

Keep in touch with
eWing at www.asri.org



Audubon Society of Rhode Island

REPORT



VOLUME 57 • NO. 2 • SUMMER 2023

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE



AMPLIFYING THE QUIET VOICES

Audubon Launches Inclusive Education Initiative

AUDUBON SOCIETY
OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2022-2023

OFFICERS:

President:
David Caldwell Jr.

Vice President:
Tina Duhaime

Treasurer:
Patricia Thompson

Secretary:
Don Heitzmann

DIRECTORS:

Katherine Burnham
Jameson Chace
Ivan Col n
Laura Landen
Thomas Lisi
Kathleen Melbourne
Terry Meyer
Amy Moses
Stephen Porder
Emily Murphy Prior
David Riedel
Leslie Samayoa
Carol Lynn Trocki
Olinda Urizar-Mendez
Michael Viveiros
Emily Westcott
Shawen Williams
John Woulfe

**COUNCIL OF ADVISORS
2022-2023**

Dickson Boenning
Abigail Brooks
Nicholas A. Califano
Trudy A. Coxe
Meghan Frost
Joan R. Gardiner
Christopher R. Greenman
David Gumbley
Peter Lisle
Samuel H. Hallowell, Jr.
J. William H. Harsch
Katherine Irving
Keith Killingbeck
A.Max Kohlenberg
Robert Parker
Suzanne Paton
Candace Powell
Steven E. Reinert
Julia Randall Sharpe
Everett Stuart
Frederick J. Vincent
Cynthia J. Warren

From the Desk of the Executive Director

This is Audubon's Moment



This is a dynamic time of growth for Audubon. We are protecting thousands of acres of open space, monitoring the health of our environment, and providing thousands of children and adults with access to nature, all while advocating for climate action. We have seen significant progress made in achieving the goals of our 2020 Strategic Plan on climate, avian research, diversity, and inclusion.

Climate. Audubon has now divested of all fossil fuel companies from our endowment and is working towards a goal of zero carbon use. This summer we will audit Audubon buildings to develop a roadmap for this plan. Our most pressing need is at the Nature Center and Aquarium, which requires the replacement of its aging natural gas HVAC system. Our aim is to install all-electric, air-sourced heat pumps. We have also committed to replacing gas-powered trail and maintenance tools – lawn mowers, chain saws, trimmers – with electric models.

Avian Research. In January we published the first State of Our Birds Report, providing an overview of the birds that breed and overwinter on our properties. We have just released the second part of this study, focusing on migrating birds and how they use our natural areas to help them refuel and succeed during these treacherous journeys. This research will guide conservation efforts on Audubon properties and hopefully other protected areas across New England. Audubon is also expanding land acquisition strategies to further protect these critical habitats.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. We continue our work for climate justice, as all communities deserve a clean and safe environment. Audubon staff and board members have participated in diversity and inclusion workshops - to better educate us all on building a more welcoming and inclusive organization. We have also started a strategic review of our trails and buildings to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities. And we are expanding our environmental education programs at libraries, community centers, and parks in Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Newport.

Our work is ambitious, and we need your support more than ever on this journey. As I like to say, this is Audubon's Moment. We are uniquely positioned to address the most pressing issues of our time. By working together, we can ensure that Rhode Island becomes a healthier, greener place for all. Thank you for your continued support.

Good birding,

Jeffrey C. Hall,
Executive Director

A Win-Win for Nature

Let's create a win-win for nature and you. If you're considering a donation to Audubon this year and you own stocks in your savings portfolio, consider using shares of those stocks as a means of giving. Doing so can have some significant tax benefits, while allowing you to make a meaningful contribution to the conservation of birds, wildlife, and nature.

When donating appreciated stock, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the stock. Let's say that you purchased shares of Apple stock for \$5,000 five years ago, and the value of this stock has appreciated to \$10,000. If you were to sell the stock today, you would be required to pay capital gains tax on the \$5,000 gain. This tax could be as high as 20%, meaning you could owe \$1,000 in taxes*.

Now, instead of selling the stock and paying taxes, you can donate the stock to Audubon. Audubon, as a non-profit, sells the stock, pays no taxes, and uses the \$10,000 to fund our mission.

Since you donated a stock valued at \$10,000, you can claim a tax deduction for the full value of the stock. Donating appreciated stock means that you can reduce your taxable income by \$10,000, which could significantly lower your tax bill.

Donating is an easy process between your brokerage firm, the company holding your stock shares, and Audubon's banking partner Citizens Bank. We have detailed instructions we can send to you or your firm to get the process in motion.

By donating appreciated stock to Audubon in the example above, you can avoid paying the capital gains tax, claim a tax deduction, and support the natural world that surrounds us all. This is what's called a win-win.

If you are interested in donating shares of stock, contact our Advancement Office at 401-949-5454 ext.3019 or email Robin at rxiong@asri.org to receive more information on the donation process.

* It's important to note that there are some limitations on the amount of stock you can donate in any given year. The IRS sets a limit on the amount of charitable contributions you can deduct on your taxes, which is generally 30% of your adjusted gross income. If you donate more than this amount, you can carry over the excess contribution to future tax years. You should consider contacting your tax professional before making any contribution for tax purposes.



AMPLIFYING THE QUIET VOICES

Audubon Launches Inclusive Education Initiative

By Betsy Sherman Walker

Photos by Glenn Osmundson and Richard Staples

Students in the special education program at Cumberland High School hike the trails during a program at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge.

It has been a year since Audubon Educator Kate Swain and Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee embarked on a new initiative, “Taking Root: Nature-based Learning for All.” This pilot program aims to fulfill Audubon’s mission of connecting all people with nature—in this case, specifically students with special needs. With input from teachers, parents, and the students themselves, the end goal is to develop a well-funded, robust, barrier-free program that will serve students throughout the state.

Today we are going to take a little hike, Kate Swain announces to the eight high school students who have gathered around her at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge in Smithfield. It is a bright Wednesday morning in late March with a wintery nip in the air, and the treetops are just beginning to thicken with buds. We are going to explore habitats, she tells them, the fields and forests, and learn about the animals that live there. We take care of this land, and that includes the birds and the plants you will see.

The group is from the special education program at Cumberland High School, and they have come to see what they can discover along the necklace of trails that encircle Audubon headquarters. Leading them is Cumberland’s Transition Coordinator Tammy Lemieux, who moves seamlessly between her roles as mother hen, career coach, and educator. The students spend four days a week in the classroom, Lemieux explains, and Wednesdays are for community-based field trips. Our goal is to get them ready for adulthood, she says. We keep exploring to find out what works.

Swain, an Audubon educator with a master’s degree in special education, has set her visitors up for a wildlife scavenger hunt. At her feet is a milk crate packed with clipboards and a variety of teaching tools, which amount to a trove of wildlife finds: a weather-beaten empty turtle shell, a fragile, translucent snakeskin, a deer antler, a squirrel pelt, feathers from a Red-tailed Hawk, and a woodchuck skull with oversized front teeth intact.

Lemieux’s students are engaged, poised, curious, funny, canny—and in their own way, quite sophisticated. Some are talkative; some don’t talk at all. They range in age from 18 to 22 and belong to the community of students with intellectual and physical disabilities—roughly 17 percent of students between the ages of 3 and 21—who are enrolled in special education programs. For most of the group this is their maiden voyage with Audubon.

Their abundant curiosity, coupled with Swain’s experience as an educator, keeps things moving along. A student wants to know if the turtle shell is real—and if, since it’s empty, that means the turtle had to die.

Yes, unfortunately, Swain answers. It’s part of nature. The snake-skin, on the other hand, was left behind after the snake wriggled out of it and continued on with its life. Our skin grows with us, she tells them.

But not so with snakes. They rub the squirrel pelt, stroke the hawk feathers. Bird feathers are kind of cool, says another student. They feel cool too. They look like little hairs. The same student is curious about the sign posted at the edge of the trails for the butterfly garden, with no apparent signs of life. Are the butterflies real? he wants to know; and where are they now? Swain explains that it’s still too early in the season for butterflies.

As they walk, there is more explaining. She points out the wooden nesting boxes for the Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows and tells the students to listen for their calls. Stone walls built on the property tell us that there was once a farm on this land, with animals that needed to be

Please turn to page 4



Above: A student at the Groden Center discovers the texture of a turtle shell with Audubon Educator Kate Swain. Top and center right: Audubon Educator Lisa Maloney shares natural specimens with students at the Groden Center in Providence. Bottom right: Cumberland High School students engage with Audubon Educator Kate Swain at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge.

care for and contained. The stones are large, so the conclusion is that the contained animals were also large like cows. Swain overturns a log and finds a millipede imbedded in the soil, rolled up in a ball. The students gather around like moths to a flame.

This field trip and others like it is a learning experience for Audubon staff as much as it is for the students. Swain has worked on fine-tuning an appropriate and engaging curriculum with fellow Audubon Educator Lisa Maloney, who has also been instrumental in getting this program off the ground. Each nature walk, whether in Smithfield, at the Nature Center in Bristol, or in a schoolyard setting, tells Swain something new. She takes cues from the students, whose challenges can be intellectual but also include those with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Swain watches closely how her information is processed and works to tailor the experience to fit the students' perceptions not hers. Flexibility is key. Going out on the trails, I purposefully move at a slower pace, she says. You have to slow down and change your expectations.

We are still very much in the development phase of this program, she said when we met at the Nature Center and Aquarium in March. Our mission is to make these programs as available and as all-inclusive as possible. We don't want to turn any kids away.

The concept for this program was launched in March of 2022, when Swain received a call from Jessica Rawnsley, a special education teacher from Seekonk High School who works with students in the STARS program (Students and Teachers Achieving Results). Rawnsley had recently taken her nine-year-old son and a friend to the Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol. They had such a great time, she said. With her own students in mind she works with 14 to 18-year-olds whose cognitive levels range from pre-kindergarten to second grade. Rawnsley came away wondering if there were any programs or activities available at Audubon for her students. My primary role as a special ed teacher, she explained, is to help [my students] integrate into the community. I thought, I've got to get these kids out there.

She told me she had six students at the high school with pretty significant intellectual challenges, Swain said, and that she wanted them

to be able to experience a field trip. To prepare for their visit, Swain teamed with Maloney and together, they tweaked the concept of Nature Detectives, a popular elementary school science program that is often the go-to for science educators. In April 2022, Rawnsley brought her high schoolers to Bristol for a nature walk. The topic was the change in seasons. Swain told them to be on the lookout for signs of spring, and off on the trails they went.

“Our mission is to make these programs as available and as all-inclusive as possible. We don't want to turn any kids away.”

– Audubon Educator Kate Swain

One need only look at the exuberant grins and the fist bumps in Rawnsley's photos from that day to see that the visit was a huge success. Afterward, in understated wonder, the students recorded their reactions in their journals. When I went to the Audubon Society for a field trip, wrote one, I had so much fun! We went for a nature walk and learned about different animals and where they live in the wild. Another wrote as well about connecting with wildlife. I had a fun time at the Audubon Society. We learned about a lot of animals and where they live.

