



**Bermuda Audubon Society**  
**NEWSLETTER**

Fall  
1995

P O Box HM 1328, Hamilton HM FX

Vol.6 No.3

**EARED GREBE**  
**NEW TO BERMUDA**

On 10th August 1995, Eric Amos discovered an **Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* at Spittal Pond. This is the first time this species of grebe has been seen in Bermuda. Pied-billed Grebes *Podilymbus Podiceps* arrive in small numbers each Fall, with most wintering on our ponds. Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* occasionally occurs in the winter months and there are also two records of Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*.

The Eared Grebe was in breeding plumage - showing a black head with obvious red eye, black neck and back, rusty brown sides and distinctive silver/golden "ears" fanning out from behind the eye. It breeds in the western part of the US and southern Canada normally wintering inland and along the Pacific coast of the US. Most migrate to the south of the US. It is occasionally seen along the Atlantic Coast of the US in winter. It also occurs in northern Europe and Asia where it is known as the Black-necked Grebe.

It spent much of its time feeding at the extreme north-west corner of the pond, and was weary of human approach.

It was last seen on 12th September, by which time it was changing into winter plumage.

Andrew Dobson

**Society News**

**Natural History Camp**

An extremely successful camp was run on Nonsuch Island in conjunction with BAMZ. Eighteen students enjoyed a lot of fresh air and learnt a great deal about Bermuda's environment from a dedicated team of instructors.

**Field trips**

The field trip to Nonsuch Island was as well supported as ever but the poor weather nearly beat us once again on our scheduled trip around Spittal Pond. Only a few hardy souls braved the wind, rain and flooded paths but were rewarded with a fine selection of donuts!

**Future Events** - see back page.

## 1994/95 CAHOW REPORT

The season was one of endless crises - re-infestation of rats, egg failures, competing Longtails and an injured chick. Fortunately the rats were eliminated before doing any damage, but the fragile or infertile eggs remains a great worry and the Bermuda Biological Station is analysing for pesticides. Of 49 established pairs at the end of January 1995, only 29 chicks were confirmed hatched by the end of March. In May and June a total of 22 fledglings departed in good condition, one left in marginal condition and another sadly died after being discovered in emaciated condition.

On 29th March I discovered that a longtail had got through a wooden baffle into a cahow burrow - the first time this had happened since 1961! The chick had put up a fight but was badly injured with a broken lower mandible. Despite atrocious weather conditions and gloom as to the bird's fate - a "crazy glue" splint was applied to the bill and when the bird was returned to its burrow, the splint came off! The splint was re-applied and seemed to hold. A new baffle was placed at the burrow entrance and fortunately the adult birds returned to the nest to feed the chick. Any fears as to its fate were allayed when it appeared perfectly normal during a night watch on 21st May and was the first fledgling to depart on the night of 24th-25th May.

As if the problems of last season weren't enough, this season has started with the devastating damage caused by the storm surge of hurricane "Felix". At least 22 nest sites have had extensive repairs if they are to be usable this year - new cement lids, new retaining walls, and shifting of tons of rocks and soil. Unfortunately there is likely to be even greater competition from longtails as many of their nest sites were destroyed.

David B. Wingate

## Seasonal Bird Report

Unfortunately time and space doesn't allow for the usual summary, mainly due to two new arrivals. A Spring arrival was Anna Margaret Dobson born to Audubon Vice-President Andrew Dobson and Katrina on 9th April 1995. The notable Fall arrival was Seth John Madeiros born to Audubon President Jeremy Madeiros and Leila on 22nd October 1995.

Other significant records include White Ibis, American Avocet, Brown Noddy (probably blown here by hurricane "Opal"), Brown Thrasher (a treat for those on the Audubon Society's Paget Island weekend), Townsend's Wabler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Lark Sparrow (only the second record for Bermuda). The most intriguing report concerns a flycatcher with dark head and long tail - flycatching from an oleander bush during a wedding on Trunk Island! See the full list of dates on the next pages.

