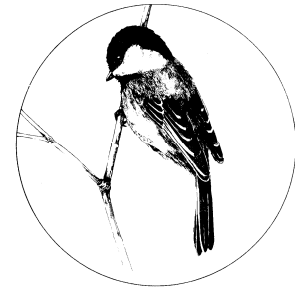


# CHIP NOTES

The Newsletter of  
The Birds of Vermont Museum



Volume 24

Our Twenty-fourth Year

Late Winter 2010

## A MUSEUM WEDDING

The sun highlighted the fall colors as Deb Miller presided over the wedding ceremony of Museum Curator Ingrid Riga and visiting wood-carver Graeme Rhind. The pair exchanged hand-carved wooden rings in front of an audience of friends, staff, volunteers, and fellow wood-carvers from the Green Mountain Wood Carvers.

The romance between Ingrid and Graeme started a few years ago when Graeme visited the Museum while traveling to North America from his home in Australia. Following the visit, years of letter writing, emails, phone calls, and round-the-world trips led to a new life together for the smitten couple.

The ceremony took place on October 10, 2009, after the annual meeting of the Green Mountain Wood Carvers, and the wood-carvers got the festivities started with a six gun salute! Music was provided by Kari Jo Spear, Dennis, Crystal, and Alaria Lanpher, and Kaitlynn and Hannah Miller. The ceremony closed with everyone singing the words Ingrid and Graeme wrote to the tune of "Waltzing Matilda." The happy couple have moved to Australia, where they will reside.

There were smiles, tears, and well wishes as the Museum said good-bye to Ingrid after more than a decade. Over the years Ingrid has done just about every job here at the Museum, from greeting visitors to creating exhibits, from feeding birds to feeding Board Members. Ingrid's time and devotion have helped shape the Museum and she is greatly missed.



Ingrid Riga and Graeme Rhind singing to the tune of "Waltzing Matilda."



Dennis Lanpher, Kari Jo Spear, Alaria Lanpher, Deb Miller, Kaitlyn Miller, Crystal Lanpher, and Hannah Miller providing the music.

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## A MUSEUM WEDDING (continued)



Deb Miller using a globe to demonstrate just how far Ingrid and Graeme had to travel to meet each other.

The wedding ceremony was part of a full day of activities. In addition to the Green Mountain Wood Carvers' annual meeting, we also had our Annual Garage and Used Book Sale. A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the sale and all the customers who came looking for a bargain.

A special thanks to Stewart Kirkaldy who spent countless hours sorting, pricing, and organizing the books prior to the sale. He then spent copious hours helping to clean up and sort the leftover books after the sale. We could not have had the sale without him!

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

You may already know about our efforts to connect to volunteers, friends, family, fans, and others with shared interests on the world-wide web.

For some time we have had a website. You may have visited and seen its facelift, and we continue to update it. This fall, the website has seen changes on the newsletter page as the 2009 newsletters became available in PDF format (in color!), and new photos have been added to some of the in-page slideshows. We've done some behind-the-scene tasks to make our website a little more search-engine friendly.

We're also stretching out into the world of Social Media – and it's working! We've continued to add posts and photos in our blog, kept Tweeting on Twitter (the phrasing is particularly apt for us), and built a FaceBook page. Our e-audience is steadily and slowly expanding: our tweets are included in 46 different lists by other twitterers, and 722 people follow what we post there. On FaceBook, we have 88 fans, and this, too, is growing. Fans also share their comments and photos, and we hope to have more interactions there. One of the things we like about this mix is it allows us to reach people in several ways: discussions and collected photos on FaceBook (like our recent art contest entries), quick updates via Twitter, and more extended observations via our blog.

We continue to maintain a Google Calendar, and more and more of our members and visitors are interested in receiving e-mail notification of upcoming events. However, in case you were wondering, we have *no* plans to abandon face-to-face and paper-to-people modes of contacting our members and friends. We love to see you and have you come by the Museum.

But when the Vermont roads are too messy for driving, do look for us online. You can get to all these outlets via our website: <http://www.birdsofvermont.org/>; or if you'd like to go directly to one of them, try: <http://bovm.wordpress.com/>, <http://twitter.com/BirdsofVermont/>, or <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Huntington-VT/Birds-of-Vermont-Museum/127640858328> (yep, that's long, but when we reach 100 fans, we may be able use a shorter one).

