



THE BELTED KINGFISHER
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Inc.
Founded 1968 P.O. Box 544, Oneonta, N.Y. 13820

Volume 40, No. 5 May 2008

Editor — Bob Miller

COMING ACTIVITIES

- May 4 Bird Walk - Oneonta Greenway. Leaders Sandy Bright & Charlie Scheim. Pg. 5.
- May 16 DOAS General Meeting. *Coyote Ecology: Current Research in Status and Foraging of the Population*, Dr. Jacqueline Frair, speaker. See Below.
- May 17 Big Day Bird Count. Bob Miller. See page 6
- May 18 Bird Walk at Schoharie Land Trust's Paulson Preserve in Jefferson. Andy Mason.P.5
- May 20 Board Meeting. Home of Bob Donnelly.
- May 23 Wild Flower Walk at Gilbert State Park. Jean Miller leader. See page 6.
- May 24 Weaver Lake Field Trip. Bob Donnelly leader. See page 7.
- June 22 Hike for Bicknell's Thrush in the Catskills. Andy Mason leader. Page 5.
- Sept.19 DOAS General Meeting. *Wetlands and Wildlife*. Speaker Owen Brown
- Oct. 4 Sanctuary Open House
- Oct. 17 Charter Dinner. *Giants of the North Woods* Speaker Mark Picard. **NOTE OCT.**this yr.
- Nov.21 DOAS General Meeting.
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COYOTE ECOLOGY

Christina L. Boser, wildlife biologist working with Dr. Jacqueline L. Frair will present at the DOAS General Meeting on Friday, May 16th, the current research into coyote diet and foraging behaviors. The program begins at 7:30pm at the Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta. Dr. Frair's study is funded by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Christina L. Boser is the lead researcher for our local areas of Worcester and Cobleskill. Her specialty is the predator/prey relationships and Ms. Boser has an impressive history of working with projects around the country.

Refreshments will be served. For further information, call Eleanor Moriarty, DOAS Program Director, at 607-278-5896, or e-mail; Eleanor@dmcom.net

President's Message

Heron Rookery Update

In late March the herons returned to the rookery in Milford. At this writing, they have not yet used the platforms. Some have commenced building nests in a few trees that remain in the pond, and several along the opposite shore. We'll keep an eye on things as the season progresses.

For those of you who unexpectedly received a Belted Kingfisher in the mail, at its March meeting, the board decided to give a one year membership to anyone who contributed to the project and was not already member. Those of you who supported our rookery efforts share our values. Our hope is you will choose to remain DOAS members after the year passes.

Audubon Council Assembly

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Audubon Council of New York State's Spring Assembly the weekend of March 29-30 in Saratoga Springs. All National Audubon Chapters in the state can send representatives to the council which meets twice each year. I went on a birding field trip and also enjoyed good food and excellent company. There was business to conduct. On Saturday, presentations on climate change initiatives were given by representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Governor's office and the NYS Energy Research and Development Agency. After the state officials were done, Julia Levin of National Audubon conducted a workshop on global warming advocacy. The council voted on a series of resolutions establishing and refining positions.

After breakfast Sunday, Audubon New York's Jillian Liner conducted a well attended workshop on wind power. It focused to a large degree on avian impacts. Each chapter representative was then given an opportunity to discuss what their organizations are doing at the Chapter Round Table. I told the group we had contacted all of the local governments about wind power projects. I gave them an update on our continuing efforts to define where Golden Eagles concentrate during migration. The last item I brought up from DOAS was our efforts to restore the heron rookery in Hartwick.

A bit more business concluded the meeting by mid-day Sunday. It was great to meet so many dedicated and like-minded people. I left the meeting feeling good about Audubon New York's staff. All in all, a weekend well spent.

Tom Salo

Rogue Hunters

On my 371 acres in Bussey Hollow, I am seeing more hunters taking deer surreptitiously and without a hunting license. They roam private land without permission, do not heed hunting regulations, take does and fawns, and do not report their kills. These rogue hunters arrived in our area mostly in the nineteen eighties. I have found six deer killed by them this winter. How many more have been taken of which I am not aware?

