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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

# REPORT



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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

## ART AND AWARENESS

*New Ecological  
Art Installation  
Depicts the Future  
of Sea Level Rise*

*Also Inside:*

**THE TRUTH ABOUT  
YOUR RECYCLING BIN**



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## We are All Responsible for the Care of Nature

The Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge in Warren is a beautiful place to take an easy hike in any season to see a variety of birds. It is also home to an increasingly rare coastal grasslands salt-marsh system that provides habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife – many of which are threatened due to climate change. Due to the fortunate topography, the upland fields will one day provide a place where future marshes will migrate as the sea level rises.

The provocative art installation provided by Professor Leonard Yui and his architecture students at Roger Williams University tells an important story about what is to come, and reminds us that no matter what century we live in, we are all responsible for the care of nature. Our most important legacy will be how we have left the planet for future generations.

Thank you to Professor Yui and his students for this special ecological art installation. And thank you for continuing to be a supporter of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and lending your voice to a growing chorus of people who will speak out in defense of nature.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. F. Taft, Executive Director



## Planning Ahead

Thanks to the many Audubon supporters listed in this issue of the Report, last year was one of the most successful fundraising years in Audubon's storied history. In 2019, donations ranging from \$5 to \$50,000 all made a significant impact in our work to defend nature in Rhode Island. Ending on such a strong financial footing made it possible for Audubon to launch the new year in a strong position, with resources at the ready to work toward greater environmental change.

Your membership dues and donations are the fuel that keeps our work possible. Year-end gifts are critical to success, but financial support is also needed throughout the year. There are many ways to join us in helping birds and wildlife. Use the checklist below to identify gift options that might fit your planning goals.

Gift Option	Key Benefits
Cash	• The easiest way to give. Write a check, donate online at <a href="http://www.asri.org">www.asri.org</a> .
Appreciated Stock	• If you own stock in companies, transfer a stock that you've owned for more than one year and pay no capital gains tax. The full value of the stock qualifies for a deduction if you itemize. Contact Jeff Hall at <a href="mailto:jhall@asri.org">jhall@asri.org</a> for instructions on how to transfer stock to Audubon.
Gift the Gives Back	• Receive lifetime income for a charitable gift annuity. There can be one or two income beneficiaries.
Donor Advised Funds	• Do you have a donor advised fund? Gifts from these funds are simple to complete and use funds already set aside for charitable purposes.
Transfer from an IRA	• If you are required to take distributions from an individual retirement account, you can make a gift to nature directly from your IRA. It counts toward your minimum distribution and you pay no tax. The IRA sends funds directly to Audubon.
Sustaining Donation	• Set up a monthly contribution using your credit card or bank account and let smaller monthly amounts grow to make a significant impact for nature.

For more information on how you can start today and make a larger impact for birds and wildlife, contact Jeff Hall at (401) 949-5454 ext. 3017 and let him show you the many ways to give. The time is right!



*Audubon Partners with  
Roger Williams University*

# FIVE ECOLOGICAL PIERS

***An Ecological Art Installation Depicting Future Sea Level Rise Now Shares the Diverse Habitat at Audubon's Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge in Warren, Rhode Island.***

As visitors traverse trails through hardwood forests, open fields and along a scenic salt marsh at the Audubon Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge in Warren, they encounter five twenty-foot tall piers rising out of the ground. A handful of wooden perches for birds protrude from their faces, punctuating lines of circular and oval indents. Etched in Morse code with passages from seminal environmentalists of the 20th Century, the writings on these piers echo the struggles and warnings voiced by prior generations.

A year-long project designed by Leonard Yui, Assistant Professor of Architecture at Roger Williams University (RWU) and facilitated by Audubon Senior Director of Conservation Scott Ruhren, Five Ecological Piers was installed by a team of RWU architecture students and Audubon staff. While providing opportunities to reflect on messages from the past, the installation also educates visitors on the impacts of climate change. Audubon has been involved with the project from the beginning, said Ruhren. We wanted to ensure that the refuge values were enhanced and protected. This art installation fits well into the landscape, educates on sea level rise, and adds to the visitor experience at Touisset.

The tall piers display expected sea level rise values shared by research organizations like the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) and U.S. Army

Corp of Engineers. Visitors with mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets can access educational materials about this installation through QR codes. Resources about climate change, sea level rise, and habitat change will be available in a relatable and accessible manner.

Yui explains that this installation is different from other educational tools available on sea level rise as it connects impacts to a specific location. Sea level rise oftentimes is studied from kind of an aerial perspective, said Yui. And there s mass quantities of information. And while that information is definitely important, from an individual perspective, it s really hard to relate to. The strategy with this installation is to have people understand the site first. What is the current ecology of the Touisset property and what do visitors enjoy about the site? Then overlay how sea level rise might affect this space.

The Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge is one of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island s most scenic properties. Providing a wide variety of diverse habitat, Touisset also borders a saltmarsh that is currently being affected by sea level rise. This ecological installation is really not about the structure, explains Yui. It s about helping people to look at the landscape more carefully, and to understand the changes that sea level rise will bring.

Please turn to page 4

# FIVE ECOLOGICAL PIERS

**Key elements of the installation include:**

## REVERENT GATEWAYS

The tall piers are designed to recognize the forerunners of today's environmental movement: Rachel Carson, John Muir, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, Wes Jackson, and Aldo Leopold. Their aspirational and cautionary excerpts are etched in Morse code - a language that spanned their generation - and are as relevant today as when they were written. These critical messages, accessible through the QR code on the piers, are intended to stir curiosity and inspire today's digital generation.

## REDESIGNED LUMBER

The structures are made from native Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) sourced from a local mill. It was cut down for a new development and prepped for architectural use. The wood used in this project has been recycled, adapted and redesigned to include uses for wildlife.

## HABITAT & CHANGE

The holes and perches on the piers provide habitat for native bird and insect species. The piers also provide information on the ecological differences found in each setting, allowing visitors to view the changes to the piers and the property, especially as climate change influences how this landscape will look in the future.

## SEA LEVEL RISE

The piers are designed to display expected sea level rise values shared by research organizations like the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Although values can change over time, the trend over recent decades has seen consistent increases, some of which are dramatic. The piers act as measuring devices, inspired by CRC's Teresa Crean, and are situated in various habitats on the refuge that mark expected sea level rise and storm events for the years 2050 and 2100. The physical markers on the piers are in development and will be coordinated with the support of the CRC in the next stage of the project.

## QR CODE

QR codes in development will allow visitors with mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets to access digital information and educational materials about this art installation. Designed to serve current and future generations, resources about climate change, sea level rise, and habitat change will be available in a relatable and accessible manner.



***“This art installation fits well into the landscape, educates on sea level rise, and adds to the visitor experience at Touisset.”***

Scott Ruhren, Audubon Senior Director of Conservation



The trails at Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge lead visitors through forest, fields and provide stunning views of saltmarsh habitat and the Kickemuit River. Fields of flowers attract butterflies in the summer months, and the flat terrain brings cross-country skiers in winter. While an ideal destination for families and those looking for an easy, peaceful walk, Touisset Marsh also plays a critical role in protecting the coast from storms and rising tides. This property will become even more valuable as sea levels rise and extreme weather events become more frequent. It is an ideal location to reflect on the past, enjoy the present, and increase one's understanding of what the future will hold. Visit the Five Ecological Piers at Audubon's Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge, 99 Touisset Road, Warren, RI. For more information visit: [asri.org/5-piers-touisset.html](http://asri.org/5-piers-touisset.html)



**THANKS TO THE TOUISSET FIRE COMPANY, STATION 6**

As architecture students and Audubon staff installed the piers, they would leave the refuge covered in soil and cement dust. Touisset Fire Company, Station 6 (TFC) Chief Jim Sousa and company members allowed staff and students the use of their facilities to clean up before hitting the road. TFC has always been a good neighbor at Touisset, and Audubon extends thanks for their assistance during this installation.

