

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S PERCH

This past year has been very eventful for the Bermuda Audubon Society (BAS) particularly with regard to the changing of our name. It was agreed at our AGM in June that we will become Birds and Nature Bermuda and we are in the process of making that change. It is not as straightforward as we had hoped but we are receiving legal assistance from Carey Olsen law firm which we greatly appreciate and, hopefully, we will make the change early in the New Year!

We had a change of Committee Members in June - Janice Hetzel stepped down after serving 3 years as our President. Her work on behalf of the BAS has been vital to Bermuda's environmental health, and we truly value all she has done and continues to do. Janice spends countless hours researching planning applications to save and preserve what little open space we still have on the island and, thankfully, she continues to sit as a member of our committee. Her dedication to the BAS is indispensable and we cannot thank her enough!

We also welcomed Olesya Wehlau as Secretary. Olesya works in the corporate world and brings a great deal of knowledge supporting the administration side of the BAS and the legal aspects of changing our name. We are very thankful to have her.

Jennifer Gray has remained as the Vice President and continues to provide assistance, particularly with Buy Back Bermuda (BBB) of which she is the Chair. The BAS shares four properties with the BNT under the BBB banner - the most recent acquisition being the High Point Nature Reserve in Southampton. Jennifer worked extremely hard readying the reserve for the grand opening last April to the point where she was planting trees and shrubs in the dark the night before!

We are also very thankful that Zelia Amaral continues as our Treasurer. This job is extremely tedious and requires an accounting background which, thankfully, Zelia has. She spent many hours preparing our financial reports for the 2023 audit - something which was never required before that year. Thanks to Zelia's hard work and dedication, we are now in an advantageous position should an audit be required in the future.

Additionally, I want to express my appreciation for Committee Members - Joanne Smith who produces our newsletter, has taken on bluebird box construction and provides IT support; Andrea Webb our Policy Officer,

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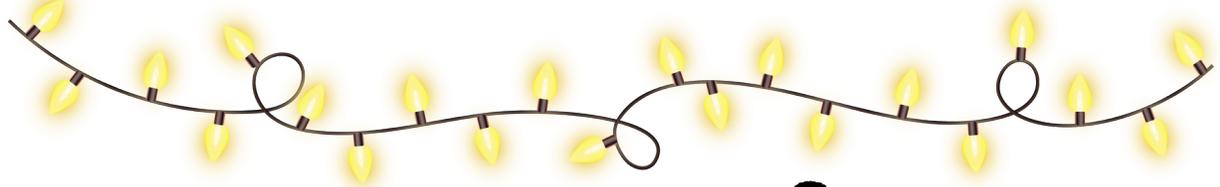
Karen Border our editor, writer and go to for all and Paul Watson who provides bird reports and leads birding excursions, Jeremy Madeiros and David Wingate are Honorary Members and Miguel Mejias also leads birding excursions. We have a fantastic team, and we appreciate the time everyone gives.

Someone who works behind the scenes managing our membership is Alistair Border. Alistair keeps track of members, dues and updates our list as necessary. He also provides a great deal of support with volunteer work in our various reserves - he is invaluable to us!

Lastly, I want to thank all our Members and Volunteers for sticking with the Bermuda Audubon Society. We realize that there are many worthy charities in Bermuda - and worldwide - that need support. Your contributions to the BAS assist us with our continued goal of maintaining and preserving Bermuda's birds and habitats.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year that brings many bird sightings!

Heather Bottelli
President



ARCTIC WARBLER (*Phylloscopus borealis*) AT PORT ROYAL GC - 26 OCTOBER 2025 The Second Record for Bermuda

by Ian Fisher and Paul Watson



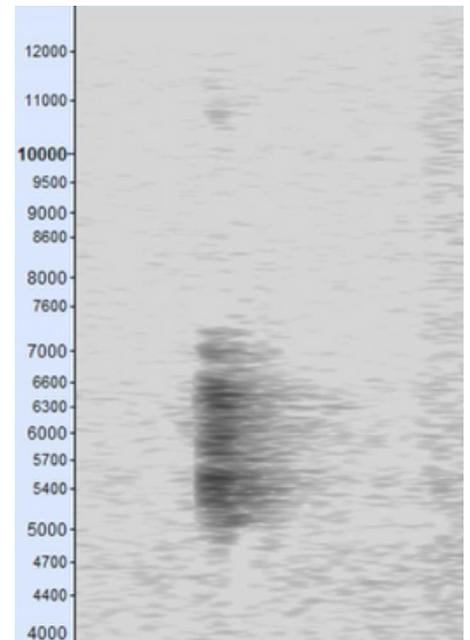
Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)
Photo: Ian Fisher

Since arriving in Bermuda on the evening of 19th October, birding had been pretty full on. By the end of 21st October, 98 species had been seen, and it became clear that IF might beat his previous best trip total of 121 species from October 2019. Over the next four days the total had crept up to 120 species and the anticipation increased as to what might be the record-breaking species?

The morning of 26th failed to produce any new trip ticks, so we decided to go to Port Royal Golf Course in the afternoon in the hope of re-finding a Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) that had been seen recently.

We picked up JS on the way and arrived at Port Royal just before 1400hrs. The ponds at #1 & #2 were quiet, so we headed round to park by the tennis courts and head on over to the pond on #17. Unfortunately, the Dowitcher was absent although an American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) provided species number 121.

