



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Coming Activities

September

September 13 & 14 – NYSBS

September 17 – DOAS Board Mtg

September 20 – DOAS Program

September 21 – Carey Conference Center

October

October 5 – DOAS Open House

October 15 – DOAS Board Mtg

October 18 – Charter Dinner

October 20 – Montezuma

November

November 1-3 – NYSOA

November 9 – Bird seed pickup

November 15 – DOAS Public and Member Meeting

November 19 – DOAS Board Meeting

More information on page 9

All DOAS programs are free and open to the public

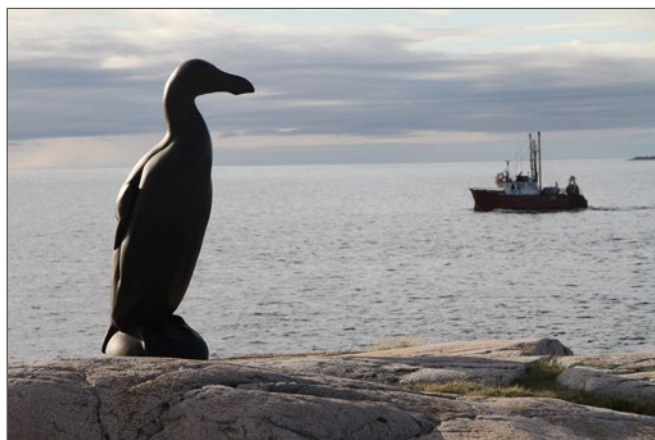
♻️ Printed on recycled paper ♻️

The Lost Bird Project

The Delaware-Otsego Audubon's fall monthly meetings will host as the first program the incredible one hour documentary titled *The Lost Bird Project*.

This is an elegy to five extinct North American Birds, by sculptor Todd McGrain, to bring back their stories through recreating their forms in elegant evocative bronze memorials, and placing the memorials at the location of each bird's final demise. This film has been entered into numerous film festivals, and shown on American Public Television.

Todd McGrain traveled from the swamps of Florida, to a tiny island off the coast of Newfoundland to find how and why each bird became extinct. His belief is, *"these birds are not commonly known and they ought to be, because forgetting is another kind of extinction. It's such a thorough erasing."* Through his grassroots efforts, he has brought to a large audience of adults and children a new awareness of the importance of protecting what we have. DOAS is



*A fishing boat passes by the bronze sculpture of the Great Auk on Joe Batt's Point on Fogo Island, Newfoundland. The sculpture is part of artist Todd McGrain's project to memorialize the extinction of five North American birds; the Carolina Parakeet, Great Auk, Passenger Pigeon, Heath Hen and Labrador Duck. The documentary film, *The Lost Bird Project*, follows McGrain as he searches for the locations where the birds were last seen in the wild and negotiates for permission to install his large bronze sculptures there. (Todd McGrain/Lost Bird Project)*

planning a trip to the Carey Conference Center in Rensselaerville, NY, to view several of these sculptures first hand. The sculptures are on loan to the Center till the beginning of October.

The program will begin at 7:30 PM on Friday, September 20, at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY. Free and open to the public, refreshments are served. The trip to the Carey Conference Center is scheduled for Saturday, September 21. See *Upcoming Activities* on page 9 for more information.

President's Message

J. Robert Miller (1922-2013)

It is with great sadness that we note the passing in July of J. Robert Miller, DOAS Director and long-time supporter of our organization. Bob was one of the pre-eminent birders of our region for decades, and used his knowledge and love of birds to educate and encourage others both through our organization, and as a member of the Hartwick College faculty.



Bob Miller

Bob's late wife, Jean Miller, was one of the founders of DOAS, and Bob a charter member. Jean served as president for many years among other positions, and Bob edited *The Belted Kingfisher* for over 30 years, taking the newsletter from the mimeograph era to computer layout.

Bob also compiled our local Christmas Count and May Bird count since the Chapter's founding in 1968. He kept records of bird arrivals and observations at Goodyear Lake for nearly 60 years. For decades he studied birds on plots at Hartwick's Pine Lake—property that he helped the college acquire. This is the sort of consistent information

that is invaluable in seeing trends in bird populations and movements—repeatable research that lays a foundation for studies in the future. I think it's safe to say that Bob Miller has contributed more to the knowledge of bird life in Otsego Co. than any other individual, and that will stand for a long time.

