

Chip Notes

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE BIRDS OF VERMONT MUSEUM

Volume 39

Fall – Winter 2025



BUILDING BRIDGES

In the summer of 2024 Vermont experienced torrential rains and floods that devastated houses, roads, and farms. The Museum was fairly lucky as neither the buildings nor carvings nor persons were affected. Unfortunately, some trails and the banks leading to Bob's Bridge were damaged. For safety, the Museum limited public access to the bridge and to those museum's trails on the 60 acres across Sherman Hollow Brook. This also restricted access to Gale's Retreat. It's been closed now for nearly a year and a half.

Bob's Bridge, built by Bob Spear and Doug Hinshaw in the late 1980s, is a beautiful curving bridge that crosses Sherman Hollow Brook. This bridge allowed birders, walkers, runners, and even Bob's tractor to reach the forest across the brook. Since July 2024, only staff, volunteers and Vermont Hut guests have had permission to cross to the other side.

But this is changing!

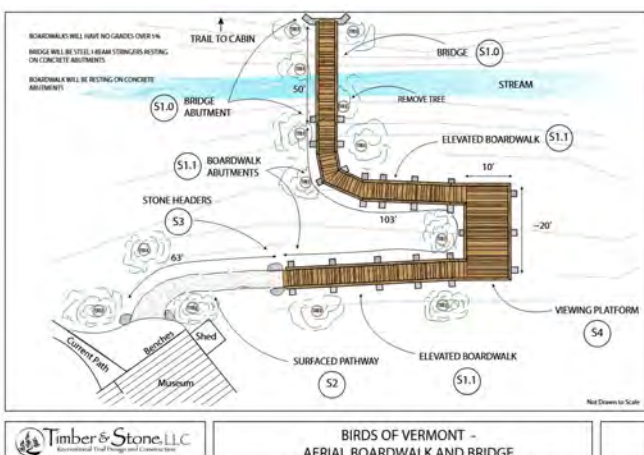
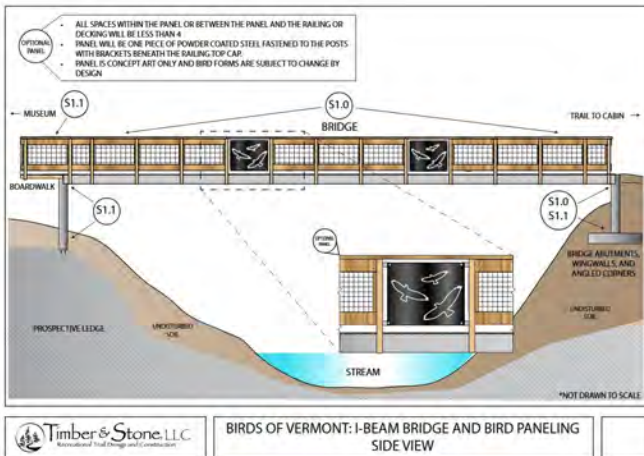
Right after the flood, thanks to some key donors, we began working with Timber and Stone LLC and DeWolfe engineers. Together we are designing and will build a new accessible bridge!

The new route down to the crossing will be much more gradual. It includes a boardwalk, places to pause and bird, and views over the stream. We may even be able to install public art! The new bridge will be above the 100-year flood mark and allow us to reopen trail access for everyone.

By rerouting access, we minimize erosion into the brook as well. In addition, school groups will again be able to access the Retreat as an outdoor gathering or classroom space. We'll be able to enjoy bird walks, maintain those trails, host a trail race, and explore that part of the forest again.

Starting in early 2026 we will be fundraising for this project, and hope to raise enough money that construction will take place in the summer of 2026.

Stay tuned!



For everything this past summer and fall, Thank You to ...

