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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

REPORT

For the
Holidays

**Sixty
Places
to See
Birds**

Find out
where the
birders...
bird!



See Page 9

VOLUME 50, NO. 4

FALL 2016



AUDUBON LAUNCHES ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

SUPERHEROES WANTED!

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Be a Superhero...No Cape Required

Nearly 120 years ago, a group of 30 concerned citizens banded together to address an environmental crisis: the unregulated market hunting of birds for feathers. Plumes were highly sought after for fashion and the slaughter of birds was driving many species to the brink of extinction.

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island was founded. Their mission was straightforward: to protect birds from this unnecessary destruction. They were the environmental heroes of their day.

Over the past century, the challenges that wildlife face have grown more complex and Audubon's mission has evolved.

- Starting in the 1920s we began to protect vital bird habitats by acquiring land.
- In 1965 we successfully lobbied to ban the use of the insecticide DDT in Rhode Island that was poisoning Osprey to near extinction.
- In the 1970s we battled to stop the filling of wetlands, and fought for some of the nation's first and strongest salt marsh and wetland laws established in our state.
- In response to the development boom of the 1980-90s we redoubled our efforts at preserving land and several thousand acres of valuable habitat were added to our refuge system.
- As we reached the new millennium, we witnessed children becoming more connected to electronic screens than the natural world. We built our Environmental Education Center in Bristol and stepped up our education programs for the public and also reached into every school district in the state.

You and our other supporters became the next generation of environmental heroes.

Today, with climate change bringing immense challenges ahead, birds and other wildlife continue to face enormous threats to their wellbeing. How will your Audubon rise to meet these challenges and be nature's voice in the next century?

Our endowment must be fortified so that we can properly protect and steward our land, strongly advocate for sound environmental policy, and engage even more youth in environmental education.

Our cover story unveils our Invincible Audubon campaign with our goal to increase our endowment fund by \$6 million. We seek your help to ensure that we can continue the Audubon legacy well into the future. We ask you, our heroes, to make a commitment that goes above and beyond.

Remember that Superheroes come in all shapes and sizes. Some wear capes and masks. Some have special powers. But we think the mightiest Superheroes are those who protect nature. Become a Superhero today!

Thank you.

Lawrence J. F. Taft, Executive Director

Ways You Can Become A Superhero

Simply put, Audubon's endowment is a pool of funds which is then invested, and which provides returns or ongoing income to support designated purposes or for general operating support.

There are many ways to give to the Invincible Audubon endowment campaign. Consider these methods and find the one that best suits your current situation. In many cases you may find there are tax benefits with certain ways of giving; please discuss these with

your financial advisor,

We ask you to remember that annual giving remains a crucial part of Audubon's operations, and we hope you will maintain your support for today, while participating in this campaign for the future.

A cash contribution is the easiest way to give, and can be spread over several years.

Gifts of stock, mutual funds, or bonds are a popular way to give and most donors find this a more advantageous way to make a generous gift.

