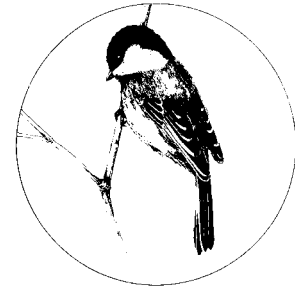


CHIP NOTES

The Newsletter of
The Birds of Vermont Museum



Volume 21

Our Twenty-First Year

Spring 2007

MUSEUM TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY.

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Birds of Vermont Museum and Audubon Vermont are sponsoring a special open house on May 12th 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 climate change. 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**

- 7:00 a.m. Early morning Bird Walk (for adults) with Bob Jervis (meet at Nature Center)
- 8:00-11:00 a.m. Bird Banding at Green Mountain Audubon – Mark LaBarr
- All day Green Mountain Audubon Education Barn & Discovery Room are open!

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

- 8:00-4:00 Museum opens with free admission all day
- 9:00-10:00 Family Bird Program– Audubon Vermont staff
- 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
- 1:00-1:30 Bird Carving Demonstration – Bob Spear and Ingrid Brown
- 1:30-2:30 Bird Walk (for adults) – Jim Osborn
- 2:30-3:15 Story Time, followed by Bird Dance Boogie – Kir Talmage

ALL DAY: raffle, snacks for sale

KIDS ACTIVITIES: color a bird, make a migratory bird bracelet, bird bean bags, bird feet puppets, quests, bird memory, heron pools, etc.



Thanks to Seventh Generation for generously donating a gift basket to the raffle.

WINGS OVER STOWE

The Birds of Vermont Museum, Audubon Vermont and other organizations are working with Stowe, VT, and numerous local businesses to kick off a month-long celebration of our rich birding heritage and the enormous diversity of its winged friends. From May 27 to June 30 there will be demonstrations, films, walk, art exhibits, and bird related activities in and around Stowe.

Bob Spear's Spruce Grouse will be on display in Stowe for the month. On June 22 and 23, Chip Darmstadt of North Branch Nature Center and Erin Talmage will be hosting a Birding by Ear workshop. Ingrid Brown will be traveling to Stowe on June 24 to spend the afternoon carving on the village green. In addition, Stowe visitors can visit the Museum and other places as part of a *Birds of Vermont* van tour led by Mountain View Tours.

For more details about this month-long celebration please see <http://www.gostowe.com>, or call 800-24-Stowe or the Museum at 802-434-2167.



READY FOR LOVE

Bob has put in over 600 hours working on the Wild Turkey. The carving has been completed and Bob is starting the painting and burning process. When asked how long until it is finished, Bob usually just laughs. Libby has painted the background mural for the display area. Her work includes the female that this Tom Turkey is trying to impress.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

In November of 2005 the Museum Board approved a five-year strategic plan. The plan helps guide the Museum with long range activities and provides guidance on capitol projects, program development, and communication goals. The Board has been working in task groups with staff to fulfill these goals.

Goals completed in 2006 and the first part of 2007 include:

- ♦ aligning our school programs with Grade Expectations,
- ♦ installing a humidifier to help maintain a stable museum environment in the winter,
- ♦ writing a communications plan,
- ♦ continuing with long-term bird monitoring,
- ♦ implementing an internship program,
- ♦ and maintaining Museum infrastructure (by replacing the Museum roof in the fall of 2006).

WISH LIST

\$150 DVD Player – to modernize our ability for audio/visual presentations.

\$500 of gift certificates to Seventh Generation – to stock the Museum with completely recycled paper products.

\$3000 – Stipend for summer interns

\$7000 – Air conditioner/dehumidifier to maintain temperature and humidity in the summer months to help preserve the carvings.

Thanks to Sally Robinson, Brenda and Curtis Wilson, and Robert Coon who responded to our last wish list.

FALL WETLAND DIORAMA

Libby Davidson is putting the finishing touches on the Fall Wetland Diorama.

This work has been generously supported by the following donors: Jack and Barbara Dempsey, David and Meredith Babbott, Robert Coon, Ann B. Day, John and Jane Ewing, Stewart Kirkaldy, Jean Pecor, Sally Robinson, Roberta Summers, Donald and Deborah Lauper, Cathy Yandell and a few other anonymous donors.

Thank you for all your support.

Now it's just up to Bob and Ingrid to finish the carvings!

The Diorama shows Snow Geese landing in a farm field with the introduced Gray Partridge and Northern Bobwhite in the background.



GIFT SHOP UPDATES

Good News!

As of January 1, 2007, the Museum no longer charges sales tax in the gift shop. This is a new law that affects Vermont non-profit shops with a small volume of sales. Come get your feeders, bird guides, kids' books, and other bird-related items and pay no tax! And if you are a member you *still* get 10% off everything in the gift shop!

