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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

REPORT



Raptor Weekend
September 8 & 9, 2018
Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI

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BOBWHITES NO LONGER CALL RHODE ISLAND HOME

*Data from the Rhode Island Birding
Atlas Reveals Changing Bird Populations*

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Mapping Future Conservation with the Breeding Bird Atlas

Rhode Island science writer and author Todd McLeish brings the insider's scoop on the Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas to this issue of the Report. This current 5-year survey on the state of the birds in Rhode Island is coordinated through a partnership between the RI Department of Environmental Management and URI and relies heavily on volunteers, many of whom are Audubon members and staff.

The Atlas will answer the big question: how have bird species and distribution changed since the previous study was completed over 30 years ago? How have bird habitats been altered? Can this new information help us better understand what is happening on the nearly 9,500 acres of land that Audubon protects and manages in the state, and perhaps influence future management practices?

As the autumn season returns, we offer many opportunities for you to witness fall bird migration. Join us for walks at local birding hotspots around the state including several hawk watch locations. We also offer fun family programs including our popular Raptor Weekend. So get outside this fall, enjoy nature and learn more about our local birds.



Thanks again for your steadfast support of this work.

Lawrence J. F. Taft, Executive Director

Benefits of the Charitable IRA Rollover

Exeter residents John and Eugenia Andrews (not their real names) are a charitable couple. John just retired after 35 years and Eugenia is extremely active in her non-profit work. The Andrews are both over 70½ years old.

This year, instead of making a donation to Audubon directly from their savings, they took advantage of changes in the tax laws to make a greater impact with their donation and save on their taxes.

The Andrews made their donation through their IRA using the Charitable IRA Rollover.

The Charitable IRA Rollover is a tax planning strategy for donors giving anywhere from \$100 to \$100,000 that was made a permanent part of the tax law in 2016. Now, the big changes in the tax laws made last year make it even more relevant to those who will take the increased standard deduction and lose the incentive to itemize their taxes, including charitable deductions.

Here's how it works. Once you turn 70½, you must start taking "required minimum distributions" out of your traditional Individual Retirement Accounts. Normally, these distributions count as taxable income to you. But also, beginning at 70½, you can make gifts directly from your IRA to any public charity. These "charitable rollovers" count as part of your required minimum distribution, but aren't taxable income to you. That's a big benefit, particularly if, like most seniors, you don't itemize deductions on your individual tax returns.

The maximum you can roll over to charity in any year is \$100,000, but you can also make smaller gifts to a few charities like the Andrews made to Audubon.

If you don't itemize deductions, the rollover is a clear tax win. Even if you do itemize, it can save you more tax than taking the IRA distribution into income and then donating it. By lowering your adjusted gross income, AGI, the charitable rollover may keep other income from being subject to the 3.8% net investment income tax, for example. Another benefit: it can keep high-income premium surcharges for Medicare at bay.

What are the benefits?

- Transfer tax-free gifts from your IRA directly to Audubon
- Can be applied toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
- Beneficial for individuals who do not itemize deductions on their income tax
- Withdrawals not subject to annual charitable deduction limitations
- Can be used to create an endowed fund or other permanent fund—alone or combined with a bequest in your will.

Warning... the check from your IRA must be made out to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island or other charity—not to you. Call the financial institution that holds your IRA and ask about its charitable rollover procedures. For further assistance contact Jeff Hall, Senior Director of Advancement at jhall@asri.org or 401-949-5454 x3017.

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS DOCUMENT BREEDING BIRDS

in Every Corner of Rhode Island

By Todd McLeish

Atlas Fact:

The Red-bellied Woodpecker has experienced the greatest growth in breeding habitat.

At the edge of a 40-acre hayfield behind St. Theresa's church in Burrillville, long-time Audubon member Cindy Szymanski called out the names of the birds she heard singing – House Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, Eastern Wood Peewee, Common Yellowthroat, Tufted Titmouse, Baltimore Oriole and several more. She spotted additional species darting across the field and soaring overhead.

But identifying the birds was only the first step in Szymanski's morning of birding. She patiently watched each species she saw for any obvious signs that the birds were breeding. A bird carrying a caterpillar – without swallowing it – was a sign it was bringing food to its nestlings, for instance, or a bird flying away with grass in its beak was an indication it was building a nest.

Those observations are crucial data being collected by more than 240 volunteers as part of the Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas, a five-year effort to document the breeding status of every species of bird found in the state. The project, now in its fourth year, divides Rhode Island into 165 blocks, each 10 square miles in size. Volunteers scour the various habitats in each block during the breeding season for as many

bird species as they can find – day and night – and record any behaviors they observe that indicate whether the species is possibly, probably or confirmed breeding in the block.

Szymanski recorded 77 species in her block by July 1 and had confirmed that 41 were breeding.

Atlas coordinator Dr. Charles Clarkson, a member of Audubon's board of directors, said that the Breeding Bird Atlas is a way of gathering data to understand the health of bird populations by measuring their distribution, density and use of habitat.

“Birds are bio-indicator species that can tell us a lot about the health of ecosystems. How well bird populations are doing tells us how their habitats are doing,” he said. “The data we collect helps us better direct our conservation efforts. The Atlas is a useful conservation tool used by non-profits like Audubon as well as by state agencies.”

Clarkson describes the process of collecting data as “slow birding,” because it requires volunteers to watch individual birds for extended periods of time while waiting for them to exhibit behaviors indicative of breeding. It requires a great deal of patience, but the payoff in

Please turn to page 4

Cover Photo: The Northern Bobwhite has disappeared from Rhode Island since it was recorded in the 1980s survey.

“The data we collect helps us better direct our conservation efforts. The Atlas is a useful conservation tool used by non-profits like Audubon as well as by state agencies.”

- Dr. Charles Clarkson



Atlas Coordinator Dr. Charles Clarkson in the field.

Citizen Scientists Continued from page 3

seldom-seen behaviors is high.

In addition to the data being collected by individual volunteers in their assigned blocks, similar information for the atlas is gathered during nocturnal bird surveys seeking to document the breeding behavior of owls, woodcocks and nightjars (species such as the Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawks). Biological technicians also conduct “point counts” at designated sites to assess bird abundance. Long-term bird survey data from other sources, like Audubon’s Osprey monitoring program, local bird banding station data, e-Bird and Project Feederwatch, will also be incorporated into the final report, which will take the form of a coffee table book with species accounts and distribution maps. The data will also be available online at the conclusion of the project.

Sponsored by the University of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas is a follow-up to an identical effort conducted in the 1980s, when 68 volunteers documented 164 species breeding in the state. The current atlas has already documented 167 species, but the detailed results will likely be quite different from the previous atlas, due largely to changes in habitat, range expansions, and climate change.

“One phenomenon we’ve seen in the last 30 years is that a lot of early successional, shrubby and grassland habitats have gone through succession and turned into young and mature forests,” Clarkson said. “As this has happened, we’ve all but lost a lot of breeding habitat for species like Bobwhite and Blue-winged Warbler. On the other end of the spectrum, as habitat matured, it’s become available for species requiring older, more mature habitat, like Pileated Woodpeckers and Goshawks. So

we’re losing species on one end and gaining on the other.”

