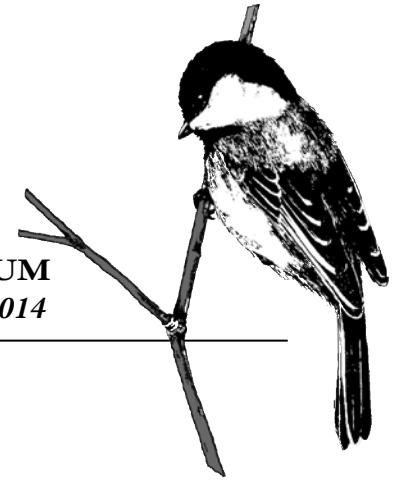


# Chip Notes

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BIRDS OF VERMONT MUSEUM  
Volume 28

Late Summer 2014



## A NEW POINT OF VIEW: FROM OUR NEW TREEHOUSE

Do you need a place to sit, feel the breeze across your face, see the clouds rolling across the sky, hear the brook cascading over rocks, listen to the sounds of birds singing, chirping, and calling to each other? If so, come visit the Museum's new treehouse. Rain or shine, it's waiting for you.

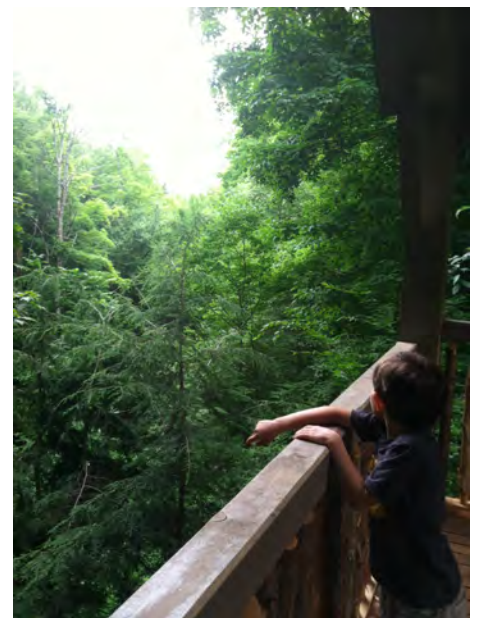
For years, the Museum's Board members and staff have wanted to create a treehouse: a sheltered, elevated outdoor space, one more accessible for people of all abilities than some other outdoor spaces. We imagined a place for reflection, teaching, observation, and restoration. Last year's flood interrupted our actual plans at first. However, with some unexpected volunteer assistance (an entire class!) and a little coordination with other needs, we have been able to roll the treehouse into the Bridges to Birds project... *and complete it.* (Find out more about the rest of the Bridges to Birds project on page 3.)

This project really began years ago and would not have happened without the insights, connections, funds, labor, and services donated by Bob Spear, Gale Lawrence, Dann Van Der Vliet, Mae Mayville, Shirley Johnson, Becky Cozzens, Evergreen Roofing, and the Essex Rotary Club. The treehouse itself and a wide walkway leading to it were built by the Center for Technology, Essex. The students, under the direction of their teachers, Shawn Rouleau and Brian Japp, designed, built, and installed an entire timber frame structure that is accessible to visitors of all ages. The students impressed us all with their skills and dedication.

Our treehouse is built out over a long stream bank to allow for elevated points of view and unique listening opportunities. When weather and foliage permit, the peak of Camel's Hump can be glimpsed above the trees. Sherman Hollow Brook tumbles below, often hidden, delighting the ear. Nearby hemlock, apple, and maple trees provide perching and gleaning territory for many small songbirds. The wide, nearly level gravel path to our "elevated bird blind" begins near the back lawn, winds through new garden beds, tucks behind the dogwoods, and meets a short bridgeway to the treehouse itself.

The treehouse gives us an additional space with completely different perspectives, allowing new outdoor programming options. A recent grant from the Vermont Community Foundation's Small and Inspiring program will help fund development of "Connections in the Canopy" activities and curricula.

We thank all of you who helped bring this vision into reality and we hope everyone will come visit. It's for you.



