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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

REPORT



SAVE THE DATE!
October 25, 2020
Audubon Annual Meeting
Virtual Gathering of Members
Details to Come

VOLUME 54 • NO. 3 • AUGUST 2020

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

CELEBRATING TWO DECADES OF NATURE DISCOVERY



THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE AUDUBON
NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

AUDUBON SOCIETY
OF RHODE ISLAND
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2019-2020

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Connecting with the Community is More Important Than Ever



Thank you for supporting us during these very troubling times. The number of people who relied on Audubon's trail system in the last few months was at first surprising, and ultimately rewarding. Rhode Islanders looked to Audubon for outdoor exercise, to lose themselves in nature for a little while, and safely distance from others. Our refuge staff counted unprecedented numbers of cars in our parking lots every weekend and many weekdays, and the public shared their appreciation for our free and accessible trails.

The Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, celebrating its 20th anniversary this summer, has reopened after being closed for almost three months and is offering small-group outdoor programs with safety in mind.

Our education programs have always encouraged children to step away from their computers and other electronic devices and to head outside to explore nature in real life, rather than in real time. There is a certain irony then, that our education staff (like so many teachers across the country) turned to virtual and online programming during the pandemic. They quickly pivoted to creating virtual raptor programs, activities, crafts, story times and more that encouraged a love of nature. And although the materials were offered online, many activities promoted outdoor nature exploration in backyards and community parks. Teachers and parents voiced their appreciation for the ready-made content that kept students engaged and learning.

Even our very popular annual spring fundraising event, the Party for the Peregrines, went virtual and saw much success and positive feedback. We thank our talented staff and the generosity of our donors and supporters for making this possible.

What our future programs and events will look like under this "new normal" is anyone's guess. But with your continued support we will continue to innovate, to engage the community, to protect nature, and figure out new ways of doing things as we move ahead.

Thanks again for your support,

Lawrence J. F. Taft

What an Extra \$300 Means

In response to the global pandemic, the federal government passed the CARES Act in March 2020. In that legislation Congress and the IRS will allow a special \$300 deduction - above the standard deduction - for donations to charities like Audubon.

What that means is, when filing your 2020 federal taxes next year, you'll be able to deduct up to \$300 from your income, even if you only qualify for the standard deduction granted by the IRS. It's the government's recognition that charities need your help and will allow you to take an additional tax deduction to help.

For Audubon, \$300 means...

- One month of food (mice and quails) for our 13 raptor ambassadors
- New brush cutters and hand tools to maintain the trails at our 15 wildlife refuges
- One general veterinarian check-up for our Ravens Zach and Lucy
- Fifty signs we can place around the state to encourage voters to support the environmental bonds in this upcoming election
- One school bus of children coming to take part in an outdoor environmental education program
- One week of pay for Per Diem Environmental Educators
- A one-week summer camp scholarship for 2021
- 500 pine saplings to re-establish forest habitat at the Mays Wildlife Refuge
- One day of tractor mowing at Caratunk, removing invasive species from the fields
- One chain saw to help remove fallen limbs over the hiking trails during this upcoming winter season

Three hundred dollars goes a long way at Audubon. It keeps our public trails open and passable, provides highly-trained environmental educators in schools, and helps to pay for the hours of research and planning we commit in order to become effective advocates for nature at the Statehouse.

If you would like to contribute more than \$300, contact Jeff Hall, Senior Director of Advancement at 401-949-5454 ext. 3017 or email at jhall@asri.org.



AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

By Todd McLeish

Even though the Audubon trails and boardwalk to Narragansett Bay were busy during the COVID-19 shut down, it was a quiet few months inside the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium. Audubon staff, along with Ravens Zach and Lucy, were thrilled to welcome visitors back in late June.

Back in 2000, during construction of Audubon's Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol, one of the biggest challenges was trying to figure out how to get the 33-foot North Atlantic right whale replica inside the building. A centerpiece of the facility's exhibits, the model showcases one of the world's most endangered animals, a species that spends considerable time in southern New England waters every year.

It was eventually decided that the whale would have to be brought into the building well before construction of the facility was complete. One entire exterior wall of the structure was left open to accommodate the whale.

On the fateful day of its delivery, the whale was loaded onto a small boat trailer that was placed on the back of an 18-wheel flatbed truck and driven from Turners Falls, Massachusetts, where it was fabricated, to Bristol—complete with a police escort for part of the way.

It was a grand moment when the whale finally arrived on the property, recalled Anne DiMonti, director of the Nature Center for the last 14 years and Audubon's education director when the building was constructed. There were journalists and media photographers in atten-

dance, and the whale had a big Audubon sign hanging on it. And when the truck backed onto the property, it sunk in the mud up to its axles.

Despite the mud and the extra effort required to move the whale into the building, it quickly became a crowd favorite among visitors to the Nature Center. And now, as Audubon celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Center, the whale remains one of the most popular exhibits.

Construction of the Nature Center—originally called the Environmental Education Center—was a turning point for Audubon. At the time, there was no other place like it in the state where people could learn about the ecosystems and natural history of the Ocean State at one venue. And while Audubon had more than a dozen refuges open to the public, none had a large educational facility, most had only simple informational kiosks.

We were lacking a big enough place that was close to the urban center of Rhode Island. Access to trails, interesting and educational exhibits, and space for programs were all important. We wanted visitors to be able to access all these things in one package, said Larry Taft, Audubon's executive director. We also wanted to grow our educational programs, and we needed a site to do that.

Please turn to page 4



Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft shares birding tips with visitors on the boardwalk.



Audubon educator Pam Goulet leads a group of students to the shore.



The ground breaking for the Center was led by Former Executive Director Lee Schisler (far right) and former Board President Sam Hallowell (far left).



Students explore the wetlands.

A year before Audubon started thinking seriously about constructing a nature center, Bristol resident Claire McIntosh donated a 28-acre parcel of land on the Bristol/Warren line, and she was open to Audubon using the property in any way it deemed appropriate. Just a 20-minute drive from Providence and with easy access to the East Bay Bike Path which meant that hundreds of people would be walking and biking by every day it was an ideal location for a nature center. Previous Executive Director Lee Schisler, Jr. and former Board President Samuel Hallowell, Jr. invested their talents, energy, and financial resources to help make this vision a reality.

the resource was here. We are grateful for our many supportive neighbors.

Since then, the Nature Center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors about 16,000 each year on average for a wide range of events, camps, school programs, lectures, and more.

Parents see it as a safe place to bring young children, because it's a place that kids can explore on their own, DiMonti said. I run into college students who tell me they remember coming here with their preschool class, and we employed junior camp counselors who are now bringing their own kids to our camps. That's really rewarding.

Audubon offered youth camps in Bristol even before the Nature Center opened to test the local response to Audubon programs, and they were a tremendous success. As a result, the classrooms and several other elements of the facility were designed with camps and school groups in mind.

But it was also designed for adults. Numerous adult programs and lectures are offered throughout the year, and through the years those programs have included such notable people as bird illustrator David Sibley, author Richard Ellis, sailing photographer Onne van der Wal, and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream founder Jerry Greenfield. Private weddings, memorials, conferences and business meetings are also held on the property every year.

The biggest event of the year, Raptor Weekend, has attracted more than 2,000 people to the Nature Center every year since 2004.

“The best part of the Nature Center is that it feels like a family,” said Anne DiMonti. “Not just our staff, but our members and other visitors... and I look forward to celebrating our anniversary with all of them.”

When the \$3.5 million facility opened, it was a bit of a novelty, especially to the neighbors in Bristol, some of whom worried it was going to be akin to Roger Williams Park Zoo or New England Aquarium with hundreds of cars and dozens of school buses visiting every day.

It took a while for the folks in Bristol to see our vision for the property as a place to learn and reflect and be involved in nature, said DiMonti. But once they understood our mission, they embraced us and appreciated that



A visitor learns about whale baleen with Nature Center and Aquarium Director Anne DiMonti.



Blossoms abound on the pergola in the Rose-Pollinator Garden.



A young visitor pledges to help the planet during an Earth Day celebration.



The tidepool tank is a popular exhibit.



The public never gets tired of Raptor Weekend, DiMonti said. People are just in awe of getting up close to a Bald Eagle or seeing a Snowy Owl for the first time. It's just captivating, and they're drawn to it. I think it's because birds of prey are so elusive; you don't have a lot of opportunities to see them close up.

There have been some hiccups along the way, of course. The boardwalk that crosses the salt marsh at the bottom of the property, which originally opened a year after the building was completed, was engulfed in a marsh fire and a section was destroyed in April 2008. The local fire department believes the fire was started when someone on the bike path discarded a lit cigarette into the dry marsh grasses. The department also credits the boardwalk with serving as a firebreak, slowing the conflagration long enough that the fire could be doused before it spread to neighboring properties.

It was April vacation week, a really busy time, so we were lucky no one was on the boardwalk at the time, DiMonti said. We were also fortunate that the construction company that built the original boardwalk had time in its schedule to rebuild it just a couple months later.