Paid insurance policies are welcomed as a contribu-

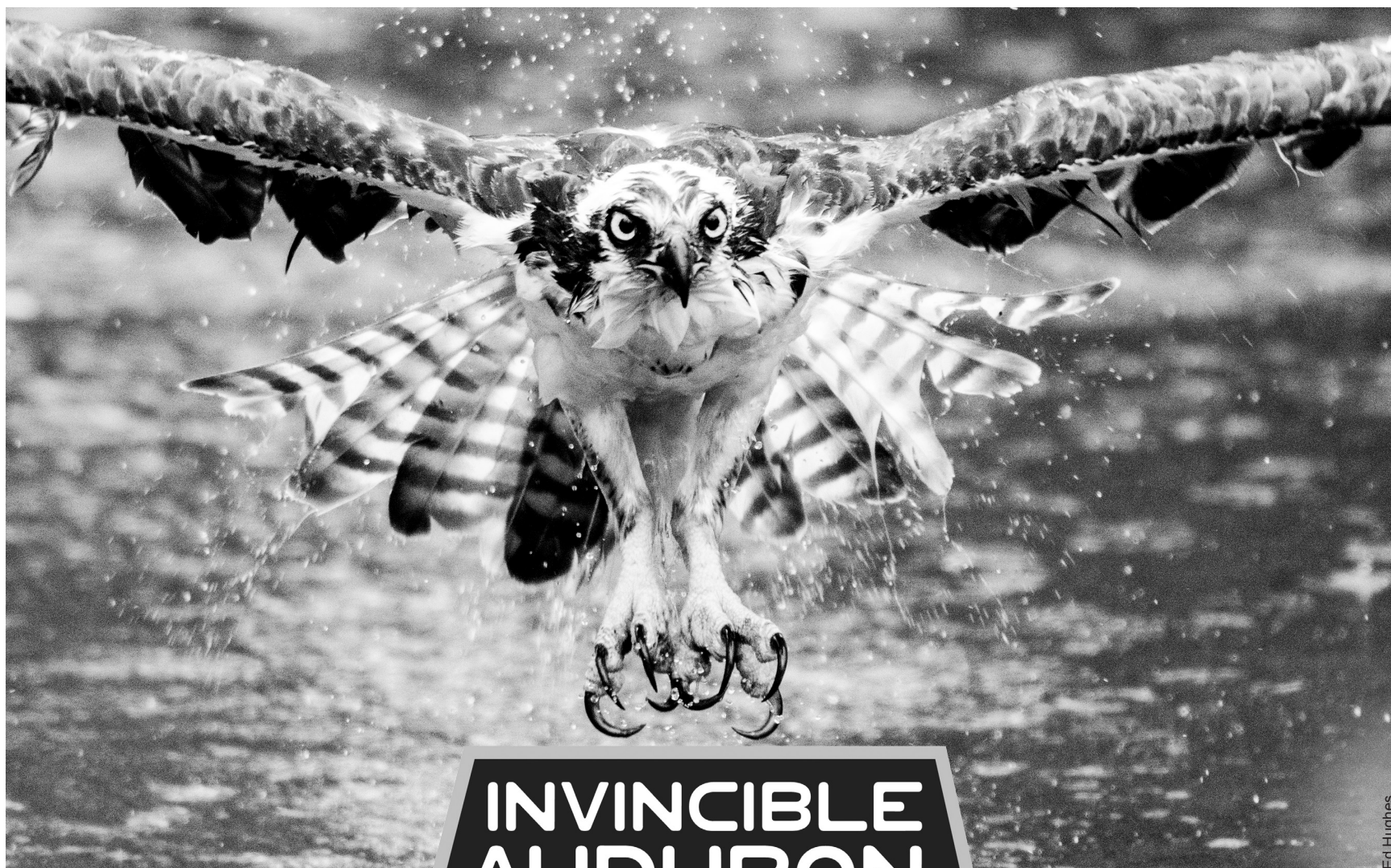
tion to the campaign.

Planned gifts are an increasingly popular way to make a long-term impact with your contribution. This could include trusts, retirement funds, charitable gift annuities and other estate planning methods. As a tax exempt organization, Audubon can benefit from a variety of trust arrangements which carry substantial benefits for the donor.

Bequests are the ultimate gift to the Audubon. Although a bequest cannot be counted on until it is real-

ized, we would like to recognize your plans by including you among our Hawkes Legacy Society. Please let us know if you have made provision for a gift to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island in your will.

Your contribution to Invincible Audubon will make a significant difference in the future. We are deeply grateful for your participation in this campaign. Call 401-949-5454 x 3017 if you would like to discuss any aspect of your giving plans.



Ed Hughes



New Endowment Campaign in Need of Superheroes like YOU!

By Carla Aveledo

Traditionally, heroes are seen as powerful, brave and protective. For the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, its donors are nothing short of heroes – they sustain, inspire and allow the organization to thrive.

But now Audubon is in need of superheroes – those who go above and beyond.

Audubon's donors have allowed the more than 100-year-old organization to grow strong in the fight against environmental challenges in the wake of climate change and the national debate on its consequences.

But it has been a long road for Audubon to get where it is today.

