



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Submit Your Favorite Bird Photos for the September 16 Program

For our September program we will present shared favorite photos from YOU: our members and friends! We have some talented photographers in our audience (both amateur and professional) as well as avid birdwatchers.

This is not a contest - it is a chance to share bird images. Plan to submit up to three of your original photos

with description, including where it was taken, identification information if possible, and why it's a favorite of yours. We may need to select from your photos depending on the number of participants we have, so please prioritize your photos by order of submission.

Submit your photos at <https://doas.us/events/2022-photo-share/> by August 31. Program is September



Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Photo by Landa Palmer

16th at 7:30 p.m.

What a beautiful time of year to photograph birds. We look forward to "PhotoSharing" with you!

Join DOAS at the ECO-Fair to see Live Birds of Prey



Cynthia Page from the Page Wildlife Center with a Barred Owl

Plan to attend the 2022 ECO-Fair on Saturday, July 9 at Oneonta's Neahwa Park, 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. As a sponsor of this event, DOAS and Casella Waste Systems are presenting the Page Wildlife Center for onsite display and several education programs featuring live birds of prey throughout the event.

The Page Wildlife Center, located southeast of Syracuse, provides recovering wild animals with expert care in federally approved aviaries, barns, cages, and enclosures. Their mission is to treat and release ill and injured wildlife back to the wild, as well as to encourage and promote positive values and behaviors related to wildlife through educational programs. The programs focus on predator-prey relationships, adaptations birds develop for their specific environments, and the role birds of prey have in the ecosystem. The birds used in the program are all permanent captives that are non-releasable.

Founder Cynthia Page has been rehabilitating wild animals for over 30 years, developing expertise in many native species, while specializing in birds. Aside from her

work with animals, Cynthia is an accomplished wildlife artist.

Children and adults alike will enjoy seeing and learning more about live birds of prey. Check our website at www.doas.us for more information. To find out about other events at ECO-Fair 2022, visit <https://occainfo.org/eco-fair-2022/>.

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Program Year in Review

by Co-president Becky Gretton

We had a wide variety of program topics with effective presenters this program year. These webinars are easily accessible on our website at <https://doas.us/webinars/>. I strongly recommend that you revisit them at your leisure. It was a delight for me to do so.

Rick Bunting shared his "Favorite Stories of 2021" in September, with Snowy Owl, muskrats, hawk species, Bald Eagles, Wild Turkeys and so much more. We always learn from Rick while being lavished with beautiful photos.

October brought Northern Saw-whet Owls our way with Scott Weidensaul's vast knowledge of and love for this species.

Dr. Anne Clark gave us extensive information "Through the Eyes and Lives of Crows" in November, a topic that fascinates many of us.

In January, Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner presented "Unbroken Wings: A Story of Birds and the People who Saved Them", a comprehensive history of birds' extinction, protections, and future challenges.

Dr. Doug Causey took us to the Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea in February to study "Bering Seabirds and Environmental Change from 3,000 Years Ago the Present". We went where very few have gone!



Yellowstone Stories, Zoom Program with Kyle Dudgeon

In March, another of our favorite speakers, Kyle Dudgeon, shared "Yellowstone Stories" from his guiding work there. Kyle's photos and insights are uniquely his own.

Lisa Tessier explored the process and benefits of designing home landscapes with native plants in March. Her teaching style makes the whole process very "doable".

Charlie Scheim's May 20 program about the *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas III* was understandable, interesting and well-presented. This program was especially helpful for those interested in submitting data to the *BBA III* but not sure how.

Program attendance has been remarkable once again, and we thank you for that. We look forward to starting what I call our next "program year" with a September "PhotoShare" for anyone who is interested in sharing a photo or three, and for all who wish to see them. See article on page 1. See you then!

**DELAWARE - OTSEGO
AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**
FOUNDED 1968

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

The mission of Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society is to protect our natural environment and connect people with nature to benefit birds and other wildlife through conservation, education, research and advocacy.

