



# THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

## COMING ACTIVITIES

### APRIL

4/10: Earth Festival,  
11am-3pm, Milford Central  
School.

4/10: Earth Festival Field  
Trip to Riddell State Park;  
leader: Bob Donnelly.

4/16: Program: Warren  
Greene, nature  
photographer. (below right).

4/20: Board Meeting, 7pm,  
home of John Davis.

### MAY

5/9: Trip to Milford State  
Forest, 8am. Leader:  
Dave Kiehm.

5/18: Board Meeting, 7pm,  
Home of Nancy Cannon.

5/21: Program: Valerie  
Freer on NYS Breeding  
Bird Atlas and Saw Whet  
Owls.

5/22: May Big Day Count.

5/27: Wildflower walk at  
Gilbert Lake State Park,  
10am; Leader: Jean Miller.

## Birds, Bats, Bees and

# Wireless Technology

*By Stephen Rice*

We all know that many creatures have migratory abilities hard-wired into their brains, and that they orient themselves using the sun by day and the stars by night. Recent studies have suggested that migratory birds can integrate different navigational cues, such as polarized sunlight that has waves along a specific plane perpendicular to the light's forward direction.

Stanley Temple, professor emeritus of wildlife ecology at U. of Wisconsin-Madison says that "many scientists believe birds use the highly reliable celestial systems when the sky is clear, but switch to less reliable systems such as geomagnetism when the sky is overcast." Bees, as with bats, navigate based on electromagnetic fields: they can sense fractional changes

in the gravitational field which are the basis for their homing instinct. And we are aware of the primary threats to all migrating creatures: storms, habitat destruction, pollution, and unnatural manmade formations such as lit-up skyscrapers, lighthouses, wind-turbines. But what we may not be aware of are the effects of wireless technology. Dr. George L.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## DOAS APRIL PROGRAM:

### BIRDS AND NATURE OF NEW YORK STATE

On Friday, April 16, 2010, back by popular demand Warren Greene, bird and nature photographer, will present his exquisite photos. His work has been published in numerous magazines including *Birds and Bloom*, *Adirondack Life* and *Conservationist*. The Academy of Science in Philadelphia owns many of his photos. In January of 2009, Warren

was named the photographer of the month by the Cape May Bird Observatory.

The Program will begin at 7:30PM at the Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Program Director Eleanor Moriarty at 607-435-2054, email: [ellie2@directv.net](mailto:ellie2@directv.net).

SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS

◆──◆  
All DOAS Programs are free and open to the public.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**SPRING***Tom Salo*

It's spring, a great time for watching birds. As I write this column in mid-March, a number of first-of-season birds have arrived, snow is melting, and we just finished a week of spring raptor counts. Robins are among the new arrivals outside my window. Red-winged Blackbirds are claiming territories. Grackles and Killdeer are scattered about. By the time this arrives in your mailbox, most of the Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks will be gone and all sorts of other birds will be here singing, flying past, or beginning to battle over territories.

It's time for spring housekeeping. If you haven't cleaned out your bluebird houses, don't delay any longer. The swallows and bluebirds are searching for sites to build nests. However, it is too late to clean duck boxes and kestrel boxes. Even if some ducks and falcons have not yet started, there is always the chance a Screech Owl will have taken up residence.

We have been planning spring walks and trips. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to participate. Take a look at the selection of trips on the calendar on page one. Leaders spend a lot of time planning and scouting. While this can't guarantee that wildlife will cooperate, these efforts greatly increase the chances of finding target species. Our annual Big Day Bird Count has been scheduled for May 22. Everyone is invited to participate in this one-day event. The goal is to find as many species as possible at that time of year when we experience the greatest species diversity. I often use the occasion as an opportunity to canoe a local river. Anyone interested in participating in the count should contact Bob Miller.

If you are interested in combining a spring outing with some service to DOAS, please contact me. We welcome offers of help from our members. We always need help. Right now - after all the high winds - someone needs to walk the sanctuary trails and clean them up.

