

# C Mass Audubon *Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts*

# Connections

SEPTEMBER — DECEMBER 2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF MASS AUDUBON

## Your Uncharted Adventures: *Destinations and Discoveries*

*see page 1*

Painted skimmer dragonfly  
by Mary Dineen, Grand  
Prize winner of the 2011  
Mass Audubon photo contest.



[www.massaudubon.org/connections](http://www.massaudubon.org/connections)

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# Be Your Own Guide: *Discoveries Await at New Sanctuaries*

by Michael P. O'Connor and Heather Cooper

A warm breeze carries the sweet smells of autumn, twisting crimson- and gold-colored leaves on their stems. As you walk through a stand of 100-year-old oak, you spot a red squirrel—but not before it spots you. Clutching an acorn, it watches you intently—a spunky little thing, all full of chatter and tail twitch. And, despite its brazen display, you can't help but smile.

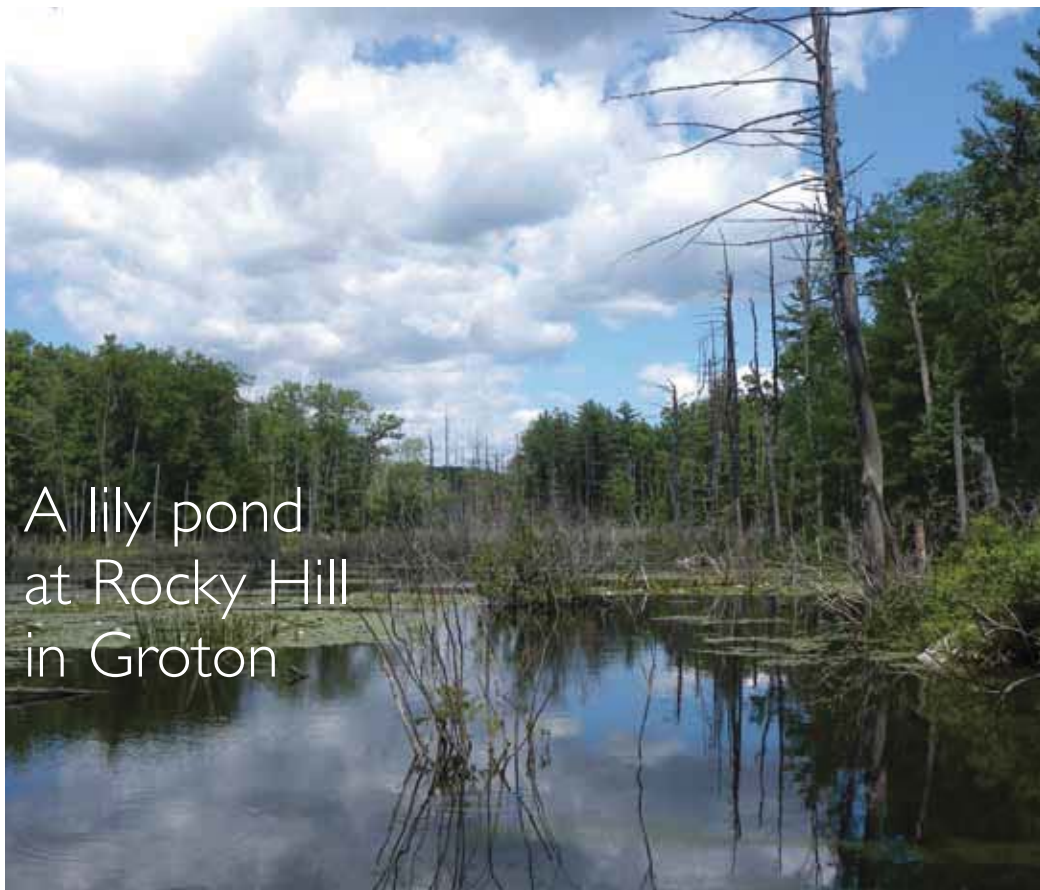
Each year, our wildlife sanctuaries attract hundreds of thousands of people eager for such memorable experiences. And, while most flock to those sanctuaries that feature nature centers, many are unaware of our other locations welcoming visitors throughout the state.

Mass Audubon cares for more than 30 of these lesser known but equally vibrant sites, and this year we celebrate the grand opening of three more: Rocky Hill in Groton, Rough Meadows in Rowley, and Barnstable Great Marsh in Barnstable. These places offer visitors unique and countless opportunities to enjoy the beauty of nature; but their significance doesn't end there. Scratch the surface, and you'll discover a fervor for collaboration when it comes to land protection in the Commonwealth.

## Rocky Hill, Groton

Located just beyond a residential community off of Route 119 in Groton, Rocky Hill is a 400-acre oasis of woodlands, wetlands, and stone outcroppings in a part of the state facing significant growth pressures. This critical acquisition is the result of a 20-year collaboration among Mass Audubon, the town of Groton, local developers, conservation partners (including Groton Conservation Trust), and longtime supporters such as Arthur Blackman.

From the moment visitors arrive, the property's rich history becomes evident. A short connector trail leads into the woods via an old farm road, the presence of





## Trails Less Traveled

by Tom Lautzenheiser

Tucked into a hillside at the end of a dirt road in Worthington, Road's End Wildlife Sanctuary is not likely to draw your attention. The trail system, barely one mile in total, would not satisfy the power hiker, nor could the views be considered spectacular relative to more rugged Berkshire terrain.

And yet, for those seeking an authentic connection with the outdoors, Road's End is a worthy destination—a place where visitors can guide themselves on personal journeys of discovery.

Here, many basic elements of the region's natural history await exploration. Stone walls, a cellar hole, gnarled apple trees, and old-field

## The salt marsh at Rough Meadows

which suggests that this property was farmed and timbered for centuries; jumbles of boulders reveal a much older geologic past; and seasonal vernal pools and red maple swamps provide prime amphibian-viewing opportunities.

**When You Go:** Five easy-to-moderate walking trails await explorers. Take the aptly named Heronry Trail to view an active great blue heron rookery—at eye level!—and a beaver pond. Follow this path to the sanctuary's edge and enjoy a stunning view of Lower Long Pond.

