

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON ANNUAL REPORT 2016



NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON

Thank you for your support!

OUR MISSION

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE AND STEWARDING THE NATURE OF TODAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF TOMORROW.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

New Jersey Audubon's annual report for 2016 is full of successes, and I take great pride in sharing them with you. In presenting this report, I honor and acknowledge the dedicated support of our donors, staff, volunteers, and partners, without whom these pages would surely be blank. More than an account of recent activities, this report is an archive of collaboration, determination, resourcefulness, and achievement – indeed. It is the story of conservation champions. Achievement. It is the story of conservation champions.

In 2016, New Jersey Audubon pursued non-traditional partnerships, leveraging conservation priorities in our three key focal areas: forests and farms, coasts and wetlands, and cities and towns. As the year progressed, dramatic changes emerged from action in Washington, D.C. With increasing resolve, our staff advanced forest stewardship, pollinator protection, shorebird recovery, urban environmental education, and much more. I invite you to discover how science, education, advocacy, and a pioneering spirit positively impacted wildlife protection in New Jersey, while influencing the future of conservation around the nation and the world.

You'll find that Northern Bobwhite, the little quail once nearly gone from our state, now call again to their mates through the dappled understory of our Pineland forests. Learn how efforts to protect the secretive and declining marsh bird, the Eastern Black Rail, began with statewide surveys; and that native bees and butterflies will benefit from new pollinator legislation that New Jersey Audubon successfully advocated. Follow our ongoing Semipalmated Sandpiper research that is strengthened by nanotag and solar-powered tracking technology. Cheer for the state-endangered Golden-winged Warbler and other young forest species, whose recovery begins with the finalization of a 10-year Forest Stewardship Plan for the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area.

Celebrate the expertise and tireless effort of our government relations staff. Their efforts resulted in passage of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act to protect and restore water quality and critical habitat. Their successful leadership also inspired the crucial Preserve New Jersey Act, which ensures that funding dedicated by a 2014 open space ballot will be used exclusively to preserve and care for our parks and special places, those purposes intended by New Jersey voters.

We marked 40 years of the Cape May Bird Observatory and Cape May Hawk Watch, while welcoming more than 20,000 visitors to New Jersey Audubon's migration watches. Both children and adults were encouraged to participate in bird monitoring at our centers and on a statewide level.

Our education staff generated significant growth in its urban outreach efforts in Jersey City, Newark, Morristown, North Brunswick, and Paterson. Our Eco-Schools program expanded to 215 schools statewide, as students, the conservation leaders of tomorrow, engaged in a variety of school sustainability projects; from water and energy conservation to schoolyard gardens and increasing biodiversity.

Our 2016 annual report provides but a glimpse of what it takes to protect wildlife, safeguard our water, preserve habitat, public lands, and ensure that the natural world is accessible for all. I hope it inspires you with the wisdom that conservation is everyone's concern. We can best achieve sustainability when we trust science, leverage synergy, and work with unshakable resolve toward our collective goals. As always, I remain hopeful in our conservation champions: our New Jersey Audubon members and friends. Thank you for your enduring support!

I leave you with the humble words of an American visionary from my youth:

"The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share." – Lady Bird Johnson



Eric Stiles
President and Chief Executive Officer



WIDENING THE ARC OF CARING

GOLDEN WINGED
WARBLER



We are all caretakers, the stewards of our natural spaces; protectors of the air and water that sustain us; guardians of a rich diversity of wildlife, plants, trees, insects, and the habitats that define our state.

New Jersey Audubon is deeply invested in conserving the integrity of our natural world, awakening that commitment in others spreads our influence and impact. In 2016, New Jersey Audubon staff led efforts throughout the state to create and restore healthy forest habitat, with a focus on young forest species and other wildlife. This included empowering public and private landowners through forest planning and project implementation particularly within our Golden-winged Warbler focal area. For example, New Jersey Audubon research and stewardship staff helped develop and guide forest stewardship practices on more than 3,000 acres through partnership with a private landowner in Sussex County. With the goal of managing habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler, a species in decline throughout its range; Ruffed Grouse and Cerulean Warbler, species that have also been disappearing from New Jersey. A series of surveys was conducted to determine what management actions may need to be implemented to create habitat that is optimal for these birds.