Conservation and Legislation

By Andy Mason

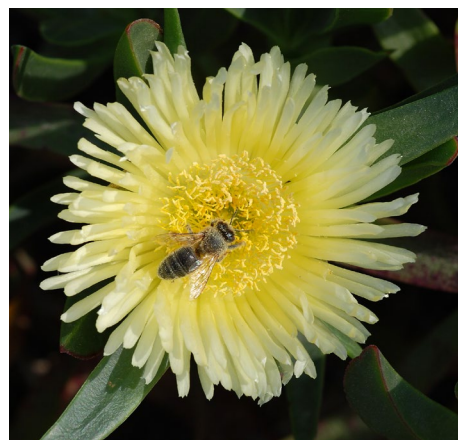
Positive legislation passes in Albany—New York’s legislative session is scheduled to end in early June, although an extension is always possible. Much good legislation remains stalled at this writing, but there has been passage of beneficial bills. These all still require the signature of Governor Kathy Hochul to become law:

- **Carpet recycling**--Requires carpet producers to take responsibility for end-of-life management of their products. Also addresses the use of PFAs—proven toxic chemicals—in carpets.
- **Leading by Example: EV State Procurement**—Directs the Office of General Services to develop and implement a state fleet procurement plan requiring at least 25 percent of the fleet be made up of zero emission vehicles (ZEV) by 2025 and 50 percent by 2030.

By January 1st, 2030 all passenger vehicles purchased or leased by an agency or authority must be ZEVs.

- **Electric Landscaping Equipment Rebate**—This bill creates a rebate program to incentivize commercial landscapers and individuals to transition to electric lawn care equipment.
- **Energy Credit Donation**—Creates a low-income energy assistance credit program that will allow customers who generate more on-site electricity than they use in a billing period to donate their excess energy credits to low-income customers.

Other Pending Legislation — Among bills previously mentioned here that have passed one house of the Legislature or are still in committee include “Procurement Without Deforestation”



Bee on a Blossom
Alvesgaspar, Wikimedia Commons

(A.6872/S.5921); and the “Birds and Bees Protection Act” (A.7429-A/S.699-C). There is still hope for passage, and time for contacting lawmakers if the session is extended.

What You Can Do — Let Governor Hochul know you support her signing the positive environmental bills that have passed the Legislature. Urge your State Senator and Assemblymember to co-sponsor and vote for the two pending bills.

Contact information can be found in the Advocacy section of our website <https://doas.us/>.

Quote of the Month: “Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.” —Henry David Thoreau

DOAS Directors Elected

Board member Rob Katz will be relocating and has resigned from the board. We will miss him but wish him much luck in his new endeavor! David Diaz has been appointed to complete the balance of Rob’s term. David is currently the Director of Land Protection at the Otsego Land Trust. He is an avid birder, fisherman, and tree identification buff who has been in the natural resources management and land protection profession for almost 25 years. We very much look forward to having David on the board!

At the May 20 program, the following slate was elected for two-year terms to the Board of Directors: Becky Gretton, Andy Mason, Dorian Huneke, Charlie Scheim, Tom Salo, and Jane Bachman.

Bird-Friendly Coffee

You may order bird-friendly coffee by emailing Jane Bachman (bachmanj@hartwick.edu or call 607-431-9509). Contact her to arrange for payment and pickup from Jane’s front porch in Oneonta. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. More information at <https://doas.us/bird-friendly-coffee/>.

April — May Bird Sightings

By Sandy Bright

A few early migrants were noted in last month's issue. More recent "First of season" (FOS) species are listed below.

