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From the Desk of the Executive Director



### We NEED Your Help! Please Vote YES in November.

#### Dear Member,

This November you have another reason to go to the polls in addition to the presidential election. You have an opportunity to help save more of Rhode Island's open and wild spaces by voting YES on 6 - the Green Economy Bond.

Thanks to donations from members like you, our Advocacy Director Meg Kerr has worked diligently with our allies to make sure that Governor Raimondo and our State legislators put open spaces on the bond referendum this year. (See details of the Green Economy Bond on page 5).

While Rhode Islanders have voted in favor of open space bonds in the past, we can't afford to assume that will be the case again.

Did you know that several of the Audubon Wildlife Refuges that you enjoy came from, or grew in size due to, funding from the State open space grants?

For example, thanks to the open space grants awarded in 1988, 1999 and again in 2008, we were able to add over 200 acres to our Fisherville Brook Refuge in Exeter and West Greenwich. The refuge is now over 1,000 acres in size.\*

Thanks again to state open space funding in 2004, we purchased 80 acres of land in Foster, greatly increasing the size of a 125-acre refuge that had been donated by Mr. Adam Balwierczak in 1999.

Like other Audubon Society of Rhode Island wildlife refuges, these places provide important bird and wildlife habitat, watershed protection, relief from the heat, and great places for you to enjoy the outdoors.

Funding for more purchases of open space will be gone if this important bond is not passed. So here's an excellent opportunity to do your part this November...get out and vote YES on 6 for the Green Economy Bond!

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Best Regards,

Jaunen J. T. Taple Lawrence J. F. Taft Executive Director

\*The original 600-acre parcel of Fisherville Brook had been donated by George and Rose Matteson. The Nature Conservancy and Champlin Foundation also provided significant funds to grow this property.

## "Tell Me About Grandpa and Grandma"

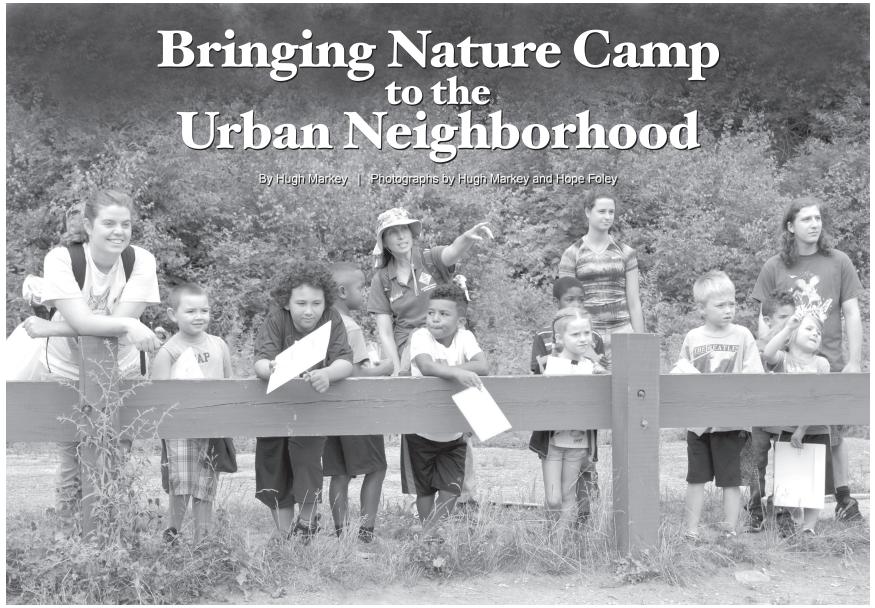
Your curious youngster wants to know about their great-grandparents or their great-great-great-grandparents. How will you answer such a question? In addition to your own recollections and a treasury of photos and heirlooms, you may have little to draw on – unless you or someone else has done something to establish a lasting memorial in their honor.

A named endowment fund at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island is a wonderful way to create an ongoing legacy. Every year, loved ones will be reminded through print and other means that Grandpa and Grandma cared about protecting nature for them. The named endowment fund will not only serve as a perennial source of income to Audubon, it will also provide a continuing reminder that your child's grandparents were full of generosity and good will. They cared about others.

One of the features of our endowment program is an "album" that will be created on our new website honoring the persons named in the endowment titles. Where possible, we will include one or more photos and a biographical sketch. You will be able to share the page's link with loved ones and those who benefit from a particular endowment fund. Our program also permits individuals to create named endowments that focus on specific aspects of our mission... conservation, education and advocacy... areas that may have had special meaning to the honoree.

You may want to consider a named endowment for yourself. By establishing it now, you provide your loved ones with a "living photograph" of at least one of your key interests in life. If you wish, you can add to your endowment over time, and can even earmark a portion of your estate to eventually enter your fund.

Named endowments are worth considering. We will show you what others have done . . . and how practical and easy an endowment can be for you. You can reach Senior Director of Advancement Jeff Hall, by dialing (401-949-5454 x3017) or by email at jhall@asri.org.



Audubon Urban Education Coordinator Lisa Maloney (center in hat) with campers and counselors at Neutaconkanut Park in Providence.

he line of a dozen children has travelled all of 100 yards when one child calls out, "I don't know where I am!" Kimmie Lavoie, assistant camp director, has just the answer. "Come here," she says, leading the group of six- to eight-year-olds to a map painted on a building. She points out the different trails, as well as habitats and animals likely to be found on their hike. The list includes woods and meadows, and the animals range from ants to deer. Satisfied with the explanation, the group moves on.

Although it may sound like this could be campers heading out onto one of Audubon's wildlife refuges, this group is actually in the heart of Providence, not far from their urban neighborhoods. To the Audubon educators who run this summer program, the question does not come as a surprise. Many of the small campers see this oasis in the city as an unknown. Sure, they may recognize the basketball courts or the water sprinklers where they cool off, but the winding, steep trails that lead through leafy green shaded forest up to meadows and skyline views often go unexplored.

It is the first morning of Audubon's Neutaconkanut Summer Nature Camp in Providence's Silver Lake/Olneyville section. This year, 90 children ages 6 to 12 will experience hands-on nature exploration, hikes, games, crafts, and close-up encounters with some of the live animals that Audubon brings to their education programs. Thanks to donors, they will also receive a healthy breakfast and lunch – all for just \$5 per week.

This urban summer camp initiative is a joint effort between Audubon and the Partnership for Providence Parks (PPP). It takes place at the 88-acre Neutaconkanut Park, often referred to as a hidden jewel in Providence.