*Top left: The bridge at Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge. Audubon conservation staff prepare for the installation of the piers. From left: Jon Scoones (in white), Mike Cavaliere, Scott Ruhren, and Laura Carberry.*



# THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR RECYCLING BIN

By Todd McLeish

***Approximately 62,500 tons of plastics ended up in the landfill in Rhode Island in 2015. Half of it could have been recycled through one of the state's recycling programs.***

**A**t first glance, the inside of the Rhode Island Municipal Recycling Facility in Johnston is a complex maze of conveyor belts, walkways and giant green machines with yellow and orange highlights, something like you might imagine at an old-fashioned industrial processing plant. But the unseen technology it uses to sort the massive quantities of recyclable materials generated by Rhode Islanders is impressive.

A recent tour started at the tipping room floor, where trucks lined up to dump their load of mixed recyclables—collected curbside from residents throughout the state—on the cement floor of a giant open-ended warehouse-like structure. That's where workers quickly assess whether the load is contaminated with too many items that cannot be recycled in the facility, like plastic bags, propane tanks, televisions and plastic coat hangers. If the load contains more than 10 percent non-recyclable materials, it is rejected and everything goes into the landfill (though more often than not, loads aren't rejected unless they contain closer to 30 percent of non-recyclable material).

The loads that make the cut are added to a massive pile—25 feet high and 100 feet long—of cardboard, paper and a rainbow of plastics, metal and glass. Workers driving front-end loaders then dump the materials from the pile into a drum feeder that delivers it into the plant at an opti-

mal rate for sorting. The conveyor soon reveals numerous hidden items that don't belong in anyone's recycling bin—paint cans, oversized containers, jars that haven't been emptied of their contents, and household trash—that four men wearing hard-hats and gloves try to pull out before they pass by.

And then things get complicated. The remaining materials on the conveyor then hit the first of several star screens, a sorting device that flips light-weight materials upward while the rest travels down. The first star screen directs large pieces of cardboard out of the mixed materials.

It's a little physics and a little geometry, said Jared Rhodes, director of policy and programs at the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, who was leading the tour. The big stuff surfs over the top while the rest goes down below.

A few yards away, another star screen positioned at a steep angle delivers most of the rest of the paper products off the conveyor, leaving just plastics, metal and glass still to be sorted. A magnetic belt then directs the steel and tin containers in one direction, while a device called an eddy current repels the aluminum in another direction. An optical scanner then shoots a beam of light to identify each of the remaining materials by their reflectivity, and a jet of air directs each item wherever it needs to go. Glass is diverted through a breaking machine and then

**“Unfortunately, there’s also a lot of wish-cycling—we want it to be recycled, so we put it in the bin even if it doesn’t belong there – and that does more harm than good”**

Krystal Noiseaux, Rhode Island Resource Recovery

into a hammering mill to pulverize it.

Plastics are dropped below to a final conveyor, where another optical scanner separates it by color—clear, colored and natural (think gallon milk jugs). From there, the plastic goes through a bailing machine that spits out 4-foot square bails of plastics, which are stacked five high and six deep around three walls of the bailing room. Trucks from companies seeking to acquire the materials then back up to the adjacent loading dock to pick up whatever they need.

There’s a lot of moving parts here, Rhodes said. This is the end of the line. And the beginning of another one.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Municipal Recycling Facility is an efficient system for sorting plastics and other recyclable materials and preparing them for pick-up by those seeking the raw materials, but far too much of it is contaminated by items that should not be placed in the recycling bin in the first place. And Rhode Islanders recycle just 25 percent of their trash via their recycling bin.

Plastics are a huge part of the problem. Rhodes points out that just nine percent of all the plastic ever produced has been recycled, and plastics production is expected to grow by 40 percent by 2025. About 78 million tons of plastic packaging are produced every year around the world, and 40 percent of it ends up in a landfill somewhere. The situation in Rhode Island isn’t any better.

About 62,500 tons of plastics ended up in the landfill in Rhode Island in 2015, according to Krystal Noiseaux, the former education and outreach manager at Rhode Island Resource Recovery. Half of it could have been recycled through one of the state’s recycling programs.

There are a gazillion plastic items that can’t be recycled at all, said Noiseaux. Even if we do everything we can and everyone is fully participating, there is still going to be a lot of plastic that needs to be landfilled because recyclers don’t want it or can’t process it or we can’t produce it in the quality or volume they need.

Unfortunately, there has been a big change in the composition of the materials we have to manage, she added. More and more products are being made from plastic; companies are changing to plastics because it’s lighter to ship.

To minimize the wasteful use of natural resources that are used to produce plastic and reduce the litter that accumulates seemingly everywhere you look, Audubon advocates for the elimination of single-use plastics. It also encourages all Rhode Islanders to remember the mantra of the three R’s—reduce, reuse, recycle—and to emphasize the first two, reduce and reuse, rather than relying exclusively on recycling.

Not doing so has significant implications.

Because plastics do not biodegrade, the growing quantities of plastics that end up in the landfill have serious ramifications on the life expectancy of Rhode Island’s Central Landfill. At the current rate of trash being landfilled in the state, the landfill is expected to run out of space in 2034. And while there is a planning process under way to determine how to address future waste disposal needs, there is little space available to expand the landfill at the current site.

Please turn to page 16



*The baling conveyor for plastics at RI Resource Recovery.*

**We Can  
Help  
Wildlife...**



**When You  
Help Us.**

**Audubon Raptor Care  
Donate Today:  
[asri.org/raptorcare](http://asri.org/raptorcare)**



# Help Send a Kid to AUDUBON SUMMER CAMP

**Please donate TODAY! Summer is right around the corner.**

### How did you spend your playtime as a child?

Did you go outside and explore the woods or play in your yard? Did you run through the grass playing games, look for frogs in a nearby pond, or maybe build a fort? For most adults, the connection to nature began with positive, childhood experiences. By contrast, today's children are spending less and less time playing outside.

### Many families cannot afford to send their child to Audubon Summer Camp.

You can help to get a child outside and experience nature this summer. Your donation of \$260 will allow a young camper to hike through the woods, explore the shore, get up-close with cool critters, make messy crafts and have lots of healthy, outdoor fun.

### All Kids Should Go to Summer Camp

Help us send 100 kids to Audubon Summer Camp. It's an experience that connects youth with nature and makes their summer special. Your generous donation of \$260 will send one child to Audubon Camp for one week. Summer is right around the corner! Please donate today to the Audubon Summer Camp Scholarship Fund and make a difference in a child's life.



***"I am going to help send a Kid to Summer Camp!"***

**Please accept my donation for a camp scholarship**

**Please charge my credit card**

\_\_\_\$520 (2 kids) \_\_\_\$260 \_\_\_\$130 \_\_\_\$65 \_\_\_\$32.50 \_\_\_Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



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EXPIRATION DATE (MM/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

CVV CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

*You can also donate online at [asri.org](http://asri.org)*

Please make check payable to: Audubon Society of Rhode Island • Mail to: Audubon Scholarships, 12 Sanderson Rd., Smithfield, RI 02917



# 2020 AUDUBON SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Audubon Camp gets kids ages 2½ to 13 outside to explore a variety of habitats and provides a safe environment to have lots of FUN in nature.

DATES	Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium Bristol, RI	Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium Bristol, RI	Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium Bristol, RI	Audubon Caratunk Wildlife Refuge Seekonk, MA	Audubon Caratunk Wildlife Refuge Seekonk, MA
June 22, 2020 – June 26, 2020	<b>Habitats, Homes &amp; Hideaways</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Creatures of the Deep!</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm	<b>Early Birds</b> Ages 2.5-4 w/adult 9am-12pm		
June 29, 2020 – July 3, 2020	<b>Fins &amp; Fishes</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Coastal Adventures</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm	<b>Fledglings</b> Ages 4-5 9am-12pm		
July 6, 2020 – July 10, 2020	<b>Dinosaur Days</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Wildlife Trackers</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm	<b>Birds of Prey</b> Ages 10-12 9am-3pm	<b>Habitats, Homes &amp; Hideaways</b> Ages 5-7 9am-3pm	<b>Survival Challenge</b> Ages 8-11 9am-3pm
July 13, 2020 – July 17, 2020	<b>Explore the Shore</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Creatures of the Deep!</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm	<b>Marine Biology Camp</b> Ages 10-12 M-Th 9am-3pm F 9am-5:30pm	<b>Amazing Metamorphosis!</b> Ages 5-7 9am-3pm	<b>Wildlife Trackers</b> Ages 8-11 9am-3pm
July 20, 2020 – July 24, 2020	<b>Dinosaur Days</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Survival Challenge</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm	<b>Sea Squirts</b> Ages 4-5 9am-12pm	<b>Habitat Investigations</b> Ages 11-13 9am-3pm	
July 27, 2020 – July 31, 2020	<b>Explore the Shore</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Creatures of the Deep!</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm	<b>Traveling Naturalist</b> Ages 10-12 M-Th 9am-3pm F 9am-5:30pm		
August 3, 2020 – August 7, 2020	<b>Amazing Metamorphosis!</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Wildlife Trackers</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm			
August 10, 2020 – August 14, 2020	<b>Fins &amp; Fishes</b> Ages 5-6 9am-3pm	<b>Coastal Adventures</b> Ages 7-9 9am-3pm	<b>Habitat Investigations</b> Ages 10-12 9am-3pm		



For more information and to register, visit: [audubonsummercamp.com](http://audubonsummercamp.com)



# WETLANDS IN WINTER

From spring through fall, freshwater wetlands are active, noisy places.

