



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

September 16 Virtual Program: PhotoShare

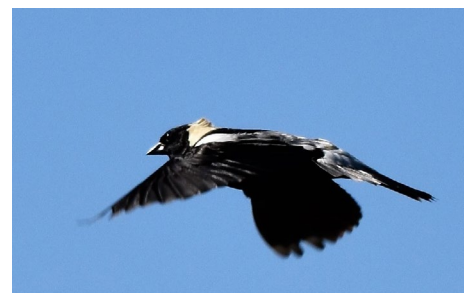
By Becky Gretton

Everyone's PhotoShare submissions are being formatted and we look forward to experiencing a variety of favorite photos virtually on Friday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. Thanks to everyone who sent images to share!

The online program will feature some of YOUR favorite photos. Along with the photos, we will be sharing information from the

photographer including where the photo was taken and why it is a 'favorite' photo. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. We look forward to "PhotoSharing" with you! The Zoom link will be emailed to all who register.

Please join us via Zoom on
September 16 at 7:30 p.m.
REGISTER TODAY AT
<https://bit.ly/3QIRinQ>



Bobolink
Photo by Randy Lynch

Open House on October 8

By Jane Bachman



View at the Sanctuary
Photo by Matthew Bechtold, Bechtold Photography

On Saturday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Delaware Otsego Audubon Society will

host an open house at the DOAS Sanctuary and Hawkwatch on Franklin Mountain. The event is free and open to the public. The address of the Sanctuary is Grange Hall Spur Road, Oneonta; directions may be found at <https://doas.us/conservation-and-environment/franklin-mountain-sanctuary>.

At 10 a.m., a Franklin Mountain hawk counter will conduct a workshop on how to identify flying hawks. At 11:30 a.m., there will be a special activity for kids at the barn, as well as a DOAS board member-led trail walk around the Sanctuary, ending at the Hawkwatch. In the afternoon, we hope to be able to schedule a live raptor program. A variety of snacks and drinks will be offered.

Raffle items for the upcoming October 21 Charter Dinner will be on display, and raffle tickets will be available to purchase. Bird-friendly coffee will also be available for sale.

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President's Column/Conservation and Legislation Column

by *Co-president Andy Mason*

(Having just returned from a summer-long foray to the north, my mind is preoccupied with recent thoughts and memories. So I have decided to combine the Conservation and Legislation column and the President's Message here.)

They say to write what you know, and after spending the summer camping and birding across Canada and particularly Alaska, I certainly feel I know our 49th state more intimately than before. The vastness, wildness and constant stunning scenery are all as advertised. There is a quality of independence and self-sufficiency that permeates Alaska, and likely provides much of its appeal to the residents. It truly is a 'Last Frontier.'

I was pretty well prepared for the rigors of the trip. I knew about the great distances involved, the need to be mindful of having enough fuel to make it to the next stop, poor communications, the condition of many of the roads—gravel, dust and mud, the risks of wildlife in the road, possible landslides, high water, heavy construction and trucks—all of which I encountered at one time or another.

What I was not prepared for was the smoke. Alaska has many wildfires—nearly all started by



Midnight Sun Over Dalton Highway, Alaska—Photo by Andy Mason

lightning—which don't get the coverage of California and Rocky Mountain fires because most are in remote areas and do not threaten people or dwellings. This year has been the worst on record. By late July, there had been over 530 fires in the state which burned an area larger than Connecticut.

To me, it seemed as if the entire state was blanketed by smoke, even though I experienced only a modest part of Alaska. There was rarely a day without significant haze, and in Fairbanks air quality was rated extremely unhealthy. I wore double masks during my brief time there. I was actually thankful to COVID for having them with me!

Even a drive north to the Arctic Circle was hazy, with the midnight sun tinged red by smoke. At a campground near Denali, I realized that twin rotor helicopters were flying low overhead with buckets to

President's Column/Conservation and Legislation continued on page 3.