> "Both children said it was their favorite camp all summer." - NEUTACONKANUT SUMMER CAMP PARENT

Now in its third year, the Neutaconkanut Summer Camp program serves 15 children a week, teaching them about the elements of nature that exist right outside their own doors. When it began, the camp consisted of three weeklong sessions. It was so popular that Audubon expanded it to five last year, and this year was again able to add an extra week due to funding by generous supporters. Audubon Urban Education Coordinator Lisa Maloney sees the camp as an important resource for city kids who may not have the kind of exposure to the outdoors that others in more suburban areas may have.

Please turn to page 4



Campers at Neutaconkanut Park explore the forest habitat.

### Bringing Nature Camp to the Urban Neighborhood

Continued from page 3

"We want everyone to come to our wildlife refuges throughout the state, of course, because they're beautiful places, but not everyone has access to those refuges. That's why we do afterschool programs here and take kids out and show them their local park. We teach them about the kinds of plants and animals and insects that live right in their back yard. Hopefully that will give them a feeling that, 'This is a place for me, and this is a place that I can enjoy, and wouldn't it be nice if we could preserve it for everyone to enjoy.""

### "I FOUND EVIDENCE!"

A short distance from the trail map, the group stops at a patch of plants by the trail. Maloney tells the campers that this plant is mugwort, has them smell the strong leaf odor and suggests it could be crushed up for use as a natural bug repellant. Today's focus is a scavenger hunt, where kids look for indications that there is habitat to support wildlife: flowers that provide nectar for bees, a chewed pinecone that indicates a visit by a squirrel. "I found evidence!" one camper shouts, pointing to a hole in the tree. The powdery substance around the opening could be a sign that there are ants or termites calling the tree home.

"This week's theme is 'Home Sweet Habitat'," Maloney explains. "Neutakoncanut can represent a lot of habitats around Rhode Island; every day we go to a new section of the park and think about what's different, what's the same, and who lives there. We just get them to know the park a little bit." Themes change weekly and are chosen to suit the age group and unique setting. "Another session is called 'Our Buggy World,' where we learn all about "bugs" and their relatives, including spiders, worms, and millipedes. We look for the miniatures. You don't have to go to a huge place to find insect life!"

### **HOME OF SQUIRRELS**

According to the Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy's web site, the hill was a parcel of land included in a purchase made by Roger Williams from the Narragansett People. They had called it Neutaconkanut, which means "home of squirrels", a description that certainly hasn't changed over the centuries. The hill remained in private hands until 1892, when it was purchased by what was then called the Public Park Commission. In recommending its purchase, the Commission wrote, "On this part, Nature has made a natural park more perfect than the hand of man could devise. On a Sunday afternoon as many as 1000 people left their horse-cars on Plainfield St. and ascended the Hill."

"He started to show interest in plants this spring on our afternoon walks." - NEUTACONKANUT SUMMER CAMP PARENT

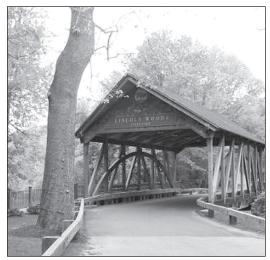
Maloney explains that this urban initiative began when Providence Parks suggested a nature camp. "They thought it would be nice to offer camps at the city parks, but they didn't have the staff. That's when they contacted Audubon." From concept to funded fruition, the camp was five years in the making, but by 2014 the program was ready. Today, the camp not only offers the environmental experience, but it provides campers with breakfast and lunch, all for a very low fee. It is made possible by funds donated by Audubon members and supporters as well as supplemented by the city of Providence. For Maloney, the program was a blend of personal and professional.

"I'm a Providence resident, and I discovered the park when I first started working for Audubon." She explained how Audubon's former senior director of policy Eugenia Marks recommended the park as she had often enjoyed the trails. "After enjoying this great park for awhile, I selected the site as one location for the annual butterfly count, which is coordinated by Audubon. Then came the afterschool programs with middle school students. We also thought that Neutakoncanut would be a great place to bring kids in the summer, it has lots of shade and forested areas. It sort of became this ball that just kept rolling."

Lauren Parmelee, Audubon's senior director of education, sees one of her primary missions as reaching out to urban communities. "We do afterschool programs in Providence, Woonsocket, and Central Falls. Ideally, we want to take those kids into their own neighborhoods. We try to show them that nature is not only found in fields and forests or on wildlife refuges; it's part of their own neighborhood."

Audubon has put a tremendous amount of time and effort into getting programs like the one at Neutaconkanut started, she said. Her job is to oversee the big picture of the education program, help find the money to fund the urban camps and support the staff's work. She gives much credit also to Providence Parks in helping make these Please turn to page 6

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Historic State Park Development Program: \$4,000,000 State parks attract tourists and provide healthy outdoor recreation opportunities.



**State Land Acquisition Program: \$4,000,000** *For the protection of farmland and iconic open space properties.* 



**Local Recreation Development Grant Program: \$5,000,000** *To help communities develop and improve public recreation areas.* 



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**Local Open Space Grant Program: \$4,000,000** *For the preservation of vital green spaces throughout Rhode Island* 

# Vote YES in November The 2016 Green Economy Bond



A prudent investment in Rhode Island's open space, environment, and tourism. For more information visit www.yeson6ri.com



**State Bikeway Development Program: \$10,000,000** *To expand and connect Rhode Island's bikeway network.* 



**Brownfield Remediation and Economic Development: \$5,000,000** *Cleaning and redeveloping polluted industrial sites to revitalize neighborhoods.* 



**Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program: \$3,000,000** *Stormwater management improves water quality and outdoor recreation.* 

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Bringing Nature Camp to the Urban Neighborhood

#### Continued from page 4

programs happen. "It's such a strong partnership. We have our best success when we partner with other agencies, and this is a good example of one that is helping provide such a positive experience for inner-city kids. In this case, families are able to participate because Audubon and the city's Parks and Recreation Department make it so affordable. Families pay a very low fee and the camp fills up in 24 hours. People find out about the camp and realize that it's a great opportunity at such a low price."

Another, less obvious benefit that the partnership provides is a sense of trust within the communities that house the camps. "April Alix, the program coordinator for the Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, formerly worked at Audubon and she's been invaluable. She knows that community, and that community knows and trusts her. You can't just walk in and say, 'Hey, we have this great program, come join.' You have to have trust. It's a combination of financial support and trust that gets the kids there."

"Whether we're doing an afterschool program for urban students or something like this camp in the park, PPP gives us a venue. We come in with the expertise in natural history; we have the educational skills and experience managing groups of young people. We also know how to engage the kids and have fun, plus we have live animals. We have all of that. But without a venue, an audience, and without monetary support, it's impossible to do."

