



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Photo taken by member and supporter, Cliff Berger

A photograph of two women in a greenhouse. The woman on the left is wearing a dark brown hijab and a dark long-sleeved shirt, looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt and glasses, smiling and holding a small tomato. They are standing in front of a large, lush green tomato plant with many red tomatoes. In the foreground, there are two orange buckets and some cardboard boxes. The greenhouse has a curved metal frame and a translucent covering. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

*Our mission is to spark
people's curiosity to
explore, steward, and find
peace and joy in nature.*

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Staff & Board

Board of Directors

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Robert Manice, *Vice Chair*

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Lisa Bender

Jono Bixby

Jameson Chace, PhD

Deborah Linnell

Chyleene O'Connor

Clay Rives

Krista Sturtevant

Melissa Welch



Birdhouse Gourd Flower



Valeria

Staff

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John Richmond, *Properties Manager*

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Isabella Villanueva, *Terracorps Land Stewardship Coordinator*

Madison Williams, *Marketing and Communications Manager*



Bobolink

Letter from the Executive Director

“The property has never looked better”

“Your trails are pristine”

“My daughter had the best summer of her life at your camp”

This is the feedback that keeps us coming back day after day, to protect, enhance, and share this incredible landscape with our members and visitors as well as the more than 1,400 species of wildlife that make a home at the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

As you will read, 2025 was a year marked by tremendous progress for the Sanctuary. This progress has laid the foundation for the critical work we have planned for the years to come. A few highlights:

1. We successfully completed our Protecting Paradise Campaign, raising critical short- and long-term funding for the stewardship and protection of our land and buildings. Special thanks go to our campaign committee and our three dedicated co-chairs: Barbara Benson, Katie Gewirz, and Robert Manice.

We are deeply grateful to the 167 donors who contributed to the campaign. Over the summer we completed a conditions assessment, which will help guide how we invest in our campus over the coming years and it will help us create a dedicated, annual capital budget for future planning that dovetails with the Protecting Paradise Fund.

2. We began a multi-year project to transform our Coastal Field into Rhode Island’s largest pollinator meadow. By creating a landscape rich in native flowers, shrubs, and grasses, the Sanctuary is making a lasting contribution to the region’s ecological health by:
 - Supporting species in decline
 - Improving soil and water resilience
 - Enhancing scenic vistas
 - Providing educational and recreational opportunities
3. Over the past six months, the Norman Bird Sanctuary Properties Team completed an ambitious effort to replace and upgrade trail signage across our campus. This project is part of a larger, ongoing effort to make our trail network more welcoming and accessible to all who visit.

At the heart of our work are the hundreds of volunteers who make it possible. They work hand-in-hand with our talented staff team, providing help with every facet of our mission - from gardening to teaching, removing invasive plants, governing, setting vision, checking the trails, and so much more. Sadly, this year we said goodbye to long-time volunteers and dear friends of the Sanctuary, including former Board Chair Barry Murphy, and Tom and Aggie Perkins.

We are proud of the accomplishments that 2025 has brought and we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead. Behind all of our success are the amazing people who make up the Bird Sanctuary community: our supporters, members, volunteers, and, of course, our talented staff and Board. We thank you.

As a new year gets underway, I invite you to become more involved - renew that membership, see what the Conservation Crew is all about, come to a program, join one of our committees, or make a meaningful gift in support of our mission.



Kaity Ryan



“We are proud of the accomplishments that 2025 has brought and we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.”

-Kaity Ryan

The goals that will guide us as we work to create a thriving, sustainable, and inclusive future for the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

01 Norman Bird Sanctuary's campus demonstrates comprehensive and effective conservation stewardship and showcases adaptive use of historic structures and spaces.



02 An inclusive, accessible hub for community partnerships, Norman Bird Sanctuary offers expansive, diverse, mission-based programming.

