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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

# REPORT



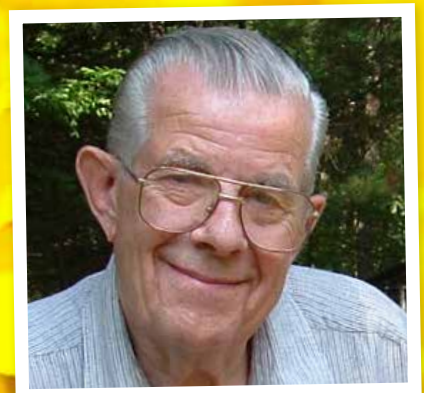
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*(see back cover)*

VOLUME 52, NO. 2

SPRING 2018

## **BUILDING A BUZZ IN RHODE ISLAND**

*How Audubon Advocates, Educates  
and Protects Habitat for Pollinators*



**Audubon Remembers**  
**Former Executive Director**  
**Alfred L. Hawkes (1928-2018)**  
*See Page 16*

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



## Protection of Pollinators is a Priority

Why is Audubon, an organization founded to protect birds, creating so much “buzz” about pollinators?

In this Report, we not only delve into the ongoing global pollinator crisis, but also explain Audubon’s commitment to the issue and illustrate how our combined strategies of conservation, education and advocacy effectively work together. We protect pollinator habitat, lead programs to educate all ages on the importance of bees and other pollinators, and work with scientists, landscapers and legislators to build awareness and encourage action at the State House. Our strength is threefold.

We also remember the late Alfred Hawkes (1928-2018) a prominent environmental advocate and former Audubon executive director. For 35 years he guided the growth of Audubon from a small group of concerned citizens who sought to protect birds into a strong organization ready to face issues in the modern age of environmentalism.

As spring turns into summer we hope to see you out hiking on our refuges, attending our programs, and enjoying all that Mother Nature has to offer and that you help to protect.

Thanks again for your continued and steadfast support.

Lawrence J. F. Taft, Executive Director

## How to Make a Good Gift Even Better

More and more people are taking advantage of the many gift-planning options available today. These include bequests by will, giving through your IRA (if you are over 70½) revocable trusts, gift annuities, charitable trusts, gifts of securities and real estate, in-kind gifts, endowment giving and other possibilities.

Some gifts can be made to benefit Audubon today (annual giving) and others can be made now to benefit Audubon at a later date (deferred gifts). Some gift arrangements are revocable (you can change your mind); others are irrevocable.

A planned gift usually requires more thought than writing a quick check. These gifts often come out of estate assets. You have to consider the impact of your gift on your overall financial condition. Can you afford a sizable gift at this time, or should you make it later by will? Do you need temporary or lifetime income from your gift arrangement? What are the tax implications?

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Consider these potential benefits:

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- Protect yourself from hasty decisions.
- Increase your personal satisfaction.



Jennifer Hill

## Help For You

Audubon wants to help you make a good gift even better. We can assist you by explaining various options and can be helpful in creating tailor-made illustrations of your gift. Be assured that we will always be sensitive to your financial needs and objectives, and will protect your confidentiality.

If you would like more information about charitable gift planning, contact Jeff Hall, Senior Director of Advancement, at 401-949-5454 ext. 3017 or by email at [jhall@asri.org](mailto:jhall@asri.org).





Remembering  
**AL HAWKES**  
*Architect of  
 the Modern Audubon*

By Hugh Markey



He could often be found sitting behind a desk on the second floor of a Victorian house on Providence's East Side, writing note after note on a legal pad. This was 1981 and there was no computer, no cell phone, no internet. His dark hair was combed neatly back and he wore a white shirt and tie - as he did every day. His rather formal appearance contrasted sharply with many others connected to conservation organizations at the time, but that was his style. Besides, later that day he planned to visit yet another school to teach a group of youngsters about the importance of nature, so he must look the part of a teacher.

Alfred Hawkes, Audubon's executive director from 1958 to 1993, guided his organization through its most critical growth period to date. Under his watch, Audubon moved from being a small group concerned mainly about protecting birds to an organization with a strong voice for environmental education, advocacy and land conservation in the state.

Hawkes corresponded voluminously with Governor then United States Senator John Chafee, university professors, Environmental Protection Agency officials, and concerned citizens. He also partnered the Audubon Society of Rhode Island with other New England Audubon organizations in regional meetings and started a joint publication, which he edited. Hawkes set the tone, wrote editorials and reviewed issues of Audubon's own newsletter, *The Report*, working closely with its designated editors.

In another part of the building, Eugenia Marks sat in a crowded office. She would later become one of Rhode Island's leading environmental advocates and Audubon's senior director of policy until she retired in 2015. In 1981, however, she was a recent arrival from Florida. She was deep

in thought as she revised a piece she had written for the Audubon newsletter, then a four-page bulletin. Al Hawkes had reviewed her latest story and had written extensive notes in the margins, suggesting improvements along with explanations for his edits. "He was a wonderful critic," she recalls. Hawkes was a role model to many in the environmental community.

**"He Built the Audubon Society."**

During an interview in 2016, Eugenia Marks discussed the remarkable career of Al Hawkes. "He built the Audubon Society of Rhode Island as we know it today. He was the second executive director after Roland Clement, and he spearheaded the move to the headquarters building on Bowen Street in Providence and made it the public face of Audubon." He defended the organization against take-over by national interests, and worked with seven other independent Audubon Societies as a vital voice for local environmental protection. He also made Audubon headquarters in Providence an accessible destination for those with interests in birds and conservation.

Hawkes formalized the Audubon library, acquired significant books and registered it as a public library so all could share in its holdings. He started the gift shop and stocked it with specialty field guides, nature books, and promoted the shop as an in-town source of birdseed.



*The cover of the May-June 1971 Audubon Report featured Executive Director Alfred Hawkes receiving an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Brown University.*





Hawkes (left) presents a snake during his nature program on WJAR.

Many strategic meetings regarding the increasing environmental concerns of the 1960s were held at 40 Bowen Street, and in the 1970s he led a multi-talented group to establish the Environment Council of Rhode Island as National Wildlife Federation's state affiliate. As a voice for enforcing the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and other federal legislation as well as the state's own protective laws, the Environment Council met at Audubon headquarters into the early 2000s.

Adequate space was needed for his vision of an expanding organization. He eventually led the drive to construct the current Audubon headquarters in Smithfield, Rhode Island, adjacent to the 120-acre Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge. This place with room for education programs, lectures, meetings, library, staff offices and immediate access to nature trails solidified Audubon's leadership in New England.

In *A Century of Dedication*, Hawkes wrote: "One of the Society's biggest accomplishments during the last 60, 70 years, maybe its biggest contribution to Rhode Island altogether, is the setting aside of land, its preservation of open space for wildlife and compatible use by people... Years ago, there was nobody else, other than the state, setting aside land." Today, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island protects almost 10,000 acres of land across the state.

## Spreading Conservation Through Education

Hawkes's approach to conservation was through education. Experiential hands-on learning was the method for his teaching and his guidance for Audubon staff and programs. Materials that could be seen and compared were key. "Audubon's collection of taxidermy animals were acquired before Al's tenure, but he shared the resources with other institutions – Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History, University of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island School of Design Nature Lab – as part of a cooperative relationship between organizations that would continue for decades. Contributions of shells, eggs, nests, and pressed plants filled the attic at Bowen Street and were given proper housing for educational use at the headquarters in Smithfield," explained Eugenia Marks.

In addition to working cooperatively with Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) with their nature lab holdings, Hawkes lectured about birds and their habitats. Marks recalls accompanying him to an industrial design class. "The students were supposed to design something - anything at all - for birds. Well, one of them designed a poured cement wood duck box. Imagine some poor wildlife biologist rowing through

a marsh with four or five of these in a boat!" she laughed. Still, Marks says that Hawkes resisted the urge to embarrass the would-be designer. "He was a very gentle person, he was always encouraging."

As early as the 1970s, Hawkes had a program on WJAR television (NBC10) where he used to present live animals and talk about their habitats and adaptations. He also lectured extensively for garden clubs and other civic organizations.

He received awards from the National Wildlife Federation and other national groups. As a young man, Al Hawkes had spent two years teaching in the public school system. Perhaps that was the reason he developed the idea that Audubon needed to establish a public wildlife refuge within 20 minutes of any school in the state. "In those days, there was money in school budgets for field trips," Marks recalls. "Al, along with other hired naturalists, would do programs both indoors and out at the refuges."

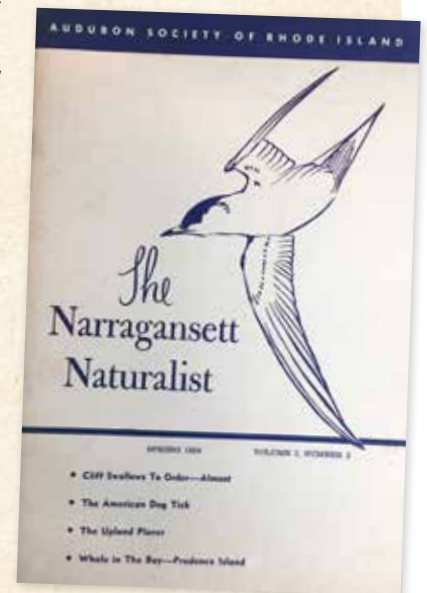
Hawkes described his days traveling the state and teaching youngsters about conservation as a joy: "The kids were so interested. They wanted to learn; they asked so many questions. At the start of the year I usually told the kids to bring in things they found, things they thought the rest of the class would find interesting, and we'd discuss them. And they brought in all kinds of things. Sometimes, it would be a live animal, a bird or frogs or turtles. I'll never forget the boy who brought in a huge snapping turtle that seemed to have been dead for months. He dragged it in a burlap sack. Whew, did it stink! I don't think the other teachers in that school were too happy with our program that day."

