



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Coming Activities

June

June 6 – Family: Wild Edibles

June 7 – Birds, Brunch, Beer

June 13 – Wolf Mountain & Rogers
Environmental Education Center

July

July 13-16 – Summer Camp

August

August 3-6 – Summer Camp

August 18 – Board Meeting

September

September 15 – Board Meeting

September 18 – Program: Robert
Foote, Carver

September 26 – Open House:
DOAS Sanctuary

October

October 16 – Charter Dinner

October 2 – Board Meeting

November

November 20 – Program: Wolf
Mountain Nature Center

More information on page 7

Ferd's Bog

Last September, I was able to return to Ferd's Bog, one of my favorite birding spots in the Adirondack Park. It was late in the season for hearing and seeing many birds, but the magic was still present as we descended down the path from the seasonal road through the woods to find the walkway to the bog. The 15- minute walk-more if one stops often to listen to the forest sounds-is all downhill and fairly easy walking. The path is steep in a few places and one must watch for roots and other "toe catchers".



A view of the bog area from the boardwalk, photo by Julie Smith

It was in the early '90s when I first visited the Boreal Forest. My bird list was beginning to fill with many species that had to be chased. One such bird was the Spruce Grouse, wanted for my New York life list, that was reported very near the bog. We birded the road and the surrounding area most of the morning with no grouse being spotted. Later, we decided to look for other species mentioned for that area. Upon entering the path toward the bog and walking only a short distance, we heard a woodpecker. This bird turned out to be the Black-backed and new to me. The four of us stood and

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DOAS Education and Outreach

DOAS has been working over the last few years to increase opportunities for public and youth engagement. While our member meetings, programs and field walks are well attended by adults from our region, we find our efforts in reaching student audiences are not as consistent. This year, in an attempt to continue this outreach, we have been experimenting with a few additional offerings for youth programs and have had some initial success.

We were able to support two Environmental Education programs for elementary level students through our small grant program to educators this year - one to Andes Central School for their annual trout release and one to Greater Plains Elementary School in Oneonta for a butterfly-themed program. These programs engage students through their schools and support environmentally-focused activities led by dedicated educators.



Intern, Julie Opdyke, presents bird program to third grade students in Oneonta.

Photo credit: Julie Opdyke.

DOAS also worked with two interns this year who were completely focused on support for our education and outreach initiatives. Julie Opdyke, a senior at Hartwick College, worked to produce a complete bird-focused classroom program for third grade students and presented her program on behalf of the organization to over 40 students at Greater Plains with great success this Spring. We have had wonderful feedback from both students and educators and hope to be able to continue outreach programs in the schools in 2015/2016.



Allison Homler, a freshman at Hartwick College, has been working to compile resources for educators and children that can be accessed through the doas.us website. The focus of these materials (Raptors, Golden Eagles, Wind Power) were prepared as complementary resources related to our research with the Golden Eagle Tracking Project. DOAS is continuing to work with Allison over the summer through an additional internship program. She will be attending the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine for

a 6-day program focusing on hands-on avian science and then she will be returning to work with DOAS as a Camp Assistant with our Summer Day Camp program during

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THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO

AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1968

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Helen McLean

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Co-Presidents	Andrew Mason Susan O'Handley
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Julia Gregory
Rebecca Gretton
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Stephen Rice
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Tom Salo

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Field Trips*:	Bob Donnelly
Hawk Watch*:	Andrew Mason Tom Salo
Hospitality*:	Julia Gregory
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Programs*:	Eleanor Moriarty
Publicity*:	Eleanor Moriarty
Research*:	Peg DiBenedetto Tom Salo
Sanctuary*:	Andrew Mason
Bird Counts:	Sandy Bright
Charter Dinner:	Julia Gregory
Finance:	Gray Mason
Historian:	Julie Smith
Sales:	Stephen Rice

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Delaware Otsego Audubon Society
P.O. Box 544
Oneonta, NY 13820
Email: info@doas.us

ON THE WEB:

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

An opportunity to strengthen the nation's most important bird protection law—The greatest achievement of the Audubon Society came in 1918, with the passage of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). This law came out of the earlier efforts by Audubon and other conservationists to end the market hunting for plumes and food that decimated bird populations and ultimately led to extinction of the Passenger Pigeon.

The MBTA largely ended these practices and no doubt saved other species, such as Snowy Egret, from extinction. It continues as the basic bird protection statute that protects songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, wading birds and others from hunting, egg collection, and other threats. In addition, the treaty approved by the act or similar agreements are now in effect in several other nations including Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the Soviet Union. The law has been amended over the years to address new threats to birds, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now proposing to further expand the kinds of activities it would effectively cover. This approach could help reduce the number of bird “death traps” that kill tens of millions of birds each and every year. Uncovered oil waste pits, unshielded power lines, cell towers, and other hazards will be given specific attention in the MBTA.



