



## Solid Air: The Invisible Threat to Birds

by Daniel Klem, TWI Honorary Board Member and author of *Solid Air, Invisible Killer: Saving Billions of Birds from Windows*



*Feather dust imprint of a bird strike against a window*

Imagine an invisible barrier placed along a busy thoroughfare, indiscriminately killing millions each year. Old and young, healthy and frail, all going about their lives, all equally at risk and none aware of the danger.

Sadly, many birds find themselves in exactly this situation. Year after year, vast numbers across multiple species die colliding with such an obstacle. The culprit? Glass.

Though useful and attractive in homes and buildings, sheet glass windows pose a serious threat to birds everywhere. Clear windows act as mirrors, presenting birds with realistic reflections of habitat and sky. They see only open landscapes, and fail to recognize the danger until it's too late. Many fly into panes of glass trying to reach the vistas beyond, injuring themselves or losing their lives as a result. You may have heard the sickening thud of a bird strike yourself, or found one dead on the ground beneath a window, another victim of this tragic – and largely unreported – circumstance.

During migration, when larger numbers of birds are on the move, window strikes garner some attention because they're more obvious and dramatic. However, many scientific studies have revealed that birds hit windows year-round, at any time of day and during all types of weather.

These strikes exact a heavy toll: in the United States alone, between 365 million and one billion birds die in window collisions each year – the vast majority involving homes and low- to medium-rise buildings (less than 11 stories tall). We are all outraged at environmental disasters like oil spills, but it would take multiple hundreds of Deepwater Horizon accidents to match even the low end of casualties wrought by our seemingly innocuous windows. And even though this calamity is well documented, few people are taking action to address it.

The good news is that this is a problem we can do something about. It requires a variety of solutions on multiple scales, but every one of us can play a part. For new construction and remodeling projects, traditional windows can be replaced with bird-safe glass. This features artistic etching visible to both birds and people or ultraviolet patterns that are invisible to us but glow like warning signals to the birds, protecting them while still offering an unobstructed view. Ask your architect or look into them yourself and request the change.

There are many things you can do at home as well. Several companies offer inexpensive products – from bird tape to easy-cling decals – that break up reflections and make windows more visible to birds, helping avoid fatal collisions. These can be easily applied to the outside of your windows, and are removable should you need to replace them. The Wetlands Institute uses tape on its windows where reflections are problematic, and has seen a dramatic decrease in strikes. Outdoor window screens also protect birds, softening impact against the glass. In addition, placing feeders within three feet of your house can save birds from an unfortunate end: at that distance, birds can't build up

enough momentum to harm themselves if they brush up against your windows.



*Window at The Wetlands Institute with bird tape applied*

By taking a few simple steps to make our homes safer for birds, by speaking up on their behalf and insisting that architects, developers, and contractors incorporate bird-safe glass in their creations, we can turn this terrible tragedy into an uplifting environmental success story. We have the power and the means to build a better, kinder world for these marvelous creatures. All we need now is the will.

### How You Can Help

- Apply bird-friendly tape or decals\* to the outside of your windows, as follows:
  - Columns spaced 4 inches apart
  - Rows spaced 2 inches apart
- Leave outdoor window screens in place all year
- Place bird feeders within 3 feet of windows, or greater than 30 feet away
- Be a voice for birds: contact lawmakers, developers, and architects and urge them to use bird-friendly glass for new construction and remodeling

For more information or helpful suggestions, please see *Solid Air, Invisible Killer: Saving Billions of Birds from Windows* by Daniel Klem

- \*Available at The Wetlands Institute or online:
- Feather Friendly ([www.featherfriendly.com](http://www.featherfriendly.com))
  - WindowAlert ([www.windowalert.com](http://www.windowalert.com))
  - CollidEscape ([www.collidescape.org](http://www.collidescape.org))

A non-profit organization studying, preserving, and protecting wetlands and coastal ecosystems. Founded in 1969 by Herbert Mills, Executive Director of the World Wildlife Fund.

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Hours: Until May 22, open Saturday and Sunday 9:30 to 4:30. May 23 - September 18, open daily with special evening hours until 7pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from June 21 to September 1.

