

President's Report 09-10

Committee of Management 2009-2010

Andrew Dobson - President

Richard Amos - Vice President

Karen Border - Executive Secretary

Judith Swain - Treasurer

Lyn Llewellyn - Treasurer/Membership Sec

Fiona Doe

Jennifer Gray

Jeremy Madeiros

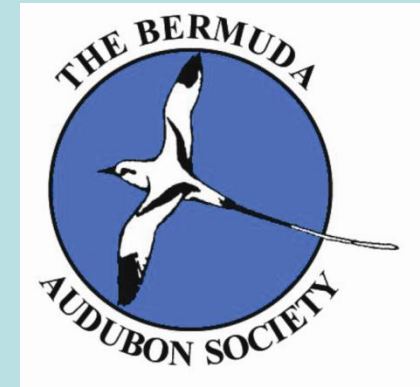
Paul Watson

David Wingate



June Nonsuch Island Fieldtrip





June

The Audubon Society
gave an educational talk
on longtails to students at
the Masterworks art camp.

**Alfred Blackburn Smith
Nature Reserve
Visitor Guidelines**

June

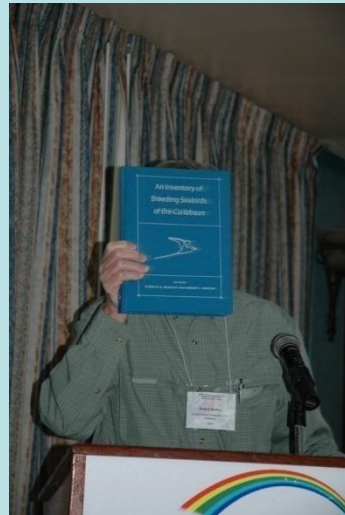
A guide to the Alfred Blackburn Smith nature reserve was published on the Bermuda Audubon Society's website. Click on 'Nature Reserves' at www.audubon.bm