Volunteer Docents: Fiona Shaw, Rogan Poquette, Nora Rhodes, Bobbi LoCicero, Gail Yanowitz, Ginger Lubkowitz, Stevie Spencer, Dick Affolter

Interns: Abby Phillips, Ev McIndoo, Evelyn Owen-Sharratt, Thomas Buckley

Special Projects: Evergreen Erb; Brenda Waters; Lily Hinrichsen; Rita Sloan; Juno Stahl; Erik, Lachlan, Marie, and Kassel Johnson; Alyssa Lasher; Dave Cozzens; Ryan Elliott; Caelynn M; Jim Morris; Susan McCown; Liz Lee; Ali Wagner; Michele Patenaude; Debbie Duvall; Megan Pratt; John Gergely; Kerry and Linda Hurd; Levi Smith; Middlebury College Stream Scientists

Walk leaders, major donors, and special support: Pat Phillips, Tom Jiamachello, Lachlan Ziegler and Sam Darmstadt; Charlie Frazier; Stone Corral Brewery; Huntington Recreation Committee; Grace Nelson; Walter Poleman; Gail White; Janne Giles; Hank Kaestner; Bob Lindemann, Matt Strong and all the GMWC; Kathleen Stutzman; Jackie Washburn; James Vitranos; Shirley Johnson; Jim Mitchell; Jer Thorpe; Swarthmore College and Parker Dewey; UVM

Board of Trustees, especially for extra committee work and more: Bill and Mae Mayville; Brian Werneke; John Broschius; Taran Catania; Zac Cota-Weaver; Becky Cozzens; James Osborn; John Peckham; Kari Jo Spear; Elizabeth Spinney; David Sunshine

The Big Sit!

In October, the “Loonatics” gathered again for the 23rd year of participating in the Big Sit. You may recall that this is the birding event that requires perhaps the least effort: we just sit around in a 17-foot circle. At least one of us must be within the circle at all times from dawn to dusk—and we sit, talk, look for birds, keep track of birds, drink tea and coffee, eat breakfast... lunch... snacks. As we can see the feeders from our circle, we feel a certain kinship with the birds doing the same!

Although we counted the hours (12), the number of species seen (29), and the number of chickadees (6), we did not count the calories consumed.



As always it was a good day! Special thanks to Jim Osborn, Kerry Hurd, and Linda Hurd (pictured right) for going the extra mile to make it a super fun and well-fed day for everyone.



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| | | » Migration | » What Is A Bird? |

THE CARVER'S DAUGHTER

Part 30: My Father and World War II (and Star Trek)

A recent Carver's Daughter article ended with my father and a group of frozen birders, including me, reaching warm safety at the end of a day's hike across Lake Champlain in March on what is now known as the Colchester Causeway. While I was sipping hot chocolate and thawing out, my father mentioned that he'd ridden across the causeway on a train taking him away from home and into the darkness of World War II.

Over the next years, I found out more about his war experience in small bits and pieces, like the single comment he'd made that day. I knew, instinctively, that this was a subject to leave alone until he brought it up, always at unexpected times.

One night at the dinner table, when I was in high school, I mentioned to my parents that I'd been studying the end of WWII and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. I was feeling the righteousness of a teenager and said that it was a terrible thing and should never have happened.

My father, quietly, said, "You and I likely wouldn't be here today if it hadn't."

I stared at him.

"It's complicated," he said. Then he added, "I was in the Navy. Just before the war ended by the nuclear bombs, I'd been assigned to a ship in the South Pacific."

A lot of other things I'd just learned in history class clicked into place in my mind, especially about the Japanese kamikaze pilots and what they were willing to sacrifice for their country. The numbers of US Navy ships lost during that time had been horrifying. I imagined my father on a deck of a ship with a plane flying out of the sky above him, and then I stopped thinking about it.

That was the end of that conversation.

It wasn't until years later, when I was an adult, that I got the rest of the story, or at least, as much of it as I was ever going to get. I was going through a dark time of my own. I had needed some surgery and was hospitalized for three weeks afterwards, which felt like an eternity. I remember one day sitting by the open window in my room looking out at a lovely spring day I couldn't go outside to enjoy when my father came in for a visit.

"Getting sick of it?" he asked me.

"Yup," I said.

