



NEWSLETTER

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CAHOW UPDATE FOR 2023 - RESEARCH WORK PROVIDING INSIGHTS INTO OCEAN DYNAMICS AND HEALTH

by *Jeremy Madeiros*



Jeremy Madeiros with a robust Cahow chick

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The Bermuda Petrel, or Cahow (*Pterodroma cahow*) is one of the rarest seabirds on Earth, and is Bermuda's official National Bird (2003). It is endemic to Bermuda, nesting nowhere else on Earth other than 6 small islands in the Castle Harbour area, totaling only 22.5 acres in area.

The story of the Cahow is well-known, being one of almost miraculous survival, after being thought extinct for over 330 years, from the 1620s to the re-discovery of a small number of nesting pairs on a few tiny rocky islets off the east end of Bermuda in 1951. Since 1960, the Cahow has been the subject of a Management and Recovery Program that has successfully controlled most threats facing the species on its nesting islets. This has enabled the Cahow to increase in number from only 18 breeding pairs producing a combined total of 7 to 8 fledged chicks per year in 1960, to a new record number of 164 breeding pairs producing 76 successfully fledged chicks in 2023.

The Recovery Program has also been successful in establishing 2 new nesting colonies of Cahows on the Nonsuch Island Nature Reserve, which at 16.5 acres is much larger and more elevated than the original 4 tiny nesting islets, which total only 2.4 acres in area and have become increasingly impacted and vulnerable to hurricane flooding and erosion and sea-level rise. These new colonies have rapidly increased from the first breeding pair in 2009 (which produced the first chick hatched on Nonsuch since the 1620s) to just under 40 breeding pairs in 2023, which produced a total of 19 successfully fledged chicks this year.

The final criteria for the establishment of these new Nonsuch breeding colonies was fulfilled this year with the first natural soil burrow being used by a new breeding pair to produce a successfully fledged chick (all other nest burrows on Nonsuch are artificial concrete or plastic nests installed for the birds as part of the Recovery Program).

Between 2019 and 2023, the DENR Principle Terrestrial Conservation Officer has been carrying out a collaborative research program with a number of overseas scientists and researchers. These include Letizia Campioni (MARE IPSA) from Italy, Maria Silva from the University of Lisbon, Portugal, Carina Gjerdrum (Canadian Dept. of Environment and Climate Change) and Andre Raine (U.S. Kauai Endangered Seabird Recovery Project), among others.



Natural soil burrow on Nonsuch Island



Scientists collaborate on Nonsuch Island

Work carried out during this period, which was somewhat impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020 and 2021, was extremely varied and is now providing valuable new information about the Cahow's biology and it's position within the greater North Atlantic biome.

Several papers are in preparation for the full results of this research project. The results finalized to date are showing how highly mobile oceanic predators like the Cahow are using the deep oceanic environment, how they are being affected by long-lasting pesticides washed off the continents surrounding the ocean basins, and are giving

insights into how seabirds and other predator and prey species are reacting and adapting to climatic and oceanic change. It has also provided clear evidence that Cahows regularly forage within the territorial waters and EEZ of Canada, along the edges of the Nova Scotia & Newfoundland Shelf, which has led to a proposal to have the Cahow declared as a Canadian Endangered Species.

This is important for the continued recovery of the Cahow, as there are numerous areas along the Nova Scotia Shelf that have been earmarked for oil and gas exploration (as well as a number of existing oil & gas platforms) by the Canadian Government. The intense lights and gas flares associated with offshore oil platforms, which tend to attract seabirds like moths to a flame, especially in foggy conditions in this area, and the real risk of accidents and oil spills, have been identified as a potential threat to seabirds, particularly night-feeding species such as the Cahow.

Finally, in 2022 a total of 37 fledgling Cahows still in their nests were fitted with archival GLS Geolocator tags on their legs shortly before they departed to sea. These tags last longer than the GPS tags, archiving daily position data for up to 30 months or more. Once battery life gives out, the data is archived in the tag until it is retrieved from surviving birds once they mature and return to the nesting colony. This is important as although we have a fairly good understanding of oceanic range and main feeding areas used by adult Cahows, we have no idea where newly fledged birds, (which spend 3 to 4 years or more at sea before they return to the nesting colonies in Bermuda), wander during these "lost years". The first of these tagged birds should return over the next 2-3 years.

