

Bermuda Audubon Society - AGM - Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of 2017 AGM
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Financials
5. Amendment to bye-laws: Proposal to change the membership year from 1 June - 31 May to calendar year 1 January to 31 December
6. Election of Officers and Committee of Management

Proposed Slate of Officers and Committee:

Karen Border - President

Jennifer Gray - Vice-President

Janice Hetzel- Secretary

Zelia Amaral - Treasurer

Peter Lee

Jeremy Madeiros

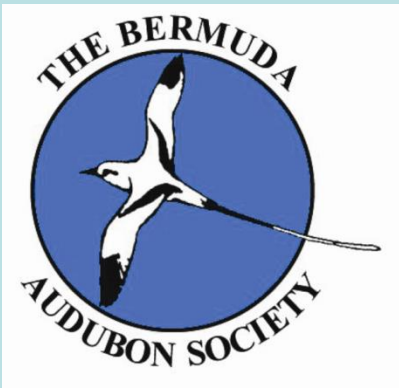
Joanne Smith

Kim Smith

Paul Watson

David Wingate

6. Any Other Business



President's Report 17-18

Committee of Management 2017-2018

Andrew Dobson - President

Karen Border - Executive Secretary

Zelia Amaral - Treasurer

Jennifer Gray

Janice Hetzel

Peter Lee

Jeremy Madeiros

Kim Smith

Paul Watson

David Wingate

July

BirdsCaribbean Conference Cuba



World Shorebird Count

Sept



Oct - Dollars for Hours



A team of 15 Saltus students built and painted 25 boxes and prepared 35 kits. The boxes and kits were sold at Aberfeldy.



Oct - Paget Island Bird Camp



Oct - International Migratory Bird Day



Cahows fieldtrips - Nov





Cooper's Island fieldtrips - Nov





ABS reserve working party - Dec





The students made
about 50 boxes for
the Society

November - Dollars for
Hours
Saltus Grammar School

Christmas Bird Count

The Bermuda Audubon Society held its 43rd CBC on 30th December 2017

Features of this year's count included:

- Over 7,000 individual birds were counted
- 85 species of birds (93 in 2016, 93 in 2015)
- Eurasian Starling was the most common species following by House Sparrow and Mourning Dove
- Highlights of the count included Purple Gallinule, Yellow-throated Vireo and three Summer Tanagers

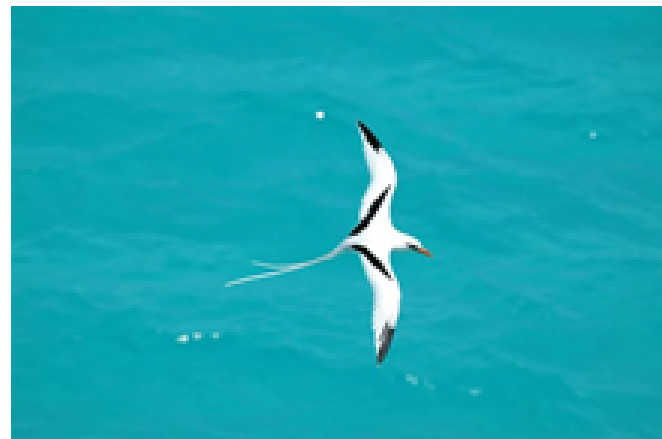
Jan - Spittal Pond fieldtrip for Garden Club members



**BUEI Talks &
BAS present:**

**2018 - Year of the Bird
with Andrew Dobson**

Tues, Jan 30th at 7:30pm



The Bermuda Audubon Society has joined over 100 organisations including National Geographic, National Audubon and BirdLife International in declaring 2018 as 'Year of the Bird'. Audubon President Andrew Dobson will contribute to this event to heighten public awareness of birds because of their wonder and beauty and because they symbolize nature's inter-connectedness and the importance of caring for our shared planet.

6pm: Harbourfront opens for dinner

7:30pm: Lecture begins, Tradewinds Auditorium

Members: \$20 Non-members: \$25 Students: \$10. Tickets available by calling 294-0204 or visiting BUEI's Oceans Gift Shop.

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

Jan - nest box building with cub scouts



Feb - with BNT and KBB at Somerset Long Bay

KEEP BERMUDA BEAUTIFUL

Team Up to Clean Up

Somerset Long Bay

Daniel's Head Road, Sandys

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

(Rain date: Sunday, Feb. 11)



We will be picking up shards of broken glass, so bring along the following:

- * Your own kitchen rubber gloves (if you have them) or gardening gloves
- * A spare bucket
- * Water shoes or Wellingtons, if you want to wade in shallow water
- * Your own cold drink bottle, preferably a re-usable water bottle

KBB will provide regular trash bags, blue recycling bags, thin disposable gloves, extra drinking water and snacks. We are partnering with Buy Back Bermuda, Bermuda National Trust and Audubon Society as part of a remediation project for this beautiful park.

