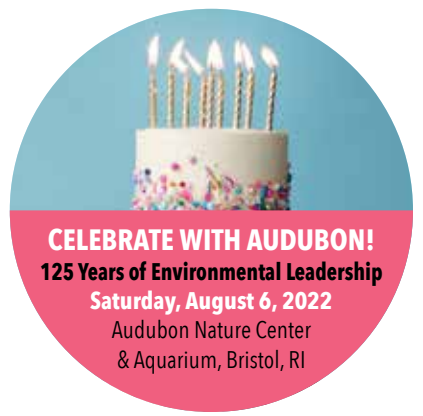


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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

REPORT



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& Aquarium, Bristol, RI

VOLUME 56 • NO. 2 • SPRING 2022

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE



LASTING LEGACIES

LAND DONORS PUT THEIR TRUST IN AUDUBON



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From the Desk of the Executive Director

A Century of Trust Behind Us

It didn't take long for Audubon's early leaders to realize that the best way to protect birds was to conserve their habitats. The first land donation was received back in 1924, and Audubon has been acquiring and protecting land ever since.

This issue shares stories and background about several people who generously donated property to Audubon. They, along with many others, have placed their trust in us to be careful and permanent stewards of land that they loved. We acknowledge and thank all the many donors who have placed their land in our care. Today we protect almost 10,000 acres of land through fee-ownership and conservation easement, making Audubon among the top land conservation agencies in Rhode Island.

Accepting the land for habitat or other conservation values is just the beginning. The job of providing proper stewardship and defense of the properties under our care is an ongoing challenge. It is so important that we use a solid measuring stick to evaluate our work and continue to be considered among the best when it comes to property management. That is why we have applied to achieve accreditation with the National Land Trust Alliance in 2022.

Audubon welcomes conversations with landowners regarding their properties and their wishes for the future. We not only have the expertise to properly manage habitat for birds and wildlife, we also have a century of trust behind us.

Thanks again for your support,



Lawrence J. F. Taft
Executive Director

An Appeal to Plan Ahead

When change occurs, people seem to be awakened to the importance of planning. Whether it's a military family with a spouse deploying overseas, a global pandemic, or even an overseas vacation, people start to think "what if?"

Some people also say "what if" when prodded by a closer-to-home adventure such as a river rafting trip or a first parachute jump.

Attorneys will tell you that the motivation to create wills also include a death in the family, serious injury or illness, or some other sobering crisis.

If you were to quiz every person you know over age 50 about the importance of having a valid will in place, you would likely find 100 percent of them in favor of such prudent planning. Everyone, it seems, agrees with the wisdom of having a current will.

Yet many people die without a will, and many others depart with a will that is out-of-date or invalid. Unless we are faced with a compelling reason to act, it is simply easier to wait until a more convenient day. For some, that day never comes.

Planning is the key to success. Starting early means never having to worry about the state of your legacy. At Audubon, we believe the benefits for you and your family are too compelling to wait. If your legacy includes protecting nature for the future, planning is everything. That's why we have produced two new guides for our members: Audubon Estate Planning Guide and Will Starter Kit. These guides start a discussion of how and why you should consider an estate plan, and to help you gather the information you'll need to begin this process.

You can get a copy of each guide from <https://asri.org/donate-membership/hawkes-legacy-circle.html> or call our development office at 401-949-5454 ext. 3017.



LASTING LEGACIES

LAND DONORS PUT THEIR TRUST IN AUDUBON

By Betsy Sherman Walker



Maxwell Mays left his beloved property in Coventry to Audubon and requested that trails be created for the public to enjoy. The Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge opened in 2011. Inset: Mays with a mural in his home, and his painting of his property entitled "Woods Walk."

Among the reservoir of stories that reveal her fondness for her late uncle, the artist Maxwell Mays, Allison Barrett has two she likes to share—both having everything to do with his decision, in 2001, to leave his beloved 295-acre Woodlot Farm to Audubon. Mays, the revered Rhode Island painter of bird's-eye-views of New England life, purchased the Coventry property as a young man in 1941, prior to heading off to serve in World War II.

Barrett's first story is more of an observation, filtered down over the years. She described his childhood on Warwick Neck, which in the 1920s and 1930s was a more rural, woodsy area, home to working farms—a far more pastoral retreat than it is today. He grew up surrounded by property and acres and acres of land, said Barrett. It was gorgeous. And then, with time, she said he watched it get broken up. Maybe as if to placate himself, Mays purchased Woodlot Farm from the Carr family, which had owned and farmed it for more than 200 years. During a 2001 interview with Audubon at the time of the transfer, he would explain, I hated to think of big trucks coming in here and squaring things off. Barrett tied this to the abundance of trees and foliage, and the stylized leafy details, in her uncle's work. Even to his scenes of downtown Providence he would add woods and trees, and vines—very intricate details of vines.

After returning home from the war, Mays restored the 18th-century

farm buildings and made the property his home. Barrett remembers visits to her uncle's farm as a child, of his love for Woodlot Farm.

Barrett's second story, again based on reliable hearsay, comes from a day he was entertaining visitors at his lake house overlooking the 11-acre Carr Pond. The sun was out; the surface of the water was speckled with sunlight. One of the guests made a comment about Mays being so wealthy. To his somewhat surprised reaction, his friend elaborated, telling Mays, You are incredibly wealthy. Look out on this land—and the jewels in the pond. It was a moment that resonated and perhaps led the artist to approach Audubon in 2001 with his plan to leave his incredible wealth to the organization. Mays lived there (with Barrett and her family nearby) until he died in 2009. His vision for Woodlot Farm officially opened in 2011 as the Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge.

His biggest dream, said Barrett, was to have the land preserved.

Audubon received its first gift of land, the 29-acre Kimball Sanctuary in Charlestown, in 1924. Today the organization protects nearly 120 properties through fee-title interest and conservation easements, numbering close to 10,000 acres of open space and wildlife habitat. Audubon is the largest private landowner in the state. Gifts over the years have ranged in size from nearly a thousand acres to, in some instances, someone's cherished half-acre that protected local wildlife.

Please turn to page 4



**Chippaquisett Wildlife Refuge
Prudence Island, RI**



Jason Major



Glenn Osmundson

At left: The Williams family on Prudence Island in 1936. Former Audubon board member and Prudence Island land donor, Dudley Williams, is second from left. The houses (circa 1945) belonging to the Williams family border the 240 acres of land that was donated to Audubon. Top right: a Barred Owl at Fort Wildlife Refuge in North Smithfield. Bottom right: an Eastern Phoebe nests on the trail sign at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge.

“His biggest dream was to have the land preserved.”

– Allison Barrett, Maxwell Mays’ niece

Each gift has a story, and while each outcome reflects a perspective similar to Mays, there are multiple factors, Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft explained, that affect the look and feel and use of a gift of land. Hidden in plain sight in South Kingstown, for example, is a piece of property with a house donated to Audubon by the late Doug Krauss, a long-time chemistry professor at URI. Krauss was an avid birder and led a bird banding station at the site for many years, beginning in the 1950s. He banded over 30,000 birds for research. When he died in 2000, he left his 84 acres to Audubon providing a residence for URI graduate students who would also carry on his work.

For many the decision and the process can be as emotional as it is pragmatic. One of the first things we do is to find out what a donor envisions, Taft says. If it’s a good overlap with our mission, then there’s a discussion. It’s like a courtship. When the land is being offered, we have to see if we are on the same page as the donor – if we have a shared vision.

With a similar goal in mind, Shawen Williams’ family story lies at the opposite end of the land-acquisition matrix. Williams, although new to the Audubon board this year, is not a newcomer to the organization. Her father Dudley Williams served as treasurer in the 1960s and 1970s, when the Audubon offices were still located on Benefit Street in Providence.

The Williams narrative spans close to 125 years – beginning nearly 70 years prior to Maxwell Mays’ 1941 purchase of the Carr Farm, and ending in 1997, a few years before he made his gift. Where Mays’ transfer of his land was relatively seamless (Taft remarked that it did not take long for us to iron out the details) the ultimate transfer to Audubon of the Williams’ 240 acres of land on Prudence Island was full of twists and turns and a cast of characters.

In 1875 Dudley Williams’ great-great grandfather George Washington Williams and his business partner W. E. Barrett acquired approximately 300 acres of Narragansett Bay waterfront on the west side of Prudence Island. It was known as Chipaquisett, a Narragansett term meaning a place apart. In postbellum Rhode Island, their vision was to develop it into a summer retreat; a Victorian escape, Shawen explained, from the smelly cities. The business venture was named Prudence Park. For a while the summer colony thrived.

Prudence Island, she said, became the place to be. But not for long. The 1890s recession, World War I, and the Great Depression took their toll. The 1938 Hurricane and Hurricane Carol in 1954 had devastating effects. The high-end summer visitors may have been long gone, but families continued to come, joining the small number of year-round residents to spend summers in their Victorian houses overlooking Narragansett Bay. It is where, in the summer of 1948, her parents met. Prudence Island figures large in our family, she said.

Dad was on the Audubon board long before I was old enough to be aware of it, she said of her family’s involvement. By the time her father joined the board in the 1960s, nothing was left of the Prudence Park his



Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Protected since 1980, Donated by Mary L. Walcott



Florence and Richard K. Fort Wildlife Refuge
Protected since 1996, Donated by the Fort Family



Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
Protected since 1971, Donated by Charles Greenhalgh



Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge
Protected since 1965, Donated by Emilie Ruecker

THE PATH TO PROTECTION

By Dr. Scott Ruhren, Senior Director of Conservation



Have you wondered about the land conservation process? Do you have property that you are considering for land protection? Can Audubon help?

As a longtime steward of wildlife habitat, Audubon protects a mosaic of wildlife habitat across Rhode Island and one wildlife refuge in Seekonk, MA. Much of the land was donated by generous landowners, a smaller number were purchased. Our goal is to strategically increase the size, protection, and effectiveness of existing habitat, always looking to add to an area already protected by Audubon.

Years of practice and research worldwide reveal that larger preserves are best for saving biodiversity for many reasons. Audubon applies this conservation knowledge to our design of wildlife refuges. Larger tracts versus smaller fragments of habitat resist many natural and man-made challenges such as invasive plant and animal species, excess warming and exposure to wind and storms. Larger preserves are favored by forest interior species that will not live in small tracts of forest. Our goal is reducing and preventing a fragmented landscape, a global challenge for land managers.

