

# CHIP NOTES

The Newsletter of  
The Birds of Vermont Museum



Volume 24

Our Twenty-fourth Year

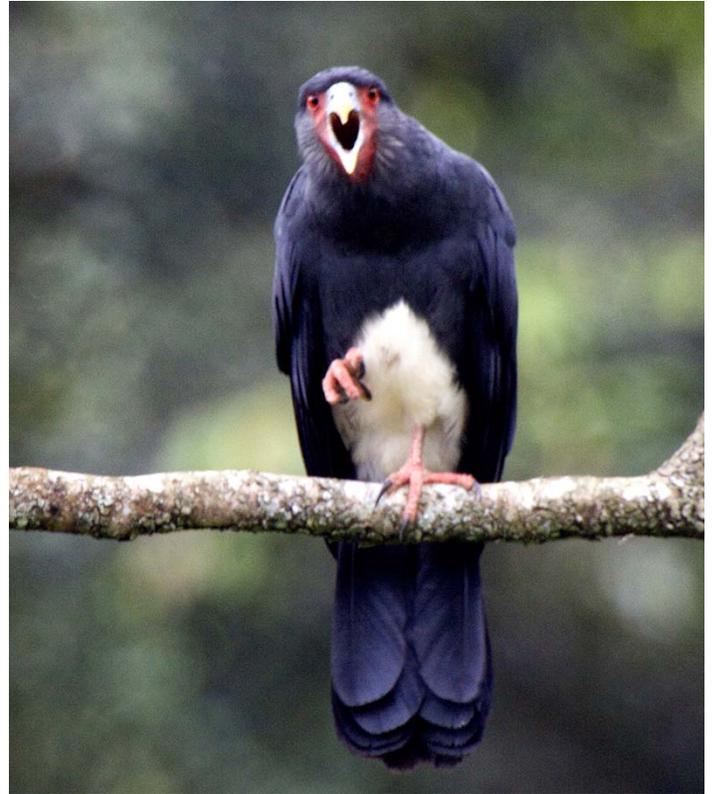
Fall 2010

## BIRDS OF PANAMA

Southeast of Costa Rica and northwest of Columbia, Panama links Central and South America. A country slightly smaller than South Carolina, Panama boasts nearly 1,000 different avian species. Other diverse wildlife from both South American and North American can be found, including 220 species of mammals and 354 reptile and amphibian species.

Almost 30% of the country has been set aside for conservation purposes. Panama has 14 National Parks spanning close to 3.5 million acres. They range from steep mountain terrain to coastal estuaries, creating and conserving habitats for diverse plant and animal life.

Please join us for a photographic tour of the incredible richness of birdlife that Panama has to offer—from the hummingbirds and toucans of the national forests along the Panama canal to the tanagers and trogons of the coffee-growing region in the northwest to the macaws and manakins of the roadless south-eastern wilderness that is the Darien.



*Red-throated Caracara.. Photo taken December 19, 2009,  
by Jon Hyde and Kimberly Sultze*



*Collared Aracari. Photo taken December 20, 2009,  
by Jon Hyde and Kimberly Sultze*

The *Birds of Panama* is part of the Lucille Greenough Enrichment Series and will be presented by Kimberly Sultze and Jon Hyde, both Associate Professors in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Saint Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont.

The program will be offered on September 25 at the Museum. We will open at 6:30 p.m. for a wine and cheese reception and the slide show will begin at 7:00 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$10. Please call or email with questions and/or to pre-register: [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org) or (802) 434-2167.

## A MEDITATION ON A CHILD AND BIRDING

Every once in a while one has an experience that is profoundly moving. This happened to me recently on Bird Day at the Birds of Vermont Museum where I was working at the viewing window. A young couple came in with three children, the eldest of whom was a serious birder. She was 10 years old or less but had a “life list” of fifty-eight on arrival. Very soon she saw her first Hummingbird to which she responded with incredible vocal enthusiasm, jumping up and down and rushing across the room to give her father the news. (She added two new species to her list that afternoon.) Her interest and enthusiasm was evident all day. She was an inspiration, and she rejuvenated hope in my heart for the future of humanity.