**General Admission:** Members: Free.  
Non-members: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children 3-12.

# Marsh Musings

## The First Steps of Embracing TWI 2.0

by Dr. Lenore Tedesco, Executive Director

The dawn of 2022 brings with it a renewed sense that the worst of the uncertainty is behind us. It's time to go beyond thinking about the next chapter for The Wetlands Institute and begin to implement. The past several years has been a time of remarkable growth and the achievement of excellence that brought the Institute and its programs back in line with the vision so eloquently conceived and implemented by Herbert Mills, and then advanced by Cindy O'Connor. It has been the past decade, though, that has been a time of bold reaching and achievement. Most significantly, we have assembled a top-notch team of dedicated professionals who have taken TWI forward in amazing ways. Our education programs have profoundly touched so many. Research and conservation programs have achieved incredible levels of depth, breadth, and impact. Our financial position is stronger than ever in our history, with the improbable establishment of the endowment in the midst of the challenges of the past few years.

We run a very lean organization and the continued development of the Institute requires significant investment in our infrastructure – especially the people who are the soul of the organization. In early 2020, the plan was to do just that; institutionalize the programmatic gains that were possible thanks to the stability that came with the successful endowment campaign. We all know what came next – the stress and uncertainty of two years of COVID. I am pleased to say that we have fared the ongoing storm very well. We are a sound organization, and it is long past due that we now move

forward with the plans to invest in our organizational infrastructure and the people of TWI – to provide resources for everyone at the Institute to do their jobs better.

The first phase comes in staff investments that include reorganization of the leadership team. Dr. Lisa Ferguson and Brooke Knapick will guide our programs as they have tirelessly done for so long. This summer, Bonnie Girard will be retiring but will leave our administration and finance department in great shape. Our growth and the complexity of our business model, expansion, and the increasing intricacies of compliance, have led us to redefine her role into separate finance and administration positions. For years, TWI has been without leadership in the major gifts and advancement arena. We are investing in all of these areas as well as in the team of employees that got us here. We welcome Anne Brickley as Director of Administration, Julie Karavan as Director of Development, and Michelle Ruggeri as Director of Finance. You can meet them in the newsletter, and at meet-and-greet events we are planning.

Over the next year, we will be reporting on the steps we are taking to build for the sustainability of TWI – for the next 50 years. There will be investments in our people, in our building, and in the ecosystems that support and nourish us – and that we in turn support and nourish. I have never been one to shy away from giant challenges and you have come to expect no less. We are again **MAKING NO SMALL PLANS**. Stay tuned and learn how you can continue to be a part of it.

*Lenore*



# A Legacy of Connection

by Joan Roberts Barminski



Sam and Nancy Roberts

What little kid wouldn't be happy going hand-in-hand with Grammie to touch a slimy sea cucumber? Or to sit with Baga to see a show about a prehistoric creature, the horseshoe crab? Nancy Roberts knew her stuff, and forged a strong bond with The Wetlands Institute, and in the process, influenced the lives of her kids and grandkids in many ways. And Sam Roberts was as committed to serving The Wetlands Institute as his wife. Together, over the course of several decades, they contributed to the growth of the Institute and helped others see the tremendous value in its existence.

They shared a happy marriage for more than 50 years - Nancy and Sam Roberts loved each other and the shore. Avalon was home away from home, and The Wetlands Institute became a family focal point, with Dad serving on the Board of Directors and Mom as a docent, giving time and talent to a place dear to their hearts. The love of learning never left them, and their curiosity about the world never diminished. The

Institute gave them an added dimension, expanding their knowledge of birds (a favorite) and sea creatures, especially the terrapins. Mom loved seeing the hatchlings in the tanks, knowing these tiny beings would soon be out in the marsh making music with the fiddler crabs.

The Wetlands Institute drew the grandkids to see the programs and exhibits, each trip with Grammie and Baga incorporating an expedition to the lookout tower or out onto the boardwalk. But the touch tank was Grammie's realm as she explained a special something about each animal and instilled the spirit of inquiry in young minds. She served in this capacity as a docent, enhancing the experience of many children, and also led beach walks for the more adventurous.

Both Sam and Nancy gave their time and talents to move the Institute forward in its mission to guide young and old alike in gaining an appreciation of the wildlife found in the marsh and at the beach. They valued the Institute greatly and remembered it fondly in their bequests, and were pleased and proud to be part of an organization dedicated to serving the community and the ecosystem. Our family ties to The Wetlands Institute encompass four generations, and we thank Nancy and Sam for showing us the beauty all around us at the shore.