The late Ken Weber's book about the history of Audubon, *A Century of Dedication*, provides a quote from Hawkes on education:

*"Our aim is not to produce experts in biology or to turn out experts in teaching, but to promote an overall public understanding and knowledge to assure optimal use of the environment, to avoid either exploitation or under-use of an area."*

## Hawkes and Big River

Part of Audubon's mission is to advocate for the environment, and there is no better example of the organization's impact than the Big River Reservoir issue. Looking across the valley at Exit 6 on I-95 today, we see trees and woods and natural areas. We do not see a shallow reservoir that would drown miles of cold-water trout streams and hundreds of acres of wetlands, but produce only one-quarter the supply of the Scituate Reservoir. Those in favor of the Big River Reservoir had hoped to dam the river in East Greenwich in order to create an auxiliary water source to the Scituate Reservoir. Hawkes was a leader in the fight against the Big River Reservoir, which he viewed as an unnecessary public expense and ecologically devastating. He thought the



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# BUILDING A BUZZ IN RHODE ISLAND

*Audubon Advocacy Gives a Voice to Pollinators in Crisis*

By Todd McLeish

Elliott Waterman

When Environment Council of Rhode Island member Dave Brunetti mentioned at a meeting that he wanted to get the state to ban a class of insecticides called neonicotinoids, Audubon's director of policy, Meg Kerr, and her predecessor Eugenia Marks expressed their support and offered to help. Concerns about the decline of bees have made news around the world, and neonicotinoids have been implicated as one probable cause. Since pollinator protection is high on Audubon's list of priorities, Kerr and Marks joined with Brunetti in speaking to legislators and meeting with beekeepers and other interested stakeholders about the issue.

The idea of a ban on neonicotinoids met with resistance from many in the farming and landscaping industries, however, so one legislator offered to convene what Kerr called "a listening workshop" to bring together experts and interested parties to share their perspectives. It was an emotionally charged meeting, and it soon became clear that there was little support for an immediate ban on the insecticides.

Instead, a compromise was reached and legislation was passed to establish a Pollinator Working Group under the RI Department of

Environmental Management to investigate the many issues surrounding pollinator health and habitat in Rhode Island. The Working Group includes scientists, farmers, landscapers, beekeepers and representatives of environmental groups, with Kerr and Shannon Brawley, executive director of the RI Nursery and Landscape Association, designated as "staff" to lead the effort.

"We all agreed that it was an opportunity to bring people together, learn about the condition of bees and other pollinators in our state, evaluate how pesticides, climate change and habitat changes are impacting pollinators. We wanted to identify strategies the state could consider to move forward in a productive way to address our concerns," Kerr said.

## **Advocacy: It's Not Always What You Think**

Many people think that environmental advocacy, like Audubon's work to protect pollinators, all takes place at the State House. They imagine Kerr and others testifying at legislative hearings, persuading legislators in one-on-one meetings, and occasionally catching the ear of the

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## Building a Buzz in Rhode Island Continued from page 5

governor in a fight for strong environmental policies. But that's only one small part of the process, as Audubon's involvement in the Pollinator Working Group suggests.

"It's a difficult process to pass a bill, but passage doesn't change anything," Kerr said. "We need to continue to advocate for full and proper implementation of the bills that we work to get passed. Almost always the bill is asking a state agency to do something, and the agencies are all short-staffed and already have full plates."

"And just because it was our priority and we were able to convince the legislature to make it a priority," she added, "that doesn't necessarily mean it's a state agency priority or that they have the funding for what we want them to do."

For example, Audubon fought for two years for passage of amendments to Rhode Island's Green Buildings Act to add metrics for ensuring that the property around new state buildings is as sustainably designed as the buildings themselves. The bill that passed gives the state an opportunity to pilot test the new metrics on four projects.

"We are now part of the implementation team, helping the state successfully select and implement the four projects" said Kerr. "Once a bill passes, advocates always think about how we can help the state be successful."

The same was true of the Resilient Rhode Island Act, which established greenhouse gas reduction goals and programs aimed at state agency coordination. Advocates like Kerr who worked to get the bill passed continue to remain engaged to make sure that the state does what the bill directed.

"The point is, our job is not to pass bills. Our job is to make the environment better in Rhode Island," Kerr said. "Simply passing bills doesn't do it."

The good news is that Audubon is highly respected at the State House, thanks to decades of advocacy by the late executive director Al Hawkes, Marks and others long before Kerr was hired. While Kerr has been an environmental advocate for more than 25 years, she was pleased to see the immediate respect she was given as a representative of Audubon.

"The members of the General Assembly care about what we have to say because our large membership gives us clout," she said. "Many legislators also have fond memories of hiking trails at Audubon refuges and have attended Audubon events. And they worked for years with Eugenia, who was always on top of the issues. That's the expectation they have of us."

### We are a Forest, Not a Tree.

But Audubon doesn't work alone on behalf of the Rhode Island environment. There are numerous other groups that collaborate, though the Environment Council of Rhode Island deserves special acknowledgement. A coalition of more than 60 organizations, it serves as a collective voice for advocating for effective policies and laws to protect and enhance the local environment.

"We're not all in lock step on what we care most about, but each organization has its area of expertise and area of advocacy, and we share what we're doing with each other," explained Kerr. "We create a priority agenda of bills to work together on."

Kerr is co-chair of the Environment Council's policy committee, which hosts an Earth Day event at the State House to encourage Rhode Islanders to meet their legislators and discuss environmental concerns. The Council also issues a Green Report Card every other

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# I Can Do It! Let Your Voice Be Heard

## 1. SIGN UP

Contact Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr to share your perspective on the state issues we follow and to sign up for advocacy emails. Email Meg at [mkerr@asri.org](mailto:mkerr@asri.org).



## 2. SHOW UP

Attend meetings in your community. Listen to the deliberations of your town council, planning and zoning boards. Identify active voices in your town who are working for protection of birds and other wildlife and get to know them. Explore ways to work together to have a positive impact on local decisions.



Attend meetings of the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI). ECRI meets monthly from September through June on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 at the Department of Administration. You are welcome to attend and learn about current environmental issues.

## 3. WRITE

Emails and letters are important to elected officials. You may get a form letter reply but don't let that bother you. Elected officials pay attention to the mail they get from their constituents.



Write a letter to the editor of your local paper. Your opinion matters and people will notice what you have said. So will your elected officials.

## 4. STAY CONNECTED

Join the conversation on Audubon's Facebook page.





# A Haven for Bees and Butterflies

## *Audubon Designs and Monitors Pollinator Habitat*

By Hugh Markey



Winding his way through the forest trail at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge on a chilly spring day, Scott Ruhren, Audubon Senior Director of Conservation, talks about the global pollinator crisis and the efforts that Audubon has taken to support healthy pollinator habitat in Rhode Island. Out of roughly 1,000 acres at Fisherville Brook, 50 acres are mown and being reconfigured as pollinator habitat. As he reaches one of these designated areas, Ruhren stops to explain that Audubon conservation staff has seeded such pollinator-friendly plants as rose milkweed, asters, goldenrods and common milkweeds. “Over the last decade, there has been a gradual change in our focus. Instead of conserving these areas for grassland birds alone, we have been expanding, accommodating, and designing habitat for pollinators as well. We’ve also arranged for mowing to take place later in the season to help encourage healthy plant growth.”

Special care is being taken to use seeds that are native to Rhode Island. “Seed varieties for these pollinator habitats were chosen partially through economic factors,” Ruhren said. “Wildflowers are becoming popular with gardeners and getting more expensive

to purchase. With the help of volunteers, we have saved money and extracted seeds from existing plants on our properties. For example, last season, a volunteer came and put in a couple of days at several refuges, harvesting seeds from different plants. The seeds were then dried to be planted at a future date.” Another method of harvesting seeds came about from a rather unusual source. “When the fields at certain wildlife refuges were mown, we collected a lot of the chaff that accumulated on the deck of the mowers. It is often loaded with wildflower seeds and little bluestem grass that we then spread at the refuges.”

The planting process is simple: the ground is tilled, then the seed scattered by hand. Sowing in fall means that the seeds will actually benefit from the snowfall by being pressed into the soil and also kept hydrated. Another technique, called frost sowing, means the seeds may be sown on top of snow. “The good thing about this process is that seeds usually need a cold period to harden off, and frost sowing accomplishes that. The alternative is to bring them home and store them in a fridge to fool the seed into thinking its winter and prepare itself for the next season’s germinating.”

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Peter Green



## A Haven for Bees and Butterflies Continued from page 7

The seeding process at Fisherville is new this year. “We wanted to increase the diversity of the flower species. One area has pretty fertile soil, but another is quite dry. That means there will be a difference in the type of flowers that will grow, which in turn may mean a difference in the type of pollinators that will come. We’ll watch and see as the season progresses.”

