



# NEWSLETTER

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## BERMUDA AUDUBON SOCIETY FIGHTS FOR SOUTHLANDS PARK APPROVAL FOR EVENTS LAWN AT SOUTHLANDS PARK WITHDRAWN

As a result of the Audubon Society's fight to protect the integrity of Southlands Park, the approval for the Bermudiana Beach Resort Events Lawn given on appeal has been withdrawn. This was done in response to our filing for judicial review of the appeal decision.

On his last days as the Minister Responsible for Planning, Minister Roban unilaterally granted permission for the Bermudiana Beach Resort to destroy a beautiful area of woodland in Southlands Park and turn it into an Events Lawn. The lawn would be for the exclusive use of the resort and surrounded by a chain link fence. This sets a dangerous precedent of restricting public access to an area of national park for the benefit of a private commercial entity, an entity, in this case, without proven commercial viability. It also shows complete disregard for the protections enshrined in our laws and policies. Southlands Park is one of the jewels of our National Park System and it is treasured by the people of Bermuda who fought hard to save it from development. With dual protective zonings (Park and Woodland Reserve), this area should be afforded the utmost protection and not be destroyed for the benefit of a commercial entity. If these actions are deemed acceptable, what will be next? Will the lands held in trust for the people of Bermuda as National Park ever be safe?

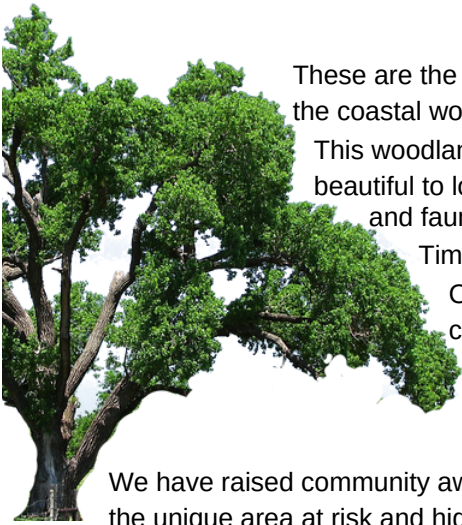
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These are the concerns that the Audubon Society had in mind when it began the fight to protect the coastal woodland at Southlands.

This woodland is a healthy example of a mixed native and endemic forest. It is not only beautiful to look at, but also provides essential habitat for a wide variety of Bermuda's flora and fauna.

Time spent in nature is known to be beneficial to our mental and physical health.

Our National Parks provide these pockets of quiet that can be enjoyed by the entire community.

We have been working closely with the Bermuda National Trust, BEST and the members of the Planning Application Review Team (PART) to help save this part of Southlands Park.

We have raised community awareness by leading walks in Southlands Park and producing videos showcasing the unique area at risk and highlighting the importance of our open spaces.

**10 Reasons to Protect Southlands** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iVDJdRCtTI>

**Help Protect Southlands Park** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UtP1ZyfV0A>

**Nature Matters, Let's Protect It** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ\\_tjR-NFgg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ_tjR-NFgg)

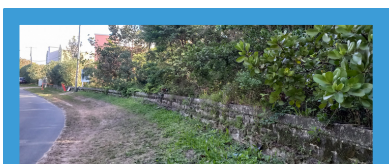
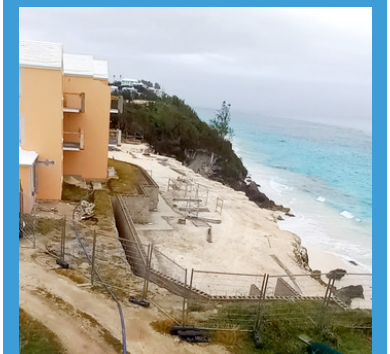
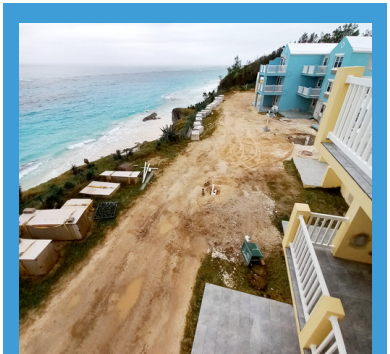


On the procedural front, we filed objections to the planning application and filed further submissions in support of the decision to refuse the application. When the Minister approved the events lawn on appeal, we filed for judicial review and the approval has been withdrawn. The legal points made in the review regard provisions of the Bermuda National Parks Act that had not been followed.