At the time, Swain recalls, there were random groups of students with special needs visiting the Nature Center, and when they did come, things were a little bit chaotic and unstructured. In essence, there was no formalized program or curriculum for students with disabilities. Swain, Maloney, and Parmelee found themselves in uncharted territory. They soon discovered that parents and school-based special educators were a valuable resource of personal experiences, advocacy, and contacts, and revealed a subculture of caregivers and children eager to get out there and experience nature.

Swain began to reach out to schools and teachers, those that educated students of all ages with disabilities. In November a group from the Grace School in Providence (a pre-K through grade 8 school affiliated with Meeting Street School) came for a geology field trip. In the mix were two children using wheelchairs. The outing typically involves going outside and digging in the dirt, said Swain. Everyone adapted. What we did was put a lot of dirt in a plastic bin. We brought it to the students and put the bins on their laps. Just getting their hands dirty, that experience, was a big deal. Again, she took her cues from the students.

It solidified my determination, she recalls. I thought, we can do this.

It came to a point when we finally said, we're going to pilot this program, confirmed Parmelee. We saw an opportunity for Audubon to really engage people and their caregivers with the challenges at hand. It's not just one person [we are serving], she adds. Whole families are involved.

Our job, Parmelee says, is to open the door.

It can be an expensive door. Another component of accessibility across the spectrum of Audubon's education programs is the challenge of making the outdoor experience available to all children, regardless of their ability to pay. Rawnsley says that when she first looked into the field trip, the cost seemed prohibitive. Unbeknownst to her, funding was available, and Audubon encouraged her to apply. Audubon received funding last year thanks to Senator Jack Reed, a consistently strong supporter of environmental education. Last November Reed presented a \$100k federal earmark to Audubon for the specific purpose of bolstering accessibility to its science and nature programs. The funding reflects the objectives of the No Child Left Inside Act, which was just re-introduced by Reed and his colleagues in late April.

Parmelee is always searching for funding. My passion is very involved in guiding the process, she says. As Audubon's grant writer for education initiatives, she must find compelling arguments with which to build her case. For Taking Root, she says, there were a number of lightning rods. There was the impetus to complete the 2020 Strategic Plan's commitment to diversity and inclusivity. There was the impetus of Reed's \$100K grant money. And there was the impetus of Swain's commitment and motivation.

Added to this was a generous gift from long-time Audubon supporter Mary Ann Cofrin, who has supported other Audubon programs that encourage inclusivity and outreach to underserved communities. People with disabilities often do not have access to nature, Cofrin said. I strongly believe this program will not only enhance lives, but provide a unique opportunity to engage more people in the importance of environmental sustainability. This is a win-win for both the environment and those who might otherwise miss out on the joys of the natural world. Her support will speak volumes for those whose voices aren't always heard.

There was also another push to start this program, a personal one. The mother of an autistic child enrolled in a year-long residency program at Exeter House was a friend of Maloney's who felt strongly about the benefits her child received from spending time in nature. She is a strong and assertive parent and has every right to be, says Parmelee. This determined mother provided the human face of the need for a nature-based program for students with disabilities. She saw the rewards firsthand. We had a mom pushing for this program, stressing the need for exposure to nature, and in turn we were looking to further our goals of inclusivity. Everything clicked. We said, OK let's try it.

It is yeoman's work, but the rewards run deep. Ginger Brown, a biologist and environmental science educator, is an ardent advocate for the pairing of those with cognitive, social, and emotional challenges with



Clockwise from top: Educator Ginger Brown (left with scope) monitors Osprey nests with students from the Bristol L.I.F.E. program in a previous class. Audubon Educator Lisa Maloney engages a class with a raptor skull specimen. A student in the STARS program at Seekonk High School works on a craft after a nature detective program on the trails in Bristol. A Seekonk High School student explores the aquarium exhibits at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium. Kate Swain works with a student and a teacher's aide (center) at the Groden Center. Ginger Brown (left) with her previous students in a ponding program.

Please turn to page 26

THE STATE OF OUR BIRDS PART II: MIGRATION

By Paige Shapiro



Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*)

From the unpredictable temperatures to the choruses of spring peepers, one thing is abundantly clear: spring is upon us. These words may excite even the most amateur of birders, as it indicates the long-awaited arrival of the spring migration season.

And although this may be the best time of year for us to break out our binoculars and hit the trails, the reality is that migration is an extremely perilous and strenuous time for birds. For them, the season comes with far more hazardous connotations.

Several years of data analysis have pinpointed western Rhode Island as a hotspot for migratory stopovers, mostly due to its location. Simply put, this area is directly en route to the birds' final destinations. What this means for Audubon's Avian Research Initiative is relatively clear-cut: data are needed to properly understand how birds use our properties during migration and what they need to refuel during this period of high risk. How can we help migratory birds succeed as they pass through our state?

As reiterated in Audubon's State of Our Birds Report: Part I, released in January, North America has lost 30% of its bird population over the past 50 years. This report disclosed data on the distribution, abundance, habitat associations, and long-term population trends of the birds found breeding and overwintering across Audubon wildlife refuges. It was the first release of data from the Audubon Avian Research Initiative—a plan that acknowledges the irrefutable fact of nose-diving bird populations and proposes conservation efforts to help bring them back. The report by Dr. Charles Clarkson, Audubon's Director of Avian Research, identified nine Responsibility Birds that the initiative will focus on to reverse their population decline.

With the recent release of *The State of Our Birds Part II: Migration*, Audubon continues its ongoing trek to learn more about the species that use our properties—this time reaching into the vast world of migration.

Clarkson and a team of volunteers collected data on exactly how birds use Audubon's properties when they migrate, in comparison to when they breed or overwinter. But as expected, this venture is easier said than done. The migratory season is highly, highly variable, explains Clarkson. How birds utilize the landscape actually changes quite regularly from year to year, even within a single year, and it all has to do with the physiological condition of that bird.

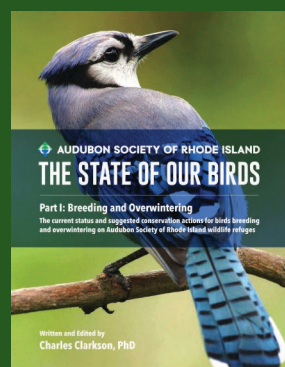
“The migratory season is highly, highly variable. How birds utilize the landscape actually changes quite regularly from year to year, even within a single year, and it all has to do with the physiological condition of that bird.”

— Dr. Charles Clarkson

Migration, as the most energetically demanding period in the life of most bird species, often requires at least a handful of pit stops, and these stopover sites are critical to their journey. Factors like the bird's initial health, weather patterns, and environmental events instigated by humans



Above: Clarkson navigates to a point count station using a GPS unit at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge. Below: Volunteers in the field with Clarkson at Fisherville Brook.



LEARN MORE!

**Proactive Conservation:
Managing Audubon Properties
for Bird Populations - Lecture
with Dr. Charles Clarkson**

August 10, 2023; 6:30-8:00 pm

Audubon Nature Center
and Aquarium, Bristol RI

Register through the events calendar
at asri.org/calendar

**Download Audubon's State of Our Birds Reports,
Part I and II, and support the Avian Research
Initiative at asri.org/AvianResearchInitiative**

(like wildfires, for example) also unpredictably influence when and how a bird uses a stopover site. An American Redstart, whose lengthy flight southward may have historically been punctuated by a stop at a particular parcel of land in North Kingstown, for example, would need to look to uncharted territory if their usual stopover happened to have fallen victim to deforestation. Species are constantly making decisions during migration that affect their success.

They have to be able to change their behavior, corroborated Clarkson. They do need to find new places to refuel.

Clarkson notes that while the conservation of large, undisturbed, and well-connected tracts of land is essential to providing breeding and over-wintering habitat, the opposite can be true during migration. Smaller and isolated habitat patches throughout the state can be critical for migrating birds when they need to make unexpected stops due to a lack of resources or severe weather patterns. Audubon protects over 50 properties across the state that contain 20 acres or less. These smaller parcels will be a focus study this fall.

The recent data amassed by Dr. Clarkson identified when migrants tend to show up during migration on Audubon properties, how long they stayed, and the turnover of the species—all things that he believes have to do with resource availability. To simplify: turnover can tell us a great deal about the ability of refuges and protected land to provide the necessary fuel for migrating birds.

But given the sobering first report, the question that begs an answer still exists: If climate change has indeed induced a premature arrival of the year's seasons, what does this mean for a migratory bird who cannot adapt as quickly as the changing weather?

Clarkson answers this question by explaining the migratory pattern of the Cerulean Warbler, a striking blue songbird with a bold white underbelly. The bird, an insectivore, is deemed a near-threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Some individual bird species are particularly hit hard, admitted Clarkson, providing this species as an example of phenological mismatch, or a disconnect between the bird and the resources that they have historically relied on.

Cerulean Warblers time their arrival, nesting, and reproduction to coincide with the historical timing of their required resources' peak abundance. Their food resources, though—insects like caterpillars, moths, flies, and wasps—tend not to follow the same model. Instead, these insects are poikilothermic, their emergence and activity are dictated solely by local tempera-

Please turn to page 18

PHENOLOGICAL MISMATCH

Long-distance migrants time their arrival in New England when insects have historically emerged. Many species depend on caterpillars, moths, flies and wasps as food resources. As our weather patterns change, and temperatures warm earlier in the season, insects also emerge earlier. Migrants then miss the period of peak abundance, and the resources that they have historically relied on. This is referred to as phenological mismatch.

Migratory species that are susceptible to phenological mismatch include: Cerulean Warbler, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Gray Catbird, and Wood Thrush. Two of these species, the Common Yellowthroat and Wood Thrush, are among Audubon's Responsibility Birds.



Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)



Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)



Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)



Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)



Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)



Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

Fleeting Beauty: Ephemerals on the Forest Floor

Each spring in forest and fields throughout Rhode Island, several plant species appear early, just as the days warm. They flower, spread seeds, and then disappear before summer. The plants do not die but go dormant underground.

Every living creature has a life history. Through natural selection, significant stages have been fixed from birth to death. Broad life history examples in the plant world are perennial and annual. A feature of life histories is phenology, the timing of life events. Many forest herbs exhibit a fleeting, or ephemeral, spring lifestyle with an early flowering phenology.

Some examples of these spring flowers in our forests are trout lilies, dutchman's breeches, wild ginger, bloodroot, wild trilliums, and eastern spring beauties. Introduced spring ephemerals are more commonly recognized and include spring bulbs such as crocus, daffodils and tulips.

Small, inconspicuous, yet crucial native bees and large queen bumblebees are the prime pollinators of many of these flowers. The hard-working bees search the forest floor methodically and since the trees have not developed their full canopy, the forest is bright. Spring ephemerals are taking advantage of this momentary warm, wet, and sunny period. They put out showy flowers with pollen and nectar as rewards. The bees oblige, eager to collect spring nutrition. The plants store enough energy in their underground tissues during these quick weeks to allow them to come back early the next spring.

