



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

COMING ACTIVITIES

September

September 1– Bird Seed Sale Begins

September 15– Program, Coyotes

September 19–DOAS Board Mtg

October

October 7 – Sanctuary Open House

October 17–DOAS Board Mtg

October 20 – DOAS Annual Charter Dinner and Keynote by Joan Collins, “Boreal Birds of the Adirondacks”

October 28 Bird Seed Order Deadline

November

November 4– Bird Seed Sale Pickup

November 17– Program , Photographer Rick Bunting, “On Heron Time”

December

December 5–DOAS Board Mtg

More information on page 11

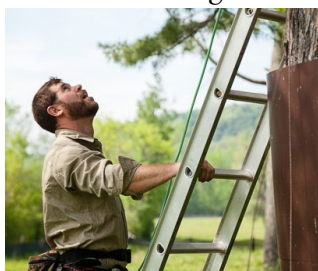
**DOAS PROGRAMS
ARE FREE & OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

September Program—Coyotes of Eastern New York

Join us for a program about Coyotes of Eastern New York on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 7:30 PM. Coyote sightings are typically on the increase in late summer through early fall, with coyotes having more mouths to feed and the ability to adapt to many environments.

Michael Clark, Department of Environmental Conservation Region Four Wildlife Manager, will enlighten us about these fascinating mammals, drawing on his vast experience in the field.

Michael is based out of both the Stamford and Schenectady offices. He oversees and is responsible for all wildlife related work, staff and issues that occur throughout the nine counties of Region Four. He represents



Mike Clark checking eagle nest near Lake Otsego
Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

the region on the DEC's state-wide Bureau Management team and works closely with all of the region's Wildlife Biologists, Technicians and Foresters to make sure that the Bureau of Wildlife's mission is carried out.

Mike Clark attended SUNY Cobleskill and received his AAS degree

in Fisheries and Wildlife

“Coyotes” Continued to page 4



Bird Seed Sale

The DOAS Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser is your opportunity to buy quality bird seed and help support DOAS programs at the same time! Proceeds from this sale support speaker fees for member meetings, field trips, programs and special events throughout the year, summer camp programs and the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch. We encourage you to stock up for the winter months ahead and thank you in advance for your support! Order form is on pages 5 - 6.

President's Message—50th Anniversary

by Co-president Andy Mason

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, a milestone certainly worth celebrating. Over the past year, Susan O'Handley, Eleanor Moriarty and others have posted on the DOAS Facebook page weekly items gleaned from *The Belted Kingfisher* and other sources that bring back memories of past field trips, programs, environmental issues and much more.

In perusing the old newsletters and records, it is rather amazing the breadth and depth of the activities our Chapter has been involved in over the past five decades. We have consistently monitored bird numbers, stood up for bird protection, taken people out in the field to view birds, displayed bird photos and art, presented programs and research on bird life, taught children about birds, and even brought live birds to amaze us with their beauty. All these are what would be expected from an active Audubon group.

But we also have had a broader view, knowing that aspects of environmental protection not directly connected to birds are nonetheless critical to their well-being—and ours. Over the years, we have been involved in solid waste issues, human population, clean air and water, land use, recreation, energy issues, wilderness, politics, oceans, tropical rainforests, just to



name a few.

We have taken on threats to distant lands, such as John New's early work to protect the Alaska wilderness—still a live issue, the Florida Everglades and the James Bay region of Canada. Plus we have followed that old environmental saying, "Think globally, act locally" in efforts to protect Susquehanna river bottom forest from development, stopping our local state forests from being overrun by ATVs, and encouraging alternative energy use.

This good work and much, much more has been carried out by a cadre of committed conservationists, educators, birders, naturalists and just concerned citizens who have all been a part of DOAS at some time over all these years. I feel honored to have worked alongside many of these individuals—all of whom "get it" when it comes to protecting and preserving our natural world.