Remember, the season is short. Take advantage of it. By the time the Black-poll Warblers pass through in early June, the fall migration will have started. Male shorebirds will have made their small but important contribution to the breeding effort and started south.

Tom Salo  
607-965-8232  
[tomsalo@localnet.com](mailto:tomsalo@localnet.com)

**BLUEBIRDS ARE BACK!**

Eastern Bluebirds—favorites of birders everywhere—have returned to set up housekeeping in our area. A reminder that bluebird house plans and ready-built bluebird houses are available from DOAS. Plans are free and houses are \$15.00 each. Plans and houses can be obtained at DOAS functions or by mail. Contact Andy Mason, 1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093, 607-652-2162, [AndyMason@earthling.net](mailto:AndyMason@earthling.net).

**THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO  
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FOUNDED 1968**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

GERIANNE CARILLO

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COVER ARTWORK BY DAVE KIEHM

## CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION

BY ANDY MASON

### WOLVES STILL UNDER ATTACK OUT WEST

The ramifications continue to evolve from the Obama administration's decision to continue the delisting of the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act in the northern Rockies. This action turned wolf protection over to the states, but has resulted in just the opposite.

Gray wolves came back from near extinction in the Rockies as a result of a decades-long political and legal battle that stirred conservationists across the nation and around the world. This victory still stands as one of the great success stories in wildlife recovery and protection.

However, the Bush and now the Obama administration gave into pressure from ranchers and hunters and declared wolf populations as secure, even though they remain a fraction of their original number.

The states of Idaho and Montana immediately announced their intention to kill wolves that stray from Yellowstone National Park. Idaho Governor C.L. Butch Otter—who has argued to kill up to 80% of the wolves in his state—publicly stated his desire to be one of the first to kill a wolf. Since the Obama decision, these actions have occurred:

- Over 230 wolves have been killed in Idaho and Montana, including an entire pack shot from a helicopter in Idaho. Montana recently extended its hunt until the end of March, to allow the shooting of pregnant females.
- A bill has been passed in one house of the Utah legislature to allow killing any wolf that enters the state. According to the proposed law's sponsor, "This bill simply says any wolf within Utah will be captured and killed. We don't want any of them here."
- "Wildlife Derbies" have been held in Idaho, with the goal of killing as many wolves and other wildlife as possible. These events have been sponsored by Cabela's and Sportsman's Warehouse, major outdoor retailers, with the proceeds going to anti-wolf organizations.

In other arenas, the state of Alaska continues its all-out assault on wolves, including a recent action to use spotter planes and helicopters to track and kill 200 wolves. This is in addition to trapping wolves just outside Denali National Park, where wolf numbers are already down to around 70 individuals—the lowest count since surveys began in the 1980s.

In February, the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced that the population of the southwest's "lobo", or Mexican wolf had dropped 20% in 2009, to a total of 42 individuals. Clearly these animals are teetering on the brink of extinction.

**What you can do:** Contact President Obama and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and urge them to restore full federal protection to gray wolves, and not allow the states to undo the hard work and success of many conservationists in saving the species. Send copies to your federal representatives and ask them to sponsor legislation to end aerial gunning of wolves.

Let Cabela's (Thomas L. Millner, President and CEO, Cabela's Inc., 1 Cabela Dr., Sidney, NE 69160), and Sportsman's Warehouse (Stuart B Utgaard, CEO, Sportsman's Warehouse, Inc., 7035 High Tech Dr., Midvale, UT 84047) know that you disapprove of their participation in the wildlife derbies.

