



## 2017 Rhode Island Butterfly Count Instructions

**Audubon Society  
of Rhode Island**

### About the Walk:

The Audubon Society hosts the Annual Butterfly Count to teach individuals and families the importance of butterflies, to collect important data about butterfly species in Rhode Island, and to have fun doing it! Not only are butterflies beautiful, but they are also the third most populace pollinators in the insect world.

### Types of Walks:

There are two different types of walks you can participate in; a public walk and a private walk.

**PUBLIC WALK:** A public walk is a registered walk, led by an Audubon Butterfly expert. To register for a guided walk click on this link: <http://asri.doubleknot.com/event/1908065>, there is a fee to participate (\$10 for Audubon Society of Rhode Island Members; \$15 for non-members.) Please act quickly as space is limited. Additional information is below, and on the program's website: [butterflyingwithaudubon.blogspot.com](http://butterflyingwithaudubon.blogspot.com).

**PRIVATE WALK:** If you are comfortable with your knowledge of butterflies and prefer to conduct a private walk, email [jscoones@asri.org](mailto:jscoones@asri.org) for a list of properties available for surveying, as well as, data collection forms. There is no fee for this type of walk. Be sure to visit the program's website ([butterflyingwithaudubon.blogspot.com](http://butterflyingwithaudubon.blogspot.com)) to print out a checklist of Rhode Island butterflies, watch a PowerPoint showing butterflies and skippers common to Rhode Island or follow links to additional information. Upon completion of your walk please send your check list to Jon Scoones at [jscoones@asri.org](mailto:jscoones@asri.org) or 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI 02917.

### Schedule:

- On June 24, the Bristol and Newport County circles will be surveyed. These include the public counts at Audubon's Environmental Education Center in Bristol, Audubon's Touisset Wildlife Refuge and Nockum Hill.
- On July 22, the Kent, Providence, and Washington County circles will be surveyed. These include the public counts at Audubon's Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge in Smithfield, Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge in Exeter, Trustom Pond in South Kingstown and Newman Farm in Smithfield (Meet at Powder Mill Ledges at 10:00AM before heading to this location).
- To view a map of the circles follow the link on the program website.
- Audubon naturalist-led teams will meet at 10 AM. Directions to sites are on the reverse of this sheet. Teams surveying their own sites will arrange their own meeting times. For problems on the day of the count, please contact your count leader. Leader contact information will be provided when you register.

### Payment:

- For public walks there is a fee of \$10 for Audubon Society members and \$15 for non-members.
- Please register for these walks by visiting, <http://asri.doubleknot.com/event/1908065>
- You can also register by calling Jon at 401-245-7500 x3044

### Surveying:

- The Audubon naturalist-led butterfly counts start at 10:00 and typically end at noon or 12:30. Private count participants survey for as long as they wish and cover as much territory as they wish.
- Each team should bring a butterfly field guide. If you are joining a naturalist-led team, your leader will have one.
- Record sightings on a butterfly checklist. Use a different sheet for each site you visit. Again, team leaders will provide these.

- Walk in one direction and do not count any butterflies you see walking back the way you came, unless it is a species you did not see before.
- Only check off butterflies you can identify to species, but please make a note of unidentified butterflies, such as: “3 Papilio species, 4 unidentified Hairstreaks”. Be as specific as you can! Take notes on appearance and behavior, including plants the mystery butterfly was associating with—this may help us to ID it later.
- **WE LOVE DIGITAL CAMERAS!** Photos are the best way to ID a mystery butterfly. Please send them as attachments or provide a link to your “cloud”.
- If you see any rare or questionable species be sure to photograph it. Photographs are the best way for us to confirm your sighting!!
- **Binoculars** (close-focusing are best) can be very helpful in viewing skittish butterflies.
- Please keep track of how many hours your party as a whole spent surveying (if a party of 4 surveyed for an hour, that counts as one hour for your party, not 4).
- Also please approximate the distance covered by your party. (if a party of 4 walked a mile, that counts as one mile for the party, not 4)
- We will tally numbers of individuals of each species. **Tally only adult butterflies** on the checklist. Record other life stages (eggs, larvae, chrysalis) in your notes.