During the late 1800s, women's fashion included feather-adorned hats creating a large demand for plumes. Hundreds of thousands of

birds were slaughtered for their feathers, driving some species to near extinction. Voices against the violence grew and in 1897 a group of advocates averse to the onslaught of birds in the Ocean State formed the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

The initial mission of Audubon continues to run deep through the organization: to foster conservation of birds as well as other animals and plant life; to conserve wildlife habitat and unique natural areas through acquisitions while always advocating, educating and conserving.

Through the years, the organization has grown in membership, raising its count to 3,800 current members and over 13,000 active supporters.

Please turn to page 4





Invincible Audubon

Continued from page 3

Rhode Island's Audubon is one of seven independent Audubon Societies in the country, which allows the sole focus of the organization to be primarily on its state's clean and healthy environment.

As the largest private and independent landholder in the state, Audubon protects nearly 10,000 acres of property. Approximately 7,500 acres is owned outright and Audubon calls them refuges for wildlife. Some of this space includes 15 properties with trails open to the public. Much of this land has been received through private donors. There are also 2,500 acres in which the Society holds development rights on property owned by others. Under these development rights, Audubon guarantees that the habitat values are protected as the original landowner intended.

During the organization's strategic planning process in 2012, Audubon began brainstorming about ways to grow their endowment with foresight into a time when the organization will need more funds to rely on.

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island sees their endowment as a power source that will radiate strength. Much like a superhero that fends off evil, the donors that contribute to the endowment will do just that for all of the challenges that Audubon faces in the future.

"Audubon has risen to many challenges over the past century, advocating for the environment, acquiring land, protecting it and improving our environmental education program," said Executive Director Lawrence Taft. "We now need to secure the Audubon Society's future for the challenges that we will face in the next 100 years."

As the organization looks to the future as an efficient, responsible land protector and environmental advocate, it has launched "Invincible Audubon," the Society's first-ever endowment campaign. Taft explained that although they know their efforts will not necessarily make nature invincible, with the endowment's help the Audubon Society of Rhode Island will become invincible, thus providing Rhode Islanders with a strong, protective force to act on behalf of nature.

After a year of preparation, the organization has set a goal to increase their current endowment by \$6 million in order to focus funding on conservation, advocacy and education:

- \$3 million of the new funds will be allocated for environmental education. Audubon looks to expand their education initiatives and connect with children in urban areas to provide access to nature and create a generation of conservation-

Please turn to page 6



Catie Brown

Much like a superhero that fends off evil, the donors that contribute to the endowment will do just that for all of the challenges that Audubon faces in the future.



Peter Green



Ed Hughes



THE SCOOP ON SEED

Different species of birds are attracted by particular kinds of seed. Listed below are some of the most popular types with a listing of the birds you may attract by offering that seed. The Audubon Nature Gift Shops carry an extensive line of feeders and seed as well as offering expert advice on setting up or improving backyard bird feeding. Ask about our Frequent Feeder program!

Environmental Education Center
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
Winter Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 12pm-5pm | Closed Monday & Tuesday

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI
Hours: Monday- Friday 9am-4:30 pm
Closed Saturday & Sunday

(401) 949-5454

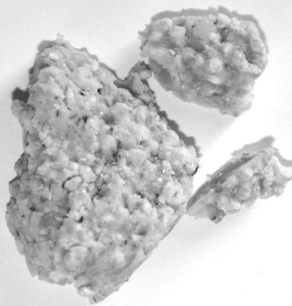
Black Oil Sunflower Seed

Attracts:
jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, finches, goldfinches, Northern Cardinals, Evening Grosbeaks, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and grackles.



Suet and Bird Puddings (beef fat and seed)

Attracts:
woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice.



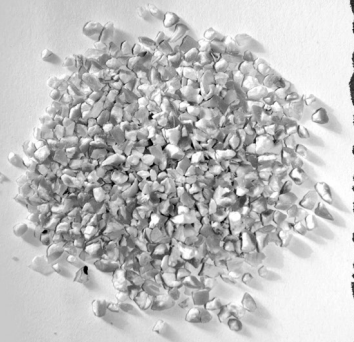
Shelled Peanut

Attracts:
Brown Thrashers, woodpeckers, jays, chickadees, titmice, wrens, nuthatches, Northern Mockingbirds, and starlings.



