

CHIP NOTES

The Newsletter of
The Birds of Vermont Museum



Volume 22

Our Twenty-second Year

Spring 2008

Museum and Audubon celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on May 17, 2008

The Birds of Vermont Museum and Audubon Vermont are sponsoring a special open house on May 17th to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). IMBD is an annual celebration of one of the most important events in the life of a migratory bird – its journey between winter and summer homes. There are hundreds of birds that return to Vermont each spring from their winter habitats. Each year the event focuses on a different topic pertinent to bird conservation. This year, festivals throughout the world are focusing on “Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People.” The Museum and Audubon Vermont are planning a variety of programs and walks to highlight local migrants and their habitats. For additional information, please call the Museum at 434-2167 or Audubon at 434-3068.

All events, including Museum admission, are free and open to the public.

The following events are at **Green Mountain Audubon Center**

All day (8:00 – 4:00) Green Mountain Audubon Education Barn & Discovery Room are open!

8:00-11:00 Bird Banding at Green Mountain Audubon – Mark LaBarr

12:00-4:00 Decorate and Eat Your Own Bird Cookie

The following events are at **Birds of Vermont Museum**

All day (8:00 – 4:00) Museum opens with free admission all day

8:00 a.m. Early morning Bird Walk (for adults) with Bob Jervis

9:00-11:00 Wood Carving Demonstration

11:00-11:45 Live Bird Show Part 1 – Carol Winfield’s Hawks and Owls

12:00-12:45 Live Bird Show Part 2 – Carol Winfield’s Hawks and Owls

12:45-1:30 Fiddle Music – Duncan Yandell

1:30-2:00 Story Time – Kir Talmage

2:00-2:45 Bird Program for Kids! -- Audubon and Museum staff

2:00-3:00 Climate Change Talk – Jim Shallow

ALL DAY: raffle, snacks for sale

KIDS ACTIVITIES: color a bird, scavenger hunts, bird bean bags, bird feet puppets, quests, decorate an egg, heron pools, etc.



Duncan Yandell playing the fiddle.

THIRTEEN HUNDRED HOURS LATER

What can you do in 1300 hours? Spend 163 days at work, watch 650 movies, drive to LA and back 15 times? If you are Bob Spear you would use that time to carve a complete Tom Turkey! Bob started his largest, and most time consuming carving in May of 2006 and completed it in March of 2008. We can no longer say Bob is up in the shop spending time with the Wild Turkey! Bob plans on taking a short break and work on some outdoor projects before starting a Cattle Egret.



There is also a new carving by Ingrid on display. The Common Tern, her sixth, can be found in the wetland diorama. Ingrid's next project is to tackle the Great Black-backed Gull.



BIRD SPONSORSHIPS

As you walk through the Museum you may notice the many plaques above the bird cases. Sometimes they are inscribed with quotes, names, or short phrases. Each plaque represents a gift given to the Museum's Endowment Fund. Sponsorships may be given in memory of a loved one, as a sign of support of the Museum, or in my case as a gift. (Bob and Gale sponsored the Winter Wren in honor of my marriage last summer - thanks again!) This past winter we were honored that Delta Dental sponsored two bird cases as a way of demonstrating their long term support of the Birds of Vermont Museum. Sponsorships are calculated by the length of time it took Bob (or Ingrid) to carve a bird. For example, the sponsorship of the Bald Eagle was \$15,000 while the Golden-winged Warbler or the Eastern Wood-Pewee would be \$500. For more information, or to sponsor a bird case, please contact Ingrid Brown, 802-434-2167.

Erin

Thank You Delta Dental

In addition to sponsoring two bird cases Delta Dental is also sponsoring our newsletter for another year!

Interested in Volunteering?

The Museum is always looking for volunteers to help with outdoor chores, assist with school groups, watch the front desk, volunteer at special events, or work on other assorted projects. Please let us know by calling 802-434-2167 or emailing museum@birdsofvermont.org

TURKEY, TURKEY, TURKEY

In the past when someone mentioned Turkey my thoughts went to Thanksgiving, mashed potatoes and gravy. Lately though, the idea of eating turkey is of little interest.

When we weren't thinking about the Turkey Bob was creating, we were often distracted by the Turkeys outside the bird viewing window. In early winter, we had seven female Turkeys visiting the Museum, and a few weeks ago they were joined by one adult male and one juvenile male. The older male posed for my picture below.

Turkeys are becoming commonplace to us, but they had been extirpated from most of New England by the mid 1880's. One hundred years later biologists started the process of reintroducing the Turkeys back into Vermont. This introduction has been successful and Wild Turkeys can now be found in most areas of the state where there is a mix of agricultural and forested habitats.