He nodded. "That's how I felt in Chicago."

I hadn't known he'd ever been to Chicago. I knew he disliked cities in general and the bigger they were, the less he liked them.

"Yeah," he said. "Couldn't get outside much. Felt like I couldn't breathe. And I really wanted to go home."

He'd summed up my hospital experience pretty well, too.

"I was sent there after boot camp," he added.

I realized that I was about to get more of his World War II story.

"I signed up after we entered the war. I guess it was kind of in the family, you know?"

I knew he had a lot of respect for his great grandfather, Alonzo Spear, who'd fought in the Civil War and done heroic things at Gettysburg. I could see my father wanting to take out Hitler with a well-aimed pocket knife if he had the chance. I nodded.



Alonzo Spear

"We had to take a bunch of tests," he went on. "To decide where to station us. I did really well on the math parts." He sent me a look. We both knew I definitely would *not* have done as well on the math parts.

"So I got sent to Chicago." He looked out the window past me.

"I didn't know Chicago had anything to do with World War II," I said finally, after he'd been silent for a while.

"No," he said, looking back at me. "Most people don't know it. But it was where a lot of research for radar development was going on. Radar technology was around before the war, but it was pretty primitive. The Navy, especially, realized it would be pretty helpful to see what was coming at you from under water or from above the clouds. It used to be that by the time you

... continued on page 7

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The Birds of Vermont Museum is surely a highlight on the Vermont summer attractions map. In the last two years, visitation numbers have increased with thanks, perhaps, to travel and tourist websites like Vermont Vacation, Google searches, connections to Vermont Huts, a few road signs, word of mouth, our annual art show, and down-a-dirt-road curiosity.

The carved birds bring people in, yet we believe the key to maintaining visitor numbers is the generous welcome and attention everyone receives who walks through the door and throughout the museum.

The attending greeters are among our array of *volunteers* who hail from the vicinity. They are eager to share their knowledge, interests, stories, and time. They help with admissions, guide school groups, survey bird species at the viewing window, update bird records, maintain trails and signage, keep the gardens thriving, and provide food and assistance at meetings and social events. We are ever grateful to everyone!

Our *front desk and docent* volunteers handle two principal roles: processing visitor admissions at the entrance as part of operating the museum gift shop, and presenting the Birds of Vermont Museum's introductory video. Responsibilities include maintaining availability and connecting to our museum-goers, responding to bird-related questions, and adding a note about Bob and Gale's roles in bringing this unique institution to fruition.

There are possibly as many *other volunteer opportunities* as bird species at the Birds of Vermont Museum (about 300). Despite our off-season month without walk-in visitation, staff and volunteers are busy within!

Newsletter and Annual Appeal preparation and mailings include volunteer help. Program development, bird walks and species surveys, property maintenance including indoor painting, display dusting and window washing are each standard tasks on our to-do lists.

Spring and summer volunteers prepare and maintain our gardens and trails, with benches and bird-related activity



Clockwise from top left: Brady Lasher (staff) with Debbie Duvall and Dick Affolter at Dead Creek Wildlife Day. Fiona Shaw and Bobbi LoCicero at the front desk. Jim Morris and Ali Wagner at the Over the Hump concert. Audubon's Junior Conservation Techs after a day of working on much-needed maintenance.

features. Educating visitors by observing birds from the viewing window and sharing experiences in birding is an extra bonus for all.

Birds of Vermont Museum's *Board Members* comprise another vital volunteer entity which guides our way in honoring our mission. With twelve volunteers currently serving on the board, meetings are held four times a year, during which updates from our executive director and museum staff are presented and board concerns or ideas are shared. The Board's profile is intentionally and productively represented by multi-talented professionals operating in particular roles that focus the Board's efforts toward supporting the museum's needs and ambitions. The Board as a whole oversees the museum's fiscal status and provides legal advice, yet each member is equally ready to join in a volunteer workday or be available for individual tasks as the need arises.



#AskBob

Q: What is your most prized possession?

A: An old family music-box photo album.