Cracked Corn

Attracts:
pheasants, Wild Turkey, ducks, quail, doves, crows, jays, sparrows, juncos, and towhees.



Thistle

Attracts:
American Goldfinches, House Finches, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Common Redpolls.



DON'T FORGET!

Birdfeeders and Seed Make Wonderful Holiday Gifts!

DOUBLE DISCOUNT DAYS
at the Nature Shop

Audubon Environmental Education Center
Bristol, RI*

MEMBERS RECEIVE 20% OFF
December 10 & 11, 2016

*Offer not valid at Powder Mill Ledges



Butch Lombardi

Invincible Audubon

Continued from page 4

minded adults.

- \$2 million will be earmarked for conservation efforts to help properly steward the land, remove invasive species, and improve the quality of habitat.

- \$1 million will be used to establish a permanent fund for environmental advocacy, something Audubon has never been able to do.

“We need to have some consistency and stability so we know that we can do the job we have set out to do,” said Jeff Hall, senior director of advancement at Audubon.

By breaking the endowment into three areas, donors may choose where to direct their gift. This way, Audubon can also assess what their supporters feel is most important. Audubon’s leadership believes this comprehensive approach to the campaign will tackle the organization’s goals with the proper financial support.

People think that Audubon, a multi-faceted organization that has been around for over a century, will always be there for the public.

“We want folks to be aware that we’re not a wealthy organization nor government supported nor a part of a big national organization – and that we need support,” Taft said. Down the line, 50 years from now, Audubon wants to make sure they are still able to effectively look out for the environment and provide care for their wildlife refuges.

Conservation of nearly 10,000 acres requires attention and constant maintenance. The organization’s efforts include preserving sensitive habitats for both animals and plants as well as revitalizing endangered species. These conservation efforts are mainly done through Audubon’s staff and volunteers who strive to maintain the natural environment of the many properties.

“The campaign, more than anything else, will hopefully open up people’s eyes to the cost that it takes to complete our mission, that there

is a need for funding and that voluntary donations are much depended on and appreciated,” he continued. “We want to invite people who believe in our mission to join us in this effort.”

Audubon sees educating youth about the environment and its importance as crucial to continuing all of its success. After years of ongoing efforts, the education portion of Audubon’s mission is growing. Audubon educators currently go into schools in every district of the state to teach the value of protecting nature so future generations will understand the importance of conservation.

In 2000, Audubon opened the Environmental Education Center in Bristol, which has boosted exposure to many Rhode Islanders. The nature center focuses on Rhode Island habitats and houses the largest aquarium in the state. Last year over 14,500 visitors enjoyed programs, lectures, hikes and exhibits at the Center.

Every year, Audubon educates over 20,000 people through their programs. “In this day and age there is such a disconnect between young people and the natural environment, we see our work as very important: to let them know that the outdoors is important and its part of our lives,” Taft said. “The environment sustains all life, including our own.”

Audubon is very concerned with the more complex challenges the state will face surrounding climate change and is dedicated to educating Rhode Island’s youth about the environment. Getting kids excited about science and nature through summer camps, school programs, urban initiatives and family events is key to developing an environmentally literate population.

Continuing to educate children and adults is critical to the livelihood of the environment, explained Cynthia Warren, Audubon Board of Directors president. She agreed with



“We want to be able to reach more students and encourage more people to care about the environment.”

CYNTHIA WARREN,
AUDUBON BOARD OF
DIRECTORS PRESIDENT



Taft and said the world has become so “inside-oriented” and Audubon is one organization that encourages the public to enjoy the outdoors. “Audubon gets people out and about,” she added. “We want to be able to reach more students and encourage more people to care about the environment.”

Another area of focus is environmental advocacy. In order to maintain the organization’s strides to promote policies that support a healthy environment, Audubon believes it

needs to dedicate a portion of the campaign funds for a permanent voice at the State House.