Who are these sneaky rogues that are breaking all the rules? I have tracked and identified them. They are the wily coyotes that are rarely seen but often heard howling at night. Coyotes were a rarity twenty years ago. They are doing what was done previously by wolves and mountain lions. They are filling a niche left open in the natural environment. This phenomenon had been forecast by researchers in the Adirondacks. There, coyotes formed packs similar to wolves and began to kill deer.

For me the following is my dilemma. As an avid deer hunter and aficionado of free range venison, I now have a major competitor that is very much more efficient at hunting than I am. Should I try to eliminate them? No, I am too old to sit in the freezing woods squeaking like an injured mouse or rabbit trying to lure them within shotgun range. Research has also shown that when coyotes are persecuted their fertility rate goes up. They are almost impossible to eradicate.

Now if I switch from my hunters cap to my environmentalist/wildlife biologist cap things look much better. Reducing deer numbers will result in better forest regeneration. As it is now with a large deer population, much of the lower part of the forest is over browsed with important species such as oak and sugar maple never getting past browse height. This lower structure is necessary habitat for many species of birds and terrestrial creatures. Although the dynamics of the predator prey relationship are extremely complex the best case scenario is; deer numbers are drastically reduced resulting in strong forest regeneration, greater biodiversity and a healthier forest.

So, I will live with what nature has bestowed upon us. As stated very succinctly by a gray wolf recovery coordinator for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, (I take the liberty to change the species in his quote from wolf to coyote) "If you're the kind of animal that lives on dead stuff, coyotes provide deer carcasses scattered throughout the landscape so if you are an eagle, fisher, raccoon, bear, raven, crow or chickadee, that's a whole web of life supported by these predators". I was alerted to one of the kills on the property by a bald eagle rising from one of my upper fields early one morning and slowly circling only to land in a nearby tree. As I approached the location I was greeted also by at least thirty crows and a few ravens that loudly chastised me for interrupting their fresh venison banquet. Tracks in the snow indicated that just about every creature listed above (except the bear) had participated in the feast.

Enough about rogue hunters, spring is in the air. Bluebirds were inspecting the box just off my deck. This reminds me to get out and prep those bluebird and duck boxes scattered throughout the property.

Jack McShane Andes, N.Y.

Conservation and Legislation

by Andy Mason

Catskill Park State Land Master Plan up for Public Comment--The NY State Dep't. of Environmental Conservation has issued a revision to the draft update of its master plan for management of state lands in the Catskill Park. The original update was put forth in 2003, but following a public comment process, has been buried in Albany until now.

The primary sticking point had been mountain biking on the nearly 300,000 acres of state land within the Catskill Park. These Forest Preserve lands are designated as "forever wild" by the NY State Constitution, as are such lands in the Adirondack Park. Previously biking has been allowed on all trails in all areas of the Forest Preserve, but the first draft update of the master plan prohibited bikes in wilderness areas, which comprised over half of the area.

The current draft seeks to strike a compromise by keeping the ban on wilderness biking, but establishing four bike trail corridors totaling 13 miles in length through wilderness areas. These corridors would follow old roads, with the hope of minimizing disturbance of wildlife, conflicts with other users, and soil and vegetation deterioration. In areas other than wilderness, biking would be permitted on roads and all marked trails unless deemed unsuitable by individual unit management plans.

In addition, the revised plan would establish a new 17,000 acre wilderness area, and increase the existing Hunter West Kill Wilderness Area to include Hunter Mt. This is particularly significant since there have been past efforts by the Hunter Mt. ski center to acquire this second highest Catskill peak to expand its facilities. Wilderness designation will add protection to the mountain.

On balance, this appears to be a reasonable accommodation of mountain bikers, providing access, but minimizing their impact in wilderness areas. Expansion of wilderness in the Catskills is a definite plus.

There remain some problem areas in the revised plan, however. In DOAS' comments on the 2003 version, we noted that there was no discussion of illegal use of ATVs and other off-road vehicles in the Forest Preserve. This activity is rampant in some areas, and has resulted in extreme degradation of the resource. DEC's enforcement has been lacking in this regard.

Also, the plan allows use of gas engines on motorboats within the Forest Preserve. Even smaller 2-stroke motors significantly pollute waterways by putting up to a third of their unburned fuel and oil into the water. Electric motors would be a much preferable replacement for gas motors, reducing this pollution and disturbance to other users. Likewise, the plan could be strengthened to reduce the effects of snowmobiles that also produce significant sound and noise pollution. Limits on numbers and on engine types would lessen the impacts of these machines.

