



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Coming Activities

September

September 16 – DOAS Board Mtg

September 19 – DOAS Program

October

October 4 – DOAS Open House

October 17 – Charter Dinner

October 21 – DOAS Board Meeting

October 31 – Bird Seed Order Due

November

November 7 – Bird seed pickup

November 18 – DOAS Board Meeting

November 21 – DOAS Program

More information on page 11

All DOAS programs are free and open to the public



Barred Owl

The Birds of Our Own Forests

Fall Programs will begin on Friday, September 19th with Matt Perry, well known expert in Woodland Species. His topic is *The Birds of Our Own Forests*.

Expert and beginning birders alike will gain invaluable information on our woodland species, along with an understanding of the importance of protecting our woodlands.

Matt Perry is the Conservation Director and Resident Naturalist for Spring Farm CARES in Clinton, NY. There he oversees habitat restoration projects at a 260 acre nature preserve. He is a Region 5 Editor of "The Kingbird" which is a quarterly journal published by the New York State Ornithological Association. Matt also writes a monthly nature-themed article for *Mohawk Valley Living Magazine*.

The Birds of Our Own Forests is a presentation that features the many kinds of birds that can be found right here in the forests of Central New York. Close-up video footage of seldom seen summer residents like the Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush and Hooded Warbler will be shown. Please join us to learn about the habits of these species and dozens of others and hear their unique and beautiful songs.

Photos: Left: Barred Owl and Right: Scarlet Tanager and Hooded Warbler by Dave Kiehm; Wood Thrush by Steve Maslowski via Wiki Commons.



Scarlet Tanager



Hooded Warbler



Wood Thrush

President's Message

Summer Bird Feeding – A Guilty Pleasure?

Lancaster, PA was home to my wife and me for 34 years. There we had a leafy urban back yard where we routinely fed the winter birds during the cold months; but from late April to late fall we stopped providing suet and bird seed. The hummingbird feeder came out of storage and the other feeders were stowed away. Some arriving hummers stopped with us, but most migrant species from the south were at best fleeting spring visitors to Lancaster, en route to breeding grounds in northern PA, upstate NY or beyond. Many of our winter resident species headed north too, or left town for nearby woods and hills rather than spending hot summers in urban back yards like ours. We would have been feeding mostly house sparrows.

But when we ourselves moved north, settling on a country property near Morris, we quickly discovered the delights of summer bird feeding. One April morning a few years before we left Lancaster we had spotted a gorgeous rose-breasted grosbeak at our feeder, grabbing some quick energy before continuing north. That was it for grosbeaks in our Lancaster yard – one memorable sighting in 34 years. Here in Morris we have them every year, all summer long, if we put out seeds – and we also have astonishing numbers of purple finches and goldfinches in their bright breeding plumage, as well as other seed-eaters: chipping sparrows, song sparrows, titmice, an occasional indigo bunting. Winter stalwarts, too – nuthatches, woodpeckers, cardinals, chickadees, juncos – just stay on through the summer, finding our seeds easy picking. And since the feeders are hung on the lower branches of a heavy-fruited mulberry tree, berry-lovers like orioles and waxwings come to the feeder area also. Some summer species desert our back yard for several weeks while incubating eggs and feeding nestlings, but then they're back with their fledglings in tow. Since moving to Morris we've gotten plenty of practice identifying scruffy immatures in their confusing juvenile plumage!

But is our summer delight a guilty pleasure, at least in part? Over the years, and especially this past summer, we've had more and more cowbirds feeding and displaying among the other birds at our feeders, and the cowbirds have been especially abundant – and alert – when our other species are pairing up and flying off to begin nest-building. Is our summer largesse increasing the nest-parasitic threat that cowbirds pose to our other feeder birds? Yes, almost certainly - though we haven't yet seen hard evidence, i.e., young cowbirds "fostering" in the fledgling families that new parents introduce to the feeders later in the summer.

