

# Chip Notes

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BIRDS OF VERMONT MUSEUM  
Volume 35

Early Winter 2021



## COFFEE AND BIRDS: THE CONSUMER CONNECTION

If you have visited the Museum in the last few years, you may have noticed we sell, talk about, and like to drink Bird Friendly® coffee.

According to a 2021 report published by the National Coffee Association, Americans drink 656 million cups of coffee per day. That means we rely on Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa, where coffee is grown. Coffee usually comes in two varieties, *arabica* and *robusta* (there are several less common varieties), and can be grown in several ways. Arabica is often grown in the shade, while robusta is more typically sun-grown.

According to the Smithsonian Migratory Birds Center, “75% of the world’s coffee is farmed with practices that leave no place for birds, or worse, actively destroy forest habitat.” To grow most of the world’s coffee, rainforests have been cut down, replaced with a monoculture of coffee plants. Pesticides and fertilizers are added to increase coffee yields. These steps, which may temporarily increase yields, remove habitat for birds, reduce biodiversity, present a health risk to local farmers, and increase pollution, erosion, and climate change. But not all coffee growers follow this practice.



The Baltimore Oriole is just one of the many species that uses bird friendly coffee plantations during their winters.

Photo by Morgan Barnes

Bird Friendly® coffee growers use methods that promote a healthier environment for wildlife and people. Bird Friendly® coffee certification has a number of criteria requiring specifics about amounts of foliage cover, tree heights, structural diversity, leaf litter, and other measures to be implemented on the farms. These maintain or create a multi-story forest, allowing for a diversity of wildlife—including birds.

In addition, Bird Friendly® coffee required that the coffee be shade-grown and organic. This standard requires no pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, nor genetically engineered organisms be used. In addition, the soil must be chemical-free for three years. These standards make habitat better for local native species, products safer for consumers, and reduce chemical exposure for the growers.

### Vermont Birds Affected

About 80 species of birds recorded in Vermont may also use bird-friendly coffee habitats.

Some well-known species include the Baltimore Oriole, Gray Catbird, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Several kinds of Warblers, Vireos, Flycatchers, Hawks, Swallows, and Thrushes have also been documented on coffee farms in Mexico and central America.

### New Roaster Options at the Museum

The Birds of Vermont Museum currently carries Bird Friendly® coffee from two different coffee roasters. We began with Birds and Beans, a wonderful Massachusetts-based, Smithsonian-affiliated company that we have worked with for years. In 2021, the Museum began carrying coffee from Ridge Roasters, a small company in nearby Monkton, Vermont. When asked why they decided to focus on bird-friendly coffee, Diana and Andrew replied,

We knew we wanted to produce the most

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# RUN FOR THE BIRDS

It was fall again, and the runners were ready. This year’s Race Around Birds event had two options: a virtual (self-timed) option during the last days of October and first days of November, and a traditional trail race on November 6th. We offered a “single” run (3.6 miles, a bit more than a 5k) and a “double” (7.2 miles) within each option.

Some say it’s tough run; others say very tough; and even more say they had fun!

Volunteers prepared the trails again throughout October. They checked trail markers, cleared leaves, made temporary signs, provided ropes for hand-holds on the most steep section, checked for muddy and slippery places and made efforts to improve them, and removed fallen branches and even a few new-fallen tree trunks. And after the race, they did a great job saving the extra signs for next year.



*One of the museum volunteers, also a runner, heading uphill on the Spear Trail*

Thirty-nine runners made the effort; we estimated we could host 50-60 competitors. Runners ranged in age from 13 to 75 years. The new single course record was set by Jesse Vining (28:41) and the double by James Grant (1:06:45) ... but Bennett Gamber nearly took that with 1:06:46!



We welcome runners and walkers all year round, of course, and look forward to holding this event again next year. Race Around Birds 2022 is set for Saturday November 5, 2022. Need to train? You can download the route map from <https://birdsofvermont.org/event/race-around-birds-2021/>.

Don’t forget to check out the full results list available at <https://birdsofvermont.org/2021/11/14/results-for-race-around-birds-2021/>. Congratulations to all the walkers, runners, and supporters of the Race Around Birds!