Healthy forests provide resources for many species of conservation concern. Working in collaboration with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, we finalized a 10-year Forest Stewardship Plan for the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area. This comprehensive plan will restore young forest patches, creating vibrant habitat for the state-endangered Golden-winged Warbler and other at-risk wildlife. Cerulean Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers and other songbirds rely on deep forest habitat and have been observed foraging in areas where young forest habitat has already been established. The Northern Long-eared and Indiana bats also benefit from open patches flanked by mature trees that provide opportune roosting sites and foraging areas. The plan protects our water, improves resistance to pests, disease, and the changing climate, and enhances passive recreational opportunities for all. The release of the Forest Stewardship Act of 2009 rules, which for the first time officially recognize the value of private forested land for more than just its timber sale value, go a long way toward encouraging private landowners to steward their forests for the benefit of people and wildlife. No longer will it be necessary to cut firewood: now a landowner can manage their forest for ecological, wildlife, and habitat goals and still receive tax abatement. New Jersey Audubon

FORESTS AND FARMS

led the passage of this legislation, working with the Department of Environmental Protection and stakeholders for seven years to develop these draft rules.

Forest health plays a role in clean air and water, and in December 2016 New Jersey residents celebrated the passage of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act. This federal legislation established a Delaware River Basin Restoration Program under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and directs the agency to develop a watershed-wide strategy for identifying, prioritizing, and implementing conservation projects, to protect and restore water quality and habitat throughout the basin. It also authorized a matching grant and technical assistance program that will bring millions of dollars into the region for vital conservation efforts. These funds will leverage the substantial ongoing funding provided by the William Penn Foundation to engage the agricultural community and private landowners in activities that improve water quality, or prevent the degradation of water quality; all with a keen eye toward enhancing or creating habitat for wildlife. It is worth noting that less than 3% of introduced federal bills ever pass – and that the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act was a tremendous victory for New Jersey Audubon in its leadership of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed after more than seven years of perseverance.

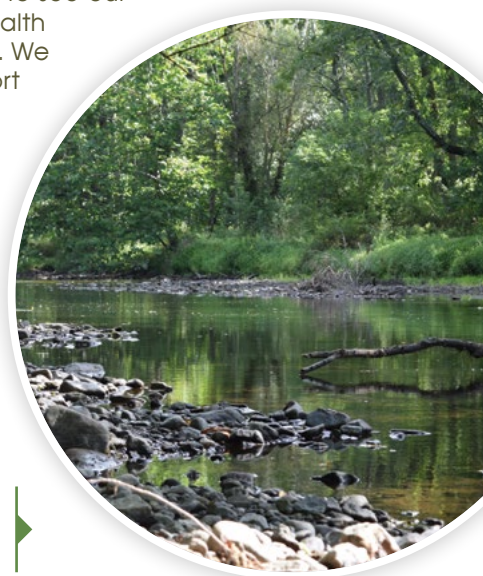
The steady and ongoing loss of natural habitats throughout the state means that human-altered landscapes are increasingly important to wildlife. These include the multitude of big landscapes and small plots that support plant and wildlife diversity – especially pollinators. Utility rights-of-way (ROW), stretching across towns and surrounding our cities, are one such critical habitat. In 2016, New Jersey Audubon completed a sixth year of bird, reptile, amphibian, and habitat surveys along selected ROW spans. Working closely with Public Service Electric and Gas and the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program, we developed span-specific maintenance plans that provide habitat for breeding Golden-winged Warbler populations. We continue to develop management recommendations that provide habitat for species of conservation concern while meeting safety and regulatory standards for powerline ROWs.

In 2016, our stewardship staff continued its efforts to save the Northern Bobwhite, the iconic bird of rural America that was nearly lost in New Jersey. A second release of 80 wild quail took place in April at Pine Island Cranberry release site in Burlington County. For more than a decade this property has been stewarded through the implementation of a Forest Stewardship Plan, creating patches of young forest with abundant cover and food resources; ideal quail habitat. Spring brought the discovery that several

of the previous year's hatchlings had survived the winter. By June, a dozen new nests were found and monitored with motion-sensitive cameras. Sadly, none of these nests were successful primarily due to predation by the state-threatened Northern Pine snake. However, monitoring of the birds continues, and there was a third release in April 2017. This project could only be envisioned through the support and strong conservation ethic of the Haines Family and the Pine Island Cranberry Company, whose ongoing stewardship ensures that habitat remains in our state for Northern Bobwhite, Pine snakes, and multitude of other unique Pineland species.

