



# THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

## Alligator River Wildlife Refuge

### COMING ACTIVITIES

#### September

September 1 – Bird Seed Sale Begins

September 18 – DOAS Board Mtg

September 21 – Program, “Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge”

#### October

October 6 – Sanctuary Open House

October 12 – DOAS Annual Charter Dinner, Keynote by Rick Bunting, “Collected Stories from 2018”

October 16 – DOAS Board Mtg

October 27 – Bird Seed Order Deadline

#### November

November 3 – Bird Seed Sale Pickup

November 16 – Program, Tyra Olstad, “Arctic Alaska”

#### December

December 4 – DOAS Board Mtg

December 15 – Oneonta Christmas Bird Count

**More information on page 11**

**DOAS PROGRAMS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Join us on Friday, September 21, 2018 at 7:30 PM at Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY for a special program about the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina, its uniquely managed palustrine wetland bog and the wildlife present there. Photographer, educator, and DOAS board member Rod Sutton will present information and share a selection of his stunning photographs.

The Alligator River Wildlife



Refuge consists of 152,000 acres located inland from North Carolina’s Outer Banks. There are large fields that are used for agricultural purposes, growing primarily soy and corn. A portion of the crops is left for endemic wildlife and migratory birds. The canals are managed for irrigation, wildfire protection, and to control saltwater intrusion. During bird migration, the fields are flooded



**“Alligator River” Continued to page 4**

## Bird Seed Sale

The DOAS Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser is your opportunity to buy quality bird seed and help support DOAS programs at the same time! Proceeds from this sale support speaker fees for member meetings, field trips, programs and special events throughout the year, summer camp programs and the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch. We encourage you to stock up for the winter months ahead and thank you in advance for your support! Order form is on pages 5 - 6. Please note the new pickup location!

## President’s Message—Review of the Past Year

by Co-president Andy Mason

September marks the end of our Chapter’s summer hiatus as we start a new year of educational, conservation and science programs that are at the core of our efforts to protect the natural world. This is also a good point to look back at what we have achieved in those areas. So here is an overview of the past 12 month’s activities:

- We presented eight public programs on subjects ranging from coyotes to climate change in NY to monarchs and milkweed—all well attended.
- We kept our membership and the community informed of our activities and programs through nine issues of this newsletter, and active web site and Facebook page, and extensive coverage in local and state media.
- Completed a major project in obtaining intervenor funding for fall and spring raptor surveys in the project area of a proposed Broome County wind project in the migration route of these birds. This effort included scheduling observers, confirming and analyzing data, and writing final reports—a real challenge for an all-volunteer organization.
- Operated another successful day camp for children at the Audubon Sanctuary. Three sessions exposed



enthusiastic kids to the flora and fauna under the guidance of skilled educators.

- Conducted a variety of field trips to hot spots around the area including Otsego Lake, the Oneonta Greenway Trail, Delaware County reservoirs and the West Branch Preserve. We also had a sell-out for the Birding by Ear event at Davis State Park.
- We encouraged conservation actions by members through legislation and conservation

newsletter columns, a letter-signing effort at the Earth Festival and other locations, visits with legislators, support for coalition efforts via sign-on letters

and petitions and outreach via the web site and Facebook and continuing our legal efforts against the Constitution Pipeline.

- Conducted the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch for the 29th consecutive year—one that ended with the highest count of Golden Eagles of any eastern North America hawkwatch for the season.
- Supported our activities with fund-raisers including a bird seed sale, bird-friendly coffee and other merchandise.
- Handed out three environmental education grants for student

**“Review” Continued to page 3**

### THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY FOUNDED 1968

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
Janet Potter

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents	Becky Gretton Andrew Mason Susan O’Handley
Treasurer	Charlie Scheim
Secretary	Dorian Huneke  Jane Bachman Kathryn Davino Bob Donnelly Pamela Peters Janet Potter Tom Salo Rod Sutton