Raptors, too, may be honing in on our feeder populations, especially when there is a sudden influx of fledglings new to the survival game. This past summer a kestrel – ordinarily a bird we'd welcome to our property – showed up at the height of the "fledgling season", spending far too much time at sentinel locations close to our feeding station, and too little time cruising nearby meadows in search of field mice.... So I wonder – is feeding our birds through the summer an act of generosity? Or is it a guilty pleasure, one more example of nature-loving humans selfishly upsetting a natural order they are simply seeking to enjoy? How guilty should I feel?

Joe Richardson (retiring co-president)



Purple Finch by Cephas, Wiki Commons

THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO

AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1968

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Helen McLean

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

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

Conservation and Legislation

Bats—is there any question they are endangered?—

The sorry story of the rapid decline of bats in the U.S. is well known—particularly here in the northeast where their population crash began. White nose syndrome (WNS) was first found in a Schoharie County cave in 2006, and subsequently has spread across the state and beyond. The condition is now reported as far west as Missouri and south to Alabama, as well as in four Canadian provinces.

WNS is a fungal infection that causes hibernating bats to stir from their winter torpor, leading them to expend critical energy and to seek food in cold weather. Many dead bats are found just outside cave entrances. The infection spreads rapidly through and between bat colonies, and is fatal to as many as 90% of the individuals. There is no known cure or treatment. It is believed that the disease may be partly spread via cavers' clothing, and many caves are now closed and voluntary restrictions in place.



Long-eared Bat
Al Hicks, NYSDEC

The effect on bats is profound:

eleven species have been affected, including three previously endangered. The little brown bat—formerly common in our area—has suffered a major population collapse and may be at risk of rapid extinction in the northeastern U.S. within 20 years due to WNS. Scientists consider other species to be at risk of extinction.

One species hit extremely hard by WNS is the northern long-eared bat. It is estimated that 7 million individuals—up to 99% of the population has succumbed to the condition in a few short years. Long-eared bats have been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and they would seem to be the very definition of an endangered species. However, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is balking at providing this protection to long-eared bats after getting pressure from the logging and oil and gas industries. The agency recently delayed a decision by another six months, putting the species closer to extinction.

What you can do—Contact USFWS Director Dan Ashe and insist that he move ahead immediately with listing and protection of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act. Point out that there is no credible scientific debate about the fact that WNS has decimated the northern long-eared bat's population. Director Ashe has a statutory and moral obligation to try to keep this species from extinction. (1849 C St. NW, Room 3358, Washington, DC 20240-0001; dan_ashe@fws.gov).

Update on Constitution Pipeline—the Constitution gas pipeline, proposed to run through our region on its way from Susquehanna County, PA to Schoharie Co., NY, carrying fracked natural gas, has come under fire for downplaying impacts on birds and other wildlife.

In June, DOAS submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the Migratory Bird and Upland Forest Plan they had previously ordered Constitution to prepare. We pointed out significant failings in the plan, including underestimating the effects of fragmentation of mature forest by the pipeline corridor, with the resulting loss of usable habitat by at-risk species such as Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager. More



Scarlet Tanager, by Dave Kiehm

recently, the US Fish & Wildlife Service submitted similar but more detailed comments on the shortcomings of the plan, adding other considerations such as the impacts of blasting bedrock in the vicinity of eagle nests. This was a strong statement by an influential agency that carries clout with FERC, who will make the final determination on the pipeline.

FERC has pushed back the date for finalizing the Environmental Impact Statement for the pipeline to Oct. 24, with a decision on the pipeline by the Commission to come three months later.

DOAS is an active intervenor in the pipeline proceedings under the aegis of Earthjustice, a not-for-profit environmental law firm.

Andy Mason

Audrey Munson 1923-2014

Audrey Munson, long-time DOAS director and officer, passed away Aug. 3, 2014 in Oneonta. Audrey served as treasurer for our organization for many years in the 1980s and 90s. She hosted numerous board meetings at her home in Oneonta, and was a cheerful and thoughtful member of the group.

In addition to her service as treasurer, Audrey was instrumental in establishing the DOAS Sanctuary in 1980, and served as the first Sanctuary Committee chair. She and her husband Fred owned and operated Munson's Building Supplies, and Audrey was generous in her support and donations of materials for Sanctuary projects.