### Pesticides and Pollinators

“The decision to actively protect pollinators began a couple of years ago when the Board of Directors was discussing conservation priorities for the coming year,” said Executive Director Larry Taft. “In these discussions, we considered gaps in conservation. Audubon had partners in the field focusing on various environmental initiatives, but we realized that there were no other state organizations that were really highlighting the issue of pesticide use and its impact on the environment.”

For Taft and the Board, protecting pollinators was a logical fit. “The more Audubon looked at pesticide use, the more questions were raised. This is an important environmental issue. Part of Audubon’s mission is to protect birds and other wildlife. Well, in order to do that, you must protect their habitats as well.”

“Our Board was concerned about the widespread use of neonicotinoids, a group of pesticides in wide use on farms and in gardens. These pesticides are absorbed by plants and can be present in pollen and nectar, making them toxic to bees. “We attended informational hearings at the state legislature, and worked with legislators to create the Pollinator Working Group. We need to look at the bigger picture: what is the pesticide use, what is the training (for its use), and what is the status of pollinator habitat in our state? We protect big stretches of forest, but even smaller urban and suburban pollinator areas can make a positive impact.” The group made the decision to shine a spotlight on ensuring the health of pollinators through habitat protection and educating the public on what they can do to help.

### Protection and Education Go Hand in Hand

Taft realizes that pollinator protection needs to extend beyond the habitat projects on Audubon’s refuges. “We have taken on pollinator protection in our advocacy work and on our wildlife refuges,” he said, “but we also need good messaging for people about how they can make a positive impact

in their own homes and gardens.”

“Often people think, ‘well, I’ll just plant a butterfly bush or I’ll put milkweed plants in my garden’ but there are many other plants that will benefit and attract a wide variety of pollinators. They can also reduce pesticide use. We need to get people thinking about ways that they can help. It may take a few years to build this important campaign, to spread the word about pollinators and ways that people can get involved, but we are off to a strong start.”

Ruhren agrees. “Some people may think, ‘I only have a little garden, what can I do?’ But some of these gardens in suburban back yards are enough to support pollinators.” The key is to plant flowers and bushes that appeal to a wide variety of pollinators. Even if it is only in window boxes or pots on a deck.

“Some plants have an ‘obligate’ relationship, where they are only pollinated by specific bees. For home gardeners, we encourage growing plants like cosmos and sunflowers that are less specialized. These big, open flowers encourage lots of pollinators, from bees and wasps to beetles, butterflies and moths.”

When it comes to pesticides, Ruhren recommends caution. “We encourage everyone to try and reduce or eliminate pesticide use. Even so-called ‘targeted pesticides’ have been known to leave residue on flowers that can kill bees.” If it is absolutely necessary, we recommend spraying carefully, only on a small designated area, not all over the garden.

“Try to make wise choices, especially by purchasing native plants,” Ruhren continues. “For example, blueberries are important because they are often a hummingbird’s first meal after migration, even though their normal choice might be red flowers.” A vegetable garden can help too. “In my own garden, I always plant flowers like cosmos near my vegetables, and I don’t worry so much about having a super-tidy manicured look. The more flowers and vegetables, the better.”

### Future Plans for Pollinator Gardens

Taft explains that another important project is also in the works at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium. “We’re currently building a good-sized pollinator garden in Bristol. We received support from a donor, and a lot of garden expertise from volunteers, board members, and local garden clubs. We’re not just planting a garden, we’re creating an interpretive, educational

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## Bee Empowered and Help Pollinators

### ✓ I can do it!

Landscape and garden with native plants that provide food for pollinators. See the box on page 9 of suggested native plants that attract bees.



### ✓ I can do it!

Keep flowers blooming through spring, summer and fall. Try to select a wide variety of plants to keep food sources available through the seasons. Don’t forget to plant pollinator-friendly window boxes and containers on decks and patios.



### ✓ I can do it!

Reduce or eliminate pesticide use.



### ✓ I can do it!

Leave dead tree trunks in your landscape. They provide homes for wood-nesting bees and beetles.



### ✓ I can do it!

Support Audubon Conservation. Audubon actively manages habitat to encourage pollinator populations.



Conservation Stewardship Coordinator Mike Cavaliere tills the soil at Fisherville to prepare for planting of pollinator habitat.



# Audubon Leadership Donors Honored

Over 45 Audubon supporters gathered on March 24, 2018 at the Conanicut Yacht Club in Jamestown for the sixth annual Leadership Luncheon. Supporters and their guests were recognized and enjoyed lunch, presentations by Audubon senior staff members and a special visit by Zachariah the Raven.



In attendance were members of Audubon's 1897 Society (donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually) and Hawkes Legacy Circle (donors who have provided for Audubon in their will or estate plan.)



Council of Advisors Chairperson Charlotte Sornborger, Chris Powell, Lelia Palmieri, Mark Baker, Board President Cynthia Warren.



Senior Director of Development Jeff Hall, Jean and David Golden



Connie Jacobucci, John Jacobucci, Donel Cooper



Raymond (Chip) and Brenda Bolster

## These are for the Bees and Butterflies!

Northeastern United States  
Native Plants That Attract Pollinators:

- Aster (*Aster*)
- Beggar's Ticks (*Bidens*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*)
- Blueberry (*Vaccinium*)
- Clover (*Trifolium*)
- Currant (*Ribes*)
- Elder (*Sambucus*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago*)
- Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia*)
- Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium*)
- Lupine (*Lupinus*)
- Milkweed (*Asclepias*)
- New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus*)
- Penstemon (*Penstemon*)
- Purple coneflower (*Echinacea*)
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron*)
- Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus*)
- Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra*)
- Tickseed (*Coreopsis*)
- Willow (*Salix*)



Photos from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database  
Purple coneflower © J.S. Peterson  
Sunflower © Jeff McMillian







## Building a Buzz in Rhode Island Continued from page 6

year that grades individual legislators on their voting record on key environmental bills.

The proposed neonicotinoid ban that led to the creation of the Pollinator Working Group was Environment Council board member Dave Brunetti's first foray into lobbying the General Assembly, and he was pleased to have the support of Audubon's experienced advocates.

"Their skills at grassroots organizing were a huge help," he said. "A lot of people on the Pollinator Working Group put in a lot of effort, but it wouldn't have gone anywhere without Meg Kerr. She was hugely instrumental through her organizational skills to keep the group moving and drafting proposals. Without Meg's involvement, we wouldn't be nearly as far along as we are."

David Gregg, executive director of the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, was worried that the establishment of the Working Group was a way for the legislature to avoid a complex and controversial issue. "But I was surprised how little we really know about the issue, surprised how complex the questions were we were messing about in, and I came to support the idea that we needed it," he said.

Kerr recruited him to the group to represent those interested in natural history, wild bees and healthy habitat.

"After several meetings, we quickly learned that the pesticide situation was much more complicated than we thought," Gregg said. "There's no doubt that neonicotinoids are very powerful. It's likely that they are harming some bees, but much of the harm comes from the misapplication of the pesticides. There would be serious costs to eliminating neonicotinoids, so why pay those costs if half the fault comes from misapplication. Maybe it would be more advantageous to tackle the misapplication issue first."

The Pollinator Working Group's first report,

issued in February 2017, recommended the establishment of a Pesticide Study Commission to investigate the misapplication of pesticides, the inadequate funding of the state's pesticide management and licensing programs, and related issues.

"We need to get our arms around all facets of pesticide management and not lose ourselves on any one pesticide," Kerr said. "We're concerned about outdated laws and regulations, we're concerned about ensuring that training includes information about pollinators, and we are concerned about the unknown combined effects of pesticides applied on the same property to address different problems like mosquito control and garden pests."

The report also noted opportunities to enhance pollinator habitat around the state. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is already proactive in pollinator enhancement projects on many of its properties, but additional openings exist along roadsides and elsewhere.

Kerr and the Working Group also met with Governor Gina Raimondo's staff in December to emphasize that pollinator protection was a priority, which led to plans for a National Pollinator Week program at the State House in June that will feature a "Bee Rally" at which Raimondo has been invited to speak. The State House will also be illuminated with black and yellow lights that move around the building's exterior like a giant bee.

"The intent is to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and to give the governor an opportunity to take credit for what the state is already doing to protect pollinators and to acknowledge that we're asking it to do more," Kerr said.

"In all the work we do, there are carrots and sticks, and we need to remember to recognize and thank those we are trying to nudge in certain

# Supporting Youth Advocacy

For over a year Audubon has been partnering with Brown University's IBES program (Institute at Brown for Environment and Society). Audubon Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr is currently advising students on the two projects below.

Ryan Anderson is doing her senior capstone project with Audubon. She is researching how cities across the USA document and publicize the environmental benefits of green infrastructure projects. She is also calculating the water infiltration volume for several small projects in Rhode Island.

As part of their class on Urban Agriculture, Kobi Weinberg and Brett Cotler are surveying local beekeepers to better understand their needs and concerns. They are also identifying best practices for protecting pollinators that are used in other states. These practices might be considered for adoption in Rhode Island and could be used to inform policies of Rhode Island pollinator groups.



Continued on page 11



## Building a Buzz in Rhode Island Continued from page 10

directions,” she added. “That’s as important as calling them out for not taking action – which is part of the reason for the Bee Rally. I hope the governor and her agency heads can get up there and get some praise. They’ve got hard jobs and have to balance many voices, and not all of them are pointing in the same direction.”

After the success of the first year of the Pollinator Working Group, the initiative was extended through the 2018 legislative session, and the Pesticide Study Commission, of which Kerr is also a member, began meeting this winter. Audubon’s advocacy efforts in support of pollinators will likely continue for many years to come.