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS\* AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Conservation*:	Andy Mason
Education*:	Susan O’Handley
Field Trips*:	Bob Donnelly
Hawk Watch*:	Andrew Mason Tom Salo
Hospitality*:	Kathryn Davino
Membership*:	Andy Mason
Programs*:	Becky Gretton
Publicity*:	Susan O’Handley
Sanctuary*:	Andrew Mason
Bird Counts:	Sandy Bright
Charter Dinner:	Julia Gregory
Finance:	Gray Mason
Historian:	Rod Sutton
Sales:	Vacant

#### ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Delaware Otsego Audubon  
Society  
P.O. Box 544  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
Email: [info@doas.us](mailto:info@doas.us)

#### ON THE WEB:

[www.doas.us](http://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](mailto:editor@doas.us)

## Conservation and Legislation

**Once again—Endangered Species Act is itself endangered** – One of the nation’s, and perhaps the world’s most important conservation laws is again under threat in the US Congress. Senator John Barrasso, Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, has introduced legislation that would severely weaken the successful and popular Endangered Species Act.

The Barrasso bill would undermine the Endangered Species Act’s use of the best available science in making determinations for recovering species; reduce access of citizens to legal challenges and public involvement; and make it more difficult to protect species by requiring recovery goals at the time of listing as threatened or endangered; and perhaps most dangerous—give states the authority to veto endangered species recovery projects.

To go along with this legislative assault, the Departments of Interior and Commerce, the agencies charged with carrying out the Endangered Species Act,



Osprey--an ESA success story  
photo by John Brennan, NAS

have begun the process of changing the implementing regulations to allow consideration of economic impacts in determining whether a species should be protected. Other changes would remove the immediate protections against killing or harming wildlife when they receive Endangered Species Act designation, and remove consideration of global climate change impacts on endangered and threatened species.

These efforts to undermine the Endangered Species Act come at a time when species’ extinction is happening at a rate at least 100 times greater than what would be considered normal; in the last 40 years, we have lost half of all wild animals on Earth.

**What you can do**—contact US Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer and urge them to use their influence and votes to protect this critical law, both in Congress and the agencies that oversee it.

Contact information for elected officials is available on the conservation page of the DOAS web site at [www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us).

**Andy Mason**

## NYSOA Annual Meeting in Rochester

The Burroughs Audubon Nature Club & Rochester Birding Association will host the 2018 Annual Meeting of the NY State Ornithological Association and New York State Birders Conference, October 5 – 7 in Rochester.

The weekend will feature keynote speaker Greg Miller, of *The Big Year* book and movie fame, along with field trips, scientific paper session, and workshops.

This is an opportunity to connect with birders from around the state, and explore some great birding hotspots. Information on the meeting is available at [rochesterbirding.com](http://rochesterbirding.com).

**“Review” Continued from page 2**  
projects at local institutions.

- And last, but not least, celebrated our group’s 50th anniversary with a gala dinner and remembrance in October. This is not a comprehensive list but gives a sense of what a committed group of individuals can achieve. Thanks to all our board members and others who made 2017-18 a great year.



**“Alligator River” Continued from page 1**

providing habitat beneficial to an estimated 50,000 migrating birds.

The Alligator River lowland includes a variety of wildlife. It is one of North



Carolina’s important sites for Black-throated Green Warblers. Over half of all Tundra Swans in North America spend winters in the Alligator River and nearby wildlife refuges. It was recently named a globally significant site for Northern Bobwhite and a significant site for Prothonotary and Prairie Warblers. In this area, observers may find over 200 bird species.

The area is known for its dense Black Bear population, which takes advantage of the large fields of crops. The bears share the refuge with an introduced and managed population of Red Wolves. Rarely seen due to their secretive nature, they can be heard howling in the late afternoon and evening. The population was established as the Red Wolf became extinct in the wild.

