



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE FIELD NOTES DECEMBER 2015



New Jersey Field Office Relocation By Eric Schrading

The New Jersey Field Office has moved! It took 12 movers and three moving vans two days to get everything at our old location in Pleasantville, NJ moved over to our new facility, located approximately 10 minutes away in Galloway. The relocation provides a significant cost savings in rent, since staff attrition over the past decade has reduced the amount of needed office space. We are looking forward to getting settled into our new digs! Congressional District: 2



Clockwise from upper left: Moving trucks ready to roll; IT getting us back up and running; time to unpack; our new facility located at 4 Jimmie Leeds Rd, Unit 4, Galloway, NJ 08205. Photo credits: Melissa Foster and Cathy Marion.

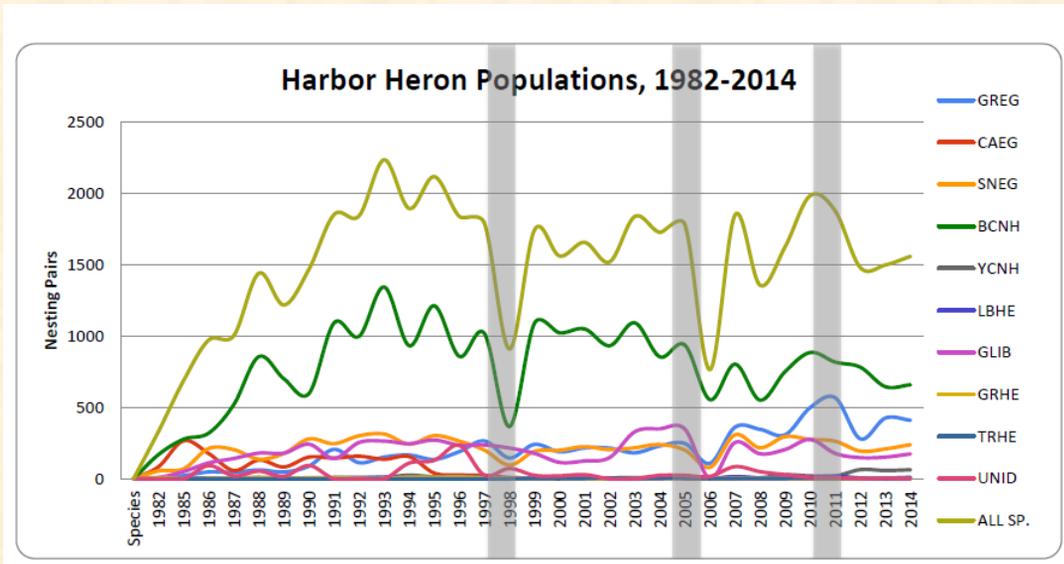


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Harbor Herons Meeting By Melissa Foster

Melissa Foster attended the annual Harbor Herons meeting at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, New York. Harbor Herons is a working group of the New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, a partnership of federal, state, and local governments; scientists; and civilians and civic leaders working to protect and restore the health of the Harbor and its natural diversity. Harbor Herons conducts research and monitors populations of wading and waterbirds in the Harbor to determine what species and habitats are most in need of protection. Each year, the group meets to share data on nesting and habitat studies and to coordinate efforts to improve the health of wading and waterbird populations in NY-NJ Harbor. Congressional Districts: 6, 10, 13



From: Winston, T. 2014. *New York City Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: 2014 Nesting Survey Report*. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.





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TNC's Gandy's Beach Preserve By Katie Conrad

On December 9, staff from the New Jersey Field Office and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) used a marsh master to move materials for next year's living shoreline construction at TNC's Gandy's Beach Preserve. The marsh master is a low-impact amphibious vehicle that can be used on salt marshes and mudflats to mow invasive vegetation and for transport to remote areas within these sensitive habitats. In October, four breakwaters were installed, two made from oyster castles (see in background below left) and two from shell bags. We hope to use the marsh master to assist with additional living shoreline installations at the site next year. Photo credits: Katie Conrad, USFWS; Congressional District: 2





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Plover Meeting **By Wendy Walsh**

On December 9, Eric Schrading and Wendy Walsh attended a meeting of piping plover cooperators from across New Jersey. The meeting was organized by the NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Program and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ. Other participants included Forsythe and Cape May NWRs, Gateway National Recreation Area, The Nature Conservancy, the Wetlands Institute, the New Jersey Audubon Society, and researchers from SUNY and Rutgers. Participants celebrated success in 2015 halting previous declines that had brought the State's nesting plover population to the lowest level on record. The group also discuss challenges to sustaining a reversal of those declines. Predator management remains a top priority, along with habitat protection and restoration. The SUNY study is looking at predators and causes of chick loss, which will help inform management in the future. Congressional Districts: 2, 3, 4, 6