### Rough Meadows, Rowley

This 250-acre property is situated within the Great Marsh ecosystem, which extends from northern Cape Ann to the New Hampshire coast and is the largest salt marsh system north of Chesapeake Bay. A spectacular complex of barrier beaches, tidal creeks, wooded uplands, and salt grasses, the Great Marsh has faced many challenges over time: from natural disasters to human-made incursions—including development.

The protection of Rough Meadows (situated within an 8,000-acre mosaic of conservation land) eliminates many of these concerns and provides a living laboratory where people can learn about

climate change's impact on the coast.

A walk along the sanctuary's trails reveals that Rough Meadows is not only ecologically significant—it's also beautiful. Stands of sassafras, oak, and hickory form wooded pathways, and designated observation areas afford breathtaking views of the salt marsh and Plum Island. Visitors can see great and snowy egrets stalking small fish in the shallow pools and tidal creeks while ospreys fly overhead.

To ensure that wildlife and people can enjoy this land for generations to come, Mass Audubon teamed with the Essex County Greenbelt Association, the town of Rowley, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and other conservation partners. Crucial to the effort was the leadership role taken by the Chandler family, which has worked to save Rough Meadows since Professor Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. began acquiring marshland parcels in the early 1960s.

Now, five years after his father's death, Alfred D. ("Appy") Chandler III and his family have completed his father's vision of preservation. A former Mass Audubon vice chair, Appy stresses the vital role that collaboration plays in land stewardship: "We're continually



white pine forest evince the history of hill farm expansion and retreat. In the spring and summer, wood-warblers sing from the trees, and vernal pools fill with salamanders and frogs. Come fall, migrating monarch butterflies descend onto fields of milkweed, while beavers and otters patrol the wetlands year-round.

Road's End is typical of the more than 30 Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuaries where trails invite visitors to experience nature beyond the guided programs available at sanctuaries with full-time

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staffs. Its scale and that of similar sanctuaries, such as Attleboro Springs in Attleboro, Great Neck in Wareham, Waseeka in Holliston, and Burncoat Pond in Spencer, encourage visitors to take their time and enjoy observing wildlife in their natural habitats.

Why not pause to listen; to feel the textures of leaves, bark, and stone; and to watch for creatures large and small going about their daily lives? ▲

*Tom Lautzenheiser is Central/Western Regional Scientist.*

## Mass Audubon's Annual Meeting

**WHEN**  
Thursday, November 8,  
5:00 pm

**WHERE**  
Boston Harbor Hotel,  
Boston MA

For more information, contact  
Ellen McBride at 781-259-2133  
or [emcbride@massaudubon.org](mailto:emcbride@massaudubon.org)

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battling ever-increasing costs and ever more complex legal issues," Chandler notes. "Only through partnerships will we win the battle to preserve the land we must."

**When You Go:** Follow the short Kestrel Trail loop for fine views of the salt marsh. Or take Professor Chandler's Long Walk, which passes through much of Rough Meadows, to share the kind of experience the elder Chandler so often enjoyed.

### Barnstable Great Marsh, Barnstable

Similar to Rocky Hill and Rough Meadows, the 120-acre Barnstable Great Marsh is part of a larger expanse of protected land, including a 4,000-acre salt marsh and a barrier beach system that extends from the harbor mouth westward deep into tidal Scorton Creek.



Barnstable Great Marsh offers great views of the Sandy Neck barrier beach.

More modest in size than its North Shore cousin but no less dramatic, this coastal treasure is home to a rare and remarkable ecosystem. A small parking lot off of Route 6A takes visitors to a 1.5-mile network of undulating trails with names that suggest the types of flora and fauna one may expect to find at the sanctuary (Cedar Trail, Otter Trail). Visitors can meander over a landscape dotted with blueberry bushes or witness painted turtles sunning themselves on logs at two different ponds.

Created with the support of the Ferguson family and others beginning in the 1970s, the wildlife sanctuary (which sits alongside an Area of Critical Environmental Concern) was officially opened to the public last July, thanks to a generous grant from the Fields Pond Foundation.

**When You Go:** Take Sandy's Trail to the edge of the salt marsh and stop to gaze past Cooper's Island to Sandy Neck, which fronts on Cape Cod Bay. Whether you are taking a quiet hike through the uplands, resting at a pond-side bench, venturing out onto the marsh, or just appreciating the undisturbed quiet, there is much here to see and do. ▲

*Michael P. O'Connor is Public Relations Manager.  
Heather Cooper is Marketing Communications Coordinator.*



[www.massaudubon.org/sanctuaries](http://www.massaudubon.org/sanctuaries)



# Inspired by Achievements, Excited by Potential

by Laura Johnson

Sitting in my office at Mass Audubon's headquarters in Lincoln, I derive great pleasure from the sounds of children's happy voices drifting across the road from Drumlin Farm—something that happens every year in the spring and fall (lots of school field trips) and again in the summer (day camp) when the weather is conducive to wide-open windows.

Drumlin Farm was entrusted to Mass Audubon by Louise Ayer Hatheway, who wanted the farm to educate people—especially children—about where their food comes from and to share the wonders of nature. For more than 50 years, Mass Audubon has done exactly that and more, creating with Drumlin Farm a thriving conservation community of passionate and innovative staff and volunteers, members and program participants.



Laura Johnson and campers welcome Governor Deval Patrick to Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary.

have played a role in our achievements over the past 14 years. As I look toward transitioning from my role here at the end of the year, I reflect upon a few of the successes I am most proud of.

are fun and educational help interest kids in natural history and serve as building blocks for a scientifically literate citizenry. These efforts have strengthened our standing as one of the nation's premier environmental education organizations.

**Protecting more land** — We have added more than 6,500 acres to Mass Audubon's already extraordinary portfolio of protected land—an impressive accomplishment given that conservation transactions have become increasingly complex, often involving multiple partnerships and public and private funding sources.

**Leading by example to address climate change** — Since 2003, we have reduced the carbon footprint of our facilities by more than 40 percent through energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources. These accomplishments have encouraged others to support public policies that promote clean energy and a healthier planet.

