



CONCORD MUSEUM

SPRING 2022 Newsletter

Published quarterly for Members and Friends of the Museum

Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord **March 4 through September 5, 2022**

This spring, the Concord Museum welcomes you to a new exhibition, *Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord*, produced in collaboration with Mass Audubon. This exhibition tells the story of famed ornithologist William Brewster (1851-1919), Mass Audubon's first president, who spent decades of his life in Concord observing and writing about birds.

Born and raised in Cambridge, William Brewster spent his summers and holidays exploring the fields, forests, and marshes in and around Concord. As an adult, Brewster purchased 300 acres of land along the Concord River, a property he renamed October Farm. Journal entries, photographs, and personal artifacts in the exhibition show his evolution from a shotgun-wielding specimen collector to ardent protector of bird species and habitats. *Alive with Birds* also explores Brewster's social circle, including African American ornithologist Robert Gilbert, sculptor Daniel Chester French, and artist Genevieve Jones. Materials are drawn from Concord Museum, the Mass Audubon collection, as well as the Chesterwood Archives at Williams College, and the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard.

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“The past six days have been cloudy and dismal with snow, sleet, and rain falling much of the time, but this morning the sun rose clear and there was a light breeze... in short, Spring was in the air.”

—William Brewster,
March 1891



(Top to bottom) William Brewster, by Daniel Chester French (1850-1931), 1907. Chapin Library, Williams College, Gift of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Wood Thrush, Plate II, Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Birds of Ohio, Genevieve E. Jones (1847-1879), Mass Audubon Collection, Anonymous gift (2012)

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From Tom Putnam, Edward W. Kane Executive Director

This December, I wrote to our friend and colleague, Laura Dassow Walls, noted biographer of Henry David Thoreau, who was in the throes of correcting her last exams and papers as she prepared to retire. I closed my email with a line I often use (perhaps too breezily): “the best is yet to be.” When Laura wrote back, she commented: “Yes, I, too, trust that the best is yet to be—the Transcendentalist faith lives on.” In the intervening months, I announced my own decision to retire later this spring. Let me use this column to simply say thank you to everyone in this community who has been so supportive of me and my colleagues as we undertook the effort to transform this wonderful Museum. I look forward to seeing many of you when our spring exhibit, *Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord*, opens or at our annual Gala on May 14. When I depart on June 1, I will do so with that same Transcendentalist faith knowing that, in terms of the future of the Museum in your hands, the best is yet to be!



Above: Executive Director Tom Putnam, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kristen Herbert, Robert Fardy, Concord Superintendent Dr. Laurie Hunter, Director of Education Susan Foster Jones

We were also proud to give the Robert A. Gross Award for the Advancement of Concord's History to long-time Concord Public School teacher and consultant Robert Fardy. We presented the award at a moving in-person ceremony in September to a room full of dozens of Concord educators who all wanted to honor Bob's many years of dedicated work with teachers and students in Concord.

In Memoriam—Barbara Kent Elliott

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Barbara Kent Elliott who passed away at age 95 on January 2, 2022. Barbara had lived in Concord for 43 years before relocating to Tiverton, RI.

Barbara was a generous and loyal supporter of the Museum for much of her adult life. She was a member and volunteer for many decades and also worked on the staff as a Head Guide. In addition to her gifts of time and talent, Barbara could also be counted on for financial support. She and Wayne made their first gift in 1970 and gave freely ever since. As a final act of generosity, Barbara asked that gifts given in her memory be directed to the Concord Museum. We will miss Barbara's enthusiasm, curiosity, and passion for history and education and admire her for touching the lives of so many people during her wonderful long life.

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Alive with Birds features fine art and sculpture from Mass Audubon's Museum of American Bird Art by John James Audubon, Frank Weston Benson, Anthony Elmer Crowell, Roger Tory Peterson, Charley Harper, Leonard Baskin, and David Sibley, among others. Historical illustrations by George Miksch Sutton and Louis Agassiz Fuertes hang beside contemporary works by Sherrie York and Barry Van Dusen, creating enlightening juxtapositions of material, technique, and subject. Each work of art speaks to some aspect of Brewster's life and the issues which concerned him, such as climate change and habitat loss.

In 2019, Mass Audubon received a gift of 143 acres of the October Farm property, which has been renamed Brewster's Woods Wildlife Sanctuary. A centerpiece of the exhibition explores Brewster's Woods through a 10-minute media presentation which combines Brewster's own words and photographs with modern footage to guide the visitors in discovering the wonders of this natural landscape.

Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord opens on March 4, 2022. Please go to www.concordmuseum.org to plan your visit now.



(Top left to right) *Rice Field Scene*, Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996), about 1949. *Mass Audubon Collection*, Bequest of John Henry Dick (1995). *Green-winged Teal Pair*, Anthony Elmer Crowell (1862-1952), about 1915. *Mass Audubon Collection*, Anonymous gift (2008). *Black-billed Cuckoo*, John James Audubon (1785-1851), 1828. *Mass Audubon Collection*, Bequest of Anna Bemis Stearns (1995).

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Alive with Birds Programs



In collaboration with  Mass Audubon

Concord Museum Members' Sneak Peek of *Alive with Birds*

Friday, March 4 | 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Free and Open to Concord Museum Members

For the night owls, our new special exhibition, *Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord*, is staying open late on the eve of opening weekend for a sneak preview just for members of the Museum. Visit the exhibit and enjoy a tasty treat on this special evening for members. *Photo at right: Flying Dove, Daniel Chester French (1850-1931), 1874. Concord Museum, Gift of the Cummings Davis Society (2000)*



Opening Celebration for *Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord*

Saturday, March 5 | Free with Museum Admission. Members visit free. \$3 Off Admissions for Members of Mass Audubon.

Flock to the Museum on the opening weekend of *Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord* for a day filled with gallery talks from the curators. As a special event, Artist-In-Residence at the Wendell Gilley Museum and carver for over 45 years, Steve Valleau, demonstrates the fine art of bird carving for visitors.

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. *The Art of Decoy* Artist Demonstrations
In partnership with the Wendell Gilley Museum.



10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. *Observation and Innovation: William Brewster and Beyond* Gallery Talk with Curatorial Associate of the Concord Museum, Erica Lome.

11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. *American Bird Art* Gallery Talk with the Director of the Museum of American Bird Art at Mass Audubon, Amy Montague.



Alive with Birds Family Weekend

Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27 | Drop-In Programming
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free with Museum Admission. Members visit free.

Visit the special exhibition *Alive with Birds* to discover the beauty of birds. Then, join us for a family activity in our Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum to design and decorate your own bird.



Earth Day Drop-In Program

Friday, April 22 | Drop-In Programming 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free with Museum Admission. Members visit free.

Build your own binoculars (without lenses) to explore birds in the sky. But first, test your binoculars out in *Alive with Birds*. Environmental bonus: recycle by bringing your own toilet paper tubes!



Birds of Prey Wildlife Encounter: Earth Day Family Program

Friday, April 22 | 4:00 -5:00 p.m. | Free

Meet birds of prey and learn about their importance to the ecosystem with an educator from Mass Audubon. Species may include owls, falcons, hawks, vultures, and eagles. Through these powerful and graceful birds feel a true connection to all wildlife and the habitat we share.



Alive with Birds Programs, *continued*



Early Bird Walking Tour of Brewster's Woods

Saturday, May 14 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Members Free | Non-members \$15. Includes Same-day admission to the Concord Museum

Walk with the warblers as they migrate through Concord. Join David O'Neill, President of Mass Audubon, and Jeff Collins, Director of Conservation Science, as they explore birding hotspots in Brewster's Woods Wildlife Sanctuary. We'll walk in the footsteps of William Brewster, sharing passages from his journals and searching for a variety of spring migrants on their annual passage through New England.



Emerson-Thoreau Amble Walking Tour

Saturday, May 21 | 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Members Free Non-members \$15. Includes Same-day admission to the Concord Museum

Celebrate Emerson's birthday and follow the footsteps of writers Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau! Enjoy the spring weather and learn about the friendship of two notable observers of nature from a Museum interpreter.

In partnership with the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association.



It's Revolutionary!

Patriots' Day Town Night

Tuesday, April 12 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Free

Visit the Museum's new April 19, 1775 galleries. Drop by the Lisa H. Foote History Learning Center to explore Revolutionary muskets with arms expert Joel Bohy, Director of Historic Arms and Militaria for Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers. This program will be followed by a forum at 7:00 p.m. with Jane Kamensky.

Patriots' Day Minuteman Encampment

Monday, April 18 | 10:30 a.m. (following the parade) – 4:00 p.m. | Free

"I haven't a man who is afraid to go!" Visit the brave Acton Minutemen company in an encampment outside the Concord Museum on Patriots' Day and see them drilling with muskets to prepare for battle, cooking over a firepit, and demonstrating colonial spinning and sewing.

An Enemy Among Us!

