



# THE BELTED KINGFISHER

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## DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

### COMING ACTIVITIES

#### September

September 17 – DOAS Board Mtg  
September 20 – Program, “Dragonflies and Damselflies”

#### October

October 5 – Fall Open House  
October 15 – DOAS Board Mtg  
October 18 – DOAS Charter Dinner

#### November

November 2 – Bird Seed Order Deadline  
November 9 – Bird Seed Pickup  
November 15 – Program, “Forest Plants”

#### December

December 3 – DOAS Board Mtg  
December 14 – Oneonta Christmas Bird Count

#### January

January TBD – Delaware Christmas Bird Count  
January 21 – DOAS Board Mtg

**More information on page 11**

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

### What Made Me an Odonate Enthusiast? A Brief Natural History of Dragonflies and Damselflies.

#### Join Us for the September Program!

If you visited a pond, marsh or lake this summer, you may have seen a dizzying display of dragonflies and damselflies. During this presentation, you will learn from Dr. Peter Fauth of Hartwick College about the taxonomy, life cycles, feeding habits, and behaviors of Odonates, with emphasis on some common species in our region. Come find out why these colorful, aerial acrobats are worthy of attention on your next outdoor adventure... at least when the birding is slow! Join us on September 20 at Elm Park Methodist Church, at 7:30 PM.

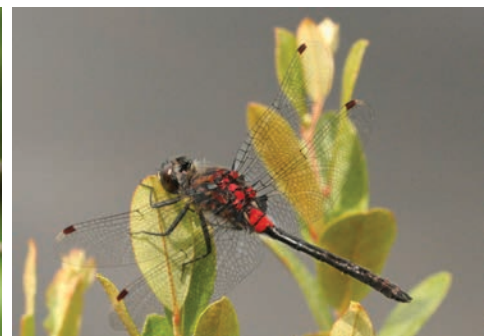
Dr. Peter Fauth's admiration of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) developed during two odonate surveys at local state

parks. Although not an expert on odonates, Pete is excited to share with you some of the natural history of these easy-to-observe and fun-to-watch insects. Pete's primary research involves conservation of bird populations and communities. Pete earned a M.S. in zoology at the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in biology at Purdue University. Pete is currently the chairperson of the Biology Department at Hartwick College, where he teaches ecology, evolution and ornithology courses and conducts forest monitoring projects at Robert V. Riddell State Park.

Photos by Peter Fauth.



*Marsh Bluet*



*Crimson-ringed Whiteface*

## President's Message— Review of the Past Year by Co-president Andy Mason

When I first became involved with DOAS, close to 40 years ago, summer was the “off-season”, a time when Chapter activities nearly stopped, in large part due to other distractions, vacations, etc. Although we still take a July and August hiatus from public programs and newsletters, summer is hardly a slow-down period any longer.

This summer was particularly busy, so here's an update. Tom Salo did yeoman's work on the Bluestone Wind project, preparing testimony and briefs, and spending three days at the cross-examination hearing in Deposit. The Article 10 process that all large energy projects in NY State must now go through is very involved and legalistic, and we were experiencing it for the first time, going up against a team of lawyers hired by the wind developer. Although we made some errors—and were chided by the judge—I think we made our case well. The outcome is still pending—see the Conservation page for more details.

The expanded John G. New Audubon Summer Day Camp was again a great success with co-directors, Liz Brown and Chris DeCesare, and assistant, Rob Katz. Two sessions were held at the DOAS Sanctuary and one with the Oneonta World of Learning at Fortin Park. Susan O'Handley organizes the camp, handling registrations, payments, health forms—a big effort!

Also at the Sanctuary, board member Jane Bachman has begun summer family-oriented programs.

The first, focused on dragonflies and led by Peter Fauth was a big hit with both kids and adults. August brought a program on how herps make a living, with board member Rod Sutton. This is a great opportunity to use and explore the varied habitats of the Sanctuary.

