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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

REPORT



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VOLUME 53, NO. 1

WINTER 2019



Audubon's **AMBASSADORS**

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Our Animal Ambassadors Inspire All Ages to Protect Nature

As you scan through the following pages, you can't help notice the smiles and excitement on the faces of the people in the photos, especially children. The reason is our animal ambassadors. This issue of the REPORT is all about the birds and other animals that we care for and present in our environmental education programs.

We dedicate significant financial and human resources to our programs and our animal ambassadors, but we think the investment is well worth it. The outcome we aim for is environmental literacy, where people understand and appreciate birds, wildlife and the natural world and then will provide the necessary financial and political support to help us protect it.

We hope that through our programs we are motivating people to do what they can to leave the world a better place for future generations. And there is nothing like a close-up experience with an owl or a guided hike with one of our naturalists to inspire both young and old alike.

Thank you for your support of our common mission

Lawrence J. F. Taft, Executive Director

You Are Never A Drop in the Bucket

It's funny. So many people who made generous donations to Audubon last year thought, "it's just a drop in the bucket." You can see from our list of donors in 2018, starting on page 20, how many people we are thanking for their "drops," and you can be confident that every "drop" in the bucket is making meaningful change to your environment.

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island has nearly 4,000 supporters who make it possible for us to protect more wildlife habitat, educate thousands of children, and defend nature at the Statehouse. You might be one of the donors who consider their donation just a "drop" in the bucket. Let us assure you that every "drop" that was donated in 2018 will create ripples that will flow through this coming year.

Every ripple creates an opportunity to conserve critical habitat for birds and wildlife.

Every donation allows us to reach more children with quality environmental programming.

Every drop is heard loud and clear when we speak for nature at this year's General Assembly. Legislators know those "drops" can turn into a flood if they try to turn back environmental policies.

Audubon had one of its strongest years in 2018 ... more land protected, more students learning about nature and big wins for the environment at the ballot box. As more people become aware of the changes happening in our natural world, they are making investments to insure we pass along a cleaner, healthier environment to future generations.

Thank you, as always, for your help in protecting the nature of Rhode Island.





Audubon's AMBASSADORS

By Todd McLeish

A boisterous group of 50 kindergarteners from the Melrose School in Jamestown gathered at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in January for a morning of lessons and activities about animal adaptations, wildlife habitat and other topics. They were clearly excited as they participated in a scavenger hunt and discussed the diet and behavior of owls.

Then, sitting with legs crossed and enthusiasm temporarily contained, they waited patiently for what would undoubtedly be the highlight of the day – a visit from Eec, a live Barred Owl that serves as an animal ambassador during educational programs around the state. This owl is cared for by Audubon as she was permanently injured and cannot be released into the wild. Perched on the gloved hand of Sharon Riley, Audubon's education and animal care specialist, Eec calmly peered around at the assembled children, who were filled with unending awe for the bird.

In response to questions posed by environmental educator Lisa Maloney, the children noted the bird's camouflaged appearance, its yellowish beak, the location of its ears, and many other features that make owls such successful predators and so endearing to people of all ages. And when the bird was finally carried back to its cage, the children yearned for more time with the distin-

guished bird.

"It's one thing to tell them about an owl," said Riley. "But what they're going to remember most is seeing that owl. Having the ability to bring an animal to a school group close-up like that is something that's much more meaningful than just a discussion. It gives them a real connection with the natural world."

Eec – named for the initials of the Nature Center's former name, the Environmental Education Center – is one of more than a dozen raptors, reptiles and other creatures that play a vital role as animal ambassadors in Audubon's popular environmental education programs. Along with hawks, ravens, turtles, snakes, hissing cockroaches and tidepool animals, Eec and her fellow owls command attention in a roomful of curious children and adults, and they distinguish Audubon from the many other organizations that offer environmental science programs in the region.

"Audubon is known for its birds, so being open to taking in an injured bird and showcasing it in our programs is a natural fit," said Lauren Parmelee, senior director of education. "We can go all over the state with these animals, and people are especially fascinated by owls. They help us hook the audience in."

"Teachers know that to get science concepts across, it helps to have some

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Ambassadors Continued from page 3

kind of special guest in the classroom,” she added. “There’s nothing like an up-close experience.”

It’s obvious by the student reaction that the visit by Eec was impactful.

“My kids are totally excited when they see the owl,” said Beverly Green, one of three Melrose School teachers who brought her students to the Nature Center. “Most have never seen an owl, and they’re very curious and want to know why it’s here and not out in the wild. It’s an amazing experience for them.”

Green and her colleagues Colleen MacIntyre and Jane Mitchell have participated in Audubon education programs with animal ambassadors every year for more than 15 years, and they say that it helps spark an interest in nature.

“We talk with our students about owls ahead of time, but to see one in real life is a very special moment for them,” said MacIntyre. “They get very quiet at first. They’re just so amazed that



Audubon Educator Sharon Riley with Eec, a Barred Owl.



Educator Tracey Hall cares for one of Audubon’s corn snakes.



Audubon Naturalist Kim Calcagno gives Webster, a Great Horned Owl, prescription drops that treat a chronic eye condition.

they’re allowed to see a live animal.”

Audubon has been offering educational programs featuring live animals since its earliest days. Archived photographs show Audubon’s former executive director, Al Hawkes, holding a turtle with children in a classroom setting in the 1960s.

“They probably used animals to talk about nature in a similar way that we do now,” said Parmelee. “The animal’s life history, habitat, how they fit into the food chain, why we should value them. It’s the Audubon message.”

That message is more easily conveyed when audiences are engaged with an animal ambassador, especially an owl or hawk.

“All of us who work in environmental education are trying to get the same message across, and our animals help us do that. They are our niche,” Parmelee said. “The birds make us stand out and help us bring our message of the importance of biodiversity, habitat conservation and good science.”

The animals – which are unreleasable due to an injury or other issue such as imprinting on humans – clearly leave a memorable impression with the public.

“The first thing that happens – even at our Owls and Ales program for people over age 21 – is that wide-eyed ‘oh, wow’ moment,” said Parmelee. “The owls, especially, bring out the awe in people.”

Parmelee recalled a family event in the Nature Center lobby when one of Audubon’s red-tailed hawks was brought into the room, and the adults were as fascinated and engaged as the children. Similarly, during school programs, it is not uncommon for school administrators, staff and teachers to wander into the classroom from all corners of the building just to get a glimpse of one of Audubon’s animal ambassadors. “It’s a totally unique experience,” Parmelee added.

The impression Eec made on the Jamestown students was not unexpected. The Barred Owl

“My kids are totally excited when they see the owl. Most have never seen an owl, and they’re very curious... it’s an amazing experience for them.”

– Beverly Green, Melrose School Teacher

has been serving as an ambassador for environmental education programs since 2006. She was acquired by Audubon after being struck by a vehicle on a highway on the Vermont/New Hampshire border and found to have a brain injury and vision impairment.

“She’s the sweetest, most docile animal. Nothing fazes her,” Parmelee said. “She doesn’t fly away; she doesn’t stress out; she knows her job; and she’s very good at it. We use her to train other educators on how to handle birds.”

Zachariah, a Common Raven acquired two years ago from a rehabilitator in Maine, also makes a big impression when observed up close. His massive beak and interesting variety of noises often catches audiences off guard.

Parmelee and Riley recalled a program at a Providence middle school when the students remained absolutely silent throughout their visit with Zach. “It was like pulling teeth trying to get them to answer a question or say anything,” Riley said. “They just silently stared at him. But as soon as we put him away, they wouldn’t stop talking about him. Turns out they were intimidated by his giant beak. Later, one of the students told me that, because of Zach, ravens are now his favorite animal.”

Zach is one of two Common Ravens, two Red-tailed Hawks, and Eec the Barred Owl that call the Nature Center home. They are joined by a corn snake, two ball pythons, three kinds of turtles, and five hissing cockroaches that serve in an educational capacity. Starfish, whelks, hermit crabs and

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Audubon's Flock of Avian Ambassadors



For many decades, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island has dedicated both staff and resources to caring for raptors. Although Audubon is not licensed to rehabilitate wildlife, we work with rehabilitators across the Northeast to provide forever homes for previously injured birds.

Audubon has recently adopted a second Common Raven and an Eastern Screech-Owl. The new additions make for a full nest over

at Audubon, as we care for 12 rehabilitated birds that are unable to be released into the wild.