“Before this endowment campaign, we had no fund for environmental advocacy,” Taft said. “After 35 years as the organization’s former environmental advocate, Eugenia Marks retired in December 2015. To continue her work on environmental legislation, a fund of \$1 million will be established to support the advocacy department.”

Over the years Audubon has



worked on numerous issues before the legislature: pollution; water quality; development zoning and urban sprawl; preparation for climate change; protection of coastal marshes that are important buffer zones. The organization has been a constant advocate for policies that help Rhode

Island's environment remain healthy. Monies donated to the campaign will also contribute resources for conservation defense for legal issues that the organization must face through their work in protecting properties. Before the campaign, defending violations or other encroachments might have

caused Audubon to cut back on other programs or initiatives.

"We need the strength from the endowment to continue the fight," Taft said.

In large part, this endowment-building campaign will allow Audubon to focus on issues and eventually decrease the amount of hours dedicated to the constant fundraising challenge that the organization faces.

This endowment campaign is different than a traditional fundraising strategy, but that doesn't make it any less important. They hope that newcomers to the organization will understand the importance of carrying out the duties of conservation, education and advocacy into the future. The campaign is set to last three years, but Audubon knows that the battle to protect nature never truly ends.

Although the campaign is largely to support the already established sectors of Audubon, the additional funds will also allow the organization to acquire more land as opportunities arise and to expand education programs in the future.

"The Audubon Society of Rhode Island traditionally has – and always will – rely on its people to help support them," Warren said. "We are so grateful for the support that donors continue to give to Audubon," she added. "Members are Audubon's extended family,

consisting of thousands of people who care and understand the important work that Audubon does, and also whom the organization relies on to continue."

"This endowment campaign will enhance Audubon's goals of growth, stability and endurance, making sure that Audubon will continue to be an impactful, dynamic organization," Jeff Hall said. "No matter what the economy is, no matter what the organization will weather, we will have a known source of revenue to always count on to do our work for the environment."

As of early October, the organization had already raised nearly \$4.7 million toward their goal. The donations have come in the form of bequests, pledges and private donations.

"We've been around for a long time and we've been entrusted with conservation properties, a mission to educate kids and to care for birds and their habitats, and we want to make sure we are able to do our work no matter what. We want to make Audubon invincible," Hall said.

Audubon already has heroes who help them on an annual basis. "We are now asking them to dig deeper, jump higher, to do something on top of what they're already doing for us," Taft echoed.

Audubon is asking for their supporters to step up and become *SUPERHEROES*.



Bird photography by Ed Hughes



"Invincible Audubon is about this generation assuring future generations that there will always be natural places for wildlife and people".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LAWRENCE TAFT





Audubon Society of Rhode Island

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

October 23, 2016



Senior Director of Conservation Scott Rubren, Deborah Hughes, and Board Member Heidi Piccerelli head out on a walk after the meeting.

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk, MA was the setting of Audubon's 2016 Annual Meeting. Keynote speaker Lynsy Smithson-Stanley, National Audubon Deputy Director of Climate and Strategic Initiatives, addressed the impact of climate change on New England's birds.



The 2016 Annual Meeting was held in the white barn on the scenic Caratunk Wildlife Refuge.



Keynote Speaker Lynsy Smithson Stanley addresses the gathering.



Chris Powell and Board Member Loren Byrne



Board Member Meghan Frost, Council of Advisors Member Jan Fancher, and Board Treasurer Deborah Linnell at the meeting.



Martin Sornborger with Council of Advisors President Charlotte Sornborger.



Left to right: Scout leaders John Lund, Robert McKay and Board Member Tom Humphrys with scouts from 8th Providence BPSA Group. Audubon thanked the scouts at the Annual Meeting for their ongoing work at the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge.



Board President Cynthia Warren emerges as a Superhero from a telephone booth to announce the Invincible Campaign.



Board Members Keith Killingbeck and David Gumbley.

