



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Coming Activities

May

May 11 — Milford State Forest

May 15 — South Hill State Forest

May 17 — DOAS Board Meeting

May 20 — Glimmerglass State Park

May 20 — Birds of Costa Rica

May 21 — May Big Day Bird Count

May 26 — Gilbert Lake State Park

May 27 — Thayer Farm, Cooperstown

May 28 — Weaver Lake Canoe Trip

June

June 11 — Bicknell's Thrush

June 12 — Beginner's Bird Walk at DOAS Sanctuary

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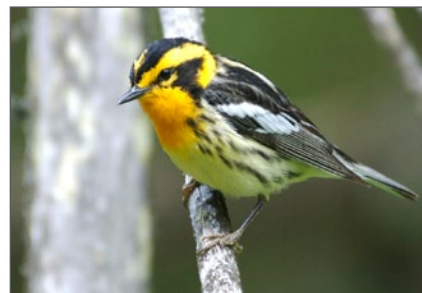
**All DOAS programs
are free and open
to the public**

A Modest Proposal

Every spring it happens. My favorite birds, the warblers return to their breeding grounds and I puzzle over why they have such unapt names. I can imagine how it may have happened. A small rusty-cheeked warbler had just flown up the east coast and landed in a tree by the coast. As he started to announce his presence, he wondered where he was. A gun blast goes off, the rusty cheeked warbler is dead, but the Cape May Warbler is born.

Similarly, I can picture an orange headed warbler arriving exhausted; some naturalist gets him in his gun sights, shoots him and decides to name the bird for his mistress in England. Hence, the Blackburnian Warbler is born.

At least, that's how I imagine it. How else do we get Warblers named for so many odd places and people? What claims do Connecticut and Tennessee have on these simple birds? Nobody knows who Lucy and Grace were, but they each have an eponymous Warbler.



Blackburnian Warbler, by Dave Kiehm

Therefore, I propose a campaign to re-name almost all the warblers. A few simple rules would apply. No place names allowed, no ridiculous behavior names (think Worm-eating Warbler), and absolutely no warblers named after people. (Bachman can keep his warbler since both he and his little friend are extinct). Names should be descriptive of color, habitat, or behavior.

With that in mind, I would like to start with re-naming the Blackburnian Warbler. Whenever I see this bird, it is always bobbing here and bobbing there in hemlocks and spruces. An obvious name comes to mind; the Bob Warbler after the way it gets about. It's also easy to say. I will leave it to others to find appropriate names for the others.

Bob Donnelly



Dave and Maggie

President's Message

Still Waiting...

It is the third week of April and Spring has only been a casual visitor to our hilltop redoubt in Milford. Below average temps and lots of rain have been the norm this year. This morning, Maggie and I prepared for a walk when the sky darkened, thunder clapped, and the sky opened up with marble-sized hail. The roof sounded like it was going to cave in. The onslaught was short but not before the yard was white with ice balls. We eventually did manage our walk to the pond and were rewarded with chattering tree swallows, wood ducks, mallards, nest building

grackles and a stately mature Great blue heron. Nature is hard to stop even in extreme conditions.

I do think Spring will take hold soon and as it does, we will be out there with a variety of walks and canoe trips. New birds are arriving daily so opportunities to see different species get much better. Going on one of our walks is much more than just seeing birds. Our walk leaders are knowledgeable in plants, trees and the natural world in general. These walks are great opportunities to learn not only new local areas but the flora and fauna that inhabit them.

We would all like to see our walks well attended. The walk leaders donate their time and considerable expertise and love sharing this knowledge with all interested. Please check our website and look at all the walks taking place this Spring. There should be at least one walk you could make. If you can join us, think of bringing along a child or young adult. They represent our future conservationists so it is never too early to get them outside.

Dave

607 286 9222

kiehm@oecblue.com

The DOAS E-mail News List

Do you have trouble remembering the dates of our programs and trips? You can receive timely e-mails notifying you of our activities. By subscribing to DOASnews, you will receive a limited number of messages concerned only with the activities and mission of DOAS. It is easy to join. Go to this link and click on "join this group."