The realization dawned on me that she is at one end of the spectrum of human activity and, sadly, too many are at the other end, as exemplified by Big Oil Company Executives whose actions and indifference led to the recent catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. But what she left me with was the hope well expressed in a hymn that ends “... when man’s crude acts deface no more / the handiwork of God.”

—Dr. Stewart Kirkaldy, Museum Volunteer



Maeve, the young birder, (on left) with her sister Gillian enjoying a program at Bird Day in May. Photo by Erin Talmage



Jack in the Pulpit illustration by Lynn Sispey, Education intern.

This work and others will be on display as part of the Museum’s Community Art Show.

## LOCAL ART SHOWING

We close Arsh Rup Singh’s photograph exhibit *Birds of Punjab* on August 31, 2010. We thank Arsh’s brother, Arvind Rup Singh, for coordinating the Birds of Punjab exhibit.

On September 15, 2010 we will open our first annual *Birds of Vermont Museum Community Art Show*—informally called the *Peeps of the Museum*. This exhibit will display artwork from Museum volunteers, interns, staff, and members.

To submit a piece, to help display and curate, or for more information, please contact us at (802) 434-2167 or [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org).

## SUMMER INTERNS



The Birds of Vermont Museum has reaped many benefits from the presence of our 2010 summer interns. Lynn Sipsey fit her volunteer hours between the many hours she worked for the Fairbanks Museum as their Student Curator Coordinator. Lynn graduated from Mt. Abraham High School in Bristol, Vermont, in 2007 and is currently pursuing a degree in Scientific Illustration at Arcadia University in Philadelphia. She plans to graduate in 2011.

Lynn appeared rather humble about her abundant artistic abilities. Over the course of the summer, we often tapped into these amazing talents. Her main project was to create a touchable egg exhibit, focusing on 12 species often seen through the viewing window. We also asked her to create examples for our craft programs. We wish Lynn the best of luck in her future. We will be looking for her illustrations in magazines, books, and museum exhibits. We predict they will be there!



Nic Cormier, a senior pursuing a B.A. in Natural History at Sterling College, embarked on a 400-hour internship at the Birds of Vermont Museum this summer. A 2007 graduate of Vergennes' *Walden Project*, he participates regularly in a variety of outdoor pursuits. Nic's interest in the natural world and willingness to take on a variety of jobs at the Museum—including trail maintenance, carpentry, sign painting, landscape design, and plant installation—affirm his versatility and motivation. With enthusiasm for his own learning as well as promoting our mission of education and stewardship, Nic developed a wonderfully complementary relationship with the Museum community.

Restoring and expanding a native plants garden for birds and wildlife was one of Nic's primary learning objectives. Throughout the summer he posted blog entries and photographs highlighting his observations and experiences with this project. Nic also embraced wood carving with admirable focus and talent, completing impressive carvings of both a black-capped chickadee (see picture left) and a winter wren. Nic was often called to demonstrate wood carving techniques. Alongside this laudable array of tangible endeavors, Nic has been learning to identify bird calls and song, giving every indication that he will enjoy great success in growing his list of recognized species.

Following graduation next May, Nic hopes to spend a year or two traveling and conducting field research before entering graduate school. The Museum community wishes Nic many fulfilling

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Fall into Stories

Tuesdays from September 1 - October 31, 2010

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Join us for stories about birds and more. Intended for Pre-schoolers, but all ages are welcome. Stories will be followed by a craft project, music, or nature walk, depending on the topics and weather.



Got a favorite book about birds? Share it with us! Email *museum@birdsofvermont.org*. Donations accepted, especially days when we do crafts.

#### Sundays for Fledglings

Sundays through October 31, 2010

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

We host short activities for children every Sunday. We hike, create, explore, carve, act, write, or investigate. Topics are usually be birds...but amphibians, mammals, trees, ferns, forests, insects, and other natural community members may be included. Details posted at the museum and online each week.