In Rhode Island, several spring ephemerals have declined over the decades. Liverworts are becoming difficult to find. Once abundant eastern spring beauties and wild trilliums have declined statewide. Likely, habitat alteration and loss have contributed to this decline, made worse by species collection by people. Spring ephemeral diversity has always been lower in Rhode Island than mid-Atlantic states. One theory suggests that what geologists consider recent glaciation and relatively young forest soils in southern New England are to blame. In the future, warmer and drier springs may cause both changes in phenology and possibly disrupt relationships with native pollinators. This could cause further population declines of spring flora and native pollinators.

Gardeners can plant spring ephemerals at home but should be certain that plants are appropriate for their region and that these ephemerals have been cultivated, not dug out of habitats. Many species have declined because of unregulated wild collecting.

Audubon protects crucial tracts of forest, home to the remaining spring ephemerals. In Bristol, trout lily flourishes in the dappled sunlight and



Clockwise from top left: Bloodroot, Dutchman's Breeches, Trout Lilly, Wild Trillium, Wild Ginger, Eastern Spring Beauties.

rich, moist soil of the deciduous forest along the boardwalk at the Nature Center and Aquarium. Countless yellow flowers bloom in April, attract our native pollinators, and produce swollen green fruit that burst open when ripe. Ants quickly collect the seeds and safely store them underground. This unique relationship with ants helps protect the seeds from drought and fire as well as feeds mice and chipmunks searching for a meal.

Spring ephemerals are key members of the forest community, yet their brief appearances are often overlooked. If you are on forest trails in spring and early summer, slow down and look for these plants before they hide underground. But remember, they will be back next year as long as forest habitats are protected.



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 Lincoln Dark at ldark@asri.org.

All About Amazing Orioles

May is absolutely one of my favorite times of the year. Migration is in full swing, and the flowering trees bring back the Orioles! In Rhode Island we are lucky to have two different species: the Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. Attract these sweet, colorful birds to your backyard by planting flowering trees.

Most people are familiar with Baltimore Orioles. The males are hard to miss with their bright orange bodies, solid black head, and one white bar on their black wings. The females and immature males have a yellow-orange body color and grayish heads, with two wing bars. Female Baltimore Orioles turn more orange as they age, but do not have a dark head or back. Young males do not molt into their bright orange plumage until the fall of their second year. However, they can still successfully attract a mate before the molt.

Baltimore Orioles have successfully adapted to human habitats. They love parks, neighborhoods, and edges of forest. In fact, you will not find a Baltimore Oriole deep in the woods.

The female Oriole weaves a sock-like nest that hangs from a deciduous tree. The male may help bring nesting material, but it is the female who does the weaving. She then lays 3 to 7 eggs and incubates them for only 11 to 14 days. The nestlings are ready to fledge about 14 days after they hatch - that is incredibly fast!

Orchard Orioles are not as well known, but they do frequent New England as well. As their name implies, Orchard Orioles are drawn to flowering fruit trees. They can be found in parks, cemeteries, neighborhoods, and near waterways. The male Orchard Oriole has a deep-chestnut breast with a black head and throat. Females and immature males are yellow-green in color and the immature males will acquire a black throat patch as they mature. Their song is made up of sweet whistles that may sound like a Robin or Grosbeak - but listen for harsh churrs and chatters amongst the sweet notes.

The Orchard Oriole also makes a sock-like nest and often prefers to nest in a group near other Orchard Orioles. You might catch sight of their nests hanging over waterways. These birds spend very little time in Rhode Island. They arrive in mid-May, nest, and often leave as early as mid-July. Orchard Orioles spend most of their time in Central America.



Male Baltimore Oriole



Female Baltimore Oriole



Oriole Nest



Male Orchard Oriole

Oriole Feeders at the Nature Shop

Both species are drawn to Oriole feeders: structures which allow you to offer grape jelly in a cup or skewer an orange to the feeder. This feeder is a wonderful way to view Orioles when they come to feast!

Oriole feeders are available now at the Audubon Nature Shop in Bristol, or visit 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

- Aust-Capron Memorial Fund
- Barter-Moore Fund
- Edith Becker Fund
- Mary Catherine Rogers Beckett Fund
- John Brezinski Memorial Fund
- Bristol Education Center Fund
- Caratunk Fund
- Mary B. Cottrell Fund
- Severyn Dana Fund
- Davis Memorial Wildlife Fund
- Norman A. Deslauriers Fund
- Dickens Farm Fund
- Patricia Meagher Dwyer Conservation Fund
- John Raleigh Eldred Fund
- Bayard 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
- Mary C. Kellermann Endowment 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.

Combating Climate Change is Our Biggest Challenge

..... By Priscilla De La Cruz, Senior Director of Government Affairs

More than a half a century after the first global Earth Day celebration, one thing has remained constant: humanity's dependence on the burning of fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil, and coal. Since the Industrial Revolution, fossil fuels have shaped our way of life from how we heat and light homes and buildings, fuel vehicles, and power technology devices. They are used in the production of everyday items and packaging that we consume.



A transformational shift away from fossil fuels—whether at the global, national, or state level—calls for change from society's status-quo and economy-wide climate action.

While science continues to sound the alarm on the burning of fossil fuels, the changes required for collective climate change action is, simply put, hard. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states, "Every increment of warming results in rapidly escalating hazards. More intense heatwaves, heavier rainfall and other weather extremes further increase risks for human health and ecosystems. In every region, people are dying from extreme heat. Climate-driven food and water insecurity is expected to increase with increased warming. When the risks combine with other adverse events, such as pandemics or conflicts, they become even more difficult to manage."

It seems overwhelming, but there is hope. By making large-scale reduction in greenhouse gas emissions *now*, we can secure a livable and sustainable planet. It is true that transitioning from fossil fuels or the status quo to clean and renewable energy will have impacts and costs that need thoughtful consideration and mitigation. However, changing direction is the only option we have to preserve our health and that of our planet. Fossil fuels have also deepened historical inequities and environmental injustice, caused economic instability, endless wars, and public health and environmental damages.

The 2021 Act On Climate legislation set binding carbon emission reduction mandates for Rhode Island. It calls for protecting the State's most important and undisturbed forest tracts necessary for mitigating and adapting to climate impacts, maintaining water quality, and providing important wildlife habitat. It also calls for developing large quantities of renewable energy. These goals can co-exist.

Audubon's top priority is solar siting reform that shifts solar development away from the largest forested land tracts. This focus on shifting development, versus halting the accelerated development of clean energy sources like solar and wind, is important to stress in advocacy. The disproportionate harm caused by fossil fuels must be considered when building out clean energy infrastructure: from solar and battery storage, to offshore wind and energy efficiency—these cost-effective and scalable tools can be thoughtfully designed, produced, and installed.

We are also prioritizing legislation that establishes a container deposit system—a 10-cent refundable deposit—and incentivizes the beverage industry to implement a more sustainable model with bottles and containers that are easier to recycle or even reuse.

Why is this a good idea? Because plastic waste is pervasive on our roads, in our parks, and on our shores. The more plastic we throw away and do not reuse, the more fossil fuels will be burned to keep up with the production of plastic.

Lastly, there's still more reason for hope: for the first time in decades, federal action and investment is aligning with our state's climate action efforts. This is a historic opportunity. Rhode Island can do its part by deploying a climate strategy that considers land use and accelerates the responsible siting of renewable energy. The Biden Administration has also reaffirmed its commitment to centering solutions around those most impacted: environmental justice communities who have been marginalized throughout our nation's history. These tend to be communities of color and low-income populations. Rhode Island can and should also reaffirm its commitment to environmental justice, to ensure that we all benefit from climate solutions regardless of zip code, socio-economic status, or race.

The ultimate hope for climate action is symbolized in the 2023 Earth Day global theme: **Invest in Our Planet.**

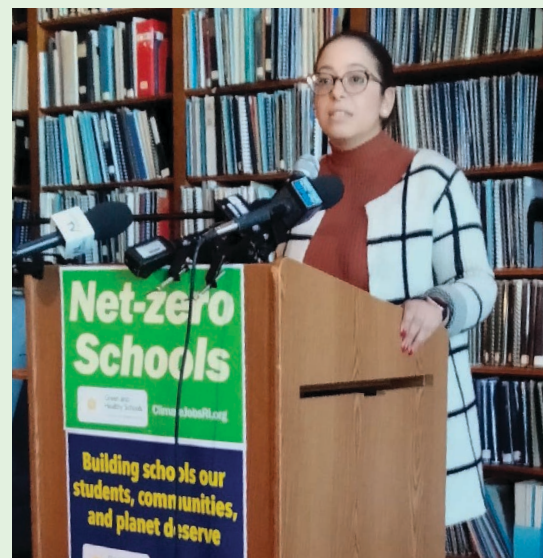
GREEN AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COALITION

Audubon Supports Legislation aimed at Shifting Schools from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy Sources.

On Tuesday, March 21, Audubon joined over 80 labor leaders, educators, students, construction workers, and community members at the Rhode Island State House to call on state lawmakers to support Green and Healthy Schools by passing legislation (H-6008 and S-0537) to decarbonize all public K-12 school buildings by 2035 using strong labor and equity standards.

Audubon Senior Director of Government Affairs Priscilla De La Cruz is also the co-chair of Climate Jobs Rhode Island. She spoke on the urgent need to upgrade many Rhode Island public school buildings that are in dire need of repairs.

Climate change affects all of us, but it has had especially negative and long-lasting impacts on low-income populations and communities of color, said De La Cruz. Now is the time to invest in net-zero energy buildings and prioritize our schools located in frontline communities, De La Cruz said. Building green and healthy schools can protect us against the climate crisis.



Priscilla De La Cruz, Audubon Senior Director of Government Affairs, spoke on the need to decarbonize and upgrade many public school buildings.

We count on member support to amplify our advocacy. Learn more about emerging priorities, track the legislative process, and subscribe to Audubon's Eagle Eye newsletter at asri.org/advocacy-tracker.html



The Endangered Species Act:

By Dr. Scott Ruhren, Senior Director of Conservation

50 Years of Protecting Biodiversity in Rhode Island

In 1973 a federal conservation law was created to address the crisis of species extinction. The United States Congress created the Endangered Species Act, ESA or the Act, to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species depend may be conserved to provide a program for the conservation of such species. Endangered species are defined as species likely to go extinct in their entire range because of human and/or natural causes. Threatened species are not as close to extinction but are at significant risk.

Species are listed for many reasons, but often their declines are the result of human impacts such as habitat loss and introduction of invasive species. Over the five decades there have been many successful examples of the strength of the Act. Success stories that affect Rhode Island include the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

Still the work continues. More than 1300 species have been added to the ESA list but there is hope. Amazingly, 99% of species listed have been saved from extinction. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) oversee the protection of species in the ESA and regulate and enforce the law.

Currently, in Rhode Island there are ten federally listed species. American burying beetle, hawksbill sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, Roseate Tern, and shortnose sturgeon are considered Endangered, while Northern long-eared bat, Red Knot and Piping Plover are Threatened.