This year we have put together two kits to assist beginning bird watchers and beginning carvers. The beginning bird watcher kit include a field tested beginners' bird guide, field notebook, pencil, field apron, and a list of binoculars recommended for beginners. Thanks to Gale Lawrence for putting hours into researching the best products. The beginner carver's kit includes a soap carving book, soap, and a collection of handmade tools appropriate for children. Come check these kits out!

In an effort to continue our conservation efforts, we will recycle your small plastic and paper bags in our gift shop. Anything smaller than a grocery bag will be useful to us. We continue to increase our emphasis on protecting the environment through easy steps. Recycle, reuse, buy local, buy items with minimal packaging, use recycled paper products, buy shade grown bird-friendly coffee. These easy steps help a lot in saving our planet.

Save our planet Earth – it's the only planet with chocolate.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All activities suitable for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Volunteer Luncheon/Work Party

Saturday May 5 9:00 – 3:00 a.m.

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. More information on page 7.

Early Morning Bird Walks

Sundays May 20 – July 1 7:00 a.m.

Casual bird walk through a variety of habitats. Donations appreciated.

Carving Demonstrations

Sundays May 20 – Oct 28 1:00 – 2:30 .

Weekly carving demonstrations in the workshop, free with Museum admission.

Beginning Bird Watching Activities

Sundays May 20 – Oct 28 3:00 – 4:00

Activities will vary but can include: bird walks, crafts, nature journaling, quests, etc. Activities will be indoors or outdoors, weather dependent: free with Museum admission. All ages welcome!



Monthly Monitoring Bird Walks

Mondays May 28, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24 6:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

The Birds of Vermont Museum and the Green Mountain Audubon Center make up one of Vermont's Important Bird Areas (IBA). Monthly monitoring walks happen on both properties (see <http://vt.audubon.org/eventsCalendar.html>). These monthly monitoring walks are an enjoyable way to start your week. Appropriate for adults (beginning birders). Donations appreciated.

Members Only - 20th Anniversary Slide Show

Thursday June 14 7:00 p.m.

Joins us as we look back over the last 20 years, and forward to the next 20. We'll start the evening with wine and cheese at the viewing window talking about birds, and catching up with old friends. We will then move to the conference room for the slide show and discussion.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

All activities suitable for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Neighbors' Day

Sunday June 17

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free Museum admission for Hinesburg, Huntington, and Richmond Residents.

Birding by Ear Workshop

Friday and Saturday June 22 and 23

7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Joint program with Chip Darmstadt from the North Branch Nature Center. Friday night (June 22) at we will meet in Stowe for an introduction to birding by ear using Bob Spear's carvings. On Saturday morning we will walk the Stowe bike path practicing what we learned the night before. Fee. Call for details 802-434-2167.

Carving Demonstration in Stowe

Sunday June 24

1:00 – 4:00

Carving demonstration by Ingrid Brown on the village green in Stowe. Free.

Vermont Entomological Society Field Trip

Sunday July 8

10:30 – 12:00

Look for bugs with Vermont Entomological Society. Free Museum admission for participants.

Wood Carving Week in Morrisville

Tuesday – Thursday August 14-16

Three Day Carving Seminar in Morrisville with Don Heuerman, \$130, carving a boy walking, with a pole and string of fish. Contact Green Mountain Wood Carvers at (802) 888-2312.

Friday August 17

Wood Carvers' Banquet, Morrisville, \$15, contact GMWC.

Saturday August 18

Wood Carvers Show, People's Academy, Morrisville, contact GMWC

Members Only – Come celebrate Bob's Half Birthday

Sunday August 19, 2006

7:00 p.m.

We will be showing ETV's *Birding in Vermont* for all those who missed it the first time around, or just have to see it again! Of course, we will also have cake!



Hannah Miller carving a Black-capped Chickadee. Photograph by Deb Miller.

QUESTING

Do you like puzzles? Are you goal oriented? Do you have kids with lots of energy? Do you have lots of energy? Have you tried questing?

Up the path we continue on the left fork

Take a look through the honeysuckle the sparrows do work

They are looking for insects, caterpillars, and grubs

A tasty treat for their young – a mouthful of bugs!

Honeysuckle smells good and sure loved by bees

Invasive it is, so don't plant it please

Passing the hawthorns stay away from the spikes

Continue to basswood -- a carver's delight.

*An excerpt for the Museum's *Mystery Bird Quest**

Can you figure out where to go?

A simple definition for questing is a treasure hunt where the prize is knowledge. Questing is a form of place-based education giving the participants an opportunity to explore a place in a whole new way. A non-profit organization called Vital Communities has worked for over a decade with children and adults to put together quests in the Connecticut River Valley. Students, families and individuals can enjoy questing just by following the clues. Along the way they might learn about a church in their town, how to measure a tree trunk, what a floodplain is, or where bluebirds nest. The creation of a quest can be a fun project for a group of children, or a group of adults, since the first step is exploration. In addition, it is an activity for all ages that doesn't cost your family anything.

