

125 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

1897
Audubon Society of Rhode Island founded to stop the slaughter of birds for fashion.



1924–1928
Acquires first properties in Charlestown and Coventry.



1950
Roland Clement becomes first executive director: increased programming, directed purchase of first headquarters, and began relationships with the media.

1958
Al Hawkes named executive director: Audubon grew exponentially under his direction with a new focus on environmental advocacy.



1965
Guides the enactment of the RI Salt Marsh Act.

1969
Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk, MA is donated by Charles Greenhalgh.



1972
2,000 members recorded.

1975
Summer camp programs begin at Caratunk and Ruecker Wildlife Refuges.



1980
Mary Louise Alcott donates 81 acres in Smithfield, becoming Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge.

1984
Acquires Lewis Dickens Farm on Block Island.

1985
Established the first International Coastal Cleanup in Rhode Island.

1987
Current headquarters opened in Smithfield.



1988
First tract of Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge donated by George and Rose Matteson and others.

1989
The Federal Environmental Protection Agency ruled against the Big River Reservoir. One of Audubon's largest environmental victories.

1992
Claire D. McIntosh donates Bristol property to become the McIntosh Wildlife Refuge.

1993
Lee Schisler becomes third executive director: developed the Environmental Education Center with then Board President Sam Hallowell.



1997
Florence and Richard Knight Fort Wildlife Refuge opens.

2000
Grand opening of the Audubon Environmental Education Center; renamed the Nature Center and Aquarium in 2018.



2001
Summer camp offered in Bristol for the first time.

2004
Environmental Education for Urban Schools Initiative launched.

2005
Lawrence Taft becomes fourth executive director: instrumental in the acquisition of the 295 acre Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge.

2008
April marsh fire damages Bristol boardwalk, reopened in July.



2010
Accepts management of Osprey Monitoring Program from RI DEM.

2010
Launches Providence Peregrine Webcam.



2011
Maxwell Mays Wildlife Refuge opens.



2016
Opposes the Burrillville Invenergy Powerplant to protect critical habitat and stress greenhouse gas reduction goals.

2018
The Palmeiri Pollinator Garden is planted in Bristol.

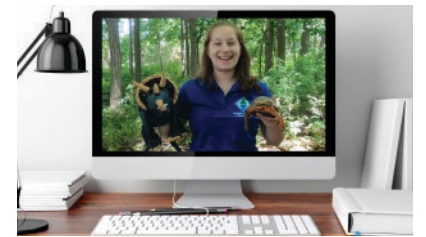


2018
Bee Rally at the Statehouse brings hundreds to support protection of pollinators and their habitats.



2020
Providence Stormwater Innovation Center is launched: Audubon a key supporter of this stormwater initiative.

2020
Kept trails open during the pandemic, offered numerous virtual and online programming for students, families, and educators.



2021
Landmark Act On Climate legislation passed; Audubon co-led the campaign on this critical climate legislation.

2021
New director of avian research position is created.