4/13 Eastern Towhee, Janice Downie, Oneonta
4/15 Swamp Sparrow and Brown Thrasher, Pam Peters and Kathy Mario, Hobart
4/21 Pine Warbler, Charlie Scheim, Oneonta
4/21 Yellow-rumped Warbler, Suzanne Gaynor, East Meredith
4/21 Palm Warbler, Randy Lynch, Harpersfield
4/24 Broad-winged Hawk, Tom Salo, West Burlington
4/24 Green Heron, Field Sparrow, Tom Salo, West Burlington
4/24 Gray Catbird, Sarah Root, Portlandville
4/24 Blue-headed Vireo, Gerianne Carillo, Gilbert Lake State Park
4/24 Savannah Sparrow, Charlie Scheim, Clinton
4/25 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Barb Palmer, Jefferson
4/25 Barn Swallow, Dorian Huneke, Treadwell
4/25 Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, Randy Lynch, Jefferson
4/26 Black-throated Green Warbler, Sarah Root, Portlandville
4/26 Blackburnian Warbler, Sarah Root, Oneonta
4/26 Wood Thrush, Pam Peters, Franklin
4/27 Solitary Sandpiper, Pam Peters, Stamford

4/27 Yellow Warbler, Landa Palmer, Stamford
4/27 Lesser Yellowlegs, Barb Palmer, Jefferson
4/29 Eastern Kingbird, Tom Salo, West Burlington
4/30 Spotted Sandpiper, Sandy Bright, Oneonta
5/1 Warbling Vireo, Charlie Scheim, Otego
5/1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, Charlie Scheim, Otego
5/1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gerianne Carillo, Milford; Kathryn Davino, Delhi; Barb Palmer, Jefferson
5/2 Northern Parula, Sarah Root, Portlandville
5/3 Ovenbird, Sarah Root, Portlandville; Pam Peters, Jessie Ravage, Franklin
5/3 Cape May Warbler, Pam Peters, Franklin
5/3 Chimney Swift, Sandy Bright, Oneonta
5/3 Common Yellowthroat, Pam Peters, Franklin
5/3 Bobolink, Rick Bunting, Unadilla
5/4 Nashville Warbler, Sarah Root, Portlandville
5/5 Black-throated Blue Warbler, Barb Palmer, Jefferson
5/7 Black-and-white Warbler, Greenway trail walk, Oneonta



Brown Thrasher

Photo by Jennifer Hyypio

5/8 Least Flycatcher, Charlie Scheim, Hobart
5/8 Northern Waterthrush, Becky Gretton, Richfield Springs
5/8 American Redstart, Jean Pettersen, Walton; Pam Peters, Franklin
5/9 Indigo Bunting, Andy Mason, Oneonta
5/9 Louisiana Waterthrush, David Diaz, Fly Creek
5/9 Yellow-throated Vireo, Lance Verderame, Hancock
5/9 Magnolia Warbler, Ruth Pederson, Delhi
5/10 Scarlet Tanager, Pam Peters, Franklin
5/11 Prairie Warbler, Randy Lynch, Harpersfield
5/11 Alder Flycatcher, Canada Warbler, Suzanne Sommers, Hartwick
5/12 Black-billed Cuckoo, Pam Peters, Franklin
5/12 Veery, Pam Peters, Franklin
5/14 Red-eyed Vireo, Charlie Scheim, Oneonta
5/14 Willow and Great-crested Flycatchers, Rough-winged, Bank, and Cliff Swallows, and Blue-winged Warbler, Randy and Carol Lynch, Harpersfield

Other sightings of interest included Black Vultures seen by Dorian and Eric Huneke, who also reported the unfortunate failure of the Eagle nest in Treadwell; a leucistic Dark-eyed Junco photographed by Jennifer Hyypio; two great egrets perched over the Susquehanna River, spotted by Gerianne Carrillo; 3 Sandhill Cranes flying over Steph Restuccia's house in Root; Tennessee Warblers seen by David Diaz in Cooperstown and Edmeston by Tom and Jo Salo; and a Swainson's Thrush discovered by Tom and Jo Salo in West Burlington.