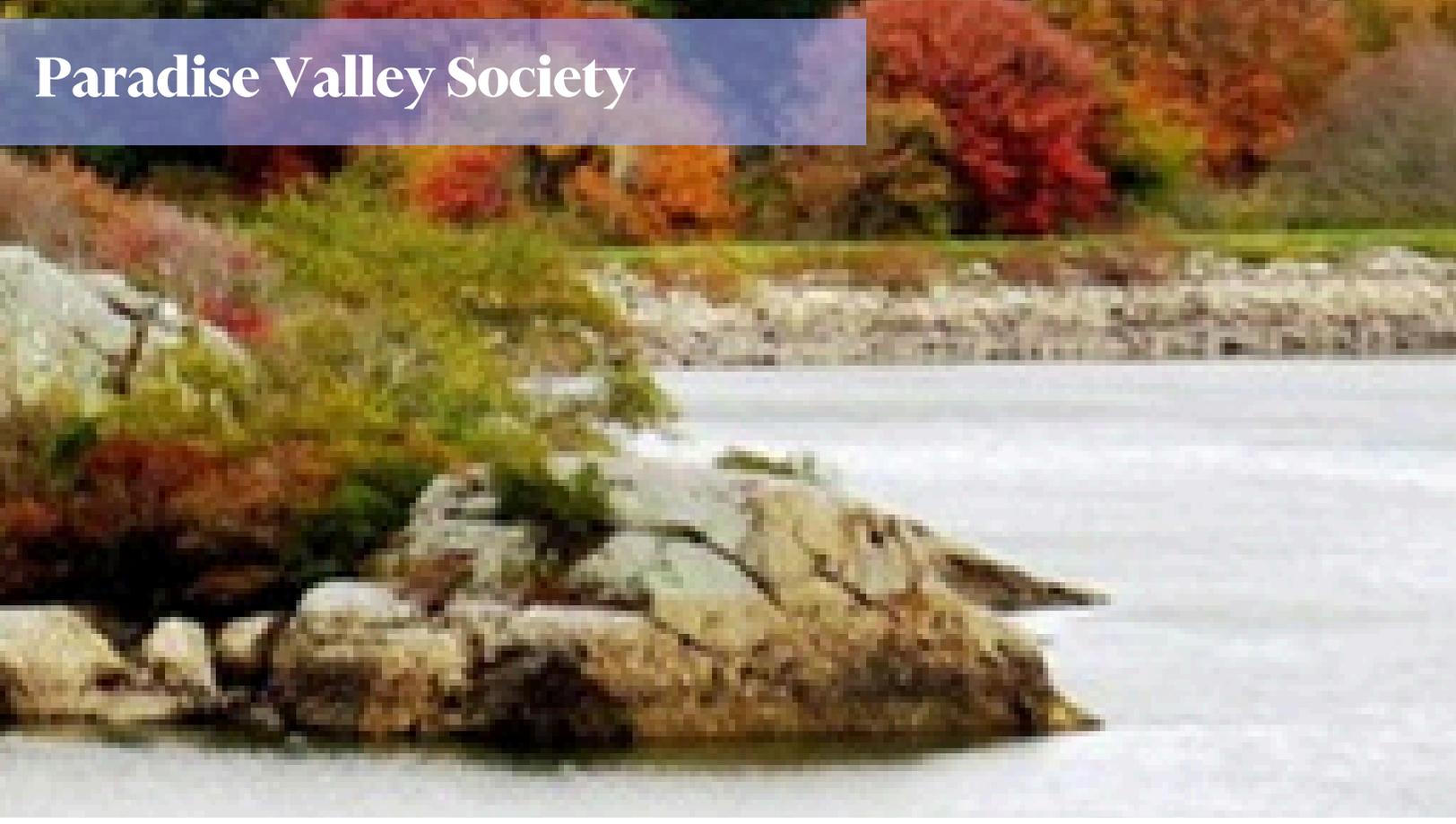


03 Norman Bird Sanctuary is a living laboratory for active conservation research on our property, educating the community about local ecology and the impacts of climate change.



04 Norman Bird Sanctuary has the team, support, and infrastructure needed to implement its strategic plan.





The Paradise Valley Society recognizes those donors who have made arrangements for deferred gifts in their estate: a bequest in a will, a charitable remainder trust, a life insurance policy with the Norman Bird Sanctuary named as the beneficiary, appreciated stock, and more. Members of the Paradise Valley Society are a unique group of people who share the same vision as NBS founder, Mabel Norman Cerio, who created the Sanctuary through a bequest in 1949. Paradise Valley Society members understand the need to provide for the sustainable future of the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

To learn more, get in touch via Giving@NormanBirdSanctuary.org.

Members

*Dr. Lewis Arnow**
Karen Augeri Benson
David Beaver
*Mabel Norman Cerio**
Carol Chabot
Maureen A. Coleman
*Marguerite T. Davey**
*Beth & Walter Everett**
Michele Foster
Patricia Galuska

Thomas L. Harris
*Vernon A. Harvey**
Roger & Sandra King*
*Ruth E. Lelacheure**
Christine & Pierre L. Lorillard
Robert C. Menson
*Frances C. Meroney**
*William R. Mershon**
*Sharon Mooney**
*Harriet Jackson Phelps**

*Benjamin C. Reed**
*Doris R. Richardson**
*Frederick G. Roberts**
Janet Beull Rogers
*Charles Anthony Ryerson III**
Paul Simone
Harry Trines
Margo Waite

**Deceased*

Conservation & Horticulture

Navigating with Care: A Sustainable Upgrade to our Trail System

Over the past six months, the Norman Bird Sanctuary Properties team has completed an ambitious effort to replace and upgrade trail signage across our campus. Led by Properties Manager John Richmond, this project included designing, cutting, staining, and hand-painting each sign. This project brought together staff and volunteers to create, paint, and install 125 new signs designed to help visitors explore our trails with confidence and ease.

