



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

COMING ACTIVITIES

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May 18 General Meeting. *New York's Grassland Birds* by Mike Morgan. See below.
Election of Board Members
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May 27 Weaver Lake Trip with Bob Donnelly. Contact Bob at rsdonn@yahoo.com for info..
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Oct. 6 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.

May 18, 2007 Program: "New York's Grassland Birds"

The May program of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society is entitled "New York's Grassland Birds". Presented by Michael Morgan, Wildlife Ecologist for Audubon New York, this program will overview Audubon New York's grassland bird conservation initiative, touching on what grassland birds are, how to identify many of the species, and how their habitat fits into New York's landscapes. Michael will also highlight what Audubon's research is showing about where grassland birds are concentrated in New York, what habitats they prefer, and what landowners can do to manage habitat for grassland birds.

The program will begin at 7:30PM on Friday, May 18th at the Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. It is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. For more information contact Gerianne Carillo, 286-3855, e-mail gerianne@earthlink.net.

Illustrations by Dave Kiehm

Late in March, I had the pleasure of riding in the same car as Dave and Ann Kiehm during our field trip to Montezuma. They are relatively new members who recently moved to Milford where they are building a house. An alumnus of the School of Visual Arts in New York City, with a BFA in Illustration, Dave works as a freelance illustrator, specializing in wildlife. On the field trip we saw a lot of interesting birds. As you would expect from an artist, he is quite familiar with his subject matter, and exceptionally good at bird identification.

His work has appeared in many publications such as *Sports Afield*, *Field and Stream*, *Fur Fish and Game*, and related publications. He has also worked for Ralph Lauren, *New York Times*, *New York Zoological Society*, and many others. The Smithsonian Institute published a children's book illustrated by Dave, Beaver Stream.

He has shown his work in many regional and national exhibitions. Among his awards is a Best of Show in the 2004 Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition - Decorative Miniature Wildfowl.

For the last ten years, Dave has worked as Art Director for Danbury Mint in Norwalk CT, designing, sculpting and painting wildlife collectibles. Dave is presently creating wildlife art on his property, Sour Apple Acres, in Milford, where he resides with his wife, dog and two cats. His interest in wildlife has him working to improve the habitats on his property.

Dave is also generous with his time and art. He has offered to provide drawings for DOAS publications. It is his illustrations that grace the pages of this Belted Kingfisher. We are thrilled to include Dave's drawings in our newsletter. Take a few minutes and study them. They are truly beautiful. Dave's web site is www.deadriftstudio.com.

Thanks Dave.

...Tom Salo



Health And Our Human Environment

In the 19th century the main health challenge was infectious disease due to urban tenements and sanitation. Our challenges in the 21st century are air and water pollution, species and land protection, food inspections and toxicity leading to illnesses. Our life expectancy has nearly doubled in those two centuries! Unfortunately environmental science and practices have become specialized, and each agency has its mandates. This separation leads to decisions where a solution for one problem creates another problem. [e.g. - MTBE added to gas to prevent air pollution created groundwater contamination, and flame retardants required in consumer products turned out to be human milk contaminants and carcinogens.] Our complex challenges of the 21st C. cannot be met by disconnected agency pursuits. (Health, transportation, education, housing, defense, energy, agriculture.)

There is hope for solutions . **First** - the 1990 Food Quality Protection Act required that children's health be the benchmark for decisions on pesticide levels in foods, and this in turn led to a National Children's Study in which ALL agencies developed strategies to improve the health of all children. This of course affected the health of all people. **Second** - it is now known that our "built environments" influence our health and that fragmented and sprawling communities foster car dependency, inactivity , obesity, loneliness, fossil fuel and resource consumption, and environmental pollution.

So - planners and architects, environmentalists, builders, and developers are becoming engaged to meet the challenge. It will require leadership and collaboration.

From *Science* 9 March 2007. Richard J. Jackson, former director if CDC and National Center for Environmental Health. ... Jean T. Miller

Your Food "Carbon Cost"

A "low carbon diet" is designed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. Instead of a banana which is flown in from Costa Rica or Ecuador we can eat an apple grown in the Finger Lakes area of N.Y. State. Instead of expensive frozen fish (frozen by electricity from a coal-fired power plant and flown from a long distance away) we can eat local fish or a dish using local ingredients.

