

# President's Report 15-16

Committee of Management 2015-2016

Andrew Dobson - President

Karen Border - Executive Secretary

Angela Kendall - Treasurer

Jennifer Gray

Janice Hetzel

Peter Lee

Jeremy Madeiros

Kim Smith

Paul Watson

David Wingate

# June

Nonsuch Island Camp





# Gibraltar UKOT conference - July



# Gibraltar UKOT conference - July



Public awareness session: How a small NGO, with limited capacity, can deliver a wide range of activities to promote environmental education and awareness

# Spittal Pond Fieldtrip - Sept



# Paget Island Bird Camp - Oct







# Nigel Maven lecture - Nov



# Cahows fieldtrips - Nov







Cahows  
fieldtrips -  
Nov

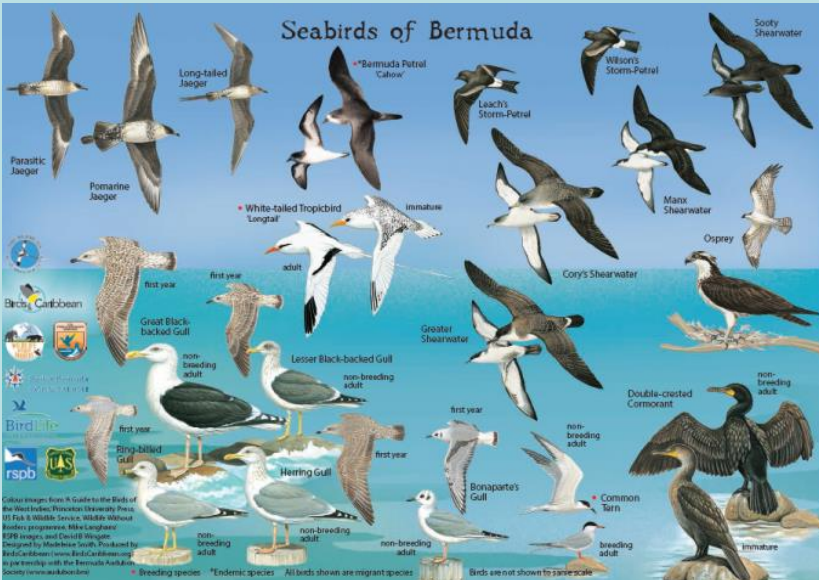
# ABS reserve working party - Nov





The students made  
about 50 boxes for  
the Society

November - Dollars for  
Hours  
Somersfield School





Bird ID cards in use  
at Spittal Pond



# Christmas Bird Count

The Bermuda Audubon Society held its 41<sup>st</sup> CBC on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Features of this year's count included:

- 8,068 individual birds were counted (up from last year's total)
- 93 species of birds (92 in 2014, 99 in 2014, 101 in 2012)
- Eurasian Starling was the most common species (23% of the count)
- 3 new species add to the count: West Indian Whistling-Duck, Masked Booby, Eurasian Marsh-Harrier.

# Christmas Bird Count



# Christmas Bird Count





The Centre on  
Philanthropy

Volunteer recognition  
awards

Janice Hetzel -  
2015 Audubon  
Volunteer

# Jan - Centre on Philanthropy Volunteer Awards



# Jan - Lecture

**BUEI  
TALKS**

BUEI &  
THE BERMUDA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
*present*



## Looking back on 40 years of Christmas Bird Counts

*By Andrew Dobson*



**Tuesday, January 19th at 7:30pm**

The Christmas Bird Count has been an annual event in Bermuda since 1975. An incredible 250 bird species have been recorded. Andrew Dobson will give an illustrated lecture to show many of these species and changing patterns of bird abundance over this period. As well as the serious effort of citizen science, Andrew will relate a number of surprising anecdotes!