We fear that once these legal hurdles are overcome, the Events Lawn will once again be approved to the detriment of Bermuda. Our experience with the Southlands Park has raised some very serious issues with the status and management of our National Parks System.

The National Parks Commission, which has a legislated role in the management of our National Parks as a provider of expert advice, opposed the Events Lawn and Parking Lot in this location. Conveniently, this body was dismissed at the end of 2022 and they were not formally consulted in the review of the Southlands planning application and as required by the Bermuda Plan. It has been over a year and the National Parks Commission has not yet been reinstated. Last August, the Bermuda Audubon Society and the Bermuda National Trust informed Minister Burch that we were prepared to take legal action for this failure to follow the law. Due to a lack of response to this letter, papers for judicial review were prepared. It was only at this point that the Attorney General's chambers informed us that "the process for the selection of the members of the National Parks Commission is currently underway." We have yet to see it reconvened. Bermuda's environmental charities should not have to take the Government to court to ensure that the policies, procedures and provisions of our laws are followed. However, if this is what has to be done to protect our Parks and natural spaces, then we will continue the fight.

**Nature matters, we must protect it.**



# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS 2023

## 49 Years and Still Counting

by Janice Hetzel

The Bermuda Audubon Society had another successful Christmas Bird Count thanks to 24 dedicated bird watchers who worked from dawn to dusk identifying and counting every bird they could see. This was our 49th year participating in the count. Each year, Bermuda's results are submitted to the National Audubon Society in the US who compile data from North America, Central America and much of the Caribbean. Citizen science initiatives like this provide fun activities through which people can connect with the natural world while generating vital information for the conservation of birds. The 2023 count identified 100 different species on count day with an additional 3 species during count week. This is quite amazing given that we have less than 20 species of resident birds. The most unusual bird seen was the Ash-throated flycatcher. This is typically a bird of the Southwestern desert and was first seen in November. Notable species of this count include a Eurasian Collared-Dove, a Short-eared Owl, a Gray Heron and an American Avocet. The public may be surprised to know that most years we find at least one Ruby-throated Hummingbird and this year was no exception. These tiny birds fly hundreds of miles to get to Bermuda and often stay the winter feeding on red or orange tubular flowers. The total number of birds counted was 5828 which was down from 9230 last year. We would have to fully analyze our data to determine if this is a significant decrease in total numbers. Once again, the invasive species were most prevalent with 1471 European Starling, 874 Great Kiskadee, and 782 House Sparrow. The most abundant non-invasive species was the Mourning Dove with 464 birds counted. The complete results from this year and historical data can be found on the website of the National Audubon Society "historical data can be found on the website of the National Audubon Society at [www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count](http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count).



Cedar Waxwing by Richard Brewer



Ashthroated flycatcher by Miguel Mejias



White eyed virio by LeShun Smith



American Avocet by Herb Marshall

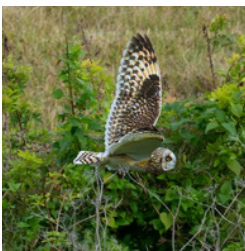
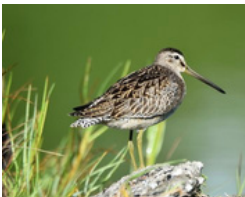
Thanks to all of the participants for their hard work and to Heather Bottelli for organizing and collating the data





## 2023 THE BIRDING YEAR THAT KEPT ON GIVING!

by Paul Watson



See page 12 for credits



Targets, goals, stats!! Not normally words we associate with birding. However, a few of our more serious birders set ourselves targets and or goals most years. I aim for 100 bird species (sp) in January (due to the large number of wintering species we record) and 200sp for the year. I will hasten to add these targets are not easy to get and not often reached.

Most of us use eBird to record our sightings and this is where the 'stats' come from, if you're savvy with the site. eBird loves quoting figures. 2023 started with some very nice birds, the Townsend's warbler found in Nov 2022 was re-located at the Arboretum and was 1 of about 20 Species of warbler overwintering and an amazing 36 species (37 if you count Yellow breasted chat as a warbler) recorded for the year.