Susan O'Handley also spent a lot of time and her design talents



as well as grant-writing skills to fund new entrance signs for the Sanctuary. These will be state-of-the-art with QR codes that will allow visitors to access a trail map, Hawkwatch information, report bird sightings, find other local attractions and much more. It will also provide us with information on visitation and allow comments and feedback. Along with this, we are planning improvements to the entrances to go along with the signage. The Sanctuary will have a new look!

On the political front, Susan, Jane and Janet Potter met with a representative of Congressman Antonio Delgado in July to discuss environmental issues. This is a relationship we hope to cultivate to convey our concerns to Washington.

There was much more going on this season—definitely not a sleepy summer for DOAS. Thanks to all our talented and hard-working leadership for their efforts.

## 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  
Directors

Jane Bachman  
Kathryn Davino  
Pamela Peters  
Janet Potter  
Tom Salo  
Rod Sutton  
Vacancy

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS\* AND ASSIGNMENTS

Conservation\*: Andy Mason  
Education\*: Susan O'Handley  
Field Trips\*: Bob Donnelly  
Hawk Watch\*: Andrew Mason  
Tom Salo  
Hospitality\*: Kathryn Davino  
Membership\*: Andy Mason  
Programs\*: Becky Gretton  
Publicity\*: Susan O'Handley  
Sanctuary\*: Andrew Mason  
Bird Counts: Sandy Bright  
Charter Dinner: Kathryn Davino  
Finance: Gray Mason  
Historian: Rod Sutton  
Sales: Vacant

### ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Delaware Otsego Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 544  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
Email: [info@doas.us](mailto:info@doas.us)

ON THE WEB: [www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us)

[www.facebook.com/DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety)

To contribute notes or articles for  
The Belted Kingfisher, email:  
[editor@doas.us](mailto:editor@doas.us)

**Local Issues**—Two proposals affecting birds and the environment in our region are being addressed by DOAS, and members can help with our efforts. The first is the ongoing review of the proposed Bluestone Wind Project in Broome County. We have monitored raptors in the project area in fall 2017 and late winter and spring of 2018 and 2019 and found high numbers of Bald and Golden eagles in close proximity to proposed turbine locations.

As part of the review process, over the summer we submitted testimony, exhibits and briefs in the quasi-judicial proceeding. Unfortunately, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Public Service, while recognizing the threats to eagles, accepted proposals from the wind developer to monitor and mitigate for eagle presence and deaths. In our view, this is unacceptable, however the support of these agencies will likely carry more weight than our assessment in the final determination on the project.

DOAS is considering a legal challenge to the project if it is approved. We believe the developer's estimates of eagle deaths over the life of the project are too low, and also that there is no effective method to mitigate for Golden

Eagle loss, as required by law. We are accepting donations to our Eagle Conservation Fund toward this anticipated action.

Documents related to the Bluestone Wind project can be found at [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) and searching for Case 16-01988. Donations can be made at [www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us), or by mail at PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820. We are appreciative of the support already received to carry on this effort.

**Treaty Line State Forest Management Plan**—NYS DEC has proposed an updated management plan for the Treaty Line Unit which consists of several state forests totaling nearly 20,000 acres located in Chenango, Delaware and Broome counties. Over 16,000 acres of this sprawling forestland has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. The plan calls for protection of at-risk species of wildlife, including birds; modest improvements to recreational

access and use of the forest; control of invasive species; watershed protection; maintaining old-growth forest; and acquisition of adjacent lands and inholdings. These are all worthy goals, and support DEC's mission and vision.

However, there is a proposal from the all-terrain vehicle community, including ATV dealers and state-wide organizations, to open up the forest to off-road vehicles. This point of view was well-represented at a public hearing in July. A similar proposal was rejected by DEC nearly 20 years ago in the existing management plan.

