North Shore Wildlife Sanctuaries

IPSWICH RIVER & JOPPA FLATS

Programs & Events

JANUARY–APRIL 2020

Mass Audubon
North Shore Wildlife Sanctuaries

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
87 Perkins Row, Topsfield
978-887-9264 Office
978-887-0875 Fax
ipswichriver@massaudubon.org

Joppa Flats Education Center
One Plum Island Tpke, Newburyport
978-462-9998 Office
978-462-4143 Fax
joppaflats@massaudubon.org

Endicott Wildlife Sanctuary
346 Grapevine Road, Wenham
978-927-1122 Office
978-922-8487 Fax
endicott@massaudubon.org

Joppa Flats, Newburyport
1
Rough Meadows, Rowley
2
Ipswich River, Topsfield
3
Endicott, Wenham
4
Eastern Point, Gloucester
5
Marblehead Neck, Marblehead
6
Nahant Thicket, Nahant
7

These sites have accessible features.

These sites produce and purchase green electricity.

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
Amy Weidensaul, Sanctuary Director, ext. 7701
Sue Baeslack, Education & Volunteer Coordinator, ext. 7707
Julie Bouchard, Accounting/Payroll Assistant, ext. 7713
Cori Brauer, Education Coordinator, ext. 7704
Jean Bruns, Development Assistant, ext. 7710
Laura Coulbourn, Administrative Assistant, ext. 7702
Adrienne Doucette, Administrative Assistant, ext. 7703
Kim LoGrasso, Youth Education Manager, ext. 7706
Stina MacDougall, Office Manager/School Programs Administrator, ext. 7705
Stephanie Majeau, Education Coordinator, ext. 7712
Scott Santino, Teacher Naturalist/Camp Director, ext. 7709
Sara Semenza, Property Worker
Rebecca Spencer, Administrative Assistant, ext. 7711
Bill Whiting, Property Worker
Richard Wolniewicz, Property Manager, ext. 7708

Joppa Flats Education Center
David Moon, Sanctuary Director, ext. 6801
Jude Griffin, Administrative Assistant, ext. 6806
Lisa Hutchings, School & Youth Education Coordinator, ext. 6804
David Larson, Science & Education Coordinator, ext. 6802
Melissa Vokey, Administrative Coordinator & Development Director, ext. 6803
Mike Geisler & Anna Breeden, Weekend Staff

Endicott Wildlife Sanctuary
Amy Weidensaul, Sanctuary Director, 978-887-9264
Robert Buchsbaum, Conservation Scientist
Bob Demeule, Property Manager
Diane Dixon, Administrative Assistant, 987-237-0108
Liz Duff, Education Coordinator, ext. 2701
Karen First, Preschool Director, 978-237-0108
Chris Leahy, Bertrand Chair Emeritus
Ipswich River Nature Day Camps
Have Fun in Nature this Summer!
Online registration opens in January
Children ages 4–14
Three convenient locations:
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield
The Church of St. Andrew, Marblehead
Essex County Greenbelt’s Cox Reservation, Essex
For more information and to register, visit
massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
or call 978-887-9264.

Spend your school vacation with Joppa Flats!
April 21–24, 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Nature photography of wildlife and wild places
for teens ages 13–16
See page 29.

Mass Audubon
On dreary, cold winter mornings, I daydream about the return of spring and the re-emergence of all of the green. I never want to wish away a season, including winter with all the joy it brings—fresh snow for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing, and bird feeders engulfed by juncos, cardinals, and titmice—but I do love the changing of the seasons and the lift in spirit that comes with the shift in temperatures and colors of nature.

Here at Ipswich River, we get giddy in late winter and early spring, when the sap starts flowing from the sugar maple trees, and clouds of sweet steam emerge from the sugarhouse. Last year, our staff and volunteers tapped 80 sugar maple trees at Ipswich River and Cedar Pond wildlife sanctuaries, producing 63 gallons of maple syrup, a tradition that has been going on here for more than 30 years.

Of course, spring means not just the smell of maple syrup filling the sugarhouse, but also the sounds of woodcocks “peenting” at dusk. In February and March, our fields are filled with male woodcock—small, chunky shorebirds that live in the woods—doing their extraordinary "sky dances" with twirling flights high into the air accompanied by twittering and bubbling sounds.

Between now and then however, we hope you go out to experience winter’s unique beauty. Stop by the sanctuary to rent snowshoes and explore our snow-covered trails, where you’re likely to spot tracks of raccoons, turkeys, or fishers. Bring the kids for fun, hands-on activities during February school vacation. Or treat your friends to a sugaring tour to learn how maple syrup is made (and, of course, to taste some of the sweet treat itself). There is plenty to do in all seasons. I look forward to seeing you on the trails or during a program. Whenever you visit, and for whatever reason, you will leave with a deeper love and connection to the natural world.

Yours in Conservation,
Amy Weidensaul
Ipswich River Sanctuary Director
MEMBERS-ONLY OPPORTUNITIES

Innermost House
Available year-round, $65/night
Our cozy rustic cabin can accommodate a maximum of four people and has a bunk bed, single bed, and woodstove. You’ll be close enough to easily access public restrooms, but off the beaten path enough to feel alone. For details go to massaudubon.org/innermosthouse.

NEW! Snowshoe Rentals
$10/pair for two hours
Explore the sanctuary by snowshoe, now available for rent. Adult and children’s sizes available. Please call for more information.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

Cross-Country Skiing
Limited cross-country skiing is permitted on the sanctuary. For your safety, if you are skiing, please register in the office upon arrival and sign out when you leave. Skiers must be off the trails by 3:30 pm.

Sugaring Weekends Limited Parking
Please note that during sugaring weekends (February 15 & 22 and February 29–March 21), parking at the sanctuary may be limited to those who are registered for sugaring tours.
Programs for Adults
Ipswich River

Eagles & Owls
Newburyport/Salisbury Area

Date: Sunday, January 5 / 8:00 am–12:00 pm
Snow Date: Sunday, January 12
Sunday, February 9 / 8:00 am–12:00 pm
Snow Date: Sunday, February 16

Leaders: Warren Tatro & Mike Baird, Birder Naturalists
Cost: $28 members, $34 nonmembers, per trip

Bald eagles are often seen along the Merrimack River in winter, attracted to the feeding opportunities afforded by the open water. We will travel along the river in Newburyport to search for and observe eagles in adult and juvenile plumage, and then visit Salisbury Beach State Reservation or the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island to look for owls. Possible sightings include Snowy, Short-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Meet in Newburyport, directions will be sent; we will travel by van from there. Dress in layers and wear warm waterproof boots. Bring binoculars, a spotting scope if you have one, field guides, snacks, and water. Space is limited; early registration recommended.

Wolf Moon Hike
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Friday, January 10 / 7:00–9:00 pm
Leader: Stephanie Majeau, Ipswich River Education Coordinator
Cost: $16 members, $19 nonmembers

Reconnect with nature by taking an exhilarating walk under the full January Moon, also known as the Wolf Moon. Look for wildlife and discuss how plants and animals survive the winter as we explore the sanctuary after-hours. At this time of year, we may be able to hear Great Horned Owl calls.

Meet in the Barn. Please dress warmly.

Skull & Bone Identification Workshop
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, January 11 / 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Leader: Richard Wolniewicz, Ipswich River Property Manager & Author
Cost: $30 members, $36 nonmembers

Skeletal remains represent some of the most prevalent and interesting evidence of animals. Using Richard’s easy-to-follow book, Field Guide to Skulls and Bones of Mammals of the Northeastern United States, this comprehensive and interactive workshop will teach you what to look for when identifying animal bones. Practice your skills using sample bones and feel free to bring bones you may have found that you’d like to finally identify. Perfect for naturalists, teachers, trackers, and anyone interested in learning more about the natural world.

Meet in the Barn. Bring a magnifying loupe if you have one. CD copies of the field guide will be available for purchase.

Urban Birding:
East Boston, Winthrop, & Revere
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

Date: Friday, January 10 / 8:00 am–3:00 pm
Leader: Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist
Cost: $42 members, $50 nonmembers

The rivers, marshes, and coastline of East Boston provide fantastic birdwatching opportunities year-round; however, the winter months might just be the best, because there are more birds than people! We'll begin the day walking Belle Isle Park Loop, then, from Winthrop Beach, scan Broad Sound for sea ducks, grebes, loons, and maybe a Snowy Owl. Working our way up to Revere, we'll stop at Point of Pines and look for more sea ducks, gulls, and wintering shorebirds. Depending on snowfall, we may also visit Rumney Marsh, a 600-acre salt marsh beside the Pine River, and watch for Northern Harriers gliding over the salt hay.

Meet at Ipswich River for van transportation. Bring a lunch, water, binoculars, a spotting scope if you have one, field guides, snacks, and water. Space is limited; early registration recommended.