**5-6:30pm:** Sushi Happy Hour at Harbourfront  
*(specially priced drinks and sushi)*

**6pm:** Harbourfront opens for dinner

**7:30pm:** Lecture starts, BUEI Auditorium

Ticket holders are entitled to **10% off dinner** at the Harbourfront (food only) before or after the lecture. Please call **295-4207** for reservations and be sure to mention the lecture. Cannot be combined with any other special offers.

Members: \$20 Non-members: \$25  
Tickets available by phone or visiting the BUEI gift shop

THE BERMUDA UNDERWATER EXPLORATION INSTITUTE  
40 CROW LANE, HAMILTON | 294-0204 | WWW.BUEI.ORG

# Feb - Assist at BNT Children's Walk

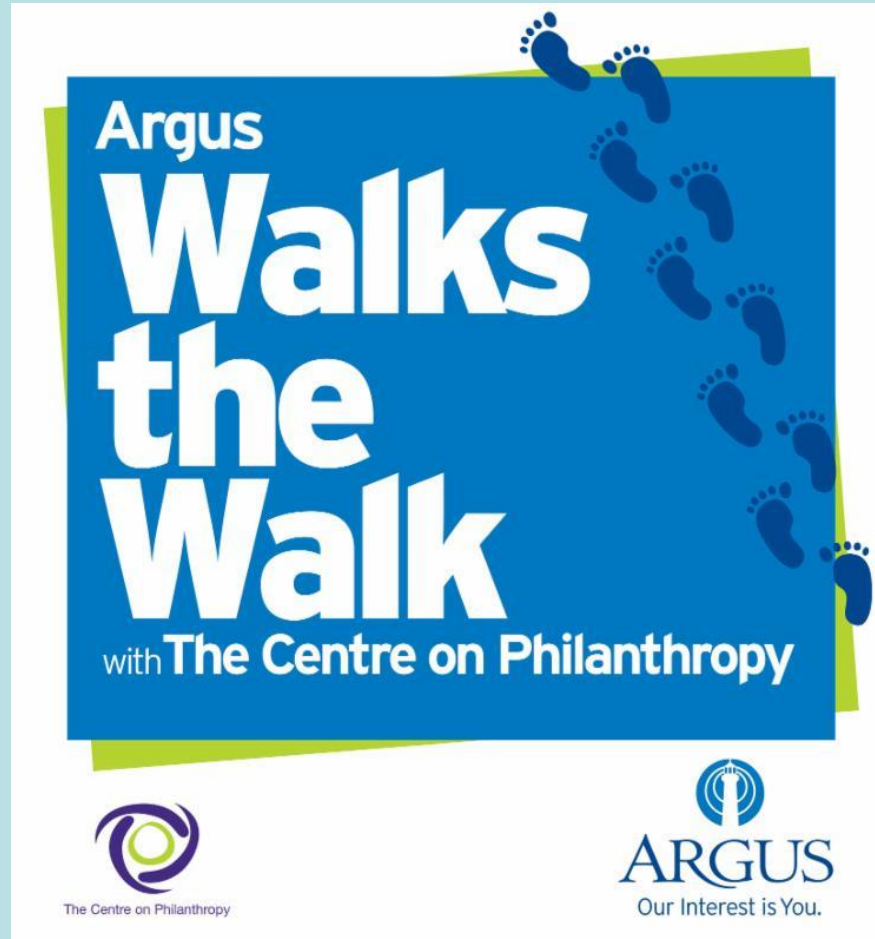


# Feb - Opening of restored Seymour's Pond NR






# Feb - Walk the Walk Argus and the COP




A promotional poster for the 'Walk the Walk' event. The central graphic is a blue square with a lime green border. Inside the square, the text 'Argus Walks the Walk' is written in white, with 'Walks the Walk' in a larger font. Below this, it says 'with The Centre on Philanthropy'. A trail of blue footprints starts from the top right and leads towards the bottom right. At the bottom of the poster, there are two logos: on the left, the logo for 'The Centre on Philanthropy' (a stylized purple and green swirl) with the text 'The Centre on Philanthropy' below it; on the right, the logo for 'ARGUS' (a blue circular emblem with a vertical line) with the text 'ARGUS' and 'Our Interest is You.' below it.