Your food choices can affect climate change through production, processing, packaging, and transportation. Overall these processes may contribute up to one third of the greenhouse gas emissions each year!

Question your food choices when you shop, and plan low carbon cost meals. ... Jean T. Miller

Conservation and Legislation

by Andy Mason

Good lineup of Earth Day bills--The State Legislature completed its budget nearly on time this year. This means that the Assembly and Senate have time to work on serious legislation before adjourning in June.

There is a good chance for action on several important environmental bills this session. All have bipartisan support, but have been kept from a vote by Senate leaders. This is unfair to rank and file legislators and the public alike. We need to let our local State Senators James Seward and John Bonacic know that blocking this worthy legislation is no longer acceptable.

Among the bills promoted for Earth Day this spring are:

The Climate Change Solutions Act -- A.7365 (Sweeney) and Climate Change Solutions Fund - A.7366 (Gianaris) these bills would increase the state's support of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, important steps in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming

Bigger Better Bottle Bill -- S.3434 (LaValle) overdue for passage, this legislation would add water and juice containers to the current law putting deposits on carbonated beverages. It would also put unclaimed bottle deposits into the Environmental Protection Fund for such projects as open space protection and recycling programs.

Community Preservation Act -- A.7333 (Sweeney)/ S.3836 (Marcellino) this bill is particularly well-supported by legislators, local governments and the public. It would give local municipalities the option to add a small surcharge to large real estate transfers in order to fund community natural and historic resource protection programs.

Wetlands Protection Act - A.7133 (Sweeney)/ S. 3835 (Marcellino) a court decision has left NY's smaller wetlands unprotected under federal law. This loophole allows wetlands as large as 12 acres be destroyed with no oversight. This legislation would extend state authority to protect wetlands as small as one acre. These areas provide flood and drought control, as well as important wildlife habitat.

What you can do--Contact your legislators particularly your State Senator and let them know that you support this legislation, and insist that it be brought up to the floor for a vote this session. The time for delay on these bills has ended, and the Senate's behavior has to change.

Climate change action in Washington also--The past few months have brought increasing attention to the issue of climate change, or global warming. Release of the movie, An Inconvenient Truth, along with damning reports from

the United Nations, have brought public focus to this worldwide threat to humans and wildlife.

The Bush administration continues its head-in-the-sand approach to the issue, but Congress has put forth strong legislation to move the US the greatest contributor to global warming on to a path of significantly reducing greenhouse gases over the next 5 decades.

Rep. Henry Waxman of California has introduced "The Safe Climate Act", along with over 120 cosponsors. The bill would gradually reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The legislation would cut emissions from sources such as cars and power plants at the levels needed to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

Similarly, in the Senate, "The Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act" has been put forth by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Environment and Sen. Barbara Boxer of California. As with the Waxman bill emissions would achieve the same reductions by 2050.

These are ambitious goals, but experts are nearly unanimous in their opinion that such limits are our only chance to halt severe climate change in the future.

What you can do--Let our Representatives and Senators in Washington know that global warming is an overriding issue that has environmental, security, economic and social ramifications for the US and the world. We need action now--not in 10 or 20 years. Ask them to cosponsor these bills and push for their passage.

Addresses

State Senate
 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

Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-5076
 fax: (202) 225-5077
 www.house.gov/mcnamy

US Congress
 20th Congressional District
 (Otsego Co. towns of Cherry
 Valley, Keokuk, Decatur,
 Worcester, Maryland, Westford,
 Millford, and Middlefield,
 Delaware Co., except towns of
 Deposit, Hancock and
 Townshend)
 Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand
 US House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-5614
 www.gillibrand.house.gov

22nd Congressional District
 (Delaware Co. Towns of
 Deposit, Hancock and
 Townshend)
 Rep. Maricia Hinchey
 US House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-6335
 fax: (202) 226-0774
 www.house.gov/hinchey

21st Congressional District (All
 of Schoharie Co.)
 Rep. Michael McNulty
 US House of Representatives

24th Congressional District
 (Otsego Co. towns of
 Springville, Otsego, Hendrick,
 Lanesville, 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

April Bird Sightings

It's April 16th and a powerful Nor'easter is dropping 10"-12" of snow on my newly sprouting perennials. Tons of birds are crazily feeding at all my feeders and are ferociously digging through the snow to find some hidden seeds.

