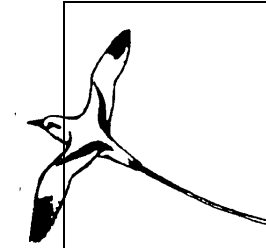




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P.O. Box HM 1328
Hamilton, BERMUDA



Bermuda Audubon Society

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003

P.O. Box HM 1328, Hamilton HM FX Vol.14 No.1

www.audubon.bm

Email: info@audubon.bm

Future Events - For information on any of the events: tel. 238-3239

- **Sunday 16 February**
Field trip - in search of wildfowl - meet at Spittal Pond at 2.00 pm (Eastern car park). From Spittal Pond we will travel to various sites
- **Saturday 22 February**
Opening of Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve - 10.45 am
Enter at Coral Beach Club entrance and follow signs. Please reply to:
Email info@audubon.bm or tel. 238-3239
- **Saturday 1 March**
Bluebird Workshop - Government House - enter from Langton Hill - 9.30 am.
Come and make your own nest box for free!
Pre-registration is required: Email info@audubon.bm or tel. 238-3239
- **Thursday 13th March**
Illustrated talk - 'An Assault on the Senses'
By Stuart Smith's on his journey through India. BUEI 7.30 pm
- **Sunday 23 to Thursday 27 March 'A Sense of Direction'**
A conference on conservation for UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities. Organised by the Ministry of Environment, Audubon Society, BNT, BZS and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. For conference details go to the Conservation Forum website www.ukotcf.org

Four New Bird Species for Bermuda

On Wednesday 6th November, Audubon committee member David O'Neill reported a 'White' Pelican at Mid-Ocean Golf Course. David, a worker at the golf course, had seen the pelican on North Pond. He left messages for local birders but no-one was able to get to the pond before nightfall. A small group of birders arrived before dawn the following day, and sure enough, there was Bermuda's first-ever **American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*, an immature bird wearing a leg band! The bird was photographed and appeared in the Bermuda Sun and Royal Gazette on the following day. On 9th November, while taking additional photos, Andrew Dobson was able to read the band number using a telescope. The band number has been submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This agency will be able to inform as to when and where the bird was banded, most likely its nest site. Unfortunately the bander has yet to submit this band number, so we eagerly await details. Despite fears that the pelican would find little food in the pond, the bird soon developed a habit of flying off during the day, often into Castle Harbour to feed. It has been seen widely around the island, from St. David's to Warwick. This species of pelican has been long-expected in Bermuda. It breeds in western North America from the Canadian Prairies to the southern States. Although it winters along the Pacific Coast from

California to Central America and along the Gulf Coast, it wanders irregularly after the breeding season through most of North America. Birds have been recorded all along the East Coast from as far north as Newfoundland all the way south to the West Indies. The smaller **Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* is a more regular, but rare vagrant to Bermuda.



Photo Andrew Dobson

On Sunday 22nd December, I met David Wallace with my family at the abandoned Daniel's Head Resort where David had seen a Short-eared Owl at dusk during the previous week. David stayed at the top of the hill near the farm while we walked round the western part of the property. At about 4.50 pm, after viewing a confiding American Kestrel perched in a tree, I raised my binoculars to two large gulls followed by a heron. The heron was flying between myself and David, who was about 100 metres away. Expecting it to be a Great Blue Heron, I was puzzled by the dark appearance of a more slender heron, which seemed somewhat large for an adult Little Blue Heron, and anyway, the wing appeared two-toned. When we climbed the hill to meet David, he asked whether I'd seen the heron. He had looked down on it and assumed it to be a Little Blue Heron although he hadn't checked through his binoculars. We left the car park at about 5.10 pm – I drove via Long Bay Road, and fortunately for David, he drove via Somerset Long Bay where he immediately saw a heron feeding in the shallow water of the Bay. David made the following notes: *17.10hrs from the south looking north at a distance of approx ten metres. Binoculars used were Svarowski 10 x 42. Weather fair, good light, dry with brisk westerly wind. Low tide with much sargasso seaweed on the strand line. Egret feeding in the shallow waters of Long Bay. Unusual feeding behaviour - 'dancing' or jumping in the shallows with wings raised revealing pale undersides. Rapidly chasing after fish, then periods of little activity. Preening was noted. Plumage: overall greyish-blue with pinkish undertones; rufous edges to wings; and rufous feathering also on breast, throat and crown where a small plume was developing. Legs very dark blue/black. Eyes white. Bill heavier in structure than for Little Blue, bicoloured, pink at base smudging into a black tip. Viewing continued for fifteen minutes until the light began to fade.* David knew he had identified Bermuda's first Reddish Egret! Despite much searching, the egret was not relocated until 31st December – in exactly the same spot! It has been seen on various parts of the coastline between Hog Bay and Long Bay during January.