Oyster Meeting **By Wendy Walsh**

On December 9, Wendy Walsh attended a meeting of the Delaware Bayshore Council convened by State Senator Jeff Van Drew. The purpose of the meeting was to brief Council members on the ongoing Programmatic Formal Consultation regarding the effects of structural oyster aquaculture on red knots. In attendance were Senator Van Drew, State Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak, Council Chair and Lower Township Mayor Norris Clark, and representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), New Jersey Bureau of Shellfisheries (BSF), New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program, Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Lab, the Bayshore Center, the American Littoral Society, the New Jersey Audubon Society, and the Wetlands Institute, as well as individual oyster farmers. The Service, Corps, and BSF explained the consultation process and answered questions.

In this consultation, the agencies' shared objective is to provide a thoughtful solution for both protecting key red knot habitats and supporting smart growth in aquaculture. By looking at the "big picture" of both industry and the red knots along the Cape May bayshore, the framework that's being developed attempts to minimize conflicts by dividing the area into two complementary management zones. To the north— where tidal flats are narrower and red knot use is highly concentrated—the emphasis is on conservation. To the south —where flats are wider and knot use is somewhat less concentrated—the emphasis is on providing sufficient space, flexibility, and support for aquaculture expansion. Congressional District 2





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Wreck Pond Breaking Ground By Katie Conrad

On December 16, the Wreck Pond Inlet Restoration Project in the Borough of Spring Lake, Monmouth County, New Jersey broke ground. This project will construct a 600-foot secondary box culvert between Wreck Pond and the ocean in order to enhance fish passage, improve water quality, and reduce flooding of the surrounding communities. It is funded by the Service, the Borough of Spring Lake, NJDEP, and a HUD Community Development Block grant. Photo Credit: Katie Conrad; Congressional District: 4

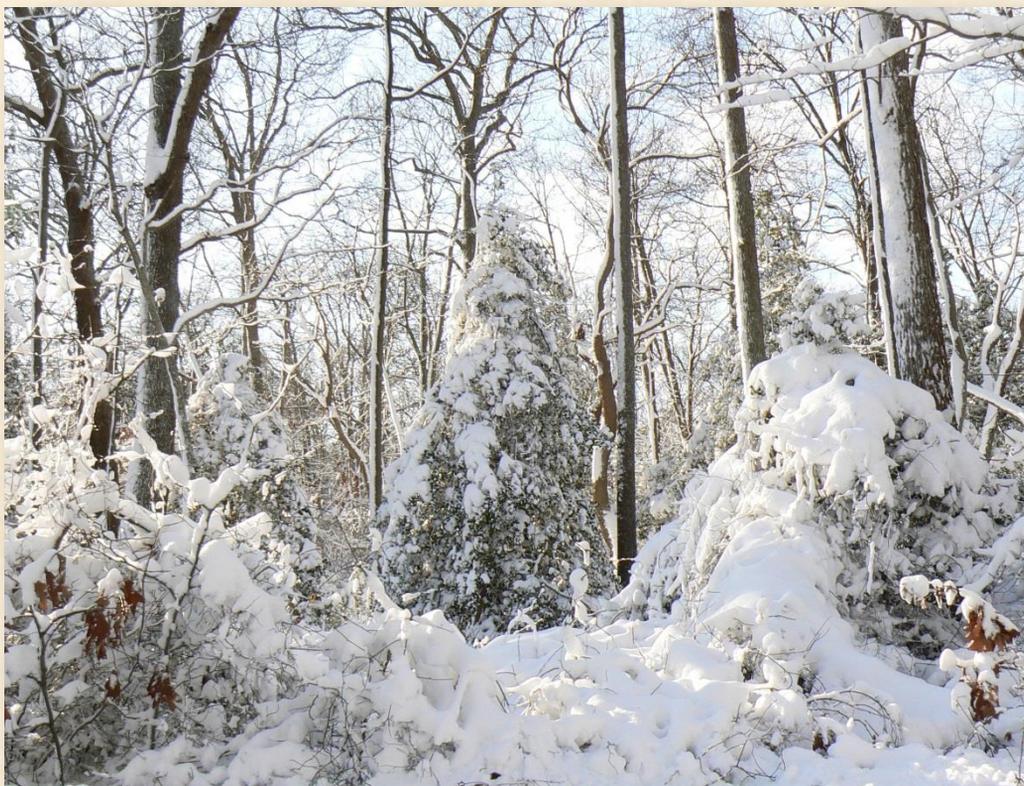




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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE!**



Cape May NWR. Photo Credit: Laura Perlick, USFWS