I will depart full of gratitude, knowing that under new leadership and with the continued support of our dedicated staff, members, and volunteers, Mass Audubon will move into an even stronger future as a conservation leader. ▲

*Laura Johnson is President of Mass Audubon.*



Laura with Mass Audubon colleagues at an annual Staff Outing.

The story of Drumlin Farm shares similarities with those of other Mass Audubon sanctuaries: themes of dedication and generosity, a commitment to protecting nature, and an open invitation to people of all ages and backgrounds to get out and explore.

I am so impressed by Mass Audubon's 116-year history and am honored to

## **Strengthening our network of sanctuaries and reaching new audiences**

— We have invested in new sanctuaries and strengthened existing ones, in the knowledge that connecting people and nature will determine the future of natural resource protection as well as community health and vitality. In an age of "nature deficit disorder," programs that



**Field sparrow**

by Virginia Jones

Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, DC

## Exhibition Reveals ‘Nests, Eggs, Heartbreak & Beauty’

by Amy T. Montague

A rare 19th-century book, with stunning illustrations and a dramatic history, was donated to Mass Audubon in June. To celebrate the arrival of this special work, the Visual Arts Center has organized an exhibition “Nests, Eggs, Heartbreak & Beauty” that will be on display from September 30 through January 13.

Bearing an unwieldy title, *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Birds of Ohio*, the book is in fact a compelling blend of ornithological observation and artistry, and its creation was a triumph of love through adversity.

In 1876, 29-year-old amateur artist and naturalist Genevieve Jones saw Audubon’s *Birds of America* at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and conceived the idea for a companion publication—of similarly high quality—to depict the nests and eggs of American birds. Her father, who had forbidden her to marry the man she loved, financed the project to provide her a distraction from heartbreak.

Jones’ brother, Howard, collected nests and wrote the text, and she learned to draw on lithographic stones to create the printed images (which would later be colored by hand). Sadly, after completing just five drawings, Genevieve died of typhoid fever, and her grieving family committed to finishing the book, with her mother taking on the role of artist.

Only 90 copies of the book were printed, and fewer than 25 are known to exist today. Mass Audubon’s copy, which belonged to Howard Jones, is considered to be the most significant because its color plates served as the patterns for other copies, and it includes a unique gilt title page as well as important manuscript material. ▲

# Art Museum’s Collection Celebrates the Natural World

by Amy T. Montague



**Brant goose** by John James Audubon

Mass Audubon has been inextricably linked with art since our founding in 1896. Named for the iconic painter of American birds, John James Audubon, we quite naturally have been the recipient of generous gifts and bequests of nature-inspired artworks and today boast an extraordinary collection.

In the early years, the collection’s core was comprised of art by Audubon, notably hand-colored engravings and chromolithographs of his *Birds of America*. Over time the collection expanded to include paintings, sculpture, and works on paper by some of the most acclaimed bird artists of Europe and America: Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Charley Harper, Robert Verity Clem, Lars Jonsson, and Frank W. Benson, among others.

Benson—the most celebrated of American impressionist painters, known equally for his sun-drenched portraits of patrician Bostonians and his evocative sporting art—also enjoyed a lifelong interest in birds and served as the first president of the Essex

**Towhee in Scrub Oak**, Nantucket by Lars Jonsson





County Ornithological Club. He was also the great friend and duck hunting companion of Augustus Hemenway, whose wife, Harriet, cofounded Mass Audubon.

While Benson traveled in the same social circles as his contemporaries who led the conservation movement, the same certainly wasn't true of Andy Warhol. Yet it's a little-known fact that Warhol was interested in nature from childhood. In 1983, he created a series of silk screen portraits of endangered species and donated 100 of the original prints to conservation organizations. He gave two of these, *Bald Eagle* and *Pine Barrens Tree Frog*, to Mass Audubon—the only recipient organization known to have kept its Warhol silk screens to share with the public.

Where can you see this remarkable art? The collection is cared for, curated, and shared with the public at Mass Audubon's art museum, the Visual Arts Center (VAC) in Canton, in a secure, climate-controlled facility. The VAC



*The Duck Marsh* by Frank Benson

regularly integrates many of the works into its exhibitions and programs, and occasionally hosts intimate, behind-the-scenes tours for visitors.

In addition, Mass Audubon regularly loans works to other museums: Over the last decade, our art has traveled around the state (Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, New Bedford Art Museum, Fruitlands Museum in Harvard), across the country (Florida, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, California), and even abroad to France.

We're delighted to share these treasures with audiences near and far, and encourage all who appreciate nature in art to visit the VAC and discover its bounty. ▲

*Amy T. Montague is Director of the Visual Arts Center.*



*Osprey* by Louis Agassiz Fuertes

## Prime Viewing at Sanctuaries

by Melissa Vokey

Mass Audubon members and staff are passionate about the natural world for a variety of reasons. As a child, discovering John James Audubon's prints, dramatic Hudson River School landscapes, and duck decoys was what first drew me to nature.

Today, my responsibilities at Joppa Flats in Newburyport include overseeing exhibits and other arts programs, a role that reinforces my belief that nature in art not only provides a connection to the outdoors; it brings together people who share an appreciation for flora and fauna.

This is why Mass Audubon encourages its wildlife sanctuary visitors to enjoy photographs, paintings, and sculptures by local artists eager to share nature-inspired art with the community.

Here are just a few exhibitions taking place at our sanctuaries this fall.