#### Results:

- Send results in to Butterfly Count, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 12 Sanderson Rd., Smithfield, RI 02917 or email Jon at [jscoones@asri.org](mailto:jscoones@asri.org).
- If you have a lot of photos, burn them to a CD, and send it in (if there are only a few you can email them) or provide a link to a dropbox.
- We will post results on Audubon’s butterfly blog: <http://www.butterflyingwithaudubon.blogspot.com>.

#### Directions to Naturalist-Led Sites

All walks meet at 10 AM and survey until the time indicated below. Please pre-register by visiting <http://butterflyingwithaudubon.blogspot.com> or calling 401-245-7500 x3044.

#### JUNE 24

**Environmental Education Center**, 1401 Hope St (Rt. 114), Bristol, RI 02809. 10 AM to 12 PM.

*From Newport:* Take Route 114 North to the Mount Hope Bridge. Cross the Bridge. About .3 miles, bear left to stay on Route 114. Follow Route 114 for approximately 4.4 miles. The Center is on the left immediately before the Warren/Bristol town line.

*From Providence:* Take Route 195 East to Exit 7 (Route 114, Seekonk/Barrington). Bear right onto Route 114 South. Follow Route 114 South through the towns of Barrington and Warren. The Center is on the right side of the road immediately after the Warren/Bristol town line.

#### **Nockum Hill,**

Directions: From 195, take the exit for 114A (exit 1 in Massachusetts) toward Barrington. Turn left onto Rt 6 East/Fall River Ave. After about a mile, turn slight right on to Warren Ave. Take the third right on to George Street. The entrance will be on the right. (George St. loops back to Warren Ave. If you get back on Warren Ave--you went too far.)

**Touisset Wildlife Refuge**, Touisset Road, Warren, RI. 10 AM to 12 PM.

Directions: Take I-195 east to Rte. 136 in North Swansea. Take Rte 136 South to Rte. 103 (Child Street) in Warren. Go left (east) on Rte. 103 to Long Road. Go right on Long Road and follow to end at Barton Ave. Go left on Barton then take first right onto Touisset Road. Follow it south to the next sharp left corner at the fire station. Turn right into parking lot area and park at the westernmost edge of parking lot.

**Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Prudence Island, RI,**

For the ferry schedule, as well as, directions to Prudence Island from points north and south please click on the following link: [http://www.nbnerr.org/to\\_prudence.htm](http://www.nbnerr.org/to_prudence.htm)

**JULY 22**

**Newman Refuge**, Smithfield/Glocester. 10 AM - 2 PM.

Directions: Meet at Powder Mill Ledges for carpooling/caravan to site. See directions below.

**Powder Mill Ledges**, 12 Sanderson Rd. (Rt. 5), Smithfield, RI 02917. 10 AM to 12 PM.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 7B onto Route 44 West. At fourth set of lights, turn left onto Route 5 (Sanderson road). Turn left at the second driveway into the parking lot.

**Trustom Pond Wildlife Refuge**, 1040 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road, South Kingstown, RI 02879. 10 AM to 12:30 PM.

From Providence, head South on Interstate 95 and exit onto Route 4 south. Route 4 will merge into U.S. Route 1 south. Continue on Route 1 south and take the Moonstone Beach Road exit. Continue for 1 mile, and then turn right onto Matunuck Schoolhouse Road at the four way stop sign. Continue west on Schoolhouse Road for one mile, and the refuge entrance will be on the left.

**Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge**, Pardon Joslin Rd., Exeter, RI. 10 AM to 12:30 PM.

Directions: Take Route 95 to Route 4 to Route 102 north. Turn right onto Widow Sweets Road (just after the Exeter's Town Clerk's Office and across from Anderson's Place). Take second right onto Pardon Joslin Road (a dirt road). Travel approximately 1 mile. Parking lot is on the right side of road by a large Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge sign.