Audrey was also an active volunteer in other community activities including the Girl Scouts and the First United Presbyterian Church. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Our condolences go out to the Munson family.

Please Help Us Continue Our Golden Eagle Research

Thanks to all the donors who have supported last season's effort to learn about winter resident Golden Eagles. Our work has been very successful. During a protracted and intense winter we managed to capture and tag 3 birds using methods and equipment that were totally new to trapper Scott VanArsdale. We are patiently awaiting the return of 2 birds from the wilds of northern Quebec. Sometime in October we expect them to move south and contact the cell network. Six months of data will then download showing where they spent the summer. Even with the limited data we have, what we have learned is remarkable. It leaves us with a growing list of questions.

After receiving his GPS transmitter, Greg – the large aggressive male – spent much of the next 2 weeks along the Marcy-South power line before leaving our area and entering Quebec. We don't know if Greg's affinity for power line openings is typical of goldens in our region. If it is, the avian assessments for the wind projects that are proposed along a power line may need to be adjusted. Before anyone can assess the danger to birds using the power line ridges, much more data is needed. That means we need to track more birds.

Jean – the adult female that embodied the power that makes these birds so iconic – used about 500 square miles of Catskill habitat last winter. This habitat area has few birders, and has yielded few reports of goldens. In this coming winter we are planning a one day Eagle Survey in Delaware County to gain more knowledge of actual golden eagle numbers. If this effort is successful, we hope to repeat it in other areas known to harbor goldens in winter. Hopefully, when Jean returns from her summer in Canada we will learn if she nested successfully.

Maxine – the first bird we caught – disappeared. Strong circumstantial evidence suggests she died of lead poisoning after feeding at a site where feral pigs killed with lead ammunition had been dumped. This has resulted in an intensifying of our lead-free ammunition education efforts. More about these efforts later.

NYSDEC is being very supportive of this research. They provide a licensed trapper and are currently considering our proposal to fund a graduate student at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry using money from Pittman-Robertson funds (the federal excise tax on firearms and hunting equipment that supports wildlife conservation).

What we need moving forward is to track more birds and acquire a more robust sample. Our goal is to track a minimum of 10 birds through a complete migration cycle. Your donations will be well used. The tracking devices are expensive at \$2700 each. We also need to pay data fees, and purchase blinds and other supplies.

Enclosed in this issue of *The Kingfisher* is an envelope for donations to support our eagle research. Please give generously -

as noted above, the need is great. If you would like to support our lead-free ammunition education efforts as well, please make that clear in a note, or write a separate check. *Tom Salo*



Photo documenting Greg's Plumage, by RR Eklund Photography

Thanks to Golden Eagle Research Donors

Priscilla Anderson
Ajit Antony
Ronald Bailey
Mona Bearor
Alan Beebe
Jack Bresee
Sandy Bright
Craig Buckbee
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Certified Shade Grown



Tty Birds & Beans@ Bird Friendly@ Shade Grown coffee, certified by The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center as coming from 100% organic farms which meet strict biodiversity criteria.

Regular: 12 oz. \$12
Decaf: 12 oz. \$13

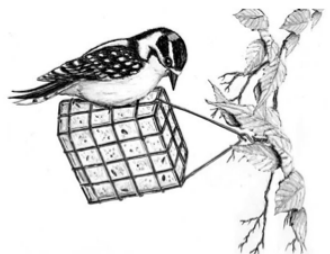
Wood Thrush, Breakfast Roast: The mild bright sweet flavor, light body and fragrant aroma of this delightful coffee make it an especially pleasant way to start your day.

American Redstart, Light Roast: A great tasting coffee from a family farm in Guatemala. Smooth, balanced, complex.

Chestnut-sided Warbler, Medium Roast: Grown on some of the best managed family coffee farms in Latin America – full of birds and good conditions for workers. A rich complex blend with a subtle and nutty flavor that pleasantly lingers.

Scarlet Tanager, French Roast: From the co-op farms of UCA San Juan del Rio Coco in the northern Nicaraguan highlands - roasted to a richness you can taste. Excellent body and intense flavor are highlighted by smoky aromatic undertones developed during the dark French roast.