Reddish Egret Egretta rufescens breeds on the Pacific Coast of Mexico on the Gulf Coast from Belize to Florida as well as the northern Caribbean and the Bahamas. It winters mainly in the breeding range. There are casual records as far north as Massachusetts, so its occurrence in Bermuda was not unexpected. *Photo by Eric Amos.*

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* breeds on the Pacific Coast of Mexico on the Gulf Coast from Belize to Florida as well as the northern Caribbean and the Bahamas. It winters mainly in the breeding range. There are casual records as far north as Massachusetts, so its occurrence in Bermuda was not unexpected. *Photo by Eric Amos.*

David Wingate (DBW) has added another species to the Bermuda bird list, but this one is retrospectively added from an adult male specimen found dead in Devonshire Marsh on 1st May 1974 and prepared by DBW as a specimen for the BAMZ collection. He had always suspected that it might prove to be an **Antillean Nighthawk** *Chordeiles gundlachii* but it needed to be checked out against a series of that species and other nighthawks at a large museum. This was

Executive Committee 2002-2003

President	Jennifer Gray
Vice-president	Andrew Dobson
Treasurer	Leila Madeiros
Secretary	Richard Amos
Officers:	Fiona Doe
	Jeremy Madeiros
	David O'Neill
	Patrick Talbot
	David Wingate
Newsletter	Andrew Dobson

WANTED

The Bermuda Audubon Society requires space to store two of its filing cabinets (full). Ideally the space should be air-conditioned.

If you can help – please call
238-3239
or email

info@audubon.bm

Society News - Bluebirds

Bluebird Workshop

Lady Vereker as patron of the Society has kindly agreed to host a Bluebird Workshop at Government House on Sat. 1st March. 9.30 am. In Bermuda, bluebird survival is now totally dependent on the provision of nest boxes – so why not come along and make one for yourself or for a friend's garden. Pre-registration is required – call 238-3239 or email info@audubon.bm

Bluebirds – and how you can help!

- Come to the workshop
- Offer to maintain a bluebird trail (a series of boxes) – please contact Stuart Smith 734-9856
- Offer to make boxes (we will supply materials) – please contact Stuart Smith 734-9856
- Place a box in your garden

Check this website: www.bestnest.com/bestnest/bluebird_houses.asp

- And don't miss Stuart Smith's illustrated talk on his trip to India – which he describes as an 'Assault on the Senses'. If his previous talks are any recommendation – you won't want to miss this talk. BUEI 13th March 7.30 pm

Nature Reserve, pointing out special features and the array of birdlife present. This just added to Nicholas' interest and soon he was begging his mum to take him back to Spittal Pond to see the birds. Encouraged and supported on his birding adventures by parents Stephen and Beverly Barton, Nicholas began to build a birding journal on his home computer and then became a member of the Bermuda Audubon Society about a year and a half ago. The Bartons attend most of the lectures and field trips scheduled by the Society and have been thrilled with the attention and assistance given to young Nicholas by such great birders as Andrew Dobson and Jeremy Madeiros. Beverly noted that they "always take that extra bit of effort to make sure that Nicholas sees every bird". When not on Audubon field trips Nicholas keeps in touch with local birding action as a member of a small listserv for birdwatchers and as soon as a new birds are located he hits the books, or sometimes the internet, to study up on the species and then the family heads out into the field to search for those birds. Congratulations Nicholas on adding one hundred birds to your personal list! Well done! We also recognise your parents for their incredible support of your interest and encourage all other parents out there to take and active part in your child's interests. The rewards will be many.

Membership renewals were due in June. Please check the address label for expiry date. Please inform us if any of you details are incorrect on the address label.