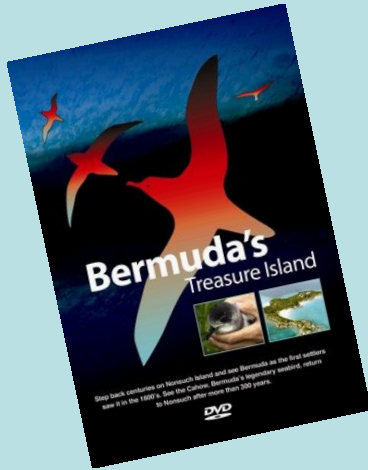
(c) Ministry of Works and Engineering



July - SCSCB Conference - Antigua

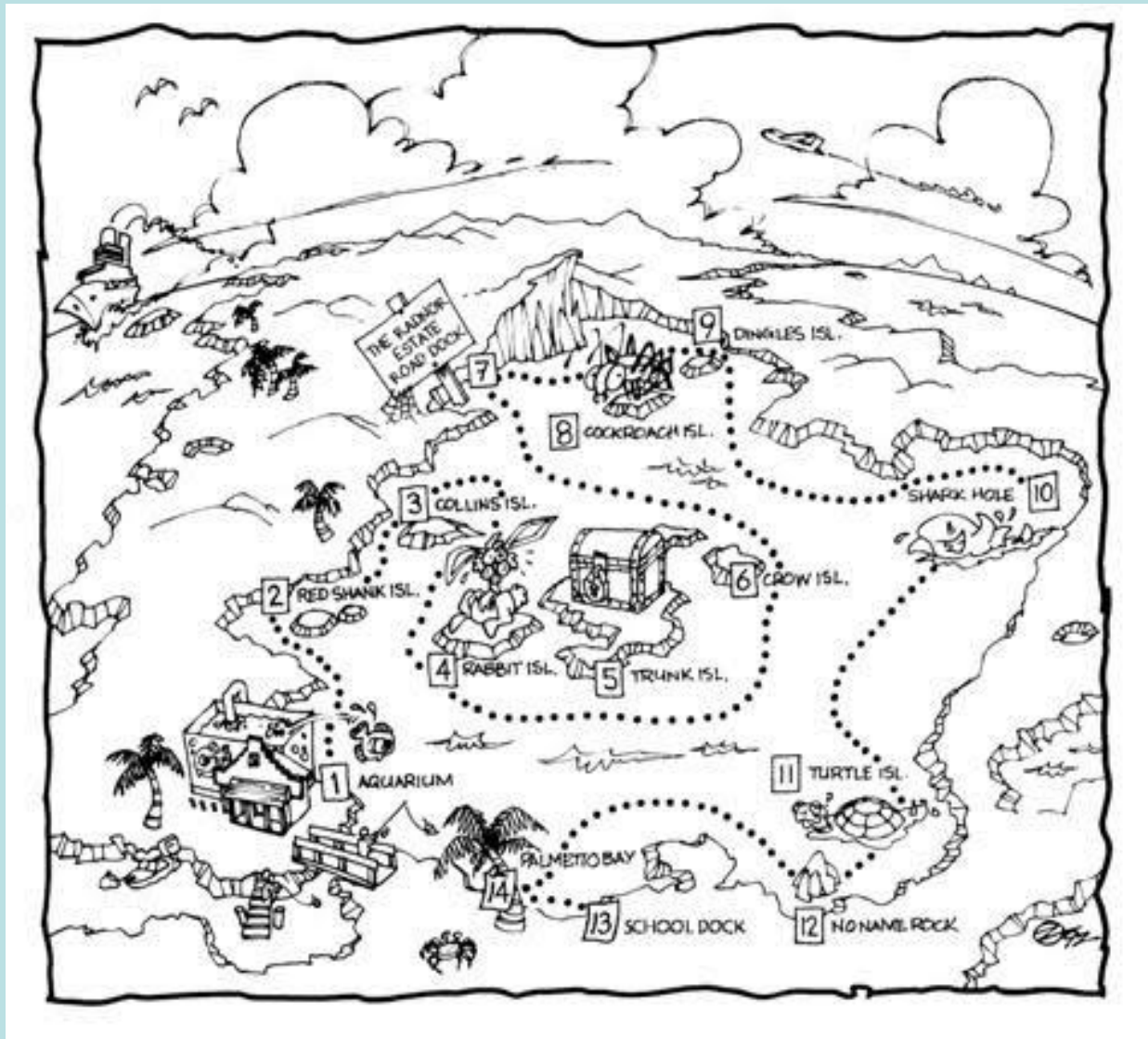


July - 400th Anniversary Time capsule



BAS contributes to time capsule
The Time Capsule Ceremony took place in front of the Town Hall in St. George's. The Bermuda Audubon Society gave a magazine celebrating its 50th anniversary and the DVD 'Treasure Island' on the Cahow.