On 3/27 Sandra Perry reported 2 Eastern phoebes in Oneonta and Trina Bassoff saw 2 common mergansers in Blenheim. In Middlefield, Jenn & Eric Carr reported an Eastern bluebird on 3/28. On 3/29 a song sparrow and a brown-headed cowbird were seen by Charlie Dahan in Otego. 3/30 was a big birding day. Jessie Ravage saw 2 American kestrels in Copperstown. Gerianne Carillo reported an Eastern phoebe in Milford, Dorian Huneke also saw an Eastern phoebe and a white-throated sparrow in Treadwell and Tom Salo saw a common snipe in W. Burlington.

The month of April brought an explosion of birds. On 4/2 John Birkett reported 8 Eastern meadowlarks, a pied-billed grebe, a wood duck, a green-winged teal and a ring-necked duck in Bainbridge. Warren Ryther saw a chipping sparrow in Garrattsville on 4/4. On 4/5 I saw a common flicker in Treadwell, Tom Salo saw 3 of them in W. Burlington, Dorian Huneke saw purple finches in Treadwell, and Lisa Gorn reported a yellow-bellied sapsucker in Maple Grove. Jo Ann Salo saw 6 turkey vultures in Edmeston on 4/6. John Davis saw 6 fox sparrows in Cooperstown on 4/7. On 4/8 in Walton Tom Whitney reported golden-crowned kinglets and in Delancey he saw a Northern harrier. On that same day Sue Whitney reported a wood thrush in Delhi and Jeffrey Murray reported 2 hermit thrushes in Fly Creek on 4/9. On 4/11 he reported a great blue heron, 2 pileated woodpeckers, a winter wren and a ruffed grouse also in Fly Creek. On 4/15 Marge Mathis saw (13) female brown-headed cowbirds in Morris and Ken Stalter reported a pair of bald eagles in Franklin.

Please send sightings to Dianne Benko at (607) 829-5218, at 6815 Co. Hwy. 16, Delhi, NY 13753, or at caged@wpe.com by 5/13/07 for the next issue of The Belted Kingfisher.

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.

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.

Help Needed at Milford Earth Fest

We still need assistance in staffing our table to provide information on DOAS to visitors at the Earth Fest at Milford Central School 11 to 4. If you are able to help out a few hours contact Andy Mason. 607-652-2162, andy_mason@earthling.net

May Big Day Bird Count

May 19, Saturday is this year's Big Day for DOAS, the day on which small groups enjoy trying to see the maximum number of species of birds they can in any amount of time they choose within 24 hours. Every one is welcome, novice or experienced. If you are interested and have not participated before please contact Bob Miller at 607-432-4767 to join a group or start a group. People who have participated before will be contacted by their leaders and leaders will receive materials prior to the count. The DOAS data obtained is pooled with that of the Delhi Bird Club for a report of results in *The Kingfisher*.

Bird Walk at Riddell State Park, June 16

In conjunction with the Otsego Co. Conservation Assoc.'s annual Walks and Paddles program, Andy Mason will lead a bird walk at Riddell State Park, Saturday, June 16, beginning at 8 a.m.

Birds expected at this location include a variety of warblers and other songbirds, as well as water birds and possibly raptors. This easy walk will last approximately 2 hours. Participants should bring binoculars and a field guide if possible. Riddell State Park is located near Colliersville, off State Rte. 28 just north of I-88 Exit 17.

For further information, call (607) 652-2162 or email AndyMason@earthling.net.

Phone Numbers of DOAS Officers & Directors

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 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 andy_mason@earthling.net
 Barbara Marsala ___ barbaramarsala@bassett.org
 Stephen Rice 829-3111

Montezuma Trip Report

16 people traveled to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on March 24 to look for birds. Nigel Mann's Ornithology class from SUNY Oneonta met us at the refuge visitor center. In spite of the late thaw - which left much of the refuge frozen - there was great waterfowl viewing around the melted marsh edges, and also in the muck lands and on east side of Cayuga Lake. Many species of diving and dabbling ducks were found along with geese, swans, grebes and loons. Eagle nests were observed at two locations. Afternoon rain may have dampened clothes and gear but had little effect on participants' enthusiasm.