We headed over to bird the area adjacent to the Tee on #8 (just above the entrance to the dump). PW & JS were first there and had just started squeaking when IF arrived. A bird with a distinctive 'dzziik' call was heard coming into the squeaking which PW thought may be an odd **Ovenbird** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*). IF, having his American Warbler head on, was at a loss to name it but didn't think it sounded like an Ovenbird, when it suddenly came into view. This created some initial confusion, as the bird was dark olive green above, whitish with a hint of a yellow wash below, a whacking long pale supercilium, dark eyestripe, mottled ear coverts and a narrow white greater covert wing bar with a hint of a second median covert wing bar and dark legs! PW then mused that it looked like a '*Phyllosc*' to which IF replied '**that's because it is a *Phyllosc* !**' Suddenly the call and plumage all made sense, and we both realised that it was an **Arctic Warbler** (*Phylloscopus borealis*)!



Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)
Photo: Ian Fisher

As the bird was close and was consistently calling, IF suggested that PW & JS tried to record the call on their phones whilst he tried to obtain some photographs. All our efforts were successful and confirmed the initial identification.

Once the bird was identified as a species of *Phylloscopus* warbler, the identification was straightforward as Arctic Warbler. The call is diagnostic amongst *Phyllosc*s and, perhaps, only **Kamchatka Warbler** (*Phylloscopus examinandus*) comes close, but their call is slower and more gratey and is usually a double-note. A sonogram of the bird's call was produced (above) and our thanks are due to Mike Carr for producing it for us.

This is the second record of Arctic Warbler for Bermuda and amazingly is about 100 meters from the location of the first which was found in the Pompano/Port Royal dump area on 18th February to at least 9th March 2014.

NEW DISCOVERIES WITH THE BERMUDA PETREL (CAHOW) BIOMONITORING PROJECT

by *Jeremy Madeiros*

Principal Scientist - Terrestrial Conservation

Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources



Cahow at sea 3 miles SE of Bermuda
Nov. 2013. Photo: Kirk Zufelt

The Cahow Recovery Program is one of the longest continuous recovery projects in the history of Restoration Ecology and was started shortly after the surprise re-discovery of a seabird which was thought to have become extinct by the 1620s. In 1951, a small number of Cahows were found nesting on tiny rocky islets off the east end of Bermuda, with the Recovery Program being initiated around 1960. This Program has enabled the Cahow to increase in numbers from 18 breeding pairs producing a combined total of only 7 to 8 fledglings annually, to the present population of 165 breeding pairs producing a total of 78 successfully fledged chicks in 2025.



11 Jan 2025 Beautiful male E0676 Cahow from Nonsuch R825 nest incubating fertile egg

The Bermuda petrel (Cahow) Biomonitoring Project is a collaborative effort that was initiated in 2019 with several international researchers and has been ongoing ever since. Despite being partially disrupted during the covid pandemic in 2020-2021, it has continued to bear fruit with a wealth of new information on the biology, foraging strategies and at-sea range of the Cahow, as well as levels of Persistent Organic Pesticides (POPs) that bioaccumulate in these long-lived seabirds.



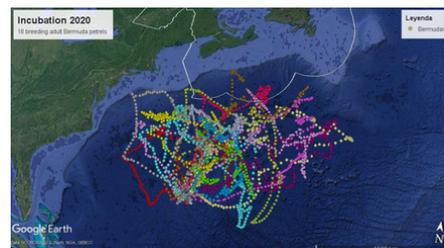
07 March 2024 Jeremy Madeiros and Letizia Campioni with 4-5 day old Cahow chick from Nonsuch R820 nest at a colony. Selfie by L Campioni

In June of 2025, we published another peer-reviewed research article in the journal "Ecology and Evolution" titled "Fine-Scale Movement Data Reveal Primarily Surface Foraging and Nocturnal Flight Activity in the Endangered Bermuda Petrel (Cahow)". This is the fifth paper or article to come out of this project. Authors include Paolo Becciu (Dept. of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Allison Patterson (Wildlife Research Division, Dept. of Environment and Climate Change, Canada), Jeremy Madeiros, (Terrestrial Conservation, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, Flatts, Bermuda), and Letizia Campioni, (MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, ISPA – Instituto Universitario, Lisboa, Portugal).

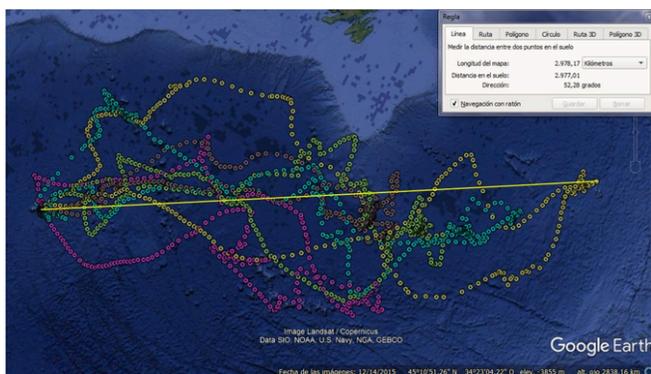
This project was carried out during the egg incubation period of the Cahow's breeding season in January and February 2023 and involved deploying 25 miniaturized multi-sensor biologgers of 3 different types, ranging from 2.5 to 5 grams in weight. These were attached to the back feathers or central tail feathers of selected adult breeding Cahows using Tesa tape, which can be safely removed (with care) with no loss of feathers at the end of the deployment period.