In recognition of their commitment to the environment, Bob and Jean were named Conservationists of the Year by the Otsego County Conservation Association in 2009.

I had the good fortune to accompany Bob and Jean on a trip to Costa Rica a number of years ago. This was one of several eco-tourist visits they led to locations worldwide, including Australia, New Zealand and South and Central America, always including an educational and conservation component to the trips.

For many years, Bob also taught a winter course on the Caribbean island of San Salvador for Hartwick College students. Although a chemist professionally, Bob was an ornithologist at heart, and enriched many students with his knowledge. Bob was awarded the title of emeritus professor and the honorary degree of Doctor of Science after his retirement.

I have referred to Bob and Jean Miller as the heart and soul of DOAS. They defined our organization for most of its existence, and to say Bob will be missed is hardly adequate. I consider Bob Miller a friend, a mentor, and a colleague in conservation, and I thank him, as does DOAS, for his devotion to birds, to education, and to our organization—and for the legacy he leaves us all.

Our condolences go out to Bob's daughter, Sarah Root, and the rest of the Miller family.

Andy Mason



Wood Thrush
via Wikimedia Commons

THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO

AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1968

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Helen McLean

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents	Andrew Mason Susan O'Handley Joe Richardson
Treasurer	Charlie Scheim
Secretary	Eileen Kline

Bob Donnelly
Julia Gregory
Rebecca Gretton
Eleanor Moriarty
Stephen Rice
Tom Salo
Julie Smith

COMMITTEE CHAIRS* AND

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Conservation*:	Andy Mason
Education*:	Susan O'Handley
Field Trips*:	Bob Donnelly
Hawk Watch*:	Andrew Mason Tom Salo
Hospitality*:	<i>vacant</i>
Membership*:	Andy Mason
Programs*:	Eleanor Moriarty
Publicity*:	Eleanor Moriarty
Sanctuary*:	Andrew Mason
Bird Counts:	Sandy Bright
Charter Dinner:	Julia Gregory
Finance:	Gray Mason
Historian:	Julie Smith
Sales:	Stephen Rice

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Delaware Otsego Audubon Society
P.O. Box 544
Oneonta, NY 13820
Email: info@doas.us

ON THE WEB:

www.doas.us
[www.facebook.com/
DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety)

To contribute notes or articles for
The Belted Kingfisher, email:
editor@doas.us

Conservation and Legislation

Climate change—accelerating—The evidence that the warming of our planet is human-caused, and that it is happening faster than previously thought, continues to rise along with the temperature. A study by Stanford climate scientists Noah Diffenbaugh and Chris Field, appearing in the current issue of *Science*, warns that the likely rate of change over the next century will be at least 10 times quicker than any climate shift in the past 65 million years. They conclude that without intervention, this extreme pace could lead to a 5-6 degree Celsius spike in annual temperatures by the end of the century.

The ramifications of this rise would be staggering:

- Sea level rise would inundate low-lying areas and islands, threaten dense coastal populations, erode shorelines, damage property and destroy ecosystems such as mangroves and wetlands that protect coasts against storms. All major US east coast cities would experience flooding and extensive damage.
- Higher temperatures increase the amount of moisture that evaporates from land and water, leading to drought in many areas. Lands affected by drought are more vulnerable to flooding once rain falls.
- Hot temperatures and dry conditions also increase the likelihood of forest fires. In the conifer forests of the western United States, earlier snowmelts, longer summers and an increase in spring and summer temperatures have increased fire frequency by 400 percent and have increased the amount of land burned by 650 percent since 1970. We are seeing these effects this summer.
- Scientific research indicates that climate change will cause hurricanes and tropical storms to become more intense—lasting longer, unleashing stronger winds, and causing more damage to coastal ecosystems and communities.
- Rising temperatures are changing weather and vegetation patterns across the globe, forcing animal species to migrate to new, cooler areas in order to survive.

- The rapid nature of climate change is likely to exceed the ability of many species to migrate or adjust. Experts predict that one-fourth of Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues at its current rate. Polar bears may already be doomed.