... Tom Salo

Spring Lake Otsego Birding Trip Report

On April 1st (no fooling) 21 birders beat the rain and made the annual spring tour around Lake Otsego and environs. Led by Matt Albright, John Davis and Bob Donnelly, and supplied by Tom Salo with radios for calling out sightings among cars, the group spotted well over thirty avian species. Highlights were a Bald Eagle on the nest north of Lake Otsego, an immature Northern Shrike perched at the top of a magnificent lone White Oak near Weaver Lake, several closely seen Green-winged Teal, a Ring-billed Gull stealing a fresh-caught fish from a Common Merganser, and two Mute Swans at the origin of the Susquehanna River (not a good sign and apart from the long-standing lone swan seen again on Clarke Pond).

Other species seen included hundreds of Canada Geese landing in droves on Summit Lake, Redheads (south end of Lake Otsego), Common and Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, a lone female Common Goldeneye, American Coots (Lake Otsego -all winter as usual), several Killdeer, a Belted Kingfisher, several Great Blue Herons, several Kestrels and Red-tailed Hawks, an Osprey, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a White-throated Sparrow.

... John Davis



Board Member Election in May

The nominating committee is pleased to offer the following slate for the DOAS Board of Directors for the 2007-2009 term: Cheryl Boise, Gerianne Carillo, John Davis, Bob Donnelly, Stephen Rice and Joe Richardson. The Board of Directors election will take place at the DOAS annual meeting in May.

Thanks to this year's nominating committee members Fred Johnson, Marion Karl, John Davis and Barbara Marsala.

DOAS Summer Day Camp

The John G. New Audubon Day Camp, sponsored by DOAS, will be offered again this summer for students entering grades 3-6. The Camp location is the DOAS sanctuary on Franklin Mountain. Camp dates are July 31 to August 3, 2007, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Our camp will provide hands-on field experience in natural science and environmental education. Through field investigation, crafts and games, the campers will explore a variety of habitats and will learn about the creatures that live there. More information and a camp application may be found on our web site www.doas.us. If there are any questions, please call Barbara Marsala at 607-988-7805 or email to barbaramars@stny.rr.com.

Milford State Forest Walk

John Davis will lead a nature walk here from 8-11 AM on Sat. May 12. Sponsored by OCCA. For more information call John at 547-9688.

WILDFLOWER TRIP MAY 23

Gilbert Lake State Park trails will be the site for an easy field trip to search for wildflowers on **May 23 at 10 am**. Hopefully the pink lady slippers will be in flower at that time, as well as many other spring wildflowers such as jack-in-the-pulpit and white trillium. Jean Miller will lead the hour or so trip which will be about a mile in length and on fairly level ground. Meet at the far end of the lake at the Visitor Center at 10 am. Parking is available in a large area above the buildings at the far end.

For more information call Jean Miller at 432-5767.

Birds and Trails of Basswood Pond State Forest

On **Saturday, June 9**, Tom Salo will lead a walk through state owned property in Burlington. This is an area Tom surveyed for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. It has interesting and varied forests both in regards to species make up and structure. Brush, young and older conifers, hardwoods and wetlands contribute to high level of avian diversity. Meet at the Jacobs Road parking area for an 8 am start. This walk is sponsored jointly by DOAS and the Otsego County Conservation Association. For more information contact Tom Salo at 607-965-8232.

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
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Board of Directors

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 Treasurer-Bob Donnelly Secretary- John Davis

Directors

Gerianne Carillo Nancy Cannon Lisa Gorn
 Julia Gregory Andrew Mason Barbara Marsala
 Jean Miller Stephen Rice

Committee Chairs* & Other Assignments

Conservation*	Andrew Mason
Education*	Barbara Marsala
Field Trips*	Bob Donnelly
Hawkwatch*	Andrew Mason, Tom Salo
Hospitality*	Jean Miller
Charter Dinner	Julia Gregory
Bird Counts	Bob Miller
Programs*	Gerianne Carillo
Membership*	Bruce Milavec
Sanctuary*	Andrew Mason
Sales	Stephen Rice
Publicity*	John Davis
Kingfisher	Bob Miller

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.