This past March, Audubon Vermont at the Green Mountain Audubon Center held a quest workshop taught by Steve Glazer of Valley Quest. Glazer has an abundance of questing experience. He has been working with Valley Quest a program of Vital Communities. Birds of Vermont Museum has joined the questing craze! Mystery Bird Quest is our first one. Copies of the quest are available at the front desk. Come try it out!

For more information about questing in Vermont see <http://www.vitalcommunities.org/ValleyQuest/ValleyQuest.htm>

ENDOWMENT CONTINUES TO GROW

An endowment was established for the Birds of Vermont Museum in 1998. Since that time, the endowment has continued to grow, in part due to generous donations by various individuals. Each year numerous members generously give a donation for Bob's birthday. This year was no exception. Thank you to everyone who donated in Bob's honor.

Anytime someone sponsors a bird exhibit case, the money goes directly to the endowment fund. In addition, people can make donations directly. The combination of Bob's birthday, individual donations, and bird sponsorships, (more than \$17,000) has been added to the endowment in the past few months. The endowment ensures the long-term future of the Museum by providing a steady and predictable stream of revenue that allows the Museum to be secure in its planning and operations. Thank you to all who have donated to our endowment this year, and in past years.

For additional information about the Birds of Vermont Museum Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation, contact Erin Talmage (802-434-2167) or Tom Smith at the Vermont Community Foundation (802-388-3355).

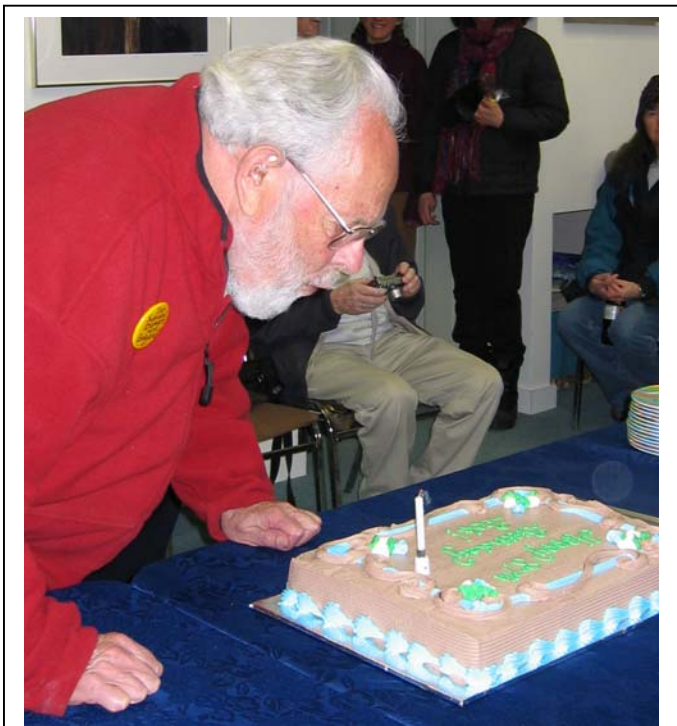
VOLUNTEER LUNCH/WORK PARTY

Put May 5, 2007 on your calendar if you are a volunteer or wish to become one. We will meet at noon for lunch. We welcome any favorite hot dish, salad, or dessert, although bringing something is **totally optional**.

We will discuss the various projects available to volunteers this coming season, and you will have a chance to meet some very dedicated and wonderful people who make up the volunteer force. We will hold a task and procedure orientation/review, and we will train those who wish to learn how to run the cash register.

Come early, or stay late. Before and after lunch we plan to spend time working indoors and outdoors preparing for our season and for the big event May 12th, International Migratory Bird Day.

Call the Museum, 802-434-2167, to RSVP.



Bob blowing out the candles at his 87th birthday party.

THANK YOU

A very special thank you to the following business and individuals for their generous support of our work to educate children and adults about the environment through the study of birds and their habitats.

Chittenden Bank

- For printing our brochures and partial funding for the roof.

Merchants Bank

- Partial funding for the roof.

Delta Dental

- For support of the newsletter and for general support.

Lintilhac Foundation

- For support of installation of the humidity control equipment

Northfield Savings Bank

- Partial funding for the roof.

Norcross

- For support of installation of the humidity control equipment.

Sally Robinson

- For contribution of three Ipods.

Curtis and Brenda Wilson

- For creating bookshelves.

Bruce Blackman

- For maintaining our website.

Seventh Generation

- For donation of gift basket for International Migratory Bird Day raffle.

Norman and Dorothy Pellet

- For a year-end contribution to the Birds of Vermont Museum Fund.

SAVE THESE DATES

May 12 **International Migratory Bird Day**
7:00 – 4:00 p.m.

June 17 **Neighbor's day**
10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sundays – May 20 – Oct 31
Carving Demonstration
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Beginning Bird Watcher Activities
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**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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Ingrid Brown, Curator
Bob Spear, Founding Director
Erin Talmage, Museum Director

Thanks to Northeast Delta Dental for supporting
our newsletter.



Northeast Delta Dental

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