The refuge is part of the northernmost range of the American Alligator. They are shy and elusive in the refuge even though they grow to a large size and frequent the canals and waterways. The most frequently encountered reptiles are the numerous and varied species of turtles, including Spotted, Eastern Box, Chicken, Yellow-bellied Sliders, Red-bellied Cooters, Florida Cooters, Eastern



Mud and Snapping turtles. Also found in the refuge are several species of snake such as Red-bellied and Banded Water Snakes, Black

Rat Snakes, Corn Snakes and Eastern King Snakes. The refuge is home to three venomous species: Copperhead, Timber Rattlesnake and Cottonmouth.

Much of the refuge is pristine, inaccessible dense pocosin and non-riverine swamp forest. Rod’s visit to the parts that can be accessed by foot trail, automobile, kayak or canoe make for some fascinating photos and stories. Plan to join us for this program.

About the presenter: Rod Sutton enjoyed nature at an early age, dreaming of becoming a wildlife biologist with a focus on herpetology. One of his first jobs was at Rogers Environmental Conservation Center in Sherburne, NY. His life found its own path, leading to a career in advertising, commercial, and industrial photography. With 20 years of experience in the field, he accepted a position with DCMO BOCES in 1993, retiring in 2012. Blending his abilities as photographer and teacher with his appreciation for nature and wildlife, he now dedicates his time to studying and photographing animals in their natural habitats.

All photos: by Rod Sutton, used by permission.

**DOAS Officers Elected**

The Board met in August and elected officers for the 2018-2019 term. They are: Becky Gretton, Andy Mason, Susan O’Handley--Co-Presidents; Dorian Huneke--Secretary; and Charlie Scheim--Treasurer. The Board also voted to appoint Pamela Peters to the vacant board seat.

**Support our Sponsors! Thank you to Rod Spangle Antiques in Unadilla for being a sponsor!**

**ROD SPANGLE ANTIQUES**  
Unadilla, NY

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# 2018 Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser Order Form (NEW PICKUP LOCATION)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



**DELAWARE-OTSEGO  
 AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
 PO BOX 544. ONEONTA, NY 13820

**ORDER DEADLINE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 5PM**

**PRODUCT PICK UP - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 9AM-11AM**

**NEW LOCATION! At VP Supply Corp, 41 Country Club Road, Oneonta, NY. NEW LOCATION!**

PRODUCTS - BIRD SEED	Quantity	Price Per	Total
<b>LOCALLY GROWN Black Oil Sunflower 40 lb bag</b> <i>The soft seed hulls allow the food value of the nutmeat to be easily accessed by all of the seed-eating birds.</i> <i>This is the best single ingredient choice for attracting the most colorful songbirds. GROWN IN RICHFIELD SPRINGS, NY</i>	_____	\$25	\$ _____
<b>ASPEN SONG BIRD SEED</b> <i>Featuring products from Aspen Song - All Natural Wild Bird Food. Aspen Song mixes are designed to provide the best possible nutrition with the broadest possible appeal to your backyard visitors.</i>			
<b>Ultimate Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	\$23	\$ _____
<b>Ultimate Blend 40 lb bag</b> <i>A corn-free mix that includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Black Stripe Sunflower, Peanuts, Sunflower Kernels, Safflower, Tree Nuts and Shelled Pumpkin Seeds.</i>	_____	\$42	\$ _____
<b>Premium Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	\$22	\$ _____
<b>Premium Blend 40 lb bag</b> <i>Includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Safflower, Canola, Small Yellow Millet, Canary Seed, Nyjer Seed and Dehydrated Cherries.</i>	_____	\$41	\$ _____
<b>Choice Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	\$17	\$ _____
<b>Choice Blend 40 lb bag</b> <i>Over 30% Sunflowers &amp; Peanuts and includes White Proso Millet, Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Safflower and Black Stripe Sunflower.</i>	_____	\$33	\$ _____
<b>Just Desserts 20 lb bag</b> <i>A shell-less mix for those who don't want shells, waste, germination or mess. It contains Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Hulled White Millet and Shelled Pumpkin Seeds.</i>	_____	\$41	\$ _____
<b>Nut &amp; Fruit Woodpecker Blend 20 lb bag</b> <i>Shell-less mix for woodpeckers and wire mesh tube feeders. Mix includes Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Steamed-crimped Corn, Shelled Pumpkin Seeds, Raisins, Dehydrated Cherries, Dried Cranberries &amp; Dried Blueberries.</i>	_____	\$45	\$ _____
<b>Nyjer Seed 25 lb bag</b>	_____	\$44	\$ _____
<b>Nyjer Seed 4 lb bag</b> <i>To primarily attract finches, siskin &amp; redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports. The 4 lb. option is custom bagged by DOAS for those who prefer smaller quantities.</i>	_____	\$ 9	\$ _____
<b>Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (SINGLES)</b>	_____	\$2.50	\$ _____
<b>Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)</b>	_____	\$25	\$ _____
<b>Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (SINGLES)</b>	_____	\$ 2	\$ _____
<b>Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)</b>	_____	\$20	\$ _____