Not interested in running? The trails are open year-round, and you can choose routes for short or long hikes, into upland oak forests or by a pond and ferny clearings. Trail maps are posted at the kiosks. As much as we all love dogs, please leave your pooches at home. Happy hiking!

**#AskBob**

Q: What as the best decision you ever made?  
 A: Deciding to make my own museum.

Q: What is the worst decision you ever made?  
 A: Deciding to make my own museum.

Q: And what was your most irrational act?  
 A: Deciding to make my own museum.

## THE CARVER'S DAUGHTER

### *Part 22: My Father and Number 314*

My father helped me start my life list when I was twelve years old. At the time, he had 314 birds on his list. This isn't a huge number by today's standards, when many birders are able to travel the world and have guides take them to various hotspots. We also have tools today that didn't exist back when a pair of binoculars, a spotting scope, and a trusty field guide were the total arsenal available to a birder. We didn't have eBird to send rare bird alerts to our phones, or birdsong identification apps to give us a list of everything singing nearby, or a database to quickly remind us which sparrows have spots and which have streaks. All my father had were friends who would call him if they'd heard somebody might have seen a-something-or-other somewhere along a river.

Though he did some travelling, my father added most of the birds to his life list just by bringing a pair of binoculars with him when he went out to cut firewood or by watching the birdfeeders while eating his morning cornflakes. I remember him saying that if your list was in the 300s, it meant you were a pretty good birder.

The goal of 314 seemed unattainable to me when I first sat down with the brand-new field guide my father had given me for my birthday. Under his direction, I went through the alphabetical list at the back of the book and marked off all the birds I knew I'd already seen, like



*Hannah Miller carved this award-winning American Robin and gifted it to her teacher, Bob Spear.*

chickadees, crows, and Canada geese. I also marked off the less common ones I remembered seeing with him, like gannets nesting on an island in Canada and a cactus wren that had been singing in a saguaro near our campground in Texas. So I had a few that most kids my age didn't have, just because I was my father's daughter (not that most twelve-year-olds even knew what a life list was). When I'd worked my way to the end of the book, I had about thirty birds, and my father said that was an excellent start.

Getting to 314 seemed like it would be years away. And it was. I reached 314 birds this past October, some forty years later.

I've been birding slowly and steadily all my life, pretty much the way he had done, content to walk up and down our road with my binoculars and see what there was to see. But then eBird happened, and for the first time, I discovered the excitement of the chase. It's thrilling to drop everything, jump into the car, and head to Rouses's Point to see an ivory gull, or go to Montreal for a Great Gray Owl. My friends thought I was crazy to spend a precious weekend day dashing to New York for a Tundra Swan. Or instead of relaxing after work on a Friday afternoon, I'd head for the compost heap in Burlington because there was an Iceland gull there right now! Wait, a real Caracara in Vermont? What? A Brown Booby? Really? Let's go! Every bird is an adventure with a story to tell afterward, and the failures only made the successes sweeter. (I am going to get a Bicknell's Thrush this spring, I really am!)

My life list got helped out by my first trip to the tropics, where I pulled in thirteen birds in the Bahamas and on the Yucatan Peninsula. Now I know why birders hire guides—it was really awful to be part of a tour whose purpose was to see Mayan ruins (which were amazing, don't get me wrong) but to have to keep walking when something fascinating was singing in the palm tree above me. And I probably owe an apology to the woman relaxing in the sun who had a Bananaquit walking right under her beach chair, or the family having a picnic with the Prairie Warbler in the roof of their tiki hut. At least they all seemed to be interested in what I was getting so excited about, after they decided I was harmless.

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## EXPANDING MUSEUM VOICES

The year 2020 was not the easiest year. A pandemic began, and we shared—often in distant parallel—lockdowns, remote work, and birding. People protested throughout the year, about race and injustice, about the pandemic response. We read about the experience Christian Cooper endured while birding in Central Park, in which a dog walker threatened to call the police on him after he asked her to leash the dog—in a year when more attention had been brought to police officers killing black men. Birding should not be a life-threatening activity.

Safely birding while black is clearly connected to the museum's mission of birds, conservation, and education. And this event seemed to us to be one among many points of friction from 2020 that could (and would and did) inspire artists. It influenced our choice of art show theme.