What you can do--The updated draft of the Catskill plan is available at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43013. A comment period is open until May 19.

Please let DEC know that they need to address enforcement of ATV rules in the plan, and encourage them to eliminate motorboats, and provide for noise and sound pollution controls on snowmobiles. Remind them that these are lands designated as "Forever Wild" and these activities are incompatible with that definition.

Comments should be forwarded to: Peter J. Frank, Bureau Chief, Forest Preserve Management, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4254 or e-mail your comments to lfcatt@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Bluebirds !

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.

March-April Bird Sightings

There is fast and furious activity going on in the bird world. Each morning begins with melodious bird calls to greet the early riser. Traveling to and from work various birds can be seen with nesting materials stuffed in their beaks. Spring is alive!

On 3/17 Gerianne Carillo reported a male Eastern bluebird and an American kestrel in Oneonta. Janice Downie saw 125 red-winged blackbirds in Oneonta 3/20. On 3/21 indigo buntings were seen by Sue Whitney in Hamden. On 3/25 Tom & Sue Whitney reported 3 male wood ducks in Delhi, John Davis saw a common grackle in Cooperstown and Janice Downie saw a pair of Eastern bluebirds in Oneonta. Tom Whitney also saw a belted kingfisher and a male hooded merganser in Hancock on 3/26. On 3/27 Sue Whitney reported a red-bellied woodpecker, golden-crowned kinglets and tree swallows in Delhi. Tom Salo saw a turkey vulture in W. Burlington on 3/30. Sue Whitney had 5 evening grosbeaks at her feeder in Delhi on 3/31.

On 4/1 Sandy Bright reported a northern shrike in Milford. Andy Mason saw a fox sparrow in Jefferson on 4/2. John Davis reported American woodcocks displaying in Cooperstown on 4/3. Dorian Huneke saw a red-shouldered hawk in Columbus on 4/5. On 4/7 Eastern phoebes were seen by Tom Salo in W. Burlington, by Andy Mason in Jefferson and by Gerianne Carillo in Milford. Tom also saw a yellow-bellied sapsucker on that day. On 4/8 Andy Mason saw a fish crow in Oneonta.

Please send sightings to Dianne Benko; 607 829-5218; 6815 Co. Hwy. 16, Delhi, NY 13753; dbenko@frontiernet.net (new address) by 5/18/08 for the next issue of The Belted Kingfisher.

Montezuma NWR Trip Rewarded Brave Birders

On Saturday, March 29th, 2008, a group of approximately fourteen dedicated birders went forth into a single digit cold and blustery day for the three hour journey to Montezuma Wildlife Refuge located at the North end of Cayuga Lake. Information obtained indicated that for the previous three to four weeks within the refuge that a great deal of activity was occurring with migrating waterfowl, raptors and other species. Our birding group was indeed rewarded for our efforts.

As the group started their journey around the marsh land, five Bald Eagles were beginning a wonderful show. Two of the immature Bald Eagles, flew upward, and began an acrobatic flight, locking talons and did a tumble/cartwheel display, before breaking off at the last moment. It was a wonderful close view of these two magnificent birds practicing the skills necessary to carry on their species.

We continued to drive through the areas of the refuge and it produced a variety of ducks; Pied-billed and Horned Grebe; Wood Duck; Gadwall; Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal; Mallard; American Black; No. Pintail; No. Shoveler; 200 plus of Canvasback; Redhead; Ring-necked; 500 plus Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Hooded, Red-Breasted and Common Merganser; Ruddy Duck; American Wigeon and a rare sighting of a Eurasian Wigeon. Snow Geese numbered in the 200 plus range with a spotting of one in blue morph known as the Blue Goose. Twenty Tundra Swans and a number of Canada Geese, Great Blue Herons and Turkey Vultures were all in plain view.

The group took a break for lunch and we were treated to the new Audubon Center located north of the town of Savannah on rt. 89. Frank Moses, Director of the Audubon Center welcomed us and prepared an area for our comfort to get warm and sit down. He joined us with an informative and excellent conversation about the mission of the center.