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## THE CARVER'S DAUGHTER

### *Part 8: My Dead Arm*

My arm was killing me. Every muscle burned, my fingers cramped, and my shoulder barely fit in its socket any longer. In other words, I was in agony, and it was all my father's fault. I was furious with those stupid birds of his and his stupid idea about carving every freaking bird that had ever been stupid enough to set its freaking feathers in Vermont. And I was mostly mad about his stupid idea to rebuild the barn on the old foundation next to Gale's house and keep his stupid birds in there.

I was going to be maimed for life because of this! I was never going to be able to use my right arm again. My fingers were ice cold and I could barely feel them, much less move them. Any doctor would agree this was child abuse. I should be put into foster care and live in a nice, normal apartment in a city and never have to look at another bird again as long as I lived!

And not only that, my hand was sticky, and I hated that more than anything.

But I forced my smile back on. "And what would you like?" I asked a sweet little girl standing in front of me.

"Chocolate, please," she said with an eager light in her eyes.

"Chocolate it is, then," I said, and bent over the cooler again, trying to hide my pain.

I had been scooping ice cream for three hours. It had seemed like a really good idea at first. My father was hosting his first open house. It had been advertised all across the media. His "project," now officially called the Birds of Vermont Museum, was open for visitors. In reality, today's open house was a test to see if anybody was interested. To see if anybody was insane enough to make the drive all the way out to Huntington to see a bunch of wooden birds. Of course, there was no charge. We were still ages away from having all the permits and stuff that were required to become a business, even one not for profit.

To sweeten the deal, my father was offering a free dish of Ben and Jerry's ice cream to everybody who showed up that day. For some stupid reason, the ice cream gurus had donated a bunch of bottomless cardboard tubs of the rock hard, icy, sticky stuff for the occasion. And for some stupid reason, I'd thought that was really

nice of them and volunteered to be in charge of it.

And now my right arm was totally dead. I didn't think anything could ever make me hate chocolate. But this afternoon was doing a good job of it.

"Here you go." I handed the little girl her dish and dragged my eyes to her mom. "And for you?"

"Vanilla, please," she said.

I decided to hate vanilla, too. I made my poor, abused fingers close around the scoop that lived in the vanilla tub.

"And how were you lucky enough to rate this job?" the mom asked.

I looked up at her as though she were out of her freaking mind. Beyond her, the line of people reached across Gale's kitchen, down the hall, out the front door, along the path, across the driveway, and down the side of the road all the way to the shop. Which we were now supposed to call the Freaking Birds of Vermont Museum.

"I'm his daughter," I growled.

"Oh, how marvelous! Your father has such incredible talent! Such patience! Such vision."

I looked at her again to see if she was sane or not.

"To create such a project! And not want to make any money at it! All that work, to educate people about nature and conservation and – oh, everything! I had to come up here the minute I heard about it. This is something that must happen. I wanted my daughter to be able to say she'd seen it in its earliest days." She



*Bob and Gale on Opening Day, apparently with warm, living arms.*

... continued on page 10



## BRIDGES TO BIRDS: CONNECTING TO PEOPLE

As you may recall, we “took advantage” of the devastating flood, integrated that with several pre-existing hopes and plans, and coordinated an initiative we call Bridges to Birds. This four-fold project will make (and already is making) the Museum more accessible to all, indoors *and* out, enabling better and more bird conservation, environmental education, and appreciation of Vermont’s natural communities.

One phase of the **Bridges to Birds Project**, Connecting to New Perspectives (the Treehouse), was completed this summer, and you can read more about it on the front page of this newsletter.

Two other phases, Connecting to Nature (with Interpretative Trails) and Connecting to Conservation (with Bird-friendly Gardens) are actively underway, thanks primarily to several dedicated volunteers and interns.

Now we focus our attention on another phase: Connecting to People (the reconstruction of our parking-to-entrance access). This one is perhaps the largest endeavor, and you’ve probably seen and read about the planning, engineering, and design aspects already in previous issues of *Chip Notes*.

