

# President's Report 11-12

Committee of Management 2011-2012

Andrew Dobson - President

Karen Border - Executive Secretary

Peter Holmes - Treasurer

Jennifer Gray

Peter Lee

Jeremy Madeiros

Drew Petitt

Kim Smith

Paul Watson

David Wingate

# June

## Nonsuch Island Camp



# June

**The Bermuda Audubon Society assisted HSBC in the Open Day held at Cooper's Island on Saturday 18 June.**



# July

**Audubon fieldtrip to Nonsuch Island  
Jeremy Madeiros and David Wingate  
provided guided tours. Lots of young  
tropicbirds and chance to swim and  
snorkel.**



# July

Andrew Dobson represented the Society at the 18th Meeting of the SCSCB held in Grand Bahama . About 150 delegates attended from over 30 countries in the region. (Photo: Andrew delivering a talk on Bermuda's bluebirds)



# July

Keith Rossiter with Mid-Ocean  
summer camp members



# Aug - BBWF

The British Birdwatching Fair attracts about 30,000 people over three days. Many familiar faces there including Bermuda Audubon members Liz & Mike Jones.

Below: Andrew Dobson with reps from St. Lucia.



Above: Andrew Dobson with Ann Pienkowski, Catherine Wensink & Mike Pienkowski (UK Overseas Territories).

Spittal Pond fieldtrip

Sept





# October - BIOS Open Day



# October - Opening of the restored Seymour's Pond NR



# Book launch



**Home**

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**Book Proceeds**

**Michael Douglas Foreword**

**Retailers / Distributors**

**Advance Praise**

**About the Authors**

**Bermuda Spirit Blog**

*Bermuda is an insider's look into iconic Bermuda and its unique people, candidly showcasing Bermudians, at work, at play, and in their own environments. With a foreword by award-winning actor and producer Michael Douglas, the book is a collaborative, charitable project; profits from its sale will go towards a select group of Bermudian charities, including The Family Centre.*

[Order](#) your copies here.



Many thank to Georgia Crowe-Benevides and Kathryn M. Deane.

Profits from their book supported a number of local charities including Audubon

# October - Paget Island Bird Camp

- Cancelled - but a fieldtrip instead



# Longtail rescue - thank you to the Kayak Club



# November - Dollars for Hours Partner Re and Bermuda Institute



The students made  
about 50 boxes for  
the Society



# November - Dollars for Hours Partner Re and Bermuda Institute



# The Centre on Philanthropy Volunteer recognition awards



Kim Smith - 2011 Audubon Volunteer



# December - City Market



# Christmas Bird Count

The Bermuda Audubon Society held its 37<sup>th</sup> CBC on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Features of this year's count included:

- 7,659 individual birds were counted (over 1,000 less than last year's total)
- 88 species of birds (101 in 2010, 100 in 2009 and 97 in 2008)
- Two new species for count day (MacGillivray's Warbler and Garganey)
- European Starling was the most common species (27% of the count)

# Christmas Bird Count



# Jan - Collaboration with BNT 2012 Calendar



## CALENDAR FOR 2012



### On the Cover: BERMUDA FROM THE AIR

It is from the air that travellers appreciate the small size of Bermuda. Taken from a passenger jet en route to New York, the rapid ascent provides a view of Bermuda's precious 21 square miles. Home to 66,000 residents, Bermuda is the second most isolated populated country in the world. The closest landfall is Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, some 600 miles to the west. Halifax, Nova Scotia is due north while Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands lie to the south. The island owes its existence to a volcanic eruption about 110 million years ago.



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people

# Feb - Ombudsman report

The Bermuda Audubon Society welcomed the findings from the Ombudsman that Government “acted unlawfully” by not conducting a required assessment of the environmental impact of developing Tucker's Point resort.

[Govt acted unlawfully by not seeking environmental impact study | Bermuda Politics](#)

[www.royalgazette.com](http://www.royalgazette.com) Green campaigners have welcomed a finding from the Ombudsman that Government acted unlawfully by not conducting a required assessment of the environmental impact of developing Tuckers Point resort. Arlene Brock tabled a report in Parliament yesterday which said the study should have been done before...