In conclusion, this collaborative research program is now revealing important new knowledge, of importance not only to Bermuda's critically endangered National Bird, but for other oceanic species and the greater North Atlantic ecosystem. As an Island nation in the middle of this ocean ecosystem, there is an obvious need for more information on this subject, which impacts the fishing industry, tourism and human health and quality of life.



Downy Cahow chick



Cahow in flight

[Additional details of this research can be found here.](#)

Help Please?!

Sure Thing!

THE BERMUDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volunteers Needed

70th Anniversary Celebration Planning
Communications and Graphic Design Help
Planning Application Review
Nature Reserve Helpers
Bluebird Guardians and Monitors
Committee of Management

Email us at info@audubon.bm for details.

ARE WE WITNESSING THE END OF BREEDING COMMON (STERNA HIRUNDO) AND ROSEATE (S. DOUGALLII) TERNS IN BERMUDA?

by Dr. Miguel Mejías

Every summer, two species of migratory terns, Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*; Figure 1) and Roseate Tern (*S. dougallii*; Figure 1), come to Bermuda to breed. Although both species were recorded breeding on the island in the 19th century, specimen collecting led to the extirpation of Roseates in 1861; they were dramatically rediscovered breeding again by Drs. David Wingate and Miguel Mejías in 2018! Unfortunately, decades of nest monitoring on the island revealed that both species have declined to the point of having small populations, apparently comprised entirely of females, producing no offspring, and might now be functionally extinct.



Figure 1. Photographs of Bermudian Common Terns (left photo; Miguel Mejías) and Roseate Tern (right photo; Luke Foster). Breeding Common Terns have bright red bills with black tips, an all-black hood, and greyish underparts. Although breeding Roseates also wear black hoods, they have mostly black bills and snow-white underparts with a roseate tinge, which gives them their common name.

Dr. Wingate began intensively monitoring Common Terns (hereafter, “COTE”) in 1973, where he recorded a maximum of about 30 pairs breeding on several islands and islets across Bermuda. This species nests on the bare ground of rocky islets, where pairs dig small scrapes in loose soil, lining the nest with dried twigs and leaves (Figure 2). While North American COTES nest colonially (i.e., hundreds-thousands of pairs tightly clustered on a single breeding island), Bermudian terns are more solitary, with 1-2 breeding pairs, per site. In addition to disturbance from mariners and egg and nestling predation from rats, the most significant threat to Bermuda’s terns are hurricanes. Hurricane “Fabian” made this clear in 2003, killing all the males associated with over a dozen breeding pairs and their young; at the time, these breeding pairs represented the entirety of Bermuda’s COTE population. The 2004 breeding season not only saw significantly fewer returnees, but all these birds were females (Figure 2), which are often spared from hurricane mortality because of their tendency to migrate to their non-breeding areas in South America significantly earlier than male terns.



Figure 2. A typical clutch of Bermudian Common Tern eggs. Male-female nesting pairs often comprise 2-4 eggs, whereas clutches larger than this, as pictured above, indicates an infertile clutch where two females contribute eggs to the nest, creating an infertile clutch. Photograph by Miguel Mejías.

Unfortunately, the COTE population never recovered from Hurricane Fabian. Since I joined the COTE team in 2011, the average number of COTE adults returning to breed, per year, was 14 birds. During this same period, the average number of fertile, male-female pairs was 3, although some years saw all female-female pairs laying infertile clutches. As of 2023, the entire COTE population is comprised of 11 adults, apparently all female birds, with no offspring produced.