Sign up: www.kbb.bm or call 799-5142

Keep Bermuda Beautiful email: kbb@northrock.bm

tel. 295-5142



March - The Times

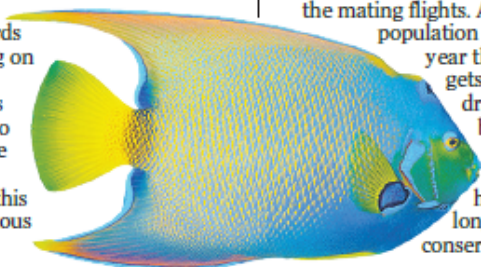
Jim Dixon Nature Notebook

The seabird that's come back from the dead

The anticipation for any birder touching down on an archipelago is the prospect of tracking down the "endemics", species unique to an island chain. Island birds are special but few can beat Bermuda's remarkable ocean-going petrel, the cahow. This captivating seabird is one of the most elegantly beautiful and rarest birds, with a tiny frame not much larger than a pigeon and wings at nearly a metre span. Like a small albatross, these petrels have a remarkable lifestyle and a dramatic history. Early sailors named Bermuda Devil's Island, mistaking the wails of perhaps a million petrels for the lost souls of shipwrecked sailors. Once the 17th-century British settlers discovered how nutritious and easy to catch these seabirds were, their fate was sealed. From a million, numbers crashed to what was thought to be extinction.

The Bermuda petrel evolved when there was a richer bird fauna than the islands possess today and the seabirds were especially vulnerable to a rapacious, now-extinct falcon. Male petrels dig deep into crevices and burrows metres from the surface, making a safe place to attract a female to lay her solitary egg. A burrow can take an industrious male four years to construct. Following the mass extermination, a tiny population survived in crevices on the most low-lying and windswept offshore islands, being rediscovered in 1951. Here, conservation biologists David Wingate and Jeremy Madeiros have spent 70 years monitoring the birds, constructing artificial burrows and coaxing the population up to a few hundred. Their greatest achievement has been to re-establish a colony on the large Nonsuch Island where the birds burrow naturally into soil without the artificial intervention of concrete tunnels.

On my visit the birds were sitting on eggs and Jeremy was preparing to monitor the breeding success of this year's precious clutch.



Watching the webcams from his phone (www.nonsuchisland/live-cahow-cam), we were able to see these most elegant of birds touchingly nurturing their eggs deep below ground. In a few weeks, once the chicks hatch, the male will brood them while the female takes off on one of the most extraordinary bird journeys on the planet. Satellite monitoring has shown the birds' feeding trips are staggering in scale. Riding the oceanic winds and with incredible purpose, the females cover up to 10,000 miles in a feeding foray, traversing the Atlantic Ocean and returning with pinpoint accuracy to their burrow.

The Bermuda petrel has a place close to the hearts of this prosperous island. More than 4,000 schoolchildren have visited Nonsuch Island to learn about the petrel and it has been adopted as the national bird of Bermuda. Increasing numbers of birdwatchers travel from around the world in November to witness the mating flights. As the population climbs year by year this spectacle gets more dramatic and brings much-needed revenue to help fund long-term conservation.



The cahow can travel 10,000 miles

Every acre counts

Bermuda's equable climate, tropical waters and growing services economy makes it one of the most densely populated islands in the world. Grand homes, holiday condominiums and golf courses dominate the island. A small number of mainly coastal national parks are great places for birdwatching and an eclectic mix of native birds, introduced species and trans-oceanic migrants makes this a rich landscape to watch birds in. However, the amount of land dedicated to truly native cedar woods is vanishingly small. Here, the heroic efforts of the Bermudian National Trust comes in, with a long-term plan to purchase and revegetate native woodland. With land prices up to a million dollars or

more per acre, the trust's motto is that they are reclaiming land for nature "one acre at a time".

A reef alive with colour

Bermuda's richest places for wildlife are its marine habitats, with a dazzling array of coral reefs, each hosting a seemingly endless variety of colourful fish. The Bermuda Aquarium has a first-rate display of native marine habitats. Beating any guidebook, the aquarium was a great place to become familiar with the reef fish before I ventured off into the clear coastal waters. The endemic Bermuda bream has a very distinctive large black dot on the base of its tail, making its shoals instantly recognisable in the coves around the islands. Alongside the bream in the shallows I quickly found the sergeant major, an elegant vertically-striped fish, and the blue angelfish, left, large and strikingly beautiful. My brief paddles were hardly a proper study but local conservation biologists have completed a survey of marine life health. They point to overfishing as the cause of a decline of the larger, predatory species such as snappers and groupers, now much scarcer on the reefs surrounding the islands.