Endangered plants are sandplain gerardia and the threatened small whorled pogonia, an orchid.

Some rare Rhode Island natives may be protected by state action but not be federally rare and not protected by ESA. These include northern diamondback terrapin, eastern spadefoot toad, American ginseng and ringed bog haunter, a dragonfly.

Often conservationists are reticent to advertise the locations of rare species to protect their vulnerable populations.

Historically, plants and vertebrate animals have received the most attention under the ESA. Invertebrates such as mollusks and arthropods have not, despite many species at risk. There is a current effort to list the American bumble bee, now extinct in Rhode Island, and the monarch butterfly has also been suggested.

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island has been instrumental in protecting these species through direct action as well as by saving habitat that supports them. It is an ongoing effort strengthened by the ESA.



Clockwise from top left: American Burying Beetle, Northern Long-eared Bat, Roseate Tern, Red Knot, Shortnose Sturgeon, Sandplain gerardia, Piping Plover.

RHODE ISLAND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION MINI-SUMMIT: APRIL 8, 2023

Thank you to the over 160 guests in attendance at the RI Land and Water Conservation Mini-Summit on April 6, 2023 at the University of Rhode Island Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences. The event featured inspiring speakers, networking, and plenary sessions. Conservation and watershed leaders, government staff, elected officials, nonprofit and academic colleagues, sponsors, and exhibitors were in attendance.

Special thanks to David Vissoe for stepping in to deliver a strong keynote address on Reseeding Rhode Island, a program launched by the RI Wild Plant Society to protect and preserve native plants for the health of pollinators and the ecosystem. Sessions included funding strategies for land conservation, water quality protection from an indigenous perspective, and community-based native plant gardening with opportunities to meet and network with others in the environmental community. We were also honored to welcome back U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, who delivered closing remarks.

Recordings of the Summit will be posted online at landandwaterpartnership.org.

Please save the date for next year! The 20th Anniversary Land & Water Conservation Summit will be Saturday, March 9th, 2024. See you there!



Clockwise from top: Over 160 participants attended the Land and Water Mini-Summit; Senator Sheldon Whitehouse delivers closing remarks; Audubon Senior Director of Government Affairs Priscilla De La Cruz speaks at the event; Keynote Speaker David Vissoe speaks on Reseeding Rhode Island.

AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

June - August 2023 For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at [asri.org/calendar](https://www.asri.org/calendar)

BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

Advance registration is required for all programs.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Locations Across Rhode Island. Details will be sent to registered participants in advance.
Every Wednesday in June; 9:00-11:00 am.

BIRDING CONNECTICUT HOT SPOTS: AUDUBON VAN TRIP

Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield, RI; *June 8, 2023; 7:30 am-5:00 pm.*

BIRDS AND BRUNCH AT CARATUNK

Enjoy a summer morning of birdwatching. Light pastries and coffee included.
Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; *June 10, 2023; 8:00-9:30 am.*

OSPREY WALK AND TALK IN PROVIDENCE

India Point Park, Providence, RI;
June 17, 2023; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

BIRD BANDING

Three Dates & Two Locations Offered

- Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI; *June 24, July 29, August 12, 2023; 9:15 am-11:15 am.*
- Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; *July 22, 2023; 9:15 am-11:15 am.*

PURPLE MARTINS!

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA; *June 29, 2023; 6:30-8:00 pm*

SOUTH COUNTY SHOREBIRD TOUR

Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI;
August 23, 2023; 6:30 am-1:30 pm.

SAVE THE DATE! SWALLOW SPECTACULAR ON THE CT RIVER

Departs from Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI;
September 16, 2023; 4:00-9:30 pm.

AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

2023 US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S JR. DUCK STAMP CONTEST

Winning Artwork Exhibit
June 3 - June 23, 2023; 9:30 am-4:30 pm.

FREE SOIL TESTING AT AUDUBON

June 3, 2023; 10:00 am-1:30 pm.

FAIRY GARDENS FOR ADULTS

June 4, 2023; 10:30 am-12:00 pm.

PAPER CRAFTING FOR WORLD OCEAN DAY

June 10, 2023; 1:00-3:00 pm.

LECTURE: REWILDING YOUR LANDSCAPE

June 17, 2023; 2:00-3:00 pm.

BIRD BANDING

Three Dates Offered
June 24, July 29, August 12, 2023; 9:15 am-11:15 am.

ECO-PRINTING WORKSHOP

June 25, 2023; 1:00-2:00 pm.

FORAGED ART: EXHIBIT BY REBECCA MCASSEY

July 2 - August 31, 2023; 9:30 am-4:30 pm.

BEESWAX WRAP WORKSHOP

July 8, 2023; 10:30 am-12:00 pm.

EDIBLE WILD PLANTS WALK WITH RUSS COHEN

July 20, 2023; 1:00-4:00 pm.

POLLINATOR GARDEN TOUR

July 22, 2023; 2:00-3:00 pm.

AROMATHERAPY CANDLE MAKING

July 23, 2023; 1:00-2:00 pm.

SEA GLASS WORKSHOP

Two Dates Offered
July 29, August 19, 2023; 1:00-2:30 pm.

EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL PLANT WALK

August 6, 2023; 10:00 am-11:30 pm.

PROACTIVE CONSERVATION: MANAGING AUDUBON PROPERTIES FOR BIRD POPULATIONS - LECTURE WITH DR. CHARLES CLARKSON

August 10, 2023; 6:30-8:00 pm.

DISCOVERING MOTHS: NIGHTTIME JEWELS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD - AUTHOR MEET AND GREET WITH JOHN HIMMELMAN

August 12, 2023; 1:00-2:30 pm.



FAMILY PROGRAMS AND CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

CITIZENS FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

Thanks to Citizens, the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium is open free to the public on the first Saturday of every month. Join Audubon for nature stories, animal discoveries, hikes, and more. No need to register!
June 3, July 1, August 5, 2023; 10:00 am-3:00 pm.

BIRD BANDING

Three Dates Offered.
June 24, July 29, August 12, 2023; 9:15 am-11:15 am.

SUMMER CRAFT TABLE

Two Dates Offered.
July 22, August 19, 2023; 10:00 am-3:00 pm.

CARATUNK WILDLIFE REFUGE

301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA

NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE TOUR

June 4, 2023; 8:00-9:30 pm.

BIRDS AND BRUNCH AT CARATUNK

June 10, 2023; 8:00-9:30 am.

BIRD BANDING

July 22, 2023; 9:15 am-11:15 am.

PURPLE MARTINS!

June 29, 2023; 6:30-8:00 pm.

FROGGY FORAY

July 13, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.

NIGHT SINGERS AT CARATUNK

August 18, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.

FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE

99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

ICE CREAM AND LIGHTNING BUGS

June 23, 2023; 7:30-9:30 pm.

BATS AND BEER

July 21, 2023; 7:30-9:00 pm. Ages 21+

TEA-TIME AND FAIRY HOUSES

August 19, 2023; 10:00-11:30 am.



Deirdre Robinson



Ed Hughes

AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

June - August 2023 For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at asri.org/calendar

POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

AUDUBON SPRING CRAFT FAIR

June 3, 2023; 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

BAT WALK

June 9, 2023; 7:30-9:00 pm.

FIREFLIES!

July 7, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.

RECYCLED PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP

July 22, 2023; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

FAMILY NIGHT HIKE

August 4, 2023; 8:00-9:30 pm.

SUPER BLUE MOON WALK

August 31, 2023; 7:30-9:00 pm.

WILD MUSHROOM WORKSHOP: TAKE THE MYSTERY OUT OF MUSHROOMING

August 26, 2023; 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

PRUDENCE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Prudence Island, RI

EXPLORE THE ESTUARY FOR KIDS!

July 6, 2023; 1:30-6:30 pm.

STORMWATER INNOVATION CENTER

Roger Williams Park, Providence

WHERE DOES ALL THAT STORMWATER GO?

Two Walking Tours Offered

Departs from the Seal House in Roger Williams Park.

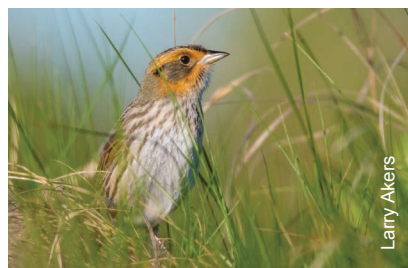
July 12, August 9, 2023; 11:00 am-12:00 pm.



Janice Sullivan



John C Farley



Larry Akers

NATURE AT NIGHT

Discover nature after the sun goes down!

NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE TOUR

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
Seekonk, MA

June 4, 2023; 8:00-9:30 pm.

BAT WALK

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI

June 9, 2023; 7:30-9:00 pm.

BATS AT EPPLEY

Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge
West Kingston, RI

June 16, 2023; 8:00-9:30 pm.

ICE CREAM AND LIGHTNING BUGS

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge,
Exeter, RI

June 23, 2023; 7:30-9:30 pm.

FIREFLIES!

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI

July 7, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.

FROGGY FORAY

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
Seekonk, MA

July 13, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.

BATS AND BEER

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge
Exeter, RI

July 21, 2023; 7:30-9:00 pm.

FAMILY NIGHT HIKE

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI

August 4, 2023; 8:00-9:30 pm.

NIGHTLIFE AT RUECKER

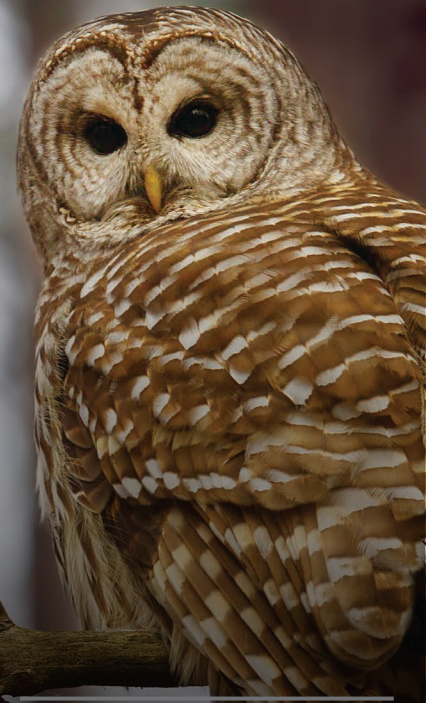
Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge
Tiverton, RI

August 10, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.

NIGHT SINGERS AT PARKER WOODLAND

Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge
Coventry, RI

August 17, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.



NIGHT SINGERS AT CARATUNK

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge
Seekonk, MA

August 18, 2023; 7:00-9:00 pm.

SUPER BLUE MOON WALK

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI

August 31, 2023; 7:30-9:00 pm.

AUDUBON SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield

June 3, 2023; 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!