As with Bermudian COTEs, the island's Roseate Terns (hereafter, "ROST") is comprised of very few adults. Although this is less surprising, since the founding breeders arrived in 2018, their productivity over the past six years are beginning to match those of Bermudian COTEs. More specifically, while the first three years saw 1-2 chicks successfully fledging, the remaining three years have seen infertile clutches being produced, likely by female-female pairs. Interestingly, the skewed sex-ratio among ROTEs don't seem to be influenced by hurricanes, because this species generally finishes breeding before peak hurricane season. As of 2023, the ROTE population is comprised of 5 adults, apparently all female birds.

Despite a litany of conservation efforts taken to help both breeding tern species in Bermuda, including nest predator control, nest-site signage, local egg translocation experiments, and installing nest and shade boxes on artificial nest-sites, their numbers continue to slowly decline. It would seem natural selection deems the COTE unfit to continue as a summer breeder in Bermuda in the face of hurricanes that continue to increase in frequency and strength, because of human-induced climate change; similar forces, albeit not yet understood, are also impacting our ROSTs, pushing them, too, to extirpation. Could something be killing adult birds, especially the males, on their South American non-breeding areas? Considering this dire situation, a bigger part of me clings to the hope that my premonition of their demise doesn't come to fruition.

DIARY OF A YOUNG NATURALIST

First Cahow Fledgling Departure Witnessed

by Dr. David B. Wingate

3 July 1958

It was 3 July, 1958 and this was the first Cahow chick departure that I had ever witnessed, so I didn't realize that it was a very abnormal one by a starving chick. But I was determined to follow it to sea as far as I could, even till daylight of the next day, if necessary. My boat was still a 12' plywood hull with a 20 hp engine.

This was my sixth night of observation, and the chick had not been fed for the previous 5 nights, leading me to assume that a starvation period might be typical. At long last came the moment I had been waiting for.



After showing increased signs of restlessness, shuffling hesitantly back and forth between the burrow and the cliff edge, it finally plucked up the courage, jumped off, and fell 20' down into the water with wings only half open. Was this the way it was supposed to happen? It didn't seem so, but whether typical or not, its fate was sealed. There could be no returning to the burrow

As soon as the bird hit the water it began drinking, dabbling its head, and clumsily trying to flap its open wings again. I dashed for my boat and paddled around to the small cove where I dropped anchor. For the next fifteen minutes it drifted back and forth, getting used to the water, but at 10:20 p.m. it suddenly began heading out towards the ocean. I tried to pull up the anchor, but it was snagged on a reef, so I had no choice except to tie it off with a buoy. As usual, I gave no thought about safety and didn't even have a lifejacket aboard!

I was able to see the bird up to 30-50 feet away, but once lost and out of sight it was difficult to re-find except with a flashlight. After half an hour we were approaching the outer reef line which forms an almost unbroken barrier around Bermuda. I could hear the roar of the surf and see the phosphorescent glow of the waves breaking over them. What was going to happen? At first the scene seemed to grow more menacing as the roar increased. The water looked pitch black around the boat, however, so I knew I was O.K. as long as there was no white water in my vicinity. Finally we were close enough to distinguish breaks in the reef and my Cahow drifted through one. This was the most terrifying moment with reefs all around, but once cleared the choppiness disappeared and a large oily swell lifted and fell silently. I was at last able to relax. On one occasion I drifted down on the bird and placed my face within inches of it as it floated calmly in 100 fathoms of water. However, when the swell began to cast a shadow from a setting moon I began to experience more and more difficulty following the bird. It was 1 a.m. and I was tired from lack of sleep on former nights. Cloud occasionally obscured the moon and a NW breeze arose for a while. I found that I was drifting much faster with the current in an easterly direction, while my bird was heading south, so it entailed lots of paddling. I last saw it swimming due south quite fast and a few minutes later I was unable to find it even by flashlight. I started the boat engine and made two slow circles, being extremely careful, but could not re-locate it. Had it taken off or been eaten by a predatory fish?

By that time I was at least a quarter mile beyond the reefs. I was sorry to lose this bird, even if it had meant drifting much further off-shore till dawn, with only ¼ tank of gas to get back to shore. I would have been able to take pictures and watch its behavior through binocs. But it was just as well. I still had to find my way back through the reefs and sleep in the boat till dawn when I could see well enough to dive down and unhitch the anchor.