These birds are provided with species-specific diets, training and enrichment. They live in custom aviaries that are designed according to federal regulations. Audubon's raptor handlers are trained and experienced in the care of birds of prey, and are extremely passionate about their work and the birds they care for.



Webster, Great Horned Owl, 1997



Lady Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, 2004



Eec, Barred Owl, 2006



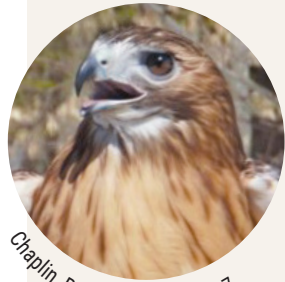
Finn, Red-tailed Hawk, 2016



Zachariah, Common Raven, 2017



Atlanta, Red-tailed Hawk, 2017



Chaplin, Red-tailed Hawk, 2017



Queen Solomon (Sollie), Great Horned Owl, 2017



Oliver, Barred Owl, 2018



Serena, Barred Owl, 2018



Lucy, Common Raven, 2018



Penny, Eastern Screech-Owl, 2018

Sponsor-A-Raptor

Help Protect the Raptors in Audubon's Care

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.

Visit asri.org and click on "Audubon Ambassadors" or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3020.

Raptor Encounter Programs

Audubon Raptor Encounters are awe-inspiring events for all ages. In addition to close-up visits from several feathered friends, participants learn about raptor behaviors, predators, prey and habitats.

Sponsor an Audubon raptor event for your library, school or community event. Learn more at asri.org/learn.



Sponsorships make wonderful gifts for nature enthusiasts.



Send a Kid to **AUDUBON SUMMER CAMP**

How did you spend your playtime as a child?

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

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

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

Please donate TODAY. Summer is right around the corner.



The Signs They Are A-Changin’

*Audubon Nature Center
and Aquarium Greet
Visitors with New Signage
and Banners*

While the staff at the Nature Center and Aquarium always has a welcoming smile for visitors, the old signage at the entrance to the Center seemed a little worn and tired. Visitors are now welcomed with bright blue banners and signs, with friendly images of turtles, fish, hawks, and butterflies. The new signage is more descriptive of what the Center has to offer and more likely to catch the attention of motorists as they pass. We believe it better reflects the diverse habitats, wildlife and nature programs that the Nature Center offers, as well as the warm and friendly experience you will discover just down the driveway.



Send a Kid to Camp

All Kids Should Go To Summer Camp

Help us send 100 Kids to Audubon Nature Camp this summer. It's an experience that makes a summer special.

By your generous donation of \$260, you can send one child to Audubon Nature Day Camp for one week this summer.

Summer is almost here! Donate to the Audubon Summer Camp Scholarship Fund and make a difference in a child's life.

I am going to help send a Kid to Summer Camp

Please accept my donation of for camp scholarships

___ \$520 (2 children) ___ \$260 ___ \$130 ___ \$65 ___ \$32.50 ___ Other \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP _____

Please make check payable to: Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Mail to: Audubon Scholarships, 12 Sanderson Rd. Smithfield, RI 02917
Donate right away by going to www.asri.org and donate online

☐ Please charge my credit card

Card Number _____

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Audubon Educators Tracey Hall (left) and Sharon Riley introduce a Barred Owl to the public at a summer program in Burnside Park, Providence.

other tidepool animals in the Nature Center aquarium are sometimes used in programs as well. There are also has a number of other raptors, snakes and turtles that are cared for at other Audubon locations across the state.

“The turtles have such interesting adaptations and have a lot of personality. Kids really like turtles,” Parmelee said. “They’re hardy creatures, they don’t get stressed, so they’re popular at our summer programs. We even have turtle races at summer camp.”

For some people, the snakes take a little getting used to, but they are gentle animals and easy to transport, so they are used often in classroom programs. Some audiences are squeamish with the cockroaches, too, but they are helpful in comparing vertebrates and invertebrates.

All Audubon raptor ambassadors are housed in secure locations on various Audubon properties to provide a safe, low stress environment. With the exception of the two Red-tailed Hawks at the Nature Center, none of the animals are on permanent exhibit for visitors to see. That’s a requirement of the permits Audubon must hold to legally possess the animals. According to Anne DiMonti, director of the Nature Center, a federal permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows Audubon to possess birds for educational purposes under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The federal permit must be obtained in conjunction with state permits that allow injured animals that cannot be released to be permanently cared for by Audubon.

DiMonti explained that if an animal is on exhibit, its appearance in educational programs must be limited as the combination can be too stressful. Finn and Atlanta, the two Red-tailed Hawks on display behind the Nature Center, are seldom used in public programs.

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Introducing Lucy and Penny

The newest additions to Audubon’s animal ambassadors are a young Common Raven named Lucy, who was found on the ground last summer at a major road intersection in Connecticut, and an Eastern Screech-Owl named Penny whose feathers are the color of her namesake coin.

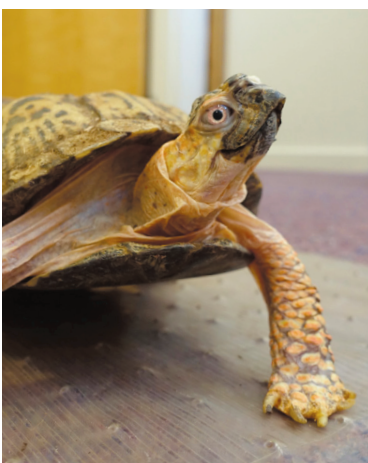


Less than a year old, Lucy has a wing injury, probably from an impact with a vehicle or structure, and can no longer sustain flight. But she is otherwise healthy and has already made a big impression on her cage-mate Zach. Ravens are highly social animals, so Audubon was hoping to find a second raven to provide company for Zach, although the staff was uncertain if they would get along. They needn’t have worried.

“As soon as we let Lucy in, Zach was so happy. He fell in love on sight. It was amazing,” said Parmelee. “Zach is now the happiest raven in the state. They do all sorts of interesting flirtations – he makes a lot of soft noises to her, and she always wants to perch right next to him. It’s a raven love story with a happy ending.”

Penny also has a wing injury and is being evaluated for a possible vision problem as well. She is getting acclimated to people and the sounds they make by regularly visiting with Audubon staff. Just six inches tall, Penny will be less intimidating to audiences of young children than the much larger Barred and Great Horned Owls, and she will be a useful counterpoint to illustrate the differences between owls of varying sizes.

By summer, Lucy and Penny will have been trained to perch on an educator’s glove and be available for public programs; they will not be on permanent exhibit. “The audience for their first programs will be carefully selected so the birds will know they’re in a safe situation,” Parmelee said.



Raptors aren’t the only animal ambassadors that Audubon uses in education programs. Turtles, snakes, and even hissing cockroaches all have an important role in educating the public about the environment.



Thank You for Your Support!

Audubon is deeply grateful for the generous donors who make it possible for us to protect natural places, educate thousands of children each year about the environment, and provide a voice for nature at the Statehouse. Each issue of the Report will contain profiles of supporters who make it possible. We hope to share their stories, experiences and reasons for supporting Audubon. Like you, they care deeply about the environment and make our work possible. Together we can make a difference.



Connie and John Jacobucci

Protecting birds, other animals and their habitats is a priority for Connie and John Jacobucci. Their own backyard is a testament to this passion, containing a myriad of birdhouses and feeders to keep their avian friends well fed and protected. They also care for a variety of domestic animals that they have rescued over the years. Strong supporters of Audubon and members since 2012, the couple have a philanthropic mindset and are passionate about strengthening the Rhode Island community.

They are both familiar faces at many Audubon events. In fact, it was the annual Party for the Peregrines that drew them to the organization. “We were new to the area and saw something about a party,” explained Connie. “It had to do with critters of sorts, so I thought win-win. We came to the event for a good time, now it’s turning into a long time.”

They continue to actively support Audubon through participation at other events such as Raptor Weekend, Leadership Luncheons, birding programs and more. “My experience with the Society staff has been my main reason for continuing to support Audubon,” explained Connie. “They are hard working, plus the attempts they make to keep me informed on the progress being made due to my donations is appreciated. So, bottom line, we went looking for a good time and found one, plus good people. Again, win-win.” And it is reciprocated. Audubon staff members are quick to point out that the Jacobuccis not only show true passion and caring for birds and wildlife, but they are always a pleasure to work with.

Connie and John are both determined to make a difference in their community, and Audubon is fortunate to have such active and committed supporters.



