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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

REPORT



**Prowl for Owls
with Audubon**
See Page 11 for Details

VOLUME 53, NO. 4

NOVEMBER 2019

THE PARTY'S OVER

*Balloons and Plastics are Filling Oceans
and Choking Wildlife*



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Audubon Superheroes - members and supporters like you - have donated a record-breaking \$7.7 million dollars to the Invincible Audubon Endowment Campaign, exceeding its original \$6 million goal by \$1.7 million dollars. Your generous and unwavering support will secure Audubon's future for decades to come.



This campaign was Audubon's largest fundraising effort to date and has nearly doubled the size of our endowment. Originally conceived at the end of the 2008-2009 recession, this fundraising effort was launched in 2016 to provide financial stability to our organization, regardless of the national or state economic climate.

Endowment funds support Audubon Society of Rhode Island's statewide advocacy program, focusing on protecting wildlife and its habitat, and the stewardship of nearly 10,000 acres of permanently protected land. The funds also support our growing environmental education programs that connect children to nature through high quality, hands-on science programming in classrooms, on wildlife refuges and at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol.

Cynthia Warren, Audubon's outgoing president, praised the effort of all of our members and supporters at our Annual Meeting on October 20. "You are nature's true superheroes," she said. "Your support of the Invincible Audubon campaign has made Audubon a stronger, more resilient organization, ready to take on the myriad of environmental challenges that we, as a community and a state, will face in the coming years."

I am truly humbled as well as heartened by the generosity of Audubon's donors who stepped up to and gave generously in this fundraising challenge. These funds will give Audubon a stable source of income to help us continue our work of protecting birds and wildlife through conservation, education and advocacy.

Sincerely,
Lawrence J. F. Taft

Lawrence J.F. Taft
Executive Director
Audubon Society of Rhode Island



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A TANGLED KNOT

Plastics are Filling Oceans and Choking Wildlife

By Todd McLeish

Almost every day, Geoff Dennis walks the beaches of Little Compton with his dog Koda and picks up the trash he sees along the way. Most of it he discards in a proper trash receptacle, but some of the plastic he finds—bottles, balloons and straws, for instance—is saved and recorded with a photograph at the end of the year to document its annual accumulation.

In the summer of 2018 alone, he picked up 2,946 plastic bottles, 129 cigarette lighters, and 529 straws on just one beach. And that's just the trash he counted and photographed. He picked up many, many more plastic cups and plates, Styrofoam take-out containers, plastic bags, and an untold number of other plastic items. One day last May he collected 282 balloons on the beaches he frequents, and two weeks later he picked up another 89. This year he noted the growing number of plastic pods from Keurig coffee makers, and blue rubber gloves are on the rise as well—70 one day in September and 30 more three weeks later.

They're small, as some people say in defending the use of plastic straws, but still part of the plastic problem, said Dennis. Smalls add up.

He estimates that about half of what he picks up is generated by local beachgoers and the other half from people and industries many miles away, since it shows evidence of having drifted on ocean currents for some time.

The growing problem of plastics pollution is due in part to our throw-away society and because plastic degrades very slowly in the environment. It persists for hundreds of years, at least. And unless we change our consumer behaviors and the plastics and packaging industries reform themselves, the problem won't go away anytime soon. The recycling rate of plastics is floundering at dreadfully low levels while plastics production is expected to increase by about 40 percent by 2025.

Plastic pollution has been an issue for Audubon for a long time, largely because of its impacts on wildlife, said Meg Kerr, Audubon's senior

director for policy. The global focus on plastics in the oceans and the attention it has received through social media has made it an issue of top concern to us. And in the context of climate change, plastics are made by fossil fuels, which we are trying to transition away from.

Our throw-away society wasn't created by accident, she added. It's a very intentional industry push to create a throw-away world so the industry has a use for its products. They greenwash the ability to recycle and reuse, knowing full well that only a small portion actually gets recycled or reused.

Jamie Rhodes agrees. A Providence-based attorney who has been working on plastics reduction initiatives around the country for the last decade, he said that consumer product manufacturers and those who use plastic for packaging and shipping have no incentive to reduce their use of plastics because it costs so little and its creation is subsidized by the oil industry.

The plastics industry emerged after World War II as the oil industry sought uses for the byproducts of the process of refining crude oil into gasoline and other fuels.

They realized that the chemicals that came from the fossil fuel refinement process could be turned into plastics, which are among the most flexible chemical compounds out there, Rhodes said. The growth of plastics was a way for the fossil fuel industry to find value in what had been an industrial byproduct. They were drilling for oil, and plastics became a byproduct.

Now we're at the point where the tail is wagging the dog, he continued. Our use of oil for transportation and heating is declining, and a lot of the large fossil fuel companies have realized that the future of oil extraction is in plastics. There has been a significant shift in oil extraction efforts to cater to the needs of the plastics industry. We're now seeing a growth in the construction of cracking plants in the U.S., which crack the

chemical chain into component parts for specialized plastic resins.

The results of all of that plastic production can be seen everywhere you look.

Approximately 8.3 billion tons of plastic has been produced since the 1950s, and only about 9 percent has been recycled. Drink companies alone use about 500 billion single-use plastic bottles each year. Much of it finds its way into the oceans and across the landscape where it affects wildlife of every sort.

According to a 2016 report by the United Nations, more than 800 species have been harmed by marine debris, mostly through ingest-

“Leg injuries in gulls and shorebirds are common due to entanglements... it causes them to have a hard time foraging, and they often lose their leg because of it.”

– Audubon Board Member and
URI Professor Peter Paton

ing or becoming entangled in plastics, which causes suffocation, starvation and drowning. As many as 40 percent of cetaceans and 44 percent of seabird species have been documented to have ingested marine debris.

Because plastic floats, small pieces are often accidentally consumed by seabirds, which may be the most likely wildlife to be harmed by plastic. University of Rhode Island Professor Peter Paton said the classic example is the Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses on Midway Island in the Pacific, which soar for thousands

of miles around the ocean in search of food and often bring pieces of plastic back to their nests to feed their chicks, sometimes pieces as large as toothbrushes.

If you go to Midway, you see dead chicks everywhere with their crops and gizzards completely full of plastic, said Paton, a member of the Audubon board of directors.

Closer to home, an ongoing study of chemical contaminants in the tissues of Great Shearwaters off the New England coast by a URI doctoral student turned into a study of plastics after she found plastic inside every one of the 350 dead birds on which she conducted a necropsy (an animal autopsy).

It's been quite jarring, said Anna Robuck, who examined birds that were found dead between 2007 and 2019. There hasn't been a bird I've cut open that hasn't had plastic in it. I've analyzed about 400 pieces of the plastics I found in the birds, and most are recyclable polyethylene.

Among the plastics Robuck has found in Great Shearwaters are fragments of bottle caps, food wrappers and tangled up balls of microfibers. Most are smaller than 5 millimeters in size, which are considered microplastics, though many are considerably larger, large enough to pose a choking hazard. Some birds were found to have more than 100 pieces of plastic in their bodies, but they averaged 7 to 10.

Great Shearwaters are opportunistic foragers at the water's surface, which means they're probably ingesting the plastic directly, she explained. Most pieces are large enough that their prey—primarily small fish called sand lance—didn't consume it first.

