

Bermuda Audubon Society

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2005

P.O. Box HM 1328, Hamilton HM FX Vol.16 No.2

www.audubon.bm

Email: info@audubon.bm

President's Report

Andrew Dobson

The following is a summary of the President's Report presented at the Society's AGM on Wednesday 8th June 2005.

I would like to start by thanking the Audubon committee for all their hard work over the past year. It has been one of our most active years, a continuation of our 50th anniversary year. In June, another successful Nonsuch natural history camp was held for school students in conjunction with BZS. Following the camp, the Society's patron, Lady Vereker, invited the students for a tour of the Government House grounds. In July there was an opportunity for members to visit Nonsuch during the annual fieldtrip. A fieldtrip was held at Spittal Pond in early September to look for migrant birds. The annual birdwatching weekend took place in October, a great success despite managing to attract tropical storm *Nicole* on the Saturday! The story of the Red-tailed Hawk 'Pale Male' featured as a movie night in November, with members hoping for a similar evening soon. The Christmas Bird Count was held on Dec 19th, most notable for Eric Amos's discovery of the first ever record of Kirtland's Warbler in Bermuda. Anniversary celebrations picked up again in January with the publication of a special 50th anniversary magazine and in February with the planting of many endemic and antive trees in the 'Audubon Grove' in the grounds of Government House. We were back at Government House in March for a bluebird nestbox workshop, making about 75 boxes. These have been quickly sold through the Farmers' Market, Trustworthy Shop (BNT) and Aquarium gift shop. Thanks to the help of volunteer members in April, another 50 longtail igloos were painted and are being placed in suitable sites around Bermuda. Also in April, the Society was pleased to be able to assist the Bermuda Zoological Society (BZS) with its annual Zoo Doo open day. Audubon members manned spotting scopes looking over Harrington Sound, where longtails, terns and turnstones obliged in the morning. Other teams of members encouraged the

public to construct a bluebird box. It was a really worthwhile day. The Society hopes to be invited again next year!

The Society was asked by Panatel Ltd to help in the production of a 30-min television programme on 'Bermuda's Birds'. The programme, in the children's 'Learnalot' series, featured Jeremy Madeiros explaining his work with Cahows and the efforts being made to help Longtails (White-tailed Tropicbirds) with igloo nest boxes. Audubon President, Andrew Dobson, introduced the programme and also constructed Bluebird boxes with four of the Learnalot students. The programme aired four times on local TV in April and May. Copies of the programme are available from Panatel. All these events tied in nicely with the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival which takes place in April/May.

The Society greatly appreciated the help given by the JVs at the Somerset Long Bay West nature reserve. The students helped cull out invasive plants and replace them with some native and endemics plants. In another joint effort with BZS, the Society held a 'Sustainable Development' meeting at the Aquarium in May. The Society was invited to participate in discussions concerning the future use of Cooper's Island. Since those discussions, the Society is thrilled that the area has been designated as a National Park and Nature Reserve.



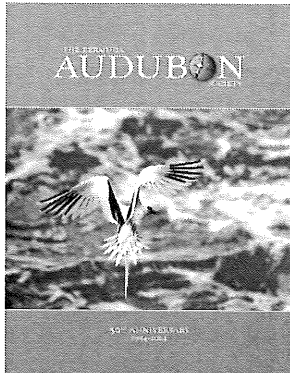
Two other big events have continued throughout the year. Firstly, the natural history documentary being made by Castletown Productions with the support of the Audubon Society (photo left). It promises to be a first-class TV documentary to be shown on many TV networks in 2006. It will also be part of an educational package to local schools. Secondly, the 'Buy Back Bermuda' campaign which is proving to be a huge success,

having gained fantastic support from private individuals and the business community. It has been a pleasure to work with the Bermuda National Trust on this project and the land at Somerset Long Bay East will certainly be saved for future generations.

In fact there has been much Cooperation and Partnerships with many organizations over the past year. The Society has worked closely with the Ministry of the Environment (especially the Conservation Unit) and has received environmental grants from the Ministry; the Parks Commission; the Bermuda National Trust; the Bermuda Zoological Society; Eco Bermuda; and the Farmers' Market. Internationally, the Society maintains links with: BirdLife International; the National Audubon Society; North American Birds; the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK); the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds; the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum; and the UK Government (OTEF).

