



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Inc.

Founded 1968 P.O. Box 544, Oneonta, N.Y. 13820

Volume 40, No. 8, Oct. 2008

Editor — Bob Miller

COMING ACTIVITIES

- Oct. 4 Sanctuary Annual Open House Welcome All ! Please see the Sept. Kingfisher.
- Oct. 17 **Charter Dinner.** *Giants of the North Woods* Speaker Mark Picard, wildlife and nature photographer, will present his 20 years of studying Moose. Door prizes. Raffles . Please see page 2 for details. **NOTE: OCTOBER** this year for Charter Dinner.
- Oct. 21 Board Meeting. John Davis' home.
- Nov. 21 DOAS General Meeting. *Global Warming: Science and Solutions.* Pam Musk of New York State Audubon will present the major areas of concern and current solutions in N.Y.
- Dec. 2 Board Meeting. Eleanor's home.
- Dec. 20 Annual Christmas Bird Count. Plan ahead. Everyone welcome. Details in next issue.
- Jan. 16 DOAS General Meeting. *Nature Photography.* Gail and Nelson DuBois, local wildlife photographers, will present recent photographic journeys: *The Panda Bears of China and the Snow Monkeys of Japan.*
- Jan. 17 Eagle Field Trip. Andy Mason leader. Details in the Nov. Kingfisher.
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Hawkwatch News

The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch at the DOAS Sanctuary is off to a good start this season, with two triple digit days recorded in the first half of September. Sept. 10 brought 124 birds, with 75 Broad-winged Hawks making up the bulk of the count. On the 13th, 105 broad-wings were counted out of a total of 119 raptors. The broad-wing numbers will build through the third week of the month, then taper off quickly.

Bald Eagles have also made an excellent early season showing with 31 counted through Sept. 14. Early October should see good flights of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, with Red-tailed Hawk numbers increasing as the month continues. Look for days with north or northwest winds following a cold front for the best migration conditions.

Visitors, spotters and counters are always welcome at the hawkwatch. For more information, contact Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net, or Tom Salo, (607) 965-8232, tomsalo@localnet.com. Forecast of anticipated good flights at the hawkwatch are sent out by email a day or two in advance. To receive these alerts, visit <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/hawkcast/> to sign up. Daily tallies from Franklin Mt. are also available by email--contact Andy Mason as above. More information and directions to the hawkwatch at the DOAS Sanctuary can be found at www.doas.us/franklinmt.htm.

CHARTER DINNER Oct. 17, 2008

DOAS will be having its annual Charter Dinner Friday Oct. 17, 2008, at Sunset Junction (formerly Falco's) in Colliersville on Rt. 7 east of Oneonta. The social hour begins at 5:30, dinner is at 6:30 and the program begins at 7:30. All people are welcome to come to the program.

The speaker will be Mark Picard, a well known wildlife photographer from Williamsburg Massachusetts whose work has appeared in many publications including Audubon, Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club. His presentation will cover his 20 years studying and photographing moose.

Reservations must be made by October 13. Menu choices are Herb Encrusted Pork Loin, Chicken Marsala, or Vegetable Lasagna. The cost is \$27.50 each. Please mail your reservation to : Julia Gregory, P O Box 641, Unadilla, N.Y. 13849-0641 or call 607-563-2924.

Name(s) 1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

Menu Choice
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____
(checks payable to DOAS)

President's Message

Cheryl Boise recently announced her resignation from the board. Cheryl has been an actively involved in DOAS for many years as Vice President. She has also been Chair of the Finance Committee - annually checking the Treasurer's records for accuracy. She has also been a key person on the Education Committee frequently taking on the role as Chair. We thank Cheryl for her years of service and wish well in her many endeavors.

Andy Mason and I visited the Powdermill Nature Reserve last June. We met with Trish Miller and Dr. Todd Katzner. Trish Miller, GIS Lab Manager at Powdermill, is pursuing a PhD on Golden Eagle migration. Todd Katzner is the Director of Conservation and Field Research at the National Aviary. With them, we examined the routes the telemetered **Golden Eagles** followed and how those routes compare to terrain in New York. With their help we have begun planning how we will further define Golden Eagles movements through our state. As the plan is developed, we will be seeking resources to help place observers at suspected migration focal points around the State - hopefully starting in Spring of 2009.

If you haven't visited the **hawkwatch** recently, now is a good time. We've got counters scheduled for every dry day through November. They are a great resource for learning raptor identification. They also appreciate your help spotting birds. When this newsletter arrives, species diversity will be at its peak. Red-tailed Hawk numbers are growing. Golden Eagles are most easily seen in late October and November. Try to get there on a good day, meaning northerly winds. If you don't want to watch the weather every day, get migration alerts by email from hawkcast - <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/hawkcast>.