- **Moose Hill, Sharon:** *Interplay: Merging Light and Texture in Unexpected Ways* features the work of three artists whose media include oil, stone, and photography (9/13-11/1).
- **Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester:** *Backyard Birds of Worcester*. Local photographer Ed Chandler shares his observations of backyard birds through photos, his homemade bird feeders, and tips for outwitting squirrels (9/15-12/15).
- **Arcadia, Easthampton and Northampton:** Young artists' waterfowl renderings entered in the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Contest (9/20-10/26).
- **Joppa Flats, Newburyport:** Local artists who specialize in birds and other natural history subjects: Photographer Alan Cormier (9/23-11/4) and painter/illustrator Judy Pelikan (11/11-12/30).
- **Wachusett Meadow, Princeton:** Nature-inspired works by local high school students. In partnership with Princeton Arts Society (10/6). ▲

*Melissa Vokey is Joppa Flats Education Center Administrative Coordinator and Development Manager.*

▶ [www.massaudubon.org/visualarts](http://www.massaudubon.org/visualarts)

# Success Stories—

## and Big Doings in the Berkshires

A view of the Hoosic River from Farnams Greylock in the northern Berkshires

*The following update, prepared by our Land Protection team, includes a pair of recent project completions in Metrowest and central Massachusetts in addition to details about an ongoing effort to protect more than one thousand vulnerable acres in the Berkshires.*

### **Warren Woods, Ashland**

Mass Audubon is expected to hold the conservation restriction on 120-acre Warren Woods in Ashland, which the town purchased from Northeastern University after many months of negotiations. The completion of this land protection effort, in which Mass Audubon played an active role, creates one of the largest corridors of permanently protected open space in the Metrowest area.

This critical tract of land in one of the most development-intensive areas of the state includes open space, conservation land, and recreation trails. The expanse encompasses the Ashland State Forest and a public reservoir; land protected by the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction program and the Holliston Town Forest; our own Waseeka Wildlife Sanctuary; and other nearby land protected by Mass Audubon.

The Warren Woods project inspired a nearly unanimous vote by Ashland Town Meeting to allocate \$5 million

in Community Preservation Act funds toward the purchase. Mass Audubon was pleased to support the town by providing technical assistance and by pledging \$150,000 toward the project.

### **Patterson Property, Barre**

After nearly two years, Mass Audubon has purchased 50 crucial acres of pristine woodland and wetlands surrounded on three sides by our Rutland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Barre. The acquisition will broaden and fortify an existing narrow strip in the sanctuary, where it was vulnerable to development pressure from either border. This new acquisition—part of a farm in the family of the late Harold and Hazel Patterson—will offer Rutland Brook a necessary buffer from development.

Mass Audubon wishes to thank Harold and Hazel Patterson's children, who have cherished this land and who wished to have it protected. A state Conservation Partnership grant and support from two foundations were also pivotal.

### **Farnams Greylock, North Adams**

In northern Berkshire County, we have partnered with the Berkshire Natural Resources Council and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation to protect a 1,300-plus-acre property just south of 3,941-foot Mount Greylock—the state's highest peak.

This landscape boasts a rich, natural bounty, including extensive limestone geology that promotes botanical diversity, an array of forest and wetland habitats, large numbers of rare species, cold-water streams that support native brook trout, caves inhabited by several species of bats, spectacular mountain vistas, and a striking waterfall.

Farnams Greylock is a prime example of Mass Audubon's commitment to large-scale protection of ecologically important landscapes and to the partnerships and teamwork required to secure them for the public. ▲

▶ [www.massaudubon.org/land](http://www.massaudubon.org/land)





# EXPLORING THE NATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS

by Lucy Gertz

## How Wildlife Prepares for Winter

### Swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)

From late summer through early October, migrating swamp sparrows forage in grasslands and marshlands for seeds.

Like all seasons, autumn represents both an end and a beginning, with unique colors, transitions, and opportunities. Dramatic change comes when brilliant shades of gold, scarlet, and amber are dusted with white ice crystals. That first killing frost may come as a surprise to some, but the well-adapted wildlife around us have been preparing for this seasonal changeover since summer.

Mammals employ a variety of strategies to prepare for winter: Woodchucks spend months bulking

up for hibernation; chipmunks, squirrels, and mice cache seeds and nuts; and snowshoe hares undergo a remarkable process of camouflage, their coats turning snow white.

By late summer, migratory birds have begun moving toward their winter habitats, resting and fueling up at stopovers along the way.

Insects, spiders, and other invertebrates prepare for winter in a multitude of ways. Some create webs, casings, and nests in which their offspring overwinter as dormant eggs. Others burrow into protected overwintering nooks, and a few even migrate.

However they prepare for winter, all species require the suitable habitats and conditions for which they are adapted.



### Eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)

Their cheeks, stuffed with seeds and nuts, sometimes prevent them from entering their two-inch-wide burrow entrances.

We can support wildlife by protecting habitats and managing them ecologically throughout the seasons.

For example, leaf litter left in place, dead trees left standing, and brush piles placed along trails all provide shelter and food for woodland animals in the winter. Fields left fallow later into autumn provide seeds for migratory birds. And growing native plants provides food and shelter for wildlife.▲

Lucy Gertz is Statewide Education Projects Manager.



### Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*)

Also known as groundhogs. These herbivores spend summer and early fall bulking up to a maximum weight of about 10 pounds before entering their hibernation burrows.

### Black-and-yellow garden spider (*Argiope aurantia*)

After mating, the female lays eggs in a sheet-like fashion on webbing and then rolls them into protective egg sacs. Come autumn, up to 1,000 spiderlings hatch and overwinter in these sacs.



Illustrations by Barry Van Dusen

Visit these and other sanctuaries to witness wildlife preparing for winter.

**Pleasant Valley, Lenox** – Take the pond trails and watch for beavers caching food near their lodges.

**Oak Knoll, Attleboro** – Watch black-capped chickadees hop among the seed heads of blanket flowers and purple coneflowers.

**Broadmoor, Natick** – Look for large flocks of grackles and starlings circling the fields in search of food before heading south.

**Arcadia, Easthampton and Northampton** – Stroll down Old Coach Trail to the pine forest and watch gray squirrels gathering pinecones.

**Habitat, Belmont** – Look and listen for mice and voles scurrying about, collecting food and preparing winter shelters in the brush along the Meadow Trail.

**Boston Nature Center, Mattapan** – Watch for American goldfinches grabbing seeds from the feeders to store for winter.

▶ [www.massaudubon.org/sanctuaries](http://www.massaudubon.org/sanctuaries)

# Making Room for Discovery: The Future of Broadmoor

By Elissa Landre and Michael P. O'Connor

**I** love this place—it's my oasis," says Carol Keezer, standing in front of Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary in Natick.