In ponds, swamps and marshes, fish jump, frogs call, birds sing, turtles bask, dragonflies hunt and beavers slap their tails on the water's surface. In winter when the water freezes – silence falls.

**Hérons, ducks and other birds** that rely on wetlands for food are able to fly to open water, but where do the fish and insects go? How does a turtle cope without coming to the surface to breathe? All sorts of animals survive in freshwater wetlands during the long New England winter. How do they do it?

**Fish are cold-blooded.** This means their body temperature goes up and down with the surrounding environment. When the temperature gets cold enough, layers of ice form from the top down on a pond's surface. This ice serves as insulation, helping to retain the heat in the water below. The fish will be found in the warmest water at the bottom of a pond. In winter, they are colder and much less active. When their bodies slow down, they don't need as much food or oxygen.

**Dragonflies spend winter under the ice.** While green darner dragonflies migrate, most dragonfly species feed and grow as nymphs under the ice. Caddisflies, mayflies and other insects also over winter as larvae or eggs. Many of these larvae burrow in the mud when the water freezes.



Painted Turtle



American Bullfrog

## Turtles and frogs have amazing adaptations.

When it grows cold, painted turtles head to the bottom of the wetland and reduce their metabolism and body temperature, so they need very little oxygen. They can bury themselves in mud for the winter, but may move around under the ice on warmer days. Bullfrogs hibernate at the bottom of the swamp, but not under the mud because they need more oxygen than turtles. Part of a bullfrog's body may actually freeze in the winter, but a high concentration of sugar (glucose) acts like an anti-freeze and protects their vital organs.



Beaver

## Beavers store food for winter.

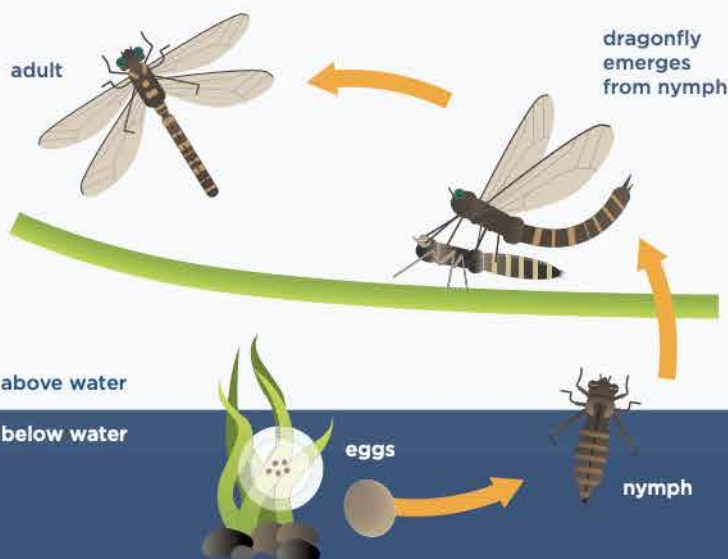
They hide branches under the water, just outside their lodge. Their sturdy homes are built of mud, sticks and logs with an entrance under the ice, so they can easily access the stored food when necessary.

To stay warm, beavers cuddle together in their cozy lodge. Muskrats, the beaver's smaller cousin, have similar strategies to survive the winter.



Brook Trout

## DRAGONFLY METAMORPHOSIS



# AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

March – May 2020

For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

## BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

### FREE WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Please visit Audubon's website or Facebook page for the weekly location. Every Wednesday through June 2020; 9:00 – 11:00 am.

### CAPE ANN WINTER BIRDING VAN TRIP

Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; March 1, 2020; 7:00 am – 5:00 pm.

### OWLING VAN TRIP

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; March 6, 2020; 4:00 – 8:00 pm.

### AMERICAN WOODCOCKS

Observe the enchanting mating flights of the American Woodcock.

#### - WOODCOCK WALK

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; March 26, 2020; 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

#### - WOODCOCKS AND WINE

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; April 9, 2020; 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

#### - WATCHING WOODCOCKS: SUPPER AND SAUNTER

Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; April 10, 2020; 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

### BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS – FIVE SESSIONS

This five-week class provides a basic understanding of bird biology as well as visual and by-ear identification techniques. Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI; April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2020; 9:00 – 11:00 am.

### GREAT SWAMP WALK

Great Swamp, 296 Great Neck Road, South Kingstown, RI; May 2, 2020; 2:30 – 5:00 pm.

### SPRING BIRDING VAN TRIP

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; May 11, 2020; 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.

### BLUEBIRD WALK

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; May 24, 2020; 7:00 – 8:30 am.



## FREE MAY BIRDING WALKS

May is the peak month for the spring bird migration, with something different moving through each week. Get in on the best birding of the year with Audubon! Novice birders are welcome. Walks are geared for teen to adult.

### SUNDAYS

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Ave., Seekonk, MA; May 3, 10, 17, 31, 2020; 7:00 – 8:30 am. Note: there is no walk on May 24.

### MONDAYS

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI; May 4, 11, 18, 2020; 8:00 – 10:00 am. Note: there is no walk on May 25.

### TUESDAYS

Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge, 2820 Victory Highway, Coventry, RI; May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020; 8:00 – 10:00 am.

### WEDNESDAYS\*

Locations determined weekly, please visit the Audubon website or Facebook page for details. May 13, 20, 27, 2020; 9:00 – 11:00 am. Note: There is no walk on May 6. \* Free Wednesday Morning Bird Walks will continue through June 2020.

### THURSDAYS

- Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingston, RI; May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020; 8:00 – 10:00 am.  
- Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge, Touisset Road, Warren, RI; May 7, 21, 2020; 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. (Birding for Beginners)  
- Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, Seapowet Avenue, Tiverton, RI; May 14, 28, 2020; 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. (Birding for Beginners)

### FRIDAYS

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020; 8:30-10:30 am.

### SATURDAYS

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; May 2, 16, 23, 30, 2020; 9:00 – 10:30 am.

### BIRDING WITH KIDS

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; May 9, 2020; 9:00 – 10:30 am.



### BECOME A NATURE EXPLORER!

## APRIL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

April 13-17, 2020

Get up-close with cool critters, explore a pond habitat, go on a nature scavenger hunt and more! Visit the events calendar at [asri.org](http://asri.org) to learn more.

#### THREE LOCATIONS

- Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium
- Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
- Prudence Island



# AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

## PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

### NATURE AS I SEE IT: PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT BY KAREN JOHNSON-NIEUWENDIJK

March 1 to April 31, 2020; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

### LECTURE: BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE

March 5, 2020; 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

### FELTED BIRDHOUSES WORKSHOP

March 21, 2020; 12:30 – 4:30 pm.

### PEDAL FOR PONGO: FILM SCREENING

March 22, 2020; 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

### SEA GLASS JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Three Dates Offered.

March 28, April 25, May 30, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.

### SOIL TESTING

April 4, 2020; 2:00 – 4:30 pm.

### BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

This five-week class provides a basic understanding of bird biology as well as visual and by-ear identification techniques.  
April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2020; 9:00 – 11:00 am.

### WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION TALK BY LOU PEROTTI OF ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO

April 23, 2020; 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

### COUNTING THE BIRDS OF THE FOUR SEASONS: ARTWORK BY AMY VELDMAN-WILSON

May 3 to June 30, 2020; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

### LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY AND TALES LECTURE

May 14, 2020; 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

### FAIRY GARDENS FOR ADULTS

May 16, 2020; 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

## FAMILY PROGRAMS & CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

### CITIZENS BANK FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

Thanks to Citizens Bank, the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium is open free to the public the first Saturday of every month.

March 7, 2020: Clover

April 4, 2020: Earth Day

May 2, 2020: Migratory Birds

### PRESCHOOL ADVENTURES

March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020; 10:00-11:00 am.

### LI'L PEEPS

March 26, April 2, 9, 23, 30, May 7, 2020; 9:45-10:45 am.

### AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 4, 2020; 9:30 – 11:00 am.

### APRIL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

Visit the events calendar at [asri.org](http://asri.org) for details.

Monday, April 13, 2020: Senses in Nature

Tuesday, April 14, 2020: Powerful Pollinators

Wednesday, April 15, 2020: Animal Transformers

Thursday, April 16, 2020: All About Owls

Friday, April 17, 2020: Rad Rhody

### MEMORIAL DAY NATURE ACTIVITIES

May 25, 2020; 10:00 am – 2:30 pm.



Meet Lucy & Zach!



Register online through the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3014.

## POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

### LECTURE: ATTRACTING CAVITY NESTERS

March 4, 2020; 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

### WICKED BIG PUDDLES: THE ECOLOGY OF VERNAL POOLS

March 18, 2020; 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

### CREATING SPACES FOR POLLINATORS & HUMMINGBIRDS

March 26, 2020; 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

### AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 4, 2020; 9:30 – 11:00 am.

### WATCHING WOODCOCKS: SUPPER AND SAUNTER

April 10, 2020; 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

### APRIL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

- Life Under a Log: Hunt for Minibeasts; April 14, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.
- Drawing in Nature for Families; April 14, 2020; 2:00 – 3:30 pm.
- City Hawk: The Story of Pale Male; April 15, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Raptors Rock! April 15, 2020; 2:00 – 3:30 pm.
- Totally Turtles! April 16, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Nature Photo Scavenger Hunt; April 16, 2020; 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm.
- Froggy Fun; April 17, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

### POND EXPLORATION

April 17, 2020; 2:00 – 3:30 pm.

### COMPOSTING 101

April 29, 2020; 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

### FREE MAY BIRDING WALKS

May 2, 16, 23, 30; 9:00 – 10:30 am.

### BIRDING FOR KIDS - FREE

May 9, 2020; 9:00 – 10:30 am.

### MAKE YOUR OWN FLOWER PRESS

May 16, 2020; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

### INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR LANDSCAPE: THE BITTERSWEET BATTLE

May 20, 2020; 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

### SPRING CRAFT FAIR

June 6, 2020; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.



## GUIDED NATURE WALKS

### SPRING WALK WITH AUDUBON

Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge, 2082 Victory Highway, Coventry, RI;  
April 6, 2020; 9:30 am – 12:00 pm.

### PEEPERS, WOOD FROGS AND MORE!

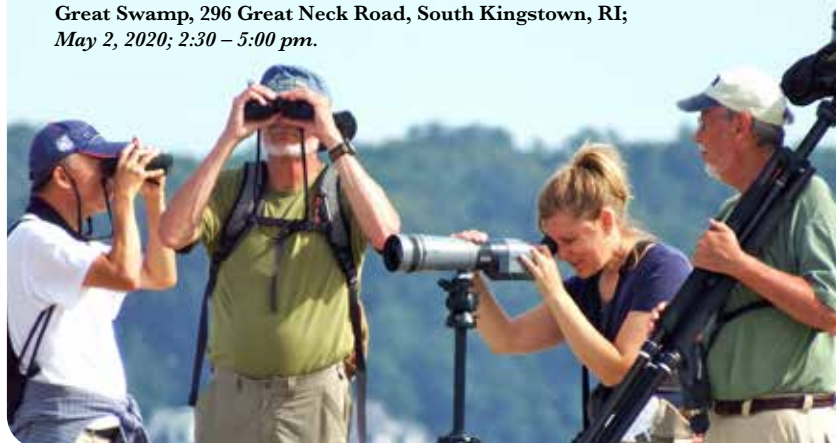
Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA;  
April 19, 2020; 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

### MOTHER'S DAY NATURE HIKE WITH AUDUBON

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA;  
April 19, 2020; 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

### GREAT SWAMP WALK

Great Swamp, 296 Great Neck Road, South Kingstown, RI;  
May 2, 2020; 2:30 – 5:00 pm.



## FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE

99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

### NATURE TOTS

Session 1: March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2020;  
Session 2: May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2020;  
10:00 - 11:00 am.

### AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 4, 2020; 9:30 – 11:00 am.

### FREE MAY BIRDING WALKS

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020; 8:30 – 10:30 am.



## AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

Children hunt for brown eggs in a natural setting and quickly learn how well the eggs camouflage.

Visit the events calendar at [asri.org](http://asri.org) to learn more.

April 4, 2020; 9:30 – 11:00 am

- Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
- Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI
- Powder Mill Ledges, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

April 11, 2020; 9:30 – 11:00 am

- Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA



Register online through the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3014.

# CARATUNK WILDLIFE REFUGE

301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA

## AUDUBON MAPLE SUGARING

March 14, 2020; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

## SIP AND SPA DIY!

March 21, 2020; 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

## WOODCOCK WALK

March 26, 2020; 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

## STARGAZING AT CARATUNK

March 29, 2020; 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

## AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 11, 2020; 9:30 – 11:00 am.

## PEEPERS, WOOD FROGS AND MORE!

April 19, 2020; 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

## TEACUP GARDENS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

May 2, 2020; 2:00 – 3:30 pm.

## FREE MAY BIRDING WALKS

May 3, 10, 17, 31, 2020; 7:00 – 8:30 am.

## MOTHER'S DAY NATURE HIKE

May 10, 2020; 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

## BLUEBIRD WALK

May 24, 2020; 7:00 – 8:30 am.



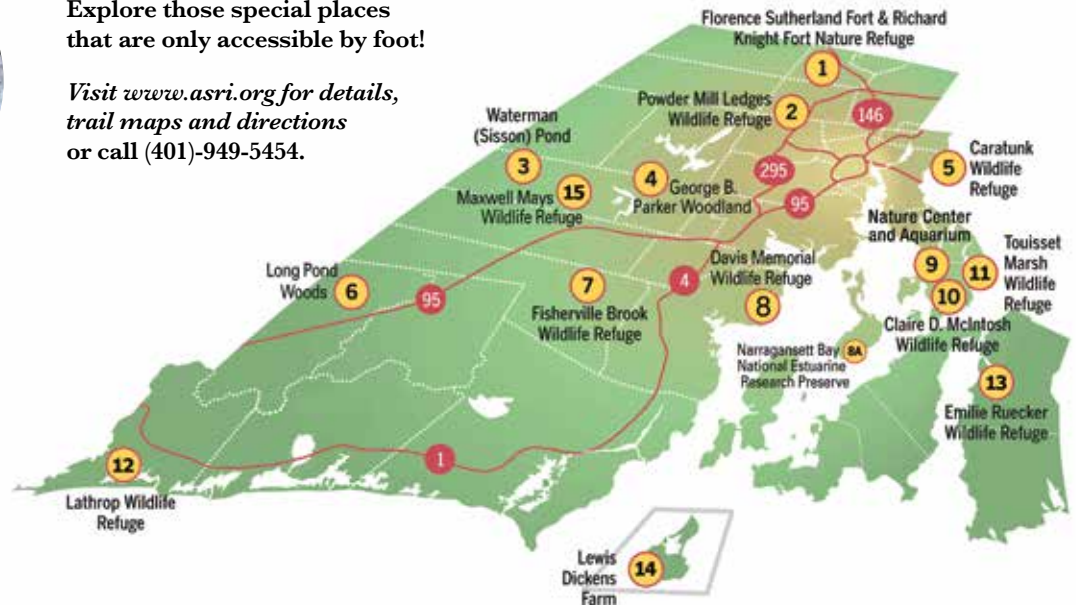
# YOURS TO DISCOVER!

