



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Coming Activities

June

June 1 – New Island Trail

June 2 – Birds, Brunch & Beer (*see pages 3-4 for details*)

June 16 – Lordsland Conservancy

July

July 13 – Glimmerglass State Park

August

August 17 – Otsego Land Trust

September

Early September – NYSBS

October

October 5 – DOAS Open House

October 18 – Charter Dinner

More information on page 9

All DOAS programs are free and open to the public

Seeing Seabirds Up-close and Personal

Shearwaters, petrels, and skuas, to name a few, were only pictures in my birding field guide. Oh, what I would have given to see them for real. So I booked a pelagic birding trip, not sure what to expect, in order to get a first-hand look at some of these beautiful seabirds.

It was very early on a calm, clear morning in September 2000 when the boat left from the port in Brielle, New Jersey. We were aboard the Atlantis,

a 110 ft. seafaring vessel. Our destination that day was the Hudson Canyon some 90 miles off the coast, running in NJ and NY waters. Our first sighting was not a pelagic species, but a Chimney Swift seen about 10 miles off shore. Later a few warblers and a whimbrel were spotted. Soon we were to cross Buckley's Line, a theoretical boundary to delineate the NJ/NY border at sea. At that time any bird seen could be counted as a NY bird for my list. By mid-morning we started to see some of those seabirds pictured in my guide: Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Pomarine Jaeger, Greater Shearwater, Cory's Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Bridled Tern, Black Tern, and Red-Necked Phalaropes---all lifers for me.

At one point of the trip, we saw something



Wilson's Storm Petrel, by Liam Quinn from Canada [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

dark surface, submerge, and surface again. It turned out to be a Fin Whale with a calf. She let us get fairly close and with our binoculars, we could get a great view.

What turned out to be the craziest thing on the trip was a young Brown-Headed Cowbird which landed on the boat to take a rest and did not leave until the ship was docked back in Brielle. We were some 60 miles out and the little bird was clearly

exhausted and wanted water to drink. So we gave it water and crumbs, and cheers. It was not afraid and ate right out of our hands. One birder mentioned the fact that cowbirds were not very nice and far from his favorite species. We all agreed with him, but this little fellow became the exception. As night approached, we all went inside the boat to be out of the cool air. We still had a number of miles to go before docking. At one point, I looked up toward the ceiling and there perched on a pipe was our little cowbird mascot.

Yes, my first pelagic trip was awesome in every way. Thank goodness for calm seas or things might have been quite different. I would highly recommend this kind of birding adventure.

Julie Smith

President's Message

A Shared Commitment

In this issue of the Kingfisher, you will see the results of our annual election held at the May program. We are pleased to welcome Rebecca Gretton as a new director. Becky is an excellent birder and has been active at the Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch for a number of years. Her interest and knowledge of the chapter has grown to the point where she has joined our leadership, and we look forward to the fresh perspectives and ideas a new face always brings.

Of course, DOAS is still happy to have the experience and energy of the directors re-elected in May. Everyone carries a portion of the necessary work of keeping the organization functioning and effective. We hope you, the membership, finds our efforts satisfactory, and continue to support DOAS. We do this because of a commitment to our natural world, and to future generations, and we know you share these sentiments.

If you are interested in taking the step from member to working for the chapter, we can always use help! Most of the jobs carried out by one person could be shared by two, lessening the load and improving effectiveness. As noted above, a newcomer always provides a different perspective and perhaps a better way of doing things. DOAS is involved in a number of areas, so if your interest is education, conservation, publication, the outdoors, or perhaps a brand new initiative, there certainly is a spot for you. Feel free to contact me, or any of the directors to find out more.

One specific talent we can use at the moment is an individual with skills to maintain our web site, www.doas.us. We have been fortunate enough to have Lisa Gorn fill this role for a number of years—nearly since we first went online. Lisa took the site from a bare-bones web page to a very complete and up-to-date internet presence—an absolute necessity today.