SUMMER STROLLS

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER: WILD PLANT WALK

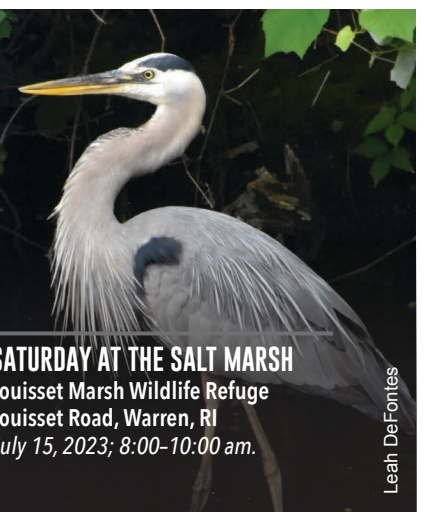
Fort Wildlife Refuge
1443 Providence Pike
North Smithfield, RI

June 21, 2023; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

SATURDAY AT THE SALT MARSH

Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge
Touisset Road, Warren, RI

July 15, 2023; 8:00-10:00 am.



Leah DeFontes



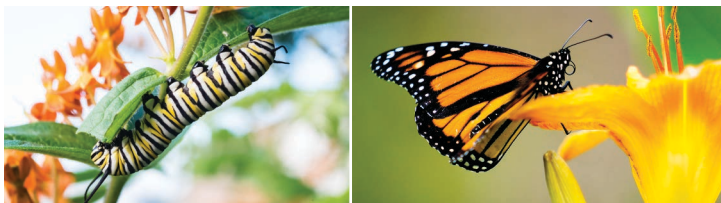
PAINTED LADY METAMORPHOSIS

Did you know that butterflies are pollinators? These are very important insects that help fruits and vegetables to GROW! As they fly from flower to flower, butterflies spread pollen that plants need to form seeds. In return, the insect gets a sweet sip of nectar from the flower that they use for energy.

CATERPILLARS

Butterflies start out as tiny eggs that hatch into caterpillars. Have you ever seen one of the butterfly caterpillars on this page? Caterpillars eat and eat and eat. It takes a lot of energy for them to grow and change into a chrysalis. You can help butterfly caterpillars by including the native plants they like to eat in your garden or yard.

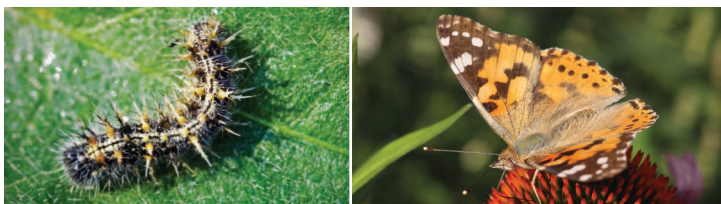
Monarch caterpillars eat milkweeds: common milkweed, butterfly weed, and swamp milkweed.



Black swallowtail caterpillars eat herbs like parsley, dill, fennel, carrot tops, and Queen Anne's lace (wild carrot).



Painted lady caterpillars eat a wide variety of plants including sunflowers and thistles.



BUTTERFLIES

When an adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, it needs nectar. Planting a flower garden for butterflies is a beautiful way to help wildlife. Butterfly gardens should contain a variety of native plants. Choose some that flower in spring, include a few that flower in mid-summer, and others that come out in late summer and fall. That way, there will be flowers for butterflies and other pollinators for most of the year.

Early Bloomers:

Wild Geranium Golden Alexander



Mid- Late Summer:

Cardinal Flower Field Thistle



Mid-Summer:

Milkweeds Wild Bergamot



Late Summer – Fall:

Asters Goldenrods





Audubon Educator Publishes Children's Book "Zach the Raven"

Audubon Educator Tracey Hall has combined her experiences with educating children, animal care, illustration, and storytelling into a new children's book featuring Audubon Avian Ambassador Zach the Raven.

I chose Zach for this book because of how much I love crows and ravens, explained Hall. And the fact that there are not many children's stories about these birds. Ravens are known for their intelligence, adaptability, and big personalities.

The author weaves natural history into the story, and touches upon the injuries that prevent Zach's release. I want to encourage children to get outside, connect with wildlife, learn and care about our environment, said Hall. People really connect with Zach, and this book is a way for families to take his story home and learn more about this amazing species.

Books are \$19.95 in the Audubon Nature Shop or order online at audubonrinatureshop.shopsettings.com/Books.

StoryWalk® Ribbon Cutting & Book Signing

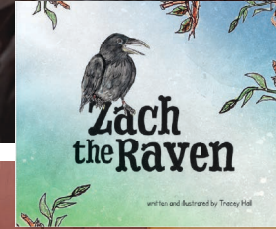
Citizens Free Family Fun Day

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI

July 1, 2023; 1:00 pm



Zach the Raven has been transformed into a StoryWalk! Bring the kids and follow the pages of this book on a self-guided trail, join a meet and greet with Zach and Tracey, and stay for a book signing. *For Zach's comfort and safety, the meet and greet is limited to 25 people.*



Top: Audubon Ambassador Zach the Raven. Center: Book cover. Bottom: Author Tracey Hall with Zach on the glove.

the Audubon
Nature shop
This shop is for the birds!

ATTRACTING HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbird feeders, nectar, and guides are now in stock!

MEMBERS RECEIVE
10% OFF
AT THE NATURE SHOP
IN BRISTOL

Just Present Your Card
at the Register

- Hang feeders in open areas as hummingbirds need space to accommodate their movements.
- Clean feeders every week in a 10% bleach and 90% water solution. Rinse well.
- Native plants like bee balm and trumpet creeper also attract hummingbirds.

Learn all about hummingbirds with this pocket-size guide!

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI asri.org/natureshop

Native Sweat Bees

Metallic Green Garden Wonders

By Katie Schortmann, Audubon Garden Coordinator / Environmental Educator

From illustrated children's books and the tales of Winnie-the-Pooh, many of us have grown up with the idea that most bees live together in hives that hang from tree branches. The reality is that 90% of bees have a solitary lifestyle; and 70% of our native bee species nest in the ground. Solitary bees are also the single moms of the insect world. All the tasks required to lay the eggs, raise young, and maintain and defend the nest fall to a single female bee.

The metallic green sweat bee in the Halictidae family is one type of solitary bee native to Rhode Island. They are named sweat bees because they were known to land on people and lap up their mineral-rich sweat. Mated females overwinter underground, finding refuge under any fallen leaves or plant material. They emerge in spring to forage and create new nests in which to lay their eggs. Spring flowers are an essential source of nectar for energy and pollen for their larval bees. Look for sweat bees on their preferred flowering plants; wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*), and beardtongue (*Penstemon sp.*)

Sweat bees and other ground nesting species are particularly susceptible to a group of pesticides called neonicotinoids. These dangerous chemicals can cut a sweat bee's rate of reproductive success by 89%. You can help our native pollinators by eliminating pesticide use in your yard and garden, and talk to your neighbors, HOAs, landscapers, and nurseries about what is being sprayed on lawns and plants.

Learn more about native plants and pollinators this summer.

For details and to register for the programs below, visit asri.org/calendar.

Rewilding Your Landscape

June 17, 2023, 2:00 pm - Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium

Learn how to take an eco-system approach to your garden and transform your space into a safe haven for birds and pollinators.

Pollinator Garden Tour

July 22, 2023; 2:00 pm - Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium

Explore the Palmieri Pollinator Garden in its summer splendor! Learn about plant selection, maintenance choices, and the pollinators that call the garden home.



Sweat bee (*Halictidae*)

You Can Help Pollinators!

- ✓ Plant native flowers, shrubs, and trees.
- ✓ Eliminate pesticides in your yard and garden.
- ✓ Choose organic foods.



Habitat at Home

Audubon Can Help Turn Your Yard into Healthy Habitat

Native plants grown in yards and gardens can have a positive impact on pollinators, birds, and other wildlife by providing the food and shelter they need. Making smart choices and transforming yards and gardens into healthy habitat can seem daunting, but Audubon can help.

Scott Ruhren, Audubon senior director of conservation, offers private assessments for properties of all sizes. A PhD botanist, 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 provides a written assessment and plan for the property. Our starting point is always suggesting that people begin with what they have, Ruhren said. I want people to realize they already have a lot of resources to work with. And when it comes to pollinators, small can be mighty. A few square feet of native plants in a garden has been shown to support pollinators, said Ruhren. Anyone can make a difference with just a small patch.

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.

Banjo the Merlin

Audubon now cares for a stunning ♂ and very vocal - female Merlin. These falcons are small, powerful raptors that feed on small songbirds and shorebirds. She was named Banjo for the strum-like, chortle sound she makes when greeting her handlers and animal care staff.

Banjo came to Audubon from a veterinarian/wildlife rehabilitator in upstate New York. Her left wing had a traumatic injury to the wrist and phalanges tissues. The injury prevents primary feathers from growing on that wing, making Banjo unable to fly and be released back into the wild.

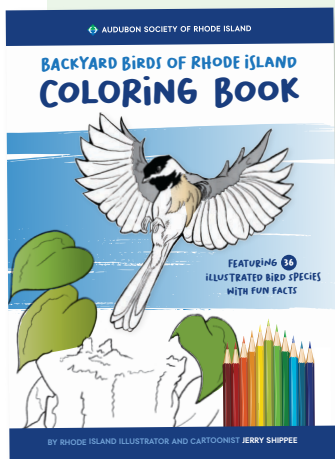
Audubon staff are helping her acclimate to humans and noise as well as training her on the glove. We hope to be able to present Banjo in Audubon summer programs.



THE AUDUBON 2024 CALENDAR NEEDS PHOTOS OF BIRDS AND WILDLIFE

Audubon is including images of wildlife, as well as birds, in the 2024 calendar competition. Remember that photos must be taken in Rhode Island, and we are looking for images that reflect all seasons.

Deadline is September 15, 2023.
 Visit asri.org/audubon-calendar.html for details and to submit photos.



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

BACKYARD BIRDS COLORING BOOK

Featuring 36 beautifully illustrated bird species with fun facts by West Warwick, Rhode Island artist and cartoonist Jerry Shippee.

A Wonderful Gift Idea for All Ages!

Only \$9.99. Size 8.5" x 11" with 36 pages to color.

ORDER ONLINE: ASRI.ORG/NATURESHOP

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

facebook.com/audubonRI
twitter.com/Rlaudubon
instagram.com/Rlaudubon



AUDUBON NATURE PROGRAM GIFT CARDS

Give your friends and family the opportunity to select an Audubon adventure of their choice: from bird walks and crafting classes to lectures and more! Gift cards are valid for Audubon nature programs listed on the events calendar.

Note that these gift cards cannot be used for special event ticket purchases in Eventbrite, such as Raptor Weekend or Party for the Peregrines. Visit asri.org/gift-cards and choose the amount for your special gift. All gift cards are electronic and will be sent to recipients by email.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND 1897 SOCIETY

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

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Leader</i> — \$1,000 to \$2,499 | <i>Benefactor</i> — \$7,500 to \$9,999 |
| <i>Advocate</i> — \$2,500 to \$4,999 | <i>Visionary</i> — \$10,000+ |
| <i>Conservator</i> — \$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.