## 1995 FALL ARRIVAL DATES

SPECIES	First Fall Date	Location	Comment
Pied-billed Grebe	26/8	Spittal Pond	
<b>Eared Grebe</b>	10/8	Spittal Pond	<b>NEW BERMUDA RECORD</b>
Bermuda Petrel	17/10	Castle Harbour Islands	
Cory's Shearwater	6/10	Cruise ship - released.	
<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>	2/8	Castle Harbour	Earliest Fall record.
Double-crested Cormorant	2/10	Little Sound	
Great Blue Heron	14/9	Turtle Island	
<b>Great Egret</b>	20/8	Devonshire Marsh	Earliest Fall record.
Snowy Egret	2/10	Seymour's Pond	
Little Blue Heron	8/8	Lagoon Park	
Tricolored Heron	10/8	Spittal Pond	
Cattle Egret	30/10	Outerlea Dairy	3 in adult plumage is unusual.
Green Heron	1/10	Marsh Lane	
<b>White Ibis</b>	18/8	Great Head	Third Fall record.
Glossy Ibis	26/8	Spittal Pond	
Wood Duck	20/8	Spittal Pond	First summering bird died after
Wood Duck	18/10	Port Royal GC	Hurricane Felix
Green-winged Teal		First summering record.	
Green-winged Teal	19/9	S.Princess Pond	
<b>American Black Duck</b>	7/9	Spittal Pond	Earliest Fall record - by 23 days.
Blue-winged Teal	3/9	Warwick Pond	
Northern Shoveler	17/10	Spittal Pond	
American Wigeon	2/10	Riddell's Bay GC	
Ring-necked Duck	19/10	Somerset Long Bay	
Lesser Scaup	21/10	Spittal Pond	
Osprey	1/10	Ferry Point Park/Dockyard	One also summered.
American Kestrel	11/10	Fort Scour	
Merlin	20/9	C.A.T.	
Peregrine Falcon	30/9	St.George's GC	
Sora	16/8	Cloverdale	
Purple Gallinule	28/8	Jubilee Road	
Common Moorhen	20/9	Cloverdale	
American Coot	5/10	T.C.D.	
Black-bellied Plover	23/8	C.A.T.	
American Golden-Plover	22/8	C.A.T.	Over 50 in one flock.
Semipalmated Plover	1/8	Warwick Pond	Also summer records.
Piping Plover	23/8	C.A.T.	
Killdeer	16/9	St.George's Dairy	
<b>American Avocet</b>	29/10	Riddell's Bay GC	7th Bermuda Record

Greater Yellowlegs	30/7	South Pond	
Lesser Yellowlegs	11/7	Nonsuch	
Solitary Sandpiper	18/7	Spittal Pond	
Willet	16/8	Cloverdale	
Spotted Sandpiper	19/7	Spittal Pond	
Upland Sandpiper	18/8	C.A.T.	
Whimbrel	13/8	C.A.T.	One of the European race 26/8
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>	17/9	Mid-Ocean GC	5th record in 27 years.
Ruddy Turnstone	2/8	Dockyard	
Sanderling	18/8	Horseshoe Bay	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	24/7	Warwick Pond	
Western Sandpiper	27/7	Warwick Pond	
Least Sandpiper	19/7	Warwick Pond	
White-rumped Sandpiper	20/8	C.A.T./Talbot Estate	
Pectoral Sandpiper	31/7	Spittal Pond	
Dunlin	20/10	Spittal Pond	
Stilt Sandpiper	19/7	Warwick Pond	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	21/8	Lukes Farm GR	
<b>Ruff</b>	16/8	C.A.T.	Earliest Fall record.
Short-billed Dowitcher	21/7	Warwick Pond	Above average numbers.
Long-billed Dowitcher	16/8	Gibbons Marsh	
Common Snipe	14/9	Cloverdale	
Laughing Gull	20/8	Hamilton Harbour	
Ring-billed Gull	21/8	Hamilton Harbour	
Herring Gull	18/9	Causeway	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	22/10	Annex	
Great Black-backed Gull	2/10	Dockyard	
Royal Tern	1/7	Castle Harbour	Late summer record.
Common Tern	17/8	Little Sound	
Least Tern	21/8	Spanish Point	
<b>Brown Noddy</b>	11/10	St.George's Harbour	Earliest Fall record. Died at BAMZ.
Black-billed Cuckoo	22/10	Annex	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	11/9	Lukes Farm	
Common Nighthawk	6/9	St.George's GC	
Chimney Swift	2/9	Talbot Estate	
Belted Kingfisher	1/8	John Smith's Bay	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7/10	Port Royal GC	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	13/10	Ferry Point Park	
Alder Flycatcher	18/9	Bartram's Pond	
Willow Flycatcher	15/9	Biological Station	
Least Flycatcher	15/9	Biological Station	
Eastern Kingbird	2/9	Jubilee Road	

(Fork-tailed Flycatcher)	7/10	Trunk Island	If confirmed - Bermuda's 2nd record.
Horned Lark	18/10	Tudor Hill	Joint earliest Fall record.
Purple Martin	9/8	Devonshire Heights	
Tree Swallow	3/9	Tudor Farm	
Bank Swallow	4/9	Tudor Farm	
Cliff Swallow	14/9	Port Royal GC	
Barn Swallow	20/7	Nonsuch	
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>	16/9	Jenningsland	Earliest Fall record by 19 days.
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	14/9	Port Royal GC	Earliest Fall record by 5 days.
Grey-cheeked Thrush	18/10	Port Royal GC	
Swainson's Thrush	7/10	Hog Bay Park	
Hermit Thrush	17/10	Spittal Pond	
Wood Thrush	30/10	Port Royal GC	
American Robin	5/10	Sears Cave	
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>	7/10	Paget Island	First for 12 years.
Cedar Waxwing	26/8	Coral Beach Club	
White-eyed Vireo (N. Am.)	17/10	Botanical Gardens	
Solitary Vireo	17/10	West Whale Bay	
Yellow-throated Vireo	1/10	Ferry Point Park	
Warbling Vireo	17/9	Smith's Hills	
Philadelphia Vireo	22/9	Arboretum	
Red-eyed Vireo	11/8	Riddell's Bay GC	Record day count 3/10 (over 50)
Blue-winged Warbler	31/8	Riddell's Bay GC	
Golden-winged Warbler	20/9	Coral Beach Club	
Tennessee Warbler	20/9	Cooper's Island NR	
Orange-crowned Warbler	1/10	Ord Road	
Nashville Warbler	20/9	St. George's GC	
Northern Parula	17/9	Riddell's Bay GC	
Yellow Warbler	2/8	Wreck Road	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4/9	Jubilee Road	
Magnolia Warbler	16/9	Coney Island	
Cape May Warbler	16/9	Jenningsland	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	16/9	Shelly Bay	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	11/9	Coney Island	
<b>Townsend's Warbler</b>	2/10	Port Royal GC	Two this Fall. Ten in last 20 years.
Black-throated Green Warbler	2/9	Coral Beach Club	
Blackburnian Warbler	4/9	Walsingham	
Yellow-throated Warbler	21/8	St. George's GC	
Pine Warbler	11/10	Fort Scaur	
Prairie Warbler	7/8	Riddell's Bay GC	
Palm Warbler	23/9	Coney Island	
Bay-breasted Warbler	30/9	Astwood Park	