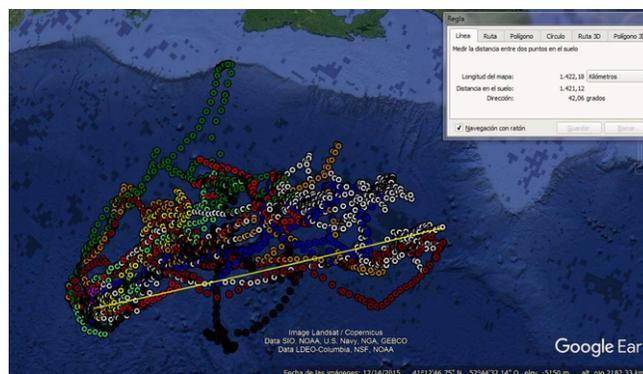
Biologgers have also been fitted to adult Cahows during the early chick-rearing period, and for periods of up to 1-2 years to investigate oceanic range during the non-breeding period. Fitting these loggers on the Cahows is necessary because the huge area and remote nature of their feeding and foraging grounds makes direct observation of foraging behavior impracticable, requiring the use of remote tracking technology. Briefly, some of the findings are as follows:



- GPS tracking data showed extensive feeding trips lasting an average of 10.3 days, with Cahows travelling an average maximum distance of 1207 Km, +/- 305 Km from the breeding colony in Bermuda, in consistent directions/routes, over remote oceanic regions. The at-sea range used by the birds during this period encompassed 3,303,963 square kilometers of the Western North Atlantic Ocean during the egg incubation period.
- During foraging trips, Cahows spend over 75% of their time in flight, mainly in dynamic soaring flight. Dynamic soaring is a very energy-efficient flight technique used by petrels such as the Cahow and was the most common flight technique used under all conditions. Flight activity increased during dusk and at night, showing greater activity at night compared to the day, while water surface behaviors were more common during the day.
- The evidence showed that Cahows engaged in very limited diving activity. Less than 0.001% of depth measurements from 8 Cahows exceeded 0.1 meter, with the maximum depth recorded at 1.57m. There were only 5 dives deeper than 0.5m. Dives were very brief, with the deepest dive to 1.57m lasting 4 seconds. 99.9% of depth readings recorded by tags were shallower than 0.1m. The results show that Cahows are overwhelmingly nocturnal surface feeders, only rarely engaging in shallow diving during their extensive feeding trips on the open ocean.



Bermuda Petrel, Incubation 2019 (selection of shortest foraging trips)



Bermuda Petrel, Incubation 2019 (selection of longest foraging trips)

This project shows the level of teamwork and technology required, with scientists from various countries and areas of expertise, needed to unveil these amazing facts, unravelling the secrets of the life and adaptations used by Bermuda's iconic and fascinating National Bird.

AGM NEWS - New Faces on the Committee and A New Name in the Works

At the recent Annual General Meeting, members of the Bermuda Audubon Society elected this year's Committee of Management and voted in favour of adopting a new name for the organization — **Birds & Nature Bermuda**. The Society will now begin the legal and procedural steps to formally effect this change.

Heather Bottelli has been elected **President**, bringing energy and fresh vision to the role, while **Olesya Wehlau** will serve as **Secretary**. **Jennifer Gray** will remain as **Vice-President**, and **Zelia Amaral** continues as **Treasurer**.

The following members were also elected to continue serving on the Committee: **Karen Border**, **Janice Hetzel**, **Miguel Mejías**, **Joanne Smith**, **Paul Watson**, and **Andrea Webb**. Long-time conservation leaders **Jeremy Madeiros** and **Dr. David Wingate** remain Honorary Members of the Committee, and are always welcome to attend meetings to share their invaluable expertise and guidance.

The organization expresses its gratitude to outgoing committee members and looks forward to an exciting new chapter under the Birds & Nature Bermuda name — continuing its mission to protect Bermuda's birds, wildlife, and natural habitats for generations to come.



Heather Bottelli,
President



Jennifer Gray,
Vice President



Zelia Amaral,
Treasurer



Miguel Méjias,



Joanne Smith



Janice Hetzel



Paul Watson



Karen Border



Jeremy Madeiros



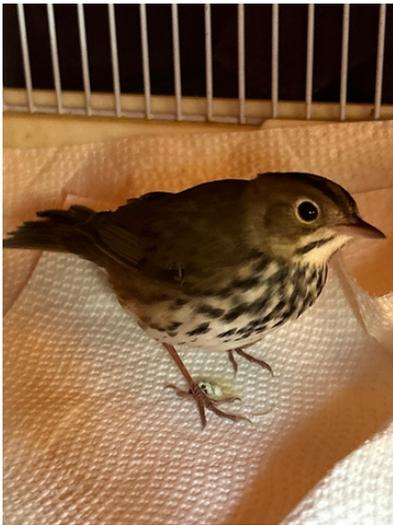
David Wingate



Andrea Webb

WINDOW & CAR STRIKES

A Migrating Bird's Possible Peril



Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) in rehab after a window strike. After getting over the initial shock it appeared to be fine but soon showed signs of neurological problems. It was treated by Lynn Thorne and eventually, successfully released.

It's November and Fall migration is well under way. The island has seen multiple bird species arrive over the past few weeks - some easy to spot, like **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** swooping low over roads, and many small Warblers turning up in surprising places, even in Hamilton.

Two big dangers for these birds are windows and cars - both can lead to strong impact injuries. With windows, birds may get confused by reflections and lights at night, and early mornings often reveal a stunned bird below a window with eyes closed and feathers puffed. This is likely a window strike. The safest course of action is to place the bird in a box or cover it so it cannot move away. Older advice suggested a short rest and release, but we now know many birds suffer hidden injuries, despite appearing to have "recovered". A burst of adrenaline and their instinct to escape will often make them seem fine after the initial shock and they'll often attempt to fly off, but may decline later. The same should be done for car strikes which can cause the same behaviour and issues as window strikes.

The main concern is head trauma, similar to a concussion in humans, which can result in neurological symptoms a day or more later if the bird is released too soon. A second very common impact injury is a coracoid fracture.

The coracoid is similar to a human's collarbone and if fractured can render a bird flightless despite any obvious wing droop (which you would expect to see with a more typical broken wing). If it isn't a full break, the bird can often make short flights which will only worsen the injury over time. For head trauma, birds need to be treated by a licensed rehabilitator with anti-inflammatories to reduce, control and prevent swelling. They also need rest for potential internal injuries and, once improved, a proper flight test close to the time of release if a coracoid fracture is known. Some can be in rehab for just a few days, while others may take weeks.