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

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ON THE WEB: <https://doas.us/> and
[www.facebook.com/
DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareOtsegoAudubonSociety)

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

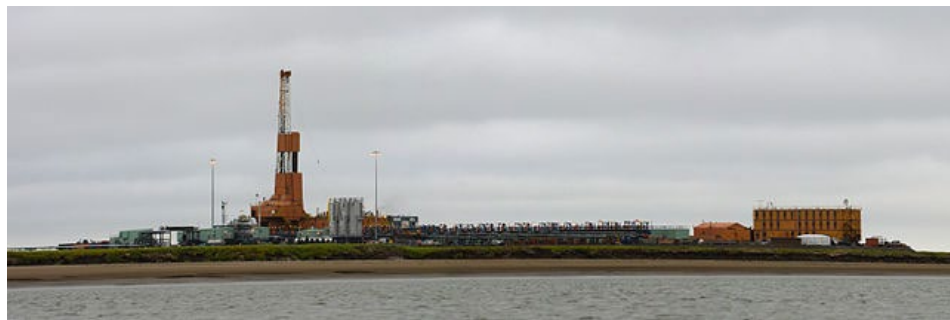
President's Column/Conservation & Legislation continued from page 2.

scoop water from a nearby river. It was dropped on a community threatened by fire a couple of miles away. Several homes were lost there, and shortly after I left the next morning, the campground was evacuated.

As with worsening wildfires elsewhere in the US and worldwide, a major contributing cause is climate change. Rick Thoman, a climate specialist with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy at the University of Alaska said, "There has been a significant increase in the amount of fuel available, and that's from decades of warmer springs and summers in the region, direct result of a warming climate. And, of course, fires with more fuels available burn hotter. They burn longer. They're more resistant to changes in weather."

Rains late in July and early August brought relief and clearing air, but experts fear that late summer and fall will bring a resurgence of the flames.

In addition to the fires, all of the many rivers I saw were swollen to capacity, gushing with silt, much too dangerous to consider boating. The rivers were fed by glacier and snow melt coming off



*Alpine Oil Field. North Slope, Alaska
Photo by Paxson Woelber; Creative Commons*

the mountains in torrents. This made for spectacular waterfalls and photo opportunities, but it was clear the high snow fields and thick blue ice of the glaciers were disappearing at a rapid rate and would not be replaced by winter snows.

The thought that kept running through my mind was, "The chickens are coming home to roost." Alaska has been pumping large quantities of oil and gas southward for decades, continues to do so, and wants to do even more. There doesn't seem to be any connection acknowledged between this activity and the worsening fires. In fact, much of the fire-fighting effort is directed at keeping blazes away from the Alaska oil pipeline!

With this glaring evidence of the effects of climate change, it is stunning that the Biden

administration is on the verge of approving even more oil drilling on Alaska's North Slope. Over its lifetime, this project would emit as much CO² as a third of all US coal plants. The scheme is totally at odds with the president's stated goals to address climate change.

What You Can Do — A 45-day comment period on this misguided plan runs through August 29, but there is an effort to extend this. Comments can be submitted at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/109410/595>. Also, contact President Biden and ask him to live up to his commitments regarding climate change and to halt oil drilling in Alaska. (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>; 202-456-1111; The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500)

DOAS Officers Elected

The Board met in August and elected officers for the 2022-2023 term. Incumbent co-presidents Becky Gretton and Andy Mason were re-elected. Secretary Dorian Huneke and treasurer Charlie Scheim were also re-elected. We thank our officers for their willingness to serve.

Susan O'Handley has stepped down as co-president, but will remain a member of the board and will continue leading our education and publicity activities. The board gratefully acknowledges the tremendous contributions Susan made over her years as co-president.