This Pied-billed Grebe mistook an open oil pit for a freshwater pond. Photo by USFWS

The approach of the USF&WS will be to develop general permits that will allow the “incidental take” (meaning killing or injuring) of birds by these activities only if the industries involved “...adhere to appropriate standards for protection and mitigation of incidental take of migratory birds.” Of course, the setting of these standards will be a critical part of the process, and will require close scrutiny and involvement by conservationists. However, since this large-scale incidental take is now occurring with little or no response by USF&WS, instituting standards should significantly reduce bird deaths.

What you can do—The process of rule-making to bring about these changes in the MBTA is just beginning. The USF&WS is seeking comments on their proposal through July 27. More information on the issue, including a link to the official proposal itself, can be found on National Audubon's web site at audubon.org/MBTA. Also, Audubon members are encouraged to write Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and ask her to develop the most effective protections possible to benefit birds.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240
feedback@ios.doi.gov

Changes at the NY State Senate—As widely reported, the leadership of the NY State Senate changed recently, with Majority Leader Dean Skelos being replaced by John Flanagan, following Skelos' corruption charges. Since most environmental legislation in the state dies in the Senate, this possibly could bring a change for the better in this regard.

Several state environmental groups have called on Flanagan to allow legislation to the floor that is in the bizarre position of having enough co-sponsors to pass the Senate, but has been held from a vote by the leadership. This includes bills to regulate toxic chemicals in children's products; to close the loophole that allows fracking wastes from other states to be disposed of in NY; and prohibit the distribution and sale of personal care products made with unnecessary tiny plastic pellets, which are hurting our waterways and wildlife. These are all common sense measures that have wide support on both sides of the aisle and in both houses of the legislature.

What you can do—Ask Senator Flanagan, and local Sen. James Seward—also part of the Senate leadership—to stop holding these bills hostage, and to allow the democratic process to proceed by permitting the Senate to vote on them. (Contact information can be found on the DOAS website, www.doas.us).

~ by Andy Mason

Catskill Center Seeking Mounted Birds

The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, a decades-long leading environmental presence in the Catskills, will soon be opening the new Catskills Interpretive Center in Mount Tremper on Rt. 28 in conjunction with NYS DEC and other partners. We are actively seeking donations of mounted bird specimens of the region for use in an educational display. Please contact Peg DiBenedetto at 845-254-6508, or at pegdib@gmail.com.

DOAS Education and Outreach

Continued from page 2

sessions in July and August. Allison will continue to work with DOAS through additional internships over the next few years, providing support for outreach and education for DOAS and real-world experience for her career goals.

This year, we also began working with SUNY Oneonta's Cooperstown Graduate Program, Department of Museum Studies for initial work on the design of an educational exhibit that will provide outreach opportunities specific to the DOAS Golden Eagle Project. We are waiting for news on grant funding this summer to produce exhibit panels that can be displayed at area libraries, community centers and municipal buildings beginning in late fall of 2015. We hope to be able to exhibit at a different location each month and provide a kickoff public education program about the Golden Eagle Project at each location. The three-panel exhibit will focus on natural history of our local population of Golden Eagles, wind power and the importance of proper siting of infrastructure, and environmental threats to this species along with a call to action.

Through these efforts and programs like the DOAS Summer Day Camp and Saturday Family Programs at the DOAS sanctuary, we hope to continue to outreach to young people in our region and establish a growing audience of youth and family participants.

Susan O'Handley

DOAS Board of Directors Election Report

At the DOAS May meeting, the following were elected for two-year Director terms on the DOAS Board:

- Bob Donnelly (renewal)
- Kevin Hodne (new)
- Susan O'Handley (renewal)
- Janet Potter (new)
- Stephen Rice (renewal)
- Joe Richardson (renewal)

We thank our outgoing Directors, Eleanor Moriarty and Julie Smith, for their dedicated service to the organization and their ongoing support of DOAS.

Ferd's Bog

Continued from page 1

watched this family: mom, dad, and two youngsters, out looking for food. It seemed the two young were out for the first time and learning how to hunt for worms and insects. We watched, as in a wooded theater, the male showing "junior" how to find his dinner. What a thrill for me to observe this behavior! I shall always remember those moments with the four of us watching this little woodpecker family out learning the ways of life.

