency from addressing toxic poisoning caused by lead ammunition.

As expected, this dangerous bill, H.R. 4089 passed the House of Representatives in a largely party line vote. Among local Representatives, Congressman Chris Gibson voted for this bill, while Maurice Hinchey and Paul Tonko opposed it. The legislation could now be taken up by the US Senate at any time, and it is important that conservationists speak out to stop it from becoming law.

What you can do—Contact Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and ask them to oppose the provisions in H.R. 4089 when they reach the Senate. In particular, Sen. Gillibrand has shown a propensity to support this type of legislation, and needs to know that her constituents do not favor such assaults on our environment. If Chris Gibson represents you in Congress, let him know that his

vote was wrong and his poor environmental record will be on your mind in this fall’s election.

Audubon supports an end to village pesticides in Cooperstown—The DOAS board of directors has voted to send a letter to the Village of Cooperstown in support of local efforts to end pesticide use on Doubleday Field and other village owned properties. The letter states:

“We support the concept that Cooperstown, as the first community on the Susquehanna, has a unique opportunity to send clean, untainted water downstream. By eliminating chemical pesticides, the village will set an example to others to end their use of such poisons and start the community on that path.”

Cooperstown draws its water supply from Otsego Lake and pesticides and other contaminants are a particular threat. There are safe, effective alternatives to these chemicals that will reduce these dangers.

What you can do—If you are a village resident, let the Mayor and Village Board know that you also support ending use of chemical pesticides on Doubleday Field and the other village properties.

Andy Mason

Training Workshop for Water Sentinels

The Sierra Club has established a surface water quality monitoring program to test rural lakes and rivers in anticipation of large-scale hydrofracking in New York. This monitoring will provide baseline data on water quality to track future changes.

A training workshop for volunteer Water Sentinels, is scheduled for June 16 in Oneonta. For further information, contact Gail Tooker, gail.tooker@cortland.edu, or Tim Mulroy, (607) 828-8455.



by Dave Kiehm

Annual Member Meeting Board Election

The vote took place at the May 18th Board Member Meeting, Elm Park United Methodist Church, Oneonta, NY.

Proposed slate of Nominees included:

- Current board members renewing for 2 year term: Julia Gregory; Eric Knight; Andy Mason; Bob Miller and Tom Salo
- New board member to fill vacancy: Charlie Scheim

Motion was passed to vote one time for full slate of nominees; nominee recommendations were accepted unanimously.

Nominating committee: board members Bob Miller and Susan O’Handley and non-board members Lisa Gorn and John Davis.

Staying Put

While I have travelled here and there to do a bit of bird watching, my favorite place is right here at home. There is a lot to be said for staying put, for coming to know one's home turf deeply and well. I suspect that most of us drawn to birds have logged quite a bit of time away from the home front in search of this or that species, only to return home weary and somewhat disappointed. I remember quite a few years ago heading up to the woods behind our house in search of the Pileated woodpecker making those deep woods resonant sounds that reminded me of the percussion instruments that had caught my imagination in Indonesia many years ago. It was a beautiful day and I enjoyed the walk with my dog Mittens, but she had better luck than I did. She treed a raccoon and I treed nothing at all. When we got back home I made a cup of tea, one of my self-commiseration techniques, sat on the deck behind the house and --- within minutes a beautiful male Pileated alighted on a tree in our backyard, drummed a few chips to the ground, and flew off. I have always felt that it was his way of telling me to cool it, that things sought for too earnestly can be annoyingly elusive. I have had to relearn that wisdom over the years.

The past several weeks here on the hill have been extraordinarily rich with avian life. As I write, three pairs of tree swallows have set up shop not far from the house and a pair of bluebirds has taken command of the nesting box a few fence lengths down from their swallow neighbors. One box closest to the house remains vacant and I suspect it will have some tenants shortly, as a second pair of bluebirds, still off scouting for summer digs, customarily sets up shop there. What comforts me the most is the predictability of it all. I agree with naturalist Hal Borland that nature conforms to certain eternal rhythms, that there is a cosmic pattern that informs their being, and that one of life's tastiest pleasures is delighting in their mysteriousness. So I do not dwell too much on the why of things. I sometimes think we humanoids take things a bit too seriously. We waste precious spiritual time looking too deeply into things beyond our capacity to grasp or ever understand. I would make a lousy shrink and, most likely, an even lousier scientist.