Audubon follows detailed, methodical procedures when considering land for protection. The evaluation process considers a series of questions:

- * How many acres does the land encompass? Large habitats protect more species and provide a more predictable environment for the plants and animals that live there.
- * Is the land connected to other wildlife habitat or conservation properties? Large or small parcels that are next to conservation land are valuable. Land that adjoins Audubon's many wildlife refuges is ideal for conservation.
- * Does the property enhance the protection of wildlife, wetlands and water quality, animal communities or animal species, special plant communities or plant species? Though Audubon does not focus on any one species, the more the better when deciding on protection strategies.
- * Does the land contain valuable yet vulnerable coastal habitat? Intact coastal habitat resists sea level rise and coastal storms; these are critical areas to protect due to climate change.
- * Does the protection establish or improve a buffer between a high value open space and less desirable areas? Buffer habitats are parcels of land between wildlife preserves and human landscapes. Buffers add an extra layer of protection.

Audubon is strategic in its acquisitions and land protection. Due to limited resources and staff, our choices must be made carefully. Though it would be ideal to protect all available habitat in Rhode Island, certain situations are best handled in other ways. For example, Audubon typically does not protect active farmland. State and Federal agricultural agencies have successful protection programs that offer financial incentives for farmland preservation.

Finally, the landowner decision and intent are important. Is the landowner considering a donation or sale? Could a conservation easement agreement be an alternative? An easement allows individuals or families to maintain property ownership, but protection of wildlife habitat is ensured.

Ultimately, Audubon's priorities are perpetual protection of habitat and species and maintaining New England's natural diversity. For close to 100 years, we have been actively working with landowners and their families to protect valuable properties across the state.

If you would like to discuss working with Audubon to protect your property for birds, wildlife, and their habitats, please contact Senior Director of Conservation Scott Ruhren at sruhren@asri.org or 401-949-5454 (x3004).





HABITAT AT HOME ALL YARDS GREAT AND SMALL

By Hugh Markey

More and more Rhode Islanders are realizing that the plants grown in their yards and gardens can have a positive impact on pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Native plant species can provide critical habitat where wildlife find the food and shelter that are necessary for survival. Many homeowners are taking a second look at their landscaping and gardens but are wondering where to start.

What changes can be made to landscaping without spending thousands of dollars and tearing out plantings? What plants and shrubs are best suited for various locations in a yard? What variety of plants are needed to support wildlife through all four seasons?

Making smart choices and transforming properties into healthy habitat can seem daunting to many. But Audubon can help.

Scott Ruhren, Audubon senior director of conservation, offers private assessments for properties of all sizes. A PhD botanist, he brings years of experience and expert advice on turning yards, gardens, and larger properties into functioning, natural habitat. He spends time with landowners on their property, reviewing the current landscape, talking about the plants already in place, and discussing their goals and interests.

Ruhren then blends their discussion with his suggestions into a written assessment and plan for the property. Our starting point is always suggesting that people begin with what they have, Ruhren said. We're not coming in and telling people to cut down their entire landscape and put in only native plants. I want people to realize they already have a lot of resources to work with. Many are currently doing good things on their properties, and Audubon can help them take it to the next level. Utilizing some of the existing landscaping is good for their wallet, too.

The size of the property is not an issue. Our work with property owners has run the gamut, from a small 1000 square-foot suburban property to a 60-acre woodland. We are happy to work with landowners to assess all property types, sizes, and shapes.

TEN-ACRE TREASURE

Ruhren detailed an experience he had with Mary Ann Cofrin, owner of a ten-acre parcel in Middletown. Mary Ann has a beautiful, sloping property with a field near her home. She is a dedicated nature photographer and knew she wanted to improve her property to support birds and pollinators. She recognized that there were things on the property that she wanted to change.

Cofrin describes her experiences: We had only been in Rhode Island a short time, and I started to hear more about Audubon. And it dawned on me that I should be talking to them about our property. They have the experience with managing habitat. We had started some of the process

when I met Scott, and he suggested a visit to see what we had in place.

What I like about Scott is that he listens to you and pays attention to what you want. He didn't tell me I needed extreme change to get it right, he made recommendations that work for my lifestyle. Scott makes it easy. You can just take a little at a time and work at it slowly.

Ruhren also found the work rewarding as he was able to apply known science regarding field succession, invasive species, and grassland

"For me, it's peace of mind. Knowing that I'm doing something good for the environment and for nature. Beautification is certainly a piece of it, but more importantly it is knowing that the property is safe and healthy for the wildlife that lives here, and we have a part in that."

– Mary Ann Cofrin

community dynamics. We have seen both success and surprises in this restoration project, he explained. Some plant species thrive, others disappear, and less desirable invaders like knapweed and multiflora rose compete with the natives.

For Cofrin, Audubon's approach to creating habitat dovetailed perfectly to her overall philosophy toward the natural world. For me, it's peace of mind, she explained. Knowing that I'm doing something good for the environment and for nature. Beautification is certainly a piece of it, but more importantly it is knowing that the property is safe and healthy for the wildlife that lives here, and we have a part in that.

THE SMALL PATCH

When it comes to pollinators, small can be mighty. A few square feet of native pollinator plants in a garden has been shown to support pollinators, said Ruhren. So, anyone can make a difference with just a small patch.

Barbara Walsh and Earl Simson's property is typical of the smaller land parcels found throughout the suburbs of Warwick. However, size didn't dampen their enthusiasm for creating natural habitat. It was absolutely exciting to us, making this change in our yard. We wanted to do the right thing, but we had no clue what the right thing was,

said Walsh. They knew they didn't want to bother with the hassle of becoming experts on habitat and landscape design. We wanted someone that could explain what to do. I didn't know which flowers and shrubs would be good for different seasons of feeding. Scott explained what plants we could use to create a small, healthy habitat, which is just what I wanted," she said.

The steps that Ruhren suggested are always intended to be encouraging, rather than overwhelming. Barbara and Earl had a grassy lawn in front of their home with some big oak trees. There was English ivy and other nonnatives that I pointed out. But I never tell landowners they must get rid of certain plants. I listen to their goals and make suggestions and provide a written assessment. We encourage these homeowners to do what they can, and we follow up to answer questions and support their efforts.

Walsh and Simson understand the critical need to support birds and wildlife, no matter how large or small the property. I would highly recommend a visit from Scott to anybody," explained Simson. Even a 50-foot frontage on a house is enough to make some positive change. Anybody can do this!

GIVE IT A TRY

Cofrin, Walsh, and Simson are united in the encouragement they would offer to those considering creating a more natural habitat around their home. You can take Audubon's property suggestions and recommendations that work best for you and don't need to do them all," said Cofrin. Scott was very helpful, understood my goals, and I would recommend his property assessment to anybody.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for Audubon's Habitat at Home program, please email Scott Ruhren at sruhren@asri.org. Fee for a property visit with owners, assessment, written report, and follow-up (for two acres or less): \$350. For larger properties, please contact Scott for a custom quote.



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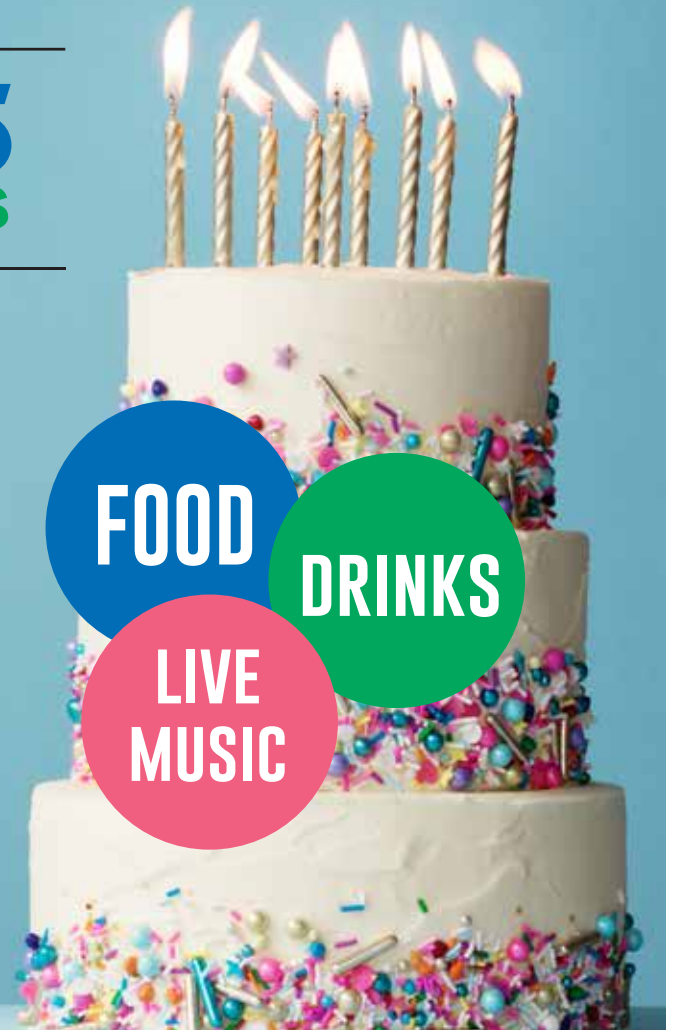
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The Case Against Neonicotinoid Insecticides is Growing

Audubon will Monitor Birds in Rhode Island for the Presence of Neonics

Perhaps the biggest danger of new technologies are the unintended impacts that they cause to ecosystem health and function. Examples from our history abound: Naval sonar, developed to detect submarines, has been shown to cause the stranding and death of cetaceans, such as whales and dolphins. When humanity began burning coal to produce electricity, mercury released during combustion made its way into aquatic habitats where it was absorbed by marine organisms and negatively impacts wildlife populations including fish, amphibians, birds and even humans to this day. The global shipping industry has inadvertently contributed to the rapid introduction of invasive species the world over. Zebra Mussels, an extremely pervasive mollusk, has infiltrated our country's waterways via container ship ballast water. The bioaccumulation of pesticides within a food web was the severe and devastating unintended consequence of DDT. Raptors and waterbirds suffered dramatically as the chemical prevented calcium deposition resulting in eggshell thinning and outright reproductive failure. The impact was so severe we almost drove our own national bird to extinction (when DDT was finally banned, the Bald Eagle population in the lower 48 was only around 400 pairs. By comparison, there are over 300,000 Bald Eagles in the same area today).

Of course, when these unintended consequences of human activities are realized, actions are often taken to mitigate or reverse their impacts. Naval training activities are curtailed in areas with large whale populations, scrubbers are installed on coal burning smoke stacks to remove heavy metals before they enter the environment, policies are set in place to regulate ballast water discharge by shipping vessels and, in some instances, particularly devastating chemicals such as DDT, are banned outright. Unfortunately, we are doomed to repeat the shoot first, ask questions later policy when it comes to emerging technologies because

“With growing evidence that Neonicotinoid Insecticides impact so much more than their intended targets, it is incumbent on us to spend time and energy scrutinizing their use in our state.”

