

Chip Notes

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BIRDS OF VERMONT MUSEUM

Volume 38

Summer 2024



FLOOD AND RESILIENCE

The good news is that the museum building, the entrance bridge, culvert area, and step-pools in the tributary to Sherman Hollow Brook are undamaged and intact after the floods of July 2024. The Treehouse, picnic areas, pond, Story Trail, and the Bird Blind all are fine.

This is not the first time we've had to deal with flood damage. You may recall the sudden storm in 2013 that wiped out the path from the parking lot to the entrance and a good bit more. We turned that into an opportunity to build for the future, with a multi-year, multi-phase project called *Bridges to Birds*. We thank everyone who was part of that for their amazing generosity and *superb* work: volunteers, donors, John Scott Excavating, Dean Grover Engineering, Engineering Ventures, Timber and Stone LLC, and Anne Dannenberg. They created the entrance bridge, the rain garden, the step-pools in the tributary stream to Sherman Hollow Brook, and the pollinator plantings that protect the slopes around and beneath these. *All of those structures handled the recent heavy flows of water as intended, demonstrating how a resilient design can cope with a changing climate!*

This year, other parts of our property were not so fortunate. On the south side, we have obvious trail damage on portions of the Spear trail, and we are evaluating the upper reaches. We may need to reroute segments of the trail, build waterbars, or do other erosion repair and prevention. At least one of the "Birders' Shortcut" trails needs repair and restoration of the boardwalks, and improved markings. These trails can be walked with caution.



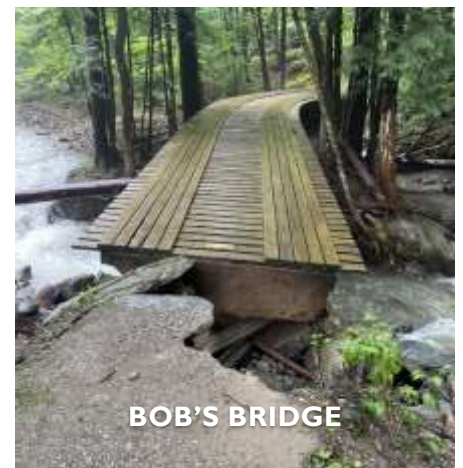
DISCOVERY TRAIL

The original Discovery trail was damaged and portions are inaccessible—it lost both foot bridges, has a deeper and broader gully, and the further sections are cut off. This side trail is currently closed. However, Caitlin Fass, one of our summer Museum Assistants, adapted the Meadow Trail to be used for Discovery as well. She updated maps and signs, and helped place pause points and benches.

The biggest challenge will be Bob's Bridge and access to the north side of the property—the 60 acres on the far side of Sherman Hollow Brook. The trail from the museum building to Bob's Bridge has eroded significantly, most noticeably where it met the bridge. Water rushing

around the footings of Bob's Bridge created a significant gap. As of this writing, the bridge is not to be used to reach museum property on the far side of the stream.

We also evaluated the condition of the trails on that side. These need some trees cleared (chainsaw work), have some eroded areas, and still need waterbars, but



BOB'S BRIDGE

... continued on page 11

DICK ALLEN, WOODCARVER & TRUSTEE

Dick Allen (1931-2024) was a generous and capable person. He served in the Navy, raised a family, managed a local JC Penney, and was a woodcarver. Always fascinated by birds, he started woodcarving in the 1980s or 90s. He described himself as self-taught through books and carving magazines, with "lots of trial and error".

Dick contributed eleven waterfowl carvings to the Museum's permanent collection: the pairs of Buffleheads, Lesser Scaups, Goldeneyes, Greater Scaups, and Canvasbacks. He also carved the male Common Merganser. All



Lesser Scaups by Dick Allen

appear in the Museum's Spring Wetland Diorama.



Dick Allen at work on the Buffleheads in 2011

In addition to carving for the Museum's exhibits, Dick served on the Board of Trustees and volunteered for the Museum for many years. His generous donations of time and skill were and still are very much appreciated.

Dick passed away in June of this year, and we will miss his wit, charm, creativity, and dedication. We extend our deepest condolences to his entire family.