Sarah Root reported an early (4/26) Blackburnian Warbler, found on the sidewalk on Main Street, Oneonta, possibly having been stunned by a window strike. Carefully placed in a planter, the bird was gone later, hopefully recovered and off to more appropriate habitat. "Bird Sightings" Continued on page 5

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch

By *DOAS Director Jane Bachman*

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch is part of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Sanctuary on Grange Hall Road. It's perched on the hillside, at an elevation just short of 2000 feet, which offers a panoramic view of the Susquehanna valley. In the fall, migrating raptors heading south—including Ospreys, Harriers, Vultures, Buteos, Accipiters, Falcons and Eagles—travel down the valley and over the ridge where the Hawkwatch sits. Franklin Mountain is particularly known for late-season migrations of Golden Eagles, and many birders in the area (and from considerably further afield) make a point of heading there on days in late October and November, when there are northwest winds and the temperature is dropping.

For many years I was a 'fair weather' visitor to the Hawkwatch—I'd stop by on a sunny fall day in the early afternoon to see what was happening. Often there was not much going on at that time of day, but I was happy to interrupt my walk and sit looking for those often far-off dots in the sky that were migrating raptors. One year



*At the Hawkwatch
Photo by Andy Mason*

I finally heeded the prediction of a "good day" for Golden Eagles (not generally a sunny fall day). It was cold, with northwest winds, spitting snow—and the Hawkwatch was packed with visitors.

In 2020 I committed to spend a day each week at the Hawkwatch. I became quite adept at spotting the raptors, communicating their location—and then handing over the identification to the official "counter," the person responsible for the ultimate identification and recording of the raptors, the weather conditions and visibility.

The Hawkwatch counters are terrific teachers. Often, once I spotted a raptor (and if we weren't desperately trying to count the dozens of Broad-winged Hawks in a kettle) the

counter would ask "What do you see? How frequent are the wing flaps? How big is the soaring area? How are the wings held?"

It still took two seasons, and repeated reviews of hawk identification webinars before I felt somewhat confident in my identification skills. This fall, if I'm vetted by the other counters, I will start in that role. I've been assured that I will have the company of a counter (most of the time, anyway) to provide backup; at the same time, it's good to know that reporting categories include "Unidentified" Eagles, Buteos, Accipiters, Falcons, and Raptors.

There is a need for additional counters, and the best route is to start as I did, spotting for a season or two. The Hawkwatch season runs from late August to the end of December; interested individuals with good identification skills who are able to make the hike to the Hawkwatch and can commit to spending a day there each week (9-3 or 8-2, depending on the month) should consider it. The importance of tracking raptors, as the Hawkwatch has done for over 40 years, has only increased with the effects of climate change, light pollution, and the various other factors that pose a challenge to bird populations today.

"Bird Sightings" Continued from page 4 Kathryn Davino photographed a Hairy Woodpecker that resembled a Western Hairy, orangish rather than white like our Eastern variety. Jean Petterson observed two porcupines "either trying to mate or fighting (who could say?!)"

Snow Geese flew over Susan Carver in Cobleskill (5/11). Days later, her chickens alerted her to a Black Vulture that had landed on the roof of their coop. What Diane Aaronson saw on May 6th had her grabbing her Peterson's guide to make sure her eyes weren't deceiving her: a Red-headed Woodpecker at her feeder in Oneonta!

Big Day Report

By Charlie Scheim

The DOAS Big Day Bird Count held on May 14, 2022 brought out 16 teams of 21 total birders. The teams ranged over our DOAS region, with reports coming in from Otsego, Delaware, and Schoharie counties. Some teams covered extensive areas by car, some walked our meadows and forests, and some folks simply observed their backyard birds.

There were a number of species that were found by just a single team (a few examples: Cooper's Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl, Swainson's Thrush, Hooded Warbler, and others), which shows just how important it was to our effort to have so many teams scouting our area. Birding is to some degree a matter of being in the right place at the right time. The more teams, the more likely it is that someone will be around when seldom-seen species show up!

In total, we found 116 different species. Among these were three species of sandpipers (Spotted, Solitary, and Least), six raptors



Hooded Warbler; Jesse Gordon/Audubon Photography Awards

(Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Cooper's, Red-tailed, Broad-winged Hawks), six woodpecker-type species (Downy, Hairy, Pileated, Red-bellied, Northern Flicker, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker), six flycatchers (Least, Great-crested, Alder, Willow, Phoebe, Kingbird), five swallows (Barn, Tree, Cliff, Bank, Rough-winged), four vireos (Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Red-eyed, and Warbling) six sparrow species (Chipping, Field, Savannah, Song, Swamp, and White-throated) and twenty-two species of warblers.