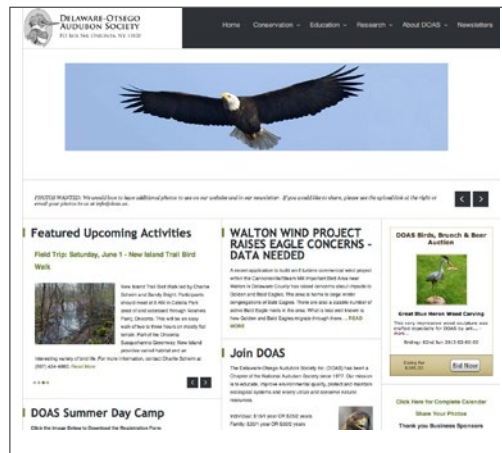
Lisa has stepped down as our web person, and we express our gratitude for her excellent work behind the scenes. Recently, our Co-President, Susan O'Handley gave the website a big overhaul, adding graphics and features that rival any I have seen. Susan is a professional who did this valuable work gratis, and like Lisa, largely out of view. We thank her for sharing her talents so generously.

We now need a new webmaster to keep the site up, including calendar items, photos, news, etc. This job does not require creating content, but rather placing the chapter's plans and activities in the right spot. Susan has assured me that it is not a highly technical position, and she can give lots of assistance to anyone willing to learn the ropes.

If you do have web skills, or are interested in learning them, please get in touch with me (AndyMason@earthling.net; 607-652-2162) or Susan (susan@wildlearn.com; 607-643-5680), and we can discuss details. And for everyone else, take a look at this great website—you will be impressed!

Finally, this is a great time of year for birds, and all aspects of nature. Get outside and enjoy what we all work to protect!

Andy Mason



Updated www.doas.us website

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
Bob Miller
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:	Bob Miller
Charter Dinner:	Julia Gregory
Finance:	Gray Mason
Historian:	Julie Smith
Sales:	Stephen Rice

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ON THE WEB:

www.doas.us
www.facebook.com/DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety

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

Conservation and Legislation

NY State Legislature—Any Hope for End-of-Session

Action?—The state legislature is scheduled to adjourn on June 20, and several important environmental bills are still pending, most awaiting State Senate action. As NYers know, there is usually a last-minute flurry of activity at the end of the session, where any significant progress comes about. At times, the legislature has literally stopped their clock to extend the deadline for voting.

So it is crucial that legislators hear from their constituents at the end of the session; it is the time when your opinions and words are most likely to have an impact. At the top of the list are two bills dealing with fracking. One (A.1046/S.674) would close the hazardous waste loophole that allows waste produced by fracking and other oil and gas drilling to avoid the rules for generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal that apply to all other industries. This sweetheart deal for drillers exposes our environment and the public to the recognized threats of these dangerous materials. The second (A.5424/S.04236-A) puts a 2 year moratorium on fracking or until a credible and public study of the human health impacts of fracking is complete. This legislation has passed the Assembly, but is languishing in the Senate and needs our attention to push for a vote.

Another timely and important energy issue is the Global Warming Pollution & Control Act (A.6327/S.735). This plan would set greenhouse gas emissions limits from all sources in

New York State. These limits could not be greater than the level of statewide emissions in 1990 and lower limits would be mandated incrementally, with a cap of 80% below the 1990 levels as of 2050. There is much hand-wringing about ‘what can we do’ when it comes to global warming. Here is a concrete and measurable action New York can take.

Another measure to help with reducing carbon emissions is the New York Solar Bill (A.5060/S.2522). The Solar Bill will establish a stable and predictable incentive program through 2023. The creation of a robust, long-term solar initiative will provide market-certainty which manufacturers, developers, and installers need to invest in New York State. Our state is lagging behind others in promoting solar energy, and losing not only the environmental benefits, but also the cost-savings and clean jobs that this industry provides.

What you can do—Contact your legislators—particularly your state senator—before the end of the session, and tell them you expect action on these bills. Let them know that not bringing this legislation to the floor for a vote is an abdication of their responsibilities, and that all these measures are important to you and your community. Do not hesitate to call their Albany offices and ask to speak with them directly—you are a constituent!