What was especially eye-opening, though, was that the fire helped us learn just how many people take advantage of the property, she added. As there is no cost or registration to access the trails, we didn't realize the number of visitors until the boardwalk burned. A lot more people access the boardwalk from the bike path than we imagined, and they let us know how much they missed the boardwalk and how concerned they were.

Please turn to page 26



Students observe fish in the Bay and Ocean aquarium tank.



Mike McCarthy demonstrates his carving skill at a Bird and Wildlife Carving Exposition.



Guests at the the AuduBonfire event for members.



Children are amazed at the size of a North Atlantic Right Whale.

AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

2000 —————
 Grand Opening of the Audubon Environmental Education Center.



2002 —————
 Bird and Wildlife Carving Exposition held for the first time.

2003 —————
 Audubon introduces its largest annual public program: Raptor Weekend.



2008 —————
 Marsh fire destroys the boardwalk on the Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge in April. Boardwalk reopens on July 8.



Rare Blue Lobster is welcomed in the aquarium exhibit.

2009 —————
 Hall mural opens with artwork by 78 children and adult visitors.



2001 —————
 Boardwalk to Bay completed and open to the public.
 Audubon Summer Camp offered for the first time in Bristol.



2005 —————
 Center welcomes world renowned author and maritime painter, Richard Ellis.



2006 —————
 Eec the Barred Owl arrives, the Center's first educational raptor.



2010 —————
 The Center celebrated a 10 year anniversary. Over 31,000 visitors explored the trails and exhibits throughout the year as they celebrated the milestone.

A new giant inflatable fin whale is introduced to education programs.

Renowned author and artist, David Sibley visits for a special presentation.



The Center welcomes AmeriCorps Members.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF NATURE DISCOVERY

2011

Passport to the Trails program launched for Earth Day.



2012

The Children's Nature Nook opens, a new discovery area for young children

The Perfect Pumpkin party is launched, fright-free autumn fun for families.

Audubon and Roger Williams University announce partnership.



2016

Audubon takes part in campaign to designate Cashes Ledge National Monument.

Finn, a Red-tailed Hawk, greets visitors in the outside aviary at the Center.



2017

Exhibit hall reopens after repairs to roof are completed.



2018

A new Rose-Pollinator Garden, meadow pavilion and a redesigned universally accessible trail are added to the Center.

The Center is renamed Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium.

The first California two-spot octopus is adopted from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.



2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

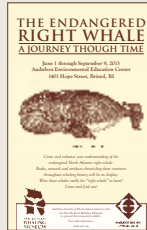
2018

2019

2020

2013

Audubon partners with New Bedford Whaling Museum for a temporary exhibit.



2014

Aquarium and Exhibit Restoration completed for increased energy efficiency.

2019

The Nature Center and Aquarium installs bright, new visitor-friendly signage.

New educational habitat signage is installed along the trails.

Audubon partners with Green Energy Consumers Alliance for a spring Energy Fair.

Pond installed in the Rose-Pollinator Garden.



2015

Rare orange lobster is welcomed in the aquarium exhibits.



2020

Raven Cam is launched.

Center reopens after three month shutdown due to COVID-19.





REMARKABLY RESOURCEFUL RAVENS

By Todd McLeish

When Audubon acquired its first Common Raven, Zach, for its education programs in 2017, he quickly attracted a large number of admirers. But not all of them were human. His raucous vocalizations also attracted two or three wild ravens as well. They were often seen perched on Zach's aviary or walking around the structure.

They'd talk back and forth, and Zach would even pass some of his food to his wild friends, said Lauren Parmelee, Audubon's senior director of education. Zach didn't share meat with them, but he often gave them some of his peanuts.

These behaviors which continue today are indicative of some of the many common actions that make ravens so well known as intelligent, social and adaptable birds. And they are among the few species of birds whose numbers are growing and whose range is spreading in Rhode Island.

According to ornithologist Charles Clarkson, who serves on the Audubon board of directors, ravens are one of the most wide-ranging birds on Earth. They can be found throughout much of the northern hemisphere, from Canada and Alaska south to Mexico and in Europe and Asia south to northern Africa. And yet until the 1990s, they had never been recorded as a resident, migrant or vagrant to Rhode Island.

There are no historical records of ravens in Rhode Island, no account for them in the first Atlas of the Birds of Rhode Island published in the 1980s, but in recent years they've arrived and become well distributed throughout the state in all different habitat types, Clarkson said.

Ravens closely related to crows and jays are habitat and dietary generalists. They thrive in a wide variety of habitats, from mountains

and deserts to tundra, forests, agricultural and urban areas. They are well known as scavengers on carrion, but they will also eat grain, fruit, insects, baby birds, frogs and other items. Their generalist nature is one of the reasons why Clarkson believes ravens have moved into Rhode Island.

Most of the species whose populations are contracting are fairly specialized birds that require a very particular habitat type or food item that they've co-evolved with, so as those things change so does the status of the bird, he said. But throughout evolutionary history, ravens have shown that they can live in a variety of habitat types and climatic scenarios and still thrive. Their varied habitat choice and prey items bodes well for them into the future.

Their social nature and intelligence also help to make them highly adaptable. Ravens are members of the Corvid family of birds, which is considered the smartest avian family in the world and the group known to be excellent problem solvers. Some of that problem-solving skill comes from their social nature, Clarkson said, because it enables them to learn from each other.

They're known to be really inventive birds, and they even appear to play, which is atypical in the bird world, he said. We've seen ravens do some amazing things, like play tug-of-war.

Audubon's captive ravens demonstrate their intelligence time and time again. Zach and his aviary-mate Lucy almost demand attention because of their need for more stimulus than the seemingly less-intelligent hawks and owls.

They need a lot of enrichment, so we give them toys to play with, we

hide their food and give them problems to solve, said Audubon educator Sharon Riley, who spends a great deal of time with Zach and Lucy.

They're sort of like toddlers in that they need a lot of activities. We even had to relocate them to the aviary behind the Nature Center where they can see people because their other location was too hidden and not interesting enough for them.

Intelligent birds are also believed to develop their own personalities, and Riley claims that Zach and Lucy exhibit significant differences in their preferences for food, activities, and even music.

Zach prefers females singing. He likes music of Carole King and Pink. When a Pink song comes on when he's in his carrier, he gives a toot that he doesn't do any other time. Music helps settle him down, Riley said. Lucy likes it a little louder and a little faster. She likes when we play 90s hip hop.

Ravens are also well known for the wide array of sounds they can produce. Although their most recognized call is a low croaking sound, Clarkson said they can produce innumerable novel sounds and mimic all sorts of animal and human sounds as well.

We have 13 Wild Turkeys that hang around the property, and when they come close, Zach does turkey calls, Parmelee said. He also does a good goose, dog and Great Horned Owl that he learned when he was housed next to a Great Horned Owl before he came to us. He does a really good crow imitation, too.

In the wild, ravens form long-term bonds with their mates and defend territories year-round. They build nests of sticks on cliffs and in trees, though Clarkson said that in Rhode Island they have also been documented nesting on water towers and beneath bridges. Their chicks typically hatch in late June or early July after a three-week incubation period.

In Audubon's aviary, Zach and Lucy have begun to exhibit what Parmelee describes as flirting behaviors. He gives her sticks that he constantly rearranges, as well as other gifts, but it is unlikely they will breed in the confines of their aviary.

Although ravens may initially look very similar to crows, especially in their coloration and general shape, they can easily be distinguished by the raven's larger size, much larger beak, wedge-shaped tail, and feathering that extends onto their upper mandible. Ravens also soar more in flight than crows, and they typically travel in ones and twos rather than in large groups like crows.

Whether you can identify them or not, ravens appear to be here to stay.

There isn't much conservation concern for them here in Rhode Island because they're still rapidly expanding, Clarkson said. And now that we've got plenty of evidence showing they can do well in suburban environments, it's likely that they'll continue to expand here.



WATCH THE RAVEN WEBCAM!
Now you can watch Zach and Lucy at home.

Visit asri.org and click on webcam link to catch their antics and observe their interactions.



RAVEN OR CROW?



"croak"

- Pointed beak with nasal feathers
- Shaggy neck feathers
- Adult Wingspan: 3.3 - 4.9 ft.



"caw"

- Straight beak and generally smaller
- Smooth neck feathers
- Adult Wingspan: 2.8 - 3.3 ft.

We Can Help Wildlife...

When You Help Us.

Audubon Raptor Care

Donate Today:
asri.org/raptorcare





BIRD SEED SALE IS BACK!

Purchase quality seed for your backyard birds AND directly support Audubon

As migrating birds begin their annual journey south, you can help our feathered friends bulk up for the long trip. And Audubon can help you! We are bringing back our annual bird seed sale just in time for fall. Order your seed now and bulk up!

Members receive special pricing, and there are four convenient pick-up locations: Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol; Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, Exeter; Powder Mill Ledges, Smithfield; or Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, Seekonk, MA.