Please join us at a special celebration of our 50 years at this fall's Charter Dinner. We have invited as many past DOAS leaders as we could find to join us to reminisce and to receive our thanks for their efforts in making our Chapter an effective voice for conservation in the community and beyond.

See page 7 for article and registration form for the Charter Dinner.

THE DELAWARE - OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1968

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Janet Potter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Kathryn Davino
Bob Donnelly
Julia Gregory
Janet Potter
Tom Salo
Rod Sutton
One Vacancy

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*:	Becky Gretton
Publicity*:	Susan O'Handley
Sanctuary*:	Andrew Mason
Bird Counts:	Sandy Bright
Charter Dinner:	Julia Gregory
Finance:	Gray Mason
Historian:	Kathryn Davino
Sales:	Vacant

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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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

Great news on the Constitution

Pipeline—In mid-August, the federal Court of Appeals rejected a lawsuit brought by the company attempting to build the 121-mile Constitution Pipeline across New York and Pennsylvania. The lawsuit opposed the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation's decision to deny the company a water quality permit for its numerous stream and wetland crossings for the pipeline. The court upheld and affirmed DEC's authority to make this determination, which essentially stops the project in its tracks.

DOAS has been involved in legal action regarding the pipeline, going to court along with other environmental organizations appealing the federal government's earlier decision that the project was in the public interest and giving the company the power of eminent domain. Our effort was on hold while the Court of Appeals considered the DEC permit, and likely now will not need to be heard.

The pipeline company can still appeal the decision, and there are rumors that it has approached the Trump administration to do an end run around DEC by having the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission OK the project without NY's approval. However, that would entail breaking new legal ground and changing long-standing precedent.

It is also possible the company may step away from the environmentally-destructive route it is seeking and choose a path along an existing right-of-way such as I-88 or another pipeline.

Nearby wind project could threaten eagles—A large-scale wind project proposed for eastern Broome County could pose a significant danger to eagles and other raptors that nest, winter and migrate through the area. Bluestone Wind, a subsidiary of energy developer Calpine Corporation, plans to build a 30-40 turbine facility generating 125 megawatts of electricity in the Towns of Sanford and Windsor, west of the Cannonsville Reservoir.

Our Audubon Chapter is familiar with the presence of raptors in and near the project area. Cannonsville Reservoir and the West Branch of the Delaware River harbor among the highest densities of breeding and wintering Bald Eagles in NY State and the northeast. Typically over thirty eagles



Pax Ahimsa Gethen/Wikimedia Commons

are viewed on our annual winter field trip to this area. In addition, decades of monitoring eagles in lower Delaware County and adjoining areas by the DEC and others show a large and growing population.

The project area is also southwest of our Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch which annually records 150-200 Bald Eagles and over 150 Golden Eagles. Fall raptor

migratory routes generally flow to the southwest, directly toward this area. In the spring of 2009, we conducted a raptor survey approximately ten miles east of the project location and recorded a total of 100 Bald and Golden Eagles in nine days of counting.

There is also strong evidence from Golden Eagles fitted with GPS transmitters, including by DOAS, that the turbine area is a significant concentration point for these birds during migration. Golden Eagles, which migrate relatively low, are at particular risk from tall wind towers.

We have met with representatives of Bluestone Wind to discuss our concerns; however it appears that the raptor studies they have conducted are not adequate to gain a true picture of the presence of eagles and other birds in the project area. In addition, they have not considered the compelling evidence that this is a location heavily used by the birds.

What you can do—There is a public scoping comment period through September 8 on issues the company should study and consider in preparing an environmental impact statement. Please ask the company and the state Public Service Commission to ensure that two full years of avian studies, including raptor surveys, are carried out before the environmental review is considered complete. Also stress that the abundance of existing information on the presence of eagles in the project area be given adequate weight in planning studies.

Comments can be submitted at: <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=16-F-0559&submit=Search>; or mailed to Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary to the Commission, NYS Public Service Commission, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223-1350.