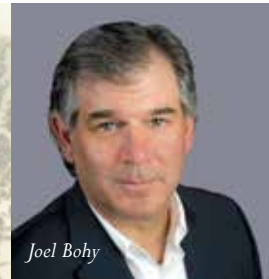
Monday, April 18 | 10:30 a.m. (following the parade) – 4:00 p.m. Free with Museum admission. Members visit free.

When you are visiting the Museum on Patriots' Day, beware of a Red Coat from the British Army roaming the galleries looking for Provincial rebels. Talk with him about the experiences of the Red Coats on April 19, 1775.

Patriots' Day Family Activities

Monday, April 18 | Drop-In Programming 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Free with Museum Admission. Members visit free.

Celebrate the start of the American Revolution by exploring artifacts in the Museum and then participate in our drop-in activities to learn about life and craft in the colonies.



Joel Bohy



Alive with Birds Forums in collaboration  **Mass Audubon**

MARCH

Elizabeth Kolbert on the Nature of the Future

Tuesday, March 8 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Virtual

Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Elizabeth Kolbert, discusses her newest book, *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future*, in which she examines humanity’s transformative impact on the environment and asks: “After doing so much damage, can we change nature now to save it?”



These Precious Days: A Conversation with Ann Patchett

Wednesday, March 16 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Virtual

Novelist and essayist, Ann Patchett, discusses her newest collection of essays, *These Precious Days*, in which she reflects on questions of home, family, friendships, and writing.



Vesper Flights: A Conversation with Helen Macdonald

Tuesday, March 22 | 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Virtual

H is for Hawk memoirist, Helen Macdonald, discusses her newest collection of essays, *Vesper Flights*, in which she reflects on “the numinous” of nature—“those moments where mystery arises from the meeting of human art and unpredictable natural phenomena.”

In partnership with the National Archives and Records Administration.



A Conversation with Ornithologist Scott Edwards

Tuesday, March 29 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person and virtual

Harvard professor and Curator of Ornithology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Scott Edwards, discusses his research on the processes that have generated biodiversity using birds as models to study patterns of speciation, biogeography, evolution of the genome, and the process of adaptation.



Finding Beauty in a Broken World with Terry Tempest Williams

Thursday, March 31 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person and virtual

Join author and conservationist, Terry Tempest Williams, as she discusses her literary ancestors (Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller) and her most recent essay collection, *Erosion*, in which she asks: “How do we find the strength to not look away from all that is breaking our hearts?”



APRIL

History 1776: A Conversation with Jane Kamensky

Tuesday, April 12 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person | Free

Harvard Professor, Jane Kamensky, discusses lessons she has learned in recent years teaching a course on the Revolution and her involvement in Educating for American Democracy, an initiative to strengthen history and civic learning and to ensure their equitable delivery throughout the country.



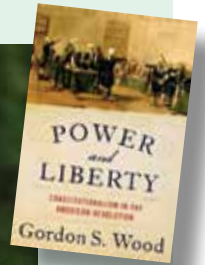
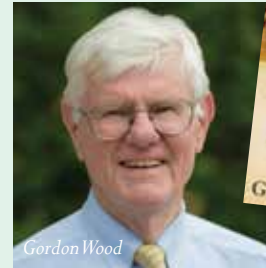
Alive with Birds Forums in collaboration  **Mass Audubon**

APRIL

Power and Liberty: A Conversation with Gordon Wood
Annual Mary Lesneski Memorial Lecture

Tuesday, April 26 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person and virtual

Brown University professor, Gordon Wood, discusses his new book, *Power and Liberty: Constitutionalism in the American Revolution*, in which he distills a lifetime of work on constitutional innovations during the Revolutionary era with historian Richard Brown of the University of Connecticut.



MAY

The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds

Tuesday, May 3 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person and virtual

Join Scott Weidensaul, naturalist and ornithologist, as he celebrates the natural world—particularly birds—in his newest book, *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, conveying the wonder of bird migration and its global sweep.



In the Footsteps of Henry David Thoreau

Wednesday, May 4 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person and virtual

In his new book, *Six Walks*, award-winning author and artist, Ben Shattuck, depicts six journeys from Cape Cod to Mount Katahdin that were once taken by Thoreau. According to one reviewer: “echoing Thoreau’s brilliant reflections with his own, Shattuck distills the healing power of nature into a narrative that’s a pure pleasure to wander through.”