The campers reach the summit of Neutaconkanut Hill and pause. They line up along a railing by the trail that overlooks a stunning view of Providence that stretches for miles. The view has changed a lot since those "horse cars" written

### **Every year there is a waiting list...** HELP AUDUBON EXPAND THE NEUTACONKANUT SUMMER CAMP.

If you would like to contribute to the Audubon Urban Education Initiative and help us to expand this vital program, please contact Jeff Hall at (401) 949-5454 ext. 3017 or email jhall@asri.org.





about in 1892 deposited gentlemen in top hats and ladies in voluminous dresses. Still, it isn't hard to imagine them pausing for a moment here to overlook their city and perhaps considering their place in the world. The campers and staff gather for a group photo, and then it's off to the meadow.

Here, the kids play "habitat tag," where anyone tagged must freeze. They must wait until another camper dodges away from the one who is "it" and frees the frozen one. There is a price, though: the frozen camper must recite the elements that they need to "survive." A boy wearing a t-shirt that reads, "The Talent has arrived" reminds a camper half his size of the habitat list she must say before being freed. "Air, water, food, shelter!" she says, rejoining the game.

The next week will offer camp for children 9

to 12 years old. For that age group the theme will be "Predators and Prey." "Kids are always interested in predators," says Maloney. "They love learning about what adaptations predators have and how they catch their food. And how does prey avoid being eaten?" Campers will learn about this through the use of scavenger hunts, where they will look for evidence of both predators and prey.

"Another camp for the older group is called Who Goes There.' We teach the kids about animal tracking," explains Maloney. "Although we don't always see charismatic megafauna (the general term for larger animals that have popular appeal and often hide themselves during the daytime), the scavenger hunt will make the campers use detective skills to see signs. We will look for galls, scat, scratches on trees, and just try to interpret what those signs mean. There are definitely deer and raccoons at Neutakoncanut, even though we can't see them. Even things like deer browse (the chew marks on plants and shrubs) are clues that large animals are here. We are arming them with the skills to figure out what's happening in the park even when we're not around."

### I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PLACE.

Lauren Parmelee hopes the camp experience will connect with adults as well. "Ideally, what we do is inspire kids to go home and say 'Hey, we need to visit this park.' We want the families to value it. If families buy into it, they will have a better sense of caring and respect for their parks." With the success of the Neutaconkanut Camp, Parmelee says it's possible that the idea will be expanded elsewhere. "We may try a camp in another park that has both indoor space and an outdoor venue. This camp is certainly well run enough so that we could create one in a new place."

Lisa Maloney shares that perspective. "The reason we are interested in growing this camp is that the park is a great laboratory for furthering the science lessons that kids are already learning about in school. Having these outside lessons really cements it for them. They're seeing it, they're hearing it, they're smelling it, they're down and dirty learning about it. Eventually it becomes a case of 'I want to learn more about this place and how to protect it because I enjoy being in this space.' We're hoping these campers grow into a generation of conservation-minded adults who were influenced by this experience when they were kids; who will look at a meadow and not just think of it as a bunch of grass. We really want to inspire the next generation to come to a park that's within their own city and begin to conserve those areas."

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Sondra and Tom Pitts.



Judith Queen (left) and Sara Low.



From left: Joe Browne, Board Member Deborah Linnell, Rupert Friday.



Board Member Dr. Nicholas Califano (left) and Dr. Louis Corvese.



Jean and Thomas Brown.

# **Thank You!**

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2016 Party for the Peregrines



From left: Bob Wright, Charlene Basso-Wright, Eryka Wright, Helen Jankoski, Joe Zybrowski.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island's annual Party for the Peregrines was held on April 30, 2016 at the Squantum Club in East Providence.

Over 170 friends and supporters of Audubon gathered to celebrate Rhode Island raptors. Audubon's live owls, a Red-tailed Hawk, and an American Kestrel were presented during the evening as was a beautiful Snowy Owl. The event raised more than \$50,000 to support Audubon Society of Rhode Island's raptor education and rehabilitation programs.



Janna Hesser (right) and Council of Advisors Chairperson Charlotte Sornborger at the auction tables.



From left: Amanda Soares, Rafael Soares, Board Member Meghan Frost and Renee Lemos.



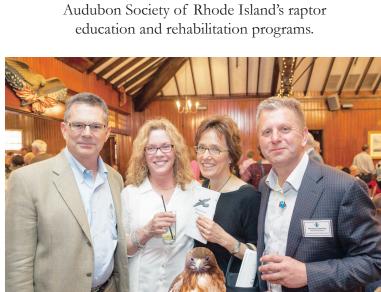
From left: Leslie Samayoa, Rodrigo Rampersad and Rosemary Moore.



From left: Leonard Iannuccilli, Board Member Heidi Piccerelli, David Piccerelli, Claudia Iannuccilli.



Janis and George Kortyna.



From left: David Stoll, Frannie Newbold, Suzanne Dunkl, Board Member Michael Viveiros.

Audubon naturalist Kim Calcagno presents a Red-tailed Hawk. 7

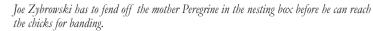
### See You Next Year!

The four baby Peregrine Falcons were successfully banded by Joe Zybrowski on May 23, 2016. US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse was one of the special guests who joined us atop the Superman Building that morning for an unforgettable experience.

All four (one female, three male) have now successfully fledged the nesting box. We look forward to next spring when we have the chance to observe these amazing creatures all over again. Thanks for watching along with us!

Donors like you enable us to run the Peregrine Cam. Please consider supporting this program by making a donation at www.asri.org.





US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse holds one of the young Peregrines during the banding process.

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## **RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT**

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge Smithfield, RI

> September 24, 2016 10:00 am – 12 pm

Calling all Photographers! Take advantage of this unique opportunity to get up-close and photograph Audubon's live owls, hawk and kestrel.



Visit www.asri.org events calendar for details.

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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

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Gurdon B. Wattles



### DEAR MEMBERS:

This Annual Report is intended to keep you, our members, informed of the accomplishments of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island over the previous fiscal year, as well as to report on the organization's overall fiscal health.

We are proud to report that, because of your support, we have been able to continue to carry forward our mission of protecting birds and other wildlife in our state by habitat conservation, environmental education and environmental advocacy for the benefit of people and all other life.

Today with the impact of climate change creating a new kind of threat to their habitats, birds and other wildlife face increasing challenges to for their survival. Thanks to your support, we continue our efforts to safeguard their future.

