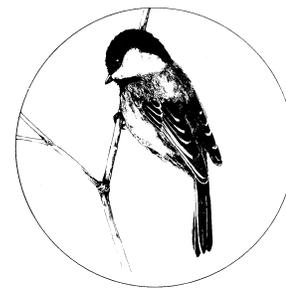


# CHIP NOTES

The Newsletter of  
The Birds of Vermont Museum



Volume 25

Year of the 500th Bird

Spring 2011

## SPRING AT THE BIRDS OF VERMONT MUSEUM

It is a bit of an understatement to say we had a lot of snow here in Huntington, Vermont, this past winter. The banks of snow in the Museum's back garden lasted until April 26th. We try to appreciate all each season, even winter, has to offer, but we were happy to see it go! After a long quiet winter the change in the sounds, sights, and smells that coincide with the arrival of spring burst into our senses from all around us. New things happen every day: more amphibian eggs in the pond, a new migrating bird species is seen, a new flower bursts into bloom. One or two days spent inside and it feels like you've missed an entire act in a wonderful play.

By the time this article is read we will have welcomed the arrival of House Wrens, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Tree Swallows, Catbirds, and the much anticipated Hermit Thrush. The Wood Frogs will no longer be calling, but the ponds will be full of their eggs. The Spring Peeper chorus might be drowning out the *peent* of the Woodcock. Spring Beauty, Trillium, and Dutchman's Breeches will be found in the woods, and the Museum's doors will open for our 24th year!

Our schedule too is bursting with children's programs, birds walks, our annual Migratory Bird Festival, and other activities.

We invite you to join us — details are on pages 4 and 5. Can't make a special event? Come visit any day of the week. See new carvings in the wetland dioramas, admire our visiting artist's work, chat with Bob in the workshop, or simply enjoy the view from the bird viewing window.

Before going home, stop in the gift shop. In addition to increasing our selection of children's books, we have the newly published *Crossley ID*

*Guide* and Mary Holland's *Naturally Curious*. We have expanded our selection of toys and craft books. We have increased our selection of local artists' handiwork, including decorative yet functional bird houses and hand-painted wooden signs. We are supporting our patrons' (and staff's) coffee habits by stocking bird-friendly *Birds and Beans* coffee. Come try it out!

Hope you too are enjoying spring wherever you are.



Can't find us? That's because we've....



Bob spring cleaning by the Museum's pond. Photograph by A. Gergely.

## GO WILD, GO BIRDING! BIRD DAY FESTIVAL - MAY 21

Again this year, the Birds of Vermont Museum is pleased to take part in *International Migratory Bird Day*. Each year, a Saturday in May—which one depends on how far north you are—is set aside to honor the return of migratory birds.

Bring friends and family—come for an hour or all day. Volunteer for some or all of it. See you here!

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 8:00 – 11:00 | • Banding Station and Bird Listening Stations open. Ask questions, ID birds, more. <i>Listening Stations end at 10:00.</i> |
| 9:00         | • Museum, craft tables, food sales, scavenger hunts open for the day   |
| 11:00        | • <i>Swing Peepers</i> play “rollicking earth-friendly wackiness” for the whole family                                     |
| 12:00        | • <i>Fiddleheads</i> play “traditional music” to accompany your picnic lunch   |
| 1:00         | • Live Birds with Craig Newman of Outreach for Earth Stewardship   |
| 2:30         | • Audubon's <i>All About Birds</i> program for kids<br>• Hummingbird film by Ernie Franzgrote, with Q&A afterward          |
| 3:59         | • Festival Raffle Drawing!   |
| 4:00         | • Museum closes  |

**Go WILD  
Go Birding!**

*International Migratory  
Bird Day 2011*



Find out more at  
<http://birdday.org/>

*IMDB is the only international education program that highlights and celebrates the migration of nearly 350 species [in the Americas]. Each year IMBD explores a different aspect of migratory birds and their conservation.*

– EFTA

## IT'S A PICNIC FOR THE ESSEX CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY



Under the leadership of David Carter, Pre-Technical Education teacher at the Center for Technology in Essex Junction, students built three new picnic tables for the Birds of Vermont Museum. These industrious sophomores built some fine-looking tables that were made to last!

This project was made possible by Board members Bill Mayville and Craig Reynolds, and by Rice Lumber in Shelburne, VT, which donated some of the materials.