— the Three Musketeers 

REMEMBERING NORM & DOROTHY PELLETT

In 2023, we said good-bye to both Norman and Dorothy Pellett. This pair of wonderful people were part of the Museum from the very beginning.

Norman met Bob when Bob was just starting to convert the old barn into a Museum. Norm's background and career had always involved plants; he was a UVM professor in the horticulture department for 29 years. He wrote *Native Shrubs and Vines for Northern New England Landscapes* and *The Gardener's Quiz Book*, as well as co-authoring *Landscape Plants for Vermont* with Mark Starrett. Norm planted the crabapples and the dogwoods that grow in the Museum's "backyard". You can see them from the Museum's viewing windows, the treehouse, or by walking through the cedar hedge. These small trees have been enjoyed by countless birds and a plethora of other wildlife.

Dorothy was a writer and ran a small nursery. She shared her love of the museum by publishing numerous articles about the Museum (and other topics) in several local newspapers, magazines, and newsletters.

Norm and Dorothy were the kind of people that made you want to drop everything you were doing, just so you could sit by the window with them, watch birds, and listen to their stories.

Beautiful obituaries about them can be found online:

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/life-lines/obituary-norman-pellett-1934-2023-39722458>

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/dorothy-pellett-obituary?pid=205219536>



Grouse in crabapple planted by Norm Pellett

Carving Corner: a Festival of Woodcarving

We did something new this August: hosted the Green Mountain Woodcarvers' three-day seminar and their annual show as well!

During the class, Matt Strong and Bob Lindemann taught the carving of a 3/4-scale Mallard drake. Several styles of carvings were possible, from decoy to smoothie to highly-detailed.

At the show, carvers, vendors, demonstrations, activities for beginners, and more were on offer. We look forward to next year.



Wishing for..

- » Volunteers for trail crews after July's flooding rain, including one to coordinate
 - » Donations for heat pumps
 - » Donations towards repair/replacing Bob's Bridge and trail to it
 - » Woodchips for trails
 - » Funding to support fall/winter interns
 - » Pedestrian counters for trails and outdoor use
 - » Binoculars for public programs
 - » Gift cards to Guy's Farm and Yard for bird seed
- Please contact us if you can help.



2024 ART EXHIBIT: *THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE*

The Birds of Vermont Museum has been hosting themed community art shows since 2014. Each winter, the staff develops a bird-related theme for the exhibit and invites submissions in varied media. Our 2024 art show, *The Power of Perspective*, poses and answers questions of how our bodies, ideas, and assumptions might alter or affect what we perceive, think about, imagine, and understand birds.

Each work reflects the theme in its own way. The art includes distant views from above, below, and sideways; magnifications and close-ups; seasonal, ethical, and metaphorical angles; classic human-illustrates-bird compositions; immersions into habitats; and differing senses and unusual species.

It is an adventure, trying to fit together the many perspectives, styles, and media into a cohesive show that (we hope) tells a story or two. Over 50 artists, photographers, and poets of all ages exhibit their work this year.

Exhibiting Artists and Poets

Adam Forguite (South Hero)
Alison Forest (Huntington)
Anita Michele (Swanton)
Annette Goynes (Richford)
Aprille Soons Palmer (South Hero)
Ashley Orton (Jericho)
Beth Murphy (Bromoseen)
Carol MacDonald (Colchester)
Carol McDowell (South Burlington)
Chris Selin (South Burlington)
Debra Runge (Williston)
Denise Letendre (Castleton)
Diane DeBella (Addison)
Elaine Colan (Swanton)
Elise Bouffard (Colchester)
Elizabeth Spinney (Huntington)
Greg Didyoung (Wilmington)
Gretchen Alexander (Jericho)