Andy Mason

“Coyotes” Continued to page 4 Technology, and then started working as a seasonal wildlife technician out of the NYS DEC’s Central Office working on Endangered Species, waterfowl, and big game. After a few years he realized that he would need at least a bachelor’s degree to pursue his career goals of becoming a Wildlife Biologist. So, he then went back to SUNY Cobleskill and completed his BT in Wildlife Management. A couple of years later he was promoted to Wildlife Biologist based out of DEC’s Region One working as the region’s deer biologist as well as working with the state endangered Tiger Salamander. Four years later Mike took a transfer to the DEC Region Four where he was the Regional Sportsman Education Coordinator and Furbearer Biologist, as well as land

manager for two wildlife management areas. In April of 2016, after working in the region for 6 years, he was promoted to Region Four Wildlife Manager.

As the Wildlife Manager, based out of both the Stamford and Schenectady offices, Mike oversees and is responsible for all wildlife related work, staff, and issues that occur throughout the nine counties of Region Four. He represents the region on the DEC’s state-wide Bureau Management team and works closely with all of the region’s Wildlife Biologist, Technicians, and Foresters to make sure that the Bureau of Wildlife’s mission is carried out.

The program is at the Elm Street Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY. The public is invited.

DOAS Officers Elected

The Board met in August and elected officers for the 2017-2018 term. They are: Becky Gretton, Andy Mason, Susan O’Handley--Co-Presidents; Dorian Huneke--Secretary; and Charlie Scheim--Treasurer.

Welcome to the DOAS Board



Introducing Rod Sutton, elected to the Board for a two-year term at the May meeting:

“I enjoyed observing nature at a young age. I dreamed of becoming a wildlife biologist with a focus on herpetology.

One of my first jobs was

at Rogers Environmental Conservation Center in Sherburne, NY. There I had the opportunity to feed a variety of hatchery animals including ducks and geese. Reorganizing their reference library was most rewarding, as I spent more time reading than organizing. My life found its own path, leading me to pursue a career

in advertising, industrial, and commercial photography. With 20 years of experience in the field, I accepted a teaching position with DCMO BOCES in 1993 to start a new academic program in Visual Communications. After 10 years in the classroom, I moved to a position as Coordinator of Instructional Technology. I retired from BOCES in 2012.

Blending my abilities as a photographer and teacher with my appreciation for nature and wildlife, I now dedicate my time to studying and photographing animals in their natural habitats. I also teach photography workshops and present programs, primarily to children; on reptiles and amphibians and their place in the environment.”

Gladys Rayher, 1922-2017

Gladys Rayher, former DOAS Director, passed away on July 31, 2017 in Oneonta. Gladys was a thoughtful and steady presence on the board and had a particular interest in the DOAS Sanctuary, as well as conservation issues. A native Canadian, she worked with others in our Chapter in the effort to halt electricity imports to NY State from hydropower facilities in Quebec that would destroy bird habitat and impact First Nation peoples.

Gladys had a successful career as a nurse, including serving as a supervising nurse at A.O. Fox Hospital.

Our condolences go to the Rayher family.



2017 Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser Order Form

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Email Address _____
 Phone number _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

ORDER DEADLINE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 5PM

PRODUCT PICK UP - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 9AM-11AM

At Walmart Parking Lot, Route 23 (Southside), Oneonta, NY (just off I-88 at Exit 15)

PRODUCTS - BIRD SEED

Featuring products from Aspen Song - All Natural Wild Bird Food. Aspen Song mixes are designed to provide the best possible nutrition with the broadest possible appeal to your backyard visitors.

Black Oil Sunflower 20 lb bag

The soft seed hulls allow the food value of the nutmeat to be easily accessed by all of the seed-eating birds. This is the best single ingredient choice for attracting the most colorful songbirds.

Ultimate Blend 20 lb bag

Ultimate Blend 40 lb bag

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.

Premium Blend 20 lb bag

Premium Blend 40 lb bag

Includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Safflower, Canola, Small Yellow Millet, Canary Seed, Nyjer Seed and Dehydrated Cherries.