THE STATE OF OUR BIRDS

Continued from page 7

tures and weather. The harm is evident, then, in spring arriving weeks early. When the Cerulean Warbler arrives every year around the same time in May as they have for thousands of years, they are expecting to be greeted by an abundance of these valuable insects. But as spring temperatures warm earlier and earlier, the bird's long distance migrant that overwinters in South America is not cued into these local environmental shifts. When they arrive, the warbler has missed the peak abundance of their resources and, in turn, face a higher risk of unsuccessful reproduction.

Clarkson explained that, when compared alongside non-migratory birds and short-distance migrants that travel only a few hundred miles, long-distance migrants like the Cerulean Warbler are less able to evaluate and adjust to the local environmental changes at their breeding sites. For these species, the phenological mismatch they experience due to climate change can severely impact the ability of their populations to thrive. The Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Gray Catbird, and Wood Thrush are among this ill-fated group. Two of these species, the Common Yellowthroat and Wood Thrush, are among Audubon's Responsibility Birds.

Despite the harrowing facts, Clarkson revealed that the data he and his team procured over this first year was not unexpected. Everything seemed to be pretty typical, he recalled. The analysis showed almost exactly what I would expect to see in terms of timing, in terms of migratory chronology, in terms of the fact that in the fall, you lose your long-distance migrants first because they have a longer distance to cover.

With only a year of migratory data under his belt, Clarkson acknowledges that this research is only just beginning, but indicated that the findings that showed which species are using Audubon's refuges is a good first accounting. Ever the optimist, Clarkson is pleased with the organization's successes and, perhaps slightly more apropos, eager for its continued work to reverse avian declines. Audubon is doing a good job of conserving what birds need, he acknowledged with a smile. We just need to continue gaining an understanding and learning whatever we can so we can begin to solve this problem.



Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*)

Paige Shapiro is a reporter for EastBay Media Group and a freelance writer. Reach her at paige.shapiro2@gmail.com.

SAVING BIRDS ONE CUP AT A TIME!

Audubon Offers Fresh Whole Bean and Ground Bird-Friendly Coffee – Visit asri.org/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.



All proceeds benefit the Audubon Avian Research Initiative.

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.

Let's Work Together and Give Birds a Chance

By Dr. Charles Clarkson, Director of Avian Research

With the alarming rate of avian decline, we all need to do more, talk more, and engage more in our communities to support bird conservation. Each of us should focus on conservation efforts that we can do in our daily lives which will have lasting impacts to our bird communities.

As conservation organizations such as the Audubon Society of Rhode Island work hard to determine the steps that need to be taken to reverse the declining trends in the bird species found across our state, it is imperative that we pay attention to those things that can be done now, at relatively low cost and effort, to help birds.

Some startling statistics that you may (or may not) already know and how you can help:

While hundreds of millions of birds die each year from building collisions, 44% of that mortality occurs at private residences. Use window decals at your home and place of work to minimize window strikes. Decals increase window avoidance by 47% when installed correctly (Swaddle et al. 2023). **Purchase window decals at the Audubon Nature Shop or order online at asri.org/natureshop.**



Certain offshore fishing techniques kill enormous numbers of large and rare birds, including many albatross species (of the 22 species of albatross, 21 are listed as species of concern because of drastic population declines). Gillnets alone kill approximately 400,000 seabirds each year (Glemarec et al. 2020). How the fish you eat are caught matters! **For a Northeast Consumer Guide on choosing seafood that are farmed and fished in ways that support a healthy ocean, visit: seafoodwatch.org.**

If you drink coffee, choose certified bird-friendly brands. Without this certification, coffee is generally produced by removing healthy, mature rainforest and planting sun tolerant coffee plants. This habitat loss contributes to declines in populations of both resident tropical bird species and those species that breed here in Rhode Island and overwinter in the tropics. Shade grown bird-friendly coffee farms maintain biodiversity by providing habitat for birds, insects, reptiles, mammals and amphibians (Williams et al. 2021). **Purchase certified "bird friendly" coffee in the Audubon Nature Shop or order online at asri.org/coffee (see page 18.) Encourage others to do the same.**

Cats (both domestic and feral) kill between 1.6 billion birds each year in the United States alone, have caused the extinction of 33 bird species on a global scale and kill over 1 million seabirds each year on oceanic islands. And the direct mortality is only part of the problem. As more cats invade habitats around the globe (and cat populations are increasing), more bird communities are having to alter behavior in the presence of a new predator threat. This can have profound population-level effects as it impacts adult and juvenile survival and clutch size. **Keep your cats indoors and encourage your neighbors to do the same.**

Knowledge is power and it is possible to have a measurable impact by changing your consumption habits and instituting small changes around your home. You can directly impact the state of our world's birds. If we all row this boat in the same direction, we will get to a better place.



Leaving Audubon in your estate is for the birds.

Learn Simple Steps to Begin Planning Your Legacy.

Call 401-949-5454 (ext. 3017) or download information at asri.org/legacy

Rhode Island Birding Trails

Over 60 Places to Watch Birds in the Ocean State

Published by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

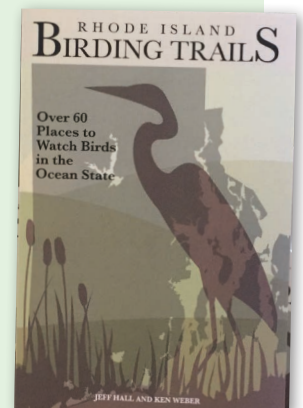
Three separate trails: Northern Rhode Island, Southern Rhode Island, and East Bay and the Islands

All locations easily accessible.

Find out where the birders... bird!

Order Now \$14.95

Order your copy at ribirdingtrails.com or purchase at the Audubon Nature Shop in Bristol.



Rhode Island PBS WEEKLY

STORIES THAT MATTER
SUNDAYS 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM


Rhode Island PBS
ripsb.org/weekly

Audubon Leadership Donors Honored

Over 80 Audubon supporters gathered on March 24, 2023 at the Squantum Club in Providence for the Audubon Leadership Luncheon ó the first in-person luncheon since 2019. Supporters and their guests were recognized, enjoyed lunch, presentations by Audubon senior staff members, and a special visit by a Barred Owl.

In attendance were members of Audubon's 1897 Society (donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually) and Hawkes Legacy Circle (donors who have provided for Audubon in their will or estate plan.)



Top: Dr. Charles Clarkson, Director of Avian Research, speaks to Audubon's gathered supporters. Inset: Lauren Parmelee, Senior Director of Education, presents a Barred Owl to guests.



Audubon Council of Advisors Member Dave Gumbley, Mary Gumbley and Audubon Board Member Don Heitzmann.



Mike and Charron Holtzman, Bill Carpenter.



Peter Tassia, Maija Lutz, Audubon Executive Director Jeff Hall.



Chris Powell, Audubon Senior Director of Conservation Scott Ruhren, and Dawn Laman.



Former Audubon Board Member Deborah Linnell (left) with Audubon Board Member Terry Meyer.



Dave and Jean Golden with Audubon Executive Director Jeff Hall (right).



Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium

Ideal for weddings, showers, or the site of your next business meeting or off-site retreat. 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.

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

Usher Cove Beach Cleanup

A Community Effort

Audubon protects Usher Cove, a beautiful shoreline in the Poppasquash neighborhood in Bristol. Debris of all kind, largely manmade, washes up after storms and high tides and can be a threat to wildlife and habitat. On Saturday, April 15, a team of 26 eager volunteers, including community members, students from Mount Hope High School and several Audubon staff removed more than 20 bags of shoreline debris. Audubon is committed to maintaining this habitat safe for wildlife and resilient in the face of sea level rise. Thank you to the Poppasquash community and local students for your work in keeping our shorelines clean and free of debris.



Building Climate Resiliency

Stronger Foot Bridge Constructed at Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge

Higher tides and more frequent storms took their toll on the foot bridge at Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge in Tiverton. After the bridge washed out in February, Audubon conservation staff built a higher and stronger replacement. Trail monitoring will become even more critical as climate impacts our coastal properties.



From left: Conservation staff Mike Cavaliere, Lincoln Dark, and Joe Metzen at work in March on the new foot bridge.

Now Accepting Applications

2023 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.

These paid summer positions offer challenging and rewarding experiences in the field of environmental conservation.

July 5 – August 24, 2023

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

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



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 monitors, 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.

HERVE PELLEND

Bluebird Box Builder



For years, Herve Pellend has donated his time and talent to help support Eastern Bluebirds at Audubon Wildlife Refuges. A retired architect and former schoolteacher, Herve designs and builds beautiful bluebird nesting boxes with convenient side doors that swivel open for cleaning.

Eastern Bluebirds are a staple of our local ecosystem, but they have historically been threatened by invasive species, pesticide use and reforestation of previously open areas. For conservation purposes, Audubon monitors this species each year. A big thank you to Herve for supporting the population of these stunning birds. Look for a bright flash of blue flying near Herve's nesting boxes along the trails at Powder Mill Ledges and Fisherville Brook this summer.

The birds appreciate his work as much as we do!

By Kim Calcagno
Audubon Wildlife Refuge Manager

LOGAN AND MARTIN McSHANE

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge Volunteers



The colorful mural in the stairwell at Caratunk has been popular with generations of children. It was recently refreshed by father and son team Martin and Logan McShane of Rumford, RI.

Logan is a former Seekonk Troop 1 boy scout who got involved with Audubon during his scouting years. Knowing how much he enjoyed art, design and nature, current Troop 1 members reached out to Logan to see if he would be interested in helping to upgrade the mural with new plaques that identify the animal illustrations. Logan made sure the species were accurately identified and created new name plates with the help of Amy Doherty of Rumford Scout Pack 88. Martin McShane was on hand to help as needed. We thank both Logan and Martin for their continuing support of Audubon.

By Jon Scoones
Audubon Land Steward

OWEN BOISVERT

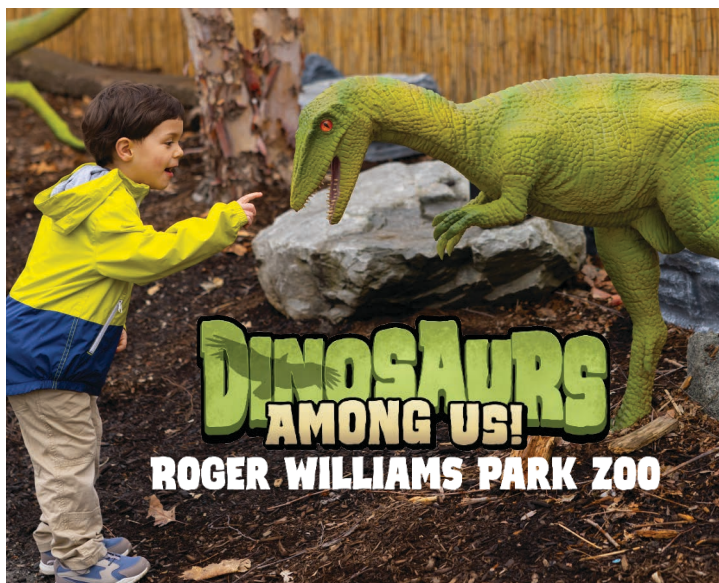
Eagle Scout Trail Project at Fort Wildlife Refuge



A self-guided trail at Fort Wildlife Refuge was created in 2017 by Troop 1 Diamond Hill for Paul-Hugo Arcand's Eagle Scout project. Last year, Owen Boisvert of Troop 1139 Slaterville enhanced the trail by adding scan codes to the 12 stations. Each station educates visitors on nature found in those locations. This enhancement was completed as part of Owen's Eagle Scout project.