Information on who your legislators are and how to get in touch can be found through the Conservation link on the DOAS web site, www.doas.us.
Andy Mason

DOAS Waterfowl Trip

On April 6th the annual DOAS waterfowl trip around Lake Otsego and its feeder streams attracted 10 participants, led by Matt Albright, Bob Donnelly and John Davis. It started with a cold wind and Lake Otsego still frozen over. But spirits were



high and at Summit Lake above US 20 we saw hundreds of Canada and Snow Geese, along with many dark morphs (“Blue Geese”) and Northern Pintail, Mallards, Canada Geese, Hooded and Common Mergansers and Green-winged Teal. Clarke Pond near the northern end

of Lake Otsego produced Ring-necked Ducks, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards and a Great Blue Heron.

It was a true pleasure to have along Cooperstown’s 95-year-old Homer Osterhoudt and his friend Nancy Henriksen who took the photo of two flying geese.



Nancy is front and center with Homer to her right. Participants L to R: Lady from Frankfort, Snia Rudenko, Bob Dewell, Homer, Kathy Lloyd with her dog, Thor Henriksen, Nancy, Bob Donnelly, Marcie Foster, Eleanor Moriarty, Dave Kiehm, Matt Albright. Photo by John Davis.

Walton Wind Project Raises Eagle Concerns – Data Needed

A recent application to build an 8 turbine commercial wind project within the Cannonsville/Steam Mill Important Bird Area near Walton in Delaware County has raised concerns about impacts to Golden and Bald Eagles. The area is home to large winter congregations of Bald Eagles. There are also a sizable number of active Bald Eagle nests in the area. What is less well known is how Golden and Bald Eagles migrate through there. Our March 2009 migration count just upstream of the project found large numbers of both species. Our report from 2009 states ***“The total number of Golden Eagles in the area during the 9-day count is considerably higher than what was recorded at other sites this far north. The number of Bald Eagles is much higher than expected and we know of no other count sites in the northeast where they are found in such concentration.”*** There is little fall migration data.

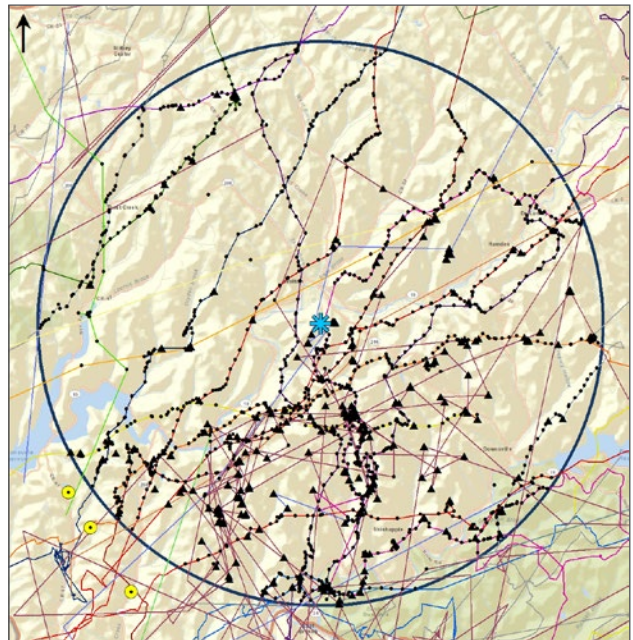
The transect for counting in March 2009 was determined from Golden Eagle telemetry data collected by Dr. Todd Katzner’s research group. This data shows the daily movements of individual eagles, including their elevation above the ground. We work closely with Dr. Katzner and his collaborators. In response to the project application, Dr. Trish Miller created a map showing all Golden Eagle activity in the area since 2007. Twenty of the approximately 50 telemetered eagles in eastern North America used the area during some part of the year. This map can be viewed on our website – doas.us.

Another concern is winter use of this area by Golden Eagles. Occasionally we find goldens on our eagle field trips to the area. Our winter studies indicate a considerable amount of golden activity at high elevations in Delaware and Otsego Counties. This past winter a new southern Delaware County site had at least 5 individual goldens feeding regularly during the 6 week survey period, and possibly more when the thousands of photos are analyzed. Since Golden Eagles behave differently from Bald

Eagles in winter, many are probably missed by birders at the Cannonsville Reservoir. Golden tend to stay at high elevations while balds congregate around water.