Choice Blend 20 lb bag

Choice Blend 40 lb bag

Over 30% Sunflowers & Peanuts and includes White Proso Millet, Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Safflower and Black Stripe Sunflower.

Just Desserts 20 lb bag

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.

Nut & Fruit Woodpecker Blend 20 lb bag

Shell-less mix for woodpeckers and wire mesh tube feeders. Mix includes Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sunflower Kernels, Steamed-crimped Corn, Shelled Pumpkin Seeds, Raisins, Dehydrated Cherries, Dried Cranberries & Dried Blueberries.

Nyjer Seed 25 lb bag

Nyjer Seed 4 lb bag

To primarily attract finches, siskin & redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports. The 4 lb. option is custom bagged by DOAS for those who prefer smaller quantities.

Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (SINGLES)

Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)

Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (SINGLES)

Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)

	Quantity	Price Per	Total
Black Oil Sunflower 20 lb bag	_____	\$16	\$ _____
Ultimate Blend 20 lb bag	_____	\$22	\$ _____
Ultimate Blend 40 lb bag	_____	\$40	\$ _____
Premium Blend 20 lb bag	_____	\$21	\$ _____
Premium Blend 40 lb bag	_____	\$34	\$ _____
Choice Blend 20 lb bag	_____	\$17	\$ _____
Choice Blend 40 lb bag	_____	\$26	\$ _____
Just Desserts 20 lb bag	_____	\$44	\$ _____
Nut & Fruit Woodpecker Blend 20 lb bag	_____	\$50	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed 25 lb bag	_____	\$46	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed 4 lb bag	_____	\$ 8	\$ _____
Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (SINGLES)	_____	\$2.50	\$ _____
Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)	_____	\$25	\$ _____
Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (SINGLES)	_____	\$ 2	\$ _____
Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)	_____	\$20	\$ _____

PRODUCTS - BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE

Featuring products from Birds and Beans - Triple Certified - Shade grown Smithsonian certified 'Bird Friendly®' coffee, which is also USDA Organic and Fair-Trade certified.

Wood Thrush - Breakfast Roast Coffee

12 oz bag - Ground

12 oz bag - Whole Bean

2 lb. bag - Ground

2 lb bag - Whole Bean

This blend has a mild flavor with sweet mango citrus notes, a light body and fragrant aroma - a delightful coffee.

American Redstart - Light Roast Coffee

12 oz bag - Ground

12 oz bag - Whole Bean

2 lb bag - Ground

2 lb bag - Whole Bean

From farmers Asociación Guaya'b in the Huehuetenango region of Guatemala, smooth and full-bodied with heavy notes of cocoa and walnuts. The acidity is mellow and reminiscent of red apples.

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

	Quantity	Price Per	Total
Chestnut Sided Warbler - Medium Roast Coffee			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$26	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<i>From farmers co-op UCA del Río Coco in the Northern Nicaraguan Highlands, shows black cherry, raisin, cranberry, brown sugar and roasted chestnut in the cup.</i>			

Scarlet Tanager - Dark/French Roast Coffee			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$12.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$26	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$26	\$ _____
<i>From farmers co-op La Florida, high in the Andes in Peru, this is a smooth and creamy blend with savory sweetness of chocolate, caramel and almond.</i>			

NEW Kingbird - Espresso Roast Coffee			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$28	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$28	\$ _____
<i>This roast is a wonderful coffee - balanced, sweet, somewhat bright with good body, with dominant Mandarin orange on the aroma, nutty sweet toffee, clean in the cup.</i>			

DECAF - Baltimore Oriole - French Roast Coffee			
12 oz bag - Ground	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
12 oz bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$13.50	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Ground	_____	\$28	\$ _____
2 lb bag - Whole Bean	_____	\$28	\$ _____
<i>A delicious high quality decaf blend produced with water process caffeine extraction.</i>			

