

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - BERMUDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of 2013 AGM
3. President's Report
4. Financials
5. Election of Officers and Committee of Management

Proposed Slate of Officers and Committee:

Andrew Dobson - President
Karen Border - Hon. Secretary
Angela Kendall - Treasurer
Jennifer Gray
Janice Hetzel
Peter Lee
Jeremy Madeiros
Andrew Pettit
Kim Smith
Paul Watson
David Wingate

6. Proposed bye-law amendments
7. Any Other Business





President's Report 13-14

Committee of Management 2013-2014

Andrew Dobson - President

Karen Border - Hon. Secretary

Angela Kendall - Treasurer

Jennifer Gray

Peter Lee

Jeremy Madeiros

Andrew Pettit

Angelo Pimental

Kim Smith

Paul Watson

David Wingate

June

Nonsuch Island Camp





Spittal Pond Fieldtrip - Sept



Support for Southlands - Oct



Scanning for Cahows - Nov



Deloitte - working party at Seymour's Pond - Nov





The students made
about 50 boxes for
the Society

November - Dollars for
Hours
Saltus School



The Centre on
Philanthropy

Volunteer recognition
awards

Michael Hayward -
2013 Audubon
Volunteer

Christmas Bird Count



Christmas Bird Count

The Bermuda Audubon Society held its 39th CBC on 29th December 2013

Features of this year's count included:

- 8,370 individual birds were counted (almost identical with last year's total)
- 99 species of birds (101 in 2012, 88 in 2011, 101 in 2010, 100 in 2009)
- House Sparrow was the most common species (17.8% of the count)
- Record counts for American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Semipalmated Plover and Mourning Dove.

2014 - Happy 60th Birthday to Audubon

1954: Bermuda's first environmental charity was started

1955-1984: American Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours -annually.

1960: Bermuda Audubon Society Act was passed, power to hold land in trust for conservation.

1963: The Society purchased its first nature reserve - Seymour's Pond

1966: Eight-acres of Paget Marsh were purchased with a second fundraising appeal.

1967: The Society was gifted the Firefly Nature Reserve in Devonshire

1971-73: Somerset Long Bay West nature reserve was purchased and the pond restored.

1972: Nonsuch Natural History Camp was started for students.

1980-1986: Stokes Point Nature Reserve was purchased and its mangrove pond restored.

1985: Lambda Island was bequeathed to the society

1988: The northern part of Seymour's Road up to Middle Road was gifted to the society.

1990: Sears Cave was donated to the society.

1992: The Watlington Reserve, in Devonshire Marsh, consisting largely of wet pasture, was acquired by bequest.

1993: The Winifred Gibbons Reserve in Devonshire Marsh was donated to the society.

1998: The Bermuda Bluebird and Longtail Society became part of BAS

2014 - Happy 60th Birthday to Audubon

2000: A boardwalk and interpretive nature trail were created at Paget Marsh in conjunction with the Bermuda National Trust.

2002: The Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve west of Coral Beach was donated to the society

2003: **The Longtail "igloo" (an artificial nest burrow) was developed.**

2004: **The Society celebrates its 50th anniversary**

2004: **Buy Back Bermuda**, a joint venture with Bermuda National Trust to save threatened open space, was set up and purchased Somerset Long Bay East nature reserve through public fundraising.

2004: The Audubon-sponsored film **Bermuda's Treasure Island** was released, featuring Nonsuch Island and the Cahow.

2004: Pearl Island was donated to the society.

2008: Buy Back Bermuda Round 2 was launched to acquire the Vesey Reserve in Southampton and Eve's Pond near Shelly Bay.

2013: The Vesey Reserve opened to the public.

2014: **The Society celebrates its 60th anniversary.** Commemorative postage stamps are issued. Another new reserve



Jan -
Seymour's Pond
reserve working
party



Jan - Lecture

BUEI and the Bermuda Audubon Society present:

BERMUDA'S BIRDS YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!

**An illustrated lecture by Andrew Dobson
Thursday, January 23rd, 2014 @ 7:30pm**

In celebration of the Audubon Society's 60th anniversary, Audubon Society President, Andrew Dobson, will deliver a fascinating and enlightening lecture on the birds in Bermuda that you may not know about!

Bermuda has one of the largest bird lists compared to those of Caribbean islands. Andrew Dobson has been recording and photographing Bermuda's birds for the past 24 years and in this lecture will describe the reasons why Bermuda has such an impressive variety of birds!

6pm: Harbourfront opens for dinner;
6:30pm: Cash bar at Harbourfront
(Happy hour prices);
7:30pm: Lecture starts

Members \$20; Non-members \$25.
Tickets available by calling #294-0204
or visiting **Oceans Gift Shop**.

