

CHIP NOTES

The Newsletter of
The Birds of Vermont Museum



Volume 23

Our Twenty-third Year

Spring 2009

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION MAY 16, 2009

The Birds of Vermont Museum again partners with Green Mountain Audubon Center to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on May 16, 2009.

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) has been celebrated around the world since 1993. The program was initially created by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service oversaw the program from 1995 to 2006. The program continues to spread in popularity and scope. Since 2007, it has been coordinated by Environment of Americas (EFTA). Throughout its history IMBD continues to celebrate the amazing feats of migratory birds. Festivals and other events occur from Canada to Central America. For information about other festivals see www.birdday.org. Originally, IMBD was celebrated on the second Saturday in May. Not all birds are in the peak of migration at this point, and recently EFTA has been promoting the idea that “every day is bird day.” They recommend organizations pick days more suitable to migration patterns in their area. In Vermont our migratory birds return from late February through May. We time our celebration when many of Vermont’s colorful warblers have just returned.

Every year a theme is chosen for IMBD. Themes are often related to current conservation issues. In past years themes have included: *Collisions - Clearing The Way For Birds*, *The Boreal Forest - Bird Nursery of the North*, and *Birds in a Changing Climate*. This year the theme is *Celebrating Birds in Culture*, by exploring the role birds play in the lives of native people throughout the Americas.

For a complete schedule of events see page 2.

The Birds of Vermont Museum was recently recognized along with 35 other organizations for hosting International Migratory Bird Day events for 10 years.



Children enjoy learning about nests at International Migratory Bird Day.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY SCHEDULE

Events at The Birds of Vermont Museum

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Morning bird walk (for adults)
10:30 am - 11:15 am - Children's bird program
10:30 am - 12:00 pm - Book signing and discussion with Amy Siedl author of *Early Spring*
11:30 am - 12:15 pm - Live bird presentation (Part 1)
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm - Live bird presentation (Part 2)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Carving demonstration

All Day Activities

Indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts
Mystery Bird Quest
Prevent window crashes by creating a hanging ornament
Join in the IMBD bird count
Enter the Museum's art contest
CDs available from the Swing Peepers

Events at Green Mountain Audubon Center

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Bird banding demonstration
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Decorate and eat a bird cookie
1:30 pm - 2:15 pm - Children's games including an egg race relay, Migration madness and a bird call mate match
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Children's bird program

All Day Activities

Education Barn and Discovery Room open with lots of kid friendly activities!
Blue Heron pool - try to catch your food with a beak
Bird Scavenger hunt
Make you own hummingbird mask
Make a bird bracelet to match the colors of your favorite bird

Enter our IMBD raffle

Raffle prizes include:

- Black-capped Chickadee carving by Dick Allen
- Audubon coffee and Birds of Vermont Museum mug
- Basket of bird book and plush singing birds,
- Gift certificate for Audubon camp

Winning tickets will be drawn at 4:00 on May 16. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by phone, at the Museum, or on the day of the event.



Black-capped Chickadee carving by Dick Allen.

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

The Museum welcomes Susan Cassevaugh as *Artist of the Year* for our 2009 season. Susan Cassevaugh lives in the Adirondack Mountains of Northern New York State. She was introduced to art at an early age by Rockwell Kent, a family friend and neighbor. Currently, she paints in watercolor and oil at her studio near Lake Placid, New York. Susan earned her Art Degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo where she was one of six in an accelerated program. While an undergraduate, she also attended the University of Siena in Italy for concentrated studies in Renaissance and European Art. Susan's portrayals of Northern Forest themes bring together a blend of traditional and contemporary painting techniques. Susan's art will be displayed and for sale throughout the Museum during our 2009 season. Come see her beautiful work.

A preview of her art can be seen at <http://www.nearnorthart.com/>



WISH LIST

Subscriptions to bird-related magazines (or your old copies)

Sponsorship of summer intern (\$2000)

IMBD Wingspan Banner (\$260)

Waterhog Floor Mats (\$100)

Please call (802)434-2167 for more information



VISITING WOODCARVER

Graeme Rhind, born in western Australia, is planning to spend August, September, and October in North America. The Birds of Vermont Museum is delighted to welcome him as our Visiting Woodcarver. Graeme will be demonstrating his talents at some of our weekly wood carving demonstrations in the late summer and early fall. He will also do a slide lecture on "Australian Bird Life" in September. Please see our event page on our website for specific dates.

Graeme is a horticulturalist who specialized in gardening for the disabled, and was a wheatbelt farmer from the 1950's to the 1970's. He is an avid birder and nature lover who has trekked all over Australia in search of wildlife.