— Dr. Charles Clarkson
Audubon Director of Avian Research

it is impossible to understand their full effect on our extremely complex and interconnected ecosystems until after they have been in-use for some time. What is of critical importance is that, should negative impacts be detected, we move swiftly to halt and reverse them to the best of our ability.

Neonicotinoid Insecticides (Neonics) were introduced on our landscape in the 1990s. This makes them a very young form of pest management and the impacts of their use are only now coming to light. And the impacts are cringe-worthy: Neonicotinoids have been implicated as a key factor in the decline of pollinating bee species, they are responsible for delayed migration in certain species of birds and they are known to infiltrate aquatic habitats where their impacts are still unclear. The insecticides are so pervasive and damaging to ecosystems that the European Union has banned their use. The evidence that these chemicals impact our ecosystems in adverse and potentially devastating ways is building. A quick internet



Clockwise from top left: The Bald Eagle was almost driven to extinction by use of the pesticide DDT. Carolina Wrens and Tree Swallows are two species that will be monitored by Audubon for the presence of Neonicotinoid Insecticides.

search of recently published research articles on Neonics yields results showing their negative impacts on the health of adolescents in China, their adverse effects on water quality and their ability to alter the nectar chemistry of plants. A particularly bleak study, published in April 2022 documented that Neonics were present at detectable levels in 89% of a population of Sandwich Terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*; Distefano 2022). The fact that ocean-going, fish-eating birds would accumulate pesticides applied to agricultural zones demonstrates the ability of Neonics to have far reaching effects across the landscape.

This summer, Audubon will begin monitoring birds from across the state for the presence of Neonicotinoid Insecticides. We will be partnering with other entities, including the Aquidneck Land Trust, to obtain samples from bird populations throughout the state. The ultimate goal of this research will be to understand just how pervasive Neonics are. A number of resident species of birds remain on Audubon wildlife refuges year-round. In theory, birds residing on protected land should be insulated from the impacts of Neonics and other pollutants, but in light of recent studies, this assumption is not necessarily a safe one. Through the collection of feather and fecal samples, we will be able to determine if Neonicotinoids are present in our birds and to what extent. These data will be inordinately important for guiding legislation by arming our advocacy team with hard science to support their stance on regulating the use of these harmful pesticides.

With growing evidence that Neonicotinoids impact so much more than their intended targets, it is incumbent on us to spend time and energy scrutinizing their use in our state. Rachel Carson would have begged this of us, and we should all be listening.

Distefano, G. G., Zangrando, R., Basso, M., Panzarin, L., Gambaro, A., Ghirardini, A. V. and M. Picone. 2022. The ubiquity of neonicotinoid contamination: Residues in seabirds with different tropic habits. *Environmental Research* 206(15), 112637

NEW EXHIBITS AT THE NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

SPEND SOME TIME WITH AUDUBON TURTLES

Audubon Turtle Tank Exhibit Now Open

Get up-close with a northern diamondback terrapin and an eastern painted turtle. Learn which traits they share and discover those features that make them different. Observe these fascinating reptiles as they swim, climb, eat, and shelter.



CHECK IT OUT THIS SUMMER!

WHERE DID THOSE GIANT BONES COME FROM?

Whale Skulls Featured in New Exhibit

Head over to the Nature Center and Aquarium and check out some enormous bones that washed up on Rhode Island beaches. The skulls from humpback and minke whales not only highlight the size of these marine mammals, but visitors can also learn interesting facts and the natural history of these amazing creatures.



GET CURIOUS!

New Curiosity Corner Features Digital Microscope and Natural Specimens

Discover marine fossils, unique shells, bones, and skulls from Audubon's extensive natural history collections. Use a digital microscope to get an up-close look at natural items and open drawers to reveal unexpected specimens. Welcome to the new Curiosity Corner!

Inspired by a staff visit to the Rhode Island School of Design Nature Lab, themes in the Curiosity Corner will change every four months, providing returning visitors with new natural objects to discover.

A truly collaborative project, the exhibit design involved Audubon staff, volunteers, and donors. The cabinetry was built by volunteer Don Hemond with the natural wood finishing by Audubon staff member Barry Cohen. Together, they installed the beautiful wood slab that serves as the countertop and the shelving.

Roger Williams University aquarist and artist Alicia Schickel delved into the extensive Audubon collections and pulled a trove of natural items to rotate in the exhibit. Retired teacher and Nature Shop associate Elaine Rezendes developed activities for children. And Audubon Board Member Terry Meyer generously donated funds for the purchase of the digital microscope and monitor. A true team effort!

Stop in and get a close-up look at nature, you never know what you might find!



A Garden for the Birds

As the days grow longer and warmer, I am increasingly eager to spend time in the garden. We all have heard about the steep decline in pollinator populations and have been encouraged to select plants that support these beneficial insects. But birds can also benefit from native plants, and I want to encourage you to also keep birds in mind when planting shrubs and flowers in your yard.

Over the last year, we heard about a mysterious disease affecting birds at feeders, and now the avian flu is causing concern. If these diseases were to spread, and experts encouraged us to take our feeders down once again, bird-friendly plants in our yards and gardens would offer plenty of natural food for birds. In the summer, most of the birds in our area are on a diet of insects, but come fall, many are looking for protein rich seeds, fruits and nuts to fuel their migrations or get them through the winter. Below are a few examples of perennials, annuals, shrubs, and trees to add to your backyard habitat.

One plant that I love is Echinacea or Purple Coneflower. This native perennial has beautiful purple flowers that attract butterflies and bees while in bloom. But come fall, the American Goldfinch loves to feed on its seeds. So, remember to leave the dead flowers still standing. Rudbeckia or Black-eyed Susan is a similar plant that attracts pollinators in bloom, but American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadees, and a variety of sparrows will feed on their seeds in fall.

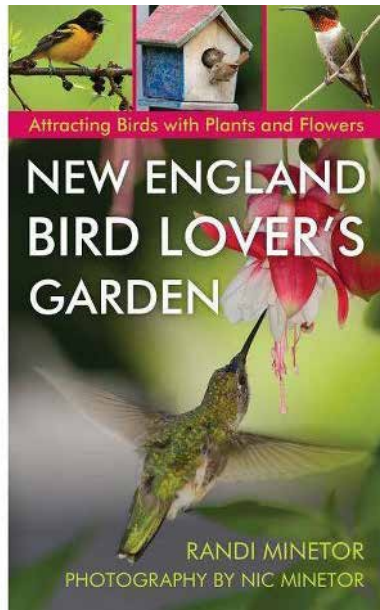
If you love sunflowers, these make a great addition to any garden. It is like having a homemade feeder on its own stalk. If you don't like the look of these giant dead flowers in your garden after they have passed, just snip off the head and let them dry. You can then hang the whole flower head from a tree or take the seeds off and put them in your own feeder. What a great way to be sustainable! Sunflowers come in a variety of colors and sizes. Zinnias and cosmos are also annuals that the birds love to snack on after the flowers have gone to seed. (Although these plants are not native to this area, they are not invasive and produce a nice source of seed.)

Consider planting bushes that attract birds as well. Blueberry, spicebush, and winterberry are all thoughtful additions to your yard. These attractive plants bring birds in the spring that glean the flowers looking for caterpillars. They make excellent nesting habitats, and the berries are great treats for a variety of birds in the late summer and fall. Warblers, thrushes, and Gray Catbirds are all attracted to these bushes.

And finally, don't forget trees! There are so many varieties that attract birds. Flowering spring trees like dogwood or cherry will attract Orioles. I always find it a treat to see these bright orange and black birds visiting Fisherville in early spring. These trees provide nesting sites as well as berries to eat. Another to consider is a red cedar tree. They attract Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds and American Robins in the winter months when food is scarce. They also make attractive screens or barriers between neighboring yards or along a road.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of spring while creating beautiful habitat for both birds and pollinators!

The Audubon Nature Shop in Bristol carries a variety of books on gardening and native plants, including "New England Bird Lovers Garden" by Randi Minetor. Shop in-person or online at asri.org/natureshop.



Audubon Society of Rhode Island Named Endowment Funds

The Audubon Endowment is a permanently restricted fund that, by law, exists in perpetuity.

Because the Audubon Endowment is invested, it allows for long-term stability, fiscal responsibility, and financial viability that keeps Audubon a vibrant and growing organization. It also enhances our credibility, relieves pressure on fund raising, allows program expansion, and provides independence.

Donations of \$10,000 or more to the Audubon Endowment can be recognized by a named designation, either for an individual, family, or a cause you believe in.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island Named Endowments

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- Barter-Moore Fund
- Edith Becker Fund
- Mary Catherine Rogers Beckett Fund
- John Brezinski Memorial Fund
- Bristol Education Center Fund
- Caratunk Fund
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- Severyn Dana Fund
- Davis Memorial Wildlife Fund
- Norman A. Deslauriers Fund
- Dickens Farm Fund
- Patricia Meagher Dwyer Conservation Fund
- John Raleigh Eldred Fund
- Bayward Ewing Fund
- Fisherville Brook Fund
- Fort Nature Refuge Fund
- Grout Memorial Fund
- Alice O. Harris Fund
- Jonathan H. Harwood Fund
- Hicks-Borden Fund
- Priscilla J. Hollis Fund
- Walter Hammond Kimball Fund
- Margaret Robinson Knight Fund
- Kimball Memorial Garden Stewardship Fund
- Kay Kinsey Fund
- Kraus Wildlife Fund
- Henry J. Larkin Wildlife Preserve Fund
- Lorraine Leaney Fund
- Little Rest Bird Club Fund
- Lonesome Swamp Fund
- Edward B. and Phoebe W. McAlpine Memorial Preserve Fund
- Constance McCarthy Fund
- McKenzie Wildlife Fund
- George B. Parker Fund
- Powder Mill Ledges Fund
- Prudence Island Fund
- Susan M. Romano Memorial Fund
- Elton Sanford Fund
- Alicia Perry Seavey Family Fund
- South County Fund
- Everett F. Southwick Fund
- Touisset Marsh Fund
- Viall Memorial Library Fund
- Mrs. and Mr. Dudley A. Williams Memorial Fund

For more information contact Jeff Hall at jhall@asri.org or (401)-949-5454 ext. 3017.

AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

June – August 2022 For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

Advance registration is required for all programs.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Locations determined weekly and will be sent to registered participants in advance. *Every Wednesday through June 2022.*

BIRD BANDING AT THE AUDUBON NATURE CENTER & AQUARIUM

Three Dates Offered.