“Meg convened a diverse group of stakeholders around an important issue, which then researched it and made substantive recommendations on time,” said Gregg. “She created the groundwork for additional advocacy that will actually drive home changes that will improve our environment. It isn’t tilting at windmills – it’s systematic and grassroots from the ground up.”

The establishment and activity of the Pollinator Working Group




*Audubon Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr (center) and Bob Mann from the National Association of Landscape Professionals and member of the RI Pollinator Working group (left) meet with Senate President Dominick Ruggerio on Feb 27 after Audubon’s briefing for Senate Leadership on legislative priorities for 2018, including pollinators.*

exemplifies the diverse and time-consuming work involved in environmental advocacy. And many other issues are addressed in a similar way – meetings with legislators, building support in the community, listening to scientists and other experts, negotiating with opponents, and using traditional and social media to raise awareness of the issues.

“Nothing happens overnight,” Kerr said. “There is always more advocacy to be done at the State House and with state and local agencies, more op-eds and letters to the editor to write to shine a light on our issues. There is a whole toolbox of things that we utilize to move an issue forward.”

In addition to pollinator health and habitat, Audubon’s other legislative priorities focus on the siting of renewable energy facilities and the management of storm water. Bills on other topics are also followed, including proposals for the banning of single-use plastic bags and a carbon pricing initiative. And this year, a green economy bond seeking \$48.5 million for open space protection and clean water programs will go before the voters in November.

Audubon members are encouraged to play a role in advocating for



**the Audubon**  
**Nature**  
**shop**  
This shop is for the birds!

**Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium**  
**1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI**

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

**Check for Monthly Bird Buys!**  
**20% off for Members**  
**10% off for Non-members**

these issues as well. Interested members – and non-members – are invited to sign up for a monthly email update listing actions they can take to advocate for particular issues of importance. And when it is especially crucial that legislators hear from their constituents prior to a vote, an action alert is sent asking that calls be made, emails be sent, or attendance at hearings or other events is encouraged.

“We’ve activated our members to add their voices on state issues and federal issues, the designation of the marine monument, the recent menhaden issue, and many others,” Kerr said. “We help them draft letters or testimony, we educate them about the issues, we ask them to fill in post cards. They are an important part of our toolbox.”

In addition, most issues of Audubon Report include an editorial about timely issues that deserve member attention. It isn’t necessary to be an expert to lend your voice. Anyone and everyone can speak as a citizen about issues of importance to them.

“It’s hard to keep track of all of the issues, and it’s hard to get up to speed and feel confident to advocate on every topic,” said Kerr. “But what’s most important is that advocacy is all about relationships and understanding what each player needs and what will motivate them.”

*Todd McLeish is a life-long birder, freelance science writer and author of several books about wildlife, including “Return of the Sea Otter.”*



**The RI Department of Transportation will be using these signs to identify areas they have cultivated as important pollinator habitat.**



## Rhode Island's Little Feathered Pollinator

Often when we think of pollinators, we conjure images of bees and butterflies. But there is another, often over-looked pollinator darting around Rhode Island: the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. These small, amazing birds help disperse flower pollen when they feed. Native blueberries are one of the plants that attract Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Next time you sprinkle those delicious berries on your cereal, you might like to give a shout out to these little feathered friends!



Ed Hughes

As I sit and write, my bleeding hearts are starting to peak through the ground. I always know that when these heart-shaped flowers are ready to bloom, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is about to appear. It's amazing how their arrival seems to coincide with the blooms each year. If you want to attract hummingbirds to your garden each year, I highly recommend using native plants like I do.

Hummingbirds like tubular flowers. They are particularly attracted to red blossoms, but will also go to a variety of other colors. Some native plants to use are wild columbine, cardinal flower, wild phlox, and bee balm. If you have room for a vine, try trumpet vines. Beware of honeysuckles as they can be invasive. Viburnum bushes also make a great addition if you have the space. If you just have a small plot and can't have a large perennial bed, try petunias, geraniums or fuchsia. These are all great in hanging baskets or pots on your porch. Consider purchasing native plants for your garden at the RI Wild Plant Society's annual plant sale on June 2, 2018, URI East Farm, Route 108, Kingston.

Like all birds, hummingbirds love to take a bath. So any type of water feature is useful. I often see these birds diving through the sprinkler on a hot summer day. Hummingbird feeders can also attract these birds, but I suggest bringing a splash of color to your yard with native flowers. So while trying to make your garden look beautiful this summer, don't forget to add a few plants for those special feathered pollinators!



Heidi Farmer

Happy Birding!

**LET'S GET SOCIAL!**

 [facebook.com/audubonRI](https://facebook.com/audubonRI)

 [twitter.com/RIAudubon](https://twitter.com/RIAudubon)

 [instagram.com/RIAudubon](https://instagram.com/RIAudubon)

**LIKE/SHARE/FOLLOW**

*The most followed Audubon Facebook page in New England!*



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

*If you wish to join the 1897 Society and help promote the values and mission of Audubon, please contact Jeff Hall at 401-949-5454 ext. 5017.*

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 SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND  
**BIG YEAR  
IN A LITTLE STATE**

**In the spirit of the famous competition, Audubon is hosting  
BIG YEAR IN A LITTLE STATE**  
For details and registration visit [www.bigyearri.org](http://www.bigyearri.org)



# AUDUBON NATURE TOURS & PROGRAMS

June – August 2018 For more information and to register, visit the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

Greetings!

We hope to see you out on the trails this summer! This four-page section is a handy reference for upcoming programs. Please visit our website events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) for program details and to register online.

We also encourage you to follow us on Facebook or sign up for eWing, our email newsletter, so you will receive updates and won't miss a program. To register for eWing, just go to our website and enter your email at the bottom of the page.

Good Birding, *Jeff Hall*



## BIRDING WITH AUDUBON

### FREE WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Please visit Audubon's website or Facebook page for the weekly location. Every Wednesday through June, 2018; 9:00-11:00 am

### TWILIGHT RIVER CRUISE ABOARD THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY EXPLORER

Departs from the Central Falls Dock, corner of Broad Street and Madeira Street, Central Falls, RI; June 15, 2018; 7:00-8:00 pm.

### BIRD BANDING – THREE DATES OFFERED

Join Audubon and witness bird banding, where experts capture, band, measure and release songbirds in order to record their movements.

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, 1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI; June 16, July 14, August 18, 2018; 9:30-11:30 am.

### EARLY MORNING BREAKFAST AND BIRDING CRUISE ON THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY EXPLORER

Departs from from Al's Waterfront Restaurant, 28 Water Street, East Providence, RI; July 14, 2018, 8:00-9:00 am.

### SHOREBIRD VAN TRIP

Departs from Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge, 99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI; August 16, 2018; 7:00 am-3:00 pm.



## LET'S GET RHODE ISLAND BUZZING ABOUT POLLINATORS!

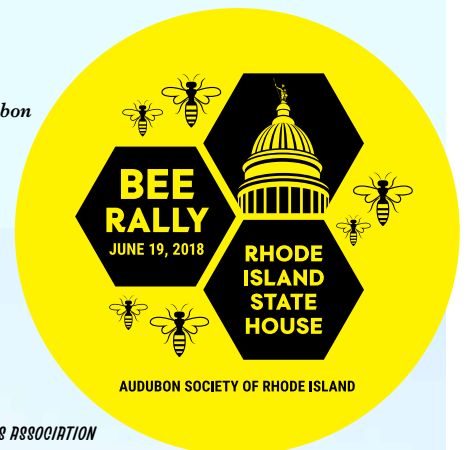
### AUDUBON CELEBRATES NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RI

- State House Lighting in Bumblebee Black and Yellow  
June 18 – 24, 2018
- Bee Rally at the State House  
June 19, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Visit the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) to learn more about these and other Audubon pollinator programs in June.

Many pollinator populations are in decline due to loss of habitat, pollution, misuse of chemicals, disease and climate change. Watch as the State House lights up like a giant bumblebee and join garden experts, beekeepers, artists, farmers and more on June 19 to rally for the pollinators!

SUPPORTED BY WHOLE FOODS MARKET, RI BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
AND RHODE ISLAND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY



## SAVE THE DATE

### BLOCK ISLAND BIRDING WEEKEND

September 28–30, 2018

Block Island in autumn becomes the resting place for thousands of migrating birds. Field trips for both novice and advanced birders are featured. Special programs include salt marsh field trips, bird banding demonstrations and more.





# AUDUBON NATURE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

## PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

### RHODE ISLAND BIRDS: LARGE TO SMALL ART EXHIBIT BY HOLLY WACH

May 12 – June 30, 2018; 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

Opening Reception May 12, 2018; 4:30-6:00 pm.

### DON'T DUMP, DONATE! E-WASTE AND RECYCLING EVENT

June 1- 14, 2018; 9:00 am-5:00 pm

### SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION HIKE WITH MEAD AND HONEY TASTING

June 21, 2018; 7:30-9:30 pm.

### DIY: BIRDSEED BAG TOTES OR APRONS

June 23, 2018; 1:00-4:00 pm; Fee: \$5/member, \$7/non-member.

### POWER AND GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT BY ABESELOM ZERIT

July 8 – August 25, 2018; 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

### SEA GLASS JEWELRY - TWO DATES OFFERED

July 15, August 19, 2018; 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

### EDIBLE WILD PLANTS AND MUSHROOMS OF NEW ENGLAND WITH RUSS COHEN

July 18, 2018; 6:00-8:00 pm.