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DOASnews/>

Other local e-mail lists include osbirds and hawkcast. Osbirds is the local bird reporting and discussion group. You can learn what species are being seen locally and when they arrive in the spring. This the best source of information on the appearance of rare species locally. Reports from this list are considered for inclusion in this publication's bird reports and are reviewed by Regional Editors of The Kingbird – the journal of the New York State Ornithological Association. To join osbirds, go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/osbirds>

Hawkcast sends migration forecasts for the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch. Alerts go out during the fall season a day or two before a significant flight is expected. To join hawkcast go to – <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/hawkcast>

Tom Salo

THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO

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FOUNDED 1968

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Oneonta, NY 13820

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Web: www.doas.us

To contribute notes or articles for *The Belted Kingfisher* please send to "Kingfisher Editor" at the above address, or email:

editor@doas.us

Conservation and Legislation

A very bad day for wolves—In one of the worst cases of politics trumping science, the April budget deal to avoid a federal government shutdown included a backdoor provision to remove gray wolves in the Northern Rockies from protection under the Endangered Species Act. This marks the first time Congress has stripped ESA protections for one particular species.

The anti-wolf provision was an end run around federal court decisions barring the Obama administration from turning wolf management over to the states. Wolf hunts had already been held in Montana and Idaho, and these and other states are considering gassing wolf dens to reduce the population. All of this is being done in the name of increasing numbers of elk and other game species for hunting, despite science showing wolves are an important part of healthy ecosystems in the Rockies.

Although wolf management has absolutely nothing to do with the budget, President Obama agreed to the “wolf rider”, and both NY Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand were supporters. Local Congressman Chris Gibson also voted yes. To their credit, Congressmen Paul Tonko and Maurice Hinchey were in opposition. Congressman Richard Hanna did not vote.

Not only is this a setback for re-establishing wolves throughout their original range, and a death knell for many wolf packs, but Congress’ action sets a terrible precedent for political meddling in one of our most important environmental laws. Although many species remain without recovery plans, the ESA has generally worked well, bringing any number of plants and animals back from the brink of extinction. However, there is now an example for local politicians to follow to placate developers, farmers, hunters, and others who do not want to see species protected.

What you can do—Contact President Obama and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to express your disappointment in their participation in this anti-environmental political deal. If you are in Rep. Gibson’s district, the same message is appropriate. Reps. Hinchey and Tonko should receive thanks for their losing, but courageous, votes.

Solar Energy Legislation in NY—A bill that would require electricity suppliers and distributors in New York State to utilize solar power has been introduced in the state legislature. The Solar Industry Development Jobs Act of 2011 establishes a target of 5000 megawatts of solar power in the state by 2025, with utilities to ramp up their percentage of solar each year until the total is reached.

Supporters of the legislation also stress the estimated 22,000 jobs that will be created by the increased demand for solar power. The environmental benefits are clear—no greenhouse gas, acid rain or mercury emissions, as now exist from conventional fossil fuel plants.

What you can do—Let your state legislators know that they should support this bill (A.5713/S.4178). Local State Senator John Bonacic is already a co-sponsor and should be commended for his vision.

Addresses:

President Barack Obama
The White House, Washington, DC 20500
www.whitehouse.gov/contact
(202) 456-1111

US Congress:

(US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515)

Rep. Chris Gibson
(202) 225-5614, Fax: (202) 225-1168
www.gibson.house.gov

Rep. Richard Hanna
(202) 225-3665, Fax: 202-225-1891
www.hanna.house.gov

Rep. Paul Tonko
(202) 225-5076, Fax: (202) 225-5077
www.tonko.house.gov

Rep. Maurice Hinchey
(202) 225-6335, Fax: (202) 226-0774
www.house.gov/hinchey

Rep. Michael Arcuri
(202) 225-3665, Fax: (202) 225-1891
www.arcuri.house.gov

US Senate:

US Senators Kirsten Gillibrand/Charles Schumer
US Senate, Washington, DC 20510
Gillibrand—www.Gillibrand.senate.gov (202) 224-4451
Schumer—senator@schumer.senate.gov (202) 224-6542

NY State Senate:

State Senators James Seward/John Bonacic
NY State Senate, Albany, NY 12247
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Bonacic—(518) 455-3181 bonacic@senate.state.ny.us

State Assembly:

Assemblymembers William Magee/Clifford Crouch/Peter Lopez
NY State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248
Magee—(518) 455-4807 mageew@assembly.state.ny.us
Crouch—(518) 455-5741 crouchc@assembly.state.ny.us
Lopez—(518) 455-5363 lopezpz@assembly.state.ny.us

Andy Mason

Favorite Places

Charlotte Creek

I call it my secret birding place. It's just a short stretch of the legs and jam packed with birds in the late spring and summer.