How much of this resonated with artists and writers? What other challenges influenced their work? So, for our 2021 year's art show, we asked creators—from previous shows, and from new-to-us groups and guilds—to look back on 2020, to share stories (visual and otherwise) of their experiences.

Entries from artists, photographers, writers, and poets were selected for the show. The creators ranged from under 10 to over 80 years old, all with different experiences of birding, the pandemic, faith, and social places. Each of their perspectives may be unseen or unknown to someone else, even in the same community.

In addition to our call to artists, we contacted Christian Cooper. We thus learned about DC Comics' *Represent* series, which kicked off with a graphic novel retelling of Cooper's experience, in *It's A Bird!* DC allowed us to include several pages of the comic in our art show, and we invite you to read the whole thing yourself: it is free to download in several e-reader formats.



With You (Diahann Addison) (left)

Coming Home Again (Lily Hinrichsen) (right)

• Read about *Represent! It's a Bird*: <https://www.dccomics.com/blog/2020/09/09/dc-proudly-announces-represent-new-digital-comics-from-underrepresented-voices>

• Read the comic itself on Comixology (<https://www.comixology.com/Represent-2020-1-Its-a-Bird/digital-comic/889281>) or Amazon Kindle (<https://smile.amazon.com/Represent-2020-1-Its-Bird-ebook/dp/B08GYH64YP>)



Inspirit (Cathleen Barkley)

We hope that this show spoke for and to you—telling both your story and relaying others' points of view.

### **Artists, poets, writers, and photographers included:**

- Adam Forguites
- Alison Forrest
- Alitha Martinez
- Ariel Kaile McKnight Burgess
- Betty Mitchell
- Carol McDowell
- Carol Talmage
- Carolyn Crotty
- Cat McKeen
- Cathleen H Barkley
- Charlotte O
- Chris Selin
- Christian Cooper
- Christy Witters
- Deana Allgaier
- Diahann Addison
- Emilio Lopez
- Francine Fox
- Jane Ploughman
- Juniper M
- Kateland Kelly
- Katherine Guttman
- Kir Talmage
- Laura Fried
- Lily Hinrichsen
- Lori Hinrichsen
- Louanne Nielsen
- Lynn Cummings
- Marcia Vogler
- Mariposa Ottens
- Mark Morales
- Meg Walker
- Miriam Adams
- Nancy Stone
- Nicandra Galper
- Oscar A. Sanchez Guillen
- Prudence M
- Sarah Rosedahl
- Sau
- Sharon Radtke
- Stefani Allegretti
- Summer Stratton
- Tina Valentinetti
- Tricia Knoll



*Bobbie is pictured here at one of Bob Spear's many birthday parties*

## IN MEMORY OF ROBERTA (BOBBIE) SUMMERS

We were saddened to hear that our friend Bobbie Summers passed away in October.

Bobbie was a friend and a supporter of the Museum for many years. Her love and compassion for animals showed in everything she did. In addition to her work with Keeping Track, she volunteered for the Birds of Vermont Museum, the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, and numerous dog rescue organizations. She was also a member of the Dragonboat team of Vermont.

“Bobbie was a true friend to wildlife. She also had a playful spirit and a great sense of humor that fed her interest in the natural world. From learning how to age deer, birding with friends, to running nighttime amphibian road surveys, Bobbie explored and supported all types of wildlife conservation efforts. Her passion and genuine curiosity will be greatly missed.” — Amy Alfieri, woodcarver, friend, and biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife

## NEW HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM SERIES

We are currently designing a six-week program for homeschooled students, debuting in early 2022. Birds of Vermont Museum staff members will take turns teaching and facilitating each of six sessions.

Topics and activities will include:

- Identifying common birds in Vermont
- Listening to stories, poems, and bird songs
- Sketching and writing about what we see
- Learning about the museum and woodcarving
- Exploring the museum grounds
- Understanding bird adaptations
- Finding ways to help birds in your community

Each program is designed for 4-10 similarly-aged children attending for all six weekly sessions. A program fee will be applied at the start of the first week's program. Call (802) 434-2167 or email [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org) to arrange for your group.