#### Addresses

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

Secretary Ken Salazar  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

#### US Congress

20th Congressional District  
(Otsego Co. towns of Cherry Valley, Roseboom, Decatur, Worcester, Maryland, Westford, Milford, and Middlefield. Delaware Co., except towns of Deposit, Hancock and Tompkins.)  
Rep. Scott Murphy  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5614  
[www.scottmurphy.house.gov](http://www.scottmurphy.house.gov)

21st Congressional District  
(All of Schoharie Co.)  
Rep. Paul Tonko  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5076  
fax: (202) 225-5077 [www.tonko.house.gov](http://www.tonko.house.gov)

22nd Congressional District  
(Delaware Co. Towns of Deposit, Hancock and Tompkins)  
Rep. Maurice Hinchey  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6335  
fax: (202) 226-0774  
[www.house.gov/hinchey](http://www.house.gov/hinchey)

24th Congressional District  
(Otsego Co. towns of Springfield, Otsego, Hartwick, Laurens, Oneonta (including City of Oneonta) and west. All of Chenango Co.)  
Rep. Michael Arcuri  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3665  
fax: (202) 225-1891  
[www.arcuri.house.gov](http://www.arcuri.house.gov)

#### US Senate

US Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand/Charles Schumer  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Gillibrand—  
[www.Gillibrand.senate.gov](http://www.Gillibrand.senate.gov)  
(202) 224-4451  
Schumer—  
[senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov)  
(202) 224-6542

## FIELD TRIP REVIEW: MONTEZUMA NWR

Saturday morning March 20 started clear and cool as 16 birders and Maggie the Golden Retriever headed to Montezuma NWR. En route we saw many Red-tailed hawks, bluebirds, a Pileated woodpecker, turkeys and many Canada geese with a few Snow geese mixed in.

Upon entering the Montezuma complex we were greeted to scores of shovelers mixed with Green-winged teal, one striking drake Blue-winged teal and numerous wigeons. Tree swallows darted around us and a few hundred Snow geese flew overhead. All this before we reached the Visitor Center.

Moving to the Main pool we observed a seemingly endless raft of diving ducks. Included were Canvasbacks, Redheads, Scaup and Ring-necked ducks. Tundra swans were mixed in, as were Buffleheads and 5 Ruddy ducks. In the middle of the raft sat a mature Bald eagle atop a muskrat mound.

Other pools around the complex added more varieties of waterfowl. We found many Hooded mergansers, Gadwall and a few Common mergansers. Every stop we made produced one or more Bald eagles. One pool had more than

a half dozen eagles either on muskrat mounds or soaring overhead - an amazing sight!

After lunch at the beautiful Audubon Center, we went to the DEC WMA to look for the elusive Sandhill Cranes. Our first stop showed no cranes but we did find dozens of Pintails and Green-winged teal in the flooded stubble fields. We got great looks at some beautiful pintails. In the same area a couple of N. harriers constantly soared low over the fields and kept the ducks nervous.

We went to the opposite field to make one more attempt to find the cranes and one of our sharp-eyed birders found a

pair feeding through the stubble a few hundred yards away. We all got great looks through scopes at these spectacular birds.

We ended our trip in the "Potato" fields and found a few hundred Snow geese as well as more swans and beautiful Black ducks. A Kestrel soared close by and kited while searching for food. It was a long day of birding and driving but everyone had a good

time and all were amazed at the number and diversity of the avian life found. I think all look forward to next year's trip.

Dave Kiehm

(See page 6 for a complete list of birds seen on this trip.)



*Ruddy Duck, 3/20/10 by Dave Kiehm*

## WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING

The Avian Agents, with DOAS team members Sue Gaynor and Andy Mason, will again be scouring the wilds of New Jersey on May 8th in search of the highest number of bird species, as competitors in the World Series of Birding.

Sponsored by the NJ Audubon Society, the event draws birding teams from as far as Europe for 24 hours of intense looking and listening from the forests of northwestern NJ to the tip of Cape May. The team with the highest total receives

fine optics as a reward, but the true purpose of the WSOB is a fundraiser for NJ Audubon and other groups, such as DOAS, to assist in their efforts to protect birds.

You are invited to pledge an amount per species for the Avian Agents encouragement, or a fixed amount. Last year the team tallied 131 species—an average count for us. With good weather and a timely migration, the Agents look to increase their numbers this spring. To help the effort, return the form to the left by May 4.

Andy Mason

### I SUPPORT THE AVIAN AGENTS!

- Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Address \_\_\_\_\_
- Pledge: \_\_\_\_\_ per species; or \_\_\_\_\_ fixed amount.
- Return to: DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820 by May 4th.