Communication with various groups has been enhanced by: Newsletters; our Web site www.audubon.bm ; Email info@audubon.bm ; a Birders' email group; the 50th Anniversary Magazine; newspaper and magazine articles; and the local TV 'Learnalots'. The committee has been particularly busy this year visiting nature reserves to update management plans and carry out maintenance where necessary. We have focused on Cockroach Island Nature Reserve, Firefly Nature Reserve, A.B.S. Nature Reserve, Stoke's Point Nature Reserve, and Somerset Long Bay West Nature Reserve. The Society continues to act as an advocate for the environment as necessary. The Society continues to pressure Government Departments and lobby the Minister over environmental concerns, including: the problem of feral cats; the abundance of feral pigeons; the illegal industrial operations in Devonshire Marsh; the proposed Dolphin Oasis facility on South Shore; and the future use of Cooper's Island.

Finally, a big 'thank you' to all those who have helped or supported the Audubon Society in any way over the past year.



**Copies of the special
Bermuda Audubon Society
50th Anniversary
magazine are still on sale at
\$5.00**

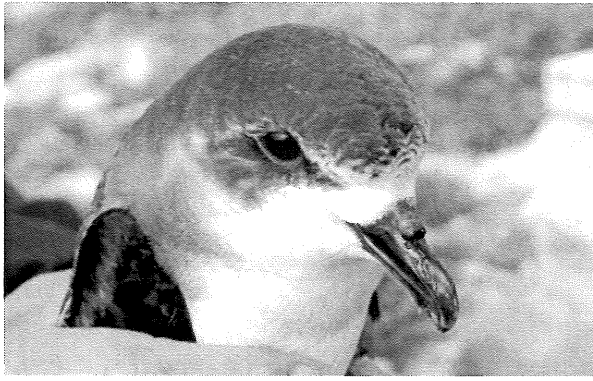
Report on the 2004-2005 Cahow Nesting Season: Continued Progress and Recovery

Jeremy Madeiros



The 2005 Nesting Season of Bermuda's National Bird, the endemic Bermuda Petrel, or Cahow *Pterodroma cahow*, concluded on the 15th June when the last fledgling chick departed from Bermuda and headed out to sea, not to return for about 5 years. The Cahow nesting season (which started October 2004 and ended mid-June 2005) has featured a number of highlights, including the continuing recovery of the species from the effects of hurricane *Fabian*. A total of 6 new nesting pairs colonized nest

burrows on three of the nesting islets, including 4 on the main islet. This more than made up for the number of active nest burrows destroyed and lost during the hurricane, with the number of active nest sites reaching a new record of 71. The most exciting and promising part of this is that 3 of these new nest sites were located in a completely new complex of artificial burrows built on the elevated top of the islet after several nearby nest burrows low on the side of the islet were destroyed by the huge waves of *Fabian*. New techniques were used to attract these displaced pairs to the new burrows, including the use of solar-powered sound attraction equipment playing back digital recordings of Cahow courtship calls through speakers placed next to the entrances of the new burrows. Another technique involved going out to the islands at night to pick up pairs of Cahows that were scrambling about on the ground at the former locations of the destroyed nests, banding them and placing them together into the new nest burrows. In this way they are then aware of the location of potential new nest sites. The combination of these two techniques appears to have worked, and at least one of the new pairs consists of birds that were physically moved into these nest burrows the previous year. The three new nesting pairs of Cahows at this site provide a nucleus for a whole new complex or group of nest burrows elevated enough to be safe from most hurricanes.



The number of fledged chicks had also been affected by hurricane *Fabian*, dropping from a record high of 39 in 2003 to 29 in 2004 because of the significant number of active nest sites that were either destroyed or disrupted. Numbers have rebounded somewhat this year to 35 successfully fledged chicks; however this is still down slightly from the pre-storm record. This year marked the second

year of the Cahow translocation project to establish a new nesting colony of Cahows on Nonsuch Island, which is much larger and higher in elevation than the four tiny islets where the species is presently restricted to. These islets have been heavily impacted by hurricane impacts over the last 15 years, particularly hurricane *Fabian* in 2003, and their small size limits the ability of the critically endangered Cahow to build up a larger population. The need to establish new populations on larger islands safer from hurricane damage, and managed to exclude mammal predators, is considered of critical importance as further hurricane impacts could cause collapse of some of the present nesting islets.