For details and to order online, visit www.asri.org/birdseed or use the mail-in order form on backcover of this Report. Orders must be received by Sept 15, 2020 for pickup on Saturday, September 26, 2020.

Different species of birds are attracted by particular kinds of seed. Listed here are some of the most popular types with a listing of birds you may attract. The Audubon Nature Shop carries an extensive line of feeders and quality seed, as well as expert advice on setting up your backyard bird feeding area.



Black Oil Sunflower Seed

attracts jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, finches, gold-finches, Northern Cardinals, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and Red-breasted Grosbeaks.



Cracked Corn

attracts pheasants, Wild Turkey, ducks, quail, doves, crows, jays, sparrows, juncos, and towhees.



Shelled Peanuts

attract Brown Thrashers, woodpeckers, jays, chickadees, titmice, wrens, nuthatches, Northern Mockingbirds, and starlings.



Suet & Bird Puddings

(beef fat and seed) attract woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice.



Thistle

attracts American Goldfinches, House Finches, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Common Redpolls.



Birdfeeding 101 Workshop

Audubon Powder Mill Ledges, September 17, 2020; 6:30 – 8:00 pm



AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

September – December 2020 For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org. Advance registration is required.

SAFETY NOTICE: Face masks and social distancing are required for all programs. Participants must bring their own masks.



BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Advance Registration Required. Locations determined weekly.
Every Wednesday, September 2, 2020 through June 2021; 9:00-11:00 am.

BIRDFEEDING 101

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI;
September 17, 2020; 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

OWLS OF NEW ENGLAND

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI;
October 3, 2020; 2:00-3:30 pm.

HAWK WATCH AT NAPATREE POINT

Napatree Point Conservation Area (Watch Hill), Westerly, RI;
October 17, 2020; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

PROWL FOR OWLS AT CARATUNK

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA;
November 6, 2020; 6:30-8:00 pm.

OWL PROWL AT FORT REFUGE

Two Dates Offered. Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike,
North Smithfield, RI; November 19, December 6, 2020; 7:00 pm-9:00 pm.

DUCKS N' DONUTS

Moonstone Beach Road, South Kingstown, RI;
November 21, 2020 ; 10:00-11:30 am.

OWLING AT FISHERVILLE BROOK

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI;
December 11, 2020; 7:00-9:00 pm.

POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

LATE SUMMER INSECTS

September 6, 2020; 6:00 pm-7:30 pm.

BIRDFEEDING 101

September 17, 2020; 6:30 pm-8:00 pm.

RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT

September 19, 2020; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

SEARCH FOR NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

September 25, 2020; 6:30-8:30 pm.

OWLS OF NEW ENGLAND

October 3, 2020; 2:00-3:30 pm.

ARE YOU NUTS?

October 24, 2020; 2:00-3:30 pm.

NATURE HAND-IN-HAND

November 7, 2020; 1:00-2:30 pm.

ANIMAL NESTS AND DENS

November 15, 2020; 12:00-2:00 pm.



GUIDED NATURE WALKS

FOREST BATHING WALK

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI;
October 17, 2020; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

BEAVERS OF FISHERVILLE

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI;
November 1, 2020; 5:00-6:30 pm.



AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS



AUTHOR/PHOTOGRAPHER MEET AND GREET WITH PETER GREEN "PROVIDENCE RAPTORS: DOCUMENTING THE LIVES OF URBAN BIRDS OF PREY"

Photography Exhibit, Lecture and Book Signing.

September 1 – October 3, 2020: Photography Exhibit

September 26, 2020: Lecture: 12:00-12:45 pm, Followed by Book Signing: 12:45-1:15 pm.



RAPTOR DRAWING AND WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS WITH ARTIST ELIZABETH O'CONNELL

September 20, October 4, 18, November 1, 2020; 1:00-4:00 pm.

SEA GLASS JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Two Dates Offered.

October 17, November 14, 2020; 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

BEEWAX WRAPS WORKSHOP

September 26, 2020; 2:00-3:30 pm.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION TALK

Lou Perotti, Roger Williams Park Zoo Director of Conservation Programs

November 19, 2020; 7:00-8:00 pm.

LECTURE: SOLVING THE MYSTERIES BEHIND NEW ENGLAND'S STONE WALLS

Leigh Schoberth, Senior Preservation Services Manager at Historic New England.

October 15, 2020; 7:00-8:00 pm.

THE BEAUTY OF WINGS AND FEATHERS!

Photography Exhibit by Christopher Powell

November 1 – December 31, 2020; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

FAMILY PROGRAMS & CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

LI'L PEEPS

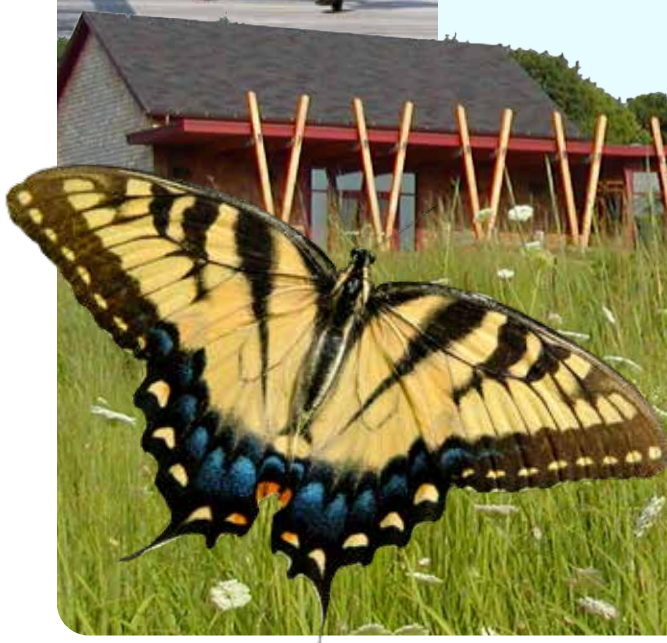
September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020; 10:00-10:45 am.

PERFECT PUMPKIN PARTY

October 24, 2020; 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING NATURE FUN

November 27, 2020; 10:00 am-2:30 pm.



Meet Lucy & Zach!

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

CARATUNK WILDLIFE REFUGE

301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA

FUN FERNS OF CARATUNK

September 13, 2020; 1:00-3:00 pm.

WHOOO WANTS TO MEET AN OWL?

September 27, 2020; 1:00-3:00 pm.

ADVENTURE CARATUNK

October 25, 2020; 1:00-3:00 pm.

HIBERNATE OR MIGRATE?

November 8, 2020; 1:00-3:00 pm.

FULL MOON HIKE

October 1, 2020; 7:30-9:00 pm.

FALL SCAVENGER HUNT AT CARATUNK

November 29, 2020; 1:00-3:00 pm.



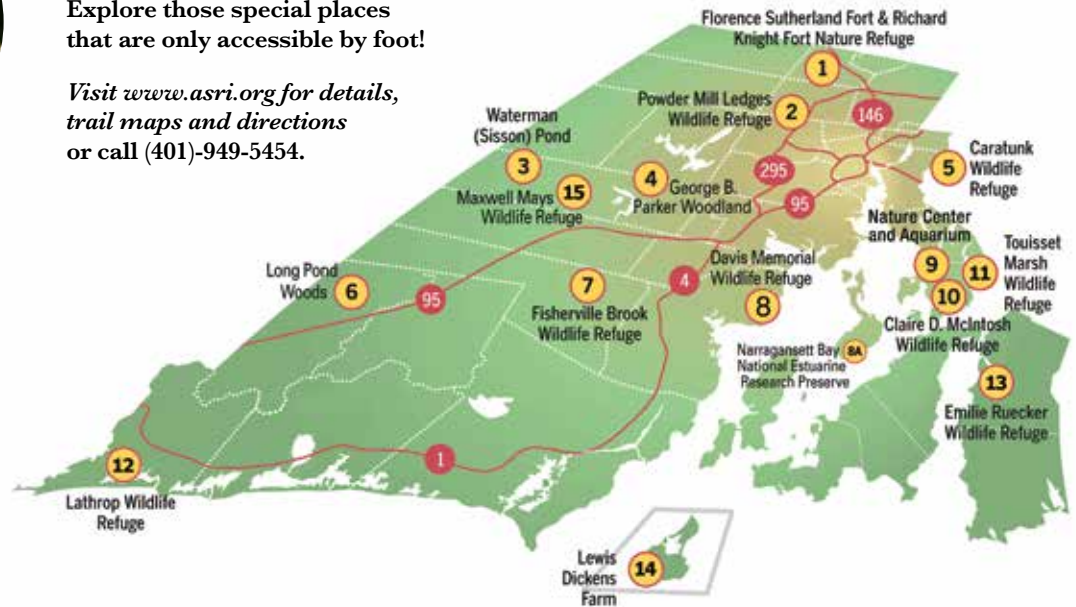
YOURS TO DISCOVER!