Baltimore Oriole, French Roast Decaf: Baltimore Oriole, French Roast Decaf, water process caffeine extraction.



How it Works

1. Complete the order form (also available online at DOAS.us/store).
2. Send order form and payment for full amount to: Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Bird Seed Sale PO Box 544 Oneonta, NY 13820
3. Make sure we receive your order and payment no later than Oct. 31, 2014. (If you are running late with your order, please call it in to Susan O'Handley, 607-643-5680.)
4. Pick up your order on Saturday, November 7, between 9am and 11am at Walmart Parking Lot, Route 23 (Southside) in Oneonta (just off I-88 at Exit 15).

NOTE: Please ensure that you pick up your seed on the pickup day! 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.



DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

DOAS
PO Box 544
Oneonta, NY 13820

2014 Bird Seed Sale

DOAS



Fundraiser

The DOAS Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser is your opportunity to buy quality bird seed, and help support DOAS programs including guest speakers at member meetings, field trips and events, the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch program, and more. We urge you to buy as much seed as you need for the entire winter.



Rose Breasted Grosbeak
Photo by Dave Kiehm

Bird Seed Sale Products & Descriptions

Order Form

Use this section to keep a record of your order.

Please Detach This Section and Submit with your Payment.

Product	Quantity	Total Price
Locally Grown Black Oil Sunflower Seed - Grown locally, this seed purchase supports critical local grassland bird habitat as well as local family farms.	30 lb. bag Sunflower _____ @ \$20.00	\$ _____
Aspen Song Ultimate Blend - This is 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.	20 lb. bag Ultimate _____ @ \$21.00 40 lb. bag Ultimate _____ @ \$40.00	\$ _____ \$ _____
Aspen Song Premium Blend - This mix includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Safflower, Canola, Small Yellow Millet, Canary Seed, Nyjer Seed and Dehydrated Cherries.	20 lb. bag Premium _____ @ \$20.00 40 lb. bag Premium _____ @ \$38.00	\$ _____ \$ _____
Aspen Song Choice Blend - This blend contains over 30% Sunflowers & Peanuts and includes White Proso Millet, Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Safflower and Black Stripe Sunflower.	20 lb. bag Choice Blend _____ @ \$16.00 _____ @ \$29.00	\$ _____ \$ _____
Aspen Song Just Desserts - This is 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	4 lb. bag Just Desserts _____ @ \$ 7.00 20 lb. bag Just _____ @ \$30.00	\$ _____ \$ _____
Aspen Song Nut & Fruit Woodpecker Blend - A shell-less mix designed for woodpeckers and wire mesh tube feeders, this mix includes Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Steam-crimped Corn, Shelled Pumpkin Seeds, Raisins, Dehydrated Cherries, Dried Cranberries and Dried Blueberries.	4 lb. bag Nut & Fruit _____ @ \$8.00 20 lb. bag Nut & Fruit _____ @ \$33.00	\$ _____ \$ _____
Nyjer Seed - To primarily attract finches, siskin & redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports.	10 lb. bag Nyjer _____ @ \$14.00 25 lb. bag Nyjer _____ @ \$30.00	\$ _____ \$ _____
Suet Cakes - Made from rendered beef kidney fat with peanut butter, sunflower seed, white millet, cracked corn, peanuts & cashews. Order single units or by the case. Refined to maintain a high melting point for year-round feeding. Hi Energy 12 oz./Nut & Fruit 11 oz..	Hi-Energy (Single) Hi-Energy (Case of 12) _____ @ \$ 1.50 _____ @ \$17.00 Nut & Fruit (Single) Nut & Fruit (Case of) _____ @ \$ 2.00 _____ @ \$22.00	\$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____
Birds & Beans Bird Friendly Coffees - 12 oz \$12; Decaf: 12 oz \$13; Wood Thrush, Breakfast Roast American Redstart, Light Roast Chestnut-sided Warbler, Medium Roast Scarlet Tanager, French Roast Baltimore Oriole, French Roast Decaf <i>Coffee and samples will also be available for purchase at DOAS events and member meetings throughout the year!</i>	Regular Roasts _____ @ \$12.00 Decaf Roast _____ @ \$13.00	\$ _____ \$ _____
DOAS Membership (1 year): \$15 Individual or \$20 Family DOAS Membership (2 year): \$25 Individual or \$50 Family Would you like to include an additional donation to support DOAS Programs? Enter amount.	1 year DOAS Member 2 year DOAS Member Additional Donation _____ Ind\$15/Fam\$20 _____ Ind\$25/Fam\$30 _____ Enter Amount	\$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____
TOTAL (Please enclose check for total amount made out to DOAS with 2014 Bird Seed Sale in memo section)	TOTAL	\$ _____

Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Underway

The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch on the DOAS Sanctuary began its 26th consecutive season on August 19. Becky Gretton recorded 14 birds, including 8 Broad-winged Hawks and 4 Bald Eagles—a good opening day!

Counting will continue over the next four months, with near full-time coverage for September through November. Our dedicated volunteer counters record thousands of raptors each season. The count for the 2013 season was 4860 birds of 16 different species, 8% below the average since full-time counting began at the site.

The middle two weeks of September are particularly productive at the hawkwatch. The great majority of Broad-winged Hawks pass through in this period. This is a species which is often sighted in sizeable flocks or “kettles”. Franklin Mt. had 1993



Broad-Winged Hawks Flight, From The Crossley ID Guide Raptors (Richard Crossley) - Wiki Commons

broad-wings in 2013, the third highest total in the history of the site, and 40% above the average. This total included 916 Broad-wings on September 19, 2013, a single day record for Franklin Mt. Other species that show in good numbers in September include Osprey, kestrels, and the first wave of Bald Eagles.

Visitors, spotters and counters are always welcome at the hawkwatch. For more information, contact:

Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, AndyMason@earthling.net, or Tom Salo, (607) 965-8232, salothomas@gmail.com.

Forecasts of anticipated good flights at the hawkwatch are

sent out by email a day or two in advance. To receive these alerts, visit www.pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/hawkcass/ 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.

October 4 Open House to Feature Live Raptors

On Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will host an open house at the sanctuary. There is a full schedule including a live raptor program for bird lovers of any age.

10:00 AM - Beginners workshop on Identifying Flying Hawks.

11:00 AM - A trail walk starts at the barn and will include most of the sanctuary grounds.

12 noon - Trish Marki from The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York will present a variety of live raptors.

1:00 PM - Peg DiBenedetto will discuss trapping Golden Eagles and our research. She will demonstrate the net launcher we use for this work.

The hawk watch will be staffed through the day and refreshments will be served at the barn.

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

For more information on the hawk watch visit:

<http://www.doas.us/> or contact

Tom Salo at 607-965-8232 or salothomas@gmail.com or

Andy Mason at 607-652-2162 or andymason@earthling.net.



Trish Marki with Snowy Owl Open House 2013

June Adirondack Birding Trip: A Success for All

DOAS organized a weekend of birding last June 20-23 in the Wilmington area for 14 participants of various skill levels with John and Pat Thaxton, expert guides, leading our group.

On Friday the 20th we gathered for a meet and greet social hour to become acquainted with the Thaxtons, to learn about our exciting itinerary, and to enjoy each other's company.

Saturday morning found us heading up Whiteface Mountain to find the Bicknell's Thrush. At least three cooperative Bicknell's were spotted as well as two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. As we continued up the mountain we experienced fabulous vistas, six Blackpoll Warblers and a unique view of a Winter Wren perched on a small limb singing its heart out.

That afternoon a drive to Bloomingdale Bog gave us up-close and personal encounters with the Gray Jay with group members hand-feeding adult and juvenile birds. Five Lincoln's Sparrows were counted, with excellent views of two birds. One lucky group member spotted and validated a Boreal Chickadee.

On Sunday morning, the Thaxtons guided us into the Intervale Lowlands, an impressive private preserve with a diverse habitat. Four Northern Parula Warblers appeared in full view, to the joy of our group! One of our sharp-eyed birders spotted a Nashville Warbler feeding a chick. As we traveled along the well-maintained trails, six Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared.