Hannah Mahar (Grand Isle)
Heather Rusch Zelonis (Bristol)
Jane Ploughman (New Haven)
Jennie Johannesen (Mendon)
Jo Marsan (Johnson)
John Hadden (Huntington)
Judy Brook (South Burlington)
Judy Bush (Richmond)
Judy Crocker (Burlington)
Juliana Anderson (Williston)
Karla Van Vliet (Bristol)
Kay Johnson (Hinesburg)
Krista Cheney (St. George)
Lily Hinrichsen (Bristol)
Lucy Rollins (Burlington)
Lynn Butler-Dube (Huntington)
Marcia Vogler (Charlotte)
Marrin S (Huntington)



Hunter by Sarah Ashe
(shown with permission)

Miriam Adams (Hinesburg)
Nancy Stone (Williston)
Navin B (Waitsfield)
Nicole Gadouas (Swanton)
Pedro Salas (Starksboro)
Prudence M (Essex)
Richard Crocker (Burlington)
Sarah Ashe (Middlebury)
Sarah Rosedahl (North Hero)
Steve Farrar (Richmond)
Summer Stratton (Hinesburg)
Tina Valentinetti (Moretown)
Tricia Knoll (Williston)
Vivienne Strauss (Bowling Green, KY)



WALKIN', BIRDIN', CARVIN'



BIRD MONITORING WALKS

Saturdays, Aug 31, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 30, Dec 28 • 7:30 am (Aug), 8:00 am in fall and winter

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

the POWER of PERSPECTIVE COMMUNITY ART SHOW

Daily, May–October

How might a change in perspective alter our understanding of the lives and needs of the birds who share this world? Explore answers from artists, poets, and photographers.

Included with admission

MEANDER for MUSHROOMS

Saturday, September 14 • 9 – 11 am

Explore and learn about mushrooms: what they are, how to identify them, and the essential roles they play.

Outdoors, with Meg Madden

DEAD CREEK WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 5 • Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Route 17, Addison

Activities for everyone—try bird watching, bird banding or bird carving (in soap). There are different special activities each year!

Outdoors, open to all

GMWC CARVE-IN / ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 5 • 10 am – 2 pm

Stop in to watch a wood carver at work, ask a question, or join this carving club.

In the workshop

THE BIG SIT!

Saturday, October 13 • Dawn to Dusk

How many birds can we identify from a 17-foot diameter circle from sunrise to sunset?

Outdoors

WALKING STICK CARVING

Saturday, November 2 • 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Carve and eagle in the morning; customize your walking stick in the afternoon.

In the workshop, with Bob Lindemann • Max 8 attendees
Must pre-register

TREE ID for BIRDERS & FRIENDS

TBD, October • morning

What tree (or shrub or other plant) is that bird using? Why is the bird there? Let a conservation forester show you.

Outdoors, with Kathleen Stutzman

Sign up for events at

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

Watch our website and your emails for art workshops, book events, birding opportunities, and more.

Please note: we are sorry to cancel this year's RACE AROUND BIRDS due to the floods and bridge damage. We plan to be back next year.

FUN DAYS OF NOTE

September 7 International Vulture Awareness Day
National Hummingbird Day

October 15 National Mushroom Day

#AskBob

Q: If I could do it over, what would you do differently?

A: Would have devoted a greater part of my life to conservation education.

To register, visit

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

Thank You!

- | | |
|--|---|
| q Kerry and Linda Hurd | q Dismas House |
| q Rob Frost | q Spear Society members |
| q Mike Cousino | Shirley and Bob Johnson, |
| q Mae and Bill Mayville | Paul Mergens, |
| q Carol Talmage | John Broschious, |
| q David Provost | Alice Shaner-Simpson, |
| q Alice Morse | Ginger Lubkowitz, |
| q Janne Giles | Claudia Orlandi, |
| q Green Mountain Wood Carvers | Carol Matzke, |
| q Kari Jo Spear | Erny and Darlene Palola, |
| q Charlie Frazier | Jim Morris and Pat |
| q Debbie Duvall, Michele Patenaude and Megan Pratt | Spielman, |
| q Rogan, Dick, Rita, Stevie, Susan, MaryAnn, Erik, Castle, and Lachlan | Jim Osborn |
| | q Rebecca, |
| | @VermontForReal |
| | q Susan McClure of the Vermont Arts Council |
| | q Mark Paul |
| | q Elizabeth Spinney |
- @ are Instagram names

Accessibility

We have a brief 5-question survey about Museum accessibility. Would you take a moment to answer it? Use the link below, or scan the code to the right.