Membership Application/Renewal	
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, HMFx	
Date of application: _____	

28th Christmas Bird Count - 2002

Eric Amos

On Monday December 23rd 2002, 12 birders spent a total of nearly 90 hours in windy, often blustery but warm conditions, counting 99 species and 9769 birds. Four new species were added to the 232 species recorded since the counts began in 1975. Wendy Frith bravely did her count while suffering from the flu and Steve Rodwell "knackered" (as he put it) his back while peddling over much of St Georges. As usual we recorded a marvelous eclectic mix of birds that originated in many geographic locations in the United States and Canada and even a couple from Europe.

From Europe we had the Northern Lapwing and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. From the Gulf of Mexico came the Reddish Egret. From the prairies of Canada or NW United States - the White Pelican. A Painted Bunting from coastal North Carolina is usually in Florida or Central America at this time of year, while the Summer Tanager and Orchard Oriole, are seldom recorded outside of the tropics in winter. There was also a green & yellow Budgerigar – presumably an escaped cage-bird. The Reddish Egret was discovered by Dave Wallace the night before the count but not seen again until December 31st – when everyone had just about despaired of ever seeing it.

Most of the birds had already been discovered but several were surprises. Andrew Dobson added a Tree Swallow and a Northern Harrier. Bruce Lorhan and James Tatum supplied two Least Bitterns and a totally unexpected pair of Common Mergansers. Ron Porter added the Summer Tanager. Jeremy Madeiros counted 620 pigeons at the farm at Outerlea and this boosted the high count for these controversial birds by more than 400 to 1235, which was also the count for the ubiquitous Kiskadee. David Wingate and new recruit Eugene Harvey, together with the Bird Control Officer Dale Hines, added a Short-eared Owl at the airport. We found 19 species of warblers but the abundance of these long-distance migrants, although better than recent years, is still low when compared to the numbers that wintered on the island in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. The lone Cape May Warbler on this year's count is the most extreme example of this dramatic decline.

I also noted, while surveying Paget Marsh, the death, presumably by drowning, of most, if not all, of the Bermuda Cedars. The browned trees, many of which are hundreds of years old, really stand out when looking down on the marsh. This can only be an indication of the rise of the sea level and the long-promised Global Warning.

The results of our count, part of the 103rd Annual National Audubon Society count of birds in the Western Hemisphere and other parts of the World, can be seen on their web site at www.audubon.org/bird/CBC

Membership renewals are due in June. Please check the address label to see if your membership has expired or email info@audubon.bm for further information

Greater Shearwater Migration

Patrick Talbot

Last year a familiar story unfolded as a pair of Greater Shearwaters, were found washed up on a south shore beach by two children. These two birds had been bound together with monofilament line, by one leg each, with a heavy fishing weight attached indicating a slow and torturous death. Reports are routinely received of the slaughter these birds by fishermen out at sea. Because these killings happen away from shore the public is generally unaware of the carnage unless a large number of the bird carcasses wash up onto one of our beaches, which happened in June of 1994.

Greater Shearwaters are oceanic seabirds which nest in late fall and winter on islands in the South Atlantic. Every year these birds follow a migration route north to Newfoundland's Grand Banks where they spend much of the summer. This route takes them past Bermuda between mid-May and mid-July. Upon arriving in local waters they're normally starving and exhausted and so they stop briefly to rest and feed. Unfortunately these hungry birds wreak havoc on the abilities of some local fishermen to catch fish by eating their bait, which is an easily available food source. This angers these unskilled fishermen who retaliate by killing the birds in large numbers. The means of death for the shearwaters can take the form of being gored by a gaff, crushed by oars and other objects or simply being grasped and beaten against a deck or gunnel then thrown overboard, barely alive, to drown. In the wake of these cruel fishermen follows a sea of death as hundreds of birds float in the water dead or dying.

Shearwaters are quite brazen with little fear of humans allowing them to be easily caught. Graceful and agile, they are normally seen skimming over the water feeding on baitfish and squid. They are also very efficient divers and swimmers having no problem following a baited line down to depths over 80ft. No matter how infuriating these birds may be to fishermen it is illegal to deliberately kill or harm Greater Shearwaters under the Protection of Birds Act 1975. Marine Police and Fisheries Wardens will enforce this law if they find anyone committing such an act.