Appropriate for children and beginners of all ages. Some activities are tailored for different age groups, and we note that with the week's details.

Fee: \$2.50 per child for members / \$6 for non-members. Adults accompanying a child are free (donations accepted). Fee includes non-member child's admission to museum (members visit for free).

#### Weekly Carving Demonstrations

Saturdays through October 31, 2010

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Come watch a wood carving demonstration. Appropriate for everyone. Ask questions, collect fresh ideas, learn a new technique.

Free with Museum admission.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Birds of Panama

September 25, 2010

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wine, cheese, and bird slideshow. Presented by Professors Kimberly Sultze and Jon Hyde. See page 1 for details.

#### Shelburne Farms Harvest Festival:

#### A Celebration of Vermont Farms and Forests

September 25, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visit our booth at Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, Vermont.

Fee: \$8 adults/\$5 children; free to Shelburne Farms members.

#### Museum Day

September 25, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Free admission at the Birds and Vermont Museum and many other museums nationwide as part of the Smithsonian's Museum day. For more details and to print a visitor pass, browse the Smithsonian site: <http://microsite.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/venue.html>.

Free with pass from website.

#### Dead Creek Wildlife Festival

October 2, 2010

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Soap Carving starts at 11:00 a.m.

Visit our booth and participate in our soap carving activity — beginners and experienced carvers welcome!

Enjoy other activities, which include a nature walk, bird banding, and impromptu birding.



A beginning soap carver shows off a carved turtle.

Photo by Erin Talmage.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (continued)

Free!

### Fall Festival and Used Books / Garage Sale October 9, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy our Used Books/Garage Sale and attend many nifty bird events. Woodcarvers will be here in the workshop. Carol Winfield returns with her live birds at 11:00. Rhonda Mace from Vermont Agency of Agriculture will answer questions about insects. Kids activities and games, nature walks. Celebrate a great year!

Free!

### Big Sit!

October 10, 2010

Time: Dawn to dusk

How many birds can we perceive from a 17-foot diameter circle? Can we beat last year's record?

Free! Snacks and coffee provided.

### Birding the Basin

October 24, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*Will we get stopped by the police again for going too slow: "Birding While Driving"?*

Jim Andrews, herpetologist and long-time birder, will lead us in a fall exploration of the Lake Champlain



Carving in progress



Beginning birder at his first Big Sit.

Basin for migrating birds.

Fee: \$20 for members / \$25 for non-members.

### Gift Shop Sale

October 30-31, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Have you seen the new T-shirts? Our great selection of books and field guides? Had coffee from a Birds of Vermont mug? Now's your chance.

Great discounts! 20% off for members; 10% for non-members, except for consignment items.

### Northern Cardinal Carving Class

November 6, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Beginners welcome at our one-day carving class with David Tuttle of the Green Mountain Woodcarvers. We will carve and paint a cardinal that can either stand alone or be used as a holiday ornament. Wood blank, eyes, snacks, and coffee provided.

Fee: \$25 members / \$35 non-members. Please bring your lunch.

### Thanksgiving Vacation Sale

November 26-27, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please call (802) 434-2167 to pre-register for all programs.

## BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS: 2010 Art Contest

The Birds of Vermont Museum's Annual Bird Art Contest has a splendid array of bird-related drawings and 3-D representations decorating our lobby.

Visitors and schoolchildren ages one and up have created vibrant art pieces that are guaranteed to excite and inspire the casual viewer. Art students at Essex High School produced an impressive display of ceramic birds with two additional pieces offered by young artists using papier-mache and metal, respectively. We celebrate the enthusiasm shared by our young artists as well as our visitors each year and can attest to the challenging prospect of judging the entries at the end of September. Please drop by to view them all! Winners will be announced at the Museum at the Fall Festival, October 9, 2010 with winning entries displayed (with artists' permission) on the BOVM website. Good luck and thank you to all entrants!