Early in August we heard the great news that in the next few weeks the town of Huntington will replace the culvert that funnels the water from the creek above the Museum, under Sherman Hollow Road, and down to “Bob’s Bridge.” This is an essential prerequisite to our own construction process. Once this culvert and Sherman Hollow Road have been repaired, the Museum can start the physical repairs to create a safe

passage for visitors from the parking lot to the Museum doors.

While waiting for this construction to start, we all have been learning and researching ADA laws, erosion prevention techniques, effective interpretation methods, and the ways entrances can shape and enhance Museum-going experiences. We have also been consulting with designers and engineers, writing grants, and working on other fundraising to bring this phase into reality.

### *So Far, with Gratitude*

We are grateful for the support already given for work to date:

- FEMA helped fund some of the emergency work last year: clearing downed trees and debris; removing electric lines (\$800)
- Vermont Community Fund’s *Sudden and Urgent Needs* grant helped support initial personnel time (staff and consultant) as we began the planning and design of both temporary and permanent measures to bring people safely to the Museum, and storm water through the property (\$5000).
- Museum members and community donors help pay for some of the additional staff time as we continue to plan, apply for new grants, and develop related presentations and literature. Some of these donations will go directly to the initial construction costs (\$7000).

We also recently received a grant from the Vermont

... continued on page 6

### **Donation Info**

Call (802) 434-2167 with your credit card info or send a check in any amount at any time to

Birds of Vermont Museum  
900 Sherman Hollow Road  
Huntington, Vermont 05462

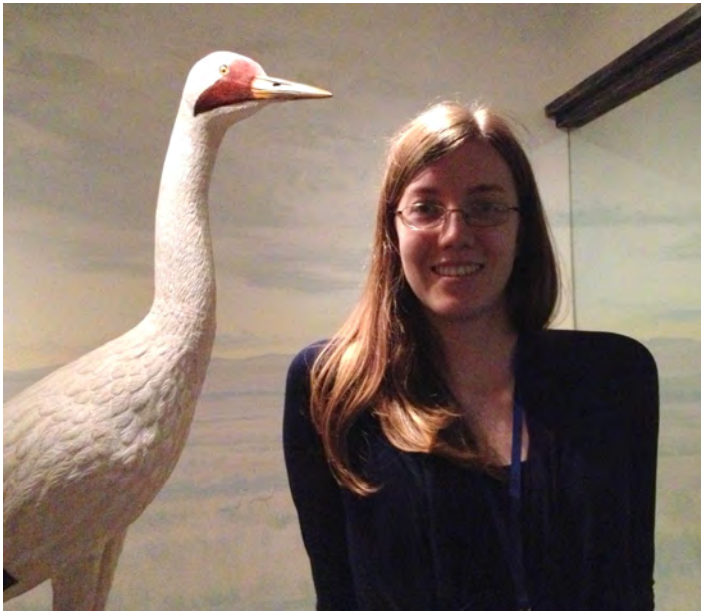
For online donation options, please visit our website, <http://www.birdsofvermont.org>



Donate



## INTERNS



### *Eliza Dorney*

I've been visiting the Birds of Vermont Museum ever since I can remember—for so long that walking in the door evokes a feeling of familiarity and belonging more than a set of concrete memories. Now, in the summer between my sophomore and junior years at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, I've found that it is a perfect fit for my interests in ecology and education.

My time as an intern has been a delight so far, as I've learned about the inner workings of the Museum and enjoyed spending time with the birds, both carved and alive. Along with day-to-day tasks and staffing the desk, I'm creating an indoor-outdoor treasure hunt for visiting groups and families. This project includes exploring the outdoor trails, studying the carvings, and researching birds and Vermont ecology.

Although the summer is drawing to a close—much too quickly, as always—I hope to be able to return to the Museum in the future to work on more projects, learn to identify more Vermont birds, and spend many more hours by the viewing window.

—*Eliza Dorney*

Our interns add to everyone's Museum experience. Seeing the Museum with fresh eyes, they often bring new and unique ideas. Each comes with different interests and talents and we are so grateful for the time they dedicate to the Museum—*thank you!*



### *Sean Brusco*

Essex High School (through their TIPS—Training Interns: Partnering for Success—a program that is part of Navicate) brought another fantastic intern to the Museum this spring. Senior Sean Brusco dedicated 40 hours of this time to helping the Museum.