<https://forms.gle/HRskYzKCtzHweq7VA>

SURVEY



BIRDWATCHER BARBIES

Have you noticed a few Barbies around the Museum recently? For the last two years, we've offered a different kind of scavenger hunt!

It all started with a party for Liza Morse's birthday. Thanks to her mother Alice Morse's inspiration, creativity and humor, the hunt has expanded from a few Barbies to a full activity, to the great enjoyment and surprise of many visitors. Alice donated several of Barbies, some with special one-of-a-kind outfits to match a certain bird.

Keep your eyes open next time you visit!



2024 Raffle! Canada Goose by Dick "Wood" Taylor

To enter the raffle, photocopy or cut out this ticket, fill it out (print or type, please!), and send it in with \$1 to enter. Or send 6 (six) tickets in with \$5, for extra chances to win.

Send tickets by *October 15* for the drawing on November 1.

Birds of Vermont Museum, attn. raffle
900 Sherman Hollow Road
Huntington, Vermont 05462

If possible, please plan to pick up the carving if you win.



2024 Raffle: *Canada Goose* by Dick "Wood" Taylor

Name:

Address:

Phone / Email:

Please be sure we can read your writing. Thanks!



THE CARVER'S DAUGHTER

Part 27: My Father and the Railroad Fill

The Colchester Causeway, a scenic rail trail stretching across the open water of Lake Champlain, is now a popular path for biking and walking. But before it became refurbished and famous, only local people knew it was there, and it was simply called the Railroad Fill. There was no convenient parking, no smooth gravel surface, no benches to rest on, no bike ferry where a drawbridge used to be, and no bathrooms on either end. It was mostly used for fishing.

But it was also known to local birders, my father included.

The first time I went out on the Railroad Fill was on a cold, windy day in late March. My father was leading a field trip along the three miles trail from Colchester to South Hero. He'd said there would be migrating ducks in patches of open water. Something rare might turn up. He described it as a spectacular and unusual place.

The minor detail that there was a two-hundred-foot gap where a drawbridge used to be didn't bother him in the least. He got up before dawn, loaded his canoe onto his car, and drove to South Hero. Carrying the canoe on his shoulders, he walked along the Railroad Fill to the gap, paddled across, and left the canoe on the Colchester side. Then he continued walking along the Fill to where a dozen of his birder friends, and me, were assembling on the Colchester shore. Some of them had also left their cars in South Hero where my father had parked and been driven by others in the group to Colchester. That way we would have vehicles waiting for us at the end and not have to walk back. I was glad I didn't have anything to do with figuring out whose car went where.

If my father was tired from all the early morning activity, he didn't show it as we started down the trail.

"Where are the railroad tracks?" I asked.

"Oh, they've been taken up," my father said. "The last train to come through here was in 1961."

Darn, I thought. That was before I'd been born. No chance of jumping on a freight, the way they did in movies. At least I wouldn't have to worry about getting run over.

But the walking was harder than it looked. The wooden ties that had anchored the rails were still in place. In

between the ties were chunks of rock that shifted awkwardly under my feet. They hurt right through my boots, and my ankles were ready to call it quits after ten minutes.

"Wait until we get out on the lake," my father said, walking beside me at the end of the pack of birders, who were all sliding around on the rocks and ties the same way I was. My father seemed to be able to step from tie to tie without looking.

There was no lake in sight. We were walking in a narrow crevice between vertical rock ledges. The air was cold and still. Mud and ice mixed with the rocks and ties in places. There were also old mattresses and worn-out tires that people had thrown away. My father frowned and made his annoyed, grumpy sound every time we came to one.

But then, just as he'd said, the land ended and the lake began.

It was all ice, stretching away for miles on both sides. In one direction were the Green Mountains of Vermont, and on the other were the Adirondacks of New York, forming a bowl that held the lake. All was silent except for the wind that blew straight for us over miles of ice. I'd never known what an icy wind really felt like until then, and I disappeared into my jacket like a turtle.