Earlier this year, the team gathered 12 freshly fallen cedar trees from across the property to repurpose as posts for the new signs. This sustainable approach not only reduced waste but also ensured that materials used in this project were locally sourced and ecologically responsible. The use of cedar, a naturally durable wood, will help ensure that these signs can withstand the coastal climate for years to come.

Led by Properties Manager John Richmond (right), this project included designing, cutting, staining, and hand-painting each sign.

Norman Bird Sanctuary Generalist Brendan Foley, and TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator, Kathleen Matthews, join John in painting trail signs on the Studio Lawn (below).

7

Miles of Trails



Enhancing signage is part of a larger, ongoing effort to make our trail network more welcoming and accessible to all who visit. Whether hiking to Hanging Rock, birding along Nelson Pond, or taking a peaceful stroll past our fields, guests will now find clear, cohesive signage guiding their way. These improvements improve safety and accessibility while enriching the overall visitor experience.

By combining sustainability with thoughtful design, the new signage embodies the Sanctuary's commitment to stewardship - caring not only for the land and its ecosystems, but also for the community that enjoys them. Keep an eye out for these beautiful new signs the next time you are out on the trails!



Gray Craig Trail sign before and after replacement.

125

New Signs
Installed



Conservation & Horticulture



Evan Miller begins work on an invasive Wisteria outcropping.

Nurturing Young Conservation Leaders

Caring for more than 300 acres of habitat and trails requires the energy, passion, and teamwork of our entire community. We thoughtfully select projects and initiatives that allow people of all ages to engage with the Sanctuary, fostering hands-on learning, stewardship skills, and knowledge they can carry beyond our trails. Among these efforts, youth-led projects have provided particularly impactful opportunities for learning.

Evan Miller, a member of Troop 3 of Narragansett's Scout Council, guided a team of 23 volunteers in removing invasive Wisteria vines that threatened native trees and critical bird habitat at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, helping preserve important ecosystems for wildlife.



Ethan Hoag stands on the reinforced Shady Glade Bridge with project volunteers.

Ethan Hoag, an 11th grader from Rogers High School in Newport, led a team of volunteers to stabilize the Shady Glade Bridge found on our Shady Glade Trail. Serving as his Eagle Scout Project, this bridge restoration included the installation of new boards with the help of Ethan, his classmates, family and friends.

We are grateful to Evan and Ethan for their thoughtful and impactful projects that will benefit Sanctuary visitors for years to come. We look forward to seeing how these young leaders continue to engage with conservation in the years ahead.

"I always came to the Sanctuary and it's one of the best places to stay in Rhode Island. This was one way to give back to them." - Evan Miller



Conservation & Horticulture



Protecting Our Gardens and Growing Opportunities

Norman Bird Sanctuary's Conservation Crew is a dedicated group of multi-generational volunteers who help care for our trails, habitats, and gardens through hands-on stewardship. This year, our largest-ever Conservation Crew volunteer day resulted in a major milestone for our Good Gardens: the installation of an 8-foot deer fence around our hügelkultur garden beds. These beds, are home to pumpkins, squash, beans, and other produce that is donated to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Food Pantry. Now the beds have added protection from hungry wildlife, particularly deer. The fence ensures that young plants have a chance to thrive and that our harvests can reach those who rely on fresh, local food.

Beyond safeguarding crops, the fenced hügelkultur beds create new opportunities for learning and engagement. Campers, visitors, and volunteers can explore sustainable gardening practices, observe climate-resilient techniques in action, and gain hands-on experience in food production and land stewardship. This includes flower cutting rows, pumpkin and squash rows, and other seasonal plantings, all managed with the care of staff, Conservation Crew volunteers, and University of Rhode Island Master Gardeners. We are grateful to the Aquidneck Island Land Trust's Merritt Neighborhood Fund for a grant that helped make this project possible.



Summer Campers (left) explore the Good Gardens where they are taught how to identify plants using all of their senses.



The need for fencing also reflects a broader ecological challenge: overpopulation of deer on Aquidneck Island (left).



Director of Horticulture and Conservation Joye Whitney, examines the invasive growth in the Coastal Field before clearing begins.