Winter up here, avian-wise, always interesting, was a bit off its customary feed. For the first time in memory, the White-breasted nuthatches and Red-breasted nuthatches wintered elsewhere. In fact, the first nuthatch appeared on the ash tree just outside my study window last week. Several neighbors, when queried,

confirmed their absence in this neck of the woods. Strange. We normally host a small flock of Pine siskins; not so this year. At one point I was able to report a flock of approximately 50 Goldfinches to Project Feeder Watch, but that was about it for the flockers. I hope my Redpoll dreams elicit their return next year.

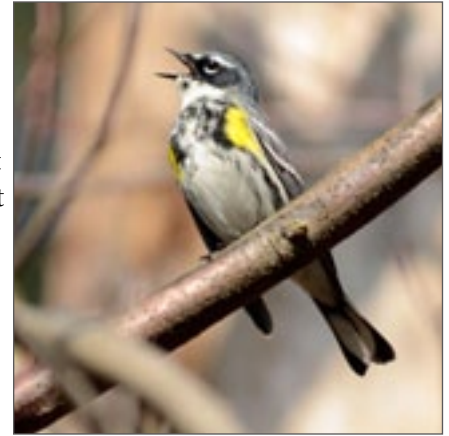
If they were true to past behavior, this should have been their on year. Others reported having some; envy has trumped humility!

So far spring has sprung some surprises. I would like to think it is its way of making up for this winter's disappointments.

I saw a splash of yellow in the thick bush next to the deck yesterday morning while soaking up some sun and downing the last of too many cups of coffee. A Yellow-rumped warbler was checking out the low branches for some breakfast fare. We locked eyes for a few seconds and I was able to get a nice picture. Normally, we see them higher up in trees flitting here and there for edibles. All day yesterday flew here and there at lower altitudes, which affording us with closer glimpses than is usually the case. The high point of the day was spotting a Scarlet Tanager sitting on a limb on the garden's edge, close enough again for a pretty good photo.

These photo ops are pretty rare. If memory serves me well, this is the first tanager sighting at Hawthorn Hill. I have seen them on my walks about our back roads, but never right here. I see it as another of spring's ways of making up for winter's stinginess, although I do not take it too personally.

Of all the recurring patterns on the hill, the one that heralds the arrival of the breeding season most conspicuously is the appearance of an adobe-like Phoebe's nest on the light fixture on the barn wall above and to the left of the door. I gave up doing Phoebe battles years ago. Every effort at eviction on my part was ignored and met with increased fervor and commitment on their part. I admire that sort of principled tenacity – at least in birds. They want the best for their kids and who would not support that!



Yellow-rumped Warbler, by Dave Kiehm



Yellow-rumped Warbler, by Dave Kiehm

Dick DeRosa

Visit Dick's blog at rjderosa.com

2012 Big Day Bird Count Results – Compiled by Bob Miller

All birds seen in the 2012 count are listed below; those for which only one bird was seen are indicated with (1).

For a complete list of all species seen on DOAS Big Days since 1969, visit our website: doas.us

GAVIIDAE

Common Loon ✓

PODICIPEDIDAE

PHALACROCORACIDAE

ARDEIDAE

American Bittern ✓

Great Blue Heron ✓

Green Heron ✓

CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture ✓

ANATIDAE

Mute Swan ✓

Canada Goose ✓

Wood Duck ✓

Mallard ✓

American Black Duck ✓

Hooded Merganser (1)

Common Merganser ✓

PANDIONIDAE

Osprey (1)

ACCIPITRIDAE

Sharp-shinned Hawk (1)

Cooper's Hawk (1)

Bald Eagle ✓

Red-shouldered Hawk ✓

Broad-winged Hawk ✓

Red-tailed Hawk ✓

FALCONIDAE

American Kestrel ✓

Merlin (1)

PHASIANIDAE

Ruffed Grouse ✓

Wild Turkey ✓

ODONTOPHORIDAE

RALLIDAE

Virginia Rail ✓

Sora ✓

CHARADRIIDAE

Killdeer ✓

SCOLOPACIDAE

American Woodcock ✓

Common Snipe ✓

Greater Yellowlegs ✓

Solitary Sandpiper ✓

Spotted Sandpiper ✓

Least Sandpiper ✓

LARIDAE

Ring-billed Gull ✓

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon ✓

Mourning Dove ✓

CUCULIDAE

Black-billed Cuckoo ✓

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1)

