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CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK BLAZIS

Congratulations are in order for Mark Blazis, an occasional contributor to *Bird Observer*, who was recently named Nature Educator of the Year by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. For four years, Mark's seventh grade classes at Auburn (Massachusetts) Middle School have produced and published field guides to trees, birds, reptiles and amphibians, and butterflies of Auburn and southern Worcester County. They are the first student-produced, locally comprehensive field guides in the United States. The guides then become resources for use in the classroom and in school and public libraries. They also serve as an inventory of local life forms for the conservation commission and for those who oversee open space planning and habitat preservation. An important criterion for the award, given annually to one public or private school teacher and one community nature educator, is that the approaches used by the educators can be easily replicated by other educators in similar settings. For more information on the award-winning programs, contact the Education Director at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, 110 Marvin Parkway, Milham House, Jamestown, New York 14701.