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI; *June 4, July 16, August 27, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.*

AERIAL INSECTIVORES: PURPLE MARTINS AND TREE SWALLOWS

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; *June 5, 2022; 9:00–10:30 am.*

BIRDING CONNECTICUT HOT SPOTS: VAN TRIP

Explore a large diversity of habitats in nearby Connecticut. Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI; *June 9, 2022; 7:30 am–5:00 pm.*

NESTING BIRDS AT CARATUNK

Two Dates Offered. Discover the different bird species that nest at Caratunk. Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; *June 25, June 26, 2022; 8:00–10:00 am.*

SATURDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS WITH AUDUBON

Four Dates Offered. Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI; *June 25, July 16, July 30, August 20, 2022; 8:30–9:30 am.*

BIRD BANDING AT FISHERVILLE

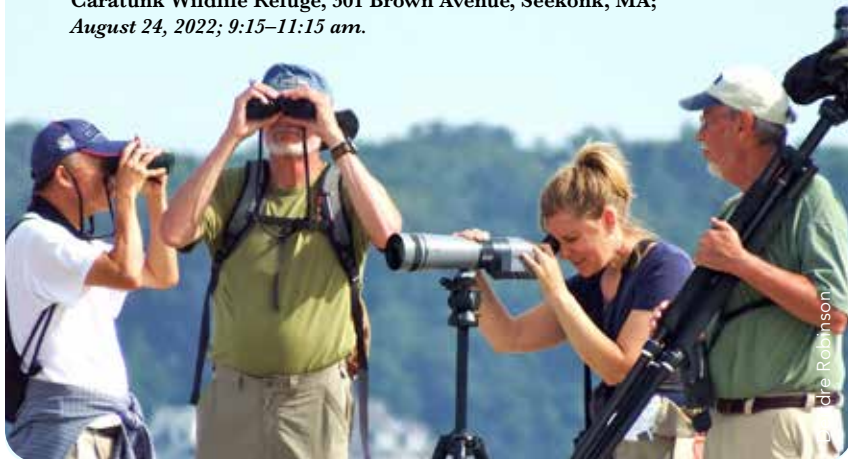
Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; *July 10, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.*

FLYING FORAGERS

Look for birds that hunt in the sky: swallows and swifts. Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; *August 18, 2022; 6:30–8:30 pm.*

BIRD BANDING AT CARATUNK

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; *August 24, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.*



BIRD BANDING WITH AUDUBON

Three Locations Offered

Witness bird banding, where experts capture, band, measure, and release songbirds in order to record their movements.

- Audubon Nature Center & Aquarium, Bristol; *June 4, July 16, August 27, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.*
- Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, Exeter, RI; *July 10, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.*
- Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, Seekonk, MA; *August 24, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.*



SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield
June 4, 2022; 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Local vendors offer a variety of nature and wildlife related wares: jewelry, children's items, decorative accents, bird houses and more!



REGISTER NOW!

BLOCK ISLAND BIRDING WEEKEND

September 30 - October 2, 2022

Block Island in autumn becomes the resting place for thousands of migrating birds. More than 125 species of birds have been seen here on fall weekends! Field trips for both novice and advanced birders are featured. Register early, space is limited.

Visit the events calendar at asri.org for details.



PRUDENCE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Prudence Island, RI

EXPLORE THE ESTUARY WITH KIDS!

June 30, 2022; 1:30–6:30 pm.

BUTTERFLY COUNT

August 4, 2022; 1:30–6:30 pm.





AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

BECORNS: PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID M BIRD
Through July 2, 2022, 9:30 am–4:30 pm.

BIRD BANDING AT THE AUDUBON NATURE CENTER & AQUARIUM
Three Dates Offered.
June 4, July 16, August 27, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.

FAIRY GARDENS FOR ADULTS *June 5, 2022; 2:00–3:30 pm.*

SEA GLASS JEWELRY WORKSHOP
Two Dates Offered. *June 18, August 20, 2022; 1:00–2:30 pm.*

SATURDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS WITH AUDUBON
Four Dates Offered.
June 25, July 16, July 30, August 20, 2022; 8:30 am–9:30 am.

BECORN MAKING AND PHOTOGRAPHY WITH DAVID BIRD
Two-session Workshop. Join local photographer and craftsman extraordinaire, David Bird, for a unique two-part workshop experience.
June 25 and July 2, 2022; 10:00 am–12:00 pm.



URI POLLINATOR RESEARCH LECTURE AND WALK

URI graduate students and Dr. Steven Alm from URI's Bee Lab provide summaries of their research on bees. *June 26, 2022; 10:00 am–12:00 pm.*



EDIBLE WILD PLANTS WALK
Join expert forager Russ Cohen on a walk to learn about local edible plant species. *June 28, 2022; 1:00–3:30 pm.*

A BLESSING OF BIRDS: ART EXHIBIT BY CATHARINE RANDALL
July 15–August 31, 2022; 9:30 am–4:30 pm.

SUMMER MUSHROOM HUNTING IN RI
Two-Session Program.
July 16 and 23 2022; 1:00–2:30 pm.

WOODLAND CREATURE PAINT & SIP NIGHT
July 22, 2022; 7:00–9:00 pm.

HERBAL WALK
Learn to identify plants and their medicinal and ecological benefits. *August 21, 2022; 1:00–2:00 pm.*

GUIDED SUMMER NATURE WALK
August 25, 2022; 10:00–11:00 am.



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. Start the summer off right and bring the kids for up-close animal encounters, a shore exploration, crafts and more. No registration required.
May 30, July 2, August 13, 2022; 10:00 am–3:00 pm**
**The June Citizens Bank Free Family Fun Day has been moved to May 30, 2022.*

NATURAL SCIENCE DRAWING CLASS
Local artist Elizabeth O'Connell will guide students to create realistic drawings of native wildlife.
June 5, 2022; 12:00–1:30 pm. Grades K–3.
June 5, 2022; 2:30–4:30 pm. Grades 4–8.

SUMMER NATURE CRAFT TABLE
Free craft table for creative summer fun!
July 6, 2022; 10:00 am–3:00 pm.

GUIDED SUMMER NATURE WALK
August 25, 2022; 10:00–11:00 am.



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

**COMPOSTING 101:
LEARN HOW TO MAKE FERTILIZER AT HOME**
June 1, 2022; 6:30–8:30 pm.

INTRODUCTION TO TREE IDENTIFICATION
June 18, 2022; 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

FIREFLIES!
Families learn about fireflies, make a craft, and watch for the blinking displays. *July 8, 2022; 7:00–9:00 pm.*

LIFE UNDER A LOG: A HUNT FOR MINI-BEASTS
What animals make their homes under logs and rocks?
July 23, 2022; 2:00–3:30 pm.

CAVITY NESTERS AND HOW TO ATTRACT THEM: LECTURE *August 3, 2022; 6:30–8:00 pm.*

SUMMER BLOOMS WALK
August 13, 2022; 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

NIGHT SINGERS
Listen for crickets, grasshoppers, and katydids in field and forest habitats. *August 22, 2022; 7:00–9:00 pm.*

LET'S TAKE A WALK: STORY AND NATURE WALK
Escargot by Dashka Slater. *August 27, 2022; 10:00–11:00 am.*

**WILD MUSHROOM WORKSHOP
TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MUSHROOMING**
August 20, 2022; 10:00 am–1:00 pm.



FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE

99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

ICE CREAM AND LIGHTNING BUGS
Learn all about these insects, make an ice cream sundae, and watch for their blinking displays. *July 8, 2022; 7:30–9:30 pm.*

BIRD BANDING AT FISHERVILLE
July 10, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.

BATS AND BEER
Join Audubon for an evening of outdoor exploration and local brews! *August 5, 2022; 7:30–9:00 pm.*



CARATUNK WILDLIFE REFUGE

301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA



**AERIAL INSECTIVORES:
PURPLE MARTINS AND TREE SWALLOWS**
June 5, 2022; 9:00–10:30 am.

CARATUNK WILDFLOWER WALK
June 18, 2022; 8:30–10:30 am.

MEET & GREET A TURTLE

Meet some turtles and walk to the pond to observe them in their natural habitat. *June 19, 2022; 1:00–2:30 pm.*

NESTING BIRDS AT CARATUNK

Two Dates Offered. *June 25, June 26, 2022; 8:00–10:00 am.*

POND AND STREAM HABITATS

Investigate and compare pond and stream habitats. *June 29, 2022; 9:00–11:00 am.*

BUTTERFLY WALKS

Two Dates Offered.
July 6, July 23, 2022; 9:00–11:00 am.

SUMMER EVENING AT CARATUNK

Bring a blanket, make s'mores, play lawn games, and stay to watch the stars come out!
August 11, 2022; 7:00–9:00 pm.

FLYING FORAGERS

Take an evening walk and look for birds that hunt in the sky: swallows and swifts. *August 18, 2022; 6:30–8:30 pm.*

WHITE BARN STORY TIME: POND

August 20, 2022; 10:00–11:00 am.

BIRD BANDING AT CARATUNK

August 24, 2022; 9:15–11:15 am.



BATS AT TWILIGHT

BATS AT EPPLEY

Learn about the plentiful resident bats at the Eppley Wildlife Refuge. Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingston, RI; *June 24, 2022; 8:00–9:30 pm.*

SUNSET WALK AT TOUISSET MARSH

Observe the twilight activities of bats and other wildlife in the meadows and marsh. Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge, Touisset Road, Warren, RI; *July 29, 2022; 7:00–9:00 pm.*

BATS AND BEER

Join an evening of outdoor exploration and local brews! Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; *August 5, 2022; 7:30–9:00 pm.*

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

Legislative Update

By Priscilla De La Cruz,
Senior Director of Government Affairs

This spring, Audubon is reflective of the progress we have made on the anniversary of the landmark 2021 Act On Climate legislation, guiding Rhode Island in its response to the climate change crisis. We are just as conscious of the work that lies ahead of us to support the State. As we strive to implement Act-On Climate, we must also hold the State accountable to meet the required carbon reduction goals. This includes continuing to pass legislation that pushes the State from planning phases to action regarding climate.

Audubon continues to focus the need for climate action on climate mitigation and resiliency by working with legislators and partners to protect core forests and pollinators. We continue to work with partners toward a legislative solution (House Bill No. 7531 pending amendments) that enables the protection of core forests, aligns renewable energy program incentives with the State's climate goals, and maximizes solar development in preferred sites already developed land, gravel pits, landfills, brownfields, commercially zoned properties, rooftops, and parking lots. In April, Audubon hosted a webinar to begin to address the statewide solar siting challenge with our partners Conservation Law Foundation, Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Grow Smart RI, Save The Bay, and The Nature Conservancy. You can access the recording on YouTube: youtu.be/KrFSza2mlBw.