Keezer, like many of the other 22,000 people who visit the sanctuary each year, finds herself drawn to this place—and with good reason. Here, trails lead you through the shade of mature woodlands into sunny open fields and along the edges of vibrant ponds and wetlands. And on any given day, visitors can choose from a variety of natural history programs: from guided bird walks, to wildlife photography classes, to stargazing.

At the heart of it all is Broadmoor's Saltonstall Nature Center—a 100-year-old, retrofitted barn that doubles as the sanctuary's welcome center and classroom. A shining example of green technology in action, the nature center employs a host of energy-efficient features, including a rooftop solar array that produces enough electricity to power the entire building.

Today, Broadmoor enjoys great success; however, there's just one problem: It's running out of room. A growing audience and demand for the sanctuary's high-quality programming (participation has grown by 128 percent over the past five years) have put constraints on the infrastructure.

To remedy this, the sanctuary launched the "Campaign for Broadmoor" to support a \$1.6 million renovation and

expansion of the nature center. So critical are these updates that the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) awarded the project an \$185,000 grant, which Governor Deval Patrick personally presented to Broadmoor in July.



Governor Deval Patrick with Broadmoor Sanctuary Director Elissa Landre

"Our goal is to ensure that the visitor experience is as engaging, as educational, and as fun as possible," Sanctuary Director Elissa Landre notes. "We want this to be a place where people can gather, learn in a comfortable environment, and then hit the trails."

Campaign Chair Margaret Robinson looks forward to the anticipated March 2013 groundbreaking and notes the significance of the project: "We not only want to help people to enjoy nature, we want to help them become better stewards of the environment."

Meanwhile, generous members and donors have been stepping up to help. To learn more about the campaign, or to make a contribution, visit [www.massaudubon.org/broadmoorcampaign](http://www.massaudubon.org/broadmoorcampaign). ▲

*Elissa Landre is Broadmoor Sanctuary Director.*

## Improvements and Updates

- A **new entryway and lobby**, set apart from the bustle of program activities, will create an inviting greeting area, complete with nature displays and a retail shop.
- A **covered, four-season program pavilion** with benches will provide a place to wait out rain showers, don snowshoes, or sip hot chocolate after owl prowls.
- **Redesigned classroom space** will double the sanctuary's current capacity for programming for students, scouts, and other groups, with child-friendly materials and furnishings and a flexible layout.
- An **ADA-compliant elevator** connecting the main floor and lower-level program space will make classrooms accessible to all.
- An **improved floor plan** will allow visitors easier access to the sanctuary's "Sun Space"—an energy efficient solar heat-trapping corridor—while providing views of the native plants garden.
- **Infrastructure improvements**, such as upgraded heating and cooling systems, electrical, plumbing, and insulation will meet the center's future needs while providing even greater efficiency.





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800-289-9504

[travel@massaudubon.org](mailto:travel@massaudubon.org)

# FALL PROGRAM SAMPLER

A snapshot of programs from among hundreds that Mass Audubon offers this season at our wildlife sanctuaries

### Wednesday Morning Birding

Weekly, 9:30 am-12:30 pm  
JOPPA FLATS, Newburyport 978-462-9998

### Cuttyhunk and Elizabeth Island Cruises

September 16 & 23: 9 am-5 pm  
Registration: 508-385-7657  
LONG PASTURE, Barnstable 508-362-7475

### Rockin' with Raptors

September 22: 1-4 pm  
BOSTON NATURE CENTER, Mattapan  
617-983-8500

### Fall Fair

September 22: 10 am-4 pm  
STONY BROOK, Norfolk 508-528-3140

### Ferns at Arcadia

September 29: 10 am-noon  
ARCADIA, Easthampton and Northampton  
413-584-3009

### Berkshire Fall Mushrooms

September 29: 3-6 pm  
PLEASANT VALLEY, Lenox 413-637-0320

### Fall Festival

October 6-8: 10 am-5 pm  
BLUE HILLS TRAILSIDE MUSEUM, Milton  
617-333-0690

### Hey Day

October 6: 11 am-4 pm  
WACHUSETT MEADOW, Princeton  
978-464-2712

### Fall Foliage Canoes

Weekends, October 6-21  
BROADMOOR Natick 508-655-2296

### Boo Meadow Brook

October 12 & 13: 6:30-8:30 pm  
BROAD MEADOW BROOK, Worcester  
508-753-6087

### Discover the Nature of the Vineyard

October 12-14:  
HABITAT, Belmont 617-489-5050  
BROADMOOR, Natick 508-655-2296

### Free Discovery Day; Sensory Trail Opens

October 20: 10 am-3 pm  
WELLFLEET BAY, Wellfleet 508-349-2615

### Farm Day

October 20: 10 am-4 pm  
DANIEL WEBSTER, Marshfield 781-837-9400

### Halloween Spooktacular

October 20: 6-9 pm  
OAK KNOLL/ATTLEBORO SPRINGS, Attleboro  
508-223-3060

### Behind-the-Scenes Tour: Prints

October 21, 2-3 pm  
VISUAL ARTS CENTER, Canton 781-821-8853

### Tales of the Night

October 25 & 26: 6:30-9 pm  
DRUMLIN FARM, Lincoln 781-259-2200

### Halloween Prowl

October 26: 6:15-8 pm  
October 27: 5:30-8 pm  
October 28: 5:30-7:30 pm  
MOOSE HILL, Sharon 781-784-5691

### Stone Barn Halloween Spooktacular

October 28: 2-8 pm  
ALLENS POND, South Dartmouth  
508-636-2437

### Big Woods Hikes

November 18: noon-1:30 pm (departing  
every two hours)  
IPSWICH RIVER, Topsfield 978-887-9264

### Fall Festival

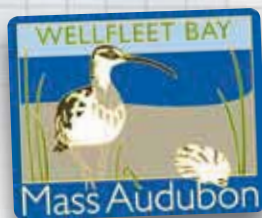
November 23: 11 am-3 pm  
FELIX NECK, Martha's Vineyard 508-627-4850



[www.massaudubon.org/programs](http://www.massaudubon.org/programs)

## Not Your Garden-variety Garden

**Wellfleet**—There are all sorts of gardens: vegetable gardens, rain gardens, butterfly gardens, and hummingbird gardens, to name just a few. But have you ever heard of turtle gardens? As it turns out, they're all the rage in Wellfleet.



Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary staff and volunteers have partnered with the town and the Wellfleet Conservation Trust to create nine terrapin nesting areas (aka turtle gardens) around Wellfleet Harbor.

These gardens aren't flashy (no birds or blooms here, folks!), mostly just sand and a little vegetation. But they represent an important attempt to restore nesting habitat lost to encroaching human-made structures, such as seawalls and jetties, and to the natural succession of trees and shrubs at the edges of the salt marsh.

Resembling a sand "necklace" of sorts, a string of these gardens now extends along the eastern side of Wellfleet Harbor, providing ever-more nesting options for terrapins to choose from.

For more information, visit [www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay](http://www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay) or call 508-349-2615.

## Backpack Babies

**Topsfield**—A program that encourages mothers to explore the natural world with their babies and toddlers (ages 6 to 23 months) is back by popular demand at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary.



"Backpack Babies" is a six-session, weekly series that allows moms and their babies to form early and lasting connections with nature while on the trail. After beginning indoors with a nature book and related play, babies are bundled into packs or strollers for a modest hike on easy terrain. Here they begin to discover the wondrous outdoor world with all their developing senses.

Program leader Sharon Grimes, who first visited Ipswich River as a child, notes that many new mothers also make first-time connections with nature through the interactive program: "A lot of moms are new to the outdoors," Grimes points out. "This program offers yet another way for them to bond with their babies through shared discovery of the wonders of nature."

For more information, visit [www.massaudubon.org/ipswichriver](http://www.massaudubon.org/ipswichriver) or call 978-887-9264.

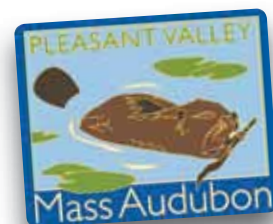
## Field Notes

### Learning (and Birding!) on the Housatonic

**Lenox**—Mass Audubon's Berkshire wildlife sanctuaries are pleased to partner with Berkshire Life – a Guardian Company and its charitable foundation to produce "State of the Birds of the Housatonic," an educational outreach program designed to help middle school students make exciting and important natural discoveries in their own backyard.

Based upon the State of the Birds report released by Mass Audubon last year, which documents changes in Massachusetts birdlife, the program consists of a series of in-school classes focusing on the Housatonic River and the bird species that inhabit the western part of the state. Classes will be followed by canoe safety training and a trip down the river, giving students an opportunity to experience wildlife up close.

For more information, visit [www.massaudubon.org/pleasantvalley](http://www.massaudubon.org/pleasantvalley) or call 413-637-0320.





# Volunteer Spotlight: Trailblazing Veterinarian

by Ann Prince



Bill Hobbie clears the way at Marblehead Neck.

When Bill Hobbie graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine in 1961, he returned to his hometown of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, where he purchased his own practice. While Hobbie was a traditional veterinarian for pets, he welcomed the opportunity to treat wild birds brought in by a raptor rehabilitator—who introduced Bill to birdwatching. Soon it became a preferred pastime.

“I spent as much of my spare time birding as I could,” Hobbie recalls. He’d visit Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey and Chincoteague in Virginia, among others. Then in 1989, when Hobbie came to live on Massachusetts’ North Shore (still a practicing veterinarian) he’d go birding at Mass Audubon’s Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary.

Upon retirement in 2004, Hobbie interviewed with Ipswich River’s Sanctuary Director Carol Decker (whose house cat had been a patient) for a volunteer position. “It was the first time in my life I’d had a job interview,” Hobbie recalls with amusement.

Since then, Hobbie has enthusiastically taken on volunteer duties at Ipswich River, as well as at unstaffed sanctuaries including Nahant Thicket, Marblehead Neck, Cedar Pond in Wenham, and Eastern Point in Gloucester.

Hobbie’s modest response when asked what he does for Mass Audubon? “I tell them I build things, fix things, and maintain things.” Among his tasks—clearing trails, building boardwalks, and pitching in during maple sugaring season. More recently, Hobbie helped construct Ipswich River’s new nature play area, which includes a log tunnel, cedar trunk balance beam, and stone benches.

“I work with a great group of people,” Hobbie says. “My Tuesdays and Fridays volunteering for Mass Audubon are days I always look forward to.” ▲

[www.massaudubon.org/volunteer](http://www.massaudubon.org/volunteer)

## More Accessible Trails Expand Access to Nature

by Michael P. O'Connor

Mass Audubon is midway through its Accessible Interpreted Trails Project. The initiative, which began in 2011 with the goal of connecting all people with nature, is building “universally accessible” trails for disabled persons at eight of its wildlife sanctuaries, statewide.

Mass Audubon’s Broad Meadow Brook, Blue Hills Trailside Museum, and Wellfleet Bay sanctuaries will unveil trails for persons with visual and other impairments this autumn, thanks to funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Three more are planned for next year.

Intern and environmental engineering student Kelly Mitchell, who is visually impaired, has played an integral role in developing the new trails as well as evaluating previously completed trails at Attleboro Springs and Arcadia. ▲

Summer may be over, but we're already looking forward to camp next year!

**wildwood**, our overnight camp, is enrolling now, and information on our **18 day camps** will be available in early January at:

[www.massaudubon.org/camps](http://www.massaudubon.org/camps)

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# BUSY, BUSY SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are found all over Massachusetts. They are appealing, industrious, and fun to watch. We delight in their bushy tails and their acrobatics. They are especially interesting to observe in the fall when they are gathering food to store for the winter.

## Fun Facts about Squirrels

- Some squirrels keep warm and dry in rainy weather by staying under their broad tails, which they arch and spread over their backs.
- Gray squirrels are capable of jumping six feet straight up and can launch themselves a distance of 10 feet or more from a tree, building, or railing.
- Flying squirrels have a wing-like gliding membrane, and their furry, broad, and flattened tail serves as a rudder and stabilizer during glides.
- Squirrels live in nests, dens, and burrows. Gray squirrels have two dwellings—a large leaf-and-twigg nest used in summer and a protected den for winter. Red squirrels prefer tree leaf nests but will sometimes use rock dens and burrows.