# Feb - Assist at BNT Children's Walk



# Feb - Igloo Workshop



# Feb - Walk the Walk Argus and the COP

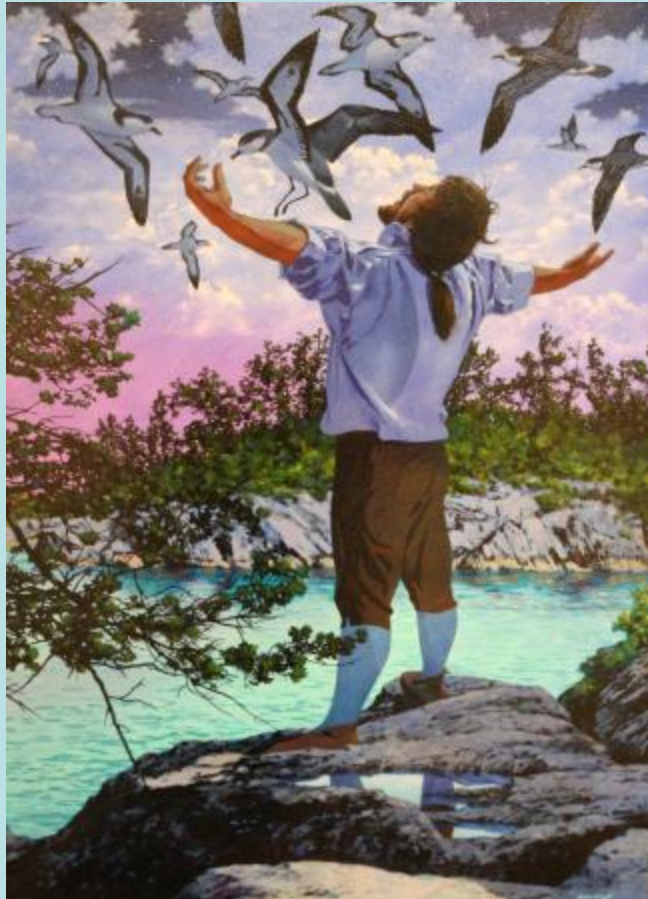




# March - Sear's Cave working party



# March



**From Oceania to  
Suburbia: 400 years of  
dramatic change  
for Bermuda's bird  
community**

**A special lecture by Dr.  
David Wingate  
to mark 400 years of  
permanent settlement in  
Bermuda and  
Warwick Academy's  
350th anniversary**

# March Seymour's Pond



# Tour for Garden Club - David Wingate



# March - Aberfeldy Bluebird nestbox workshop



# April - Annual Show Audubon Award



Winner  
Monet  
Nisbett

# April - Talk at International Women's Group



# April - CEBF

## Students see Cahows



May - David gives a lecture to the Linnaean Society at the AMNH in New York





# May - Fieldtrip - Coral Beach



# May - David Saul gives Bluebird Talk to P1 Saltus Cavendish



# May - Centre on Philanthropy-facilitated community day

An enthusiastic group of volunteers from Coldwell Banker Bermuda Realty participated in a Community Day project at Cooper's Island Reserve to coat Styrofoam Longtail Igloos.