That night I was introduced to the edge of the Cahow's world!

BERMUDA'S "BACKYARD BIRDS" STAMPS FEATURE WORK FROM LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

by Dr. Miguel Mejías

In September 2023, the Bermuda Post Office released a new series of postage stamps featuring some of Bermuda's most common songbird species. The stamp theme, "Backyard Birds," was selected by the post office after Bermuda Audubon President, Janice Hetzel, did a virtual presentation on the island's backyard birds. The species highlighted includes the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*; Figure 1), the Bermuda White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus bermudianus*; Figure 1), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Grey Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), and European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*). All six species are quite conspicuous and charismatic in their own unique way and make for an entertaining watch when visiting Bermudian backyards! Below, I have summarized some brief, fun facts about each. **These stamps can be purchased at post offices, island-wide.**

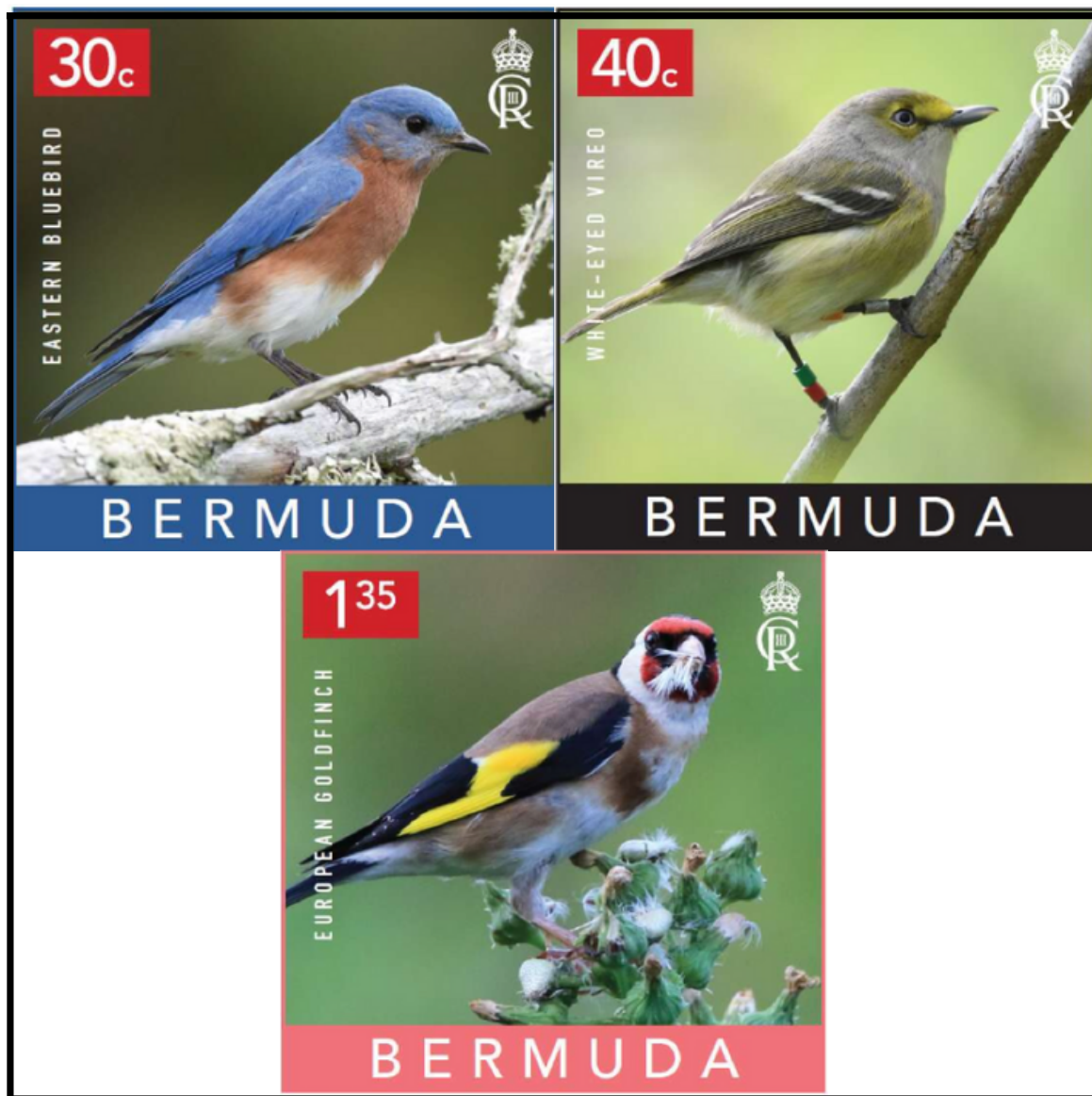


Figure 1. Three exemplars of the stamps from the "Backyard Birds" edition. Clockwise from top left: Eastern Bluebird (photo: Miguel Mejías), Bermuda White-eyed Vireo (photo: Miguel Mejías), and the European Goldfinch (photo: Richard Brewer). Note that each stamp is marked with King Charles III's cypher, "CR III." The "C" stands for Charles, and the "R" for "Rex," which is Latin for King.

Eastern Bluebird: Like the cardinal, male and female bluebirds differ in their plumage colours; the male, which is featured on the stamp, are a richer blue than the duller-plumaged female. This species once commonly bred in cavities in mature Bermuda cedars (*Juniperus bermudiana*). Following the Bermuda cedar blight, which began with the accidental introduction of scale insects in the 1940s, bluebirds suffered a significant decline. Today, the species is almost entirely reliant on bluebird boxes installed by people. Look for bluebirds perched on the tops of trees, power pole cables, and other conspicuous perches, where they scan lawns for caterpillars and grubs, which they can spot from 100 feet away!