Sunday Morning Yoga
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Dates: Sundays, January 5, 12, 26; February 9, 23; March 22; April 5, 19, 26 / 9:00–10:00 am
Leader: Betty Gilman, RYT 200 Instructor
Cost: $12 members, $15 nonmembers, per session

Experience a combination of traditional yoga sequences to stretch, tone, and strengthen your body. Discover fluid Qigong movements, and awaken Kundalini energy through gentle exercises. Soothe your mind, body, and soul with mindful breathing and meditation for a feeling of overall peace and well-being. Suitable for all levels of yoga experience. Sign up for one or more classes.

Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat, blanket, and water.
Mammals in Watercolor
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, January 18 / 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Leader: Brenda Sloane, Watercolor Artist & Instructor
Cost: $30 members, $36 nonmembers

We’ll take a quick walk around the sanctuary to seek out mammals that are active this time of year, such as deer, beavers, weasels, squirrels, and more (weather permitting). Then, we’ll return to the Barn to learn different watercolor painting techniques. Put brush to paper and create watercolor paintings of a mammal of your choice, using photographs or mammal mounts for subjects. This program is appropriate for beginners as well as more advanced artists. Meet in the Barn. All materials will be provided.

Birding for Beginners
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, January 25 / 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Leader: Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist
Cost: $14 members, $16 nonmembers

What’s the fastest growing outdoor activity in America? Birding! In the next 50 years, birding will grow at a faster rate than the U.S. population. Join the growing excitement, and learn how to choose the right binoculars and what to look for in a field guide. We’ll head out onto the sanctuary and learn what to look and listen for to identify these beautiful creatures. Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them (we will have some loaners on hand).

Forest Bathing Walks
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Dates: Saturday, January 25 / 1:30–3:30 pm
Snow Date: Saturday, February 1
Saturday, April 4 / 1:30–3:30 pm
Leader: Stephanie Majeau, Ipswich River Education Coordinator
Cost: $16 members, $19 nonmembers, per walk

"Bathe" your mind and body in the soothing natural landscapes of Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. The practice of shinrin-yoku (literally “forest bathing”) was developed in Japan to promote physical and mental health through deep immersion of the senses in forest settings. Reconnect with the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of nature as you engage in a gentle, quiet trail walk; guided meditations; breathing exercises; and mindfulness practices. We’ll complete our walk with time for reflection and a relaxing cup of tea. Meet in the Nature Center. Please dress for the weather.

Nature Journaling:
Page Layout & Elements
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, February 1 / 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Leader: Sandy McDermott, Artist, Natural Science Illustrator, & Teacher
Cost: $56 members, $67 nonmembers

Is your nature journal asking for a little organization? Are your sketches and observational notes a bit cluttered? Artist and Natural Science Illustrator Sandy McDermott will present a step-by-step process for laying out your nature journal pages, element by element. Learn creative solutions to creating journal pages that allow images and words to flow together. Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom. A list of materials to bring will be sent.

Wingmasters Presents:
North American Birds of Prey
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Sunday, January 26 / 11:00 am–12:15 pm

See live birds of prey up close! Learn about different types of raptors including eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls. Advance registration is a must for this very popular program. See page 11 for full description.

Rhode Island Day Trip:
Ocean State Birding
Rhode Island

Date: Saturday, February 1 / 8:00 am–6:00 pm
Leaders: Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist; Mike Baird, Birder Naturalist
Cost: $75 members, $90 nonmembers

With 40 miles of coastline, Rhode Island is a wonderful winter birding location. We’ll spend our day in the Middletown, Newport, and Jamestown areas enjoying the beauty of scoters, mergansers, eiders, and Harlequins, and spotting possible rarities including Barrow’s Goldeneyes and King Eiders. A midday stop for lunch at a local restaurant will refuel us for the afternoon. Location highlights include Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge and Beavertail State Park. Meet at Ipswich River for van transportation. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch, water, binoculars, spotting scope if you have one, and field guide to birds.
**Owls in the Van**  
Essex County  

**Date:** Thursday, February 6 / 4:30–9:30 pm  
**Leaders:** Amy Weidensaul, Ipswich River Sanctuary Director; Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist  
**Cost:** $30 members, $36 nonmembers

Visit local hot spots in search of owls on this cool evening adventure. We'll travel by van to a salt marsh in search of Short-eared Owls and possibly an early Great Horned Owl. After stopping for a bite to eat, we'll continue to other nearby locations known for resident owls. During winter, owls can be heard vocalizing with prospective mates as they seek out nesting sites. We will call and listen for Eastern Screech-owls, Barred Owls, Saw-whet Owls, and Great Horned Owls as we observe the habitats favored by these birds.  

*Meet at Ipswich River for van transportation. Dress warmly and bring meal money for our sandwich stop.*

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**Tracking Predators on Averill’s Island**  
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield  

**Date:** Sunday, February 9 / 12:30–4:30 pm  
**Leader:** Bob Metcalfe, New England Discovery Naturalist & Maine Guide  
**Cost:** $34 members, $40 nonmembers

What is life like for a predator in winter? In this exploration of Averill’s Island, we'll look for the tracks of a predator to follow. By tracking a coyote, fox, fisher, or weasel, we can learn about its life and behavior. We'll start with some basics of tracking and then head outside to explore.  

*Meet in the Barn. Walking will be off trail, so wear insulated boots and warm clothing. Bring snowshoes if conditions warrant (we have some to lend if needed, with advance notice).*

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**Winter Birdwatching in Nahant**  
Nahant  

**Date:** Friday, February 14 / 9:00 am–2:00 pm  
**Leader:** Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist  
**Cost:** $32 members, $38 nonmembers

Nahant, the smallest town in Massachusetts, sticks out into Massachusetts Bay, making it a fantastic location for finding birds in winter. Scan for a variety of sea ducks, geese, loons, grebes, and cormorants from Bailey's Hill, and stroll around Lodge Park for flocks of Snow Buntings and roosting Snowy Owls. Slowly walk through scrubby thickets for a variety of songbirds and maybe something uncommon such as a Yellow-breasted Chat. Enjoy the wooded trail of Mass Audubon's Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary for woodpeckers, sparrows, and more.  

*Meet at Ipswich River for van transportation. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch, water, binoculars, spotting scope if you have one, and field guide to birds.*

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**Surviving Winter: Plant & Animal Adaptations Hike**  
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield  

**Date:** Saturday, February 15 / 10:00 am–12:00 pm  
**Leader:** Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist  
**Cost:** $16 members, $19 nonmembers

Plants and animals have evolved amazing survival strategies to cope with freezing temperatures. Stop to identify mammal tracks in the snow, watch birds puff up their down feathers for insulation, and marvel over tree buds. If conditions allow, bring snowshoes (or borrow a pair of ours) for this exhilarating walk.  

*Meet in the Nature Center. Please dress warmly. Please indicate when registering if you would like to reserve snowshoes.*
**SPEAKER SERIES: GREEN DRINKS**

**The Story of Saving Straitsmouth**

*True North Ale Company, Ipswich*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Wednesday, February 26 / 6:30–8:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Paul St. Germain, Thacher Island Association, Local Historian, &amp; Author</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$8 members, $10 nonmembers</td>
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Straitsmouth Island, off of Rockport, opened to the public in summer 2018 for the first time in 180 years! Grab a beer and listen to historian and author Paul St. Germain recount the riveting story of the island’s history and the journey to reopening. Drawing from his personal experience as well as historical archives, Paul will give a virtual tour of Straitsmouth and the joint effort by the Town of Rockport, Mass Audubon, and the Thacher Island Association to make the much-needed improvements for safe public access.

*Meet at True North Ale Company, 116 County Road, Ipswich. Snacks are provided; beer and nonalcoholic drinks available for purchase.*

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**The Natural History of Owls**

*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Friday, March 6 / 7:00–9:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$16 members, $19 nonmembers</td>
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Owls—with their haunting hoots and cries and humanlike eyes—have been woven into folklore and legend since ancient times. Even today, because of their mostly nocturnal habits, owls are a fascinating, somewhat elusive group of birds to study. Following an indoor presentation on Massachusetts owl natural history, we'll walk outside to listen for Great Horned Owls and try to summon Barred and Eastern Screech-owls.

*Meet in the Nature Center. Please dress warmly.*

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**Birding New Hampshire’s Great Bay & Coastline**

*Coastal New Hampshire*

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>Friday, March 20 / 8:00 am–3:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$42 members, $50 nonmembers</td>
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The Great Bay is New Hampshire's largest estuarine system and a bird magnet. Fed by the tidal waters of the Piscataqua River, the estuary offers a variety of habitats that include mudflats, salt marshes, the rocky intertidal zone, upland forests, and fields. Visit these areas, then travel east to the beautiful coastline, including Odiorne State Park, to scan for wintering seabirds.

*Meet at Ipswich River for van transportation. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch, water, binoculars, spotting scope if you have one, and field guide to birds.*

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**Shaker-Style Cheese Basket Workshop**

*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Saturday, March 28 / 9:30 am–4:30 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Dianne Stanton, Master Basket Maker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$55 members, $65 nonmembers materials fee $48</td>
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Although widely used throughout the world, the technique of hexagonal plaiting was usually used to make Shaker cheese baskets in America. Use flat rattan to create this well-known basket style, utilizing Dianne Stanton’s many tricks to make the weaving process easier. During class we will discuss making hexagonal baskets in different shapes and sizes, as well as embellishing a finished basket. Your finished basket will measure 15 inches in diameter by 5 inches deep. This class is appropriate for all levels of weaving experience.