Visitors now have the option of scanning QR codes using a smartphone to access the content, or they can go the more traditional route and download the original brochure created in 2017 from the Audubon website at asri.org/hike/wildliferefuges/fort-wildlife-refuge.html. In addition, Owen constructed several Barred Owl nesting boxes for use on Audubon properties. We thank Owen for enhancing the experience of our visitors on the trails.

By Kim Calcagno
Audubon Wildlife Refuge Manager



Dinosaurs are Coming to Audubon!

In Partnership with the Roger Williams Park Zoo's Dinosaurs Among Us Exhibit

Did you know that birds evolved from a group of meat-eating dinosaurs called theropods? Dinosaurs may be extinct, but there's much we can do today to protect their descendants.

From May 27 through August 13, 2023, non-animatronic Compsognathus dinosaur models will be placed at partner sites throughout Roger Williams Park, at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, and Audubon Fisherville Brook and Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuges for the public to search for and discover. Learn more about local songbird conservation actions through accompanying summer-long programming.

Watch asri.org for details!



Did you see any of the large number of foxes running and walking across Rhode Island during Earth Week? They were running wild for Audubon! Thank you to all the individual participants, families, and fundraisers who made the third Run Wild for Nature a success!

Not pictured: Top Individual Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser (Brookie Wiley), Top Team Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser (The JRS), Bonus Top Team Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser (Tance Allen).

**BEST SCENERY
FIRST PLACE**



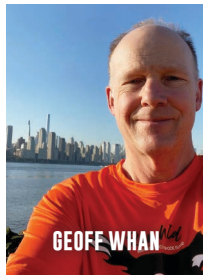
BETTY MENUCCI AND KERRY HOPKINS

**BEST SCENERY
SECOND PLACE**



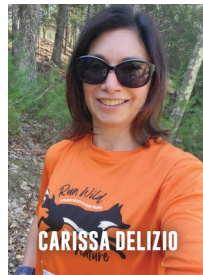
LEETA LAW

**BEST SCENERY
THIRD PLACE**



GEOFF WHAN

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!



CARISSA DELIZIO



JENNIFER THOMAS



MALLORY WALSH

Audubon Remembers Hugh Willoughby

By Robert Bushnell, Former Audubon Board President



Hugh Willoughby served the Audubon Society as a volunteer in many capacities. He was a former Board member, property committee member, and an enthusiastic Chairman of the Field Trip Committee in the 1970s and 1980s. He was a long-time leader of Block Island Weekends and of numerous and varied natural history walks. He was known for his expertise in birds, mammals, dragonflies, wildflowers, and geology (and a long list of other fields of study). He was also known for still remembering the names of most, if not all the participants on his many walks.

Hugh was a life-long learner with an incredible memory for details. This, combined with his love of observation and field identification, made him a master teacher, and teaching others about the natural world was Hugh's passion.

No remembrance of Hugh would be complete without mentioning his notoriously dry wit. He was a master of the pun, the one-liner, and the double entendre. His humor was often self-deprecating, and he saw no reason why a good joke or story could not be told multiple times! Hugh's ability to get a group laughing, even at himself, was an asset to his gift for teaching.

In 2003, Hugh was honored by the Rhode Island Natural History Survey with their Distinguished Naturalist Award. The award was given in recognition of Hugh's life-long influence on so many others. Through his teaching, Hugh inspired a love of the natural world, he encouraged countless students to pursue careers in the natural sciences, and he educated so countless others on the importance of caring for, and maintaining a healthy environment.

Hugh Willoughby passed away on April 10, 2023, at age 91. His greatest legacy is the many of us he taught and influenced, a legacy we will continue to pass on to others. For this, we are all indebted to Hugh.



*Rent the
Perfect
Summer
Retreat!*

Maxwell Mays Lakefront Cottage Coventry, RI

This charming two-bedroom lake-front cottage is located within the Audubon Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge. The camp sleeps five and features fireplace heat, a full kitchen, screened porch, and dock. Head out each day to canoe, birdwatch, or hike on the property's beautiful trails.

Available from May 1 to October 30, 2023

For details and availability,
visit asri.org/services.



Stormwater Mural Project

Providence and Cranston Students Paint Rain Barrels for Community Residents and Businesses



**Stormwater
Innovation
Center**

By Rebecca Reeves, Stormwater Education and Outreach Coordinator

The Stormwater Mural Project continues for a third year, this time with a focus on rain barrels! This unique partnership between Audubon, the Stormwater Innovation Center (SIC) and The Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership brings stormwater education sessions to schools and offers students a chance to visit Roger Williams Park for field trips. Participating in the program this year are Sophia Academy, Central High School/ New Urban Arts, and the Paul Cuffee School, all in Providence, as well as Eden Park Elementary in Cranston.

After Audubon brought hands-on science and water quality programs to classrooms, the students visited the Stormwater Innovation Center in Roger Williams Park. They played games, tried experiments, and learned about the importance of managing stormwater runoff, especially by using green infrastructure. Teaching artists were brought onboard to work with students to creatively decorate rain barrels, and the resulting artwork is inspired by what students have learned.

Over a dozen large plastic barrels were generously donated by the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Providence to the SIC for student use. Audubon and Stormwater Center staff worked to clean, sand, paint, and prepare the barrels so that they were ready for student creativity! Each school received three barrels and students will be working throughout May to design and paint water quality-related images on them with the help of their teachers, school administrators, and teaching artists.

After the rain barrels are complete, they will be distributed to local homeowners and businesses to be used in urban gardens and landscapes. We can't wait to see the final designs created by students!



“This program is exceptional, and the presenters are knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and engaging. All team members are a pleasure to collaborate with throughout all phases of the project”

ó Karen Casperson
Fifth Grade Teacher
Eden Park Elementary School
Cranston, RI

Top photos: Eden Park Elementary students learn about stormwater in the classroom (top left) and in Roger Williams Park (bottom right). Top right: Students from Sophia Academy learn the science behind green infrastructure.



Students from Central High School / New Urban Arts program work during a rainwater program at school (top left), in a field trip at Roger Williams Park (top right) and present their rain barrel design (bottom right). Bottom left: Audubon educator Tracey Hall engages students from the Paul Cuffee School during a field trip to Roger Williams Park.

Where Does All That Stormwater Go?

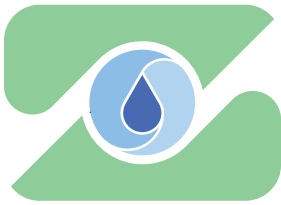
Free Walking Tours in Roger Williams Park

July 12, August 9, 2023; 11:00 am-12:00 pm.

Did you know that Roger Williams Park in Providence has over 30 green infrastructure projects that filter stormwater and stop harmful pollutants from entering waterways? Join a walking tour, learn about these projects, and get stormwater-friendly landscaping tips for your yard. It might just change the way you think about rainstorms!

Departs from the Roger Williams Park Seal House
(near the Japanese Garden), Providence, RI.

Ages: 5 and up.
Register through the events calendar at asri.org/calendar.



Volunteers Needed to follow Summer Storms with RainSnap!



The proof will be in the photos. Are Providence green infrastructure systems functioning as designed? What structures are working well? Do others need improvement?

The Stormwater Innovation Center will be enlisting volunteers and citizen scientists this year to use a website called RainSnap and upload photos and videos of stormwater and green infrastructure during rain events around the Providence metro area.

The purpose is to help communities assess the functionality of these systems, which are designed to reduce flooding and filter polluted stormwater. These assessments can be used to improve the design and maintenance of green infrastructure, ultimately leading to better water quality and more climate-resilient communities.

Monitoring green infrastructure in action provides valuable data on how much water is entering these systems, or if water is bypassing them and flowing directly into storm drains and entering our waterways unfiltered. As climate change continues to impact Rhode Island with heavier storms and urban areas remain vulnerable to flooding, the importance of properly functioning green infrastructure becomes increasingly important.

RainSnap is currently being developed with the help of consultant Bruce Hooke, and volunteer recruitment will commence this spring. We are looking for residents who live near the selected green infrastructure sites, with easy access during or shortly after storm events. Involving community members in stormwater management work is part of sustainable climate resiliency ó this is work that impacts us all.



If you are interested in following the rain and volunteering with the Stormwater Innovation Center on the RainSnap initiative, please reach out to Stormwater Education and Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Reeves at reeves@asri.org.

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.

- Bank of America
- Caldwell Realty Rhode Island
- Citizens Bank
- Cox Communications
- DBVW Architects
- National Education Association RI
- NEC Solar
- Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
- Rhode Island AFL-CIO
- R.I. Beekeepers Association
- United Natural Foods, Inc.
- Utilidata
- Van Liew Trust Company

In Memory of: Lynn Coulombe
From: Meredith Plasse

In Memory of: Suzanne Dubuc
From: John A. MacLennan

In Memory of: Julia Gribbin
From: Lori Scales

In Memory of: Doris Hanmer
From: Beverly Phillips

In Memory of: Mary Kollar
From: P.E.O. Sisterhood International

In Memory of: Janis Kortyna
From: George M. Kortyna

In Memory of: Sheila Milton
From: Anne Marie Charland
John Gluth
Brian Jepson
Derek Rogers

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: Joel Becker
From: Laurie Becker

In Honor of: Dot Johnson
From: Susan and Catherine Johnson-Roehr

In Honor of: Stephanie Lawrence
From: Michael and Christine Galica

In Honor of: Cris Rothfuss and Michelle Roy
From: Jessica Bossert

In Honor of: Andrew Scholten
From: Ellen Lepak

In Honor of: Lynn Wright
From: Cynthia Antonelli

In Memory of: Ron Mucci
From: Paula Macnamara

In Memory of: Dan Orfan
From: Debbie Blicher

In Memory of: Anna Palmer
From: Diane Landry
Dennis and Joanne LaVallee
Carole Meath
Sarah Milton
Roselyn Oliveira
Frank and Sandra Ricciotti
Susan Vadney

In Memory of: Patricia Parkhurst
From: Robert Audette

In Memory of: Betty Jane Percival
From: Donna-Jean Rainville and
Richard Wilkins
Greg and Alice Silva
John and Roberta Weldon

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: Tillie Allen
From: Constance Allen

In Memory of: Antoinette L. Costa
From: Mea Costa
Andrea Sarokin

In Memory of: Anna and Aldor Cote
From: Elaine Jacques and Wanita Tull

In Memory of: Dennis Poole
From: Holley Arey

In Memory of: Marie Robinson
From: Sharon Rodriguez

In Memory of: Joseph P. Slezak
From: Paul and Kathleen Houle

In Memory of: Phyllis Wiggin
From: Ma Wiggin

Keep in Touch with Audubon!
Sign up to receive eWing, Audubon's email newsletter at asri.org.