Bermuda White-eyed Vireo: This is the only remaining endemic landbird in Bermuda. It is a subspecies, a distinct race of a species that differs from its parent population. In Bermuda's case, the White-eyes in our country differ from the White-eyes in North America. More specifically, the Bermuda race is noticeably smaller, has black legs (North American vireos have blue legs), and duller plumage. Only males sing the "chick-of-the-village" song, which gives the bird its nickname. Note that the individual featured on the stamp is banded. It's a male bird that I banded in Dec 2018 as part of my doctoral research, and that very bird lives in the exact same territory today!

Northern Cardinal: Much better known in Bermuda as the "redbird." Contrary to popular belief, the cardinal is not native to Bermuda. This species is non-migratory, so it had to have been introduced by humans, although the exact date is unknown. The male, featured on the stamp, is a brilliant, cherry red, whereas the female is a duller, brownish red.

Gray Catbird: Another native species to Bermuda. Catbirds get their name from the cat-like "meows" males sometimes incorporate into its warble. During the spring and summer, males can be heard warbling for 10-15 minutes nonstop, sometimes longer! They are also brilliant mimics, with males copying the songs and calls of other birds into their own song. Catbirds are essentially Bermuda's robins, in that they often hop/run on spacious green in search of caterpillars, grubs, and fruit.

Great Kiskadee: The kiskadee was introduced to Bermuda from Trinidad and Tobago, in 1951, as a biocontrol for lizards, or anoles. Their longevity was uncertain at the time of their introduction, so individuals were hired to track and monitor their breeding activities soon after their release. Fast forward to the 21st century, the kiskadee is one of Bermuda's most common songbirds, readily found island wide. Unfortunately, their omnivorous and opportunistic feeding habits caused them to hunt and predate several of Bermuda's native and endemic animal species. For example, the kiskadee is believed to have played a hand in the extinction of the Bermuda cicada (*Neotibicen bermudianus*). Despite their controversy, their island wide reputation and ruckus, yet beloved, "kiskadee" call made them a fine candidate for Bermuda's backyard bird stamps.