Photos by Liz Brown

Summer Camp at the Sanctuary

by Susan O’Handley and Liz Brown

We were so thrilled to host our Summer Day Camp again this year at the DOAS Sanctuary! Kids ages 8-12 spent many hours exploring the beauty of the preserve as they learned about wildlife and plants and participated in environmental education games. Activities included hiking the trails, identifying different birds and dissecting owl pellets, catching macroinvertebrates, frogs, and salamanders in the pond, and getting an up-close look at the pelts and skulls of some of the mammals that live in our state.

We extend a huge thank you to our Camp Directors, Chris DeCesare and Liz Brown. Both had a wonderful time with this amazing group of kids and all could see by the smiles and excitement on the kids’ faces that they were having a great time, as

well. As we look to next year, we are seeking some new staff who would be interested in leading this energetic, adventurous group. Contact Susan O’Handley, DOAS Education Chair at sjohandley@gmail.com for more information.



Support DOAS, Order Bird Seed Today!

by Susan O’Handley

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 meetings, field trips, programs and special events throughout the year, as well as youth summer programs and the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch.

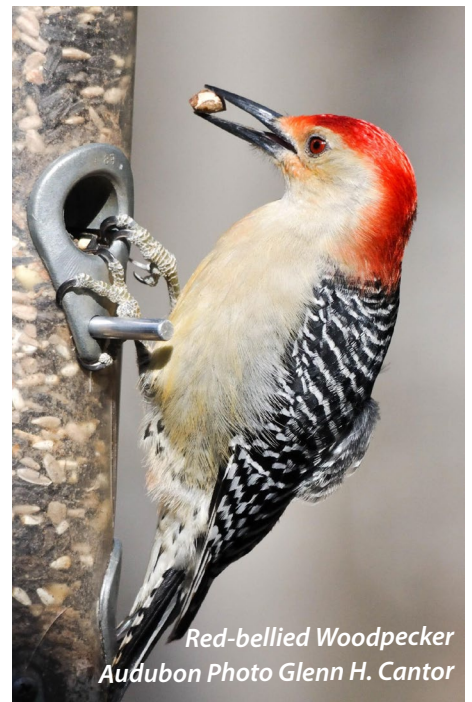
We encourage you to stock up for the winter months ahead. Thank you for supporting DOAS! Orders are now in progress for

our November 5 Delivery Date.

- ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, October 23, by 5 p.m.
- PRODUCT PICK UP: SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
- PICK UP LOCATION: VP Supply Corp., 69 Country Club Road, Oneonta, NY.

Use the order form on pages 5-6 or order online at [https:// doas.us/2022-bird-seed-sale](https://doas.us/2022-bird-seed-sale) .

Thank you for supporting DOAS!



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Audubon Photo Glenn H. Cantor

2022 Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser Order Form



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

ORDER DEADLINE - SUNDAY, OCT. 23, 5pm • PRODUCT PICK UP - SATURDAY, NOV. 05, 9am-11am
PICK UP LOCATION: VP Supply Corp, 69 Country Club Road, Oneonta, NY.

ASPEN SONG BIRD SEED PRODUCTS

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 Seed 20 lb bag @ \$32 per bag # _____ x \$32.00 ea = \$ _____

This is a premium option for well-cleaned sunflower seed. Works great in tray or platform feeders; best single ingredient choice for attracting the most colorful songbirds.

Ultimate Blend 20 lb bag @ \$40 per bag # _____ x \$40.00 ea = \$ _____

Ultimate Blend 40 lb bag @ \$75 per bag # _____ x \$75.00 ea = \$ _____

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 @ \$35 per bag # _____ x \$35.00 ea = \$ _____

Premium Blend 40 lb bag @ \$65 per bag # _____ x \$65.00 ea = \$ _____

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 @ \$30 per bag # _____ x \$30.00 ea = \$ _____

Choice Blend 40 lb bag @ \$55 per bag # _____ x \$55.00 ea = \$ _____

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

Select Blend 17 lb bag @ \$25 per bag # _____ x \$25.00 ea = \$ _____

Select Blend 35 lb bag @ \$45 per bag # _____ x \$45.00 ea = \$ _____

A mix of Black Oil Sunflower, Cracked Corn, White Proso Millet, Pistachios, Safflower, & Steam-crimped Corn.