PRODUCTS - DOAS

DOAS Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Tee Shirt Small	_____	\$12	\$ _____
DOAS Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Tee Shirt Medium	_____	\$12	\$ _____
DOAS Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Tee Shirt Large	_____	\$12	\$ _____
DOAS Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Tee Shirt XLarge	_____	\$12	\$ _____
Peterson's Field Guide to Hawks of North America	_____	\$22	\$ _____

DOAS Membership (Individual - 1 year)	_____	\$15	\$ _____
DOAS Membership (Individual - 2 years)	_____	\$25	\$ _____
DOAS Membership (Family - 1 year)	_____	\$20	\$ _____
DOAS Membership (Family - 2 years)	_____	\$30	\$ _____
<i>Your membership contribution helps to support our mission to protect and maintain ecological systems, promote wise use and conservation of natural resources, and improve environmental quality. National Audubon membership is separate from local Chapter membership. Please support your local chapter.</i>			

DOAS Additional Donation	Please enter amount	\$ _____
<i>Your donation helps to support the many programs of DOAS throughout the year including public programs, field trips, environmental education grants to area teachers, Hawkwatch at the DOAS Sanctuary at Franklin Mountain, Appalachian Golden Eagle Study, NY Golden Eagle Project, Non-Lead Ammo Initiative and more. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. DOAS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization administered entirely by a volunteer Board of Directors.</i>		

ORDER TOTAL (Remember to include items from both sides)

\$ _____

Please calculate your order total and enter in the area to the right. **Mail this order form with your full payment by check or money order to DOAS, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820 and note BIRD SEED SALE in memo section.** This year, we will send you confirmation by email (if provided) as orders are received. Orders must be received by DOAS by 5pm Saturday, 10/28, so please plan accordingly for mail orders. **TO ORDER BY PHONE,** call Susan O'Handley, DOAS Bird Seed Sale Admin at 607-643-5680. **TO ORDER ONLINE,** please visit DOAS.US/STORE NOTE: Please ensure that you pick up your seed on the pickup day, Saturday, November 4, 9am-11am at Walmart Parking Lot, Oneonta. 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.

Would You Like to Receive DOAS Update Emails?

(DOAS Update Emails are sent monthly (and additionally as needed) and include notification of upcoming DOAS activities, news and events.)

☐ Yes, Please Add Me to DOAS News Email List ☐ I already receive update emails ☐ No, Thank You

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY CHARTER DINNER ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 5:30-9:30pm at Holiday Inn Oneonta.

Tickets are available online at DOAS.us/DOAS-50th-Charter-Dinner.

Annual Charter Dinner, DOAS 50th Anniversary Celebration

2017 marks the end of our 50th year! Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society concludes this special time at the Annual DOAS Charter Dinner, to be held on Friday, October 20, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, 5206 NY-23, Oneonta. Our celebration will include displays of past activities, honoring long-time members, and our keynote speaker and expert birder, Joan Collins. There will be door prizes and some fine raffle items.

Joan Collins, president of the New York State Ornithological Association and editor of New York Birders, will present "Boreal Birds of the Adirondacks." Boreal Birds of the Adirondacks is a multimedia presentation using photographs, video, audio, and slides of the wonderful bird species that nest in the North Country. Species such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bicknell's Thrush, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird, among others, are presented along with details of their nesting habitats. In addition to serving as President of the New York State Ornithological Association, she leads birding field trips year round, and is a New York State licensed guide and Adirondack 46er.



Joan Collins at Massawepie

The evening begins at 5:30 with a social hour, Buffet at 6:30, and the program at 7:30. A cash bar will be available. Reservations must be made by October 14th, using the form below or register online at www.doas.us.

The cost for the full special evening is \$35 per person (with no charge for those wishing to attend only the program portion of the event.)

We especially encourage those who have served as members of the Board or officers of DOAS over our fifty years to join us to celebrate our anniversary.

Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation, Research, Education & Advocacy 1968—2017

Annual Charter Dinner – October 20, 2017

The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will have their annual Charter Dinner on Friday October 20, 2017 at the Holiday Inn on State Highway 23 in Oneonta. A social hour begins at 5:30 PM, buffet at 6:30 PM and the program at 7:30 PM. The program is open to the public.

This year's speaker is Joan Collins, president of NYS Ornithological Association, who will talk about Boreal Birds of the Adirondacks

*The buffet cost is \$35 per person
Reservations must be made by October 14th by calling 607-563-2924
or mailing a check to: Julia Gregory, PO Box 641, Unadilla, New York 13849
or register online at www.doas.us*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch Season Begins

Counters at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch took up their posts on August 26 to start the 29th consecutive season at this prime fall raptor migration site. The hawkwatch, located on the DOAS Sanctuary off Grange Hall Road, will continue into early January, covering portions of six months, one of the longest seasons of any site in North America.

Franklin Mt. is coming off a good 2016 season, which saw the count of Golden Eagles exceed the 200 mark for the first time in a decade. 231 Golden Eagles passed the site, with six double-digit days coming from late October through mid-November. The big day was November 11 when 57 graced us with their presence.

Broad-winged Hawks also made an excellent showing with the total of 2060 marking the third highest seasonal number at Franklin Mountain. Broad-wings make up the first big push of migrating hawks as nearly all pass through during the middle two weeks of September. The best day in 2016 was September 20 with a total of 1089, over half of the year's total for this species. Broad-



American Kestrel, photo by Robert Burton/ USFWS

wings typically migrate in sizeable flocks or "kettles"—always a great sight. Other species showing up in good numbers in September include American Kestrels and Osprey.

Total raptors counted in 2016 was 4688, with 15 different species sighted.

Visitors and spotters 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.

The best flights generally occur on days with north or northwest winds, usually following cold fronts. 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 Mountain 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.



Andy Mason leads trail walk, 2016 Open House



Wildlife Rehabilitator Missy Runyon
Photo by Tina Niesluchowski

DOAS Sanctuary Open House October 7th from 10 AM to 2 PM

On Saturday, October 7 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.

At 10:30 AM, learn how to identify flying hawks, followed at 11:30 by a trail walk through the Sanctuary. At 1 PM, guests will enjoy a special program with live raptors presented by Wildlife Rehabilitator, Missy Runyon of Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center in Hunter, NY. The Hawkwatch will be staffed throughout the day, and visitors can enjoy walking the Sanctuary property during the afternoon. The open house event is designed to be interesting for bird watchers of any age. Join us to explore the Sanctuary, hone your hawk identification skills, and enjoy seeing and learning about Missy Runyon's live raptors!

DOAS Eastern Golden Eagle Efforts Bring Success!

by Margaret DiBenedetto

Since 2010, DOAS volunteers have collaborated with researchers from West Virginia University on the Appalachian Eagle Project. More than 700,000 photos from camera sites in New York have been submitted, and volunteers have dedicated hundreds of hours on the project. The presence of winter resident golden eagles in our region has been proven, and 8 of them have been fitted with GPS tracking units in order to provide data for studies conducted by the researchers. The data generated by “our” New York goldens have allowed us to better understand their local and migratory habits.

A recent migration map showed the convergence of three of our birds - Sisu, Marie, and Koenig - near Lac Missistini in the middle of Quebec. Out of curiosity, volunteer Michael DiBenedetto contacted Quebec wildlife officials to ask why the area held such an allure for our birds. The official replied that he had no idea; the region is remote, and manpower lacking, so they have not visited that area to ascertain the presence of golden eagles or their nests. End of story. Except three days later, Michael received an email from the same official. Interestingly, his office had just received a request from a development corporation for a permit to work in the same area. The Appalachian Eagle



“Sisu” Golden Eagle; Photo by Margaret DiBenedetto

Project will be providing more information to the Quebec officials, who will now do more investigation and will be able to adequately respond to the development permit request.