A Bohemian waxwing found on 28th January was documented for only the second time was only seen by a single observer. Hairy and Downy woodpecker were both present and were 2 of the 4 woodpecker/sapsucker species seen in 2023. Gulls are always present in winter, and Sabines Gulls (yes plural as 2 were seen) on 29th January were the first seen for about 9 years. Other less common gulls during 2023 included a good number of Black Legged Kittiwakes, Black headed, Iceland and Kumlien's gulls.

So how did Bermuda fare in January- well a total of 112 species were recorded and I did reach my goal and actually saw 106 species for the month. A good start to the birding year.

Spring and early summer brought some nice birds: Black necked stilt, Black Bellied whistling duck, both Brown and Masked booby, 4 species of tern, 5 species of shearwater including a single Audubon's, and a record number of South Polar skua were seen.

ID of a Grey heron at Spittal Pond on 15th July started as a joke to brighten up otherwise a dull birding day, photo records showed it had been present for some time but believed to be our common Great Blue Heron.

Late summer heralds the arrival of early warblers and shorebirds one of the first being an Upland Sandpiper at the airport on 25th July. As summer progressed into fall September storms produced a good influx of Terns in addition to the local Common and Roseate terns, Gull Billed, Royal, Sandwich, Black and Least terns all made a welcome appearance, as expected migrants were arriving thick and fast, but then October- Well...Wow!

October is by far the month to potentially see the maximum number of species and 120 for the month would be a great total. A good influx of less common birds made for an awesome month, including all of the eastern US 'empidonax' flycatchers, high numbers of all the eastern US Vireo's, nearly 30 species of warbler, good numbers of migrant sparrows and the star of the month a Say's Phoebe only the 2nd record for Bermuda found by Luke Foster on 22nd helped push my monthly total to 143 species for October alone. Also hitting my yearly target of 200 species before the end of October must surely make my previous total of 204 beatable.

November helped push the species total higher with Bicknell's thrush, (likely 2) Ash Throated Flycatcher, N Flicker, Short Eared owl and Eurasian Wigeon pushing me to 211 species by Mid - month with another 6 weeks to year's end, I must get a few more-surely.

An awesome find on 14th December was the first swan since 1994, I identified it as a Trumpeter swan which would be a new record for Bermuda, but without pictures or a definitive description as ID is difficult, it currently stands as Trumpeter/Tundra swan so unfortunately won't count for the total. A Eurasian collared dove during the Christmas bird count on 16th and a Vesper sparrow on 30th December helped me attain 214 species out of a massive total of 225 species of birds seen in Bermuda during 2023.

Highlights: 37 species of warbler. 11 species of migrant sparrow. 8 tern species. 27 shorebird species. 11 gull species. 12 Heron/Egret species to name a few.

My target for 2024. Well, I will still try for 100 for January and maybe 200 for the year. Whatever happens I'll just enjoy getting out birding. Join me sometime, who knows what can be found.



# AN ALL TOO BRIEF SWAN VISIT

by Paul Watson

On 14th December I decided to have a quick look out at Coopers Point on the ocean, primarily to look for 'cahow'.

Around 3:30 pm as I walked out to the point, I opted to take a detour and walk Well Bay, the beach on the South side of the main path and check to see if there were any shorebirds on the beach. What I found instead was an Immature swan swimming out in the bay. Amazing as our last recorded swan was seen between Nov 1994 and Feb 1995.

I had a brief look through my binoculars and tentatively identified the bird as a Trumpeter swan. I knew this bird was a mega find and got on the 'what's app' chat immediately notifying of its location. I walked the length of the bay and the swan did not seem too bothered by my presence. I had my scope for sea-watching and set it up and got awesome views as it swam between 80 to 100 M offshore.

Here's where it gets interesting, I have seen all of the different times but the bill on this bird was entirely black. (I expected a small yellow lower margin). That said birds are variable but the bill shape and size Trumpeter swan. I tried to get photographs on my phone through but failed miserably. I took a record snap and a brief video. Unbeknown to me Trumpeter swan would be a new species had seen 1 previously, but the 1994 bird was initially identified later confirmed as a Tundra (formerly whistling) swan.

The ID of single swans is fraught with difficulty, as this was an solitary bird there is no size, bill shape, bill colour comparison therefore my initial ID has to be questioned.