### IMPROV COMEDY NIGHT WITH THE BIT PLAYERS

July 26, 2018; 7:00-8:00 pm.

### PAINT AND SIP: OWLS

August 4, 2018; 6:30-8:30 pm;

### PROVIDENCE RAPTORS: URBAN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER GREEN

The artist will speak about his work at Raptor Weekend on September 8, 2018.

September 8 – October 27, 2018;  
9:00 am-5:00 pm.



## FAMILY PROGRAMS & CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

### SATURDAY NATURE WALKS

Every Saturday (weather permitting); 2:00 pm.

### CITIZENS BANK FREE FAMILY FUN DAYS

Thanks to Citizens Bank, the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium is open free to the public the first Saturday of every month.

June 2, 2018: Pollinator Palooza

July 7, 2018: Icky, Squishy, Weird and Wacky Science

August 4, 2018: Ocean Wonders

September 1, 2018: Franklin's Hatch Day

 **MAKE YOUR OWN POLLINATOR SEED BOMBS**  
June 22, 2018; 10:30-11:30 am.


 **LET'S USE OUR SENSES! NATURE HIKE**  
June 26, 2018; 10:30 am-11:30 am.


 **EXPLORE THE SHORE**  
July 12, 2018; 2:00-3:30 pm.

 **TIDE POOL CRITTER MEET AND GREET**  
July 19, 2018; 1:30-2:30 pm.

**STUMP THE SCIENTIST**  
July 24, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

 **BUG HUNT NATURE HIKE**  
August 2, 2018; 10:30-11:30 am.

 **EXPLORE THE WETLANDS**  
August 7, 2018; 10:30-11:30 am.

 **LAST HURRAH TO SUMMER!**  
Treasure Hunt with Dirt Cups and Bug Juice  
August 16, 2018; 6:30-8:30 pm.

**LABOR DAY NATURE ACTIVITIES**  
September 3, 2018 ; 10:00 am-3:00 pm.



Meet Finn!

Feathered Friends Kids Club members earn points by attending programs marked with this little bird. Learn more by visiting the Nature Center and Aquarium or at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org).



## POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE

12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI

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### AUDUBON SPRING CRAFT FAIR

June 2, 2018; 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

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### INTRODUCTION TO TREE IDENTIFICATION

June 9, 2018; 1:00-3:00 pm.

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### RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT

June 16, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

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### GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY: ONLINE MAPPING AND MORE!

August 13, 15, 17, 2018; 6:00-8:00 pm.

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### TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MUSHROOMING

August 25, 2018; 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

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### PROTECTING POLLINATORS WORKSHOP

September 15, 2018; 10:00-11:30 am.



Jason Major

## GUIDED NATURE WALKS

at Scenic Locations across Rhode Island



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### TWILIGHT RIVER CRUISE ABOARD THE EXPLORER

Departs from Central Falls, RI

June 15, 2018; 7:00-8:00 pm

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### HIGH TRAILS AND RHODODENDRONS

Long Pond Woods, North Road, Hopkinton, RI;

June 25, 2018; 9:30 am-12:00 pm.

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### EARLY MORNING BREAKFAST AND BIRDING CRUISE

Departs East Providence, RI

July 14, 2018; 8:00-9:00 am

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### BATS AT EPPLEY

Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingston, RI;

August 3, 2018; 7:00-9:00 pm.

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### AUTUMNAL EQUINOX HIKE

Fort Nature Refuge, (Rt. 5), 1443 Providence Pike, North Smithfield, RI;

September 22, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.



Deirdre Robinson

## PRUDENCE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve,  
Prudence Island, RI

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### HIKING PRUDENCE ISLAND

June 21, 2018; 1:30-6:30 pm.

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### BUTTERFLIES OF PRUDENCE ISLAND

June 28, 2018; 1:30-6:30 pm.

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### GARDEN TOUR OF PRUDENCE ISLAND

August 3, 2018; 9:45 am-4:45 pm.

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### MUSHROOMS FOR BEGINNERS

September 5, 2018; 9:45 am-4:45 pm.



Peter Green

## MAXWELL MAYS WILDLIFE REFUGE

2082 Victory Highway, Coventry, RI

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### MUSHROOMING, OWLING AND ELEGANT DINING AT THE MAXWELL MAY'S LAKESIDE CABIN

Two Dates Offered

September 21, 22, 2018; 3:00-8:00 pm.



Register online through the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3014.



# CARATUNK WILDLIFE REFUGE

301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA

**CARATUNK BIOBLITZ SCAVENGER HUNT**  
June 10, 2018; 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

**SUMMER FIELDS AND FORESTS WALK**  
Two Dates Offered  
June 18, August 6, 2018; 9:30 am-12:00 pm.

**BUTTERFLY WALK AT CARATUNK**  
June 24, 2018; 10:00 am-12:30 pm.

**SALAMANDERS & SUNDAES**  
July 8, 2018; 1:00-3:00 pm.

**BILL HARLEY CONCERT TO BENEFIT AUDUBON CARATUNK WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
July 20, 2018; 6:00-8:00 pm.

**TWILIGHT HIKE WITH MICRO-BEERS AND ARTISAN CHEESES**  
July 29, 2018; 7:00-9:00 pm.

**CARATUNK RAMBLE**  
September 16, 2018; 9:00-11:00 am.



# FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE

99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

**ICE CREAM AND LIGHTNING BUGS**  
June 22, 2018; 7:30 pm-9:00 pm.

**TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MUSHROOMING**  
October 20, 2018; 10:00 am-2:00 pm.



# YOURS TO DISCOVER!

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGES

Take to the trails and discover the natural wonders found on Audubon Wildlife Refuges across Rhode Island.

Explore those special places that are only accessible by foot!

Visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) for details, trail maps and directions or call (401)-949-5454.



- 1 **Fort Wildlife Refuge**  
1445 Providence Pike (Rt. 5), North Smithfield, RI
- 2 **Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge**  
12 Sanderson Road (Rt. 5), Smithfield, RI
- 3 **Waterman Pond**  
Waterman Hill Road, Coventry, RI
- 4 **George B. Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge**  
1670 Maple Valley Road, Coventry, RI
- 5 **Caratunk Wildlife Refuge**  
301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA
- 6 **Long Pond Woods**  
Long Pond Road, Rockville, RI
- 7 **Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge**  
99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI
- 8 **Davis Memorial Wildlife Refuge**  
Davisville Road, North Kingstown, RI
- 8A **Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**, Prudence Island, RI
- 9 **Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge/ Environmental Education Center**  
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
- 10 **Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge**  
Touisset Road, Warren, RI
- 11 **Lathrop Wildlife Refuge**  
Route 1A, Westerly, RI
- 12 **Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge**  
Seapowet Avenue, Tiverton, RI
- 13 **Lewis-Dickens Farm**  
Cooneymus Road, Block Island, RI
- 14 **Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge**  
2082 Victory Highway (Rte 102), Coventry, RI

Author Lecture and Meet & Greet

## Return of the Sea Otter by Todd McLeish

Join author Todd McLeish and learn about his adventures as he studied sea otters from California to Alaska. Nearly driven extinct for their thick fur pelts, the “champions of cute” have returned to the West Coast in large numbers, but are still threatened by sharks, killer whales, oil spills and native hunters.

*There will be a book signing after the lecture. Copies will be available for purchase in the Nature Shop.*

**June 28, 2018; 7:00-8:00 pm**  
Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium  
1401 Hope Street (Route 114), Bristol, RI

## RETURN OF THE SEA OTTER

THE STORY OF THE ANIMAL THAT EVADED EXTINCTION ON THE PACIFIC COAST



Register online through the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3014.



# Thank You!

## PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The companies listed below have demonstrated their significant commitment to the quality of life in Rhode Island and to conserving natural habitats through stewardship and education.

- Blount Fine Foods
- Blue State Coffee
- Citizens Bank
- Dassault Systemes SIMULIA Corp.
- Lyons & Zaremba, Inc.
- MetLife
- New England GreenStart
- Nourishing World
- Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
- Perfect Supplements
- People's Power and Light
- Rhode Island PBS
- Whole Foods Market



## GIFTS IN HONOR

The people listed here 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: Sarah A. Becker

From: Daniel Becker

### In Honor of: Lisa Maloney

From: Susan Greenbalgh and Craig Adamson

### In Honor of: Charles Clarkson, Ph.D.

From: Newport Garden Club

### In Honor of: Charlotte Quinette

From: Lisa Goldstein  
The Oyelese Family

### In Honor of: Sara DiNardo

From: Jillian Mattioni



## 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: Rachel Carson

From: Linnea Bardarson  
Lance Dillaway  
Carl Hudson  
Steven O'Brien  
David Robins

### In Memory of: Alfred L. Hawkes (continued)

Connie Silva  
Kristine and Everett Stuart  
Lawrence and Mary Louise Taft  
Thoenm Thaiy  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Torman  
Bill and Beth Tyler  
Cynthia Warren and Martin Bauermeister

### In Memory of: Edward Otis Handy ("Ned")

From: Al and Judi Grant

### In Memory of: Sona Kalfaian-Ahlijian

From: Karen Johnson  
Jeffrey Schreck and Nancy Cassidy

### In Memory of: Alfred L. Hawkes

From: Barry J. Baker  
Henry and Ann Brown  
David Berardinelli and Shelly Peckham-Berardinelli  
Joanne Burke  
Alena Caldarone  
Trudy Coxe and James Gaffney  
Paul C. Dolan  
Patricia Fuller and Thomas Oakes  
Joan and George Gardiner  
Sarah H. Godfrey  
Francis and Susan Golet  
Lisa L. Gould  
Karen Grant  
Marie Hawkes  
Barry and Robin Levine  
Helen C. Lusi  
Eugenia S. Markes  
Catherine McCaleb  
Anne McCormack  
Jane S. Nelson  
Cynthia and James Patterson  
The Rhode Island Foundation  
David Robinson  
Michael Russo and Catherine Cressy  
Linda Shaw

### In Memory of: Arthur Kern

From: Jane S. Nelson

### In Memory of: Robert Kollar

From: Mary Kollar

### In Memory of: James B. Leach, Jr., MD

From: Burrville High School Sunshine Fund  
Jennifer Champa-Bybee  
Jessica D'Angelo  
Danel and Heather Gaccione  
Pamela Greene  
Donna and Paul Gricus  
Matthew Lutynski  
Diana Penrose  
Gary and Mimi Vanable  
Margaret Veresko  
Robert Vitello  
Kevin Viveiros  
Yarlas Kaplan Santilli & Moran, Ltd.