## PRODUCTS - BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE

*Featuring products from Birds and Beans - Triple Certified - Shade grown Smithsonian certified 'Bird Friendly'® coffee, which is also USDA Organic and Fair-Trade certified.*

<b>Wood Thrush - Breakfast Roast Coffee</b>			
<b>12 oz bag - Ground</b>	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
<b>12 oz bag - Whole Bean</b>	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
<b>2 lb. bag - Ground</b>	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<b>2 lb bag - Whole Bean</b>	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<i>This blend has a mild, bright flavor with sweet mango citrus notes, a light body and fragrant aroma - a delightful coffee.</i>			
<b>American Redstart - Light Roast Coffee</b>			
<b>12 oz bag - Ground</b>	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
<b>12 oz bag - Ground</b>	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
<b>2 lb bag - Ground</b>	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<b>2 lb bag - Whole Bean</b>	_____	\$26	\$ _____

*From farmers Asociación Civil Guaya'b in the Huehuetenango region of Guatemala, smooth and full-bodied with heavy notes of cocoa and walnuts. The acidity is mellow and flavor reminiscent of red apples.*

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

	Quantity	Price Per	Total
<b>Chestnut Sided Warbler - Medium Roast Coffee</b>			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$26	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<i>From farmers co-op UCA del Río Coco in the Northern Nicaraguan Highlands, shows black cherry, raisin, cranberry, brown sugar and roasted chestnut in the cup.</i>			
<b>Scarlet Tanager - Dark/French Roast Coffee</b>			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$26	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<i>From farmers co-op La Florida, high in the Andes in Peru, this is a smooth and creamy blend with savory sweetness of chocolate, caramel and almond.</i>			
<b>Kingbird - Espresso Roast Coffee</b>			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$28	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$28	\$ _____
<i>This roast is a wonderful blend of coffees - balanced, sweet, somewhat bright with good body, with dominant Mandarin orange on the aroma, nutty sweet toffee, clean and smooth in the cup.</i>			
<b>DECAF - Baltimore Oriole - French Roast Coffee</b>			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$28	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$28	\$ _____
<i>A delicious high quality decaf blend produced with water process caffeine extraction.</i>			

## PRODUCTS - DOAS

<b>DOAS 15oz Kingfisher Mug</b> (quantity discounts: 4 for \$38; 5 for \$45; 6 for \$50)	_____	\$10	\$ _____
<i>These premium mugs hold a nice size cup of coffee! Black outside with Green inside; Bring your mug to events like Earth Festival and have a coffee on us. Hand washing recommended to preserve imprint. Not recommended for microwave use.</i>			
<b>DOAS Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Hat</b>	_____	\$20	\$ _____
<b>Peterson's Field Guide to Hawks of North America</b> (while supplies last)	_____	\$22	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Individual - 1 year)</b>	_____	\$15	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Individual - 2 years)</b>	_____	\$25	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Family - 1 year)</b>	_____	\$20	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Family - 2 years)</b>	_____	\$30	\$ _____
<i>Your membership contribution helps to support our mission to protect and maintain ecological systems, promote wise use and conservation of natural resources, and improve environmental quality. If your membership is current, we will extend for the selected timeframe. National Audubon membership is separate from <b>local</b> Chapter membership. <b>Please support your local chapter.</b></i>			