European Goldfinch: Although this species was also introduced to Bermuda, it was by accident! It would seem the goldfinches of today are descendants from cage escapees in St. George's in 1890! Thankfully, compared to the kiskadee, the goldfinch is quite benign, and does not seem to compete much with other songbirds in Bermuda, nor interfere with her native and endemic species. They can often be seen feeding on thistles in fallow fields and on the tops of cone-bearing casuarinas, their favorite nesting tree.

A LITTLE HELP FOR THE ALFRED BLACKBURN SMITH NATURE RESERVE



The Bermuda Audubon Society is always grateful for any volunteer assistance in nature reserves. Horsefield Landscaping has been a long-time supporter of the Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve.

Over the summer, Kevin Horsfield mentored Rip Crockwell-Laurent as a summer student. Rip is the grandson of David Wingate and during his tenure with the landscaping company did a fantastic job clearing the pathways on the reserve.

Thank you Rip and Horsefield Landscaping !



Rip Crockwell-Laurent at the Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve

PART TEAM UPDATE

by Janice Hetzel

As explained in our last Newsletter, the Bermuda Audubon Society has been working collaboratively with the Bermuda National Trust, Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce, Bermuda Agricultural Group Heritage Collective and other interested individuals to review and respond to planning applications that impact areas of protective zoning. We have called our group PART – the Planning Application Review Team, and we meet weekly to discuss recently advertised applications as well as other development issues.

The amount of work required has become daunting and as an all-volunteer organization it is hard to keep up with the number of applications and issues that have arisen. We ask for your help. If you are interested in these planning and development issues, please let us know. We need your help. No experience is necessary.

Below are updates on the most recent pressing issues, with links to relevant documents:

Fairmont Southampton SDO

Minister Roban announced on 27 October that he has approved the SDO and that it will be Gazetted in the coming weeks. We were so pleased that both the Department of Planning (DOP) and the Development Application Board (DAB) recommended that the Minister refuse Special Development Order. Now the Minister has failed us and we are greatly disappointed. After it appears in the Official Gazette, the SDO must still be laid before both the House and the Senate and can be annulled by these bodies. We ask you to contact your MP and the members of the Senate and push them to do the right thing and annul the SDO.

[Development Applications Board Minutes 20 Sept 2023](#)
[Department of Planning Report for SDO0001-23](#)

Southlands Events Lawn and Parking Lot

This too is in the hands of Minister Roban. The original application for an events lawn and parking lot in the Woodland Reserve adjacent to the Bermudiana Beach Resort was rightly refused by the DAB. The Resort, owned by the Bermuda Housing Corporation, appealed to the Minister and then revised the plan to only include the events lawn. The Department of Planning strongly recommended refusal of both the original and revised appeal plans. We continue to oppose the proposal as there is no justification for the destruction of an area of Woodland Reserve, rich in native and endemic plants, in one of our National Parks. The people of Bermuda fought hard to save Southlands from development and to make it a national park. Approval of the plans would result in a unacceptable loss to our community as well as to the environment of Bermuda. Parks matter, we need to protect them.

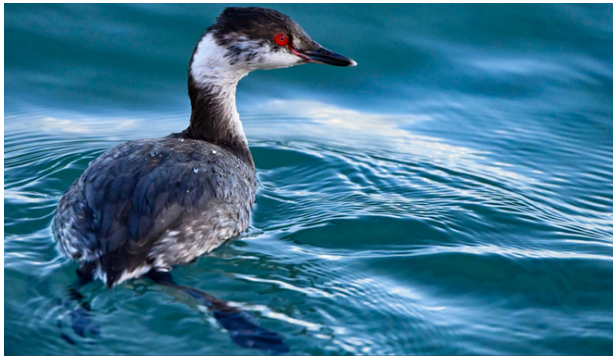
[Bermuda Audubon Society Response to Appeal APPL0006-23 Southlands Park](#)
[Bermuda Audubon Society Updated Response to APPL0006-23 Southlands Park](#)
[Department of Planning Directors Case APPL0006-23](#)
[Department of Planning Updated Directors Case APPL0006-23](#)

