



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Coming Activities

September

September 15–DOAS Board Mtg
September 18–DOAS Program
September 26–DOAS Open House

October

October 16–Charter Dinner
October 20–DOAS Board Mtg
October 31–Bird Seed Orders Due

November

November 7 – Bird seed pickup
November 17 – DOAS Board
November 20 – DOAS Program

More information on page 11

**DOAS programs are
free & open to the
public**



*Broad-winged Hawk in flight,
Drawing by Dave Kiehm*

Open House at Hawkwatch



New York State Ornithological Association at Hawkwatch, by DOAS

On Saturday, September 26 from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will host an open house at the DOAS Sanctuary on Grange Hall Spur Road, Oneonta. **The event is free and open to the public.** Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Thousands of raptors of 15 species are counted each fall as they concentrate along the ridges overlooking Oneonta during their migration south for the winter months. The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society has operated the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch to survey hawks and eagles migrating past their wildlife sanctuary in the Town of Davenport for over 25 years. Volunteers count hawks, eagles and vultures passing the

site on most days from late August through December. The site is noted for its flights of Golden Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks. In some years, over 200 Golden Eagles and more than 2000 Red-tailed Hawks have been recorded passing the site on their way south. The best flights generally occur on days with north or northwest winds, usually following cold fronts.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

10:00 AM Identifying Flying Hawks
11:00 AM Guided Trail Walk
12:00 PM Family Activity
1:00 PM Optics for Birdwatching

The open house event is designed to be interesting for bird watchers of any age. The Hawkwatch will be staffed through the day..

*President's Message***Changing of the Guard**

As we start off our "Audubon year", there are some changes on the board of directors, with some familiar faces replaced by new ones. With any healthy organization, this has to happen, and though the losses are difficult, we are confident the new additions will fill the big shoes left behind.

Eleanor Moriarty and Julie Smith—both long time directors—have stepped down. Eleanor has done yeoman service for DOAS, serving as Program Chair, where she has arranged many excellent presentations, contacting and following through with speakers. She built up a valuable network of contacts over the years, and we could always count on an interesting and educational third Friday evening. Eleanor also handled our publicity, something of an extension of programs, but also covering field trips, special events and other activities. In addition, she did some outstanding conservation work both through Audubon and other avenues in the battles against hydrofracking and the Constitution Pipeline. I doubt even Eleanor can remember all the meetings, hearings and marches she has attended. Personally though, I think Eleanor's finest hours were organizing our Birds, Brunch and Beer events. These successful fundraisers took an incredible amount of preparation, coordination, and hands-on work at the events themselves. I was skeptical about the events, but glad to be proven wrong when Eleanor pulled off terrific days at Ommegang! Julie Smith was a steadying influence on our board, and served as our historian, organizing a rather neglected collection of news articles, photos and other items from years ago into a set of readable and usable record books that are an invaluable resource. Julie kept these up during her tenure, and fortunately for us, has agreed to continue with this job. Julie also wrote board member columns for *The Kingfisher*, helped out with the Charter Dinner and Open House, and was a regular field trip participant.

We thank Eleanor and Julie for their service to DOAS. They both are committed to birds and the natural world, and we and the environment are better off for their work.

Our incoming directors are Kevin Hodne and Janet Potter, both new to DOAS leadership, and both bright, thoughtful people who will bring fresh perspectives and ideas. Kevin has a long resume as an educator, elected official, and head of a successful non-profit. He has extensive experience in grant writing and we have already called upon those talents in seeking funding for our non-toxic ammunition efforts.

Janet is retired from the State University at Oneonta, where she served as director of the James M. Milne Library. She has also been active with the (continued on p.3)



New DOAS Director, Kevin Hodne

**THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO
AUDUBON SOCIETY**
FOUNDED 1968

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
Janet Potter/Susan O'Handley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Co-Presidents Becky Gretton
 Andrew Mason
 Susan O'Handley
Treasurer Charlie Scheim
Secretary Dorian Huneke

Bob Donnelly
Julia Gregory
Kevin Hodne
Janet Potter
Stephen Rice
Joe Richardson
Tom Salo

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS* AND
OTHER ASSIGNMENTS**

Conservation*:	Andy Mason
Education*:	Susan O'Handley
Field Trips*:	Bob Donnelly
Hawk Watch*:	Andrew Mason
	Tom Salo
Hospitality*:	Julia Gregory
Membership*:	Andy Mason
Programs*:	Vacant
Publicity*:	Susan O'Handley
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

Constitution Pipeline—still facing challenge—

The Constitution Pipeline is not yet a done deal, despite the company's claims. This 124 mile project would carry fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania through our region to connect with an existing line in Schoharie County.