If you come across a bird that appears to need help - regardless of the circumstances - please contact us on 705-9538 and we will get it to a licensed rehabilitator.



Recently, a juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron (BCNH) was rescued in Southampton by a very brave Jessica Riederer. Unlike the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, which are fairly docile and used to humans, the BCNH is much more feisty and aggressive. Jessica found this out the hard way when it stabbed her in her lip! Luckily that was the only injury that she incurred as these herons, and some of the larger ones, have been known to inflict serious (and deadly) wounds on rescuers. This particular bird was lucky to have someone who was able to manage it and it was safely delivered to Lynn Thorne who is a licensed Wild Life Rehabilitator. Lynn reported that it was quite under weight when she received it but it is making steady, improved progress and it should be able to be released soon.



Echoes Above Limestone, High Point Nature Reserve

Andrea Ottley

*A place where I once trespassed camera and bins
slung over neck and shoulders soft-footed through garden green
where no sign had yet said belong or do not
only birds spoke and i listened.*

*It was the first place I saw my first flock of bobolinks.
Their voices like jangling chains, unfastened
in the air and now a nature reserve
Streamlined. Marked by signs.*

*Bermuda spice trees lean into seabreeze.
Cedar bones remnants of blight.
Fiddlewood leaves like pages lacquered in sun
gleam bright.*

*The chick-of-de-village aka Bermuda white-eyed vireo
threads its call through green.
A stitch. Old memory sewn into the quietude of now.
Longtails looping in elegy calling eeking each other
across the sky.*

*A whale breaches Turquoise broken
A marvel you almost miss
by blinking.*

*Poison ivy nestles the trail's edge
beside the sign
its warning quiet, the kind that speaks against skin
you don't belong here unless you remember.*

*Bermudiana blue eyes bloom
peeled with yellow at the seams
hug the ivy.*

*The sun lends its heat
a touch pressing through seabreeze.
Salt slicks the skin. A feral cock crows
on the hour. Kiskadees bellow back a bit
quarrelsome.*

*The trail winds. Brushes against time
and there the beek ruin its stone ribs exposed,
hollow with what was done.
Slavers and slaves.
Now, a history exposed.
Indian laurels stripped back,
their root-like veins choked
on the past.*

*Now the ruin does not speak
But breathes again open, wounded
truth visible in sun.*

*Beneath a brooding sky of steel,
the ocean breathes blue Laced with foam.
Shadows drift across reef slow,
rhythmic.*

*He, the sea wraps the rocks in silken sapphire.
He sighs. The cliffs keepers of his song,
hold them like a vault.*

*He pulses for restless hearts
shimmering in aquamarine,
green, and dread
And now an interlude
between trespass and return.*

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SPEAK UP FOR SOUTHLANDS

by Janice Hetzel

The fate of **Southlands Park** still hangs in the balance.

Over the past six months, **seven separate planning applications** have been submitted for developments within the Park — all **before** an approved **Management Plan** is in place. Last summer, **nearly 500 people** took part in the **Public Consultation** on the Draft Management Plan. The overwhelming message was clear: **keep Southlands natural**, with **minimal built amenities**. Under the **National Parks Act**, this public input must be considered before the draft plan is revised and reviewed by the **National Parks Commission**. Only after that process can a final plan be approved by the Minister and formally take effect. Until then, the Act explicitly protects existing conditions, stating that:

“no change of use that may, in the opinion of the Minister, diminish the natural environment or historic features shall be allowed.”

By advancing these planning applications prematurely, the **Ministry of Public Works and the Environment** is **circumventing** the process that was designed to safeguard Bermuda's **national parks and open spaces** — our most limited and precious natural resources.

Public Opposition Growing

Public concern continues to mount. A **petition** calling for Government to “immediately halt all development within Southlands National Park and turn it into a Nature Reserve” has already gathered **over 5,600 signatures**. This was followed by a **rally at the Park** and a widespread **letter-writing campaign**.

Now is the time to keep up the pressure.

We urge all our members to **speak up for Southlands**:

- Write to your **MP, Minister Jache Adams, and Premier Burt**
- Submit letters to the editor to the **Royal Gazette** and **Bernews**
- Share your thoughts and photos on **social media** — tell Bermuda what Southlands means to you, and tag **@BermudaGovernment** and **@astridcore_adventures**

Why It Matters

A **Management Plan** provides the blueprint for a park's long-term care — setting the vision, permitted uses, and conservation priorities. It is **highly inappropriate** to consider piecemeal development proposals before that plan is approved. Even more troubling, these developments are being advanced by the **Department of Public Lands and Buildings**, not the **Department of Parks**, whose mission is to conserve and manage Bermuda's natural heritage.

Apart from one application already decided, **the future of Southlands Park is not yet sealed**.

Let's make sure it is protected — **Speak up for Southlands now**.



