



**Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of R.I.**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Summer 2024 *Wildlife Wednesdays* Lecture Series**

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*Wildlife Wednesdays* is back for its 17th season in 2024. All presentations will be on Wednesdays 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 check our web page at <http://www.FriendsNWRofRI.org/home-page/wildlife-wednesdays/>, visit us on Facebook, or contact Bob (friends.ri@verizon.net) or Janis (Janis\_Nepshinsky@fws.gov, 401-364-9124 ext. 4404).

**July 10:** "Understanding Shorebird Movement in New England," with Rebeca Linhart, graduate student in Natural Resources Science at URI. Rebeca was with us last summer to talk about her planned research on shorebirds that migrate through New England, with a special focus on Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She's back to tell us about her latest results, including what you can learn from nanotags—tiny radio transmitters glued to the back of a bird.



**July 17:** "Dolphins in Southern New England," with Bob Kenney, naturalist, Friends board member, and *Wildlife Wednesdays* host. Many people are familiar only with the bottlenose dolphin, like TV's "Flipper." But would you believe that thirteen species of dolphins have been observed in our region, including two different bottlenose dolphins, and another five could possibly occur, especially as the ocean continues to get warmer.

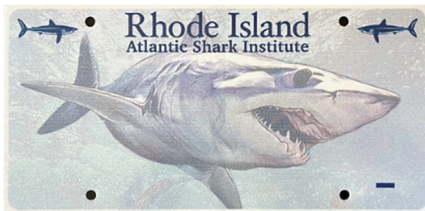
**July 24:** "Ticks in the Woods and Prevention of Tick-borne Diseases," with Howard Ginsberg, an entomologist retired from the U.S. Geological Survey, Eastern Ecological Science Center, Rhode Island Field Station at URI. Ticks can transmit several pathogens, including the bacteria that cause Lyme disease, the major vector-borne disease in Rhode Island. Tick ecology and transmission patterns of tick-borne pathogens provide clues about how best to prevent tick-borne diseases in humans.



**July 31:** "Observing Your Furry and Feathered Neighbors Using Trail Cameras," with naturalist Elise Torello, a perennial audience favorite at every Rhode Island Nature Video Festival. Are you curious about your wild furry and feathered neighbors who have been poking around in your compost, nibbling vegetation in your yard, or just passing through? One fun way to find out is to set up a trail camera and see what walks or flies by. This presentation will tell you how to select a trail camera, what other gear you will need, and pointers for setting your camera up. You will also get to see fun

videos of some of the amazing animals that have appeared on-camera in South Kingstown.

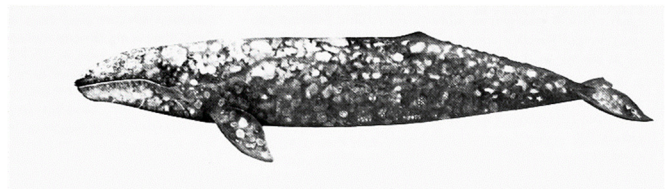
**August 7:** “Trends of the Rhode Island Osprey Population,” with Lincoln Dark, Program Coordinator for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island’s Osprey Nest Monitoring Program. The recovery of the Osprey population is one of the most inspiring stories of wildlife conservation, but how has the local population in Rhode Island changed? In this presentation, Lincoln will discuss Osprey nesting biology, the history of Osprey monitoring in Rhode Island, and the trends in distribution and abundance of Osprey nests in our state



**August 14:** “Rhode Island’s Great White Sharks, and What About The Seals?,” with Jon Dodd, Executive Director of the Atlantic Shark Institute. The White Shark is an iconic species that is found world-wide, but with a declining population—classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Jon’s presentation will focus on the shark research that the Atlantic Shark Institute has been

conducting in our nearby ocean ecosystem and why sharks are important, as well as the growing population of seals that has caught the attention of the ASI team and research partners.

**August 21:** “Gray Whales in the Atlantic Ocean,” with Bob Kenney, *Wildlife Wednesdays* host and semi-retired marine mammal ecologist from the URI Graduate School of Oceanography. This spring a gray whale was spotted at Nantucket Shoals by a New England Aquarium aerial survey. What was a species most often called the “California gray whale” doing off Massachusetts? In our warming world, maybe this is the new normal, but gray whales actually did live in the Atlantic until only a few hundred years ago.



**August 28:** “Recovering Rhode Island’s Eastern Spadefoot Population,” with Nick Ernst, Wildlife Biologist with the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. If you came to Wildlife Wednesdays last year, you remember part of the parking lot blocked off to protect the tiny spadefoot toadlets hopping around in front of the visitor center. Nick’s talk will cover the natural history of this State Endangered frog, the creation of artificial breeding pools to expand habitat, and rescuing & head-starting tadpoles with Roger Williams Park Zoo and RI DEM biologists.

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***Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of Rhode Island*** is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing conservation, education, and outreach activities on the five National Wildlife Refuges in our state. We encourage everyone to join our membership and become a friend to Rhode Island wildlife. Donations are encouraged; all donations to the Friends are tax-deductible.