



## Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of R.I.

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Summer 2016 *Wildlife Wednesdays* Lecture Series

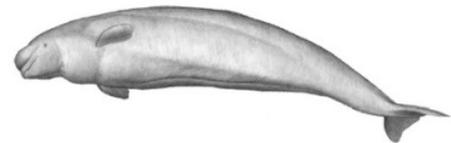
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Wildlife Wednesdays presentations are returning for our 11th year—every Wednesday from June 15 through August 31 at 7:00 PM, at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Kettle Pond Visitor Center, 50 Bend Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island. Admission is free and all ages are welcome. For additional information visit us on Facebook, check our web page at <http://www.FriendsNWRofRI.org>, or contact Bob Kenney ([friends.ri@verizon.net](mailto:friends.ri@verizon.net), 401-874-6664) or Neil Anthes ([Neil\\_Anthes@fws.gov](mailto:Neil_Anthes@fws.gov), 401-364-9124 ext. 43).

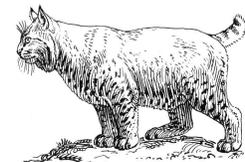
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**June 15:** “Belugas in the Bay,” with Dr. Bob Kenney, a naturalist and marine biologist from the URI Graduate School of Oceanography. Wandering belugas have visited Rhode Island two years in a row—will they make it three? Bob will fill you in with information on the natural history and conservation of these visitors from the north.



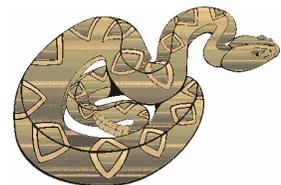
**June 22:** “Bees, Pollination, and People,” with Dr. Howie Ginsberg, an invertebrate ecologist with the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, but based at URI. Bees are a diverse group of insects, which are critical for the reproduction of many plants, both crops and wild species. Dr. Ginsberg will talk about these fascinating creatures and discuss some of the threats they face in our modern world.

**June 29:** “Ecology and Conservation of Bobcats in Rhode Island,” with Amy Gottfried Mayer, a Research Associate with the URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science. Did you even know we had bobcats in Rhode Island? Amy will present background information on the natural history of bobcats, as well as early results of a collaborative RIDEM-URI study on their home range, habitat use, and genetics.



**July 6:** “Wildflower Identification Made Easy,” with Dr. Bob Kenney, naturalist and Wildlife Wednesdays host. Have you ever gotten frustrated trying to identify some wildflower using a typical field guide. This hands-on session will show you an easy, step-by-step method using *Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide*.

**July 13:** “Biology and Conservation of New England Snakes,” with Lou Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. Snakes have gotten a bad rap, but Lou has been working with them since he was a kid, and he’ll do his best to change your mind about them. His presentation will include information about New England’s species, both familiar and unfamiliar, as well as an update on the timber rattlesnake recovery project.



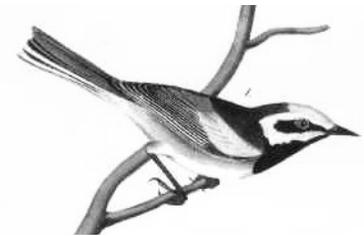
**July 20:** “Hummingbirds ... and Other Birds ... of Ecuador,” with Dave Clayton, a long-time birder and skilled photographer. Did you know that Ecuador holds the world record for the number of hummingbird species in one country? Would you believe 132? Dave and Nancy visited there this past winter in search of as many as possible, and Dave will be sharing his photos and stories from the trip.

**July 27:** “Project Puffin: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Seabird Back to Egg Rock,” with Derrick Jackson, writer, photographer, *Boston Globe* columnist, and co-author of the recently published book of the same title. Atlantic puffins were hunted out from most of the Maine coast in the 1800s, but National Audubon’s Stephen Kress was determined to bring them back. Project Puffin today can boast that there are more than 1,000 pairs nesting on three Maine islands. Derrick will tell the story of the project and its success, and will be signing copies of the book afterwards.



**August 3:** “The Great Bear Sea: Reflecting on the Past, Planning for the Future.” The third video from Green Fire Productions, following up on the two “Ocean Frontiers” videos that we showed last summer, tells the story of how 18 First Nations, the province of British Columbia, and hundreds of local communities and citizens are working together to build sustainable coastal economies ... “where whales, wolves, bears, and humans thrive in rich coastal ecosystems.”

**August 10:** “The Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0—Lessons From Year One.” with Dr. Charles Clarkson, an ornithologist, R.I. Audubon board member, and Project Coordinator for the Rhode Island Bird Atlas. The Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 is a statewide project to map the distribution and abundance of our birds, updating the 1982–87 atlas. Traditional bird atlases are limited to breeding activity, but the RIBA2.0 is focusing on how birds use our state throughout the year, which will allow us to better understand the lives of our feathered friends. Charles will present initial results of the project, and unveil plans for the migration atlas.



**August 17:** “It’s Not a Baby Whale—It’s an Ocean Sunfish!” with Carol “Krill” Carson, a marine biologist from Bridgewater State University and the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance. Ocean sunfish are the heaviest bony fish in the world—bigger than your kitchen table. Young ocean sunfish summer off New England, feeding on jellyfish, then migrate south to warmer, more tropical waters in the fall. Some get trapped and “cold-stunned” in Cape Cod Bay. Krill and the NEWCA team rescue live cold-stunned animals and necropsy dead ones. Learn how you can report your sightings to NECWA’s New England Basking Shark and Ocean Sunfish Sighting Network ([www.nebshark.org](http://www.nebshark.org)).

**August 24:** “Bird Feeding’s Surprising History,” with Margaret Barker, writer, educator, former coordinator of Project FeederWatch at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and co-author of *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce and Conservation*. In recent decades, the simple practice of feeding birds has become a multi-billion dollar business, and has helped change Americans’ attitudes toward the natural world. There is even a Rhode Island connection. Margaret will be signing copies of her book after the presentation.



**August 31** Open for last-minute volunteers, audience requests, or surprises. What would you like to hear more about? Check Facebook or the website for updates.

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*Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of Rhode Island* is a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing conservation, education, and outreach activities on the five National Wildlife Refuges in our state. All donations to the Friends are tax-deductible.