Along the way it would cut broad swaths through forests, and disturb streams and wetlands, negatively impacting important bird habitat, and affecting humans and wildlife alike.

The pipeline company has acquired land by eminent domain—taking property from landowners whether they object or not. This power has been granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), saying the project is for the 'public good'. In fact, it is clear that the gas is not needed in the northeast, and that it is likely ultimately headed overseas, where prices and demand is higher. In addition to the environmental devastation from pipeline construction, leakage of methane—a potent greenhouse gas—from wells and pipelines, will exacerbate climate change rather than lessen it, as pipeline promoters claim.

The NY State Dep't. of Environmental Conservation is considering whether to give Constitution needed water quality and air quality permits. The state is showing increasing reluctance to do this, and there is now a call for DEC and Gov. Andrew Cuomo to put all pipeline projects on hold until a comprehensive study of all pipelines through the state can be carried out. Already a second line paralleling Constitution is in the regulatory process, and this one has the added threat of a large compressor in the Town of Franklin.

What you can do—Contact Gov. Cuomo ASAP and ask him to put a halt to all pipelines in the state and require a full cumulative review of the environmental and social impacts of these mega-projects. (Executive Chambers, Albany, NY 12224; 518-474-8390; gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us. You can also send a prepared email to the Governor and acting DEC Commissioner via www.catskillmountainkeeper.org.

Ban plastic shopping bags in NY—There is a growing move in NY State to join other municipalities in banning single-use plastic bags. Americans throw away over 100 billion bags per year, the great majority of which are made from fossil fuels. This requires the use of 2.2 billion pounds of fossil fuel and 3.9 billion gallons of fresh water while creating 1 billion pounds of solid waste and 2.7 million tons of carbon dioxide.

Plastic bags clog landfills, oceans and waterways. Researchers estimate that plastic bags take anywhere from

500-1,000 years to break down into smaller pieces. The bits of plastic are consumed by animals who mistake it for food, and toxics work their way up the food chain.

Hawaii has implemented a ban on single-use plastic bags and more states are working to pass the same legislation. Meanwhile, municipalities across the country are passing bans on disposable plastic bags. In New York, Hastings-on-Hudson in Westchester County and East Hampton and Southampton on Long Island have all banned their use. A statewide ban is needed to bring these protections to all NYers.

What you can do—contact Gov. Cuomo (info above), as well as your state legislators, and urge them to work for a plastic bag ban. Point out the environmental dangers from bags, and the savings and benefits of not making and using them. Sign the petition at www.eany.org to call for a ban.

Andy Mason

Changing of the Guard (continued from p.2)

Greater Oneonta Historical Society. A regular attendee at DOAS programs, field trips, and the Hawkwatch, Janet has a growing knowledge of birds. She has jumped right into the fray, taking over editorship of this newsletter!

Also in leadership news, I am pleased to announce that we are back to a triumvirate for the DOAS presidency. Becky Gretton joins Susan O'Handley and me in sharing this job for the coming year. Becky had served

as Secretary, and that position will be filled by Dorian Huneke. I know Becky will handle being Co-President with aplomb and will be a big help to Susan and me in keeping the organization running smoothly. We welcome our new additions and bid a grateful adieu to those departing. DOAS heads towards its 50th anniversary in strong hands!

--Andy Mason



New DOAS Director, Janet Potter

The Maine Meeting of the Eastern Golden Eagle Working Group

Tom Salo and I attended the biennial meeting of the EGEWG from July 8-12. Hosted by Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Rangeley, Maine for nearly 3 dozen eagle researchers, the gathering was a combination of presentations, including important work in the areas of lead contamination and habitat usage, and field trips to historic GOEA ayrie sites in both Maine and nearby New Hampshire. Most attendees were from state and federal environmental agencies, 2 were from New Hampshire's State Audubon Society; Tom and I represented New York State. We noted the importance that agencies from other states are assigning to this species.

Of special interest was the presentation from Canadian Wildlife officials highlighting the summer habits and movements of GOEA along with challenges they face. Vince Slabe, a graduate student who is working on lead issues, will be an important connection as we continue our non-lead ammo educational efforts.

This was a significant opportunity for Tom to reconnect with Todd Katzner and Trish Miller, for me to meet them, and for us to connect and network with other researchers.