The afternoon brought us just as many exciting events as the morning. Killdeer; Wilson's Snipe; Ring-billed Gull; Herring Gull; Am. Coot; Red-tailed Hawk; No. Harrier; Rough-legged Hawk; Am. Kestrel; Horned Lark; and at least four Ospreys starting their nest building on the line of electric poles leading past the refuge. Other species spotted and heard were; Mourning Doves; Rock Pigeon; (we count everything), Downy Woodpecker; No. Shrike; (one of my favorites), Am. Crow; Tree Swallow; Am. Robin; Eur. Starling; Song Sparrow; No. Cardinal; Red-winged

Blackbird; (large numbers), Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Am. Goldfinch; House Sparrow.

We made an attempt to see the Sandhill Cranes known to nest in that area, but it was not clear if they had been spotted yet. Considering what we did view, I believe that we left with a feeling that indeed not much was missed. A Fall trip in early November for the return migration might be in the works...Stay tuned.

... *Eleanor Moriarty*

BOOK REVIEW

The Toxic Chemistry of Everyday Products by
Mark Schapiro Chelsea Green \$22.95

Check the ingredient list on your personal care products against the online database of chemical safety information (Environmental Working Group) and you will be shocked to find - "known human carcinogen" and "known human immune system toxicant" or "possible human developmental toxicant", to name just a few. Our government is doing little to protect our environmental health by demanding safer products.

It is shocking to read that Europeans, Japanese, and even Mexican laws have more stringent environmental standards for personal care products, foods, toys, cars and computers, and that **MANY AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS ARE MAKING SAFER VERSION TO BE SOLD ABROAD!** And of course our more toxic versions are banned by foreign markets!

The EU has both recycling and safety requirements more stringent than ours and as a consequence, such things as our electronic components are banned for exports. They must be reusable and free of substances such as lead and mercury. EU bases their laws on precaution - "no one is to be harmed by this substance". (And their decisions are based on studies largely conducted by American scientists and the EPA!) The US bases its regulations on "cost/benefit analysis", which too often compromises human health in the process.

Congress so far is not interested in adopting international standard for products, but it would benefit our manufacturers by ensuring that foreign markets would remain open to them, and Americans would benefit healthwise and economically if such an adoption came about. *Jean T. Miller Oearth, Winter '08, NRDC*

Nominating Committee Report

The DOAS nominating committee has put forth the following slate for the position of directors, terms expiring in June 2010: Nancy Cannon, Julia Gregory, Barbara Marsala, Andy Mason, Jean Miller, Tom Salo.

The election will be held at the Annual Meeting, May 16, 2008, 7 p.m. in the Elm Park Methodist Church, Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Nominating Committee: Gerianne Carillo, Richard deRosa, Andy Mason, Jean Miller.

Volunteers Needed for Birds in Forested Landscapes: Citizen Science in the Catskill Mountains

A project sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Birds in Forested Landscapes, will enter its third year this season. BFL studies population trends and reproductive success of selected forest songbirds in the Catskills. The project also studies the impact on these birds from threats including acid rain, mercury, and deer browse. Data gathered will also be used to measure the health of forest ecosystems in the Catskills.

Volunteers are provided the tools and techniques for gathering information on the selected bird species and their insect prey items in designated sites throughout the Catskill Mountains. Volunteers for this project must be willing to commit a minimum of four days between the middle of May and the end of June to conduct fieldwork and report results.

A training session will be held at the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development on Route 28 in Arkville, details TBA.

If you are interested in joining this project please contact Alan White by phone at 845-586-1002 or by email at awhite@tnc.org. Please consider helping with this important project.

Bird Walk at Oneonta Greenway

A bird walk to view returning spring birds along the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway trail has been scheduled for Sunday, May 4, beginning at 8 a.m. The hike will be on an easy, level trail, and will explore woods and fields along the Susquehanna River. Leaders are Sandy Bright and Charlie Schcim.

The event will begin at the Greenway parking lot on Silas Lane, near the MOSA facility, off Rte. 205 in Oneonta's west end. The walk will last 1 ½-2 hours. For further information call (607) 434-4880, or scheimc@hartwick.edu.