TYTONIDAE

STRIGIDAE

Eastern Screech-Owl ✓

Great Horned Owl ✓

Barred Owl ✓

CAPRIMULGIDAE

APODIDAE

Chimney Swift ✓

TROCHILIDAE

Ruby-throated

Hummingbird ✓

ALCEDINIDAE

Belted Kingfisher ✓

PICIDAE

Red-bellied Woodpecker ✓

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ✓

Downy Woodpecker ✓

Hairy Woodpecker ✓

Northern Flicker ✓

Pileated Woodpecker ✓

TYRANNIDAE

Olive-sided Flycatcher ✓

Eastern Wood-Pewee ✓

Alder Flycatcher ✓

Willow Flycatcher ✓

Least Flycatcher ✓

Eastern Phoebe ✓

Great Crested Flycatcher ✓

Eastern Kingbird ✓

LANIIDAE

VIREONIDAE

Blue-headed Vireo ✓

Yellow-throated Vireo ✓

Warbling Vireo ✓

Red-eyed Vireo ✓

CORVIDAE

Blue Jay ✓

American Crow ✓

Common Raven ✓

ALAUDIDAE

HIRUNDINIDAE

Tree Swallow ✓

Northern Rough-winged

Swallow ✓

Bank Swallow ✓

Cliff Swallow ✓

Barn Swallow ✓

PARIDAE

Black-capped Chickadee ✓

Tufted Titmouse ✓

SITTIDAE

Red-breasted Nuthatch ✓

White-breasted Nuthatch ✓

CERTHIIDAE

Brown Creeper ✓

TROGLODYTIDAE

Carolina Wren ✓

Winter Wren ✓

House Wren ✓

Marsh Wren ✓

REGULIDAE

Golden-crowned Kinglet ✓

SYLVIIDAE

TURDIDAE

Eastern Bluebird ✓

Veery ✓

Swainson's Thrush (1)

Hermit Thrush ✓

Wood Thrush ✓

American Robin ✓

MIMIDAE

Gray Catbird ✓

Northern Mockingbird (1)

Brown Thrasher ✓

STURNIDAE

European Starling ✓

MOTACILLIDAE

BOMBYCILLIDAE

Cedar Waxwing ✓

PARULIDAE

Blue-winged Warbler ✓

Tennessee Warbler ✓

Nashville Warbler ✓

Northern Parula ✓

Yellow Warbler ✓

Chestnut-sided Warbler ✓

Magnolia Warbler ✓

Black-throated Blue Warbler ✓

Yellow-rumped Warbler ✓

Black-throated Green

Warbler ✓

Blackburnian Warbler ✓

Pine Warbler ✓

Prairie Warbler ✓

Blackpoll Warbler ✓

Black-and-white Warbler ✓

American Redstart ✓

Ovenbird ✓

Northern Waterthrush ✓

Louisiana Waterthrush ✓

Mourning Warbler ✓

Common Yellowthroat ✓

Hooded Warbler ✓

Wilson's Warbler (1)

Canada Warbler ✓

THRAUPIDAE

Scarlet Tanager ✓

EMBERIZIDAE

Eastern Towhee ✓

Chipping Sparrow ✓

Field Sparrow ✓

Savannah Sparrow ✓

Grasshopper Sparrow (1)

Song Sparrow ✓

Swamp Sparrow ✓

White-crowned Sparrow ✓

White-throated Sparrow ✓

Dark-eyed Junco ✓

CARDINALIDAE

Northern Cardinal ✓

Rose-breasted Grosbeak ✓

Indigo Bunting ✓

ICTERIDAE

Bobolink ✓

Red-winged Blackbird ✓

Eastern Meadowlark ✓

Common Grackle ✓

Brown-headed Cowbird ✓

Baltimore Oriole ✓

FRINGILLIDAE

Purple Finch ✓

House Finch ✓

Pine Siskin ✓

American Goldfinch ✓

PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow ✓



Mockingbird, by Dave Kiehm

See the list of this year's birds on page 5. For all birds seen since 1969, visit our website: doas.us

Annual May Big Day Bird Count

The Big Day turned out to be a beautiful sunny one. The total number of species seen by the Delhi Bird Club plus the DOAS was 139. This is the 9th time that we have seen 130 or more in our 43 years of counting. The eleven people from the Delhi Bird Club saw 99 species, just one short of the 100 in 24 hours that everyone likes to try for. And they were the only ones to see Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Grasshopper Sparrow, the latter very unexpected and rare in our area.