Sean spent his time at the Museum helping us with general tasks, trail maintenance, and other outdoor work as we prepared for spring. He also learned to carve soap, and he created a new outdoor scavenger hunt for visitors.

To complete his program, Sean gave a brief presentation to his fellow TIPS participants. In addition to telling everyone about the Museum and his experience here, he shared his future plan to attend the University of Vermont and study Wildlife Biology. He hopes to someday have his own TV show that teaches kids about wild animals.

—*Erin Talmage*

### *Elizabeth Spinney*

Elizabeth, who was featured in last summer's newsletter, continued to help us a great deal over the winter and into the spring. She primarily helped us with fundraising activities related to the Bridges to Birds Project. This summer she works full time with the State of Vermont, yet still finds time to help us with special projects. *Thank you, Elizabeth!*



### ***Ally Chapman***

Allyson Chapman grew up in Colchester and is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont. Allyson loves wildlife and enjoys inspiring others to get outdoors. She believes that taking part in outdoor activities is one of the best ways for others to learn about the environment and gain respect for nature.

At the Museum, Ally created a garden to help teach the importance of pollinators. As bee and butterfly populations decline, she wants to show how this will impact wildlife like birds. Her project goals included promoting a model for an easy, at-home contribution: gardening with native pollinator plants. The garden is also designed to attract hummingbirds.

On the side, she helped maintain the Museum grounds and trails, assisted with our soap carving program, facilitated large school groups at the bird watching window, and learned how to manage the gift shop. Taking part in the Museum's recent exhibit for the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary marking the passenger pigeon's extinction, she also helped assemble some displays, creating paper pigeons and mock eggs and nests.

Ally is headed back to classes after enjoying her Museum internship. After her graduation in May 2015, she plans to continue helping others learn about wildlife and environmental issues.

— Ally Chapman

## **WE REMEMBER.**

The fabric of the Museum's history has been woven by many people. A few add a strand or two of color, while others provide the very warp that holds it all together. Unfortunately, there comes a time to say good-bye to some of these people. We are grateful for them, and we will miss them.

### ***Ed Everts, 1919-2013***

Ed Everts was a dear friend and instrumental in turning the Birds of Vermont Museum into a reality. He provided the initial funding that allowed Bob to start carving. Ed, and his partner Raven Davis, are remembered not only for their support, but also for their friendship.

In addition to all he did for the Museum, Ed was devoted to his family, spreading peace, working with the Peace and Justice Center, and exploring the world (sometimes with Bob and Gale in a VW microbus).

### ***Mary B. Fell, 1920-2014***

Mary Fell was a resident of Underhill. In addition to time spent volunteering for the historical society, she was a dedicated volunteer for Meals on Wheels and also volunteered many hours at Audubon Vermont's Sugar-on-Snow parties.

The General Assembly of Vermont wrote a resolution honoring her for her work. Her friend, Carol Wagner, is spearheading a campaign to dedicate a bench to Mary. The bench will be placed in the gardens along the path to the treehouse.

### ***Hubert "Hub" Vogelmann, 1928-2013***

Hub had personal ties with the Museum through his connections to Bob and Gale. He and his wife, Marie, were two of the Museum's charter members. He had a close personal connection with the Museum's mission of conservation. Hub worked with Bob and others to preserve Vermont ridgelines and mountaintops.

Hub was a botanist whose groundbreaking work on Camel's Hump led to national attention regarding issues with acid-rain. He also co-founded Vermont's chapter of the Nature Conservancy. In addition to serving on state and national environmental boards, he served on the Museum's advisory board.



## BRIDGES TO BIRDS (*Continued*)

Better Back Roads program to address stormwater runoff, preventing damage in the future. If you have seen the photos of the parking lot, or stopped in recently, you know from your own experience how essential this is to protect the riparian habitats along the tributary creek and Sherman Hollow Brook.