Creating Rhode Island's Largest Pollinator Meadow

Earlier this year, we began a multi-year project to transform our Coastal Field into Rhode Island's largest pollinator meadow. Once dominated by invasive plants, this 10-acre field is being restored into a thriving native habitat that will provide vital resources for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. By creating a landscape rich in native flowers, shrubs, and grasses, the Sanctuary is making a lasting contribution to the region's ecological health by:

- **Supporting species in decline:** Providing native habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife helps reverse the alarming loss of species seen across the country.
- **Improving soil and water resilience:** Native plant root systems stabilize soil, reduce erosion, and enhance the field's ability to retain water, while also capturing carbon and improving overall ecosystem function.
- **Enhancing scenic vistas:** The meadow will transform the Coastal Field into a vibrant, colorful landscape that enriches the natural beauty of Aquidneck Island for visitors and neighbors alike.
- **Providing educational opportunities:** The field offers a living classroom where campers, students, volunteers, and visitors can witness habitat restoration in action, learn about sustainable land management, and develop skills they can carry beyond the Sanctuary.

This project represents a major step in our ongoing work to care for the land, protect wildlife, and engage the community in hands-on conservation with meaningful, measurable results.

"The management of the land balances ecology, community commitment, and a shared vision for a healthy, thriving, natural landscape." -Joye Whitney, Director of Horticulture and Conservation

Conservation & Horticulture



PHASE 1

Fall 2024

The 10-acre field was cleared of invasive plants, including Multiflora Rose, Privet, and Porcelain Berry. Bayberry plants were transplanted to the Woodland Trail on our main campus, and other vegetation was chipped to enrich the soil, preparing the field for native plantings.

Phase 2

Spring 2025

A Buckwheat cover crop was planted to improve soil health, prevent erosion, and support strong root development for the next phase. Buckwheat is an excellent cover crop used to suppress the growth of invasive species before seeding the field with pollinator plants.



Phase 3

Fall 2025

A diverse seed mix—including New England Aster, Bee Balm, Goldenrod, and Rudbeckia—was sown to provide food, shelter, and nesting habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Companion planting encourages complementary root growth, building a resilient ecosystem beneath the surface.



Looking Ahead

The Coastal Field Pollinator Meadow represents more than a restoration project—it is an investment in the resilience of our local ecosystem and the generations who will experience it. This project demonstrates how thoughtful stewardship, community collaboration, and hands-on conservation can produce meaningful, lasting change. In the years to come, the meadow will continue to grow, evolve, and teach, reminding us that caring for the land is both an ongoing responsibility and gift.



Conservation & Horticulture

Bird Nest Boxes - Providing Habitat and Supporting Science

Our habitat restoration efforts extend across the Sanctuary, providing critical habitat for birds as well as pollinators.

This year, we installed 133 bird boxes into the Polaris Field, a shrubland area that is being converted to grassland with the help of staff, volunteers, and the Conservation Crew who cleared 4 acres of invasive Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Rubus, and other species.

Restoring the Polaris Field adds valuable habitat diversity to the Sanctuary landscape. Grassland birds are declining faster than any other species of birds in New England. The combination of native grasslands, meadows, and woodlands now offer food, shelter, and nesting opportunities for a wider range of species.

In total, 318 nest boxes were installed this past spring across three of our fields. Through this program, the Norman Bird Sanctuary provides habitat for cavity nesters like tree swallows, chickadees, and blue birds.

By contributing to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch program, the bird breeding data we collect helps advance scientific understanding of bird populations in North America. This data also helps us improve conservation efforts through invasive species mitigation and land management.



225
Fledglings



Conservation Crew volunteer and Board Member Chyleene O'Connor (right), installs a nest box in one of our southern fields. With the help of volunteers and staff, bird boxes were installed in a record two days.



Each fall, staff and volunteers carefully inspect, clean, and refurbish every bird box before reinstalling them for the spring season. These annual checks ensure that the boxes remain safe, sturdy, and ready to welcome returning species like tree swallows each year.

318
Nest Boxes

A small Tree Swallow nest (below) in one of our nest boxes. These nests can be differentiated from the house sparrows due to their neat, shallow, cup shape.