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGES

Take to the trails and discover the natural wonders found on Audubon Wildlife Refuges across Rhode Island.

Explore those special places that are only accessible by foot!

Visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) for details, trail maps and directions or call (401)-949-5454.



- 1 Fort Wildlife Refuge**  
1445 Providence Pike (Rt. 5), North Smithfield, RI
- 2 Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge**  
12 Sanderson Road (Rt. 5), Smithfield, RI
- 3 Waterman Pond**  
Waterman Hill Road, Coventry, RI
- 4 George B. Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge**  
1670 Maple Valley Road, Coventry, RI
- 5 Caratunk Wildlife Refuge**  
301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA
- 6 Long Pond Woods**  
Long Pond Road, Rockville, RI
- 7 Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge**  
99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI
- 8 Davis Memorial Wildlife Refuge**  
Davisville Road, North Kingstown, RI
- 8A Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**, Prudence Island, RI
- 9 Nature Center and Aquarium / Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge**  
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
- 10**
- 11 Tousset Marsh Wildlife Refuge**  
Tousset Road, Warren, RI
- 12 Lathrop Wildlife Refuge**  
Route 1A, Westerly, RI
- 13 Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge**  
Seapowet Avenue, Tiverton, RI
- 14 Lewis-Dickens Farm**  
Cooneymus Road, Block Island, RI
- 15 Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge**  
2082 Victory Highway (Rte 102), Coventry, RI

# PRUDENCE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Prudence Island, RI

## GOODBYE WINTER, HELLO SPRING ON PRUDENCE ISLAND

March 12, 2020; 1:30 – 6:30 pm.

## EXPLORE THE ESTUARY FOR KIDS!

April School Vacation Week  
April 23, 2020; 1:30 – 6:30 pm.

## SPRING BIRDING ON PRUDENCE ISLAND

May 14, 2020; 7:30 am – 3:00 pm.



## SAVE THE DATE

March 14, 2020

# AUDUBON MAPLE SUGARING

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge  
301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm.



Register online through the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3014.

# Watch the RAVEN WEBCAM

When it comes to intelligent animals, the Common Raven is right up there. They are smart, curious and playful. Zach and Lucy are two Common Ravens that call Audubon home. They have limited flight capability due to injuries and cannot be released into the wild. From playing in the snow to imitating Barred Owls, these intelligent birds are constantly surprising Audubon. With the new webcam at the Nature Center and Aquarium, you can watch their antics too!

Audubon thanks the following donors who provided funding for the Raven Webcam at the 2019 Party for the Peregrines. We hope to see you all on May 1, 2020 at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. Let's party for the Peregrines again!

Cassandra Bailey  
Louis and Terry Belanger  
Nicholas and Julia Califano  
Charles and Eilish Clarkson  
Mary E. Costello  
Meg Curran  
Meghan Frost  
Elizabeth and Joel Gates  
Thomas Golden  
David and Jean Golden  
Betsy Gooding  
Pamela and Paul Goulet  
Samuel and Elizabeth Hallowell  
Donald Heitzmann  
Jana Hesser  
Constance and John Jacobucci

Helen Jankoski  
Shawn Magee  
Kathleen Melbourne and Lisa Close  
Alice and John Nichols  
Stanley Pelli and Ann-Christine Duhaime  
Candy and Christopher Powell  
Krystine Ritzen and Chris Riley  
Kathy and Mark Schnabel  
Susan Sherwood-Nulman and Kenneth Nulman  
Rafael and Amanda Soares  
Martin and Charlotte Sornborger  
MariAnn and Bob Sullivan  
Maija Lutz and Peter Tassia  
Michael Viveiros and Suzanne Dunkl  
Cynthia Warren and Martin Bauermeister



## Tune in!

Visit [asri.org](http://asri.org) and click on the webcam link to watch Zach and Lucy, the two Common Ravens that call Audubon home.

## Don't forget!

The Peregrine Falcons will be back in their nesting box in March. Watch on the Providence Peregrine Webcam as their eggs hatch and nestlings grow.

Save the Date

# Party for the Peregrines


Fundraising Auction

May 1, 2020 7:30-10 pm

**ROGER WILLIAMS PARK BOTANICAL CENTER**  
Floral Ave, Providence, RI 02905

Purchase your tickets online at [www.asri.org/peregrine-party](http://www.asri.org/peregrine-party)

Your support will help Audubon Raptor Care and Education Programs,  
and thousands of acres of wildlife habitat conservation.



## The Truth About Your Recycling Bin

Continued from page 7

No other city or town is jumping to be the next home of a landfill, Noiseaux said. We're prohibited by law from operating any waste-to-energy facility. Other states are putting trash on rail and sending it to the South or Midwest where there is plenty of space, but getting it there is going to be more costly for Rhode Islanders.

To address some of these issues, some companies are now making products that they claim are compostable or biodegradable, like utensils and plates, but most are designed to be composted in commercial compost facilities, not in backyard compost bins.

They're not biodegradable in the way that people imagine once they're buried in a landfill, said Noiseaux. The thought that these things are going to magically biodegrade in the trash isn't accurate. There isn't a recycling program for compostable utensils, so it's going to the trash. And small odds and ends like that have a tendency, between your house and its final burial, to end up in the environment as litter.

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***“Reduce, reuse, and recycle is wrapped into everything we do. We’re very conscious of what we use and how we use it.”***

Anne DiMonti, Director of the Nature Center and Aquarium.

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Audubon has been making great strides in reducing its use of plastics and increasing its recycling rate in its daily operations. It has paid particular attention to eliminating single-use plastics at its major events, which hasn't been easy, considering the popularity of the events and the complexity of meeting the expectations of those in attendance.

During Raptor Weekend, for instance, which attracts over 2,000 people annually, Audubon used to sell about 600 plastic bottles of water each year. Now, in an effort to reduce the event's carbon footprint, Audubon sells none. Instead, attendees purchase 25-cent compostable cups that they fill at a large water cooler donated by Crystal Springs. Other beverages are available in cans or bottles that are more easily and more completely recycled than plastic bottles. Plastic straws are no longer available at the event either, though reusable metal straws may be purchased in the gift shop.

Most Audubon events now feature compostable plates, cups and utensils that are sent to and later processed at a commercial compost facility. Even the garbage bags are compostable.

We try to be very conscious about it. We try to walk the walk, DiMonti said. Even when doing crafts with kids, we try to use natural materials, items that can go into the recycling bin or the compost bin.

Sustainable living programs are held throughout the year at the Nature Center and other Audubon wildlife refuges that focus on recycling, composting, and related themes. Both the Nature Center and Audubon Headquarters at Powder Mill Ledges in Smithfield have installed water bottle filling stations so that visitors can bring their reusable bottles and fill up before they hit the trails. And because of the Nature Center's location along the bike path and shoreline, staff, volunteers and campers regularly collect large quantities of plastic bottles, plastic beverage cups and other recyclable materials during periodic cleanups.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle is wrapped into everything we do, DiMonti added. We're very conscious of what we use and how we use it.

That level of consciousness about our use of plastics must resonate throughout the land if the growing plastics crisis is going to be solved.

We talk all the time about the reduce, reuse, recycle mantra, and it's



*About 78 million tons of plastic packaging are produced every year around the world, and 40 percent of it ends up in a landfill somewhere.*



*In the past, Audubon used to sell about 600 plastic bottles of water each year at Raptor Weekend. Now Audubon sells none. Instead, visitors purchase 25-cent compostable cups that can be filled at a large water cooler donated by Crystal Springs.*

important to remember they are ordered in that way for a reason, from the most impactful to the least, said Noiseaux. The most impactful is not obtaining things in the first place. Reduce. Keeping materials circulating through the economy so it can have a second life is second. Reuse. And if it can't be reused, recycle it.

Unfortunately, there's also a lot of wish-cycling—we want it to be recycled, so we put it in the bin even if it doesn't belong there—and that does more harm than good, she concluded. Too much trash in the recycling bin means it all goes to the landfill. So learn the rules of recycling, apply them in good faith, and we'll take it from there.

\* \* \* \* \*



# Recycle Right



What you **DON'T** put in your bin can be just as important as what you do.