After much research I have discovered that the ID of either of the mentioned swans in immature birds relies on the depth and shape of the border where the bill meets the crown, a straight edge versus a curve at the gape, the location of the nostril in the bill and to a lesser extent a visible nib. I can describe what I saw but good photographs would have clinched the ID.

I was forwarded a good eBird checklist illustrating difficulty in comparisons. (Except size)

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S34217282>

Before any other birders arrived the swan was mobbed by a Lesser Black Backed gull which eventually put the bird into flight and it was last seen flying westwards prophetically 'into the sunset', unfortunately never to be seen again. I was informed later; an image was forwarded by Chris Flook of the bird swimming in nearby Annies Bay about an hour before I saw the bird.

Despite my confidence in the ID as I have not yet had a definitive response from Cornell (E Bird) from my description, so the bird remains a Trumpeter/Tundra swan. I'm hoping I don't have to wait another 28 or so years before the next one.



N American swans at a small yellow lower to me were entirely my scope (digi-scoping) This was my downfall. for Bermuda. I believed I as Trumpeter swan but

Photo by Chris Flook

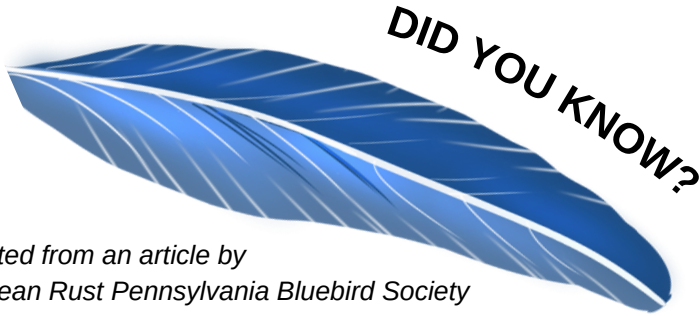


Photo by Paul Watson

# BLUEBIRDS WILL BE LOOKING TO NEST SOON

## ARE YOU READY FOR THEM?

Bluebirds begin defining and defending their nesting territories earlier than other species — generally, starting the end of February, early March. Although the actual egg laying and incubation cycle begins later in the spring, clean, Sparrow-resistant nesting boxes should be up now!!! If chosen, your nest box will provide shelter for the prospective parents from predators and early spring's unpredictable weather in the meantime.



*Adapted from an article by  
Dr. Dean Rust Pennsylvania Bluebird Society*

- All Bluebirds, both male & female, are born with a white eye ring. As the fledglings mature during molting in the fall, the male white eye ring fades away but the females keep their white eye rings their entire life.
- Bluebirds can fly at speeds up to 45 miles per hour if necessary.
- Bluebirds raise their young in old or pre-existing nesting cavities, i.e., they are “secondary cavity-nesters” They have an average nesting success rate of about 60%.



*Photo by Stephen Corrado*

- Eastern Bluebirds live in most of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains plus Bermuda and in Southern Canada. There are also native populations of Eastern Bluebirds in Mexico and Central America.
- Eastern Bluebirds eat mostly insects, and they tend to spy on them from above and then catch them on the ground. Spiders, grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars, and crickets are all favorite foods for them. During the winter months when insects are hard or impossible to find, they will eat a wide range of fruits and seeds. Juniper berries, Holly berries, Winter berries, Dogwood berries, sumac, and mistletoe are all on the menu... plus mealworms and peanut butter suet treats at your bird feeder.
- Eastern Bluebirds that survive to adulthood can live for 4-7 years. That is unusually long for a native songbird, but many Bluebirds do not survive their first year.

Cont...





- A Bluebird can spot caterpillars and insects in tall grass at the remarkable distance of over 50 yards (that is half the length of a football field).
- An active Bluebird nest and/or clutch of blue or white eggs is a wonder of nature. The female turns the eggs many times each day while incubating them under her body without even looking!! This turning of the eggs keeps the temperature even and prevents the yolk inside the eggs from sticking to the shell. It also polishes the exterior of the eggs so they are shiny from the oils on the female's belly. She also orients the eggs so that the rounded end is up (air sac is here) and the pointed end is down. She does that without looking as well!!! If you find a clutch of Bluebird eggs that are dull, not warm, and pale, they are probably abandoned.
- Bluebirds consume about 4 grams of food per day, or about 12% of their body weight. This is equivalent to a two-hundred-pound human eating 24 pounds of food each day.
- As the days grow longer in the spring, a male Bluebird's brain releases hormones that stimulate the production of testosterone. This hormone in turn stimulates the area of the brain responsible for singing behavior, thus triggering the male to begin his mating song.
- Unpaired male Bluebirds may sing up to 1,000 songs per hour, but males as a group average a more reasonable rate of four to five hundred songs per hour.