# Centre on Philanthropy- facilitated community day



# June - Camp preparation



# Farewell to members



# Nature reserves management and working parties

A.B.S. Nature Reserve

Sear's Cave Nature Reserve

Seymour's Pond Nature Reserve

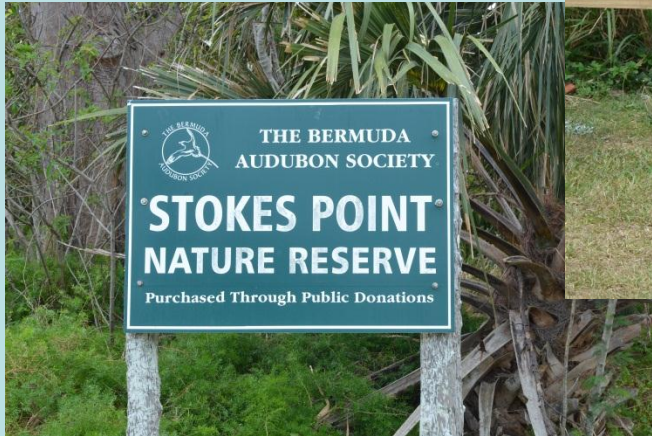
Stokes Point Nature Reserve

Somerset Long Bay West Nature Reserve

Somerset Long Bay West Nature Reserve

Vesey Reserve

# Nature reserve management





# Cooperation and Partnerships

## Locally:

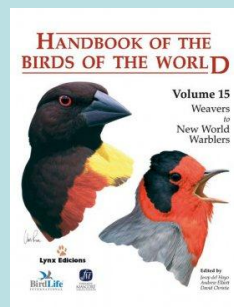
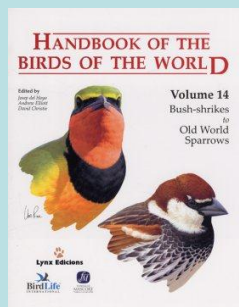
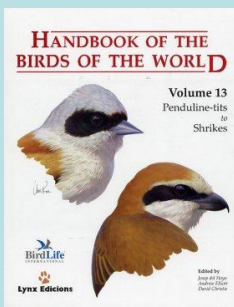
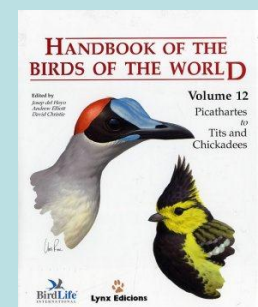
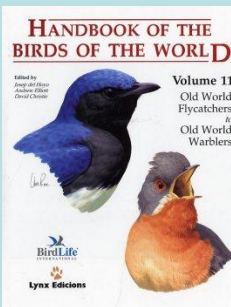
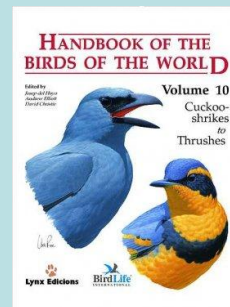
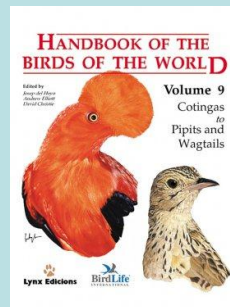
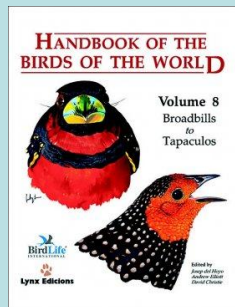
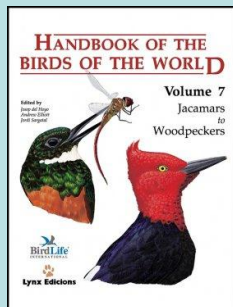
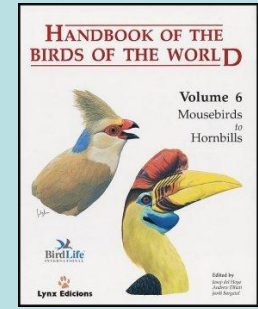
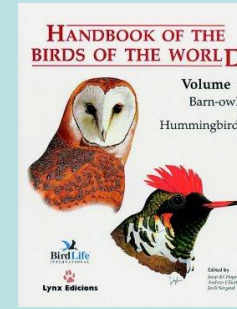
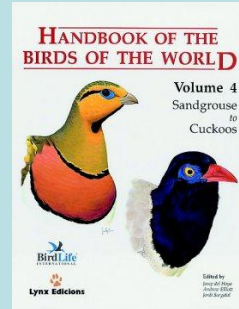
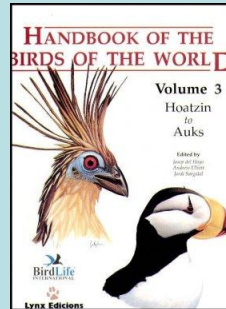
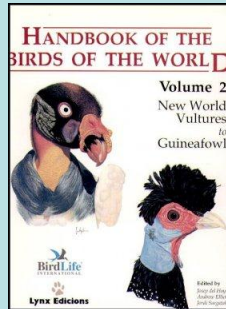
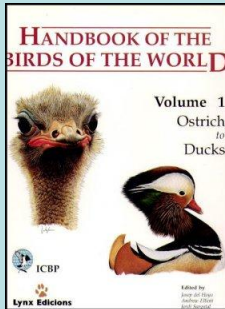
- B.E.S.T.
- Bermuda National Trust
- Bermuda Zoological Society
- Centre on Philanthropy
- Conservation Services, Bermuda Government
- Eco Bermuda
- Parks Commission