*Meet in the Barn. A list of items to bring will be sent. Please pay class fee to Ipswich River. Bring a check for $48, payable to Dianne Stanton to class, to cover the cost of materials.*

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**Bluebirds, Blackbirds, & More: Spring Birds at Ipswich River**

*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Sunday, March 29 / 7:30–10:30 am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Warren Tatro, Birder Naturalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$12 members, $14 nonmembers</td>
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Look for late-winter visitors such as Pine Siskins, American Tree Sparrows, and perhaps a Saw-whet Owl, along with early-spring arrivals including blackbirds, American Woodcocks, Eastern Phoebes, Eastern Bluebirds, Wood Ducks, Fox Sparrows, and more at this bird walk through the sanctuary.

*Meet in front of the Nature Center. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and a field guide to birds. Loaner binoculars are available; please request when registering.*

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**Woodcock Courtship Ritual**

*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Tuesday, March 31 / 7:00–8:30 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Amy Weidensaul, Ipswich River Sanctuary Director</td>
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<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$10 members, $12 nonmembers</td>
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The American Woodcock is a curious member of the sandpiper family and performs an aerial courtship display that is not to be missed. After a short indoor introduction focusing on characteristics and behavior, we’ll go outside to the “breeding fields” to witness the male woodcock’s amazing performance.

*Meet in the Nature Center. Bring binoculars if you have them (we will also have some on hand).*
Habitat Gardening for Birds
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, April 4 / 9:00–11:00 am
Leader: Catherine Carney-Feldman, Master Gardener & Accredited Organic Land Care Professional
Cost: $21 members, $25 nonmembers

All species on our planet need habitat—a place to call home. Habitat provides shelter from the weather and predators, a place to raise their young, water, and of course, food. Learn what birds require for habitat and the basics of how you can design and transform your own landscape into a sustainable habitat for birds. Take a tour of the sanctuary’s gardens and bring home lists of native species that provide food for birds. 

Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom.

Vernal Pool Exploration
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, April 4 / 1:30–3:30 pm
Leader: Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist
Cost: $16 members, $19 nonmembers

It's spring, which means plants and animals in woodlands and wetlands are starting to wake up. As the ground thaws and the snow and ice melt, an incredible migration to little woodland hollows called vernal pools takes place. Walk to these special wetlands and look for wood frogs and salamanders that use the pools to reproduce. Visiting an active vernal pool can be an amazing eye-opening experience.

Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom. Dress for the weather.

The Ice Age Geologic History of Ipswich River & Its Environs
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Sunday, April 5 / 1:30–4:30 pm
Leader: Fred Surowiec, Ipswich River Field Teacher, Geologist, & Science Teacher
Cost: $18 members, $22 nonmembers

Learn how millennia of glacial advances and retreats created special landforms and topography at Ipswich River and throughout the surrounding area. Discuss animals that once roamed this land, and examine fossils. Afterward, hike to key locations on the sanctuary to observe and identify distinctive glacial landforms, their characteristics, how they came about, and how they continue to influence the world around us today.

Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom. Dress warmly and wear sturdy footwear.

Mindful Nature Experience
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Tuesday, April 7 / 5:00–7:00 pm
Leader: Dave Dishaw, Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Guide
Cost: $16 members, $19 nonmembers

A Mindful Nature Experience incorporates elements of mindfulness, forest bathing, ayurveda, and yoga to connect mind and body in community with the outdoors. Awaken your body with easy, flowing exercises, using mindful breathing techniques to connect with the natural world. Walk with awareness immersed in nature, use various sensory techniques, and find your own personal spot to meditate as one with nature. We'll close with a fire council and tea ceremony (conditions permitting) where we share and imprint our experiences from the day.

Meet in front of the Barn. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Answers to the Ocean Wanderers Mystery
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, April 11 / 1:00–2:30 pm
Leader: Peter Trull, Educator, Biologist, & Seabird Scientist, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Cost: $8 members, $10 nonmembers

Last July, a number of oceanic birds, Great Shearwaters, were fitted with satellite tags off the coast of Chatham by Dr. David Wiley, Research Coordinator for the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and his crew. These birds are southern hemisphere nesters that often spend years at sea. Each bird was named for a Mass Audubon sanctuary, including Ipswich River, and provided tracking data on their ocean wanderings and migration south to their breeding grounds. After a colorful and informative presentation on the ecology and life histories of these oceanic wanderers, we’ll use satellite coordinates and maps to track the route of Ipswich River and the other birds. Come learn and participate, testing your latitude and longitude tracking skills. Lessons, games, and activities will be provided for educators.

Meet in the Barn.
Field Sketching with Colored Pencils
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, April 25 / 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Leader: Sandy McDermott, Artist & Natural Science Illustrator
Cost: $56 members, $67 nonmembers

Some of the easiest sketching tools to use in the field are traditional wax-based colored pencils; they are lightweight and packable and have a broad range of colors available. Learn basic principles for using color while sketching in the field. Create a field page that describes a place or habitat on the sanctuary, combining graphite or ink with colored pencils. Some previous drawing experience is required. Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom. Dress for the weather. A list of items to bring will be sent.

Early Spring Birds of Plum Island
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newburyport

Date: Sunday, April 26 / 7:00–11:00 am
Leaders: Warren Tatro and Kirk Elwell, Birder Naturalists
Cost: $22 members, $27 nonmembers

Bird before the big spring migration gets underway at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (PRNWR); it’s a great time of year to sharpen identification skills because there are fewer species around to confuse us! All levels of experience are welcome.

Meet in the parking lot of the PRNWR headquarters in Newburyport; directions will be sent. If you would like to take the van from Ipswich River, departing at 6:15 am, indicate when registering. Travel within PRNWR will be by van. Bring binoculars and a field guide to birds.

Group & Corporate Outing Programs

Perfect for your next group meeting or corporate outing! For more details, and to schedule your group outing, call 978-887-9264 or email smajeau@massaudubon.org.

FOREST BATHING OUTINGS
The practice of shinrin-yoku (literally "forest bathing") was developed in Japan to promote physical and mental health through deep immersion of the senses in forested landscapes. Reconnect with the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of nature while engaging in a gentle trail walk, guided meditations, breathing exercises, and mindfulness practices with the help of an experienced naturalist. Available year-round, weekdays or weekends.

CANOE OUTINGS
Enjoy nature’s beauty while canoeing on the calm waters of the Ipswich River. Safety-certified naturalists will help you learn or refine your paddling skills while team building with your group. Spend the end of your workday out on the river and experience a side of nature few get to see. Available on weekdays during late afternoons and evenings, May 1–October 31.
**Sugaring Celebrations**

**Ipswich River**

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**CREATE SWEET MEMORIES**

**Rent a Sugar Maple Bucket**

*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Date:** Saturday, February 22 / 10:00 am–12:00 pm  
**Cost:** $85

Start a new tradition by renting a sugaring bucket for yourself, your family, or as the perfect gift. Join our sugaring experts for a two-hour interactive program and experience this iconic New England tradition yourself. Practice tree identification and take a short hike to tap your own tree. Visit our steamy sugarhouse to see the sap become syrup and enjoy a sampling of pancakes straight off the grill topped with our fresh maple syrup. Your rental includes a two-hour interactive program, an 8-ounce bottle of Ipswich River syrup at season’s end, and a certificate of rental.  
To register, call 978-887-9264 by February 21.

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**Scout Sugaring Jamboree**

*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Date:** Saturday, February 15 / 1:00–4:00 pm  
**Cost:** $13 per person (free for children under 2)

Bring your troop and the whole family to meet our maple trees, tour the sugarhouse, try our sweet syrup, and participate in winter games and activities. Each child will get a special maple sugaring badge!  
Advance registration required. For more information or to register, call 978-887-9264.

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**Spring Flapjack Fling**

*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Date:** Saturday, March 21

**Ages:** Adults and families with children of all ages

**BREAKFAST & SUGARING TOUR**

**Times:** 8:15 am, 9:15 am, 10:15 am, 11:15 am, 12:15 pm  
**Cost:**  
- **adults** $20 members and nonmembers, per session  
- **children** $15 members and nonmembers, per session  
- **babies on laps** Free

Bring your family and friends for this special breakfast and enjoy the fruit (OK, sap!) of our labor and maple trees on some delicious pancakes. Flapjacks with our own syrup, along with fruit, coffee, and refreshments, are on the menu. Breakfast seatings are every 45 minutes, followed by an hour-long tour to see and learn about the transformation of sap to syrup.  
**Meet in the Barn. Dress warmly and wear waterproof boots. Children under 3 should be in a backpack baby carrier for the sugaring tour.**

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**School Tours**

**Tuesdays–Fridays, February 25–March 20**

Take a sugaring tour with your school—more information on these programs is available in our school brochure, found online at massaudubon.org/ipswichriver.
**Winter Little Explorers**  
*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Dates:** Saturdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25 / 10:00–11:30 am  
**Leader:** Maura Genova, Ipswich River Field Teacher  
**Ages:** Children ages 3-6 accompanied by an adult  
**Cost:** adult/child pair $70 members, $84 nonmembers

Explore the wonders of winter as it unfolds throughout the sanctuary in this four-session series. Listen to stories and participate in fun, hands-on activities followed by an exploratory hike.