"The Railroad Fill is made of old marble," my father said, pointing out huge chunks of white rock that formed the base of the trail. "They're pieces from a quarry that weren't usable."

The marble blocks were lying in a haphazard jumble, all different sizes and shapes. They glowed in the sunlight. It was worth letting my eyes emerge from my jacket to gaze at them.

A short way farther, the trail abruptly ended. There was a long gap of open water with big ice chunks floating around in it.

"There used to be a bridge here," my father said. All that was left were the two metal sides and two I-beams crossing high above the water.

"So where's the canoe?" I asked, looking around.

"It's a couple miles away where the drawbridge used



A portion of the Colchester Causeway in 2024 • Photo by Kari Jo Spear.

to be," my father answered.

I started to get a bad feeling. "Wait, this isn't where we're getting the ride across?"

He shook his head. "No. We can walk on the I-beams."

At least my look of horrified terror was reflected on most everyone else's faces. The tops of the I-beams weren't much wider than my foot. Walking on both I-beams at once wasn't possible, because they were farther apart than a person's legs could reach. Likewise, the metal sides were too far away to touch.

I'd never been very good at walking the balance beam in gym class, and there sure weren't any soft mats under these.

"Pick a beam and go sideways," my father said, and sauntered onto a beam as nonchalantly as a great blue heron might.

I remembered stories of him being an excellent ice skater and roller skater in his youth. Maybe that's where his sense of balance came from. I certainly hadn't inherited it.

My father stood out in the middle of the gap looking at us for a couple moments, then he walked back and held out his hand.

"Um," I said.

He took my hand and gave it a squeeze. I held my breath and shuffled onto the beam behind him. It was rusty, and

little pieces rained down into the water, disturbed by our feet.

"Ah, we're polluting the lake," I said.

He snorted and kept going.

The farther we went, the darker and icier the water below looked. I could really, actually die right here, I thought. But if I fell, I knew he would jump in after me and haul me out onto a block of marble like a seal on the edge of an iceberg.

I kept going.

Forever later, we reached solid marble again. I collapsed into a crevice between two pieces, out of the wind. Gradually, I stopped shaking. He went back and forth across the I-beam, helping other birders who needed a hand. At last, we were all collected into a little flock like penguins, huddling together for support.

The rest of the trip passed in a kind of fog of aching feet, cold ears and fingers, and wind that blew and blew and blew. Finally we came to what my father called the cut where the drawbridge used to be. There was our canoe, waiting patiently where he'd left it hours before. There were a few ducks floating around in the open water, and we all dutifully pulled out binoculars. My father declared them common mergansers and a few goldeneye. Any sensible migratory bird, I was pretty sure, was still in Florida under a palm tree.

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INTERN: EMMA DANNENBERG

When I learned about the Birds of Vermont Museum and how it is the perfect culmination of two of my favorite things, art and birds, I knew I had to be a part of it in some shape or form. The last three years I have been studying visual arts and environmental studies at Champlain College. As an Eco-Rep on campus, I am often sharing my knowledge of sustainability, environmental-



ism, and conservation with my classmates. The overlap between art, nature, and education is one of the most beautiful forces in life, and I am so thankful for my time at the Birds of Vermont Museum pursuing an Education internship allowing me to pursue those forces further.

My project for the Museum involved making posters that would provide visitors with an educational and visual experience about the flora and fauna that populate the natural areas and trails of the Birds of Vermont Museum. As an aspiring Naturalist Illustrator, I created a variety of colored pencil drawings of wildlife and plants I have seen around the trails during my time here as an intern. The wide array of species include white throated sparrows, partridge berries, wild ginger, pileated woodpeckers, pine siskin, pickerel frogs, and eastern newts. Additionally, I illustrated a few notable locations along the Museum's trail during different times of the year, such as a view of the vernal pool in the spring and looking at the stream from Bob's Bridge in the winter.

I am forever changed by my time here at the Museum. I thoroughly enjoyed helping with the Race Around the Birds, attending Dead Creek Wildlife Day, and creating reels around the Museum for the instagram page. I feel like I will always have a home here, and a beautiful space filled with a beautiful community to come and visit.