DOAS Additional Donation	Please enter amount	\$ _____
<i>Your donation helps to support the many programs of DOAS throughout the year including public programs, field trips, environmental education grants to area teachers, Hawkwatch at the DOAS Sanctuary at Franklin Mountain, Golden Eagle Research, Non-Lead Ammo Initiative, Advocacy Campaigns and more. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. DOAS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization administered entirely by a volunteer Board of Directors.</i>		

**ORDER TOTAL** (Remember to include items from both sides) \$

Please calculate your order total and enter in the area above.

Mail this order form with your full payment by check or money order to DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820 and note BIRD SEED SALE in memo section. We will send you confirmation by email (if provided) as orders are received. Orders must be received by DOAS by 5pm Saturday, 10/27, so please plan accordingly for mail orders. **TO ORDER BY PHONE**, call Susan O'Handley, DOAS Bird Seed Sale Admin at 607-643-5680. **TO ORDER ONLINE**, please visit [DOAS.US/STORE](http://DOAS.US/STORE) NOTE: Please ensure that you pick up your seed on the **pickup day - NEW LOCATION, Saturday, November 3, 9am-11am at VP Supply Corp, 41 Country Club Road, Oneonta.** Our storage space is limited, but in an emergency, we will try to hold your order. Call Andy Mason at 607-267-8491 with any problems and/or questions.

### Would You Like to Receive DOAS Update Emails?

(DOAS Update Emails are sent monthly (and additionally as needed) and include notification of upcoming DOAS activities, news and events.)

Yes, Please Add Me to DOAS News Email List       I already receive update emails       No, Thank You

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR CHARTER DINNER ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5:30-9:30pm at Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) Oneonta.**

## Annual Charter Dinner, October 12th

Mark Your Calendars for the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society’s Annual Charter Dinner on Friday, October 12, 2018 at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) on State Highway 23 in Oneonta. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with a social hour, Buffet at 6:15 PM (featuring Roasted Salmon and NY Sirloin), and the program at 7:30 PM. A cash bar will be available. There will be door prizes and some fine raffle items.

Our featured presenter will be well-known local photographer, Rick Bunting. His photos of birds, butterflies, foxes, frogs and other natural subjects will appear as “Collected Stories of 2018”. He will present photos and commentaries on his favorite events of the year (so far!). Rick’s talent, insight and humor are sure to please one and all! Since his retirement from SUNY Potsdam and the Crane School of Music, Rick pursues his passion for photography full-time. Also an accomplished and well-known musician, Rick photographs wherever he travels.



Photographer and Naturalist, Rick Bunting

The cost for the full evening is \$30 per person (with no charge for those wishing to attend only the program portion of the event). Reservations must be made by October 7th, using the form below or register online at [www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us).

### Annual Charter Dinner – October 12, 2018

**The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will have their annual Charter Dinner on Friday October 12, 2018 at the Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) on State Highway 23 in Oneonta.** A social hour begins at 5:30 PM, buffet at 6:15 PM and the program at 7:30 PM. The program is open to the public.

This year’s speaker is Rick Bunting, presenting his “Collected Stories of 2018.”

The cost for the evening is \$30 per person. Reservations **MUST** be made by October 7, 2018 by calling 607-746-7396 or by mailing payment by check with the form below to DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820, or register online at [www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us).