### *The Next Steps*

We are about to embark on a fundraising campaign for the bulk of entrance-access construction. These costs are great. There will be costs for detailed plans and oversight from structural and civil engineers, the site work, bank stabilization, stream bed restoration, the ADA-compliant bridge and walkway construction, materials, and interpretation. One member has already promised to match all donations!

As space here is limited, look for another mailing with more information about the entire project. It will include detailed goals for each phase, costs, donation information, and a generous list of thank you gifts, from watercolor prints by Libby Davidson, to a very special one donated by Denver Holt, renowned Snowy Owl biologist.

Thank you to all who have donated so far! We will continue to post pictures as progress is made. This is a very exciting time as we not only repair what was damaged but create a fully welcoming space that connects people to the essential and exciting world of birds.



## BOB, RECOGNIZED

Last March, the Town of Huntington recognized Bob Spear for his many years of service to the community. He was given the Olga Hallock Award at Town Meeting.

The plaque he's holding describes Bob as a Naturalist, Teacher, Author, Visionary, Carver, Founder, and Director.

Nice list. Bob does good work.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

### "PERILOUS PASSAGES" and "WINGS OF CLAY" EXHIBITS

*Daily*, through October 31 • 10am – 4pm

Begin to understand the consequences of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon in our art/science narrative exhibit. Admire (and purchase) delicate ceramic bird ornaments made by local students for the Museum.

*Free* admission for members • \$7 non-member adults; discounts for seniors and children

### BOB SPEAR'S HALF-BIRTHDAY

Thursday, August 21

Consider donating \$94.50 to celebrate his excellent chronological achievement!

### BIRD MONITORING WALKS (SUMMER-FALL)

*Last Saturdays*, August 30 • 7:30am – 9:30am

September 27, October 25, November 29 • 8:00am – 9:45am (note time change)

Join experienced birders on the monthly bird monitoring walk on the Museum's property. We go out the last Saturday of every month. We end the walk with cocoa, coffee and tea at the Bird Viewing Window inside the Museum.

Most fun for adults, older children, and somewhat more experienced birders. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather.

*Free* • Please pre-register

### SUNDAYS *for* FLEDGLINGS:

#### KIDS + BIRDS = FUN

*More or less alternate Sundays*,

September 7, 21, & October 5, 19 • 2 – 3pm

Discover birds with us, from feathers to flying, from art to zoology. Develop mad skillz in observation, research, and goofing around? Kids can earn a Junior Birder Badge!

Perfect for kids aged 5-9 (siblings welcome). Included with admission to Museum, donations always welcome.

Please call (802) 434-2167 to pre-register and to confirm times (sometimes they change).

## SUMMER—FALL 2014

### STORYTIME *in the* NESTLINGS NOOK

*Tuesdays*, September 9, October 14 •  
10:30 – 11:30am

Listen to stories about birds and more. Intended for pre-schoolers but all ages are welcome. Readings are followed by a craft project, music, or nature walk. Got a favorite book about birds? Share it with us!

*Free* with admission; donations welcome

### BLACK BEAR CARVING CLASS *with* DAVID TUTTLE

*Sunday*, September 14 • 9am – 3pm  
in the workshop at the Museum

Carve and paint a Black Bear. Wood blank, eyes, snacks, and coffee provided. No carving experience required! Do bring your tools and gloves if you have them; if you don't, let us know. Dave often brings some knives, gloves, etc. to sell.

Great for teens and adults. Please bring your lunch.

\$25 for Museum and GMWC members • \$35 for everyone else • Please pre-register

### MUSEUM DAY

*Saturday*, September 27 • All Day

In the spirit of Smithsonian Museums, who offer free admission every day, Museum Day Live! is an annual event hosted by Smithsonian magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Live! ticket... for free. Get your tickets at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/>

### LEAF GARLANDS *with* LORI HINRICHSEN

*Saturday*, September 27 • 1 – 3pm

Celebrate fall! Join artist Lori Hinrichsen in making Leaf Garlands in our new Treehouse (if it's warm enough)! We will gather leaves and use needle and thread to make a cascade of color. We may have snacks and cocoa, too.