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 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

PRIVATE ADVENTURE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Spend the day safely exploring beautiful and charming Prudence Island with education staff from the Narragansett Bay Research Reserve. The experience can be designed with your group's interests and ages in mind. Contact Maureen Dewire: Maureen.Dewire@dem.ri.gov or by phone at 401.683.1478.



AUDUBON OUTDOOR SCOUT PROGRAMS

Audubon educators lead programs for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts working on badges related to natural history and life science. Ask how we can help fulfill your troop's badge requirements in outdoor programs that are designed with safety in mind. Prospective Gold Award Girl Scout and Eagle Scout projects are also considered on an individual basis.

Bristol, Smithfield, Exeter, RI and Seekonk, MA locations are available for programs. Please email msolis@asri.org for more information.



REGISTER TODAY!

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

Audubon Goes Virtual — with Owls, Turtles, Snakes and More!

Audubon Ambassadors Virtually Visit Classrooms, Libraries and Daycare Centers

Audubon educators and animal ambassadors have been visiting classrooms, libraries and childcare facilities virtually since May. Kids and adults have been able to get even closer to our owls than in person as we can zoom in through the camera lens!

Audubon is experienced in the virtual format and enthusiastically engage audiences on-line through both Zoom and Google technology. While the participants can't actually touch any of our biofacts or animals, they can make observations, ask questions, share ideas and talk about their experiences with nature. Sometimes, they even share their pets and stuffed animals from home!

“When current pandemic conditions dictated that all summer programming would be cancelled or need to be delivered virtually, it was very disappointing to think about how the events would not look as we imagined them. However, the staff at Audubon were absolutely wonderful in coming up with a multidimensional digital alternative. They not only redesigned all of our planned in-person events for a virtual setting, but they also came up with completely new content. I'm pleased to say that these zoom sessions exceeded our expectations for online programming and are engaging, fun, educational, and interactive. We are so thankful that Audubon was still able to offer our community high quality programming.”

- Nomi Hague, Director, Langworthy Library, Hopkinton, RI



Audubon Society of Rhode Island programs are part of a collaborative project between The Libraries of Hopkinton: Ashaway Free and Langworthy Public Libraries. They are made possible by a 2020 summer learning grant through the RI Office of Library and Information Services and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

If you have a school or community group that would benefit from a virtual or in-person animal visit, please contact Michelle Solis at msolis@asri.org. Programs run 30-45 minutes. Scholarships are available.

NEW!

AUDUBON WILDLIFE REFUGES A Guide Through Forests, Fields, and Marshes

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE AUDUBON TRAILS!

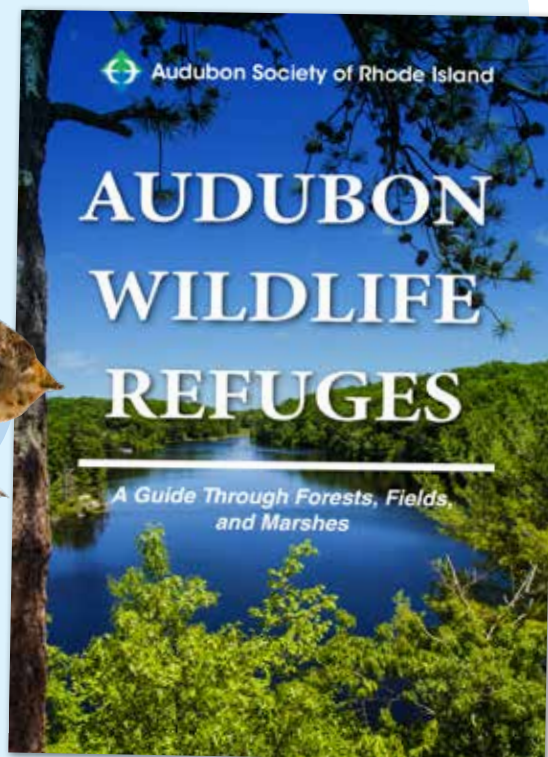
- In-depth profiles on 14 Audubon Wildlife Refuges
- Current Maps and Photographs
- Bird and Wildlife Listings
- Quick references for services
- Suggested activities and seasonal tips

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Looking at Birds in a Whole New Way

It has been a strange year for us all. Many people are now working from home, parents are trying to help educate children as they learn virtually, and many of our favorite activities have been canceled. Even though Audubon had to reduce programming, the birds are still all around us. And they are busy doing what birds do. Let's try and look at them a bit differently!

Maybe you are taking care of the grandkids or your own children. Maybe you are just looking for something new to do outside. Why not switch things up and go on a Birding Scavenger Hunt? It is a great activity for families, for new birders, or even the well-seasoned expert looking for a fresh challenge. All you need is your backyard or a favorite natural space, like the Audubon trails.

Start off simply with the color challenge. If you are working with children, I suggest giving them color chips (small pieces of colored paper) and challenge them to find a bird with that color on its body. Is it a rainy day? Try matching colorful feathers to bird photos. Print out some bird images, take a bunch of colorful feathers that are used in children's crafts, and ask the child to match the colored feather to the bird. This is a great way to start studying the different colors that birds have, and it was a popular activity with my Nature Tot programs. You will be amazed how much



these activities encourage kids to look for real birds and notice the different species. If you have older children or are an adult birder, how about trying to look for birds that cover the colors of the rainbow?



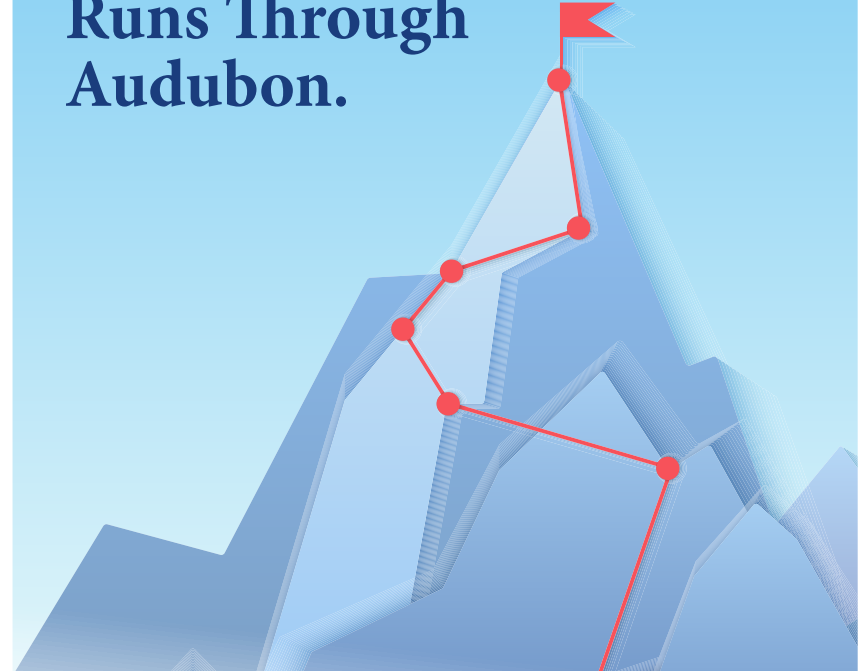
The next scavenger hunt idea covers bird behavior. So often birders are simply looking to tick a species off their list. This scavenger hunt encourages the birder to slow down and observe behavior. What is the bird doing? What habitat is it in? The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (www.birds.cornell.edu) has a great Bird Spy Bingo sheet you can print off and mark the behaviors you are observing. This is a great way to really study the bird you are watching. Does it have long or short legs? What type of bill does it have? Looking

at its bill, what do you think the bird might eat?

Another fun hunt is to search for signs of birds. While taking a walk on the beach, around your neighborhood or at the local park, try looking for clues that show a bird has been there. Is there a woodpecker hole? Do you see a nest or feather? Become a detective and figure out who left those clues behind. If you are near a hole, wait patiently to see if someone peaks out!

Birding scavenger hunt themes can be endless. Don't get bored in our changed world, rise to the challenge and start looking at things in a new way! Check out Audubon at Home at www.asri.org for other birding ideas and crafts, and feel free to drop me an email to share some of the scavenger hunts you have tried. lcaberry@asri.org

The Route From Success to Significance Runs Through Audubon.



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Join the 1897 Society Today: asri.org/leadership

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

AUDUBON INTRODUCES NEW ILLUSTRATED TRAIL MAPS



Audubon has new, updated trail maps available at wildlife kiosks and online at www.asri.org.



Available in both English and Spanish, the maps provide clear directions, highlights from each property, and a list of birds and wildlife that you might encounter.

Instead of sticking close to home, grab one of these maps and hit some new trails. Audubon protects and maintains 14 wildlife refuges across the state visit them all!

2020 Audubon Legislative Summary

By Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy

The Rhode Island legislature's environmental work ended abruptly with the COVID-19 pandemic. Bills addressing climate change, plastics, other toxics like pesticides and PFAS, and solar siting that were introduced are not being considered this year.

