



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

CRANSTON AND WARWICK

CEDAR WAXWING

We need your help to continue our vital work in Cranston and Warwick.

With support from the local community and Audubon members, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island continues to have a strong impact on the lives of residents in Cranston and Warwick.

Through land conservation, we protect almost 80 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in Cranston and Warwick. Our properties across the state have miles of trails for hiking and nature observation. We advocate both locally and at the State House on critical issues that protect our environment and promote policies that mitigate the impacts of climate change. Our educators and naturalists provide year-round, hands-on experiential learning opportunities for school children as well as the public.

Protect nature and support environmental education in your community. Donate to Audubon today. Visit www.asri.org/donate or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3017.

Thank you for your support!

CONSERVATION

- Protects approximately 9,500 acres of habitat in Rhode Island, 13 acres in Warwick and 66 acres in Cranston.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including 12 sites in Warwick and 3 sites in West Warwick.
- Protects large areas of forest and coastal habitats that are critical in the face of climate change and sea-level rise.



EDUCATION

AUDUBON VIRTUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Provided virtual and video nature programming in 2020 and 2021 that was available to schools, libraries, and community organizations. Audubon educators created a new online resource, Audubon at Home, for teachers and parents to support environmental education and nature play at home.

CRANSTON

- Eden Park Elementary School fifth graders combined art and science in a watershed program with Audubon and the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center, and participated in the Providence Rain Harvest Arts Festival.
- Visited classrooms at William DuTemple School, Edward S. Rhodes School, Garden City School and Glen Hills School to bring hands-on nature activities, animals and biofacts.
- Students from Stadium School, Oak Lawn School, Edgewood Highlands School, William DuTemple School, and George J. Peters School have all explored nature at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol.
- St. Mary's School welcomed Audubon for a school-wide Raptor Encounter program. First graders also explored the Audubon inflatable whale.
- Immaculate Conception School fourth graders engaged with an owl in their classroom and the fifth graders visited the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge for a wilderness skills program.
- St. Paul's School second and third graders visited the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol to learn about tidepools.
- Cadence Learning Academy regularly invites Audubon into the Pre-K classrooms for nature story programs. Their summer campers also came to Audubon for nature explorations.
- Little Shephard Preschool brings Audubon into the classroom for nature story programs.
- Achievement First Academy's fifth graders participated in a leather-back turtle program.
- Cranston Public Library offers Audubon owl programs and invited Audubon Senior Director of Education Lauren Parmelee to be a guest on their podcast.

WARWICK

- Provided virtual programs for the Girl Scouts of Southern New England during the pandemic and works with troops on nature-related badges.
- Provided nature programs to EnrichRI, a homeschool group headquartered in Warwick.
- Visited preschools including Stork's Nest Child Academy, Progressive Learning for Children, and Family Tree Early Learning Center with nature stories, animals, and activities for young children.
- Led summer campers from the West Bay Children's Center at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol for coastal programs.
- Guided Cedar Hill fifth grade students in shore explorations.

ADVOCACY

- Co-led the successful, multi-year campaign for the Act On Climate bill, which passed in 2021 and was signed into law on April 10 by Governor Daniel McKee. Climate change is the biggest threat to birds, wildlife, and people as it brings flooding, hurricanes and fires. This bill updates Rhode Island's climate targets, consistent with the latest climate science, requiring the State to meet net-zero emissions by 2050. The bill also requires government reporting and transparency and includes equity and a process for environmental justice communities and labor groups to participate in the planning process. Most importantly, the law includes accountability, making the greenhouse gas emissions reductions legally binding.
- Co-led advocacy for legislation and state and local policies to prioritize the siting of renewable energy on already disturbed sites.
- Campaigned for the successful 2021 Forest Conservation Act which creates a commission dedicated to forest protection.
- Co-chaired the state's Pollinator Working Group to develop policies to protect bees and other beneficial insects. Led legislative campaigns in 2020 and 2021 to limit the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. The bill passed in the House but not the Senate in 2021. Audubon will continue advocacy efforts to support this legislation.
- As a member of the Green Infrastructure Coalition, Audubon advocates for sustainable funding for nature-based stormwater management. Stormwater pollution impacts water quality throughout the state and is the prime source of pollution nation-wide. Treating stormwater with green strategies like rain gardens and swales provides climate resilience and enhances wildlife habitats.
- Provides leadership for the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center which showcases nature-based stormwater practices, provides training on green infrastructure, and tests innovative treatment technologies.
- With the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, organizes and hosts the annual Land & Water Conservation Summit, Rhode Island's premier gathering of over 300 conservation volunteers and professionals.
- Played key role in advocating for the \$74 million 2021 Beach, Clean Water and Green Economy bond that passed on March 2, 2021 with 78.3 % support from the voters. The bond included critical funds for a suite of important local projects.