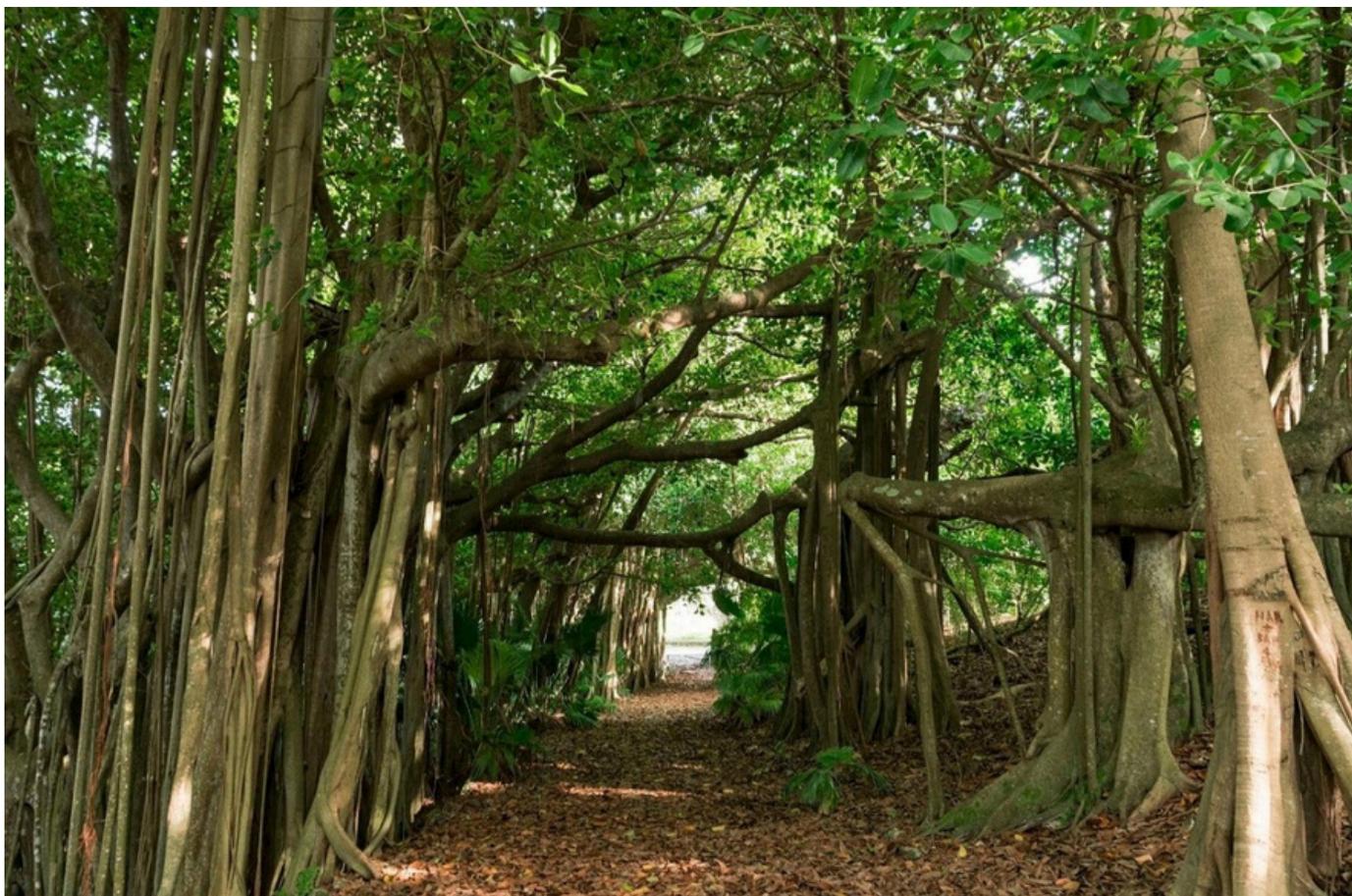
Planning Applications and BAS Objections

Application	Proposal	BAS Objection
P0086-25	Zip Line Adventure Course and renovation of 77 South Road as support building (<i>In Review</i>)	REP0055-25
P0157-25	Café, parking, woodland trail, bathroom facilities, cliffside remediation (<i>In Review</i>)	REP0101-25
P0159-25	Renovation of 73 South Road for offices (<i>Approved</i>)	REP0137-25
P0221-25	Renovation of 67 South Road for 1-bedroom apartment (<i>Refused</i>)	REP0168-25
P0286-25	Renovation of 67 South Road for bathroom and shower facilities (<i>In Review</i>)	REP0194-25
P0272-25	Renovation of 83 South Road for meeting/event space (<i>In Review</i>)	REP0192-25
P0229-25	40-metre protective seawall at base of eastern cliffs (<i>In Review</i>)	REP0170-25

BAS Submission on Draft Management Plan for Southlands Park

Safeguarding Southlands: A Call for Clearer Protections and Responsible Stewardship

- [Summary Page](#)
- [Point by Point Commentary](#)



WHITE (FAIRY) TERN

(*Gygis Alba*)

by Paul Watson

08:36 hours Tuesday 24th June 2025.

Kindley Field park. St George's Bermuda.

I was riding my bike along the old base road, having just passed the NATO hangar, and was casually observing the mangrove area of Kindley Park, when I saw a crow pursuing an all white bird. It was immediately evident it was a medium-sized tern, and the bird was entirely pale white with an obvious forked tail. Despite being around 50 metres away, I immediately thought (expletive out) that looks like a Fairy Tern. A pigeon was also giving chase to this gleaming white bird. I lost view for a few seconds almost crashing my bike in my haste to get onto the baseball diamond area the bird was flying toward.



Blue-billed White-Tern (*Gygis candida*)
Photo: Neal Morris

I raced to the overlook area and saw the pigeon was still giving chase along the airport fence line and the tern was similar in size but much slenderer. I got my binoculars onto the bird at a distance of about 30 metres and saw unequivocally that it was a Fairy Tern (now re-named White-Tern). I am familiar with the species from the Seychelles. I watched the tern fly away from me and noted the features listed. At a distance of 50 metres the bird was momentarily lost against the sun, and I panicked as I tried to re-find it. I re-found the bird a few seconds later as it was rapidly gaining height and heading generally NW. Again, my thoughts were this was, without a doubt, a Fairy Tern - the entirely white plumage, dark eye and bill with a deeply forked (about 1.5 inch) tail were a clincher. I tried to get video with my cell phone with no luck. I continued watching the bird as it circled higher in thermals and momentarily joined a White-tailed Tropicbird in flight overhead, relating size as a much smaller bird, appearing long winged and showing the forked tail in flight. The bird at this point was several hundred metres and distancing itself fairly quickly.