Value Blend 30 lb bag @ \$25 per bag # _____ x \$25.00 ea = \$ _____

This is a low-cost mix containing Red Milo, Cracked Corn, White Proso Millet and Black Oil Sunflower that is best for ground feeding birds (juncos, doves, sparrows).

Just Desserts 20 lb bag @ \$60.00 per bag # _____ x \$60.00 ea = \$ _____

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 and Fruit Woodpecker Blend 20 lb bag @ \$60 per bag # _____ x \$60.00 ea = \$ _____

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

Nyjer Seed 25 lb bag @ \$60 per bag # _____ x \$60.00 ea = \$ _____

To primarily attract finches, siskin & redpoll, this is used in feeders with tiny seed ports.

Nyjer Seed 4 lb bag @ \$10 per bag # _____ x \$ 10.00 ea = \$ _____

The 4 lb. option is custom bagged by DOAS for those who prefer smaller quantities.

Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (SINGLES) \$2.50 each # _____ x \$ 2.50 ea = \$ _____

Nut and Fruit Suet 11 oz Cakes (CASE of 12) \$25 each # _____ x \$25.00 ea = \$ _____

Made from rendered beef kidney fat with peanut butter, sunflower seed, white millet, cracked corn, peanuts & cashews. Refined to maintain a high melting point for year-round feeding.

NEW THIS YEAR Sunflower Kernels 25lb bag \$88.00 each # _____ x \$88.00 ea = \$ _____

NEW THIS YEAR Dried Mealworms 2 lb bag \$24 each # _____ x \$ 24.00 ea = \$ _____

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 (\$12.50) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$12.50 ea = \$ _____
2 lb bag (\$26) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$26.00 ea = \$ _____

This blend has a mild, bright, flavor, with mango citrus notes, a light body and fragrant aroma - a delightful coffee for a pleasant start to your day.

American Redstart - Light Roast Coffee

12 oz bag (\$12.50) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$12.50 ea = \$ _____
2 lb bag (\$26) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$26.00 ea = \$ _____

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.

Chestnut-sided Warbler - Medium Roast Coffee

12 oz bag (\$12.50) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$12.50 ea = \$ _____
2 lb bag (\$26) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$26.00 ea = \$ _____

From farmers co-op UCA San Juan del Río Coco in the Northern Nicaraguan Highlands, shows black cherry, raisin, cranberry, brown sugar and roasted chestnut in the cup.

Scarlet Tanager - French/Dark Roast Coffee

12 oz bag (\$12.50) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$12.50 ea = \$ _____
2 lb bag (\$26) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$26.00 ea = \$ _____

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.

Kingbird - Espresso Roast Coffee

12 oz bag (\$13.50) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$13.50 ea = \$ _____
2 lb bag (\$28) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$28.00 ea = \$ _____

This roast is a wonderful blend of coffees - balanced, sweet, somewhat bright with good body, has dominant Mandarin orange on the aroma, with nutty sweet toffee, clean and smooth in the cup.

DECAF - Baltimore Oriole - French Roast Coffee

12 oz bag (\$13.50) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$13.50 ea = \$ _____
2 lb bag (\$28) Circle one: GROUND WHOLE BEAN _____ x \$28.00 ea = \$ _____

A delicious, high quality decaf blend produced with water process caffeine extraction.

DOAS PRODUCTS

15oz Kingfisher Mug \$10 each _____ x \$10.00 ea = \$ _____

Premium mug, matte black with white logo, bright green inside; Not recommended for microwave use.