Newly Elected to the Board of Directors

Donald Heitzmann (Exeter)

Mr. Heitzmann is a retired software engineer and business executive, with extensive experience in computer and software technology. He earned a BSE degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Architecture degree from Princeton University. Mr. Heitzmann has served as member and officer on boards of several youth sports organizations. He was also a board member and treasurer of the Rhode Island Squash Racquets Association for nine years. A long-time member and volunteer at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Mr. Heitzmann enjoys woodworking, aviation, birding and hiking.

Marion Baust-Timpson (Little Compton)

Ms. Baust-Timpson is the Director of Corporate Program Management at SeraCare in Milford, MA. She earned a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany and an MBA from Bentley University. Previously, Ms. Baust-Timpson was a Senior Project Manager in Process Development at Amgen in Rhode Island. She has nearly



Audubon Executive Director Lawrence Taft (left) with new Board Members Marion Baust-Timpson and Donald Heitzmann.

20 years of broad global business operations experience including project management, business/financial analysis, resource planning and strategy development in the biopharmaceutical industry. Her interests and hobbies include travel, horseback riding and gardening.





The Audubon Society of Rhode Island gratefully acknowledges the term of service of **Jennifer Critcher** who is stepping down from the board of directors this year.



Carol Brabant receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from Director of Volunteer Services Jon Scoones.

Volunteer of the Year

Carol Brabant, a Providence resident, was honored as Volunteer of the Year for her dedication as a volunteer and strong commitment to Audubon. She has served in a number of volunteer roles, dedicating over 760 hours to Audubon over a three year period.

Award Winners



Steven Hughes accepts the Business of the Year Award from Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr.

Business of the Year

Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance, a national leader in vegetated roof research, design and installation, was honored as Business of the Year for leadership in applying environmentally sound and innovative practices to business operations.



From left: Audubon educator Lisa Maloney, Educator of the Year Awardee Lauren Roberti, Audubon Educator Sharon Riley and Audubon Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee.

Educator of the Year

Lauren Roberti, Special Education Teacher at Nathan Bishop Middle School in Providence, was honored as Educator of the Year. Audubon recognized Ms. Roberti for her outstanding and creative efforts to bring environmental education to her students and connect them with nature.

Just in time for the Holidays!

Rhode Island Birding Trails

Over 60 Places to Watch Birds in the Ocean State

Published by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Find out where the birders ... bird!
Three separate trails: Northern Rhode Island, Southern Rhode Island and East Bay and the Islands • All locations easily accessible



Pre-Order Now \$9.95

Will Retail for \$14.95 When Published

Order your copy at
www.ribirdingtrails.com





Audubon kids

Frosty Fun for Families



By Lauren Parmelee, Senior Director of Education

Go ahead! Pull out their woolly sweaters and warm mittens and let the kids play outdoors all winter long. Outdoor exploration provides exercise, reduces stress, and promotes creativity and self-confidence. Plus, nature in winter becomes a wonderland to discover!

Part of the fun can be observing birds and wildlife during the colder months. Animals have a variety of strategies for winter survival. Take a clue from what animals do, and incorporate their skills into creative play!

- Squirrels make snug nests out of leaves, twigs and moss. Build your own nest or fort out of snow.
- Otters slide down snowy hills on their bellies again and again.... Go sledding or tubing and glide like the otters!
- Chickadees, titmice and nuthatches hang out in small feeding flocks and call to each other... dee – dee – dee.

Laugh and sing with your friends as you tromp through the woods. At home, hang up a homemade feeder to attract your feathered friends.

- Deer and rabbits search for buds, bark and berries to eat, leaving tracks in the snow.

Create a snow angel to show where you've been, then use the



pictures below and try to identify animal tracks you might see.

- Great Horned Owls hoot in the dark as they set up nesting territories ...HOOO....HOOO....HOOO

Go on a very quiet night hike and listen for owls while you look up at the winter stars.

And when you are tired and ready for cocoa in front of the fire, wish the woodchuck and chipmunk good dreams as they hibernate underground.