Argus  
**Walks  
the  
Walk**  
with The Centre on Philanthropy



The Centre on Philanthropy



ARGUS  
Our Interest is You.



# March - Govt House Bluebird nestbox workshop



# Spittal Pond Fieldtrip - March



# Sears Cave Fieldtrip - April



# April - nest box monitoring



# April - Annual Show Audubon nest box award

Winner  
Matthew  
Davidson



Matthew Davidson  
being presented with  
the Audubon  
Society's cedar  
trophy.



# April 22 - Earth Day ABS reserve, BELCO tree planting





# May - Nonsuch Fieldtrip







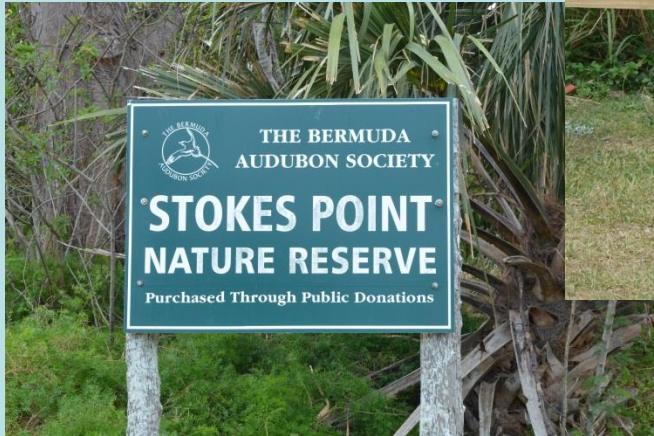




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# Nature reserve management



# 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. 26
- 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:

- Western Marsh Harrier - New to Bermuda Andrew Dobson and Paul Watson
- Bird Report Dec 2015-Apr 2016 Andrew Dobson
- Christmas Bird Count Andrew Dobson
- Global Big Day
- Society News

#### Western Marsh Harrier - New to Bermuda Andrew Dobson and Paul Watson



On December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 Paul Watson was making a routine marine check along the Morgan's Point coastline when he noticed an unusual bird. He reported the following, "I saw what I can only describe as a female Marsh Harrier on Morgan's Point at lunchtime. The bird was all chocolate brown above and similar below with cream head and throat and appeared to show a dark eye patch. It was definitely a harrier as I saw the bird banking and watched dihedral wings while soaring. It appeared slightly shorter winged and tailed (inch or so) than the female Northern Harrier which was also present (not seen together though). I watched the bird over the hillside above George's Bay from my boat at a distance of about 400+ metres with 10X binoculars." "PW" was keen to get photo documentation and later that afternoon Erich and Daniel Hetzel were joined by Andrew Dobson and headed across the Great Sound in hope of re-locating the bird. Fortunately photos were obtained in the fading light and confirmed the presence of Bermuda's first record of Western (Eurasian) Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. With Morgan's Point off-limits to the public due to the America's Cup and hotel development, tracking the bird became difficult. However, the harrier was last seen at Morgan's Point on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016. Despite extensive subsequent searches of the area it was assumed the bird had departed but it was relocated two months later over Harwick's Island on March 23<sup>rd</sup> by David Wingate. With construction work taking place on Morgan's Point, it was no surprise that the harrier moved on. However, it has not been seen since that date.