## Internationally:

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

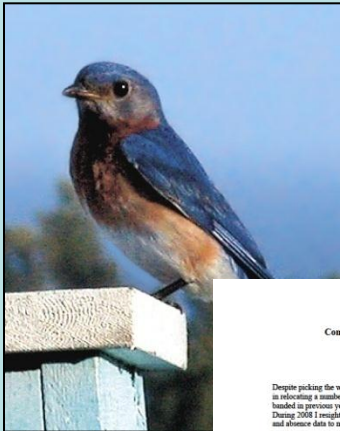
# Partnerships

## 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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 resighted 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. 23
- Web site [www.audubon.bm](http://www.audubon.bm)
- Email [info@audubon.bm](mailto:info@audubon.bm)
- Birders' email group
- Newspaper and magazine articles
- Banners
- Facebook



- In this issue:
- The Sargasso Sea Alliance
  - Seabird nesting report *Jeremy Madeiros and David Wingate*
  - Christmas Bird Count *Andrew Dobson*
  - Bird Report January to May 2012 *Andrew Dobson*
  - In celebration of the Cahow
  - Society News

## The Sargasso Sea Alliance



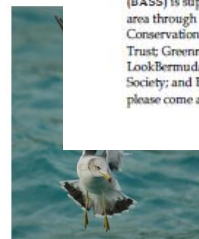
Over 500 years ago Christopher Columbus was one of the first to write about seeing 'great quantities of weed' on the ocean. More recently oceanographer Sylvia Earle has described the Sargasso Sea as 'the golden floating rainforest of the Atlantic Ocean'. The Sargasso Sea is a hugely important ecosystem. The golden rainforest is made up of sargassum seaweed which spends its entire life adrift, and reproduces by simply growing and breaking apart. The rafts of sargassum are home to a huge variety of life. It acts as a feeding ground for fish, birds and mammals. It provides a

nursery for young turtles and a spawning ground for many fish including the marlin and tuna. At least 10 of 145 species of invertebrates and 125 fishes associated with sargassum are found only here. The Sargasso Sea is used by many migrant species, notably whales and seabirds. The Sargasso Sea is threatened by over-fishing, commercial harvesting of sargassum, pollution etc. The importance of the Sargasso Sea is recognised by many governments and organisations. Launched in 2010, the **Sargasso Sea Alliance** is a partnership led by the Bermuda government in collaboration with scientists, international marine conservation groups and private donors who share the vision of protecting the Sargasso Sea. The **Bermuda Alliance for Sargasso Sea (BASS)** is supporting efforts by the SSA to establish the Sargasso Sea as a high seas protected area through research, education and community awareness. BASS members are Atlantic Conservation Partnership; Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute; Bermuda National Trust; Greenrock; Bermuda Institute of Ocean Science; Bermuda Sloop Foundation; Look-Bermuda Education Foundation; National Museum of Bermuda; Bermuda Audubon Society; and Bermuda Zoological Society. To learn more about the Sargasso Sea Alliance - please come along to the AGM and listen to Jennifer Gray's presentation. (Photo: Fima Dobson)