After many years of recycling, most Rhode Islanders should know what items can be recycled in their bin and what cannot. But the rules are precise and not following them is problematic, so a reminder is always worthwhile. According to Rhode Island Resource Recovery, these are the only items recyclable in your bin:

- ✓ Paper, cardboard (flattened) and cartons
- ✓ Metal cans, lids and foil
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Plastic containers smaller than 5 gallons

More important are the items that *should NOT* be recycled in your bin:

- ✗ No plastic bags, bags of bags, or recyclable materials inside of bags
- ✗ No more than a trace of food or beverage residue inside recyclable containers
- ✗ No fiber that isn't paper, cardboard or cartons (i.e., no textiles or wood)
- ✗ No paper shreds, napkins, tissues or paper towels
- ✗ No metal that isn't a can, lid or foil (i.e., no pans)
- ✗ No glass that isn't a bottle or jar (i.e., no drinking glasses)
- ✗ No plastic that isn't a container
- ✗ No foam containers
- ✗ No containers from flammable materials or oily chemicals

These rules apply only to items placed in recycling bins for curbside pickup. Resource Recovery has programs at large stores where plastic bags can be dropped off, and numerous locations accept bulky or ridged plastic items like toys. Dry, clean Styrofoam or polystyrene can be dropped off at Resource Recovery in Johnston. For details about these drop-off programs, as well as the composting of yard and leaf debris, visit [www.recycletogetherri.org](http://www.recycletogetherri.org).



The tipping floor is where the loads of recycled materials are assessed to determine any contamination with items that cannot be recycled, like plastic bags, propane tanks, televisions and plastic coat hangers. If the load contains too many non-recyclable materials, it is rejected and everything goes into the landfill.

## No Matter How You Slice It, You Can't Take It With You.



Get Audubon's Will Starter Kit and leave your legacy to nature

Leave A Legacy

Visit [asri.org/willstarter](http://asri.org/willstarter) for a will starter kit.

(Kit may take a few minutes to download.)





**Rent the  
Perfect  
Summer  
Retreat!**

**Maxwell Mays  
Lakefront Cottage**  
Coventry, RI

This charming cottage in western Coventry is on a secluded lake, part of the Audubon Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge. Head out each day to canoe, bird watch, or hike on the property's trails.

This beautifully furnished wood and field stone camp features fireplace heat, a full kitchen, screened porch, dock, large deck overlooking the pond, outdoor gas grill, indoor plumbing, two bedrooms, one bath. The cottage sleeps five.

Perfect for an affordable weekend get-away or a family vacation. Kids love it here! The cottage comes with a canoe and kayak. Available from May 1 to October 30th.

For details, visit [asri.org](http://asri.org) and click on the *services* link.



**Looking Good Out There!**

Keeping Audubon wildlife refuge signage looking fresh, professional and welcoming to visitors is an ongoing project. A new sign was recently installed at the Lathrop Wildlife Refuge in Westerly. Next, a new sign will appear at Marsh Meadows in Jamestown.

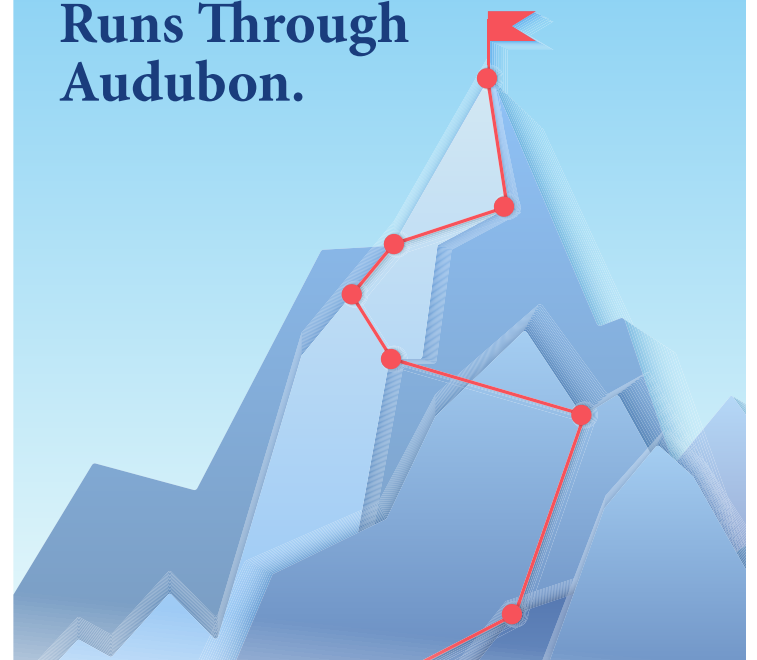


**IGT Volunteers Install a  
New Roof for the Audubon  
Red-tailed Hawks**

Old timbers and the decaying roof in the Red-tailed Hawk mews were dismantled and removed with the help of a team of volunteers from IGT (International Game Technology). The mew now features a clear, polycarbonate corrugated roof, which will allow much more sunlight into the hawk's home and protect staff from rain and snow when they are feeding the birds. New doors and gutter systems on other aviaries for owls will also be replaced with funding from an Animal Welfare Grant from the Rhode Island Foundation.



**The Route From  
Success to Significance  
Runs Through  
Audubon.**



**Join the 1897 Leadership Society and  
Help Us Change the World...Together.**

Join the 1897 Society Today: [asri.org/leadership](http://asri.org/leadership)

# Thank You!

## PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The companies listed below have demonstrated their significant commitment to the quality of life in Rhode Island and to conserving natural habitats through stewardship and education.

- AMC Narragansett Chapter
- BB&S Lumber
- Botanical Center Conservancy
- Citizens Bank
- Dassault Systemes
- Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Inc.
- Harbor Bath and Body, LLC
- Lyons & Zaremba, Inc.
- MetLife Auto & Home
- New England Dispatch Agency
- NEC Solar
- Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
- Pawtucket Red Sox
- People's Power and Light
- R.I. Beekeepers Association
- Target
- United Natural Foods, Inc.
- Van Liew Trust Company



## GIFTS IN HONOR

The people listed below have been honored by family and friends who found a gift to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to be the most meaningful way to celebrate someone important in their lives.

### In Honor of: Barbara Robinson

From: Scott Gilbert

### In Honor of: Martin Metzger

From: Brian Metzger

### In Honor of: Bill Cotton

From: Haley Cotton

### In Honor of: Meredith Pump

From: Robert Pump

### In Honor of: Bob Emerson

From: Barbara Putman

### In Honor of: Michael Carpenter

From: Bethany Peckham

### In Honor of: Deborah Mongeau

From: Mary Stevenson

Deborah J. Smith

### In Honor of: Ms. Conte

From: Nadya Lehnert

### In Honor of: Keith Maung-Douglass

From: Emily Maung-Douglass



## MEMORIALS

Memorials serve and support the conservation and protection of Rhode Island's environment. During the past quarter, the families and friends of people listed below have chosen to remember their loved ones through a gift to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

### In Memory of: Daniel Elkins

From: Karen Elkins

### In Memory of: Mary Jo Murray

From: Linda C. Ferrarosso

Barbara A. Chaves

### In Memory of: Jack Doherty

From: Michael and Margaret Alexander

### In Memory of: Michael Hadala

From: Wendy Braga

### In Memory of: Janice Williams

From: Stephen and Barbara Williams

Kathleen Ferreira

### In Memory of: Rachel Carson

From: Kevin and Mardee Carson

### In Memory of: Joel Silverberg

From: Frederick Lorenzo

### In Memory of: Steven A. King

From: Thomas and Ann Turnbull

### In Memory of: John McMordie

From: Heather McMordie

### In Memory of: William "Bill" Folsom

From: Michael and Donna Scanlon

Stephen and Mary Jane Higgins

Paul and Cheryl Mincone

Richard Armenia

### In Memory of: Joseph A Voccio

From: Mary E. Costello

## Plastics That Go In The Ocean, Go In You.

## Help Us!

### Sign Up for Audubon Advocacy Alerts

Sign Up Today: [asri.org/alerts](http://asri.org/alerts)



## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND 1897 SOCIETY

Named for the year of the Audubon's founding, the 1897 Society honors those whose leadership gifts enable the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to advance its mission of protecting birds, other wildlife and their habitats through conservation, education and advocacy. Our donors can take satisfaction that their contributions have an immediate and lasting impact on the people, wildlife and natural beauty of Rhode Island.

