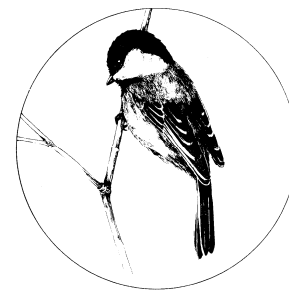


CHIP NOTES

The Newsletter of
The Birds of Vermont Museum



Volume 25

Year of the 500th Bird

Late Winter 2011

BOB AND FRIENDS CARVE OUT ANOTHER GOOD YEAR

Carving Report

In the weeks prior to Bob's annual migration to Florida, he spent many hours preparing blanks for the Canada Goose and Snow Goose. These and two shore birds are to be completed over the winter, and all will be welcome additions to the Wetland Dioramas come spring. Gale Lawrence, writing as she and Bob were settling in for the winter at Cedar Key, tells us,

Bob has already set up his winter (work)shop on the back balcony...dividing his time between carving... and looking through his scope at all the birds in the mangroves and water behind our condo. Today he walked to the other end of the island to check for shorebirds. He's about as relaxed as I've ever seen him.

Dick Allen, a Museum board member and accomplished woodcarver, also continues his efforts on behalf of the Wetland Dioramas by carving a pair of Bufflehead ducks. We hope to install these by May as well.

Do you have an eye for a hunk of wood's carving potential? Readers of our blog are challenged to predict the future identity of one of Bob's uncarved blocks of wood. Submit your ideas at <http://bovm.wordpress.com/2010/11/10/identify-the-bird-carving/>

500th Bird

This will be the year when the 500th bird is added to our collection. We are at 497 as we write. Which bird will be number 500? How will we celebrate? Your ideas are welcome!

Also, a Birthday

We're pleased to celebrate Bob's 91st birthday on February 21. Have a piece of cake in Bob's honor. All of us at the museum will. We will again have his birthday celebration in the summer. Those wishing to honor Bob's birthday are encouraged to make a \$91 contribution to the Birds of Vermont Museum. Thanks for your support!

There's more about carving on page 6...



Bob in his workshop at the end of fall

PAUL HURD, 1921 - 2010

It was with a great deal of sadness that we learned of Paul Hurd's passing. Anyone walking through the Nesting Gallery can see that Paul Hurd and his family have, and continue to be, part of the fabric that makes up the Birds of Vermont history. Paul was a long-time supporter and a good friend to Bob and the rest of the staff.



According to Paul's daughter Nona, her Uncle Stub, Paul's brother-in-law, decided one year—probably 1989—that he wanted to see more of Vermont. These travels led him, Paul, and Paul's wife Toni, to Huntington, where they visited the Museum and met Bob. The story goes that Bob and Uncle Stub, Paul, and Toni hit it off, and Paul and Toni were hooked! Unfortunately, Uncle Stub passed away in 1990. However, this marked the beginning of the family tradition of dedicating cases at the Museum: Paul and Toni dedicated a case to "Arvin J. 'Stub' Carver."

As life continued with new family members added and others passing (Toni passed away 1998), Paul continued to visit the Museum regularly. His visits were treasured by staff who enjoyed hearing stories of his family, their nine children, Paul's amazing career in radio and television broadcast engineering, and of course birds and nature. Each of Paul's children, in-laws, nieces, and nephews have visited the Museum. The family has carried on the tradition of sponsoring cases in honor of individuals. Paul's children and in-law children dedicated a case to Paul for Father's Day in 2010.

Paul and his family invited friends to remember him with donations to the museum, and many of them generously did so. We deeply appreciate their gifts, and thank Paul's family for thinking of us at this time. Paul will be missed



WINTER INTERN LAURA WATERHOUSE



Our latest intern for the winter months is Laura Waterhouse, an American citizen who was born and raised in New Zealand. With a degree in environmental management and nature conservation, and a passion for ecology, Laura left the summer months in New Zealand for the snow and cold of Vermont.