I messaged the bird group on WhatsApp in an effort to see if anyone was close. I continued watching the bird gain height and continue NW. It was lost high over BIOS. I then raced to Ferry Point Park in an attempt to re-locate the bird with no luck.

Description: Medium-sized tern. In my opinion larger than a Least Tern and marginally smaller than our local Common Tern both in body and wing length. Plumage was entirely gleaming white with no darker patches visible anywhere in flight. Overhead the bird appeared translucent. Appeared fairly large-headed and head shape was very rounded with a thinner neck, slender body and medium length tail with an obvious fork and no extended outer tail feathers. Neck looked long and wing joint set back with an obvious forward projection of the leading edge of the wing. Large dark eye appearing almost 'goggle-eyed' and medium-long entirely dark bill, medium thick at base and needle point thin at tip. The bill looks long on the bird as it is larger than head depth. This species is absolutely unmistakable and despite no photos the identification to me is unquestionable.

Bird observed through Swarovski 10x32 NL Pure binoculars affording excellent optical views.



Blue-billed White-Tern (*Gygis candida*)
Photo: LeShun Smith

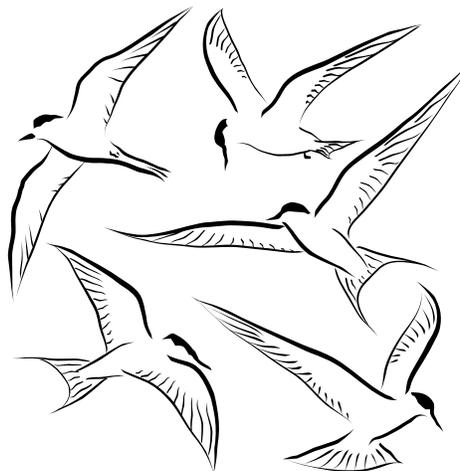


Blue-billed White-Tern (*Gygis candida*)
Photo: Herb Marshall

The bird disappeared NW and after a few days of not being found, thought never to be seen again...well...

... late on the 11th of July a picture emerged of an odd bird sat on a chimney on the waterside in St George's Harbour. The bird was a White Tern. It could only be the same White Tern from 3 weeks earlier. A late evening look revealed nothing. No bird. OMG has it gone again?! Well, the only thing left was an early-morning twitch and myself and Miguel Mejias (who was there well before me) sitting on Ordnance Island in the hope it would return. I like 'playing' and really just for fun a couple of times I said 'There it is'. I do think after the second time Miguel was not impressed. A short while later the third time I said 'there it is'... there it actually was, flying around just by Wahoo's restaurant. It flew around the area and over to the car park area on Market Wharf, where after a quick sprint Miguel and I got some awesome views with the bird actually flying around us and almost landing on my hand and Miguel's Camera. As they say - the rest is history! I believe every active birder and even the curious non-birders, got to see the bird over the next few days as it sporadically returned to roost on the chimney. Interestingly photographs of the bird, particularly the bill and leg colouration, lead me to believe it originated from the population which breed on Pitcairn and Henderson Islands in the Pacific Ocean. A long way from home. The bird was last seen on 31st July?

NOTE: As of August 2025 the American Ornithological Society made changes to the classification of White Terns (genus *Gygis*). One of those changes is that there are now 3 species of White Terns instead of just one: the Atlantic White-Tern (*Gygis alba*), the Little White-Tern (*Gygis microrhyncha*) and the Blue-billed White-Tern (*Gygis candida*): [Link to AOS Publication](#)



IN MEMORIAM



Remembering Tommy Outerbridge

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Tommy Outerbridge this past summer. Tommy was a passionate and tireless advocate for Bermuda's birds—especially our beloved Bluebirds. Through his enthusiasm and leadership, he helped transform Bluebird conservation from the efforts of a few dedicated individuals into a vibrant, community-wide movement. Thanks to his outreach, countless property owners became involved in protecting and providing safe nesting sites for these treasured birds.

Tommy also produced a much-loved [documentary](#) on Bermuda's Bluebirds, featuring his original song "Mr. Bluebird Blue." His creativity and commitment brought the story of Bermuda's Bluebirds to life and inspired many to join the cause. In recognition of his outstanding contributions as founder and president of the Bluebird Society, Tommy was awarded a Life Membership in the Bermuda Audubon Society. His passion, generosity, and dedication to the Bluebirds and Bermuda's natural heritage will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

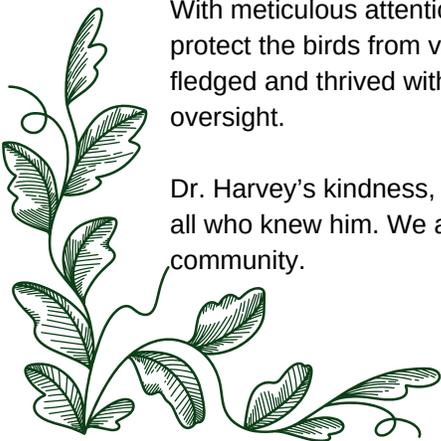


Remembering Dr. Eugene Harvey

The Bermuda Audubon Society also mourns the passing of Dr. Eugene Harvey, a cherished physician and devoted steward of nature, Dr. Harvey served as "monitor-in-chief" of the Bluebird trail at the Botanical Gardens for many years, tending to each nest box with the same care and compassion he gave his patients.

With meticulous attention, he maintained the boxes, repaired damage, and even installed locks to protect the birds from vandals. Thanks to his steady dedication, generations of Bluebirds safely fledged and thrived within the Gardens—birds that might not have survived without his loving oversight.