Graeme is an accomplished wood turner and wood carver, turning since 1971 and carving since 1985. Graeme carves birds and other wildlife for competitions and for sale. His group also makes toys that are donated to underprivileged children in his community. He has started two wood turning clubs and one woodcarving club in Australia.

Graeme first visited and joined the Museum in 1987, the year we opened. He continues to be our member whose newsletter travels the greatest distance!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Volunteer Lunch/Work Party

May 2, 2009 (rain date May 9, 2009)

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Appropriate for: Everyone interested in volunteering at the Museum

Help the Museum prepare for the season by cleaning trails, painting, and getting ready for International Migratory Bird Day. Lunch will be served at noon.

Early Morning Walks

Sundays May 10, 2009 – June 28, 2009

Time: 7:00 am

Appropriate for: Adults and older children

Fee: Donations accepted

Join us for an early morning bird walk through the Museum property.

International Migratory Bird Day

May 16, 2009

See page 2 for full schedule

Spring Birds of the Lake Champlain Basin

June 6, 2009

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Appropriate for: Adults and older children

Location: We will meet at the Vergennes Green (we will carpool from there)

Fee: \$25.00 for non-members, \$20.00 for members

Join Jim Andrews, herpetologist and long-time Champlain Valley birder, as we take a driving tour to the shores of Lake Champlain through the Champlain Basin to spot some breeding and migratory birds. We will carpool and stop at selected sites. Please call (802)434-2167 to register.

Peregrine Falcons in Vermont

June 27, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Appropriate for: Adults and older children

Location: Birds of Vermont Museum

Fee: Suggested donation \$10

Join Margaret Fowle, conservation biologist with Audubon Vermont, for a presentation on the successful recovery of the Peregrine Falcon in Vermont. Museum doors will open at 6:30 with a wine and cheese reception in front of the viewing window, before moving to the conference room for the slide show.



Peregrine Falcon wood carving by Bob Spear.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Vermont Entomological Society Bug Walk

Saturday, July 5, 2009

Time: 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Appropriate for: Anyone with an interest in Vermont's six-legged creatures.

Fee: Free, with free admission to Museum for participants

Join Vermont naturalists and entomologists in a first hand experience of seeing Vermont's butterflies and insects up close. Our hosts are members of the Vermont Entomological Society. Bring binoculars and an insect net if you have one. Pack a lunch if you'd like to stick around for a picnic after the walk. If it is raining on the day of the walk, call the Museum (802)-434-2167 to see if we've rescheduled.

Neighbor's Day

August 8, 2009

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Appropriate for: Neighbors

Fee: Free admission to Museum for residents of Buels Gore, Huntington, Richmond, and Hinesburg

Bob's 89th (1/2) Birthday Celebration

August 22, 2009

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Appropriate for: Everyone

Fee: Museum admission (free for members)

Join us for an old-fashioned ice cream social to help Bob celebrate his 89th birthday.

Weekly Carving Demonstrations

Saturdays May 9, 2009 – October 31, 2009

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Appropriate for: Everyone

Fee: Free with Museum admission

Come watch a wood carver at work.



For more events please see our www.birdsofvermont.org/events/php

Want more information? Can't wait for your next newsletter?

Check out the Museum's blog: <http://bovm.wordpress.com> or follow us on [twitter.com](#)

THANK YOU

The Museum could not function without the generosity and time of many people and organizations. As always we want to thank our volunteers, our members, and our board of directors. We would also like to extend a thank you to the following organizations who have assisted us in the past year.

Chittenden Bank

Delta Dental

Hettena Wright and Horton

Northfield Saving Bank



Jeff Landa, of Delta Dental, joins Erin Talmage, Shirley Johnson, and Bob Spear. Delta Dental continues to support the Museum by sponsoring our newsletter.

2009 ART CONTEST IS ACCEPTING ENTRIES

Art Contest Rules

This competition is open to persons aged 0 – 18 years old.

The theme of the contest is ***Birds, Birds, Birds.***

Entries on paper must be no larger than 8 ½" x 11", 3-D art must be smaller than 6"x 6"x 8".

One entry per person - name, age and contact information must be included with entry.

Contestants can use any medium – (paint, pencils, crayons, markers, clay, wood, papier-mâché).

Entries must be received no later than September 30, 2009.

Please drop off, or mail, entries to: Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, Vermont 05462.

All entries will be displayed at the museum throughout the 2009 season - enter early!

Winning entries will be displayed (with artists' approval) on the BOVM website!