The 2020 Beach, Clean Water and Green bond is the one piece of legislation that is still in play. Bonds must first be approved by the legislature before they can go before the voters in November. Hearings are underway this summer in the House and Senate on the state budget and advocates are contacting their legislators in support of the bond.

The \$69 million 2020 Green bond includes the following components:

- State Beaches, Parks and Campgrounds: \$40 million for capital improvements, likely to include upgrades at Goddard Park Beach, Roger Wheeler Beach, Scarborough State Beach, Misquamicut State Beach, Brenton State Park, and state campgrounds.
- Clean Water and Drinking Water: \$15 million in matching funds for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. These matching funds will unlock close to \$74 million in federal funds.
- Local Recreation: \$4 million in matching grants to create new and improve existing community parks and recreation facilities.
- Natural and Working Lands: \$3 million to conserve forested land and farmland.
- Municipal Resilience Program: \$7 million to help communities restore and improve resiliency of vulnerable coastal habitats, rivers and stream floodplains and infrastructure.

Some good news from Washington: Congress Approves the Great American Outdoors Act

The Great American Outdoors Act (H.R. 1957) was passed by the United States Congress in June and July, but has not yet been signed into law by President Donald Trump. It has two major components: fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and providing \$9.5 billion in funding to address a maintenance backlog at American national parks.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America's most important conservation pro-



gram, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction and activities and the continued historic preservation of our nation's iconic landmarks from coast-to-coast.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 million jobs.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided funding to help protect some of Rhode Island's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Rhode Island has received approximately \$74.4 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Roger Williams National Memorial.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests. The FLP cost-share funding supports timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. For example, the FLP contributed to places such as the Tillinghast Pond Management Area in West Greenwich, Yawgoo Pond in South Kingstown and Canonchet Brook Preserve in Hopkinton. The Forest Legacy Program assists state and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$8 million in federal funds to invest in Rhode Island's forests, while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests.



Learn Along the Way

New! Caratunk has bright blue visitor signage in the rain garden, near the Purple Martin boxes, next to the field habitat and other spots along the trails. These colorful signs provide fun facts, beautiful photos and engaging illustrations about the flora and fauna that visitors may encounter as they walk the trails.

Look for them at key spots on the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge. Powder Mill Ledges, Fisherville Brook, and the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium also have some of these educational signs for visitors to enjoy.

Take a moment to stop and learn about what's happening in nature!



A special note of appreciation to Nate and Mary Chace for their support of the improvements at the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge.

Binocular Drive to Support Young Birders



Do you have one or two gently-used pairs of binoculars in your closet? Please consider donating them to a child!

The Ocean State Bird Club and Audubon Society of Rhode Island are collecting gently-used and new optics to provide opportunities for young birders in urban communities. Plenty of youth have expressed an interest in birds and nature, but their families cannot afford expensive optics that would drive their passion to the next level. With a solid pair of binoculars in their hands, we can help create the next generation of Rhode Island birders!

The donated binoculars will be given to children that have expressed an interest in birds and nature. We will be working with the Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership to determine where the donations will be allocated. This organization works with inner city youth to develop an interest in nature and birds.

Just drop off your gently-used binoculars by December 31 at one of these locations:

- Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI
- Audubon Wednesday Bird Walk: leave binoculars with program leader.
- Wild Birds Unlimited Shop, Route 2, Warwick.





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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2020

Virtual Gathering of Members and Supporters

Details to Follow
www.asri.org




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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!

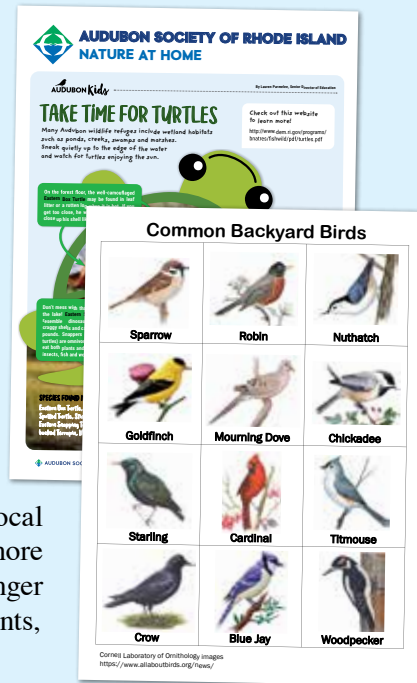


Perfect for homeschoolers, virtual classrooms, science projects, and outdoor exploration!

Do you know or a student or teacher who will be engaged in a virtual classroom this fall? Is your child looking for ideas for a science project? Are you homeschooling your children? Audubon can help!

Just visit Audubon at Home, our online site that encourages nature discovery in your backyard. Audubon educators have developed 20 nature themes, each containing natural history and science activities, educational games, videos, animal interviews, crafts, suggested resources, and more! They are free and available to all students and educators.

Discover the world of turtles, owls, frogs and snakes. Go on a nature or bird scavenger hunt in your yard or a local park. Explore nature in the wetlands, the city, or by the shore with Audubon as your guide. There are story times for younger children, science experiments for elementary school students, and fun activities for all ages.



Visit www.asri.org/audubon-at-home to start exploring nature at home!



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 and click on 'services.' For all other rental queries, contact Jon Scoones at jscoones@asri.org.

Audubon Remembers Marie Hawkes

Marie Hawkes, long-time environmental advocate and wife of former Audubon Executive Director Alfred Hawkes, passed away on Saturday, July 18, 2020. A Scituate resident for 58 years, Mrs. Hawkes was a former teacher at North Smithfield Elementary School. She had published a water conservation curriculum for the Scituate School Department during her tenure, and it is still being used by the State of Rhode Island today. She is also remembered as a talented artist and mentor for students studying education at Rhode Island College.

She had recently been awarded the 2020 Alice M. Howland Conservation Award from the Scituate Conservation Commission and Land Trust, on June 16, 2020 for her life-long environmental work. As the annual meeting of the Scituate Conservation Commission and Land Trust had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, the presentation of the award by Conservation Commission Chair Tom Angell was held at the home of Mrs. Hawkes. A small group gathered to celebrate, both virtually and in person. Mrs. Hawkes family and friends attended, including Audubon Executive Director Lawrence Taft, Board Member Laura Landon and former Audubon Senior Director of Policy Eugenia Marks.

Mrs. Hawkes was the wife of the late Alfred Hawkes, Audubon's executive director from 1958 to 1993. He is fondly remembered as a pioneer of environmental protection in the state and he had received the Alice M. Howland Award in 2004. Together, Alfred and Marie Hawkes were a strong and influential team when it came to advocating for environmental education and policy in Rhode Island.



Former Audubon Senior Director of Policy Eugenia Marks (right) celebrated the announcement of the Alice M. Howland Conservation Award with Marie Hawkes in June. Marie passed away in July 2020.



Audubon fondly remembers the late Alfred and Marie Hawkes. Both were strong advocates for Rhode Island's environment.

Former Audubon Board President Charlotte Sornborger Receives Award for Work with Diamondback Terrapins

The Diamondback Terrapin Working Group (representing the east coast) recently awarded former Audubon Board President Charlotte Sornborger with the newly established Citizen Conservation Award. This award recognizes citizens who promote diamondback terrapin conservation in tangible ways, either through volunteer work with non-profit organizations or as an independent advocate for protection of terrapins and their habitats.

They commended Sornborger's long-term efforts to protect diamondback terrapins in Rhode Island and to promote the conservation of diamondback terrapins through education and outreach. Her collaborations with community and environmental groups resulted in the protection of critical diamondback terrapin nesting habitat in Barrington; this is a legacy that will continue to protect terrapins for years to come. Through her collaborations with academic institutions she has also fostered a research program that has resulted in a greater understanding of terrapin nesting behaviors in New England and contributed to the training of future scientists and conservationists.

Audubon congratulates Charlotte Sornborger on this well-deserved award and recognition.



Charlotte Sornborger recently won an award for her conservation work with the diamondback terrapin.

Wildlife Images from the Audubon Refuges

Audubon has unobtrusive wildlife 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 summer we recorded a family of playful raccoons and a large Wild Turkey both in the same area, but at different dates and times.

It is always fun to see what creatures are out and about on the Audubon Wildlife Refuges.



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RIPBS.ORG

FANTASTIC FROGS

Try these fun ideas to get moving and see how YOU compare to a frog!

How long is your tongue?

Stick out your tongue as far as you can. Is it as long as your pointer finger? Your pinky finger? A frog's tongue sticks out much farther!

Here's why: Our tongues are attached in the back of our throats, so we can't stick them out too far. Frogs' tongues are attached to the front of their mouths and hang backwards down their throats. When a frog sticks out its tongue, it flips outward – making it seem very long! Look at the picture of a frog flicking its tongue out to eat.