In our total count it was nice to have reports of the residents: Northern Mockingbird and Hooded Warbler and the migrants Swainson Thrush and Pine Siskins, which are uncommon for us in May. It was disappointing to see no Cape May nor Bay Breasted nor Cerulean Warblers. The team of Bob Donnelly, Dave Kiehm and Eric Knight saw 119 species, Bob Miller and Peter Stephan saw 95 and Cheryl and Joanne Boise saw 92. A very good day was had by all.

Bob Miller

Our Trip to Onderdunk Road

We had quite a variety of wetland birds on the DOAS field trip to Onderdunk Road on May 11. Besides excellent views of Soras and Virginia Rails, we had three American Bitterns flying overhead within 10 feet of us. One Bittern then proudly put on a long display at a distance too close to put more than the head of the bird in the telescope. He kept showing off his shoulder feathers to us.

The group also had good looks at a pair of courting Sharp-shinned Hawks and a pair of Northern Harriers which stayed extremely close as the male was doing aerial courtship displays.

We also had wonderful close-ups of Great-crested Flycatchers, Purple Finches, and various warblers.

Bob Donnelly

Annual Charter Dinner

Birding in New Zealand: A Brief Travelogue of New Zealand's North and South Islands

On October 19th, Cynthia and Frank Waterman will present *Birding in New Zealand; A brief travelogue of New Zealand North and South Islands* with a focus on New Zealand birds; their characteristics, habitats, songs and predator problems. Sanctuaries that have been established for endangered species will be discussed.

Cynthia Waterman is the President of the Delhi Bird Club and an avid birder. Upon her retirement as a special education teacher

from New York State and Virginia after 32 years, she pursued her love of

birding, monitoring bird boxes, playing the hammered dulcimer and accordion with the Delaware Dulcimers. Frank is a retired professor of Medical Physics from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. He is currently president of the Meredith Historical Society, supporting his passion for historical research. Both Cynthia and Frank love to travel in their restored 1955 MG hoping to survive many more tiki tours.



Great-crested Flycatcher, by Dave Kiehm

Upcoming Activities

June

June 2 – Bird Walk at Max Shaul State Park: Route 30 south of Middleburgh, Schoharie County, 7:30–9 AM. Contact Roy Morris at roymorris10@gmail.com for more information.

June 3 – Mountaintop Arboretum (Tannersville) Field Trip: Meet in Stamford at the Rite-Aid parking lot at 7:30 AM. This will be an all day trip. A stop for lunch is planned. For more information contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054.

June 16 – Training Workshop for Water Sentinels: See page 3 for details.

June 17 – Lordsland Conservancy: Bob Donnelly of DOAS and Connie Tedesco of the Otsego Land Trust will co-lead a bird and plant field trip to Lordsland Conservancy in the town of Roseboom (Otsego County). It will be an easy hike, but we might go through some very wet ground. This is a trip for anyone interested in the local flora and fauna. Lordsland Conservancy is home to the endangered Appalachian Jacob’s Ladder. We will meet at the small Nature Conservancy parking area on Gage Road, about 1/2-1 mile past Belvedere Lake. The walk will start at 8:00 AM and probably last 2-3 hours. For any questions, please contact Bob Donnelly at rsdonn@yahoo.com or 607-264-8156.

June 30 – Bird Walk at Max Shaul State Park: Route 30 south of Middleburgh, Schoharie County, 8–9:30 AM.

Contact Roy Morris at roymorris10@gmail.com for more information.

July

July 28 – Bird Walk at Max Shaul State Park: Route 30 south of Middleburgh, Schoharie County, 7:30–9 AM. Contact Roy Morris at roymorris10@gmail.com for more information.

August

August 21 – DOAS Board Meeting: 7 PM.

September

September 21 – DOAS Program: *Invasive Species -Asian Longhorned, Ash-Borer, and Whitespotted Sawyer* by Erin Brady, DEC Environmental Educator. Erin is an avid birder and has been with the Division of Lands and Forest for 5 years, and a resident of the Catskills for 12 years. The program will begin at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Program Chairman Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054.