**Menu:**

- \*Baby spinach with poached pears, goat cheese, spicy pecans, and maple chive vinaigrette
- \*Roasted Salmon and Tomato with a chive cream sauce
- \*Garlic & Peppercorn-rubbed NY Sirloin sliced and served with caramelized onion demi-glace
- \*Seasonal market vegetables
- \*Herb-roasted Potatoes
- \*Assorted breads & rolls
- \*Chef’s Dessert Table with coffee & tea

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Season Underway

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch reaches a landmark this fall with the start of the 30th consecutive season of coverage. In 1989, a handful of volunteers covered several weekends in September through November, largely as an experiment, but the results were promising. Interest quickly grew and by 1992, coverage was full-time and has continued since.

Observations take place nearly daily from late August into December, with mid-September peaks of Broad-winged Hawks and October-November flights of Golden Eagles being particularly popular periods.

The 2017 season was a mixed bag, with most species below the long-term average, including a very low count of Red-tailed Hawks. However eagles made a good showing, with 214 Bald Eagles, 28% above average, and the same number of Golden Eagles, a 35% rise. The latter marked the second 200+ Golden year in a row at the lookout and was the highest fall total for the year for any eastern North America hawkwatch. Another



Golden Eagle at Franklin Mountain, 2017 photo by John Heidecker

highlight was spotting of 6 Black Vultures—only two had been counted in the previous 28 years!

Total raptors counted in 2017 was 3860 of 16 different species.

Visitors and spotters are always welcome at the hawkwatch. For more information, contact Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, [AndyMason@earthling.net](mailto:AndyMason@earthling.net), or Tom Salo, (607) 965-8232, [salothomas@gmail.com](mailto: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.franklinmt.org](http://www.franklinmt.org) 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](http://www.franklinmt.org).

## Hawkwatch Open House

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 10AM-2PM  
at the DOAS Sanctuary, Grange Hall Spur Road, Oneonta

### SCHEDULE

- 10:30am - How to Identify Flying Hawks
- 11:30am Guided Trail Walk & Visit to Hawkwatch
- 12:30pm Live Raptors presented by Friends of the Feathered & Furry Wildlife Center



Rough-legged hawk; Photo by DOAS

FREE REFRESHMENTS

DELAWARE-OTSEGO  
AUDUBON SOCIETY



Wildlife Rehabilitator Missy Runyan  
Photo by Tina Niesluchowski



Trail Hike, 2017 Open House  
Photo by Jennifer Hyppio

## Financial Support Needed For Wind Project Eagle Surveys

DOAS is a supporter of environmentally-sound wind power but believes wind projects should be sited and designed to minimize impacts on birds. Most recently we have taken an active role in assessing the potential impacts on eagles from the proposed Bluestone Wind Project near Deposit. Surveys funded through the state's environmental review process, and conducted by Franklin Mountain hawk counters, found high densities of eagles in an area slated to have a concentration of turbines. 304 eagle sightings were recorded during 14 days of surveys last March. Migrants included 42 Bald Eagles and 22 Golden Eagles. Observers tallied 218 non-migrant Bald Eagle, and 20 non-migrant Golden Eagle sightings.



Golden Eagle  
Photo by Helen McLean

While high numbers of migrants are expected in this area, the numbers of non-migrants were surprising. In fact, the frequency and numbers of winter resident Golden Eagles found at the site are unprecedented in New York.

We do not know why these birds were so concentrated at the site. With 8 turbines proposed near the survey site, it is important to conduct more surveys to determine if the birds use the area every winter. We are grateful for the funding provided by the Department of Public Service. However, we need another source of funding to conduct surveys in 2019.

These surveys cost DOAS \$160 a day. We are urging our members to consider a donation to support these efforts. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Send them to the DOAS Golden Eagle Research Fund, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820.

Reports on our fall and spring surveys can be found on our website – [doas.us](http://doas.us). Those reports can also be found at [www.tinyurl/doasbluestone1](http://www.tinyurl/doasbluestone1) along with data and maps.

## DOAS 2018 Nature Camps



We had a wonderful summer camp season this year with a total of three sessions and 32 children attending. Our camp staff did a great job orchestrating fun, nature-focused activities under the direction of Megan Langan, with the assistance of Liz Brown and Chris DeCesare. Our third session was added this year for children entering first and second grades in a collaborative session with the Oneonta World of Learning (OWL) at Fortin Park.