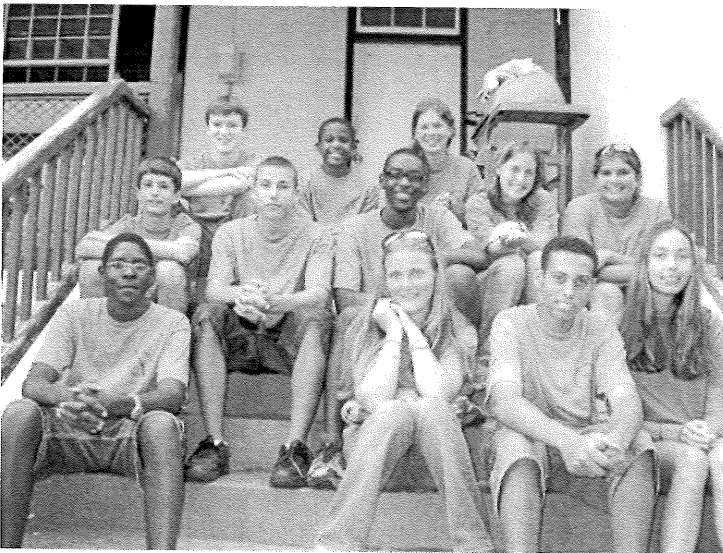
During the trial year (2004) of the translocation project, 14 Cahow chicks were moved to a group of artificial nest burrows on Nonsuch. These were fed and monitored for an average of 21 days through to their exercise period, with all eventually fledging successfully out to sea. In 2005, a total of 21 chicks were moved to the translocation site and were fed and monitored with the help of volunteers and staff, mostly from BAMZ and the Department of Conservation Services. There was a real scare this year when in April it was discovered that rats had managed to reach Nonsuch for the first time in 14 years by swimming across from Coopers Island. Luckily, the rats were detected before they had time to build up a large population and were eradicated within two weeks by an intensive baiting program, but their presence threatened the translocation schedule for a brief period. This event highlights the importance of constant diligence and checks, as rats are particularly destructive to burrowing seabirds. With the rats successfully eradicated from Nonsuch, the translocation was able to proceed with the first chick moved to its new home on May 8th, also being the first to fledge on May 21st. The last of the 21 chicks was moved to Nonsuch on June 2nd, which I had the pleasure of watching fledge successfully and fly strongly and confidently out to sea on the night of June 15th. These chicks were fed every other day on 35 to 90 grams of squid and fresh anchovies which were provided by Chris Flook of BAMZ. The chicks all departed in

good condition with good fat reserves, although there were noticeable differences between the sizes of individual birds. The chicks also exhibited very different personalities, ranging from highly aggressive to very gentle, trusting and inquisitive! All chicks remaining on the nesting islets, which were not part of the translocation, also fledged and there were no weak or abandoned chicks which needed to be taken into care. In fact, there were many unusually large and heavy chicks this year possibly due to an abundance of food in the areas where the adults forage. Unusually strong winds through much of the nesting season may also explain why the adult birds generally were able to carry out more feeding visits than normal. 18 of the 24 chicks monitored this year reached peak weights of over 400 grams and a record chick weight of 563 grams was recorded. A total of 28 of the 35 chicks were also fitted with identification bands this year, bringing the total of adult and fledgling Cahows banded up to 183 since 2002.

I would like to thank all the individuals who assisted in the monitoring and measurement of adult and fledgling Cahows this year and in particular the moving and feeding of the translocated chicks. This includes several members of the Audubon Society Executive Committee (Andrew Dobson, Jennifer Gray and Leila Madeiros). These and other individuals contributed greatly to the success of this year's nesting season and the continuing recovery of Bermuda's remarkable National Bird.

Nonsuch Island Natural History Camp

Emily Ross



Nonsuch Island Natural History Camp. Wow! What can I say? Let's face it, before this camp, I was a wimp. I wouldn't go anywhere near rocks because I was afraid of cutting my foot or slipping into the ocean, I would avoid coral like the plague (I had a little phobia of coral) and I would never, ever go anywhere near any sea-grasses for fear of what was living among them. This camp changed all of that. We were making transects all

noover slippery rocks; we went snorkelling at North Rock, Whale Bay and Castle Harbour making transects of the coral reefs and we actually swam through turtle grass looking for what lived in it. I did so many things I never thought I would be able to do before, which is why the camp meant so much to me. I found a part of myself I didn't even know existed...or I knew existed but was too scared to find. The camp showed me a Bermuda I had always known was there, but had never bothered to find. I never knew Bermuda could be so...amazing. This camp really helped me to appreciate how lucky we all are to live on this island. All you hear today is "Bermuda's so boring! We don't even have a theme park!" Now I realise that all you have to do is go outside! This camp also changed my whole outlook on our environment and what it means to protect it. I used to think that we were okay, but now I realise that our environment can use all the help it can get. I now give all introduced plants the evil eye!