We continue to invite children and students of art to submit entries to our Art Contest. We are accepting additional entries until September 30. Entrants must be 18 years old or younger. Entries may be in any medium; flat work should be not larger than 8½" x 11"; 3-dimensional works should be 6" x 6" x 8" or smaller. Please bring entries to the Museum and include your name, address, and age on the back or (for 3-D works) on a card with the artwork's information.



### RAFFLE BIRD

This year's raffle bird, an Indigo Bunting, was carved and painted by Ingrid Riga. Dick Allen added the feet and the base. Raffle tickets can be purchased (\$1 each or 6 for \$5.00) at the Museum or by phone (802) 434-2167.

## WISH LIST

- ◆ Picnic Tables (\$750)
- ◆ 2010 Art Contest Prizes (\$300)
- ◆ Mulch for gardens (\$100)
- ◆ Speakers and Dock for iPod (\$100)
- ◆ Thermos carafes (\$75)
- ◆ Clear Plastic Storage Bins (\$50)
- ◆ Used books and items for our garage sale (\$5- \$500)

We welcome your help. Checks may be made out to the *Birds of Vermont Museum* and mailed to us at 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT 05462. If you wish to donate an item on the list, please call us at (802) 434-2167.

**Thank you!**

## BOARD NEWS

We often point out new or retiring board members, but we rarely mention the old, I mean experienced, members. We wish to recognize and thank them.

Becky Cozzens has served as a member, and has held the position of Secretary, of the Board of Trustees, along with Marty Hanson since the Museum opened. David Sunshine joined a short time later in 1990. Craig Reynolds (missing from photo) started his years of volunteer service in 1997. Angelo Incerpi began his in 2001. Thank you all for your decade(s) of service.



*Long-time Board Members: Bob Spear, David Sunshine, Angelo Incerpi, Marty Hansen, and Becky Cozzens.*



*Bob Spear and his granddaughter Alaria Lanpher in 1990.*

## THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a special thank you for recent and ongoing support from:

- ◆ Artists' Mediums, Williston
- ◆ Delta Dental
- ◆ Guy's Farm and Yard, Williston
- ◆ Pleasant Mount Farm
- ◆ Vermont Community Foundation
- ◆ Janet LaBelle
- ◆ Harvey Schuger
- ◆ Jim and Pat Spielman-Morris
- ◆ Family of Paul Hurd
- ◆ Bill and Mae Mayville
- ◆ Brian Valentine
- ◆ Rob and Jennane Zimmerman
- ◆ Rebecca Ryan
- ◆ Walter Bruska
- ◆ Kids Town
- ◆ Kimberly Sultze and Jon Hyde
- ◆ Champlain Valley Exposition

Looking ahead to the holidays  
or a unique gift?

***Sponsor a bird case.***

Call to find out more, (802) 434-2167.



## SAVE THESE DATES

September 25	Lucille Greenough Lecture Series - Birds of Panama
September 25	Museum Day
October 2	Dead Creek Wildlife Day
October 9	Fall Festival
October 10	Big Sit!
October 31	Gift Shop Sale
November 6	Carving Class

Don't forget our weekly demonstrations, and activities for beginners and children. For more information, please call (802) 434-2167 or visit our website [www.birdsofvermont.org](http://www.birdsofvermont.org).

*The mission of the Birds of Vermont Museum is to provide education, to nurture an appreciation of the environment, and to study birds and their habitats using woodcarvings and other Museum resources.*

## Board of Trustees 2010

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Becky Cozzens, Secretary  
Dann Van Der Vliet, Treasurer

Dick Allen	Marty Hansen	Angelo Incerpi
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## Museum Staff

Bob Spear, Founding Director  
Erin Talmage, Executive Director  
Allison Gergely, Museum Aide  
Kirsten Talmage, Program Coordinator

Thanks to Northeast Delta Dental for supporting our newsletter.



Northeast Delta Dental

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