— Emma Dannenberg 

INTERN: JUNO STAHL



Juno Stahl was an intern at the Birds of Vermont Museum during the spring of 2024. In addition to being a full-time college student, she somehow also managed to spend close to 300 hours at the Museum.

Juno engaged in and accomplished many things at the Museum. The list below is not comprehensive, as she often jumped into help Museum staff with additional small and large projects when needed.

- » Drafted a hunting policy for the Birds of Vermont Museum property by researching possible scenarios based on existing deer populations, current land use, and staffing capacity.
- » Added a vernal pool to the state map, while identifying macroinvertebrates and amphibians in the pool.
- » Participated in educational programs including (but not limited to) a mushroom walk, a full moon walk, and a bird identification class.
- » Placed the Birds of Vermont Museum as a

... continued next page

INTERN: HANS NEDDE

I graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies from St. Lawrence University in 2023. In my junior year, I studied abroad in Nepal where I researched vulture conservation and developed a love for birds. I have a distant memory of visiting the Birds of Vermont Museum when I was young but had not returned since. Shortly after starting an internship at Audubon Vermont, I rediscovered the museum and applied. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to experience two similar yet different non-profit organizations in Vermont.

At the museum, I worked on a wide variety of projects. I started off by making activity sheets for an upcoming book. I created bird-themed crossword puzzles, matching games, and community science exploration activities. I loved the challenge of creating educational material that is also fun and engaging.

I knew I couldn't intern at a museum filled with carved birds without trying to make one myself! Fortunately, with plans to create a touchable bird exhibit, I got the opportunity to carve a Dark-eyed Junco. The time, patience, and attention to detail it took to create a small, bicolored sparrow was humbling. After months of chipping away, I was thrilled to have created my first carved bird. After the Junco, I took on a 1/3-sized Whimbrel for the exhibit. The long, decurved bill was a wonderful carving challenge.

As an amateur bird photographer, I thought I could bring some of my photos and videos to the museum's social media accounts. Over the course of my internship I created Friday Feeder Features, bird quizzes, and promotional videos for the Birds of Vermont's Instagram



and Facebook accounts. I greatly enjoyed seeking out birds and showing our followers the amazing wildlife we have around the museum.

As I wrap up this internship, I am thankful for all of the great people I met and the opportunity to learn and work at such a fascinating place. I will miss my time here but I will surely be returning soon to walk the trails and explore the museum.

— Hans Nedde 

Juno (continued)

Point of Interest on iNaturalist maps, enabling projects and collections that can highlight species here.

» Documented more than 30 species of fungi on the Museum's property.

Juno's enthusiasm for learning about just about everything was infectious. She pulled the stereoscope off a back shelf in the workshop and placed it front and center on her desk. She was constantly showing us (up close) astonishing things found in the vernal pool, in the pond, under a leaf, or inside a mushroom.

We hope wherever she ends up, Juno continues to share her joy and enthusiasm of the natural world with others.

— Museum staff 



Copepod, found in the vernal pool

The Carver's Daughter (continued)

If I thought I'd been cold before, that was nothing compared to sitting on the bottom of a metal canoe that had ice chunks bumping into it. Getting into and out of the canoe from slippery marble wasn't a lot of fun, either.

Thankfully, we were all soon safely across, and everyone scuttled along the last stretch, energized by the site of land and trees to block the wind. My father, looking like an upside-down canoe with legs, brought up the rear. I was too numb to remember much else, but I finally revived when I found myself curled up on the seat of my father's car in front of a blasting heater.

"Well, wasn't that an interesting place?" my father asked when he got in, after tying the canoe onto the roof rack.

"Can I count a penguin for my life list?" I asked.

"Did you see one?" he asked with a smile.

"No, but I turned into one."

He laughed. "We'll think about it." Then he added, "You maybe don't want to consider a career as a tight-rope walker."

I snorted.

He handed me some warm hot chocolate from a thermos. Then he said, "I rode a train across there once, quite a while ago."