ATVs, which already are an illegal problem on state lands, damage soil, vegetation, waterways and other resources where they are used. Disturbance of wildlife, including nesting birds, has been documented, and their presence is incompatible with other, low impact uses, such as hiking, wildlife observation and photography.

**What you can do**—A public comment period is open until November 1. Let DEC know that off-road vehicles do not belong on our public lands and are a threat to the well-being of state forests. Comments can be sent to Nathan Funk, NYSDEC, 65561 State Route 10, Stamford, NY 12167, or emailed--[nathan.funk@dec.ny.gov](mailto:nathan.funk@dec.ny.gov), with subject "Treaty Line UMP".



*Rutted ATV Trail  
Photo by Martin Kernan*

## DOAS Officers Elected

The Board met in August and elected officers for the 2019-2020 term. All incumbent officers were re-elected. They are co-presidents Becky Gretton, Andy Mason, Susan O'Handley; secretary Dorian Huneke; and treasurer Charlie Scheim. We thank them for their willingness to serve.



## Annual Charter Dinner, October 18th

**Mark Your Calendars** for the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society's Annual Charter Dinner on Friday October 18, 2019 at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) on State Highway 23 in Oneonta. The evening begins at 5:30 with a social hour, Buffet at 6:15 (featuring Roasted Salmon, Eggplant Parmesan and NY Sirloin), and the program at 7:30. A cash bar will be available. There will be door prizes and some fine raffle items.

**Our featured presenter will be well known local photographer, Rick Bunting.** His photos of birds, butterflies, foxes, frogs and other natural subjects will appear as "Collected Stories of 2019". He will present photos and commentaries on his favorite events of the year (so far!). Rick's talent, insight and humor are sure to please one and all! Since his retirement from SUNY

Potsdam and the Crane School of Music, Rick pursues his passion for photography full time. Also an accomplished and well-known musician, Rick photographs wherever he travels.



*Great Blue Heron Chicks*  
Photograph by Rick Bunting

The cost for the full evening is \$35 per person (with no charge for those wishing to attend only the program portion of the event). Reservations must be made by October 13th, using the form below or register online at [www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us).

### Annual Charter Dinner – October 18, 2019

The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will have their annual Charter Dinner on Friday October 18, 2019 at the Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) on State Highway 23 in Oneonta. A social hour begins at 5:30 PM, buffet at 6:15 PM and the program at 7:30 PM. The program is open to the public.

This year's speaker is Rick Bunting, presenting his "Collected Stories of 2019."

The cost for the evening is \$35 per person. **Reservations MUST be made by October 13, 2019** by calling 607-397-3815 or by mailing payment by check with the form below to Charlie Scheim, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820, or register online at [www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us).

Menu:

- \*Hors D'Oeuvres: Vegetables & Dip and Gourmet Cheese & Crackers*
- \*Baby spinach with poached pears, goat cheese, spicy pecans, and maple chive vinaigrette*
- \*Roasted Salmon and Tomato with a chive cream sauce*
- \*Garlic & Peppercorn-rubbed NY Sirloin sliced and served with caramelized onion demi-glace*
- \*Eggplant Parmesan*
- \*Seasonal market vegetables*
- \*Herb-roasted Potatoes*
- \*Assorted breads & rolls*
- \*Chef's Dessert Table with coffee & tea*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2019 Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser Order Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



**ORDER DEADLINE - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 5PM**

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

**PICK UP LOCATION:** VP Supply Corp, 41 Country Club Road, Oneonta, NY.

## PRODUCTS - BIRD SEED

	Quantity	Price Per	Total
<b>LOCALLY GROWN Black Oil Sunflower 40 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>

*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. GROWN IN RICHFIELD SPRINGS, NY*

## ASPEN SONG 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.*

<b>Ultimate Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$24.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>Ultimate Blend 40 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$46.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*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.*

<b>Premium Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$24.25</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>Premium Blend 40 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$45.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*Includes Black Oil Sunflower, White Proso Millet, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Safflower, Canola, Small Yellow Millet, Canary Seed, Nyjer Seed and Dehydrated Cherries.*