Note: this photo album is on exhibit in the Family Artifacts showcase in our conference room. When was the last time you examined this case? Come and see!

WINGS, WATERS, WAYS

Upcoming Art Exhibit for 2026

Keep an eye out for the annual Call to Artists in the next month or so! Our 2026 art exhibit will be *Wings, Waters, Ways*, and will explore the interwoven history of humans and birds in, over, and along waterways of all kinds. We're thinking—as we develop the theme a bit more, so we can send it out—about the “250th” celebrations, the much-longer history of humans on the landscape in the Green Mountains and Champlain Valley, and the much, much, *much* longer stories of how birds have adapted to, been influenced by, and use water and waterways.

Artists of all ages are invited to submit to this juried show. Amateur, hobbyist, student, and professional artists welcome. Traditional and digital works may be submitted. From fabric to photos, paint to poetry, we welcome visual, textual, and/or audio submissions. No work using generative AI will be accepted.

The deadline will be in March. If you would like to be sure you are on our art email list, please write to museum@birdsofvermont.org and let us know.



ANNUAL ABUNDANCE

Every year the Museum community comes together and supports the Museum by contributing to an annual appeal. *Thank you to all who have given this year and previously.*

Some donations go to general operations and some are earmarked for special projects. In 2025, the special project is funding for our solar installation. Conveniently, the roof of the barn Bob and Gale chose to house the Museum faces south, and it is perfectly suited for collecting solar energy. The panels will generate the electricity needed to run almost all of the Museum's needs, including the new heat pumps installed in early 2025. In addition they will reduce our carbon footprint and support to the green energy goals of Vermont. If you are able to support the Museum's operations and the solar panels addition, *thank you!*

If you want to support the Museum or our mission to learn and share about birds, but don't have the funds this year, there are many options. Please tell a friend about the Museum, write a review, ask your library to host a display or a program, choose bird-friendly coffee, create art about birds/conservation, take or teach a class, feed backyard birds, or plant native plants around your home. We're sure you can think of many more ways to share in the Museum's mission! *Thank you!*

Donate Today



GALE'S RETREAT

For the past few years, the Museum has been partnering with Vermont Huts to manage our onsite cabin known as Gale's Retreat. (It once was exactly that, for our Gale Lawrence, who helped found the Museum).

Retreat renters enjoy the uncomplicated solitude, trails, and birds of not-quite-camping. Although we may not meet all of the guests, many leave poems, illustrations, and prose for others to read.

If you are interested in learning more or staying in Gale's Retreat, please visit <https://vermonthuts.org/huts/gales-retreat/>. All rentals are handled through Vermont Huts. Members should contact the Museum for the current discount code.



Greta, age 7

Dylan



EVENTS THIS WINTER (*and more*)

BIRD MONITORING WALKS

Last Saturdays, December 27, January 31, February 28, March 28 • 8 am

All birders welcome at the monthly monitoring walks.

Register in advance • max 12
Free, donations welcome



NEEDLE FELTING A BARN OWL

Saturday, February 14 • 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Complement the Great Backyard Bird Count with your own bird to bring home! Skilled felter Grace Safford will lead us in making a barn owl from wool. Materials provided.



Register at our website or by phone
• \$30 (\$25 for members) • Limited to 14 makers, ages 10 and up.

126TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 14 – January 5

Visit <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count> to find out more and join a count group.

WINTER BIRDING IN VERMONT

Thursday, February 5 • 1:30 – 3:00 pm



Join Museum Director Erin Talmage to learn about Winter Birding in Vermont. OLLI (the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) is sponsoring this seminar.

Visit their website for more information and to sign up:
<https://learn.uvm.edu/osher-lifelong-learning/olli-on-campus-courses/>

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Friday – Monday, February 13 – 16

Museum Open Saturday • 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Visit <https://www.birdcount.org/> or visit us to see what birds we're counting for the Great Backyard Bird Count! Learn to ID birds — Go birding with a friend — Find out more about and record observations for this great community science project.