Blackpoll Warbler	18/9	Arboretum	Above average numbers.
Black-and-white Warbler	3/8	Riddell's Bay GC	
American Redstart	11/8	Walsingham	Good numbers this year.
Prothonotary Warbler	4/8	Riddell's Bay GC	
Worm-eating Warbler	17/8	Jenningsland	
Swainson's Warbler	26/9	Coral Beach Club	
Ovenbird	29/8	Ocean View GC	
Northern Waterthrush	3/8	Riddell's Bay GC/Nonsuch	
Louisiana Waterthrush	27/7	Gibbits Island	
Kentucky Warbler	10/8	Riddell's Bay GC	Joint earliest Fall record.
Connecticut Warbler	20/9	Nonsuch	
Mourning Warbler	31/8	Talbot Estate	
Common Yellowthroat	19/7	Riddell's Bay GC	
Hooded Warbler	11/8	Jenningsland	Joint earliest Fall record.
Wilson's Warbler	17/10	Ferry Point Park	
Canada Warbler	31/8	Talbot Estate	
Yellow-breasted Chat	4/10	Ferry Point Park	
Summer Tanager	23/9	Port Royal GC	
Scarlet Tanager	1/10	Lagoon Park/Fort Scaur	Record day count 3/10 (over 12)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1/10	Hog Bay Park	
Blue Grosbeak	20/9	Gilbert Reserve	
Indigo Bunting	23/9	Biological Station	
Dickcissel	24/9	Talbot Estate	
Chipping Sparrow	4/10	Fort Scaur/Ferry Point	
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>	3/10	Heydon Trust	Bermuda's 10th record.
<b>Lark Sparrow</b>	18/10	Tudor Hill	<b>BERMUDA'S 2nd RECORD</b>
Savannah Sparrow	16/10	USNAS	
Grasshopper Sparrow	7/10	Little Head Park	
Lincoln's Sparrow	4/10	Ferry Point Park	
Dark-eyed Junco	16/10	USNAS	
Snow Bunting	31/10	Somerset Long Bay	
Bobolink	2/9	Talbot Estate	
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>	11/8	St. George's GC	Earliest Fall record. 6th Fall record in 27 years.
Northern Oriole	2/9	Coral Beach Club	

Observers -

Eric Amos	Steven DeSilva	Andrew Dobson
John Edmunds	Peter Holmes	Jeremy Madeiros
Lella Madeiros	Ron Porter	Penny Soares
David Wallace	David Wingate	Paul Watson

All records have been submitted and printed in good faith. Audubon members are encouraged to submit any interesting bird records, or telephone the Audubon Hotline 238-3239.

## Membership Renewal/Application

(see address label for expiry date)

Name.....Tel.No.....

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Adult.....\$10.00

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### Bermuda Audubon

### Society

### Committee 1995-96

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Vice-President           Andrew Dobson  
Treasurer                 Ted Cassidy

Committee members   Heather DeSilva  
                                  Penny Hill  
                                  Peter Holmes  
                                  David O'Neill  
                                  Helge Trapnell  
                                  David Wingate

Newsletter               Andrew Dobson

### Bermud Audubon Society

# HOTLINE

## 238-3239

bird news  
society business  
environmental concerns



*If undelivered please return to:*

Bermuda Audubon Society  
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## Future Events

<b>Saturday 11th November</b>	<b>Pelagic Fieldtrip / Cahow Watch</b> 2pm Depart Biological Station Ocean search for birds and mammals 6 pm Achor off Cahow islands in hope of seeing cahows at dusk 8pm Arrive Biological Station Cost \$25 per person Phone 236-7410 for details /reservations
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<b>December</b>	<b>Annual Christmas Bird Count</b> Date to be announced
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<b>Sunday 14th January</b>	<b>Fieldtrip to former US Annex - Southampton</b> 2 pm Main entrance
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