Thank you to our special guests who presented in their areas of expertise - Andy Mason, Eileen Kline, Rod Sutton and Gary Graver.

We also thank the board at OWL and the Community Foundation of South Central NY for their help in getting the new session off the ground, as well as DOAS Business Sponsor, Rod Spangle Antique Clock Repair and all individuals who contributed scholarship donations (\$230 in scholarship funding was awarded to offset costs for those who needed a little extra help with the program registration fees). Anyone interested in becoming a DOAS Business Sponsor or making a scholarship donation for our camp fund can contact Susan O'Handley, DOAS Education Chair at [info@doas.us](mailto:info@doas.us) or by phone at 607-643-5680.



## Summer 2018 Bird Sightings



Fish Crow, photo by  
Alejandra Lewandowski/Audubon  
Photography Awards

In mid-May, breeding season was ramping up, with chicks of some species already fledging. A Fish Crow family started moving around our neighborhood in Oneonta, having nested nearby. Newly-fledged Catbirds, pretty much tailless, flew haphazardly

around our yard.

Randy Lynch discovered Wilson's Warblers in Jefferson. The once-ubiquitous Yellow-rumped Warblers had dispersed, leaving a single bird singing. At least two Red-tailed Hawk nests had chicks, while on a Bald Eagle nest two very large eaglets stood on the edge, "looking miserable in the cool morning rain." Eastern Wood Pewees finally arrived in Franklin (5/21, Pam Peters).

Tom Salo reported a Black-billed Cuckoo calling in West Burlington. It turned out to be a good summer for the cuckoos, as others were reported throughout the summer in Laurens (Charlie Scheim), Cooperstown (John Davis), West Burlington (Tom Salo), and Franklin (Pam Peters). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were heard in West Burlington (Tom Salo) and the Audubon Sanctuary (Charlie Scheim).

In Deposit, Lance Verderane found an Olive-sided Flycatcher and Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Tennessee Warblers (reported by Stanley Salthe). Tennessee Warblers were also seen by Becky Gretton in Cooperstown, along with Blackpolls in Richfield Springs, and by Gerianne Carillo, along with a singing Scarlet Tanager in Milford. Leslie Preston listened to the "Creep" of a Great-crested Flycatcher in Oneonta.

***If you have bird sightings to report, contact Sandy Bright, brights@hartwick.edu, at 40 Fair St., Oneonta, NY 13820, or at 607 287-4465 for the next issue of The Belted Kingfisher. We regret that not every report can be included due to limited space. Additional information may be requested for sightings of rare or unusual birds.***

Mid-June: In Cooperstown, Angelika Rashkow kept track of the active nests of House Finches, Phoebe, and American Redstarts. Gerry Pearlburg watched a large flock of Canada Geese already heading north in their typical chevron flight pattern over Kortright. Working outdoors, Tom Salo startled both a Veery and a Towhee off active nests. He also identified at least two Brown Thrasher territories on his property in West Burlington. Randy Lynch found a Great Egret near Davenport. The Red-tailed Hawk chicks in Jefferson fledged, and he watched the eaglets branching as they prepared to do the same (Jefferson).

A curious Brown Thrasher investigated the activity at Stanley Salthe's in Deposit, and eventually became a regular at his feeder station. Leslie Preston found Redstarts, Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warbler, Chimney Swifts, Cedar Waxwings, and a Green Heron along the Mill Race in Oneonta. Dorian Huneke observed two immature Bald Eagles feeding on her land in Treadwell. Angelika Rashkow first heard, then saw a Broad-winged Hawk (Cooperstown).