Every year these migrants come here at the same time, would it not be better and more lucrative for these fishermen to take bird watchers out to feed the shearwaters? Not only would this benefit Bermuda Tourism as an Eco-Excursion like the whale watching trips but it would also help these hungry ocean travelers complete an arduous journey that has been taking place long before humans ever set foot in Bermuda. It would be a tragedy to see these birds, or any other animal, follow the same fate as the Cahow.

finally done 28 years later in November 2002 and there was absolutely no doubt! Antillean is much smaller and very buffy to rufous below, compared with **Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*. It was added to all the other *Chordeiles* specimens obtained by DBW as specimens from injured or birds found dead over the years and checked out against series at the American Museum of Natural History (New York). The other specimens included several *C. minor minor*, one *C. minor sennettii* (a very pale western form) and one *C. acutipennis texensis* (**Lesser Nighthawk** female) found injured on St David's back on 3rd Dec 1965. The Antillean Nighthawk will be mailed back to BAMZ in due course but the other specimens were donated to AMNH years ago and can only be seen there.

Antillean Nighthawk breeds in southern Florida, the Bahamas, Greater Antilles and Cayman Islands. It is thought to winter in South America. There are records of vagrants occurring in Louisiana and South Carolina.

The fourth new bird species for Bermuda is the result of a 'split' by the American Ornithological Union. Our regularly occurring snipe has been split from its Eurasian counterpart. The name **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* refers to the Old World species, while our very similar New World species becomes **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*. Wilson's Snipe is often seen in Bermuda's marshes in the winter months. Common Snipe has been recorded here, but not for over 100 years! It may well occur quite often, but the main differences are subtle. *G. gallinago* has more white in the wing and 14 tail feathers versus 16 for *G. delicata*.

Andrew Dobson

A Message from the President

Jennifer Gray

Firstly, I would like to wish a Happy New Year to our membership. I trust each of you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season and I hope you found the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the great outdoors.

AUDUBON RECOGNIZES A SPECIAL YOUNG MAN

I have no doubt that our membership will want to join the Audubon Executive in congratulating young Nicholas Barton as he enjoyed the sighting of his 100th bird species in Bermuda. Those of you who participate more seriously in birdwatching by keeping an inventory of your findings will appreciate what a grand accomplishment this is for such a young birder. At nine years of age and over the course of just two years, Nicholas has achieved what some mature birdwatchers take several years to accomplish.

Nicholas' love of birds all started when he was in P2 at Saltus Cavendish. His teacher, Jenny Beard, introduced the class to the more conspicuous plants and animals of Bermuda and by doing so ignited a spark of interest in young Nicholas that continues to burn as a strong flame today. In a related class outing, Jeremy Madeiros led that same class through Spittal Pond

Bird Report Nov 2002 – Jan 2003

Andrew Dobson

The winter months have brought some extraordinary birds to Bermuda and provided local birders with many new species to add to their list. Highlights of this winter season include Bermuda's first-ever American White Pelican and Reddish Egret; Surf and Black Scoters, Common Mergansers; Northern Lapwing (Bermuda's 3rd); Long-eared Owl (2nd live record); Northern Rough-winged Swallow; Northern Mockingbird (2); Audubon's Warbler (Bermuda's 3rd); Painted Bunting (Bermuda's 4th); and Orchard Oriole.

Tropicbirds to Ducks

The first **White-tailed Tropicbirds** (Longtails) were seen incredibly early this year, perhaps the result of unseasonably warm temperatures at the beginning of January. Birds were seen at Spittal Pond 5 Jan (RH) and again on 10 Jan (KR). A **Brown Booby** flew past Ferry Point 3 Dec (PS). An immature **Northern Gannet** was off St. David's Head 17 Nov & 26 Nov (NB, JM). An immature **American White Pelican** at North Pond 6 Nov-Jan (DO) furnished the first record for Bermuda. Observers eagerly await the origin of this banded bird. Bermuda's first **Reddish Egret** was discovered at Somerset Long Bay 22 Dec (DW) and remained in the Somerset area throughout Jan. An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Devonshire Marsh 6 Jan (DW). A **Snow Goose** discovered on the Christmas Bird Count (JM), stayed into the New Year. At least 16 duck species have been seen this winter. A superb male **Wood Duck** has split his time between Parsons Road Pond and Spittal Pond. Three female **Gadwall** have been seen and a minimum of 16 American Black Ducks. At least 4 **Northern Pintail** have been seen at various locations since 5 Nov (DE, PS). **Green-winged Teal** has been the most common migrant duck including a flock of 38 at Parsons Road Pond 9 Nov (AD). A female **Greater Scaup** at Sea Swept Farm 27 Jan (DW) was the first since 1996. An immature male **Surf Scoter** 1 Jan (AD) at Frank's Bay later took up residence behind the Aquarium in Harrington Sound. A **Black Scoter** was viewed at close range in Somerset Long Bay 4 Jan (WF, DW). Two **Common Mergansers** first seen off Spanish Point 23 Jan (BL, JT) remained in the Jews Bay area throughout much of Jan. As many as nine **Red-breasted Mergansers** were present, including a flock of six seen regularly off Daniel's Head.

