



# Southern New England Coastal Program

Conserving the Nature of New England

*Tuesday,  
March 24, 2015*

## **Field Notes**

### **PBS Kids, Audubon CT and USFWS Refuges help students connect to nature in the New Haven Urban Wildlife Refuge**

Through the New Haven Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, third graders at Barnard Environmental Magnet School are learning more about wildlife habitat and how PBS cartoons are made. PBS recently developed the animated series “Plum Landing,” with a focus on getting kids in urban areas outdoors to explore nature. The USFWS Urban Wildlife Refuge initiative has similar goals. PBS and the New Haven Urban Wildlife Refuge Partners identified an opportunity to work together at Barnard Environmental Magnet School, one of the first designated Schoolyard Habitats within the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership in New Haven.

This winter, Barnard third graders worked with Shaun Roche from Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge and Francesca Williams from Audubon Greenwich to bring the PBS Plum Landing activity “Habitat Sweet Habitat” to life. Alongside Francesca and Shaun, the students braved piles of snow and explored the concept of habitat using their schoolyard as a classroom.





Back row, left to right: Marjorie Drucker, Magnet Theme/Operations Leader; Kel Youngs, Environmental Lead Teacher; Dyann Sousa, Third-Grade Teacher; Francesca Williams, Audubon Greenwich Lead Educator; Georgia Basso USFWS Coastal Program Wildlife Biologist and third-grader class at Barnard Environmental Magnet School



Shaun Roche from USFWS (left), and Francesca Williams from Audubon Greenwich (right) co-teach a lesson on wildlife habitat. Using a PBS Kids Plum Landing activity, they guide students in exploring and drawing wildlife habitat on their urban school grounds.