Climate change deniers continue to ignore these threats and the overwhelming evidence that fossil fuel emissions are bringing about this dramatic and unprecedented upswing in global temperatures. But the evidence just gets stronger and stronger. The Fifth Assessment Report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is due next month. Drafts of the study include the conclusion that it is at least 95 percent likely that human activities (primarily the burning of fossil fuels) are the main cause of warming. That likelihood has risen from 50% in 1995, to 66% in 2001, to 90% in the 2007 report, suggesting that expert opinion is swiftly moving toward a unanimous conclusion.

What you can do—Let your federal legislators and President Obama know that more must be done to combat climate change—and soon. The president is promoting natural gas from fracking as a way to reduce greenhouse gases, but leaking methane from production, transport and storage of natural gas creates more warming than any benefits from this fuel. The federal government must redouble its support for alternate energy, including properly sited solar and wind facilities, and increase promotion of energy efficiency programs.

In particular, Congressman Chris Gibson has stood with Republicans in the House of Representatives to block funding and legislation that could move the country in this direction. He needs to hear about the severe costs of climate change that would dwarf the investments that could cut greenhouse emissions now.

To find out how to contact your representatives and the president, visit the conservation page on the DOAS web site, www.doas.us.

Andy Mason

Birders Can Help Locate Emerald Ash Borers

The New York Natural Heritage Program has created a website to help map the spread of invasive species called iMapinvasives. On that site you can find information on how birders can identify ash trees infested with Emerald Ash Borers. Go to:

<http://www.NYimainvasives.org>,

then click on "Links and PDF Library" to find the handout.

Photo of Emerald Ash Borer (right) by David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org



Golden Eagles and the Value of Telemetry Data

Last winter, I watched an adult Golden Eagle gliding effortlessly down an Otsego County ridge. The sun, low in the southern sky, illuminated its golden head. It was a glorious sight. We are lucky to live in an area where we can watch these beautiful and iconic birds. Recently we learned of a proposed wind project in



Golden Eagle by Dave Kiehm

Walton. This project would be built in an area we know to be a spring migration concentration area. We know the value of this particular spot for Golden and Bald Eagles because of our collaboration with Dr. Todd Katzner's research group. In 2007, we raised enough money to purchase a solar powered transmitter for one of the 50 Golden Eagles they have tracked in the east. In 2009, using data from their telemetered birds to choose sites, we counted raptors just upstream from this wind project site. We recorded 100 migrating eagles in 9 days – 1/3 of them Golden Eagles. When we learned of the proposed wind project, Dr. Trish Miller – one of Dr. Katzner's associates – created a map for us showing 40% of all tracked goldens in the east have used the area around the project site.

The reason the Walton project matters is because this species is especially vulnerable to wind turbines. At poorly sited projects, thousands of raptors have been killed, including hundreds of Golden Eagles in the western U.S. As many as 60,000 wind turbines will be required to reach national goals. Our organization supports wind as an alternative to fossil fuel use. However, raptors concentrate during migration. There are safe sites for wind development. We need to be certain that the sites that are chosen are safe for eagles and other large soaring raptors. The telemetry data from Dr. Katzner has proven to be of immense value for the eagles in our area and elsewhere. However,

more needs to be learned about the habits of our small eastern population of Golden Eagles.

None of the 50 birds that have been tracked were captured in New York. Our camera trapping activities the past 4 winters have shown a larger than expected number of goldens are spending winters in Delaware and Otsego Counties. We are now looking to track some of these local winter residents. Most of the birds

tracked to date winter in the central Appalachians. New York winter residents behave differently so more information is needed on their movements.

The new generation devices are solar powered and use Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to precisely determine the birds' locations.

The transmitters show

how high and fast the birds are flying, along with direction. Data is collected every 30 seconds and transmitted through the cell phone network. This wealth of data allows study of how individuals use the landscape and habitats of our region. We plan to make data available to advanced biology students at regional colleges for research and analysis. Dr. Katzner's group will include these birds in their development of migration models and other studies. This technology is ideally suited to our goals but it is expensive. To justify bringing Dr. Katzner's staff to New York, we need to raise more than \$10,000. We expect some grant funding but will still need to provide matching funds. If you are on our mailing list, you will receive a mailing in October asking for your help with this project. When you receive our message we hope you will give generously. This work has already proven its worth in our area.