The only species that has disappeared entirely from Rhode Island since the first atlas is the Northern Bobwhite, the formerly common member of the grouse family that has become extirpated due largely to the decline of its grassland habitat. Two other grassland species, the Horned Lark and Eastern Meadowlark, have only been documented to breed at several of Rhode Island’s airports, where the mowed, grassy environment mimics the birds’ preferred prairie-like habitat.

The species with the steepest decline in breeding abundance in the state is the Purple Finch, which was recorded in 76 blocks during the first atlas but in only 11 blocks so far in the current atlas.

“It could be that there is an actual decline in the species brought on by habitat loss or competitive exclusion with the related House Finch,” explained Clarkson. “We know they have been in decline in the eastern portion of their range where they overlap with House Finches. But it could also be misidentification by our volunteers.” The two species can be difficult to tell apart.

On the other hand, several species have been documented as breeding in the state that were not found during the previous atlas. These include Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Raven, Black Vulture and Bald Eagle. It was not unexpected that the raven, vulture and eagle would be added to the state’s list of breeding birds, since they have been seen in increasing numbers in the last decade. Bald Eagles are somewhat common in winter now, and atlas volunteers found them breeding in six blocks.

The most widespread breeding birds in Rhode Island are the American Robin and

Please turn to page 8

Atlas Facts:



The Bald Eagle, Common Raven, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Black Vulture are now documented as new species that now breed in the State.



The populations of Indigo Buntings, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos experienced a boom in numbers over the past years as a result of the gypsy moth infestation.

Audubon Legislative Wrap-up

By Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy



The RI Legislature adjourned on June 23. Audubon's top priorities were successful -- the continuation of the Pollinator Working Group for 3 more years and the passage of the 2018 Green Economy and Clean Water Bond.

The Bond was slightly revised from the Governor's budget, with the total amount reduced from \$48.5M to \$47.3M. The bond includes the following components: Dredging downtown Providence Rivers (\$7M), Local recreation (\$5M), Bikeways (\$5M), Farmland (\$2M) and Open Space (\$2M), Brownfields (\$4M), Coastal Resiliency and Public Access (\$5M), Clean Water and Drinking Water (\$7.9M), Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience (\$5M), Dam Safety (\$4.4M). The bond will go to the voters in November.

Audubon worked with our partners at the Environment Council of RI to prevent several bad bills from passing. We stopped the biomass net metering bill that would have allowed wood burning power plants to receive renewable energy incentives. The bill was written to benefit a waste to energy facility proposed by a renewable energy developer. We also opposed two bills that would have allowed the City of Providence to sell Providence Water to the Narragansett Bay Commission. Although Audubon supports consolidation of the state's water supplies, we want to be sure that the lands surrounding Scituate Reservoir remain protected should the supply change hands. We also oppose the bill's requirement that the transaction occur without oversight of the Public Utilities Commission.



We were not able to pass several important bills like the carbon pricing bill, the Global Warming Solutions Act that would codify the Resilient Rhode Island Act's greenhouse gas reduction goals and the renewable energy siting bill that was drafted with a broad range of committed stakeholders.



RAPTOR WEEKEND



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SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, 2018 • 10AM-4PM
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1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI

Purchase tickets online at www.asri.org

Wild Birds Flock to Caratunk

Wild Birds Unlimited, the national chain of birding retail stores, recently held a conference in Providence. Over a dozen of their franchise owners and staff gathered for a day of service on June 23, 2018 at the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk.

Thanks to all of these volunteers for a job well done!



Building a Buzz in Rhode Island

Audubon Bee Rally and State House Illumination

The Rhode Island State House was abuzz on June 19, 2018 as Audubon hosted a Bee Rally to spread the word about the importance of pollinators and their impact on our health, the environment and economy.



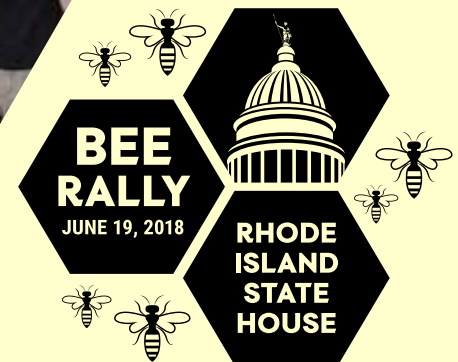
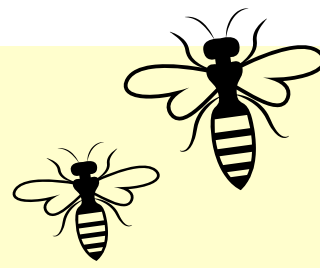
Governor Gina Raimondo launched the Rally on June 19, 2018.

Approximately 250 people gathered in the State House rotunda as Governor Gina Raimondo launched the Rally. Speakers highlighted the important work underway to protect pollinator health and habitats in Rhode Island. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Director Janet Coit discussed the important work that DEM, Audubon and other land owners are doing to enhance pollinator habitats on protected lands. Julia Gold shared work already underway at the Department of Transportation with pollinator plantings incorporated into stormwater management projects and mentioned opportunities for future pollinator plantings along roadways. Senator Sosnowski, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture underscored the need for additional actions, including recommending that the state bee keeper should be a full-time position.

The highlight of the Rally were the 21 displays hosted by local beekeepers, gardeners, college students, and other organizations that support these insects and their important work in nature. Legislators and visitors learned about bees and other pollinators, viewed native plants and tasted honey fresh from the hive.

Audubon thanks the sponsors and all the Rally participants for making the event a “buzzing” success.

The Bee Rally was sponsored by Whole Foods Market, RI Bee Keepers Association, Rhode Island Natural History Survey, RI Farm Bureau. Special thanks to Peter Green for his assistance with the logo and tee shirt design.



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

Spotting the Hawks this Fall

Each fall thousands of raptors fly south through New England on their way to wintering grounds. Some travel as far as Central and South America. This migration starts in late August and ends in November, but the peak time to observe the hawks is typically mid-September through mid-October. Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut all have great places to watch this wonderful migration.

Broad-winged Hawks migrate first, flying inland over mountain ridges. They form kettles (hundreds of birds together) as they catch thermals to glide south. Osprey, American Kestrels and Peregrine Falcons are soon to follow. Red-tailed Hawks and Eagles take up the rear, leaving in mid-October and November.

When heading out to observe hawk migration, watch the weather for a cold front to come through. Typically the birds will follow two to three days later. They look for northerly winds to help them move south.

Hawk identification during migration can be tricky because the birds are in motion, high in the air. Their flapping patterns tend to be modified, and they often hold their wings and tail differently when they are moving with the thermals. Looking closely at the bird's tail length and for short, long or absent finger tips are all helpful. Most of all, identification takes practice. Hawk watching spots often have expert volunteers counting birds and they can be very helpful in pointing out and identifying the hawks. But realize they are also there doing a job, so they may be distracted counting the birds if it's a busy day.

In Massachusetts, Wachusett Mountain State Reservation is one of the top spots to look for Broad-winged Hawks. Large kettles of Broadwings, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawks and falcons can be seen from the top of the mountain. There are usually tally boards at the bottom and top of the mountain. Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania is also a great destination for Hawk watching in fall if you want to travel further.