Continued on page 6

A Sea of Plastics

Over 800 species have been harmed by marine debris, mostly through ingestion or becoming entangled in plastics.



Recycling is Not Enough

Approximately 8.3 billion tons of plastic has been produced since the 1950s, and only about 9 percent has been recycled.



Balloons Choke Wildlife

A study by researchers in Australia found that balloons are more likely to kill seabirds than any other kind of plastic debris.



Plastic Consumption

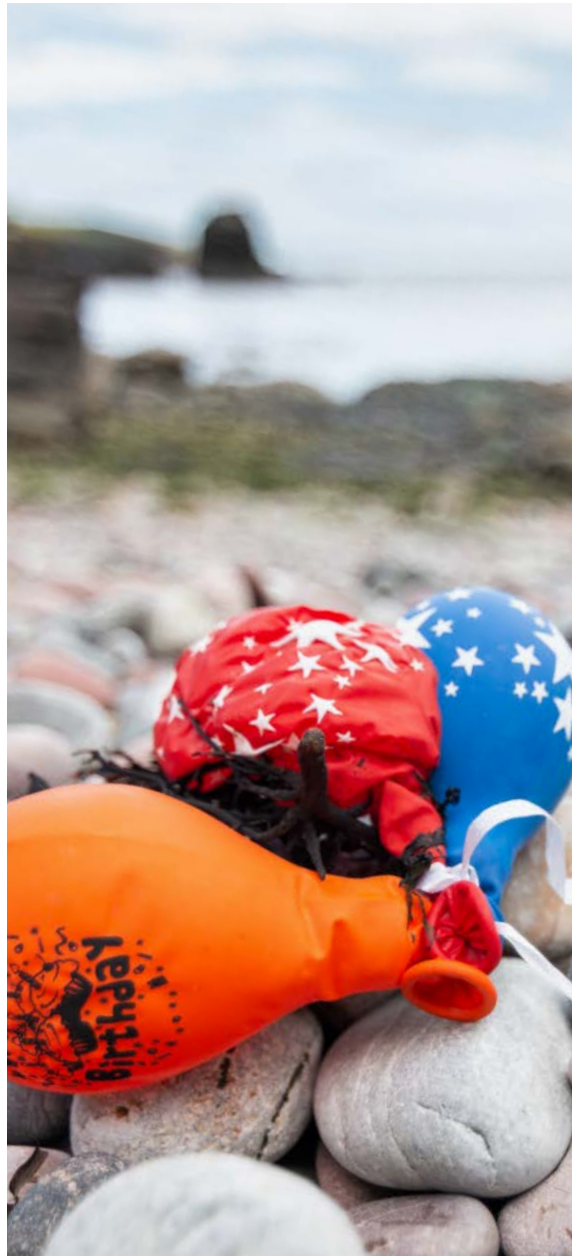
A Cuvier's beaked whale died on the coast of the Philippines last spring with 88 pounds of plastic in its stomach.



A Great Blue Heron rests on the shore of Moshassuck River surrounded by plastic waste.



An eastern painted turtle caught in a plastic six-pack ring.



Left: An Osprey nest photographed in Rhode Island contained a mylar balloon. Right: Discarded balloons are especially deadly to wildlife.

A Tangled Knot Continued from page 5

While it is uncertain if the ingestion of plastic was the primary cause of death of the birds, it is likely to have been a contributing factor. And because chemical contaminants easily adhere to plastics, the plastics may also serve to deliver toxic chemicals to the birds and other animals that ingest them.

Not all plastics are equally hazardous when consumed by wildlife, however. Balloons are especially deadly.

A study published last summer by researchers in Australia found that balloons are more likely to kill seabirds than any other kind of plastic debris. In an evaluation of 1,733 dead seabirds, the researchers noted that 32 percent had ingested plastic debris. And while soft plastics like balloons accounted for only 5 percent of the items ingested, they were responsible for 42 percent of the seabird deaths. In addition, although just 2 percent of all ingested plastic were pieces of bal-

loons, the birds that ingested balloon pieces were 32 times more likely to die than if the bird had ingested a hard plastic. According to the research team, balloons are especially lethal because they are easily swallowed and can squeeze into a bird's stomach cavity, where they reduce the space available for food.

But pelagic seabirds aren't the only birds negatively affected by plastic pollution.

Paton said that gulls often include a wide variety of plastic debris in the construction of their nests, some of which pose an entanglement threat to the birds and their chicks.

Leg injuries in gulls and shorebirds are common due to entanglements, he said. One of the first piping plovers I caught for my research had fishing line entangled around one foot and the leg was swollen. It causes them to have a hard time foraging, and they often lose their leg because of it.

It's not just coastal birds that are at risk, however. Paton received a call in September about a Great Blue Heron in Burrillville whose neck and wing were entangled in plastic debris, making the bird unable to fly.

Examples abound of marine mammals and sea turtles being similarly affected by plastic pollution in the marine environment. A Cuvier's beaked whale died on the coast of the Philippines last spring with 88 pounds of plastic in its stomach. A month later, a pregnant sperm whale in the Mediterranean Sea was found dead after having swallowed 55 pounds of plastic. Then there's the harp seal found dead in Scotland with plastic wrappers in its intestines and the viral photo of the sea turtle with a plastic straw stuck in its nostril.

When baleen whales feed, they aren't selectively nibbling on their very tiny prey. They swim across the water with their mouths open, and they take in a lot of water and whatever else happens to be in the water, said Janelle Shuh, the stranding coordinator at Mystic Aquarium.

When they filter the water out with their baleen, any plastics in the water get stuck inside their mouths.

Shuh calls ocean plastics a significant problem for all species living in the ocean environment, and it's a problem she sees regularly in the animals she rescues from beaches throughout the region. She regularly responds to calls about seals entangled in monofilament fishing line and other plastic debris, which often causes wounds and infections. She once conducted a necropsy on a dead harp seal and found several plastic bags in its stomach.

I've also done plenty of sea turtle necropsies where we've seen plastics in their stomach and esophagus, she said. Leatherback turtles eat jellyfish, and a floating plastic bag can have the appearance of a jellyfish and they'll eat it assuming it's prey. Loggerheads also tend to have had plastics in their system. They munch on crabs on the sea bottom, and if there's a plastic bottle cap down there, they might accidentally ingest it along with the crab.

While it's often difficult to determine whether the plastic items were the primary cause of death of the animals, Shuh believes the plastic is usually a contributing factor.

Our narrative needs to shift, she concluded.

I grew up in the 70s with the mantra of reduce, reuse, recycle. But we've only really focused on recycling, and that's becoming more challenging. We need to shift our mindset to reduce and reuse so the materials aren't getting into the environment in the first place. That's the direction we need to go in now.

* * * * *

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



The Statistics Stack Up: Facts About Ocean Plastics

The International Coastal Cleanup, managed by The Ocean Conservancy and coordinated in Rhode Island for many years by Audubon's former senior director of policy Eugenia Marks, is the world's largest volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Among the findings from the 2019 international report and from Rhode Island's 2018 report:

All of the 10 most common items collected from beaches around the world were plastics, including cigarette butts*, food wrappers, straws, beverage bottles, bags, bottle caps and utensils.