Membership - NEW OR RENEWAL (check one as required)

____ Individual - 1 year (\$25) ____ Individual - 2 years (\$35) Enter amount from left \$ _____
____ Family - 1 year (\$30) ____ Family 2 years (\$40)

Your membership contribution helps to support our mission to protect our natural environment and connect people with nature to benefit birds and other wildlife through conservation, education, research and advocacy. If your membership is current, we will extend for the selected timeframe. National Audubon membership is separate from local Chapter membership. Please support your local chapter.

DOAS Additional Donation Amount \$ _____

Please calculate your order total and enter the amount in the box to the right.

ORDER TOTAL

Mail payment to DOAS/2022 Bird Seed Sale - Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820 - must be received no later than 10/23/22. Phone orders are accepted - call 607-397-3815 (leave a message) or **ORDER ONLINE** at www.doas.us/2022-bird-seed-sale.

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

Annual Charter Dinner

October 21, 2022

Mark Your Calendars for the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society's Annual Charter Dinner on Friday October 21, 2022 at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) on State Highway 23 in Oneonta. The evening begins at 5:30 with a social hour, followed by The Hills Buffet at 6:15 (menu below), and the program at 7:30. A cash bar will be available. Masks and Covid-19 vaccinations are not required but are strongly recommended. In order to provide patrons with more space, each table will be limited to 6 seats.

As in the past, there will be door prizes and fine raffle items. Tickets for the Charter Raffle will also be

available online at <https://doas.us/2022-charter-dinner-affle> and at our Hawkwatch Open House at the DOAS Sanctuary on Franklin Mountain on October 8.

Our featured speaker will be John C. Robinson who will share his expertise on "Birding By Ear." Read more about the presentation on page 8.

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 by registering at <https://doas.us/2022-charter-dinner>.

Annual Charter Dinner – October 21, 2022

The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will hold their annual Charter Dinner on Friday, October 21, 2022 at the Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) on State Highway 23 in Oneonta. A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., buffet at 6:15 p.m. and the program at 7:30 p.m. The program is open to the public.

This year's speaker is John C. Robinson, sharing his expertise on "Birding By Ear."

Menu:

- *Hors D'Oeuvres: Vegetables & Dip and Gourmet Cheese & Crackers
- *Mixed Green Salad with onions, tomatoes, cucumbers and carrots with choice of two dressings
- *Roasted Salmon and Tomato with a chive cream sauce
- *Garlic & Peppercorn-rubbed NY Sirloin, sliced and served with caramelized shallots in a Merlot reduction
- *Vegetable Lasagna (vegetarian; made without eggs)
- *Seasonal market vegetables
- *Herb-roasted Potatoes
- *Assorted breads & rolls
- *Chef's Dessert Table with coffee & tea

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 (made out to DOAS) with the form below to Charlie Scheim, PO Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820, or simply register online at <https://doas.us/2022-charter-dinner/>.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Charter Dinner Presentation: “The Essentials of Birding by Ear: A Universal Method for Learning to Identify Birds Using Calls or Notes” on October 21

By *Becky Gretton*

Birding is fun, plain and simple! To appreciate, understand and enjoy the bird life around them, birders must rely on their ability to instantly recognize their fine-feathered friends. Identifying birds quickly and easily by sound is not only one of the biggest frustrations birders experience, it is also the singular focus of this presentation by award-winning author John C. Robinson. This includes

a set of advanced techniques that can be adapted year-after-year to fine-tune one’s ability to identify similar-sounding bird species or challenging species groups regardless of geographic location.

Our Charter Dinner presenter is a professional ornithologist and environmental consultant who has published six books about nature and birds, including his landmark book, *Birding for Everyone: Encouraging People of Color to*



Become Birdwatchers. In addition to being an advocate for minorities in birdwatching, he has conducted research on how to connect young people to nature.

This presentation will be presented to our live audience via Zoom.

Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch 33rd Season Underway

By *Andy Mason*

The 33rd consecutive season of counting migrating raptors at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch got underway in late August. 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.