Of course, just being on Nonsuch Island would have been enough. It was so beautiful, I didn't even care about the roaches! It was enough simply to be on the island - that was an experience in itself. I really want to be a teacher when I'm older. I used to want to teach English or Drama...but now I've found that I have a real interest in Marine Biology. Maybe I'll teach Biology. Working at the Aquarium would be cool, too. Maybe I could go into Environmental Awareness. There are tons of possibilities. Even if I don't follow these

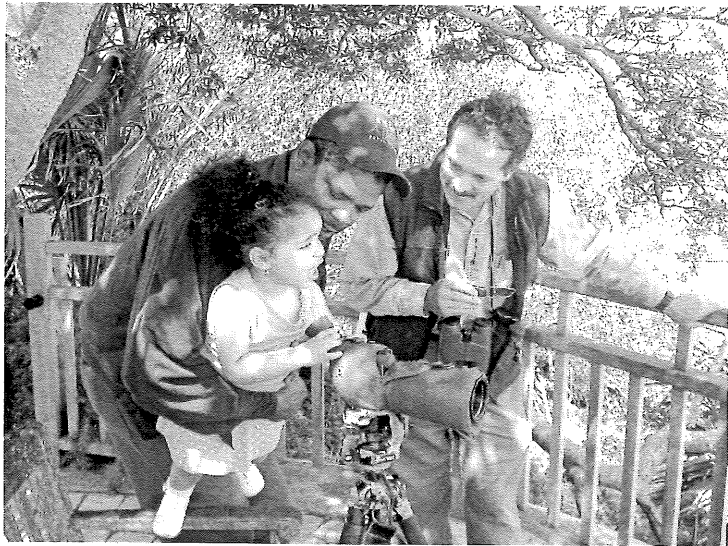
careers, what I learnt at this camp will stay with me forever. We learnt essential presentation skills. I'm now so much more comfortable talking in front of people. Let's not forget the social skills. We all agreed that we'd never warmed up to people so quickly. By the end of the second day, we were all firm friends. That really meant a lot to me. The camp was an experience which will stay with me for the rest of my life. When I got off the island, the traffic seemed so much louder. Even now I need moments to get away from it all, so I go running. It's nice just to be out with nature. Future campers - I'm not going to lie to you - its hard work. You're going to get dirty. You're going to get tired. But you know what? You'll forget all about that. You learn such great lessons, you meet such great people, that you realise it was the most fun you've ever had.

As 'top student' on the camp, Emily Ross received the Mervyn White Memorial Shield from Molly White. Also pictured in the above photo are: left, Jeremy Madeiros (Government Conservation Officer) and Joe Furbert (Camp Director).

Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival 2005

Andrew Dobson

The Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival ran from April 22nd, "Earth Day," until May 22nd, "International Biodiversity Day," and was coordinated by the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB). In launching the Festival, Andrew Dobson, President of SCSCB, said, "This Festival is a celebration of the magnificence and diversity of life found throughout the Caribbean, and an acknowledgement of the region as an irreplaceable repository of global biodiversity. More than one in five Caribbean bird species are found nowhere else on the earth. Thanks to this annual Festival, people will learn to appreciate the value and global significance of our region's birds and other wildlife and join us to help conserve them for future generations to enjoy."



In the first three years of the annual Festival, more than 17,000 persons participated directly, while thousands of others have learned about the bird life and overall biodiversity of the Caribbean through regional press coverage. Members of the international conservation community have called the Festival an unprecedented opportunity for education and the generation of pride in what is uniquely Caribbean

biodiversity. They have also noted that this is an important call for greater responsibility to safeguard species and the wider Caribbean environment's valuable natural assets. The month-long annual Festival highlighted the fact that the Caribbean islands are recognized as one of the top three areas on the planet for biodiversity conservation, because of the high number of endemic plant and animal species. But according to BirdLife International, the birds of the Caribbean are today more threatened than they have ever been in their history primarily due to destruction of their habitats. Activities ranged from exhibitions of drawings and paintings by local schoolchildren, public lectures, church services, bird-watching excursions, and theatrical productions in celebration of the region's rich bird life.