At the Birds of Vermont Museum, she has been put hard at work: watching wildlife at the birdfeeders, researching endangered bird species for the informational placards and the adaptations of bird feet for an education tool, and of course doing her part in the winter day-to-day activities of bird feeding, checking humidity, and assisting visitors and staff. "It's a tough life," she grins.

Laura hopes to complete a hanging origami mobile, displaying different bird migration and navigation techniques, before she jets home to New Zealand. In the future Laura is also looking to return to Vermont, where much of her family lives, and putting to use her degree and what she's learned about Vermont's wildlife from the Museum.

We are now welcoming applications for spring, summer and falls internships. Please

THANK YOU

We are grateful for support from:

- ◆ the family and friends of Paul Hurd
- ◆ All members who renewed and donated during our Annual Appeal
- ◆ Harvey Schuger
- ◆ Northeast Delta Dental
- ◆ Center for Technology Essex

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

People volunteer for a variety of reasons. The draw for some may be developing a mutually beneficial relationship with a particular organization, while others may simply be seeking a new experience or involvement. One's motivation doesn't matter; however, the value volunteers add to the overall operation of an institution can be remarkable.

With the consequences of a tough economy influencing how non-profit monies are spent, we find volunteers are that much more vital to keeping all the Birds of Vermont Museum's systems running smoothly. Tasks taken on by each volunteer range from indoor and outdoor seasonal maintenance, simple engineering projects, organizational help, and engaging visitors as docents and facilitators, to resources research and documentation, committee duties and communiqués, and outreach at fairs and

festivals.

In 2010, a most impressive 1500 hours of volunteer participation on behalf of the Birds of Vermont Museum was recorded! Without question, the tangible effects of this service added greatly to the success and enjoyment of the Museum.

Somewhat less predictable and quantifiable are the enthusiastic personalities our volunteers bring to their work—and play—when at the Museum or representing BOVM elsewhere. The wealth of stories shared at the viewing window, after a bird walk, or following a birding vacation is inspiring, while the energy, creative skills, and reflective nature of each volunteer reach into and enrich everyone's Museum experience. Our volunteers actively model the Museum's mission in every aspect of their work.



Fabulous volunteers staffing our booth at the Champlain Valley Fair, clearing our trails, and hosting the Red Hat Society.
Pictured from left to right: Mae, Scott, Bob, and Stewart

WISH LIST

We welcome your help. Checks may be made out to the *Birds of Vermont Museum* and mailed to us at 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT 05462. If you wish to donate an item on the list, please call us at (802) 434-2167.

- ◆ Art Contest donations (\$5 covers one child's prize)
- ◆ Clear Plastic Storage Bins (\$50)
- ◆ Lumber for building bird and roost boxes (\$50-\$100)
- ◆ Benches for special spots along the trails, including the pond overlook (\$250)
- ◆ Outdoor bulletin board (\$250)
- ◆ Rolling discovery table for children (\$300)
- ◆ Lighting for Artwork (\$750)
- ◆ Sponsor an intern for a season (\$2500)

Thank you!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, WINTER–SPRING 2011

Bird Monitoring Walks

Last Saturday of each month, January–April

Time: 8:00–10:00 a.m.

Free, outdoors

Join Executive Director Erin Talmage on our surveying walk. Bring snow shoes, rain boots, etc., depending on weather. Trail conditions vary.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday–Sunday, February 18-21

Time: all day



From the GBBC website:
“... an annual four-day event
that ... create[s] a real-time
snapshot of where the birds

are across the continent. Anyone can participate,
from beginning bird watchers to experts...”

We will also be open 10a.m.–4p.m. on February 19

to support participants. Come by and learn how to participate, share your results, count with us, or just enjoy your inter day. Usual admission rates apply.

For more info, check out the GBBC website:

[http:// www.birdsource.org/gbbc/](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/)

Bob’s 91st Birthday

Sunday, February 21

Those wishing to honor Bob’s birthday are encouraged to make a \$91 contribution to the Birds of Vermont Museum. Checks can be mailed to the Museum at 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT 05462.