Managing habitat to benefit native wildlife also requires removal of invasive plants that pose a serious and ongoing threat. In 2016, New Jersey Audubon worked with legislative champions to introduce and advance seven bills aimed at minimizing the use of invasive plants and supporting the use of natives. This included legislation requiring the Department of Transportation to plant only native flora along all state highways. These bills collectively go a long way in preventing the spread of invasive plants as well as establishing habitat for pollinators and birds. Toward that end we also continued our partnership with the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team, hosting training sessions and launching a Jersey Plant Pledge campaign aimed at reducing the amount of invasive and non-native plants sold in our state. Fifteen New Jersey landscapers and garden centers have signed on to participate and are playing an active role in protecting native plants and wildlife. It is gratifying to see our stewardship and forest health initiatives come to fruition. We are thankful for the support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and New Jersey Audubon donors, for helping chart the course for another decade of forest, wildlife, and habitat conservation. •

MUSCONNECTCONG
RIVER




SNAG TREES

THE OTHER
TREE OF LIFE



PILEATED
WOODPECKER
FEEDING CHICKS

RACCOON
IN A SNAG



The next time you take a stroll outside listen for an abundance of chirps. These delightful sounds filling the air above you could be due to passing near a 'snag' tree. A 'snag tree' is a diamond in the rough. While the tree itself is either dead or beginning to decay, it still provides an abundance of benefits to the nature surrounding it.

When around these snag trees let your curiosity get the best of you, and perhaps gaze into the trunk, scan each hole and crevice for movement that could identify the producers of loud vocalizations. Your scrutiny may be rewarded by small feathery heads with long pointed beaks popping out of one of the cavities. Pileated Woodpeckers make their home in snag trees, it would be incredibly exciting to see the white and black facial coloration along with the red cap and large size.

World-renowned forest ecologist, Dr. Jerry Franklin, has said: "A dead tree is more alive than a live tree." In North America over 85 species of birds, 35 of which occur in the Northeast, use cavities in snags. The snags also provide essential habitat for other species including insects, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.

Snags develop cavities either naturally or created by wildlife. Specifically, snags often attract insects to the decaying wood, thus also attracting other wildlife (including woodpeckers) to forage on the insects and ultimately create excavation holes. The holes can be used by an assortment of species for nesting, shelter, roosting, perches, and forage storage areas.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service "The best snags for cavity-nesters are those with hard sapwood (between bark) and decayed heartwood (inner core) making them hard on the outside and soft in the middle. The hard sapwood provides protection from predators and insulation against weather, while the softened heartwood allows easy excavation deep into the snag. Many birds avoid very soft snags for nesting because extremely soft wood can be wet or crumbly."

Some ways to recognize a tree that is on its way to becoming a snag include: sap runs, dead main limbs, excessive fungi on the bark, splits in the trunk, large fissures or hollows, and large areas of decaying bark. Trees of all sizes in forests of various age-classes can be potential snags and each tree species and the location of the snag in the landscape will have different uses for wildlife. Generally, the value of a snag tree increases as its size increases. Snags that are around shorelines or even in water sources add important woody debris to aquatic habitat as well as provide unobstructed views for perching and foraging.

Snags are an important habitat component to wildlife and can be a one-stop shop for the survival of certain species. A snag tree can remain standing in place for many years and although snags have many benefits, it is important to consider the location of a snag when considering leaving it where it is standing. As snag trees decay they could pose a hazard to life and property if they fall and should not be retained in high activity public places.