Jason Major



Hope Foley

AUDUBON PROTECTED LAND

The properties below are permanently protected and remain undisturbed for wildlife. Audubon has wildlife refuges across the state with trails that are open to the public.

Please visit asri.org/hike for trail maps and directions.

CRANSTON 66 acres

1. FENNER'S POND POINT WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1985; Approximately 0.6 acre

This small piece of land offers protection for wildlife in an urban environment.

2. MARGARET ROBINSON KNIGHT WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1966; Approximately 51 acres

A flat and large forest piece is intersected with several streams along Hope Road.

3. ZAINO SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1995; Approximately 15 acres

This thicket of shrubs and forest sits along Hope Road and provides habitat for many wildlife species.

WARWICK 13 acres

4. JOHN FRANCIS BROWN WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1961; Approximately 6 acres

Tucked in a residential neighborhood, this beautiful strip of forest protects a stream and habitat for many songbirds.

5. LITTLE SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1990; Approximately 2 acres

This small, forested oasis is welcome habitat within a densely settled neighborhood.

6. OCCUPESSATUXET COVE MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE

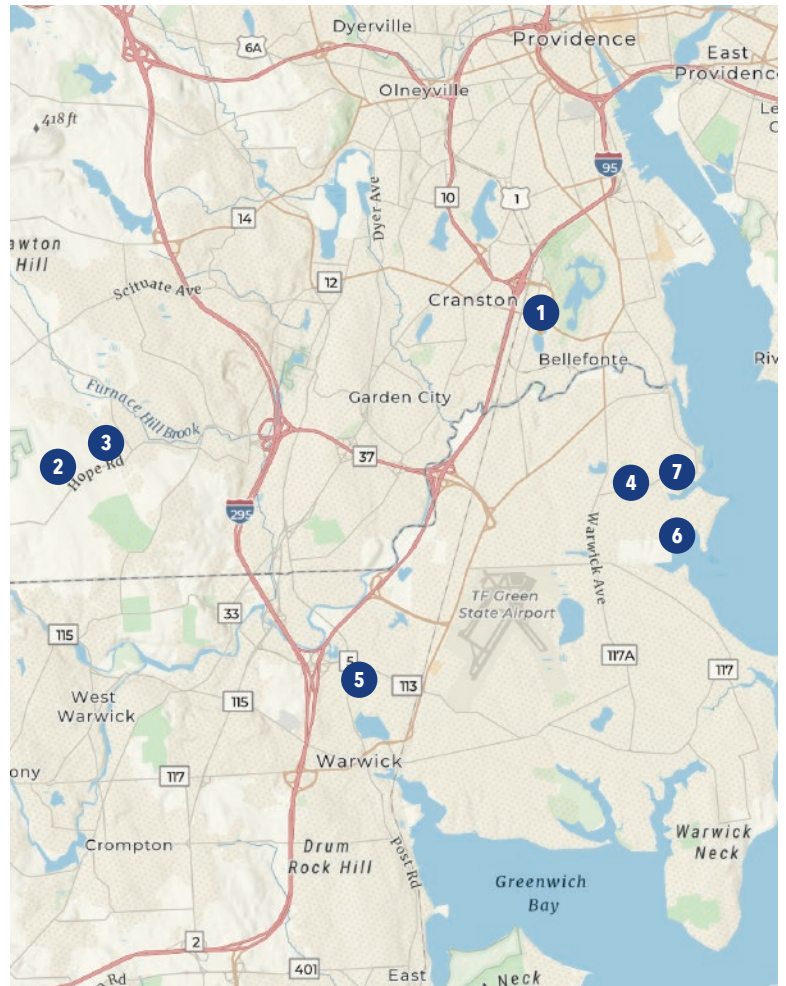
Protected since 1969; Approximately 4 acres

Waterfowl and shorebirds use this spot to rest, feed and nest.

7. PASSEONKQUIS COVE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1985; Approximately 0.5 acre

A quiet shelter from the waves and storms of Narragansett Bay.



Hope Foley



**SUPPORT NATURE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND DONATE TO AUDUBON TODAY.
VISIT WWW.ASRI.ORG/DONATE OR CALL (401) 949-5454 EXT. 3017.**