It may sometimes be difficult to justify the expense of time and money devoted to a project such as this, because we can’t know what, if any, useful results will occur. This is a clear example of

how discovery, and possessing knowledge and understanding can influence an outcome; this is a worthy result in and of itself. The value of DOAS participation in this study is making itself known.



Bald Eagle at Camera Trap site in Otsego County; Photo by Kyle Dudgeon

Another example of success: The DOAS lead-free ammo educational campaign grew out of our participation in the Appalachian Eagle Project. The death of our first captured and tracked eagle, Maxine, likely from lead poisoning, was the reason for the campaign. Due to the diligence of Tom Salo, Michael DiBenedetto, and others in the campaign to educate hunters and the general public about the hazards of hunting with lead ammunition, last year the powers that be decided that any food pantries in New York State distributing venison from the Donation Program, must include a warning that the product may contain lead and should not be consumed by pregnant women or children. Following our request, NYSDEC has now been including information on the toxicity of lead in the hunting regulations for 2 years running. Although we have a long way to go towards changing hunters’ habits, these steps mean Maxine’s death has not been in vain. These are significant victories for the campaign, and were direct results of participation in the Appalachian Eagle Project.

The DOAS should be proud that our contribution has begun to make a big difference.

Note: You can see the DOAS video, “Lead Ammunition: A Needless Danger to Eagles & Ourselves.” on the DOAS home page at www.doas.us

FOR SALE: Birds of New York by Eaton—Proceeds support DOAS!

Birds of New York by Elon Howard Eaton (New York State Museum Memoir 12, 1910) Three books (One set of Volume 1 and 2, ex library, and one single volume, Volume 1, not ex library)

Volume One Spine is slightly frayed and a few of the plates have loosened in the back but remarkable condition for a book published in 1910. The 42 plates are vivid and beautiful. Penciled name on first page. Not ex library. Two-volume set is ex library, binding in poor condition, but pages and plates are excellent. Beautiful plate illustrations by Louis Agassiz Fuertes could be mounted and framed.

Two volume set--\$150; Single volume—\$60. OR Make an offer! Email scheimc@hartwick.edu.



“Bird Sightings” Continued from page 12

particularly good Bluebird year in Bloomville. Two nesting pairs produced quite a few juveniles, one of which was observed flying with something long dangling from its beak: a snake writhing frantically. The young Bluebird calmly and quickly dispatched it by swallowing it like

a long piece of spaghetti! In Oneonta, immediately after a hail storm but during still-heavy rain, a hardy hummingbird hovered at our feeder in Oneonta. A Merlin’s call caught Becky Gretton’s attention in Richfield Springs.



Merlin, photo by
Mick Thompson

Early July: A Swamp Sparrow could be heard singing for several weeks at a normally-seasonal wetland on Tom Salo’s property. At the Greenway Trail (west end, Oneonta) Leslie Preston found a gorgeous male Scarlet Tanager, Black-and-white warbler, male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, female Common Merganser with eleven young, female Redstart, Spotted Sandpiper, Veery, and Baltimore Oriole.

Mid-July: Merlin young fledge at this time in our area, and adults and juveniles were observed on a regular basis in Oneonta, both at Wilber Park and the Country Club. Gerianne Carillo also reported the species in Milford. Tom Salo heard a Black-billed Cuckoo calling in West Burlington. Juliana Fauth enjoyed watching the progress of the Robin nest on her porch; once the eggs hatched, the porch was off-limits for the humans!

Late July: A juvenile Hairy Woodpecker sporting a yellow-orange cap rather than the standard red visited our feeder in Oneonta. Dorian Huneke reported the Treadwell eaglet exercising its wings regularly, preparing to fly. It fledged a week later. In Oneonta, she spotted a Black Vulture circling over Price Chopper, an unusual find in this area!