The species total for all three locations was about 105. We had a fun, exciting and successful birding adventure. The weather cooperated and the black flies were minimal.

On a sad note: one of our participants, Diana Teta, PhD., a well known birder in the Long Island and New York City area, passed away a few weeks after our trip. She had compiled a life list of 417 species. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends. Diana was a new acquaintance to many of us, and she shared her enthusiasm and expertise willingly during our time together. We felt privileged to know her, however briefly.

We recommend John and Pat Thaxton to anyone interested in having the best possible Adirondack birding experience! For more information, see their website:

www.adirondackbirdingtours.com



Catherine Davino holding a gray Jay at the Bloomingdale Bog, by John Thaxton



Looking and listening on beautiful Whiteface Mountain, by John Thaxton

Saving Tropical Migratory Bird Habitat

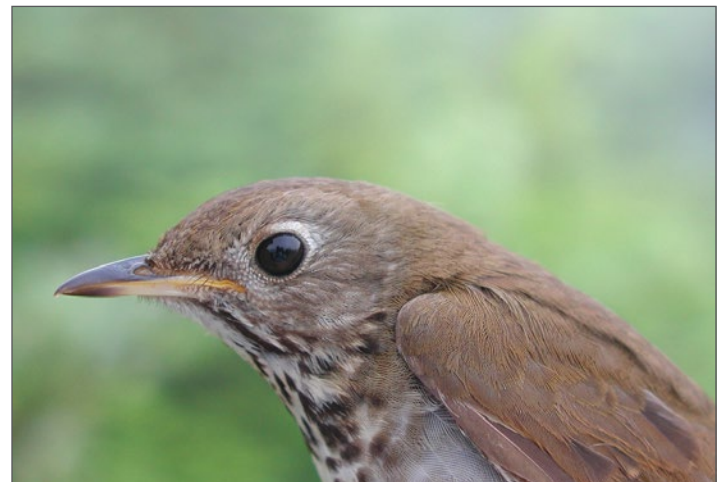
Margaret DiBenedetto

Migratory birds, songbirds in particular, over-winter in the tropics. Much of the land is being deforested to make room for agriculture. I have a unique opportunity to establish a bird sanctuary on at least 300 acres of a large organic cocoa plantation in the Dominican Republic. Funds raised for this project will be used to support a team of ornithologists who will identify the species of songbirds that live on the plantation.

Of particular interest is whether Bicknell's Thrush - a bird at risk which nests in New York - uses this property.

For more information, see:

<https://experiment.com/projects/saving-tropical-migratory-bird-habitat>



Bicknell's Thrush by Steve Faccio, Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Summer Camp Fun

DOAS Camp Director, Megan Gigandet ran a great program this summer at the 2014 John G. New Audubon Summer Day Camp, a special week-long nature themed program for children entering grades 3-6. The program took place at the DOAS Sanctuary on Franklin Mountain. A small but enthusiastic group of campers attended and enjoyed activities including pond and insect studies, leaf scavenger hunts, water and wildlife activities, and a service project to build a section of boardwalk on the property.

The Summer Program, named in honor of long-time DOAS member Dr. John G. New, is part of the Audubon group's effort to increase the use of the Franklin Mountain Sanctuary for education activities for children and families.

*Photos of Summer Camp Fun
by Megan Gigandet*



Taking a break on an outcropping at the Sanctuary



Eileen Kline sets up magnifying scopes to examine pond water



Ready for dip netting at the pond



Working on crafts

NEW Saturday programs at the DOAS Sanctuary

As part of a continued effort to reach out to children at the Sanctuary, DOAS will be offering a monthly education program beginning this fall and continuing next spring. Each program will include a field walk and activity and will run from 10am to noon unless otherwise noted. Activities will be targeted towards families and children. A small program fee of \$4 per person will be charged. Local business sponsors are sought to help underwrite the program.

Saturday, September 20 - *Investigating Insects* - Pre-Registration required.

Saturday, October 4 - *DOAS Open House* - 10am-2pm - No registration required - all welcome.

Saturday, November 1 - *Signs of Winter* - Pre-Registration required.

Saturday, April (date to be announced) - *Earth Festival at Milford Central School*
11am-3pm - No registration required - all welcome.