## SPRING EAGLE COUNTS

Counters, who spent over 150 hours at 3 sites, found a large number of Golden and Bald Eagles moving through eastern Otsego County during the second week of March. At the end of the count week, 73 eagles had been seen: 21 Bald, 47 Golden, and 5 unidentified eagles. Golden Eagles represented over ¼ of the raptor flight through the area during the organized count. A variety of other raptors was also reported. Data for the individual sites can be found at [hawkcount.org](http://hawkcount.org). Use the drop down menu to find the sites "All Road", "Fish Road" and "Davis State Park", all prefaced with "DOAS".

After the conclusion of the organized eagle survey, casual counting will continue at Davis State Park. We are preparing a report on our findings which will be released once all spring counting concludes. We will provide more details in a future issue and make the full report available on our web site after its completion.

The Board of Directors expresses its thanks to Larry Dake, John Davis, Fred Fries, Diane Graf, Becky Gretton, Steve Hall, Marilyn Leahy, Andrea Lodovice, Carol & Randy Lynch, Joan Martindale, Andy Mason, Leslie Preston, Fred Reckner, Tom & Jo Ann Salo, Debbie Spano, Michael & Kathleen Sullivan, Sue Whitney, and anyone we may have forgotten, for their contributions to this effort to count eagles and help identify their spring migration routes.

Tom Salo

## MILFORD STATE FOREST WALK

We will meet at 8:00am on Sunday, May 9th in the front parking lot at Milford High School for a guided walk through the Milford State Forest. Be prepared for a dew-wet morning. The trails are all slightly inclined but clear. Early May should offer a wide variety of Neotropics as well as flycatchers, sparrow and ducks. Any questions contact Dave Kiehm at 607-286-9222 or [dave@deadriftstudio.com](mailto:dave@deadriftstudio.com).

## RIDDELL STATE PARK FIELD TRIP

DOAS will lead a field trip to Riddell State Park near Milford on April 10, in conjunction with the Earth Day activities at Milford Central School. We will leave from the Milford Central School parking lot at 8:00 AM, for a short drive to Riddell. We will be walking over very easy terrain. For information call Bob Donnelly at 607-264-8156 or Dave Kiehm at 607-286-9222.

## MAY BIG DAY BIRD COUNT!

Saturday May 22 is this year's Big Day for DOAS, the day on which small groups enjoy trying to locate the maximum number of bird species they can in any amount of time they choose within 24 hours.

Everyone is welcome, novice or experienced. If you are interested and have not participated before, please contact Bob Miller at (607) 432-5767 to join or start a group. People who have participated before will be contacted by their leaders; leaders will receive materials prior to the count. The DOAS data obtained are pooled with that of the Delhi Bird Club for a report of results in *The Belted Kingfisher*. Wish for favorable weather and southerly winds the night before.

Bob Miller

## (WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY, continued from Page 1)

Carlo, a world renowned medical scientist, explains that every group of cells in the human body and in every creature has a unique electromagnetic energy signature. So we now understand how the electric power of high-tension wires will affect pregnancies and abortion rates, and the general welfare of cattle grazing within a half mile. But much more damaging is the new atmosphere of information-carrying radio waves created by the world-wide explosion of wireless technology. Dr. Carlo explains that radio waves trigger certain responses in the cell membrane which disturb the communication among surrounding cells. Thus, with bees, for example, the radio waves alter the cellular structure so that their homing instincts are lost: the bee can no longer find its way back to the hive based on its gravitational sensing mechanism. The bee starves and dies. It follows then that, if migratory birds and bats sometimes rely on sensing gravitational differentials, they, too may have their homing instincts disrupted. And what about our own human synapses? According to the latest statistics, there are now about three billion cell phone users whose phones are on all the time, giving off radio waves that we know to be dangerous. The implications are staggering.