The male Turkey in the photo below is a Tom, or a Gobbler. The male's have a noticeably prominent beard. The beard continues to grow throughout the Turkey's life. It is considered a sexual ornament. Occasionally adult females grow a thin beard. The males also have a brightly colored head, especially in the spring. If you look closely you can see the spurs on the back of both legs. These spurs are used for defense and to determine dominance. Although apparently attractive to females, the male provides no parental care. After the precocial young hatch the female leads them to food where she initially feeds them , but they soon learn to feed on their own.

For more information about the biology of Wild Turkeys join us at the Museum on May 22, at 7:00 p.m. Doug Blodgett will discuss the habits and behavior of Vermont's Wild Turkeys, with a particular focus on the behavior and physiology the of birds during the spring breeding season. Doug has been employed as a wildlife biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department for 25 years. Throughout his career, Doug has worked extensively on game and non-game management programs as well as public land management programs. Doug has been the Wild Turkey Project Team Leader since 1990.

Erin



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Volunteer Lunch/Work Party

May 3, 2008 (rain date May 10, 2008)

Time: 9:00 – 3:00

Appropriate for: everyone interested in volunteering at the Museum

Help the Museum prepare for the season by cleaning trails, painting, and getting ready for International Migratory Bird Day. Lunch will be served at noon.

Early Morning Walk

Sundays May 18, 2008 – July 6, 2008

Time: 7:00 am

Appropriate for: Adults and older children

Fee: Donations accepted

Join us for an early morning bird walk through the Museum property.

Carving Demonstrations

Sundays May 4, 2008 – October 26, 2008

Time: 1:00 – 3:00

Appropriate for: everyone

Fee: Free with Museum admission

Come watch a wood carver at work.



Bob and volunteer, Harvey Schuger, on their way to repair a bridge.



International Migratory Bird Day

Dates/Meeting Places:

May 17, 2008 at Birds of Vermont Museum and Audubon Vermont's Green Mountain Nature Center

See front page for more details

Springtime Means Love is in the Air – For Turkeys

May 22, 2008

Time: 7:00 – 8:00

Appropriate for: adults and older children

Join Vermont State Biologist, Doug Blodgett, for an in depth look into Turkey Biology.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A Woodcarver's trip to Australia: An invitation to members and friends-slide show

June 19, 2008

Time: 7:00 pm

Appropriate for: Museum members and their invited guests

Fee: Free for Museum members, suggested donation of \$5 for friends

Enjoy wine and cheese at viewing window before joining Ingrid Brown in the conference room as she tells us about her recent trip to Australia where she carved with local woodcarvers, and spent time bird watching.

Vermont Entomological Society Bug Walk

Saturday, July 5, 2008

Time: 10am-Noon

Appropriate for: Families with an interest in Vermont's six-legged creatures.

Fee: Free, with free admission to Museum for participants

Join Vermont's top insect experts for a walk on Museum grounds, where we'll discover butterflies, dragonflies, beetles and other exciting insects. Our hosts will be members of the Vermont Entomological Society. Bring binoculars and an insect net if you have one. Pack a lunch if you'd like to stick around for a picnic after the walk. If it is raining on the day of the walk, call the Museum to see if we've rescheduled.

Neighbor's Day

August 10, 2008

Time: 10:00 – 4:00

Appropriate for: neighbors

Fee: Free admission to Museum for residents of Buels Gore, Huntington, Richmond, and Hinesburg

Birding in Kazakhstan: First Presentation of the Lucille Greenough Lecture Series

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Time: 7:00 – 9:00

Appropriate for: Adults and older children

Fee: Suggested Donation \$10

Hank Kaestner has been a bird watcher for 53 years. He was director of spice procurement for McCormick and Company for 33 years. His work and his passion for birds brought him around the world. In his travels he has seen over 6,800 species of birds. His slide show chronicles the adventures of Hank and his brother, Peter, in searching out the 20 or so species of "specialty birds" of this former Soviet republic. Hank will also include information about the geography, history, and culture of this exotic central Asian birding destination. For more information about Hanks' adventures see his profile in March/April 2007 Audubon Magazine or see <http://audubonmagazine.org/profile/profile0703.html>

Museum will open at 7:00, beverages and snacks in front of the viewing window before the slide show. The slide show will start at 7:30.



Question Mark Butterfly, *Polygonia interrogationis*, photograph by E. Talmage.

LUCILLE GREENOUGH LEAVES BEQUEST

While working at General Electric Bob Spear met a co-worker named Lucille Greenough. They worked together again when Bob was Director of the Green Mountain Nature Center; Lucille volunteered on one of their strategic planning committees. After the Museum opened in 1987, Lucille became a member and was often seen at the Museum bringing friends to visit. Sadly, Lucille died in 2007. We were all touched to find she remembered the Museum in her will.