- **January 4:** Winter Animals  
- **January 11:** Tracking  
- **January 18:** Winter Birds  
- **January 25:** Groundhog Day Celebration

*Additional siblings (ages 3–6) can pay half the listed fee; to register more than one child please call our office. Meet in the Nature Center. Please dress for the weather since we will be outdoors most of the time.*

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**Woodland Terrarium Workshop**  
*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Date:** Saturday, January 18 / 1:00–2:30 pm  
**Ages:** Families with children ages 6 and up  
**Leader:** Kim LoGrasso, Ipswich River Youth Education Manager  
**Cost:** family $20 members, $24 nonmembers

Brighten your winter days by making a terrarium of lush woodland plants for your home. We’ll create our own little ecosystems together and learn how to care for them.

*Meet in the Nature Center. The fee is per family and includes the container, supplies, and plants to make one terrarium. Extra terrariums may be purchased for $12 each. Please register by January 11.*

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**Pre-K Owl Prowl**  
*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Date:** Saturday, February 1 / 4:00–6:00 pm  
**Ages:** Families with children ages 3–6  
**Leader:** Maura Genova, Ipswich River Field Teacher  
**Cost:** adults $10 members, $12 nonmembers  
children $9 members, $11 nonmembers

Winter is the perfect time of year to search for owls. Learn about these fascinating birds through a story and activities before we head out for our adventure to look for them. Afterward, we’ll warm up by the woodstove with hot chocolate and cookies.

*Meet in the Barn. Please come dressed for the weather.*

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**Family Snowshoe & Winter World Hike**  
*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Date:** Saturday, February 8 / 1:30–3:00 pm  
**Ages:** Families with children ages 6 and up  
**Leader:** Cori Brauer, Ipswich River Education Coordinator  
**Cost:** adults $9 members, $11 nonmembers  
children $8 members, $10 nonmembers

Take a leisurely snowshoe hike through the sanctuary where we’ll search for animal tracks and keep our eyes open for wildlife. If you don’t own snowshoes, we’ll provide them for you. Snow or not, we’ll enjoy a wonderful winter hike and end with some hot chocolate to warm up!

*Meet in the Barn. Dress for the weather.*

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**Wingmasters Presents: North American Birds of Prey**  
*Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield*

**Date:** Sunday, January 26 / 11:00 am–12:15 pm  
**Ages:** Adults and families with children ages 5 and up  
**Leaders:** Jim Parks and Julie Anne Collier, Wingmasters  
**Cost:** adults $12 members, $14 nonmembers  
children $10 members, $12 nonmembers

See live birds of prey up close at this presentation, which introduces you to different types of raptors including eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls. We’ll discuss the special features these birds have that enable them to be successful predators at the top of the food chain. Learn about how they hunt, what they eat, and their amazing vision, hearing, and feathers. Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity to see birds such as the Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Saw-whet Owl, Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Eastern Screech-owl (birds subject to change).

*Meet in the Barn.*
Winter Mindful Nature Experience

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Sunday, February 9 / 3:00–5:00 pm
Ages: Families with children ages 6 and up
Leader: Dave Dishaw, Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Guide
Cost: adults $16 members, $19 nonmembers
       children $6 members, $8 nonmembers

Get outside with your family for some fresh air and to experience the beauty of the sanctuary. A Mindful Nature Experience incorporates elements of mindfulness, forest bathing, ayurveda, and yoga to connect mind and body in community with the outdoors, reinvigorate your senses, and deeply immerse you in the healing power of nature. As a family, awaken your bodies with easy, flowing exercises and use mindful breathing techniques to connect with and offer gratitude for the natural world. Walk with awareness to immerse deeply in nature, explore your senses using various sensory techniques that awaken curiosity, and find your own personal sit spot to meditate as one with nature.

Meet in front of the Barn. Please dress warmly.

Homeschool Family Owl Prowl & Open House

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Wednesday, February 26 / 7:00–8:30 pm
Ages: Families with children ages 6 and up
Leader: Cori Brauer, Ipswich River Education Coordinator
Cost: adults $9 members, $11 nonmembers
       children $8 members, $10 nonmembers

Come learn about the owls big and small that live on our sanctuary, as well as the homeschool programs we offer. Start inside with a presentation on owl adaptations, see real owl mounts and artifacts, learn to make owl calls, and hike the dark trails by moonlight in search of these mysterious and beautiful creatures. Afterward, we’ll return to our cozy Barn to warm up with hot chocolate and chat with our homeschool teachers and other families. This program is for any homeschool family, whether or not you have taken our classes or been to the sanctuary before. All are welcome! Meet in the Barn. Dress warmly since we will be outside most of the time. Note: This is NOT a drop-off program. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet in the Nature Center. Please dress warmly since most of our time will be spent outdoors.

Check out Homeschool Programs for ages 4–12 on page 16!
Owl Prowl for Families  
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield  

Date: Friday, March 13 / 7:00–9:00 pm  
Ages: Families with children ages 5 and up  
Leader: Fred Surowiec, Ipswich River Field Teacher  
Cost: adults $10 members, $12 nonmembers  
children $9 members, $11 nonmembers

Experience the excitement of an owl prowl as we take a night hike to look and listen for Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, and Eastern Screech-owls. Before we head out on our nocturnal adventure, we’ll learn fun owl facts in our cozy Barn using real owl mounts, feathers, talons, and a brief slide show. Then, end our evening with an owl-hooting lesson!  
Meet in the Barn. Please dress warmly.

Observing Artificial Satellites  
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield  

Date: Saturday, March 28 / 7:30–9:00 pm  
Ages: Adults and families with children ages 10 and up  
Leader: Gary Meehan, Physicist  
Cost: adults $9 members, $11 nonmembers  
children $8 members, $10 nonmembers

Begin with an indoor presentation on all you need to know to find and observe artificial satellites like the International Space Station and other human-made orbiting objects. Weather permitting, we’ll step outside to look out artificial satellites and gaze into the night sky through the telescopes of local amateur astronomers. Along with the early springtime constellations, a young crescent moon and the planet Venus will be visible.  
Meet in the Barn. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions. The indoor portion of the program runs rain, clouds, or star shine.

Early Spring Terrific Toddlers Series  
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield  

Dates: Tuesdays, March 31; April 7, 14, 28 / 9:30–11:00 am  
or Fridays, April 3, 10, 17; May 1 / 9:30–11:00 am  
Ages: Children ages 2–3 accompanied by an adult  
Leader: Kathy Hutchins, Ipswich River Field Teacher (Tuesdays);  
Maura Genova, Ipswich River Field Teacher (Fridays)  
Cost: adult/child pair* $70 members, $84 nonmembers, per series

This four-session series introduces toddlers to the delights of nature at a hands-on level in an unhurried atmosphere. Each session includes an introduction indoors and then a hike that stops to discover nature’s treasures along the way.  
March 31 / April 3: Signs of Spring  
April 7 / 10: Early Spring Buds  
April 14 / 17: Early Spring Mud  
April 28 / May 1: Early Spring Birds  
Meet in the Nature Center. Dress for the weather since we will be outside most of the time. *Additional siblings (ages 2–3) can attend at half the listed fee. Please call our office if you wish to register more than one child.

Parent/Child Build a Bluebird House  
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield  

Date: Saturday, April 4 / 1:30–3:00 pm  
Ages: Families with children ages 6 and up  
Leader: Maura Genova, Ipswich River Field Teacher  
Cost: family $21 members, $25 nonmembers

Celebrate spring by building a bluebird house with your child for Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. These wonderful nest boxes also attract Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, House Wrens, and woodpeckers. A short slide presentation will introduce families to the natural history and behavior of birds in Massachusetts, including where and how to place your nest box. After, take a short walk on the sanctuary to look and listen for bluebirds.  
Meet in the Barn. Price is per family and includes one kit. Extra kits may be purchased for $12.50 each; please order when registering. Materials provided; bring a hammer and dress for the weather.
PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS

Programs for Older Youth

Youth Outdoor Survival Shelter Challenge
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, February 1 / 1:30–3:30 pm
Ages: Youth ages 9–14
Leader: Cori Brauer, Ipswich River Education Coordinator
Cost: $11 members, $13 nonmembers

In this outdoor survival skills program, you’ll learn the basics of the ancient outdoor skill of shelter building. Look at real examples of animal homes for inspiration, learn the pros and cons of different shelter types, discuss shelter safety, and make your own full-size shelters on the sanctuary. If there is snow we’ll make cozy quinzhee huts and if there isn’t we’ll make leafy lean-to huts. No experience necessary—just a desire to survive and thrive in the wild!

Meet in the Barn. Please dress for the weather. Parents are welcome to come along OR drop off for this program. If dropping off, you will be asked to fill out a short health and emergency contact form.