The pre-tech class also donated bird feeders. We plan to use them for children’s programs and to place around the Museum. **Thank you!**



Sophomores learning construction techniques at the Center for Technology

## BOB'S HALF BIRTHDAY AND A MUSEUM HISTORY EVENING

Did you first visit the Museum in 1987 or 2007? Did you first meet Bob in the workshop, on a bird walk or while working together at GE? Do you remember when the Museum was only one floor, the gift shop was in the work shop, and the bathroom was next door?

We invite you to come share your memories, your photographs, and your stories while celebrating Bob's 91 1/2 birthday. We will enjoy a slide show of the museum's continuing story, reminisce with new and old friends, and of course eat cake on the evening of August 13th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. 🐦



Bob carving in his workshop in the late 1980's. The giftshop is visible on the right of the photo.

## THANK YOU

There are almost too many to list! Thank you all for your support in so many varied, welcome, ways.

- ◆ Robert Abell
- ◆ Carol Dell
- ◆ Paula and Michael Dill (*in memory of Toni Hurd*)
- ◆ Northeast Delta Dental
- ◆ Harvey Schugar
- ◆ Green Mountain Wood Carvers
- ◆ Art Gill
- ◆ Essex Center for Technology
- ◆ Family of T. Fitzgerald
- ◆ Leo LaBonte
- ◆ Jim Osborn
- ◆ Michele Patenaude
- ◆ Lynville Jarvis
- ◆ Sally P. Johnson
- ◆ Bill and Mae Mayville
- ◆ Bob and Shirley Johnson
- ◆ SymQuest
- ◆ Roland Wilbur
- ◆ Family and friends of Paul Hurd
- ◆ Rice Lumber
- ◆ Craig Reynolds
- ◆ Painters at our Work Day
- ◆ *Inspirations* Arts and Crafts Supplies
- ◆ Essex Cinemas
- ◆ Guys Farm and Yard
- ◆ Brian Valentine
- ◆ Physicians Computer Company

## WISH LIST

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.

- ◆ Clear Plastic Storage Bins (\$50)
- ◆ Benches for special spots along the trails, including the pond overlook (\$250)
- ◆ Outdoor bulletin board (\$250)
- ◆ Bookshelf (\$180)
- ◆ Perennials and mulch for gardens (\$250)
- ◆ Sponsor an intern for a season (\$2500)

*Thank you!*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, SPRING - SUMMER 2011

### Museum Opens

**Sunday, May 1, 10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.**  
Usual admission rates apply

Today is the first of our open-every-day Season. Come in and **discover our 500th Bird!** Is it a goose? A shore bird? A small waterfowl? Is it still in progress or is it in the exhibited collection? See other new carvings; enjoy older and more familiar ones.

From now until October 31, we will be open every day (holidays too!) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Drop in today, tomorrow or next week. Join us this spring, summer, and/or fall for festivals, walks, talks, and much, much more. Be a one-day visitor, become a member, or even a donor. All are welcome.

### “Familiar Ground”

*monotypes, intaglios and photography  
inspired by nature by artist Lori Hinrichsen*  
**Every Day, May-June, 10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
Free with admission

Welcome to our May-June 2011 exhibiting artist: Lori Hinrichsen. Her show, “Familiar Ground”, opens at the Museum on May 1st, the opening day of our 2011 season.

Come by and view her art and photography any day.

About the artist: <http://lorihinrichsen.com/>

### Early Bird Morning Walks

**Sundays, May 15, 22, 29; June 5, 12, 7:00 – 8:15 a.m.**  
Donations appreciated, outdoors

Or is that Early Morning Birding Walks? Join us for a outdoor ramble on the Birds of Vermont Museum property. Share your sightings, practice identifying by ear, or learn from other birders. Enjoy the start of the day with us, birds, and other woodland inhabitants. Finish the walk with bird-friendly “Birds and Beans” coffee inside the Museum.

Bring binoculars and good walking shoes, rain gear if needed. Park at 900 Sherman Hollow Road, in the Museum parking lot.

Appropriate for adults and older children.



### Bird Day Festival: Go Wild, Go Birding!

**Saturday, May 21, 8:00a.m. – 4p.m.**  
**Free, outdoors**

Join us at our annual Bird Day Festival celebrating Migratory Birds. Many events and activities are planned: see article on page 2.

A **free**, community-wide event co-sponsored by Audubon Vermont and the Birds of Vermont Museum. Bring the whole family!

### Carving Class: Eastern Bluebird

**Saturday, June 18, 9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
Cost: \$25 for members of the Museum or the Green Mountain Wood carvers / \$35 non-members.  
Pre-registration required.

Beginners welcome at our one-day carving class with David Tuttle of the Green Mountain Woodcarvers. We will carve and paint an Eastern Bluebird. Wood blank, eyes, snacks, and coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch.