We have a lot of concerns about this project. The planned location is east of the reservoir on South Mountain. Our immediate goal is to compile as much data as possible on eagles in this area so it can be included in the environmental assessment. If you have seen large numbers of Bald Eagles on winter visits, please send me that information including dates. All reports of Golden Eagles near the reservoir or Walton are important. Please contact me with any information you think might be helpful.

Tom Salo



Proposed Wind Turbine Facility Walton, NY and Golden Eagle Telemetry Locations (2007-2013). See full map with key online at www.doas.us.



Beautiful picture of a beautiful Northern Parula, taken by Barb Palmer Collins on May 13th in Jefferson, NY

Election of Directors

At the May 17 election of Directors for the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, the slate of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee was elected. Bob Donnelly, Eileen Kline, Eleanor Moriarty, Susan O’Handley, Stephen Rice, Joe Richardson, and Julie Smith will serve two year terms ending May 2015. Becky Gretton was elected to fill an open Director position until May 2014.

2013 Big Day Bird Count Results *Compiled by Bob Miller*

All birds seen in the 2013 count are listed below; those for which only one bird was seen are indicated with (1).

For a complete list of all species seen on DOAS Big Days since 1969, visit our website: doas.us

GAVIIDAE	Mourning Dove	Tree Swallow	Black-throated Green Warbler
PODICIPEDIDAE	CUCULIDAE	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Blackburnian Warbler
PHALACROCORACIDAE	Black-billed Cuckoo	Bank Swallow	Pine Warbler (1)
ARDEIDAE	TYTONIDAE	Cliff Swallow	Prairie Warbler
Great Blue Heron	STRIGIDAE	Barn Swallow	Palm Warbler (1)
Green Heron	Barred Owl	PARIDAE	Blackpoll Warbler (1)
CATHARTIDAE	Northern Saw-whet Owl (1)	Black-capped Chickadee	Black-and-white Warbler
Turkey Vulture	CAPRIMULGIDAE	Tufted Titmouse	American Redstart
ANATIDAE	APODIDAE	SITTIDAE	Ovenbird
Canada Goose	Chimney Swift	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Waterthrush
Wood Duck	TROCHILIDAE	White-breasted Nuthatch	Mourning Warbler
Mallard	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	CERTHIIDAE	Common Yellowthroat
American Black Duck	ALCEDINIDAE	Brown Creeper	Canada Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Belted Kingfisher	TROGLODYTIDAE	THRAUPIDAE
Common Merganser	PICIDAE	Winter Wren	Scarlet Tanager
PANDIONIDAE	Red-bellied Woodpecker	House Wren	EMBERIZIDAE
ACCIPITRIDAE	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	REGULIDAE	Eastern Towhee
Northern Harrier	Downy Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk (1)	Hairy Woodpecker	SYLVIIDAE	Field Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk (1)	Northern Flicker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1)	Savannah Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Pileated Woodpecker	TURDIDAE	Fox Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	TYRANNIDAE	Eastern Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Veery	Swamp Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (1)	Hermit Thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
FALCONIDAE	Alder Flycatcher	Wood Thrush	White-throated Sparrow
American Kestrel	Willow Flycatcher	American Robin	Dark-eyed Junco
Merlin (1)	Least Flycatcher	MIMIDAE	CARDINALIDAE
PHASIANIDAE	Eastern Phoebe	Gray Catbird	Northern Cardinal
Ruffed Grouse	Great Crested Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Wild Turkey	Eastern Kingbird	STURNIDAE	Indigo Bunting
ODONTOPHORIDAE	LANIIDAE	European Starling	ICTERIDAE
RALLIDAE	VIREONIDAE	MOTACILLIDAE	Bobolink
CHARADRIIDAE	Blue-headed Vireo	BOMBYCILLIDAE	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Yellow-throated Vireo	Cedar Waxwing	Eastern Meadowlark
SCOLOPACIDAE	Warbling Vireo	PARULIDAE	Common Grackle
American Woodcock (1)	Philadelphia Vireo (1)	Blue-winged Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Snipe	Red-eyed Vireo	Tennessee Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Greater Yellowlegs (1)	CORVIDAE	Nashville Warbler	FRINGILLIDAE
Lesser Yellowlegs (1)	Blue Jay	Northern Parula	Purple Finch
Solitary Sandpiper	American Crow	Yellow Warbler	House Finch
Spotted Sandpiper	Common Raven	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Pine Siskin
Semipalmated Sandpiper	ALAUDIDAE	Magnolia Warbler	American Goldfinch
Least Sandpiper	HIRUNDINIDAE	Black-throated Blue Warbler	PASSERIDAE
LARIDAE		Yellow-rumped Warbler	House Sparrow
COLUMBIDAE			
Rock Pigeon			

