

Parker River Clean Water Association Newsletter

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Richard Lombard— *Nesting Report*

Richard Lombard submitted an annual summary of the nesting success of *Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows* off Bailey Lane, Georgetown. These eight boxes are within the Parker River wetlands, protected public land that is managed by the Georgetown Water Department. Richard has shared his extensive data with Cornell Lab of Ornithology *NestWatch Program* (our next story reviews this excellent Citizen Science program).



View Richard's report at this [LINK](#).

“During 2020, bluebirds produced a total of 18 eggs and 9 fledglings.

Swallows produced 37 eggs and 33 fledglings. The 2020 season was very successful for tree swallows. In fact, more swallows fledged from the nest boxes than any previous season.

This nest box season also had the earliest first egg date for bluebirds – April 1st”

NESTWATCH

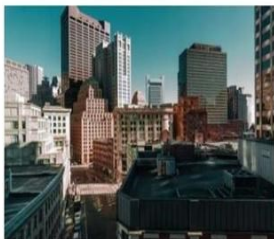
Start Your Own Backyard Citizen Science Project with NESTWATCH



Go to **Cornell Lab of Ornithology—**
[NESTWATCH.ORG](#)

Involve your family in nature-based learning while safe in your own backyard or local community.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)



State and local partnership to build resiliency to climate change

1. Engage Community

2. Identify CC impacts and hazards

3. Complete assessment of vulnerabilities & strengths

4. Develop and prioritize actions

5. Take Action

MVP REVIEW

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness is underway in all of the PRCWA communities. Rowley has completed the assessment of vulnerabilities and strengths, and will now move on to developing and prioritizing actions. The final step will be to take action, acquiring grants from the state to complete priority projects.

Go to www.townofrowley.net, then **Projects tab**, to read the report.

Spring Plans for PRCWA

WATER QUALITY, PRCWA, AND COVID19

Plans are forming to re-start our watershed monitoring program in May, 2021. We have two optical dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and temperature handheld probes that reduce the contact with sampling water. PRCWA is also considering purchasing a flow meter to allow more accurate comparisons between river flow and water quality.

Here is a Story Map that summarizes the dissolved oxygen data collected between 2010 and 2016. <https://arcg.is/XnDTK>.





A Hidden Jewel

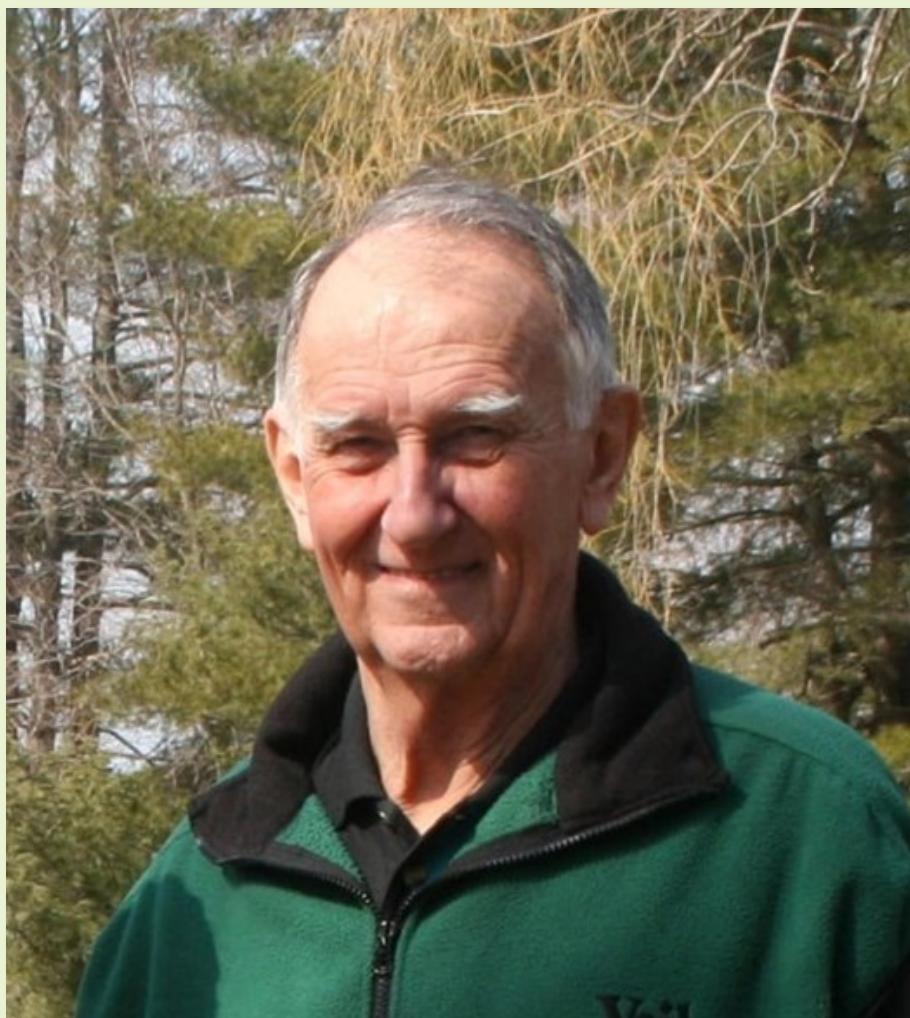
Newburyport's Little River Trail System

PRCWA created the Little River Nature Trail and later the Little River Trail System to help educate visitors to the importance of watersheds, wetlands, and unique habitats such as vernal pools. Five trail heads, consisting of interpretive signage and informative kiosks, teach the public vital knowledge on the ecology of the Upper Little River Watershed.

Two new kiosks were added by PRCWA volunteers. An Eagle Scout project assisted by local Boy Scout Troop 251 made possible an extensive bog bridge that saddles one of the Little River watershed's largest expanse of wetlands. This new stretch allows the visitor to stay dry while getting closer to local wildlife, such as frogs and marsh birds. Since November, many hikers have come to at least one of the five trails just so they can experience this forest wonder.

PRCWA is looking forward to providing even more infrastructure to assist visitors in experiencing an immersive watershed education. DCR has generously given PRCWA an extra year to fulfill the MassTrails \$50,000 grant obligations.





DON BADE - IN REMEMBRANCE

We are deeply saddened to report the passing of former President of PRCWA, Don Bade. The longtime member retired from the Board in 2009, but left a lasting legacy of accomplishments under his leadership. He will fondly be remembered for his kind heart and jovial nature. A proud Wisconsin Badger, he would often show up at our annual meetings in his famed cheese-head hat. Our condolences go out to the Bade family. Don will be sorely missed.



Membership Dues – It’s That time!

Yes, it IS TIME to RENEW your membership, or JOIN the Parker River Clean Water Association. You are on our mailing list because we believe that you are interested in what we are doing – and have participated with us in some of our programs – or have attended one of our annual meetings. Please use the form below to return with your contribution - - and THANKS!

Please mail to: PRCWA, PO Box 798, Byfield, MA 01922

Name : _____

Address : _____

Email : _____

Phone : _____

— \$15 Individual

— \$25 Family:

— #Adults _ #Children _

— \$50 Supporting

— \$100 Contributing

— \$250 Sponsor

— \$500 Patron

— \$1,000 Benefactor