More than 97 million pieces of trash were collected, totaling 23 million pounds of litter.

80,000 pounds of trash was collected by scuba divers searching 444 miles of underwater habitat.

In Rhode Island, nearly 2,300 volunteers collected 13,000 pounds of trash during 98 beach cleanup events in 2018.

The most abundant item collected on Rhode Island beaches was cigarette butts—36,147 butts representing 23 percent of the total quantity of trash.

Twenty-eight percent of the trash on Rhode Island beaches—a total of 43,281 pieces—was considered tiny trash, less than 2.5 millimeters in size.

Two percent of the Rhode Island trash was related to fishing, including fishing line, lures, nets, traps and buoys.

* Cigarette butts are composed of thousands of cellulose acetate fibers, a microplastic that take years to disappear from the environment.

Audubon to Play Key Role in Stormwater Innovation

Receives Federal Grant for \$177,535

Audubon Society of Rhode Island received \$177,535 in federal grant funding to work in partnership with the City of Providence Parks Department and The Nature Conservancy to create a regional center for stormwater innovation at Roger Williams Park in Providence. The City of Providence is investing \$1.5 million in natural infrastructure to prevent stormwater pollution at Roger Williams Park. The Stormwater Innovation Center is using the installations as training resources to advance stormwater management practices in Rhode Island.

This grant is part of Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) \$2.3 million in funding to local organizations working for clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems in southeast New England, including seven Rhode Island organizations. In total, these organizations will receive nearly \$1.1 million for environmental programs and projects. The funding is provided under the Southeast New England Watershed Grant Program, a collaboration between RAE and EPA that supports partnership addressing the region's pressing environmental issues.

Audubon is also part of the Stormwater Technical Assistance Network recently announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This \$1.75 million grant to the New England Environmental Finance Center of the University of Southern Maine will support a dozen organizations working collaboratively to build the ability of municipalities, tribes and organizations in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts to enhance resiliency and manage stormwater.

The power of this collaboration was demonstrated on October 30, 2019 when over 100 private and public sector stormwater vendors came together at the Stormwater Expo hosted by the Green Infrastructure Coalition at the Casino in Roger Williams Park to network and learn about innovative stormwater solutions. Audubon helped coordinate tours led by engineers from Horsley Witten Group and Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions who joined Brian Byrnes, City of Providence Deputy Superintendent of Parks to showcase stormwater practices near the Roger Williams Park Casino. The tours highlighted insights from green infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance.



Senator Reed, Senator Whitehouse, Congressman Cicilline, and Providence Mayor Elorza gathered at Roger Williams Park with recipients of the Federal Grant including Audubon Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr (front row center in blue shirt) and Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft (behind Meg Kerr in blue shirt).

THE PARTY'S OVER

The Fight to Ban Plastic Bags, Straws and Balloon Releases

By Todd McLeish



A Piping Plover scuttles amidst balloon debris in Little Compton, RI.

The issue of plastics polluting the environment and harming wildlife can seem so overwhelming that it may, at first, appear that there is little that can be done about it. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Audubon is working with numerous partners to reduce the use of plastics, starting with efforts to ban single-use plastic bags and straws and banning the intentional release of balloons. These are important first steps to illustrate how the use of plastics can be reduced and are key to educating the public about the impacts of plastics pollution.

The volume of plastic bags, straws and balloons on our beaches and in our trash is not insignificant, said Meg Kerr, Audubon's senior director of policy, who is leading the organization's efforts to pass effective legislation to reduce the use of plastics. Plastic bags, especially, are everywhere blown into trees, caught up in underbrush, blown off the landfill. One reason to focus on them is that there is national momentum on reducing their use. Other states are also dealing with the issue.

In Rhode Island, more than half of the population lives in communities where ordinances banning single-use plastic bags have been enacted in recent years, including Providence, Cranston, East Providence and Newport. Each ordinance contains key language requiring that bags must have stitched handles to be classified as reusable. That language was inserted in the state's first municipal ordinance in Barrington after retailers attempted to get around the ban by using thick plastic bags and calling them reusable.

Barrington is continuing to lead the way in this effort. It passed a related ordinance this year that bans even more plastic items, including cups, utensils, straws and polystyrene.

But legislation at the state level has run into roadblocks.

In 2018, Governor Gina Raimondo established a task force to reduce reliance on single-use plastics that often end up in the state's waters and shorelines. Its members included representatives of the business commu-

nity, environmentalists, municipalities and others, including Audubon.

One result of the task force was a bill introduced into the General Assembly to ban single-use plastic bags statewide. The business representatives on the task force were especially keen to pass a bill that enabled them to address the plastic bag issue consistently in every community rather than with different ordinances in each municipality. However, the bill used a broad definition of reusable bags, which would have allowed thick plastic bags to replace thin bags, exacerbating the problem rather than solving it. Worse, the bill would have pre-empted all of the municipal ordinances that had addressed the issue more effectively. The bill did not pass.

It's always a good idea to bring a wide range of interests to the table and have conversations, so the task force was a good thing, and I commend the governor for doing it, said Kerr. But it was done so quickly and with such a short time frame that some of the important details got missed. If the task force had a little more time to be thoughtful, I think the conversation around the definition of reusable bags would have happened.

Another bill to ban single-use plastic bags, which included a ban on disposable polystyrene food containers, was introduced in the 2019 legislative session, but it was held for further study, as was a separate bill banning polystyrene food containers.

In addition, Representative Susan Donovan of Bristol submitted a bill that would have prohibited the intentional release of helium-filled balloons, a bill she described as both an anti-litter bill and a hazardous waste issue for birds and other wildlife.

Balloons are especially dangerous in the marine environment because they are often mistaken for jellyfish by sea turtles, seabirds and other creatures that feed on jellyfish. And the strings attached to balloons are a dangerous entanglement threat.

Citing the potential harm to marine life, the town of New Shoreham banned the sale of balloons earlier this year, and many other communities



Geoff Dennis of Little Compton often walks his dog at the beach and cleans the shore of plastics, keeping annual tallies. Top: In 2018 alone, he collected hundreds of latex balloons with ribbons. He photographed this pile of balloon waste, 3 feet high and 6 feet wide. This does not include the 848 mylar balloons he also collected last year. Bottom: He also found 1,161 straws between 2016 and 2018.

around the country are taking steps to reduce the release of balloons into the air due to their deadly impact on wildlife. Clemson University in Georgia, for instance, ended its tradition of releasing 10,000 balloons before every home football game. And even the Balloon Council, which represents the balloon industry, recommends that balloons should never be released into the air.

Although Donovan received negative attention when her balloon bill was first submitted, she is confident it will pass in the next legislative session as people learn more about the issue.

I'm not trying to take balloons away from children," she said. "I just want them disposed of properly. The release of large numbers of balloons for celebrations like weddings and memorials is needless litter that harms the environment. When local fishermen heard about the bill, I got pictures and messages from fishermen up and down the East Coast who pick up balloons a hundred miles out to sea. It's an entanglement threat to their equipment.

In response to claims that Rhode Island already has anti-littering laws in place, Donovan said that having a targeted balloon law on the books would acknowledge the seriousness of the issue and help to publicize it.