Audubon has also testified in support of pesticide control to regulate Neonicotinoids (neonics) for pollinator protection and mobilized members and supporters! Now with Senate Bill 2299 and House Bill 7129, there's growing support to keep neonics out of the hands of untrained users. Audubon is focused on increasing awareness and education among the public and legislators about these dangerous pesticides, and to push for a legislative vote on the Senate and House floors. If you haven't already, contact your legislators today and let them know that you support pollinator protection!

The Boston Globe published an op-ed on March 30, 2022 regarding neonicotinoids. The commentary was authored by Audubon Senior Director of Government Affairs Priscilla De La Cruz and The Nature Conservancy Climate and Energy Program Manager Sue AnderBois. To read the letter, visit: <https://bit.ly/3641pSm>

You can listen to webinar recordings and follow legislative updates, including a list of other important bills supported by Audubon on clean energy, environmental justice, and toxins and plastics waste by subscribing to the Eagle Eye newsletter. Visit [asri.org/lead](https://www.asri.org/lead) to sign up today!



RHODE ISLAND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION SUMMIT

July 14, 15, 16, 2022

University of Rhode Island Memorial Union

Keynote Speaker:

Lorén M. Spears
Executive Director of
Tomaquag Museum

Join a multi-date summit that includes field trips, social opportunities, networking and more. Registration is now open, learn more and reserve your spot at: www.landandwaterpartnership.org



The Audubon Eagle Eye Newsletter

Follow Audubon's Advocacy work with legislative updates on issues such as forest and pollinator protection, climate initiatives, clean energy, environmental justice, and more.

Visit [asri.org/lead](https://www.asri.org/lead) to sign up today!

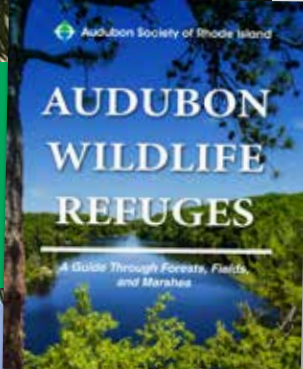


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Membership also includes reduced fees for programs, rentals, birthday parties and more!



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Cameras and Wildlife Monitoring

Photography has always been a valuable conservation tool. However, capturing wildlife in action can take hours of field time, expensive equipment, and a bit of luck. Still, the results are well worth the effort. Audubon has been using automatic, weather-resistant cameras (a.k.a. trail cams) for about five years on wildlife refuges. This is a safe and animal-friendly way to see what animals are present, watch their numbers, and observe their behaviors. The beauty of these cameras is they work so well, day and night, in blizzards and muggy summer evenings. Infrared sensors allow us to capture nighttime photos and video.

Once the camera is set up it is best to leave the site alone. The smell of humans is enough to discourage shy species. Thankfully the technology keeps improving and the batteries have a long life. Cameras often go untouched for several months and the seasonal changes are fascinating.

Cameras have replaced live trapping and other sampling methods in some conservation situations. The images help corroborate other animal signs we witness on properties such as tracks, fur, feathers and scat. Our technology stamps photos with a date, time, and temperature and even moon phase.

Currently Audubon has four cameras recording wildlife activities at remote spots in our wildlife refuges. All are placed well away from trails. Public areas with human use tend to have less of the wildlife that we are seeking.

Audubon cameras have told many captivating stories. Some memorable captures include a rare bear sighting in Rhode Island, bucks wrestling and a flying squirrel gliding across the scenery. In a very active spot, images revealed a sequence of photos on a log where rabbits and gray squirrels were followed by deer, eventually very curious coyotes, and then a lone bobcat sniffing the animal scents all on the same log, all in the same night.

Bobcat populations have been increasing in Rhode Island and Audubon received several reports of an animal crossing the road near an Audubon wildlife refuge in the evening. A carefully placed camera confirmed this sighting. These quiet and shy animals would not have been observed in action so quickly were it not for our discrete methods.

Black bears were seen in several locations in South Kingstown, but it took a camera to record a healthy specimen running through Audubon property.

Fisher numbers have also been increasing in Rhode Island and many have been captured through Audubon's digital images.

Cameras allowed us to assess wildlife activities in a habitat restoration project without sitting for hours in a blind.

Other than Wild Turkeys, it has been trickier to get consistently crisp photos of birds. Fast-moving birds often leave blurry images, but the cameras have captured Great-horned Owls swooping down on prey at night, a Red-tailed Hawk sitting on a branch, Black-capped Chickadees seemingly fighting with the lens, Wood Ducks resting in leaves above a vernal pool and a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers looking for insects at the base of trees.

Interestingly, the images reveal that some animals detect the camera's sounds and infrared light. Some subjects may even look right at the lens. More than one white-tailed deer has taken closeups as they sniff and lick near the camera. Does have been captured on camera bedding down, napping restlessly, and grooming themselves. Other deer ran by in a blur, possibly startled by a pack of coyotes, and bucks grew antlers of all shapes and sizes. The animals appear comfortable and unstressed in front of the cameras.



Clockwise from top left: Bear and curious buck at the Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge (West Kingston), bucks at the Lathrop Wildlife Refuge (Westerly), raccoons at Kraus Wildlife Refuge (South Kingstown), bolting deer at Lathrop, coyote at Eppley, bobcat in snow at Eppley.

Automatic cameras are not only a valuable tool in Audubon's efforts to assess and protect animal populations on our refuges, this technology also provides an amazing glimpse into the often-hidden world of Rhode Island's wildlife.



ANIMAL NEIGHBORS SCAVENGER HUNT

Summer is the time for outdoor adventures! Take your family and explore fields, woods, and wetlands on Audubon Wildlife Refuges to see what you can find. Listen for birds in the trees and frogs in the ponds. Look for butterflies in gardens and deer in fields. Turn over a log to find millipedes and salamanders. Approach a pond quietly to look for basking turtles or try and find crabs scuttling about in a marsh.



There is so much to see! One way to sharpen your observation skills is to try a nature scavenger hunt. Use your detective skills to find the animals and their behaviors shown below. Just clip it out and take it along when you explore. Try creating your own scavenger hunt sheet to share with friends.

Cut this page out and take it on your walk.



FROG CROAKING

BUTTERFLY FLITTING

GULL FLYING

TURTLE BASKING

CRICKET JUMPING

ROBIN HUNTING

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

BEE BUZZING

SQUIRREL SCAMPERING

CROW CALLING

SALAMANDER HIDING

SPARROW CHIRPING

ANTS WORKING

DRAGONFLY FLYING

Alyssa Dionne

LASTING LEGACIES Continued from page 5

great-grandfather had envisioned. Even the working farms and grazing cows were more or less gone. Her father became its legal caretaker; he paid the taxes and wondered what, if anything, could be done with the 240 remaining acres. He approached Audubon. It didn't really constitute a wildlife habitat, Shawen explained, and the question became moot. It was the establishment in 1987 of the Prudence Conservancy that finally opened the door to a partnership that would ultimately pave the way for turning the place apart, with its abundant flora and fauna, into a well-protected Audubon wildlife refuge complete with a conservation easement and deed restrictions (there is no public access without special permission).

Together, Williams and her father initiated the paperwork in the summer of 1996. There were all sorts of strings attached, she said, but it all got done. In the end, she added, my father was thrilled. The Chipaquissett Wildlife Refuge was donated to Audubon in 1997 and years later, Williams said, the family is still being thanked for protecting the land.

Similarly, those looking to connect with nature appreciate the trails at the Mays Wildlife Refuge. On nice days, people are out there walking and enjoying [it all], Barrett said. The pandemic lockdown brought people out in droves, she added, from individual hikers to big family groups. He would have loved seeing so many people walking the woods and trails, she added. He would have loved, loved, loved that.

A walk in the woods with Taft touring the trails around the Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge is, to a birding rookie, both an education and a revelation. He makes frequent stops, pausing at one point to look skyward at a stand of tall pines, long expired; needles and cones long gone. Still, there are signs of life. Attached up high to the ragged treetops were sturdy-looking bird boxes, move-in ready, for the Saw-whet Owls that return on an annual basis. Further along, Taft points out an array of small nesting boxes for Eastern Bluebirds closer to the ground. He talks about species displacement, mentioning House Sparrows and wrens as well as the bluebirds. When Audubon headquarters moved to Smithfield, he said, some wondered why they did not clean up the woods; clear out the dead trees. We're not about culling trees and timber. We're managing [the land] for the birds and wildlife and protecting valuable habitat.

Land conservation and wildlife protection remain at the heart of Audubon's mission. Yet there are changes afoot, with the focus becoming more responsive to an evolving population—human as well as avian—and at promoting resilience in the face of climate change. Thirty or forty years ago there were no land trusts, Taft said. If a family owned a sizable piece of land they wanted to see preserved, Audubon back then was the only alternative. We took on a lot as opportunities presented themselves, but there was no focused strategy. Audubon continues its efforts to grow, but along more strategic guidelines designed to eliminate the growing pains. Climate change has called for protecting coastal areas to serve as storm buffers. Inland, the goal is to preserve more natural spaces and support green infrastructure that can reduce flooding from severe storms rather than sending the polluted runoff down a storm drain and into the water supply. Audubon also steadily promotes the acquisition of land buffers—smaller yet protective parcels that both help keep the larger properties from directly abutting developed areas, and links them to neighboring tracts of other conservation land.

Last fall Audubon launched its Avian Research Initiative—an all-inclusive project designed to monitor the many bird species that are using Audubon properties. That will be our cutting edge going forward, Taft explained, determining how we protect and encourage birds and how our natural landscape fosters resilience. The overall approach will be to make Audubon's refuges more interconnected, their care and management more strategic, more efficient, and more of a single, organic whole—with land and wildlife management that is more 21st century than 20th.

Please turn to page 23



Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge

Protected since 1979, Donated by the estate of Constance Earle



Karen Johnson-Nieuwenhijk

George B. Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge

Protected since 1941, Donated by George B. Parker



Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge

Protected since 1992, Donated by Claire D. McIntosh



Jason Major

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge

*Protected since 1988, Donated by George and Rose Matteson
(The Mattesons also donated the Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge)*

Audubon Educator Tracey Hall Receives Award From RIEEA

Tracey Hall, Audubon education coordinator and camp director, was recently awarded the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association's Informal Educator of the Year. Tracey has worked at Audubon since 1997 and has developed strong skills as an educator, naturalist, birder, and artist.

