Special screening of documentary film The Messenger
at the Berkshire Museum April 8, 2017

[Pittsfield, Mass.] – The documentary film The Messenger, a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, will be shown Saturday, April 8, at 1:30 and 7 p.m. at the Berkshire Museum’s Little Cinema. The special screening is a collaboration among Mass Audubon’s Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, the Hoffmann Bird Club, Wild Birds Country Store in Great Barrington, and the Museum. Tickets are $7.50 for the general public and $5 for members of Mass Audubon, Hoffmann Bird Club, and the Museum.

Following the 7 p.m. screening, Hugh Powell, Senior Science Editor at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will lead a discussion and answer questions on how individuals can make an impact on bird conservation in their own back yards. Mass Audubon will provide information about upcoming birding programs and local opportunities to participate in bird conservation.

The Messenger, a documentary by award-winning filmmaker Su Rynard, chronicles the struggle of songbirds worldwide to survive in turbulent environmental conditions and argues that their demise could signify the crash of ecosystems globally, akin to the disappearance of honey bees and melting glaciers.

For thousands of years, songbirds were regarded by mankind as messengers from the gods. Today, these creatures - woven inextricably into the fabric of our
environment – are vanishing at an alarming rate. Under threat from climate change, pesticides, and more, populations of hundreds of species have dipped dramatically. As scientists, activists, and bird enthusiasts investigate this phenomenon, amazing secrets of the bird world come to light in this acclaimed documentary. Beautiful slow motion photography illustrates the power and beauty of these delicate winged creatures that have been praised and eulogized across cultures and throughout time.

For ticket information, go to http://berkshinemuseum.org/little-cinema. For information about bird conservation and programs, visit www.massaudubon.org/pleasantvalley.

**About the Berkshire Museum**

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

The Berkshire Museum integrates science, history, and the arts in dynamic educational and engaging programs and exhibitions for visitors of all ages. **Curiosity Incubator** is on view. **Tell Me More ... Time and Travel, Extreme Exploration, and Art of the Armament** is on view through April 30, 2017. **The Science of Color** is on view through April 30, 2017. Little Cinema is open year-round. Lab102, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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