To see a map of the 20 telemetered Golden Eagles that used the area around the Walton project visit our web site, doas.us. This map also shows the location of our 2009 count sites. To see new maps generated by data from telemetered eagles, visit Dr. Katzner's web site at

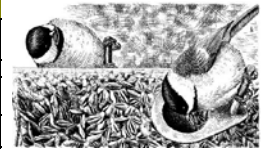
<http://katznerlab.com/golden-eagle-movements-in-eastern-north->

Tom Salo

DOAS 2013 Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser

Please visit our website at doas.us for product descriptions and images.

Quantity	Description	Size	Price	Total
	Locally Grown Sunflower Seed	30 lb. bag	\$22.00	\$
	Inclusive Mixes			
	Ultimate Blend	20 lb. bag	\$25.99	\$
	Ultimate Blend	40 lb. bag	\$49.99	\$
	Premium Blend	20 lb. bag	\$22.99	\$
	Premium Blend	40 lb. bag	\$42.99	\$
	Choice Blend	20 lb. bag	\$21.99	\$
	Choice Blend	40 lb. bag	\$39.99	\$
	Just Desserts®	20 lb. bag	\$32.99	\$
	Select Blend	17 lb. bag	\$16.99	\$
	Select Blend	35 lb. bag	\$31.99	\$
	Exclusive Mixes			
	Value Blend	30 lb. bag	\$15.99	\$
	Nut & Fruit Woodpecker	20 lb. bag	\$32.99	\$
	Chickadee	20 lb. bag	\$21.90	\$
	Simply Seeds			
	Cracked Corn	20 lb. bag	\$9.99	\$
	Nyjer®	25 lb. bag	\$33.99	\$
	Peanut Pieces	20 lb. bag	\$25.99	\$
	Suets			
	Nut & Fruit Woodpecker Suet	11 oz.	\$1.79	\$
	Chickadee Suet	11 oz.	\$1.59	\$
	Hi Energy Suet	11 oz.	\$1.99	\$

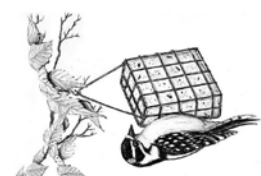
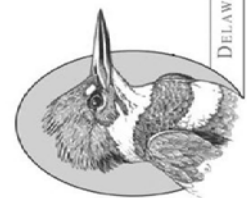


Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society

PO Box 544
Oneonta, NY 13820
info@doas.us
www.doas.us

**DOAS 2013
Bird Seed Sale
Fundraiser**

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.



DOAS Membership (1 year)	Enter \$15 Individual or \$20 Family.	\$
DOAS Membership (2 years)	Enter \$25 Individual or \$30 Family.	\$
Additional Donation	Please enter the amount; All donations are tax deductible.	\$
TOTALS		\$

Please enclose payment for total amount and mail this form to: DOAS Bird Seed Sale, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820. **Payments and Orders must be received by 10/31/13.** All orders must be picked up on Saturday, November 9 between 10am and 12pm at Walmart Parking Lot, Route 23 (Southside) in Oneonta (off I-88 at Exit 15).

Customer Information

Customer Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____
 State _____
 Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____
 Cell Number _____
 Email Address _____

Visit us online at doas.us for complete product details. To order by mail, complete this form and send payment by check. To order online and pay via credit card through PayPal, please go to our website at www.doas.us/store. If you have any questions, please contact Susan O'Handley at 607-643-5680 or info@doas.us.

DOAS Annual Charter Dinner will feature Adirondacks Speaker John Thaxton

Save the Date: Friday, October 18, 2013

John Thaxton has written five books, including *New York's 50 Best Places to Go Birding In and Around the Big Apple* (City & Company) and *Natural Attractions: A Select Guide to Experiencing North America's Unique Wildlife and Wonders* (Warner Books) as well as feature articles for periodicals such as *Birder's World*, *Conde Nast's Traveler*, *Adirondack Life*, *Nature Photographer* and *The New York Times*.

For the past seven years John has written the *Birdwatch* column for *Adirondack Explorer*.

John has lectured about birds at The American Museum of Natural History, Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center, Adirondack Interpretive Center, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Adirondack Loj, Vermont Field and Forest Society and the New Jersey Sierra Club.