October

October 19 – Annual Charter Dinner: Cynthia and Frank Waterman will present *Birding in New Zealand; A brief travelogue of New Zealand North and South Islands*. See details on page 6.



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Membership Reminder:

Please check your address on this newsletter for your membership expiration date. This date is shown by four numbers—the first two digits indicate the year and the second two digits indicate the month, i.e., ‘1206’ is June 2012. See renewal information below—please renew and continue your support of DOAS and our programs.

DOAS Membership Application

Membership in the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society includes 9 issues of our newsletter, *The Belted Kingfisher*. Cost is \$15 annually or \$25 for two years. Please make your check payable to “DOAS” and mail payment with this form to: DOAS Membership Chair, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820-0544.

Note: Please mail National Audubon renewals to address on renewal notice.

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Nashville Warbler, by Dave Kiehm

April–May Bird Sightings

A few days after my husband mowed the front yard multiple dandelions popped up with their powdery heads. I watched from my living room window as a pair of chipping sparrows pulled the fluffy threads of two different dandelion clusters to feast on the seed tip. A minute later a pair of American goldfinches each found its own feathery dandelion. The front lawn was truly an integrated neighborhood.

While horseback riding in an open field in Treadwell Dorian Huneke passed by a pair of American Kestrels and a Pileated Woodpecker on 4/17. Charlie Scheim in Oneonta heard singing Yellow-rumped Warblers on the same day. On the 19th Andy Mason saw a House Wren and heard a Swamp Sparrow singing in Jefferson. Jeffrey Murray had the pleasure of hearing two male Nashville Warblers in Milford State Forest and Cynthia Campbell observed a Black-throated Green Warbler from her dooryard in Cherry Valley on 4/21. The next day Jeffrey also saw a Louisiana Waterthrush and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Glimmerglass State Park. On 4/25 male

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in all their glorious color returned to Carol Davis' feeder in S. New Berlin.

Lots of birds appeared on the first of May. Sandy Bright saw Chimney Swifts twittering and swooping over Center Street in Oneonta, Charlie Scheim heard an Ovenbird in Laurens, a singing Scarlet Tanager delighted Tom Salo in W. Burlington and Baltimore Orioles were feeding on flowering trees in Kathy Dawson's yard in Guilford. The next day Eleanor Moriarity saw four White-crowned Sparrows around an old apple tree as they passed through Davenport Center, Andy Mason enjoyed the arrival of Gray Catbirds, Warbling Vireos, and Common Yellowthroats in Jefferson, Kay Crane also had a White-throated Sparrow in Walton, Jessie Savage saw a Yellow Warbler in an ancient lilac bush in Jefferson, and a Green Heron was taking goldfish from the Glenwood Cemetery pond in Oneonta while Andrew Cooper looked on. On the 3rd Peter Reagan saw his FOS Eastern Kingbird eating flies out over the Susquehanna, his FOS Osprey checking out a big pond on Shacktown Mt., Charlie Scheim heard his FOS Least Flycatcher in

Laurens and Gerianne Carillo watched her FOS Ruby-throated Hummingbird take a long drink at her feeder in Milford. On 5/4 Stacey Grocott's yearly pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared in Edmeston and Cynthia Campbell saw a Chestnut-sided Warbler and a Great Crested Flycatcher in her backyard in Cherry Valley. On the 5th Andy Mason heard his FOS Red-eyed Vireo steadily singing in Stamford and Gerianne Carillo heard her FOS slurred whistles of the Eastern Meadowlark in Middlefield. On the 9th the arrival of a Black-billed Cuckoo charmed Andy Mason in Jefferson. On 5/10 a male Indigo Bunting pecked around in the gravel near Dorian Huneke's house in Treadwell. Sandy Bright and Charlie Scheim observed a pair of elegant Orchard Orioles at the West Branch Preserve on 5/12. While kayaking the West Branch of the Delaware from S. Kortright to Bloomville the next day Andy Mason saw Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers along the river banks.

If you have bird sightings to report, contact me at dbenko@frontiernet.net, at 6815 Co. Hwy 16, Delhi, NY 13753, or at 607-829-5218 for the next issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*.
Dianne Benko