We steward nearly 9,500 acres of land containing natural habitat. Our environmental education programs reach tens of thousands of youth in our communities throughout the state – instilling values that will lead students to become good environmental citizens. We work for the passage of legislation to protect Rhode Island's water, wetlands and other natural habitats. Rhode Island's own Audubon continues to tirelessly work on behalf of the people and wildlife of Rhode Island for a healthier environment.

So, when you see *your* name on the enclosed 2015 roster of donors and supporters, you should feel proud of the role that *you* have played in helping to protect our environment.

Thanks again,

lypthing. Harren Farmen J. T. Tallo

Cynthia J. Warren President

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AnnRpt:3

# AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# ADVOCACY

- Promote Public Policy that protects birds, wildlife and natural resources
- Successful cesspool phase-out legislation passed after years of dedicated advocacy.
- Ongoing advocacy for statewide water supply interconnection to ensure contingency supplies for the major public water suppliers.
- Facilitation of municipal citizen's group in South Kingstown to build awareness, community engagement, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Advocated for robust public transportation as a critical strategy for slowing climate change.

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 Developed stormwater projects in Woonsocket and monitored water quality on the Branch River.



# EDUCATION

Develop an environmentally literate and motivated local populace that supports and promotes sustainable living and stewardship of our natural resources.

- Over 20,000 people reached through Audubon environmental education programming.
- Over 14,500 visitors enjoyed programs, hikes, exhibits and lectures at the Environmental Education Center.
- Raptor Weekend drew over 2,300 enthusiastic visitors to observe and learn about birds of prey.
- Over 410 people attended Audubon's Bird and Wildlife Carving Exposition in November.
- Urban School Initiative provided in-school and afterschool programs for 3,000 students in urban districts.



# SUMMER CAMPS

- Provided over 90 children from innercity Providence with a nature camp experience at Neutaconkanut Park through a partnership with Providence Parks.
- Engaged 180 children in summer nature enrichment programs in Providence and Woonsocket, RI.
- Led over 200 children in nature-based summer camps in Bristol, RI and Seekonk, MA.



AnnRpt:4

8/18/16 7:45 AM

# VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Over 418 volunteers provided 6,709 hours of assistance with programs, research, wildlife refuge stewardship, administrative work and fundraising.
- In June and July, 71 volunteers surveyed butterflies across the state for the North American Butterfly Survey.
- 96 Osprey Monitors kept watch and reported on 229 nests in 2015.
- Over 150 volunteers pitched in to make Raptor Weekend a success.

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Conserve and steward land to preserve bird and wildlife habitat and related natural ecosystems in Rhode Island

- Habitat Restoration Managed habitat projects for the endangered New England cottontail and associated species.
- Initiated invasive plant management and habitat restoration on Audubon properties
- Maintained over 400 acres of grassland to support native plants, grassland birds and butterflies.
- Guided Youth Conservation League refuge work in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and Rhode Island Natural History Survey.
- Participated in the annual North American butterfly surveys and BioBlitz, a 24-hour
- assessment of all living things in a selected area, this time in Narragansett.
- Monitored refuges for bats, bluebirds, kestrels, ospreys and wood ducks.
- Collaborated with private, State and Federal agencies on projects including rare sharp-tailed sparrows, studying rare species including the endangered New England cottontail and four rare native plants.



# AUDUBON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Invest in infrastructure to advance mission and strategic plan

- Accessibility Trail completed, allowing wheelchairs and strollers access to wetland boardwalk.
- New Hawk Observation Mew construction completed to house new Red-tailed Hawk.

AnnRpt:5

# DONOR SUPPORT

To operate on an efficient and productive level, Audubon raises nearly \$2 million per year to support our mission. That funding comes from grants, foundations, programs fees and most importantly from supporters like you.

- Sources of Income
  - Earned Income 17%
- Endowment Income 12%
- Donations, membership, support from donors 71%

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### Statement of Financial Position

Assets	0015	0014
Current Assets	2015	2014
Cash & Cash Equivalents \$	129,772	\$ 171,375
Accounts Receivable	67,023	84,382
Inventories	24,521	23,678
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets		4,156
Total Current Assets	221,316	283,591
Noncurrent Assets		
Property and Equipment	3,327,794	3,291,452
Investments (at market)	13,874,952	10,734,434
Investments held by others (at market)		
Refuges, Land & Buildings	13,740,182	13,764,462
Total noncurrent assets	<u>31,037,819</u>	27,790,348
Total assets	<u>31,259,135</u>	<u>28,073,939</u>
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable/accrued expenses Accounts payable/	38,021	74,786
compensated absenses	126,246	121,493
Line of Credit		275,000
Term Loan	23,621	22,547
Charitable gift annuity	23,115	23,966
Total Current Liabilities Long Term Liabilities	211,003	517,792
Term Loan payable	154,520	178,019
Total Liabilities	365.523	695,811
loidi Liddiines	500,020	070,011
Net Assets Unrestricted		
Operating, available for program	(311,525)	(706,108)
Property and Equipment	3,327,794	3,291,452
Long-term Investments	<u>10,603,941</u>	<u>7,368,532</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>13,620,210</u>	<u>9,953,876</u>
Temporarily Restricted	167,318	293,888
Permanently Restricted	17,106,084	17,130,364
Total Net Assets	30,893,612	27,378,128
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	31,259,135	28,073,939

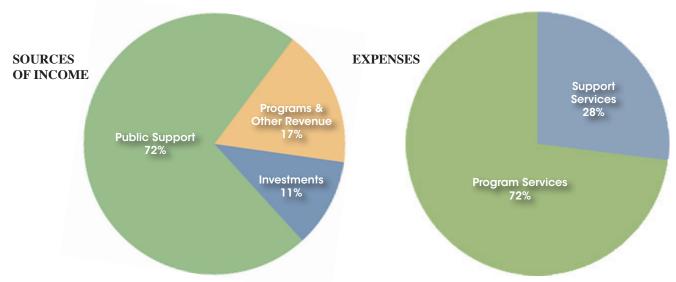
### **Financial Summary**

Revenue and Support	0015	0014
Public Support	2015	2014
Contributions*	\$ 4,384,088	\$ 865,046
In-kind Support (Advertising)	1,096	7,965
Program and Other Revenue	1,070	7,700
Program fees	275,192	272,999
Sale of Merchandise	64,149	83,177
Rental Income	59,698	75,253
Government Contracts	421,797	548,975
Admissions and Other Income	192,639	45.606
Endowment Support**	<u>687,195</u>	<u>692,657</u>
Total Revenue	6,085,854	2,591,678
Expenses		
Program Services		
Properties and Conservation	532,782	381,443
Educational and Public Programs	452,606	572,563
Environmental Education Center	345,163	692,426
Grants and Contracts Expenses	398,311	433,402
Cost of Program Merchandise	41,083	130,310
Policy and Advocacy	<u>116,067</u>	<u>113,752</u>
Total Program Services	1,886,012	2,323,896
Supporting Services General & Administrative	204 450	400 515
	384,652	409,515
Development Total Supporting Services	<u>366,471</u> 751,123	<u>320,879</u> 730,394
Ioidi supporting services	751,125	730,394
Total Expenses	2,637,135	3,054,290
Program Operating Income (Loss)	3,448,719	(462,612)
Net-operating Gains and Losses		
Donation of Land		295.000
Gain on Sale of Real Estate,		
Art, and Books	331,794	226,060
Net Realized Gains (Losses)		
on Investments	(424,056)	533,606
Change in Not Assots	3,356,457	297,054
Change in Net Assets	3,330,437	297,004