## Welcome to the Team!

### Meet Anne Brickley



Anne Brickley joined The Wetlands Institute as Director of Administration in March 2022. Anne has 10 years of Human Resources and Operational Management experience, including over five years in the nonprofit sector. Anne has numerous community interests including working part-time as a lighthouse keeper for Cape May MAC and several years prior having worked with the Disabled American Veterans in Del Haven. Anne is now looking forward to supporting The Wetlands Institute in her new role and working with the community who so graciously support TWI.

### Meet Julie Karavan



Julie joined us as Director of Development in March 2022. She is a certified fundraising executive (CFRE) with a Master's in nonprofit management. Julie's extensive fundraising experience includes service to federated nonprofits including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity and Covenant House. A longtime resident of the Jersey shore, Julie focused her extension teaching and practice on marine science and environmental education programs during her tenure with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension - 4-H Youth Development Program. She looks forward to generating support for our infrastructure projects, experiential learning programs, research, and conservation initiatives.

### Meet Michelle Ruggeri



Michelle joined us in March 2022 as Director of Finance. Michelle brings over 15 years of experience in non-profit finance, with an extensive background in creating and implementing non-profit financial system infrastructure, including grant reporting systems. She spent several years at Habitat for Humanity on the Operational Excellence Team, as a financial specialist helping over 200 local Habitat affiliates strengthen their internal financial processes. While focusing most of her career in the Camden and Philadelphia nonprofit industry, Michelle has lived at the Jersey Shore for her entire life and is excited to be bringing her financial skills back to South Jersey at The Wetlands Institute.

We are excited to welcome these new team members, and look forward to having you meet them all.

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*Continued on next page*

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*We strive for accuracy in all that we do, but if we made an error in the listing, please contact us to help update our records.*

## On the Road Again with *The Marshketeers*



As the days lengthen and the mercury climbs, our thoughts turn to renewal and we begin the quickening countdown to spring. For a small subset of us here at the Institute, winter's end heralds the onset of a specific event: the long-awaited return of the birds. We are the impassioned. We are the obsessed. We are *The Marshketeers* – and we're gearing up to take on the annual 24-hour birding marathon that is New Jersey Audubon's World Series of Birding.

On May 14, *The Marshketeers* will once again forgo sleep in the name of conservation. After bringing home the Carbon Footprint Cup two years in a row, *The Marshketeers* are hitting the road in pursuit of birds. We'll be visiting our favorite spots in Cape May County, identifying as many species as we can and raising money for bird conservation. *The Marshketeers* first entered this event in 1992, and on May 14, 2022 – our 30<sup>th</sup> World Series of Birding anniversary – we're carrying on the tradition.

The need for conservation today is greater than ever, and the birds are counting on us all. Can we count on you? Proceeds go directly to supporting our coastal bird research and conservation work. Last year, *The Marshketeers* found 145 species and raised more than \$7,400. For our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary WSB, we're setting our sights even higher, and we've picked a special Bonus Bird to help us get there: the Seaside Sparrow, one of the focal species in our coastal bird conservation efforts.

There are several ways to support us:

1. Pledge an amount per bird species identified, and mail your contribution after the results are in.
2. Contribute a fixed amount to send in right away.
3. Offer an additional pledge based on whether we find this year's Bonus Bird, the Seaside Sparrow.

Help advance our coastal bird conservation programs and make a difference for birds by supporting *The Marshketeers*. Donate or pledge online at [wetlandsinstitute.org/wsob](http://wetlandsinstitute.org/wsob), download a printable pledge form, or call us at 609-368-1211.

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# Spring Happenings

As the warm air returns and the trees begin to bud, The Wetlands Institute will be open daily starting May 23, 2022! Unless otherwise stated, all activities are free with admission and occur onsite at The Wetlands Institute. Questions? Please call The Wetlands Institute at 609-368-1211.

## Salt Marsh Safari

11am and 2pm Daily



Watch our award-winning film, *Secrets of the Salt Marsh*, then join us for an interpretive marsh walk along our elevated walkway and onto the dock overlooking Scotch Bonnet creek!

## Creature Feature

12:30pm Monday and Friday



During this live animal presentation, get up close and personal with turtles, fish, crabs, sea stars and urchins, mollusks, horseshoe crabs, or the popular animals of *Finding Nemo*.

## Aquarium Feeding

12:30pm Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday



Help us feed the local marine life! We will open up feeding three times each week so you can see the burrfish eating crabs and the horseshoe crab gobbling shrimp.