He serves on the board of *Northern*

New York Audubon and edits their newsletter. He served as president of *Happiness Is Camping: For Children With Cancer*, and remains on the board.

John will be accompanied by his wife Pat Thaxton. Pat served as Laboratory Director at *Long Island College Hospital* in New York City and as the Laboratory Manager at *Elizabethtown Community*

Hospital in the Adirondacks. She served as President of the *High Peaks Audubon Society* and currently serves on the board of *Northern New York Audubon* and as chairperson of its Membership and Finance Committees.

John and Pat are both *Licensed New York State Guides and Adirondack 46ers*, fully insured and rarin' to go. They are members of the *American Birding Association* and the *New York State Ornithological Association*. For *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State, 2000-2005* (Cornell University Press) John and Pat covered 25 atlasing blocks, which included most of the Adirondack High Peaks. For the past ten years they have led trips for the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center's *Great Adirondack Birding Celebration* and for eight years have led trips for Hamilton County's *Adirondack Birding Festival*.



John and Pat Thaxton, by Tom DuBois
adirondackbirdingtours.com

Annual Charter Dinner - October 18, 2013

DOAS will hold its 45th Annual Charter Dinner on Friday October 18, 2013 at the Brooks Roost Banquet Room. We will gather at 6 PM for a social time before the buffet at 6:30 PM. The program for the evening begins at 7:30 PM and is free and open to the public.

Our speaker will be John Thaxton, a well-known Adirondacks writer, naturalist and lecturer.

The buffet cost is \$20 per person, and \$15 for children under twelve.

Reservations must be made by October 14th by calling 607-563-2924 or mailing a check to:

Julia Gregory, PO Box 641, Unadilla, New York 13849-0641

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch and Fall 2013 Open House

The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch on the DOAS Sanctuary began its 25th consecutive season on August 20 and will continue through December.

Our team of dedicated volunteers record thousands of raptors each season. The count for the 2012 season was 5039 raptors of 14 species, slightly below the average since full-time counting began at the site.

The middle two weeks of September are prime time for Broad-wings, which are often sighted in sizeable flocks or “kettles”. Franklin Mt. had 1763 broad-wings in 2012, a good year for our site. Other early season species include Osprey, kestrels, and the first wave of Bald Eagles. On Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will host a open house at the sanctuary. At 10:30, there will be a 45 minute beginners workshop on Identifying Flying Hawks. A trail walk will leave the barn at 11:30 AM and will cover most of the sanctuary grounds.



Trish Marki's Barn Owl Tallulahbelle admires a painting by Dave Kiehm – See live owls at the Open House October 5th

At 1 PM Trish Marki from The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York will present a variety of live owls. This program is very interesting for birder watchers of any age. The hawk watch will be staffed through the day and refreshments will be served at the barn.

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, salothomas@gmail.com.

Forecasts of anticipated good flights at the hawkwatch are sent out by email a day or two in advance. To receive these alerts, visit www.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.franklinmt.org.

Directions: The sanctuary can be reached by taking Oneonta's Main Street south across NY Route 28. After passing through the light, turn immediately left at the T onto Southside Drive. Turn right after 8/10 mile on Swart Hollow Road. Go 1 1/2 mile and take a sharp right on Grange Hall Road. After 2/10 mile, take a sharp left into the driveway, or park nearby on Grange Hall Road. The hawk watch is 100 yards up the hill from the barn.

A Successful Day Camp!

On June 22, the John G. New Audubon Summer Day Camp was held at the DOAS Sanctuary for four days. The camp attracted 9



campers ranging from grade three up to sixth grade. With the wonderful help from Julie Smith and Janice Downie, the camp was a great success!

The enthusiastic campers were eager to explore starting from the very first day! They were

exposed to the adaptations of birds, the life of an aquatic macro-invertebrate, how bluebirds live in our area and survive, and many other exciting activities. The campers learned to trust one another when blindfolded, dressed up as a bug, built a den, and showed their creative side during various crafts and beading.

We also had amazing guests come to visit the camp and educate the exciting minds of our campers! Andy Mason stopped by to

explore caves, build parts of the boardwalk as a service learning project, and built bluebird houses with the campers. We also had the wonderful opportunity of receiving two visits from Eileen

Kline. She took the campers down to the pond to explore aquatic macro-invertebrates and teach them about gall pods.