### In Memory of: Renee Lewis

From: Donna, Ed, Nick, Nathan & Bethany Smith

## Rhode Island Birding Trails

Over 60 Places to Watch Birds in the Ocean State

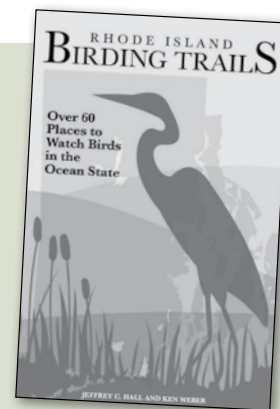
Published by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Three separate trails: Northern Rhode Island, Southern Rhode Island and East Bay and the Islands • All locations easily accessible

Find out where the birders ... bird!

Order Now \$14.95

Order your copy at [www.ribirdingtrails.com](http://www.ribirdingtrails.com) or purchase at the Audubon Nature Shops in Bristol and Smithfield



## Bill Harley Concert to Benefit Caratunk Wildlife Refuge

Bill Harley

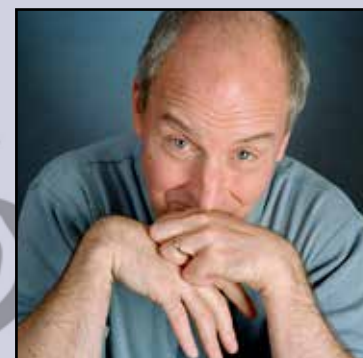


Photo by Susan Wilson

July 20, 2018 • 6:00–8:00 pm

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge

301 Brown Avenue, Seekonk, MA

Join the two time grammy award-winning artist Bill Harley for a family-friendly concert on the lawn at Caratunk.

## Fun for all ages!

For more information and to register, please visit the events calendar at [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org).

## AUDUBON 2018 PHOTO CONTEST



Share with Audubon the images of nature found through the lens of your camera. Photos must be taken on one of Audubon's wildlife refuges that are open to the public.

Submissions are due on or before October 31, 2018.

Visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) to enter.



**Hawkes,** Continued from page 4

need hadn't been shown. The battle went on for years," explained Marks. "Al's vast understanding of biology, geology, and ecology established arguments against it through the use of scientific evidence. He hired consultants from Johns Hopkins University to prove that there was no need for it. He brought in a water economist from Harvard who talked about not only the loss of public money, but also about the measurement of water available from existing sources. In addition, because the river and proposed reservoir sat in a huge glacial sand deposit, the Army Corps of Engineers wrote that a belowground wall would be needed to contain the pressure from the surface water to keep water from leaking out through the ground to Mishnock Swamp. The U. S. EPA confirmed that miles of trout stream would be lost and that hundreds of acres of wetland would be inundated." Hawkes did all he could to prove his points with evidence. "It was not just his assertions that made the point; he had the experts who backed it up. He was very good with explaining things, but not in a didactic way," explained Marks.

One of the positive outcomes of the Big River issue was that it fostered a coalition among environmental organizations where none had existed before. The purpose of the Environmental Council of Rhode Island was to have a stronger, unified voice for environmental concerns. It included the Appalachian Mountain Club, Save the Bay, Trout Unlimited, Ecology Action and Aquidneck Island Ecology Action.

Hawkes considered the fight for preservation of wetlands and salt marshes and the Big River Reservoir issue among the most important battles during his long tenure at Audubon. But it was a long time before people began to recognize wetlands value as wildlife habitats and flood control mechanisms. In those days, people were filling in salt marshes for dumps and draining them for mosquito control. By that time it was estimated that we had lost 50 percent of our salt marshes, mostly by filling. Today, it is climate change that threatens these valuable shoreline habitats.



*At a Caratunk Fall Fair during his tenure, Hawkes explained his broom carving skills to a young visitor.*

**"A Renaissance man"**

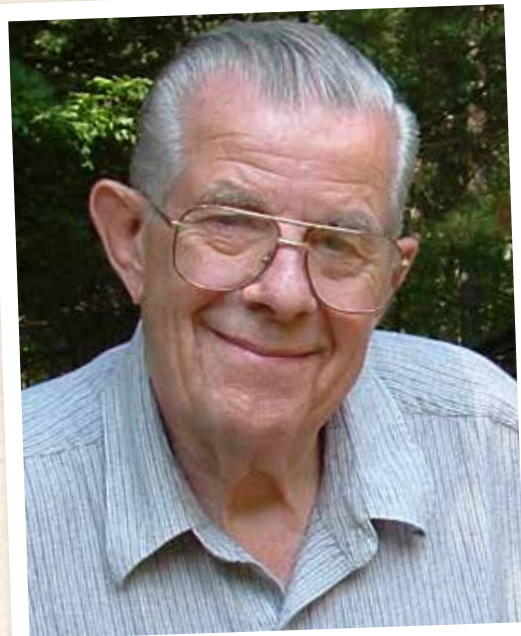
Despite his role as a pioneer of environmental advocacy in the state, Hawkes was never given to holding himself above others. For Audubon fundraisers, he plied an unusual trade: carving brooms from witch hazel. "He used to sit with all the other exhibitors during fundraisers. He would be shaving strips of witch hazel until you had a broom. It probably took him an hour for each one. That was pretty unusual," explained Marks. Yet it was just another example of the ways Hawkes fully committed himself to Audubon. "He would clean the waste baskets if necessary, and then arrange a meeting with the governor in the afternoon. He was deliberate and never given to rash comments. He was very even keeled."



*In August 1984, Senator John Chafee presented Hawkes a check for \$500 to initiate an endowment fund for the Audubon Lewis-Dickens Farm on Block Island.*

His knowledge and leadership placed him in staterooms and legislative offices. He was also the leader of the first Green Space bond issue, then called the Green Acres Bond, under then-governor John Chafee. That bond issue was the first open space bond, and it created both Colt and Goddard Parks. All these years later, we still have these "green bonds" before the voters on a regular basis. All thanks to Al Hawkes.

In the decades that Al Hawkes led Audubon, he was often called upon to address a wide range of issues. These issues required a talent for both self-education and deft management, according to Marks. "He was the leader for environmental action and for environmental consciousness in Rhode Island. He was a renaissance man with the scope of the issues he took on. He did it without bravado. He was simply the pillar of Audubon for 35 years."



*Hugh Markey is a freelance writer, naturalist, and educator living in Richmond. For more of his published work, see his blog, "Science and Nature for a Pie" at [www.scienceandnatureforapie.com](http://www.scienceandnatureforapie.com). Follow him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/scienceandnatureforapie](http://www.facebook.com/scienceandnatureforapie).*







# THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

Have you ever watched buzzing bees fly from flower to flower? Sometimes you can see yellow pollen attached to their bodies. These busy bees are very important pollinators for flowers, fruits and vegetables in our gardens and on local farms. When you enjoy delicious, locally grown cherries, blueberries, cranberries, pumpkins and squash, "bee" sure to thank these buzzing insects!

- Bees have fuzzy bodies and when they land on a flower to feed, pollen sticks to them. As they move from one flower to another of the same type, the pollen fertilizes the flower's egg cells to make seeds. That's POLLINATION!
- North America has 4,000 native bee species. In Rhode Island, we have about 45 different species of bees and wasps.
- Bees locate flowers through color, patterns and smell.
- Honeybees are not native to the United States, they were brought from Europe during colonial times.



## NATIVE BEES IN RHODE ISLAND

### Sweat Bees

are a large family of small bees attracted to the salts in human perspiration.

### Mason Bees\*

get their name because they create chambers for each egg using clay.

### Carpenter Bees\*

have powerful jaws that they use to make holes in wood.



### Bumblebees

live in colonies that have a queen bee, drones and worker bees. The word "bumble" means to hum, buzz or flounder around.



### Miner Bees\*

dig long tunnels in the ground with a chamber where they lay one egg, surround it with food and seal it up. They then add other tunnels with chambers off the primary one.



### Leafcutters\*

create chambers and line them and separate them with pieces of leaves.



### Cuckoo Bees\*

like cuckoo birds, lay their eggs in other bees' nests instead of building their own.