Last season’s total was 5349



American Kestrel
Photo by Susan T. Cook,
Wikimedia Commons

raptors. High numbers of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles and Broad-winged Hawks contributed substantially to the count. In fact, the 2,338 Broad-wings made up almost half the total number of birds last year. This species’ migration is largely compressed

into the middle two weeks of September. Good days can turn up flights of several hundred birds during this period, so visitors need to be prepared for promising conditions (see forecast alerts below).

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.

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 can be found at www.franklinmt.org.



Red Crossbill on Pinecone

Photo by Barb Palmer

This issue, covering the period from mid-May to mid-August, includes late spring migrants and resident breeding birds as well as the rare and uncommon finds. First-of-season sightings on the Big Day (5/14) were Willow and Great Crested Flycatchers; Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and Cliff Swallows; and Blue-winged and Mourning Warblers. Sarah Root heard a Saw-whet Owl tooting in her Portlandville neighborhood (5/16). Rod Spangle can always be counted on to find migrating Common Nighthawks as they pass through Unadilla; he spotted 3 on the 22nd on Covered Bridge Road, along with a Semipalmated Plover. Suzanne Gaynor discovered a Blackpoll Warbler in Oneonta's Neahwa Park.

In late May Dorian Huneke observed Red-tailed Hawk courtship and heard Black-billed Cuckoo in Treadwell. Randy and Carol Lynch also reported Cuckoos vocalizing in Harpersfield. Great Crested Flycatchers were seen in Treadwell (Dorian Huneke) and at Hanford Mills (Kathryn and

Summer Bird Sightings

By Sandy Bright

Al Davino). Barb Palmer listened to Wilson's Snipe winnowing in Jefferson. She and Eleanor Moriarty found Red Crossbills feeding on pinecones at Clapper Hollow Forest. Tom Salo came across Common Gallinule, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Duck in the wetlands near Canadarago Lake.

A sighting of Pine Siskins came in from Randy and Carol Lynch (6/8). In mid-June Sarah Root was enjoying the spectacle of Blue-headed Vireos dive-bombing the Blue Jays at the feeder. John Davis observed an American Redstart that repeatedly flew into windows over the course of several hours. Reporting on the status of bird boxes at the Leatherstocking Golf Course, he found a mix of nests in various stages of use by Bluebirds, House Wrens, Chickadees, and Swallows, and noted the "committed and enthusiastic environmental approach" of Mike O'Neill, Golf Course Manager.

Anyone who has heard Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nestlings can appreciate Tom Salo's account of young "at peak volume" at 3 nest sites. He also found Willow Flycatchers, Swamp Sparrows, a Marsh Wren that "got in my face", and family groups of Hooded Mergansers and Virginia Rails. After inadvertently getting between a young Rail and its family, he noted "Baby rails are cute." He and Jo

Salo located Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Edmeston and Burlington. A walk at the Uplands Center, Walton generated a nice variety of birds, including more Bobolinks than I've ever seen in a single field thanks to their policy of mowing only once every two years.

In early July, Marilyn Bailey was canoeing on Goodyear Lake when an Osprey suddenly swooped down and came up with a fish. Barb Palmer and Eleanor Moriarty watched four Sandhill Cranes flying over Jefferson in mid-July. Near Treadwell Charlie Scheim and I watched two Merlins zip overhead, and met Darwin Card, who related this amusing anecdote: one of his hens laid some eggs. She and a duck both brooded those eggs. When the chicks hatched, that duck did her darndest to try to get those chicks to follow her into the pond. It didn't work.

Jane Bachman saw a Great Egret flying in West Oneonta, possibly heading toward the swamp near Oneida Street (7/29) In early August Susan Brunswick rescued a juvenile Black-billed Cuckoo that had flown into her daughter's house, carrying it outside where it flew into a nearby tree. How many of us can say we've had such an up-close and personal interaction with a cuckoo? Probably very few... as long as we stick to the avian definition of cuckoo.

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.