Spring Bird Walk in Jefferson

Andy Mason of DOAS will lead a spring bird walk The Schoharie Land Trust has scheduled a spring bird walk at its Paulson Preserve property, on Sunday, May 18 starting at 8 a.m. (PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATE). The walk will explore the preserve's mix of hardwood and conifer forests, open space and wetlands.

The walk will last approximately two hours and will include some uneven terrain and moderate climbs. For further information, contact Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net.

To reach the preserve, take State Rte. 10 onto Peraglie Rd., 4.5 miles south of Summit and 4 miles north of Jefferson. Turn left on Rum Hill Rd.--parking is about one mile at the end of the road.

The Schoharie Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the beauty, land, heritage and rural character of Schoharie County. More information is available at www.schoharielandtrust.org.

*Andrew Mason 1039 Peck St. Jefferson, NY 12093
(607) 652-2162 AndyMason@earthling.net*

Hike for Bicknell's Thrush

A hike has been scheduled for Sunday, June 22 to seek out Bicknell's Thrush and other high-elevation species on Plateau Mt. in Greene Co. in the Catskills. Bicknell's Thrush is a state-listed species of special concern and its range in the Catskills is limited to spruce-fir habitats. Other species expected include Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Swainson's Thrush.

Plateau Mt. is a 3800 ft. peak accessible via a very steep climb from the Devil's Tombstone campground south of Hunter. Participants should be prepared for a rigorous hike. The climb will start at daybreak to maximize the chances of finding Bicknell's Thrush.

Anyone interested in this hike should contact Andy Mason, 607-652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net.

Wildflower Walk

Friday, May 23, is the date for a wildflower walk around beautiful Gilbert Lake, at Gilbert Lake State Park. There are many wildflowers to be found on the level trail around the lake, and the walk is about a mile long. We go slowly and easily. Hopes are for some pink lady slippers at that time.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the far end of the lake, at the visitor center. Parking is in the parking lot over-looking the lake, with steps and walkway down to the lake and visitor center.

For more information call Jean Miller at 432-5767 or email at millerj4@hartwick.edu.

April 6, 2008 DOAS Bird Trip Around Lake Otsego and Environs

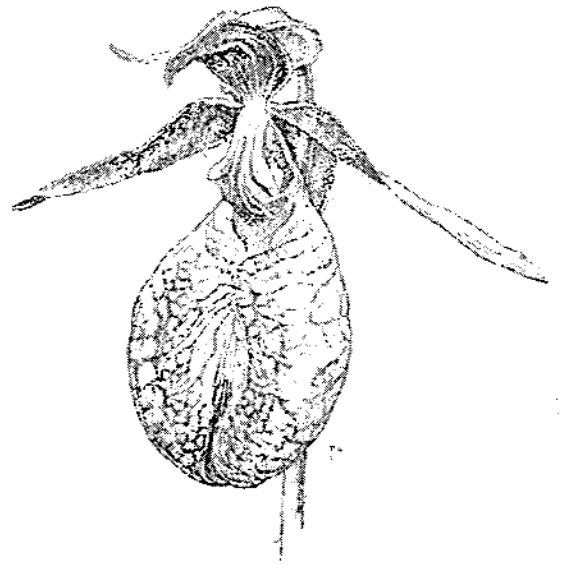
April 6th turned out to be perfect, for both weather and birds! Twenty-seven participants from as far away as Saratoga followed Bob Donnelly and co-leaders Matt Albright and John Davis around the upper Lake Otsego watershed. At least 40 avian species were seen, including Snow Geese, Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, Long-tailed Ducks and Bufflehead. Additional highlights were a Red-tailed Hawk on the nest, nesting Great Blue Herons, a hunting Northern Harrier, and a wild-life coup de-grace: a Red-tailed Hawk nailing a live roadside crow. The plan is to repeat the trip next year! ... *John Davis*

The John G. New Audubon Day Camp - An Adventure in Nature July 28-31, 2008

Each summer, DOAS offers a one-week summer day camp to children who will be entering grades 3-6 in the fall. The camp, located at the DOAS Sanctuary on Franklin Mountain, will run July 28-31, 2008.

DOAS camp provides hands-on field experiences in natural science and environmental education. Through field investigation, crafts and games, the campers explore a variety of habitats, and learn about creatures that live there.