570
Eggs





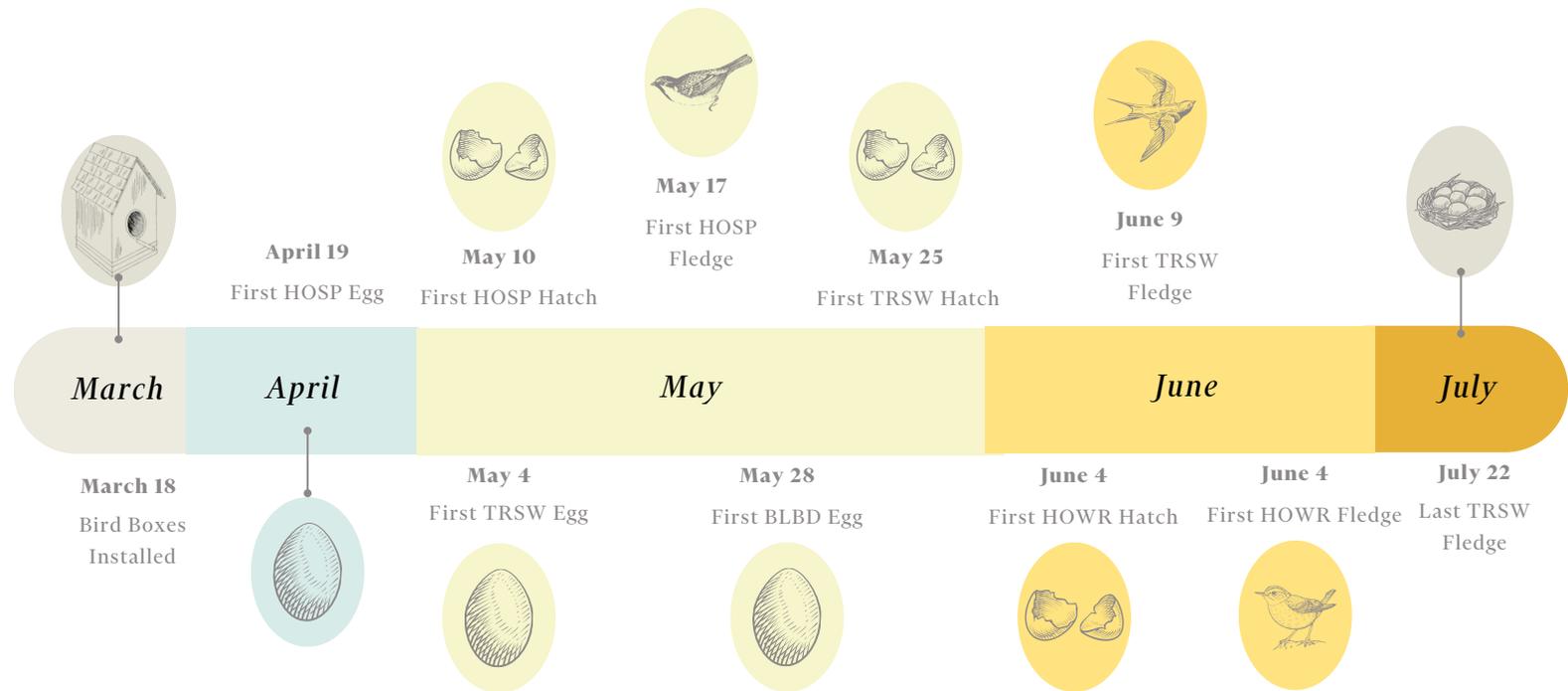
Thank you to our Milkweed Level sponsors of the Bird Nesting Box Program: We could not do this work without our supporters!

John Arnold, Hadley Bazarsky, Karen Benson, Daniel Brown, James Browning, Patrick Deady, David Dickensheets, Liz Drayton, Lilian Faulhaber, Foster Associates, Lydia Frankel, Elizabeth Gibbs, Timothy Gingras, Sophie Glovier, Dennis Howard, Alice Hurley, Jeffrey Jarczyk, Jenna Lewis, Richard Loebs, Wendy Lotz, Holden mcKeon, Patricia McNeilly, Jim Mello, David Melrose, Elizabeth Michalek, Tan Moreau, Carolyn Moy, Teresa Paiva-Weed, Joseph Pasquale, Barbara Pierce, Michael Raposa, John Rok, Joseph Stewart, and Simon Williams.

Volunteers recorded 570 eggs laid and 225 chicks successfully fledged, including 211 tree swallows, a 20% increase from last year. The tree swallow nest success rate also improved, rising from 37% to 44%. Meanwhile, house sparrow fledglings declined by 93%, a clear sign that our targeted efforts to manage this invasive species are working.

Although the bluebird eggs did not hatch, their presence signals that our continued habitat restoration efforts are creating the right conditions for future success. Together, these results demonstrate how long-term monitoring and habitat management directly support bird populations and scientific understanding of local ecosystems.

Highlights from this year’s monitoring included the early arrival of tree swallows in March, the first tree swallow egg spotted on May 4, and the reappearance of bluebirds—our first sighting in several years.



TRSW= Tree Swallow, HOSP= House Sparrow, HOWR= House Wren, BLBD= Bluebird.

Conservation & Horticulture

Conservation Research Internships: Expanding Capacity, Deepening Impact

Through Conservation Research Internships, Norman Bird Sanctuary continues to offer undergraduate and graduate students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in field-based research and scientific analysis. In 2025, the program doubled in size, welcoming 12 interns—a 100% increase from the previous year.