### Birding the Basin: Field Trip to West Haven

**Saturday, June 25, 8:00 – 1:30 p.m.**  
Cost: \$20 for members / \$25 for non-members.  
Pre-registration required.

Jim Andrews, herpetologist and long-time birder, will lead us in a field trip to West Haven, Vermont. We hope to find Prairie Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, and maybe a few rare reptiles.

### VES Annual Butterfly Walk

**Sunday, July 10, 10:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Free, outdoors, donations appreciated**

Join Vermont naturalists and entomologists to experience Vermont’s butterflies and insects up close. Our hosts are members of the Vermont Entomological Society. Bring binoculars and an insect net if you have one. Pack a lunch if you would like to

stick around after the walk. If it is raining on the day of the walk, call the Museum at (802) 434-2167 to see if we have rescheduled.

Appropriate for everyone with an interest in Vermont’s six-legged creatures.

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

Email us at [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org)  
with any questions or comments.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Ask a Bird

**A Poetry Writing Workshop with Ted Scheu**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2:00p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Fee TBA

Have you ever asked a bird questions? Well, now's your chance! Whether it's a live bird out on the feeders, or a magnificent carved bird inside the museum, finally you'll have a chance to ask it anything you'd like!

Come join Vermont children's poet Ted Scheu ("That Poetry Guy") for a super-fun poetry writing workshop. Bring your sharpest eyes and your brightest imagination for this magical poetry adventure. We'll be observing birds and then writing odes to them using the most beautiful words we can find in our heads. Along the way, you'll be able to ask your favorite bird anything at all. How cool is that?

Best for ages: 6 to 12 (5's could come too and have their parents support their writing.)

### Bob's 91½th Birthday Celebration

**August 13, 2011, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Help Bob celebrate another glorious year by sharing your memories, your pictures, and your stories of and about the Museum. A slide show of the Museum's history will be shown. Refreshments will be served. See page 3 for more details.

Appropriate for everyone.

#### Looking Ahead

July:	A new artist exhibit (July-August)
August:	Champlain Valley Fair Green Mountain Woodcarver's 38th Annual Exhibit
September:	Community Art Show Art Contest entries due



Check our website for updates and additions:  
<http://www.birdsofvermont.org/events.php>

### Storytime in the Nestlings Nook

**Second Tuesday of each month, May–October**

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 p.m. (or so)

**Free** with admission; donations accepted.

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

Got a favorite book about birds? Share it with us!



### Weekly Carving Demonstrations

**Saturdays, May–October 31, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Free** with admission

Come watch a wood carver at work. Ask questions, collect fresh ideas, learn a new technique. Upstairs in the Museum workshop.

Appropriate for all ages.

### Sundays for Fledglings

**Sundays, May–October, 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.**

**Free** with admission; donations accepted.

Pre-registration *strongly encouraged*.

Often outdoors; please dress accordingly.

Kids are invited to hike, create, explore, carve, act, write, or investigate with us on Sunday afternoons. Designed for *1st through 4th graders*, but all are welcome.

We focus on birds...but amphibians, mammals, trees, ferns, forests, insects, and other natural community members may be included. Activity details will be posted at the museum and online each week.

### Bird Monitoring Walks

**Last Saturday of each month, May–August**

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Donations appreciated, outdoors

Join us on our monthly surveying walk while we gather long-term data about the species we find on the Museum property.

Bring rain boots or sturdy hiking shoes, sweater or jacket, binoculars, etc., depending on weather. Trail conditions vary.



## CARVING REPORT

Bob recently returned from Cedar Keys, Florida, looking tanned and rested. Oh yes, his carvings look pretty good too! When not mesmerized by the lovely view from his balcony of coastal waterfowl and tidal movement, Bob continued work on the Canada Goose and Snow Goose, for which he prepared blanks last fall. Both of these birds had been represented by taxidermy specimens and background paintings in the Fall Migration scene of the Wetland Dioramas. The **Canada Goose** is just about ready for painting and will soon be back at its Dead Creek setting. Looks like our 500<sup>th</sup> bird is on the horizon and will soon be *honking* for a celebration.

As mentioned in the previous *Chip Notes*, we are eagerly awaiting the debut of Dick Allen's **Bufflehead Duck** carvings. Bufflehead Ducks are small diving ducks that migrate through the region on their way to summer grounds in Canada and Alaska from wintering sites in coastal and southern United States and Central America. Inhabiting ponds and small lakes where they consume crustaceans, mollusks, and insects underwater, Buffleheads nest in aspen and poplar tree cavities created by Northern Flickers.