Founding Women and the Dawn of the Conservation Movement

Tuesday, May 10 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person and virtual

Joan Walsh, Gerard Bertrand Chair of Field Ornithology & Natural History at Mass Audubon, and Reed Abigail Gochberg, Harvard Lecturer and Curator, speak on the role women played in the founding of the conservation movement.



On Emerson and Parker: A Conversation with Dean Grodzins
Second Annual Robert D. Richardson III Lecture

Wednesday, May 25 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | In-person and virtual

Few figures had more influence in shaping Transcendentalism in America than Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker. Join Dean Grodzins, author of *American Heretic: Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism*, in a wide-ranging conversation to help mark the 219th anniversary of Emerson’s birth.





Winter Events



This winter we were happy to share the Museum's special events in-person including Family Trees, Author Illustrator Day, Holiday House Tour, The Fête, and History in Bloom.



Off to Historic New England!

The stars aligned two years ago as the Museum launched its initiative to redesign its permanent galleries and received a prestigious grant to support a two-year full time intern from the *Decorative Arts Trust* as well as an application for that position from a newly minted PhD, Erica Lome. Erica played a pivotal role for the Museum these past years and has recently accepted the position of Associate Curator at *Historic New England* as they launch their *Recovering New England's Voices* initiative. We wish her well!

33rd Annual Garden Tour

Join the Guild of Volunteers for the 33rd annual Garden Tour on Saturday June 4 and Sunday June 5, 2022. This year, we are thrilled for the tour to return to an in-person format so that you can have the complete sensory experience that makes this event so special. You will have the chance to look closely at the vibrant purples of petals and the verdant greens of stems. You'll hear the buzz of pollinating insects and chirping birds. You can smell the delicate fragrance of flowers in bloom and feel the warm spring sunshine as it falls over each garden. After two years of watching spring's beauty through windows and screens, the time has come re-experience the outdoors through this beloved Museum tradition.

The Garden Tour takes place in carefully selected private gardens throughout Concord and is self-paced and self-guided. We know you'll enjoy exploring these creative and exceptional Concord gardens!

Tickets and more information available at www.concordmuseum.org



Retirement: A Tribute to Carol Haines

After 40 years at the Concord Museum, our beloved colleague, Carol Haines, will retire on March 11. No words can capture what Carol has contributed to the Museum during her tenure. Such an effort would be like trying to catch the wind. Suffice it to say that Carol represents not just the heart, but also the soul of our Museum community. We hope that all of you who have seen Carol in action—or benefitted, in some way, from the fruits of her indefatigable energy and careful stewardship of countless initiatives—will have a chance to wish her well before she decamps to her home on Old Bedford Road. That is the only good news in all of this. She and her husband, Dave, will remain close by and have been duly knighted “members for life!”



Carol Haines with her son Tim (2008, Family Trees)



Museum Shop

Visit the Museum Shop to browse our local offerings and constantly changing inventory. Members receive a 10% discount on Concord Museum merchandise.

Group Tours

Enjoy the spring weather by booking a walking tour with the Museum! Take a stroll around town to learn about the literary history of Concord with *Emerson's Circle: Concord in the 1800s*, or walk the road to revolution with our *Center of Revolution* tour. Our expert guides bring history to life in modern-day Concord.

Inquiries: please email grouptours@concordmuseum.org or call Joe Rynasko, Visitor Services Associate, at 978-369-9763 ext. 239.

Private Events

Create an historic experience by hosting your next event at the Concord Museum! Our Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum is the perfect space to host family events, small weddings, or conferences. Equipped with an A.V. system, this space works for corporate clients and private events. Members receive discounts on rentals.*

Thinking of hosting an event? Contact Darcy Foster, Manager of Visitor Services, at 978-369-9763 ext. 243 or dfoster@concordmuseum.org.

*Membership discount applies at the Contributor and above levels.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Alive with Birds:

William Brewster in Concord

March 4 – September 5, 2022

WINTER & SPRING HOURS

February: Thurs.-Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Starting in March: Tues-Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ADMISSION

\$15 Adult, \$12 Senior/Student,
\$8 Children 6-17, Child under
5 free & Museum Members free.

CONTACT

978-369-9763

cm1@concordmuseum.org

www.concordmuseum.org

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33rd Annual Garden Tour



Join the Guild of Volunteers for the **33rd Annual Garden Tour** on **Saturday, June 4** and **Sunday, June 5, 2022**. This year we are thrilled for the tour to return to an in-person format, so you can explore these exceptional private gardens.

Save the Date!



Please mark your calendar for the **Concord Museum Gala** at the Concord Country Club on **May 14, 2022**. More information coming this spring!