Interns joined us from a diverse range of institutions, including local partners Salve Regina University, University of Rhode Island, and Roger Williams University, as well as out-of-state schools such as Tufts University, Stonehill College (MA), and Franciscan University (OH).

NestWatch Expansion

Seven interns supported our bird box monitoring efforts as part of Cornell's NestWatch study. With increased staffing, we were able to inspect all 318 nest boxes every four days, resulting in:

- More consistent and accurate data collection
- Improved control of invasive house sparrow populations
- Enhanced maintenance of nest boxes

Each intern developed an independent research question using the NestWatch dataset and presented their findings to the public during our August Science Showcase.

Pollinator and Plant Monitoring

Four interns launched new initiatives focused on pollinator activity in the newly established pollinator meadow and plant biodiversity in the salt marsh adjacent to the Coastal Education Center. Their research is laying the groundwork for long-term ecological monitoring and habitat restoration.

Science Education Innovation

An intern from URI's new Science Education program designed and piloted a pollinator-focused educational experience for visitors in the Curiosity Lab, bridging research and public engagement.

The contributions of our Conservation Research Interns are informing land management strategies, enhancing our understanding of local ecosystems, and offering the public a window into conservation science in action.

Conservation Research Intern Lydia Smith (far right), engages a young Curiosity Lab visitor with a pollinator craft.

Intern Siena Cohen (right) takes photos of the pollinator meadow for use in her monitoring project.





Education & Engagement

A Year of Learning and Discovery

This year, the Norman Bird Sanctuary welcomed over 1,500 children for camps, field trips, scout programs, volunteer opportunities, and more. From exploring the aquatic ecosystems on Third Beach to embarking on adventures to Hanging Rock, children were able to engage with nature in ways that inspire wonder and a passion for the natural world around them.

This year's Summer Camp brought more opportunities than ever to explore and create outside. Guided by our dedicated staff and volunteers, participants experienced:

- Hawk presentations,
- Nature-based crafts,
- Gardening demonstrations,
- Seine fishing on Third Beach,
- Guided hikes along the trails,
- Story times in our brand new outdoor amphitheater space,
- And countless other immersive programs.



The final week of camp ended on an especially exciting note when campers and staff discovered a 16-inch grey triggerfish in the tide pools of Third Beach!

Grey triggerfish are typically found in tropical waters, and the Coastal Education Center had never encoded one of this size before. While "gulf stream orphans" (tropical species carried north as eggs or hatchlings) are occasionally spotted, a full-grown triggerfish was a very special Third Beach guest. Affectionately named Norman, the fish was safely transported to Save The Bay's Hamilton Family Aquarium where it now thrives in one of their display aquariums.

Norman the Triggerfish's unexpected visit was a memorable reminder of the unique experiences that Summer Camp offers each year. It's these discoveries, big and small, that leave a lasting impression on our campers and make summer at the Sanctuary truly unforgettable.

Campers (left) observe their summer catches in Norman Bird Sanctuary's Coastal Education Center aquariums. Each summer, species are caught by campers, identified together with staff, and released.

Campers (below) enjoy the final Friday Fiesta with camp staff, family, and friends.,



Education & Engagement



Conservation Research Intern Lydia Smith (above) designed an interactive pollinator Ed Kit.

Conservation Crew member Schuyler Horton and his son Noah (below), install the new Puppet Theater.



Exploring, Learning, and Playing in the Curiosity Lab

This year marks the third season of the Curiosity Lab, and it has been an exciting year of growth and innovation. To enrich the experiences of young explorers, our skilled educators and volunteer Education Committee members collaborated to create new resources for the season. Among these are our Education Kits, or “Ed Kits”: portable, hands-on tools designed to support educators of all experience levels in delivering engaging, high-quality lessons.

From investigating the nesting behaviors of tree swallows to uncovering clues with the Shellfish Detective Kit and learning about local insects, these kits help kids become scientists in the field and deepen their connection with the natural world. The Ed Kits will continue to be used in the Curiosity Lab, during field trips, and at next year’s Summer Camp.

This season also brought an exciting new addition to the Lab: the Puppet Theater. Complete with a handcrafted stage and whimsical “treehouse” set, this interactive space was built with sustainability and creativity in mind, using materials from the Sanctuary—including a former owl enclosure, fallen cedar trees, a repurposed boat project, and even some plywood from a staff member’s home renovation.

Special thanks go to Conservation Crew member Schuyler Horton and his son Noah, who designed, sourced, built, and installed the theater, bringing their ingenuity and dedication to life. The Puppet Theater invites visitors, both young and young at heart, to step into a world of imagination and play, sparking curiosity about the natural world in a whole new way.

The complete Curiosity Lab Puppet Theater.





TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator and project lead Kathleen Matthews (above), collects water samples along the trails.

