

**Keep Conservation Foundation  
38 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street NY, NY 10011**

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We hoped he would be there...and he was. Each spring when we return to our Germantown preserve to walk the land and check the status of breeding and nesting birds, we are greeted by an Eastern Kingbird perched in the meadow near the parking lot. Each year we hold our breaths and hope that he has survived the winter and all the perils birds face. He greeted us and stayed around a bit before flying off as if to let us know that he is doing well in this protected place.



On all three of our preserves, the wildlife is thriving.

**Maricopa County, Arizona**

On the Pamela Kahn Bacca preserve in Maricopa County, Arizona, the desert wildlife is protected as rampant development creeps up on all sides. This county has one of the highest rates of development in the United States. Our land remains natural desert. Reports are that there are 160,000 new housing starts in this area of Arizona.

It is our hope that with all of this development, water will be brought closer to our land and we will be able to use it for water features that will enhance habitat.



From our land, we can see the beauty of mountains in the distance as birds of prey fly overhead and jackrabbits run for cover.

**Port Republic, New Jersey**



A walk around the Port Republic Preserve takes you through woods where Great Horned Owls and Yellow-Billed Cuckoos can be seen. High in the pine trees, Pine Warblers are nesting, and in the migratory season many warblers find refuge on their arduous journey north. Cedar Waxwings arrive in flocks to eat the berries, and many species of sparrows skitter in and out of the brush piles where they find food and nesting sites. The wildflower field that we planted just after 9/11 attracts butterflies and many pollinators that make life go on. The paths

wind down to the river, where on the salt marsh many species of Herons and Egrets find homes and food. Bald Eagles and Ospreys circle overhead on their way to fish. Sub-adult Purple Martins were seen scouting out the Martin gourd rack we put up last year. We hope that they will return to breed and nest when they migrate back next spring.

## Germantown



The restoration of the fields and meadows in Germantown, with the help of a WHIP grant (Wildlife Habitat Initiative Project), from the Department of Agriculture, has attracted many species of field and meadow nesting birds. This year Field and Savannah Sparrows were seen, along with Blue-Winged, Yellow, Common Yellow-Throat and Prairie Warblers. The land was alive with the buzz and nesting

behavior of Baltimore Orioles, Brown Thrashers, Eastern Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, and Cardinals. At the end of this summer, we will mow the fields for the first time since the restoration. This mowing will prevent the re-growth of invasive trees and shrubs. Bobolinks have been spotted in adjacent land. We hope that the field restoration will attract these birds to the Keep Conservation Preserve.



## Teaching the Next Generation

There was excited interest and many questions when Pearl Broder and Linda Atkins brought Keep Conservation's education program to Mr. Cabrera's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class in Bronx Charter School for Children.



The children learned about binoculars and looked at photographs of birds they would be likely to see on a June 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 field trip to Central Park. The children were not disappointed. With the help of Anne Lazarus, a volunteer and an accomplished birder,

the children spotted 19 species including the Black Crowned Night Heron, a bird most children never see.



“Why don't we have these birds in the Bronx?” one girl asked, prompting a lesson on the importance of habitat that was eagerly absorbed. The delight children experience in

learning about the natural world encourages Keep Conservation to continue to provide this enjoyable experience to inner city children.



### **The Future**

Keep Conservation is pursuing ways via fundraising and grants to acquire property that is vital to the survival of endangered bird species. We will continue to manage and protect our existing preserves to maximize their habitat effectiveness.

**The support of every concerned person is vital to the protection of land and the survival of species. This will be part of our children's heritage.**