A new project DOAS agreed to take on is a roost tree study, which will involve physically locating 10 roost trees identified on the West Virginia University research team's telemetry maps, recording tree and surrounding environment data, and collecting any pellets that are found.

The State of Maine not only hosted the conference, but secured a grant to provide much appreciated accommodations and food, including the lobster-claw finale. This collaborative conference was well worth the 7 hour drive (each way). Future meetings will be held in the south, then in Quebec, and we have offered to host the 2020 event in New York State.



The group is shown during a field trip to a wind farm. Peg standing far left. Tom kneeling center second row. Dr. Todd Katzner stands above all others in the red shirt. Photo by Craig Koppie. Al Hicks, NYSDEC

Peg DiBenedetto

Certified Shade Grown Coffee - Ask about Our Coffee Club for Monthly Deliveries!

Try 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.

Available whole bean or ground.

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



Scarlet Tanager, French Roast, a bold, intense, smooth coffee from co-op farms. Grown by farm families dedicated to providing us with great coffee and their children with a better eco-system. Fair-Trade, USDA Organic, Smithsonian 'Bird Friendly®' certifications.



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Medium Roast is grown on model organic farms in Nicaragua. Fair-Trade, USDA Organic and Smithsonian 'Bird Friendly®' certifications.



American Redstart, Light Roast, smooth and flavorful. Fair-Trade, USDA Organic and Smithsonian 'Bird Friendly®' certifications. The 'Official Coffee' of International Migratory Bird Day. (12oz bags only).



Wood Thrush, Breakfast Roast, a delicate, complex full flavor coffee from one of the best run farms in Latin America. Coffee grown 100% ecologically, as it was 100 years ago, protecting nature, with no chemicals, using natural fertilizers and spring water, and under shade on high altitude. Direct Trade, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center 'Bird Friendly®', USDA Organic certifications.



Baltimore Oriole, French Roast DeCaf, a Smithsonian certified 'Bird Friendly®' coffee, which is also USDA Organic and Fair-Trade certified – water process decaffeination.

2015 DOAS Bird Seed Sale 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!

ORDER DEADLINE:

October 31, 2015 - 5pm

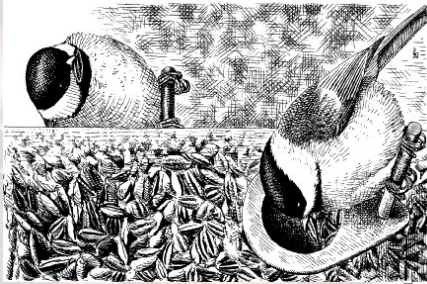


ORDER PICK UP DATE:

Saturday, November 7, 9am-11am
Walmart Parking Lot, Oneonta NY

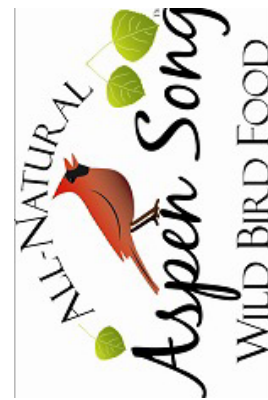
How it Works

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, 2015. (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.



Featuring Products from Aspen Song

Aspen Song mixes have been designed to provide the best possible nutrition with the broadest possible appeal to your backyard visitors. Great, but does it make a difference? ABSOLUTELY! Why? A healthy diet is a matter of survival for songbirds. They innately seek food sources that provide needed energy, and balance their nutritional needs. They are free to choose where they find these essentials. Most of their diet comes from natural sources. The best way to get them to choose YOUR feeder is to satisfy their nutrition requirements with ASPEN SONG. Aspen Song has mixes formulated for the broadest appeal to seed eating birds and mixes designed for specific bird groups. For more information, bird feeding tips, a bird photo gallery and more visit www.aspensong.com.