Through planning and implementation, snag trees, den trees, and other coarse woody debris for wildlife habitat can be incorporated into forest property management. As part of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI), with funding from the William Penn Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NJ Audubon is seeking out landowners in the Highlands Region and Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer Region (especially along the Delaware Bayshore) of the State for enrollment into various federal cost share programs for forest stewardship, and farmland, conservation practices. Responsible conservation practices will implement and provide critical habitat for wildlife as well as contribute to improving water quality. Depending on your property's location within these regions you may be eligible for additional funding or free restoration related materials, especially for riparian and wetland restorations. Let's all do our part. •

**DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANTS
PERCHED ON SNAGS IN MERRILL
CREEK RESERVOIR**





CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT

The very essence of the coastal landscape is its capacity for change. This age of rising sea levels and increased storm intensity reinforces New Jersey Audubon's commitment to protecting critical habitat and the scenic and recreational treasures of our Jersey Shore. In 2016, our research staff completed the second phase of a massive restoration project at Stone Harbor Point to improve coastal habitat for endangered beach nesting and migratory shorebirds. More than 25 acres were restored or enhanced to raise the elevation of nesting areas. The effort was aimed at reducing potential nest flooding of federally threatened Piping Plovers, state endangered Black Skimmers, Least Terns, and American Oystercatchers, a species of special conservation concern. The project increased efforts to control predators, provided roosting areas for migratory shorebirds, and created a resiliency dune for storm protection to benefit residents living near Stone Harbor Point. Monitoring data showed an increase in the number of nesting pairs at the site and the number of chicks produced, both important measures of the project's success. This project was funded by a \$1.28 million grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the US Department of Interior. In addition to protecting coastal birds, New Jersey Audubon worked to defend other critical wildlife. Our government relations team led a successful effort to protect the Diamondback Terrapin by listing it as a Species of Special Concern. These beautiful turtles, once threatened by illegal sales and large-scale harvest, will now enjoy protection at Delaware Bay and throughout New Jersey.

Coastal habitat restoration was also addressed through awareness building and empowerment. Working with state and federal partners, our Nature Center of Cape May took on the issue of marine debris. Local residents were educated about the dangers of ghost traps and other forms of debris that damage fragile habitats and injure wildlife. Combined with New Jersey Audubon's support for the passage of legislation aimed at encouraging marine debris removal, these efforts will reduce the impacts to habitat and wildlife. Change is both positive and coveted, when it means that communities not only understand environmental issues, but also participate in resolving them. In 2016, New Jersey Audubon and its conservation partners worked with seven New Jersey school boards to design a Coastal Resiliency curriculum focused on school sustainability. Students were given the challenge of engineering ecological solutions to the hazards identified on their school grounds, it formed a framework for addressing sea level rise and flooding from storms.

COASTS AND WETLANDS

HORSESHOE CRAB

Coastal impoundments and man-made water bodies are often the first line of defense for shore communities against the impacts of storms, tidal surges, and rising sea levels. They are also of great importance for the ecological resources they sustain, including populations of breeding, wintering, and migrating birds. Some of our state's most valued birding destinations are impoundments. Working with conservation partners, New Jersey Audubon's research team expanded GIS mapping of coastal impoundments from Virginia to Maine. Taking both societal and ecological factors into account, we will offer management recommendations for safeguarding these impoundments during an era of climate change. Funding for this project was provided by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the US Department of Interior. Partnering with organizations across the state and country, New Jersey Audubon also helped lead the charge to ensure that the Land and Water Conservation Fund was authorized for three more years. This program is the main source providing funding for the State's five national wildlife refuges, including Cape May, Edwin B. Forsythe and Supawana Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and has brought over \$330 million to the state for permanent open space and habitat protection during the life of the program.

Shorebird protection at Delaware Bay remained an ongoing focus for New Jersey Audubon's research team in 2016. The Bayshore is a critical migratory stopover for shorebirds, hosting one of the largest concentrations of Red Knots in North America. It is also a destination for human visitors from across the globe, who migrate here to witness the phenomenon. Our annual Spring Festival celebrates shorebird migration, boosting the local economy through nature-based tourism. Sustaining healthy populations of shorebirds is our priority and, for a second year, radio transmitters allowed the tracking of Semipalmated Sandpipers, another declining shorebird species, with signals collected at 11 automated tracking stations. New Jersey Audubon and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife jointly maintain these stations to identify patterns of habitat use and departure schedules during migration that can guide conservation. More than 300 stations also operate in the Northeast US and eastern Canada, enabling more comprehensive tracking of these birds along their North American migration route. Since 2009, our efforts to save migratory shorebirds have expanded internationally to include wintering and migration staging areas along the northeast coast of South America, specifically French Guiana, Suriname and northeastern Brazil. Working with our international partner, Aquasis, through funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we began a new project to assess the effects of shrimp aquaculture on this species and other migratory shorebirds wintering in Brazil.