In Connecticut, Lighthouse Point in New Haven is a great place to look for hawks. Late in October this can be a location to spot Bald and Golden Eagles. Quaker Ridge in Greenwich is a good spot for Broadwings in September.

Rhode Island doesn't have any mountain ridges, but you can head to the coast for falcons, accipiters and eagles. Napatree Point in Westerly is a great spot. The birds fly over the dunes, and on a good day you can see a stream of them. Block Island in the fall can also be great for falcons. Peregrine, Merlins and Kestrels can all be seen. The island bluffs and Audubon's Lewis Dicken's farm are great places to see them flying through the sky.

Whether you stay close at home or travel to a neighboring state, fall can be a great way to get your fill of raptors. And don't forget to visit Audubon Raptor Weekend on September 8 & 9 in Bristol for an up-close look at these lovely birds! Hope to see you there!



Rhode Island Birding Trails

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Published by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

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Get Ready for Fall Birding!

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BIRD & WILDLIFE CARVING EXPOSITION

NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2018 • 10AM-4PM
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Audubon member Cindy Szymanski collecting data for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Citizen Scientists Continued from page 4

Gray Catbird. But the Red-bellied Woodpecker has experienced the greatest growth in breeding range since the last atlas. It increased from 4 blocks to 88.

“They weren’t here in big numbers in the first atlas, but now they’re a very common breeding bird, largely due to birds pushing northward due to climate change and the maturing of our forests,” Clarkson said.

Osprey numbers have also increased dramatically from 14 blocks to 50, thanks to the banning of the pesticide DDT in the 1970s, which had caused widespread reproductive failure in the birds in the 1950s and 60s.

The outbreak of gypsy moth caterpillars in the last two years provided an unexpected twist to the atlas results.

“I’ve been intrigued by this cyclical relationship between birds and gypsy moth caterpillars,” Clarkson said. “A few years of bad gypsy moth infestations resulted in a lot of defoliation and the loss of some breeding habitat early in the season, which had an impact on some species. But other species were thriving in those years, especially Indigo Buntings and Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, which eat and feed their young these caterpillars. So those birds experienced a small but obvious boom in Rhode Island.”

Because of the Ocean State’s small size and abundance of volunteers, the Breeding Bird Atlas also includes a winter and migration component, making Rhode Island the first state to conduct a bird atlas outside the breeding season.

“What makes us unique is that it’s a truly year-round atlas,” he said. “We’re not just looking at breeding but also at how birds use habitat in Rhode Island as a migratory stopover place and as an overwintering destination.”

The winter atlas works much like the annual Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers establish

a route through the different habitats in their block and identify and count every bird seen. The results indicate the overall distribution of birds that winter in the state while also noting where birds flock together, like ducks along the coastline.

“It helps us visualize where the core hotspots of bird density and distribution are during the winter period,” Clarkson said. “What we’re seeing is that there are far more birds found along edge habitat and neighborhoods than in the interior of forests in mid-winter, which is largely attributed to houses with bird feeders. A lot of birds are drawn to feeders in winter because they represent a stable food source.”

The migration atlas uses trained technicians to walk transects through undisturbed habitat, including at several Audubon refuges, to document bird species and abundance as well as insect abundance as an indication of how long birds may spend in an area to refuel before continuing their migration. That information is coupled with data from weather radar that can show when large numbers of birds depart the region.

“Put these two data sets together and it provides an idea of how each individual transect is being used relative to the others,” Clarkson explained. “If all of the transects are the same habitat, you can understand why one patch of oak forest tends to be more important as a migratory stopover site than another patch. It often has to do with insect density and distance from the coastline.”

While the migration data is still being analyzed, preliminary results suggest that western Rhode Island is especially important to migrating birds heading south in the fall.

“The birds seem to funnel down the state and then move along the coastline,” Clarkson said. “When you compare all of the area captured by Boston radar, we see much higher densities

Breeding Bird Atlas by the Numbers

240+

Volunteers have surveyed the state.

The Atlas divides Rhode Island into

165 blocks

Each block contains

10 square miles

The Atlas will collect data for

5 years

Osprey have been observed breeding in

50 blocks

compared to 14 blocks in the 1980s.

1 species

the Northern Bobwhite, has disappeared entirely from the State.



Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)

Please turn to page 9

of birds in western Rhode Island than in most other areas.”

As important as the results will be to conservation efforts, the atlas is also playing an important role in engaging people in birdwatching and citizen science.

“I haven’t been very goal-oriented in my previous birding, so it has been good to have guidelines and to have to record data,” said atlas volunteer Cindy Szymanski. “It appeals to my science nerd side. It also feels good to know that I’m contributing something useful and important that will be used in the state for habitat and wildlife management.”

Before the atlas project began in 2015, Szymanski was only familiar with the common backyard birds in her neighborhood. But now she can identify dozens of species by their song alone, and she has developed an appreciation for the diversity of bird life in Rhode Island.

“Perhaps the greatest revelation for me has been the number of warblers whose songs I now know,” she said. “How could those Blue-winged Warblers have been bee-buzzing in the field next door all these years and I never wondered what made that distinctive sound? And I regret not enjoying my favorite bird song, the liquid-sounding Veery, until the last few years.”

Although the atlas is nearing completion, additional volunteers are always welcome.

“We’re always looking for more volunteers,” Clarkson concluded. “We have a lot of flux with volunteers – some move out of the area or aren’t as available as they were in past years – so anyone who can devote some time to the breeding or wintering atlas, even this late in the game, is welcome.”

To volunteer, contact Dr. Charles Clarkson at clarksonce@uri.edu.

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



Volunteer Kate McPherson practices slow birding in the field as she documents observations for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Audubon and the Atlas

Audubon and its staff and members have played a crucial role in the success of the Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas, as well as the winter atlas and migration atlas. The organization provided housing at its refuges to several out-of-town biological technicians who collected data for the migration atlas, and most of its refuges were surveyed by volunteers or were the site of 500-meter survey transects.



From left: Audubon Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee and Audubon Naturalist Laura Carberry have been very active in the Breeding Bird Atlas.

But it was Audubon’s staff – serving as volunteers – that played the biggest role. Lauren Parmelee, senior director of education, and Laura Carberry, refuge manager at Fisherville Brook, were especially active.

Parmelee, who collected breeding data in atlas blocks in the Bristol area and joined other volunteers in nocturnal surveys and winter surveys elsewhere in the state, is enthusiastic about contributing her time and birding skills to an important scientific endeavor.

“I planned to become a scientist at the beginning of my career, so I understand the importance of collecting accurate data,” she said. “And this project is long overdue. The changes to bird populations since the 1980s are dramatic, and the atlas is going to help people understand those changes. Birds are the canary in the coalmine, so I feel good about helping.”

She was especially excited when she observed, for the first time in her life, a mother Wood Duck and six ducklings walk out of a woodland and into a pond in South Kingstown.

“Being quiet and birding slowly really broadens your world,” Parmelee said. “You get to see things you’ve never seen before.”