## BIRDS, INDOORS AND OUT: WINTER EVENTS

### "THE GIFT OF ART" ART SHOW

*Open by appointment and during events,*  
November 1 – April 30, 2022

Reflect on varied works. They blend what's been donated after previous shows, selected from our gift shop, and is waiting to be picked up from the summer show. See how art can weave together myriad media, styles, and visions.

### ASK a NATURALIST

*Thursdays,* December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 10 • 6 – 7 pm

Join us for a virtual discussion on natural history topics. We will join Audubon Vermont to discuss seasonal topics and participant questions.

December: *The Christmas Bird Count*  
January: *Bird Feeding & Birds in Winter*  
February: *Owls*  
March: *Amphibians*  
April: *Ticks, Mosquitos, and Blackflies*

Register at <https://vt.audubon.org/events>

### HANDWORK and HAPPINESS

*Sundays,* December 12, January 9, February 13 • 2 – 4 pm

Hang out and work on your art/craft with fellow creators! Bring your own wood carving, knitting, sketchbook, poems-in-progress, field notebook, crochet, etc., and a mug. Tea, coffee, and good company provided.

Suggested donation: \$5 towards heat and treats  
Limit 9 each session

### BIRD MONITORING WALKS

*Saturdays,* January 29, February 26, March 26 • 8 – 9 am

Join the monthly monitoring walk on the museum's forest and meadow trails. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather.

Suggested donation: \$5, outdoors

### DROP-IN SOAP CARVING

*Wednesday, Feb 2* • 1 – 2:30 pm

Stop by and try your hand at soap carving. Tools and soap provided.

Included with admission • All ages welcome

### FLEDGLINGS EXPLORE WINTER

*Wednesday, Feb 9* • 1 – 2:30 pm

How do animals and plants adapt to February in Vermont? Dress for outdoors; we will be looking over and under the snow.

Fee: \$5 (adult chaperones free)  
Limit 8 • Recommended for ages 4 – 8

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

*Saturday, February 12* • 10am – 4pm

The museum will be open to share the Great Backyard Bird Count with visitors: why do we count birds, and how?

### FULL MOON SNOWSHOE WALK

Feb 15 (Rain/snow date: March 17) • Dusk, about 1.5 hours

Take a walk through the property. If weather permits, we will have a fire and hot cocoa outside at the end of our walk.

Suggested donation: \$5 - \$15

### HOIST ONE for the MUSEUM

March 1 – 15 at Lawson's Finest Liquids, Waitsfield

We are honored to be the recipients of the Sunshine Fund at Lawson's Finest Liquids for these two weeks. 100% of donations that are received from their Taproom guests and through their online store during this time will be given to Birds of Vermont Museum.

Taproom open at 11 a.m. daily, light fare on menu

### CARVING CLASS: CEDAR WAXWING

*Saturday, March 5* • 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Carve and paint a Cedar Waxwing with Dave Tuttle of the Green Mountain Woodcarvers. Wood blank and paint provided. Bring mask, tools, gloves, and lunch.

\$45 (discounted to \$35 for Museum & GMWC members)  
Limit 10, registration required, waitlist available

See more and sign up at

<https://www.birdsofvermont.org/special-upcoming>

Please check our website for updates or additions  
<https://www.birdsofvermont.org/events>  
Advance registration required for most events.

To register, visit  
<https://www.birdsofvermont.org/special-upcoming/>  
then click or tap on the event name, or call (802) 434-2167

## BIRDABILITY

In 2019, Virginia Rose, Freya McGregor, and others recognized the need to build inclusion, diversity, and equity for all people who enjoy birds. This gave rise to the term and the organization *Birdability*.

By exploring the challenges of birding, through speaking with people who find access to the locations, sights and sounds of birds difficult, Birdability's mission is to use education, outreach and advocacy to connect with those who might benefit from as well as contribute to the knowledge necessary to identify need, find solutions, and implement change.

The term "birdability" is making its way into our museum mindsets and actions, encouraging us to understand, appreciate, and work with the various ways birding enthusiasts access birds, by focusing on their own strengths rather than possible limitations. Here at the museum, we are looking at ways to make the inside exhibits and the outdoor trails more accessible and open to all. Some ideas include a touchable-carvings exhibit and a place where visitors can deconstruct old nests and ponder where the birds found materials, thus suggesting where it might live. With ropes for guiding, we will be installing a sensory trail, inspired by one built by Bob Spear in the 1980s.