AMPLIFYING THE QUIET VOICES

Continued from page 5

the wonders of nature. Since 2013 she has been working, on a weekly basis, with a group of young adults enrolled in Bristol's non-profit L.I.F.E. program. The acronym stands for Living In Fulfilling Environments, and its mission is to normalize life's experiences for the intellectually disabled. Parmelee calls it a collaborative enterprise, with L.I.F.E. providing the funding and Audubon the resources and classroom space at no cost. Nature is less available to people with disabilities, Brown says, and I appreciate the opportunity to interpret nature for them.

Brown's coterie she refers to them as her citizen-scientists are curious and confident. They are currently monitoring Ospreys for Audubon and in May, they will be tracking the population of a colony of Purple Martins at Jacob's Point in Warren. On a recent Wednesday at the Audubon Nature Center, Brown et. al. had spent the morning at Red Maple Swamp in Seekonk, behind the Home Depot. They had returned to the classroom, as they always do, for lunch and a debrief. Students tallied up the different species of birds they had spotted, discussing and making entries in their journals. In particular, this morning they observed the prenatal activities of Ospreys and Great Blue Herons. Since it is early April, Brown's questions tend to focus on bird-breeding behavior. What did we see in their beaks? she asks. It looked grassy, right? Nesting materials adults flying to and from nests. They are lining the nest making it soft for their babies.

The self-appointed scribe of the group sets up a whiteboard, grabs a couple of dry erase markers, and begins, in meticulous fashion, to list the many birds they saw. The final tally: 28. As they discuss the birds, Brown reminds them, Everything this time of year is about bringing up the family.

I feel strongly that, to a person, being in nature is extraordinarily beneficial, Brown explains. She and Mary Ann Cofrin are preaching from the same pulpit. The people I work with have a real sensitivity to beauty. On a recent field trip with her group, she added, someone observed that an Osprey in flight was waving at them. They see the beauty. That makes my day.

Ginger has a wonderful relationship with her students, says Parmelee. She has great perspective. It's not Us and Them. It's We.

For Swain, the next step includes training for Audubon staff to look through the students' lenses for cues and clues ó as she has done. A big part of the pilot program is learning to be flexible and adapt as needed for each group of students, she says. In these kinds of programs, we need to have the skills to modify the programs to meet each student's needs.

For most of the group on the Powder Mill walkabout, it has been a compelling, successful encounter with the sights and sounds and realities of nature (two people even slipped in the marshy mud) and the circle of life. At the end, the buzz of curiosity continued with even more questions and comments. Universally, finding things out making connections to the world around us is powerful.

With the input and insight of everyone involved, Audubon is focused on amplifying this chorus of quiet voices. The student who wanted to know if the butterflies and turtles were real continued to keep Swain on her toes. He then wanted to know why there weren't as many animals as he'd expected out on the trails that day.

It's the time of year, too early for some animals to be out, was Swain's response. And they might have been hiding, as they could hear us coming.

And somehow, for these newly-minted nature detectives, that was explanation enough.

Betsy Sherman Walker is a Rhode Island native who writes for area non-profits, news, and lifestyle publications, and who has recently discovered the joy and wonder of birding. Touch base at walkerbets@gmail.com.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO NATURE

Your support allows Audubon to expand this inclusive program for children and young adults.

Donate today at: asri.org/TakingRoot

Or send your check to:

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Attn: Taking Root

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI 02917

THANK YOU



Top: Students from the special education program at Cumberland High School enjoy their time on the trails. Center: Audubon Educator Kate Swain presents a found salamander to students at Powder Mill Ledges. Bottom: A student at the Groden Center touches a fur pelt during a recent Audubon program.

Trusting the Science Behind Offshore Wind

Editorial by Dr. Charles Clarkson, Director of Avian Research

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND REPORT

Volume 57, Number 2, Summer 2023

Audubon Society of Rhode Island
12 Sanderson Road
Smithfield, RI 02917
(401) 949-5454
www.asri.org

Executive Director
Jeffrey C. Hall

Managing Editor
Hope Foley

Contributing Writers
Laura Carberry, Charles Clarkson,
Priscilla De La Cruz,
Hope Foley, Lauren Parmelee,
Rebecca Reeves, Scott Ruhren,
Katie Schortmann, Paige Shapiro,
Betsy Walker

Contributing Photographers
Larry Akers, Leah DeFontes,
John Farley, Hope Foley,
Peter Green, Ed Hughes,
Jason Major, Glenn Osmundson,
Rebecca Reeves, Scott Ruhren,
Richard Staples, Janice Sullivan

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.

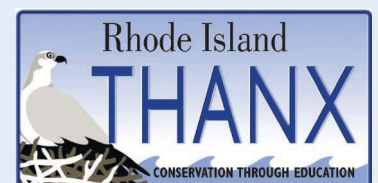
SPOT THE BEETLE, STOP THE BEETLE

Help prevent the spread of Asian Longhorned Beetle. When hiking the trails, look for signs of the beetle.

For more information on how to detect this destructive invasive insect, visit www.asri.org and click on "conservation."



Because of you, the Osprey License Plate has provided hundreds of children with the opportunity to learn about nature. Thank you.



Order at www.asri.org

"The commitment of environmental organizations to monitor offshore wind development and provide research used to guide optimal siting is akin to placing the most responsible, compassionate and knowledgeable driver behind the wheel of a car already in motion."

– Dr. Charles Clarkson
Director of Avian Research

Wind power is one form of renewable energy production that is being used to reach national emissions targets, and although considered a new form of energy production, it may surprise many to know that wind turbines have been producing clean energy in offshore locations for over 30 years. Over the course of this time, we have learned a great deal about wind power, its effectiveness and its limitations.

It should surprise no one that no technology exists without a downside. In the conservation community, we are concerned with the impacts of wind power on birds, bats, whales, fish and benthic communities. But, these are concerns we have had since the inception of the technology and today, a number of large and committed environmental organizations are working hard to identify the threats incurred by the technology and the best ways to mitigate those impacts. Many of these groups consist of researchers dedicated to the creation of smart siting protocols used to inform the placement and operation of wind farms in order to reduce the impacts of turbines on wildlife and habitats. These optimal siting assessments consider the foraging patterns and migratory routes birds, bats and whales use and the work that is being done to inform the industry will also elucidate a great deal about the lives of some understudied species (such as seabirds). The more we learn, the safer we can make the technology for the environment. The concerns about the long-term costs of offshore wind power to birds and other wildlife are valid, but we are learning more every day about these

costs and, more importantly, how we can lessen them.

What we already know from over 100 years of oil and gas production is that this form of energy generation is responsible for contributing to biodiversity loss on a scale that is staggering. For example, approximately 500,000 birds die each year from oil spills alone across the globe (not to mention single large oil spill events, such as the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon spill, which killed over 1 million birds; Ronconi et al. 2015). A report released in 2019 documented that the impacts of a warming climate from greenhouse gas emissions include the potential extinction of 350 species of North American birds.

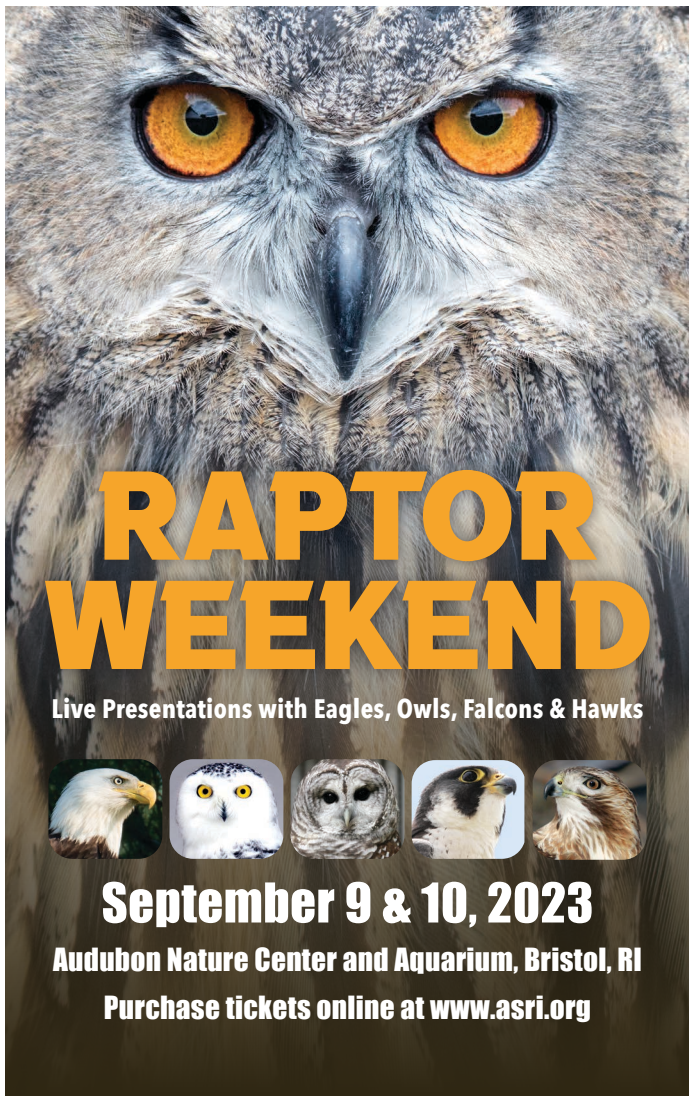
With the growth of offshore wind in our state we are seeing large amounts of misinformation being disseminated to the public, concerning as it may sway public opinion against this form of renewable energy. In a world with increasingly erratic climate and rapidly dwindling natural spaces, we must move away from fossil fuels toward a cleaner form of energy production. The commitment of environmental organizations to monitor offshore wind development and provide research used to guide optimal siting is akin to placing the most responsible, compassionate and knowledgeable driver behind the wheel of a car already in motion.

We should all place our faith in the thousands of passionate and dedicated scientists and conservationists determined to make wind power as safe as possible. We need to trust the science, our future depends on it.




Audubon Society of Rhode Island
12 Sanderson Rd, Smithfield, RI 02917

Non Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Audubon Society of RI



RAPTOR WEEKEND

Live Presentations with Eagles, Owls, Falcons & Hawks



September 9 & 10, 2023
Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI
Purchase tickets online at www.asri.org

BLOCK ISLAND BIRDING WEEKEND



SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1 2023

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 BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Have a WILD time!

Choose an Audubon location, a party theme, and have a wild time celebrating your child's special day!

Visit AudubonBirthdayParties.com






THE EGGS HAVE HATCHED!

PROVIDENCE PEREGRINES WEBCAM

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

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




Peter Green