Enjoy what you see? Got ideas for how to make it better? Let us know; share your thoughts online or send them to [webmistress@birdsofvermont.org](mailto:webmistress@birdsofvermont.org).

## CARVING REPORT

Turning 90 isn't slowing Bob down! After the Museum closed for the season, he turned his attention back to carving. Bob completed a Black-bellied Plover, a Short-billed Dowitcher, and a Dunlin in fall plumage. Not stopping there, Bob planned for a busy winter. In early December he cut out blanks for 10 ducks (picture below). He plans to paint and burn these ducks over the winter. Under Bob's talented hands, these blocks of wood will turn into pairs of Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Surf Scoters, White-winged Scoters, and Black Scoters. All of these completed carvings will be placed in the fall wetland diorama. Come visit in the spring to see the completed ducks.

Graeme Rhind, the Museum's visiting wood-carver, completed the season by carving a few songbirds to sell in the gift shop. He carved a Winter Wren (picture to the right), a pair of Splendid Wrens, a Black-capped Chickadee, and a Marsh Wren.

Dick Allen, wood-carver and Museum Board Member, has also joined the Museum's carving crew. Working closely with Bob, Dick will be carving a pair of Lesser Scaup for the spring wetland diorama.



## WISH LIST

Sponsorship of Summer Intern (\$3000)

Two Recording Hygrothermographs (\$1600)

Wall Paint and Painting Supplies (\$150)

2010 Art Contest Prizes (\$300)

Art Supplies for Special Events (\$250)

Speakers and Dock for iPod (\$100)

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Backyard Bird Count

**February 13, 2010**

**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Appropriate for:** Everyone

Visit the Museum and learn how to participate in the backyard bird count.

### Painting Party

**February 27, 2010**

**Time:** 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Help us paint part of the Museum. Lunch will be provided. Call for details.

### Nature Observation and Tracking Workshop

**February 27, 2010**

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us to find out what bird and non-bird animals live in our backyard.

### Birding the Basin

**April 24, 2009**

**Time:** 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Join Jim Andrews, herpetologist and long-time Champlain Valley birder, for another fun day exploring the Champlain Basin for migrating birds. Call for more info.

### Looking ahead to May

Museum Opens: May 1

Volunteer Work Day: May 1

Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival: May 2

Bird Day: May 22nd

Warbler Workshop: May 20th and 22nd

Sunday Morning Bird Walks: May 9 - June 13

Free "Tweet" Day: May 30

**For details see:**

**[www.birdsofvermont.org/events.php](http://www.birdsofvermont.org/events.php)**

**Call 802-434-2167 to register**



### Bob's 90th Birthday

**February 21, 2010**

**Time:** All Day

**Please make a donation in Bob's name**

Those wishing to honor Bob's birthday are encouraged to make a \$90 contribution to the Birds of Vermont Museum. Checks can be mailed to the Museum at 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT 05462

**Thank you for honoring Bob in this way!**



## BIG SIT!

This is the seventh year that the Birds of Vermont Museum participated in *Birding's Most Sedentary Event*. On October 11, staff and volunteers spent 12 hours in a 17-foot circle in the garden behind the Museum and recorded every bird species heard or seen. Jim Osborn, Museum Board Member and volunteer, coordinates this event and remains in the circle all day. In addition to careful record keeping, Jim's energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge add excitement to the day. Food, friends, and camaraderie make it a great event!

We recorded 31 species, a record for our Big Sits! The species list, in order they were seen: American Crow, White-throated Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, American Robin, Winter Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Sharp-shinned Hawk, European Starling, Common Raven, Eastern Phoebe, Canada Goose, Northern Cardinal, Cooper's Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Snow Goose, Common Grackle, Turkey Vulture, Gray Catbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Blue-headed Vireo, American Goldfinch, Brown Creeper.

It was a challenge to find that Blue-headed Vireo, a bird not often seen on the Big Sit! Both Jim and a museum visitor from the northwestern U.S. heard the bird singing and identified it as a Blue-headed Vireo. After about 10 minutes of searching, it was finally spotted and we all got an excellent view of the bird.

Jim always makes the Big Sit a fun event by not only keeping an on-going tally, but also having participants keep an hourly list. It's always exciting to see a species of bird not seen previously that day. As the afternoon wore on, no new species were seen after 2:48 pm. It looked like we were going to tie the record. But at 5:01 pm, when the count was almost over, there it was—the Brown Creeper! We broke the record!