Five members of the Squirrel Family live in Massachusetts. Can you match their names to their pictures?

Gray squirrel



Woodchuck

Red squirrel



Eastern chipmunk



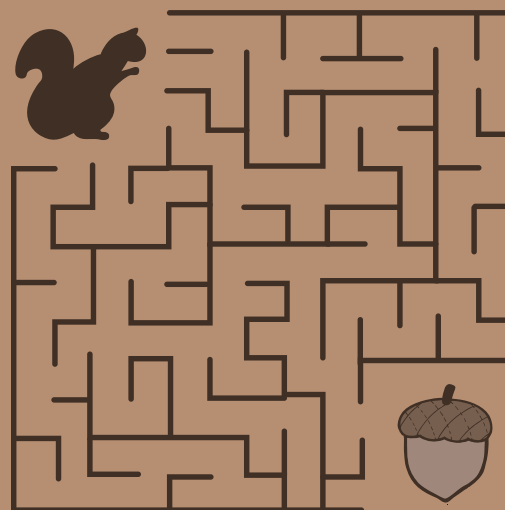
Flying squirrel



## Squirrel Food

Gray squirrels eat mostly nuts. Oak acorns, hickory nuts, beechnuts, and walnuts may comprise three-quarters of their diet. When these nuts are abundant in autumn, squirrels will cache or store them for the winter. They later use their excellent sense of smell to locate this cached food.

Help the squirrel find the acorn!



ready, set,  
**Go Outside!**

There's more online!

[www.massaudubon.org/ecokids](http://www.massaudubon.org/ecokids)

Answers: 1. flying squirrel 2. woodchuck 3. eastern chipmunk 4. gray squirrel 5. red squirrel



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# The Natural Inquirer

by Robert Buchsbaum

## Q. How do dragonflies respond to the arrival of winter?

A. Dragonflies are rugged insects that show seasonal patterns of abundance. Some species are only present in late spring or midsummer while others reach their peak abundance in late summer and fall. Whatever their seasonal preferences, none survive cold New England winters as adults.

Species found in New England have evolved three general approaches when our weather turns cold:

- First, many dragonflies have the ability to live as long as seven years as flightless aquatic nymphs (larvae) in ponds, lakes, and rivers—even after these bodies of water have iced over.
- Second, species whose nymphs live only for one season typically lay their eggs in late summer or early fall in vegetation or in mud. The eggs temporarily stop developing through the cold of winter and exist in a kind of suspended animation. When warmer weather returns, the eggs resume development and eventually hatch into nymphs.
- Third, a few dragonfly species are migratory. Green darner adults, commonly found in Massachusetts, head all the way to the Gulf Coast in winter. There, they lay their eggs and then die. The eggs hatch into nymphs, rapidly metamorphose into adults, and return to New England and other regions the following spring to begin the cycle all over again.

**Natural fact:** Scientists have been able to experimentally revive dragonfly nymphs that were frozen solid into blocks of ice.

Have a question for the *Natural Inquirer*? E-mail [inquirer@massaudubon.org](mailto:inquirer@massaudubon.org).

Robert Buchsbaum is Southeast and Islands Regional Scientist.



Meadowhawk dragonfly

Illustration by Barry Van Dusen

## The Final Word

We invite your comments, photographs, and suggestions. Please send correspondence to: Mass Audubon Connections, 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, tel: 781-259-9500, or e-mail: [connections@massaudubon.org](mailto:connections@massaudubon.org). For information about becoming a member, or for questions regarding your membership, contact: Member Services, Mass Audubon, 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773 tel: 781-259-9500 or 800-AUDUBON, or e-mail: [membership@massaudubon.org](mailto:membership@massaudubon.org).

### Photography:

Cover: Painted skimmer dragonfly—Mary Dineen©  
p 1: Rocky Hill pond—Lindsey Sarquilla/Mass Audubon©  
p 2: Rough Meadows salt marsh—Melissa Vokey/Mass Audubon©  
Monarch butterfly—Liana Jackson©  
p 3: Barnstable Great Marsh—C. J. Gregory©  
p 4: Laura Johnson with Broadmoor campers—Joy Marzolf/Mass Audubon©  
Laura Johnson at staff outing—Mass Audubon©

p 7: Hoosic River Valley—Bob Wilber/Mass Audubon©  
p 9: Broadmoor Boardwalk—Jerry Howard/Mass Audubon  
Gov. Patrick with Elissa Landre—Hillary Truslow/Mass Audubon©  
p 12: Bill Hobbie—Ann Prince/Mass Audubon©

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 35,000 acres of conservation land, provide school, camp, and other educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1896 by two inspirational women who were committed to the protection of birds, Mass Audubon has grown to become a powerful force for conservation in New England. Today we are respected for our sound science, successful advocacy, and innovative approaches to connecting people and nature. Each year, our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries welcomes nearly half a million visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and serves as the base for our work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (800-283-8266) or visit [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)