@JIMDIXONWRITER

March - Nest box monitoring



March - Devonshire Marsh Fire



April - Bluebird workshop with BZS



April - first fledings



EVE'S POND

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

15TH DECEMBER, 2017

Railway Trail

Gippen Bay Close

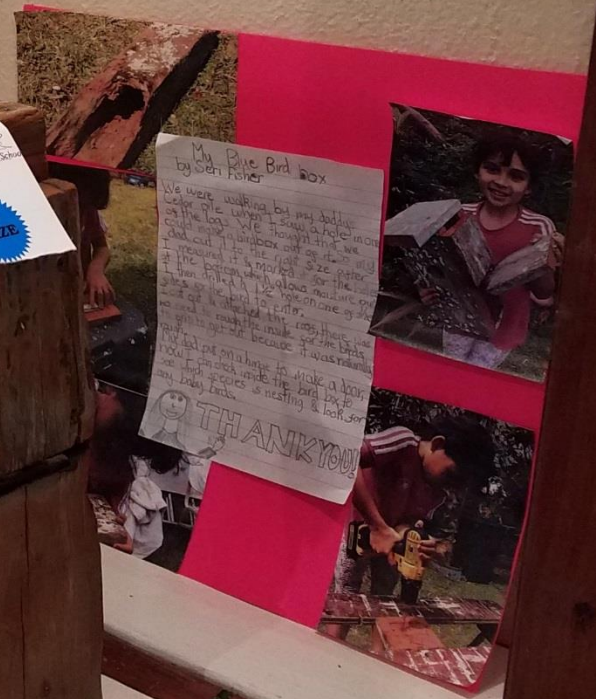
DAVID COX LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

April - Eve's Pond planning approval



April - Ag Show Audubon nest box award

Winner
Seri Fisher



My Blue Bird box
by Beth Fisher

We were working by my daddy's car on the lawn. I saw a hole in the ground. We thought that we could dig it up and see if we could find a bird's nest. I measured it & made a size extra. I then made a hole for the birds to go in. I then made a hole for the birds to go in. I then made a hole for the birds to go in. I then made a hole for the birds to go in.

THANK YOU!



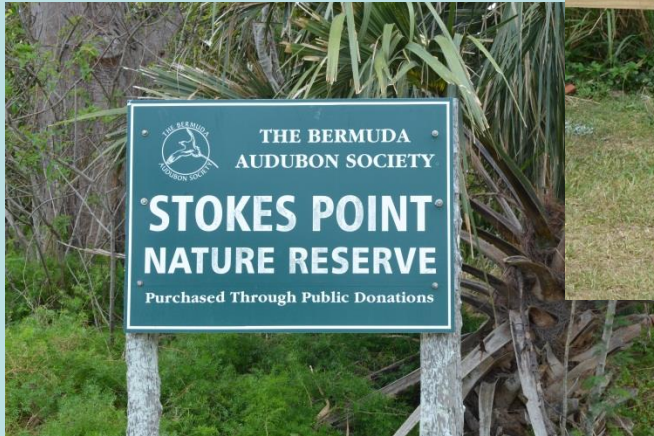
May - Nonsuch Fieldtrip



May - Global Big Day



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
- Keep Bermuda Beautiful
- Parks Commission

Internationally:

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

Communication

- Newsletters - Vol. 28/29
- Web site www.audubon.bm
- Email info@audubon.bm
- Newspaper and magazine articles
- Banners
- Facebook

Bermuda Audubon Society
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 P.O. Box HM 1328, Hamilton HM FX Vol.28 No.2
www.audubon.bm Email: info@audubon.bm

- In this issue:
- Honour for David Wingate *Andrew Dobson*
 - Cahow Breeding Report 2017 *Jeremy Madeiros*
 - New hope for Bermuda's naest bird - the Bermuda Tern *David Wingate*
 - Bird Report May to July 2017 *Andrew Dobson*
 - Society News
 - Future events

David Wingate is honoured in Cuba



Dr. Wingate is pictured with BirdsCaribbean President Andrew Dobson and BirdsCaribbean Executive Director Lisa Sorenson

At BirdsCaribbean's International Conference held at Topes de Collantes, Cuba, David Wingate was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition his "exceptional knowledge and contributions to avian knowledge and conservation in Bermuda and the Caribbean".

BirdsCaribbean, the region's largest ornithological society, meets for a conference every two years. Last month, 240 scientists, teachers and conservationists came together for 150 presentations and workshops over five days. This year's theme "Celebrating Caribbean Diversity" was particularly appropriate given the large variety of bird species in the region and the diversity of the members. Delegates attended from dozens of islands and nations, representing different cultures and languages, but all facing similar challenges such as habitat loss and climate change. Anna and Fiona Dobson were among the presenters, delivering a talk on the work of the Bermuda Audubon Society.