Concerns about the continued decline of the Eastern Black Rail, prompted a second year of partnership with the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program and Conserve Wildlife Foundation. Working to save this secretive bird of the marshlands, New Jersey Audubon's research team conducted a series of surveys to document its geographical range in the state, assess population changes over the years, and develop a management strategy that will stabilize its population. This project was supported by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Meanwhile, our wetlands ambassador Edward, the Great Egret, spent much of the 2016 breeding and post breeding season on Staten Island and in Jamaica Bay. We know this because he had been fitted with a solar powered GPS/GSM satellite transmitter and tracked by our research team, in collaboration with waterbird scientists at Lenoir-Rhyne University and Friends University. Children in Linden also followed Edward, with technology integrated into their school curricula through New Jersey Audubon's Eco-schools program. He became a focal point for the students' science programming at Hawk Rise Sanctuary, helping to teach bird identification skills and problem solving. Edward logged more than 140,000 location visits, while these students and other New Jersey Audubon members and friends followed his daily movements.

Science enlightens and guides our future. Science is logical; we learn by monitoring beach nesting birds that when quality habitat is restored, Piping Plover and other coastal species thrive. Science is indisputable; by radio-tracking Semipalmated Sandpipers, we locate those places where the birds are most vulnerable. Science is fun; following Edward provides a glimpse of what it's like to be a Great Egret and, perhaps, fosters a conservation ethic. Science is supported by informed donors, who understand that progress is best served when we search for and value truth. •



WHEN ERIC STILES INVITED ME TO PEN A PORTION OF THE COASTS AND WETLANDS SECTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, I WAS IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT TO CONSIDER DR. DAVID MIZRAHI'S SEMINAL RESEARCH ON THE SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER DEPENDENCE UPON DELAWARE BAY.

In the tangential manner of writers, this led me to recall the pivotal role of my good friend Beth, whose support for this project and so many other New Jersey Audubon endeavors has been pivotal. Like the sandpipers David studies, Beth's annual life cycle includes three points. Her cottage on the coast of Maine where she summers; her residence in Philadelphia; and during migration Cape May Point, at the mouth of Delaware Bay. Beth's affinity for coasts and her commitment to their protection is abiding. Even in Philadelphia, she is not far from water. A pebble rolled from her property line would wind its way down to Wissahickon Creek, a merry little watercourse whose flow ultimately nourishes and sweetens the waters of Delaware Bay. From the porch of her condo in Cape May Point you can watch Northern Gannet arrowing into fish-rich waters of the bay, and in front of her cottage in Maine the pristine waters of Penobscot Bay ripple as rafts of Common Eider ebb and flow with the tide. The yodel of Common Loons is a constant that underscores the biological integrity of Beth's northern pole, and is a tribute to this citizen of the planet's enduring support for the conservation initiatives that earn her countenance.

In this regard she is much like the founding members of New Jersey Audubon who in 1897, when faced with the degradation of their environment, banded together to form a New Jersey Audubon "Society" of concerned citizens; a united effort to restore the biological integrity of our state. New Jersey's plight at the end of the 1800s was much the same as the pan-continental degradation that led to the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and Eskimo Curlew- a fate that David Mizrahi's efforts may spare the beleaguered Semipalmated Sandpiper. The Sandpiper's world population reduced by half, Beth's support of this program and other initiatives runs like a vein of silver through the bedrock that is New Jersey Audubon's

collective support. Support that has for over a century been the moral, institutional and political foundation of New Jersey Audubon. So here's to you Beth, and to the many thousands of like-minded members who have, in that spirit of concern, contributed the strength of their convictions and their support to our collective will. A unity of purpose that defines the difference between a Society and a Foundation, a Conservancy, a Federation, or a Trust.

We are what we affirm, and we are in turn affirmed by this: this is not sophistry, but truth. Ask Beth, she'll tell you the same thing. Ask your average Semipalmated Sandpiper and they'll say: "Hey, New Jersey Audubon member, where's the Horseshoe Crab eggs at?" And I'll say: "Go ask David, by the way nice leg band; looks new."

