

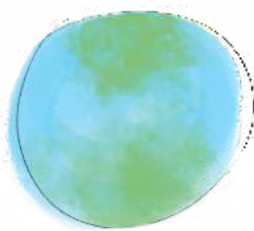
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bluedotliving™

AT HOME ON EARTH



Every other week, Bluedot Living will share stories about local changemakers, Islanders' sustainable homes and yards, planet-healthy recipes and tips, along with advice from Dear Dot. Did your friend send you this? [Sign up for yourself here](#). Not interested? No problem — [click here](#) to be removed from Bluedot Living emails.

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SIMPLE / SMART / SUSTAINABLE / STORIES



Sam Moore, who writes regularly for *Bluedot Living*, took this photo several years ago for a [story he wrote for *MV Arts & Ideas Magazine*](#). We loved the stillness of the once-beating wing and decided to use it in “What.On.Earth. — This One’s for the Birds” in our recent print issue. Can you guess what percent of the world’s bird species are songbirds? ([The answer is here.](#))

Quick Links

Tired of scrolling? Here's what you'll find in this edition of the *Bluedot* Newsletter:

- Recipe: [Shiitake Ramen](#) with [MVM Mushrooms](#)
- Buy Less/Buy Better: [Rooney Knots](#) from discarded silk neckties
- Lily Olsen reports from the [desert refuge of Slab City](#), where the heat is on to survive in extreme temperatures
- Find out [how divestment is hobbling the fossil fuel industry](#) in this story on our national site



Think Global, Act Local

Climate change and environmental challenges are global, but the stories of impacts, and the stories of people doing something about them, are often local. How to educate people about biodiversity and habitat preservation is a big, global

concern. Here on Martha’s Vineyard, Mass Audubon/Felix Neck has been teaching children about exactly this for almost 60 summers during their

“Fern and Feather” nature camp. Kids start as young as age 2, and Felix Neck provides more than \$30,000 in scholarships a year so Vineyard families can send their children to the camp (and a preschool!). Read more about what Felix Neck is doing in the Field Note their crew [wrote for us here](#).

Juneteenth is today. Most of us will acknowledge that environmental justice intersects starkly with racial justice. [In an interview recently](#), one of our favorite environmentalists, Ayanna Johnson (check out the [podcast she launched](#)), described a future where we “get it right,” and might “run to it with joy;” she quoted the poet [Ayisha Siddaqa](#), whose advocacy focuses on climate and racial justice. Here are some lines from her poem, “On Another Panel About Climate, They Ask Me to Sell the Future and All I’ve Got Is a Love Poem:”

*The earth remembers everything,
our bodies are the color of the earth and we
are nobodies.*

Been born from so many apocalypses, what’s one more?

Love is still the only revenge. It grows each time the earth is set on fire.

But for what it’s worth, I’d do this again.

Gamble on humanity one hundred times over

We hope you’ll take this sentiment with you into the week ahead. —*Jamie Kageleiry*

This issue of the Bluedot newsletter is sponsored by [Geese Partners Goose Control](#).



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Climate Quick Tip

Jessica Mason had a big idea: Takeout without the trash. You pick up your food in a stainless-steel bowl, and return it at any of the five restaurants in her pilot program. Her company, Island Eats, will wash the bowls and return them to the restaurants. Though Island Eats has sold out of bowls for now, **keep an eye on them here** for the next round of responsible takeout.



Slab City Reaches Its Boiling Point

Here's a great story we just posted to our national website, [bluedotliving.com](https://www.bluedotliving.com): Slab City is an off-grid California desert community that offers refuge for the overlooked, misunderstood, and disenfranchised.

It's located in Imperial County, one of the hottest regions in California, where the temperature exceeds 100 degrees on an average of 122 days per year. As summer approaches and deadly heat becomes more frequent, will residents find ways to adapt, or will they be forced to leave the only place that many of them have ever felt at home? Lily Olsen reports from this desert outpost just in time for the summer solstice.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

BUY LESS/BUY BETTER



Neckties, Take Two: Rooney Knots

If Father's Day (Happy day to all you dad figures out there!) makes you think of neckties, check out the cool headgear Gareth Brown made from discarded silk ties (so long, office culture). We love what she said about her new company: "You have to come up with new ideas that make you feel more morally responsible."

LEARN MORE

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Mass Audubon
Felix Neck Summer Events
 Tuesday, July 19
Sanctuary Supper
An Evening Eating for the Planet
 Sunday, August 28
Amity Shark Race
Wooden Shark Fin Race
 Saturday, September 3
Foot It For Felix
5K Trail Run / Walk



Dear Dot: How Can I Recycle Plastic Bags?

Dear Dot,

We used to be able to take plastic bags to Stop and Shop [to recycle]. Is there any other option locally? Stop and Shop stopped taking them.

—*Jana Bertkau*

Dear Jana,

Stop and Shop's plastic bag recycling program was a popular initiative, and its absence is keenly felt. Dot's ears have been filled more than once with lament from those who miss it. Our friends at [Earth911](#) **tell us** that recycling a ton of plastic bags (about 450,000) saves 11 barrels of oil. When bags are recycled, they are turned into pellets and typically used in products like [Trex decking](#).

Stop and Shop stopped collecting plastic bags when COVID hit, the manager at the Edgartown location told me. If you recall, there was much confusion and concern about transmission in those early COVID days, and most were playing it safe rather than sorry. The policy remains in place though the manager is currently investigating if and when it might be reinstated — so stay tuned.

But one of the most important recycling rules is to do what we can to avoid single-use plastics in the first place...

[Read the rest of Dot's response here.](#)

Got a question for Dot? Ask her at deardot@bluedotliving.com.

RIGHT AT HOME



FOOD

Ramen with Shiitakes

One of contributing editor Catherine Walthers' favorite soups, this ramen noodle soup uses shiitakes straight out of Chilmark: Martha's Vineyard Mycological's mythically marvelous mushrooms. [Check it out](#) (or better yet, slurp it up).

TECH

The Power of Divestment

The burning of fossil fuels is the single largest contributor to the warming planet. “The fossil fuel industry, which earned \$2.1 trillion in 2021, has no plans to stop drilling,” Lily Olsen writes. [Read more here](#) about the student activists pressuring their schools to divest their endowments.



The Nature Conservancy 

TOGETHER WE'RE TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the past 35 years, The Nature Conservancy has helped protect more than 1,500 acres on Martha's Vineyard. We're restoring unique habitats like rare sandplain grasslands for the survival of animals and plants.

[NATURE.ORG/MARTHASVINEYARD](https://www.nature.org/marthasvineyard)

How energy efficient is your home?



FIND OUT >>



mass save



Quiz: This one's for the birds

How many songs does a typical sparrow sing?

Sharp birders will note that this painting is not of a sparrow, but a sweet little house finch.

More than 100

About 10

Two or three



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