\*UNH Rehan Lab [www.rehanlab.com](http://www.rehanlab.com)

## LEARN MORE ABOUT POLLINATORS WITH AUDUBON!

- To celebrate National Pollinator Week, Audubon will light up the Rhode Island Statehouse in black and yellow from June 18-24, 2018. Go take a look as the dome becomes a big bumblebee!
- Come learn more about these amazing insects at a Bee Rally at the Rhode Island Statehouse on June 19, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.
- Join the Pollinator Palooza at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium on June 2, 2018. Admission and programs are free thanks to Citizens Bank.
- Make your own pollinator seed bomb on June 22, 2018 at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge. With a mixture of pollinator-friendly plants, your garden will attract bees, butterflies and more!



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND





*It has a new pollinator garden, a meadow pavilion, a redesigned universally accessible trail and A NEW NAME!*



The Audubon Environmental Education Center is now called

# The Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium

It's a more welcoming name that better reflects the exhibits, activities and experience offered in Bristol. We want to encourage visitors to drop in and enjoy the Center on a daily basis. Why not visit the new pollinator garden, stop to say hello to the Red-tailed Hawks, and picnic under the meadow pavilion? Spend a morning strolling the boardwalk, catch the current art exhibit, and discover marine life in our aquarium exhibits.

## The New Pollinator Discovery Garden is Underway

Watch it grow! Visitors will enter on an elevated walk to a central gathering place filled with wildflowers, a native vegetable garden and a rose-covered arbor, all set in a cove of apple trees. People will discover the world of pollinators, learn about their current crisis and find out how they can help support these insects at home.

Under the direction of renowned garden designer John Gwynne of Little Compton, Audubon Board



*(Left) Garden designer John Gwynne of Little Compton planned the new Audubon Pollinator Discovery Garden and led the volunteers as they dug in on May 2, 2018. (Right) Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft hauls shrubs to be planted.*

Member and Master Gardener Terry Meyer led Audubon staff, members of the Bristol Garden Club, Master Gardeners and other volunteers for phase one of the planting process on May 2, 2018. Work will continue throughout the summer as additional plantings and elements are installed. Drop by and watch as the new garden takes shape.

## A Rustic Meadow Pavilion has Recently Been Constructed

Perfect for shade-seekers in summer, classes for school children, picnic lunches and small gatherings such as weddings, the new Audubon meadow pavilion is a rustic wood-frame shelter next to the meadow for all to enjoy.

## The Redesigned Universally Accessible Trail Will Open This Summer

A new universally accessible trail will meander through the meadow and connect with the boardwalk



to Narragansett Bay. The trail has been redesigned with switchbacks that are less steep and provide easier access. Created with a permeable surface, it is environmentally friendly and less prone to erosion as well as smoother for wheelchairs and strollers. Audubon began work on this ADA-compliant trail last fall to ensure that it would be ready for the summer months.

From the new pollinator garden to shore explorations, bug hunts and wild plant and mushroom hikes, Audubon has something for all ages this summer.

*Go ahead, get outside and join the fun!*



*The new garden, trail and pavilion are made possible through support from The Champlin Foundations, Vivian J. Palmieri Charitable Trust, and Audubon supporters.*



*Volunteers gather behind the installed arbor as they listen to directions from Little Compton garden designer John Gwynne.*



*Bristol Garden Club member Vicki Iannuccillo, Audubon Board Member and Master Gardener Terry Meyer and Master Gardener Kathy Jenal plant perennials.*





From left: Board Member Christian Capizgo, Lauren Capizgo, Dave Paller, Kate Paller



Audubon Executive Director Larry Taft



John and Connie Jacobucci



From left: Board Member Candy Powell, Mark Baker, Rita Nenonen



From left: Board Members Don Heitzmann, Dr. Charles Clarkson, Dr. Nicholas Califano



David and Jean Golden



From left: Board Member Terry Meyer, David Caldwell, Board Member Don Heitzmann, Tina Caldwell



From left: Renee Lemos, Board Member Meghan Frost, Shawn Magee

# 2018 Party for the Peregrines



Over 160 people celebrated the raptors of Rhode Island at the Squantum Club on April 21, 2018. Party for the Peregrines raised over \$78,000 to support Audubon's raptor care and education programs.

Thank you to all who attended and our Peregrine sponsors: MetLife, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP, People's Power and Light.



From left: Wendy and Robert Fournier, Peter and Kay Lisle



Helen Jankoski, Peter Green, Joe Zybronski



Suzanne Dunkl and Board Member Michael Viveiros



Janna Hesser



Elizabeth Stepp, Lenny Vargas and Elish Clarkson



Liz Paquet (left) and Jackie Pronlx



Senior Director of Advancement Jeff Hall with Sandra Saunders



Board Member Heidi Farmer plays the Heads and Tails game



*Highlights from the*  
**Rhode Island Land and**  
**Water Conservation Summit**  
 March 10, 2018

Approximately 310 of Rhode Island's conservation leaders participated in the 15th annual Land & Water Summit, organized by Audubon Society of Rhode Island, the RI Land Trust Council and the RI Environmental Education Association. Gus Seelig, the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board shared his insights on conservation. Gus was the keynote speaker in 2004 at the first Land & Water Summit and this year he spoke about how climate change with intense storms and flooding has changed his work since that time.

The Summit also included 32 workshops on land and water conservation, environmental education, and non-profit management. Mark your calendar: next year's summit will be held on March 9, 2019.

Link to materials from the 2018 Summit:  
[www.landandwaterpartnership.org/summit2018.php](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org/summit2018.php)



Laura Landen

From Left: Rupert Friday, Executive Director of the RI Land Trust Council, Keynote Speaker Gus Seelig, and Audubon Senior Director of Policy Meg Kerr.

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**Celebration?**

**Weddings**

The Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol, Rhode Island is a scenic destination for weddings, bridal showers or photography.



**Birthday Parties**

Customize your child's party and have a wild time!



**Getaways**

Audubon's Maxwell Mays Cottage in Coventry, Rhode Island is an ideal and affordable location for a short getaway or weeklong family vacation.

*Naturally,*  
**Audubon**  
*Has You*  
**Covered.**

For birthday party options and rental details, visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) and click on the services link.



# News from the Mews

***Thanks to donors, we were able to renovate and build homes for our two new Audubon Ambassadors.***

Our Audubon Ambassador family has grown by two! New Barred Owls are now calling Audubon home. Both have settled in nicely and our education team will be introducing them in classrooms and programs soon.

## Oliver

This beautiful Barred Owl came to Audubon from Our Wild Neighbors Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Hillsborough, NC. Audubon Naturalist Kim Calcagno drove all the way south to retrieve Oliver and bring him back to Rhode Island. He was hit by a car in September 2017 and underwent three surgeries to set and pin his broken wing. With funding from donors, we renovated a temporary mew at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge to be his permanent home.



## Serena

Hit by a car in Rhode Island, Serena was injured and brought to Born to be Wild Nature Center. She was diagnosed with a detached retina in her left eye and was treated for intraocular inflammation for a series of weeks before permanent placement with Audubon. She is permanently blind in the left eye. She is a large female with a weight of 900+ grams. She will call Smithfield home, in a brand new mew funded by donors.



Thank you to the many donors who responded to our call for funding to build and renovate mews to accommodate the new birds.

- Richard Adams
- Cheryl Amodeo
- Tracy Andrews-Mellouise
- Katrina Avery and Thomas Doepfner
- Richard and Susan Beaudet
- Dawn and Gary Bolla
- Lauren Boulanger
- Marla Brill
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- Deb Vine-Smith
- Timothy Walsh
- Dora and Harold Waters
- Kristine Waxman
- Sandra Winslow
- Thomas Worth

## Congratulations Once Again... Audubon Society of Rhode Island 2017 Photo Contest



### Under 18 Winning Entries

Due to a print error in the last issue of the Report, the names of the three winning entries in the Under 18 category were not listed.

Congratulations again to these young photographers, we are pleased to recognize their work and reprint their images.

Visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) for a closer look at these winning photos!



### Under 18 1st Place: RYAN BOMES

Audubon Claire D.  
McIntosh Wildlife Refuge,  
Bristol, RI



### Under 18 2nd Place: GEORGE KASS

Audubon Davis Memorial  
Wildlife Refuge, North  
Kingstown, RI



### Under 18 3rd Place: SAMUEL BRUMBAUGH

Audubon Claire D.  
McIntosh Wildlife Refuge,  
Bristol, RI



**A Haven for Bees and Butterflies** Continued from page 8

outdoor space to educate the public. We want to teach children about how food production relies on pollinators, and educate adults on what they can do in their landscaping to be pollinator friendly.” Audubon Advocacy is also talking with the RI Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Management about ways to use the state roadsides to encourage pollinators by planting wildflowers, rather than simply mowing every space.

A big public outreach will come in June during National Pollinator Week. Audubon is hosting a “Bee Rally” at the State House on June 19 and has plans to illuminate the State House Dome in bumblebee yellow and black from June 18 to 24, symbolizing bees and bringing attention to the crisis.

**Bad Press and Messy Habitats**

When it comes to spreading the word about pollinators, Ruhren says the species that usually get the most attention is the monarch butterfly and the honeybee. “The monarch is facing problems because of pesticide use and habitat destruction. It faces the same challenges in Mexico, where they migrate for the winter. Their numbers are plummeting. Many people also know that honeybees are in decline. Yet the strong focus on these popular species leaves out other important pollinators and their diminishing numbers.”