As I write these words, there are thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers settling into New Jersey's coastal regions, setting out to complete the next leg of their cyclic journey, unaware that in no small part they have New Jersey Audubon's members to thank for their successful breeding season.

It is not a Sandpiper's burden to be mindful of the importance of our work, it is ours. So thank you Beth, and all who share your convictions, for helping to ensure that Semipalmated Sandpipers do not share the fate as the Eskimo Curlew, a bird whose numbers were once incalculable.

Our founders may have, like the curlew, passed on; their legacy of concern like our obligation endures. So Semipalmated Sandpiper are you the next Eskimo Curlew? Not as long as we hold to our convictions and founding principles. •



RED KNOT WITH
HORSESHOE CRABS



THE ENVIRONMENT IS WHERE WE ALL MEET

The need for open space is universal; every individual – young or old, in urban or rural areas – benefits from connecting with the nature that surrounds them. New Jersey residents share an enduring tradition of support for open space preservation, most recently approving a constitutional amendment that established a permanent source of open space funding. For two-and-a-half year however, this funding had been mired in dispute about its allocation, while our natural and historic treasures were left hanging in the balance. That all changed in 2016, when the Preserve New Jersey Act was passed. Through New Jersey Audubon's continued leadership of NJ Keep It Green, this critical legislation was crafted to ensure that funds intended to preserve and, for the first time, steward our parks and special places, would not be diverted or used to fill budget gaps. To date, over \$150 million has been appropriated, allowing on-the-ground preservation and stewardship efforts to finally proceed.

Protecting wildlife today is all about connectivity – creating nature corridors across our cities, towns, and rural landscapes by linking large and small habitat pieces. Working with the National Wildlife Federation, New Jersey Audubon targeted our message that *Every Little Bit Helps* to schools, individual homeowners, garden clubs and other civic groups, spreading the word to *Go Native and Plant for Pollinators*. We also continued to champion legislative protection and statewide recognition of the importance of pollinators, through the introduction and advancement of eight pieces of legislation. This included recognition of Native Plant Appreciation Month, and the designation of a State Butterfly - the Black Swallowtail!