The 1897 Society celebrates donors who give annually at the \$1,000 to \$10,000+ level as special contributors to our ongoing mission and shall be recognized at the following levels:

**Leader** — \$1,000 to \$2,499

**Benefactor** — \$7,500 to \$9,999

**Advocate** — \$2,500 to \$4,999

**Visionary** — \$10,000+

**Conservator** — \$5,000 to \$7,499

If you wish to join the 1897 Society and help promote the values and mission of Audubon, please visit [asri.org/leadership](http://asri.org/leadership) or contact Jeff Hall at 401-949-5454 ext. 3017.

In recognition of their philanthropic charity, members of the 1897 Society enjoy a variety of exclusive benefits, including invitations to member-only events and special communications.

## LET'S GET SOCIAL!

[facebook.com/audubonRI](https://facebook.com/audubonRI)

[twitter.com/RIAudubon](https://twitter.com/RIAudubon)

[instagram.com/RIaudubon](https://instagram.com/RIaudubon)

LIKE / SHARE / FOLLOW

The most followed Audubon Facebook page in New England!



## Be on the Lookout for a Flashy Golden Crown!

While taking a walk with my friend this weekend, we were struck by the fact that we were never far from the high-pitched chirps of birds who were in contact with each other. This four-mile hike, deep into a hemlock forest with a babbling brook running alongside us, was the perfect setting to find one of the tiniest passerines in New England, the Golden-crowned Kinglet. Despite being so small, this tiny bird can survive in temperatures up to -40 degrees Fahrenheit with the help of its friends. They are often found huddled together in cavities to survive those cold nights. The bird's high metabolism keeps them constantly on the move to find food as they search for insect larvae, mites, lice and seeds. The quick flick of their wings is a giveaway in identifying them high up in the trees. Golden-crowned Kinglets are constantly letting out high pitched chirps to let their friends know their location, as they build mixed flocks with Black-capped Chickadees, Brown Creepers, Nuthatches, and other songbirds.

Just over three inches in length, the Golden-crowned Kinglet has a back of olive gray, with lighter gray below, two whitish wing bars, a bold white and black striped face and a flashy golden-crown. Males have an orange/red crown that can be seen when agitated.



These birds are monogamous and nest mostly in the northern boreal forest of North America. However, they can also be found nesting in small numbers in Rhode Island and the mountains of Appalachia. These small creatures often produce two broods which is an incredible feat if you think about the small window of its breeding season in the northern forests.

Working together, the female and male construct a 3-inch cupped nest made of spider webs, moss, lichen and bark. They line the cup with feathers and fur to keep the chicks warm on cool nights. Here the female lays 3 to 11 eggs. *Yes, I did say 11 eggs.* She sits in the nest for 15 days before the eggs hatch, then both parents feed the chicks for 15 to 16 days before they fledge. At this point, the female immediately lays 3 to 11 more eggs. And the male is now in charge of feeding and raising the fledglings and feeding the female. Once the second brood hatches, the first batch is on its own. Shortly after raising the second brood, the pair makes it way to winter grounds, some of these birds venturing all the way to Mexico.

Unfortunately, the Golden-Crowned Kinglet population is in decline, with a loss of approximately 2.5% of the population each year. Habitat loss and logging has taken a huge toll. On a positive note, the kinglet population has actually increased in the East due to the replanting of spruce forests in states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois.

I urge you to head out into the forest before spring arrives, as that is when most of these birds will head north. If you find a mixed flock of birds, look for the flickering wings of a tiny songbird and listen for their high pitched chirps. Despite their size, they are sturdy, determined and can make it through the harshest of conditions with a little help from their friends.

I hope to see you on the trails!

## Rhode Island Birding Trails

*Over 60 Places to Watch Birds in the Ocean State*

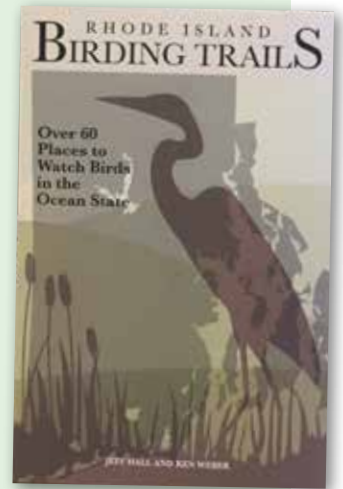
Published by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Three separate trails: Northern Rhode Island, Southern Rhode Island and East Bay and the Islands • All locations easily accessible

*Find out where the birders ... bird!*

**Order Now \$14.95**

Order your copy at [ribirdingtrails.com](http://ribirdingtrails.com) or purchase at the Audubon Nature Shop in Bristol.



the Audubon  
**Nature shop**  
*This shop is for the birds!*

**Bird Feeders and Accessories**  
**Field Guides and Binoculars**  
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**Check for Monthly Bird Buys!**  
**20% off for Members**  
**10% off for Non-members**

**Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium**  
**1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI**

**Refer a Friend!**

**Help our Membership Grow!**  
Audubon Society of Rhode Island

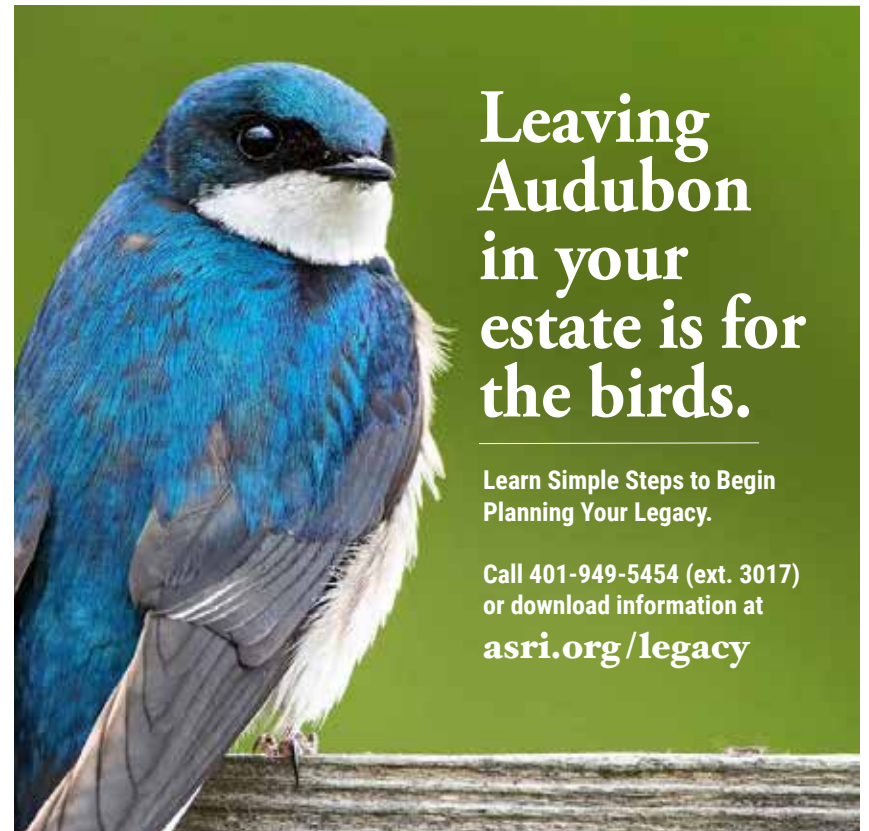
**All members receive free admission to the Audubon Nature Center & Aquarium and discounts at the Nature Shop. Membership also includes reduced fees for programs, rentals, birthday parties and more!**

## Terry Meyer Honored as Audubon Partner in Philanthropy

If philanthropy is defined as the desire to promote the welfare of others, devoted to the public good, and a focus on quality of life, then Terry Meyer exemplifies the role of philanthropist. She lives these values to the fullest as a consummate volunteer for Audubon, leading projects that advance the Society's mission with hands-on gusto, grace and goodwill. Audubon honored Terry as the 2019 Partner in Philanthropy at a breakfast in November 2019 hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Rhode Island Chapter.