“Last year in a bird class that I led, we watched a male Red-bellied Woodpecker work on his nest hole, and when he was fin-

ished, a female flew in and started throwing stuff out of the hole,” she added with a laugh. “It was the funniest thing. It looked to us like she was criticizing the work he did. It was a great interaction to see.”

As much as she enjoys watching the bird interactions, she appreciates the interactions she has had with members of the public even more.

“When you’re out there birding, you can’t help but start talking to people about the Atlas, and they start telling you about their own observations,” Parmelee said. “Most people are so willing to help.”

Carberry has documented breeding and wintering birds in the blocks around Audubon’s Fisherville and Eppley refuges. And as familiar as she is with these properties, she has been excited to see things she has never seen there before, like the nests of a Worm-eating Warbler and Pileated Woodpecker.



*Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)*

“My most exciting moment was finding the nest of an Acadian Flycatcher. I knew the bird was in the area because I could hear it chipping, so I just sat down and watched for it,” she recalled. “Eventually I found the nest right over the trail. I had been walking under it for weeks and never even noticed it was there.”

Her biggest challenge, strangely enough, was finding a Pigeon in her wooded atlas block.

“I wasn’t really surprised I couldn’t find one,” Carberry said. “Still, it was strange not to be able to get such an obvious bird as a Pigeon.”

What has been the best part of her Atlas experience?

“I love going down random roads that I wouldn’t ordinarily travel, finding new places and exploring new habitats,” she said. “And I’ve really enjoyed slowing down and observing the behavior of birds rather than just checking them off on a list. It’s a totally different kind of birding.”



Buteos: Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks

Buteos soar through the sky using their broad-wings and relatively short, wide tails.



Peter Green



Kathleen Bartels



Jason Major

Red-tailed Hawks are the most common hawk in North America. Their coloring can vary, but the adult's rusty red tail is distinctive. They can be seen perched on poles along roads, gliding over fields or soaring on warm rising air currents. Their diet consists mostly of small mammals like voles, mice, and squirrels.

The **Red-shouldered Hawk** has a brownish-red chest and shoulders with a boldly striped black and white tail. Smaller and slimmer than the Red-tail, they live in forests and hunt from a perch - swooping down on small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Listen for their repetitive call "keeyuur, keeyuur, keeyuur".

Broad-winged Hawks nest in the deep woods and pounce on their prey from branches, where their brown and white feathers provide camouflage. They are long distance migrants and may gather in huge flocks or "kettles" of thousands of birds as they move between their nesting and wintering grounds south of the border.

HAIL TO THE HAWKS OF RHODE ISLAND

Hawks have special adaptations and behaviors that help them hunt in their habitats.

These raptors have excellent eyesight, powerful feet with sharp talons, and hooked beaks for tearing their food.

- Hawks hunt during the day, versus most owls that hunt at night.
- Female hawks are larger than males of the same species.
- Juvenile hawks have different plumage from adults and generally don't breed until they are two years old.



Accipiters: Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Goshawks

Accipiters can maneuver swiftly through trees. They have short, wide wings and long tails to steer quickly. Their long legs help to grab prey. The accipiter flight pattern is a distinctive "flap, flap, glide".



Jason Major



Peter Green



Cooper's Hawks (left) and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (above) look very similar but the "Sharpie" is much smaller. Juveniles have brown plumage with yellow eyes - adults have red eyes, bluish-gray backs and orange barring on the chest. A hawk who visits your bird feeder is most likely one of these.

The powerful, secretive **Goshawk** prefers deep forest and is a rare breeder in Rhode Island. They have a slate gray back, black cap and fine gray barring on the chest. A bold white eyebrow is distinctive over red-orange eyes. They will eat mammals and reptiles in addition to birds.



AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

September – December 2018 *For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org*



Ed Hughes

BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

FREE WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Please visit Audubon's website or Facebook page for the weekly location.
Every Wednesday throughout June 2019; 9:00 - 11:00 am

BIRDING: THE NEXT STEP BIRD BIOLOGY AND FIELD EXCURSIONS WITH DR. CHARLES CLARKSON

Topics in this course will range from avian anatomy and physiology and the dynamics of migration to how birds cope with a changing climate. Two field trips are included.

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; September 12, 19, 26 and October 3, 2018; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Field trips on Sept 22 and 29 at 8:00 a.m.

BIRDING ADVENTURE IN JAMESTOWN

Join Audubon birding expert Lauren Parmelee for an exploration of Conanicut Island's natural areas. Beginning birders welcome!

Meet at Godena Farm, North Main Road, Jamestown RI; October 7, 2018; 8:30-10:30 am.

BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS – FREE

Three Dates Offered. *Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; October 16, 23, 30, 2018; 8:30-10:00 am.*

DUCKS N' DONUTS

Walk along the beach to look for an assortment of ducks. Just bring your binoculars and Audubon will provide the doughnuts!

Moonstone Beach Road, South Kingstown, RI; November 17, 2018; 10:00-11:30 am.

WINTER WATERFOWL & SEABIRD CARAVAN

Join this traditional Thanksgiving weekend caravan to the birding hotspots along the South County shore.

Meet at Salty Brine State Beach, 254 Great Island Road, Narragansett, RI; November 24, 2018; 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

WINTER BIRDING VAN TRIP: WATERFOWL AND SEABIRDS AT THE SHORE

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; December 1, 2018; 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

SACHUEST POINT BIRDING

Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, 769 Sachuest Point Road, Middletown, RI; December 9, 2018; 9:00-11:00 am.

WINTER BIG DAY 2019

How many species can we find? This popular program has become a Rhode Island tradition.

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; January 3, 2019; 8:30 am-5:00 pm.

OWL PROWL

CARATUNK OWL PROWL

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; November 6, 2018; 6:30-8:00 pm.

OWL PROWL AT FORT REFUGE

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI; November 8, 2018; 7:00-9:00 pm.

PROWL FOR OWLS AT FISHERVILLE BROOK

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; November 30, 2018; 7:00-9:00 pm.

OWL PROWL AT MARION EPPLEY REFUGE

Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingston, RI; December 6, 2018; 7:00-9:00 pm.

DAYLIGHT OWL PROWL

For years Audubon naturalists have heard owls at Fort Refuge during the day. Join Audubon on a daytime search for these amazing creatures.

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI; January 5, 2019; 2:00-4:00 pm.

OWLS AND ALE

Meet some of Audubon's amazing birds of prey in while enjoying locally brewed beers. Then take a guided walk to look and listen for owls and other signs of animal life.

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI; January 19, 2019; 6:30-8:30 pm. Age 21+.



BIRD AND WILDLIFE CARVING EXPOSITION

November 3 & 4, 2018; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium,
Bristol, RI

PERFECT PUMPKIN PARTY

October 27, 2018; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Audubon Nature Center and
Aquarium, Bristol, RI

Join Audubon for an autumn
celebration and find out
how much fun a pumpkin can be!



AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

SATURDAY NATURE WALKS WITH AUDUBON

Saturdays through October 27, 2018; 2:00-3:00 pm.

PROVIDENCE RAPTORS: URBAN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER GREEN

The artist will speak about his work at Raptor Weekend on September 8, 2018.