In Bermuda, the Bermuda Audubon Society (BAS) organised a workshop to make Longtail (White-tailed Tropicbird) igloos (artificial nests). They also ran a nest box workshop for Eastern Bluebirds at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo (BAMZ) - part of a 'Feathered Fiesta' zoo theme. Birdwatching at Harrington Sound Lookout was also run by BAS volunteers at the BAMZ during the 'Feathered Fiesta', an event that attracted about 1500 people. Another nest box workshop for Eastern Bluebirds was organized by BAS at Verdmont House (Bermuda National Trust) in April. Four screenings of a special TV programme on Bermuda's Birds for local TV aired in April/May. Filming was also carried out for a natural history documentary on Nonsuch Island with special attention to the Cahow, White-tailed Tropicbird, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White-eyed Vireo and other local birds. Bird migration observations were made by BAS members throughout the period.

Other countries that took part included: The Bahamas, St Lucia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Bermuda, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, Antigua, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Montserrat and the Cayman Islands. The initiative is supported across the region by a variety of organizations including schools, environmental NGOs, government conservation departments, private sector organizations, local universities, and concerned individuals. Generous support has also been forthcoming from leading scientists and conservationists in the region and from North America and the United Kingdom.

The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) is the largest single regional organization devoted to wildlife conservation in the Caribbean. It is a non-profit organization whose goals are to promote the scientific study and conservation of Caribbean birds and their habitats, and to promote greater public awareness of the bird life of the region. For more details, see: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/SCO/index.html> BirdLife International data show that 56 species of birds found in the Caribbean are at risk of global extinction, 11 of them are Critically Endangered. More information, including background information on all of the Caribbean's threatened bird species, can be found at: www.birdlife.org/datazone/search/species_search.html According to Conservation International, the islands of the Caribbean are now recognized as one of the top three areas on the planet for biodiversity conservation action, given the immense species richness of the islands combined and the high risk of extinction many of them face. www.conservation.org/xp/CIWEB/strategies/hotspots/hotspots.xml

Photo shows Jeremy Madeiros (right) – Birdwatching at the 'Feathered Fiesta'

action, I went to look, and sure enough, there was one more bird! Eventually it too joined the fluffy ball of chicks on the ground. I then watched the parents feed these 5 for another two hours, as they remained in our garden. I was really concerned about a cat getting them. They had no intention of flying or getting up into the trees. I was so worried about them as I had to leave Bermuda for three days. There was not much else I could do for them.

I returned three days later to find they still had not gotten off the ground! They had moved to my neighbour's garden, and I found one dead in there. We are pretty sure it was killed by another neighbour's dog. They were just hopping around on the ground. What could I do? The next day was the same, and I was so concerned about predators! I watched hour after hour with tablet at my side. Finally on June 2nd I could see 3 birds in the citrus tree for sure. This was the 6th day after they had fledged. I hadn't expected it to take so long for them to get up and out of harm's way. However, I was treated to such a sight as I have never seen before! The parents feeding and literally giving their young flying lessons! Dad guiding a young one back to the tree. I went to the garden early morning, lunchtime and in the evening! I just couldn't resist watching them. I did find one dead on the road near our driveway, which made me so sad, but I am confident that we had 3 healthy birds from that nesting.

David Wingate assured me we would probably get a second nesting, and he was right! On July 3rd the first egg was laid. (That was quite a day of wonders! At 8 am a monarch caterpillar was hanging on a sage bush, and at 6pm was a chrysalis! (Unfortunately I didn't see the transformation.) The bluebird pair laid 3 eggs this time, and exactly 14 days later, 3 babies hatched! We went through the same process with mite dust and axle grease, and were rewarded with 2 healthy birds 16 days later. I'm not sure when we lost one, but the parents took it out at some point. The day before the fledging, there was copious calling of the parents to their babies and responses from the box. And when they did fledge, I never saw them again. It was quite amazing. Early in the morning I could hear they were still in the box. When I checked at noon, they were gone! The parents were in the neighbour's garden doing lots of flying and hunting, but try as I might, I didn't find the young. I checked very thoroughly for anything on the ground. I am sure they were fine, just watching the parents' behaviour, and for some reason were just far more mature than the first batch. There were only 2 after all, and maybe they were just stronger and more capable. I am quite gratified to see bluebirds around the property again this year, and I will put my box back up mid-March. Hopefully we will have another success story. It was the most fulfilling and rewarding of experiences. Hard to describe unless you've been there!

Bluebird Encounter

Peggy Couper

I just have to tell this story! Someone might be interested! This is our bluebird success, 2004! Having lived on this property for 28 years, and watched with dismay one failed bluebird nesting after another, I began to see myself as providing killing machines for the bluebirds. I put up the box, and the sparrows threw out the eggs, time and time again. If it wasn't that, it was the mites. I felt so guilty that I couldn't provide a solution for those dear and beautiful birds who face such dismal odds. Well, somehow, last spring we got it right!