People don't necessarily realize that what goes up comes down," she said. "You wouldn't approve of releasing thousands of pieces of trash and expect someone to clean it up for you. All those balloons end up in the water and on our beaches. Released balloons also end up in forests, fields, and wetlands. They travel everywhere in the ecosystem.

It's a good bill, and we supported it," said Audubon's Kerr. "And we'll support it again if it's introduced next year.

Although none of these plastics-related bills were enacted this year, Kerr is optimistic that plastics reduction will be on the legislative docket again next year.

We will support a stronger plastic bag bill that defines reusable bags consistent with local ordinances, and we would support a broader bill that included other plastic items like straws, too," she said. "That makes sense and would be good public policy.

RIDE to Recycle Right

Rhode Island was the first state in the nation to adopt mixed recycling bin labels, initiated to help people sort recyclables correctly. RI Resource Recovery participated in a national movement spearheaded by Recycle Across America.

In 2017, Rhode Island resident Maggie Sheerin rode her bike across the country to raise awareness about the need to standardize bin labels. In September, she biked to the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, to promote her Rhode Island RIDE to Recycle Right! program. Audubon congratulates Maggie on her efforts to educate the public by promoting use of these new, informative recycling bin labels.

For more info see:
<https://www.recycleacrossamerica.org/post/maggies-manifestation>



From left: Audubon Educator Lisa Maloney, Maggie Sheerin, and Audubon Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee. Shown below is the new mixed recycling label.

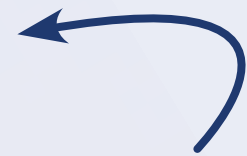


KIDS TAKE ACTION!

EIGHT MILLION METRIC TONS OF PLASTIC END UP IN THE OCEAN EVERY YEAR.

They might break down into smaller pieces, but plastics don't go away and they hurt birds and animals that live in the ocean. You can take action to reduce the amount of plastic you use. You can also teach others to do the same.

- ✓ **SAY NO TO PLASTIC STRAWS, WATER BOTTLES AND SPOONS!** This holiday season, ask for a bamboo utensil set, metal straws and a reusable water bottle to carry in your backpack. These items can be cleaned and used over and over again and never end up in the ocean.
- ✓ **EAT MORE FRUIT!** Cut down on plastic snack packaging. Ask your family to buy apples, bananas, nuts, granolas and dried fruit in bulk. Use paper or fabric bags when buying these items.
- ✓ **TRY NOT TO USE PLASTIC BAGGIES.** Does your school serve lunch in Styrofoam or plastic containers? Bring your own lunch and wrap your sandwich in a cloth napkin and put it in a paper bag. Consider reusable Bento boxes, made from stainless steel, aluminum, natural woods and bamboo.
- ✓ **BE DONE WITH PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS!** Use sturdy tote bags or order plain ones to decorate and personalize for family and friends. It's a great gift idea!
- ✓ **CHALLENGE YOUR FAMILY TO A "PLASTIC FREE" SHOPPING TRIP.** Look for items sold in bulk or in recyclable glass, aluminum and paper containers. Bring your reusable shopping tote bags!



THAT AMOUNT OF TRASH WOULD FILL TWO BIG SKYSCRAPERS AS TALL AS THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY!



- ✓ **JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST LITTER!** Kids all over the world clean-up beaches, parks, and playgrounds. Organize a cleanup in your own neighborhood. Take photos of your efforts and share with others.



WANT MORE GREAT IDEAS?

National Geographic Kids is an excellent resource:
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/kids-vs-plastic/pollution>

AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

December 2019 – February 2020 For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org



Peter Green

BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

FREE WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

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

WINTER BIRDING VAN TRIP: WATERFOWL AND SEABIRDS AT THE SHORE

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; December 7, 2019; 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

WINTER BIG DAY 2019

How many species can we find? Join this popular birding tradition. *Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; January 3, 2020; 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.*

EAGLE CRUISE ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

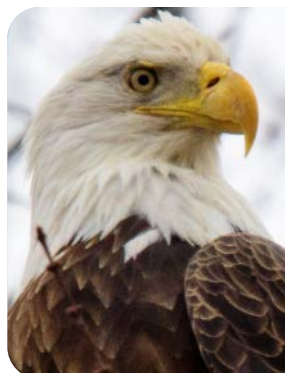
Explore the Connecticut River to search for eagles, hawks, waterfowl, seals and other mammals. *Van departs from Powder Mill Ledges Refuge, 12 Sanderson Rd. Smithfield, RI; February 15, 2020; 7:00 am – 3:00 pm.*

WINTER BEACH WALK WITH AUDUBON

Take a winter walk along Moonstone Beach for leisurely birdwatching and beachcombing. *Moonstone Beach Road, South Kingstown, RI; January 11, 2020; 12:30 – 2:30 pm.*

CAPE ANN WINTER BIRDING VAN TRIP

Visit this historic fishing community in Massachusetts known for a great diversity of wintering sea birds. *Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; March 1, 2020; 7:00 am – 5:00 pm.*



EAGLE CRUISE ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

Explore the Connecticut River by boat and search for eagles, hawks, waterfowl, seals and other mammals. For details and to register, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Van departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Rd. Smithfield, RI; February 15, 2020; 7:00 am – 3:00 pm.

OWL PROWL AND PROGRAMS



Ed Hughes

OWLS OF NEW ENGLAND

Lecture and Owl Presentation
Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; December 4, 2019; 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

OWL PROWL AT FISHERVILLE BROOK

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; December 6, 2019; 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

CARATUNK OWL PROWL

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; December 8, 2019; 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

OWLS OF CARATUNK

Lecture and Owl Presentation
Two Dates Offered; *December 22, 2019, January 4, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm.*

OWL PROWL AT FORT WILDLIFE REFUGE

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI; January 10, 2020; 7:00 – 9:00 pm

OWLS AND ALE

Meet some of Audubon's amazing birds of prey while enjoying locally brewed beers and take a guided walk to look and listen for owls. *Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI; January 18, February 22; 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Age 21+.*

OWLING AT FISHERVILLE BROOK

Join a small adult group for an owl program and winter walk. *Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; January 31, 2020; 7:00 – 9:00 pm.*

OWLING VAN TRIP

Hop aboard the new van and search for owls across Rhode Island. *Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; March 6, 2020; 4:00 – 8:00 pm.*

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

ANNUAL TREE SALE AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI; December 7, 2019; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

AUDUBON HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Artisan Gifts with a Natural Flair.
Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield, RI; December 7, 2019; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

WREATH MAKING FOR WILDLIFE

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield, RI; December 14, 2019; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.





AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

AUDUBON ANNUAL TREE SALE AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA

December 7, 2019; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

SEA GLASS ORNAMENTS

December 8, 2019; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

BEESWAX WRAPS WORKSHOP

December 15, 2019; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.

SEA GLASS JEWELRY

January 11, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.

OWLS AND ALE

Two Dated Offered

January 18, February 22, 2020; 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

POLLINATORS, PREDATORS, AND RECYCLERS, OH MY! ENTOMOLOGY LECTURE BY HORTICULTURALIST PAM GILPIN

January 23, 2020; 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

BEEKEEPING BASICS AND MORE!

Six-week Series

January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 23, March 1, 2020; 2:00 – 4:30 pm.

FELTED OWLS WORKSHOP

January 25, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.