September 8 – October 27, 2018; 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM DAY LIVE!

Audubon and other Museum Day venues offer the free admission policy of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, D.C.-based facilities.

September 22, 2018; 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Download the Museum Day ticket at www.smithsonian.com/museumday.

MYSTIC AQUARIUM'S ANIMAL RESCUE PROGRAM

September 25, 2018; 6:00-8:00 pm.

AUTHOR MEET AND GREET "RETURN OF THE SEA OTTER" BY TODD McLEISH

October 11, 2018; 7:00-8:00 pm.

SEA GLASS JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Three Dates Offered

October 20, November 17, December 8, 2018; 11:00 am-12:30 pm

BEESWAX WRAPS WORKSHOP

October 20, 2018; 1:30-3:00 pm.

BEEKEEPING BASICS AND MORE!

October 7, 21, 28, December 9, 16, 23, 2018; 2:00-4:30 pm

AUDUBON BIRD AND WILDLIFE CARVING EXPOSITION

November 3 & 4, 2018; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

PAINTING BIRDS WITH COLOR & WATER: WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST HOLLY WACH

November 10, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

DIY: BIRD SEED BAG TOTES OR APRONS

November 10, 2018; 1:00-3:00 pm.

BIRDS OF NEW ENGLAND WORKS ON PAPER

Art Exhibit by Brenda Wrigley Scott

November 11 – December 31, 2018. 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

FAIRY HOUSES AND WINE ADULT WORKSHOP

November 17, 2018; 6:30-8:00 pm.

PAINT AND SIP: WINTER BIRDS

December 15, 2018; 6:30-8:30 pm.

OWLS AND ALE

January 19, 2019; 6:30-8:30 pm.



FAMILY PROGRAMS & CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

CITIZENS BANK FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

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

September 1, 2018: Franklin's Hatch Day Party

October 6, 2018: Ocean Pollution: Do you know where your litter is?

November: 10, 2018: Falling for Fall Fiesta

December 1, 2018: Photos with Santa and Tree Sale

LABOR DAY NATURE ACTIVITIES

September 3, 2018; 10:00 am-3:00 pm.



JUNIOR NATURALISTS FOR HOME-SCHOOLED FAMILIES

September 25 and 26, 2018 - Freshwater Wetlands

October 23 and 24, 2018 - Nature's Decomposers

November 27 and 28, 2018 - Exploring Vertebrates

December 18 and 19, 2018 - Wonderful Whales

January 29 and 30, 2019 - Icy Science

L'I' PEEPS

September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 2018; 9:45-10:45 am.



PRESCHOOL ADVENTURES

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2018; 10:00-11:00 am

COLUMBUS DAY ACTIVITIES FINDING YOUR WAY: MAPS & ORIENTEERING

October 8, 2018; 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

THE PERFECT PUMPKIN PARTY

October 27, 2018; 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

VETERANS DAY NATURE ACTIVITIES THE WILD WORLD OF WHALES!

November 12, 2018; 10:00 am-3:00 pm.

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING ACTIVITIES

November 23, 2018; 10:00 am-3:00 pm.



BIRD HOUSE BUILDING

November 24, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

AUDUBON ANNUAL TREE SALE AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA

December 1, 2018; 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Meet Finn & Atlanta!



Feathered Friends Kids Club members earn points by attending programs marked with this little bird. Learn more by visiting the Nature Center and Aquarium or at www.asri.org.

POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

PROTECTING POLLINATORS LECTURE

September 15, 2018; 10:00-11:30 am.

FEED THE BIRDS! STARTING YOUR OWN BIRD FEEDING STATION

October 11, 2018; 7:00-8:30 pm.

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY: ONLINE MAPPING AND MORE

Two Day Workshop: October 18, 2018: 6:00 – 8:00 pm,
October 19, 2018: 9:00 – 11:00 am

HAND-IN-HAND: AUTUMN WALK FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

October 20, 2018; 10:00-11:30 am.

ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS FOR FAMILIES

January 19, 2019; 2:00-4:00 pm

AUDUBON HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Artisan Gifts with a Natural Flair
December 1, 2018; 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

WREATH MAKING FOR WILDLIFE

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge,
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI;
December 15, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.



GUIDED NATURE WALKS

at Scenic Locations across Rhode Island

PEAKS AND VALLEYS IN FALL

Long Pond Woods Wildlife Refuge, North Road, Hopkinton, RI; October 26, 2018; 9:30 am -12:00 pm.

WOODLANDS BEFORE WINTER

Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge, Maple Valley Road, Coventry, RI;
December 10, 2018; 9:30 am -12:00 pm.



FORT WILDLIFE REFUGE

1443 Providence Pike, North Providence, RI

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX HIKE

September 22, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

FOREST BATHING WALK

Join Audubon for a leisurely walk of shinrin-yoku or Forest Bathing. With its roots in Japan, this walk will encourage you to focus on your senses.

October 3, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

OWL PROWL AT FORT REFUGE

November 8, 2018; 7:00-9:00 pm.

DAYLIGHT OWL PROWL

For years Audubon naturalists have heard owls at Fort Refuge during the day. Join Audubon on a daytime search for these amazing creatures.

January 5, 2019; 2:00-4:00 pm.



PRUDENCE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine
Research Reserve, Prudence Island, RI

MUSHROOMS FOR BEGINNERS

September 5, 2018; 9:45 am-4:45 pm.

HIKING PRUDENCE ISLAND

October 18, 2018; 1:30-6:30 pm

SEALS, BIRDS AND THE HISTORY OF PRUDENCE ISLAND

December 8, 2018; 9:45 am-4:45 pm.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

RAPTOR WEEKEND

September 8 & 9, 2018; 10 am – 4 pm
Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium
Bristol, RI

BIRDS IN FLIGHT



MUSHROOMING

TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MUSHROOMING

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon
Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; October 20, 2018;
10:00 am-2:00 pm.

MUSHROOMING, OWLING AND ELEGANT DINING AT THE MAXWELL MAY'S LAKESIDE CABIN

Two Dates Offered
Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge,
2082 Victory Highway, Coventry, RI;
September 21, 22, 2018; 3:00-8:00 pm.



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

CARATUNK RAMBLE

September 16, 2018; 9:00-11:00 am.

COCOA & COFFEE AT CARATUNK

Three Dates Offered: October 7, November 4 & December 2, 2018; 1:00 pm-3:00 pm.

CARATUNK'S COLUMBUS DAY SCAVENGER HUNT

October 8, 2018; 1:00 pm-3:00 pm.

FALL LEAVES & T-SHIRT PRESSING

October 14, 2018; 1:00-3:00 pm.

BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS – FREE

Three Dates Offered
October 16, 23, 30, 2018; 8:30-10:00 am.

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

October 22, 2018; 10:00 am -12:00 pm.

CARATUNK OWL PROWL

November 6, 2018; 6:30-8:00 pm.

CARATUNK CIDER RAMBLE

November 25, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

WHERE DO ANIMALS LIVE AT CARATUNK?

