

## Volunteers Help To Make Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuges Birder Friendly

Volunteer Thomas Tetzner enjoys making Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuges birder friendly. "I hope to spark an interest in people to become advocates for our environment" said Tom. Tom installed several new bird feeds at Kettle Pond Visitor Center and Trustom Pond Contact Station. His different bird feeders, including thistle bags and the Baltimore Oriole feeders bring in the colorful purple finches and the black and orange songsters. Because birding and wildlife photography are a perfect fit, Tom also offers wildlife photography courses for all ages, especially for the youth. "Every picture tells a story. I enjoy capturing nature at a moment in time. I hope that everyone will see the beauty in nature and recognize its value" Tom also said.

Tom Tetzner worked with a local bird seed supply store to sponsor a fund raising event selling seed for the Friends of NWRs of Rhode Island, while also helping to supply seed for our bird feeders.

"We are very fortunate here at Rhode Island Refuges to have volunteers like Tom Tetzner", said Visitor Service Manager Janis Nepshinsky. "Without a doubt, our volunteers are one of the key components in making our refuges birder friendly" she also said. Along with maintaining the bird feeders, they offer loaner binocular and field guides, a cd player with bird calls inside the centers, viewing scopes and "write boards" that birders can lists the birds they saw that day.

Last fall, when members of the American Birder Association visited the refuges and Kettle Pond Visitor Center, their first question at the Welcome Desk was "do you have any bird feeders?" Thank you Tom Tetzner!



1: Tom Tetzner, volunteer at the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuges, standing at one of the bird feeders he helps to maintain at the Trustom Pond Contact Station. (photograph by Tom Tetzner at Trustom Pond NWR 3/11)



2: Helen Hall, volunteer, teaches young birders why birds migrate and the importance of having wildlife refuges as necessary stopover sites to rest and feed. (photo by Janis Nepshinsky, Kettle Pond Visitor Center)



3: Young birder, using binoculars from the loaner birder backpack, gets a close up view of a red-bellied woodpecker. (photo by Janis Nepshinsky, Kettle Pond Visitor Center)