On April 21st, I just happened to check the box, not suspecting really that there were interested parents, and there was one egg! By April 25th we had 5, and once again, parenthood had begun. This time we were really more prepared, and really more serious to get it right! I bought axle grease from a garage (having used Vaseline on previous occasions, and of course it just melts) and liberally applied it around the pole, to stop ants and lizards! Exactly two weeks later, on May 9th, 5 bluebird eggs hatched! Wow! At least a start! Colin put mite dust under the nest immediately! Now we felt lizards, ants and mites were at best under control. We just had to think of keeping an eye on the kiskadees and sparrows....not an easy or even possible task. One thing we did do was continue to put cardinal seed out up at the house, and of course the sparrows love that. Anything to distract them from the action in the lower garden! I even turned a blind eye to the nesting going on in the eaves of the house! The long wait for the fledging began. I brought my Mum, in her 90th year over to the garden to sit on a little stool, and watch the wonderful industrious birds feeding their young, hour after hour. How they work so hard, and manage to find time and food for themselves is quite incomprehensible. We put mite dust in again at about 10 days, as we knew we shouldn't disturb the box after 14 days to avoid premature fledging. On May 28th, 19 days after hatching, 5 birds fledged! It was just amazing, and in all my years of being Bermudian, I have never witnessed this fabulous sight! I went down to the garden at about 7 am to check, and my trusty small pal, Tablet, (an SPCA gem) sniffed out the action! There, huddling together about 10 feet from the box, were 3 little birds on the ground! Tablet and I took up a post, binoculars in my hand, to see what else we had in store. At this point I was pretty sure we had 4 birds, but at last look in the box, they had become too plump to really see just what was what! Well number 4 was priceless! It peeked out at the world and retreated again and again! Just when I thought it had the resolve to join its siblings, down it would go again into the box! Finally, after an hour it fluttered down to the ground, and somehow found its buddies. I had no idea if we had # 5 or not, and at this point premature fledging was not an issue, so after a time of

Bird Report March to July 2005

Andrew Dobson

Highlights of this report include: a record shearwater movement; summer records of Merlin and Bonaparte's Gull; Bermuda's 4th Bridled Tern; unprecedented numbers of dead puffins; two Rough-winged Swallows and Bermuda's 4th Brown Thrasher (pictured).

Grebes to Ibis

Pied-billed Grebe young were at Parson's Road Pond 27 Mar (AD). Two wintering Horned Grebes were still in Castle Harbour 24 Mar (JM). Another good year for Cahows after the set-back following Hurricane Fabian (2003). A record 71 pairs produced 35 chicks, of which 21 were successfully translocated and fledged from Nonsuch Island (JM). The big Greater Shearwater passage occurred on 3/4 June. By the second day, birds were passing Cooper's Point at about 1,000 per hour – one of the best-ever counts. Andrew Dobson comments: *"I watched from Cooper's Point, Jeremy and Leila was also counting from Nonsuch. During the morning, birds were moving at such a rate that a dozen could be seen in one telescope view! I decided to note the number of minutes taken to count 100 birds. The quickest was 5 mins (1200 per hour) and the longest 8 mins (750 per hour) - and this was going on all morning. So 1,000 per hour won't be far wrong. As to species - the vast majority were Greater. All morning I only noted about 6 Manx, 20 Sooties and about 100 Cory's."* Sooty Shearwaters were peaking at 40 per hour 21 May at Cooper's Point (AD). The first Manx Shearwaters (40) were seen passing Cooper's Point 29 Mar (PW), with a maximum of 120 per hour 9 Apr at Devonshire Bay (AD). A Canada Goose was briefly present at Spittal Pond 13 May (FH, PS). A pair of Wood Ducks was at Parson's Road 24 Mar (TW). A Eurasian Teal (male) revealed itself at North Pond in Mar (PW) making a record three wintering individuals which remained into Apr. A Greater Scaup was seen in June on Parson's Road Pond (EA). The Little Egret was re-located at Paget Island 30 Mar (PW). A Glossy Ibis was at Spittal Pond 3 Apr-13 May (AD).