Terry is Vice President of the Audubon Board of Directors and she has served as vice-chairperson and chair of both the Governance and Human Resource Committees. She has taken a leading role in the installation of a rose-pollinator discovery garden at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium. Terry is a leading contributor to Audubon's success, putting her donations to work in order to make the world a better place for all.



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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

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Watch for our schedule and additional details at [asri.org](http://asri.org).

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<sup>HLC</sup> = Hawkes's Legacy Circle  
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The Audubon Society of Rhode Island gratefully acknowledges gifts of less than \$100 from 2,355 supporters. Audubon depends on the generosity and commitment of all its donors for the conservation and protection of Rhode Island's environment.





*Planning a  
Celebration  
or Special  
Event?*

## Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium

Located in historic Bristol, Rhode Island, just 30 minutes from Providence, Newport, and Fall River, the award-winning Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium is one of Rhode Island's most unique meeting venues. With beautiful trails, award-winning exhibits and aquarium, large meeting, reception, and outdoor patio space, the Nature Center provides a setting that will captivate guests.

Ideal for weddings, showers, or the site of your next business meeting or off-site retreat.

For availability and reservations, visit [asri.org](http://asri.org) and click on *services* or contact Anne DiMonti at (401) 949-5454 x3116 or [adimonti@asri.org](mailto:adimonti@asri.org).



## Volunteers From Dassault Systemes SIMULA Corp. Install New Boardwalks at Waterman Pond Wildlife Refuge

In September, volunteers from Dassault Systemes SIMULA Corp. spent a day working with lumber and drills at the Audubon Waterman Pond Wildlife Refuge in Coventry building sections of boardwalk. Known for an easy walk to a lovely view of the pond, the property frequently experiences muddy trails. The work completed by these volunteers will greatly improve trail quality and the visitor experience.

This is the fourth large volunteer project that Dassault Systemes SIMULA Corp. has completed for Audubon. Their volunteer enthusiasm, commitment to conservation, and ongoing support is most appreciated. We thank the volunteers and management of Dassault Systemes SIMULA Corp. and look forward to this continued partnership.



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Free Estate Planning Guide  
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LEARN MORE AT [AUDUBONBIRTHDAYPARTIES.COM](http://AUDUBONBIRTHDAYPARTIES.COM)

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ENTER MY NAME FOR A FREE AUDUBON BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Visit [asri.org/birthday](http://asri.org/birthday) to enter. Or fill out this entry form and return to: Birthday Contest, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI 02917

YOUR NAME _____	NAME OF PERSON CELEBRATING BIRTHDAY _____	EMAIL _____
MAILING ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) _____	BIRTHDAY (MONTH/DAY/YEAR) _____	DAYTIME PHONE _____

Deadline for entries is Feb 28, 2020. Winner will be contacted by March 15, 2020. Note: Party day, location and time will be based on availability.

## Wildlife Rehabilitation Workshop

March 21, 2020; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield, RI

Are you interested in helping injured wildlife? The Wildlife Rehabilitators Association will hold a training workshop on Saturday, March 21 for volunteers wishing to obtain a subpermit, allowing them to assist with in-home rehabilitation or volunteer with the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island in Saunterstown.

For more information and to register, call (401) 294-6363. Registration is not available through the Audubon events calendar.



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## Caratunk Barn

The big white barn at Caratunk provides the perfect rural setting for weddings, showers, family reunions or meetings. Birthday parties for children are also offered.

For availability and reservations regarding weddings and birthdays, visit [asri.org](http://asri.org) and click on 'services.' For all other rental queries, contact Jon Scoones at [jscoones@asri.org](mailto:jscoones@asri.org).

## Wildlife Images from the Audubon Refuges

Audubon has unobtrusive cameras on wildlife refuges across the state. Located well off the trails in remote locations, they are used to monitor wildlife and any activity on the properties.

This winter we have seen curious deer with noses pressed against the camera, Great Horned Owls swooping down on prey, coyotes on the prowl, and very young turkey poults strutting with their mother.

While it shouldn't be a surprise, how wonderful it is to see what creatures are at home on Audubon Wildlife Refuges.



# Join Audubon at the Land & Water Conservation Summit!

For the past 16 years Audubon and grassroots conservation leaders have gathered together to learn new skills, network and celebrate their successes at the Land & Water Conservation Summit. This annual conference showcases the people power of Rhode Island's conservation movement.

Rhode Island is home to a large number of grassroots conservation organizations that play an important role in protecting the state's water, open space, farms and scenic landscapes. At last count, the state has 45 land trusts, a dozen watershed organizations and numerous municipal conservation commissions. Although some of these organizations have paid staff, the vast majority are all-volunteer, relying on the expertise and passion of hundreds of volunteer leaders. The Land & Water Summit started in 2004 to build this grassroots capacity, giving participants tools to use to strengthen the conservation work of their organizations. The conference is organized each year by the Rhode Island Land Trust Council. Audubon has co-hosted the conference since 2016. We routinely fill the URI Memorial Union to its capacity of 320 participants, dedicated leaders who love the work they do and often volunteer for multiple conservation organizations.

The Summit includes 30 workshops on topics of immediate importance to land and water conservation. Workshops are led by local experts from government, private companies and conservation organizations. Every workshop speaker volunteers their time to share their expertise with the conference attendees. Materials from workshops are posted on the Land & Water Conservation website (<https://landandwaterpartnership.org/summit.php>) and create a library of resources for everyone to use.

Editorial by Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy



**RHODE ISLAND  
LAND & WATER  
CONSERVATION SUMMIT**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Saturday, March 7, 2020; 7:45 am  
University of RI Memorial Union, Kingston, RI

The line-up for 2020 is set and we expect the conference to be the best one yet. Dr. Mamie Parker, the former Northeast Director & Director of Fisheries for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will give the keynote address. Her talk will focus on working with young people and inspiring them to lead with passion and excellence. The workshop topics include land trust essentials like how to successfully complete land protection deals and how to steward lands that are protected. Additional workshops will highlight the key issues facing Rhode Island: renewable energy development on land and offshore, pollinator protection, stormwater management, climate change resilience and environmental justice.

I am looking forward to this year's Summit, standing at the podium with my co-sponsor Rupert Friday, looking over a room that will likely include young leaders inspired by Greta Thunberg and award recipients being honored for a lifetime of service. The Summit sells out so register now at:

[landandwaterpartnership.org/summit.php](https://landandwaterpartnership.org/summit.php)



## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND REPORT

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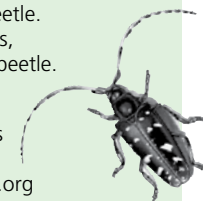
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The Report is the Audubon Society's member newsletter and updates members on the current issues and actions of the Society, its staff and volunteers. We encourage your participation and you may send items that will be considered for publication to: Hope Foley, Managing Editor, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI 02917 or by email to [hfoley@asri.org](mailto:hfoley@asri.org).

### Spot the Beetle, Stop the Beetle

Help prevent the spread of Asian Longhorned Beetle. When hiking the trails, look for signs of the beetle.

For more information on how to detect this destructive invasive insect, visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) and click on "conservation."



Because of you, the Osprey License Plate has provided hundreds of children with the opportunity to learn about nature. Thank you.



Order at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

**EVERY DAY  
IN MAY  
FREE  
BIRD WALKS**

*Join the fun!*

*See page 11 for details.*



Audubon Society of Rhode Island  
12 Sanderson Rd., Smithfield, RI 02917

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**AUDUBON  
CAMOUFLAGED  
EGG HUNT**

**April 4 & 11, 2020; 9:30 – 11:00 am**

Children hunt for brown eggs in a natural setting  
and quickly learn how well the eggs camouflage.

*See page 13 for details on locations and dates.*

**AUDUBON SUMMER CAMP**

Nature  
discovery,  
science, hikes,  
live animal visits,  
games, crafts  
and...lots of  
outdoor fun!



*...It's What Summer Camp Should Be!*

*See page 9 for the 2020 Summer Camp Schedule.*

**For more camp information and to register,  
visit [audubonsummercamp.com](http://audubonsummercamp.com)**



**AUDUBON  
MAPLE  
SUGARING**

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge  
301 Brown Avenue  
Seekonk, MA

*March 14, 2020; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.*