<b>Choice Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$18.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>Choice Blend 40 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$34.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*Over 30% Sunflowers & Peanuts and includes White Proso Millet, Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, Peanuts, Safflower and Black Stripe Sunflower.*

<b>Just Desserts 20 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$42.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*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.*

<b>Nut &amp; Fruit Woodpecker Blend 20 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$46.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*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.*

<b>Nyjer Seed 25 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>Nyjer Seed 4 lb bag</b>	_____	<b>\$ 9.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*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.*

<b>Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (SINGLES)</b>	_____	<b>\$ 2.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)</b>	_____	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (SINGLES)</b>	_____	<b>\$ 2.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>Hi Energy Suet 12 oz Cakes (CASE OF 12)</b>	_____	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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## 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

<b>12 oz bag - Ground</b>	_____	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>12 oz bag - Whole Bean</b>	_____	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>2 lb. bag - Ground</b>	_____	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>2 lb bag - Whole Bean</b>	_____	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*This blend has a mild, bright flavor with sweet mango citrus notes, a light body and fragrant aroma - a delightful coffee.*

### American Redstart - Light Roast Coffee

<b>12 oz bag - Ground</b>	_____	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>12 oz bag - Ground</b>	_____	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>2 lb bag - Ground</b>	_____	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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<b>2 lb bag - Whole Bean</b>	_____	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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*From farmers Asociación Civil Guaya'b in the Huehuetenango region of Guatemala, smooth and full-bodied with heavy notes of cocoa and walnuts. The acidity is mellow and flavor reminiscent of red apples.*

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

	Quantity	Price Per	Total
<b>Chestnut Sided Warbler - Medium Roast Coffee</b>			
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>			
<b>Scarlet Tanager - Dark/French Roast Coffee</b>			
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>			
<b>Kingbird - Espresso Roast Coffee</b>			
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 blend of coffees - balanced, sweet, somewhat bright with good body, with dominant Mandarin orange on the aroma, nutty sweet toffee, clean and smooth in the cup.</i>			
<b>DECAF - Baltimore Oriole - French Roast Coffee</b>			
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

<b>DOAS 15oz Kingfisher Mug</b> (quantity discounts: 4 for \$38; 5 for \$45; 6 for \$50)	_____	\$10	\$ _____
<i>These premium mugs hold a nice size cup of coffee! Black outside with Green inside; Bring your mug to events like Earth Festival and have a coffee on us. Hand washing recommended to preserve imprint. Not recommended for microwave use.</i>			
<b>DOAS Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch Hat</b>	_____	\$20	\$ _____
<b>Colorful 'Cat Alert' Breakaway Cat Collar with Bell</b>	_____	\$20	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Individual - 1 year)</b>	_____	\$25	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Individual - 2 years)</b>	_____	\$35	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Family - 1 year)</b>	_____	\$30	\$ _____
<b>DOAS Membership (Family - 2 years)</b>	_____	\$40	\$ _____
<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. If your membership is current, we will extend for the selected timeframe.</i>			
<b>PLEASE NOTE: National Audubon membership is separate from local Chapter membership. Please support your local chapter.</b>			

<b>DOAS Additional Donation</b>	<b>Please enter amount</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<i>Your donation helps to support the many programs of DOAS throughout the year including public programs, field trips, Hawkwatch at the DOAS Sanctuary at Franklin Mountain, Golden Eagle Research, Non-Lead Ammo Initiative, Advocacy Campaigns 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 above.