Planning ahead? Join us on October 10, 2010 for the next Big Sit!



Bill Mayville and Jim Osborn early in the morning before the sun came out.



Later in the afternoon, the sun came out and the bird list grew. Jim Osborn, Amy Alfieri, Alison Wagner, Shirley Johnson, and Stewart Kirkaldy are looking and listening!



The running tally by mid-morning.

## BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS: ART CONTEST RESULTS

The 2009 Art Contest sponsored by the Birds of Vermont Museum was a great success with almost 400 entries! The walls around the Museum’s bird-viewing window became very colorful as more and more pictures of birds were added to the display. Entries were submitted not only by individuals who took the time to draw or color a picture when they visited, but also by school children who submitted entries under the direction of teachers in schools as close as Essex and as far away as Hartland! And there was more to the art than pictures. The stairway wall was covered by pressed aluminum art. Another section held scratch art. There were water-color paintings and even a table of birds made from tin, feathers, and papier mâché.

The three art contest judges had their work cut out for them. Prizes were awarded for drawings and water-color paintings on the basis of age categories. Thanks to wonderful sponsor and donor support, prizes were also given for the aluminum art and the scratch art as well as the three dimensional figures. Winning entries are displayed on the BOVM website.

With such wonderful results in 2009, we are looking forward to another art contest in 2010! Check our website for entry information.



Natalie Genetti points to her second place entry in the 0-5 age category.



Clayton Murphy points to his first place entry in the 0-5 age category.



Clarisse Hing’s winning entry in the 9-13 age category.



Esme Cole’s second place entry in the 3-D category.



Madeleine Dunn’s winning entry in the 14-18 age category.

## STRATEGIC PLAN AND BOARD UPDATES

Over the past year the Museum's Board of Trustees has worked to update the Museum's strategic plan. In December of 2009, the Board voted to approve a new plan that will provide guidance to Museum staff, volunteers, and Board members through 2014.

The plan details goals pertaining to membership, partnerships, programs, etc. Much work was done to finalize this plan and thanks to all the Board members for seeing the process through to completion.

At the Board's annual meeting, officers were chosen for 2010. Shirley Johnson continues to be our fearless leader and will serve as Board President. Dann Van Der Vliet and Becky Cozzens are also continuing their roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

The Museum would like to thank retiring board members David Adams and Stephen Page. Thanks to both for serving on the Board (and numerous committees). Their work, ideas, and enthusiasm will be missed.

The Board welcomes Kari Jo Spear as our newest board member.

## THANK YOU

The family and friends of Anne Osmer

The family and friends of Phil Erb

Delta Dental

Law Office of David Sunshine

Dick Allen

Kerry, Linda, and Paul Hurd

Jackie Lowe

Michelle Patenaude

Ingrid Riga

Sally Robinson

Graeme Rhind

All the donors to our Garage/Used Book Sale

**Last, but not least, all of our 2009 volunteers who donated over 1000 hours to the Museum!**

**Looking for a  
unique gift?  
Consider a bird  
case sponsorship.**



Syd F.'s winning entry in the 6-8 age category.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all our Art Contest sponsors:

Black Horse Fine Art Supply,  
South Burlington

Artists' Mediums, Williston

Guy's Farm and Yard, Williston

Pizza Putt, South Burlington

Kids Town, South Burlington

## SAVE THESE DATES

Feb 13	Backyard Bird Count
Feb 21	Bob Spear turns 90
Feb 27	Painting Party
Feb 27	Nature Observation/Tracking Workshop
April 24	Birding the Basin
May 1	Museum Opens!
May 1	Volunteer Work Day
May 2	Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival

For additional information, or to register, please call 802-434-2167 or check out our website [www.birdsofvermont.org](http://www.birdsofvermont.org).

*The mission of the Birds of Vermont Museum is to provide education, to nurture an appreciation of the environment, and to study birds and their habitats using wood-carvings and other Museum resources.*

## Board of Trustees 2010

Shirley Johnson, President  
Becky Cozzens, Secretary  
Dann Van Der Vliet, Treasurer

Dick Allen	Marty Hansen	Angelo Incerpi
Mae Mayville	James Osborn	Craig Reynolds
Bob Spear	Kari Jo Spear	David Sunshine

## Museum Staff

Bob Spear, Founding Director  
Erin Talmage, Executive Director

Thanks to Northeast Delta Dental for supporting our newsletter.



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