Ipswich River Teen Conservation Club
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Dates: Saturdays, March 28; April 11, May 23; June 6 / 2:00–4:30 pm
Saturday, May 2 / 6:30–9:00 pm (night hike)
Saturday, June 13 / 9:00 am–4:00 pm (field trip)
Ages: Teens ages 14–18
Leaders: Cori Brauer, Ipswich River Education Coordinator;
Morgan Davidson, Ipswich River Youth Leader
Cost: $96 members, $115 nonmembers, entire series

Interesting hikes, natural history topics, hands-on projects, and wildlife data-collection opportunities will all be based on your input and interests. Get involved behind the scenes with Mass Audubon’s science and conservation work; past projects have included salamander monitoring, bird conservation, invasive plant pulling and habitat restoration, wildlife tracking, and water-quality monitoring by canoe. Meet other local teens who are passionate about nature, science, and taking care of our world. The club meets one or two Saturdays a month in spring and fall and takes one field trip each season to connect with local organizations and learn more about environmental issues in our communities and how you can make a real difference. Snacks included!

Meet in the Carol Decker Nature Classroom. Dress for the weather.

Big Night: The Frog & Salamander Migration Celebration
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Friday, April 3 / 6:00, 6:10, 6:20, 6:30, 6:40, or 6:50 pm
Ages: Families with children ages 4 and up
Leaders: Ipswich River Staff and Volunteers
Cost: adults $8 members, $10 nonmembers
children $8 members, $10 nonmembers

Each year on the first warm, rainy night of spring, Wood Frogs and Mole Salamanders begin a mass migration to vernal pools to breed. If you happen to be out on one of these evenings, the experience is a spectacular amphibian celebration, known as “Big Night.” Take a one-hour guided walk along the Vernal Pool Trail, and meet some larger-than-life characters who’ll share interesting facts and stories about themselves, vernal pools, and this special time of year; some stops feature live animals to meet firsthand. The trail will lead to a real vernal pool where more animals and their eggs may be seen. When you return to the Barn, enjoy a frog or salamander-shaped cookie and juice, and share in the festive spirit with other families and sanctuary staff.

Meet in the Barn. Rain or shine. Dress for the weather and wear warm footgear. Advance registration is required for this very popular event.

Salamander Meander
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Date: Saturday, April 18 / 1:30–3:00 pm
Ages: Families with children ages 6 and up
Leader: Maura Genova, Ipswich River Field Teacher
Cost: adults $9 members, $11 nonmembers
children $8 members, $10 nonmembers

Spring is the season when frogs, toads, and salamanders return to wetlands to lay their eggs. After a short introduction in the Nature Center where we’ll learn about the life cycles of these amazing creatures, we will search the sanctuary’s wetlands, woodlands, and vernal pool for salamanders and other amphibians on the move. If we’re lucky, we might be able to catch a few to observe up close, and then release.

Meet in the Nature Center. Please dress for the weather.
School Vacation Week Camps
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

Leaders: Ipswich River Education Staff
Cost: $58 members, $70 nonmembers, per day

YOUNG EXPLORERS SCHOOL VACATION CAMP
Ages: Children ages 5–6

NATURALISTS SCHOOL VACATION CAMP
Ages: Children ages 7–11

School Vacation Camp is an exciting time for outdoor discovery. Enjoy four days of hands-on, awesome, age-appropriate activities to explore the natural world. Join us for one, some, or all four days.

Children ages 5–6 meet in the Nature Center; ages 7–11 meet in the Barn. A confirmation with more details will be sent.

FEBRUARY VACATION WEEK CAMP
Tuesday–Friday, February 18–21 / 8:30 am–3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 18: Maple Sugaring
We'll learn about one of nature's tastiest treats: maple syrup. Discover how to distinguish a sugar maple from the other trees in the forest and tap one to collect sap. After a visit to the sugarhouse, you'll know how sap is converted into syrup and try some of our very own, topped on pancakes. See who can tell the difference between store-bought syrup and the real stuff!

Wednesday, February 19: Winter Homes
Can you imagine living outside the entire winter? We'll explore the woodlands, wetlands, and field edges for nests, cavities, burrows, dens, and lodges to discover how birds, mammals, and insects find homes in this challenging season. Build an igloo or shelter and see how warm you can make the inside.

Thursday, February 20: Carnivores Dining Out
Winter is a great time to look for predators and the evidence they leave behind. Today, we'll look at animal bones, fur, scat, tracks, and chews. Then we'll hike the sanctuary in search of hawks, foxes, fishers, river otters, and more. Investigate how these animals hunt prey in the cold winter weather.

Friday, February 21: Awesome Owls
Have you ever walked through the woods looking for owls during the day? Owls are most active at night, of course, but if you know what to look for, you can find their daytime roosts. Together, we'll discover what our local owls look and sound like and what they eat. As a special activity, everyone will help to dissect an owl pellet.

APRIL VACATION WEEK CAMP
Tuesday–Friday, April 21–24 / 8:30 am–3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 21: Amazing Mammals
Today our theme is plant-eating mammals that live on the sanctuary. We hope to catch glimpses of them, but we'll certainly see signs that they are living here. Participate in a mammal obstacle course, build a beaver and muskrat lodge as a group, and track deer and other mammals in the fields and forests of the sanctuary.

Wednesday, April 22: Winged Wonders
Spring is in full swing and all our flying friends are in a frenzy. If it has wings, we'll find it, and learn about the different ways creatures use their wings. Using binoculars, nets, and bug boxes, we will take an up-close look at birds, dragonflies, butterflies, and other insects that make their homes at the sanctuary.

Thursday, April 23: Water World
Discover the wetland habitats of the sanctuary by hiking to Hassocky Meadow and searching for ducks, turtles, snakes, and more. We will continue our explorations at a real vernal pool and look for breeding salamanders, Wood Frogs, and their egg masses.

Friday, April 24: Soil Scientists
Get your hands dirty and dig into the science of soil. Worms, millipedes, sow bugs, weasels, and voles are a few soil creatures that we will hope to see. Find out what is required to make a garden grow, before preparing and planting your own take-home garden.

Learn more and register: massaudubon.org/ipswichriver • 978-887-9264
PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS

WINTER SERIES

Homeschool Programs

Dates: Five Wednesdays, January 15–February 12
Cost: $75 members, $90 nonmembers, entire series

Please dress for the weather; we will be outside most of the time.

Morning Classes 10:00 am–12:00 pm

AM CHICKADEES (AGES 4–5 WITH AN ADULT)
Leader: Rita Gallant, Ipswich River Field Teacher
Winter brings sleepy groundhogs, hungry owls, sweet maple sugar, and mysterious footprints in the snow. Venture out into the winter world and learn what plants and animals do in winter.

January 15: The Long Winter Snooze–Hibernation
January 22: Hoot! All about Owls
January 29: Over & Under the Snow–Winter Homes
February 5: Winter Mysteries–Tracking
February 12: A Treat from Trees–Maple Sugaring

Meet in the Nature Center. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Additional siblings (ages 4–5) pay half the listed fee. Please call our office to register more than one child.

RED-TAILED HAWKS (AGES 6–8)
Leaders: Jeannette McGinn and Sarah Hall, Ipswich River Field Teachers
This season, study what local plants and wildlife do for food, water, shelter, and fun all winter long. Highlights include close-up encounters with wildlife, outdoor skills like animal tracking, and making nature treats like pine needle tea and maple syrup.

January 15: The Case of the Disappearing Insects
January 22: A Winter Bird Survey
January 29: From Mice to Deer–Winter Herbivores
February 5: Hungry Hunters–Winter Carnivores
February 12: Tasty Winter Trees–Pines to Maples

Meet in the Barn. Parents/guardians are welcome to drop off their students or tag along for the class.

GREAT BLUE HERONS (AGES 9–12)
Leaders: Cori Brauer, Ipswich River Education Coordinator; Bruce Menin, Ipswich River Field Teacher
We will study the same topics as the Red-tailed Hawks, but these older students will hike farther, learn more complex natural history concepts, and do more challenging projects.

Meet in the Barn. Parents/guardians are welcome to drop off their students or tag along for the class.

Afternoon Classes 1:00–3:00 pm

AFTERNOON MIXED-AGE FLOCK (AGES 6–12)
Leaders: Jeannette McGinn and Bruce Menin, Ipswich River Field Teachers
Our Mixed-age Flock class follows the same topics as the Red-tailed Hawks morning class, but is open to a wider age range, with older and younger students exploring and learning together in one group.

Meet in the Barn. Parents/guardians are welcome to drop off their students or tag along for the class.

PM CHICKADEES (AGES 4–5 WITH AN ADULT)
Leader: Maura Genova, Ipswich River Field Teacher
Our PM Chickadees will explore the same topics as the AM Chickadees in this new time slot for younger children in the afternoon.

Meet in the Nature Center. Each child must be accompanied by an adult at every class. Additional siblings (ages 4–5) pay half the listed fee. Please call our office to register more than one child.