Mary Speare

Not many can trace their ancestors in Rhode Island back to the 17th century. Mary Speare is an exception. In fact, her family tree indicates one of her ancestors had received a land deed from Roger Williams in 1638.

However, she did not grow up in the Ocean State and still considers herself more of a transplant. She moved to Rhode Island in 1969 after graduate school at the University of Michigan when her husband took a job teaching at Brown University. She explains that “He had New England roots, but I knew nothing of any family history here. I grew up in Queens, New York knowing of Philadelphia and northern Indiana family. Only after we moved to Rhode Island did my father mention an ancestor who somehow had been in Salem, MA and RI.”

Mary has been an active member of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island for over 30 years. She has been a familiar face on the Caratunk trails and at various Audubon events including nature programs, Party for the Peregrines and Leadership Luncheons.

She explained that her grandfather had taught her mother that everyone has an obligation to do things for the betterment of the community. He felt this was essential to being a good person. This lesson has clearly passed through the generations. Mary’s three decades of dedication, support and concern for the environment have helped Audubon grow its mission of environmental conservation, education and advocacy in so many ways.

A lot has changed in Rhode Island since 1638, but the Ocean State still holds some of the most beautiful natural landscapes in New England. Mary has been actively supporting the conservation of habitat and wildlife in the state for over thirty years, protecting nature and keeping the wild places that her ancestors once knew.

Learn how your support makes a difference by contacting Jeff Hall at (401)949-5454 ext 3017 or email jhall@asri.org.

SQUIRRELS!



The Eastern Gray Squirrel, Red Squirrel and Southern Flying Squirrel are native to Rhode Island.

Agile and daring – squirrels leap from branch to branch, scale tall trees, walk across wires, chase each other and stretch out on branches in the sun. These fascinating critters have frequently been called animal acrobats, and it is easy to see why!



Eastern Gray Squirrels are easy to watch in your backyard, a nearby park or at an Audubon wildlife refuge. These common, bushy-tailed mammals have fascinating behaviors and make a variety of vocalizations.

Sit quietly and watch them go about their daily routine. Can you tell individual squirrels apart? Gray squirrels vary in color with some being more brown or red than others. Some are even black! Look for differences in tail and ear shapes as well as color. If a squirrel is flicking its tail and making an insistent “kuk, kuk” sound, look around for predators such as Red-tailed Hawks, foxes or house cats.

Gray squirrels eat nuts, seeds, buds of berries, flowers and bark. In the fall they gather and bury nuts, like acorns and hazelnuts, so they have food during the winter. Since they bury more nuts than they dig up to eat, they help plant trees! How do they know where they buried their stash? They use their excellent sense of smell.

If you see a big, round, bunch of leaves tucked high up in a tree, it is probably a squirrel’s summer nest or drey. Both male and female squirrels build these temporary nests by weaving branches together and lining them with grasses, moss, leaves or pine needles. In the winter and when having young, squirrels move to tree hollows for dens.



Southern Flying Squirrels (left) are nocturnal, so while they are the smallest squirrels in Rhode Island, they have large, protruding eyes to help them see in the dark. Flying squirrels don’t actual fly, but glide from tree to tree by stretching out the loose flap of skin that runs from their front legs to the back and they steer with their tail. While they are relatively common, they are rarely seen except by folks who find them living in their attic.

Red Squirrels (right) prefer to live in conifer or mixed conifer-hardwood forests. They love to eat pine tree seeds, so look for little piles of stripped cones and nutshells on stumps and logs. They are reddish-brown to copper in color, with ear tufts and they are NOISY. Don’t be surprised if you hear them chattering away, before you actually see them up in the tree.



Peter Green

AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

March – May 2019 For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org

BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

WINTER VAN TRIP TO CAPE ANN, MA

Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; March 3, 2019; 7:00 am-5:00 pm.

OWLING VAN TRIP

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; March 8, 2019; 4:00-8:00 pm.

AMERICAN WOODCOCKS

Observe the enchanting mating flights of the American Woodcock.

- WOODCOCK WALK & WINE

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA;
March 31, 2019; 5:30-8:00 pm.

- WATCHING WOODCOCKS: SUPPER AND SAUNTER

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI;
April 5, 2019; 6:00-9:00 pm.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS - FIVE SESSIONS

This five-week class provides a basic understanding of bird biology as well as visual and aural identification techniques.

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI;
April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 25, 2019; 9:00-11:00 am.

SPRING WARBLER WORKSHOP

Enjoy a warbler identification workshop with a visit to Rome Point.

- Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI;
May 2, 2019; 6:30-7:30 pm.

- Rome Point, John H. Chaffee Nature Preserve, North Kingstown, RI;
May 4, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.

Fee: \$30/member; \$40/non-member. Ages: 16+.

WARBLERS AT MOUNT AUBURN - VAN TRIP

This cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts is known for a wide variety of spring migrants.

Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; May 12, 2019; 6:30 am-4:30 pm.

SPRING BIRDING VAN TRIP

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; May 12, 2019; 8:30 am-4:00 pm.

MONHEGAN ISLAND BIRDING TRIP

Monhegan Island, Maine; May 17-20, 2019.

BLUEBIRD WALK

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA;
May 26, 2019; 9:00-11:00 am.

BIRD BANDING

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI;
May 18, 2019; 9:30-11:30 am.



FREE MAY BIRDING WALKS

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

SUNDAYS

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA
May 5, 19, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.

MONDAYS

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI
May 6, 13, 20, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am. (No walk on Memorial Day, May 27.)

TUESDAYS

- Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge, 2820 Victory Highway, Coventry, RI
May 7, 21, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.

- Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA
May 14, 28, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.

WEDNESDAYS*

Locations determined weekly, please visit the Audubon website or Facebook page for details, no registration necessary.

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2019; 9:00-11:00 am.

* Free Wednesday Morning Bird Walks will continue through June 2019.

THURSDAYS

- Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingston, RI
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.

- Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge, Touisset Road, Warren, RI
May 2, 16, 30, 2019; 9:30 am-12:00 pm.

- Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, Seapowet Avenue, Tiverton, RI
May 9, 23, 2019; 9:30 am-12:00 pm.

FRIDAYS

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI
April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019; 8:30-10:30 am.



Register Now!

MONHEGAN ISLAND BIRDING TRIP

May 17 – 20, 2019

This island off the coast of Maine is one of the premiere destinations for spring migration in the Northeast. The seaside cliffs, unspoiled forests, and quaint fishing village provide the setting for an amazing birding experience.

Visit the events calendar at www.asri.org for details.

AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

IMPROV COMEDY NIGHT WITH THE BIT PLAYERS

March 7, 2019; 6:30- 8:00 pm.

SECRETS OF THE BLOSSOM: POISON, MEDICINE, ART; PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT BY JASON HACK, MD

March 10 – April 30, 2019; 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

AUTHOR MEET AND GREET; RAPTORS: PORTRAITS OF BIRDS OF PREY BY AUTHOR TRAER SCOTT

March 21, 2019; 7:00-8:00 pm.

RAPTOR PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP WITH PETER GREEN OF PROVIDENCE RAPTORS

March 30, 2019; 12:00-2:00 pm.

SEA GLASS JEWELRY

Two Dates Offered; April 6, May 11, 2019; 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

SOIL TESTING

April 6, 2019; 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS - FIVE SESSIONS

April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 25, 2019; 9:00-11:00 am.

AUTHOR MEET AND GREET; EATING WITH THE ECOSYSTEM BY KATE MASURY

April 25, 2019; 7:00-8:00 pm.

PAINT & SIP

May 4, 2019; 6:30-8:30 pm.

APPRECIATING OUR ECOSYSTEM; ART EXHIBIT BY MARA SFARA

May 5 – June 30, 2019; 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

BIRD BANDING

May 18, 2019; 9:30-11:30 am.

CUT PAPER ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

May 18, 2019; 1:00-3:00 pm.

"DON'T DUMP, DONATE!"

E-Waste and Recycling Event

May 31 – June 14, 2019; 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

FAMILY PROGRAMS & CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

CITIZENS BANK FREE FAMILY FUN DAYS

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

March 2, 2019: Radical Reptiles

April 6, 2019: Flowers and Soil

May 4, 2019: Migratory Birds

JUNIOR NATURALISTS FOR HOME-SCHOOLED FAMILIES

March 20, 2019, 1:00-2:30 pm: Animal Tracks & Signs

April 24, 2019, 1:00-2:30 pm: Nature & Native Americans

May 22, 2019, 1:00-2:30 pm: Insect ID

LI'L PEEPS

March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 2019; 9:45-10:45 am.

AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 13, 2019; 9:30-11:00 am.

APRIL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

April 15 – 19, 2019; 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Monday 15, 2019: Welcome Spring!

Tuesday 16, 2019: Buzzing Bees

Wednesday 17, 2019: Bird Beaks

Thursday 18, 2019: Earth Day Celebration

Friday 19, 2019: Forest & Fairies

PRESCHOOL ADVENTURES

April 23, 30, May 7, May 14, 2019; 10:00-11:00 am.

MEMORIAL DAY NATURE ACTIVITIES

May 27, 2019; 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

Meet Finn & Atlanta!



POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

AUDUBON OSPREY MONITOR TRAINING

March 3, 2018; 1:00-3:00 pm.

COMPOSTING 101 WORKSHOP

March 6, 2019; 7:00-8:30 pm.

FULL MOON TRIVIA

Calling all nature nerds! Audubon is offering its own version of Pub Trivia.
March 20, 2019; 7:00-9:00 pm.

PYSANKY WORKSHOP

March 30, 2019; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

WATCHING WOODCOCKS: SUPPER AND SAUNTER

April 5, 2019; 6:00-9:00 pm.

AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 13, 2019; 9:30-11:00 am.

NATURE DRAWING SERIES

May 2, 9, 16, 2019; 6:30-8:00 pm.

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK PROGRAMS

- Two Toad Tales; April 16, 2019; 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- Meet the Amphibians; April 16, 2019; 2:00-3:30 pm
- Fred's TV (Story & Making Birdfeeders); April 17, 2019; 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- City Hawk: the Story of Pale Male; April 17, 2019; 2:00-3:30 pm
- Owl Babies; April 18, 2019; 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- Owls of New England; April 18, 2019; 2:00-3:30 pm
- Pond Exploration; April 19, 2019; 11:00 am-12:30 pm
- Nature Sketchbooks with Live Animal; April 19, 2019; 2:00-3:30 pm



GUIDED NATURE WALKS

ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS

Lathrop Wildlife Refuge, Route 1A, Westerly, RI;
March 14, 2019; 9:30 am-12:00 pm.

EPPLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE SPRING HIKE

Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingston, RI;
April 25, 2019; 9:30 am-12:00 pm.



AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 13, 2019; 9:30-11:00 am

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

FOUR LOCATIONS

- Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
- Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA
- Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI
- Powder Mill Ledges, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI



FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE

99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

FREE BIRDING WALKS IN MAY

April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019; 8:30-10:30 am.

AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 13, 2019; 9:30-11:00 am.

SPRING WARBLER WORKSHOP

Programs at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge and Rome Point
May 2, 2019; 6:30-7:30 pm and May 4, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.



SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

April 15-19, 2019

Become a nature explorer! Explore local habitats and get up close with cool critters!
Visit www.asri.org for details.

FOUR LOCATIONS

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



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

SNOWSHOE SUNDAY AT CARATUNK

March 3, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.

MAPLE SUGARING & BREAKFAST

March 16, 2019; 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

MUSHROOM ID CLASS

March 24, 2019; 1:00-3:00 pm.

TURTLE MONDAY

March 25, 2019; 1:00-3:00 pm.

WOODCOCK WALK & WINE

March 31, 2019; 5:30-8:00 pm.

AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 13, 2019; 9:30 - 11:00 am.

COTTONTAIL SCAVENGER HUNT

April 16, 2019; 1:00-3:00 pm.

AIR PLANT LOG: MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP

April 28, 2019; 1:00-3:00 pm.

FREE BIRDING WALKS IN MAY

May 5, 14, 19, 28, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.

MOTHER'S DAY HIKE - BLUEBIRDS AND PURPLE MARTINS OF CARATUNK

May 12, 2019; 1:00-2:30 pm.

TURTLES & SALAMANDERS OF CARATUNK

May 19, 2019; 1:00-3:00 pm.

BLUEBIRD WALK

May 26, 2019; 9:00-11:00 am.



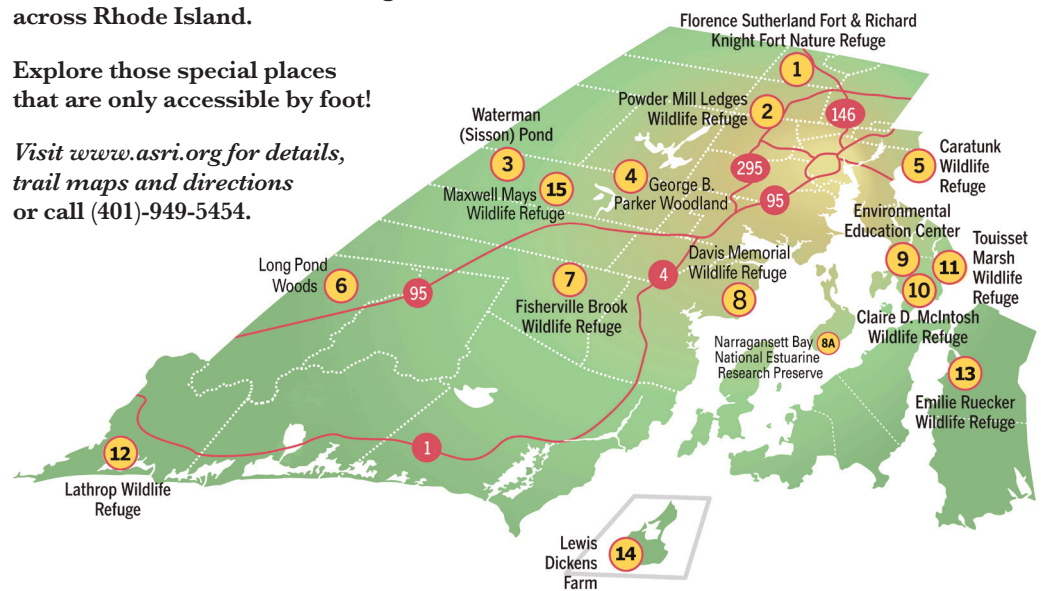
YOURS TO DISCOVER!

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGES

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

Explore those special places
that are only accessible by foot!

Visit www.asri.org 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 **Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge**
Seapowet Avenue, Tiverton, RI
- 12 **Lathrop Wildlife Refuge**
Route 1A, Westerly, RI
- 13 **Lewis-Dickens Farm**
Cooneymus Road, Block Island, RI
- 15 **Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge**
2082 Victory Highway (Rte 102), Coventry, RI

PRUDENCE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine
Research Reserve, Prudence Island, RI

SEAL TOUR OF PRUDENCE ISLAND

March 7, 2019; 1:30-6:30 pm.

WINTER WILDLIFE ON PRUDENCE ISLAND

March 9, 2019; 9:45 am-4:45 pm.

EXPLORE PRUDENCE ISLAND

April 4, 2019; 1:30-6:30 pm.

KIDS EXPLORE PRUDENCE ISLAND!

April 18, 2019; 1:30-6:30 pm

SPRING BIRDING ON PRUDENCE ISLAND

May 16, 2019; 7:30 am-3:00 pm.

AUDUBON MAPLE SUGARING & BREAKFAST

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
301 Brown Avenue
Seekonk, MA

March 16, 2019; 9:00 am-12:00 pm



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

2018 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the following photographers whose images were selected as the winning photographs.

Audubon is grateful for the photographers who submitted such a wide range of wonderful images. We would like to thank the following photo contest judges: Bob Breidenbach, Kris Craig, Glenn Osmundson, all professional photographers with experience at *The Providence Journal*.

1st Place: JEROME MONTVILO

Tree Swallow with a Meal



2nd Place: BUTCH LOMBARDI

Water Droplets



3rd Place: ELLIOT WATERMAN

Grasshopper at Mays



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Visit www.asri.org for a closer look at these winning photos!



BUTCH LOMBARDI

Osprey Silhouette



SUSAN WATERMAN

Widow Skimmer Dragonfly



JENNIFER ZARTARIAN

Tree Swallow

Be part of the climate
change solution.

Webinar



Ways to Reduce your Carbon Footprint

Tuesday, March 12
12 pm and 6:30 pm

Join Green Energy Consumers, formerly known as People's Power & Light, to learn how you can combat climate change and reduce your carbon footprint, to the benefit of wildlife, your community, and the world at large!

