

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuges

Ninigret Refuge consists of over 400 acres of diverse upland and wetland habitats including grassland, forestland, shrubland, wooded swamps, freshwater ponds and a small stretch of barrier beach. Occupying part of a former U.S. naval air station the refuge borders on 1700-acre Ninigret Pond, Rhode Island's largest coastal pond.

The refuge and adjacent Ninigret Pond attract a wide variety of wildlife. More than 250 bird species have been recorded including many raptors, waterfowl and songbirds. Linked to the sea by a man-made breachway, Ninigret Pond's brackish waters support blue crab, bay scallop, quahog and winter flounder in addition to the many water birds.

Two 1-mile footpaths afford access across the refuge's gentle terrain. Observation platforms offer excellent views of Ninigret Pond and Foster Cove.

Wildlife Calendar

Spring (Mar-May)	Summer (Jun-Aug)	Fall (Sep-Nov)	Winter (Dec-Feb)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Osprey return in late March. - Woodcock perform courtship flights. - White-eyed vireo, wood thrush and other songbirds in full chorus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools of young bluefish enter Ninigret Pond to feed. - Fledged young of resident birds appear. - Partridge pea tickseed and many other wildflowers in bloom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monarch butterfly migration peaks in late September. - Hawk migration best mid-September through early October. - Mergansers, black duck and other migratory waterfowl raft in Ninigret Pond; many species winter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Winter flounder enter Ninigret Pond to spawn. - Tracks of coyote, white-tailed deer, opossum and other mammals found in snow.

Getting There - Ninigret Refuge is approximately 45 miles south of Providence in Charlestown. The west entrance is off U.S. Route 1. The east entrance is reached through Ninigret Park off Route 1A.

Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuges

Established by private donation, Trustom Pond Refuge includes over 640 acres of varied wildlife habitat. Approximately 3 miles of gently sloping [foot trails](#) meander by open fields, shrublands, woodlands and freshwater ponds and swamps to 160-acre Trustom Pond, Rhode Island's only coastal pond free from shoreline development.

Trustom is noted for its diversity of wildlife. Approximately 300 bird species seasonally inhabit the refuge along with more than 40 resident species of mammals and 20 of reptiles and amphibians. Observation platforms along refuge trails enhance your viewing opportunities.

A barrier beach forms the refuge's southern boundary along Block Island Sound. This area remains as one of the few east coast nesting sites for two bird species of special concern - the least tern and the endangered piping plover. In order to reduce human disturbance to the birds the beach is closed during the nesting season (April - August).

Wildlife Calendar

Spring (Mar-May)	Summer (Jun-Aug)	Fall (Sep-Nov)	Winter (Dec-Feb)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Osprey return in late March. - Woodcock perform courtship flights. - Piping plover (early April) and least tern (early May) arrive to nest. - Prairie warbler, bobdink and other songbirds in full chorus. - Shadbush and beach plum flower in May. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honeysuckles and sweet pepperbush flower. - Painted ladies, red admirals and many other butterflies present. - Fledged young of resident birds appear. - Southbound shorebird migration peaks in August. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monarch butterfly migration peaks in late September. - Hawk migration best mid-September through early October. - Ruddy duck, scaups and other migratory waterfowl raft in Trustom Pond; many species winter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short-eared owls present, great homed owls nest. - Tracks of gray fox, river otter, raccoon and other mammals found in snow. - Trustom Pond sometimes freezes, forcing waterfowl to Ninigret and other coastal ponds

Getting There - Trustom Pond Refuge is approximately 40 miles south of Providence. >From U.S. Route 1 take the Moonstone Beach exit. Follow Moonstone Beach Road for 1 mile then turn right onto Matunuck Schoolhouse Road. Continue .7 miles to the refuge entrance on your left.

Sachuest Point National Wildlife

Sachuest Point's 242 acres is comprised of a range of habitats including salt and freshwater marshes, shrubland, grassland and sandy beaches and dunes. A 3-mile trail system winds through the upland areas and along the rocky shore. Observation platforms afford panoramic views of refuge lands and the surrounding ocean waters.

Occupying part of a former U.S. naval communications station, Sachuest Point provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. More than 200 bird species seasonally inhabit the refuge including many songbirds, ducks and raptors. Red fox and eastern cottontail are commonly observed from refuge trails and a walk along the shore will reveal an area rich in invertebrate life.

A visitor center features exhibits, publications, audio-visual programs and rest room facilities. Hours of operation vary. For current information phone the center at (401) 847-5511 or the complex office at (401) 364-9124.

Note: During the summer, heavy auto traffic to adjacent beaches may cause delays along refuge access roads.

Wildlife Calendar

Spring (Mar-May)	Summer (Jun-Aug)	Fall (Sep-Nov)	Winter (Dec-Feb)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bluefish, blackfish and striped bass move into coastal waters as temperatures rise. - Winter cress, bulbous buttercup and other wildflowers in bloom - Common yellowthroat, American goldfinch and other songbirds in full chorus. - Common tern arrive to nest on offshore islands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scarlet pimpernel thistles and many other wildflowers in blossom. - Fledged young of resident birds appear. - Wood nymph, alfalfa and many other butterflies present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large flocks of tree swallows gather in late August/early September. - Monarch butterfly migration peaks in late September. - Hawk migration best mid-September through early October. - Harlequin, eiders, scoters and other migratory waterfowl arrive; many species winter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snowy owls, short-eared owls and rough-legged hawks often present. - Purple sandpipers and sandpeeps winter along rocky shore.

Getting There - Sachuest Point Refuge is east of Newport in Middletown. From Route 138 travel east on Miantonomi Avenue .6 miles. Continue east onto Green End Avenue for 1.2 miles then turn right onto Paradise Avenue. Travel 1.3 miles and turn left onto Hanging Rock Road. Continue .3 miles then bear right onto Sachuest Point Road and follow it to the refuge entrance.

Block Island National Wildlife Refuges

Occupying part of a former U.S. Coast Guard light station, Block Island Refuge consists of 46 acres of sandy beaches and rolling dunes. Although no developed trail system exists, the site is accessible by foot over sandy terrain. Much of the property adjacent to the refuge, including 105-acre Sachem Pond, is managed by the Town of New Shoreham as a conservation area.

During the fall, migratory bird diversity at the refuge and other parts of the island is often spectacular. Over-ocean migrants from Nova Scotia and other northern areas, and birds swept seaward from their normal flightpaths by strong winds alight on the island to rest and feed before continuing on their journey southward. The island's open habitats and low-growing vegetation afford excellent viewing opportunities.

Wildlife Calendar

Spring (Mar-May)	Summer (Jun-Aug)	Fall (Sep-Nov)	Winter (Dec-Feb)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Herring and great black-backed gulls nest. CAUTION: GULLS ARE AGGRESSIVE IN DEFENSE OF THEIR NESTS. - Beach plum and other wildflowers in blossom. - Song sparrow, red-winged blackbird and other songbirds in full chorus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fledged young of resident birds appear. - False heather and salt spray rose in flower. - Tiger swallowtail, cabbage and other butterflies present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monarch butterfly migration peaks in late September. - Migratory bird diversity often spectacular in late September/ early October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snow buntings flock around shore and in dunes - Loons, grebes and waterfowl winter offshore.

Getting There: Block Island is situated approximately 12 miles from the mainland. Regular ferry service is available from the Port of Galilee in Narragansett and air service from the State Airport in Westerly. On the island travel north on Com Neck Road to its end. A sandy pathway leads to the refuge entrance.