May Big Day Bird Count

The 18th was a great day to be out looking for birds. The Delhi Bird Club fielded 12 people in several groups who saw 106 species, and DOAS had 21 observers in 9 groups who saw 117 species. The total species number for the two groups was 129. It was nice to see 3 Bald Eagles and several species of shorebirds, a Philadelphia Vireo, one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, one Pine Warbler, a Palm Warbler and 30 Pine Siskins. No Carolina Wren was reported although a few wintered here. There were no reports of Northern Mockingbird nor of the following five warblers: Golden Winged, Cerulean, Cape May, Bay Breasted and Louisiana Water Thrush. Two interesting sightings earlier in the week were a Caspian Tern on Weaver Pond by Tom Salo and Bob Donnelly and an Orchard Oriole by a Delhi member. The high number reports were Peter Stephan, Sarah Root and Bob Miller with 101 species and Andy Mason saw 91 species. The list of birds seen is on page 5.

Bob Miller

Great Gray Owl

*I stand in the back lot during snowfall
watching with disbelief the owl
with sweeping facial disc and white mustache
come from muskeag bogs,
from the taiga,
swooping for the white-footed mouse
on the edge of my woods.*

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.



Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) By Arne List (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/arne-list/2363789109/>) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons



Palm Warbler,
by Dave Kiehm

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 & 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*.

Upcoming Activities

June

June 1 – New Island Trail Bird Walk: Participants should meet at 8:00 AM in Catella Park (accessed through Neawha Park, Oneonta). This will be an easy walk of two to three hours on mostly flat terrain. Part of the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway, New Island provides varied habitat and an interesting variety of bird life. For more information, contact Charlie Scheim at (607) 434-4880 or email scheimc@hartwick.edu.

June 2 – Save the Date: Birds, Brunch and Beer at the Ommegang Brewery. Registration form on page 3, or download a copy at doas.us/documents/BBB_reg_form.pdf. For more information contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or email eleanormr955@gmail.com.

June 16 – Lordsland Conservancy: We will meet at 8 AM at the corner of State Routes 165 and 166 in the hamlet of Roseboom. This will be a walking trip through gently rolling terrain. For more information, contact Bob Donnelly at (607) 264-8156 or email rsdonn@yahoo.com.

July

July 13 – Bird Walk at Glimmerglass State Park: In conjunction with Lake Appreciation Day, bird walk led by Becky Gretton.

August

August 17 – Otsego Land Trust at Fetterly: A bird walk led by Becky Gretton. For more information, contact Marcie Foster at 607-547-2366.

September

Early September – New York State Bluebird Society: Annual meeting in Cooperstown, including bird walk. Look for details at www.doas.us or www.nysbs.org.

October

October 5 – Open House at the DOAS Sanctuary

October 18 – DOAS Annual Charter Dinner – Save the Date!



Bird Seed Sale in the fall -
details in September newsletter

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., ‘1306’ is June 2013. Renewal information is found below—
please renew and continue your support of DOAS and our programs.

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: _____

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



DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April–May Bird Sightings

I always anxiously await two things in mid-spring: great outdoor weather and the arrival of the first ruby-throated hummingbird. Once again I wasn't disappointed this year. While gardening a male hummingbird zipped past me on Mother's Day.