Register by phone or on our website • *Free with admission*



EXPLORE WINTER

Wednesday March 4 • 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Let's get outdoors! Will we find ice, tracks, twigs, and birds? The late-winter world has so much to offer. After a time outside we will come in and check out the birds at the feeders and enjoy mugs of hot chocolate.

Register by phone or on our website • Limited to 10 guests
All ages welcome • Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Suggested donation: \$10

DEADLINE FOR WINGS, WATERS, WAYS

Monday, March 23 • 11:59 pm

This is the last day to submit artworks in any media, by new or returning artists, of any age, to the *Wings, Waters, Ways* 2026 art exhibit. Visit <https://birdsofvermont.org/art-exhibits/> for more info.

VOLUNTEER POTLUCK

Saturday, April 14 • 5:00–7:00 pm

Past, present, and future volunteers are invited to celebrate, eat yummy treats, and enjoy meeting fellow volunteers. Please bring a dish to share. There may be a museum and bird trivia game for all who want to participate.

RSVP • *Free*



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

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

WEE PUMPKIN WOODCARVING WORKSHOP

April 18 • 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Carve a tiny whimsical pumpkin with Dave Tuttle at this woodcarving workshop.

\$45 (\$35 for members) • Register online



SPRING VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY

Saturday, April 25 • 9:30 – 1:30 pm

Oh projects! Come prepare the museum and grounds for programs, birders, visitors, and more. We provide lunch.

Register by phone or on our website • Free

More details, registrations, and changes at
<https://www.birdsofvermont.org/special-upcoming>

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

My Father and World War II (and Star Trek) (continued)

knew a submarine or a bomber was there, it was too late.”

I’d always taken radar for granted, but put that way, it sounded kind of like magic.

“You helped develop it?” I asked.

“Yeah.” He was looking back out the window again. “I ended up spending the war in Chicago. It wasn’t what I’d planned on.”

I realized I was staring at him. I’d had no idea.

“But at the end, after Germany surrendered, Japan kept on fighting in the South Pacific, and it got pretty bad. So many of our ships were being lost that the Navy was desperate for people who knew how to operate radar. I was assigned to a ship as a radar operator. It—ah—wasn’t a good place to be heading.”

I remembered what he had said about neither of us existing.

He sighed and then said, as though years hadn’t interrupted our conversation, “That’s why I have complicated feeling about the bombs being dropped.”

We were both silent. Complicated, indeed.

“War is an awful thing,” he said. Then he looked around. “Being stuck in a hospital’s not that bad, of course, but it’s not the greatest. I was in a hospital once in Chicago. Just overnight, nothing major. But there was an interesting fellow in the bed next to me. I’ll never forget him. His name was Henry McKinnies, but he liked to be called

Hank. We got to talking that night about what we wanted to do after the war. He wanted to be an actor. I—well, you know. Wanted to be a conservationist, study birds, that kind of thing.”

Start a museum, I didn’t add.

“Hank and I stayed friends. I have a bunch of letters from him. Funny thing, we both actually did what we talked about that night. He became a pretty famous actor. And I—well, you know.” He shrugged and smiled.

I smiled back.

“Hank was in a lot of good movies and some TV shows, too. Used the name Jeffery Hunter. He—”



Hank McKinnies, aka
Jeffrey Hunter

“Wait, what?” I leapt out of bed. “Jeffery Hunter? As in Captain Christopher Pike? Of the *Enterprise*?”

My father looked blank.

“As in the original pilot of *Star Trek*?”

“I think so?” my father said.

Sometimes, there were a few things my father didn’t know about.

“Are you *serious*? You were in the hospital with a guy who actually acted with Leonard Nimoy? Spock himself?”

... continued on page 11

RIP MAPLE TREE

(excerpt from a poem by Ali Wagner with help from five-year-old Marrin)

I bird
Watching and listening for signs of life
While the five-year old grasps
The perfect stick tool.

“CHICKADEE!”