Bird-Friendly Coffee

By Jane Bachman

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society promotes the use of Bird-Friendly coffee to protect critical habitat for neotropical migrant bird species. You may order bird-friendly coffee by emailing Jane Bachman (jbachwim60@gmail.com 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/>. Check the website for more details on the delicious options – from dark roast to light roast to decaf – that are available. Coffee sale proceeds support DOAS programs.

Birds & Beans® Bird Friendly® Shade Grown, Fair Trade coffee is certified by The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center as coming from 100% organic farms which meet strict biodiversity criteria. Their shade-grown coffee requires little or no chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides. The shade trees filter carbon dioxide which causes global warming, and aid in soil moisture retention which minimizes erosion.

5 REASONS TO ALWAYS BUY AND DRINK
BIRDS & BEANS' SMITHSONIAN BIRD FRIENDLY, USDA ORGANIC, FAIR-TRADE CERTIFIED COFFEE!

1. Save Neotropical migrant and local bird species.
2. Conserve forest and habitat.
3. Keep toxic chemicals out of the eco-system.
4. Support farm families and local communities.
5. Preserve healthy microclimates.

BONUS! OUR COFFEE TASTES GREAT!

Quote of the Month: "To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it. It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall." —Ann Patchett



Charles Spencer with the picnic table he built for the DOAS Sanctuary

New Wheelchair-accessible Picnic Table

by Landa Palmer

As part of our commitment to work towards an accessible natural area at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch and Sanctuary, DOAS put out a call for a volunteer to build a wheelchair-accessible picnic table. Charles Spencer quickly volunteered. Not only did he volunteer, he offered to pay half the cost and challenged his employer to do the same! DOAS is grateful

to Charles for his generosity and his skills and for helping us in our quest for an accessible site where all are welcomed.

Our efforts to improve accessibility at the Sanctuary mesh with our vision statement: DOAS envisions a healthy world where people and wildlife thrive and natural resources are protected.



Like us on Facebook!

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

Upcoming Activities

September

September 1 – Bird Seed Sale Begins

September 16 – DOAS Virtual 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 page 1.

September 20 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

October

October 8– Open House: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at DOAS Sanctuary on Franklin Mountain. Join us for a Raptor ID workshop at 10, a children’s activity at 11:30 a.m. concurrent with a trail walk for others. More information on page 1.

October 18 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

October 21– DOAS Annual Charter Dinner: We plan to meet in-person at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn), State Highway 23, Oneonta. The speaker will be John Robinson presenting via zoom “The Essentials of Birding by Ear: A Universal Method for Learning How To Identify Birds Using Songs or Call Notes.” Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. program begins

at 7:30 p.m. Reservation deadline is October 13. See articles on page 7 and 8.

October 23, by 5 p.m.– Deadline for Birdseed Order. For more information, see article on page 5 and order form on pages 5 and 6. Pick up on November 5, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

November

November 5 – Bird Seed Sale Pickup: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Pickup Location is VP Supply Corp., 41 Country Club Road, Oneonta.

November 18 – DOAS Virtual Public Program: “Favorite Stories from 2022” with Rick Bunting sharing photos. The Zoom program begins at 7:30 p.m. Register at <https://doas.us/>.

December

December 6 – DOAS Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

December 17 – Oneonta Christmas Bird Count. Contact Sandy Bright at brights@hartwick.edu or phone 607-287-4465.

January

January 1– Delaware County Christmas Bird Count. Contact Pam Peters at ovenb1rdp@gmail.com or phone 607-829-6545.

DOAS PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

In Case You Missed It — Past Webinars Are Available Online at <https://doas.us/webinars/>.

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.



Support the businesses that support DOAS.



DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
PO Box 544, ONEONTA, NY 13820
www.doas.us

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: \$ _____

Is your Membership Current?

Your membership expiration date will always appear on this page of the Belted Kingfisher. Find it just below the DOAS Kingfisher logo with our address. This is the only notice you receive to let you know you need to renew your membership. Thanks for rejoining when your membership expires.