My first year as director of the summer camp program was an amazing experience.

Not only were the campers able to learn and explore a part of the vast world around them, but they also taught me. I truly love teaching and being a part of this wonderful community. Everyone involved will have lasting memories for a lifetime. I can't wait for next year!

Megan Gigandet

Photos of children building and then walking on the boardwalk by Julie Smith and Janice Downey

NYSOA Annual Meeting and NY Birders Conference on Long Island, Nov. 1-3

The annual meeting of the NY State Ornithological Assoc. and NY Birders Conference will be held Nov. 1-3 in Uniondale, Nassau Co., NY, hosted by the Queens County Bird Club. DOAS is a long-time member organization of NYSOA, whose purpose is to promote and document the ornithology of NY State.

The expanded meeting promises to be one of the best in recent years. Among the activities are exciting speakers on birding and bird conservation; field trips with top birders to great local destinations, a banquet dinner featuring a program by James Currie of Birding Adventures TV, photography and digiscoping field workshops, posters and vendor tables including major optics manufacturers, workshops and student papers, great shopping nearby and an excursion to Manhattan for non-birding guests, as well as NYSOA's annual business meeting and award presentations, with plenty of time for socializing.

This is a great opportunity to witness the spectacle of the fall coastal migration during this peak time for rarities!

For further information on the event, including registration materials, visit <http://www.nybirdersconference.org>.

For information on NYSOA, visit

<http://www.nybirds.org>.

Andy Mason

Birds, Brunch and Beer 2013

The Birds, Brunch and Beer events that DOAS held on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at the Ommegang Brewery was a huge success in spite of threatening weather all around the area. We were spared the worst of the storm activity for that day. Our morning workshop of Birding by Ear had a large turnout, and two separate bird walks followed, ending at the scheduled opening at 11:00AM. The general consensus



Great Blue Heron by Jonathan Dowdall

of the brunch was five stars. Lunch was followed by a presentation on The New York State Kestrel Project, given by Mike Burger, Director of Conservation for New York Audubon. Our afternoon workshops were well attended and enjoyed by the participants. The highlight of the Event was our raffle, with our main attraction an exquisite carving of a Great Blue Heron, by the well-known local artist, Jonathan Dowdall. Other

recognized and celebrated local artist contributed their work and DOAS would like to extend their appreciation and thanks for their generosity to: Jonathan Dowdall, Gail DuBois, Warren Greene, Ann Kiehm, Dave Kiehm, and Paul Sauter, and Bill Isacc, owner of The Old Blacksmith Gallery in Schuyler Lake for his donation of another Jonathan Dowdall carving. Look for our announcement of date for 2014 Birds, Brunch and Beer.

Important Notice to National Audubon Society Members

Please Join Our Local Chapter

- If you are a member of the National Audubon Society, you are receiving this issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*, compliments of our local Chapter, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society. Due to printing and postage costs and the loss of the portion of National Audubon Society (NAS) dues that our Chapter receives, we are not able to send the newsletter to NAS-only members.
- NAS-only members receive the September *Kingfisher*—this issue--each year. However, the other eight issues go only to those who have taken a local membership or are joint local/NAS members.
- **We encourage all NAS-only members to consider a local membership in order to help defray the costs of the newsletter and support our Chapter's education and conservation activities.** Local memberships are \$15 per year or \$25 for two years; family memberships are \$20 per year or \$30 for two years—a membership form can be found elsewhere in this issue.
- Your mailing label will inform you of your membership status: an L indicates a local member, with expiration date (year and month, e.g. '1309' indicates September 2013); an N indicates an NAS-only member; both an L and an N indicates a joint local/NAS member. **If you are an NAS-only member, you will need to take a local membership in order to continue receiving *The Belted Kingfisher*.** If you are a local member or a joint local/NAS member, you will continue receiving the newsletter as in the past.

We appreciate the continued support of all members for our efforts to protect the natural world.

Upcoming Activities

September

September 13 & 14 – New York State Bluebird Society:

Annual meeting in Cooperstown, including bird walk. Look for details at www.nysbs.org.