Dr. Harvey's kindness, patience, and quiet commitment to Bermuda's wildlife left a lasting mark on all who knew him. We are deeply grateful for his years of service to the Bluebirds and to our community.



BIRD REPORT - MARCH TO MAY 2025

by Paul Watson

March

March heralds the arrival of Spring (although technically not until 21st) and the beginning of the Northward migration of many species. Early birds are usually represented by Swallows and Martin's with a few early seabirds thrown into the mix.

This year 111 species were recorded in March.

The **Greater White-fronted Geese**, **Eared grebe** and **Red-breasted Merganser** found last month remained into March. As did the **Northern Shrike** at Coopers Island roaming onto the airfield area. The **Canvasback** remained moving further west onto Seymour's pond then Port Royal GC. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** found by EB at Spring Benny Road on 2nd March was the first of likely several birds seen at multiple locations over the island during the month. **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** seen by MM at Seymour's pond on 8th is always nice to find. A **Laughing Gull** reported by a visiting birder on 10th was not seen again. Sea-watching was quiet with poor onshore winds; **Manx Shearwater** was noted on 16th (PW) with a decent count of 49 on 31st and 3 **Parasitic Jaeger** on 31st (PW) from Coopers point.

April

107 species seen during the month.

Blue-headed Vireo on 6th at the Arboretum (MM) was a rare spring find, with an additional male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** on the same day (MM), turned into a good morning's birding! **Black-necked Stilt** at Spittal pond on 7th (PW) was early as the majority arrive in May. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported again around Port Royal on 10th and 11th (Multiple observers) and the first **Common Tern** of the year was seen (by AW) in Stocks harbour on the 11th

Laughing gull was seen at Albouy's point on 16th (AW). **Black-whiskered Vireo** on 13th at Ferry Point park (PW) and 2 together on 15th at Ruth's Point (PW) are the highest number seen in a single year ever. An influx of migrant spring vireos produced 5 species seen in close proximity at Ferry point whilst local birders searched for the **Black-whiskered vireo** - a very unusual and awesome experience (**White-eyed, Red-eyed, Black-whiskered, Blue-headed** (DW/JS) and **Yellow-throated**)! A **Chimney Swift** over Ferry Point park on 13th (DW/JS) was an additional find whilst searching for the **Black-whiskered Vireo**.

An evening walk out at Cooper's point on the 13th was rewarded with a close Immature **Brown Booby** flying just outside the reef-line (PW). A **Masked booby** was reported offshore northwest of Bermuda from a cruise ship on 19th (Visiting Birder) and a Brown Booby south of Bermuda from a second cruise ship on 20th (Visiting Birder). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Ruth's point on 18th (HM/JS) is always a nice Spring find. 2 **Roseate Tern** seen sitting on an outer reef marker on 27th (PW) was a nice find whilst out whale watching. An **Eastern Kingbird** was reported from Dockyard on 29th (Visiting Birder).



Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) Photo: Eva Bottelli



Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) Photo: Miguel Mejias



Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*) Photo: Miguel Mejias



Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Pearl Isl. Photo: Erich Hetzel



Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) Photo: Eva Bottelli



Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) Photo: Luke Foster

May

During May 72 species were reported (Most of our wintering birds have departed)

May is usually highlighted with good sightings of late spring migrants heading North and is often the best month for sea-watching with a good variety of seabirds passing and usually in very high numbers. However, the wind gods were not playing fair and whilst the usual species were seen most were seen in small numbers.

All 3 jaegers were seen **Parasitic** 7th, **Pomarine** 10th and **Long-tailed** 27th (PW)

A **Great Skua** on the 14th was well observed close inshore at Coopers Point (PW) and is the first for several years. The first of multiple sightings of **Arctic Tern** was on the 8th from Coopers Point (PW), **Leach's Storm-Petrel** on 14th and **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** from 25th. **Cory's, Great, Sooty** and **Manx Shearwaters** were all seen during the month. A small Shearwater seen from Cooper's point on 27th could not be confirmed but was likely a **Sargasso Shearwater**. **Sabine's Gull** was seen well on 29th from Cooper's Point (PW).

A Male and Female well-described **Caribbean Martin** were seen over St George's on 11th May (PW). Despite a good written description, without photo documentation the experts at Cornell stated the birds should be recorded as Old World Martin sp. A **Black-necked Stilt** was seen at Spittal Pond from 3rd May (PW) and remained for several weeks.

Both **Semipalmated** on 21st (NM) and **White-rumped Sandpipers** on 22nd (PW) at Spittal pond were late May Northbound migrants to the Arctic Tundra where they nest.



Wilson's Storm-petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) Photo: Eva Bottelli



Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) Photo: Luke Foster



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) Photo: Neal Morris

A **Common Nighthawk** flew over a private yard (EB) in Devonshire on 26th. A **Chimney Swift** seen over Seymour's pond on the 10th (JS/HM) was only the second recorded during the Spring. A **Black-whiskered Vireo** at Ferry point on 8th May (JP) was possibly a new arrival, as the April bird had not been seen after the 20th. The overwintering flock of **White-winged Crossbill** at Ferry point remained into mid May and a **Scarlet Tanager** on the 5th at Ferry point was, disappointingly for the finder, a female and not a bright red/black Spring male (PW)



White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) Photo: Richard Brewer



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) Photo: Herb Marshall



Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) Photo: Andrea Webb

BIRD REPORT - JUNE TO AUGUST 2025

by Paul Watson

JUNE

59 Species reported during the month

June heralds the tail end of the Northbound migrants and, with the exception of the continued seabird migration, usually quiets mid-month until the return of early migrants in mid July. There is always the likelihood of a good rarity, and June did not disappoint:

7 **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at Spittal pond on 1st (PW/MB) remained until 7th when they relocated to Port Royal Golf Course with 9 being reported there on 12 (VB). 2 **Wood Duck**, reported (VB) at Spittal pond on the 8th, were not seen again. **American Black Duck** at Mills creek on the 3rd (EB) was likely paired with a **Mallard**.

