



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Refuge Happenings

**November 2021:** *The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is presently located in twenty-two different locations in the four primary Connecticut River watershed states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge is located in ten locations on the mainland and near shore islands along the northern shore of the Long Island Sound in Connecticut.*

#### Successful Field Trip At Fort River Division



More than forty second grade students from a local charter school visited the Fort River Birding and Nature Trail this month, participating in a number of interactive learning activities. Staff from the North Atlantic-Appalachian Regional Office provided resources and time, educating students during the field trip. While at Fort River students learned about pollinators and bee keeping, birds and birding, pond life and mammal adaptation. A huge thank you to all the staff from the Regional Office who helped during the event.

Photo Credit: USFWS/  
Guillermo Alvarez

For more Information contact: [Jennifer\\_Lapis@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_Lapis@fws.gov)

#### Outdoor Classroom Nears Completion

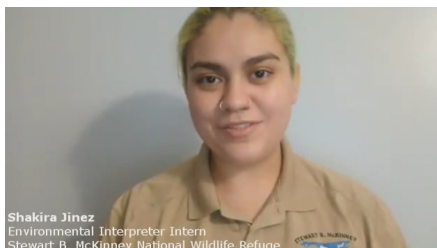


Significant progress was made this month on the construction of the new outdoor classroom at the Fort River Division. With only the roof left to complete, visitors can now use the overlook, which provides a closer view of pond life in refuge wetlands. The final touches of the structure were completed by our maintenance staff, partners biologist and deputy manager. Thanks to everyone's hard work, we will be using the outdoor classroom very soon.

For more information contact: [Jennifer\\_Lapis@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_Lapis@fws.gov)

Photo Credit: USFWS/ Chad Roderick

#### Refuge Intern Creates Original Video For Bat Week



Shakira Jinez  
Environmental Interpreter Intern  
Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

The McKinney Refuge's Hispanic Access Foundation intern Shakira Jinez created a new video for BAT WEEK 2021. She wanted to focus on bats in urban areas, and she worked with staff at the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of New Haven to capture the footage. To see the video, and learn more about how and why New Haven attracts bats to their parks, go here: <https://fb.watch/9I3HJMdkDF/>.

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Photo Credit: USFWS



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### Fannie Stebbins Gets Blazed



Photo Credit: USFWS

A group of volunteers from the Friends of Fannie Stebbins spent time this month blazing trails at the Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge. With several different trails throughout the property, adding a colored coded blazing system will help visitors better navigate their way through the area. Up next is creating an up-dated, user friendly and more accurate map for visitors making their way around this beautiful area in nature.

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### Long-Awaited Marsh Restoration Begins



Photo Credit: USFWS/ Greg Thompson

A multimillion dollar project to restore more than thirty acres of salt marsh at the McKinney Refuge's Great Meadows Unit began in November. When complete, the project will result in more habitat for at-risk species, such as the saltmarsh sparrow and state endangered marsh pink, and improved visitor trails and platforms. The site is located adjacent to Connecticut's largest urban area, the city of Bridgeport. Funding for this project came from environmental settlement funds, as well as contributions from many partners.

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### Farewell And Thank You Guillermo



Photo Credit: USFWS/ Tasha Daniels

Parting words from Intern Guillermo Alvarez:

"I have had an amazing time working with the wonderful people of Silvio O. Conte NFWR. I have caught frogs, banded songbirds, gone electrofishing, removed invasive species by canoe, and operated a tree spade on a skid steer, all for the first time in my career. I will cherish connecting with visitors, partners, colleagues, and families throughout Western Massachusetts and in Philadelphia (during my short time at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum). Thanks to Latino Outdoors, the Hispanic Access Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the past 6 months have been a dream come true. After completing my undergraduate education at Cornell University, I hope to be working with the service again soon!"

For more information contact: [Jennifer\\_Lapis@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_Lapis@fws.gov)