Charlotte Creek is part of the drainage system for the Susquehanna River Watershed. You can reach Charlotte Creek via a DEC public fishing access off county highway 47. Turn onto Morningside Drive which winds down to a dirt road and into a large parking area. You'll need a sturdy vehicle to drive over this uneven road. Be sure to ease your car along slowly as you bounce over the ruts and steer around the potholes. More than once I've gone too fast and hit a bump head on only to hear the dreadful scrape of the rocky road on the low undercarriage of my car. The dirt road circles around into a loop at the end. After pulling into the parking area take the short walk along this loop.

The DEC has acquired an easement to use this area as fishing access for Charlotte Creek. Perhaps it is the proximity to the creek that makes it so full of wildlife. Chestnut sided warblers seem to abound here. A veery might be seen running around in the road or heard in the distance. Song sparrows sing their serenade. You may spot a woodpecker, nuthatch or flicker climbing up the side of a tree and be sure to keep a sharp lookout for any turkeys crossing further on down the road before they disappear into the bushes.

Leave the dirt road when it starts to loop back around, a distance of about .16 mi. (845 ft.) from the parking area, and follow the path up to the stone foundation by the creek. Mergansers or

mallards may be spotted swimming in the creek and you are apt to get a scolding from a common yellow throat skulking about in the bushes.

Cowbirds, mourning doves, phoebes, crows, bluejays, chickadees, robins, starlings, cedar waxwings, goldfinches, redstarts, and flycatchers are just some of the other birds you can find.

My favorite time to visit is early in the month of June when the multiflora roses are in bloom.

An invasive thug, multiflora roses grow all along the sides of the road. Despite its status as a noxious weed that is hard to eradicate I can't help but appreciate its lovely fragrance as I walk among them when they are in bloom.

Normally I like to stay on the relative safety of the road, but when I'm feeling adventurous I'll explore the path through the field behind the parking area that leads down to some of the fishing spots along the creek. Warblers can be found here, black and whites and magnolia yellow rumps, along with other birds such as warbling vireos and louisiana waterthrush.

Hunting is allowed in this area so be sure to take precautions by avoiding the area during hunting season or by wearing blaze orange.

The Charlotte Creek fishing access is a place that I like coming back to for short walks again and again.

—Leslie Preston



Phoebe, by Dave Kiehm

Bluebird News

It's not too late to put up bluebird houses to help New York's official state bird.

Bluebird house plans and ready-built bluebird houses are available from DOAS. Plans are free and houses are \$13.00 each. Plans and houses can be obtained at DOAS functions or by mail. All proceeds benefit DOAS conservation and education programs.

Contact Andy Mason, 1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net.

A bluebird house work day was held at the DOAS Sanctuary in mid-April to put together houses. Volunteers Sandy Bright, Marjorie DeFazio, Dave Kiehm and Charlie Scheim worked hard on this "Habitat for Avianity" project—their help is much appreciated!

Andy Mason



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., '1106' is June 2011. Renewal information is found on page 5 in this issue—please renew and continue your support of DOAS and our programs.

Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park Migration Counts

We counted raptors at Davis State Park in Westford during the past 2 spring seasons. In 2010, the park was the center of a 3 site transect during the second week of March. The 3 sites were chosen using a combination of data from Golden Eagles being tracked by satellite and a close look at the topography of the area. The results at the park were so promising coverage continued there on a casual basis into April. The 18 days of coverage in March produced a total of 54 goldens*. These efforts are specifically targeted at Golden Eagles. However, we also gain valuable data on all raptors moving along the ridges around the Cherry Valley Creek.

Because of the results, we decided to cover the site for the full month of March 2011. Unfortunately, after 28 days and 187 hours of coverage, we were left with more questions than answers. In spite an increase of 10 days over last spring, and a 70% increase in the number of hours covered, we recorded fewer birds. In some cases the drop was dramatic. The Golden Eagle count went from 54 to 34. The hourly rate for the species in March 2010 was .49/hour. This spring it was .18/hour - 37% of last year's rate. Bald Eagle numbers were worse. They dropped from 27 in 2010 to just 9. The hourly rate dropped from .24/hour in 2010 to .05/hour this season.