Disbandment of the Parks Commission

The Parks Commission was established by the Bermuda National Parks Act to provide expert advice to the Minister regarding our National Parks. It has served as a watchdog to ensure that the protection and effective management of our National Parks takes precedence over all other interests for the benefit of all. The composition of the Commission is defined by the Law and meant to provide a broad spectrum of stakeholder interests and expertise. In December 2022, Minister Burch disbanded the Parks Commission. He stated that the Commission had been acting outside the Legislation though did not provide any evidence to justify this statement. He said that new legislation was needed, but after almost 10 months no legislation has been put forward. In the interim, development and activities have proceeded without the required Parks Commission input which is in violation of the Act and puts our Parks at risk. The Bermuda Audubon Society in conjunction with the Bermuda National Trust, who both have designated seats on the Commission, have notified the Minister that we intend to take this issue to Judicial Review. The Parks Commission needs to be re-established and allowed to perform its legislated duties. Our Parks need to be protected and respected.

BIRD REPORT: MARCH - JULY 2023

by Joanne Smith



Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

Photo: Herb Marshall

Joining the wintering waterfowl on our ponds in March were **American Black Duck** (PW-17 Mar) and **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** (AW-19 Mar) at Spittal Pond, **Northern Pintail** (PW-17 Mar) at Ship's Hill and a **Wood Duck** (NM-20May) at Seymour's Pond. A **Horned Grebe**, the first since 2020, was found at Convict Bay, and accommodated observers and photographers alike, swimming and diving close to the shoreline (JR-14 Mar).

The first **Common Nighthawks** were seen in May in Devonshire (EB-7 May). Among the Swifts and Swallows, **Purple Martin** arrived early in March (LS), followed by **Cliff Swallow** (PW) & **Chimney Swift** (spotted by a visiting birder) in April, and **Tree Swallow** and **Bank Swallow** in early May (PW).

Black-Necked Stilt were spotted in flooded fields at Spicelands (HM-21 March). Additional shorebirds turning up at Ships Hill and Spittal Ponds were **Semipalmated Sandpiper** & **Short-billed Dowitcher** in early May (PW) and **Stilt Sandpiper** in July (PW). The first **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen at Bernard Park (EB-21 Jul) and there was one sighting of an **Upland Sandpiper** at the Airport (PW-25 Jul).



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

Photo: Richard Brewer

Spring trips offshore were rewarded with the first sightings of Jaegers (**Parasitic** & **Pomarine**) in April (LF-08 Apr & MM-28 Apr), with the first **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen by a local group of birders from Coopers Island (22 Apr), while 33 **Leach's Storm Petrel** were seen from Coopers Island in one watch (PW-29 Apr). Mid-May added **South Polar Skua** and **Wilson's Storm Petrel** seen offshore (MM). Four shearwater species were seen during April and May (**Cory's**, **Sooty**, **Manx** and **Great**) with a single sighting of **Audubon's Shearwater** from Cooper's Island (PW-24 Jun) in late June. The last Cahow (**Bermuda Petrel**) recorded by our eBirders was on 23rd June (MM)

An **Iceland Gull** was seen at the Airport Pond (EB-5 May) and a **Laughing Gull** at Lagoon Park (PW-08 May). The first **Common Tern** reported was 1st April at Mangrove Bay (TW), with an **Arctic Tern** being seen from Coopers Island (PW-12 May) and the first **Roseate Tern** seen from Hinson's Island (DW/EH-4 June), followed by **Sandwich Tern** at Spanish Point (EB-22 Jun), **Gull-billed Tern** at Spittal Pond (PW-26 Jun) and a **Least Tern** off Coopers Island (PW-26 Jun).

Both **Masked** (22 April-5 Birders at Coopers Island) and **Brown Booby** (MM offshore-23 May) were recorded as well as three **Brown Pelicans** which stayed in the Flatts and Shelly Bay area for several days (MM-05 May)



Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

Photo: Eva Bottelli



Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

Photo: Miguel Mejias



Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)
Photo: Andrea Webb



Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
Photo: LeShun Smith

There were three sightings of **Least Bittern**, first at Cloverdale (PW-09 Mar), all the usual herons and egrets with the addition of a **Gray Heron** first seen and photographed on 01 May (AW) and later seen and identified by MM/PW on 15 July, which most of the birders viewed at Spittal Pond. Birds of Prey included an early sighting of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** in Paget (DW/JS-05 Mar), **Northern Harrier** at the airport (NM-07 Mar), **Osprey & American Kestrel** at the airport (LS-15 Mar) and **Peregrine Falcon** at Outerlea Farm (PW-18 Mar).