Learn more and register at:
<https://reduceyourcarbonfootprint.eventbrite.com>



Spring into Energy

A Clean Energy Forum

Saturday, March 23
Audubon Nature Center in Bristol, RI
10 am – 4 pm

To celebrate our partnership, Green Energy Consumers and the Audubon RI will be co-hosting an energy and environmental fair. Come learn about all of your energy options at home. Energy experts will answer all of your questions about renewable energy incentives, electric transportation, efficiency, and more!

Event includes:

- Exhibitors • Workshops
- Electric Vehicle Ride & Drive

Event is free and open to the public. A \$5 donation requested for admission. Walk-ins throughout the event are welcome!

Learn more at:
<https://springintoenergy.eventbrite.com>



Member Update by Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy

Climate Change in the Ocean State

The four issues of the 2017 Audubon Report focused on climate change. From the impacts on birds to salt marshes and renewable energy, Audubon covered key environmental issues in Rhode Island. To keep the conversation going on climate change, future issues of the Report will include policy news and other updates on this critical issue.

International and National Reports on Climate Change

In late 2018, two major reports were issued that confirm the urgency of the climate crisis. In October, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its special report on global warming of 1.5 degrees C and on the day after Thanksgiving, the National Climate Assessment, backed by 13 federal agencies, was quietly issued by the Trump administration. These reports reiterate once again the gravity of the climate crisis we face. Climate change is here and is an intensifying danger to the United States and the entire world. It reminds us here in the Ocean State of the urgency of our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fund projects that enhance the resiliency of our communities.

Assessment of climate response in Rhode Island:

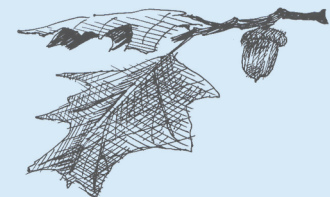
The Coalition for a Cooler Rhode Island (CACRI) completed an assessment of Rhode Island's implementation of the Resilient Rhode Island Act. The report finds that the state has not accomplished what was required by the Act and argues that much more urgency must be given to climate response. Here is a link to the report:

<http://livableri.org> (click on blog)

Information on the state's climate change work can be found here:
<http://climatechange.ri.gov>



RHODE ISLAND LAND & WATER CONSERVATION SUMMIT



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
University of RI Memorial Union, Kingston, RI

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
- Blue State Coffee LLC
- Botanical Center Conservancy
- Citizens Bank
- Dassault Systemes
- Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Inc.
- Harbor Bath and Body, LLC
- Lyons & Zaremba, Inc.
- MetLife Auto & Home
- The Mint Gallery
- Mott & Chace Sotheby's International Realty
- New England Dispatch Agency
- Partridge, Snow & Hahn
- Pawtucket Red Sox
- People's Power and Light
- 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: Mary & Dave Dacquino

From: Stephen Osendorff

In Honor of: Nora Ricci Drago

From: Carol Ricci

In Honor of: Rosalyn Frances

From: Shannon Hayes

In Honor of: Christina & Alejandro Gruppuso

From: Martha Manno

In Honor of: Martin Metzger

From: Brian Metzger

In Honor of: Kirin O'Brien's birthday

From: Jessica and Glen Quinette

In Honor of: Nora Drago Ricci

From: Carol Ricci

In Honor of: David T. Riedel, Esq.

From: The Rhode Island Foundation

In Honor of: Lydia Wnek

From: Max and Nico Morrone

In Honor of: Eli Schwartz & MacKenzie Brigham's Wedding

From: Ryan Bailey

Kraig and Sharon Brigham

Susan Duke

Cynthia Gordiner

Virginia and Chip Johannessen

Lisa Lennox

Ann Raetz

Helen and Ron Raetz

William Raetz

Virginia Stock

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: Rose E. Campisani

From: Susan Decrosta

In Memory of: Adelaide E. Comegys

From: Murray and Judith Danforth

Daniel and Mary Huntoon

Harriet Johnson

Diane Ward

Robert and Nancy Whitcomb

In Memory of: Carolyn B. Cummings

From: Donna Case

In Memory of: Jack Doherty

From: Peggy & Michael Alexander

In Memory of: Dan Elkins

From: Karen Elkins

In Memory of: Michael Hadala

From: Wendy Braga

In Memory of: Mildred Harrop

From: Patricia Dumin

In Memory of: Al Hawkes

From: Margaret T. Stone

In Memory of: John Hawthorne

From: Nicole Rodriguez

In Memory of: Gerald F. Helfrich

From: Lende McMullen

In Memory of: Richard Laramée

From: Jacqueline Paulbus

In Memory of: Elaine Marszalkowski

From: Sharon Giacobbi

Al and Michele Norman

Karen Sadowski

Zachery Yontz

In Memory of: Thomas J. Mulvey, III

From: Rhody Oldies Hockey

In Memory of: Silvia Sylvia

From: New England Raider Boosters

In Memory of: William Vican

From: Thalia Pascualdes

In Memory of: Joseph A. Voccio

From: Mary E. Costello

Lelia Palmieri Honored as Audubon Partner in Philanthropy

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island honored Lelia Palmieri as this year's Partner in Philanthropy. A breakfast hosted by the AFPRI (Association of Fundraising Professionals Rhode Island Chapter) was held in November 2018 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet to honor philanthropists from across the State.

Lelia Palmieri was honored for her contributions to the new rose-pollinator garden at Audubon's Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol. She was joined by other philanthropists who were also recognized for their contributions to making Rhode Island a better place to live and work.



Front row from left: Cynthia Warren, chairperson of the Board of Directors; Terry Meyer, board member; Sharon Cresci, donor relations manager for Audubon; Lelia Palmieri holding her award; Anne Dimonti, director of the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium; Lawrence Taft, executive director of Audubon. Back row from left: John Murphy, Esq.; Jeff Hall, Audubon's Senior Director of Advancement; John Gwynne; and Nick Califano, board member.

AUDUBON BIRTHDAY PARTIES

GO WILD!

For more information, visit
www.audubonbirthdayparties.com



HUGE Osprey Sighted on Rhode Island Roadways

It's hard to miss! The new Audubon van now displays amazing graphics of Osprey with an enthusiastic birder with binoculars on the back. It's a great way to spread the word about Audubon birding trips and nature tours. Who wouldn't want to climb aboard?

Editor's note: The Fall 2018 issue of the Report listed generous donors who contributed to the purchase of the new van. Unfortunately, some names were cut off the list. We would like to acknowledge the following donors for their contributions to the van.

- Allison and Charles Barrett
- R. Keith Blackwell
- Catherine Boisseau
- Christopher Born
- Lizabeth and Patricia Bourret



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

Rhode Island Birding Trails Over 60 Places to Watch Birds in the Ocean State

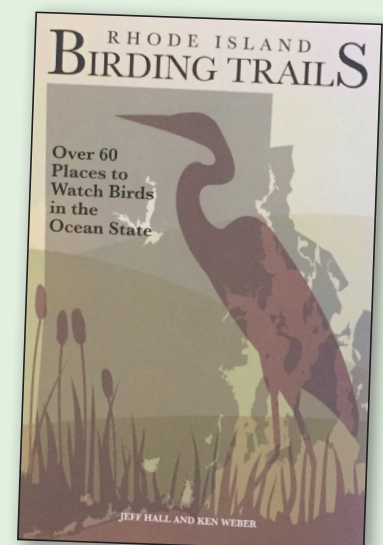
Published by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

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

Find out where the birders ... bird!

Order Now \$14.95

Order your copy at ribirdingtrails.com
or purchase at the Audubon Nature Shops in Bristol and Smithfield



**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



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

Visit www.asri.org and click
on the services link.

A Gift Worth CELEBRATING

In Lieu of Wedding Gifts, Couple Chose to Support Audubon

Bird and nature enthusiasts MacKenzie Brigham and Eli Schwartz were recently married in November, 2018. Instead of a registry that listed suggested gifts for themselves, the engaged couple generously decided to give back to nature.

The two Providence residents asked friends and family to donate to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on their behalf. They are frequent visitors to Audubon wildlife refuges across the state and wished to give back to the places they so enjoy.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island received over \$10,000 in honor of MacKenzie and Eli. Audubon thanks them for their thoughtful and generous gift and extends warm congratulations to the couple.