A **Striated Heron** found on the Airport pond (PW) on 9th was only the 3rd record for Bermuda. The bird was in a different plumage state from a bird found in January (EB) and amazingly appeared to be a 2nd bird for the year, which is surprising as the previous record was 1989. 11 shorebird species were recorded including 4 **Black-necked Stilt** at Spittal pond on 15th (PW). A single bird remained into July. Late **White-rumped Sandpiper** on the 8th (AW) remained for a few days.

Seabird passage was again slow but both **Long-tailed** and **Parasitic Jaeger** were recorded (Mult Obs) and a **South Polar Skua** on 23rd (PW). **Wilson's** and **Leach's Storm-Petrel** and 4 **Shearwater** species were seen off Cooper's Point (Mult Obs). A late **Arctic Tern** was also seen through the month. Both **Roseate** and **Common Tern** were seen with unsuccessful breeding attempts by both. A **White Tern** (now **Blue-billed White-Tern**) found on 24th (PW) at Kindley Field disappeared as quickly as it was found (see article)



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) Photo: Miguel Mejias



Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) Photo: Eva Bottelli



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) Photo: Jayden Parker

JULY

July heralds the returning Southbound migrants with shorebirds and early warblers usually highlighting. 51 species were recorded.

Returning shorebirds started with **Spotted Sandpiper** on 10th (JHT), **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Least Sandpiper** on 14th (PW) at Spittal Pond. 17 shorebird species were recorded in July including breeding **Killdeer** and over summering **Black-bellied Plover**.

The highlight for July was the returning **White Tern** which was re-located on a roof in St. Georges on 12th July (MM/PW) and remained sporadically through 29th (last sighting by EB) affording awesome views and seen by all local birders. A **Brown Pelican** seen high over Seymour's pond on 4th (LS) remained around the SW of the island for several weeks. Returning warblers were heralded with a beautiful **Prothonotary Warbler** seen at Cottage Hill on 3rd (NM) which was a very early record. **Louisiana Waterthrush** recorded at Spittal pond on 24th (PW) was seen by many with a likely 2nd bird joining thereafter.



Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)
Photo: Eva Bottelli



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)
Photo: Miguel Mejias



Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*)
Photo: Miguel Mejias

AUGUST

In August 80 species were recorded.

August typically is our hottest weather month and makes birding an early/late day endeavour. Highlighted by arriving shorebirds and continuing warblers, **Swallow** species are also seen in good numbers during the month.

24 species of shorebird were recorded with highlights being **Upland Sandpiper** seen briefly at Kindley Field on 31st (AW), **Hudsonian Godwit** on the airport at Clearwater (PW) remained for several days and was seen by many. **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Spittal Pond on 10th (PW), **Wilson's Phalarope**, at Spittal Pond on 23rd (JHT), **Willet** at Cooper's Island on 15th (NM) and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Port Royal GC on 25th (NM)

A **Least Tern** seen on the Airport at Clearwater on 21st (PW) was the first of several seen at that location post hurricane Ernesto. A **Brown Booby** was reported from Elbow Beach on 24th (LS). **Bank, Tree, Cliff** and **Barn Swallows** were all well documented throughout the month (mult Obs) and high numbers of **Purple Martin** were also recorded.

An **Orchard Oriole** found at Morgan's Point (TR) was a great find and photo documented. 14 Warbler species were recorded during the month with the highlights being more **Louisiana Waterthrush** (Mult Obs), and an early **Blackburnian Warbler** at St George's GC on 31st (PW)



Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*)
Photo: Eva Bottelli



Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)
Photo: Miguel Mejias



Orchard Oriole - female (*Icterus spurius*)
Photo: Trevor Rawson

Observers: Eva Bottelli, Mike Budge, Herb Marshall, Miguel Mejias, Neal Morris, Jayden Parker, Trevor Rawson, Joanne Smith, LeShun Smith, Jasper Hunt Thomas, Paul Watson, Andrea Webb, David Wingate and VB - "Visiting Birders"

SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Earth Day - 22 April 2025
High Point Nature Reserve Official Opening



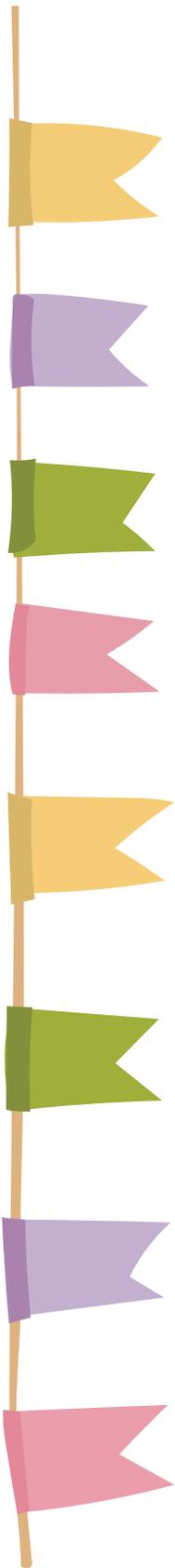
Sunday - 11 May 2025
Annual Nonsuch Visit



Sunday - 4 & 25 May 2025
Pelagic Birdwatching Trips



Saturday - 6th September 2025
Save Our Southlands Rally



SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Saturday - 13 September 2025
Spittal Pond Nature Walk



10 through 12 October 2025
Paget Island Bird Camp



DECEMBER 20th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Contact info@audubon.bm
to be involved



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