The Boreal Forest is home to many species of birds and plants. The Boreal Chickadees and the juncos are abundant as are the jays, and warblers. On our last visit, a Gray Jay escorted us along the path, flying from one tree to the next as we walked along the trail. Watch and listen for the Lincoln Sparrow, and the Olive-sided Flycatcher. You might be lucky to see the Three-toed



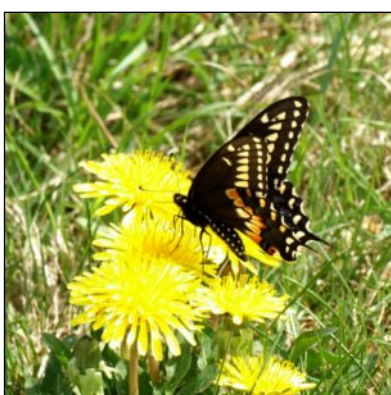
Gray Jay, photo by Julie Smith

Woodpecker. I have yet to see or hear this bird, and you can bet that I will be looking and listening for it when I visit the bog again this spring.

If you are fascinated with bog plants and flowers, one must make this trip. Pitcher-plants, sundew, bog-rosemary, cranberry, creeping strawberry, wood-sorrel, and leatherleaf are all present, just to name a few. All of this is yours to discover, and walking on the well-constructed boardwalk, your shoes will not get wet.

The bog was discovered in the '70s by Ferdinand LaFrance, a birder and environmentalist, and named in his honor after his death. It is located off Rt. 28 near Eagle Bay, not far from Old Forge. Turn onto Uncas Road and follow it about three miles until a small parking area is spotted on the left. A DEC sign and a sign-in trail register will be located at the start of the path. Don't forget your camera, binoculars, bug spray, and...have a magical time.

Julie Smith



Photos by Janice Downie

Bird Walk at DOAS Sanctuary May 17, 2015



Chestnut-sided Warbler, photo by Dave Kiehm

Big Day Bird Count

There were 112 species of birds found by the participants in this year's big day bird count. Randy and Carol Lynch alone found 98 species. Among the interesting results were 19 species of warblers, 10 species of raptors (including a Merlin), 7 species of flycatchers and 6 kinds of woodpeckers. Only 3 kinds of ducks were seen. Also missing were Green Heron, Woodcock, and Snipe. Thanks to all who participated. It is great to see how much variety of bird life is ours to enjoy in upstate New York.

Bob Donnelly

April-May Bird Sightings*Continued from page 8*

eyed a Nashville Warbler singing in the Treadwell poplars. Leslie Preston had a Red-bellied Woodpecker on her Oneonta patio. Sandy Bright heard an Ovenbird while jogging on the trails above Wilber Park and Becky Gretton was visited by a Ruby-throated Hummingbird seconds after preparing the juice. Birds were busy over the next few days. Bob Donnelly had a singing Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on his Roseboom driveway. Becky Gretton observed

and Wood Thrushes and both Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Blue Warblers had returned to the Treadwell area. From May 7-10 Becky Gretton heard the buzzy song of a Blue-winged Warbler, Pam Peters noticed a Scarlet Tanager singing atop the trees in Treadwell, Becky Gretton spotted a Mourning Warbler, a Northern Parula, an American Redstart and a Common Yellowthroat in Fetterley Forest, Andy Mason had a Prairie Warbler in Jefferson, and Bob Donnelly heard the loud musical

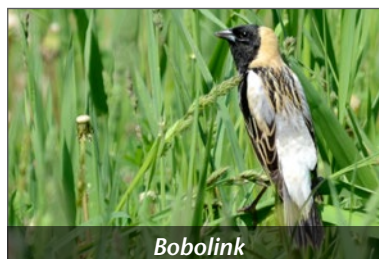
*Black-throated Blue Warbler**Black and White Warbler**Nashville Warbler*

a Blue-headed Vireo, a Common Flicker and a White-throated Sparrow at Glimmerglass Park. Charlie Scheim saw a White-crowned Sparrow in his Oneonta yard. Becky Gretton enjoyed seeing a Magnolia Warbler and a Warbling Vireo at the Milford State Forest. A Great-crested Flycatcher showed up in Leslie Preston's Oneonta backyard. And Pam Peters heard Bobolinks

chip of a Hooded Warbler in Roseboom. On 5/16 Cynthia Campbell heard the hollow, whistled *po po po* of a Black-billed Cuckoo in Sharon Springs. Tom Salo posed the question, "*If the first Turkey Vulture is really the beginning of spring, is the first Cuckoo the beginning of summer?*" You decide!