Early July: As Suzanne Gaynor watched, a Broad-winged Hawk harassed a Red-tail circling over East Meredith. On Otsego Lake, she heard Common Loons calling on a regular basis. Andy Mason and Barb Palmer spotted a Brewster's Warbler in Jefferson. Charlie Scheim watched a Pied-bill Grebe on a pond off upper West Street in Oneonta. Later in July, Angelika Rashkow discovered a Merlin perched on a fence (Cooperstown). A family of Merlins was still present in Wilber Park, Oneonta on the 23rd.



Great Egrets  
Photo by Rick Bunting

Early August: many birds were vocalizing as Pam Peters picked blueberries in Franklin, including White-throated Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Towhee, Alder Flycatcher and Hermit Thrush, as well as both young and adult Barred Owls. Leslie Preston discovered not just one, but five Great Egrets at Wilber Lake (Oneonta). A Kestrel hovered above fields near Cooperstown (Angelika Rashkow).

Sandy Bright

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## September

**September 1- DOAS Bird Seed Sale Begins**

**September 18 - DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM**

**September 21- DOAS Public Program: Alligator**

**River Wildlife Refuge.** Rod Sutton will present a program and show photographs of this paulstrine wetland bog in North Carolina and its wildlife. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. See article on page 1.

## October

**October 6- Open House:** 10 AM-2 PM at DOAS Sanctuary. See schedule on page 8.

**October 12- DOAS Annual Fall Charter Dinner:** Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn), State Highway 23, Oneonta. Rick Bunting, well-known local photographer will present "Collected Stories of 2018" A social hour begins at 5:30 PM, buffet at 6:15 PM and the program at 7:30 PM. Program is open to the public. See article and

use form on page 7.

**October 16 - DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM**

**October 27 - Bird Seed Order Deadline** by 5 PM

## November

**November 3 - Bird Seed Sale Pickup:** 9 AM to 11 AM, New Pickup Location at VP Supply Corp., 41 Country Club Road, Oneonta.

**November 16 - DOAS Public Program: Arctic Alaska, Opportunities and Challenges for Conservation.** Tyra Olstad will share research into land management and conservation and present first-hand observations in Gates of the Arctic National Park and the National Petroleum Reserve. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.

## December

**December 4 - DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM**

**December 15 - Oneonta Christmas Bird Count**

**Is your Membership Current?** Your mailing label will inform you of your membership expiration date (year and month, e.g. '1810 indicates October 2018). DOAS memberships are \$15 per year or \$25 for two years; family memberships are \$20 per year or \$30 for two years. **View membership benefits and download application from our website: [doas.us/join-us/](http://doas.us/join-us/) OR join online at [doas.us/store](http://doas.us/store).**

## 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.

Memberships can also be purchased online at <http://doas.us>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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## 2018 The Year of the Bird

### More “Why Do Birds Matter?”

In 2018, we mark the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world, led by National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Geographic, have declared 2018 the *Year of the Bird*. To celebrate, we printed a few answers from authors and naturalists, and our own DOAS leaders, to the question, “Why do birds matter?” in our June issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*. We continue that celebration in this issue and hope you will consider your own answer to this important question as you read this. Submit your response on the DOAS web site at <http://doas.us/why-birds-matter/>.

**Richard Crossley**, Birder, photographer, author of *The Crossley ID Guide*—Birds are the catalyst for taking me outdoors and shaping the way I live and think. If we can all share this appreciation of the natural world and its positive impact on our lifestyles, the planet will be a different place.

**Susan O’Handley**, DOAS Co-president—In addition to being indicators for environmental health, birds matter because they allow people all over the world to enjoy and appreciate nature. Caring about birds often leads to caring about their habitats and creates a stewardship ethic to protect our natural resources. Birds connect communities.

**Pepper Trail**, USFWS forensic ornithologist—Birds matter because they give us wings. And because if we save the birds, we will save the world.

**Dean Greaney**, Wintu Audubon Society—I’m reminded of the preacher’s story: When the poor man spent his meager funds on bread and flowers he was asked, “Why waste your pennies on flowers?” The man replied, “The bread is to live. The flowers are why we live.” We need birds and flowers to value something in ourselves beyond money.