NAME:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
PHONE NUMBER:	
PAYMENT TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$	

PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS	Quantity	Price each	Total
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 - \$20	_____	30 LB @\$20	\$_____
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 - \$22/40 LB. BAG - \$41	_____	20 LB @\$22 40 LB @\$41	\$_____ \$_____
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 - \$21/40 LB. BAG - \$39	_____	20 LB @\$21 40 LB @39	\$_____ \$_____
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 - \$16/40 LB. BAG - \$29	_____	20 LB @ \$16 40 LB @ \$29	\$_____ \$_____
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. 20 LB. BAG - \$35	_____	20 LB @ \$35	\$_____
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-cripped Corn, Shelled Pumpkin Seeds, Raisins, Dehydrated Cherries, Dried Cranberries and Dried Blueberries. 20 LB. BAG - \$38	_____	20 LB @\$38	\$_____
Nyjer Seed - To primarily attract finches, siskin & redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports. 25 LB. BAG - \$49	_____	25 LB @ \$49	\$_____
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. Nut & Fruit 11 oz.. (SINGLES - \$2.5 EA. OR CASE OF 12 - \$24) / Hi Energy 12 oz. (SINGLES - \$2 EA. OR CASE OF 12 - \$18	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	N/F \$2.50 EA N/F \$24 (12) H/E \$2 EA H/E \$18 (12)	\$_____ \$_____ \$_____ \$_____
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	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Breakfast \$12 Light \$12 Medium \$12 French \$12 DECAF \$13	\$_____ \$_____ \$_____ \$_____ \$_____
DOAS Membership (1 year): \$15 Individual or \$20 Family DOAS Membership (2 year): \$25 Individual or \$30 Family	_____		\$_____
Would you like to include an additional donation to support DOAS Program? Enter amount.	_____		\$_____
TOTAL (Please enclose check for total amount made out to DOAS with 2015 Bird Seed Sale in memo section)			\$_____

Clark Foundation Donates Nest Boxes for DOAS Properties

During the endless winter, thoughts turned to nesting at the Clark Foundation's Mohican Farm in the town of Springfield. Three wood duck and three American kestrel nest boxes were constructed, and one of each was donated to DOAS. They are installed at the Burlington and Franklin Mountain properties. Notably, twelve bluebird boxes are maintained annually at Mohican Farm, and the four new boxes were installed this spring. Thanks go out from DOAS to Bob Sutherland and his Clark Foundation crew.

Becky Gretton



Wood Duck, Photo by DAVID ILIFF. License: CC-BY-SA 3.0

2015 Enrollment for DOAS Summer Camp Triples



July Session Campers & Staff, joined by Andy Mason, DOAS Co-President. Photo by M. Gigandet



DOAS Camp Staff: Allison Homler, Hartwick College Intern & Camp Assistant; Skylar Collins, Oneonta HS Junior Counselor; Megan Gigandet, DOAS Summer Camp Director.



August Session Campers & Staff. Photo by M. Gigandet

The John G. New Audubon Summer Day Camp at the DOAS Sanctuary ran for two sessions this summer with a four-day program in July for children entering grades 3 and 4 and a four-day program in August for children entering grades 5 and 6. Children came to the camp from areas throughout the region including: Treadwell, Worcester, Unadilla, Oneonta, Edmeston, Hamden, Delhi, East Meredith and even Bronx, NY for the outdoor program led by DOAS Camp Director, Megan Gigandet. "Megan has done an outstanding job leading the Camp Program - her enthusiasm is infectious and her passion for working with children is evident in everything she does", according to Susan O'Handley, DOAS Co-President and Education Chair.

The program ran successfully for over twenty years and took an eight-year hiatus when enrollments for the program began to drop. The DOAS Board made the decision to revive the program in 2013 as part of the organization's goals to continue and expand outreach to youth audiences. "The boost in enrollment for the program is very

encouraging. It is wonderful to see children participating in the program who are inspired by the natural world and enthusiastic to learn more while spending much-needed time in the outdoors", said O'Handley. Both sessions were full groups, with 12-14 children participating in each session.

The DOAS Camp Scholarship Fund, made possible through tax-deductible donations made by members and friends, allowed for rate negotiations for families who might not have been able to send their child or children to the program. Full and partial scholarships were made available to participants on an as needed basis and no one was turned away. Donations are needed for the 2016 program and can be mailed to DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820 (please note Camp Scholarship Fund in the memo). For more information about camp, or to sign up for DOAS News and Announcements, please visit the website at <http://doas.us> or call Susan O'Handley at 607-643-5680.

Honoring the Spirit of the Wolf

The Wolf Mountain Nature Center in Smyrna, NY will host their annual fall festival, *Honoring the Spirit of the Wolf* on Sunday, October 11, 2015, from noon to 4pm. Admission is free for children 5 and under; \$5 per person ages 6 and up.

Highlights of the day include the following:

Wolf Program; Arctic Fox Program; Tipi Program; Native American Dancing and Drumming; Pumpkin carving demo; Log carving demo; Vendors, face painting, storytelling, and more



*Dancing Turtle at Wolf Mountain,
Photo by Wolf Mountain Nature Center*

For directions and more information, go to www.thewolfmountainnaturecenter.org/visitor-information.html or call 607-627-6784.