Thank you for honoring Bob in this way!

Painting Party

Saturday, March 5

Time: 9:00a.m.–1:00p.m.

Help us paint part of the Museum. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know you’re coming.

Bird Homes

Tuesday, April 19

Time: 10:00 a.m.–11:30a.m.

\$10 members, \$15 non-members

Vacationing *school children* are invited to join us at the museum to craft a bird house or nest. Fee includes admission for child and one accompanying adult.

Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, April 23 (Rain date: May 7)

Time: 9:00a.m.–1:00p.m.

Help us prepare the Museum for the 2011 open season! Do windows, clean nest boxes, work on trails (weather permitting), prepare materials for visitors and school groups, add bird sighting data to online databases, and much more. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know you’re coming.

Museum Opens

Sunday, May 1

Time: 10:00a.m.–4:00p.m.

Usual admission rates apply

Come and join us on our first open day of the 2011 season. **Discover our 500th bird!**

Storytime in the Nestlings Nook

Second Tuesday of the month, May–October

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Free with admission;
donations accepted.

Join us for stories about birds and more. Intended for *pre-schoolers*, but all ages are welcome. Stories will be followed by a craft project, music, or nature walk, depending on the topics and weather. Got a favorite book about birds? Share it with us!



Some favorite books for
our youngest members

Sundays for Fledglings

Sundays, May–October

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Free with admission; donations accepted.
Often outdoors.

Kids (*K–3rd graders*, especially) are invited to hike, create, explore, carve, act, write, and investigate with us on Sunday afternoons. We focus on birds...but amphibians, mammals, trees, ferns, forests, insects, and other natural community members may be included. Activity details will be posted at the museum and online each week.

Please call (802) 434-2167 to
pre-register for all programs.

Email us at museum@birdsofvermont.org
with any questions or comments.

Weekly Carving Demonstrations**Saturdays, May– October 31****Time:** 1:00–2:00 p.m.**Free** with admission

Come observe a wood carving demonstration. Ask questions, collect fresh ideas, learn a new technique.

Looking Ahead

May: Herrick's Cover Wildlife Festival

Bird Day Festival

Kid's Day

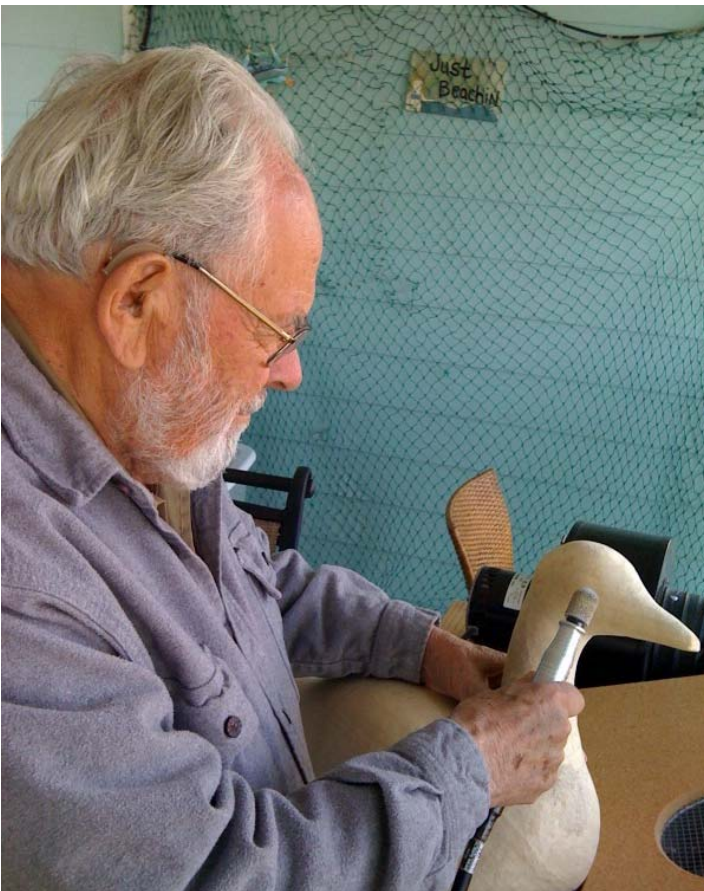
Early Bird Walks

June: Early Bird Walks

Carving Class

Tweet Day

Keep an eye on our website's events page for updates and additions: <http://www.birdsofvermont.org/events.php>