The term informal educator refers to those who teach in settings other than a classroom. Think of all the places that Tracey and the other Audubon educators teach over the course of a year: parks, wildlife refuges, schoolyards, classrooms, Nature Center & Aquarium indoor exhibits, pollinator garden, wetlands, and more!

Audubon congratulates Tracey on the receipt of this well-deserved award and recognizes her hard work, creativity, and on-going dedication to environmental education.



Audubon Educator Tracey Hall (right) is presented the award from Audubon Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee.

Spring Housekeeping for the Kestrels

A fallen Kestrel box was repaired on March 22 by conservation staff at the Newman Wildlife Refuge, which crosses the borders between Smithfield and Glocester, Rhode Island. A productive location for Kestrels in past years, the box and pole were restored in early spring so that the arriving parents would hopefully return again to nest in their chosen location.



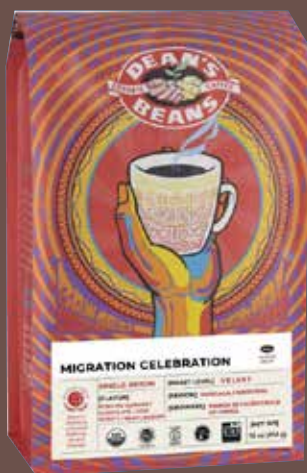
Right: Audubon conservation staff members Mike Cavaliere (left) and Jon Scoones restore the Kestrel box in March.

SAVING BIRDS ONE CUP AT A TIME!

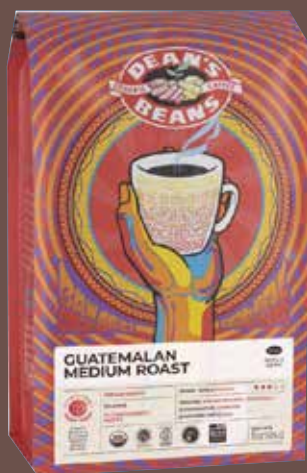
Audubon Offers Fresh Whole Bean and Ground Bird-Friendly Coffee

Visit asri.org/coffee to order online and learn more about Dean's Beans support for local communities where the coffee is grown.

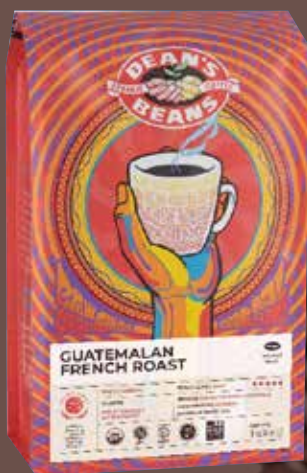
Dean's Beans Coffee is Fair Trade Federation Certified and is also certified Bird Friendly by the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.



MIGRATION CELEBRATION
Medium roasted coffee from Honduras.



GUATEMALAN MEDIUM ROAST
Classic Central American flavor: clean sugar sweetness, smooth and nutty, with a touch of floral aromatics.



GUATEMALAN FRENCH ROAST
A dark roast, this coffee has a medium body with a smoky flavor.



PERUVIAN DECAF COFFEE
A full-bodied, but flavorful and aromatic coffee.



All proceeds benefit the Audubon Avian Research Initiative.

*Planning a
Celebration
or Special
Event?*



Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium

Located in historic Bristol, Rhode Island, just 30 minutes from Providence, Newport, and Fall River, the award-winning Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium is one of Rhode Island's most unique meeting venues. With beautiful trails, exhibits and aquarium, large meeting, reception, and outdoor patio space, the Nature Center provides a setting that will captivate guests.

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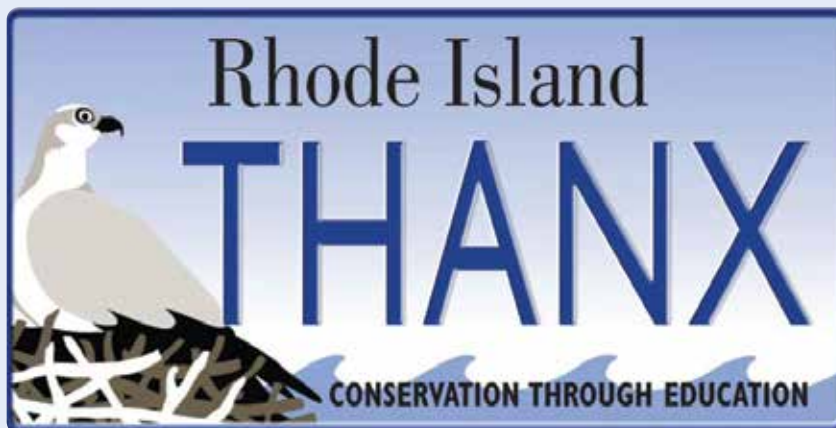
For availability and reservations, visit asri.org and click on *services* or contact Anne DiMonti at (401) 949-5454 x3116 or adimonti@asri.org.

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DUCKS WITH DEVIN

By Lauren Parmelee, Senior Director of Education

AUDUBON CONTEST INSPIRES PASSION FOR BIRDING IN LOCAL TEEN

In May 2020, 12-year-old Devin Silversmith won Audubon's birding contest Big Days in a Little State, which challenged people to count how many species they could spot over a two-week period. Devin knew some common birds to start, but by the end of the contest he had identified over ninety species, enough to take home the prize.

Now that he is fourteen, his life list is up to 288 species, including several rare birds. Recently, Devin found a rare Varied Thrush in his backyard, and he knew to take photos for proof.

As a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Devin was required to complete community service and a leadership project this year. He chose to volunteer at Audubon's Kingston Wildlife Research Station where he learned to remove birds from mist nets and collect data on species size, weight, and age. His required fifteen hours of service turned into thirty-five, as his interest in ornithology grew.

This past winter, Devin partnered with Audubon to lead a Ducks with Devin bird walk at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge. While Audubon helped register people for the walk, Devin planned the adventure and enlisted friends to come along. On the day of the walk, fifteen people were registered and ready to bird. Then along the way, another group of birders joined in. Devin's first bird walk had thirty participants. He gave an informative introduction, stopped along the trail to point out a variety of wildlife, and helped folks find and identify ducks and other waterfowl on the ponds. He also talked about the life history of the different ducks and answered questions. What a great success!

When asked why he has taken to birding, Devin said "I love the outdoors, and birds have helped me connect to nature the most. Leading this walk was a culmination of liking to teach, discover new things, and learn from other people."

Audubon encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to get outside and try birding. See page 11 for a variety of Audubon birding programs, including many that are fun and engaging for youth and teens. Bring a young person birding this summer, you never know where it might lead!



Devin Silversmith has developed a passion for birding through his experiences with Audubon.

Jason Major



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Growing Together at the Veterans Home Greenhouse in Bristol

By Katie Schortmann, Audubon Garden Coordinator / Environmental Educator

Started in 1996, the Veterans Home Greenhouse in Bristol is the oldest project of the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Program volunteers. For over 25 years these gardeners have been working alongside veterans to encourage the healing properties of nature. In 2019, a state-of-the-art greenhouse was built to aid volunteers in their mission. They plan, plant, and work together to maintain the courtyard gardens so that the veterans can have ownership over their space and the benefits of gardening remain accessible to our veteran community.

This winter, the Audubon Palmieri Pollinator Garden volunteers partnered with the Veterans Home Greenhouse. Audubon thanks Veterans Home Greenhouse Project Leader, John Twomey and his group of volunteers and interns for being so welcoming. A table space was offered for use as a germination station. Native seeds collected last year from the Claire D. McIntosh Refuge went through stratification - the process of pretreating seeds in ways that mimic natural conditions. The seeds were either scarified (the seed coat was scratched) to simulate going through animal digestion, put in the fridge to mimic winter temperatures, or kept cool and moist in damp sand. The seeds were then safely stored away waiting for spring.

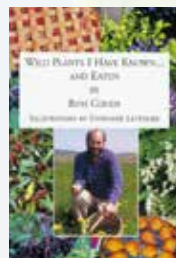
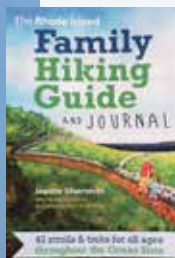
A table of tiny green seedlings are now watered daily by volunteers, patiently waiting for them to graduate to larger pots. These native plants will then be spread throughout Audubon wildlife refuges. Practicing the most up-to-date science requires some trial and error and our volunteers are grateful to the Veterans Greenhouse team for the opportunity to learn and grow together.



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- *Wild Plants I Have Known and Eaten* by Russ Cohen
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- *The Rhode Island Family Hiking Guide and Journal* by Jeanine Silversmith
- *Rhode Island Birding Trails* by Jeff Hall and Ken Weber
- *Audubon Wildlife Refuges Guide*
- *The Sibley Guide to Birds (2nd Edition)* by David Allen Sibley

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1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI

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Members receive 10% off purchases in Bristol and online.

Jason Major

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF AUDUBON



Individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences share their time and talent to support Audubon. From interns and educators to gardeners, trail guides, office help and more, we depend on volunteers. Upcoming issues of the Report will highlight a number of Audubon volunteers and the many talents they share with us.

KATHY JENAL

Audubon Palmieri Pollinator Garden Volunteer, Nature Center & Aquarium

Kathy Jenal, of Foster, RI, is an Audubon volunteer and URI Master Gardener-extraordinaire. Kathy brings a peaceful energy and contemplative nature to the Palmieri Pollinator Garden. Her work ethic and knowledge of native plants are a treasure to all involved on the garden team. Kathy's personal experience is something we count on as we continue to learn and grow in the Pollinator Garden. She has volunteered many hours, and driven many miles, to aid our efforts in creating a pollinator haven.

Kathy has been an integral part in our efforts to start growing native seeds this winter. Her tutelage has made our team wiser and stronger and given us the hopeful beginning of many tiny sprouts. Audubon Board Member Terry Meyer had this to say about Ms. Jenal: Kathy is so knowledgeable about plants, human psychology, and has a warm engaging heart. I just want to hang with her and do any project. Kathy has a wealth of formal and experiential knowledge that we are all truly grateful for, because when we learn together, we can grow together. Thank you, Kathy!

By Katie Schortmann,
Audubon Garden Coordinator / Environmental Educator



Kathy Jenal in the Audubon Palmieri Pollinator Garden

DON HEMOND

Audubon Nature Center & Aquarium Volunteer

For close to four years, Don Hemond has volunteered his time and experience helping to improve the facilities at the Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol. A retired carpenter and cabinetmaker, Don's expertise has been integral to many new installations including the aquaponics and turtle exhibits, and the new Curiosity Corner. He has worked on several outdoor projects at the Nature Center as well, from building the boardwalk along the pond in the Palmieri Pollinator Garden to helping renovate several of Audubon's raptor mews.