KIDS!
*Clip this guide and head outside after a snowfall for a tracking adventure.
 How many critter tracks can you identify?*

 SKUNK	 CHIPMUNK	 COYOTE	 RABBIT	 DEER	 SQUIRREL	 RACCOON
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For more information visit gocollette.com/link/759551

Volunteers from Dassault Systemes SIMULIA Corp. Dig In at Powder Mill Ledges

Twelve volunteers from Johnston-based Dassault Systemes SIMULIA Corp. really dug in and spent a day in mid-October helping out with fall projects at Powder Mill Ledges. They removed invasive species, prepared areas of the refuge for new loam, spread loam and then reseeded with native grass seed. They also spent time weeding Audubon's educational gardens.

In addition to the much-appreciated hands-on efforts, the corporation also made a donation of \$2,200 for materials to construct a new boardwalk at the refuge and made a second donation for Audubon to purchase six yards of hemlock mulch to finish up the garden work.

Audubon thanks the volunteers and management at Dassault Systemes SIMULIA Corp. for their hard work and much-appreciated support of the Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge. We look forward to a continued partnership.



AUDUBON BIRTHDAY PARTIES



Go Wild!

BIRTHDAY PARTIES WITH AUDUBON ARE AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

1 CHOOSE A LOCATION!

2 MAKE IT YOURS!

3 HAVE FUN!



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

TWICE THE FUN
= BECAUSE =
WE KNOW YOU *Love*

BIRD WATCHING



123
SESAME STREET

Rhode Island PBS

7AM WEEKDAYS
digital 36.1
RI cable 08

Learn

10AM WEEKDAYS
digital 36.2
Cox 808/Verizon 478

RIPBS.ORG





LET'S GO BIRDING

By Laura Carberry

The Best Stockings are Stuffed by Audubon!

Are you looking for those perfect gifts for the bird enthusiasts in your life? Struggling for ideas on what to get them? I have listed a few suggestions to get you started!

Do you know someone who is just beginning to explore the world of birds? You can never go wrong with a quality feeder or birdbath. While it may be fun to choose from so many shapes and varieties, it can also be confusing. It is important to consider the species of birds that your gift recipient will want to attract. The experts at the Audubon Nature Shops would be happy to assist in your selections.

Perhaps your birding buddy already has too many feeders, but they need help to identify the birds they see. How about a Field Guide? My two favorites are *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* and *The National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. If the recipient is just starting out, stick to the Sibley's Guide.

Do you have a friend travelling to another state or country for birding? Give a local field guide or book that provides specific birding locations in their upcoming destination. A birding enthusiast will surely appreciate those more detailed guides. Another useful tool is a birding app. While this is like having a field guide on your phone, it also includes bird songs! There are several different apps out there including iBird and Sibley's.

For birders who spend a lot of time in the field, consider a binocular harness and a microfiber lens cleaning cloth. The harness relieves strain on the neck that may happen with a traditional binocular strap. A microfiber lens cloth that can hook to binoculars makes a great stocking stuffer!

If your birding friend has all the books and gear they need, what about supporting bird habitat? Bird-friendly coffee or eco-chocolates make great gifts, as does a membership or donation to Audubon in their name. Or sign them up for an Audubon birding workshop or field trip so they can learn more with a local guide. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island offers beginning birding classes, owl prowls, all day birding van trips, and even some overnight excursions.

Again, our Audubon Nature Shop staff will be happy to assist you with ideas and selections, or email me for advice at lcarberr@asri.org.



Butch Lombardi

**Remember Double
Discount Days!**
Audubon Society of Rhode
Island Members receive
20% OFF
ALL PURCHASES
in the Audubon Nature Shop
in Bristol on
December 10 & 11, 2016.
Happy Holidays!

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 401-949-5454 ext. 3017.

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.





Raptor Weekend 2016

Birds of prey swooped into the Audubon Environmental Education Center on September 10 and 11, 2016 for Raptor Weekend. Close to 2,300 visitors got up-close with eagles, hawks, falcons and owls – learning all about these amazing creatures, their habitats and conservation efforts. What a weekend!