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. We will send you confirmation by email (if provided) as orders are received. Orders must be received by DOAS by 5pm Saturday, 11/2, 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/2019-bird-seed-sale](http://DOAS.US/2019-bird-seed-sale) NOTE: Please ensure that you pick up your seed on the **pickup day - Saturday, November 9, 9am-11am at VP Supply Corp, 41 Country Club Road, 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 CHARTER DINNER ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 5:30-9:30pm at Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) Oneonta.**  
7:30pm KEYNOTE: RICK BUNTING - Tickets are available online at <http://doas.us/event/2019-charter-dinner>

# Hawkwatch is Underway

by Andy Mason

The 31st consecutive season of counting at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch got underway on August 25. The Hawkwatch, located on the DOAS Sanctuary off Grange Hall Road, will continue into early January, covering portions of six months, with temperatures going from eighty degrees to sub-zero at times.

Along with the change in weather comes a change in birds, with Broad-winged Hawks and Osprey leading the charge, and Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks bringing up the rear. In between will be a mix of sixteen different species of raptors that pass by the lookout.

Counters hope for a repeat of last year's banner Golden Eagle year, when a record of 323 passed the lookout. This outstanding total included a nearly unbelievable count of 128 on October 28, an eastern North America daily record for the species. Witnessed by a number of fortunate visitors and documented with photos, this was a truly



*Osprey, photo by LeRoy VanHee  
Audubon Photo Awards*

historic day.

2018 also saw seasonal records set for Merlin and Black Vulture—a recent arrival to our area. Total raptors for the year was 5172, just slightly above the long-term average.

Visitors and spotters are always welcome at the Hawkwatch. For more information, contact Andy Mason, (607) 652-2162, [AndyMason@earthling.net](mailto:AndyMason@earthling.net), or Tom Salo, (607) 965-8232, [salothomas@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.franklinmt.org).



The 72nd annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will be held September 13-15, 2019 at the Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel and Conference Center in Kingston, NY. This meeting will be hosted by the Catskill Center in conjunction with its fourth annual Taking Flight conference. The John Burroughs Natural History Society will be organizing and running field trips. More information at <http://catskill-center.org/details>.

**Taking Flight and  
NYSOA Annual  
Meeting in Kingston**





At the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Sanctuary, 52 Grange Hall Rd. Spur, Oneonta, NY - VISIT [DOAS.US](http://DOAS.US) for EVENT DETAILS

## Bird Mask Workshop - Audubon Open House 2019

Come design, make and decorate your very own bird mask at the DOAS Open House on October 5. Artist and tutor, Caroline Fay will demonstrate simple tips and techniques to make truly unique masks using paper, felt, paint, feathers and other festive materials.

Those who attend this workshop can choose to display their creation at Caroline Fay's 'Hollow Bones' art show in Walton, November 2-29 at the historic Walton Theatre—an exhibition of art dedicated to raising awareness of threatened bird species and their habitats in Delaware County and surrounding areas.

**Time:** 11 AM-12:30 PM

**Location:** DOAS Sanctuary on Grange Hall Spur Road, Oneonta

**Suitable for ages 4+**



## Summer Programs at the DOAS Sanctuary

DOAS offered two family-friendly afternoon presentations at the Franklin Mountain sanctuary over the summer. On Friday July 19, Hartwick College biology professor Peter Fauth spoke about dragonflies and damselflies and instructed an enthusiastic group on how to safely catch

them in nets in order to identify them. On Friday August 23, DOAS board member Rod Sutton did a presentation on herpetology, and introduced several snakes, a tortoise, and a lizard to the audience. Participants found several newts, tiny spotted salamanders, and a toad, which added to the discussion.



## Grouse Love Revisited

Kathryn Davino's article, "Grouse Love," in our March issue generated responses from two of our readers. Jack McShane, of Andes, wrote to us about his Grouse love: "My friend which I call my EDG or emotionally disturbed grouse, the name derived from my career in the NYCPD where when called to handle a person acting in a manner that was a danger to himself or herself, that person was called an Emotionally Disturbed Person or EDP. Now we have two grouses that are EDG's or Emotionally Disturbed Grouses in that they are both acting in a way that could put their lives in danger. My guy has been coming to me for three years now and has become adjusted to getting a handout when he comes to my whistles. He much prefers the black oil sunflower seeds over the cracked corn. There have been times that he found me hiking on trails on my land quite distant from his usual haunts. I do hope that he continues to survive in this both land and avian predator laden habitat. There are other tales of EDGs one being a grouse that would occasionally join a friend on his tree stand when bow hunting for deer. This trait does not seem



*Photographs by Jack McShane*

very sound from an evolutionary viewpoint! Maybe somebody will do the research and come up with an answer."