We had **Red-eyed Vireo** at Ferry Point Park (MM-12 Apr) and **Bobolink** in St. David's (NM-12 Apr), **Eastern Kingbird** at Five Forts GC (PW-09 May). New Spring warblers included an **Orange-crowned** at Spittal Pond NR (PW-17 Mar) and **Hooded** at Mid Ocean GC (PW-18 Mar) and a **Magnolia** at Southampton Princess (LS-23 Apr). The **Townsend's Warbler** was seen only once more in this period on 13 April (MM) at the Arboretum. **Rose-breasted** (AW-12 Apr) and **Blue Grosbeak** (PW-16 Apr) showed up on two of the island's golf courses.



Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*)
Photo: LeShun Smith

Thanks to our Local Observers: Eva Bottelli, Luke Foster, Erich Hetzel, Herb Marshall, Miguel Mejias, Neal Morris, Jill Raines, Joanne Smith, LeShun Smith, Paul Watson, Andrea Webb, Tim White, David Wingate



SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Recent Events



2 April - BNT Palm Sunday Walk featuring Seymour's Pond, High Point and Vesey Nature Reserves



8 April - Whale Watching Trip



20 April - Somerset Long Bay Volunteer Day – 1st Sandys Brownies



22 April - Earth Day Guided Arboretum Walk



28 April - Say NO to SDO Protest at Cabinet



6 May - Annual Nonsuch Island Member's Field Trip



27 May - Pelagic Bird Watching Boat Trip



**17 July - Release of Animated Video
“Nature Matters, Let’s Protect It”**

Watch it [here](#).



**9 September - Annual Spittal Pond Field
Trip in Celebration of World Shorebirds Day**

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

Cahow Watching Boat Trips

Saturday, 11 November and 18 November 2-5pm

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to see our endemic and endangered Cahow in its element on the open ocean. Other sea birds may also be seen. Tickets are \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. We offer these adventures in conjunction with BZS and sign up is through the Island Tour Centre at: <https://www.islandtourcentre.com/reservations/>

Eve's Pond Tour and Volunteer Morning:

Saturday, 9 December 9:00 am

Eve's Pond is one of our Buy Back Bermuda properties that we hold in conjunction with the Bermuda National Trust (BNT). The tour will be led by Myles Darrell of the BNT followed by a volunteer session from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm, for those who wish to remain where we will remove invasive species from the area and replace them with native plants, spreading mulch, clearing the trail and cleaning the roadside. Sign up is through BNT at:

<https://www.bnt.bm/event/tour-and-volunteer-morning-eves-pond-nature-reserve/>

Christmas Bird Count:

Saturday, 16 December

Every year we divide into teams and spread across the island documenting all the birds that we can find. This effort has been going on in Bermuda for almost 50 years. Are you interested in birds? Do you want to help? Please let us know at info@audubon.bm

In Memoriam

This year we have lost two outstanding members of our community, George Peterich and Dr. Eugene Outerbridge. They were lovers of nature and great supporters of our mission “to conserve Bermuda’s special bird life and habitats for the benefit of all.” They will be greatly missed.



George Peterich
Image supplied

Dr. Eugene Outerbridge
Image by Blaire Simmons





BUY BACK BERMUDA

NATIONAL TRUST | AUDUBON SOCIETY

Give the gift that keeps on giving

Help us create a new
public nature reserve!

Buy Back Bermuda has launched a new campaign to raise \$1.5 million to create a public nature reserve at the recently acquired 10 acres in Southampton, and to maintain it and other Buy Back Bermuda nature reserves for the enjoyment of all.

Visit the link below for more information.

www.buybackbermuda.bm/current-campaign