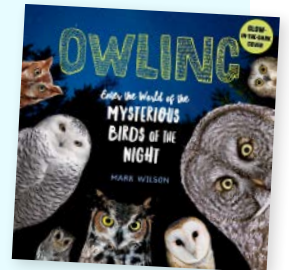
AUDUBON OSPREY MONITOR TRAINING

February 2, 2020; 12:00 – 3:00 pm.

OWLING: ENTER THE WORLD OF THE MYSTERIOUS BIRDS OF THE NIGHT: AUTHOR MEET AND GREET FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK ON OWLS

Meet Mark and Marcia Wilson, the popular presenters of "Eyes on Owls" at Audubon Raptor Weekend, for an owl presentation and book signing.

February 15, 2020; 1:00 – 2:00 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.

December 7, 2019: Tree Sale and Photos with Santa

January 4, 2020: Squirrels

February 1, 2020: Snow

AUDUBON ANNUAL TREE SALE AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA

December 7, 2019; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

DECEMBER SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 2019; 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Visit the events calendar at asri.org for details on daily programs.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY NATURE ACTIVITIES

January 20, 2020; 10:00 am – 2:30 pm.

LI'L PEEPS

January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 27, March 5, 2020;

9:45 am – 10:45 am.

JUNIOR NATURALISTS FOR HOME-SCHOOLED FAMILIES

Four-week Session: February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

February 17 – 21, 2020; 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Visit the events calendar at asri.org for details on daily programs.

OWLING: ENTER THE WORLD OF THE MYSTERIOUS BIRDS OF THE NIGHT: AUTHOR MEET AND GREET FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK ON OWLS

Meet Mark and Marcia Wilson, the popular presenters of "Eyes on Owls" at Audubon Raptor Weekend, for an owl presentation and book signing. February 15, 2020; 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

SEA GLASS WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

This popular workshop is now available for kids ages 8+.

February 18, 2020; 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Meet Lucy & Zach!



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

POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

OWLS OF NEW ENGLAND

December 4, 2019; 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

AUDUBON HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

December 7, 2019; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

WREATH MAKING FOR WILDLIFE

December 14, 2019; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? GREEN YOUR HOME WORKSHOP

December 18, 2019; 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

ANIMAL TRACKING FOR ADULTS

January 11, 2020; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS FOR FAMILIES

January 11, 2020; 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

NAKED TREE I.D. WORKSHOP

February 1, 2019; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

Visit the events calendar at asri.org for details.
Programs offered each day from February 18 to 21, 2020.



GUIDED NATURE WALKS AND SNOWSHOE TREKS

at Scenic Locations across Rhode Island

WINTER WALK IN THE WOODS

Two Dates Offered: *Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; December 29, 2019, January 26, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm.*

WINTER BEACH WALK

Moonstone Beach Road, South Kingstown, RI; January 11, 2020; 12:30 – 2:30 pm.

SNOWSHOEING AT FORT WILDLIFE REFUGE

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI; January 25, 2020; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

WINTER WILDLIFE: SIGNS AND TRACKS

Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingston, RI; January 27, 2020; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

SNOWSHOEING BY THE FULL MOON

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

FAMILY WINTER WALK

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; February 21, 2020; 2:00 – 3:30 pm.

WINTER WALK AT MAXWELL MAYS

Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge, 2082 Victory Highway, Coventry, RI; February 26, 2020; 9:30 – 11:30 am.



FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE

99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

OWL PROWL AT FISHERVILLE BROOK

December 6, 2019; 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

WINTER BIRDING VAN TRIP: WATERFOWL AND SEABIRDS AT THE SHORE

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; December 7, 2019; 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

OWLING AT FISHERVILLE BROOK

Join a small group owl program and walk, just for adults.
Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; January 31, 2020; 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

SNOWSHOEING BY THE FULL MOON

February 8, 2020; 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

OWLING VAN TRIP

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



DECEMBER SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI
December 27–31, 2019; 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Bring the kids for a WILD time!

Meet some cool critters, learn all about animal babies, try some cool science investigations and more.
Visit the events calendar at www.asri.org for details.

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 OWL PROWL
December 8, 2019; 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

STARGAZING AT CARATUNK
December 22, 2019; 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

OWLS OF CARATUNK Two Dates Offered
December 22, 2019, January 4, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

WINTER WALK IN THE WOODS
Two Dates Offered
December 29, 2019, January 26, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

WINTER ANIMAL TRACKING
January 11, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

BAN THE BAG! PAINT AND SIP
January 11, 2020; 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

BUILD A BIRDHOUSE
January 12, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

NATURE'S VALENTINES
February 8, 2020; 10:00 – 11:00 am.

AUDUBON OSPREY MONITOR TRAINING
February 9, 2020; 12:00 – 3:00 pm.

NATURAL HEALING WORKSHOP
February 29, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

MAPLE SUGARING
March 14, 2020; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

SIP AND SPA AT CARATUNK
March 21, 2020; 6:30 – 8:30 pm.



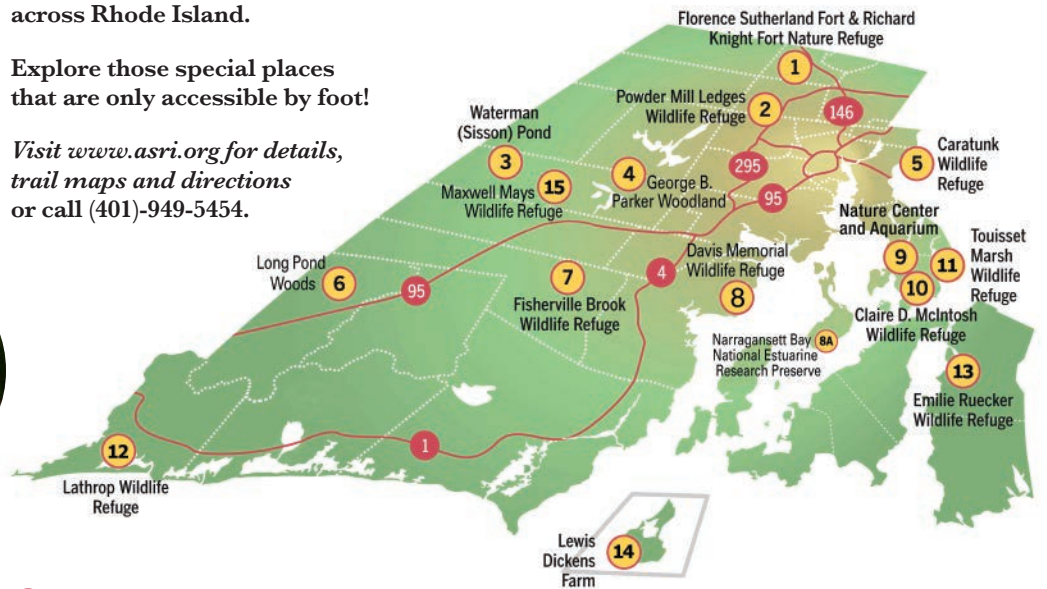
YOURS TO DISCOVER!

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 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

PRUDENCE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Prudence Island, RI

WINTER WILDLIFE & ISLAND EXPLORATION
February 8, 2020; 9:45 am – 4:45 pm.