Stephen Rice

**Please Note:** DOAS field trips are open to the public. Participants should meet at the stated time and location -- please be prompt. We encourage carpooling: please help with expenses if you are in someone else's vehicle. Most trips include a moderate amount of easy walking; leaders will note any strenuous hiking. Please expect to provide your own food and drink unless a food stop is indicated. In case of bad weather, check with the leader about cancellation.

## FAVORITE PLACES SERIES: BUTTERNUT WETLAND NEAR MORRIS

The Butternut Valley contains a number of enticing wetlands along the meandering course of Butternut Creek, but many of them are not easily accessible except by kayak or canoe in times of high water. However, the wetland just north of the Otsego County Fairgrounds in Morris is easy to get to – though no longer very easy to get through. If you enter Morris on State Route 23 from Oneonta, turn right onto Lake Street and follow it to the fairgrounds. If arriving on State Route 51, turn onto Hargrave Street at the north end of Morris and proceed one block to the intersection with Lake Street, turning left here to get to the fairgrounds. Staying to the left as you enter the fairgrounds, proceed to the large gravel mound at

the far north end and park. A path begins to the left (west) of the gravel mound and leads across a dip and up to an open knoll overlooking the creek. The overlook has been undercut by erosion, so do not get too close to the edge! Beyond the knoll the path continues north along a dike with wetland on either side. Unfortunately the dike each year becomes more and more overgrown; wear heavy jeans to minimize the pain of encounters with brambles! The wetland to the left of the dike is more open, with cattails, alders and a shallow pond; to the right the wetland extending to the creek is wooded. The whole walk is only about half a mile; retrace your steps along the dike back to the knoll when you tire of the brambles.

Most of my visits to this wetland have been in late spring or early summer, during the nesting season. (It is nesting season for snapping turtles too, so step cautiously as you move along the dike!) Among the birds, you may encounter any of several species of warbler, including northern and perhaps Louisiana waterthrush; black-billed cuckoo; cedar waxwing, phoebe and wood pewee; oriole, indigo bunting and tanager; green and great blue herons and possibly rails. Bank swallows and/or rough-winged swallows nest in the steepest of the eroding banks along the creek; and when you get back to your car, scan the grassy parking area of the fairgrounds for nesting killdeer.

Joe Richardson



*A Rough-legged Hawk, mantling over a deer carcass, taken by Dave Kiehm at one of the baited wildlife camera sites set up by DOAS.*

### MONTEZUMA FIELD TRIP BIRD LIST:

Pintail	Ring-necked Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Bald Eagle	Blue Jay
Bufflehead	Gadwall	Herring Gull	Kestrel	Cardinal
Green-winged Teal	Black Duck	Great Blue Heron	Turkey Vulture	Junco
Blue-winged teal	Scaup	Sandhill Crane	Mourning Dove	Song Sparrow
N. Shoveler	Mallard	Red-winged Blackbird	Starling	Tree Swallow
Hooded Merganser	Ruddy Duck	Grackle	Killdeer	Pileated Woodpecker
Common Merganser	Tundra Swan	Crow	Horned Lark	Turkey
Redhead	Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Robin	
American Wigeon	Snow Goose	N. Harrier	Bluebird	

## DEC REPORTS RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR PEREGRINE FALCONS

(DEC Press release, March 10, 2010)

2009 proved to be a record-setting year for peregrine falcons in many productivity categories according to a new report released by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). DEC surveys found that there were 73 territorial pairs of peregrine falcons present in NY in 2009, with 42 pairs recorded upstate. That's a slight increase from 2008, when 67 pairs were recorded statewide. Also in 2009, 61 pairs bred and produced 132 young, also slightly up from 2008.

"The 2009 report shows that it was a successful year for NY State's efforts to restore our peregrine falcon population," DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis said. "The record breaking numbers are a positive sign not only for the environment but also for the work carried out by DEC's endangered species program."

NY has the largest population of peregrines in the eastern United States.

Peregrines raise one to five young in nests located mainly on cliffs, bridges and buildings. They are known for their high speed - over 200 mph - dives on their bird prey.