With the most primitive pleasure imaginable,
He digs and pokes into the oblong hole in the ground
Where the rotten roots finally lost their grip
And the magnificent centurion maple tree,
Which died long ago (but stood tall long after its death to tell its story)
Now without limbs (but likely full of avian and mammalian life, seasonally)
Finally gave way to gravity and crashed into the road
On Monday, December 29, 2024

“RAVEN!”

With sheer delight, he explores the underworld
That for decades supported this tree’s life.
Rich, aromatic humus, deep, dark, and unfrozen, is now exposed.
He digs, pokes, scrapes, all the while upgrading to better and better sticks
As each one eventually snaps.
Next a stick is plunged deep into the earth, at least 12 inches down
While my feet and fingers start to feel the frigid January air.

“BLUE JAY!”

So pure, and simple, we both cherish this moment
Exploring what has not been seen by others, possibly ever.

“TUFTED TITMOUSE!”

Finally, a challenge, a frozen clump.
He problem solves
Smacks it, pulls at it, kicks it...
Uses that stick as a lever
Finally, the earth loses its hold and it pops up, free.
He grabs it with great anticipation
What’s inside? A rock? A chunk of rotten root? Just dirt?
He breaks away chunks of soil with strong mittened fingers
And discovers a pentagon-shaped, palm-sized rock.
White, beautiful, granite, a keeper.

“WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH!”



Our trails are open

Year-round! Even if it snows.

Enjoy the peace of the winter woods.



The full poem is in our blog, at <https://birdsofvermont.org/blog/>



EVELYN OWEN-SHARRATT, INTERN

Evelyn Owen-Sharratt is a senior at the University of Vermont getting her B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and her Place-Based Education certificate. As an intern at the museum, she is intertwining all these passions and concepts into an elementary ed activity book.

This activity book will feature crafts, word puzzles, coloring, recipes, and so much more! Through a lens of place-based education, this activity book is centered around the Birds of Vermont Museum itself, including Bob's carvings and the natural ecosystems surrounding them. While Evelyn is making some of these activities herself, a lot of pages also feature past interns at the museum and their own created activities. Evelyn is grateful to be given such a rare opportunity to create an activity book that blends together place-based and play-based learning with art and creation. She is excited for her years of place-based and outdoor education to be put into a book that every kid can experience, whether they live in Vermont or away!

As an avid birder and critter finder, Evelyn's love for wildlife and the Vermont habitats grows each day at the museum. Originally from Maryland (and with her favorite bird being "sea" gulls), Evelyn has a lot of experience taking little pieces of home with her wherever she goes. Her love and appreciation for Vermont and all of the state's culture, people, birds, insects, trees, mammals (you name it!) flows right back into this activity book. Evelyn would love nothing more than to share her knowledge of and appreciation for this natural world with everyone she teaches. She hopes a kid one day will



interact with this book, from wherever they may be, and feel inspired to notice the natural world around them. And perhaps even carry a bit of the museum, and of Vermont, with them long after they complete their final page.

GIFT CERTIFICATE	BIRDS OF VERMONT MUSEUM	
	900 Sherman Hollow Road • Huntington, VT 05462 www.birdsofvermont.org • (802) 434 - 2167	
	GOOD FOR •	
	Example: 1 Woodcarving class (\$45)	
	My Friend	
	Gift for (Name) _____	
Me	Gift from (Name) _____	
Please use by: <i>The end of next year</i>		
Staff initials: _____		
WHERE NATURAL HISTORY MEETS ART		

Give an Experience!

Did you know you can purchase passes or memberships to visit the museum? Or give a gift certificate for programs, nature and bird walks, or other events. You can even sponsor an intern!

These make wonderful holiday presents, especially for those who prefer experiences to objects.

Call 802 434-2167 to arrange these gifts.