Ticket holders are entitled to **20% off** dinner at the Harbourfront before or after the lecture. Please call #295-4207 for reservations and be sure to mention the lecture. Cannot be combined with other special offers or discounts.



Feb - Spittal Pond fieldtrip



Feb - Assist at BNT Children's Walk



Feb - Introduction to Birdwatching Course



Feb - Walk the Walk Argus and the COP



Cooper's Island

A WALK THROUGH NATURE & HISTORY

Join the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Audubon Society for an informative walking tour of the Cooper's Island Nature Reserve.

Dr. Derek Tully will chat about the creation of the base lands and the NASA tracking station.

Executive Director of the Bermuda National Trust Jennifer Gray will chat about sea turtle conservation.

Bird experts Dr. David Wingate, Andrew Dobson and Paul Watson will be on hand to identify and talk about birds seen on the tour. This will be a rare opportunity to see our elusive national bird, the Cahow.

Sunday March 9th at 2:30pm - Sunset

Cost \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, \$5 for children. Coopers Island Nature Reserve entrance across from Clearwater beach - parking on right side. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and binoculars! No dogs allowed.

*Rain date will be following Sunday, March 16th.
Call Peter Frith cel 536-1637 to confirm by 12 noon.*

*For booking and details please email Peter Frith
pfrith@bnt.bm or call BNT 236-6483*



March - Cooper's Is Natural History Tour

March - Aberfeldy Bluebird nestbox workshop



April - Annual Show Audubon nest box award

Winner
Rebecca
Davidson



April - CEBF Live on FM Mix 106

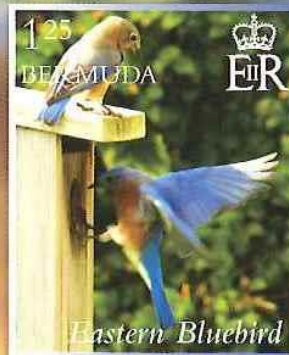
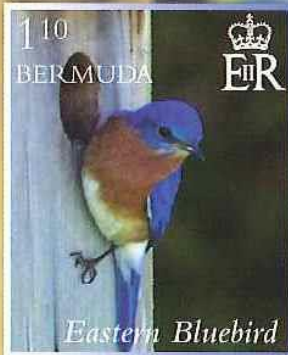
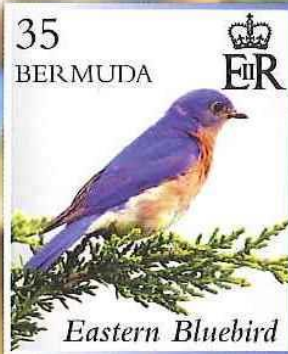