Maximum size: 12 participants, so please pre-register.

Ages 7 and up.

*Free* with Museum admission, donations welcome.

### DEAD CREEK WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

*Saturday*, October 4 • 10am – 4pm  
Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison

Join us at Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Annual Festival activities for everyone. From beginning birders to hunting dog trials to nature journaling: there are different special activities every year. Other attendees often offer wooden decoy carving; arrive before 10am for that. The Museum will have a table with information, field guides, and more. We will soap carve too—times to be determined.

*Volunteers* welcome (at Dead Creek or at the Museum)—make our day easier *and* more fun!

More details at <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com>

### THE ECHOES *of* THEIR WINGS *with* JOEL GREENBERG

*Wednesday*, October 8 • 7 – 8 pm  
207 Lafayette Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington

See article on page 9 for more details!

### CITIZEN SCIENCE *with* KENT MCFARLAND

*Saturday*, November 8 • TBD

Kent McFarland will give a talk about citizen science and iNaturalist, and ways these have added to the research possibilities for ecologists, biologists, and more. More info coming soon: watch your email or our website.

## INDOOR DIGITAL BIRDING?

### *Help and devices wanted*

*Indoor bird songs:* Volunteer(s) and/or Intern needed to replace iFlyer barcode system with scannable codes that let smartphone and tablet users hear calls from the Maccauley library recordings. Get in touch with Kir Talmage at the Museum if you are intrigued.

*Wish list:* donate your old smartphone, tablet, or the like to the Museum! We have dozens of ways to use these.

We're online! Like, share, subscribe, follow, or tweet to us at any time.



All events are at the Birds of Vermont Museum unless noted otherwise.

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

## THE ART AND ARTISTS OF *PERILOUS PASSAGES*

In selecting art for the “Perilous Passages” exhibit, we sought to find works that illustrated the Passenger Pigeons’ existence, extinction and human reflection. We hoped to choose works that spoke of change, elusiveness, and loss, as well as works that were more directly accessible. Have we succeeded?

It’s easier to see for yourself at the Museum (and in color), but here is a taste. Works are presented as you might find them in the exhibit, from the Museum entrance to the multi-purpose room, and they follow the pigeons’ tale in time and understanding. Not all works are shown here, although each artist is represented.



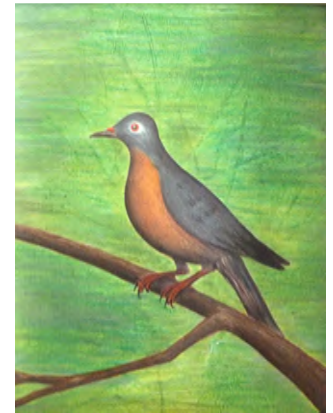
Doris Weeks,  
*Passenger Pigeon*,  
watercolor



Frankie Gardner,  
*Bird*,  
watercolor



Myk Martinez,  
*Wee Bird in Briar*,  
digital painting



Colin Talmage,  
*Fade to Gone*,  
colored pencil



Elizabeth Spinney,  
*Pressure*,  
digital collage



Carol Talmage,  
*Where Have all the Flowers Gone*,  
ink and watercolor



Michelle Saffran,  
*Martha*,  
photographic projections  
(one of two works accepted)

Michelle’s artist statement has this line that speaks deeply to us, evoking the purpose of including art in this science– and ethics–oriented exhibit:

*In my art practice I share ... the desire to hold onto loved ones by tracing the outline of their existence. I use the photograph as a talisman against forgetting, a keepsake memento that lives on long after the mortal existence of the person depicted has ended. The underlying mission of my work is to preserve, honor and stimulate memory.*





## ***THE ECHOES OF THEIR WINGS, A TALK BY JOEL GREENBERG***

The passenger pigeon, abundant beyond current imagining, is gone. What can we, did we, and will we learn from our relationship to and with this remarkable species?

In recognition of the centenary observance of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, the Museum features the bird's improbable story as our special art/science exhibit for 2014, using a variety of informative and conceptual displays.