Frog Tongue



Gray Tree Frog



American Bullfrog

Do you use your eyes to swallow?

Feel your throat as you swallow. Can you feel something go up and down? That's your esophagus – the tube that leads from your mouth to your stomach. We have muscles there to help our food move to our stomachs. Frogs don't have those muscles! They need something special to help them swallow – their eyeballs. They have to blink to swallow!

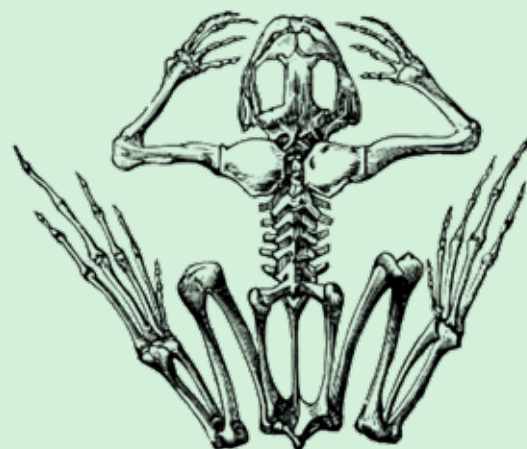
Here's how we know: Look at the picture of a frog and notice where their eyes are located - their eyeballs are up on top of their heads. Look at the picture of the frog skeleton: can you see two big holes in the skull? When a frog blinks, its eyes move down through those holes into the mouth and help force food into the frog's stomach.

How far can you leap?

Try this: Stand up straight and have a friend measure you from the top of your head to just below your waist. Write that number down. Next: Mark off a starting line, and then leap as far as you can. Have your friend measure from the start to where you landed. Compare that number to the measurement you took. Did you jump twice as far as your body length? Three times as far?

Frogs can leap 10 times their body length!

Here's why: Look at the frog skeleton picture again and compare frog legs to ours. They have more places where they can bend and push off than we do; those are called levers. Count them. You will see they have 8 places where they can bend, compared to only 4 for people (hips, knees, ankles and where the foot meets the toes).



Frog Skeleton



*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 and click on *services* or contact Anne DiMonti at (401) 949-5454 x3116 or adimonti@asri.org.



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PRIVATE TOURS NOW AVAILABLE

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Providence Stormwater Innovation Center

Restoring balance to urban natural environments

By Ryan Kopp, Stormwater Coordinator



Algal bloom in Roosevelt Lake in Roger Williams Park, July 2020.

While the word urban may bring to mind skyscrapers and crowded streets, our cities also contain parks and natural areas that often include bodies of water like those in Roger Williams Park. In large cities much of the natural soil, grasses and plants have been replaced with concrete, asphalt and rooftops. When it rains, the water cannot soak into these hard surfaces, and instead flows into gutters and storm drains. Urban natural environments face unique hazards and are often impaired due to excessive levels of contaminants from stormwater, such as bacteria, oil, litter, fertilizer and pet waste. These in turn provide an easy food source for algae, which can take over a water body and reduce the oxygen that is necessary for the survival of plants, fish and other species.

Stormwater not only brings contaminants from roads and rooftops, but it also dumps dirt, sand and silt into waterways. These also contribute to urban pollution as they slowly fill ponds and streams. Shallow ponds heat up much quicker than deep ones, and in turn, the higher temperatures promote more algae growth.

This is where green stormwater infrastructure can help. It is specifically designed to divert stormwater out of the gutter and into a system that uses the natural filtering capabilities of soils and plants to improve water quality. There are now over 40 green stormwater structures in Roger Williams Park.

How do they work?

An infiltration basin is one such structure that has been built to contain stormwater and beautify the park. It is designed to allow sediment to drop out of stormwater and deposit on the floor of a constructed forebay, instead of on the bottom of a pond. A maintenance crew will remove the debris after a storm. When enough runoff fills the forebay to flow over the top of a small rock dam, called a weir, the water that has been filtered of sediment then flows into the final line of defense, a stormwater structure called an infiltration basin. The remaining stormwater is slowly absorbed into the ground, removing contaminants from the water.

This one stormwater element is designed to decrease phosphorous concentrations by 90 percent! There are many other green infrastructure models to be seen at the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center. Audubon is working with The Nature Conservancy and the City of Providence on creating a learning and training center focused on nature based solutions at Roger Williams Park. Look for more information in upcoming issues of the Report or visit www.stormwaterinnovation.org. If you are interested in taking a tour, please contact Ryan Kopp at rkopp@asri.org.



Located near the Seal House in Roger Williams Park, stormwater runoff is directed to flow into this infiltration basin. The first part of the structure, the cobblestone-like forebay, is a landing spot for the runoff to slow down and temporarily pool up.



The dam-like structure that stops the water and allows the sediment to drop is known as a weir.



An infiltration basin is a shallow basin of modified soils and native grasses where stormwater remains for 24 to 48 hours after flowing over the weir. It is slowly absorbed into the ground, removing contaminants from the water.

Providence Stormwater Innovation Center Launch

The Providence Stormwater Innovation Center was launched in a virtual presentation on June 18, 2020 by EPA Region 1 Administrator Dennis Deziel, Department of Environmental Management Director Janet Coit, Providence Mayor Jorge O. Elorza, Providence City Council President Sabina Matos, Providence City Council Majority Leader JoAnn Ryan, Providence Parks Superintendent Wendy Nilsson, Providence Parks Deputy Superintendent Brian Byrnes, The Nature Conservancy RI Director of Climate and Cities Programs Sheila Dormody, Audubon Society of Rhode Island Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr and over 70 community members. The launch provided an opportunity to share and celebrate the Stormwater Center's achievements with City of Providence leaders, environmental advocates, and the community.

A map of structure location, information on monitoring efforts, and technical details on the green stormwater systems may be found at www.stormwaterinnovation.org. Residents interested in supporting green infrastructure within their community are encouraged to consider becoming part of the team monitoring water quality in Roger Williams park.



The Providence Stormwater Innovation Center has been developed in partnership with the City of Providence Parks Department, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension and the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center.

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
- Citizens Bank
- Dassault Systemes
- Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Inc.
- Lyons & Zaremba, Inc.
- MetLife Auto & Home
- New England Dispatch Agency
- NEC Solar
- Partridge, Snow & Hahn
- 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: Jacquelen Colicci

From: Michelle Colicci

In Honor of: Robin Lashin

From: Malaree Shields

In Honor of: Joao Damaso

From: Kathleen Damaso-Azzarone

In Honor of: Adoniram & Kara Sides

From: Micah and Iris Chase
Sheryl and Tom Hoskins
Vista Team

In Honor of: Michael Davis

From: Emily W. Westcott

In Honor of: Barbara Watts

From: Sarah Martin

**In Honor of: Richard Willis Donelly
& Stanley Richard Kay**

From: Richard Donelly

In Honor of: Charles Yund

From: Judith Queen

In Honor of: Kay Flanagan

From: Rebecca Flanagan

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: Joseph Czerwinski

From: Charleen Knap

In Memory of: Joel Silverberg

From: Patricia Brennan

In Memory of: Mary Church Gray

From: Robert and Ann Erdahl

In Memory of: Cornelius J. Sullivan

From: Elizabeth Sanguinetti

In Memory of: Marie Hawkes

From: Cathy and Peter Bodner
Karen Grant
Samuel and Elizabeth Hallowell
Shoshana Kerewsky
Craig Resta
Ms. Fran Rivkin
Susan Rood
Kristine and Everett Stuart
Mrs. And Mr. Lois B. Torman
Van Liew Trust Company
Guy and Adrienne Zampini

In Memory of: Martha J. Tebbenkamp

From: William Reinert

In Memory of: Richard Yund

From: Lavinia Connors
Sharon Copple
Alecia Engel
Kathleen and Wendell Engel
Allan and Barbara Feldman
Robert and Dorothy Harpster
Elisabeth Head
Catherine Heath
Tracey Hewat
Sheryl and James Marble
Charlotte McGuire
Margaret Rieske
Helen and Malcom Rutherford
Marjorie Sundlun
Julia A. Tullis
Terry Tullis and Constance Worthington
Thompson and Joan Webb
Greg and Sue Yund

In Memory of: Dr. Yildizfer Kamaloglu

From: Yildizfer and Cagdas Kemalglu-Altin

In Memory of: George Mansfield

From: Janet Prat

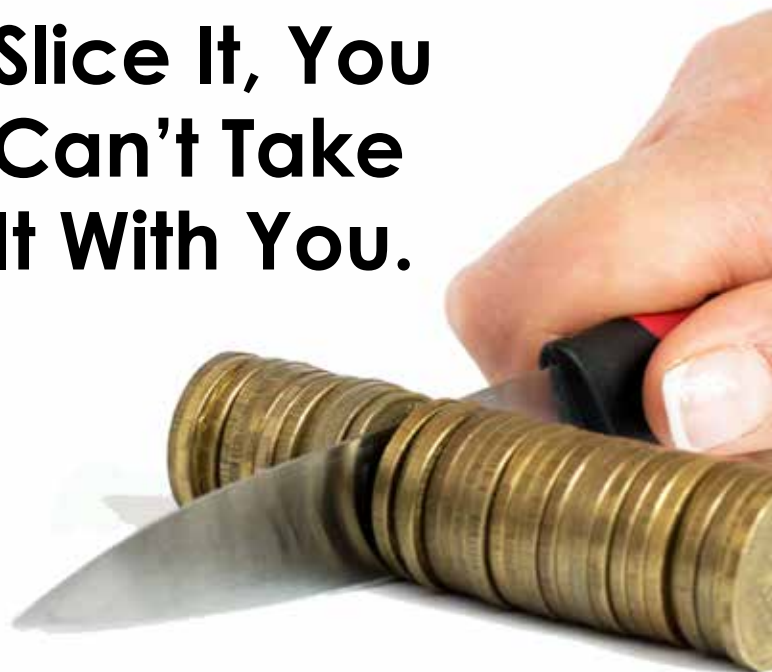
In Memory of: John McCoy

From: Karim McCormick

In Memory of: Barbara Remor

From: Peter and Rosemary Graham

No Matter How 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 for a will starter kit.