SEALS AND BIRDS ON PRUDENCE ISLAND
February 27, 2020; 1:30 – 6:30 pm.



SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 14, 2020
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

MAPLE SUGARING BREAKFAST

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA



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



Kari McDonald



Javaughn Henry



Jason Major



RAPTOR WEEKEND 2019



Eagles, owls, hawks and falcons thrilled visitors at Audubon Raptor Weekend, September 7 and 8, 2019. Over 2,000 people flocked to the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol to get up-close and learn about raptors through presentations, lectures, games and more. Raptor Weekend is Audubon's largest annual event, and a wide variety of amazing birds of prey bring the crowds back each year for more!

Thank you to the following Raptor Weekend Sponsors:

Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP, NEC Solar, RI PBS, Crystal Springs



Leaving Audubon in your estate is for the birds.

Learn Simple Steps to Begin Planning Your Legacy.

Call 401-949-5454 (ext. 3017) or download information at asri.org/donate-membership/hawkes-legacy-circle.html

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND 1897 SOCIETY



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

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

- Leader** — \$1,000 to \$2,499
- Benefactor** — \$7,500 to \$9,999
- Advocate** — \$2,500 to \$4,999
- Visionary** — \$10,000+
- Conservator** — \$5,000 to \$7,499

If you wish to join the 1897 Society and help promote the values and mission of Audubon, please 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.



Audubon Society of Rhode Island

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

October 20, 2019 • Rosecliff, Newport

Rosecliff in Newport was the setting for Audubon's 2019 Annual Meeting. Keynote Speaker **Ashley Householder**, Associate Curator for Exhibitions, Preservation Society of Newport, discussed how the recent exhibit "John James Audubon: Obsession Untamed" at Rosecliff colorfully explores John James Audubon's relentless pursuit of the birds of America and his singular determination in seeing his beautiful artworks published. After the meeting, Householder led an exclusive guided tour of the exhibit.

New Board President

OWEN HELEEN

Lincoln resident Owen Heleen was elected President of the Board of Directors. He is currently Vice President, Strategy and Grants at The Providence Center. Mr. Heleen has been a member of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island Board of Directors since 2013, previously serving as chair of the Fund Development Committee.



Newly-elected Board President Owen Heleen speaks at the Annual Meeting.

New Secretary of the Board of Directors

DEBORAH S. LINNELL

North Kingstown resident **Deborah S. Linnell** was also elected as Secretary of the Board of Directors. She has served on the Audubon Board of Directors since 2012, previously serving as treasurer.

Thank You

CANDACE POWELL AND KEITH KILLINGBECK

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island gratefully acknowledges the terms of service of Candace Powell and Keith Killingbeck who are stepping down from the board of directors this year. They will serve on the Council of Advisors.



Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft thanks Candace Powell and Keith Killingbeck for their service.



Newly Elected to the Board of Directors

ANN-CHRISTINE DUHAIME (TINA)

Dr. Ann-Christine Duhaime (Tina) is Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, Nicholas T. Zervas Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School and Associate Faculty at Harvard University Center for the Environment. She resides in Saunderstown, Rhode Island and Charlestown, Massachusetts.

LAURA LANDEN

Dr. Laura Landen is retired Chair of the Philosophy Department and former Director of Environmental Studies at Providence College. She resides in Hope, Rhode Island.

EMILY J. MURPHY PRIOR

Emily Murphy Prior is an attorney at law at Morneau & Murphy in Jamestown. She specializes in trusts and estates, philanthropy and conservation planning. She resides in Jamestown, Rhode Island.

LESLIE V. SAMAYOA

Leslie Samayoa is a Customer Service Representative for Merrill Edge in Lincoln, RI and long-time volunteer with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. She resides in Greenville, Rhode Island.

CAROL LYNN TROCKI

Carol Lynn Trocki is an Independent Conservation Biologist at Mosaic Land Management, LLC. She is currently the lead scientist for the National Park Service's Coastal Breeding Bird Monitoring Program in the Boston Harbor Islands. She resides in Little Compton, Rhode Island.

JULIE VANIER

Julie Vanier is a Major Giving and Alumni Engagement Officer with Clark University. She resides in Barrington, Rhode Island.



From left: Newly elected Audubon Society of Rhode Island Board Members Carol Lynn Trocki, Leslie V. Samayoa, Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft, Emily J. Murphy Prior, Laura Landen. Not shown: Ann-Christine Duhaime (Tina), and Julie Vanier.

Special thanks to the donor who made our meeting possible at Rosecliff Mansion in Newport.

Volunteer of the Year

EMILY WESTCOTT

Chepachet resident **Emily Westcott** was honored for her strong commitment to Audubon. From monitoring Audubon's less-visited properties, to mapping trails with GPS, and assisting with an upcoming book on Audubon wildlife refuges, Ms. Westcott has taken on a variety of critical behind-the-scenes volunteer roles.



Emily Westcott accepts her award from Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft.

A Superhero Indeed

CYNTHIA WARREN

Audubon gratefully acknowledges Cynthia Warren for her service as Board President and oversight of the Invincible Audubon Campaign. Shown here accepting a gift honoring her years as Board President, Cynthia will continue as a member of the Board.



Former Board President Cynthia Warren accepts a gift at the Annual Meeting, acknowledging her many years of service to Audubon.

Educators of the Year

HATHAWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PORTSMOUTH

The educators and administrators of the Hathaway Elementary School are being honored for their dedication and collaborative efforts to bring environmental education to their students. Their new schoolyard habitat project, created by a collaborative team of Hathaway Elementary School administrators, teachers, students and families is an exemplary model for other schools to follow.



Audubon Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee (left) presents Hathaway Second-grade Teacher Karen Moore with the Educators of the Year Award

Legislators of the Year

R.I. SENATOR DAWN EUER AND R.I. REPRESENTATIVE LAUREN CARSON

Audubon recognized these legislators for their dedication to Rhode Island's environment and the protection of birds and wildlife.



Representative Lauren Carson, Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft, Senator Dawn Euer and Audubon Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr.



From left: Kathy and Gurdon Wattles join Peter Lisle at the reception following the Annual Meeting.



Guests enjoy the John James Audubon exhibit at Rosecliff.



Keynote speaker Ashley Householder speaks to the gathering about the John James Audubon exhibit.



Senior Director of Advancement Jeff Hall (left) speaks with Paul and Donna Gricus at the reception.

AUDUBON'S SPONSOR-A-RAPTOR Makes the Perfect Holiday Gift



Welcome Archie!

Audubon's newest ambassador, a Barred Owl named Archimedes (or Archie to his friends) is about 1 year old. He was found by the side of the road in Suffield, CT in January 2019, assumed to be hit by a car. Initial veterinary examination showed head trauma and feather damage. Archie was later discovered to be missing phalanges on his right wing, thus reducing his ability to fly.

He was rehabilitated at Horizon Wings in Ashford, CT, and he now makes his home at Audubon.



Through the Sponsor-a-Raptor program, YOU can help care for Audubon's birds by providing food, housing and veterinary care. The staff expertise, diets and special care that Audubon provides for these previously injured birds cost thousands of dollars each year.

Your support allows our ambassadors to accompany Audubon educators on hundreds of visits to schools, community centers, assisted living homes and libraries each year. Your gift not only provides care for these special birds, it also supports our mission to connect people with nature.