December 16, 2018; 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 **Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge/ Environmental Education Center**
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
- 10 **Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge**
Touisset Road, Warren, RI
- 11 **Lathrop Wildlife Refuge**
Route 1A, Westerly, RI
- 12 **Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge**
Seapowet Avenue, Tiverton, RI
- 13 **Lewis-Dickens Farm**
Cooneymus Road, Block Island, RI
- 14 **Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge**
2082 Victory Highway (Rte 102), Coventry, RI

FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE

99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

BIRDING: THE NEXT STEP BIRD BIOLOGY AND FIELD EXCURSIONS WITH DR. CHARLES CLARKSON

September 12, 19, 26 and October 3, 2018; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Field trips on Sept 22 and 29 at 8:00 a.m.

TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MUSHROOMING

October 20, 2018; 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

PROWL FOR OWLS AT FISHERVILLE BROOK

November 30, 2018; 7:00-9:00 pm.



Author Lecture and Meet & Greet

RETURN OF THE SEA OTTER

BY TODD MCLEISH

October 11, 2018; 7:00-8:00 pm.

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium
1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI
www.asri.org



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

Peregrine Banding and Fledgling Rescue

It was a busy spring on top of the Superman Building in Providence. Four young Peregrine Falcons hatched, were banded and fledged within six weeks. And one had to be rescued.

It is exciting to watch the Peregrines leave the nest, but it is also a very dangerous time for them. On June 7 a fledgling was found on the ground between Fulton and Exchange Streets in Providence. Uninjured but unable to fly, it is believed he left the box a bit too early and glided 30 stories down and around the corner to street level. Audubon worked with urban nature photographer Peter Green to return the young bird safely to the nesting box. The young Peregrine Falcon fledged a few days later.

Audubon hopes to install a new camera in 2019 - one that will allow a clearer image and better streaming. We need YOUR support to make that happen!

Help Us to Improve Video Streaming in 2019



Newly hatched Peregrine Falcons in the nesting box.



(Left, center) Two males and two females were banded on May 21 by Joe Zybrowski. (Right) One of the male fledglings was rescued from street level and returned to the nest. Photos by Peter Green.

Climate Change in the Ocean State: What is *Resilient Rhody*?



The Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014 requires state agencies to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance community resilience.

Shaun O'Rourke, State Chief Resiliency Officer, has been charged with creating a plan recommending actions to make the state more resilient to the impacts of climate change. See below his remarks regarding the release of this recent strategy.

Rhode Island is already experiencing climate change and the impacts are placing communities, coastlines, forests and aging infrastructure at risk. In response, Governor Raimondo released Resilient Rhody, the state's first comprehensive climate resilience action strategy on July 2, 2018. Resilient Rhody lays the groundwork for collective climate action, involving state agencies, municipalities, and statewide organizations.

This Strategy focuses the state's attention on climate resilience actions both within government and together with business, academic, and nonprofit partners. It lever-

ages existing studies and reports to identify critical actions that move from planning to implementation.

The recommended climate resilience actions introduced throughout the Strategy are designed to protect the state against sudden and unexpected severe weather events and address underlying chronic stresses, such as rising sea levels, aging infrastructure, and competing development priorities. Developing the Strategy has led to many lessons learned, particularly the importance of increased collaboration between state agencies and statewide partners to facilitate shared goal setting.

The Audubon Society played a leadership role in the strategy development process by hosting two Resilience Roundtable meetings. The goal was to listen to local and regional leaders, learn what has been done, understand what local assets are at risk, and hear future priorities for local climate resilience. Meg Kerr contributed deeply to the effort through planning of the roundtable meetings and served as a technical expert on the strategy working group.

Read the report online: climatechange.ri.gov/resiliency

News from the Mews

Thanks to donors, our new avian ambassadors Oliver and Serena are enjoying their new homes. Audubon conservation staff built mews that are specifically designed for these beautiful Barred Owls. We couldn't have done it without the support of members like you!



Who is Appreciated? YOU are!

Thank You! Summer Camp Scholarships

Donors sent 27 children to summer camp through the 2018 Scholarship Program. Because of the generous donors listed here, 27 children were able to explore forest, field and shore habitats, make nature discoveries, hike, visit with live animals and more at Audubon summer camps.

- The Champlin Foundations
- John and Kathleen Malmberg
- Maria Masse
- The Providence Journal
Summertime Fund
- Paul Sullivan and Gloria Dahl
- United Natural Foods



Audubon is what summer camp should be!



**Anyway You Look At It,
Donating to Audubon
Is the Natural Thing to Do!**

Donate Today www.asri.org

Birds First

for the ethical observation of birds and wildlife

Birding and wildlife photography might seem like benign endeavors but they sometimes stray from innocent to disruptive unless a basic understanding and respect for nature is maintained.

To provide guidance in ethical bird and wildlife observation, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island recommends the following:

- View wildlife from a safe distance. Respect the animal's spatial needs. If wildlife interrupts its behavior (resting, feeding, mating, etc.), then you are too close. When a bird flies away from you, it is because you are disturbing it. Research has also shown that in some instances human presence may cause a condition where a bird may become nearly paralyzed with fear, to a point that could injure or put the bird in peril.
- Never crowd, pursue, prevent escape, or create deliberate noises to distract, startle or harass wildlife. Never disturb animals engaged in breeding, nesting, or caring for young.
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths. Do not harm the natural habitat.
- Respect the rights of others. Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission. Always be careful about where and how you park your car. Never park on someone's lawn or in anyone's driveway. Never block a gate, road, path, or other access.
- Being quiet is a simple courtesy especially in residential areas before 9:00 a.m. Be careful not to point optics toward people or houses.
- When there is an unusual bird in the state, we all want to hear about it and observe it. However, we must make certain that our conduct is above reproach. Evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area before spreading the word on its location. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
- It is best not to use bird recordings in the field. Using recordings may be harmful to birds during times of reproduction, or when weather conditions are difficult and they strive for survival. A bird disrupted by a recording will often expose itself by leaving cover, and its natural vigilance towards predators can be seriously affected.
- Behavior by excited birders "anxious" to get a closer look or a better photograph can disturb not only the birds but also the other birders watching nearby. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites.
- Migratory birds are protected by federal law with fines as high as \$15,000 and prison. Those who see birders or photographers harassing or threatening birds in Rhode Island should report the incident to the Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife at 401-222-6800 or after-hours at 401-222-3070.

The thoughtless actions of one overzealous birder or photographer jeopardize the reputation of others. Be a role model and educate others through your actions.

Adapted from the America Birding Association's "Birding Code of Ethics."

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.