- In this issue:
- Black-tailed Gull - New to Bermuda *Peter Hopk*
  - Society News *Andrew Dobson*
  - Bird Report December 2010 to February 2011
  - Cahow Report *Jeremy Madeiros*
  - Christmas Bird Count *Andrew Dobson*

## Black-tailed Gull - New



Another new species of bird has been recorded in Bermuda. Bermuda Audubon Society member Peter Hopkin identified a Black-tailed Gull on 5 January in Somerset. Peter commented at the time: "The day started with the spectacular sight of two gannets plunge-diving for fish in Mangrove Bay, taking a heavy toll of the Bermuda Half-beaks and Houndfish... followed by an adult winter Black-tailed Gull, the first record for Bermuda. I first saw the bird off Watford Bridge, when a small adult Lesser-Black-backed type gull flew past, with... a black tail. Gulp! After checking Sibley at home, I was more than convinced that my gut feeling was correct, and came out after lunch to look properly. I compiled a full description, but the key features are:

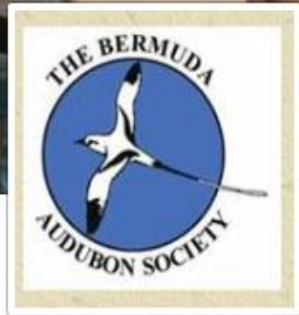
- it is smaller than Lesser Black-backed Gull, midway between that and Ring-billed

# Facebook

Navigation bar with browser tabs and search bar. Tabs include: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Bermuda...>, [Bermuda Audubon Society](#), and [Dobson, Andrew - Outlook W...](#). Search bar contains the text "Search".

Bermuda Audubon Society Timeline Now Highlights

✓ Liked



## Bermuda Audubon Society

Community Page about Bird conservation

✓ Liked

Message



The Bermuda Audubon Society is a non-profit making registered charity, founded in 1954. The Society is a Non-Governmental Organisation run by an Executive Committee of volunteers.



106

About

Photos

Likes

Highlights

# Newspaper articles

**“Longtails seen off Coney Island and Spittal Pond”**

**“Longtails Return Early This Year”**

**“The Bird Man of Bermuda”**

**“Bird count reveals declining numbers and some rare visitors”**

**“Father of the Year’ award goes to...a bluebird”**

**“How environmental pollution is harming Bermuda's wildlife”**

**“Saving Bermuda’s Endangered Bluebird”**

**“Cahow Population Reaches 100 Pair Landmark”**

**“Ban Long-Line Fishing in Bermuda Waters”**

**“Birdwatchers buzzing about Ruby-throated hummingbirds”**

**“Exhausted longtail chick rescued from the water and taken to BAMZ”**

**“Outcry as Minister approves Minister’s plan for warehouses at nature reserve”**

# The Challenges



- Feeding of feral animals
- Longline fishing
- Construction in open spaces
- 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"

Georgia Crowe-Benevides and Kathryn M. Deane  
Victor Bell and Bell's Skyline - Seymour's Pond  
Julie Greaves and Aberfeldy staff - bluebird workshop  
Graham Maddox - ocean fieldtrips  
Bill Manuel - auditing  
David Saul - bluebird lectures  
Maurice Shaeffer & David Semos - wood cutting  
Derek Singleton and Coral Beach Club  
Stuart Smith - and his bluebird volunteers  
Sir Richard Gozney

The Audubon Executive Committee  
Bermuda Institute  
BNT - Buy Back Bermuda partnership & facility use  
Catlin - Nonsuch Camp  
Coldwell Banker  
Conservation Crew, Dept of Conservation Services  
Partner Re - Dollars for Hours/Nonsuch Camp  
Rubis - Nonsuch Camp

Warwick Academy  
Working party volunteers

All our financial sponsors - too numerous to list - especially to all those who have donated towards the Seymour's Pond Appeal