September 17 – DOAS Board Meeting: 7PM

September 20 – DOAS Program: *The Lost Bird Project*, a film by Todd McGrain. See details on first page. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or email eleanormrirt955@gmail.com.

September 21 – Carey Conference Center, Rensselaerville, NY: View Todd McGrain's sculptures from *The Lost Bird Project*, on display until early October. Participants should meet at the Dietz Street Parking lot in Oneonta at 9:30 AM. The parking lot is located across from the YMCA in Oneonta. Please pack a lunch as the grounds of the Carey Conference Center have a beautiful area for a picnic. We might be able to view the fall migration of birds. To register, contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or email eleanormrirt955@gmail.com.

October

October 5 – Open House at the DOAS Sanctuary: Hours are 10 AM - 2 PM. Includes a beginner's workshop, a trail walk and a presentation of live owls with Trish Marki from The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York. See page 7 for details.

October 15 – DOAS Board Meeting: 7PM

October 18 – DOAS Annual Charter Dinner – 7-9 PM at Brooks Roost. See details on insert.

October 20 – Annual Fall Montezuma trip: Field trip to the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, to view the migrating waterfowl and shorebirds on their annual journey to warmer

climates. Participants will meet at 7:30 AM in the Dietz Street Parking Lot, across from the YMCA in Oneonta. Please pack a lunch for our break at the Montezuma New York Audubon Center. To register, contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or email eleanormrirt955@gmail.com.

November

November 1-3 – NYSOA Annual Meeting and NY Birders Conference. See details on Page 8.

November 9 – Bird Seed pick up day: Walmart parking lot, Oneonta, 10 AM - 12 noon. See order form on insert.

November 15 – DOAS Public and Member Meeting: Meeting 7 PM - 9 PM at the Elm Street United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.

November 19 – DOAS Board Meeting: 7 PM

December

December 7 – Short-eared Owl Field Trip: Meet at the Cooperstown village docks at the end of Fair St. at 3:00 PM. Contact Bob Donnelly at rsdonn@yahoo.com or 607-264-8156.



Short-eared
Owl,
by Dave Kiehm

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; family memberships \$20 annually or \$30 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: _____

Support DOAS education and conservation programs with an additional donation: \$ _____



THE BELTED KINGFISHER
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Summer Bird Sightings

It's always a special treat to happen upon an active bird nest of eggs ready to hatch into first slimy and gooky critters and then finally into soft cuddly balls of fluffy feathers that you would love to hold. Here are some great sightings of birds nesting and tending to their young.

Lisa Gorn had baby Carolina Wrens in her outbuildings in Morris. She couldn't accurately count them because they soon dispersed throughout the building where they had taken over and were even invading her nearby garage. She caught a couple of close-up looks at cute little birds with very short tails and heavy-duty bills. While Becky Gretton was birding in the town of Westford on 6/4 she heard a Broad-winged Hawk call a few times from the same location each time. Further searching with her binoculars revealed a Broad-winged staring directly at her from its nest. She decided to move on! On 6/16 Becky was also watching a Bald Eagle nest when a male Baltimore Oriole made repeated visits to the nest in search of some insect grub. After

several stops to and fro he flew off leaving the Bald Eagles appearing quite indifferent to their flashy oriole visitor. Tom Salo reported hearing young Common Ravens screaming to be fed the week of 6/24. He claims the parents get an undeserved reputation for being bad parents because the young are so raucous and demanding. Sounds like typical American teenagers. On the 27th of June Bob Donnelly watched four newly hatched American Woodcocks nonchalantly walk down his driveway in Cooperstown while the hen, their mother, was busy flying ten feet away. On 7/16 Tom Salo also flushed out a Black-billed Cuckoo from a six foot high Norway Spruce on his property in W. Burlington as it proceeded to do a very intricate distraction display. After several soaring and diving antics and much noisy wing activity it flew into a thick bush out of sight. Tom decided to check out the tree and found a nest with four eggs. Incredible! While bicycling behind Oneonta High School on 7/28 Sandy Bright came across a group of at least eight Northern Flickers. One juvenile was begging while the



Tree Swallow nestlings
by John Davis

rest independently foraged for food in the nearby grassy knoll. What great fun to see such interesting nesting activity.

If you have bird sightings to report, contact me at:

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607-829-5218 for the next issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*.

Dianne Benko