The male Bufflehead's striking triangular white patch, extending from the eyes to the rear of the head, inspired the bird's name. The Bufflehead's ability to achieve a near-vertical take-off from the water's surface is another reason we take special notice of this charming species. The male and



Bob roughing out a shorebird while overlooking Florida marshes  
Photograph ©2011 Steve Deam, used by permission



Dick Allen working fine detail in his studio

female pair will take their places near Dick's pair of Lesser Scaups in the Spring Migration scene of the Wetland Diorama.

## INTERESTED IN INTERNING OR VOLUNTEERING?

The Birds of Vermont Museum bustles with activity all year long, but the pace picks up during our open season: May through October. This is when we can *always* use extra hands around here. We welcome and appreciate your skills, interests, ideas, and elbow grease!

As an *intern* or a *volunteer* you might serve as a docent for the Museum's visitors, including introducing the video and handling admissions and gift shop purchases; help with outdoor trail maintenance and signage or paint chores; research and update species' information cards; assist with mailings; write articles for our *Chip Notes* newsletter; monitor and post bird population stats; participate in bird and nature events; install native plants for our interpretive (and growing!) garden spaces; post publicity flyers for upcoming events; and more!! **Interns** also complete a special project—based on their interests and/or academic requirements—that will enhance the Museum experience for visitors.

Please take a look at our website or call for more information. Interns are asked to complete an application process. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

## 2011 RAFFLE BIRD: BLUE-WINGED TEAL DECOY

Ready to win? For this year's raffle bird, we offer a wood and cork decoy, carved and painted by Leo LaBonte of Essex Junction, Vermont. The bird is about 10.5" from beak to tail, and looks lovely in its temporary home by our guest register. Many visitors have already commented that it would look even nicer in a permanent home (theirs). Tickets are \$1 each, or buy 6 for \$5. You may order tickets by phone, if you like!

Leo LaBonte started carving a little over 12 years ago. He is mostly a self-taught carver focusing on decoy carvings. He has won numerous awards for his decoys including prizes at the Art Knapp Hunting Decoy Contest and the Thousand Islands Museum Decoy and Wildlife Art Show. In more recent years, he has also taught his two sons to carve, resulting in 2 more award-winning carvers in the family. In 2009 both sons won awards at the International Wildfowl Carvers Association Young Guns competition!

Although generously donating the Blue-winged Teal to the Museum, Leo usually sells his decoys. If anyone is interested in contacting Leo please contact the Museum. *Thank you, Leo!*



Blue-winged Teal (cork and wood)  
by Leo LaBonte

## "FAMILIAR GROUND" BY ARTIST LORI HINRICHSEN

We are pleased to welcome Lori Hinrichsen as our Spring exhibiting artist. Lori grew up in Iowa and attended the University of Kansas, graduating with a degree in Theatre, Film and Video. Lori spent several years exploring the US, living and growing her art from California to Vermont. This included being a resident artist in Mendocino, at the Vermont Studio Center, and at the Virginia center for Creative Artists. She first joined the Museum community last fall as a judge for the 2010 Annual Youth Art Contest.

Lori has a studio at Shelburne Pond Studios, where she works with printmaking, painting, fabric, and ink. She writes:

*Much of my time is spent exploring and connecting with the land and the sky, from meandering paths along the rugged coastline, to breathing in the intoxicating smells of evergreens and fresh rain, to the star-filled desert skies that touch the earth. I feel a deep reverence for the ordinary, for the sensual ecstasy as each season unfolds. My work is in response to this intimate awareness and observation of nature which reflects the moment, engaging the present.*

The exhibit is free with admission to the Museum, and is open every day from May 1 – June 30. All are welcome.



between earth and sky (intaglio, 6x6 inches)  
© Lori Hinrichsen , used by permission

## SAVE THESE DATES

- May-June      Sunday Early Bird Morning Walks
- May-June      "Familiar Ground" Art Exhibit
- May 21        Go Wild, Go Birding! Bird Day Festival
- June 18       Carving Class: Eastern Bluebird
- June 25       Birding the Basin: West Haven field trip
- July 10        VES Butterfly Walk
- July 19        "Ask A Bird" Poetry Workshop
- Monthly:      Stories for Nestlings (*Second Tuesdays*)
- Weekends:    Wood carving Demonstrations (*Saturdays*)  
                    Fledglings Program (*Sundays*)

Details and more events inside and on our website!  
For info or to register, call (802) 434-2167.

*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.*

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