Sponsorships make wonderful holiday gifts and recipients will receive an invitation to an annual Sponsor Party, with the chance to get up-close and meet many of the Audubon Ambassadors.

Visit asri.org, click on "Learn" and "Audubon Ambassadors" or call (401) 949-5454 ext.3018.



The Ravens Have Relocated

Looking for our Red-tailed Hawks, Finn and Atlanta at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol? After three years of greeting the public each day from their aviary, these hawks are taking a rest from all the attention. You can still see these beautiful birds at one of our many Audubon raptor programs offered throughout the year.

Our Common Ravens, Zach and Lucy, have now happily moved into the large aviary. As Ravens are very social birds, they love to see visitors. Come say hello soon!



The Elusive Cedar Waxwing

While in the car recently, my daughter and I were playing 20 Questions. Now mind you, this 10-year-old brings the National Geographic Field Guide of Birds of North America to school to occupy her during downtime. She had chosen a species of bird and I had 20 clues to try and name the exact North American bird she had in mind.

Does it live in RI? *Yes.*

Is it a duck? *No.*

Is it the size of crow? *Smaller.*

Warbler size? *Bigger.*

Robin Size? *Yes!*

And this went on and on, until

Is it yellow? *A tiny bit.*

A tiny bit? How can this 10-year-old be stumping me? I gave up and she exclaimed *I can't believe you didn't pick my favorite bird, Mom!* The Cedar Waxwing, of course! Its tail looks as if it has been dipped in bright yellow and it has tiny red spots on its wings.

This bird is absolutely amazing to observe with a crested head and a black mask. The Cedar Waxwing truly looks as though an artist may have pulled it from a painting. I have been trying to find one with my daughter. I can easily recognize the high pitch *bzee* sound that Cedar Waxwings make as they fly or feed. But every time I hear it, they fly away before my daughter spots it.

However, the fall season is one of the best times to see them. Cedar Waxwings are highly social birds and will group together in small flocks. They are attracted to fruits and berries. With no leaves to conceal them, you can often find them feeding in crabapple, winterberry, cedar, and ornamental fruit trees.

The species can be found in Rhode Island year-round in a variety of habitats, but they prefer to be near water during the breeding season and enjoy being close together. Sometimes you can find 15 different Cedar Waxwings all nesting in the same vicinity. Although they are primarily fruit eaters, in the summer they switch to protein-rich insects to feed their young.

The Cedar Waxwing population has stayed constant over the years and has even increased in some areas due to ornamental plantings of fruit trees. If you would like to attract them to your yard, planting winterberry, cedar and crabapple can be helpful.

I hope you get out birding this fall and catch a glimpse of this magnificent bird. If I am lucky, my daughter will see one too, and then we can move on to another species in our game of 20 Questions.



Ed Hughes

FM Global Volunteers – What a Crew!

Volunteers from FM Global headquarters in Johnston, RI assisted Audubon staff with conservation projects and volunteer needs at both Powder Mill Ledges and the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium this summer.

Audubon recognizes the commitment that FM Global has made to promoting a healthy environment. They maintain pollinator-friendly grounds at their headquarters, limit pesticide use, and conduct business in a LEED certified corporate office building. Audubon thanks FM Global for their dedication to conservation.



(Top) FM Global volunteers in the Audubon Pollinator Discovery Garden in Bristol. (Bottom) Powder Mill Ledges Refuge Manager Kim Calcagno (front row far left) led a group of FM Global volunteers for a day of field work in Smithfield.

Thank You, BB&S Lumber

Audubon gratefully acknowledges BB&S Lumber of North Kingstown for their recent donation of lumber for reconstruction of a fence at Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge in Coventry. This project was completed this summer by Audubon staff and members of the 2019 Youth Conservation League. Donations such as this are instrumental in helping Audubon maintain wildlife refuges across the state.



Members of the 2019 Youth Conservation League worked on the new fence this summer with guidance from Audubon Property Manager Mike Cavaliere (in green).

Fun Facts at Your Fingertips!

Have you noticed the new, bright blue visitor signage in the pollinator garden and along the trails at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol? These colorful signs will provide fun facts, beautiful photos and engaging illustrations about the flora and fauna that visitors may observe as they walk the trails.

Look for them at key spots on the wildlife refuge as the habitats change along the trail. Powder Mill Ledges, Fisherville and Caratunk Wildlife Refuges also have some of these signs in various habitats.

Take a moment to stop and learn about what's happening in nature as you walk by!

A special note of appreciation to Gurdon and Kathleen Wattles and Nathan and Mary Chace for their support of this educational signage installation.



Do You Think Leaving Audubon in Your Will is for the Birds? **IT IS!**

For more information www.asri.org/donate-membership/hawkes-legacy-circle.html

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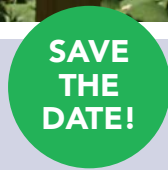


2020 Rhode Island Land and Water Summit

Saturday, March 7, 2020; 7:30am - 4:30pm, URI Memorial Union, Kingston, RI

Keynote address by Dr. Mamie Parker

Preparing the Next Generation with Passion, Inspiration and Excellence - A Change in Climate
Registration opens in January: landandwaterpartnership.org



Eagle Scout Makes Education Flip Board

Jackson Hafey of Troop 20 in Johnston just completed his Eagle Scout Project for Audubon. He designed and built a new traveling flip board that can be used for Audubon education programs that involve trivia questions or matching and guessing games. He also donated a sturdy and convenient carrying case for the board. This piece will replace Audubon's old and much-used flip board. Thank you, Jackson!



Citizens Bank Volunteers Support Audubon

Volunteers from Citizens Bank joined Audubon staff to complete trail maintenance on September 25, 2019 at Fort Wildlife Refuge in North Smithfield. This volunteer effort was part of Citizens Bank Credo Week, where employees go out and actively support their local communities.



Audubon thanks the volunteers from Citizens Bank for their service. Left to right: Michael Cutting, Christian J. Garces, John Kelly, Elizabeth Fajardo, Dawn Bender and Gowanda Rukmini.

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
- Blue State Coffee LLC
- Botanical Center Conservancy
- Citizens Bank
- Dassault Systemes
- Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Inc
- Harbor Bath and Body, LLC
- Lyons & Zaremba, Inc.
- MeLife Auto & Home
- New England Dispatch Agency
- Partridge, Snow & Hahn
- Pawtucket Red Sox
- Picaboo
- Plum Beach Garden Club
- R. I. Beekeepers Association
- Rhode Island Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
- Rhode Island Natural History Survey
- United Natural Foods, Inc.
- Van Liew Trust Company
- Whole Foods Market
- Wild Birds Unlimited

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: Mourning Dove Friend

From: Grace Dayian

In honor of: Mr. David Spencer

From: JoAnn and Carl LaBranche

In honor of: Rob and Inge Freeman

From: Stanley & Martha Livingston Fund

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: Dwight Barrett

From: Patti Folsom

In memory of: Janice Williams

From: Carl Weinberg & Co., LLP
Garry and Cathy Holmstrom
Prudence Conservancy
Nancy Taylor
Victoria A. Taylor