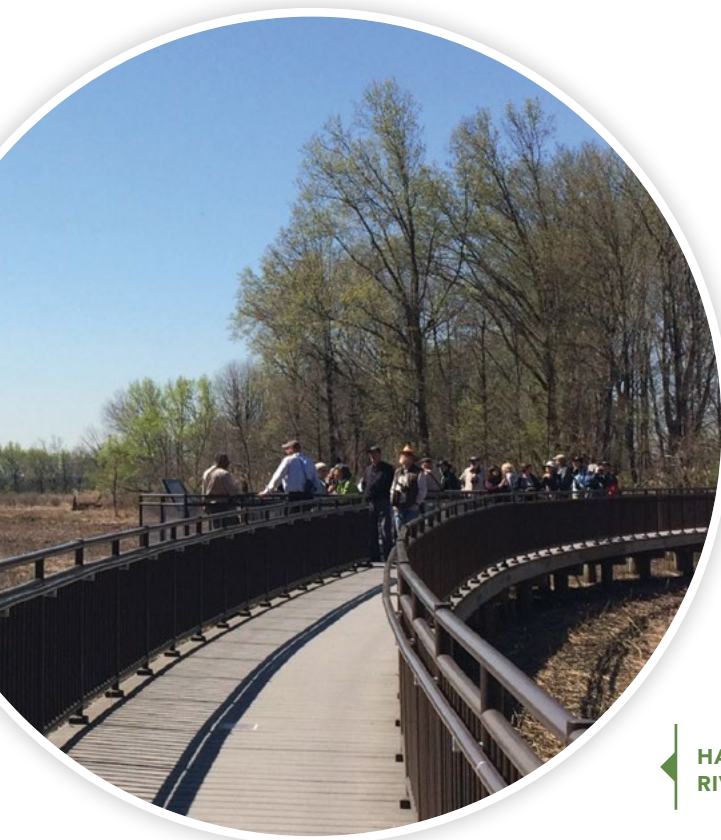
CITIES AND TOWNS

Education is the foundation for broadening a strong conservation and stewardship ethic, and New Jersey Audubon continues to model best management practices at our sanctuaries and nature centers. Young people, who have the most at stake in ensuring a healthy future for New Jersey's forests, visited Hawk Rise Sanctuary for lessons on watershed protection. Through New Jersey Audubon's School of Ecology, Linden Middle School teachers learned to integrate watershed studies into their classrooms, spreading awareness that forest health directly impacts the quality of our drinking water. Stewardship practices at Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary enlighten visitors of all ages, as controlled burns and deer fencing offer visually stark comparisons between healthy and compromised habitats. At our Wattles Stewardship Center, native warm season grasses, scrub-shrub habitat, and forest are combined with farmed fields and scrubby edges, demonstrating to owners of larger private properties that different land management goals can produce a desired positive effect. In 2016, a Forest Stewardship Plan was initiated at Plainsboro Preserve, while deer fencing will soon enable forest restoration at our Lorrimer Sanctuary. Education, and the willingness of individuals to make a difference, widens the scope of successful conservation efforts to benefit wildlife, natural resources and New Jersey residents.

Habitat restoration and management teaches about biodiversity, brings the threat of invasive species to the forefront, and promotes actions that everyone can take in their own yards, schools, and community spaces. Inviting individuals to be active in stewardship and citizen science is another key aspect of New Jersey Audubon's education programs. In 2016, children and adults were encouraged to participate in bird monitoring at our centers and on a statewide level. Our migration watches provided access to hawk, seabird, songbird, and butterfly migration for more than 20,000 visitors, along with opportunities to learn how to help these species. We introduced real-time bird monitoring data collection at our watches, providing access through computer technology to the amazing phenomenon of migration. We also expanded our urban education efforts, specifically in Jersey City, Newark, Morristown, North Brunswick and Paterson, along with our collaboration on the Eco-Schools USA program. New Jersey Audubon is now managing relationships with 233 schools, working on school sustainability projects from water conservation to schoolyard gardens; from increasing biodiversity to recycling and energy conservation. At our Lorrimer Sanctuary, we increased outreach to mobility-challenged individuals through a newly installed accessible trail that offers new opportunities for mobile nature exploration. New Jersey Audubon's education efforts have expanded internationally, as we welcomed representatives from two schools in Mexico to participate in our summer teacher institutes, initiating discussions on a sister school program that would match schools from New Jersey with schools in Mexico. Through this program, we are crossing borders to share our ideas and values; we are connecting people, while connecting people with nature.

Environmental education, scientific research, advocacy, and stewardship are New Jersey Audubon's tools for preserving the health of our forests and shores, and the quality of life in our cities and towns.

We are all stakeholders, united in our reliance on clean air and water; the scenic places that refresh our spirits, the wildlife that enriches our communities, and in the hope that we may pass this legacy onto our children. In recording this year of outstanding accomplishments, we recognize and value the loyal support of our donors, volunteers, conservation partners, and friends. It is in your commitment and generosity that conservation success is realized. Thank you for advancing New Jersey Audubon's mission. •



**HAWK RISE SANCTUARY
RIVER CROSSING**



HONEYWELL HOMETOWN SOLUTIONS

CORPORATE SUPPORT THAT IS SO MUCH MORE

When a corporation strongly supports environmental and sustainability education for close to a decade, you can be sure that its leadership is not only deeply invested in empowering young people, but that it is also passionate about ensuring a healthy future for its employees, neighbors, and all citizens.

This accurately describes Honeywell's ongoing relationship with New Jersey Audubon, through its Honeywell Hometown Solutions (HHS) program. HHS's slogan is: *making a difference one neighborhood at a time*. Honeywell has certainly achieved this goal, having steadfastly been there to support, promote and help develop the Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education (HIEE).

This collaborative summer training program for middle and high school teachers throughout northern New Jersey has been led by New Jersey Audubon since 2008. Through Honeywell's support, 164 teachers representing close to 10,000 students have studied ecology, environmental science, watershed conservation, and community sustainability using the backdrop of the Passaic and Hackensack Watersheds.