# Autumn Ambles

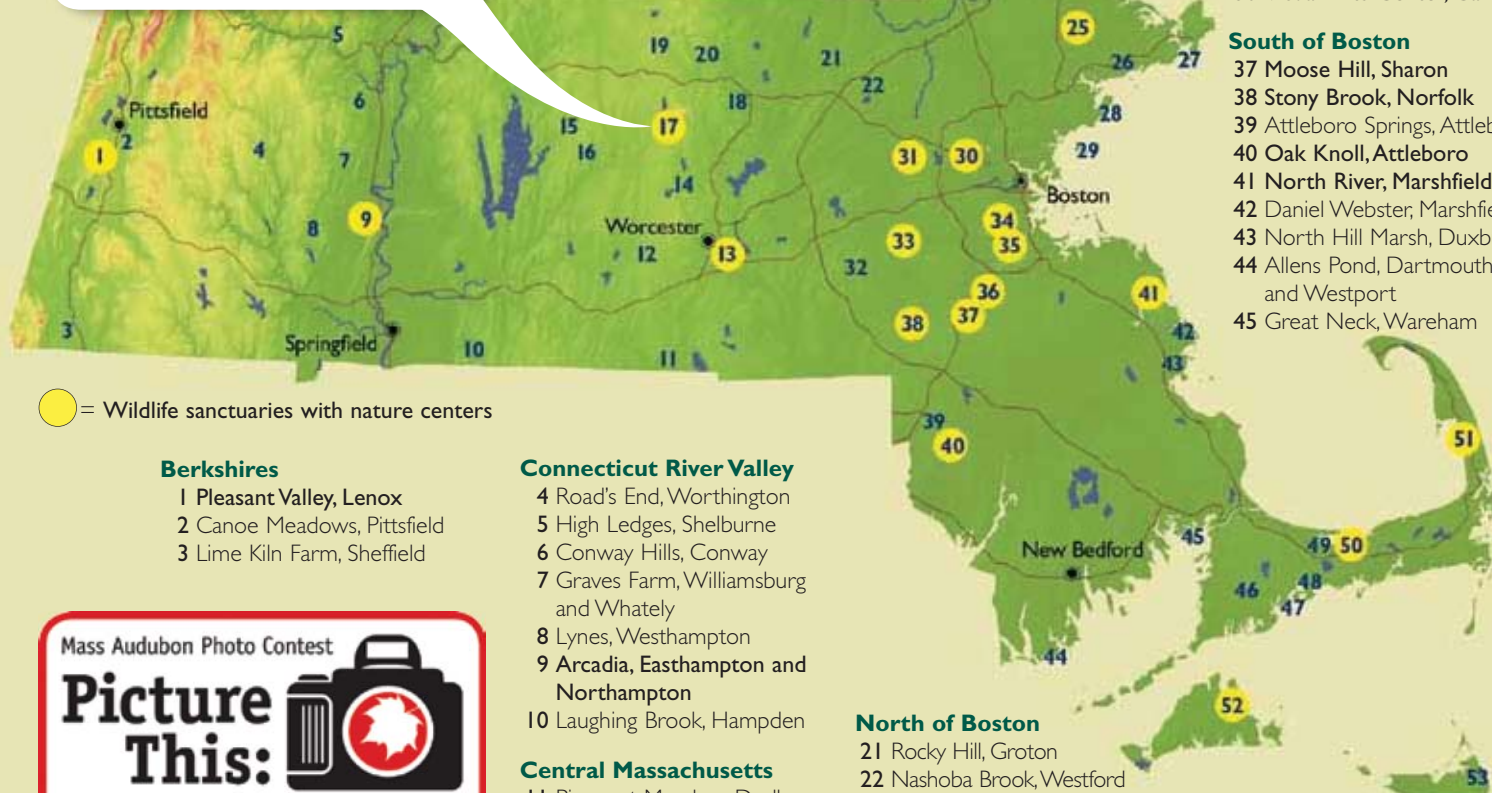
## at a Mass Audubon Sanctuary Near You




### Wachusett Meadow

includes the most recorded species of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies), with 75 species.

Mass Audubon has 53 wildlife sanctuaries open to the public year-round. They provide important habitat for wildlife and opportunities for you to enjoy and appreciate nature.



 = Wildlife sanctuaries with nature centers

### Berkshires

- 1 Pleasant Valley, Lenox
- 2 Canoe Meadows, Pittsfield
- 3 Lime Kiln Farm, Sheffield

### Connecticut River Valley

- 4 Road's End, Worthington
- 5 High Ledges, Shelburne
- 6 Conway Hills, Conway
- 7 Graves Farm, Williamsburg and Whately
- 8 Lynes, Westhampton
- 9 Arcadia, Easthampton and Northampton
- 10 Laughing Brook, Hampden

### Central Massachusetts

- 11 Pierpont Meadow, Dudley
- 12 Burncoat Pond, Spencer
- 13 Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
- 14 Eagle Lake, Holden
- 15 Rutland Brook, Petersham
- 16 Cook's Canyon, Barre
- 17 Wachusett Meadow, Princeton
- 18 Lincoln Woods, Leominster
- 19 Lake Wampanoag, Gardner
- 20 Flat Rock, Fitchburg

### North of Boston

- 21 Rocky Hill, Groton
- 22 Nashoba Brook, Westford
- 23 Joppa Flats, Newburyport
- 24 Rough Meadows, Rowley
- 25 Ipswich River, Topsfield
- 26 Endicott, Wenham
- 27 Eastern Point, Gloucester
- 28 Marblehead Neck, Marblehead
- 29 Nahant Thicket, Nahant

### Greater Boston

- 30 Habitat, Belmont
- 31 Drumlin Farm, Lincoln
- 32 Waseeka, Hopkinton

- 33 Broadmoor, Natick
- 34 Boston Nature Center, Mattapan
- 35 Blue Hills Trailside Museum, Milton
- 36 Visual Arts Center, Canton

### South of Boston

- 37 Moose Hill, Sharon
- 38 Stony Brook, Norfolk
- 39 Attleboro Springs, Attleboro
- 40 Oak Knoll, Attleboro
- 41 North River, Marshfield
- 42 Daniel Webster, Marshfield
- 43 North Hill Marsh, Duxbury
- 44 Allens Pond, Dartmouth and Westport
- 45 Great Neck, Wareham

### Cape Cod and the Islands

- 46 Ashmet Holly, Falmouth
- 47 Sampsons Island, Barnstable
- 48 Skunknet River, Barnstable
- 49 Barnstable Great Marsh, Barnstable
- 50 Long Pasture, Barnstable
- 51 Wellfleet Bay, Wellfleet
- 52 Felix Neck, Edgartown
- 53 Sesachacha Heathlands, Nantucket

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**Your Great Outdoors**

We're seeking photographs of people in nature and those that highlight the beauty of Massachusetts wildlife and landscapes.

For complete rules, visit:  
[www.massaudubon.org/picturethis](http://www.massaudubon.org/picturethis)  
**Deadline: September 30, 2012**



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