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: Denis Marginson

From: Constance and John Jacobucci

In Honor of: Sara Sampieri-Hovet

From: Coastal Systems family

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: Chloe Allen

From: Constance and John Jacobucci

In Memory of: John C. "Andy" Anderson

From: Kathy Rohrman

In Memory of: Jeff Asermely

From: Peter and Kristine Kilmartin

In Memory of: Norah K Batham

From: Ingeborg Jelley

In Memory of Jane Blount

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Protecting Pollinator Health and Habitats

By Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr

Pollinators are essential. They are responsible for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the global crop species. In the U.S. alone, the economic value of native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year. Pollinators are also keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems. Fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25% of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears.

Yet the news on pollinators is relentlessly discouraging. We hear how pollinators and the essential services they provide are at risk from habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases. According to the *Bee Informed Partnership*, beekeepers across the U.S. lost 44 percent of their honey bee colonies from April 2015 – April 2016. Rates of both winter and summer losses were higher than last year. And just this past September, aerial spraying of the pesticide Nalid, to control Zika and West Nile carrying mosquitoes, left millions of bees dead in South Carolina.

For many years, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island has focused on this issue, using its suite of programs in conservation, education and advocacy to protect pollinators in Rhode Island. Pollinator and butterfly gardens are on display at the Smithfield and Bristol offices. Conservation programs for almost 10,000 acres of protected lands consider pollinator habitats and health. We do not spray pesticides and the conservation staff schedule field mowing to enhance bird and pollinator populations. Programs on pollinators and how to create and enhance their habitat are regularly offered to the public and included in our school programs – often using the pollinator gardens as a teaching tool. Audubon's stalwart advocate, Eugenia Marks, worked long and hard for laws and regulations that limit pesticide use and protect wildlife species including pollinators.

At Audubon's urging, the Rhode Island House of Representatives passed a resolution asking the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to convene a working group to "make findings and recommendations with regard to maintaining, protecting and enhancing pollinator habitat and health in Rhode Island." The



resolution asks the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to provide administrative and staff support to this working group. These recommendations are scheduled to be complete by February 15, 2017.

RI DEM Director Janet Coit has appointed the working group that included Audubon and the RI Nursery and Landscape Association with representatives from the Environment Council of Rhode Island, RI Farm Bureau, University of RI Plant Science Department, RI Beekeepers Association, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, RI Natural History Survey, Kaiser Tree Preservation and Lawn Dawg.

The group met for the first time on September 22, 2016. Each member and guest was asked to discuss why they were at the meeting and to share their thoughts and concerns about the work ahead. Despite many different perspectives, there was broad agreement that pollinator health is an issue of grave importance that will require shared action and commitment.

Working group meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend and share our learning experience. Contact me (401) 949-5454 x 3003 or mkerr@asri.org if you would like to receive the meeting schedule.

Think Leaving a Bequest to Audubon is for the Birds?

It Is!

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



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND REPORT

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The Report is the Audubon Society's
member newsletter and updates members
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Maxwell Mays Refuge, Coventry, RI
November 20, 2016

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Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, Exeter, RI
December 2, 2016 and January 27, 2016

....

Fort Wildlife Refuge, North Smithfield, RI
December 22, 2016

....

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, Seekonk, MA
January 7, 2016

....

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, Exeter, RI
January 27, 2016 (Ages 21+)

....

Audubon Environmental Education Center, Bristol, MA
January 27 and February 17, 2016 (Ages 21+)



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Holiday Happenings

Christmas Tree Sale and Photos with Santa

Audubon Environmental Education Center, Bristol, RI
December 3, 2016; 9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Audubon Holiday Craft Fair

Artisan Gifts with a Natural Flair

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield, RI
December 3, 2016; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



Wildlife Wreath Making

Design a winter wreath that is edible for birds and wildlife.

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Smithfield, RI
December 19, 2016; 2:00 – 4:00 pm



CELEBRATE NATURE THIS SEASON!

Join the Audubon experts on a winter birding trip, enjoy a seasonal lecture, bring the kids for vacation week fun and more!



For a complete list of programs and events, download a copy of the Audubon Nature Tours and Programs guide at www.asri.org