Homeschool Family Owl Prowl & Open House
Wednesday, February 26 / 7:00–8:30 pm
Families with children of all ages
See details on page 12.
EDUCATORS: TAKE SCIENCE LEARNING OUTSIDE!

Our skilled educators take your students outside to do the work of scientists, bringing hands-on, inquiry-based experiences with STEM content and practices through:

- Habitat exploration
- Wildlife observation
- Field study and research
- Interactive presentations and discussions

Students investigate, question, and collect and analyze data in programs aligned with state and national standards, furthering their understanding of ecological concepts and the interrelationships between people and nature. These experiences not only make science accessible, but also spark curiosity for further study.

For a brochure, visit massaudubon.org/ipswichriver, call 978-887-9264, or email ipswichriver@massaudubon.org.

ENRICHMENTS FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our naturalists will visit your after-school program to lead engaging, fun, hands-on science and natural history enrichments. Our programs align with Massachusetts STEM standards and are designed to fuel curiosity and inquiry about the natural world. Single and series programs are available. These programs are offered year-round for schools, clubs, and community organizations that provide after-school or out-of-school opportunities for children in grades K–12. Custom and sanctuary programs are also available.

Download the After-School Programs Brochure from our website at massaudubon.org/ipswichriver, call 978-887-9264, or email Stephanie Majeau at smajeau@massaudubon.org for more details.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

September–June
For children ages 4–12
$175 members, $240 nonmembers for a two-hour party, with a naturalist-led program and party time (limit: 15 children)

Choose your theme: Owls / Beavers / Habitat Hike / Pond Dipping / Backyard Birds / Animal Tracking / Insects & Spiders / Life Under Rocks & Logs / Nature & Art

For a brochure, visit massaudubon.org/ipswichriver, call 978-887-9264, or email ipswichriver@massaudubon.org.

SCOUT PROGRAMS

Tuesdays–Fridays & Early-Release Days / 1:00 or 3:30 pm
Saturdays & Sundays / 9:30 am or 1:00 pm
1.5-Hour Program: $96/troop; $10/each additional scout*
2-Hour Program: $112/troop; $10/each additional scout*

We specialize in providing outdoor and environmental programs for scouts. Our programs are designed to cover badge requirements for the Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America, as well as non-badge programs just for fun.

See page 10 for information on our Scout Sugaring Jamboree (February 15).

Siblings must be 5 years or older to attend. Programs offered September–June. For a brochure, visit massaudubon.org/ipswichriver, call 978-887-9264, or email ipswichriver@massaudubon.org.

*Troop pricing for 10 or fewer scouts, maximum 15 (including siblings).

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Preschool
Located at Endicott Wildlife Sanctuary, Wenham
For children ages 3-5
Two-, Three-, and Five-Day Options Available
9:00 am–12:00 pm

- Highly qualified teachers with backgrounds in early childhood and nature education
- Nature-based, emergent curriculum that promotes language, math, and social development
- Beautiful classrooms, outdoor play areas, and gardens

Additional Options:
- Early-morning drop-off at 8:00 am
- “Lunch Bunch” until 1:00 pm
- Extended day until 3:00 pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays

For more information, contact:
Karen First, Preschool Director
kfirst@massaudubon.org
978-237-0108
massaudubon.org/ipswichpreschool

More to Explore...
Texas to New Mexico: Bosque del Apache & the Rio Grande Corridor
Texas & New Mexico

Dates: Tuesday, January 7–Monday, January 13, 2020 (7 days)
Leaders: Bill Gette, Joppa Flats Founding Director; Alison O’Hare, BCP
Cost: $1,395 members, $1,495 nonmembers
Deposit: $400 nonrefundable

The Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico is a fabulous destination for viewing birds in the winter. At Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and other wetlands, you should see tens of thousands of cranes, ducks, and geese. In the thickets and grasslands, you’ll find a wonderful diversity of passerines, especially sparrows. We will follow the river valley from El Paso, Texas, to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to bird mountain, riparian, desert, grassland, and aquatic habitats. The generally mild winter weather and the fantastic birds will make this trip one to remember. We could see more than 130 species of birds, including Ross’s Goose, Clark’s Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Juniper Titmouse, Crissal Thrasher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Pyrrhuloxia, Red-naped Sapsucker, Mountain Chickadee, and Golden and Bald eagles. We also have a good chance of seeing Black, Brown-capped, and Gray-crowned rosy-finches.

Cost is for double occupancy. A single-room supplement is available for an additional $400. For more information, call 978-462-9998 or email joppaflats@massaudubon.org. Leaders will send out trip materials after final payment is received. Cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space. Note: Please do not make your flight arrangements until you have checked with the trip leaders.

Martha’s Vineyard Winter Weekend
Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts

Dates: Friday, January 17–Sunday, January 19, 2020 (3 days)
Leaders: Amy Weidensaul, Ipswich River Sanctuary Director; Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist
Cost: $575 members, $675 nonmembers
Deposit: $150 nonrefundable

Martha’s Vineyard lies five miles south of Woods Hole, and this scenic island boasts an impressive diversity of birds during the winter months. The island’s varied habitats include high bluffs for viewing seabirds, numerous ponds and bays for ducks, vast fields and thickets for passerines, and a second-growth forest for owls. Witness thousands of sea ducks, loons, grebes, and alcids on our sea watches, and countless songbirds in the fields and thickets around the island. In the end, we could observe around 100 species including rarities such as Barn Owl, Eurasian Wigeon, Yellow-breasted Chat, and more.

Fee includes round-trip van transportation from Ipswich River, ferry, breakfast, field instruction, and accommodations (rates are for double occupancy; single rooms are available for an additional $175). For an itinerary, call 978-887-9264 or email ipswichriver@massaudubon.org. Cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space.

Leaders’ Choice Getaway
Somewhere in New England

Dates: Thursday, January 30–Friday, January 31, 2020 (2 days)
Leaders: Dave Larson, Joppa Flats Science & Education Coordinator; Dave Weaver, BCP
Cost: $295 members, $345 nonmembers
Deposit: $100 nonrefundable

Join Dave and Dave for an adventure into the winter wonderland of New England. The goal of this two-day, one-night trip is to seek out winter specialties. We will chase after rarities such as northern owls and rare gulls, of course, but our main focus is to find winter finches, redpolls, and Bohemian Waxwings. Our destination will depend on the most recent reports. On previous trips, we have seen Northern Hawk Owl, Evening Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, Snow Buntings, Gray Jay, White-winged Crossbills, and much more! We promise fun, a place to sleep, and some great birds.

Cost is for double occupancy. Final payment is due December 31, 2019. Trip details are determined a couple of days before departure and will be sent to all participants by email.

Learn more and register: massaudubon.org/travel
Birding South Florida, West to East
South Florida

Dates: Friday, February 28–Friday, March 6, 2020 (8 days)
Leaders: David Moon, Joppa Flats Sanctuary Director; Donna Cooper, BCP; Chip Blake, Orion magazine's Editor-in-Chief & Executive Director
Cost: $1,495 members, $1,595 nonmembers
Deposit: $400 nonrefundable

South Florida is a birder's paradise—especially if you're a birder who loves Cuban sandwiches! There will be birds galore, beginning at iconic sites such as Sanibel Island and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary; stopping to visit the Poisonwood groves of Key Largo and Everglades National Park; whisking through the Miami suburbs to find resident quirky, exotic species; and ending in the rich aquatic beds of Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. If you haven't been to South Florida in a while, you will find noticeable changes, as alligators are now everywhere and some birds that once were rare have recovered, such as the seemingly half-evolved Limpkin. The juxtaposition of sawgrass marshes dotted with tropical hardwood hammocks and dense but sometimes birdy urban habitats will give us plenty to ponder. Glorious waders such as Roseate Spoonbills and Reddish Egrets will amaze us, and the Black Vultures will keep our eyes wide. Specialties such as Short-tailed Hawk, Snail Kite, Snowy and Wilson's plovers, Burrowing Owl, and White-crowned Pigeon will be our goals at specific sites. We'll even target the exotic Purple Swamphen, which looks like a drawing of a gallinule by cartoonist Gary Larson. After this trip, no matter who you visit in Florida in the future, you'll also have lots of options for great birding on the side!

Cost is for double occupancy. A single-room supplement is available for an additional $400. For more information, call 978-462-9998 or email joppafiffs@massaudubon.org. Final payment is due January 28, 2020. Leaders will send out trip materials after final payment is received. Cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space. Please do not make your flight arrangements until you have checked with the trip leaders.