- Bluebirds don't typically mate for life, although it's not uncommon for a breeding pair to spend more than one breeding season together. During the breeding season, they are monogamous, meaning they form a "pair-bond" and work together to raise their chicks.
- Females never turn bright blue, instead staying a dull blue-gray for their whole lives, although they do have some bright blue feathers. The males will begin to develop bright blue feathers when they molt in the fall. They may appear especially blue during the mating season.
- A female Bluebird will typically lay between 3 and 5 eggs in her nest. Bermuda Bluebirds on average have two nests each season, divided into brood periods of April-May and June-July. Three nests are not uncommon.
- There are seven subspecies of Eastern Bluebirds. *Sialia sialis* is the most common in the US, *sialis bermudensis* in Bermuda, *sialis nifidicans* in central Mexico, *sialis fulva* in southwestern US and Mexico, *sialis guatemalae* in southern Mexico and Guatemala, *sialis meridionalis* in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and *sialis caribaea* in Honduras and Nicaragua.
- The Eastern Bluebird's Song is very distinctive. They make a call that sounds like "chur lee" or "chir we". To be exact, it is a "warble". Many birdwatchers describe it as sounding like they are singing the words "truly" or "purity".
- Bluebirds are very social and their flocks can number from a dozen to over a hundred. However, they do not live in flocks, only during the fall and winter seasons. During the breeding months is when you will see Bluebirds alone or in pairs and will be close to their nesting sites.
- Bluebirds are highly territorial. During their breeding season, the males will protect their nesting sites even before they have found a female to mate with. The male Bluebird is a sentinel/guardian and he is very adept at protecting the nesting site, especially when the female is incubating eggs or feeding chicks. She is most vulnerable at this time and the male is willing and ready to take on any predator or another male Bluebird!!





# 70 Years of Audubon in Bermuda

We are so pleased to be celebrating our 70th year. The Bermuda Audubon Society was founded in 1954 with the mission "to conserve Bermuda's special bird life and habitats for the benefit of all." It was formed by a small group of naturalists to address growing environmental concerns in Bermuda including the imminent demise of the native Eastern Bluebird and the Government policy of filling in biodiverse marsh habitats and using them as garbage dumps.

Among their early achievements included being the first organization to promote environmental education in the schools, establishing a successful nest box program for Eastern Bluebirds and lobbying for revisions to the Protection of Birds Act to prohibit the killing of Owls and Hawks. They also mounted a vigorous campaign against the policy of filling wetlands with garbage.

Even in those early years, it was clear that the only way to protect Bermuda's marshes and other significant habitats was for the Audubon Society to acquire the land and manage it appropriately for conservation. This struck a chord with the people of Bermuda who were already concerned about the loss of open space to development. With public support, we were able to purchase the property that is now Seymour's Pond Nature Reserve. The next purchase was Paget Marsh. We are now responsible for 20 Nature Reserves across Bermuda. Four of these reserves are held with the Bermuda National Trust as part of the Buy Back Bermuda campaign.

Environmental education was an early part of our mission. Nonsuch Camp was started in the early 1970s. It was a week-long natural history training course and camp for high school students located in the incomparable setting of the Nonsuch Island Living Museum nature reserve. In addition to the coursework and field trips, the students had to rough it, sleeping outdoors and preparing their own meals. Graduates have fond memories of their Nonsuch Camp experience, and many were inspired to pursue careers in science, education and conservation. The role of Nonsuch Camp has now been taken over by the Living Classroom program at Trunk Island.