Don and his wife Sarah have also volunteered in the Development Department. They have assisted with several fund-raising campaigns, including the Sponsor a Raptor program at Raptor Weekend. They have a particular knack for promoting those sponsorships! Not only have I had a ton of fun working with Don but have learned SO much from him. A huge thank you to both Don and Sarah for all they have done to support Audubon!

By Barry Cohen
Caretaker, Audubon Nature Center & Aquarium, Bristol



Don and Sarah Hemond in the new Curiosity Corner. Don was instrumental in the construction of this exhibit.

AIMÉE GRACE ROBERTSON

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge Volunteer, MET School Student

Twice a week during the 2022 school semester, Aimée Grace Robertson has headed to Fisherville Brook in Exeter to gain hands-on experience in the field of environmental conservation. She has worked with me to bushwhack through the woods to post Fisherville Brook's extensive boundaries, cleared trails after storms, developed nature games for elementary school programs, and worked in the pollinator garden. Each week Aimée also joins the Wednesday Morning Bird Walks, learning birding skills and discovering what it is like to lead programs as a naturalist. This is all part of a career program at her school.

Aimée is eager to learn all she can about the outdoors, climate change, environmental architecture, and birding. She has a strong work ethic and is eager to learn. It has been a pleasure having her volunteering at Fisherville Brook.

By Laura Carberry
Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge Manager



Aimée shares her Audubon experience and goals with classmates from the Met School during her Trimester Exhibition.

MARY COSTELLO

Development Volunteer at Audubon HQ

Each week, membership dues, donations, and other generous gifts to Audubon are received and recorded by the Development Department—but the process doesn't end there. Audubon has always understood the importance of thanking these donors and supporters with sincere letters and notes acknowledging their gifts. For over four years, Cranston resident Mary Costello has volunteered her time to ensure that fellow Audubon members know how much their support is appreciated.

Each Friday, Mary organizes, addresses, and posts dozens of thank you and membership confirmation letters and other correspondence. In addition, she runs our in-kind donation program and keeps track of the hundreds of hours Audubon volunteers contribute each year. Mary has a knack for identifying where Audubon gift-processing can be streamlined and is always willing to take on a new project. She is an avid fan of the Providence Peregrine Livestream and shares our enthusiasm for the generous support Audubon receives. It's a joy to work alongside her each week.

By Paige Therien
Audubon Development & Communications Associate



Mary Costello at Audubon Headquarters in Smithfield.

LASTING LEGACIES Continued from page 17

In a word, holistic. One can't help but wonder, while considering the historic arc of Audubon's acquisition and land management practices, if there is a tally sheet. In March, Audubon staff completed a five-year self-audit in seeking accreditation with the National Land Trust Alliance (NLTA) — what Taft called the "gold seal" for a non-profit such as Audubon. The NLTA's website calls it "a mark of distinction [that] sends a message to landowners and supporters: Invest in us. We are a strong, effective organization you can trust to conserve your land forever."

Taft described the exercise as a chance to "look under the hood and focus on the land entrusted to us." The checklist, he said, presented a valuable exercise in self-assessment. "Are we practicing good stewardship? And how have we achieved this? Are we capable? Is there good governance? Are we sound? Have we protected ourselves — which means our land, birds, and their habitat?" He said he feels confident that all of those questions were answered. "Yes," he said, "I think we have achieved all of the above."

While the Executive Director's work often requires a lens focused on dreams and visions, volunteer Kris Stuart is the office archeologist, seeking answers from cold hard facts. Yin to Taft's yang, Stuart is a former Resource Conservationist with a variety of conservation districts. She took on the enormous job of pulling together information on each of Audubon's 120 pieces of property, beginning with the 1924 gift of the Kimball Bird Sanctuary. She dug around through years of Audubon's records as well as a variety of town halls from as far back as the 1930s. "I like to putter around stuff," she said.

And putter she did. Among Stuart's finds was a copy of a letter dated October 6, 1913, from William McLane of Tiverton, to Otto Ruecker of Newport, accepting Ruecker's offer of \$4,500 for McLane's farm in Tiverton overlooking the Sakonnet River. McLane explained that "the price included the farm and the furniture contained in the house and all of the tools which I have furnished at different times. The property would one day become the 50-acre Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge in Tiverton. Otto Ruecker's daughter Emilie, who like Mays was a prolific landscape artist and passionate about the property, left the land to Audubon in 1966."

Stewardship and protection were on Barrett's mind the day she shared her memories of her uncle, Maxwell Mays. She walked the trails up to his cabin overlooking Carr Pond — to the same porch where, years earlier, Mays was told that he possessed great wealth. Clearly, for Barrett, memories beget more memories. She later shared his nickname for the small pond: he liked to call it Veronica Lake — much to everyone's amusement. Barrett also added one last memory, to an already sweetened pot: "I was just thinking about Max and the last 4 years of his life," she said. "He had a goal before he died and that was to take Hannah (his loyal dog and companion) for a walk to the lake house. Unfortunately, he was never strong enough or steady enough to achieve his goal, but I'm sure he walked that path daily in his mind."

Betsy Sherman Walker is a Rhode Island native who writes for area non-profits, news, and lifestyle publications. Touch base at walkerbets@gmail.com.



THE AUDUBON 2023 CALENDAR NEEDS PHOTOS OF BIRDS AND WILDLIFE

New this year! Audubon is including images of wildlife, as well as birds, in the 2023 calendar competition. Remember that photos must be taken in Rhode Island, and we are looking for images that reflect all seasons.

Deadline is September 12, 2022.
Visit asri.org/audubon-calendar.html for details and to submit photos.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

- facebook.com/audubonRI
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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 visit asri.org/leadership or contact Jeff Hall at 401-949-5454 ext. 5017.

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.



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Caratunk Barn

The big white barn at Caratunk provides the perfect rural setting for weddings, showers, family reunions or meetings. Birthday parties for children are also offered.

For availability and reservations regarding weddings and birthdays, visit asri.org and click on 'services.' For all other rental queries, contact Jon Scoones at jscoones@asri.org.

Welcome Audubon Educator Kate LaGattuta

Audubon has a new educator on board! Kate LaGattuta will be facilitating environmental education programs throughout Rhode Island and parts of Massachusetts at schools, libraries, and after school programs. She will also be involved with programming for Audubon summer camps at the Nature Center & Aquarium.



Kate earned a Master's degree from Boston University in Integrated Elementary and Special Education and holds a Bachelor's degree from Wheelock College in Science and Elementary Education. She grew up in Litchfield, CT where she developed her love for nature and science while exploring the trails and engaging in programs at the White Memorial Conservation Center. Kate is passionate about fostering children's creativity, growth, and curiosity through science, and is a welcome addition to the Audubon education team!

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.

Citizens Bank
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NEC Solar
Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
R.I. Beekeepers Association
Target
United Natural Foods, Inc.
Van Liew Trust Company

GIFTS IN HONOR

The people listed below have been honored by family and friends who found a gift to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to be the most meaningful way to celebrate someone important in their lives.

In Honor of: Sarah A. Becker
From: Daniel Becker

In Honor of: Sally Bradford
From: Judith Queen

In Honor of: Niels Chapman
From: Anonymous

In Honor of: Charles Doherty
From: Kathryn White

In Honor of: Richard Donelly
From: Phyllis Kay and Richard Donnelly

In Honor of: Jennifer and Jonathan Ellse
From: Elaine Rezendes

In Honor of: Edison Hodge
From: Michelle Wu

In Honor of: Leigh Hood
From: Priscilla and Steve Weaver

In Honor of: Taylor Maynard
From: Sara Hoffschmidt

In Honor of: Brock Newton
From: Nicole Adriance
Anonymous
Michelle Denault and Mark Palmer
Tiffany Libby
Thomas and Jennifer O'Connell
Anna Przyjemska
Molly and Stephen Thomas
Arthur Waters

In Honor of: Kieran O'Halloran
From: Natasha Buckler
Michelle Denault and Mark Palmer
Jennafer Rose
Molly and Stephen Thomas

In Honor of: Soren N
From: Anonymous

In Honor of: Lauren Parmelee
From: Stacy Couto

In Honor of: Joseph Renzi
From: Susan McNamara

In Honor of: Joan Schaefer
From: The Schaefer Family

In Honor of: Milo Sheridan
From: Danielle Danese

In Honor of: Eleanor T
From: Anonymous

In Honor of: Cindy Warren
From: Anonymous

In Honor of: Joseph Womersley
From: Kathleen Womersley

In Honor of: Joe Zbyrowski
From: Nancy Lanphear

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: Jacquelyn Albano
From: Diane Albano
Lynne Tobin

In Memory of: Mary Blask
From: Laura Williams

In Memory of: Richard Carchia
From: Janis Meyer

In Memory of: Rachel Carson
From: Kevin and Mardee Carson

In Memory of: Bill Folsom
From: Kirsten Sorensen

In Memory of: Roslyn T. Kszaszcz
From: Sandra Breen
Philip and Mary Daignault
Paul Kszaszcz & Rose Marie Murphy
Les and Stasia Wozniak

In Memory of: Joan Carol Langevin
From: David Bernhardt

In Memory of: Dorothy V. Lee
From: Barbara Mahony Kent

In Memory of: Juliette Mandeville
From: Kimberly and Randall Brown
Priscilla and Mark Lazuk
Lise Robidoux
Christine and Peter Squillacci
Nancy Tierney and William Giannini

In Memory of: Catherine Burkart Phelps
From: Natalie Tennant & Martin Phelps Tennant

In Memory of: Shirley Silva
From: Paula A. Kandarian

In Memory of: Joanna Sorlien
From: Keri Miller

In Memory of: Bob Sousa
From: Mr. Ferri and Ms. Steele

In Memory of: Cathy Warrick
From: Brian C. McWilliams

In Memory of: Betty White
From: Phyllis and Jay Buckley

In Memory of: Jackie Wiegand
From: Elizabeth and Mark Harper
Naomi Lipsky
David and Elizabeth McNab

In Memory of: Nicole Meredith Reinert
From: Steven and Beverly Reinert





THANK YOU!

AUDUBON RUN WILD FOR NATURE 2022

There was an unusually large number of orange foxes running and walking across Rhode Island during Earth Week. Thank you to all the individual participants, families, and fundraisers who made the second Run Wild for Nature a success!