With enhanced knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm these teachers then convey their experiences in the classroom, raising awareness and encouraging students to problem-solve solutions to environmental issues that impact their schools and communities. By engaging students in school sustainability efforts on their own school grounds using the Eco-Schools USA framework, Honeywell has been making a difference in neighborhoods throughout northern New Jersey, including Jersey City, North Bergen, Leonia, Newark, and many others.

Since 2015, HIEE expanded beyond the summer training to provide educators support throughout the school year. Teachers participate in additional meetings and have access to New Jersey Audubon staff and additional resources to implement their student-driven projects.

"This unique and powerful partnership is sparking student interest in addressing environmental issues, creating more sustainable communities, and becoming a scientist, inventor, or engineer,"

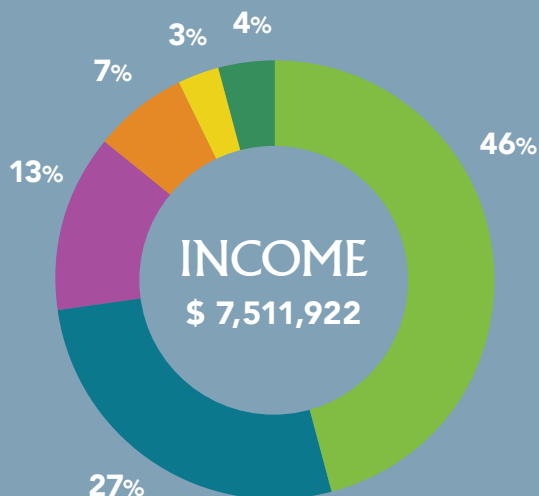
said Kate Adams, Honeywell Senior Vice President and General Counsel. At the year-end, students participate in a HIEE Student Forum, where representatives from each school come together to share how their projects impacted their school community, and what they learned by participating in this very STEM-focused learning process.

The success of the Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education has made it a catalyst and model for similar programs outside the Garden State. In the summer of 2016, environmental educators from Pronatura Mexico and two school teachers from Mexico City attended the summer institute in Jersey City. New Jersey Audubon worked with Honeywell and Pronatura to develop a similar model of teacher professional development, which was launched in Mexico City in August 2017. This cross-cultural collaboration lays the foundation for teacher and student engagement to share environmental challenges, opportunities, and solutions on a global scale.

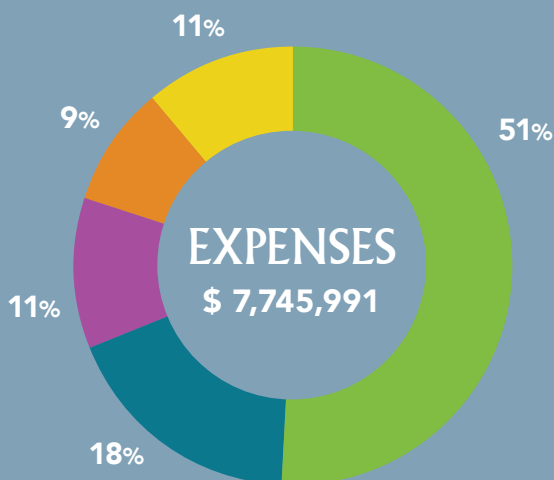
"These achievements are due in large measure to the talent, creativity, commitment, and passion of New Jersey Audubon's leaders and educators," Kate Adams continued *"Honeywell is proud to work with Audubon on this innovative approach to education."*

For us, Honeywell is more than an engaged corporate sponsor. We see the company as a true partner in our education efforts, and we couldn't be more proud or more grateful. •

2016 REVENUE AND EXPENSES



46%	CONTRIBUTIONS
27%	GRANTS AND CONTRACTS
13%	PROGRAM INCOME
7%	MEMBERSHIP DUES
3%	SALE OF MERCHANDISE (NET)
4%	INVESTMENT INCOME



51%	EDUCATION AND SANCTUARIES CONSERVATION
18%	RESEARCH
11%	FUNDRAISING
9%	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

The **Honor Roll of Major Donors** is how New Jersey Audubon acknowledges our many friends whose outpouring of generosity helps support our mission of connecting people with nature and stewarding the nature of today for the people of tomorrow. For many donors, making a gift to New Jersey Audubon is much more than a financial transaction; it is a way to continue their commitment to the important work we do.

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