Now you can listen for "the echoes of their wings" in a conversation with author Joel Greenberg, a naturalist and



author affiliated with the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum at the University of Chicago. Through the generosity of the Lucille Greenough lecture series, the Museum is delighted to be able to host Joel for his talk *The Echoes of Their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon* on Wednesday, October 8th, 2014 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The talk will be presented on the University of Vermont campus, 207 Lafayette Hall.

Greenberg spoke at the Fairbanks Museum in March of this year, where he received high marks for his work and insights into the destruction of one species and the need to protect and promote diversity in nature. This October event, co-sponsored by the Birds of Vermont Museum and Green Mountain Audubon Society, promises to be informative and thought-provoking. We hope to hear some discussions break out well before you've left the venue. There is a suggested donation of \$15 (\$5 for students).

### ***About Joel Greenberg***

Joel Greenberg played a leading role in creating and launching Project Passenger Pigeon (<http://www.passengerpigeon.org>), which promotes a deeper awareness of the roles humans play in species' extinction and in effective conservation. Serving as a research associate of the Field Museum and the Chicago Academy of Sciences Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Greenberg's keen interest in natural history is evident through his authorship of both *A Feathered River Across the Sky* and *A Natural History of the Chicago Region*. As a natural history educator, Greenberg has taught at the Morton Arboretum, the Brookfield Zoo, and the Chicago Botanic Garden. Please enjoy a visit to his blog at <http://www.birdzilla.com/blog/>.

—Allison Gergely

#### **TRAVELING LIBRARY EXHIBITS**

At the Richmond Free Library, browse our **Woodcarving** display. The Charlotte Public Library hosted our **Passenger Pigeon** display over the summer.

The Brownell Library in Essex Junction will show the **Migration** exhibit through the fall.

Interested in having an exhibit at your library? Call us!



### *A Thousand Thanks To:*

- ◆ Jeannette Malone for integrating us into Girl Quest learning experiences
- ◆ Caliope Flickinger and Chamberlain School student artists for note cards to raise Bridges to Birds funds
- ◆ MC Baker and Williston School student artists for the ceramic birds to raise Bridges to Birds funds
- ◆ Susi Ryan and David Tuttle for teaching classes
- ◆ Huntington River Vineyard for partnering with us to share birds, pizza, and wine
- ◆ Barbara and Leora Ovitt, for their generous remembrance
- ◆ Early eBirders and their leaders Shirley Johnson, Bill and Mae Mayville, Alison Wagner, and Tom Jiminchello,.
- ◆ Erny Palola, Stuart Kirkaldy, Marie and Haley DuPont, Elizabeth Spinney, Bob and Shirley Johnson, Bill and Mae Mayville, Dave Affolter, and Kari Jo Spear for especially dedicated volunteering
- ◆ Steve Burt, Mrs. Davis, Bill Mayville, Shirley Johnson, Heidi Racht of Pleasant Mount Farm, Leonard Perry, Harvey Schugar, Mark Starrett, University of Vermont Greenhouse, and Gardeners Supply for flowers and garden accessories
- ◆ Shawn Rolueau, Brian Japp, and the Center for Technology Essex students, for building this amazing treehouse
- ◆ Vermont Community Foundation for the grants that will help us develop “Connections in the Canopy” programs
- ◆ Dick Allen, for the Goldeneye hen wood carving and donor thank-you ornaments
- ◆ Vermont Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Bobbie Summers, Tom Jiminchello, Jim Osborn for items for our gift shop and silent auctions
- ◆ Essex Rotary Club and David Johnson
- ◆ Sunrise Rotary Club and Dann Van Der Vliet
- ◆ Evergreen Roofing and Dick Affolter
- ◆ Karen Ballard, Vermont Tourism Network
- ◆ Journalists Lynn Monty, Shelby Cashman, Shelly Holt Allen, Anson Tebbetts
- ◆ Michaela Stickney and Alan May for assistance with VBBR grant
- ◆ Grover Engineering
- ◆ Van Stowell for helping create a bird house exhibit
- ◆ Carol Wagner, Carolyn Gregson, and the Underhill Historical Society

### **CARVER’S DAUGHTER** *(continued)*

nodded at the little girl dripping chocolate all over the place, who nodded back vigorously. Then the mom looked back at me. “You are so lucky to be part of all this.”