Lucille was born Sept. 3, 1917, the daughter of Lewis E. and Lena (Sweeney) Greenough. She graduated from Essex High School and Burlington Business College. Lucille served two years in the U.S. Navy (W.A.V.E.S.) during World War II. She was one of 80,000 women who wore the WAVES uniform. After the war Lucille worked for General Electric in the same office as Bob Spear. Lucille was a member of a variety of religious and service organizations throughout Chittenden County. She is remembered by a close friend as a "very generous and giving person." In addition to the Museum she remembered an assortment of nonprofits, and her generosity will be felt throughout our community.

The Museum is creating a lecture series in her name. In this first year, Hank Kaestner will be presenting *Birding in Kazakhstan* on September 20th, 2008. (see page 5 for more details).

Thank you Lucille.

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

As part of the Museum's most recent Strategic Plan the Board has created a Planned Giving Program. Planned Giving is a type of giving to non-profits that can be beneficial to both the donor and the beneficiary. These gifts are given during the lifetime of the donor and can generate income for life for the donor. There are a few types of planned giving gifts. We will highlight a different type in each newsletter.

One of the most simple and popular gifts is called a *Charitable Gift Annuity*. A donor can think of a gift of this sort as a CD that never matures. A gift is given to the charity and a percentage of the value is paid back to the donor each year. This percentage is based on the donor's age and the size of the gift. Donors can start the income immediately or wait a few years depending on their wishes and needs. Once the annual income stream has been set up it is guaranteed to last for the donor's life. Current rates vary from 5.6% to 11.3%. Donors must be at least 60, or must wait until they are 60, to receive income. These type of gifts can be funded with cash or appreciated property.

The Museum has partnered with the Vermont Community Foundation for managing these types of gifts. The Vermont Community Foundation will manage and invest the gift, and pay annuities. For more information about this type of gift please call Erin Talmage at 802-434-2167 or see <http://www.vermontcf.org/charitable-gift-annuities/>.



WISH LIST

- LCD Projector \$750
- Kids Activity Table -\$350
- Summer Internship Sponsor \$2000

A WOODCARVER'S TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

I got the pleasure of spending several weeks in Western Australia this March. One highlight was participating in a four-day woodcraft show over the Easter weekend. This is the 21st year of the prestigious event, well known in Western Australia for its excellence in showcasing the finer art of wood craftsmanship.

Thirty-one people entered 82 items for judging in four categories: furniture, carving, mixed media, and wood turning. While in Australia I was also involved with demonstrating carving once a week at a new visitor's center, and carved a Splendid Wren in Jarrah wood, which is much harder than the basswood and butternut that I have used in the past. I had my first lesson in wood turning, and made an eggcup after I learned to handle the tools. I was amazed at how many woods are available to the *woodies* in Australia, about two dozen used most of the time, with several dozen specialty woods available for those looking for a special look or finish, or just want a challenge. I got to meet many of the carvers and wood turners in Western Australia, specifically in Perth and Denmark, and was welcomed warmly and accepted as one of them. I also spent time sightseeing and Birdwatching.

I will be hosting a slide show for members and friends on June 19th at the Museum. Join us for tales and pictures of an Australian adventure. Slides will include many bird, tree, and plant species, all unusual to visitors to this part of the world, and breathtaking scenery of oceans and beaches, vineyards, picturesque towns, and the bush. Refreshments will be served.

Ingrid



Brush-tailed Phascogale bookends, carved by Graeme Rhind.



Australian Pelican at Ocean Beach, Denmark, Western Australia.



View towards Antarctica (beyond the horizon,) from Ocean Beach, Denmark, Western Australia.

SAVE THESE DATES

May 1 Museum Opens

May 3 Volunteer work day and lunch

May 17 International Migratory Bird Day

May 18 – July 6 Sunday Morning Bird Walks

7:00 am donations appreciated.

May 4 – October 26 Sunday Carving Demonstrations

1:00-3:00 free with Museum admission .

May 22 Turkey Talk

7:00 pm donations appreciated.

June 19 – A Woodcarver's Trip to Australia

7:00 pm donations appreciated.

July 5 - Bug Walk

For additional information, or to register, please call 434-2167 or check out our website www.birdsofvermont.org.

The mission of the Birds of Vermont Museum is to educate children and adults about the environment through the study of birds and their habitats.

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Thanks to Northeast Delta Dental for continuing to supporting our newsletter.

The logo for Delta Dental, featuring a stylized white triangle icon to the left of the text "DELTA DENTAL" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, all set against a black rectangular background.

Northeast Delta Dental

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