Saturday, May 2 - *Plant and Tree ID* - Pre-Registration required.

Saturday, June 6 - *Wild Edibles* - Pre-Registration required.

To pre-register for a program, or to learn about business sponsorship opportunities, please contact Education Chair, Susan O'Handley at 607-643-5680 or by email at sjohandley@gmail.com.

Audubon Adventures Goes Digital

The 2014/15 Audubon Adventures has been announced - BIRDS, BEES, and NEIGHBORHOOD BIOMES. The complete program is digital so that copies can be printed as needed based on the needs of the classroom. This change provides a significant savings for classroom kits and makes things extra convenient for educators. Audubon Adventures correlates to the common core language arts and science standards and is targeted towards students in grades 3 through 5.

"BIRDS, BEES, & BIOMES" topics: Wild about Birds, Buzz about Native Bees, Birds & Other Wildlife of Our Towns & Cities, PLUS "Birds on the Move" classroom poster on bird migration, all for \$16!!

With a Digital Plus subscription, students receive:

- Three ready to print (at home or in school as a classroom handout) student editions with engaging science content.
- Online student quizzes and puzzles.
- Kid-friendly (and fun) games and infographics
- Windows on the Wild videos and live webcams

Teachers receive:

- Six E-newsletters
- "Birds on the Move" classroom wall poster
- Topic background information, discussion starters, lesson plans for classroom and field-based activities, bibliographies, glossary, correlations to Common Core English Language Arts and Next Generation Science standards and assessment questions and answers.
- Opportunities to participate in community service learning and citizen science projects such as Great Backyard Bird Count and Pennies for the Planet.
- Audubon magazine subscription sent to school address



Educators interested in receiving the Audubon Adventures materials should contact Susan O'Handley, Education Chair at 607-643-5680 or by email at sjohandley@gmail.com by October 30.

Annual Charter Dinner - October 17, 2014

~ New Venue: Depot Restaurant ~

DOAS will be having their annual Charter Dinner Friday October 17, 2014. This year it is at the **Depot Restaurant, 4½ Railroad Avenue, Oneonta**. Social hour begins at 6PM, the buffet at 6:30PM, and the program at 7:30PM. The public is invited to join us for the program.

The speaker this year is Robert Mumford, a well known photographer whose work has been published in many books and magazines including *National Wildlife*, *Birding*, *The New York Times* and *Wild Bird Magazine*. He travels extensively to photograph birds, wildlife and natural scenes. Mr. Mumford over the past six years has traveled 15 times to Ecuador to photograph the beautiful birds. His photographs from his Ecuador travels will be published in a forthcoming book.

The buffet cost is \$20 per person

*Reservations must be made by October 13th by calling 607-563-2924
or mailing a check to: Julia Gregory, PO Box 641, Unadilla, New York 13849*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Important Notice to National Audubon Society Members

Please Join Our Local Chapter

- **If you are a member of the National Audubon Society, you are receiving this issue of *The Belted Kingfisher*, compliments of our local Chapter, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society.** Due to printing and postage costs and the loss of the portion of National Audubon Society (NAS) dues that our Chapter receives, we are not able to send the newsletter to NAS-only members.
- NAS-only members receive the September *Kingfisher*—this issue--each year. However, the other eight issues go only to those who have taken a local membership or are joint local/NAS members.
- **We encourage all NAS-only members to consider a local membership in order to help defray the costs of the newsletter and support our Chapter's education and conservation activities.** Local memberships are \$15 per year or \$25 for two years; family memberships are \$20 per year or \$30 for two years—a membership form can be found elsewhere in this issue.
- Your mailing label will inform you of your membership status: an L indicates a local member, with expiration date (year and month, e.g. '1411' indicates November 2014); an N indicates an NAS-only member. **If you are an NAS-only member, you will need to take a local membership in order to continue receiving *The Belted Kingfisher*.** If you are a local member or a joint local/NAS member, you will continue receiving the newsletter as in the past.