Check the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society website, www.doas.us, for the complete listing of all of this year's sightings or request it from Charlie Scheim (scheimc@hartwick.edu).

I want to thank all our Big Day participants for devoting their time on Saturday to our Big Day count. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did during the count. While it is wonderful that we are able to find so many species in a single day in our area, equally as important is that we were all able to get outdoors and connect with nature.

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 <https://doas.us/membership/>

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

Upcoming Activities

Summer

June 18 – Bird Walk in conjunction with Exploration Days at Hanford Mills: Meet at 8 a.m. in the big event parking lot. Led by veteran birders Suzanne Gaynor and Kathryn Davino around the property at Hanford Mills, the walk will cover fairly easy terrain and will last about 90 minutes. Bring binoculars, insect repellent, water, and curiosity about birds! When we return to the parking lot, we invite folks to join us as we drive a short distance to see a newly-constructed Bald Eagle nest that currently has a pair of adults caring for one or more fledglings. Pre-registration for this free program is appreciated as it allows leaders to contact participants if there is an issue with the weather. Go to www.doas.us to pre-register and for additional information.

July 9 – ECO-Fair: at Neahwa Park, Oneonta from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. As a sponsor of the 2022 Eco-Fair Event, DOAS is presenting The Page Wildlife Center for onsite display and several education programs featuring live Birds of Prey throughout the day. Schedule for the day's events to be announced in June. To find out more about ECO-Fair 2022, visit <https://occainfo.org/eco-fair-2022/>, and see the article about the Page Wildlife Live Birds of Prey display and programs on page 1.

The John G. New Audubon Summer Day Camp pro-

gram for youth entering grades 3 through 6.

- July 25, 26, 27 & 28 – 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at DOAS Sanctuary (for children entering grades 3 and 4)
- August 15, 16, 17 & 18 – 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at DOAS Sanctuary on Franklin Mountain, Oneonta (for children entering grades 5 and 6)

Details and registration information at

<https://doas.us/2022-youth-camp-programs/>.

August 16 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Fall

September 16 – DOAS Public Program: Members PhotoShare. We will share contributed photos of birds taken by our members and friends. Each photo will include a description of why it is meaningful to the photographer and tell where it was taken. See article on submitting your photos on page 1.

October 21– DOAS Annual Charter Dinner: We hope to meet in-person at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn), State Highway 23, Oneonta if we are able to. The speaker will be John Robinson presenting “The Essentials of Birding by Ear: A Universal Method for Learning How To Identify Birds Using Songs or Call Notes” Look for more information in the September *Belted Kingfisher*.



Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety>

We appreciate our business sponsors.

For information about becoming a business sponsor, please contact Susan O’Handley at info@doas.us or leave a voicemail at 607-397-3815.



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DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
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Burlington Wetlands Invasive Species Control



*Scout volunteers at Burlington Wetlands
Photo by Tom Salo*

On Sunday, May 22, twenty people from Scout Troop 1 in Unadilla and Troop 25 in Mohawk came to the DOAS Burlington Wetlands site to help with invasive species control, namely buckthorn.

From nyis.info: "Buckthorns form thick hedges with long branches that crowd out and shade out native shrub and herbaceous species, preventing regeneration of native plants."

For our project in Burlington, we are using a product called the "buckthorn baggie", with the goal to "remove, control, and eradicate buckthorn plants without the use of chemicals" whenever possible. This process also eliminates the need for



uprooting and disturbing ground soil with a buckthorn puller or tree pulling broom (as this process allows more buckthorn seeds on the ground from prior years to germinate).

Thank you to all our volunteers for this conservation project in difficult terrain, particularly Board Directors Tom Salo and Nate Cutting, and Scout Troop leader Brian Danforth who recruited 18 people from two scout troops to help with this effort.