A few uncommon species showed small increases but overall numbers were low. In March 2010, 316 birds were tallied. This year 255 were counted. The 2011 hourly rate for all birds is about half of 2010.

Was 2010 an exceptionally good year at this site? Or, was 2011 a bad year? We assume that this small Golden Eagle count – numbers which would be impressive at most eastern sites - is due to the weather. Weather factors affect raptor migration counts to a high degree. The prevailing opinion is that poor migrating weather disperses soaring birds while good weather focuses them on the ridges. Every species that was counted in good numbers here



last year declined. Bald Eagle numbers dropped dramatically even though their numbers were exceptionally high at Franklin Mountain last fall. There are still a lot of Bald Eagles out there. They just weren't seen by us this spring.

The results from the two best eastern Golden Eagle sites support the idea that birds were dispersed this spring. The number of goldens recorded at Tussey Mountain in March was 70% of the 5 year average. 2011 is their lowest March count in 9 years of data on hawkcount.org. At Allegheny Front, March golden numbers were 71% of the 5 year average.

While ridge sites may have had fewer goldens, the Derby Hill Bird Observatory had a very good count of 40 birds in March. This is more than double their 5 year average. This high count supports the idea that soaring birds were not on the ridges. Those moving north on a broad front in western New York encounter Lake Ontario. The extensive south shore of the lake forms an obstacle that concentrates birds at Derby Hill.

There may be other factors besides regional wind and weather that kept birds off the local ridges. Golden Eagle numbers were unusually low at Franklin Mountain last fall. Even though we had a tough winter, the weather in Quebec last fall was very warm. Unexpectedly, a telemetered Golden Eagle spent the winter on the Gaspé Peninsula. Others may have done the same thing. If enough birds stay in the north, it could affect both our fall and spring counts.

We will continue to count at the Davis State Park site if the counters are interested. At a minimum we will try to cover the second week of March for several more seasons. That week is traditionally the peak of the Golden Eagle migration. We are also interested in sampling the spring migration at Franklin Mountain after Fred Fries counted 7 goldens there on March 15. On the same day, 4 were seen at Davis Park.

Data for hawk count sites can be found at www.hawkcount.org. Our count site name is DOAS – Davis State Park. – Tom Salo

* Some counting was done in April each season. Since most adult Golden Eagles migrate in March, I have limited this discussion to March counting at all sites mentioned.

April 3 brought out 22 participants for the annual **Lake Otsego Waterfowl trip**. It was a brisk morning, and the lake was still frozen over, except for the usual small areas kept open by bubblers. But Matt Albright and Bob Donnelly led us to various spots of flowing and open still water for a variety of ducks including Ring Necks, Green-winged Teal and Bufflehead and hundreds of Canada Geese. Perhaps the most exciting event was to see a pair of Bald Eagles at their nest north of Lake Otsego.

John Davis



Monthly Program

Birds of Costa Rica

The May monthly program meeting will be on Friday, May 20th at 7:30 PM in the Elm Park United Methodist Church, located at 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.



Purple-throated Mountain-gem, female

Dorothy Scott Fielder and Doug Fielder will present *Birds of Costa Rica*. The Fielder's interest of travel and photography has allowed them to capture wonderful images of these jewels of Costa Rica.

Dorothy Scott Fielder graduated from Kent State University in Kent, OH, with a Master's Degree in biological science. After a teaching career at both the high school and college level, she focused her energy on raising a family.

Doug Fielder received his graduate degrees from the University of Virginia. Doug started teaching Physics at SUCO in 1969 until his retirement in 1999.

The Fielder's are co-presidents of the Center for Continuing Adult Education (CCAL) and members of the ADK Photo Ops and various other local organizations.

The monthly meeting and presentation is free and open to the public. Refreshments are served. For further information, contact: Eleanor Moriarty, Program Director, at (607) 435-2054 or (607) 278-4083.



Montezuma Oropendola



Slaty-tailed Trogon

May Annual Meeting – New Board Members

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present a slate of three outstanding candidates for election to the DOAS Board of Directors, increasing the board from twelve to thirteen members. We nominate science teacher Eileen Kline, area birder Julie Smith and Bassett nephrologist Eric Knight, each of whom have participated in DOAS activities and will bring their own special talents to the board. The election will take place at the annual meeting on May 20, 2011.