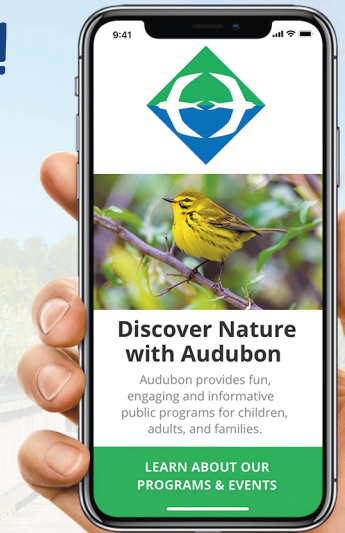
Learn how you can direct a gift to Audubon by contacting Jeff Hall at (401)949-5454 ext 3017 or email jhall@asri.org.

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 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.

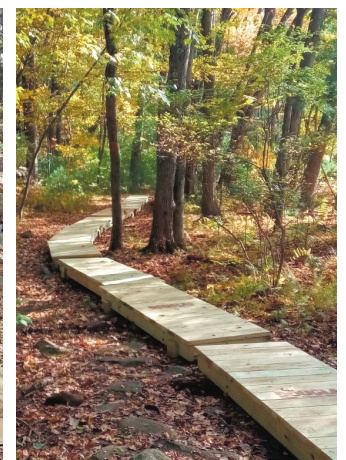
In recognition of their philanthropic charity, members of the 1897 Society enjoy a variety of exclusive benefits, including invitations to member-only events and special communications.



Eagle Scout Project Results in Portable Boardwalks at Powder Mill Ledges

Eagle Scout Zack Vanderhoff and his fellow scouts of Troop 6 Cranston put in hours of thoughtful planning and hard work on a new boardwalk project at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge in Smithfield. Working with Refuge Manager Kim Calcagno, Zack and his team designed, assembled and installed adjustable boardwalks – with wooden shoes and shims that will be tremendously helpful for any needed adjustments to the boardwalks over time. The project was installed on October 21, 2018 and Zach received valuable donations from Douglas Lumber as well as Home Depot stores in Smithfield, Johnston, Providence, and West Warwick.

Audubon extends a huge thank you to Eagle Scout Zack Vanderhoff and other members of Troop 6 Cranston for these well-planned and executed boardwalks.



From left to right, Chris Pires, Zachary Vanderhoff, Robert Gately, Daniel Evers, Jonas Kendra, and Alex Lemos.

2018 Donors and Supporters

Contributors to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island provide vital funding to the organization’s operations. We are pleased to acknowledge the following for their support.

The 1897 Society honors those donors who annually give \$1,000 or more.

Visionary (\$10,000 +)

Anonymous
AEC Trust
The Howard Bayne Fund
Karen Boulanger* *HLC IA*
Nathan and Mary Chace *IA*
Louis A. Corvese *IA*
Carolyn B. D. Cumming* *HLC IA*
Heidi Farmer
George and Joan Gardiner *HLC IA*
Eric Harrah* *HLC IA*
Constance and John Jacobucci
Terry Meyer *HLC*
National Grid Foundation
The Vivian J. Palmieri Charitable Trust
Cynthia B. Patterson *IA*
The Rhode Island Foundation
June Rockwell Levy Foundation, Inc.
Sharpe Family Foundation *IA*

Conservator (\$5,000 +)

Anonymous
H.T. Ewald Foundation
The Brown-Hamburg Charitable Fund
Nick and Julia Califano Gift Fund *IA*
Citizens Bank
Mary Ann Cofrin and Tim Pafik
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Hallowell, Jr. *HLC IA*
Donald Heitzmann *HLC IA*
A. Lloyd and Barbara Lagerquist*
Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Lisle Donor
Advised Fund
National Wildlife Federation
Edward Pitoniak and Kate Barber
Cynthia J. Warren *IA*
Hugh Willoughby

Advocate (\$2,500 +)

Mr. and Mrs. Dickson G. Boenning *IA*
Botanical Center Conservancy
Dassault Systemes
Stanley and Florence Gairloch*
John Gwynne, Jr.
Owen Heleen *IA*
David & Betsey Kilmartin Charitable
Foundation, Inc.
The Kresge Foundation
Maria Masse
Dr. Lory Snady McCoy and Dr. Charles
E. McCoy
MetLife Auto & Home
Elizabeth Paquette and Jacqueline
Proulx
People’s Power and Light
The Providence Journal Summertime
Fund at the RIF
Adoniram Sides and Kara Zanni
The Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation
Mary C. Speare
Kristine and Everett Stuart *HLC*
Maija Lutz and Peter Tassia
Andrew Thompson
Timothy and Patricia Tuff
United Natural Foods, Inc.

Leader (\$1,000 +)

Anonymous - 6 Donors
The A.M. Fund
American Online Giving Foundation Inc.
Allison and Charles Barrett
Robert and Mitzi Berkelhammer *IA*
R. Keith Blackwell *HLC*
Blue State Coffee LLC
Bluestone Foundation
Christopher Born
The Boston Foundation
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The Champlin Foundations
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Meghan Frost
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Charles and Eleanor Greenhalgh
Donna and Paul Gricus
David and Mary Gumbley
Haffenreffer Family Fund
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Sona Kalfaian-Ahlijian* *HLC*
A. Max Kohlenberg, Esq. and Rebecca
Minard *HLC*
George and Janis Kortyna *HLC*
The Lenehan Gift Fund
Linda Mathewson
Karin McCormick
Esselton and Tantha McNulty
Kathy Melbourne and Lisa Close
Deborah J. Mongeau
Clarke and Betsy Moody
Mott & Chace Sotheby’s International
Realty
Ardashes Nahabedian
O’Hanian-Szostak Family Foundation
Robert and Jill Parker
Partridge, Snow & Hahn
Stanley Pelli and Ann-Christine Duhaime
Deborah Pines
Neta Taylor-Post
Reynolds Charitable Fund
Dr. Beverly S. Ridgely* *HLC*
The Daniel Rosenblatt Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sornborger *HLC*
Louis D. Sorrentino Fund
Linda A. Steere and Edward R.
DiLuglio Fund
Lawrence and Mary Louise Taft
Scott C. Tsarakis
Michael Viveiros and Suzanne Dunkl
David and Ellen Wagner
Kimberly and Jeffrey Westcott
Whole Foods Market
Margaret H. Williamson Fund*

\$500 +

Anonymous
Ashaway Line & Twine Mfg. Co.
Barrett Family Charitable Fund *IA*
Charles and Sophia Bauer
Oliver and Martha Bennett
Jeffrey Blease
Deborah Boedeker and Kurt Raaflaub
Raymond J. and Brenda B. Bolster
Community Fund
Douglas and Wendy Brennen *IA*
Abigail Brooks and Nick Long *IA*
Greta P. Brown
Nicholas and Julia Califano
Christian and Lauren Capizzo
Charles and Eilish Clarkson
Clarkson Family Fund
Velma Clinton
Donna Conroy
Dr. and Mrs. Joel A. Dain
Judy and Kim Davis
Louise Durfee
The Feit Family
Sarah Fogarty
Michael and Susan Fox
Patricia Fuller and Thomas Oakes
Andrew Geoghegan
Jonathan K. Gewirz
Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Inc
Peter Hochschild
Claudia and Len IAnnucciilli
The Jacqueline Shoback & Andrew
Bernstein Charitable Fund

Lorell Jones
Edward Levine & Isabella Porter Donor
Advised Fund
Glenn and Ellen MacNaught
Eugenia S. Marks
Ian and Anita Mashiter
Robert and Theresa Mathiesen
Mrs. Phoebe T. Meehan
Rita Nenonen
Richard S. Palmer*
Thomas and Katherine B. Perry Fund
Chris and Candy Powell *HLC*
Maria Prass and Anand Toprani
Peter and Marilyn Quesenberry
Donna-Jean Rainville and Richard
Wilkins *HLC*
David T. and Jennifer F. Riedel
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John and Evelyn Trevor Charitable
Foundation
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The Amazing American Woodcock

It's almost time to head out and search for one of the strangest shorebirds of New England, the American Woodcock. This peculiar little bird evolved to make its home in dense young forests, not along the coast like many other sandpipers that are in the Scolopacidae family of shorebirds. The Woodcock has a mating ritual like no other and its unique aerial display can only be witnessed in early spring.

The American Woodcock has brown, beige and black feathers that help it camouflage with the leaf litter found in dense young forests. Its eyes are set on top of its head so that it can see above, behind, in front and to the sides, great for detecting predators. It has a long 2.5 inch bill with sensitive nerve endings that probes the soil for worms and insects.