... Tom Salo

DOAS By-laws Updated

At the September meeting, the board unanimously approved several changes to our by-laws. Changes were made to clarify language and policy. The revisions also clearly define and limit the role of the President and board in the Nominating Committee, and include a requirement that the board notify the membership before the by-laws can be amended. If you would like to read the revised by-laws, find them on our web site doas.us. --Tom Salo

OCCA's Lake Challenge

Our friends at the **Otsego County Conservation Association** have announced the public launch of The Lake Challenge: A Community Campaign to Protect Otsego Lake. The effort was started in 2007 and has been successful in raising funds to help inspect and replace septic systems, inspect boats, expand riparian buffers, improve agricultural practices, increase support for lake monitoring, public education, and expansion of the Susquehanna River Trail. They are hoping to raise \$50,000 for an additional year of these lake programs. Tax deductible donations for this effort can be sent to OCCA, PO Box 931, Cooperstown, NY 13326. ... Tom Salo

Conservation and Legislation

by Andy Mason

Migratory birds need help—As we birders are well aware, the amazing phenomenon of bird migration is again underway. Each spring, millions of birds travel thousands of miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to their breeding grounds in North America. And now, as the temperature drops and winter sets in, these migrants make the long trip back to warmer southern climates. Migration has long fascinated and inspired its human observers.

Among the most special and appealing birds to us are the neotropical migrants—those that breed in North America and spend the winter months in the tropics. These are among the most attractive and interesting to us as birdwatchers. But over 300 species of neotropical migratory birds face increasing threats: loss of migration stopover habitat, disease, climate change, and large scale deforestation and other habitat alteration on their wintering grounds.

Since these birds know no borders, international efforts for conservation are critical. To safeguard neotropical migratory birds, they need protection all along their migration routes. The United States has supported efforts throughout the Americas to foster cooperation in the protection of migratory birds, particularly through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA).

This law provides an innovative, cost-effective approach to bird conservation, supporting projects to benefit bird populations and their habitats, research and monitoring, law enforcement, and outreach and education throughout Canada, the US, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many bird species such as “our” Wood Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, and Yellow Warbler, have been helped by the NMBCA. The law uses a matching grant program to utilize funding from non-government sources. Since the program began in 2002, the US has invested more than \$25 million in 262 projects in 44 US states, Canada, and 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, leveraging an additional \$112 million in partner funds to support these projects. Its potential reach is even greater: each year, grant requests from qualified applicants far exceed the program's available funding. In 2008, for example, the US Fish and Wildlife Service received a total of nearly \$14 million in grant requests, but was only able to award \$4.4 million.

What you can do—Legislation to reauthorize the NMBCA and increase its funding has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. Write your Representative and urge them to co-sponsor HR 5756 to provide a much-needed increase in vital conservation dollars. Let them know that migratory birds are important to you and that our nation has an obligation to ensure their well-being within our borders and beyond.

US Congress

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

21st Congressional District (All of Schoharie Co.)
Rep. Michael McNulty
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5076
fax: (202) 225-5077
www.house.gov/mcnulty

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

24th Congressional District
(Otsego Co. towns of Springfield, Otsego, Hartwick, Laurens, 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

Election Updates

With national and state elections rapidly approaching, we need to take a close look at candidates, their records and their positions on environmental issues.

DOAS will be providing information on local state legislative races and the presidential contest, including ratings by groups such as the League of Conservation Voters and Environmental Advocates, on the DOAS website, www.doas.us. Please check our website for help in casting an environmentally informed vote.

Summer-September Bird Sightings

Fall is fast approaching with the withering away of greenery, with the color chart display of decaying leaves and with the stirrings of flocks of birds getting ready for their journey South. With the close of summer another season begins with new and interesting birds to watch.

On 7/8 Bob Donnelly heard a singing Carolina wren in Roseboom. Two merlins were seen by Sandy Bright in Oneonta on 7/24. Andy Mason reported a great egret in Jefferson on 8/19. At the FMHW Steve Hall saw an olive-sided flycatcher on 8/29. On 9/3 Andy Mason heard a barred owl calling in Jefferson. On that same day Tom Salo also heard a barred owl in W. Burlington. On 9/10 my husband and I saw an osprey in Delhi on our way to work and on 9/12 we saw a harrier hunting quite close to our house in Treadwell.

Please send sightings to Dianne Benko; 607 829-5218; 6815 Co. Hwy 16, Delhi, NY 13753;

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
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www.doas.us

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Golden Eagle

by Dave Kiehm

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Conservation*	Andrew Mason
Education*	Barbara Marsala
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Hawkwatch*	Andrew Mason, Tom Salo
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Charter Dinner	Julia Gregory
Bird Counts	Bob Miller
Programs*	Eleanor Moriarty
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Sanctuary*	Andrew Mason
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Kingfisher	Bob Miller
Historian	Jean 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.
Do you know a good location for a field trip ?

All meetings are free and open to the public