October - Round the Sound Swim



October - Butterfield Bank at Vesey Reserve



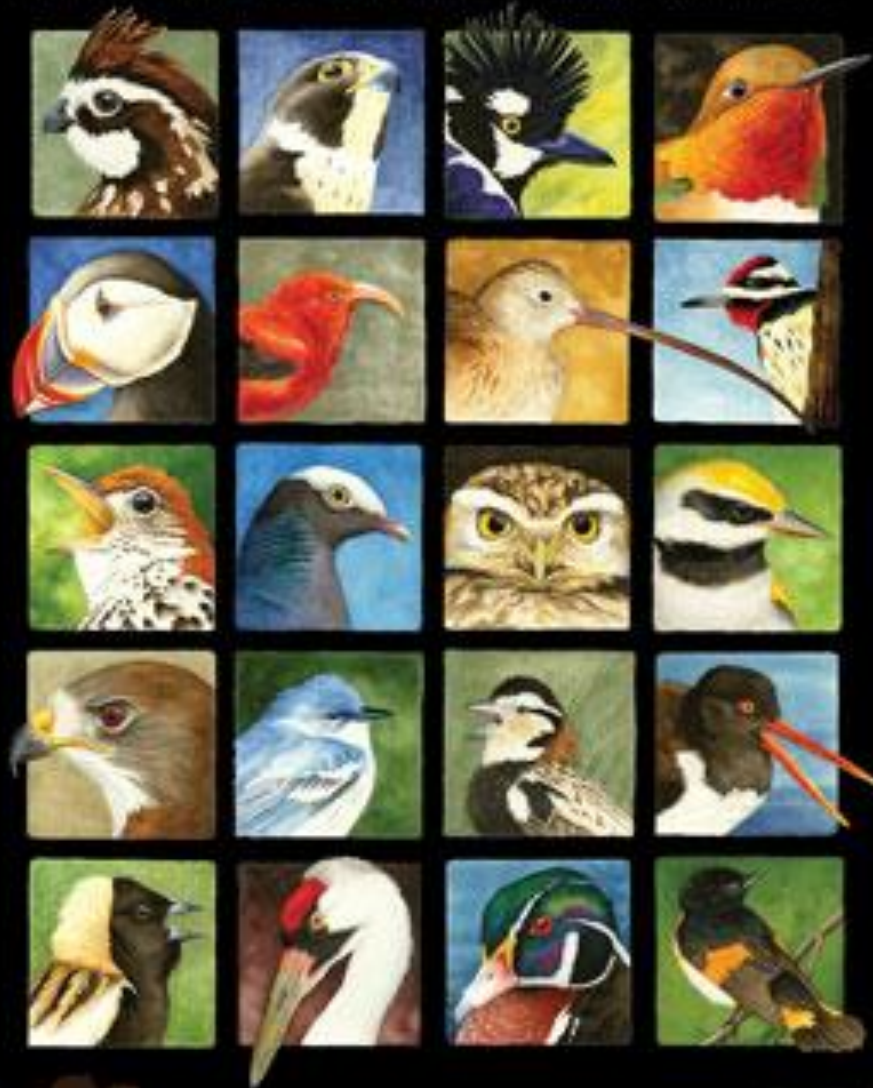
30 staff plant 75 trees

October - Paget Island Bird Camp

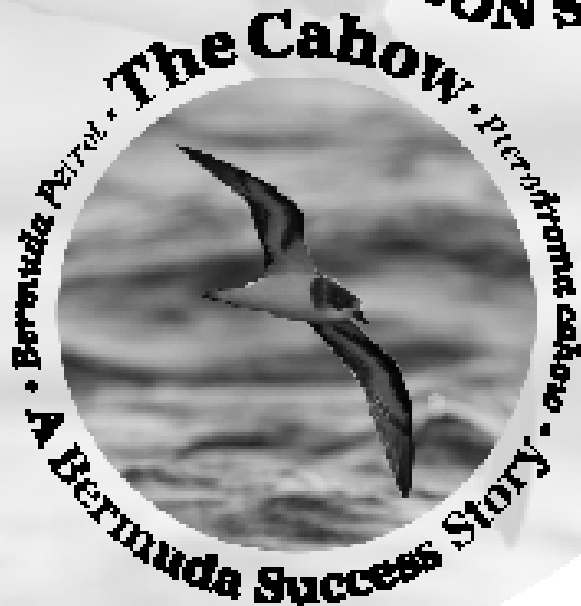


The Power of Partnerships

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2010



November - Cahow Month



Bermuda Audubon Society

invites you to celebrate
'Cahow Month'

Wednesday 4 November

Cahow Lecture by Jeremy Madeiros
Warwick Academy Hall 7.30 pm
(Morgan Road entrance)
Adults \$10 Members \$5
Students Free
Tickets available at the door

Special Cahow t-shirts will be
available for sale at \$20 each.