On 4/17 Bob Donnelly enjoyed the singing of a Blue-headed Vireo in Roseboom and Gerianne Carillo heard a Field Sparrow in Westville. The next day Gerianne also saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Riddell State Park and her FOS Purple Finch in Milford. On the 19th Ellen Sokolow watched the Hamden Bald Eagles in the skies for hours playing, hunting and possibly mating from Treadwell to the Walton dump, but wasn't able to locate their nest and Dorian Huneke saw 2 Chipping Sparrows in Treadwell. While walking the Greenway Trail on 4/20 Leslie Preston saw a Blue-headed Vireo, a lifer for her, and was dismayed her camera was broken. The next day Bob Donnelly sighted a Virginia Rail, a Barn Swallow and Yellow-rumped Warblers in Cooperstown while Sandy Bright enjoyed two visitors, a Northern Mockingbird and a Common Flicker while on a walk in Neawha Park. On the 22nd Tom Whitney saw his FOS Brown Thrasher at Smith

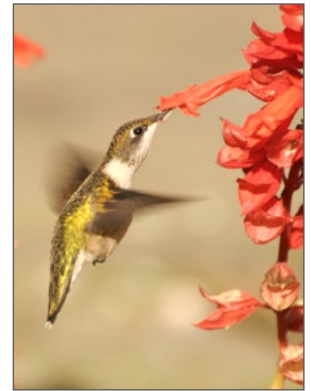
Pond Park in Delhi. Pam Peters observed an adult male Osprey searching for fish in the shallow ponds around her field in Treadwell on 4/23. Towards evening the next day while gardening Sandy Bright saw her FOS Chimney Swifts in Oneonta and Eleanor Moriarity caught a glimpse of a Red-eyed Vireo in Davenport. Tom Salo said an Eastern Kingbird appeared in Burlington on 4/25. Madeline Alfieri watched a single Common Loon swim on Mallet Pond in Richmondville and for the first time Carol Davis had 5 male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at her feeder in South New Berlin on 4/27. The next day Bob Donnelly heard a singing Ovenbird in Roseboom, Jeff Murray saw 3 Evening Grosbeaks in Fly Creek, Andy Mason heard a calling Great Crested Flycatcher in Jefferson, Charlie Scheim heard a singing House Wren in Oneonta, and on a walk with Kathy Mareo in Treadwell, Pam Peters saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler, a Yellow-throated Vireo and a Winter Wren. On the 30th 40-50 northbound American Pipits foraged on Peter Doherty's recently burned hayfields in Sharon while a single male Bobolink looked on perched above on a power line. Also on that day a Rufous-sided Towhee scratched around in Sandy Bright's Oneonta backyard, Charlie Schiem saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the feeder there and Marilyn Huneke watched a bathing Red-bellied

Woodpecker at her birdbath in Delhi.

On the first of May while on an early morning walk Becky Gretton stirred up a Savannah Sparrow and a Wood Thrush in Springfield, Jason Wanaselja saw an Eastern Meadowlark in Unadilla, and Rod Spangle espied a Northern Waterthrush and a Black-throated Green Warbler in Unadilla as well. While biking New Island in Oneonta on 5/3, Sandy Bright heard a couple of American Redstarts and saw both Great Blue and Green Herons and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited Kathy Dawson in Guilford on the same day. On 5/4 Charlie Schiem heard a Least Flycatcher on the Greenway Trail, Tom Salo saw a Gray Catbird in W. Burlington and Pam Peters spotted Yellow Warblers in Treadwell. On 5/6 Flo Loomis watched a Northern Goshawk not 10 feet from her kitchen window in Mt. Vision, Gerianne Carillo saw Prairie and Black & White Warblers in Middlefield and Andy Mason saw a Warbling Vireo in Jefferson. On the 8th Pam Peters heard a singing Magnolia Warbler in Treadwell. While weeding garlic mustard in Roseboom Bob Donnelly noticed a Hooded Warbler on 5/10. Spectacular birding lives on!

If you have bird sightings to report, contact me at dbenko@frontiernet.net, or 6815 Co. Hwy 16, Delhi, NY 13753, or at 607-829-5218 for the next issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*.

Dianne Benko



Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by Dave Kiehm