I looked up at her, my arm suddenly feeling a little less leaden and sticky. Did she really mean she hadn’t come all this way for free Ben and Jerry’s?

“I mean, look at the turnout!” she said. “There are hundreds of people here. You must be so proud.”

“It’s amazing,” someone behind her said.

“They look alive,” someone else said.

“I’m going to start a life list,” another voice added.

No, don’t! I almost said aloud. It won’t lead to good things! But then I found myself really smiling as I handed the mom her little dish. “Here you go,” I said. “Thanks so much for visiting the Birds of Vermont Museum today. And what kind would you like, sir? We have chocolate and vanilla and suet with sunflower sprinkles. Just kidding,” I added.

He laughed. “Chocolate, please.”

“Coming right up. Don’t let it drip on your binoculars.”

Everyone laughed. What great people, I thought. What a momentous day!

And what big muscles I’m going to have.



*Early visitors going eye-to-eye with a carved Barred Owl*

## BIRDING REPORT

Birds, birds, birds. Sometimes with the excitement of things like floods and treehouses we forget to actually mention the birds.

We have had a great spring and summer of birding around the Museum. We host weekly walks in May and June and monthly walks throughout the year. When snow is still on ground and the chill is in the air, those first migratory species that show up give hope for sunny days and spring wildflowers. The first Hermit Thrush was seen on April 16, joining the Fox Sparrows in the bird viewing area.

In early May, as the grass grew greener and the weather warmed a bit, the neotropical migrants returned. Birders recorded 13 different warbler species in the first two weeks of May. They also noted Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, vireos and flycatchers. Additional highlights included discovering a Blue-headed Vireo nest, observing Louisiana Waterthrushes and their young, finding an American Bittern at the pond, and seeing a Northern Goshawk and Evening Grosbeak from the bird viewing window (not at the same time!). For a complete list of the birds we have seen on our walks please see our blog series, <http://bovm.wordpress.com/?s=Through+the+Window>



As of this writing we have still not seen any monarch butterflies; however, other notable insect sightings include a Swamp Darner dragonfly, the first for property and the fourth record in Vermont.



## CARVING REPORT

### *Learning to carve together*



Carving, teaching about carving, and learning about carving continue to be at the forefront of the Museum's activities.

Soap carving classes were held at local libraries and at the Museum this summer. We are always amazed what some people can do with a piece of soap. If you are online, look at our Pinterest board at <http://www.pinterest.com/birdsofvermont/soap-carving/> for ideas.



In the past few months, Dave Tuttle has taught two classes in which beginning and experienced carvers created first Wood Ducks, and then Killdeer. Another carving class, where students can carve a black bear, is scheduled for September.

Dave Tuttle has also carved "comfort birds" out of wood harvested from the flood-damaged area. These small carvings will be used as a thank you gifts to donors to *Bridges to Birds*.



Bob Spear has slowed down his carving, but on occasion we still hear him puttering about in his shop.

Board member Dick Allen recently finished the female



Bufflehead. She joins the male, which he also carved, in the wetland diorama.



## SAVE THE DATES

- Sept 14 David Tuttle's *Black Bear Carving Class*
- Sept 27 Lori Hinrichsen's *Leaf Garland Workshop*  
Museum Day
- Oct 4 Dead Creek Wildlife Festival
- Oct 8 Joel Greenberg's *Echoes of the Their Wings*  
*Lecture & Conversation*
- Nov 8 Kent McFarlands's *Citizen Science/iNaturalist*  
*Lecture & Conversation*
- Repeated: Bird Monitoring Walks (*Last Saturdays*)  
Nestlings (*Second Tuesdays, May–October*)  
Fledglings (*alternate Sundays, May–October*)

Details inside and on our website! To register,  
call (802) 434-2167 or email [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@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.*

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*Please send comments or changes of address to*

The Birds of Vermont Museum  
900 Sherman Hollow Road • Huntington, Vermont 05462  
[museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org) • (802) 434-2167

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