On Birdability's website, [www.birdability.org](http://www.birdability.org), there are numerous resources, including a series of guidance documents to help us (and other organizations) learn and expand what we offer.

The American Bird Conservancy has partnered with the *Birdability* team to sponsor a series of Zoom presentations on the first Tuesday of each month, from October 2021 to March 2022. The primarily Q-and-A format draws on the personal experiences of each participant, who describes the challenges presented in fulfilling his, her, or their passion for birding, as well as solutions to some of the access problems they encounter.

Bridget Butler, Vermont's own BirdDiva, is the local liaison for Birdability and is working with partners and the public around the country to create a map of accessible places for birding. You can help by reporting on the places you go birding at <https://www.birdability.org/contribute-to-the-birdability-map>.



We are creating a touchable-carvings exhibit, encouraging visitors to use their sense of touch to understand bird shapes.

### PHOTO-OP Boards

We have added two new, beautiful photo-op boards to our collection. Two more are being finalized. Thank you artists Shirley Johnson, Jodi Pierce, and Leah Boget. Thank you also to Rita Sloan and John Gergely for construction. We hope to see your smiling faces looking through them next summer.





### 2021 Raffle!

This year’s carving of a Loon was created by Dr. Martindale and David Tuttle. Dr. Martindale did the initial carving. After his passing, his family generously donated it to the Green Mountain Wood carvers. Dave Tuttle finished the carving and the group donated it to the Museum.

The carving was won by a visitor from New Jersey. When told she won the loon, she said, “this phone call made my day!”

## TRAVELING LIBRARY EXHIBITS

Thank you to all the libraries who hosted a display this year:

- Lawrence Library (Bristol)
- Pierson Library (Shelburne)
- Fairfax Community Library (Fairfax)
- Dorothy Alling Memorial Library (Williston)
- Roger Clark Memorial Library (Pittsfield)
- Groton Free Public Library (Groton)
- Essex Free Library (Essex)
- Ilsley Public Library (Middlebury)
- Guilford Vermont Welcome Center

Looking for a special topic for your local library?  
 Call to reserve a traveling display for next year. Many displays are available, including the one listed here. We develop and add new ones every year.



### WHAT IS A BIRD?

From eggs to feathers, unique characteristics make a bird

### MIGRATION

Why do birds migrate? Where do they go? How do they fly so far?

### WOODCARVING

Tools and techniques, from blanks to lifelike birds

### THE COFFEE-BIRD CONNECTION

How your love of coffee affects birds

### PERILOUS PASSAGES: THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Abundance, extinction, and why

### EGG-STATIC

Wonder at the diversity and complexity of eggs: something that seems simple but isn't

### OWLS

Mysteries of nocturnal, winged hunters

### COLD WINTERS, WARM BIRDS

How birds persevere, survive, and even thrive in Vermont's challenging winters

### POLLINATOR GARDENING

From birds to bees to...bats? Enhancing your gardens while helping the natural community



## *The Carver's Daughter* (continued from page 3)

Strangely, the long-anticipated 314 snuck up on me. This past summer, my husband and I bought a motorhome, and our first big trip was to take his parents to see the Grand Canyon. I was hoping to get new birds on the other side of the Rockies. Unlike in the tropics, I wasn't going to be rushed along by people who didn't get the whole birding thing. (Though I did hear my mother-in-law say once, "Start the car quick before she hears something else!")

I was at 312 when I left home, and sure enough, the first day in the Rockies, I began falling over life list birds with every step. It was so wonderful and exciting that I thundered right over the magic number without even realizing it. It wasn't until later when I did some math in my head that I realized it had happened. Then, of course, I promptly burst into tears while walking back to the car, and no one had a clue why I was crying.

As near as I can reckon, my 314 was the Townsend's Solitaire, a greyish bird a little smaller than a robin. Hitting my goal was even more special when I realized I'd seen it with our friend and tour guide in the Rockies, Hannah Miller. She, along with her family, has been a volunteer at the Birds of Vermont Museum for many years, and she is now studying in Utah. My father had given her carving lessons when she was a teenager, and her robin still lives in his workshop. Being with her made the moment even more poignant.