NOTE: See November Program for DOAS Program with Will Pryor, Wolf Mountain (p 11).



*The crew standing in front of the beaver impoundment surrounded by dead buckthorn.
Photo by Caitlynn Adams.*

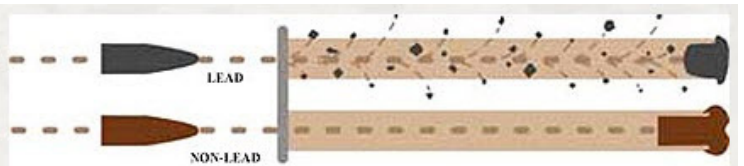
Invasive Species Removal From Burlington Property

The Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps - an Americorp group based in Norwich - spent 2 days this summer removing invasive species from our Burlington wetland property. Glossy buckthorn had quickly filled in areas opened by the beavers thus repressing the growth of native vegetation. The removal of the buckthorn, along with some invasive honeysuckle, will allow natural regeneration of native species.

Thank You To The Otsego County Federation Of Sportsmen

The Otsego County Federation of Sportsmen provided space for our Alternatives to Lead Ammunition display at the Otsego County Fair. We are confident that some of the 31,000 attendees benefited from the display. The DOAS board thanks the Otsego County Federation for helping us educate hunters on this issue. We also thank volunteer Michael DiBenedetto for his time and continued efforts on behalf of this issue.

Non-lead bullet (bottom) doesn't fragment like the lead bullet (top)



Hawkwatch Underway

The Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch kicked off its 27th season on August 25. The Hawkwatch, located on the DOAS Sanctuary off Grange Hall Spur Rd., will continue into early January, covering portions of 6 months, one of the longest seasons of any raptor migration site.

Last year, 4978 hawks were tallied during 643 hours of coverage over 109 dates—all volunteer effort. Fifteen different species were sighted, with 1842 Broad-winged Hawks and 1523 Red-tailed Hawks leading the totals. In addition, 146 Golden Eagles and 174 Bald Eagles were spotted.

The first big push of migrating hawks comes during the middle two weeks of September as Broad-winged Hawks gather into flocks for their long journey to South America. This is the most concentrated flight of any raptor species, with typically 3 or 4 big days making up the bulk of the count. Last year's biggest day was 427 broad-wings on Sept. 17. Seeing a large flock or "kettle" of these birds is a great sight.

Visitors and spotters are always welcome at the hawkwatch. We are particularly seeking individuals looking to become counters, to enable us to continue full coverage at the lookout. 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.franklinmt.org 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.

NYSOA Meeting Oct. 2-4

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club will host the 2015 Annual Meeting of the NY State Ornithological Assoc. and New York State Birders Conference in Albany, New York, October 2-4, 2015. The weekend will feature keynote speaker author Jon L. Dunn, along with field trips, scientific paper session, workshops, a reception at the NY State Museum and a backstage tour of the museum's bird collection.

This is an opportunity to connect with birders from around the state, and explore some bird hotspots. Information on the meeting, including registration details, is available at www.hmbc.net/nysoa/.



Warbler Carvings by Roger Foote, New Berlin

September DOAS Program

After our three month summer hiatus, we are pleased to begin our monthly programs again with bird carver Roger Foote of New Berlin speaking about and displaying his fine work. Roger is a retired school teacher who learned his craft from world class carvers and has created over 1500 birds in his career, winning blue ribbons and other awards along the way.

The program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, in the Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., in Oneonta. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you!

Annual Charter Dinner – October 16, 2015

The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will be holding their annual Charter Dinner on Friday, October 16, 2015 at the Depot restaurant at 4 1/2 Railroad Ave. in Oneonta. A social hour begins at 5:30, buffet at 6:30, and the program at 7:30pm. The program portion of the evening is free and open to the public.

This year's speaker is Matt Perry, the Conservation Director and Resident Naturalist for Spring Farm CARES in Clinton, NY where he oversees habitat restoration projects at the 260 acre nature preserve. Matt writes a monthly nature article for the Mohawk Valley Living Magazine and is the Region 5 editor for the Kingbird, which is the quarterly journal of the NY State Ornithological Association.