- Blount Fine Foods
- Blue State Coffee
- Citizens Bank
- Dassault Systemes SIMULIA Corp.
- Lyons & Zaremba, Inc.
- MetLife
- New England GreenStart
- Nourishing World
- Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
- Perfect Supplements
- People's Power and Light
- Rhode Island PBS
- United Natural Foods
- Whole Foods Market



GIFTS IN HONOR

The people listed here 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: Don & Eileen Champion

From: Matthew and Jacqueline Fiori

In Honor of: Rachel Farrell

From: Austin and Fleurette O'Toole

In Honor of: Jeffrey Hall

From: Gayle Amos

In Honor of: Lula Zell Kopp

From: Wenley Ferguson

In Honor of: Maureen "Mo" Lapinski

From: Sara Kemmer



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: Karen Dawson

From: Raoul and Gretchen Bernier

In Memory of: Alfred L. Hawkes

From: Joan Burke

Sylvester and Lois Guisetti

Shelly Peckham and David Berandinelli

Susan Rood

Geoffrey and Jacqueline Russom

In Memory of: Zell Kerr

From: Wenley Ferguson

In Memory of: Dr. James B. Leach

From: Jennifer Champa Bybee

In Memory of: Thomas A. Lynch

From: All your friends at Timberland

In Memory of: Marie Payne

From: John and Carolyn Lundgren

In Memory of: Susan M. Romano

From: Ronald L. Gelineau

Environmental Conservation Summer Team

The 2018 Youth Conservation League

They removed invasive species, blazed trails, restored boardwalks and more. A team of six environmentally minded high school students formed the 2018 Youth Conservation League. They teamed this summer to gain valuable experience while helping numerous conservation groups with their service.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island conservation staff provided guidance, transportation, tools, and work schedules for these students. Audubon partners with the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative to fund the program and provide a wide range of work experiences in various natural habitats.



We Need Your Support to Expand!

Promoting stewardship of our natural resources with future generations is vital. Please consider making a donation to the Youth Conservation League so that more high school students may be engaged in this worthwhile program. Donate online at www.asri.org.

Managed by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, the following organizations are partners in the Youth Conservation League:

- Barrington Land Conservancy
- RI Department of Environmental Management
- Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
- Narrow River Land Trust
- Foster Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy

2018 Youth Conservation League

- Crew Leader: Kyle Hess
- Assistant Crew Leader: Courtney Naughton
- Max Dimonte
- Meagan Heatherston
- Phoebe Maxwell
- Alex Maxwell
- Olivia Mazzone
- Grace Rumowicz

AUDUBON 2018 PHOTO CONTEST



Share with Audubon the images of nature found through the lens of your camera. Photos must be taken on one of Audubon's wildlife refuges that are open to the public.

Submissions are due on or before **October 31, 2018.**

Visit www.asri.org to enter.

SAVE THE DATE!



ANNUAL MEETING

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

October 21, 2018. Details to come.

Join the Audubon Team...

VOLUNTEER!

RAPTOR WEEKEND

September 8 & 9, 2018

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI

Volunteers needed to help with all facets of Audubon's largest annual event. Activity tables, face stencils, parking cars, selling snacks, crafts for kids and more!

For more information contact Amanda Tirocchi at atirocchi@asri.org.



Planning a Celebration?

Weddings

The Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol, Rhode Island is a scenic destination for weddings, bridal showers or photography.



Birthday Parties

Customize your child's party and have a wild time!



Getaways

Audubon's Maxwell Mays Cottage in Coventry, Rhode Island is an ideal and affordable location for a short getaway or weeklong family vacation.



Naturally, Audubon Has You Covered.

For birthday party options and rental details, visit www.asri.org and click on the services link.

TWICE THE FUN
= BECAUSE =
WE KNOW YOU *Love*

BIRD WATCHING



Rhode Island PBS

7AM WEEKDAYS
digital 36.1
RI cable 08

Learn

10AM WEEKDAYS
digital 36.2
Cox 808/Verizon 478

RIPBS.ORG

Attracting Bees, Birds and Butterflies

Volunteers and Donors Create a Haven for Pollinators in Bristol

Milkweed, verbena, other pollinator-friendly plants and even a birdseed palace have been welcome additions to the to the new pollinator habitat and Discovery Garden at the Nature Center and Aquarium.

Bird Seed Palace

The work of Rhode Island artist Esther Solondz encourages interaction between humans and the natural world. Over 30 people joined the artist as she unveiled her latest sculpture, The Birdseed Palace, at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol, RI on June 30, 2018. Made of over 500 pounds of birdseed, the piece is located in Audubon's new pollinator discovery garden and offers a variety of seed to attract many bird species.

Thank You to Russ Cohen

Russ Cohen, retired biologist from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and author of *Wild Plants I have Known...and Eaten*, has been consulting with Audubon staff on the removal of various invasive species and replacing them with native plants and trees. Many of which are edible and encourage pollinators. He donated over 30 species of native plants and trees to the Nature Center from his private nursery. On May 9, 2018 a volunteer team from United Way donated their time to plant the species that Russ donated.

Thank You to Our Donors and Supporters

Audubon thanks the many volunteers and donors that made this project possible. It simply could not have happened without community support.

We send out a special thank you to:

- Garden designer **John Gwynne** for his continued guidance and vision.
- Audubon Board Members **Terry Meyer** and **Nick Califano** for helping with the garden design as well as digging in and supporting this project.
- **Vera Bowen** of the Bristol Garden Club for watering the garden.
- **Nancy Gavitt** of the Wild Plant Society and Master Gardener Kathy Jenal for donating additional plants this summer.
- **Bob and Carol Glanville**, donors of the manure to fertilize the garden.
- **Robert DeMello**, donor of the garden compost.
- **The Vivian J. Palmieri Charitable Trust** for financial support.



(Left) Russ Cohen removes invasive species on the McIntosh Wildlife Refuge. (Right) Butterflies are flocking to the new Rose-Pollinator Garden in Bristol.



Come see what all the buzz is about!

A crowd gathers at unveiling of the Bird Seed Palace on June 30, 2018. (Photo credit: Glenn Osmondson, The Providence Sunday Journal, 7/01/18. ©2018 The Providence Journal. Reproduced by permission.)



the Audubon
Nature
shop
This shop is for the birds!

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

Bird Feeders and Accessories
Field Guides and Binoculars
Children's Books, Educational
Games, Toys and More!

Check for Monthly Bird Buys!
20% off for Members
10% off for Non-members

Butch Lombardi

Bank of America Volunteers Hit the Trails

A sea of red shirts went to work on June 27 at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge in Smithfield. Fourteen volunteers from Bank of America pitched in to clear trails and picked up litter.



Audubon Senior Director of Advancement Jeff Hall (front row, right) greets the Bank of America Volunteers at Powder Mill Ledges. Leslie Samayoa (fourth from left) is a former Audubon Volunteer of the Year and organized the Bank of America Volunteer Day at Audubon.

Thank You, National Grid!

Audubon recently received a \$20,000 grant from The National Grid Foundation for the Audubon Environmental Education for Urban Schools Initiative.

Audubon environmental educators reach over 12,000 students each year, covering almost every school district in Rhode Island. With funding from the National Grid Foundation, they will reach even more students in the State's urban communities.

Audubon's Environmental Education for Urban Schools Initiative aims to bring nature-based science programs to elementary and middle school students with limited economic and education resources. Based on both state and national education standards, the program curriculum incorporates hands-on, experiential activities in both the classroom as well as outside in the fields, wetlands, forests and shores of Audubon wildlife refuges.

This funding from the National Grid Foundation will specifically be used to develop and provide innovative science programming that improves academic achievement in schools with economically challenged students in the cities of Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket, Rhode Island.