BERMUDA STAMPS

Commemorative Issues

May

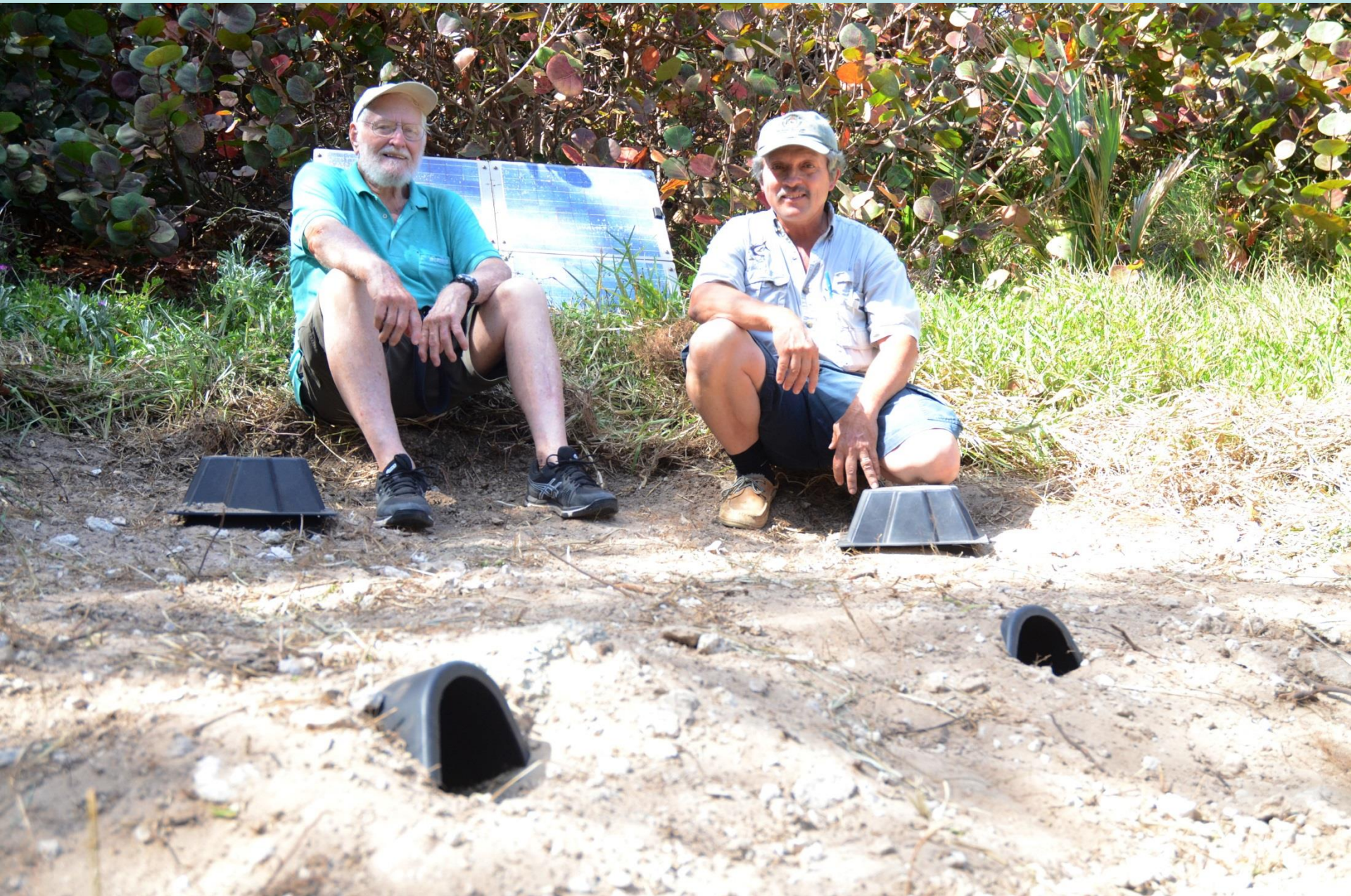
Bluebird
stamps



May

New Cahow
nest boxes





May Nonsuch Fieldtrip



May - David Saul gives Bluebird Talk to Saltus Cavendish



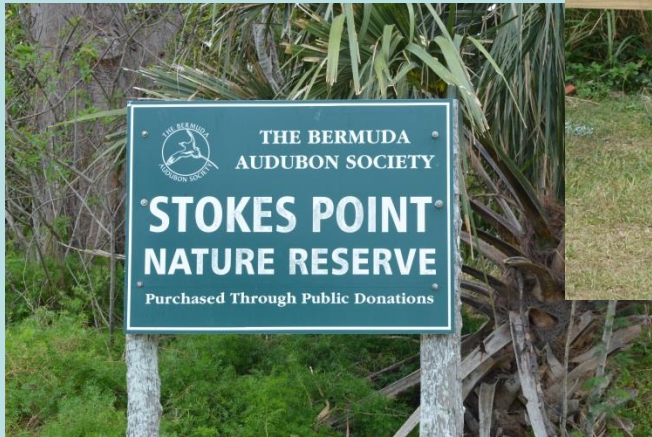
Karen Border also gives Bluebird Talk to P1 Saltus Cavendish, SPCA nature camp, and BAMZ nature encounter

May - Centre on Philanthropy-facilitated community day

An enthusiastic group of volunteers from XL participated in a Community Day project on our ABS reserve clearing invasives.



Nature reserve management



Cooperation and Partnerships

Locally:

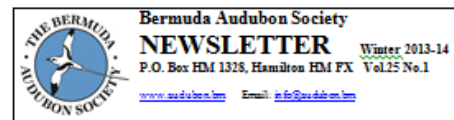
- B.E.S.T.
- Bermuda National Trust
- Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute
- Bermuda Zoological Society
- Centre on Philanthropy
- Conservation Services, Bermuda Government
- Eco Bermuda
- Parks Commission

Internationally:

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

Communication

- Newsletters - Vol. 25
- Web site www.audubon.bm
- Email info@audubon.bm
- Birders' email group
- Newspaper and magazine articles
- Banners
- Facebook



In this issue:

- Snowy Owl in Bermuda *Andrew Dobson*
- Happy 50th anniversary *Karen Berdar*
- Expanding Cahow population naturally re-colonizes Southampton Island *Jeremy Madros*
- Bird Report June to December 2013 *Andrew Dobson*
- Society News
- Christmas Bird Count *Andrew Dobson*

Snowy Owl in Bermuda

A photo taken by Tyler Fan of a Snowy Owl perched on a roof in St. David's at dawn on 20th November provided confirmation of a rumoured large white owl in the East End. A Snowy Owl was viewed by a number of Rubia workers at Ferry Reach on the 20th November, while it briefly sat on top of one of the oil storage tanks. On the 20th November a Snowy Owl was seen by Tim Brewer on a rooftop near Gibbs Hill lighthouse. He was alerted to its presence by a number of crows that continually mobbed it. It then relocated to Dockyard for the remainder of its stay. It delighted many lucky observers in Dockyard until it was discovered dead on the morning of 20th December. It had fallen from a roof beam in the old victualing yard where it had spent the previous day. An autopsy has yet to be performed but it did not appear to be underweight. There was speculation as to the number of owls present but it would appear to have been the same owl moving westwards.