The Wetlands Institute is closely monitoring COVID-19 developments and the guidance issued by state and local agencies, specifically as they relate to our Spring Happenings. As needed, we are planning for and adjusting our programs and operations accordingly to promote community and staff safety, both on our grounds and during our programs. When visiting us, please join us in creating a safe, enriching, and fun experience for all of our visitors by understanding our programs may be modified in accordance with this guidance. We will see you soon!

## Catch o' the Day

12:30pm Wednesday



Get your feet wet (or wear waders!) as you discover what swims in the back bays. Help us drag seine or dip nets through the water to find crabs, shrimp, fish and more.

## Seashell Sunday

12:30pm Sunday



Seashells at the seashore! Join us to learn all about seashells, how to collect them without harming the environment, and touch an assortment of live mollusks and cool artifacts.



Enjoy a virtual visit to The Wetlands Institute, anytime and anywhere, by visiting the Aquarium Bytes section of our Virtual Wetlands Experience portal on our website: [wetlandsinstitute.org/aquarium-bytes](http://wetlandsinstitute.org/aquarium-bytes).

Summer hours and activities start June 20, 2022! The Wetlands Institute will be open daily from 9:30am – 4:30pm with special evening hours until 7:00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please check our website calendar for programming updates as we transition from spring to summer hours!

# Tidepool Shop

Spring is here, and The Tidepool Shop is ready to help you usher in this time of renewal with a host of great nature-themed items.

Along with warmer weather, springtime means migration, and we have the perfect complement to the season. Get ready for the return of the shorebirds with the indispensable *The Shorebird Guide* or marvel at the story of *Moonbird*, a Red Knot who during his life has traveled more than the distance to the moon and back (shorebird "Knot" included)!

When rainy days keep you inside, test your memory with the new

*Match a Pair of Birds* or challenge your family to a game of *Ocean Bingo*. They are both beautifully illustrated and include fun facts about animals of the sea and sky.

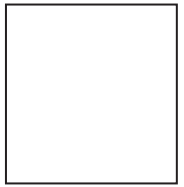
Anticipating the annual arrival of the horseshoe crabs? Adorn your ears with a pair of unique earrings to show your love of these amazing creatures. Or celebrate their return with the ever-popular horseshoe crab stuffy.

As always, your purchase at The Tidepool Shop directly supports our important work here at The Wetlands Institute - Thank You!



Our book and gift shop is open every weekend until May 22 and daily from May 23 to September 18. Can't visit us? Give us a call or shop online at [tidepool-shop.myshopify.com](http://tidepool-shop.myshopify.com). We will ship your purchase anywhere in the United States.

A non-profit organization studying, preserving,  
and protecting wetlands and coastal ecosystems



As a conservation organization, we have a special responsibility to address the global challenges of climate change and sustainability. We are committed to minimizing environmental impacts in all aspects of our operations. Visit our website at [wetlandsinstitute.org/about-us/sustainability/](http://wetlandsinstitute.org/about-us/sustainability/) for more on our sustainability initiatives.



# Views from the Tower

Summer 2022 registration is here! For kids who love nature, the outdoors, and the salt life, we have the perfect summertime experience: A week (or two, or three!) of hands-on, feet-wet exploration and adventure with us here at The Wetlands Institute. Kids engage in science experimentation and investigation, play games, go on field trips, create arts and crafts, and much more - all while enjoying a new theme each week!

For complete details, including theme descriptions, pricing, and to download a registration packet, please visit our website at [wetlandsinstitute.org](http://wetlandsinstitute.org).



**JUNE 29-JULY 1**  
Creation Nation:  
The Art of Nature

**JULY 4-8**  
Explore the Shore:  
Seaside Science

**JULY 11-15**  
Water, Water  
Everywhere

**JULY 18-22**  
Creepy Creatures,  
Amazing Features

**JULY 25-29**  
Animal Helpers

**AUG. 1-5**  
Life in Cold Blood

**AUG. 8-12**  
Habitat Explorers

**AUG. 15-19**  
Marvelous Marine  
Mammals

**AUG. 22-24**  
Creation Nation: Eco  
Trails & Treasures



**SUMMER  
NATURE  
PROGRAM**  
at The Wetlands Institute

**Limited spots available, register today! Early registration discount ends May 1, 2022!**