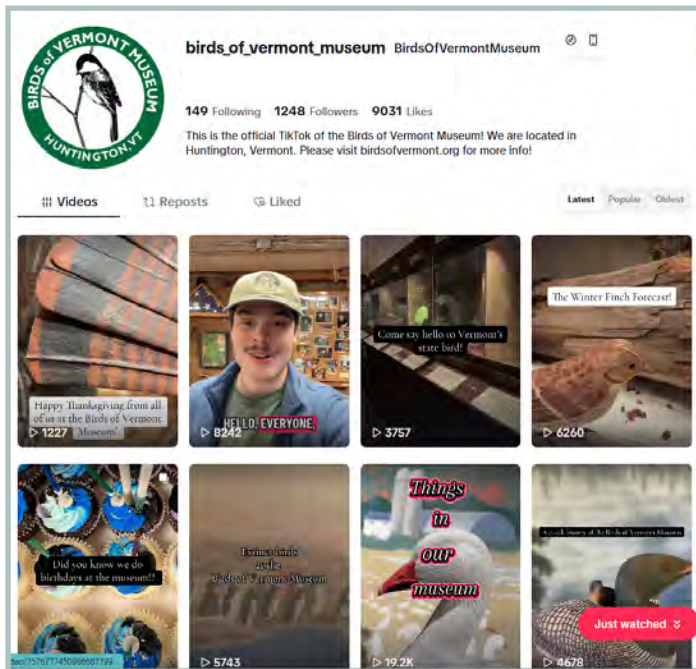


DIGITAL FORAYS

Are you a fan of short videos about birds, carvings, and curiosity? Museum Assistant Brady Lasher has been working to build our presence on another social media platform designed just for that kind of experience. We're on tiktok!

The response has been dynamic and satisfying just in the short time we've been on there. Find us at https://www.tiktok.com/@birds_of_vermont_museum

We continue to post monthly or so on our blog, often on Instagram, semi-regularly on Facebook, very rarely on YouTube, and intermittently on BlueSky. Each platform has its own style, quirks, and benefits. Volunteers and interns often help staff navigate other social media channels. It's exciting to co-create short series or stories to communicate science and art!



Our tiktok "page" as seen with a desktop browser

Looking for us online?

-  <https://birdsofvermont.org/blog/>
-  <https://www.instagram.com/birdsofvermont/>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/BirdsOfVermont/>
-  <https://www.youtube.com/@BirdsofVermont>
-  <https://bsky.app/profile/birdsofvermont.bsky.social>
-  https://www.tiktok.com/@birds_of_vermont_museum



THOMAS BUCKLEY, INTERN



Thomas stands by Bob Spear's carving of the California Condor. The carving and this bird are significant to him; he remembers seeing one with his dad as a small child.

Thomas Buckley is the fall communications intern at the Birds of Vermont Museum. At the museum, he is reviewing bird data for our labels and signs to include the most current information. This includes "fun facts" about bird behavior that will be incorporated into a new mini scavenger hunt in the spring of 2026. He's also developing guidelines and a handbook to help ensure consistent signage in the future.

Using his extensive writing and editing skills, Thomas has written an article about conservation impacts during the current administration; this piece follows up on a sidebar in the last issue of *Chip Notes*. His article is a brief overview of legislation both recent and longstanding, from the budget reconciliation bill passed in July to the Endangered Species act and even the hundred-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This new legislation and new "understanding" of older laws, along with executive orders and recent court decisions, often interfere with bird conservation and survival. In Thomas' article, he also identifies some of the agencies specifically affected. Look for this to be posted to the museum website (in our blog section) this winter.

After his internship ends, Thomas will return to complete his junior year at Princeton in the spring semester, where he is majoring in Public Policy at the School of Public and International Affairs with a minor in Environmental Studies.



My Father and World War II (and Star Trek) (continued)

“Well, he hadn’t done it yet. You saw that one?”

“Okay,” I said trying to calm down. “You need to watch it. I have a copy. It’s a big deal. Because Jeffrey Hunter didn’t stay with the show, William Shatner got cast as the captain, and all the Star Trek history happened!”

“Well, he always said he preferred film to television.” My father sighed. “I always liked Hank.”

My *father* had been hospital roommates with *Captain Pike*! I realized I was standing on my feet and hadn’t thought about being sick for quite a while.