There was something odd in his voice, in the way he said it. Why hadn't he mentioned that while we were out there?

He didn't add anything more.

"It must have been nice and warm," I finally said.

"Actually, it wasn't." He paused. "It was during World War II. I was on my way to boot camp."



I-beam visible by leaning over the Colchester Causeway bridge railing. • Photo courtesy Kari Jo Spear.

And his tone said that he didn't want to say anything more about that.

It was a very quiet drive home. As I sipped my hot chocolate, I began to understand that being able to walk on that railroad fill with his daughter meant a lot more to him than the chance of seeing a rare duck.

— Kari Jo Spear 🦋

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

Today, what is known as the Iron Bridge on the Colchester Causeway has a solid wooden floor. But if you look over the edge, you can still see the I-beams that were, for a while, the only means of crossing the gap.

Kari Jo Spear, daughter of Bob Spear, is a writer of young adult novels and more. Her young adult novels, *Under the Willow* and *The Silent One* are available through amazon and other retailers.

Her collection of stories, *The Carver's Daughter: A Memoir*, is available in the museum, at Phoenix Books in Vermont, as well as from all major online booksellers, including bookshop.org. An eBook version is available also.

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

Water and Resilience (continued)

are otherwise passable. The rentable cabin (Gale's Retreat) is fine. We closed the cabin for August to determine alternate access routes.

Staff, board members, and volunteers continue to check the trails, take photos, measure gullies, and write damage reports. We are protecting the public by closing off the trail to Bob's Bridge and the entire north section of the property, and closed bookings of Gale's Retreat via Vermont Huts temporarily. We cancelled November's *Race Around Birds* for this year. We met with Timber and Stone to assess possibilities and feasibilities. We have been brainstorming, dreaming, and planning about how we will turn devastation into something even better. Thank you to all our board members and special thanks to David Cozzens, Dean Grover, and Ron Brosius for helping us navigate and creatively adapt to the changing circumstances.

We are asking you to help in any way that works for you:

- » **Visit the museum.** The Treehouse and side gardens were undamaged and are lovely spots for a picnic. The Museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays 10-4 (normal hours). Visit the art show indoors; take a walk outside. Some of you may even go running to train for next year's *Race Around Birds*!
- » **Help others.** We know there are many individuals in Vermont who have also lost much, and we want them to recover too. Towns, other non-profits, and the state all have opportunities to help.
- » **Donate when you can.** We expect to build for a resilient future like we did in 2013, probably in several steps. We are now raising funds for the design phase, where we work with engineers to plan a safe, accessible bridge and rerouted trails that improve "birdability" too.
- » **Stay in touch.** We may need volunteers, planners, engineers, donors, grants, and more. We will write to you, update our website, and post on Front Porch Forum. We'll tell you more as we learn more and feel free to reach out to us about your expertise.

Donate Today



Thank you all for your support over the years—past...and future!

Birding Update: Thank You, Leaders

Every spring we host Early Birder Walks on Sunday mornings in May and June. These walks are free to all, and led by volunteers who are dedicated, skilled birders. This year, we thank leaders Ali Wagner, Becky Giroux, Bill and Mae Mayville, Hans Nedde, Lachlan Ziegler, Pat Phillips, and Rebecca Waterman.

Over the course of two months, these birders and fellow walkers documented 79 species on the property and reported confirmed breeding behavior for Eastern Phoebe, American Robin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, House Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and Black-capped Chickadee. Many other species were listed as possible breeders as they were heard singing on the property, like this Ovenbird.

Some attendees were new to birding, and returned to for later walks, a testament to how great these leaders (and the birds) are. *Thank you all!*



Ovenbird • Photograph courtesy Mark Paul

Birds of Vermont Museum

900 Sherman Hollow Road
Huntington, Vermont 05462
www.birdsofvermont.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATES

September 14 Meander for Mushrooms

October 5 G MWC Carve-In

October 13 the Big Sit

Last Saturdays Bird Monitoring Walks

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

Volunteers always welcome

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#AskBob

Q: What is your pet peeve?

A: Those, who from ignorance or greed, damage the earth.

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

***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.***