Bird conservation is a key component of our efforts. Our highly successful Bluebird Nest Box Programme is going strong under the leadership of Stuart Smith and the Bermuda Bluebird Society. The Bluebird Society is now a subdivision of the Audubon Society. Volunteers spend long hours each year monitoring a myriad of Bluebird boxes across the island's golf courses and public spaces. We build and sell kits and boxes for use by the community and provide education on the importance of our Bluebird population. We also build and sell artificial Longtail Igloos and provide instruction on how to install them. A little-known part of our bird conservation efforts is the Tern Recovery Programme. Our local breeding Common Tern population has been intensively managed for decades under the guidance of David Wingate but remains critically endangered. This is largely due to the impact of hurricanes and other unknown circumstances in their time away from Bermuda. Dr. Wingate recently published an article about this work in the Wilson Journal of Ornithology.

Educational field trips have always been part of our offerings. We lead guided walks across the island with a focus on birdwatching and sometimes bird photography. The introduction of digital tools for the documentation, identification and reporting of bird sightings has enabled many in the community to learn the joys of bird observation and photography. Our birders Whatapp hotline is quite active with 45 members. This convivial group not only shares the location of the most recent exciting bird sighting but also provides a supportive forum for improving bird identification skills.

Advocacy has always been part of our mission. As urgent as they felt the problem was in the 1950s, loss of open space to development is even more problematic now. We continue to review Planning applications and do all we can to protect our open spaces. This year we collaborated with BEST and BNT on campaign to minimize the environmental impacts of the Fairmont Southampton development. We are also trying to protect the woodlands of Southlands Park.

We have a long legacy and so much to celebrate. We are planning a year full of special events and hope you will join us. Please consider making a special anniversary year donation to support our efforts.

*Historical details courtesy of David Wingate from our 50th Anniversary magazine.*



**BLOCK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

**WE WILL HONOUR DAVID WINGATE  
FOR HIS LIFELONG SUPPORT OF THE  
BERMUDA AUDUBON SOCIETY AND HIS  
EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
CONSERVATION IN BERMUDA.**

**DETAILS TO FOLLOW**



# SAVE THE DATE

**70TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION  
DINNER**

**MAY | 4 | 2024**

# BUYING BACK BERMUDA FOR YOU AND OUR WILDLIFE

## Campaign Three...High Point Nature Reserve

Buy Back Bermuda has launched a new campaign to raise \$250,000 to create a public nature reserve at the recently acquired 10 acres in Southampton. An exceptional individual gift, and funds from BBB's acquisition account, enabled BBB to acquire ten pristine rural acres of arable fields, woodland and spectacular coastline at High Point in Southampton in 2021. The property holds incredible value in terms of recreation, agriculture and biodiversity. BBB intends to make this beautiful property available for the public to enjoy and needs \$250,000 to do so.

Help us to protect Bermuda's open spaces and Bermuda's newest nature reserve HIGH POINT!  
Nature matters. We all benefit when open space and biodiversity are protected.

Ways to donate:

Visit <https://www.buybackbermuda.bm>

Call 236 6483 to donate with credit card by phone

Make a direct transfer to Butterfield  
Acc.# 20 006 060 842793 100  
with name in memo field

Send cheque payable to Buy Back Bermuda  
to PO Box HM 61, Hamilton HM AX

If you are looking for that meaningful birthday or anniversary gift, consider the gift that keeps giving.  
Make a donation in your loved one's name.  
We will supply the gift certificate complete with bow.



## EVE'S POND ADOPTED



We are thrilled that **PwC Bermuda** will sponsor Eve's Pond Nature Reserve nature reserve in Hamilton Parish for the next five years. The \$73,000 sponsorship will benefit the 3.4-acre reserve, which opened to the public in April 2022. Keir Savage, partner at PwC Bermuda, said "the sponsorship reflects the company's commitment to making a positive impact on the environment and our dedication to the preservation and sustainability of our natural surroundings. By adopting Eve's Pond, we aim to contribute to the beautification, conservation and enhancement of this vital community space. As part of our five-year sponsorship, our people will engage in regular clean-ups, maintenance events and planting initiatives with Buy Back Bermuda."