In memory of: Jean Orfan

From: Anja Rittling
Karen E. Van Riper

In memory of: Joel Silverberg

From: Mikaila Arthur
Carol Baldassari
Patricia Cristofaro
Norine Duncan
David and Sandra Einstein
Dragan Gill
Jonathan Kaskin
Rebecca Leuchak
Marlene Lopes
Ann Moskol
John and Ann O'Connell
Stanley Schneider
Joanne Schneider and Arthur Bone
Dan and Vivian Weisman
Carla Weiss
Earl Gladue
Elizabeth Labedz
Amanda Izenstark
Arnold and Sylvia Silverberg
David and Ina Woolman
Amy Barlow
Jeanne Haser Lafond
Ronald Pitt
Barry and Libby Schiller

In memory of: Mary Jo Murray

From: Stephen Elman and Joanne D'Alcomo
Ronald and Linda Gardrel
Elizabeth B. Gordon
Rhea Guertin
Mary J. Keane
Maija Lutz and Peter Tassia
Barbara Sherman
Gladys Sherman
Stephen Smallidge
JoAnn and Richard Sullivan
Maurice and Carrie Tippet
Mary-Joan Zogby
Annie Kammerer
Donna Van Orden

In memory of: Ruth E Gates

From: Stephen Gates
Joel and Elizabeth Gates

In memory of: William "Bill" Folsom

From: The Lightship Group, LLC
Providence Fire Fighters IAFF Local 799
West Warwick Senior High School
David and Robin Alcott
Marcia Allen
Margaret Anez
Marie Barrett
Ellen and Donald Buffington
Mary and Michael Cloutier
Jonathan Conklin
Sheryl Crowley
Clarence and Karyl Cunha
Patricia and Christian DeFrancesco
Mary DesGranges
Richard DesGranges
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Edward T. Downing
Karen Erickson
Mary Jane Fiorenzano
Thomas and Paula Gilmore
Kay Gruder
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Pamela Hadsell
Rebecca Horne
Daphne and William Hull-Ten Eyck
Maureen Kielbasa
Susan Lennon
Deborah Lewis
Nancy Manni
Steven and Patricia Marcaccio
Francis Martins
Janet McCraw and Tom Flesia
Susan McCraw-Helms
Lawrence and Louise Moulton
Kathleen O'Brien
Roger Pelser
Joanne Perez
Bruce Perry
Peter Radke
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Marcia Sahagian
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Eric and Janice Smith
Mac and Susan Smith
Lois and Paul Soscia
John and Linda Stachelhaus
Linda Ujifusa
June and Robert Valenti
Ruth Waisanen
Thomas and Janet Wunderlich
Mary Young
Harmony Library Book Groups
Sheila Brown
Samuel and Deborah Ciotola
Thomas and Helen Ferguson
Gary and Gail Lynn
Harmony Library Discussion Groups



AUDUBON REMEMBERS

MARY JO MURRAY

Audubon lost long-time friend Mary Jo Murray on October 17, 2019. With field guide and spotting scope in hand, she led the popular Audubon Tuesday Morning Bird Walks in South County for over 20 years. Both experienced birders and novice newcomers were made to feel welcome.

She was selected as the 2008 Audubon Volunteer of the Year and was one of the most respected birders in Rhode Island. Mary Jo will be remembered for her devotion to nature and her knowledge and love of birds.

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AUDUBONFIRE

Lit Up the Night!



A warm summer evening brought almost 300 guests to the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium on August 22, 2019 for AuduBonfire, our Member Appreciation Evening. This annual event honors and thanks our members for their ongoing support. Guests walked the lighted trail to stations of bonfires where they toasted marshmallows, made s'mores, visited with live raptors and watched the sunset. They danced to live music, enjoyed a food truck, lawn games and more. Thank you to all who attended - we can't wait to do it again next year!

Thank you to AuduBonfire Sponsors: Green Energy Consumers Alliance and Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP

Organizing To Meet The Climate Crisis

Editorial by Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy

We are in a time of climate crisis, and yet lately, I have been feeling hopeful. Across the globe, young people are becoming climate change leaders, doing the hard work of organizing. I am in awe of Greta Thunberg, the 16-year old leader of the climate change Sunrise Movement, channeling her anger about her endangered future towards activism on an international scale. On Friday, September 20, I joined my Audubon colleagues and about 1000 others to march in the Sunrise Movement's climate strike. The crowd of mostly young people gathering in Burnside Park received encouragement from beeping horns and yells of support from people passing by. Will this swell of outrage from young people who will live with decades of careless decisions change the conversation at the Rhode Island State House this year?

I am hopeful, but I share Greta Thunberg's skepticism of political support for environmental change. What we see too often is platitudes or changes so incremental that they do nothing to alleviate the problems we are facing. Here in Rhode Island, the climate crisis seems to have very little impact on daily decisions made by our elected leaders and our government officials. Even when faced with a crisis like the unprecedented number of mosquito borne EEE infections this summer, our government focused entirely on the immediate response (aerial spraying), while failing to raise alarms about the underlying temperature and precipitation changes that mean more mosquitoes in the coming years. Where is the long-term planning and invitation for public engagement on how mosquitoes can best be managed? Where are the linkages to other problems of climate change? I would like to see a policy conversation about bees and beneficial insects and how we protect them while we manage the disease carrying vectors.

We make decisions every day in our cities and towns throughout the state that should be taking climate impacts into account. Development decisions must consider the rising water predicted for the not too distant future. The Coastal Resources Management Council has created an excellent suite of tools to help visualize sea level rise and its impacts on the state. Their on-line Storm Tools mapping product



Audubon Staff at the Climate Strike in September from left: Paige Therien, Julius Lundy, Lisa Maloney, Tracey Hall and Amanda Tirocchi.

allows anyone to visualize 1–12 feet of sea level rise and storm surge and its impact on properties. When I read about proposals for a bus tunnel in Kennedy Plaza or the Fane tower, a 46-story residential high rise under review for construction in the I-195 land, I wonder what plans are being made for making these properties resilient to storms and rising seas.

Audubon's Issues Committee has agreed that the climate crisis is the top priority for our 2020 legislative work. We will be supporting a suite of bills that address the most pressing climate priorities. We will work to make our climate goals mandatory and enforceable economy wide. We will push to protect our critical forest resources. While we support the rapid deployment of renewable energy in preferred locations, we will act to protect forests for their value as wildlife habitat, climate cooling properties, and greenhouse gas absorption. We will be supporting the 2020 Green Bond and will advocate to ensure that it includes funds for resilience and land protection including forests. I know that we will face an up-hill battle at the statehouse where our leaders make environmental issues, even climate change, a low priority. But we will continue to advocate in the spirit of the Sunrise Movement: this is not about environmentalists vs. politicians, this is about all of us as citizens of this state. This is not about immediate development plans or budgetary growth, this is about what kind of world we plan to leave to the next generation. Surely, we can all unite in hope for them.



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.

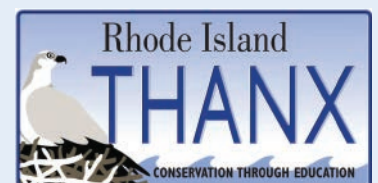
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DOES IT HAVE TO BE
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AUDUBON'S SPONSOR-A-RAPTOR
see page 18

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