Saturday 21 November

Cooper's Point Fieldtrip –
watch Cahows over the ocean
Meet at 2.30 pm at entrance gates to park.
Open to all.

More information info@audubon.bm

November - Cahow Lecture

Results of Projects to Establish New Nesting Colony of Cahow or Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*) on Nonsuch Island, Bermuda, and to Determine Their Oceanic Range

By Jeremy Madeiros



Nov - Cooper's Point Fieldtrip



November - Cahow T-shirt



Nov - Working Party Alfred Blackburn Smith Reserve



November - Dollars for Hours Partner Re and CedarBridge



The students made
about 40 boxes for
the Society



December - Christmas Bird Count

The Bermuda Audubon Society held its 35th CBC on 31st December.

Features of this year's count included:

- 8,682 individual birds were counted (very similar to last year's total)
- 100 species of birds - 96 (2008), 95 (2007), 100 (2006)
- 1 new species for count day (Western Kingbird)
- House Sparrow was the most common species (20% of the count)
- Nearly 250 species have now been record on the CBC in Bermuda since 1975

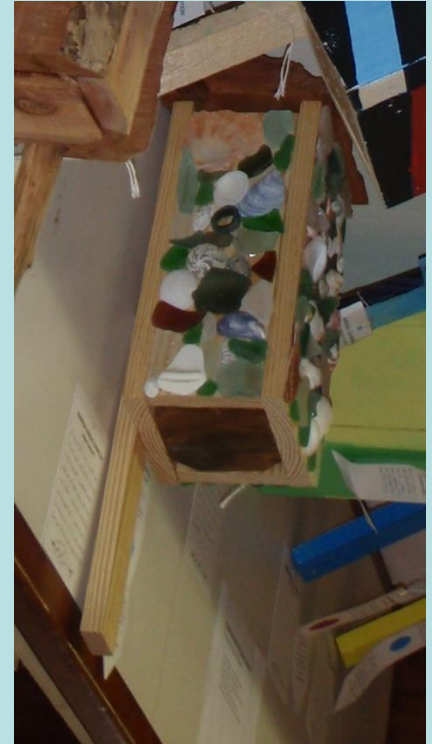
March - Seymour's Pond Working Party



March - Government House Bluebird nestbox workshop



April - Annual Show Audubon Award



Winner
Addy
Malpas

April - Earth Day



Bermuda Association of Eco-Clubs - Victoria Park

April - Aspen Corporate workday Shorelands Longtail igloos



May – Hamilton Rotary Club

Andrew Dobson delivers a talk for the weekly Hamilton Rotary Club

Theme: 2010 - Year of Biodiversity

May - Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival

(Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds)





May Nonsuch Island Fieldtrip



June - Saltus Cavendish Bird-a-thon



Nature reserves management and working parties

A.B.S. Nature Reserve

Firefly Nature Reserve

Freer Cox Nature Reserve

Seymour's Pond Nature Reserve

Stokes Point Nature Reserve

Somerset Long Bay West Nature Reserve

Somerset Long Bay West Nature Reserve

Vesey Reserve

Nature reserve management

Firefly NR



Freer Cox NR

Cooperation and Partnerships

Locally:

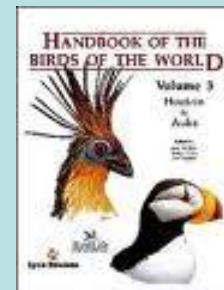
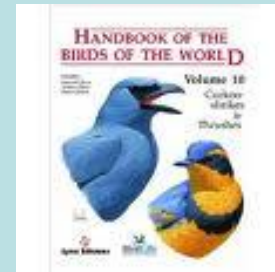
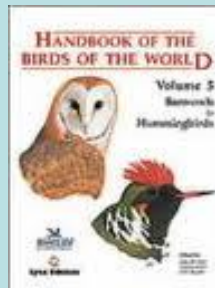
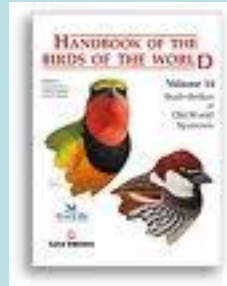
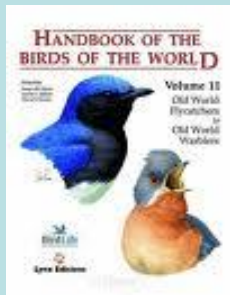
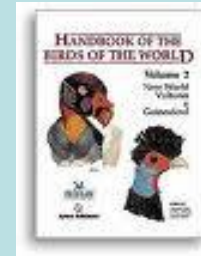
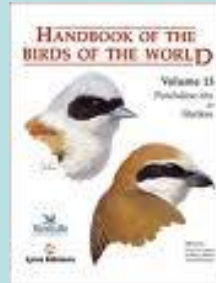
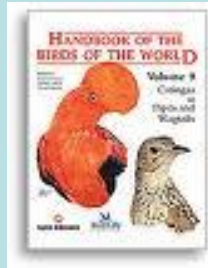
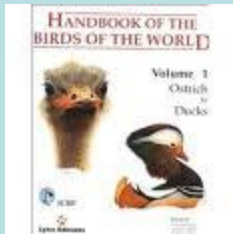
- The Ministry of the Environment, Bermuda Government (Conservation Unit)
- Parks Commission
- Bermuda National Trust
- Bermuda Zoological Society
- Eco Bermuda
- Masterworks
- The Royal Gazette

Internationally:

- BirdLife International
- National Audubon Society
- North American Birds
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK)
- Rutgers University
- Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
- UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

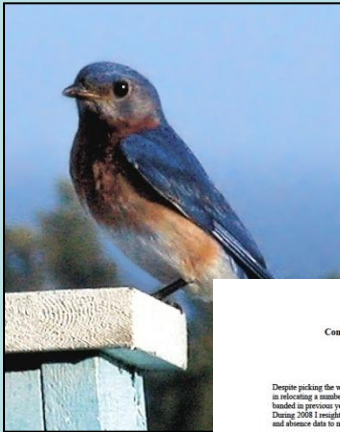
Partnerships

BAMZ Library – Handbook of the Birds of the World



Research

We continue to support the research by
Dr. Jamie Bacon on amphibians
Julian Avery on Bluebirds



Conservation Status of the Bermuda Bluebird

3rd Field Season, June 20-27, 2009
Julia Lockwood and Julian Avery
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Despite picking the worst week of rainy weather for conducting field work, I succeeded in relocating a number of previously banded birds. Overall, I found a total of 46 birds banded in previous years. Of these, 14 were banded in 2007 and 32 were banded in 2008. During 2008 I sighted 44 birds banded in 2007. I should now have enough presence and absence data to model survivorship of bluebirds on golf courses.

I also revisited 111 of the survey points that I established in 2008. I collected data on bluebird abundance that I will use along with the data from 2008 to model density of bluebirds in residential and golf course habitat.

It appears to have been a productive breeding season. A majority of the adult birds I observed in June were feeding fledglings or were found with self-sufficient fledglings in tow.

I am currently working on the genetic history of Bermudan and North American bluebirds and I am on track to have results for analysis this August.



Male bluebird banded in 2007 from Tucker's Point and resighted during 2009.