First, second, and honorable mention prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

5 years and younger

6 – 8 years

9 – 13 years

14 – 18 years

Winners will be announced at the Museum at the Fall Festival, October 10, 2009.

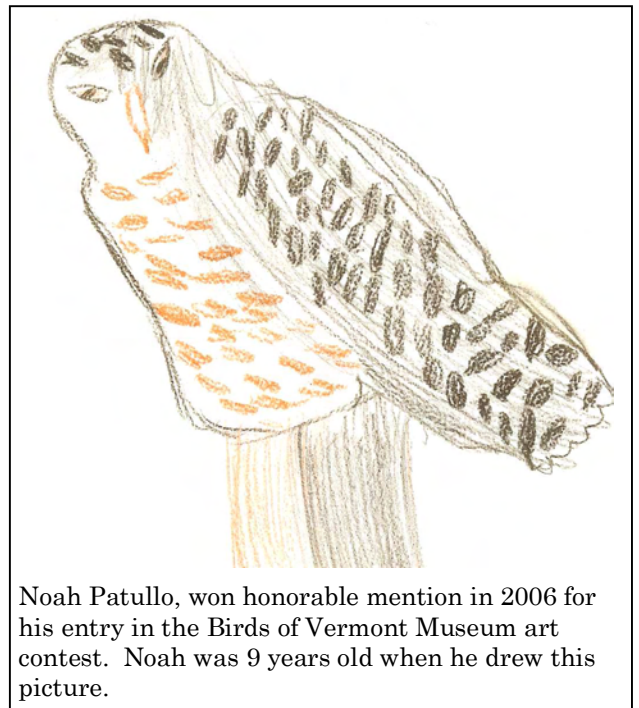
Thank you to our Sponsors

Black Horse Fine Art Supply, South Burlington, Vermont

Artists' Mediums, Williston, Vermont

Guys Farm and Yard, Williston, Vermont

Pizza Putt, South Burlington, Vermont



Noah Patullo, won honorable mention in 2006 for his entry in the Birds of Vermont Museum art contest. Noah was 9 years old when he drew this picture.

CARVING REPORT

Bob and Ingrid were busy this winter working to improve and grow the collection. In January, they could both be found within the fall wetland diorama. They built the “shoreline” and created the “open water.” Bob developed the master plan for where each carving will eventually be placed. The small sandpipers that had originally been painted in their fall plumage were moved into the fall wetland diorama. Bob plans to carve many of these shorebirds again and paint them in their breeding plumage.

Bob recently completed a Purple Sandpiper for the fall wetland diorama and is putting the finishing touches on a Glossy Ibis. He also built the legs for a collection of shorebirds (Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Short-billed Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Black-bellied Plover) for the fall wetland diorama.

Ingrid has completed a Bonaparte's Gull and a Ring-billed Gull. In addition, she carved a pair of American Goldfinch that will be raffled off during our 2009 season. She also turned 13 turkey eggs for the Wild Turkey exhibit.



Ingrid Brown paints in the open water section of the fall wetland diorama.



Bob Spear made legs for five species of shorebirds that will be carved and painted in their fall plumage.

NEW BOOKS IN GIFT SHOP

Are you looking for new natural history books for your collection? Come to the Museum's gift shop in 2009 and check out some of our new titles.

Sibley's Folding Guide: *Backyard Birds of New England* by David Sibley

Bird Brain Teasers: Puzzles, Games and Avian Trivia by Patrick Merrel

Birding by the Season- A Year of Listening to the Birds (book and CD) by Donald Kroodsma

Early Spring by Amy Seidl

Lake Champlain: A Natural History by Mike Winslow

Green Mountain Club's *Nature Guide to Vermont's Long Trail* by Lexi Shear



This carving of a Purple Sandpiper took Bob Spear 37 hours to complete.

SAVE THESE DATES

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| May 1 | Museum Opens |
| May 2 | Volunteer Day |
| May 16 | International Migratory Bird Day |
| June 6 | Spring Birds of the Champlain Basin |
| June 27 | Peregrine Falcons in Vermont |
| July 5 | VT's Entomological Society's Bug Walk |
| Aug 8 | Neighbor's Day |
| Weekly bird walks and wood carving demos | |

For additional information, or to register,
please call 802-434-2167 or check out our web-
site www.birdsofvermont.org.

*The mission of the Birds of Vermont Museum
is to provide education, to nurture an
appreciation of the environment, and to study
birds and their habitats using woodcarvings
and other Museum resources.*

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

Thanks to Northeast Delta Dental for supporting
our newsletter.



Northeast Delta Dental

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