

Dear Naturalists:



The blues and purples we see in nature are most often refracted light from tiny scales that act as prisms. The Ebony Jewelwing Damselfly, Red Spotted Purple Admiral Butterfly and Dogbane Beetle shown above all change colors when viewed from different angles. The feathers of the Indigo Bunting and Tree Swallow refract the sunlight for their blue and purple hues and both will appear black on cloudy days. For details of this dynamic color process read *Iridescence in Lepidoptera* from the 1998 *Physics*

Review http://newton.ex.ac.uk/research/emag/butterflies/iridescence_in_nature.html

Read *Animals Speak Color* in *Harvard Magazine* <http://harvardmagazine.com/2008/11/animals-speak-color>

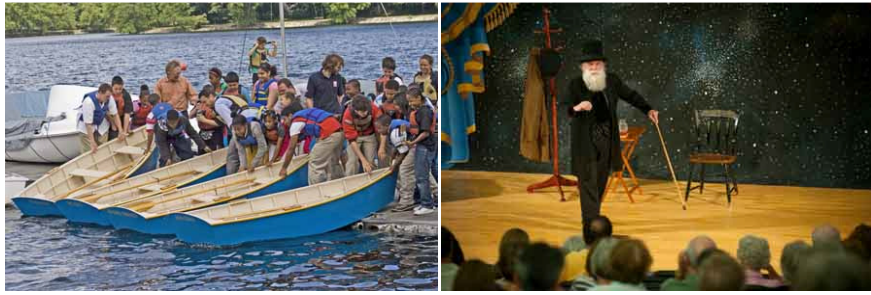


Zara reported: "It's the first time I've heard bull frogs in the Fens - several times over the last 2 weeks. Yesterday there were two at the south end of the gardens, one on the north side of Muddy, one on the south side. They were exchanging their basso harrumphs. And a few feet away was a muskrat munching on tender riverbank greens, especially small burdock plants."

Frogs are singing all the way to Scarboro Pond in Franklin Park. The Green, Great Blue and Black Crowned Night Herons shown above noticed the frogs and are on the hunt...

Roger S. Gottlieb reported a heron on Ward's Pond plus a few weeks ago--"riding my bike on the bike path next to the JWay, saw a deer (looked like a young one) in the little bit of wooded area between the baseball fields and the JWay."

Park Rangers reported sighting a Red Fox in Back Bay Fens and an Osprey catching a Stripper out of Boston Harbor.



There are many summer human activities to report: John Rowse and the Boston Family Boat Building <http://www.bostonfamilyboatbuilding.com/> launched a fleet of new row boats made by Boston school children at Jamaica Pond. Frederick Law Olmsted and Walt Whitman (aka Gerry Wright) conversed with a capacity crowd at the First Church in Jamaica Plain before heading off to the Maryland Humanities Council "Chautauqua" tour.



Bring Your Own Butterflies program at Jamaica Pond and the Fenway Victory Gardens enchanted the imaginations of young and old plus an environmental class of students from Singapore... many paper butterflies are being prepared this summer for the fall migration flight to Mexican school children. Big thank you to Dr. Rebecca Brown, MD who volunteered to staff the table of live Monarch caterpillars and chrysalis plus converse with the curious about butterfly lore. Details on Friends of Jamaica Pond web site.



This Gray Catbird was lecturing at Arnold Arboretum about planting Highbush Blueberry as a perfect home for the family. Most importantly, follow park rules and do not pick the berries!



This Black Swallowtail Butterfly was feeding on a Milkweed flower in Franklin Park...

Enjoy the summer sun.

Stephen Baird
Emerald Necklace Naturalist
Friends of Jamaica Pond, Inc.
PO Box 300040
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
www.FriendsOfJamaicaPond.org
info@FriendsOfJamaicaPond.org