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

Upcoming Activities

September

September 16 – DOAS Board Meeting: 7 PM

September 19 – DOAS Program: *The Birds of Our Own Forest*, by Matt Perry. Expert and beginning birders alike will learn invaluable information on our woodland species and gain understanding of the importance of protecting our woodlands. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or email eleanormrtrt955@gmail.com.

October

October 4 – Open House at the DOAS Sanctuary: Hours are 10 AM - 2 PM. Includes a beginner's workshop, a trail walk and a presentation of live raptors with Trish Marki from The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York. See page 7 for details.

October 17 – DOAS Annual Charter Dinner – 6- 9 PM at the Depot Restaurant. See details on page 10.

October 21 – DOAS Board Meeting: 7 PM

October 31 – Bird Seed Order Due – Be sure to get your bird seed order in by October 31st.

November

November 7 – Bird Seed Pick Up Day: Walmart parking lot, Oneonta, 9-11 AM. See order form on insert.

November 18 – DOAS Board Meeting: 7 PM

November 21 – DOAS Public and Member Meeting: Kim Corwin, will speak about her experiences in the clean up efforts of the Deepwater Horizon Spill.

The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Eleanor Moriarty at (607) 435-2054 or email eleanormrtrt955@gmail.com.

DOAS Officers for 2014-2015

The Board elected its officers for the 2014-2015 term. They are:

Andy Mason and Susan O'Handley- Co Chairs
Becky Gretton - Secretary
Charlie Scheim - Treasurer

Joe Richardson has asked to step down as one of the co-chairs, but will remain on the Board.

Thank you, Joe, for such dedicated leadership for DOAS.

Julie Smith - Chair of Nominating Committee



DOAS Board of Directors at the August 19 meeting

See additional programs for children on page 9

DOAS Membership Application

Membership in the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society includes 9 issues of our newsletter, *The Belted Kingfisher*.

Cost is \$15 annually or \$25 for two years; family memberships \$20 annually or \$30 for two years.

Please make your check payable to "DOAS" and mail payment with this form to:

DOAS Membership Chair, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820-0544.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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



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Summer Bird Sightings

Where did the time go? Another summer has nearly flown by as many birds start to band together in groups anticipating their long journey south. Here are a few birding highlights of this summer.

While golfing in Laurens at the beginning of June, Charlie Scheim watched as an adult Bald Eagle circled down to one of the ponds, dropped its talons, grabbed a fish and flew off. One of the golf course owners had also seen a Bald Eagle snag bullfrogs dropping them from on high onto the ground then landing to eat a hopefully, unconscious bullfrog. On June 4th Eleanor Moriarity saw Cedar Waxwings in Cooperstown and Cynthia Campbell spotted an American Bittern in Sharon Springs. Tom Salo found a Wild Turkey sitting on eggs in the open woods of West Burlington on June 2nd. There was no cover for the bird. She just nested down in the leaves. This was a new behavior for Tom who has encountered many nests in thick cover and under things. On 6/12 Kathy Mario watched Eastern Phoebe launch

from their nest freeing up her Delhi porch for entertaining and Gerianne Carillo in Milford saw 5 Eastern Bluebird nestlings fledge, watched American Tree Swallows feeding young and noticed a House Wren nest building.

In July Bob Donnelly had an abundance of Cedar Waxwings in his Cooperstown yard including a pair nesting in a magnolia tree about four feet off the ground on his patio. According to Bob birding while eating breakfast is so much more enjoyable. At the end of July in Guilford Kathy Dawson regularly enjoyed the visits of Purple Finches, Red-winged Blackbirds,

Mourning Doves, Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. A couple of days later a pair of Northern Cardinals joined the party after having been absent for several months.

In mid-August Gerry Pearlberg felt lucky to hear Barred Owls calling to and fro in the wooded hillside above her Kortright area house. On Aug. 14th Andy Mason saw 3 Solitary Sandpipers and 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers probing the mud of a pond along his usual walk behind his Jefferson house. Unusually the most common 'shorebird' there, the Killdeer, has been completely absent this summer although he has been regularly flushing out an American Woodcock from the thick willows along a small stream that flows into that pond. Thus another summer passes.

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



Solitary Sandpiper
by Len Blumin, via Wiki Commons