Third grade students from Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary School in Providence gather with (standing in back row, left to right) National Grid Foundation Director of Philanthropic Development Deborah Drew, National Grid Foundation Executive Director Ed White, Audubon Executive Director Lawrence Taft, and Audubon Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

facebook.com/audubonRI

twitter.com/RIAudubon

instagram.com/RIAudubon

LIKE/SHARE/FOLLOW

The most followed Audubon Facebook page in New England!

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

BIG YEAR IN A LITTLE STATE

In the spirit of the famous competition, Audubon is hosting **BIG YEAR IN A LITTLE STATE**

For details and registration visit www.bigyearri.org

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:

<i>Leader</i> — \$1,000 to \$2,499	<i>Benefactor</i> — \$7,500 to \$9,999
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If you wish to join the 1897 Society and help promote the values and mission of Audubon, please 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.



Experience the Birding Trip of a Lifetime Birds in Central Panama

December 6 – 11, 2018 or February 7 – 12, 2019

Led by Professional Ornithologist and Audubon Board Member, Charles Clarkson, PhD www.antbirdtours.com

**Information Sessions September 24 & 25 at 6:30pm
Powder Mill Ledges and Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium**

Come immerse yourself in the tropics and experience the amazing diversity of bird life in Panama. Join Dr. Charles Clarkson, professional ornithologist and Audubon board member, on a guided trip that will open your eyes to the world of tropical birds. Dr. Clarkson answers frequently asked questions below.

Q: Why Panama?

A: Panama offers some of the best tropical birding on Earth. A country the size of South Carolina, Panama has around 1,000 bird species. As an isthmus connecting South and Central America, many species have range limits that meet in Panama. It is easy to spend just 4 or 5 days in Panama and see over 275 species of birds. Travelers experience a tropical rainforest in all its glory...including multiple species of mammals, reptiles and insects in staggering numbers.

Q: Tell us a little about your trip itinerary.

A: We will focus on the Central Lowlands, which offers the highest animal diversity in the country. It is a wonderful place to be introduced to tropical birding. Within one hour after landing in Panama City, we arrive at our comfortable birding lodge located in the heart of a national park. This is our base for the next 4 ½ days as we bird through amazing canopy towers, rainforest trails and riversides. We even take a day trip out to the highlands to explore new habitats and see birds that live on the side of an extinct volcano. Days are filled with birding and exploring the rainforest, and evenings are spent relaxing in the lodge.

Q: What kinds of birds should you expect to see?

A: Each day is spent targeting different taxa of birds. The first full day is largely spent viewing the quintessential tropical birds that are known for their bright colors and amazing social behavior: toucans, parrots, motmots, trogons, birds of prey, puffbirds, fruitcrows, honeycreepers and tanagers...pretty much all “wow!” birds. The rest of the trip is spent looking for species that are unique to the tropics. These are species that are unbelievably diverse and fill every available niche in the rainforest. At the end of the trip, the species list generally stands between 215-300 species and participants have gained a better understanding of the evolutionary history of tropical birds.

Q: What separates this trip from other tour companies offering trips to Panama?

A: First, I like to think of my trips as immersion therapy. Many people on other trips only spend a few hours of birding here and there. They often realize the vast majority of time was spent in a resort. On our trip, birders have the opportunity to spend 15-16 hours each day in the rainforest. This maximizes exposure to the ecosystem and facilitates the learning process. Options to return to the lodge do exist throughout the day, but being immersed in a tropical rainforest is absolutely necessary if you hope to learn how it truly functions.

Second, I am a trained ornithologist and what really excites me is not checking species off a list, but observing bird behavior and understanding what makes them tick. My trip is like a mini tropical ornithology course. For each bird we see, I explain its behavior and how it interacts with its environment. Participants walk away with much more than a superficial glimpse at tropical birds.

Lastly, I bring an enormous amount of enthusiasm to my trips. Every time I set foot in Panama, I feel energized and excited to see the treasures that the rainforest holds. Those on my trips often feed off my energy and it spreads through the group until everyone is feeling a heightened sense of awe. My trips cultivate a love for Panama and tropical environments, which is very important given today’s conservation threats.



Dr. Charles Clarkson (third from left) leads a group during a previous Panama trip.



Enjoying Nature – Without Remembering Names

Editorial by Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy

Names are elusive for me.

I have been known to forget the names of people I have been introduced to several times. The names of plants and birds are forgotten almost as soon as I learn them. I majored in biology in college and many of my classes required endless memorization. It was futile. I tried learning tricks and mnemonic devices for remembering scientific names. Then I would arrive at a test, proud to remember “poor fish no potatoes” while drawing a blank on the Latin name and whether it described a fish, plant or muscle in the leg of a rabbit. If I was lucky enough to remember both the trick and the scientific name, my brain lost them both as soon as I walked out the door.

My mother, on the other hand, was a skilled naturalist and was able to instantly recognize and name birds and plants. It was effortless for her. Her many birding books were filled with careful notations of where and when she had sighted each bird. I loved walking with her and learning about nature, but was never able to grasp all of those names.

When I joined Audubon, my husband and I eagerly signed up for Lauren Parmelee’s excellent Beginning Birding class. I enjoyed every minute of it, especially the time we spent in the field. I picked up a lot of useful tricks for carefully observing birds. Sadly, even a class with Lauren did not transform my ability to name the birds I see and hear.

In addition to Lauren, Audubon has many wonderful naturalists on staff who are very comfortable naming plants and animals or identifying bird calls. Many Audubon members are also excellent naturalists and this expertise has helped collect the data in the Breeding Bird Atlas showcased in this edition of the Report. I realize that I will never be the type of naturalist who can identify native plants or confidently name a particular species of warbler. But I also know that I have a valuable place within the Audubon community. I understand concepts of ecology and biology even though I cannot name all the players.

In our work with pollinator health and habitats, I understand that bees need food and shelter and they are threatened by pesticides and a changing climate. I appreciate that there are many native bee species and that they require different types of habitats to thrive. My job as an advocate is to



Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr (far right) on a bike with her family at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge in 2007. Her mother, a skilled naturalist, is center in the blue jacket.

understand how state and local laws and policies affect pollinators and the land, water and air we all depend on. My role is to engage our expert naturalists, community partners and even our opponents in conversations about common goals. These collaborative efforts form the basis for my work convincing decision makers to care about the environment so that they will implement protective actions.

It is important to remember that people who care deeply about the environment are a diverse group representing a variety of backgrounds, skills and talents. Those without the skills of an Audubon naturalist can still appreciate the natural world and commit to its protection - even if we don’t know all the names.

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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.

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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Audubon is in need of superheroes – people who go above and beyond. Our current endowment provides only one-third of the necessary funds to keep our organization impactful and dynamic. The Invincible Audubon Campaign will provide needed funding to permanently advocate for nature, to educate children on the importance of our environment, and to protect and defend our nearly 9,500 acres of wildlife habitat. In short... to make Audubon INVINCIBLE.

The Invincible Audubon campaign is different than our annual fundraising. Invincible Audubon is meant to provide permanent funding that we can rely and plan on for decades to come.



The following individuals are generous contributors to the Invincible Audubon Campaign:

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