Bob Spear at work in Florida

INGRID, DOWN UNDER

Ingrid Riga Rhind was the Museum's curator and Bob's apprentice for nearly a decade. In 2009, she married Graeme Rhind, a museum member and visiting wood carver, and moved to Australia. Many members, visitors, and volunteers worked with and chatted with Ingrid during her tenure here, and they often ask for news.

Based on her correspondence, it appears Ingrid is having a wonderful time. Not once has she mentioned missing snow, ice, or the wind chill factor. Her letters are full of the adventures she has taken across Australia.

Last southern fall (Vermont's spring) she and Graeme attended a birding outing in the deep bush, east of Perth. It was the first of many camping adventures together. Later, as their winter approached, Ingrid sent an email that mentioned it was only in the 50's in the morning. Although it did reach 70's and 80's during the afternoon, they still needed sweatshirts in the early part of the day. To avoid this "cooling" weather they set off on a three-month adventure where they visited the Broome bird observatory and volunteered at a whale research center, and explored some of the northern areas of Australia.

In September, she and Graeme had the incredible experience of riding in a hot air balloon. It "was magical." It's not just camping and wild birds, however: they also did some "farm sitting"—in addition to being able to carve ducks it appears Ingrid likes taking care of real ones too.

Ingrid writes that she and Graeme continue to carve and recently exhibited in the Albany Wood-craft Show. They are currently creating works for the Easter Woodcraft Exhibition in Denmark. It is summer again in Australia and the "days are just glorious." In addition to sunshine, they are enjoying fresh veggies as they plan their next big adventure.



FLEDGLINGS

This past year we piloted a new program: “Sundays for Fledglings”. Our aim was to roll out a bird-focused environmental education weekly program to forward our mission with a slightly different demographic than usual.



A girl investigating insects or possibly seeds

Each week we offered a 45-60 minute activity that could be adjusted “on the fly” for whichever ages might show up (we didn’t require pre-registration for all sessions). Some weeks indoors, some weeks outside, we went from habitat explorations to small-scale examinations, to art, craft, dance, and stories. Subjects included bird identification, adaptations, migration, ecology and conservation, prey and food webs, and human relationships and connections to birds. We drew on our own experiences and notes from teaching, as well as numerous pre-existing curricula, and worked to make activities challenging, fun, and creative.

In short, it was wicked fun.

Most weeks saw 2-5 kids from ages 3-10. Once we even had an entire Cub Scout troop! That

range suggested that next season (May–October 2011) we could move Fledglings more toward K–3rd graders and add Nestlings for the preschoolers. We had several families who came repeatedly, sometimes bringing extended family along and becoming members along the way.

Kir Talmage led most of the programs (she has over a decade in environmental science teaching and outdoor education), with some weeks led by Allison Gergely (whose own experience includes formal science education and ecology interpretation). Next summer we’d like to have our intern lead—and perhaps design—at least one program as part of his/her experience here. We also plan to order the programs to tie more closely with a primary bird activity of the month (nesting, raising a family, migrating, and so on).

As always, we invite your feedback. Please let know if you have ideas, suggestions, want to participate, or have items that might be useful to future programming. We’re looking forward to May!



BEGINNER CARVINGS

The Museum hosted a woodcarving class last November. Dave Tuttle of the Green Mountain Carvers led attendees through the carving and painting of a Northern Cardinal “in the round”. These carvings are meant to be viewed from any direction. “In the round” is one of four main carving styles (others are whittling, chip carving and relief carving).