Rick Bunting and his grandson Tanner describe an interaction with a Ruffed Grouse: "We saw the bird by the side of the road and did the usual moving the car in various ways to try to get a decent photo. Then, as a truck drove by and the bird didn't run off, we realized this bird was acting strangely so we got out of the car to check it out. It had the interrupted pattern on its tail feathers which usually

means it's a female so we started referring to it as her even though occasionally a male will also have that plumage. She ate several leaves, so I decided to try and get her to take one from my hand. She did come close several times.

When we tried to leave, another behavior kicked in and she went after Tanner first and then she attacked my boots too. I suspect we were near her nest or young and although she found us interesting at first, she finally decided to do some serious defending and we decided getting to the car would be a wise move! During this whole episode both Tanner and I were taking closeup photos of this beautiful bird and when I had a chance to look at them on the computer later I was reminded of the incredible detail of their plumage and how lucky we were to have such a close encounter with her!"



*Photograph by Rick Bunting*

**Support our Sponsors! Thank you to Rod Spangle Antiques in Unadilla for being a sponsor!**

**ROD SPANGLE ANTIQUES**  
Unadilla, NY

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The pre-order deadline for coffee delivery at our September 20 Meeting is Monday, September 9, 5 PM. If you would like to order coffee, please email your order to [sjohandley@gmail.com](mailto:sjohandley@gmail.com) or call 607-643-5680. Payment is due at the time of delivery. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. More information at <http://doas.us/bird-friendly-coffee/>

# Summer Bird Sightings

By Sandy Bright

In the second half of May, many migrants were still easy to find as they foraged, storing energy needed for the busy breeding season. Hanging out in flowering apple trees at Andy Mason's house in Jefferson were Tennessee Warblers, a species also spotted at Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park by Becky Gretton, along with Indigo Bunting and many other warblers, including Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Yellow, Redstart, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted. Riding the trails in Treadwell, Dorian Huneke spotted a beautiful male Scarlet Tanager, heard many Red-eyed Vireos, and was followed some distance by a pair of Ravens, perhaps guarding their nest site.

In Unadilla, Rod Spangle's evening walks were enhanced by Common Nighthawks, which fed and called along Covered Bridge Road for several days. John Davis reported a Least Flycatcher "Che-bee!"ing away" in Cooperstown. Black-billed Cuckoos were found in Jefferson by Barb Palmer; Treadwell by Pam Peters, who also heard the first-of-season Eastern Wood Pewee (5/22) and Swainson's Thrush (5/25); and East Meredith by Suzanne Gaynor, who also discovered Blackpoll Warblers in Wilber Park, Oneonta (5/27). While gardening, I heard the kek-kek-kek of a Merlin, which had joined three crows in harassing a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

As June began, Dorian Huneke reported the late arrival and relative scarcity of Barn Swallows,

plus an American Kestrel, perhaps taking advantage of the bounteous mouse population at her Treadwell barn. Bryson Huber caught the intricate beauty of a Blue Jay in a photograph. In late June, Upland Sandpipers were found by Naomi Lloyd and a birders group in Canajoharie.

In spring, many bird watchers reported species that had never before visited their yards; this continued into the summer months. Stanley Salthe reported a Brown Thrasher which "in its erratic nervous jumpings about occasionally hops up to the feeding station and eats seeds... and chases all the other birds away." Late in June, a Mockingbird foraged on Kathryn Davino's lawn near Delhi, while two pairs of Baltimore Orioles visited her jelly feeders. Reports of "first time" orioles came from several others, also.

