



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

**NORTH SMITHFIELD, BURRILLVILLE, CUMBERLAND,
AND WOONSOCKET**

FLORENCE AND RICHARD K. FORT WILDLIFE REFUGE, NORTH SMITHFIELD

We need your help to continue our vital work in Northern Rhode Island.

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 North Smithfield, Burrillville, Cumberland, and Woonsocket.

Through land conservation, we protect over 300 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in Northern Rhode Island. 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, including approximately 71 acres in Burrillville, 218 acres in North Smithfield, and 27 acres in Cumberland.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program at more than 250 sites in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
- Protects large areas of forest habitat in Northern Rhode Island that are critical in the face of climate change.



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.

NORTH SMITHFIELD

- Engaged 75 third grade students at Halliwell Elementary School with the Audubon Inflatable Whale program.
- Presented the Owls of Rhode Island program to 56 fourth grade students at Halliwell Elementary School.
- Brought the Inflatable Whale program to grades 2 and 3 at North Smithfield Elementary School.
- Leads year-round birding walks, nature programs, and hikes for all ages at the Audubon Fort Wildlife Refuge.

WOONSOCKET

- Long-time partnership with Connecting Children and Families in Woonsocket, offering life science programming in after school (110 students per year) and summer school (180 students per summer) settings at Coleman, Citizens and Woonsocket Middle Schools. Each child participates for 6 to 10 weeks.
- Ongoing Partnership with Woonsocket Kids Klub, offering after-school programming to 45 students each year at Pothier and Globe Park Schools. Children participate for 4 to 8 weeks.
- Led 21 Woonsocket Head Start Pre-K children for a nature walk at Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge in Smithfield.
- New partnership with the Woonsocket Public Library brings nature programs and animal ambassadors to families in the community.

BURRILLVILLE

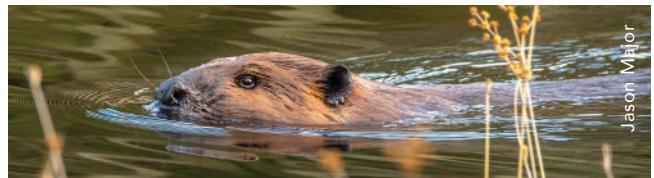
- Led coastal and wetlands ecology program with 30 high school students at Burrillville High School.
- Visited Steere Farm Elementary School third grade students through a virtual Owls of Rhode Island program.

CUMBERLAND

- Ongoing relationship with the Paintbox Preschool providing outreach and field trip programs for young students.
- Partner with Community School for nature programs and the Schoolyard Habitat Project. The school received a grant through Audubon's partnership with US Fish and Wildlife to develop outdoor learning spaces. Audubon also provided professional development for teachers who use the outdoor classroom.
- Guided Blackstone Valley Prep students on a geology field trip.
- Presented raptor programs at Cumberland Public Library.
- Brought raptors for a senior program at Brookdale Chapel Hill Senior Living.
- Led professional development for teachers in the Providence Diocese at Mercymount Country Day School.

ADVOCACY

- Opposed the Invenergy Power Plant, proposed in Burrillville. Concerned about impacts on critical wildlife corridors, Audubon also stressed that the plant was not consistent with the Resilient Rhode Island Act, passed by the legislature in 2014. Audubon assisted with the fight against the plant, speaking at public events, attending rallies, and providing content for the media when requested.
- Participated in the Woonsocket Thundermist Task Force, helping to develop impactful stormwater management projects using funds available from a water quality settlement with the State of Rhode Island.
- 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 in 2021 with 78.3 % support from the voters. The bond included critical funds for a suite of important local projects.



Jason Major

AUDUBON PROTECTED LAND



* Wildlife refuge with trails open to the public. Visit asri.org/hike for details.

NORTH SMITHFIELD 218 acres

1. FLORENCE AND RICHARD K. FORT WILDLIFE REFUGE *

Protected since 1996; Approximately 218 acres

Large, mature forest, three ponds plus streams support animals such as heron, ducks and beaver; protects headwaters of the Woonasquatucket River. The rolling, rocky landscape is a scenic destination for hikers, birders, and nature enthusiasts.

BURRIVILLE 71 acres

2. FAYETTE E. BARTLETT WOODLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1966; approximately 71 acres

This large mixed forest is home to many northern Rhode Island birds and wildlife.

CUMBERLAND 27 acres

3. LONESOME SWAMP

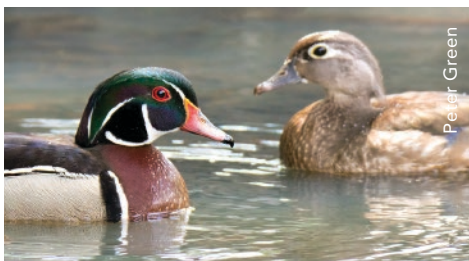
Protected since 1967; Approximately 1 acre

Small wildlife refuge in suburbia offers wetland protection and habitat for birds.

4. MCKENZIE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1984; Approximately 26 acres

The mature forest in this wildlife refuge protects the Abbott Run River.



Peter Green



Pam Marsden



Deborah Vine-Smith



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