Florida: Birding the Southern Peninsula & the Dry Tortugas
South Florida & the Keys

Dates: Saturday, April 18–Saturday, April 25, 2020 (8 days)
Leaders: Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist; Carol Decker, former Ipswich River Sanctuary Director
Cost: $2,395 members, $2,495 nonmembers
Deposit: $150 nonrefundable

Southern Florida is home to an amazing population of birdlife not found anywhere else in North America. In April, migrants make landfall from their southern wintering grounds and join nesting resident birds. The parks and preserves we will visit are well known and are as interesting as the birdlife, including Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, and National Key Deer Refuge. Take a boat to Dry Tortugas National Park, located 68 miles west of Key West. This exciting area is where exhausted neomigrants land to rest after crossing the Gulf of Mexico. At Everglades National Park, take a tram ride through Shark Valley's expansive sawgrass marsh and photograph nearby wading birds and alligators. Southern Florida has an incredible diversity of habitats including Slash Pine wood flats, home to the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker and mangrove-fringed tidal lagoons where Mangrove Cuckoos call. Mudflats and coastal dunes are foraging sights for large numbers of shorebirds including Wilson’s and Snowy plovers and a variety of ibis, herons, and egrets. During our 2016 trip we observed 147 bird species including Snail Kite, Burrowing Owl, White-crowned Pigeon, and Limpkin.

Please note: This trip is currently filled. If you wish to be added to the waitlist should a spot open up, please contact our office at 978-887-9264 or ipswichriver@massaudubon.org.
South Carolina: Birding the Coastal Lowlands
Coastal South Carolina

Dates: Wednesday, April 22–Monday, April 27, 2020 (6 days)
Leader: Bill Gette, Joppa Flats Founding Director
Cost: $1,250 members, $1,350 nonmembers
Deposit: $450 nonrefundable

The South Carolina coastal lowlands are a premier birding destination. During our six-day program, we will explore the area’s most productive birding venues. Our itinerary includes visits to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge, several wildlife management areas (e.g., Webb, Donnelley, and Bear Island), the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge at Bull Island, Francis Marion National Forest, Congaree National Park, and the floodplain forests along the Savannah River. Since we will be visiting so many different habitats during early spring migration, you can expect to see a wide variety of birds. Our target species will include several restricted-range rarities such as Swainson’s Warbler, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Wood Stork, Painted Bunting, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman’s Sparrow. Along the coastal wetlands and barrier beaches, you will see many species of waders and shorebirds; with luck, we will find a Wilson’s Plover. In the extensive lowland pine/oak forests, we will also see many species of southern wood-warblers including Prothonotary, Hooded, Kentucky, and Yellow-throated.

Cost is for double occupancy. A single-room supplement is available for an additional $450. For more information, call 978-462-9998 or email joppaflats@massaudubon.org. Final payment is due March 22, 2020. Leaders will send out trip materials after final payment is received. Cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space. Please do not make your flight arrangements until you have checked with the trip leaders.

Alaska: Birding Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, & Nome
Southwestern Alaska

Dates: Monday, June 8–Tuesday, June 16, 2020 (9 days)
Leaders: David Moon, Joppa Flats Sanctuary Director; Dave Larson, Joppa Flats Science & Education Coordinator
Cost: $4,100 members, $4,200 nonmembers
Deposit: $1,000 nonrefundable

Alaska is an incredible wildlife viewing destination. Our itinerary includes visits to three areas that offer rich histories, majestic landscapes, diverse habitats, and a wide variety of birds, mammals, and wildflowers. First, in Anchorage, we’ll visit Spenard Crossing and Westchester Lagoon to see a variety of waterfowl, including Red-necked Grebes in breeding plumage. Then, we’ll drive up Arctic Valley Road to explore a boreal forest and walk along forest trails at the Campbell Creek Science Center to see breeding land birds. On the Kenai Peninsula, we’ll visit Tern Lake to see Arctic Tern, Red-throated Loon, and a wonderful variety of wildflowers; stop at the Bear Creek Fish Weir to view American Dipper and salmon swimming upstream to spawn; and take a cruise through Resurrection Bay and into Kenai Fjords National Park to see magnificent glaciers, many species of alcids, and marine mammals, including humpback whale and sea otter. On the Seward Peninsula at Nome, we’ll explore the three “roads to nowhere”—Kougarok, Council, and Teller—devoting an entire day to each road. Along Kougarok Road, we’ll look for Arctic Warbler, Bluethroat, and Bristle-thighed Curlew. Council Road, which passes through Safety Sound, offers excellent opportunities for viewing a large variety of muskox, Lapland Longspur, and Long-tailed and Parasitic jaegers. Teller Road, which leads 73 miles to the Inupiat village of Teller, is the best place to see Willow Ptarmigan, Pacific Golden-plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl, and Northern Wheatear.

If you’re interested in extending your Alaska trip to the Pribilof Islands (June 18–23), please see “Alaska: Pribilof Islands Extension” on page 34.

Cost includes ground transportation, lodging, boat cruise into Resurrection Bay, and round-trip flights from Anchorage to Nome. Meals and personal items are not included. There is no single-room supplement available on this trip. Please call 978-462-9998 for a detailed brochure. Final payment is due April 7, 2020. Trip materials will be sent upon receipt of final payment. If cancellations are made within 60 days of departure, payment cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space.
Alaska: Pribilof Islands Extension
The Bering Sea

**Dates:** Thursday, June 18–Tuesday, June 23, 2020 (6 days)

**Leader:** Dave Larson, Joppa Flats Science & Education Coordinator

**Cost:** $4,400 members, $4,500 nonmembers

**Deposit:** $1,000 nonrefundable

The Pribilof Islands, located in the Bering Sea, 771 air miles west of Anchorage, are often referred to as the "Galápagos Islands of the North." This title reflects the islands' similar volcanic origins and isolation from other land masses as well as the abundance of wildlife, often seen in very close proximity. During our Pribilof Islands adventure, we will explore St. Paul Island, famous for its seabird nesting colonies, particularly on the steep western and southern cliffs. St. Paul also hosts huge rookeries of northern fur seals and is an extraordinary place to watch and photograph wildlife. This trip is available with or without the earlier trip, "Alaska: Birding Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, & Nome" (June 8–16) on page 33.

Round-trip air transportation from Anchorage to St. Paul Island is included, as are lodging, meals, and guided tours on St. Paul Island. Meals, museum admissions, and other activities in the Anchorage area are not included. Single rooms are not available on this trip. Please call 978-462-9998 for a detailed brochure.

**Final payment is due April 7, 2020.** Trip materials will be sent upon receipt of final payment. If cancellations are made within 60 days of departure, payment cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space.

Machias Seal Island & Eastern Maine
Northeastern Maine

**Dates:** Friday, June 26–Sunday, June 28, 2020 (3 days)

**Leader:** David Moon, Joppa Flats Sanctuary Director

**Cost:** $680 members, $790 nonmembers

**Deposit:** $200 nonrefundable

A trip to Machias Seal Island and eastern Maine during nesting season is a fantastic experience! We will visit Machias Seal Island, the Deblois Blueberry Barrens, Quoddy Head State Park, and many other sites in the Machias/Cutler area. On our 33 previous expeditions, we have seen a total of 204 species of birds and a good variety of mammals. Machias Seal Island is noted as a nesting colony for seabirds, including Atlantic Puffins, Common Murres, Razorbills, and Arctic Terns. The Deblois Blueberry Barrens and the Cutler area are noted for a wide variety of land birds, including Upland Sandpiper, Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Canada Jay. Throughout our trip, we will see and hear nesting warblers as well.

**Cost is for double occupancy. A single-room supplement is available for an additional $200.** For more information, call 978-462-9998 or email joppaflats@massaudubon.org. **Final payment is due May 8, 2020.** Leaders will send out trip materials after final payment is received. **Cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space.**

Puffins & Peatlands
Downeast Maine

**Dates:** Thursday, July 9–Sunday, July 12, 2020 (4 days)

**Leaders:** Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist; Carol Decker, former Ipswich River Sanctuary Director

**Cost:** $895 members, $995 nonmembers

**Deposit:** $150 nonrefundable

Take a boat ride to Machias Seal Island, 10 miles off the coast of Maine, to view stunning Atlantic Puffins in their colorful breeding plumage, along with Razorbills, Arctic Terns, and Common Murres. This is the spot to see and photograph Atlantic Puffins up close and personal. In the boreal forests search for nesting warblers, vireos, and thrushes and look for northern specialty birds including Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse, and Canada Jay. Along the coast explore Cobscook Bay and Quoddy Head Light, and scan for seabirds, whales, and dolphins from the cliffs and ledges. You'll thoroughly enjoy the unique ecology of this region, including boreal forests, raised bogs, and an offshore seabird nesting colony.

**Fee includes double occupancy motel accommodations (single-room supplement available for an additional $190), round-trip van transportation, boat trip, entrance fees, and field instruction. Participants must have a passport to enter Canada.** For an itinerary, call 978-887-9264 or email ipswichriver@massaudubon.org. **Register at least six weeks in advance. Cancellations within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space.**
Birding Washington’s Olympic Peninsula
Washington

Dates: Tuesday, September 8–Wednesday, September 16, 2020
(9 days)
Leaders: Dave Larson, Joppa Flats Science & Education Coordinator; Susan Hardy, BCP
Cost: $1,995 members, $2,095 nonmembers
Deposit: $500 nonrefundable

The Olympic Peninsula of northwestern Washington State is a scenic treasure, combining rich coastal waters, expanses of beaches and forests, snow-capped mountains, a temperate-zone rain forest, and great wildlife. Our fall trip is designed to cover several of these habitats and see a wide variety of birds in a grand tour. Among our many target species will be Sooty Grouse, Pacific pelagic birds, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Hutton’s Vireo, Canada and Steller’s jays, Common Raven, Violet-green Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, American Dipper, Red Crossbill, and a variety of western warblers, sparrows, and finches. During our last four trips we have seen more than 200 species of birds and 25 species of mammals.