Water Quality Monitoring and Restoration Program

This year, the Norman Bird Sanctuary took significant steps to understand and protect the health of our aquatic ecosystems. Under the leadership of Kathleen Matthews, one of our TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinators, the Sanctuary launched a comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program to study both our inland freshwater ponds and the coastal waters of Third Beach.

The Water Quality Monitoring Program focuses on gathering baseline data to guide future conservation and restoration work. Key measurements include pH, salinity, nitrate, ammonia, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, and chlorine—indicators that help reveal the health of our ponds, streams, and coastal waters.

By monitoring these parameters over time, the Sanctuary can detect early signs of stress or imbalance, target areas for habitat restoration, and strengthen the link between land stewardship and aquatic health. The data collected this year already offers valuable insights into how water moves across our landscape and how human activity can impact it.

Don't miss our new Water Quality webpage, where we share updates, results, and stories from the field. The page also features opportunities for volunteers to get involved through assisting with water sampling, helping analyze data, or supporting restoration projects that protect our streams and ponds.



Salve Regina University student Aidan Tucker (above) volunteers with the program.

Community Partners

Through our expansive, mission-based programming, the Norman Bird Sanctuary works to be an inclusive hub for community partnerships. Across our campus, we are actively engaging local partners to advance our work.

Community Partner

Program

Aquidneck Land Trust	Management of shared easement properties
BikeNewport	Environmental transportation awareness
Castle Hill Inn	Guided Nature Walks for guests
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology	Nestbox monitoring and corresponding research
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center	After school and summer learning programs; garden produce collaboration
East Bay Community Action Program	Summer youth employment opportunities
Eastern RI Conservation District	Garden upgrades and programs
FabNewport	Summer immersion program and ongoing educational collaboration
Fall River Deaconess Home	Experiential Education
Launchpad	Volunteer opportunities
Looking Upwards	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities programming
Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, East Bay	Science education and internships
Music Together	Music and movement classes
Newport Garden Club	Camp scholarships
Newport Classical	Newport Music Festival
Newport Live	Summer Concert Series and Harvest Fair weekend music.
Newport Transitions Academy	Volunteer opportunities
newportFILM	Hosting annual newportFILM Lab
The Preservation Society of Newport County	Stonewall restoration
Preserve Rhode Island	Stonewall restoration
ReNewport	Community collaborative focused on enhancing quality of life
Rhode Island Bird Atlas	Bird breeding atlas
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council	Dune restoration and habitat restoration
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	Trail Stewardship
Rhode Island Environmental Education Association, Inc.	Science education
Rhode Island Natural History Survey	Rhody Native plantings; BioBlitz 2024
Sacred Center	Yoga and wellness programming
Salve Regina University	Volunteer Services; Co-Teaching and guest lecturing
Save the Bay	Habitat restoration, resiliency planning, and implementation
Star Kids	Camp Scholarships
St. Columba's Chapel	Spirituality programming
Town of Middletown, Rhode Island	Third Beach Habitat Restoration
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Environmental education for underserved youth
University of Rhode Island	Undergraduate internships
URI Master Gardeners	Good Gardens management
YMCA - Newport County	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities programming

THE NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY TRUST

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
For the Year Ended March 31, 2025

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Operating Revenue and Support:			
Grants and contributions	\$ 726,403	\$ -	\$ 726,403
Education and programs	298,918	-	298,918
Rental income	282,160	-	282,160
Membership and admissions	164,215	-	164,215
Perpetual trust distributions	91,937	-	91,937
Store income and other revenue	64,344	-	64,344
Special events revenue, net of direct costs of \$116,141	62,774	-	62,774
Total operating revenue and support	<u>1,690,751</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,690,751</u>
Operating Expenses:			
Programs	1,299,347	-	1,299,347
Management and general	334,742	-	334,742
Development and fundraising	164,183	-	164,183
Total operating expenses	<u>1,798,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,798,272</u>
Changes in net assets from operations	<u>(107,521)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(107,521)</u>
Non-Operating Revenue:			
Capital campaign contributions	-	320,873	320,873
Change in carrying value of beneficial interest in perpetual trust	-	(9,848)	(9,848)
Investment return, net	17,575	70,706	88,281
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>17,575</u>	<u>381,731</u>	<u>399,306</u>
Changes in net assets	<u>(89,946)</u>	<u>381,731</u>	<u>291,785</u>
Net Assets:			
Beginning of year	<u>7,426,223</u>	<u>3,822,754</u>	<u>11,248,977</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 7,336,277</u>	<u>\$ 4,204,485</u>	<u>\$ 11,540,762</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year, we made meaningful financial progress. While we did close the year with an operational deficit, it was significantly reduced compared to the prior year, reflecting disciplined management and stronger revenue performance. Total operating revenue grew by \$296,538, and operating expenses decreased by \$96,897—a combination that helped stabilize our overall position. Our total assets also increased by \$291,785. We also saw the successful completion of the Protecting Paradise campaign, a major milestone that strengthened our capital base and energized our community.