Dianne Benko*Scarlet Tanager**Hooded Warbler**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*

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

*Blue-winged Warbler**Bobolink**Winter Wren**All photos on pages 6 and 8 by Dave Kiehm*

Upcoming Activities

June

June 6 – Wild Edibles: Guided activities with Educator and DOAS Summer Program Director, Meghan Gigandet. **Pre-registration is required** by email to Susan O’Handley, Education Chair at sjohandley@gmail.com. \$4 per child fee/adults are free.

June 7 – 3rd Annual Birds, Brunch, Beer: See page 6 for details!

June 13 – Wolf Mountain Nature Preserve and the Rogers Environmental Education Center: This full day trip will include bird watching, wildlife viewing, and spectacular looks at wolves, arctic foxes, and our northeastern coyotes. A guide will be available at the Wolf Mountain Nature Preserve.

The trip will be approximately an hour drive from Oneonta to our first stop in the morning, Wolf Mountain Nature Preserve. Hiking will be easy to moderate and boots or waterproof footwear is required as we will be going through bogs and wetlands. An admission fee of \$5 is charged. Participants need to pack a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon the group will continue to Rogers Environmental Educational Center for birdwatching and wildlife viewing. Carpooling will be available.

This trip is limited to 15 participants. For reservations and information contact: Eleanor Moriarty at 607 435 2054.

July

July 13-16 – DOAS Summer Camp – For children entering grades 3 and 4. Details on website: doas.us

August

August 3-6 – DOAS Summer Camp – For children entering grades 5 and 6. Details on website: doas.us

August 18 – Board Meeting

September

September 15 – Board Meeting

September 18 – Program: Robert Foote, exceptionally talented and artistic carver, will discuss his work with creating bird images.

September 26 – Open House: DOAS Sanctuary

October

October 16 – DOAS Annual Fall Charter Dinner: At The Depot Restaurant Oneonta NY.

Guest speaker will be Matt Perry, well known and popular presenter. 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*. Reservations and information will be in our September newsletter and on our website at doas.us.

October 20 – Board Meeting

November

November 20 – Program: Presentation by Will Pryor, Director of the Wolf Mountain Nature Center.



www.facebook.com/DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety

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.

Make 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: _____

View membership benefits and download application from our website: doas.us/join-us/



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www.doas.us

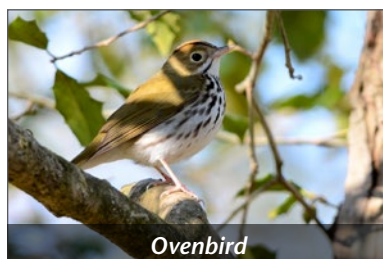
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April-May Bird Sightings

Nearly two years ago my husband and I were returning home from NYC when we noticed our backyard birdfeeder which sat atop a two inch thick pole, had been bent over and raided by a bear. We never replaced the feeder. I recently put up a simple black oil seed feeder and within a matter of minutes a colorful array of birds appeared: a rose-breasted grosbeak, a Northern cardinal and a rufous-sided towhee.

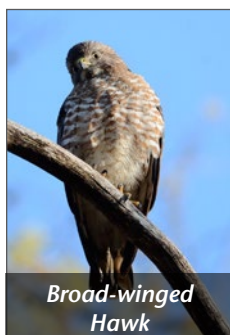
On 4/16 Becky Gretton saw a Louisiana Waterthrush in Springfield and a Broad-winged Hawk returned to Pam



Ovenbird

Peter's hill in Treadwell. Two days later Leslie Preston watched a flitting Yellow-rumped Warbler by Wilber Lake and Pam Peters enjoyed the singing of a Yellow-throated Vireo and watched a Winter Wren near a stream in the Delhi woods. On 4/27 Kathy Mario heard her FOS House Wren in Delhi. On the 29th Pam Peters saw her FOS Eastern Meadowlark and two Swamp Sparrows in Treadwell.

The first of May brought a Baltimore Oriole to Andy Mason's backyard and Eleanor Moriarity had two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at her Davenport Center feeder. The next day while working with an *Into the Streets* group on New Island Charlie Scheim heard several Yellow Warblers and Sandy Bright heard a Black and White Warbler. On that same day Sue Gaynor caught a good look at an Eastern Kingbird, Charlie Scheim saw Chimney Swifts from his Oneonta deck, and Andy Mason saw his FOS Yellow Warbler in some Oneonta willows. The next day was a jackpot birding day. Sue Gaynor saw a Northern Waterthrush and Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers at Pine Lake. Pam Peters



*Broad-winged
Hawk*



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Black-throated Green Warbler



Blackburnian Warbler

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