Birds of Prey to Puffins

Separate Ospreys were present throughout the period at the East End and Castle Harbour area. A Swallow-tailed Kite was over Camp Hill 13 Mar-17 Apr (RP) with two at Riddell's Bay GC 17 Apr (per. DW). Two Northern Harriers were over the Airport perimeter on 18 Mar (AD). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen over Nonsuch Island 4 Apr (DBW) and 16 Apr at Abbott's Cliff (PW). The two long-staying Red-tailed Hawks were over Morgan's Point 29 Apr (DW). One of the two wintering Rough-legged Hawks was still present at the Airport 3 Mar (AD). A Merlin over Tee Street 3 Jul provided the first ever summer record (AD, PJH). A Virginia Rail was at Spittal

Pond 3-6 Apr (AD). Shorebirds noted at Spittal Pond in Apr/May included: **Greater Yellowlegs** (2), **Lesser Yellowlegs** (3), **Solitary Sandpiper** (2), **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Red Knot** (2), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (10), **Least Sandpipers** (2), **Stilt Sandpiper**, and **Short-billed Dowitcher**. A male **Ruff** was at North Pond 25 Apr (DW). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Spittal Pond 31 May (DW). A **Great Skua** passed over Cooper's Point 21 May (AD, PW). A **Bonaparte's Gull** seen throughout much of June provided the first summer record for this species (PW). A **Gull-billed Tern** flew over Bartram's Pond 20 June (EA). A **Royal Tern** was seen in various locations 11-20 Apr (DBW, PW). A **Roseate Tern** was in Castle Harbour 11 and 30 May (DBW, PW). The first returning **Common Tern** was noted in Harrington Sound 31 Mar (JG). An adult **Bridled Tern** (the fourth record for Bermuda) was seen off the East End 12 Jun (PW). At least eleven dead **Atlantic Puffins** were found at various locations around Bermuda 9 Mar-13 Apr. This unfortunate discovery is remarkable in that there have only been six previously records (also corpses). Cause of death may well have been an intensive low-pressure system that forced birds south into poor feeding areas.

Swifts to Buntings

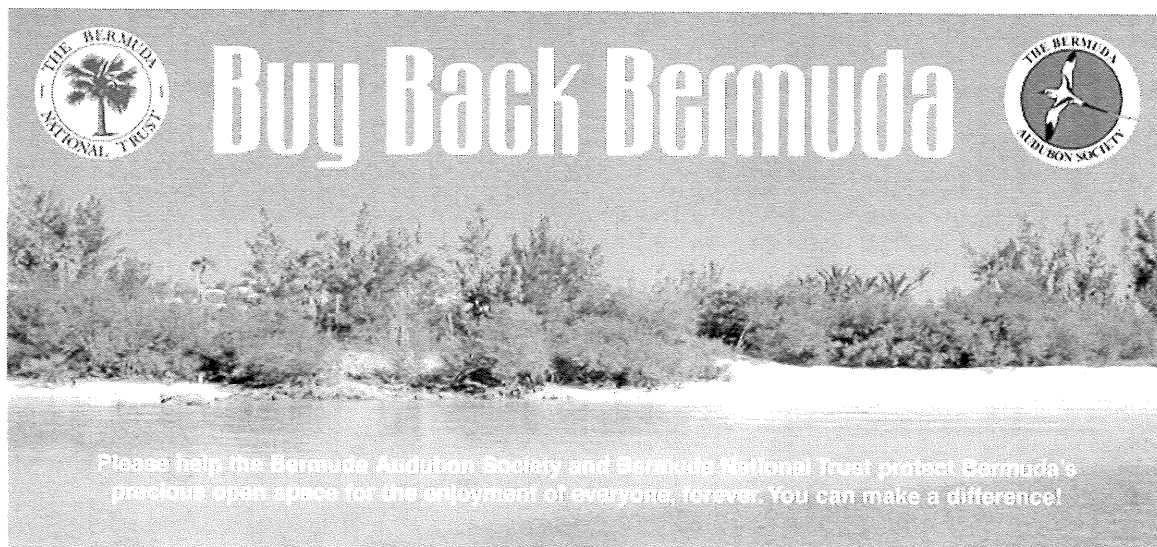
The first **Chimney Swift** was noted over Jenningsland 18 Apr (JM) with a maximum of seven at St. Georges GC 25 May (PW). There were several reports of a summering **Belted Kingfisher** in June. An **Eastern Kingbird** was at Clearwater 30 Mar-6 Apr (AD), with another at Wreck Hill 4 May (WF). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen at Stokes Point Reserve 17 Apr (DBW). **Yellow-throated** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were at Fort Scaur 24 Apr (WF, DW). Two **Purple Martins** were over Astwood Park 16 Mar (AD). Two **Tree Swallows** at the Airport 10 Mar provided the first of our land-based migrants. Spittal Pond hosted a variety of swallow species, including: two rare **Rough-winged Swallows** (a Bermuda maxima) 26 Apr (DW), a **Bank Swallow** 30 May-2 June (DW) and a **Cliff Swallow** 24 Mar (AD). A **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Bartram's Pond 2 May (EA). A **Brown Thrasher** (see photo) was almost certainly a ship-assisted arrival in the City of Hamilton 2 May (GG). **Cedar Waxwings** were commonly observed, with large flocks at Spittal Pond (35) 23 Apr (AD) and Wreck Hill (50) 4 May (WF). A **Golden-winged Warbler** provided a