Looking ahead, it's important to underscore that 42% of our revenue still comes from contributions and grants, with the balance coming from membership, education programs, the Mabel Norman Trust, entrance fees, and earned income—particularly from the Paradise Farmhouse and other rentals. As our programming continues to grow, so does our reliance on our members' generosity.

In response, our fundraising strategy has intentionally shifted: while capital projects remain important, we are now emphasizing operational support just as strongly. This ensures we can continue delivering the diverse and high-quality programs that serve our community year-round.



As autumn settles across the Norman Bird Sanctuary, the fields turn golden, migratory birds gather overhead, and the landscape prepares for winter.

Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities to protect the Sanctuary and inspire a deeper understanding of the natural world. Your support ensures that we can continue to care for the habitats, wildlife, and people who depend on the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

The **Annual Appeal** is your chance to make a difference. However you choose to give, your generosity will sustain the important work we do:

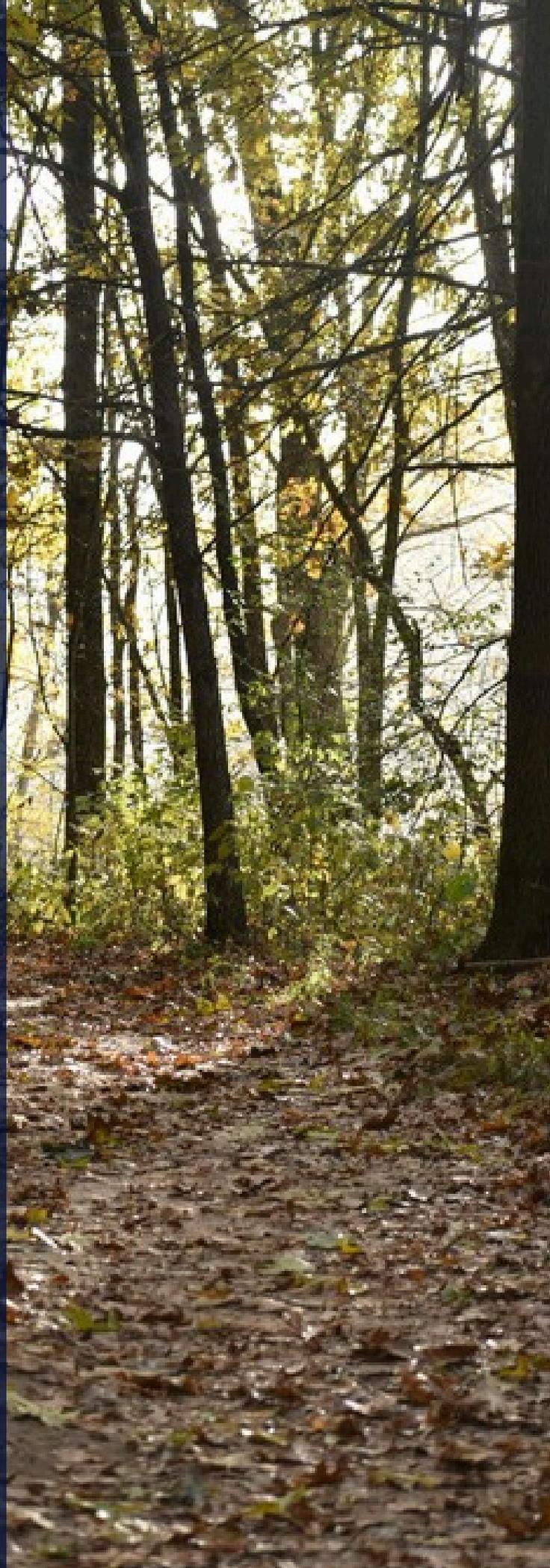
- Make a gift online, in-person, or by mail,
- Contribute through securities, a Donor Advised Fund, IRA or QCD distribution, or planned gift
- Honor someone with a memorial or tribute gift
- Support through donor advised funds or workplace giving
- Become a monthly donor, volunteer your time, join or renew as a member.

Together, we can ensure that the Norman Bird Sanctuary endures as a place of natural beauty, learning, and recreation for generations to come.

Make a Gift Today:

Contact Joanne Rodino, Development Associate
(401) 846-2577

Visit our website, or scan the QR code.





Discover. Preserve. Teach. Inspire.

Help us protect this special place for generations to come.

Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, RI 02842
TAX ID: 22-2746733
www.NormanBirdSanctuary/join-and-give