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- In this issue:
- Northern Fulmar - New to Bermuda *Kevin Winter*
 - 2018 - Year of the Bird *Andrew Dobson*
 - Cahow Report 2017 *Jeremy Madeiros*
 - Christmas Bird Count *Andrew Dobson*
 - Bird Report December 2017 to February 2018 *Andrew Dobson*
 - Society news and future events

Northern Fulmar - New to Bermuda by Kevin Winter



January 8th started with a dozen boats fishing on the northern side of Challenger Banks. Each boat had a few seagulls hovering overhead hunting for opportunities to eat. By 4 p.m. all the boats had left, and all the gulls came to us as the lone boat on the Banks. It was then that Chris Burgess noticed that one of the birds was very different (especially the bill) and when it finally dove down to feed it confirmed that this was NO GULL! We ran to get a few photos and it was soon gone as the gulls were very aggressive that day. Next day I looked through my photos before selecting Northern Fulmar as the best match by far, except for the fact that it had never been

ed here! I then put it on eBird to see if others agreed with my identification. It is ironic that on a Lantacrica my favourite bird was the (Southern) Fulmar who were always visible gliding over the shipstream as we crossed the Drake Channel from Terra Del Fuego. I have however noted the seabirds that we see now are hungrier and more interested in the boat than in the past - indicating a growing trend of difficulty in finding natural food sources.



This report from Kevin shows the value of digital photography and eBird.

The majority of the North American population of Atlantic fulmars breeds at 11 colonies in the e. Canadian Arctic above 63°N. Additionally, five small colonies are found in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is common to 43°N along the w. Atlantic Coast, regular in winter, but increasingly scarce south to Cape Hatteras. This species has been

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- In this issue:
- Devonshire Marsh fire *Andrew Dobson, Jeremy Madeiros, David Wingate*
 - 2018 - Year of the Bird *Andrew Dobson*
 - Bluebird season well underway *Jennifer Gray*
 - 2018 Cahow breeding season update *Jeremy Madeiros*
 - Bird report March-April 2018 *Andrew Dobson*
 - Society news and future events

Devonshire Marsh Fire - 17th March 2018

Andrew Dobson, Jeremy Madeiros, David Wingate



Jeremy Madeiros and personnel from the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources have carried out thorough foot surveys of the entire burn area in Devonshire Marsh and looked at the effect that the fire has had on the three Audubon Society Reserves in the marsh. This included having GPS coordinator Mandy Shaler using the Department's drone to make photographs of the marsh and burn area, which determined that a total of 50 acres of the marsh burnt in the fire. These flights will be carried out every two weeks for the next few months to document the recovery of vegetation in the marsh. This typically occurs quite rapidly and the last survey in the first week of April revealed that most of the charred Cinnamon and Royal Ferns in the marsh are already sending up extensive new green fronds.



Firefly Nature Reserve - Although it was initially thought that the fire had not severely impacted this reserve, the drone footage revealed that the fire had burnt into the entire southern half of the reserve, and also revealed an easier

Facebook

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



Bermuda Audubon Society Timeline Recent

Create Post Admin Panel

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...



14 1

Boost Post

Recent

2014

2013



Bermuda Audubon Society

Community Page about Bird conservation

Update Page Info 1 Liked Follow

Newspaper articles

“Society asks for support in helping bird life”

“Rare bird sighted for second time”

“Spreading its wings: rare dove spotted on island”

“Closest thing to snow this Christmas”

“Christmas count finds 85 species of birds”

**“Disturbing the peace:
Noisy plovers fly in to airport”**

“”Flying visit for rare bird”

**“Thinking outside the box
Spookers scare off invading sparrows”**

“Finding shelter from the storm”

“Planning approves reclamation of pond”

The Challenges



- Feeding of feral animals
- Loss of 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 John Rankin, Governor of Bermuda
Aberfeldy - bluebird box sales
Audubon Executive Committee
BAMZ - ocean fieldtrips/bluebird workshops
Bermuda Red Cross - storage
Boys' Brigade and Cub Scouts
Conservation Crew, Dept of Conservation Services
Deloitte - Seymour's Pond reserve
Garden Club of Bermuda
Horsfield Landscaping - ABS reserve
Michael Hayward - Explorer
Partner Re - Dollars for Hours
Saltus Grammar School
Stuart Smith - and his bluebird volunteers
Warwick Academy
Working party volunteers

All our other financial sponsors - too numerous to list

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Paul Watson

David Wingate

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