\* Includes bequests and other contributions to the endowment

\*\* The spending rate formula were 6% and 7% of the fair

market value for 2015 and 2014 respectively



The financial information as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, has been derived from Audubon's 2015 financial statements, audited by Mullen, Scorpio, Cerilli, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the Office of Advancement for copies of the complete audited financial statements.

AnnRpt:6

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# CONTRIBUTORS TO CONSERVATION

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#### **\$100.00 +** Continued from AnnRpt:3

Trudy Coxe and James Gaffney David and Cassandra Crandall Carol A. Crowley Judith DeBlois Ron and Dori Defeo Stephen and Barbara DelBonis Peter and Penny Dennehy Denson Family Fund Sonya and Jay Dent Ronald and Lillian Dick Elaine Dickstein Stan Dimock Jim and Margaret Doll Jeannine M. Dougherty Dulgarian Brothers Uniforms Work Clothes & Safety Products Kevin Dunn Valerie Dymsza Karen Elkins Douglas Ellis Stephen Elman and Joanne D'Alcomo Amelia L. Entin Andrew and Mary Erickson Peter Escherich Paul C. Estes Mary Beth Fafard Rosalie Fain Janice and Robert Fancher Terry and Patricia Faulkner Allan and Barbara Feldman Jill and Glen Felicio Robert J. Flynn Sharon and Frank Forleo Richard and Joan Frary Maybury V. Fraser Rupert and Susan Friday Nancy and Greg Fritz Ann Gallagher Joyce and Geoffrey Gardner Russell Garland and Gayle Gertler Elizabeth and Joel Gates Sarah and Matthew Gates Cynthia Gianfrancesco Anne and George Giraud Robert and Carol Glanville Richard and Mary Glenn Dr. Stephen E. Glinick and Dr. Elizabeth A. Welch Thomas Golden Google Inc. Debra Gormlev Lisa L. Gould Richard and Susan Graefe The Griffith Family Carolyn A. Griswold Brian F. Groden Carl Hagenstein and Joyce Doyon Michael and Peggy Hanney Katrine Hansen and Robert Sandfort Kathy and Ed Hardie Jed Dixon and Helen T. Hardy Virginia and John Harkey Leslie and Joan Harnish John and Marlene Harrington Jamie Harrower Edward T. and Wendy W. Harvey Linda Henderson Anna Highsmith Ellen B. Hight Mark Hilty and Maryanne Noris Garry and Cathy Holmstrom Richard and Eileen Hopkins Jacqueline Horner and Diane Weeks Gayle Gifford and Jonathan Howard Paul and Roma-Gavle Howland

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\*Hawkes's Legacy Circle



### CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

The named funds below, residing in the Audubon permanent endowment are meant to provide perpetual funds for the successful and meaningful work Audubon does to protect our environment. We are forever grateful to these individuals and families that have created a lasting legacy for nature.

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Aust-Capron Memorial Fund Barter-Moore Fund Edith Becker Fund Bristol Education Center Fund Caratunk Cottrell Fund Danz Library Fund Davis Memorial Wildlife Fund Norman A. Deslauriers Fund Dickens Farm Fund John Raleigh Eldred Fund Fisherville Brook Fund Fort Nature Refuge Fund Grout Memorial Fund Alice O. Harris Fund Hicks-Borden Fund P. Hollis Fund Walter Hammond Kimball Fund Kinsey Fund Kraus Wildlife Fund Larkin Wildlife Fund Lorraine Leanev Fund Little Rest Bird Club McAlpine Fund McKenzie Wildlife Fund Constance McCarthy Fund George B. Parker Fund Parker Woodland Fund Powder Mill Ledges Fund Donna-Jean Rainville Fund Sanford Fund South County Fund Everett Southwick Fund Touisset Marsh Fund

If you are interested in creating a named fund for Audubon, contact Jeffrey C. Hall, Senior Director of Advancement at (401) 949-5454 ext. 3017 or email at jhall@asri.org

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island gratefully acknowledges gifts of less than \$100 from 2,509 supporters. Audubon depends on the generosity and commitment of all its donors for the conservation and protection of Rhode Island's environment.

#### GIFTS & SERVICES RENDERED of Rhode Island that otherwise would obtain. We are grateful to them for the

American Association of Zoo Keepers RWP Chapter Mary Lou C. Anderson Eloise Angiola Raul Arias William Asadorian Aspects, Inc. Senator David E. Bates Nicolas Bezio The BIOMES Marine Biology Center Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Boston Red Sox Monique Bovaiian Carol Brabant Bob Bradbury Brick Alley Pub & Restaurant Bristol Harbor Inn Ginger Brown The Butterfly Place Captain John Boats Cardi's Furniture Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyards Castle Hill Inn Charles Playhouse The Children's Museum of Southeastern CT Richard Collison Louis A. Corvese Dave & Busters DeCordova Museum & Sculpture Park . DeWolf Tavern Anne DiMonti Kenneth Dulgarian Eagle Optics Gretchen and Terry Finnell Fort Adams Trust The Freedom Trail Foundation The Gamm Theatre Joan and George Gardiner Michael Gevoli

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Miriam Rose Linsey

ials received in 2015 In Memory of the following:

serve and support the conservation and protection of Rhode Island'

ent. During the past year, the family and friends of the people listed below

sen to remember their loved ones through a gift to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

James H. Lynch III Edna Mashl Roland and Mary Mergener Linda Michaud Dennis P. Pacheco Sr. Pearl Parnigoni Robert Poole Glenn Ray Beatrice Redies Sylva Rhodes Claire Scully Steven Sears Timothy Sweetser Albert "Peter" Vanderbilt Gloria Warren

# Audubon Society

### HAWKES LEGACY CIRCLE

# ofRhodelsland

# Leaving Your Legacy

The Hawkes Legacy Circle is a unique group of donors who have made a lasting gift to conservation. These gifts provide for the permanent protection of wildlife habitats across Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. They assure children will always learn about the importance of nature.