In August, I watched a Green Heron perch on a utility wire, then join a second heron in a nearby tree (Neawha Park, Oneonta). In Treadwell, Dorian Huneke observed an unnerving close call for a Great Blue Heron, which collided with utility lines, flipped a few times in mid-air, then somehow managed to recover and fly off, apparently uninjured. It’s always a relief to see potential catastrophe averted!

Sandy Bright

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 send the newsletter to local members.

NAS-only members receive the September *Kingfisher*—this issue—each year. The other eight issues go 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. View membership benefits and download application from our website: doas.us/join-us/ OR join online at doas.us/store OR use the membership form on the next 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. ‘1711’ indicates November 2017); an N indicates an NAS-only member. If you are a local member or a joint local/NAS member, you will continue receiving the newsletter.

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

September

September 1– DOAS Bird Seed Sale Begins

September 15– DOAS Public Program: Michael Clark of the DEC will present a program on Coyotes. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.

September 19 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

October

October 7– Open House: 10 AM–2 PM at DOAS Sanctuary. See article on page 8.

October 17 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

October 20– DOAS Annual Fall Charter Dinner: Holiday Inn, Oneonta. NYS Ornithological Society president Joan Collins will present “Boreal Birds of the

Adirondacks.” A social hour begins at 5:30 PM, buffet at 6:30 PM and the program at 7:30 PM. Program is open to the public. See article and use form on page 7.

October 28 – Bird Seed Order Deadline by 5 PM

November

November 4 – Bird Seed Sale Pickup: 9 AM to 11 AM, Walmart Parking Lot, Oneonta.

November 17 – DOAS Public Program, On Heron Time: Photographer Rick Bunting will present a program about Great Blue Herons. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.

December

December 5 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

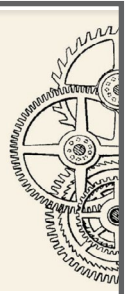
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DOAS Membership Application

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.

Memberships can also be purchased online at <http://doas.us>.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Summer 2017 Bird Sightings

This spring, it seemed like some birds arrived earlier than usual, but others were delayed by big spring storms. Some summer reports noted fewer than expected birds of some species (such as Kingbirds in their usual Oneonta haunts), and more of others, such as Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds (Marilyn Bailey).

Near the end of May, Barb Palmer discovered a Yellow-billed Cuckoo along Morrisville Rd. in Jefferson. Becky Gretton heard a Tennessee Warbler sing repeatedly on the east side of Otsego Lake. Paddling the West Branch of the Delaware River from Bloomville to Delhi, Andy Mason found Spotted Sandpipers, Kingfishers, Common Mergansers, Great Blue Heron, Indigo Buntings, Alder and Willow Flycatchers, and good numbers of Cedar

Waxwings and Kingbirds. Angelika Rashkow listened to a Barred Owl in Cooperstown. Charlie and I discovered a Common Loon singing its eerie song in the early morning mist on Crumhorn Lake, an unusual sighting outside of migration season!

In early June, a Wilson's Snipe jumped out of some long grass doing a really loud and dramatic distraction display for Tom Salo. He also flushed a Woodcock, reported Kestrels using the nest box, and Wood Ducks that had been in a box near his house in West Burlington. Kayaking on the Chenango River near Norwich, Debra Sanderson got some great pictures of Sandhill Cranes, which appeared to be behaving territorially, possibly nesting. Andy Mason confirmed that they are expanding their range in New York.

Mid- to late-June: While walking her dog in Hartwick, Angelika Rashkow saw a Pileated Woodpecker. Becky Gretton listened to a Golden-crowned Kinglet for an hour or so in the Town of Springfield. Gerry Pearlberg reported a **"Bird Sightings" Continued on page 10**



Cedar Waxwing, by
Mick Thompson

If you have bird sightings to report, contact Sandy Bright, brights@hartwick.edu, at 40 Fair St., Oneonta, NY 13820, or at 607 287-4465 for the next issue of The Belted Kingfisher. We regret that not every report can be included due to limited space. Additional information may be requested for sightings of rare or unusual birds.