Birds of Prey to Rails

A **Northern Harrier** discovered on the Christmas Bird Count (AD), stayed into the New Year at the Airport. The elusive **Red-tailed Hawk** first seen 23 Nov 2001 was last seen 5 Nov (DE). A **Peregrine Falcon** has over-wintered at the east end of the island. The following is an extract from AD's diary for 14th Dec "*Peregrine Falcon causing havoc amongst gulls in the middle of St. Georges Harbour for about 10 mins. Followed to Ferry Reach from where it flew at fence height across the road to the airport. The Lapwing took flight - but then returned to mob the peregrine that was quartering the airfield. The lapwing's persistence paid off as the peregrine (a young male) lost interest and flew off over the prison farm*". A **Virginia Rail** 13 Jan (PW) at Parsons Road Pond was initially found with a first-winter **Purple Gallinule**. The latter bird was found dead next to the Pond 22 Jan (AD) and is now in the BAMZ collection.

Shorebirds to Swallows

An immature **Northern Lapwing** at the Airport 25 Nov to mid-Jan (DW) was the 3rd record for Bermuda (previously 1957 and 1987). A flock of 22 **Sanderling** were on Grape Bay 23 Dec (AD). Individual **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Least Sandpiper** and **Short-billed Dowitcher** have over-wintered. Of the less common gull species, at least four **Bonaparte's Gulls** have been seen, mainly in the Great Sound area. One **Common Tern** has lingered throughout the period, while three **Forster's Terns** have remained in the Great Sound since 10 Nov (BAS). A roosting **Long-eared Owl** at Fort Scaur 18 Nov (SF) provided the 2nd live record for Bermuda since the 19th century! A **Short-eared Owl** was found dead in Sandys Parish 9 Nov (JG). A second was at Daniel's Head 17 Nov (EA), while a third was found injured at the Airport 23 Nov (DH) but died in captivity at BAMZ bird rehab center. Another then appeared or moved to the Airport area over Christmas. A male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Jenningsland 24 Nov (JM) and another (most likely Ruby-throated) at Paddock Drive 10 Nov (D&KH). An **Eastern Phoebe** over-wintered at Spittal Pond. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at the Biological Station 26 Nov (EA), the latest fall record by two days. A late **Tree Swallow** was at John Smiths Bay on 23 Dec (AD). A rare immature **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at Parsons Road Pond 1-2 Dec (AD, SR). There have only been about ten records of this species since the first was recorded in 1976. Amazingly, it was present with a **Bank Swallow** 1 Dec (the latest date for this species by 25 days!).

Kinglets to Orioles

Kinglets have appeared in good numbers this winter with at least seven **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and two **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. At least six **Hermit Thrushes** have been recorded in Dec/Jan. A small influx of **American Robins** was noted in various locations from 8 Nov (DE). A **Northern Mockingbird** at the Biological Station 20 Nov (EA) was the first since 1996. Another appeared in the Arboretum 2 Dec (DW), staying into the New Year. A flock of 16 **American Pipits** 14 Dec (AD,SR,PS) were at Airport. An **Audubon's Warbler** at Port Royal GC 16 Nov (NB) provided the 3rd Bermuda record for this sub-species. A total of 21 wood-warbler species was seen at Port Royal GC 24 Nov (SR). Two **Prothonotary Warblers** have over-wintered at Riddell's Bay and Camden (AD). A **Summer Tanager** 23 Dec at Coney Is. (RP) was quite unusual. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Kindley Field 16 Nov-early Jan (SR, DE). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Paget Marsh 12 Nov (SR, DE) while another wintered at Spittal Pond. There was a small influx of **Dark-eyed Junco** from 8 Nov (JG, DW). Three **Snow Buntings** were at Dockyard 10 Nov-Dec (BAS). An immature male **Painted Bunting** at the Biological Station 19 Nov-late Dec (PW) was only the 4th record since 1971 and the first fall record. A **Dickcissel** was at Southside 16 Nov-Dec (SR). An immature **Red-winged Blackbird** was at Port Royal GC 10 Nov and joined by another in Dec (SR, EA). An **Orchard Oriole** 20 Dec (EA) at the Biological Station was the first ever winter record.