Registration forms and payment must be received by June 20, 2008. Due to limited space availability, registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. DOAS Camp brochure and registration information are posted on the DOAS web site at www.doas.us.



Pink Lady's Slipper by David Kiehm

A New Butterfly Count

The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) will be holding its first ever FREE FORM counts in which anyone can participate. These new counts will be Memorial Day (May 30 -June 1) in USA and Victoria Day (May 23-25) in Canada. In contrast to the organized counts July 1 and 4, these new counts have no requirements. You can simply check your yard or whatever area you select, count the butterflies, and then go to- www.naba.org - and to the [Butterflies I've Seen](#) web page, and enter your report.

Be part of the new data base of butterflies of North America.

May Big Day Bird Count

May 17. Saturday is this year's Big Day for DOAS, the day on which small groups enjoy trying to see the maximum number of species of birds they can see in any amount of time they choose within 24 hours. Every one is welcome, novice or experienced. If you are interested and have not participated before please contact Bob Miller at 607-432-5767 to join a group or start a group. People who have participated before will be contacted by their leaders and leaders will receive materials prior to the count. The DOAS data obtained is pooled with that of the Delhi Bird Club for a report of results in *The Kingfisher*.

WISE SHOPPING For Birds and Ourselves

We have an environmental problem which is hidden to consumers. Imported fruits and vegetables - from Latin America - have been grown using pesticides restricted or banned in USA due to high toxicity. The threats of these pesticides, too often used at very high levels, are twofold. First to songbirds, which are being poisoned on their wintering grounds. Many songbirds such as our Bobolinks, Barn Swallows, and Eastern Kingbirds are showing population declines, and heavy pesticide use on their wintering grounds quite likely is to blame. Second to consumers, who unwittingly purchase these foods without knowing their source or toxicity. We can discourage this pesticide poisoning by avoiding foods that are bad for us, bad for Latin American farmers, bad for the environment, and bad for wintering birds. Check the labels and ask the source if it is not listed.

There are viable alternatives for a "bird/people friendly" shopping list. Organic fruits and vegetables are found in most local supermarkets, and they guarantee no herbicides/pesticides, GMOs, radiation, sewage sludge, or antibiotics. Natural food stores carry organic foods. Organic/shade grown coffee is available locally (DaVida Fair Trade in Oneonta, etc) and it is grown under a canopy of tropical trees, without pesticides, ideal for birds. Organic bananas save the growing environment from heavy pesticide use, and protect the farmers, also. Such crops as melons, tomatoes, green beans, strawberries, bell peppers and grapes should be bought only if not imported from Latin America. Organic eggs, cocoa, coffee, yogurts, honey, maple syrup, cheese, goat milk, and chocolates are available at DaVida. Organic meats can be found at local farms in Meredith, Bainbridge, Richfield Springs, Schoharie County, to name a few. Hudson Valley has cherries to pick in season. Many Farmer's markets are open in this area in the summer months. Pie in the Sky has a fine assortment of fruits and vegetables in season. There are many local growers that offer "you pick" fruits, berries and vegetables, in season. The Cooperstown Farmer's Market has embarked on a year round business, by the month in winter and weekly in the summer months.

By reducing the distance our foods travel, we can cut carbon emissions, support our local economy, and lower our grocery bills on many items. At the same time we will enjoy better freshness, taste, and nutrition from foods.

We need to make a concerted effort to grow, or buy locally grown foods, and then take the time to preserve them for winter use. Freeze, can, pickle, dry, or simply store foods for winter use. Stock your larder! Of course it takes time and planning, but is well worth it.

Jim Atwell wrote a delightful article in the Cooperstown Crier last week (The Past is our Future, April

3,08) about an amazing covered dish meal where every dish was made from foods grown, raised, or foraged locally, then stored, canned, frozen, pickled, or dried right in Fly Creek. His descriptions of the variety of mouth watering dishes proves that we can indeed eat well on local foods during the winter. He suggests two things necessary for furthering our self sufficiency. Regional kitchens for people who do not have space, ability, or energy to preserve at home. And help for farmers in storing produce and meats on their farms, and providing winter delivery to customers.

As he says - "an age is ending, and massive change is under way, right in our lifetimes". We are indeed fortunate that we live in a rural area filled with adequate space for growing/raising and storing foods for year round healthy eating.