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SUSAN AND CATHERINE
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BEST DRESSED 2 WINNERS



FRANK SCUITO AND FAMILY

BEST PLOGGER: LAURIE CHRONLEY



NATALIE COOLEN



PARTY FOR THE PEREGRINES



Thank you to all the individuals, organizations, and businesses that donated to the Party for the Peregrines Auction on May 6, 2022.

The auction raised over \$25,000 for Audubon's raptor care and education programs. Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to those who won the fabulous auction items!



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- All that Matters Yoga & Wellness
- Artist's Exchange
- Badger Balm
- Bark Box
- Bay Spirit Tours
- Bayside Resort Hotel
- Belmont Market
- Bird Clock-singing
- Blackstone Valley Tourism Council
- Blihwold Mansion
- Boston Crawling
- Boston Red Sox
- Bring Your Own Improv
- Cabot Cheese
- Candy and Chris Powell
- Cardi's Furniture
- Charles Riverboat Company
- Christmas Tree Shops
- Concord Museum
- Crystal Lake Golf Course
- Dave & Busters
- Davis Farmland
- Discover Newport
- Discovery Museum
- Dr. Charles Clarkson
- Dr. Peter Paton
- Earth Care Farm
- Edgewood Cheese Shop and Eatery
- Festival Ballet Providence
- Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar
- Grey Sail Brewing

- Hilltop Nursery
- Institute of Contemporary Art Boston
- International Tennis Hall of Fame
- Interstate Navigation
- Jan Brett
- Jeanelle Demers
- John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum
- Kendra Scott
- Kim Calcagno
- Knead Donuts
- La Gondola
- Larz Anderson Auto Museum
- Laura Landon
- Lauren Parmelee
- Leslie Samayoa
- Lighthouse Preservation Society
- Linden Place Mansion
- Linesider Brewing Co
- Maine Maritime Museum
- Merrimack Repertory Theatre
- Michael Viveiros
- Mischief Managed
- Misquamicut Drive In
- Mohegan Sun
- Monster Golf
- Mulligan's Island
- Mystic Seaport
- Native Plant Trust
- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- New Jersey Audubon
- New York Audubon
- Newport Art Museum & Art Association

- Norman Bird Sanctuary
- Norman Rockwell Museum
- Old Sturbridge Village
- Oriental Trading Company
- Palace Theatre
- Pat's Peak Ski Area
- Peg Nickerson
- Point Judith Peaks
- Preservation Society of Newport County
- Proclamation Ale Co.
- RISD Museum
- Rock Spot Climbing
- Roger Williams Park Botanical Center
- Roger Williams Park Zoo
- Rumford Pet Express
- Save the Bay
- Secret Garden Tours
- Siena Restaurants
- Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
- Stop & Shop Store #705
- Swan Boats of Boston
- The Chanler Inn
- The House of Seven Gables
- The Mushroom Hunting Foundation
- Theatre By the Sea
- Tilted Barn Brewery
- URE Outfitters
- Vermont Institute of Natural Science
- Weekapaug Inn
- Whaler's Brewing Company
- Windjammer Surf Bar
- Woo Sox

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS 2022 YOUTH CONSERVATION LEAGUE



Audubon is looking for high school students, new graduates, and early college students interested in environmental careers, forestry, landscaping, or wildlife biology.

The Youth Conservation League work as a team on land conservation and wildlife management projects for partners across the state including Audubon and The Nature Conservancy. Work will include controlling invasive plants, improving wildlife habitat, light carpentry such as signs and fences, native seed collection, community outreach, and more. The work will be intense and challenging, but very rewarding.

July 5–August 27, 2022

Monday through Thursday, 8:00am–4:00pm

For additional details and to apply, visit asri.org/YCL or contact Scott Ruhren (sruhren@asri.org) for more information.



Number of Osprey Fledglings Decrease in 2021

*In 2021 monitors counted 226 Osprey fledglings,
down from 303 fledglings in 2020.*

Surprising to some who may notice their many nests along coastlines and riverbanks, Ospreys were listed as an endangered species in the 1970s. Their story of a healthy, rebounding population is a true environmental success story. Audubon Society of Rhode Island volunteers monitored 222 Osprey nests in 2021, carefully recording the status of this raptor in the Ocean State. Audubon recorded a total of 226 Osprey fledglings in Rhode Island, down from 303 in 2020. Note: Due to COVID concerns, there were a smaller number of volunteers and fewer nests were monitored in 2021.

For data on Ospreys by Rhode Island cities, towns and communities, visit www.riosprey.info.



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

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eventbrite.com/e/poetry-music-and-performance-at-audubon-tickets-248184314967



Spring Needs to Be Noisy, and So Do You.

Editorial by Dr. Charles Clarkson, Director of Avian Research

Few people know that Rachel Carson never lived to see the impact she had on this world. She never heard the protest songs of throngs of passionate environmental activists marching in her name. She never knew she had been credited with instigating the modern environmental movement in our country. Instead, she spent the short time she had left on this planet after the publication of her most significant body of work fielding ridicule and contempt from pesticide manufacturers and skeptics. Miss Carson died only two years after publishing *Silent Spring*. The biologist who was so passionate about bringing back our beleaguered wildlife populations never lived to see the banning of DDT or the resurgence of our birds most heavily affected.

When Rachel Carson passed away on April 14, 1964, the spring was still silent, the Bald Eagle population of the conterminous US was down to the lowest level ever recorded (approximately 400 pairs), Peregrine Falcons were extirpated East of the Mississippi River and the waterbird-rich state of Louisiana had lost its iconic population of Brown Pelicans. At the time of her death, the world must have seemed quite bleak. It wasn't until decades of hard work and the acknowledgement of the truth behind her writings that we find ourselves today with a recovered Bald Eagle population (estimated at over 300,000 individuals in the lower 48 states) and the ability to log-in to a webcam and watch nesting Peregrine Falcons right here in the Ocean State.

Rachel Carson was attacked for her work on two fronts. On one, powerful corporations scared to lose profit and grapple with a PR nightmare condemned Miss Carson and her bold observations. In fact, there are groups that continue today to blame Rachel Carson for the plague of malaria that has yet to be vanquished from parts of Africa. Their argument largely posits that the removal of DDT from our arsenal of mosquito control efforts has reduced our capacity to control the virus. Of course, this is not only false, but it also suggests that the purveyors of this mindset haven't even read the book or acknowledged our failures with regards to international policy and humanitarian aid.

The second, and more insidious form of attack that Miss Carson was forced to endure was one levied against her for something she had no control over her sex. Four decades after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, misogyny and sexism still hampered the success of female visionaries across our country. Rachel Carson was just a single casualty in the thinly-veiled attempts by power-hungry individuals to label women as emotional beings unable to produce rational arguments due to their biology. After the publication of *Silent Spring*, one letter to

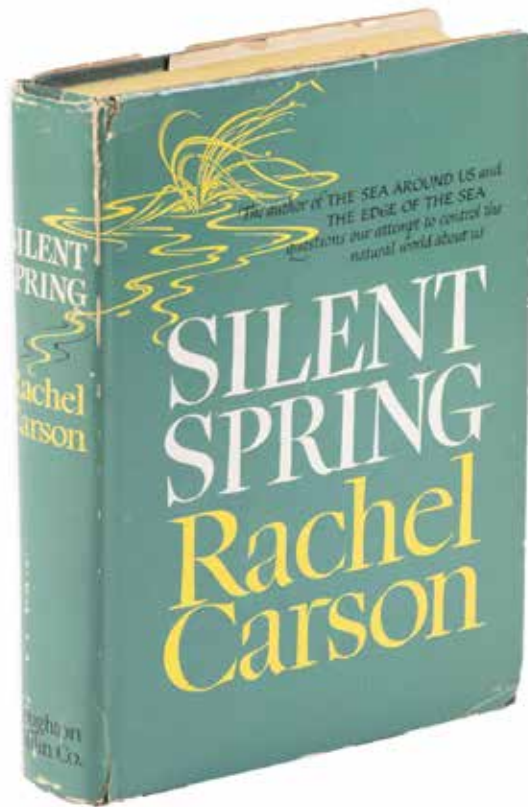
the editor of the *New Yorker* stated isn't it just like a woman to be scared to death of a few little bugs! (cited in Smith 2001, 741).

Today, in 2022, we have made great strides towards environmental health as well as equity and inclusion within human society. But, advances are still greatly needed on both of these fronts. Science is objective and real and women are equal members of society that deserve a seat at the table. Until these two fundamental truths are accepted universally, we will continue to suffer setbacks in our attempts at progress.

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island is dedicated to making our stance regarding science, equity, inclusion and compassion clear. If

you don't support the scientific process, data-driven conservation AND the recognition that all humans deserve respect and a voice, you should probably go find another organization to support. As a scientist and a great admirer of all those visionaries that have spoken up to make our world a better place, I refuse to work anywhere that would discount the thoughts and opinions of someone else simply due to their sex, race, religion or sexual orientation.

I don't know about you, but I do not want to leave this world when things seem bleak and hopeless for the wildlife I have devoted my entire life to conserving. I can't imagine the thought of leaving behind a planet for future generations that is stunted and failing—a shell of the biodiverse planet it once was. This was the unfortunate situation surrounding Rachel Carson's death. Although she did not bear witness to it, our springs are once again noisy and the crisis of DDT has abated. Now it is time for us to pick up the baton and continue making progress in the name of science AND in the name of women.



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.

STOP INVASIVE FOREST INSECTS

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Forest Pests



Asian Long-horned Beetle



Spotted Lanternfly



Emerald Ash Borer

UNH Cooperative Extension

If you spot these insects, record your location, take clear close-up photos, and report to RI Department of Environmental Management at

<https://appengine.egov.com/apps/ri/dem/demcaps>

BLOCK ISLAND BIRDING WEEKEND



SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2022

Block Island in autumn becomes the resting place for thousands of migrating birds. More than 125 species of birds have been seen here on fall weekends! Field trips for both novice and advanced birders are featured. Register early, space is limited.

Visit the events calendar at asri.org for details.



REGISTER TODAY

AUDUBON START YOUR SUMMER IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

Audubon Offers Over 45 Nature Explorations this Summer

Explore ponds and streams, learn about edible plants, and discover the amazing birds, bats, and insects that thrive in the Ocean State.

See pages 11-13 or visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.



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12 Sanderson Rd, Smithfield, RI 02917

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THE EGGS HAVE HATCHED! PROVIDENCE PEREGRINES WEBCAM

View the Audubon Peregrine Falcon nest box atop the Superman Building in Providence. Watch as the eggs hatch and the nestlings grow.



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



Peter Green