Communication

- Newsletters - Vol. 21
- Web site www.audubon.bm
- Email info@audubon.bm
- Birders' email group
- Newspaper and magazine articles
- Banners
- Facebook



In this issue:

- [2010 - International Year of Biodiversity, Andrew Dobson](#)
- [Society News, Jeremy Madors](#)
- [Six, James and Bob Steele - Remembered David Hingate](#)
- [Bird Report Late Dec 09 to June 10, Andrew Dobson](#)
- [Important Bird Areas of the Americas](#)
- [Lamenting the Death of the Emperor and Susan Harvey](#)
- [Christmas, Real Count, Andrew Dobson](#)
- [Working Parties and Field Trips](#)

2010 - International Year of Biodiversity Andrew Dobson

Biodiversity is life. It is the variety of all life on Earth including all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them. Biodiversity matters. It is highly important, not just for its own sake but also because it underpins the vital benefits we get from the natural environment, because it contributes to our economy, our health and wellbeing, and because it ensures that diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate. Biodiversity values everyone is encouraged to take direct action diversity methods.

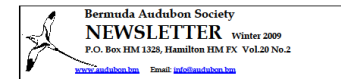
"Since 1970, we have reduced animal populations by 30%, the and the coverage of living corals by 49%. These losses are clear key contributions to human well-being and sustainable development goals." This statement was made by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

In 2002 leaders around the world signed onto the Convention on commitment to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss around the world in a paper just published in the journal Science - an instrument undertaken by more than 10 institutions around the world. The to meet the targets of the commitment they had made.

How important is biodiversity - the variety of species - to the world?

- They economic benefits and services e.g. clean drinking water, healthy soils, raw materials such as fish and timber
- Do we have the right to drive species extinct and deny them to appreciate the species around us?

How can that be measured or analysed? It's pretty tricky. These aspects of biodiversity - such things as trends in species, rates pressures on biodiversity - such as disease spreading and



In this issue:

- [Purple Swamphen - New to Bermuda, Andrew Dobson](#)
- [Cahow update, Jeremy Madors](#)
- [Bird Report Aug 09 to Dec 09, Andrew Dobson](#)
- [Seigneur's Pond, Remembered David Hingate](#)
- [Society News, Andrew Dobson](#)
- [Tackling the Problem of Feral Animals, Jonathan Nisbett](#)

Purple Swamphen - New to Bermuda Andrew Dobson



On 26 October I received an email from Helen Jarman with a distant photo of what I assumed to be a Purple Gallinule. As I was going into town late in the afternoon - I swung by Bernard Park - not expecting to see the gallinule - and certainly not a Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*! It is much larger than the gallinule, red legs, iridescent feet, red on the forehead - and stunning purple plumage. Never having seen before in Bermuda, the bird caused much interest and excitement during its short stay and was quite confident in the flooded area of the park. It was last seen on 6 November.

There is an established introduced population in Florida which was introduced in the late 1800s, escaping in the Pensacola Pines area - perhaps the origin of this bird. The birds rapidly multiplied and can now be found in several areas of southern Florida. We was declared an alien in 2006 and over the subsequent two-and-a-half years, nearly 1,200 were killed but it was apparently too late it is thought that the swamphen will become an established part of Florida's avifauna - however it is not yet on the AOU checklist. African (and south Asian birds) have a green back - as did the Bernard Park bird. The Florida birds are mostly or entirely of the grey-backed race *P.p. poliocephalus*, native to the area around the Caspian Sea. There are 11 or more subspecies of the Purple Swamphen (depending on the authority) which differ mainly in the plumage colors. Following much discussion by experts on both sides of the Atlantic, the Purple Swamphen at Bernard Park would appear to be of the race *P.p. hololeucogaster*. Also known as the African Swamphen on that continent, it is found in the Nile delta valley; many of the coastal areas of the west African coast from SW Mauritania to Cameroon; much of southern African and Madagascar - Taylor B (1995) *Rare Pigeons*.

In Europe it is reported as a genuine vagrant as far north as France, Germany and Austria. How our bird got here well, I suppose always be a mystery. It must have hatched a long time if it came from West Africa. Many ships pass west to east across the Atlantic, at latitudes as or near ours.