We hope to hold more classes in 2011. You can find more GMWC classes on their website, <http://greenmountainwoodcarvers.org/>



One female with seven male Northern Cardinals from the class

BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS: 2010 Art Contest Results

One morning in early fall I walked into the museum—and it was like Christmas. All along the wetland diorama gallery were hung fabulous foil birds, entries into this year’s Art Contest. Dancing along the walls and leading me around the corner to the conference room were swirling curves of flying birds in incredible patterns. And decorating the walls, bringing Eric Carle-like color to the room, were collages of birds. Art teachers had brought in the work from their classrooms.




Patterned birds fly over Kari Jo Spear’s photos (part of our Community Art Show this past fall)

birds everywhere we turned. Each of those had a small colored circle stuck to it to classify the work by age. We had penguins, blue jays, cardinals, bluebirds,

All summer, kids in ones and twos and threes had been contributing drawings to our Art Contest wall, which faces the viewing window, so it was already birds, birds,

robins, bald eagles, and one gray-cheeked thrush. A volunteer had found us a glass-fronted case, and this housed the three-dimensional sculptures, mostly ceramic, with a delightful papier-mâché waxwing and a steam-punkish metal bird spreading its wings.

From loose layering of color by 3-year olds to precision ink and color work by a high schooler, to the joyful eye-filling student entries, the Museum celebrated our up-and-coming young artists.

We can never give them all prizes (though we would so often like to) . But we can echo the words of our 2010 judge, artist Lori Hinrichson, **“keep making art and sharing it with others.”** Thank you so much, young artists! 

Our 2010 winning artists are:

Age 0-5: Melody B, Lily K, Kenny F, Anna P, Olivia O

Ages 6-8: Noah B, Cooper H, Jake B, Petra B, Celeste B

Ages 9-13: Lena H, Anna-Sophie S, Lexi P, Amanda G, Kate O

Ages 14-18: Christina H, Lindsay F, Hannah G

And some special categories:

Sculpture (3-D): Shannon H, Allison G, Alexander U, Hannah D, Melissa A

Collage (First Graders): Kameron C, Mary M, Cater F, Ian M

Flying Patterned Birds: Will P, Nicholas M, Caroline S, Caleb R, Carter S, Myiah D

3-Dimensional Flying Foil Birds: Makenna T, Isaac D, Jackson E, Shannon H, Amy L, Kyle D

Judge’s choice: Georgia W for “Best Kestrel”; Clementine for “Cutest Penguin”; Lily for “Best Mallard”; Leola A for “Cutest Couple”; Kenny for “Best Cardinal”; Aziana H for “Best Happy Owl”, and David A for



2- and 3-year olds enjoy feeding birds

NESTLINGS

The Museum has made great strides in offering kid-friendly opportunities for learning and creative activity pursuant to our mission of education about birds, the natural world, and environmental stewardship. Our Sundays for Fledglings program, spanned a wide range of topics throughout the Museum’s regular season and attracted an enthusiastic following of 3-8 year old children and their parents. Multi-disciplinary activities were coordinated with bird- and nature-related learning themes.

New in 2011, the Museum will be adding a story time program for pre-school children called Nestlings. Allison Gergely, BOVM aide, will develop and lead a monthly, weekday-morning story hour with engaging books and a follow-up activity, right in our own Nestlings’ Nook.

Admission and scheduling information will be available on the Birds’ of Vermont website and through 

SAVE THESE DATES

January 29	Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk (also February 26, March 26)
February 18-21	Great Backyard Bird Count (Museum open February 19)
February 21	Bob Spear's 91st Birthday
March 6	Painting Party
April 19	Bird Homes (Children's Program)
April 23	Volunteer Work Day
May 1	Museum Opens for 2011 Season

Find out more inside (page 4). Keep track of updates on our website. For details or to register, call (802) 434-2167. We look forward to seeing you!

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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Newsletter supported in part by



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