*THANK YOU!*



# SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Stokes Point East Volunteer Day  
October 28 2023



Youth Climate Summit  
November 16 2024



Sovos Volunteer Bluebird Box Building  
November 22 2023



Ferry Point Park  
Guided Bird Walk and Bird Banding Experience  
December 2 2023



Eve's Pond Volunteer Day  
December 9 2023



PwC Volunteer Day at Eve's Pond  
December 12 2023



Christmas Bird Count  
December 16 2023



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SAVE THE DATE

### LECTURE... 2023: A Big Year For Birds In Bermuda

8 February 2024 7:30 pm

Talk by Miguel Mejias at BUEI

Tickets at [www.buei.org](http://www.buei.org) or from the gift shop at 294-2024

### Birdwatching at Government House

18 February 8:30 am (rain date of 3 March)

Sign up at [info@audubon.bm](mailto:info@audubon.bm)

### Paget Island Camping Weekend

22-24 March 2024


Take advantage of this opportunity to spend a weekend on beautiful Paget Island.


### 70th Anniversary



#### Celebration Dinner

Saturday, 4 May 2024

Details coming soon






### 2023: A Big Year for Birds in Bermuda

With Presenter Dr. Miguel Mejias

**Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**



Dr. Miguel Mejias will present some of his favourite birding highlights of 2023 where his goal was to record at least 200 bird species in Bermuda in a single year, a mission fondly known to the birding world as a "Big Year." Not only will he showcase both resident and migratory species of Bermuda, but he will also give insight into birdwatching culture, the art of finding birds, and the importance of documenting and reporting unusual species.

Dr. Miguel Mejias is a Bermudian Ornithologist, Naturalist, and Conservationist. He began as an apprentice to Dr. David Wingate, who inspired him to pursue a career in Ornithology and Conservation, particularly, in Bermuda.

As part of his M.Sc. research, he used tiny geolocators to track the wintering whereabouts of post-breeding White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon lepturus catesbyi*) or "Longtails." His doctoral work shifted to songbirds, where he studied the singing and breeding behaviour of the Bermuda White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus bermudianus*) or "Chick-of-the-Village." He was awarded both his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. He currently serves as committee member on both the Bermuda Audubon Society and the Bermuda Zoological Society Trunk Island Living Classroom, through the Bermuda Zoological Society.

**Tickets: \$20 Members | \$25 Non-Members | Students: \$10**  
 Visit [www.buei.org](http://www.buei.org), call 294-0204 or visit BUEI's Oceans Gift Shop

THE BERMDA UNDERWATER EXPLORATION INSTITUTE 40 CROW LANE, HAMILTON | 441-294-0204 | [www.buei.bm](http://www.buei.bm)

# AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**MAY 29TH 2024 6:00 PM**  
**AT WATERVILLE**

#### Page 4 Photo credits in order of appearance

*Hooded Warbler*  
Miguel Mejias

*Hairy Woodpecker*  
Miguel Mejias

*Upland Sandpiper*  
Miguel Mejias

*Brown Pelican*  
Tim White

*Short-billed Dowitcher*  
Eva Botelli

*Ash Throated flycatcher*  
Miguel Mejias



# Volunteers

are the lifeblood of the Bermuda Audubon Society, providing their time, skills, and passion to make a positive difference. The Society is run by a volunteer Committee of Management. We have no premises or paid staff and we could not do what we do without volunteers.

In this issue we give special thanks to those who share their time and skill set to our bluebird nest box programme. In 2023 **Danny Greene, Tom Vesey, Ted Cassidy and Hubert Watlington** cut wood to make up kits for nest boxes. Some cut wood was assembled into boxes that were then painted and the rest bundled into kits complete with nails and instructions.

We are grateful to **Aberfeldy Nurseries Limited** for selling our boxes and kits with all proceeds going back into the Society to cover costs.



**Stuart Smith** also deserves a shout out for his dedication to bluebird conservation. He makes himself available to lead bluebird box making workshops, answers community concerns regarding bluebirds and oversees a dedicated group of volunteers who monitor bluebird trails across Bermuda.

**Thank you to all of the bluebird warriors in Bermuda**

Join the flock of bluebird trail monitors by contacting Stuart  
777 9856 or [Smitty@ibl.bm](mailto:Smitty@ibl.bm)

## JOIN US

There are numerous opportunities to volunteer for the Bermuda Audubon Society, ranging from taking on a specific role, such as membership secretary or honorary warden of a specific nature reserve, to joining occasional work parties in our nature reserves.

We would welcome some new blood and energy on our committee of management and or volunteers to help coordinate field trips and events.

Please email [info@audubon.bm](mailto:info@audubon.bm) or call 735-0441 if you want to volunteer.