(Kit may take a few minutes to download.)

Audubon Animal Ambassadors Visit Providence Community Libraries

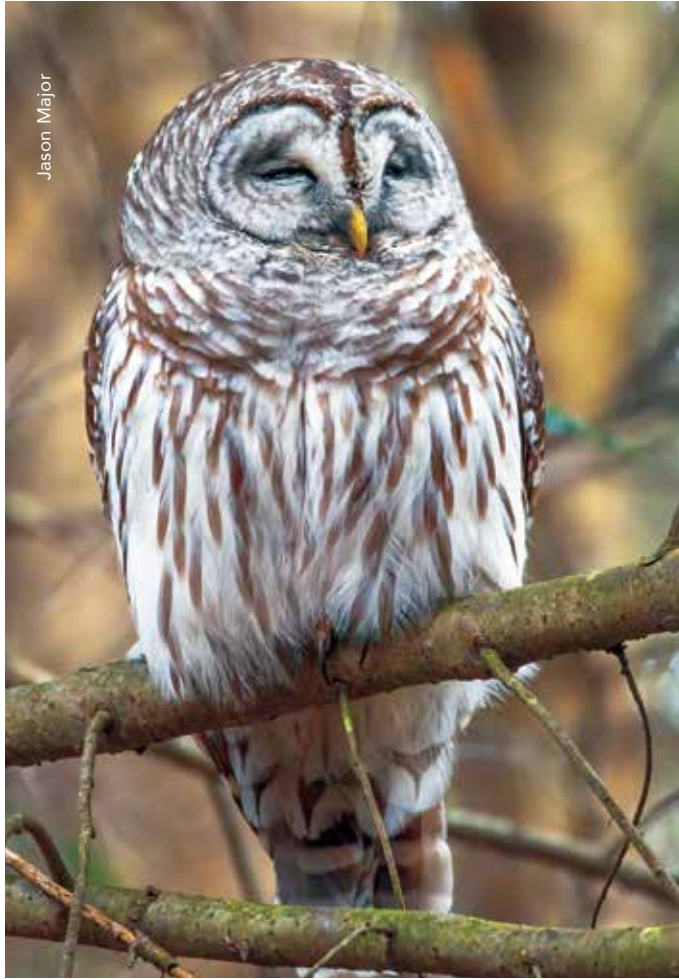
Generous funding from the Providence After School Alliance (PASA) is supporting a new collaboration between the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and the Providence Community Library.

Audubon educators and animal ambassadors will visit nine Providence libraries in August to encourage nature discovery and exploration. Programs will be held on library grounds or virtually, and are free and open to the public. Library visitors may meet an owl, snake or turtle and learn all about these amazing creatures and their habitats.

Audubon is pleased to partner with the Providence Community Libraries and PASA to support the Providence community during this unsettling time.



Jason Major



How Can You Make *Your* Mark On Conservation?

Adopt an acre of prime wildlife habitat for yourself, a family member or a friend.

Adopt an Acre Today!

Not everyone is able to donate a parcel of land for conservation, but that doesn't mean you can't make a significant contribution to protecting habitat for birds and other wildlife. By adopting one acre of Audubon wildlife habitat for \$95, you can help to protect those special places that connect people with nature.

Your donation will help pay for property monitoring, trail maintenance, removal of invasive species, and other habitat enhancements that provide maximum value to birds and wildlife.

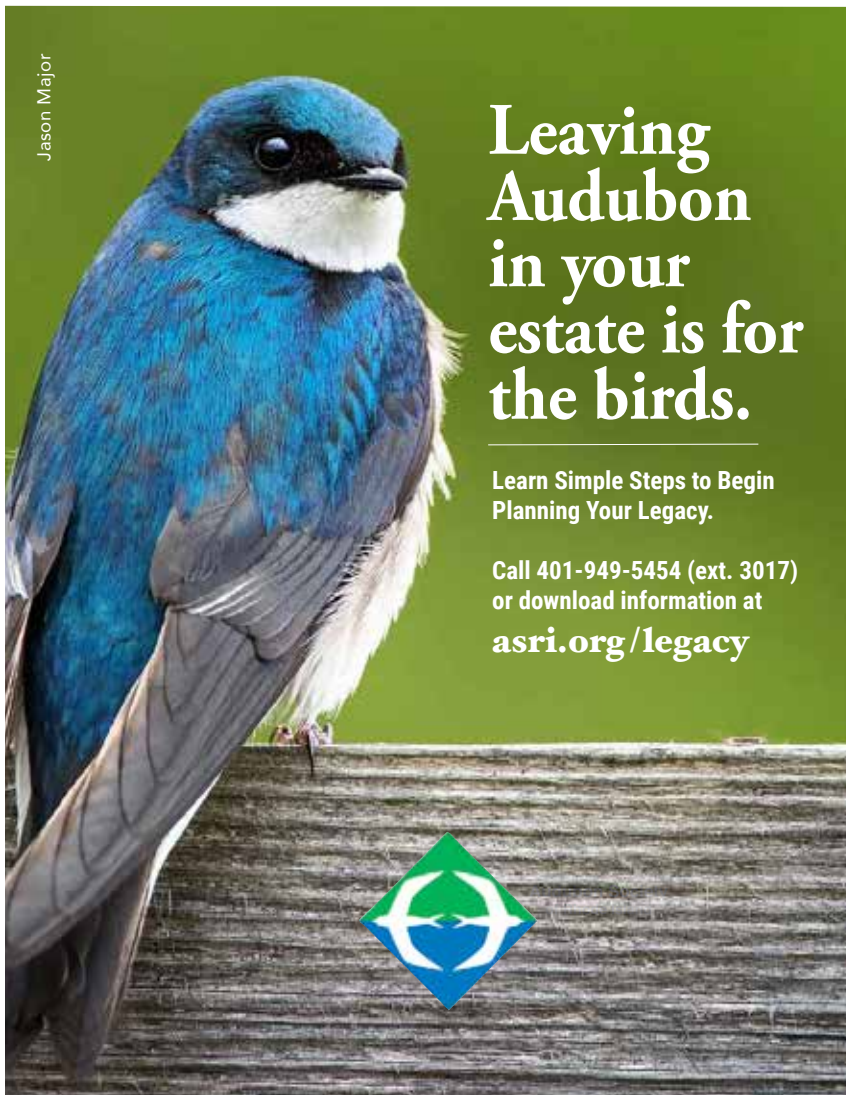
Support the birds and animals that you love by protecting the homes where they live. Nature needs your support now more than ever.

Audubon protects 9,500 acres of habitat, please consider adopting one of those acres for \$95.

Visit www.asri.org to learn more.



Jason Major



Leaving Audubon in your estate is for the birds.

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Powder Mill Ledges Welcomes Volunteers from Brown University Medical School

A group of 15 volunteers from Brown University Medical School hit the trails at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge in Smithfield on Jun 24, 2020 for trail maintenance, invasive plant removal and litter cleanup. The volunteers, all masked and distanced, were all emergency medical personnel and traditionally join together in community service that supports public health. This year they chose to support Audubon and specifically asked to learn more about how climate change and other environmental impacts positively or negatively affect public health. Audubon conservation staff Kim Calcagno and Joe Metzen were their guides for the day.



Four Young Peregrine Falcons are Banded in Providence

Two male and two female nestlings were banded on May 22, 2020 atop the Superman Building in Providence. Long-time bird bander Joe Zbyrowski skillfully measured them, placed the bands on their legs, and returned them to the nest box.



Audubon welcomed special guests Lisa Gould and Loree Kallienen, who were the winners of the golden tickets during the online Party for the Peregrines event, and won the opportunity to join Audubon for banding day.