Lucie I. Armstrong † Carolyn Aust † Dr. Edith C. Becker † Mary Rogers Beckert † Jane K. Blount† Vivian F. Bucknam † Katherine W. Burg + Winifred Caldwell † Eunice M. Chenette † Charles and Joanne Compton Geraldine A. Coon † Mario and Irene Corsetti Mary Cottrell † Kathy Crossley-Aiello Severyn S. Dana † Raymond H. Dearden † Rebecca Duhaime Ewing Family † Carol A. Faufaw Ann Ferri Stanley and Florence Gairloch + Jim Gallogly Rick Goff Ellen V. Hagg† Samuel and Elizabeth Hallowell Alfred and Marie Hawkes Donald Heitzmann Roberta M. Humble Sona Kalfaian-Ahlijian and Sondra V. Pitts Katherine B. Kinsey † A. Max Kohlenberg, Esq. and Rebecca Minard George and Janis Kortyna Douglas L. Kraus †

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† Deceased

By including the Audubon Society of Rhode Island in your estate plans you can help protect nature for generations to come. With a bequest, you control your assets during your lifetime but name the Audubon Society of Rhode Island as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or financial account. With this simple act of kindness and vision, you will allow Audubon to continue to conserve bird and wildlife habitat. The ultimate beneficiary is nature.

For more information on how you can be part of the Hawkes Legacy Circle, please contact the Development Office at 401-949-5454.

Photography by Hope Foley, Ed Hughes, Noel Rowe, Scott Ruhren | Annual Report Cover Photo by Ed Hughes

AnnRpt:8

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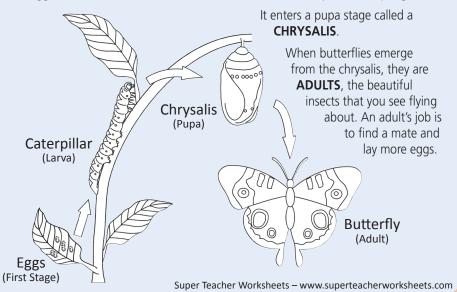
## Let's be Lepidopterists! That is, Butterfly and Moth Detectives!

- Butterflies fly best when it is sunny and warm, so summer days are the best time to look for these colorful insects in garden, field and forest edge habitats.
- Without touching, see how close you can get to a butterfly.
- What colors, patterns and shapes do you see?
- Can you find its antennae and tongue?
- How many legs and wings can you count?
- Butterflies are not just bugs with pretty wings. They have fascinating adaptations that help them survive.
- Butterfly and moth wings are made up of tiny little scales.
- Their compound eyes allow them to see all the way around (360°) which helps them escape predators.
- They see colors and ultraviolet light. This helps them find food as well as the right plants to lay eggs on.
- Butterflies taste and feel with their feet and antennae.
- These insects use their straw-like tongue to sip sweet nectar from flowers as well as minerals from mud puddles and manure.

Butterfly Life Cycle

Butterflies have a four-part life cycle:

They start as a tiny **EGG** usually laid on a specific kind of plant called the "host plant." The egg hatches into a **CATERPILLAR** that feeds on the host plant to help it grow.





Monarch

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Baltimore Checkerspot

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# Eagle Scout Project Directs Hikers at Powder Mill Ledges

If you head out on a walk at Powder Mill Ledges in Smithfield this summer, you will notice new signage placed at key spots along the trails. Providing "You are Here" maps and directions for hikers, these signs have elicited many positive comments from visitors. Our appreciation for a job well done goes to Eagle Scout Bobby Dubel from Troop 2 in Barrington.

Bobby approached Audubon with the idea of an Eagle Scout project that would assist hikers to navi-



Eagle Scout Bobby Dubel (second from left) and other scouts install the signs at Ponder Mill Ledges in May.

gate trails. He scouted Powder Mill Ledges with Refuge Manager Kim Calcago, investigated possible sign materials, submitted drafts, and calculated costs. On May 7, 2016 he supervised a crew of fellow scouts as they installed the signs and posts at key trail spots. Audubon thanks Bobby for his time and perseverance, which have resulted in attractive, professional and useful navigation tools for our many year-round visitors.



Bobby Dubel gets assistance producing the signs from his uncle Jeff Martins from Martins Signs, Inc.

### Block Island Birding Weekend

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Join Audubon for a weekend of unsurpassed fall birding. Block Island in autumn becomes the resting place for thousands of migrating birds. More than 125 species of birds have been seen here on fall weekends! Field trips for both novice and advanced birders led by experts are featured. Special programs include salt marsh field trips, bird banding demonstrations, and more. Cost of the weekend includes ferry fares, hotel accommodations, meals and programs. Space is limited so please register early.

Block Island, RI; September 30-October 2, 2016; Program Fee: \$545/member \$595/non-member. \$150 supplement for private room or private bath. Ages: 16+.



For more information, please contact: Jeffrey Hall, Senior Director of Advancement at jhall@asri.org or call 401-949-5454 ext. 3017

# AUDUBON BIRTHDAY PARTIES Go BIRTHDAY PARTIES WITH AUDUBON ARE AS EASY AS /-2-3! 1 CHOOSE A LOCATION! 2 MAKE IT YOURS!

For more information on Audubon birthday party themes, details, and locations, visit www.audubonbirthdayparties.com.



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**3 HAVE FUN!** 

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HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE Scottsdale, Lake Powell, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Grand Teton & Yellowstone National Parks, Old Faithful, Sheridan, Bighorn Mountains, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial For more information visit gocollette.com/link/759551





### MONTHLY BIRD BUYS 20% OFF for members, 10% OFF non-members

SEPTEMBER\* -Jewelry OCTOBER -Feeders and Accessories

NOVEMBER -Seeds and Suet

**DECEMBER -**Nature Toys and Science Kits



\*Offer not valid on Raptor Weekend, September 10 & 11, 2016

Bird Feeders and Accessories | Field Guides and Binoculars Children's Books, Educational Games, Toys and More!

Audubon Environmental Education Center Bristol, RI , 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI

# **CONSIDERING SOLARP**

FREE Professional Online Evaluation from RGS Energy

For every Audubon referral, RGS will make a donation to protect Rhode Island wildlife.