Snowy Owls breed in the Arctic and are forced south by extreme cold. Although there are a number of historical records, this bird is only the second since 1957. An invasion of Snowy Owls, one of the largest in recent memory, was first noticed in late November and continued throughout December. The event has been most obvious in south-eastern

Canada, the north-eastern U.S., and the Midwest. Hundreds were found on one weekend on the Avalon Peninsula in south-eastern Newfoundland associated with lemming abundance (their main prey in the Arctic). The Cornell Lab offers the following insight: "Although lemming scarcity is often implicated in Snowy Owl invasions, a bigger driving force may be highly productive breeding seasons (with multiple young fledged per pair). Periods of summer lemming abundance thus may drive those invasions more than lemming scarcity." This map produced by eBird shows the location of Snowy Owls seen in Nov-Dec 2013.



In this issue:

- Black-tailed Gull - New to Bermuda *Pete*
- Society News *Andrew Dobson*
- Bird Report December 2010 to February;
- Cahow Report *Jeremy Madros*
- Christmas Bird Count *Andrew Dobson*

Black-tailed Gull - New to Bermuda



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



Bermuda Audubon Society



Andrew

Home

Find Friends



You are posting, commenting, and liking as Bermuda Audubon Society — Change to Andrew Dobson



Bermuda Audubon Society

Timeline

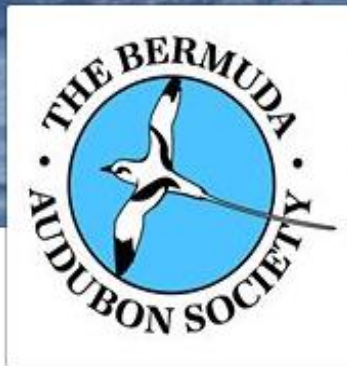
Recent

Create Post

Admin Panel



Change Cover



Bermuda Audubon Society

Community Page about Bird conservation

Update Page Info

Liked

Follow



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.



529

About

Photos

Likes

Newspaper articles

“New stamp highlight Bermuda bluebird”

“Spring is in the air”

“Caspian Tern lands in Bermuda”

“Bermuda fits the bill for visiting pelican”

“You never know what will turn up”

“”Raven sighting is a first for the island””

“Have you seen this owl?”

“Longtails under threat from crow invaders”

“An unusual visitor flies in from Europe”

“Saltus students offer helping hand for the bluebirds of Bermuda”

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"

H.E. Mr George Fergusson, Governor of Bermuda & Mrs Fergusson
Julie Greaves and Aberfeldy staff - bluebird workshop
David Saul - bluebird lectures
Maurice Shaeffer & Nigel Chudleigh - wood cutting
Stuart Smith - and his bluebird volunteers

The Audubon Executive Committee
Argus - Walk the Walk
Bank of Bermuda Foundation
Bermuda National Trust
Bermuda Red Cross
Catlin - Nonsuch Camp
Conservation Crew, Dept of Conservation Services
Deloitte
Garden Club of Bermuda - Nonsuch Camp
Hannover Life Re
Horsfield Landscaping
Partner Re - Dollars for Hours/Nonsuch Camp
Saltus School
Triangle Diving - ocean fieldtrips
Warwick Academy
Working party volunteers
XL Bermuda

All our other financial sponsors - too numerous to list

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6. Proposed bye-law amendments
7. Any Other Business (forthcoming events)



Friday 6th to Tuesday 24th June - Secondary Schools Bermuda Bird Art Competition - An art competition featuring Bermuda birds and open to all Middle and Senior School, with an exhibition in the Bermuda Society of Arts Edinburgh Gallery - Cocktail reception 6th June 5-7pm

Sunday 15th June 60th - Anniversary Dinner, Beau Rivage, Newstead, 7pm
\$95.00

Friday 20th June - BSOA bluebird nest box auction 5-7pm

Friday 10th to Sunday 12th October - Paget Island Birdwatching Camp



In progress:

- **Seymour's Pond nature trail and bird blind - now awaiting planning permission**
- **Plastic Bird ID cards**
- **A re-vamped website**
- **A new reserve in St George's parish ... Watch out for the announcement**