Photo: Purple Swamphen at Bernard Park 26 Nov. 2009, Andrew Dobson

Newspaper articles

Bermuda's sky already crowded with Kites – of the feathered variety

Arrival of Turtle-Dove surprises birdwatchers

More Canada Geese, rarely seen in Bermuda, are spotted

Three Swallow-tailed Kites Spotted

Pigeons are putting the squeeze on Longtails

Breaking News: Spring is coming – the first Longtail is spotted: Audubon warns of threats to habitats

More than 8,000 birds recorded in annual count

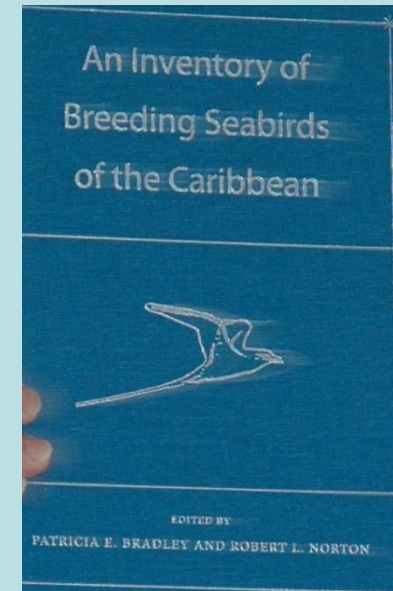
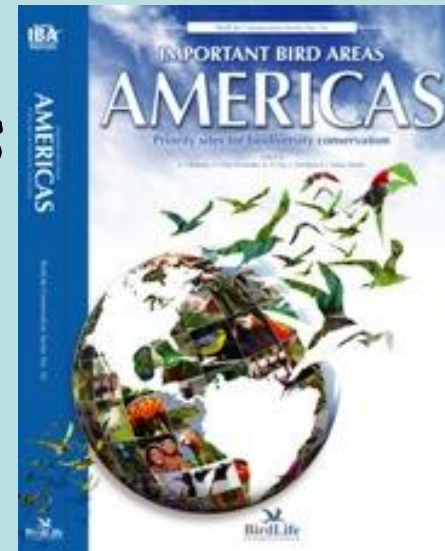
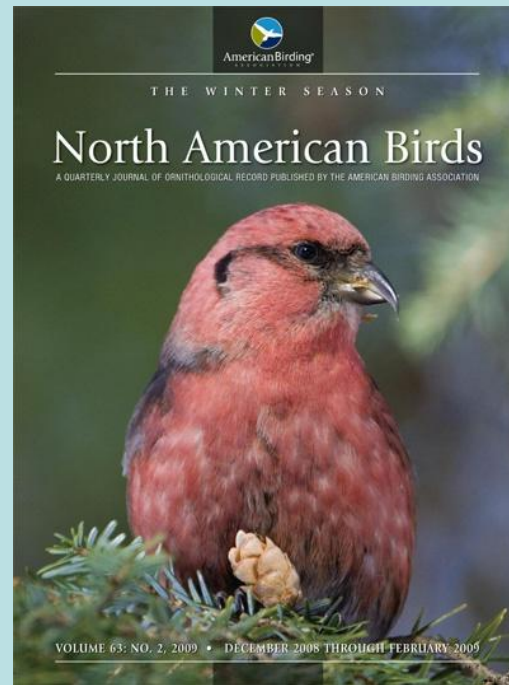
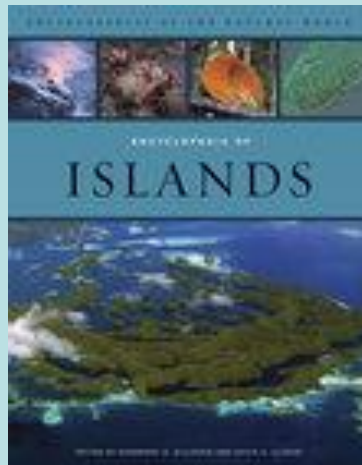
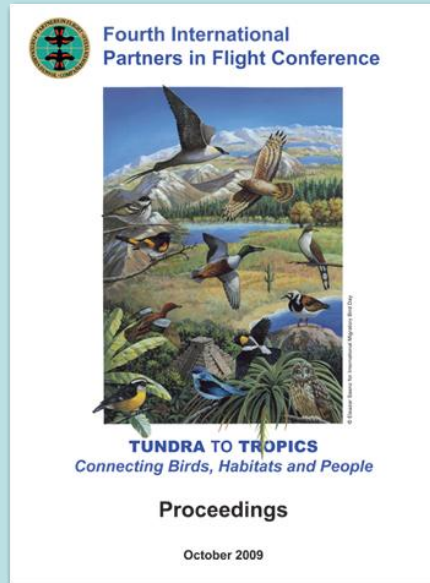
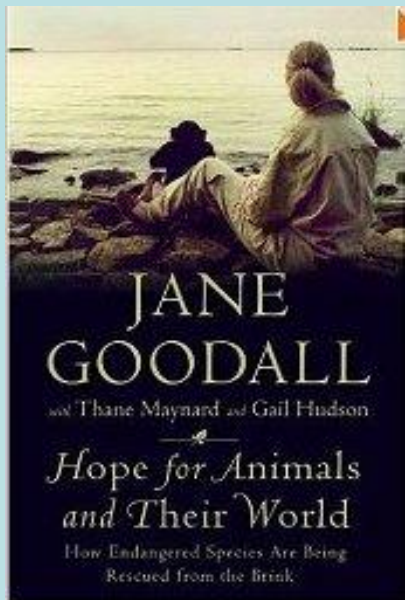
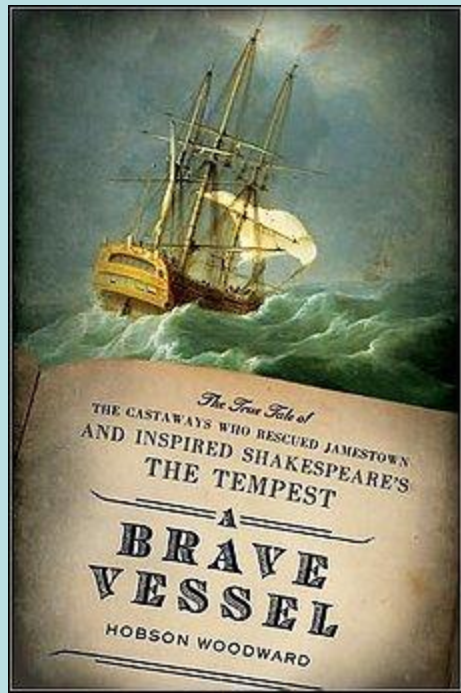
Another rare bird graces Bermuda's shores

Dead puffins thought to have been blown to island by storms

Record number of cahows seen in Christmas bird count

Free bluebird box workshop at Government House

Contributions to publications



The Challenges



- Feeding of feral animals
- Longline fishing
- Invasive plants
- Reserve maintenance
- Pigeon control
- Funding

The opportunities



Buy Back Bermuda



Please help the Bermuda Audubon Society and Bermuda National Trust protect Bermuda's precious open space for the enjoyment of everyone, forever. You can make a difference!

A big "thank you"

Ellen Brown - Body Shop
Michael Hayward - 'Explorer'
Graham Maddox
David Saul - 'Traveller'
Stuart Smith - and his bluebird volunteers
Sir Richard Gozney and Lady Gozney
Woodcutters!

Aspen Insurance
The Audubon Executive Committee
Berkeley Institute
BNT - Buy Back Bermuda partnership & facility use
Butterfield Asset Management
Conservation Crew, Dept of Conservation Services
Partner Re - Dollars for Hours
Saltus Cavendish
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