Hungry young birds can make it easy to spot family groups. Charlie Scheim watched three begging Merlin fledglings at the Oneonta Country Club; an adult soon flew in with food (7/7). In mid-July, four newly fledged Cooper's Hawks were observed in the Town of Springfield by Becky Gretton and Cindy Staley. Barb Palmer watched an American Kestrel family flying around an old farm near her home in Jefferson. Bill Carbine reported five Great Egrets on his pond between Treadwell and Delhi. In late July, Angelika Rashkow was treated to the sight of three hawks, likely Northern Harriers,



Great Egret  
Photo by Rick Bunting

one gray and two brown, perched on the roof of her garage. Ellen Sokolow photographed a juvenile Bald Eagle next to her house in Treadwell.

In mid-August, Becky Gretton counted fourteen Great Egrets along the north shore of Otsego Lake along with a few Double-crested Cormorants and an adult Bald Eagle, with Mallards of all ages nearby. Stacy Grocott watched an egret catch a small bullhead in the Cranberry Bog in Burlington.

Crows at golf courses become adept thieves, snatching food left in carts by unwary golfers. Mona Waffle reported some of their antics, including one clutching a whole candy bar as it flew. Attracted by shiny things, one particular criminal took to stealing sunglasses out of the carts. One day, the metal decal on a wallet caught its eye, and it took off with its prize. Luckily, this booty proved too heavy for the bird, and it was dropped and recovered a few fairways away, making for a good story with a happy ending.



# Upcoming Activities

## September

**September 1**– DOAS Bird Seed Sale Begins

**September 17** – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

**September 20**– DOAS Public Program: Dragonflies and Damselflies, “What Made Me an Odonate Enthusiast?” Dr. Peter Fauth of Hartwick College will talk about the taxonomy, life cycles, feeding habits, and behaviors of Odonates, with emphasis on some common species in our region. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. See article on page 1.

## October

**October 5**– Open House: 10 AM-2 PM at DOAS Sanctuary. More information at <http://doas.us/event/2019-open-house-at-hawkwatch-saturday-october-5/>. Bird Mask Workshop with artist Caroline Fay will be held from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. Suitable for ages 4+. More information on page 8.

**October 15** – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

**October 18**– DOAS Annual Fall Charter Dinner: Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn), State Highway 23, Oneonta. Rick Bunting, well-known local photographer, will present “Collected Stories of 2019.” A social hour begins at 5:30 PM, buffet at 6:15 PM and the program at 7:30 PM. Program is open to

the public. See article and use form on page 4.

## November

**November 2** – Bird Seed Order Deadline by 5 PM

**November 9**– Bird Seed Sale Pickup: 9 AM to 11 AM, Pickup Location at VP Supply Corp., 41 Country Club Road, Oneonta.

**November 15** – DOAS Public Program: Forest Plants. Speaker will be Jack Tessier from SUNY Delhi. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.

## December

**December 3** – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

**December 14**– Oneonta Christmas Bird Count

## January

**January TBA**– Delaware County Christmas Bird Count

**January 17** – DOAS Public Program: Heron Island, Australia. Speaker will be DOAS Board member Kathryn Davino. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.

**January 21** – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 PM

## DOAS Membership Application

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

Cost is \$25 annually or \$35 for two years; family memberships \$30 annually or \$40 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>.

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## **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. View membership benefits and download application from our website: [doas.us/join-us/](http://doas.us/join-us/) OR join online at [doas.us/store](http://doas.us/store) OR use the membership form on page 11.

Your mailing label will inform you of your membership status: an L indicates a local member, with expiration date (year and month, e.g. '1911' indicates November 2019); an N indicates an NAS-only member. We appreciate the continued support of all members for our efforts to protect the natural world.