Recently, President Dave Kiehm appointed Bob Miller to fill the unexpired term of Jean Miller, who passed away last year. Two long-time board members will be stepping down this year and we extend many thanks and good wishes to past-president John Davis and to Nancy Cannon.

Thanks to Nominating Committee members Joe Homburger, Sandy Bright, Charlie Scheim, John Davis and Barbara Marsala.

Great Backyard Bird Count Produced a "Gold Mine" of Information

This year, an estimated 60,000 bird watchers of all ages took part in the free, four-day event held February 18-21. Participants identified 596 species and filed 11.4 million individual bird observations. Their reports provide useful information to scientists tracking changes in the numbers and movements of birds from year to year, just as winter is about to melt into spring.

To find out more about the 2011 count, visit www.birdcount.org and click on "Highlights of 2011 GBBC."

World Series of Birding

It's nearing time again for the Avian Agents, with DOAS team members Sue Gaynor and Andy Mason, to set out on the World Series of Birding in search of the highest number of bird species in the state of New Jersey.

Scheduled for May 14 this year, the event draws birding teams from as far as Europe for 24 hours of intense looking and listening from the forests to the beaches of this small, but diverse state. The team with the highest total receives fine optics as a reward, but the true purpose of the WSOB is a fund-raiser for New Jersey Audubon and other groups, such as DOAS, to assist in their efforts to protect birds.

You are invited to pledge an amount per species for the Avian Agents' encouragement, or a fixed amount. Last year the team tallied 127 species. If the birds and weather cooperate, the Agents look to increase their numbers this spring. To help the effort, return the form below by May 12.

I Support the Avian Agents!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Pledge: _____ per species; or _____ fixed amount

Return by May 12 to:

DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820

Coming Activities

May

May 11 — Field Trip: Milford State Forest, led by Dave Kiehm, (607) 286-9222.

May 15 — Field Trip: South Hill State Forest. Meet at 7:30 AM at Pine Lake, Charlotte Creek Road, Davenport. For more information contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or (607) 278-4083.

May 17 — DOAS Board Meeting at the home of John Davis, at 7PM.

May 20 — Field Trip: Glimmerglass State Park, led by Dave Kiehm, (607) 286-9222.

May 20 — DOAS Program: *Birds of Costa Rica* by Doug and Dorothy Scott Fielder. See details on page 6. For more information contact Program Chairman Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or (607) 278-4083.

May 21 — May Big Day Bird Count: On “Big Day” small groups enjoy trying to locate the maximum number of bird species they can in any amount of time they choose within that 24 hours. Everyone is welcome, novice or experienced. If you are interested and have not participated before, please contact Bob Miller at (607) 432-5767 to join or start a group. People who have participated before will be contacted by their leaders; leaders will receive materials prior to the count. The DOAS data obtained are pooled with that of the Delhi Bird Club for a report of results in *The Belted Kingfisher*. Wish for favorable weather and southerly winds the night before.

May 26 — Field Trip: Wildflower Walk at Gilbert Lake State Park 10 AM - noon. We continue this walk, looking for woodland spring wildflowers, in memory of Jean Miller who started it years ago. Meet at the beach area for an easy walk around the lake. For more information, contact Barbara Marsala (607) 988-7805.

May 27 — Field Trip: Thayer Farm, Cooperstown, led by Dave Kiehm. (607) 286-9222.

May 28 — Field Trip: Weaver Lake Canoe Trip. We will meet at 7:30 AM at the lake parking lot next to US 20, between Richfield Springs and Springfield Center. This is a great opportunity to find rails, bitterns and different kinds of ducks. There are generally many other kinds of uncommon birds there. Bring a kayak (or a canoe and a friend). Rain date will be May 29. Although the paddling is easy, you MUST bring a life jacket. Any questions contact Bob Donnelly at (607) 264-8156 rsdonn@yahoo.com.

June

June 11 — Field Trip: Bicknell’s Thrush. An evening hike up Hunter Mountain in Greene County for Bicknell’s Thrush and other high elevation Catskill species.

Meet at 3:00 PM at the Spruceton Trail DEC parking area near the end of Spruceton Road, 6.7 miles east of the junction of Spruceton Road and Route 42.