Cost includes ground transportation, double-occupancy lodging, the pelagic trip, admissions, and fees. Air transportation, meals, and personal expenses are not included. The listed fees are for double occupancy; a single-room supplement is available for an additional $500. For more information or a detailed brochure, please call 978-462-9998. Final payment is due August 8, 2020. Cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space. Please do not make your flight arrangements until you have checked with the trip leaders.

Monhegan Island Weekend
Monhegan Island, Maine

Dates: Friday, September 18–Sunday, September 20, 2020
(3 days)
Leaders: Amy Weidensaul, Ipswich River Sanctuary Director; Scott Santino, Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist
Cost: $595 members, $695 nonmembers
Deposit: $150 nonrefundable

Enjoy a weekend of birding and naturalizing on this beautiful rockbound island. Located 10 miles off the coast of Maine, Monhegan is not only remote and enchanting, but also a trap for migrant songbirds. Hawks will be on their flight south, and in past years we have had incredible aerial displays from migrating falcons. We will explore a variety of habitats, including freshwater pond, coniferous forest, and rocky shoreline. Seals can be seen from the island, and sighting a whale is always a possibility. We will stay at the charming Monhegan House in the heart of the village.

Fee includes round-trip van transportation from the sanctuary to Port Clyde, a one-hour ferry trip to and from the island, double occupancy lodging (single-room supplement available for an additional $100), most meals, and field instruction. For an itinerary, call 978-887-9264 or email ipswichriver@massaudubon.org. Please register at least six weeks in advance. Cancellations within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space.

Autumn in Yellowstone & the Grand Tetons
Montana & Wyoming

Dates: Saturday, September 26–Monday, October 5, 2020
(10 days)
Leader: Dave Larson, Joppa Flats Science & Education Coordinator
Cost: $1,995 members, $2,095 nonmembers
Deposit: $500 nonrefundable

One of the most iconic and beautiful natural areas of the continental United States is Yellowstone National Park/Grand Teton National Park in northwest Wyoming. The rugged mountains, crystalline lakes, broad grasslands, rushing rivers, hot springs and geysers, and amazing wildlife make this area a sensory hot spot. We will not only focus on birds, but on mammals, scenery, and the total package. This is a perfect trip for those interested in natural history and this wonderful part of the country.

Cost is for double occupancy; no single-supplement rooms are available. For more information, call 978-462-9998 or email joppaflats@massaudubon.org. Final payment is due August 25, 2020. Leader will send out trip materials after final payment is received. Cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be refunded or credited unless we can fill your space. Please do not make your flight arrangements until you have checked with the trip leader.
One of Mass Audubon’s largest sanctuaries, Ipswich River offers nearly 2,000 acres of land and more than 12 miles of interconnecting trails that invite you to explore forests, meadows, and wetlands. Mowed fields provide habitat for American Woodcocks and Eastern Bluebirds, while the floodplain forests are resting and nesting sites for warblers and vireos. Canoe along eight miles of the Ipswich River, which meanders through the sanctuary, and camp on Perkins Island, a half-mile up the river. Members can rent canoes from May 1 through October 31. Members can also rent a small cabin that is conveniently located close to the sanctuary’s program facilities and sleeps four. In spring, listen for the chorus of American toads and pickerel frogs. In various seasons, watch for river otters, Painted Turtles, and Great Blue Herons. View an active beaver lodge in Rockery Pond. Climb the drumlin and esker, landscape features created by a glacier 15,000 years ago. In winter, sap buckets fill the sugar grove, marking the season of our maple sugaring programs. Huge rocks and exotic trees and shrubs that were part of a former arboretum provide an adventurous walk along the Rockery Trail.

**Office & Gift Shop Hours**
May 1–October 31
Tues–Fri: 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Sat, Sun & Mon holidays: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
November 1–April 30
Tues–Sun & Mon holidays: 9:00 am–4:00 pm

**Trail Hours**
Tues–Sun & Mon holidays from dawn to dusk

**Admission**
Admission free for members
adults $6 nonmembers
children (ages 2–12) $4 nonmembers
seniors $4 nonmembers

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### Joppa Flats Education Center
One Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA 01950
978-462-9998 Office / 978-462-4143 Fax
joppaflats@massaudubon.org

Joppa Flats Education Center is located at the gateway to one of the country’s most productive year-round wildlife viewing areas—the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and the Plum Island estuary. Highlights for visitors are the many species of birds that utilize the area’s extensive salt marshes, mudflats, rivers, bays, and coastal waters. During local area field trips, Joppa Flats program participants have recorded more than 300 species of birds, including Bald Eagle, Snowy Owl, and many warblers, shorebirds, and waterfowl. The visitor center overlooking the Merrimack River includes a children’s education room, a summertime marine touch tank, a conference center, a nature shop, butterfly gardens, and interpretive displays.

**Education Center Hours**
Tues–Sun & Mon holidays: 8:30 am–4:00 pm
Grounds: Open daily from dawn to dusk

**Admission**
Suggested donation: $2 for nonmembers

### Endicott Wildlife Sanctuary
346 Grapevine Road, Wenham, MA 01984
978-927-1122 Office
endicott@massaudubon.org

This sanctuary comprises more than 43 acres of mixed woodland, fields, and wetlands and has a walking trail. Endicott offers a variety of volunteer opportunities and internships in education and ecological management. There are programs for teachers and students, including the Salt Marsh Science Project. Our programs for middle and high school students focus on real science, with real scientists and real issues. Coastal topics, invasive species, and inquiry-based lessons are our specialty. For more information about our school programs, go to massaudubon.org/endicott-school.

The Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Preschool is located here. It offers programs for 3- to 5-year-olds in nature-based emergent curriculum, creative classrooms, outdoor play areas, and gardens.

**Ipswich River Nature Preschool Office**
Karen First, Preschool Director
978-237-0108
kfirst@massaudubon.org

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**More to Explore**
For information about Cedar Pond, Eastern Point, Marblehead Neck, and Nahant Thicket wildlife sanctuaries, contact Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary at 978-887-9264 or ipswichriver@massaudubon.org.

For information about Rough Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, contact Joppa Flats Education Center at 978-462-9998 or joppaflats@massaudubon.org.
REGISTRATION

Advance registration with full payment is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. You may call in advance to inquire about space availability, but we cannot hold a space for you until we have received your payment in full. Please register early as many programs fill quickly. If you are registering for a class and less than one week remains before the program begins, please call the sanctuary that is hosting the program to confirm space availability. If you are not a Mass Audubon member, you may join when you register and pay the member program fee.

THREE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER!

Online: Register online at massaudubon.org/catalog. (Please note: Some programs and trips do not take online registration. In these instances, please call the sanctuary that is hosting the program during business hours.)

By Phone: Our staff will be happy to complete your registration with credit card by phone.

In Person: Stop by the sanctuary that is hosting the program to register in person. (Please note: In-person registration should be done prior to the program start date to ensure space availability.)

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

Written confirmation is not sent for every program. If you would like to receive written confirmation, please let the sanctuary that is hosting the program know at the time of registration. You will be notified if a program is full and you have been added to a waitlist. Please read all correspondence carefully as it may contain important program information, such as what to bring or wear, directions to a location, etc.

FILLED PROGRAMS/WAITLISTS

Most programs have minimum and maximum enrollments depending on the type of class and instructional techniques. Some programs have waitlists. If the program of your choice is full, you will be placed on a waitlist when there is one. If you do not wish to remain on the waitlist, please notify the wildlife sanctuary that is hosting the program and a refund will be issued. We will notify you at least 24 hours in advance of the program only if space becomes available. If space does not open up, you will receive a full refund within three weeks of the program date.

CANCELLATION/REFUND*

To receive a program refund if you no longer plan to attend, you must notify the sanctuary hosting the program at least one week prior to the first class. This policy does not apply to day camp programs or overnight trips. Each sanctuary reserves the right to change programs, schedules, and instructors or to cancel programs due to low enrollment. Please note that certain programs require a nonrefundable, nontransferable deposit. A full refund will be processed if the sanctuary cancels the program. Refunds require approximately three weeks for processing.

*For Joppa Flats’ program cancellation policy, please see details in the specific program’s online description and in your registration confirmation email.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Most programs are held rain or shine; please dress accordingly. We will do our best to notify you if the class is canceled or postponed due to the weather. If the weather is questionable and you have not heard from us, please call the sanctuary.

For programs that list a rain/storm date, we recommend that you hold the alternate date open. Refunds will not be issued if the class is switched to its alternate date and you are not able to attend. If no rain date is listed, we may try to reschedule the class. In this case, refunds will be issued if you cannot attend on the rescheduled date. If the class cannot be rescheduled, you will receive a refund.

QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions about registration policies or a particular program, please call the sanctuary that is hosting the program.