The fact that I didn't even realize I'd found number 314 until half an hour later was the kind of thing my father would have gotten a good chuckle over.

I ended up adding fifteen birds to my life list on the trip, bringing my total to 327. I don't know what my father's final total was, though I know it was higher than that because in his later years, he did the tropics-with-a-tour-guide thing several times. I know my list will continue to grow as well. I have no new goal to hit—my only dream was to reach where he was when I started. And that was plenty magical enough. But I know I will keep grabbing my binoculars when I take the dog for a walk, and always keep my phone in my pocket, with the rare bird alerts turned on.

— Kari Jo Spear 

**Kari Jo Spear**, daughter of Bob Spear, is a writer of young adult novels and more. Her newest book, *The Carver's Daughter: A Memoir* is available in print and as an eBook from all major on-line booksellers. You can also find it at Phoenix Books in Burlington and Essex, Vermont, and of course in the gift shop at the Birds of Vermont Museum—now in-person and online.

Kari Jo is on the web at <https://carversdaughter.blogspot.com/>. You can also follow her on Facebook as Carver's Daughter <https://www.facebook.com/Carvers-Daughter-105285684579200>.

### *We send thanks to*

- » Bill and Mae Mayville
- » Rita Sloan, John Gergely, Steve and Levi Smith, Van and Carol Talmage, and Abi Barnes
- » Becky and David Cozzens
- » Spencer Hardy and Jacqueline Huettenmoser
- » Magnus Stien
- » Michele Patenaude, Megan Pratt, and Debbie Duvall
- » David Sunshine
- » Dick Affolter, Jodi Pierce, Lauren Bostwick, Evergreen Erb, Jayne Sheridan
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- » Tyler Brown
- » James Grant and Leah Boget
- » the Green Mountain Wood Carvers
- » Bobbie Summers
- » Paw Print & Mail
- » Lily Hinrichsen
- » Erny and Darlene Palola
- » Carol Matzke
- » Shirley and Bob Johnson
- » Don and Martha Kent
- » Alice Shaner-Simpson
- » Kate Schubart
- » Hank and Josephine Kaestner

## ***Coffee and Birds: the consumer connection*** (continued from page 1)

environmentally conscious product we could. As we began researching certifications and where to source our green coffee beans, we quickly discovered the Bird Friendly certification. After learning more about the Smithsonian's Bird Friendly program and its efforts to fight climate change and protect critical habitats for birds and other wildlife, we knew this had to be a cornerstone of our roastery. We exclusively source Bird Friendly certified coffee beans, as well as Fair Trade and Organic. Our coffee bags and labels are also 100% compostable.

Some days it can feel overwhelming to figure out how to help birds on a global scale. Simply choosing bird-friendly coffee over other types can make an impact. And it is delicious!

You can purchase coffee at the museum or through our online store.

### ***Some resources***

<https://global.si.edu/success-stories/smithsonian-migratory-bird-center's-bird-friendly-coffee-program-protects-migratory>  
<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/find-bird-friendly-coffee-retailer-near-you>  
[https://web4.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/coffee/species/](https://web4.audubon.org/bird/at_home/coffee/species/)  
<https://www.coffeehabitat.com/>  
<https://www.ethicalcoffee.net/bird.html>  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/02/17/arabica-versus-robusta-which-coffee-is-better-for-birds/>  
<https://www.ncausa.org/>  
<https://birdsandbeanscoffee.com/>  
<https://www.ridgeroastersvt.com/>



## ***FINE FEATHERS: at play with structure and function***

### ***A Call to Artists from the Birds of Vermont Museum***

What happens when you mix art, playfulness, and insights from birds? Creativity influenced by feather color and pattern, frills and function! From bower birds to city pigeons, feathers come in thousands of sizes and colors, fantastic shapes, in different seasons, and for many reasons. Which of these emerge in your art?

The Birds of Vermont Museum's 2022 art show is looking for works inspired by birds and their feathers. Will this be in illustration, interior decor, fashion and apparel, paintings, fabric arts, architectural design? Will we hear it in music or stories or poems? Will your work be inspired by one feather, a bird's full plumage, a flock's flight behavior? Will people know from your work which bird inspired you? Let birds' colors, feather design, building skills, flight patterns, and more carry you to new spaces of creation.