Bird banding allows scientists to track the life history, migration and reproductive behavior of specific birds and overall populations. The bands placed on Peregrine Falcons are a very lightweight aluminum material and do not hurt the bird or interfere with its flight or grasping of prey.

Thank you to Joe Zbyrowski for banding this year's brood and Peter Green of Providence Raptors for taking photos. We look forward to next year!



From left: Golden ticket winners Lisa Gould and Loree Kallienen on banding day.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island 2021 Calendar

Scott Slusarski

Do You have an Outstanding Bird Photo?

Submit Your Image for Audubon's new 2021 Calendar

Deadline is September 13, 2020.

Visit asri.org/audubon-calendar.html for details.

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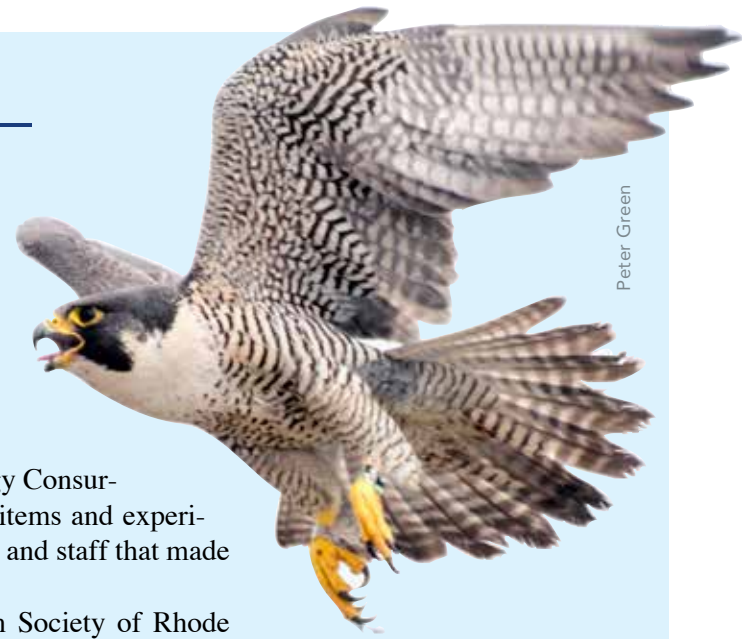


Thank You! Party for the Peregrines 2020 — A Virtual Success!

Hundreds of members and supporters logged on from May 12–15, 2020 for Audubon's first virtual fundraising event, the 2020 Party for the Peregrines. The event raised over \$43,000 for raptor care, education and conservation programs. Hundreds of viewers tuned in each of the four nights to learn more about raptors and discover how our staff care for the thirteen winged ambassadors that call Audubon home.

Audubon extends special thanks to the 2020 event sponsors Unfi and Green Energy Consumers Alliance and the dozens of businesses and individuals that donated fabulous items and experiences to the auction. We also wish to acknowledge the behind-the-scenes volunteers and staff that made the first-ever virtual event possible.

And most importantly, thank YOU for your continued support of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. We hope to welcome you back in person at the 2021 Party for the Peregrines!



Peter Green

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Continued from page 5

That same year, a tornado crossed the property, knocking down trees and signs but just missed the Nature Center. Not everything was spared, however. One of the downed trees crashed onto the mew where Eec, the resident Barred Owl, lived. Luckily, Eec was unharmed and his home was rebuilt.

But with these few exceptions, the Nature Center has had a smooth run for 20 years. And while its mission to showcase the wonders of the Ocean State's habitats and natural history hasn't changed, the facility has evolved and will continue to do so. Eec was the first of six animal ambassadors—two Barred Owls, two Red-tailed Hawks and two Common Ravens—that reside on the property and are used for a wide range of educational programs. The aquarium tanks and associated exhibits were upgraded in 2014 thanks to a partnership with Roger Williams University, which has provided technical expertise and student manpower to maintain the tank system. And in 2018, a Rose-Pollinator Garden—including a giant insect hotel—was installed on the northeast corner of the property.

The Rose-Pollinator Garden was a big moment for us because it was a shift in direc-

tion, DiMonti said. The garden shows how we, and the public, can design and plant a smaller space and that provides and protects important habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. We realize that sometimes wildlife needs a little boost from humans, and it doesn't always have to be acres of conservation land, it can be a space in a back yard.

Additional upgrades are on the way in coming years. Many of the exhibits will likely be revisited to incorporate messages about climate change and other timely topics. The trails will be made more accessible, and signage will be improved to include interpretive messaging as well. And discussions are in the works to make the Nature Center a gateway to other Audubon refuges.

We think the Center could become a place where visitors can go to learn about all of the other Audubon properties around the state, said Taft. Maybe some of our exhibits or signs will highlight and educate the public on how we conserve land or restore habitat at Caratunk or Ruecker or Fisherville, for instance. The plan is to have the Center become a gateway to Audubon and encourage the public to explore all of our properties.

And yet despite the planned changes and upgrades to the Nature Center, it won't change in any fundamental way.

This is the one place where you'll always be able to go and meet our staff, ask questions, engage in programs, and learn about nature, Taft said. It's a place for kids and families. People of all ages can visit and feel like they are immersed in nature, and understand that they are an important part of Audubon. It will



Butch Lombardi

always be our flagship facility.

To me, concluded DiMonti, the best part of the Nature Center is that it feels like a family—not just our staff, but our members and other visitors. Some may come only for special programs or to walk the trails, others come often with children for classes or to explore the exhibits and visit the Ravens. They're all part of the Audubon family. And I look forward to celebrating our anniversary with all of them.

Todd McLeish is a life-long birder, freelance science writer and author of several books about wildlife, including "Return of the Sea Otter."



Audubon staff monitor the new pond in the Rose-Pollinator Garden.

Community Responsibility

Editorial by Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy

I hope that everyone is safe and healthy and weathering these difficult times as well as one can. I am not optimistic that the risks of COVID-19 will change soon, but I do think that we are learning useful lessons as the pandemic unfolds. It is vital that we care for the most vulnerable people in our communities, value health-care providers and take responsibility for our impact on the world around us.

Governor Raimondo's regular emails during the pandemic have been a welcome source of information for me. The emails report on the trajectory of cases in the state and review policy strategies crafted to help Rhode Islanders get through the pandemic safely. The emails almost always end with the statement, "We're all in this together," a reminder that the difficulties we are suffering are broadly shared by everyone in the state. Governor Raimondo is reminding us that each of us has an important job to do. Each individual is just one among the approximately one million people in the state, but we are part of a broader community. And we can decide to be a powerful force for good or harm. We can behave as an individual untethered from the rest of the state and the environment or we can act as if we are part of a broad arc of humanity extending into the past and (hopefully) many, many years into the future. Governor Raimondo is asking us to take collective responsibility, and place the good of the community, our future grandkids or the grandkids of our neighbors, and the good of the world above our own individual desires and whims. Wear a mask. Wash our hands. Stay out of crowds as much as possible and always practice social distancing.

As the pandemic has raced around the globe, we have learned that seemingly healthy people can be carrying the virus and inadvertently spread it to the people they contact. We have seen how careless gatherings at beaches and parties as well as deeply important gatherings like funerals have led to the infection of entire groups of friends and families. The message is clear. We are all in this together and we all need to take responsibility for our own actions to protect our neighbors and friends.

Environmental organizations like Audubon have been promoting the "Your actions make a difference" message for decades. We talk about the need for people to reduce their personal carbon footprint by choosing to take a bus rather than drive a car, eat less (or no) meat and support the development of properly sited renewable energy. We make the connections between individual homeowner's use of water to support lush green



lawns which can reduce the volume of water in rivers and streams for fish and other wildlife. We work to address stormwater pollution by showing people that the rain falling on their homes, buildings, roads and businesses carries significant pollution to local waterways. The only way to effectively reduce this pollution is to take individual actions like not using fertilizers and pesticides, installing rain gardens and using rain barrels. We encourage everyone to protect pollinators by planting native shrubs and flowers and eliminating pesticide use as much as possible.

All of us often feel insignificant compared to the environmental problems faced by our state, country and the world. Will it really matter if I do the right thing? , we ask ourselves. What possible difference can ONE person make?

The COVID-19 pandemic is answering that question for us. Yes, we are just one person, but even one person can make a real difference in the world. We're all in this together.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND REPORT

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Please pass this copy on to a friend or recycle. Thank you.

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.

Spot the Beetle, Stop the Beetle

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

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Raptor Photo Shoot

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI
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10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Bring your camera and photograph a Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, and Barred Owl in a small-group program. Birds will be placed in a natural setting for that perfect shot. Register through the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Face masks and social distancing are required.
Fee: \$65/member; \$75/non-member. Ages: Teen to Adult.



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Member Appreciation Evening
October 3, 2020 5:00-9:00pm

Bring a blanket, pack a picnic dinner and relax under the stars with fun activities, live music, food truck, lawn games, cash bar and bonfires along the trails.



Audubon Nature Center & Aquarium, Bristol, RI
Free for Audubon Members. Watch for details on www.asri.org.