Call 888-56-SOLAR and mention Audubon Society of Rhode Island

www.rgsenergy.com/ rhode-island-audubon-society

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THANK YOU! Donors send 124 Children to Summer Camp Through Scholarship Program



Because of the generous donors listed at right, 124 children were able to participate in Audubon's Summer Nature Camps. They explored forest, field and shore, made nature discoveries, hiked, played games, visited with live animals and more. It's what summer camp should be!

- Camp 4 Rhody Kids
- The Champlin Foundations
- Kathy Crossley-Aiello
- The Lorber Foundation
- Maria Masse
- Mercedes H Quevedo
- Mrs. Ruth B. Whipple
- Steve and Judi Wood

Please consider sending a child to nature camp next summer by donating to the Audubon Summer Camp Scholarship Program. Contact Senior Director of Advancement Jeff Hall at jhall@asri.org.

## Audubon Takes the Helm Youth Conservation League 2016

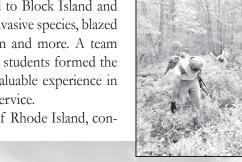
On muggy, hot and humid summer days they worked their way across the state. From Smithfield to Block Island and plenty of places in between, they removed invasive species, blazed trails, helped with coastal oyster restoration and more. A team of six environmentally-minded high school students formed the Youth Conservation League: they gained valuable experience in the field while nature benefited from their service.

Now managed by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, con-

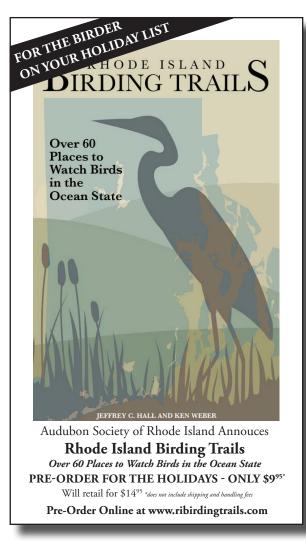
servation staff provided guidance, transportation, tools, and work schedules for these students. Audubon partners with The Nature Conservancy, RI Natural History Survey and independent land trusts to fund the program and provide a wide range of work experiences in various natural habitats.

We Need Your Support to Expand! Promoting stewardship of our natu-

ral resources with future generations is vital. Please consider making a donation to the Youth Conservation League so that more high school students may be engaged in this worthwhile program. Donate online at www.asri.org.









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### LET'S GO BIRDING

By Laura Carberry

# Slow Down, It's Summer Time!



You might notice that the bird reports are a little slimmer during the summer months. Does that mean that we should all just stop birding and take a break? I certainly don't put my binoculars away! Summer birding may be a little different, but it can also be rewarding.

In May and June, birds are trying to set up territories and attract mates. They are easier to spot. But in the heat of July and August, birds try to save their energy and are often tending to their young. Birding can be a little more challenging, but slow down a bit, and you just might be amazed at what you find.

This morning I woke up early and decided to take a walk on the trails at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge. I was going at a snail's pace. Like most of you, I feel like I am always running from one thing to another but today I was focused. Instead of counting how many birds I heard or saw, I studied what they were doing. I was amazed at how many family units I found and how often I witnessed mom or dad feeding the newly fledged youngsters.

Fledglings can be challenging to identify. While walking at a slow pace, I had the chance to study many of

these crazily feathered young birds. Some of them look nothing like the adults, but if you study their bills, size, and colorations, you can try to figure out what group they are a part of. Narrow it down and figure out what species the juvenile is. Looking at these young birds helps to focus on the different features of each species and it may help you to become a better birder. Just by slowing down I was able to find a large number of nests. One was right over the trail and I am sure most people never see it. Please remember that if you do find a nest, take care not to disturb it or get too close. Walk slowly away so that the parents can continue to do their job undisturbed.

By slowing down you can practice finding birds with your binoculars and study them by picking out different features. Does it have an eye ring, wing bars or any other special characteristics that can help you identify the bird? Visit different habitats and make notes of what different birds you find in each. This is a great time of year to slow down, enjoy the weather, and really focus on what you are hearing and seeing.

Get out and go birding....

# **Join the Audubon Team...** VOLUNTEERI

**Osprey Data:** Comfortable with computers? (Access, MA Publisher, Website) and want to help the Rhode Islandwide Osprey Monitoring Program? Compile Osprey observations and help create the annual publication. Volunteer needed through September for one half-day per week.

**Volunteer Department:** We are looking for a responsible individual with an interest in helping with data entry, running reports and keeping our volunteer records up-to-date.

**Exhibit Naturalist:** Share your knowledge of nature as a docent at Audubon's Environmental Education Center in Bristol. Interact with visitors in the exhibit hall or on our trail.

**Raptor Weekend, September 10 & 11:** Help us run our annual festival of flight! Assist with set-up, run games and activities, staff the snack shack, direct cars and more. Individuals and groups welcome.

Internships and Community Service: Visit our website for details. www.asri.org/About Audubon/Volunteering

Contact Jon Scoones at jscoones@asri.org or (401) 245-7500 ext. 3044 for details on any of the opportunities listed above.



### Planning Your Vacation? MAXWELL MAYS COTTAGE



Enjoy bird watching, paddling, hiking and the seasonal changes at a two-bedroom artist's retreat on the 300-acre Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge in Coventry, Rhode Island.

Reserve now for best availability. Please contact Celeste Donovan: (401) 949-5454 ext. 3005 www.lakehousevacations.com page 662.html

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## **Thank You!**

#### **Gifts in Honor**

The people listed below have been honored by family and friends who found a gift to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to be the most meaningful way to celebrate someone important in their lives.

In Honor of: Cameron McCormick From Linda and Anthony McCormick

In Honor of: Mary Jo Murray From: Anne Kruger

In Honor of: Johnson and Wales University – SASS: Student Activists Supporting Sustainability Club From: Linda Brennan

#### Memorials

( )

Memorials serve and support the conservation and protection of Rhode Island's environment. During the past quarter, the families and friends of people listed below have chosen to remember their loved ones through a gift to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

#### In Memory of: Jeffrey Asermely

From: Rebecca Book Frances M. Cucino Eleanor A. Giannini William and Jane Goudailler Greenwood Credit Union Kenneth and Mary Martin John and Judith McCarthy Brenda Smith Johanna and Peter Sparling Gregory and Frances Thuotte Joan Tomaszewski

In Memory of: Jane Blount

- From: Anne D. Archibald Edwin and Deborah Barton Mars and Prudy Bishop April Carleton and Michael Rossi Norine Duncan Burton and Carol Greifer Arnold and Maureen McConnell Nancy Mirto Martin and Charlotte Sornborger Roxanne Stern Catherine and Maura Travers John Hazen and Elizabeth White
- In Memory of: Severyn S. Dana From: George and Joan Gardiner
- In Memory of: Vincent Hawkins From: Jane Dunn
- In Memory of: Joan Igou From: Joanna Chapin

In Memory of: Albert Manzi From: Kathleen Manzi

In Memory of: Maxwell Mays From William and Claire Chatto

In Memory of: Susan Romano From: Ronald Gelineau

In Memory of: Ruth Barnes Skillings From: Maureen Nagle

In Memory of: Frances Sweeney From: Mary Champlin

### Whoooo is Helping Owls on the Refuge? Eleven-year-old Shane Santos is!

It all started on an afternoon filled with birds of prey. Old County Road Elementary School in Smithfield hosted an Audubon Raptor Encounter program – where students learned all about birds of prey and got up-close with owls and hawks.