“One of the challenges we face in educating the public is caused by all the press about honeybees. In the scientific world, we know that honeybees were introduced and not a native species. Maybe we’re focusing on the wrong problem. Our native bees are declining in numbers, and their habitats are also being destroyed.”

Many of our native New England bees are referred to as solitary bees. These are species that pollinate plants such as blueberries and cranberries that do not create large hives, but rather spend most of their time foraging and living alone. A lot of native bees nest in rotting logs or under rocks, which is why ‘messy’ habitat is important. It supports a diversity of natives.”




Another problem is the concern many people have about the pollinators themselves. “Some people just don’t like the idea of having bees around. These insects have a public relations problem,” says Ruhren. “Everyone loves butterflies because they’re so beautiful as they flutter by, but when you mention bees, wasps, flies or beetles, people say, ‘kill ‘em! Who needs them?’ But we DO need them. Even skunk cabbage, a common sight in marshy areas, need the pollination brought about through flies.”

Standing in the field at Fisherville Brook, Ruhren says Audubon will continue to pursue ways to preserve pollinator habitat and increase their numbers. “People are looking for answers and solutions, but it really has to be looked at case by case, depending on the species. These little creatures are often overlooked, but they are so very important.”

\*\*\*

*Hugh Markey is a freelance writer, naturalist, and educator living in Richmond. You can read more of his work on his blog, “Science and Nature for a Pie” at [www.scienceandnatureforapie.com](http://www.scienceandnatureforapie.com). Follow him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/scienceandnatureforapie](http://www.facebook.com/scienceandnatureforapie).*



## Send a Kid to Camp

**All Kids Should Go To Summer Camp**

Help us send 100 kids to Audubon Nature Camp this summer. It is a special experience that includes nature discovery, science, hikes, animal visits and lots of outdoor fun.

By your generous donation of \$260, you can send one child to Audubon Nature Day Camp for one week this summer.

Summer is almost here! Donate to the Audubon Summer Camp Scholarship Fund and make a difference in a child's life.

---

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Please accept my donation for camp scholarships

\$520 (2 children)  
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  \$130  
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# We Are a Forest, Not a Tree

Audubon's policy department collaborates with many partners across the state to track environmental issues and develop successful advocacy strategies. Rhode Island's environmental community works exceptionally well together, recognizing the power of many voices working together as one.

## Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI)

ECRI is a coalition of over 60 Rhode Island organizations as well as individuals whose mission is to serve as an effective voice for developing and advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance the environment. ECRI was founded in 1972 by Rhode Island conservation leaders including former Audubon Executive Director Al Hawkes.

## Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition (GIC)

The GIC was formed in 2014 to advocate for sustainable funding for stormwater management in Rhode Island and to ensure that stormwater practices implement nature based green solutions to the maximum extent possible. The GIC currently has 40 members including businesses, local and state government and environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs.)

## Pollinator Working Group (PWG)

The PWG was created in 2016 by the Rhode Island House of Representatives (2016 -- H 8265) to support the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and study pollinator health and habitats in Rhode Island. The PWG's initial findings were reported to the Director of DEM, the House of Representatives and the Governor in February 2017. The House of Representatives continued the PWG through 2018.

## Renewable Energy Siting Stakeholder Committee

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) brought together environmental organizations, renewable developers, city and town planners, the League of Cities and Towns and state agencies to consider how to drive renewable energy development to the state's already built areas and protect forests.



## After the Storm

### *Audubon Conservation Crew Keeps Your Trails Open and Safe*

By Scott Ruhren, Senior Director of Conservation



*Conservation staff Laura Carberry and Mike Cavaliere clear fallen trees.*

Repeated Nor'easters and blizzards in February and March presented Audubon staff with special challenges from flooded and blocked trails to muddy parking lots. The rain and wind combination was often the most problematic, as soft soils led to easier tree blow-downs. From Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge in Warren to Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge in Coventry, the Audubon conservation crew had their hands full.

Laura Carberry, Fisherville Brook refuge manager, counted nearly 50 trees blocking the trails and parking lot after just one storm. She led a team of staff and volunteers to reopen the entire trail system in less than one week. After the same storm, Stewardship Specialist Mike Cavaliere had to cut his way out of the driveway at Eppley Wildlife Refuge, where he lives and maintains Audubon field equipment. He then headed to help Mays Wildlife Refuge Manager Joe Metzen open the parking lot in Coventry.

It was a tough way to end the winter of 2018. No sooner had refuge trails, driveways and parking lots been cleared than another storm dropped more snow, limbs and trees and shut down lights for many. Some Audubon trees also fell on neighbors' land, and staff took care of many of these as well.

Good land stewards understand responsibility, vigilance and perseverance. In 2018, other trees weakened by these storms will be monitored to keep the trails safe and clear.



*Conservation staff Jon Scoones and Laura Carberry clear trees off the trails after the spring storms.*



# Collaboration

Editorial by Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy

Working together doesn't come easily to most people.

When my daughter was in third grade, I agreed to coach a Destination Imagination team. This program for young students is designed to foster creativity and team building. There were eight third-graders on my team, each one bright, energetic and full of their own ideas. The first meetings were chaos. The kids talked over each other, each wishing the others would just go away so they could work on the project in their own way. The children didn't know how to listen to each other and they certainly didn't respect each other's ideas. I worked with the same team for three years. At the end, they worked amazingly well together, demonstrating collaborative leadership at its best.

Getting organized and working together is currently at the forefront of the national news. The horrific school shooting in Florida is the most recent event to spur organized protest and action; this time by students. Many are too young to vote, but not too young to express their outrage. Together.

The Rhode Island environmental community has been collaborating together for decades. In 1972, Audubon's Executive Director Al Hawkes helped form the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) as a non-profit dedicated to environmental protection in our state. In creating ECRI, Al recognized that Audubon's voice would be amplified by working with other like-minded people and the environmental community would have greater impact on the state's laws and policies. ECRI fought the construction of a nuclear power plant in Charlestown and advocated for the creation of the Narragansett Bay Commission to manage the greater Providence sewage system. Over the years, ECRI has worked closely with the Rhode Island legislature, lobbying for environmentally friendly legislation and creating the bi-annual green report card to hold legislators accountable. The Council holds a legislative coffee hour early in the session to introduce priority issues and organizes Earth Day at the State House (sometimes referred to as Lobby Day) where ECRI members lobby their local legislators to support the environmental agenda.

In 2005, the Rhode Island Foundation challenged ECRI to strengthen its power by identifying a specific

issue of state importance to work on together. ECRI created the Coalition for Water Security, focused on statewide freshwater supply management and balancing the need for water supply with ecological requirements. More than a dozen ECRI organizations worked together to address the overuse of drinking water supplies for lawn irrigation in residential communities, which was dangerously reducing flow in some riv-



ers. The Coalition passed legislation to address water management and in 2008, ECRI shifted to the issue of transportation forming the Coalition for Transportation Choices, this time advocating for robust public transportation and sustainable funding for RIPTA. In 2014, ECRI moved its attention to stormwater management and green infrastructure, forming the Green Infrastructure Coalition. The goal was to ensure that communities create sustainable funding for stormwater management to implement projects like rain gardens and bioswales.

ECRI has shown that successful coalitions rely on leadership and clearly articulated shared goals. Initially, there were growing pains as coalition members learned to trust and listen to each other and recognize that each member brings unique skills to the shared work. Most importantly, coalitions have to share credit, recognizing that good work will bring recognition to each organization.

These are the same lessons learned years ago by my young Destination Imagination team. Collaborative skills can be learned.

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND REPORT

Volume 52, Number 2, Spring 2018

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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](mailto:hfoley@asri.org).

### Spot the Beetle, Stop the Beetle

Help prevent the spread of Asian Longhorned Beetle. When hiking the trails, look for signs of the beetle.

For more information on how to detect this destructive invasive insect, visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) and click on "conservation."



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# JOIN OUR LEAGUE OF SUPERHEROES

Audubon is in need of superheroes – people who go above and beyond. Our current endowment provides only one-third of the necessary funds to keep our organization impactful and dynamic. The Invincible Audubon Campaign will provide needed funding to permanently advocate for nature, to educate children on the importance of our environment, and to protect and defend our nearly 9,500 acres of wildlife habitat. In short... to make Audubon INVINCIBLE.

The Invincible Audubon campaign is different than our annual fundraising. Invincible Audubon is meant to provide permanent funding that we can rely and plan on for decades to come.



The following individuals are generous contributors to the Invincible Audubon Campaign:

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Cynthia Warren and Martin Bauermeister • Peter and Kay Lisle • Samuel and Elizabeth Hollowell • Christopher and Candace Powell • Martin and Charlotte Sornborger • Everett and Kristine Stuart • Owen Heleen

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- Jill Tyler
- Mary Jane Vallencourt
- James VanCleve and Claudia Strauss
- Bettie J. Weber
- Salten Weingrod Family Fund
- Stephen Weiss
- Elizabeth S. White\*
- Janice Williams
- David and Ina Woolman
- John Woolsey
- Nancy S. Wright
- Sandra Wyatt

\*Deceased

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WILDLIFE AND OUR COMMUNITIES.  
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For more info please visit [www.invincibleaudubon.org](http://www.invincibleaudubon.org)  
or call 401-949-5454 ext 3017.





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**Live Presentations with  
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View the Audubon Peregrine Falcon nest box atop the Superman Building in Providence. Watch as the eggs hatch and the nestlings grow.



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Peter Green