Contact trip leader Craig Nunn at dystopicnj@gmail.com or (551) 206-6823 for further information.

June 12 — Beginner’s Bird Walk at DOAS Sanctuary: An easy walk around the varied habitats found on the property, focused on common birds and bird songs. Participants should bring binoculars and field guides if they have them. A limited supply will be available for loan.

The walk will begin at 8 AM and last approximately 2 hours. To reach the Sanctuary, follow the signs from the intersection of Southside Drive and Swart Hollow Rd. in Oneonta. For further information, contact Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net.

For details, see the Events page of our website – <http://www.doas.us/page0002.html>

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.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



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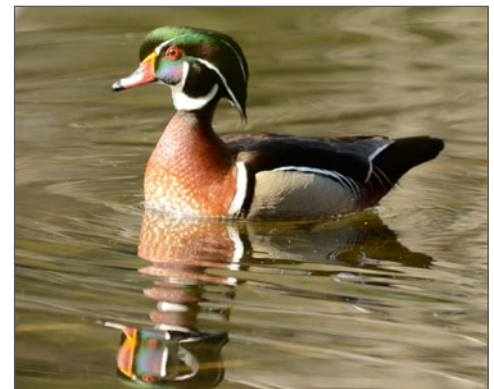
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March - April Bird Sightings

Bundled up with my woolen gloves covering my hands and a headband protecting my ears I took a brisk early morning bird walk at the beginning of April on my road to check out a nearby pond. I wasn't expecting to find much activity but I startled a pair of wood ducks as they took off to circle the pond accompanied by the sound of their thin squeaky whistles. Sharply turning and veering off in many directions I saw four tree swallows eagerly searching for insects that I knew would be scarce because of the cold temperatures. On my way back home an Eastern phoebe was constantly calling to no doubt attract a mate. It was an amazing bird day.

On 3/8 Jo Ann Salo heard an American Woodcock displaying and Tom Salo saw a pair of Eastern Bluebirds checking out boxes on their property in W. Burlington. A FOS Song Sparrow also made an appearance. On that same evening against the backdrop of a full moon Bob Donnelly observed an American Woodcock display-

ing in Cooperstown from 10:00 pm till the early morning hours. Every morning for the past couple of weeks he had been seeing 300-400 Common Redpolls. The next day Gerianne Carillo heard both a singing Carolina Wren and a FOS singing Song Sparrow. On 3/20 a Fox Sparrow hopped underneath Tom Salo's feeder in W. Burlington and Tom & Sue Whitney watched a pair of American Kestrels hunt as they shared a telephone wire in Bloomville. A curious pair of Red-tailed Hawks circled together nearby to also watch the kestrels' activity. Dorian Huneke heard for the first time ever on her property the peent of an American Woodcock on 3/21. Just before sunset Marge Mathis saw a Fox Sparrow at her feeder in Morris on 3/24. Sandy Bright was delighted to hear the spring song of 2 Brown Creepers in Wilber Park on 3/26. On 3/30 Gerianne Carillo had a singing Eastern Phoebe in Milford and Tom Salo listened to a singing concert between 2 Eastern Bluebirds and an Eastern Phoebe in W. Burlington. The next day a Bald Eagle soared in circles overhead at the field bordering Peter & Vivienne Clark's



Wood Duck, by Dave Kiehm

house in Cooperstown.

April ushered in some new spring arrivals. A FOS Purple Finch was at Gerianne Carillo's feeder in Milford on 4/4. A Northern Flicker greeted Tom Salo in W. Burlington the next day. He also saw 2 Long-tailed Ducks and a diving Common Loon on Otsego Lake on 4/6. On 4/8 Tom saw his FOS Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in W. Burlington and the next morning he heard multiple sapsuckers drumming in a glorious musical performance. On her daily morning walk Jo Ann Salo heard a Common Snipe interspersed with the voices of several American Woodcocks. April 9th was a big birding day. Bob Donnelly heard a scolding Hermit Thrush in Cooperstown, Dorian Huneke saw a Tree Swallow in Treadwell, and Marge Mathis watched a handsome Common Grackle and House and Purple Finches at her feeder in Morris. Contact me dbenko@frontiernet.net, 6815 Co. Hwy 16, Delhi, NY 13753, 607 829-5218 for the next issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*.
Dianne Benko