Matt is the Project coordinator for the Utica Peregrine Falcon Project, and his program, "The Peregrine Falcon Experience" will feature pictures and video of the first ever successful nest of Peregrine Falcons in Utica and Oneida County. Perry will shed light on the fascinating lives of these urban dwelling raptors. He'll explain how the species bounced back from the brink of extinction to become a fixture in urban "canyons" across the State. The Peregrine is famous for being the fastest bird in the world, but there is much more to know about their complex lives. It promises to be an excellent program!



Peregrine falcon, Utica, NY; Photo by Spring Farm Cares Nature Sanctuary

The cost for the evening is \$25 per person. Reservations **MUST** be made by Oct. 10, 2015 by calling 607-563-2924 or by mailing payment by check with the form below to Julia Gregory, PO Box 641, Unadilla, NY 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. Individual memberships are \$15 per year or \$25 for two years; family memberships are \$20 per year or \$30 for two years—a membership form is on the facing page.
- Your mailing label will inform you of your membership status: an L indicates a local member, with expiration date (year and month, e.g. '1511' indicates November 2015); 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 15 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

September 18 – DOAS Public Program: World class, award-winning carver of over 1500 birds, Roger Foote will speak about his craft and display some featured pieces. (details on p. 9) 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 Susan O’Handley at (607) 643-5680 or email sjohandley@gmail.com.

September 26 – Open House at Hawkwatch: Hours are 10 AM - 2 PM. 52 Grange Hall Rd. Spur, Oneonta, NY Includes a beginner’s Raptor ID workshop, a trail walk a family program and a presentation on optics for birdwatching.. See cover for details.

October

October 16 – DOAS Annual Charter Dinner – 5:30-9 PM at the Depot Restaurant. See details on page 10.

October 20– DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

October 31–Bird Seed Orders Due– Be sure to get your bird seed order in by October 31st. Order form on page 6.

November

November 7 – Bird Seed Pick Up Day: Walmart parking lot, Oneonta, 9-11 AM. See order form on p. 5 & 6.

November 20 – DOAS Public Program:

Will Pryor founder, head animal curator and ecologist for The Wolf Mountain Nature Center will present on wolves, coyotes and arctic foxes who are the residents at the nature center.

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 Susan O’Handley at (607) 643-5680 or email sjohandley@gmail.com.



*Arctic Foxes,
Photo by Wolf Mountain Nature
Center, Smyrna, NY*

DOAS Officers for 2015-2016

The Board elected its officers for the 2015-2016 term. They are: Becky Gretton, Andy Mason, Susan O’Handley - Co Presidents; Dorian Huneke - Secretary; and Charlie Scheim - Treasurer.



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DOAS Membership Application

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

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Summer Bird Sightings

Highlights from July: Deciding to stop at her favorite Oneonta birding spot, Leslie Preston “pished up” (the noise you make to try to get a bird’s attention because it supposedly sounds as if another bird is going to attack its nest) a pair of American Redstarts, a Red-eyed Vireo, a curious Common Yellowthroat and a nosy Song Sparrow. Out and about in Cooperstown Becky Gretton listened intently for the tinkling trill of a Winter Wren without any luck, but she was delighted to track down an Upland Sandpiper and an American Bittern. The Winter Wren has made some appearances. Sue Gaynor has had one in the ravine across from her East Meredith house every year and Charlie Scheim and Sandy Bright have seen them in Hamden and Milford. A Red-shouldered Hawk flew over Tom Salo’s W. Burlington home, a not very common sight for him. Elsie Myers

often saw a Belted Kingfisher perched on the wires overlooking Charlotte Creek in Davenport. Charlie Scheim, while at his golf course in Laurens, often heard begging juvenile Broad-winged Hawks. He didn’t say if this helped or hurt his game. Sandy Bright had very active Ruby-throated Hummingbirds this summer at her Oneonta home. One chased a House Sparrow out of a tree and then was in hot pursuit of a fellow hummingbird. During one dinnertime, a male entertained with a dazzling courtship display. She also



Ruby-throated hummingbird, Photo by Jamie Chavez, Creative Commons

believes she saw a juvenile based on its deer-in-the-headlights aura while flying and perching to view the world around it. Dennis Fowler of Otego has also enjoyed the aerial ballet of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and thinks he has three nesting pairs in the vicinity. While tedding hay on the big 30 acre hill of her Treadwell farm, Dorian Huneke was joined first by a Common Raven, disturbed a pair of adult Red-tailed Hawks and spotted an American Kestrel. Out of nowhere one of her nesting Bald Eagles joined the gang. What a great show!

If you have bird sightings to report, contact me 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.

Dianne Benko