rare spring record at Fort Scaur 10 Apr (WF). A **Magnolia Warbler** was at Fort Scaur 1 May (AD). The wintering **Townsend's Warbler** was last seen in Orange Valley Road 3 Mar (BL). A **Palm Warbler** was noted at Fort Scaur 5 May (AD). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Fort Scaur 24 Apr (WF). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was on Nonsuch Island 2 Apr (JM) with other sightings during the month. A **Northern Waterthrush** 1 Jun (latest spring date) at Somerset Long Bay NR (DW) provided a very rare June warbler record. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at North Pond 2 Apr (EA). A **Kentucky Warbler** was seen at Hungry Bay 5 Apr (GH). A **Scarlet Tanager** was at Fort Scaur 24 Apr- 4 May (WF). A **Chipping Sparrow** was at Fort Scaur 5 Mar with two **Dark-eyed Juncos** (AD). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Somerset Long Bay NR 26 Mar (AD). A **Lapland Longspur** at Astwood Park 16 Mar (TW) was a rare spring record. There were numerous reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and **Indigo Buntings** during April and May. A male **Blue Grosbeak** was seen in Paget 20 Apr (AD).

Observers: Eric Amos, Andrew Dobson, Wendy Frith, Gertrude Gierlinger, Jennifer Gray, Gene Harvey, Felicity Holmes, Peter Holmes (PJH), Peter Hopkin (PH), Bruce Lorhan, Jeremy and Leila Madeiros, Ron Porter, Penny Soares, David Wallace (DW), Paul Watson, Tim Wershler, David Wingate (DBW).

Society News



Donations can be made to 'Buy Back Bermuda' c/o Bermuda Audubon Society
P.O. Box HM 1328, Hamilton HM FX



'Thank You's'

- ☺ Audubon members who helped with the 'Feathered Fiesta' at BAMZ (see photo).
- ☺ Jeremy Madeiros for his hurricane talk at the AGM.
- ☺ The Natural History Camp staff for making this year's Nonsuch Camp another success - in particular: Joe Furbert, Fiona Doe, Jennifer Gray, Leila and Jeremy Madeiros.
- ☺ The International Women's Group for their camp sponsorship.
- ☺ Michael Hayward for providing 'Explorer' for a fundraising 'Fire-worms Cruise'. We raised \$1,600.
- ☺ David Saul for transporting members to Nonsuch Island for the annual fieldtrip.
- ☺ All volunteers who have made and checked bluebird boxes, installed longtail igloos, and planted trees on Society reserves.
- ☺ Members who read the newsletter on-line!

Membership Application/Renewal (Due in June – check expiry on address label) Date of application: _____

Title (Mr. Mrs. etc) _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post code: _____

Tel. no. (H) _____ (W) _____

Email: _____

Please tick

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30 (two or more persons)
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	_____ (Cheques payable to "Bermuda Audubon Society")

P.O.Box HM1328 Hamilton, HMFY

To check your membership, please contact the Audubon Secretary, Richard Amos: jamos@gov.bm Membership forms and details can be found at www.audubon.bm



If undelivered please return to:
Bermuda Audubon Society
P.O. Box HM 1328
Hamilton, BERMUDA

Future Events

Sunday 4 September

Field trip to Spittal Pond –
Early Fall migration.
Meet in eastern car park at 7.30 am.

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 October

Paget Island Bird Camp.
Cost approx. \$40 per person.

For more details:

info@audubon.bm or 238-3239

Bermuda Audubon Committee 2005-2006

President: Andrew Dobson
Vice-Pres: Jennifer Gray
Secretary: Richard Amos
Treasurer: Leila Madeiros
Members: Tarita Cartwright
Fiona Doe
Jeremy Madeiros
David O'Neill
David Wingate

Newsletter: Andrew Dobson