Starting in February and early March, Woodcock will start migrating from their wintering grounds in the southern parts of the United States and make their way back to their hatching territory. Here is where the magic begins. Males will find a clearing near the forest called a singing ground. He will defend it from other males by chasing and cackling at them. At dusk and dawn, the male will begin peenting (vocalizing a nasally buzzing sound) from his territorial spot. After peenting for a minute or two, the male will fly up 200 to 300 feet into the air. He then comes spiraling back down to his spot singing a liquid warbling chuck chip chip as he descends. He will resume peenting once on the ground and start the process all over again. The males often display for about a half hour. He will mate with several females, and the females will seek out the male they feel is the best displayer.



The female often nests within 150 yards of the male's displaying area. He plays no role in the nesting or upbringing of the chicks. She makes a small scrape in the ground where she will lay 4 camouflaged eggs. This is one of the many reasons Audubon does not allow dogs on wildlife refuges. Raccoons, skunks and dogs often find and destroy Woodcock eggs.

After approximately 20 days, the eggs hatch and the chicks are precocial, developed enough to leave the nest after just a few hours. The female will lead them around and defend them, but the chicks can feed themselves after just a few days. The chicks are fully grown and flighted in just four weeks. On average a woodcock only lives 1.8 years, but some have been known to live up to 7 years. Habitat loss, migration and hunting are all obstacles they have to contend with.

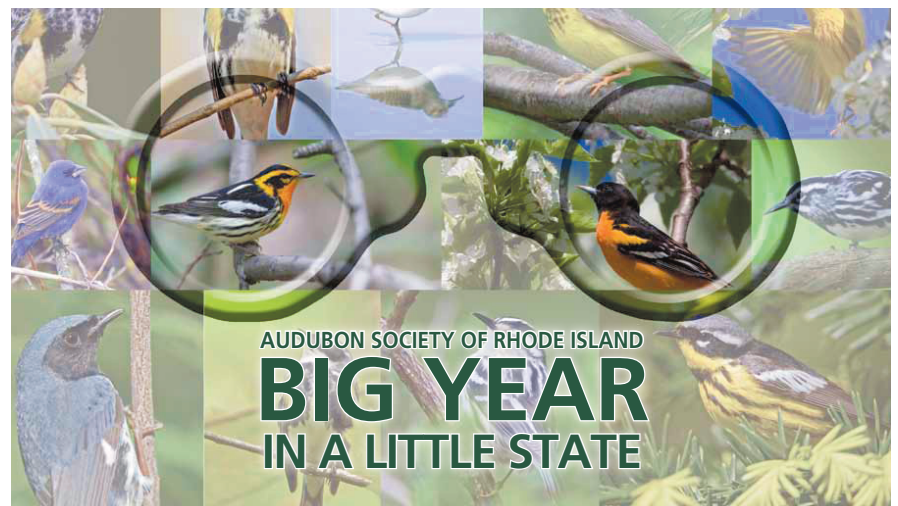
In Rhode Island there are many places you can look for Woodcock displaying. Audubon's Parker Woodland, Newman, and Caratunk Wildlife Refuges as well as Trustom Pond and the Great Swamp are just a few spots you can regularly find them. The birds will start displaying March through May. It's a sight to see. Join us for one of our American Woodcock evening programs.

Woodcock Walk & Wine

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; March 31, 2019; 5:30-8:00 pm. \$18/member; \$20/non-member. Ages: Adult.

Watching Woodcocks: Supper and Saunter

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; April 5, 2019; 6:00-9:00 pm. \$25/member; \$30/non-member. Ages: 9+. Visit the events calendar at www.asri.org for details and to register.



In the spirit of the famous competition, Audubon is hosting
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How Can You Make *Your* Mark On Conservation?

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

Since 1897, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island has been preserving nature throughout Rhode Island with support from donors like you. Over 9,500 acres of land are now forever preserved and protected for birds and wildlife.

Help us save this precious landscape by donating \$95 to adopt one acre of prime wildlife habitat.

Your donation supports trail maintenance, removal of invasive species, and habitat enhancements that provide maximum value to birds and wildlife for their survival. It will also help pay

for annual property monitoring to ensure our refuges are safe from illegal dumping and poaching.

From coastal salt marshes to upland forests, animals require specific habitats. As the climate changes, many species are migrating in search of new homes. These animals, if they're able to relocate, will rely on the diversity of Audubon's protected lands.

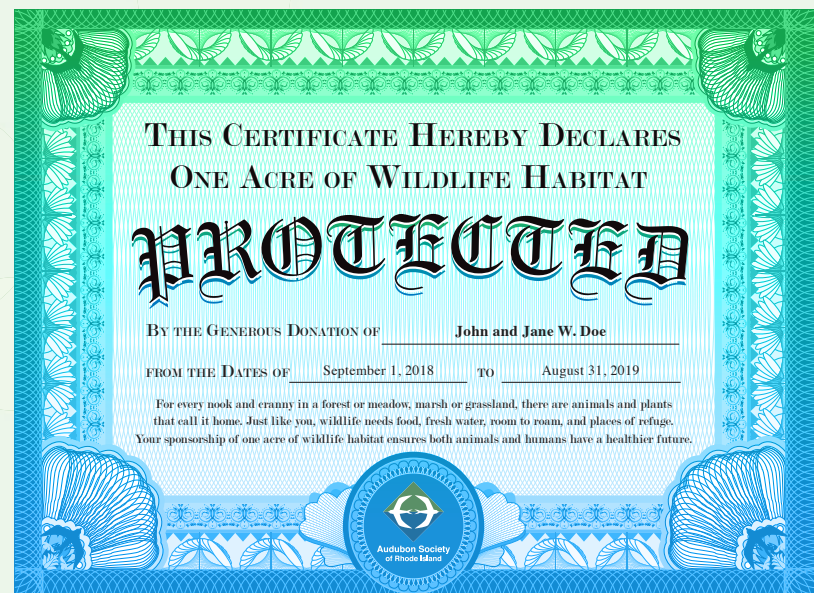
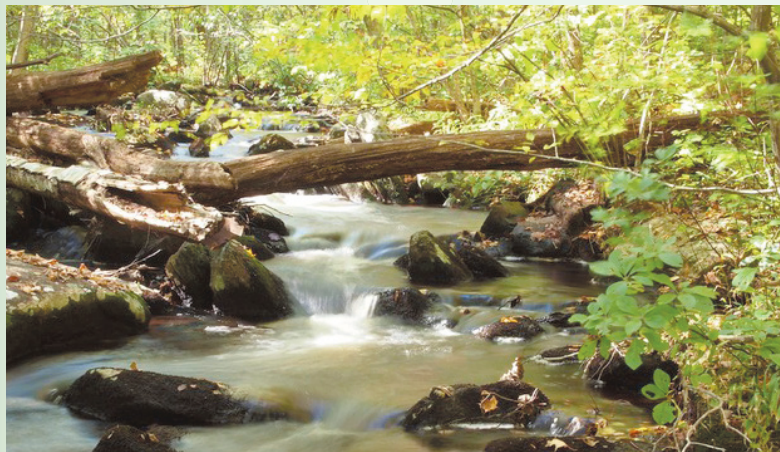
Now you can make your own mark on conservation. Adopt one acre of prime wildlife habitat. Donate for yourself, a family member or a friend. Consider adopting one acre as a thoughtful gift in a loved one's name.

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

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Osprey Monitoring Ramps Up

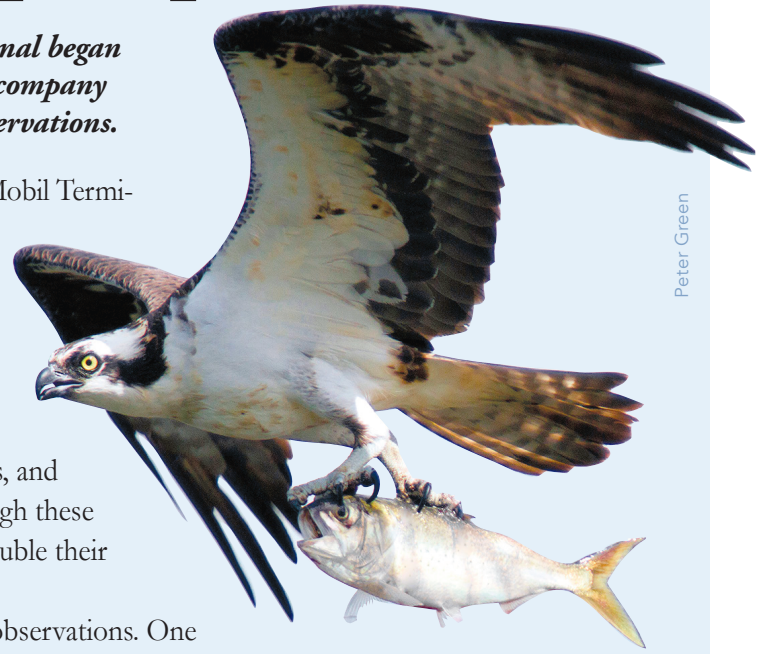
Audubon's monitoring of Ospreys at the East Providence ExxonMobil Terminal began in 2011. Eleana Antonakos, Northeast Field Environmental Advisor for the company submitted the following piece highlighting their team's recent efforts and observations.