**SUBMISSION INFO:** Art in almost any media, by new or returning artists, of any age, may be submitted; note that we **cannot accept anything using actual feathers from actual birds**. Visual, written, and multi-media works may be considered. In addition to walls, we have shelves for smaller three-dimensional pieces, room outdoors for weather-impervious works, and some ceiling area. You are welcome to visit to consider the potential.

Submit up to 3 pieces by submitting not more than three (3) digital files. Please use our online form at <https://tinyurl.com/bovm-fine-feathers> or send your files to [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org). Please put "Submission for Fine Feathers art show from Your Name" as the email subject. File types accepted are .jpg (visual art); .mp3, .mp4 (music/video); .pdf (e.g., stories, poems). If you do not have email, you may send up to three prints to the Museum, attention: Fine Feathers art show. Please include your contact information and a description of each work (media, artwork size, when made, etc.).

Entries are due by Monday, March 21, 2022. More info at <https://birdsofvermont.org/2021/12/02/call-to-artists-fine-feathers/>.

## LEAH BOGET, SUMMER INTERN

I learned about the museum through my dad, as he was asking around about summer internship/volunteer opportunities in the local ecology field. Vermont has such a small and close-knit conservation community that after a couple of calls he was directed to the Birds of Vermont Museum. He let me know and I looked it up and thought it would be perfect for me! I remember reading about the butterfly garden and school/camp groups and thinking that I would have a great time!

There wasn't much I didn't enjoy about the museum—most of the problems also had their bright sides. For example, it's in the middle of nowhere and there's only one place to get gas nearby, which was a little nerve-racking one day when my car was running on empty. But the isolation provides the best environment for wildlife and a sense of getting away from the enclosed, crowded feeling that can come from everyday life (especially during the pandemic).

And there was so much I loved about the museum! The staff were so friendly and helpful right from the start, and were always very compassionate and understanding about anything. I loved the quiet Tuesdays working on my painting and other odd jobs and the bustling Wednesdays where I got to interact with everyone coming through and see them learn so much. I especially loved getting to pitch in with whatever was going on, like when there was a fallen tree across part of the road and we went out to cut it up and drag it to the side in the rain, or when we got to tag along on James' insect walk (also in the rain--it was a very rainy summer).

I'm currently a sophomore at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, and I'm studying biology with a specific interest in ecology and evolution! I'm

planning on declaring as a biology major officially as soon as I secure a major advisor. I have a bunch of options for supplementing my major that I'm considering, from a Conservation or Marine



*Leah looking through her photo-op board-in-progress*



Science minor to an Environmental Science and Policy double major.

I really have no idea what I'd like to do as a career, despite almost constantly pondering it! I'd love to help people or wildlife in some (more direct) way, but there are so many possible avenues for that and there's no need to limit my options this early on! My current (very loose) plan for the future is to travel abroad in some way, take a few years to experiment with job opportunities and being near family, and probably going to grad school when I figure out what I'd like to focus on more specifically! It's honestly exciting to have so many options (as you can likely tell from all of the exclamation marks!)

— Leah Boget 

**Birds of Vermont Museum**  
900 Sherman Hollow Road  
Huntington, Vermont 05462  
[www.birdsofvermont.org](http://www.birdsofvermont.org)

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## SAVE THE DATES

January	Handwork and Happiness
February	Fledglings Explore Winter the Great Backyard Bird Count
March	Cedar Waxwing Carving Class Hoist One for the Museum
<i>Five Thursdays</i>	Ask-a-Naturalist
<i>Last Saturdays</i>	Bird Monitoring Walks

Details inside and on our website. To register, visit  
<https://birdsofvermont.org/special-upcoming/> or  
call (802) 434-2167 or email [museum@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:museum@birdsofvermont.org)

*Volunteers always welcome*



### #AskBob

Q: What's something you hope you'll never have to do?

A: Give up my creative endeavors.

#AskBob comes from a collection of answers given in 1989 to John Johnson of the Burlington Free Press.

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*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.*