These birds had disappeared as nesting birds from the eastern United States by the early 1960s due to pesticide (DDT) residues which caused eggshell thinning. Once DDT use was banned in the United States, an experimental restoration program began involving widespread releases of

captive raised birds from the Peregrine Fund, a global non-profit organization focused on conserving birds of prey. Through this program, 169 young peregrines were released in NY State from the mid-1970s through the late 1980s.

In 1983, the first new pairs nested at two bridges in NY City, and in 1985 two pairs returned to nest on Adirondack cliffs. The population has grown steadily since then. There are now about 20 pairs in the metro New York area and 27 in the Adirondacks, a pair at every major bridge between NY City and Albany, and about 10 pairs scattered through the rest of the state.

At many of the urban nest locations, wooden nest trays have been placed to increase

the falcons' productivity. Peregrine falcons do not build nests of sticks like most raptors, but instead lay their brownish eggs in whatever substrate is available. Protection and management is necessary to continue this species' success in New York. DEC has had excellent cooperation from many agencies and volunteers in protecting, managing and monitoring this endangered species.

In the Capital Region, a pair of nesting birds can be seen at the Dunn Memorial Bridge during the spring and summer seasons. A webcam operates during the nesting season at this site and several others in New York State. For links to these sites and other information, including a link to view the new 2009 peregrine falcon report in full text, visit the DEC website at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7059.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7059.html).



*Peregrine Falcon, 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. Please make your check payable to "DOAS" and mail payment with this form to: DOAS Membership Chair, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820-0544.

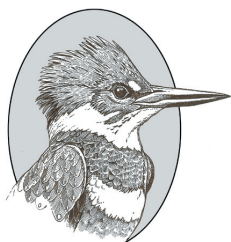
**Note: Please mail National Audubon *renewals* to address on renewal notice.**

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



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*Song Sparrow, by Dave Kiehm*



## FEBRUARY-MARCH BIRD SIGHTINGS

.....Mother Nature dumped about three feet of snow on my front and back yards during the big 2010 February blizzard. This didn't prevent a flock of 30 Snow Buntings from making sharp right and left hand turns on my road to avoid the huge accumulation of snow. This glorious aerodynamic display gave me the impetus to shovel out a chest high fifteen foot path to my bird feeders. About an hour later I was able to refill them. I worried that spring would never come.

On 2/12 Cory Telarico reported seeing 6-8 American Robins at Glimmerglass State Park. On the 14th Becky Gretton saw a pair of Bald Eagles perched together in Springfield, allowing for a great photo op. In Andes the next day Jack McShane flushed out an Eastern Screech Owl from a stream bed. It landed in a dense patch of thorn apples. On 2/19 Elliott Adams saw flocks of American Robins in Sharon and Dorian Huneke sighted a Golden Eagle sparkling from the sun in South Kortright. Tom Salo and John Davis saw a Turkey Vulture feeding on a deer carcass in Emmons on 2/20. On the 26th Mary Budin reported seeing a Northern Goshawk at her house in Mt. Vision.

March ushered in a number of spring migrants. On the 7th Dorian Huneke had Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles at her feeder in Treadwell and she heard a Belted Kingfisher at the creek there. The next day Trina Bassoff saw her first of the season Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds in Jefferson. That same day Eleanor Moriarity saw 200 Red-winged Blackbirds chatting madly in Davenport Center and Dorian Huneke spied a Bald Eagle flying upstream along Treadwell Creek. On 3/20 Trina Bassoff heard her first of the year Killdeer. On the 11th Eleanor also saw dozens of American Robins near Charlotte Creek. An Eastern Bluebird, with an intense flash of blue, shot across the road in front of Gerianne Carillo's car in Milford on 3/12. The next day Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and American Robins appeared at her house in Milford signaling signs of a much-needed spring.

If you have bird sightings to report, please contact me [dbenko@frontiernet.net](mailto:dbenko@frontiernet.net), 6815 Co. Hwy. 16, Delhi, NY 13753, 607 829-5218 by April 16, 2010 for the next issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*.

~ Dianne Benko