Stop Press: White-winged Scoter 7 Feb in Harrington Sound (behing BAMZ) – first since 1967!

Observers: Eric Amos, Bermuda Audubon Society (BAS), Ned Brinkley, Andrew Dobson, Dewi Edwards, Wendy Frith, Stephen Furbert, Jennifer Gray, Dale Hines, Robert Hollis, Dorte and Kevin Horsfield, Bruce Lorhan, Jeremy Madeiros, David O'Neill, Steve Rodwell, Keith Rossiter, Penny Soares, James Tatem, David Wallace (DW), Paul Watson, David Wingate (DBW).

Update on the 2003 Cahow Nesting Season Jeremy Madeiros

A Stormy Start to the Season!

As of the 2nd February, the 2003 cahow nesting season appears to be progressing well with most of the nesting pairs already brooding their single eggs. As of this date, only two failures have been confirmed, while 58 pairs appear to be carrying out normal egg brooding activity. Good eggs have been confirmed in 40 nests (some of the natural nesting burrows are too deep for the actual nests to be seen, requiring the interpretation of external evidence). There are also two or three disrupted pairs and one newly establishing pair. A most encouraging sign is that while during the 2002 season there were four disrupted pairs, where one adult had disappeared, leaving only single birds, in 2003 three of the disrupted birds had attracted new mates to their nests, with all three already confirmed as brooding eggs. There also seems to be an upsurge in new nest prospecting activity, most likely by young cahows just reaching maturity and looking for nest sites and mates for the first time. At least 5 new nest sites have experienced prospecting visits, and with luck may be colonized over the next couple of years. In fact, at least two of the latest batch of 12 artificial nesting burrows, completed in October 2002, are already being prospected. The total number of colonized nest sites now stands at 66.

Also continuing this year is the program of ringing (or banding) adult and fledgling cahows and recording weights and some body dimensions. Nine additional adult cahows have already been ringed this season, making a total of 47 cahows (18 adults and 29 fledglings) that have been fitted with uniquely coded rings since the program began in 2002. This ringing program is already beginning to bear results by confirming the return of several adults to the same nest sites that they occupied in 2001 – 2002.

A major factor in this year's nesting season is the generally horrible weather conditions dominating since late 2002. Strong winds and weekly gales have only been interrupted by brief calm periods where access onto the nesting islets for monitoring visits was possible. At least two major gales, with winds up to 57 knots (66mph) on Jan. 19th and 62 knots (71mph) on Jan. 23rd, have sent waves breaking the islets, in some cases washing debris into the burrow entrances and lifting large shade rocks off the nesting lids. Thankfully, thus far the water has not reached any of the deep nesting chambers and there does not appear to have been any failures due to storm flooding. Despite the stormy weather, all indications seem positive for a good nesting season and further updates will continue on the continuing progress of this amazing, and resilient endemic seabird.

Cahow News

For the latest news on the Cahow – look at the 'Bird Conservation' section on the Society's website and click on 'The Remarkable Cahow' www.audubon.bm The article by Jeremy Madeiros is reproduced from the magazine of BirdLife International.

New Reserve Opening

A major event in the history of the Bermuda Audubon Society will take place on Sat. 22nd February. All members are cordially invited to the opening of our new reserve in Paget. The Society is indebted to the generosity of Mrs Elfrida Chappell for donating this land to Audubon. Opening of the Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve – 10.45 am. Enter at Coral Beach Club entrance and follow signs. As refreshments will be provided, please reply to: Email info@audubon.bm or tel. 238-3239. A full history and details of the reserve will appear in the next newsletter.



BERMUDA AUDUBON SOCIETY ALFRED BLACKBURN SMITH NATURE RESERVE

This 8.7 acre reserve is being managed as a sanctuary for native coastal flora, woodland and birdlife by the gradual culling of invasive plant species and replanting with native and endemic species of Bermuda.

Open to guests of Coral Beach Club and to Audubon Society members by appointment. Access via the established nature trails during daylight hours only. We hope you will enjoy this most beautiful and peaceful of Bermuda's coastal walking trails.

The collection, disturbance or removal of plants and wildlife from this reserve is prohibited. Motorised vehicles must be left parked on the public road verge.