Bob Spear as a young man circa 1941-45

Later, when I had fully recovered and was safely in the freedom of my own home again, I thought about how my nature-loving father had been trapped in a strange city for years while the world was at war. The impact on his future had to have been enormous. It helped explain why he’d spent such a large part of his life protecting nature and bringing art to life.

I also thought about how he’d never stepped on the deck of a ship or fired a weapon. Instead, how many lives had been saved because of his contributions?

But, just like having had a famous actor for a friend, it wasn’t something my father had needed to talk about.



Kari Jo Spear, daughter of Bob Spear, is a writer of young adult novels and more. Her young adult novel, *Under the Willow*, is available online. Her collection of stories, *The Carver’s Daughter: A Memoir*, is available in the museum, 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>.

Author’s note: this might be a good time for the whole world to reflect on the past for a while before we continue to go (boldly) into the future.

Carving Corner

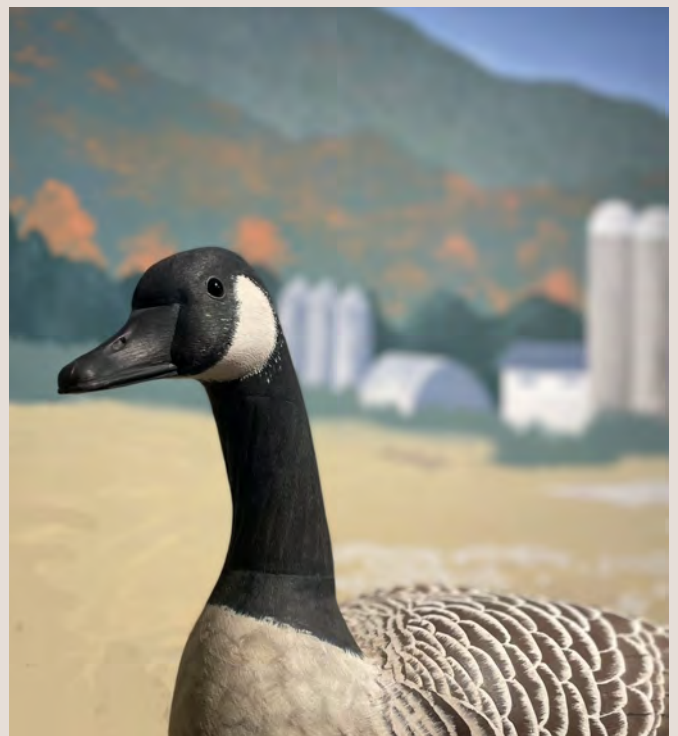
Jim Mitchell delighted us this summer when he brought in a Canada Goose carving!

This was his third carving ever—a mallard was his first, and a wood duck his second. It is carved from sugar pine with oil paint and is composed of three pieces of wood. Two make up the body; one more for the neck and head. Jim said he has no idea how long it took; he didn’t and doesn’t keep track. This is one of Jim’s largest carvings. Almost all of his carvings are turned to the left.

Jim was self-taught, partially using Bruce Burke’s books.

At the museum, the Canada Goose is #521 of the numbered carvings. It is on exhibit in the Fall Wetland Diorama. Jim has provided us with several carvings, including the American Black Duck, the Horned Grebe, and the Long-tailed Duck, as well as a decoy painted like a Ring-billed Gull.

Thank you, Jim!



Birds of Vermont Museum

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATES

Last Saturdays Bird Monitoring Walks
February 14 Needle Felting a Barn Owl
March 4 Explore Winter
March 23 Deadline for Art Submissions
April 14 Volunteer Potluck
April 18 Wee Pumpkin Woodcarving

More events and all the details inside and on our website.
To register, visit <https://birdsofvermont.org/special-upcoming/> or
call (802) 434-2167 or email museum@birdsofvermont.org

Volunteers always welcome

#AskBob

Q: What do you miss most when you are away from home?

A: My work.

#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.*