Western Marsh Harrier is also known as Eurasian Marsh Harrier with a wide breeding range throughout Europe, northwestern Africa to Central Asia. Most birds migrate to sub-Saharan Africa or the Indian sub-continent. Although there are records from the Azores and Iceland, there are very few records from the western side of the Atlantic. There are two records from Guadeloupe 14 Dec 2002 to 19 Jan 2003 (first hemisphere record - Levesque) and 14-17 Oct 2015 (Regan). There are two records from Puerto Rico 14 Jan to 30 Mar 2004 and 11 Jan to 11 Feb 2006 (Merckel, Rodriguez and Fauberg). There is one record from Barbados 9-14 Dec 2015 (Moore). A 1998 record from Virginia was rejected by the AOU due to lack of photographic evidence.



#### In this issue:

- Trindade Petrel - New to Bermuda Bob Flood
- Masked Booby Andrew Dobson
- Bird Identification Cards
- Society News

#### Trindade Petrel - New to Bermuda

Bob Flood



Photo by Kirk Zufelt

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November was a very special day. A small group of us had participated in bird banding studies on Nonsuch Island and observed Jeremy Madeiros handle adult Cahows (Bermuda Petrel), taking key information about each one. We also saw the endemic Bermudan Skink and went on a tour of the island. This was a lifetime event for everyone. The day couldn't get better, or could it? We left Nonsuch about 2.30 pm and headed offshore a few kms to witness Bermuda Petrels gathering before returning to the colonies after dark. Several birds were hanging around and we had superb views. However, at about 3.40 pm, a quite different-looking seabird approached the Aquarium boat *Endurance*. It was slightly larger than Bermuda Petrel, more rakiish, greyish-brown rather than dark grey, and the underwing pattern was different. We recognised it immediately as a Trindade Petrel *Pterodroma arminjoniana*, which only breeds on Trindade Island, off Brazil, in the South Atlantic (plus a very few in the Indian Ocean). It flew around the boat at close range for 15 minutes or so and was joined by six Bermuda Petrels. We didn't know where to look. The big-gun photographers took some superb photos, but it was local resident Lynn Thorne who secured the prize photo of both Bermuda and Trindade Petrels in the same frame! Skipper Nigel Pollard said he had never witnessed such a commotion and excitement on the deck of his boat. Quite incredibly, Kate

Sutherland was onboard wearing a t-shirt depicting a Trindade Petrel.

(Although there are a few records of distant *Cookkilaria* sp. sightings, this is the first confirmed record for Bermuda. An increasing number of birders are coming to Bermuda to see our birds, especially the opportunity to see the Cahow during November. It is a great reward for Bob Flood who has been bringing birding groups for several years. Ed.)

# Facebook

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



Bermuda Audubon Society Timeline Recent

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Promote Page



Change Cover

See Your Ad Here

**Bermuda Audubon Society**  
On of the most abundant bird species in the world, Wilson's Storm-Petrels are found well o...



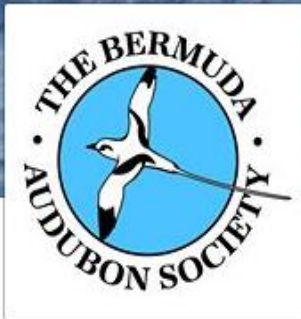
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Boost Post

Recent

2014

2013



**Bermuda Audubon Society**

Community Page about Bird conservation

Update Page Info 1

Liked

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# 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"

H.E. Mr George Fergusson, Governor of Bermuda & Mrs Fergusson  
Aberfeldy - bluebird box sales  
Nigel Marven - lecture  
Alison Copeland - field trip guide  
Maurice Shaeffer & Nigel Chudleigh - wood cutting  
Stuart Smith - and his bluebird volunteers

The Audubon Executive Committee  
Argus - Walk the Walk  
BAMZ - ocean fieldtrips  
Bank of Bermuda Foundation  
Bermuda Red Cross  
Catlin - Nonsuch Camp  
Conservation Crew, Dept of Conservation Services  
Deloitte  
Horsfield Landscaping  
Partner Re - Dollars for Hours/Nonsuch Camp  
Rubis - Nonsuch Camp  
Somersfield Academy  
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