... Jean T. Miller

(ideas from NY Times Op-ed by Bridget S. March 30,2008) (with helpful suggestions from Eleanor Moriarty)

Weaver Lake Field Trip

On Saturday May 24 DOAS will lead a canoe and kayak trip to Weaver Lake and adjoining wetlands. It is a great opportunity to encounter birds otherwise not seen in central N. Y. Weaver Lake is located on Rt. 20 between Springfield Ctr. and Richfield Springs. We will be meeting there at 7:00 AM. For information please contact Bob Donnelly at 607-264-8156 or rsdoonn@yahoo.com.

Do You Have Suggestions for DOAS ?

- Do you know a good location for a field trip?
- What habitats or species should our field trips target?
- Would you like someone to contact you about volunteering with DOAS?
- Are there topics you would like to see covered by programs?
- Are there local environmental problems you would like to see addressed?
- Please send any comments you may have to DOAS
BOARD, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820

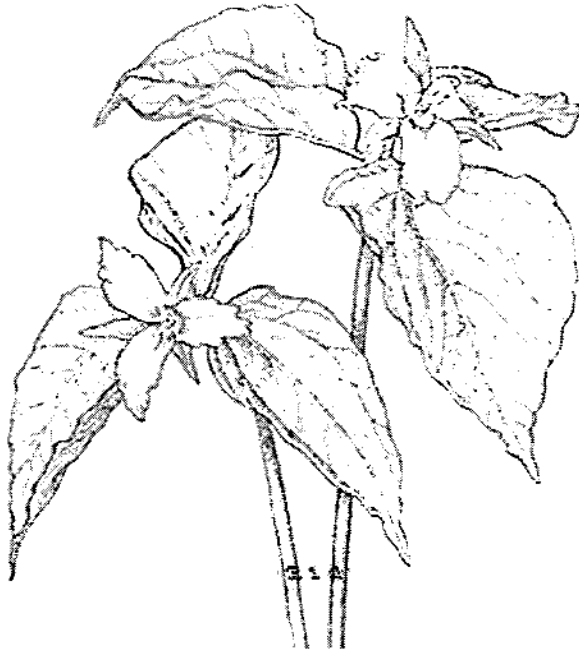
Who Is The Greenest of Them All ?

Sweden wins the top rating for environmental performance, followed by Switzerland and Norway, according to an index compiled by Yale and Columbia Universities and LinkedByAir. Worldwide countries were scored on factors including greenhouse-gas emissions, quality of water resources, and habitat protection. United States ranked 66th due to its high reliance on fossil fuels and emissions, in spite of its excellent water quality and sanitation. China was #134 due to its worsening pollution and emissions, and substandard drinking water and sanitation. Costa Rica ranked #7 as protecting habitat and biodiversity is a top priority. Some others of interest: Canada #23, Russia #30, Mexico #45, Australia #54, United Arab Emirates #126.

We need to improve!! ...Jean T. Miller

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
PO Box 544
Oneonta, NY 13820-0544
www.doas.us

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White Trillium by David Kichm

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Nancy Cannon Julia Gregory
Andrew Mason Barbara Marsala Jean Miller
Eleanor Moriarty Stephen Rice Joe Richardson

Committee Chairs* & Other Assignments

Conservation*	Andrew Mason
Education*	Barbara Marsala
Field Trips*	Bob Donnelly
Hawkwatch*	Andrew Mason, Tom Salo
Hospitality*	Jean Miller
Charter Dinner	Julia Gregory
Bird Counts	Bob Miller
Programs*	Eleanor Moriarty
Membership*	Bruce Milavec
Sanctuary•	Andrew Mason
Sales	Stephen Rice
Publicity*	John Davis
Kingfisher	Bob Miller
Historian	Jean Miller

Membership Application

Membership in the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. includes 9 issues of our newsletter, *The Belted Kingfisher*. Cost is \$12 annually or \$20 for 2 years. Please make check payable to DOAS and mail to DOAS Membership Chair, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820-0544, with name, address and phone.

(NOTE: Please mail National Audubon renewals to address on renewal notice.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

To contribute notes or articles for *The Belted Kingfisher*, please send to: Kingfisher Editor, DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820-0544.

All meetings are free and open to the public.