Osprey monitoring and protection has been expanding at the 110-year old ExxonMobil Terminal located at 1001 Wampanoag Trail. The facility, situated on the Providence River, is home to one of the most unique and diverse ecosystems in the company's worldwide portfolio. The growing presence of Ospreys – a keystone species – indicates the health of the environment, particularly the local marine ecosystem.

ExxonMobil has been successfully monitoring their active Osprey nests since 2011. In 2018 they ramped up their efforts – they installed predator guards on existing nests to improve nest success rates, asked Audubon to train 10 new monitors, and purchased binoculars and a spotting scope to improve monitoring capabilities. Through these efforts, the Terminal observed four active nests on site and was able to more than double their observations last year.

As part of this ramped-up monitoring, Terminal personnel made several exciting observations. One of their nests held four young Ospreys and they also observed a young pair attempting to build a new nest near an existing one on the Terminal property. Looking ahead, to accommodate this pair, ExxonMobil is planning to install additional nesting platforms on the property. The Terminal also completed refurbishment of some of the existing platforms, installation of perch poles on the nests, and the addition of a predator guard on a fourth nest as a result of last year's observations.

Osprey monitoring is an important component of the East Providence Terminal's overall conservation program, which was recently certified gold by the Wildlife Habitat Council. As part of this program, the Terminal has also established a pollinator garden along the East Bay Bike Path and conducts pollinator monitoring in multiple areas onsite. The Terminal is excited to continue to partner with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to promote the growth and success of Osprey and pollinators in Rhode Island.



Peter Green

Audubon Receives \$500 From ExxonMobil Good Neighbor Grant Program



Justin Carr, ExxonMobil East Providence Terminal Superintendent (left) presents Audubon Caratunk Wildlife Manager Jon Scoones with a check for \$500 at the ExxonMobil terminal in East Providence. Staff at the Terminal have volunteered and worked closely with Audubon in the Osprey Monitoring program since 2011. Scoones manages the program for Audubon.

A photograph of a man and a woman in wedding attire standing in a field of purple flowers. The man is wearing a brown suit and the woman is wearing a white wedding dress. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a lush green field with many purple flowers.

Planning a Celebration?

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

Visit www.asri.org and click on the services link.



Peter Green

Proceeds support Audubon Raptor Care and Education Programs, and thousands of acres of raptor habitat.

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Ambassadors Continued from page 8

Caring for the wide variety of animal ambassadors is a job that few people see, but it's a time-consuming, expensive responsibility that Audubon takes very seriously. It involves a great deal more than just providing food and periodically cleaning cages. There is never a day off with so many animals and the Nature Center in Bristol is just one of the locations where there are animals needing daily care.

The monthly grocery list for the animals includes frozen mice, chicks and quail for the raptors and snakes; vegetables for the turtles; and for the omnivorous – and picky – ravens a menu featuring raw meatballs, chicken gizzards, hard-boiled eggs, dry dog food, cat treats, nuts, vegetables and dried cranberries.

"The ravens are very big on texture," said Riley, whose first responsibility every morning is feeding the demanding ravens. "They like their vegetables mushy and their fruit crisp. It took me a while to figure out what they like and don't like. And they'll let me know when they want something else."

The food for each of the raptors and ravens is weighed every day so the birds are never overfed or underfed. The Red-tailed Hawks receive 90 grams of mice or quail each day around noon, the Barred Owl receives 45 grams of mice or chicks at dusk, and the ravens receive 50 grams of protein supplemented with fruit and vegetables. The adult snakes are fed a mouse or chick every other week, and the turtles, cockroaches and other animals have varied feeding schedules.

But food is just one element of animal care. Cages must be cleaned regularly and occasionally repaired. Every animal has an annual health check-up by a veterinarian, and sometimes daily medications must be administered. Staff and volunteers must also be trained to meet professional standards. In addition, on holidays and other off days, staff must be scheduled to ensure that none of the animals goes hungry.



Webster, Audubon's Great Horned Owl, awaits the veterinarian for a check up at the animal hospital.

The bill for food, vet care and caging for the animal ambassadors in 2018 was more than \$15,000.

"It's a big responsibility, but it's become such an important part of who we are," concluded Parmelee. "In order to get our message across, you have to grab people's attention. Our birds of prey, turtles and snakes do an awesome job of engaging kids and adults and introducing them to the wonders of nature. They encourage people to learn more about the natural world."

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

So, What's the Plan?

Thoughtful Siting of Solar Installations is Critical to Rhode Island's Future.

Editorial by Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy

Rhode Island is experiencing a building boom of a new kind. After a couple of quiet years, Rhode Island's renewable energy enabling laws are now attracting the attention of developers from across the country. Landowners in communities throughout the state are considering solar as a development option for their properties. Large solar projects have been built in Cranston, Richmond, South Kingstown and East Providence, while others are in the planning or construction phase in a number of communities throughout Rhode Island.

This current solar development pressure is similar to Rhode Island's land development booms in the past. From 1970 – 1995, while the state's population remained almost flat, the rates of land development were very high. State policy makers responded to this land use pressure by passing the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988, which established a process for orderly growth. The Act requires cities and towns to use their comprehensive planning process to establish local land use plans. In 2000, Governor Lincoln Almond created the Growth Planning Council by Executive Order to examine development patterns and recommend ways to encourage sustainable growth.

During the 1980s housing development boom, state agencies and non-profit organizations also responded by increasing the protection of undeveloped lands. Audubon has a long history of land protection and conservation, and its leaders and members have long known that the best way to protect land from development is to purchase or place conservation easements on the property. Today, Audubon's conservation staff actively engages in a wide variety of ongoing property management on almost 9,500 acres of wildlife refuges and protected land across the state. This includes habitat management, refuge protection, property monitoring and trail maintenance. Audubon's work is part of a successful state-wide network of land protection. This network has preserved more than 20% of the state as open space for recreation or for agricultural use.

As we face this new development boom, Audubon is working hard on state policy solutions to protect forest lands and other critical habitat for birds and wildlife. For large solar installations or other development that would require large areas of cleared of trees, we advo-

cate for, and support, public policies that offer incentives to developers to site these facilities on land that is already disturbed or developed, while dis-incenting removal of forest habitat.



Audubon advocates for public policies that offer incentives to developers to site large solar installations on land that is already disturbed or developed.

In addition, we recommend the following to state policymakers:

- Continue Rhode Island's strong support for energy conservation and efficiency, the cleanest and cheapest "fuel" available. Energy efficiency not only lowers consumer, business and municipal utility bills and supports local jobs — it poses no siting challenges.
- Maximize the siting of solar installations on residential and commercial rooftops. Rhode Island is lagging regional leaders on rooftop solar, which when fully developed, helps avoid the siting of projects in sensitive environmental areas. Rooftop solar is a small, but important piece of this puzzle.
- Quickly implement strategies to change the economics of siting and encourage cost-effective renewables development on commercial and industrial zoned land, on already developed land, and in other locations with environmental alterations such as closed landfills, brownfields and parking lots.

I am confident that by working together with state decision makers, the renewable development community, local planners, environmental organizations and engaged Rhode Island residents, we can make the necessary transition to renewable energy while protecting habitat for the birds and wildlife we all treasure.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND REPORT

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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 SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

JOIN OUR LEAGUE OF SUPERHEROES

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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AUDUBON CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

April 13, 2019; 9:30–11:00 am

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

Four Locations - See page 13 for details



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 Audubon Society of Rhode Island

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Visit www.asri.org and click on "My Audubon" in the upper right corner.

AUDUBON MAPLE SUGARING & BREAKFAST

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA
March 16, 2019; 9:00 am–12:00 pm