From that presentation, fifth grade student Shane Santos decided he not only wanted to learn more about these amazing creatures, but he also wanted to help them. Shane enlisted the help of his grandfather, Ronald Lemieux of Burrillville, and together they researched Eastern Screech Owl box designs online and built a beautiful future home for an owl. Shane visited Audubon Headquarters in Smithfield, donated the box for use at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge and met up with Audubon educator Tracey Hall, who was one of the presenters at his school.

Audubon thanks Shane and his grandfather for their donation and congratulates them on a job well done. The beautiful new owl box will be installed on the refuge...with the hopes that an Eastern Screech Owl will soon call it home.



Shane Santos delivers his beautiful Screech Owl Nesting Box to Audubon Educator Tracey Hall.

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND 1897 SOCIETY

Named for the year of the Audubon's founding, the 1897 Society honors those whose leadership gifts enable the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to advance its mission of protecting birds, other wildlife and their habitats through conservation, education and advocacy. Our donors can take satisfaction that their contributions have an immediate and lasting impact on the people, wildlife and natural beauty of Rhode Island.

The 1897 Society celebrates donors who give annually at the \$1,000 to \$10,000+ level as special contributors to our ongoing mission and shall be recognized at the following levels:

Leader — \$1,000 to \$2,499 Advocate — \$2,500 to \$4,999 Conservator — \$5,000 to \$7,499 Benefactor — \$7,500 to \$9,999 Visionary — \$10,000+

If you wish to join the 1897 Society and help promote the values and mission of Audubon, please contact Jill Felicio at 401-949-5454 ext. 3020.

In recognition of their philanthropic charity, members of the 1897 Society enjoy a variety of exclusive benefits, including invitations to member-only events and special communications.

### AUDUBON 2016 PHOTO CONTEST

Share with Audubon the images of nature found through the lens of your camera. Photos MUST be taken on one of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island wildlife refuges that are open to the public.

> Submissions are due on or before October 31, 2016.



For complete details, visit www.asri.org.

### The Audubon Society of Rhode Island Supports National Monument Designation for the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts

By Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr

A udubon has teamed with the National Wildlife Federation and a broad coalition of organizations to advocate for President Obama to designate the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts as the first blue Marine National Monument in the U.S. Atlantic.

This designation would provide permanent protection for these critical areas. There are currently no ocean areas along the Eastern Seaboard that are fully protected as a marine national monument.

The New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts are found approximately 150 miles off the coast of Cape Cod at the edge of the continental shelf. Five massive ocean canyons, thousands of feet deep, and four underwater mountains provide unsurpassed habitat for important marine species. The walls of the canyons and the slopes and summits of the seamounts are alive with vivid cold-water corals — some the size of small trees — that have taken centuries to grow. These coral communities form the foundation of deep-sea ecosystems, providing food, spawning habitat, and shelter for an array of fish and invertebrate species.

Scientists associated with New England's most respected aquariums recently released an in-depth analysis of decades of data demonstrating that

this area is a biodiversity hotspot, home to 73 different species of deep sea corals, an array and abundance of dolphin and whale species, as well as seabirds and sea turtles and important fish habitat that helps support regional fisheries.

This spring, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island hosted a series of lectures that highlighted the ecological importance and

the beauty and fragility of the Coral Canyons and Seamounts. Over 75 attendees learned that while the area is largely untouched and wild today, it is highly vulnerable to the human drive to fish, drill, and mine in ever deeper and more remote places.

In a separate lecture on February 2, 2016 Dr. Stephen Kress, Director of National Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Program, addressed over 90 people at the Environmental Education Center and discussed his decades of work to restore puffins and terms to nesting islands in the Gulf of Maine. Recent research has identified that the Coral Canyons and Seamounts are the puffins'

winter home, adding these beautiful and threatened sea birds to the list of important species supported by these areas.

As climate change and ocean acidification continue to affect ocean life, it also becomes more and more urgent to establish blue parks in important and relatively pristine ocean habitats such as this one.





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Please pass this copy on to a friend or recycle. Thank you.

The Report is the Audubon Society's member newsletter and updates members on the current issues and actions of the Society, its staff and volunteers. We encourage your participation and you may send items that will be considered for publication to: Hope Foley, Managing Editor, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI 02917 or by email to hfoley@asri.org.

> Because of you, the Osprey License Plate has provided hundreds of children with the opportunity to learn about nature.

> > Thank you.



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Please help support this designation by contacting

Senator Whitehouse and letting him know you would

like President Obama to make the New England

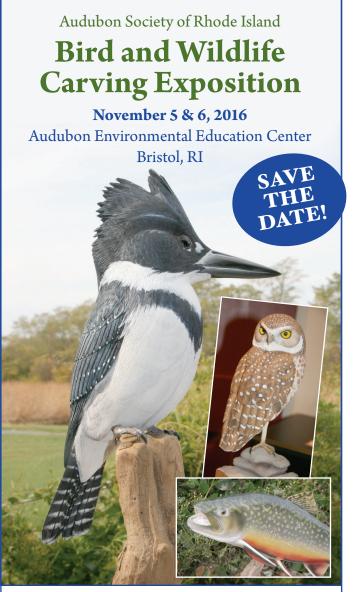
Coral Canyons and Seamounts the first-ever

Marine National Monument in the Atlantic Ocean!

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(401)-453-5294

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Admission \$5 per person. Save \$1/person by ordering your tickets online at https://audubonexpo.eventbrite.com

### SAVE THE DATE!

Audubon Society of Rhode Island Annual Meeting



**Sunday, October 23, 2016** 2:00 to 4:00 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Lynsy Smithson-Stanley National Audubon Deputy Director of Climate and Strategic Initiatives will address the state of the birds and climate change.

> Caratunk Wildlife Refuge 301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA



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