



Come See Our Birds

We want you to love our Farm as much as our birds do. The Farm is a wonderfully accessible area where you can observe many on your walk. Don't forget your field glasses!

By early March, the first tree swallows, soon followed by the purple martins, returned to our magical setting. Listen for the "feebee" of an eastern phoebe. Look for hermit thrushes and Savannah sparrows (pictured).



Like the robins, goldfinches have been here all winter in their dull plumage, but a sign of spring is to see a few of their bright yellow feathers.

Wooded sections that go untouched for many months throughout the year are particularly good places for birds to nest. Old, dead trees make great seasonal houses for the birds. That's why we let those trees stand.

While walking, you are likely to come across a variety of songbirds. If you're still and quiet enough, you will hear them.



Wild turkeys can be seen moving in small groups called rafters or flocks. Look up. Though rather large, these birds can sometimes perch high on the branches of our tall trees; more noticeable when the trees are bare.

Around our pond, you will see different species that will entertain you as they stop to bath, drink and eat. You may even spot a great blue or a night heron. To better enjoy them, give them distance and please do not feed them. They are much happier eating natural foods such as berries and grubs.

The birds love our Farm. You will also.

Our History:

Isaac Royall Family

While our historic inn building is known as the Governor William Bradford House, it was actually built by Isaac and Elizabeth Royall in 1745.



The Royalls inherited Mount Hope Farm from Elizabeth's grandfather, Colonel Henry MacKintosh, and made Bristol their second home. Their primary home was in Medford, Massachusetts, where the Royall family was the state's largest slaveholder. During the Revolutionary War, Isaac Royall fled to England, where he died seven years later of smallpox. His Mount Hope Farm property was confiscated by the State of Rhode Island, with the proceeds used to pay Continental soldiers. Learn more about the Royall family [here](#).



Not a Job ... A Passion

More than 30 years ago, while the Haffenreffer family owned Mount Hope Farm, Arnold Gonsalves left his landscaping job to help maintain the Farm's gardens and fields. Today, as the farm's resident superintendent, he knows our 127-acres better than anyone else. The work day for Arnold and his crew varies with the season, but it got a bit easier recently

when a backhoe was added to his equipment roster thanks to funding from a grant awarded to the Farm. "I'm just a country guy," Arnold says. "I always wanted my own farm and what could be better than this."

Around The Farm

- **Mount Hope Farm is creating a tour app!** We received grant funding to produce a GPS-based tour that plays on your cell phone. Watch for its debut coming this spring.
- **Our Farmers Market runs every Saturday.** Join our market email list to be first to learn what's on the market table this week. [Link here](#).
- **Walk our beautiful property.** Trails open 7 am to 2 pm daily. We regret that past issues require that we ask you leave your pets at home.
- **Our Mount Hope Farm Moments newsletters** are archived on our website. [Link here](#). Use the same link to sign up family and friends to receive this newsletter.





MOUNT HOPE FARM