



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

SOUTH KINGSTOWN AND NARRAGANSETT

PETTAQUAMSCUTT RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE, NARRAGANSETT

We need your help to continue our vital work in South Kingstown and Narragansett.

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 South Kingstown and Narragansett.

Through land conservation, we protect over 480 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in South Kingstown and Narragansett. 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 451 acres in South Kingstown and 32 acres in Narragansett.
- Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge, containing 1,100 acres, is Audubon's largest conservation property, located in South Kingstown and Exeter.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including 41 sites in South Kingstown and 25 in Narragansett.
- Protects forest and coastal habitats, natural areas that are critical in the face of climate change and sea-level rise.



EDUCATION

AUDUBON VIRTUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT RESOURCE GUIDE

Audubon encourages schools to create natural spaces on their grounds for outdoor learning and nature exploration. The Schoolyard Habitat Resource Guide, produced in 2020, provides age-appropriate activities linked to core subjects, with tips for outdoor teaching and safety. It complements the national Schoolyard Habitat Program led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

- Works with South Kingstown Parks and Recreation during winter school vacations to bring programming to the children they serve.
- Presented virtual programs through the Kingston Free Library during the pandemic for families.
- Leads numerous bird walks in the South Kingstown area, highlighting the beautiful open space found within its borders.
- Makes annual visits to Matunuck and Wakefield Elementary Schools to lead kindergartners on schoolyard bird walks, part of their curriculum on animals and trees.
- Hosted a Raptor Encounter program for all students at the Matunuck Elementary School.
- Brought programs and animal ambassadors to the Cane Child Care Center in Wakefield.

NARRAGANSETT

- Served 90 students at Narragansett Pier School by facilitating a Schoolyard BioBlitz at their school.
- Presented a virtual bird program at the Maury Loontjens Memorial Library for Narragansett families.

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



Scott Ruhren



Hope Foley



Scott Ruhren

AUDUBON PROTECTED LAND

SOUTH KINGSTOWN 451 acres

1. MARION EPPLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1979; Approximately 65 acres in South Kingstown, plus 1035 acres in Exeter. This large and diverse refuge protects approximately 5 miles of the Queen River and key wetland habitats.

2. MATUNUCK HILL WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1968; Approximately 35 acres

3. SHADBLOW PRESERVE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1974; Approximately 20 acres
Along the Narrow River this refuge protects salt marsh as well as forest.

4. TUCKERTOWN WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1976; Approximately 55 acres
Forested wetlands are features of this land.

5. INDIAN LAKE ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1995; Approximately 5 acres
This is a small wooded island in Indian Lake where waterfowl and song birds are protected.

6. INDIAN RUN WOODS

Protected since 1967; Approximately 125 acres
This large tract of mature forest and wetlands protects freshwater resources.

7. KINGSTON WILDLIFE RESEARCH STATION

Protected since 1998; Approximately 85 acres
Site of the longest-running bird banding station in Eastern North America, this refuge also protects forest and fields along Route 138.

8. BAHLER WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1994; Approximately 2 acres
Small, swampy forest is critical habitat for birds near Wordens Pond.

9. BEECH GROVE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1966; Approximately 7 acres
This mature forest in a suburban landscape has vernal pools and rolling terrain.

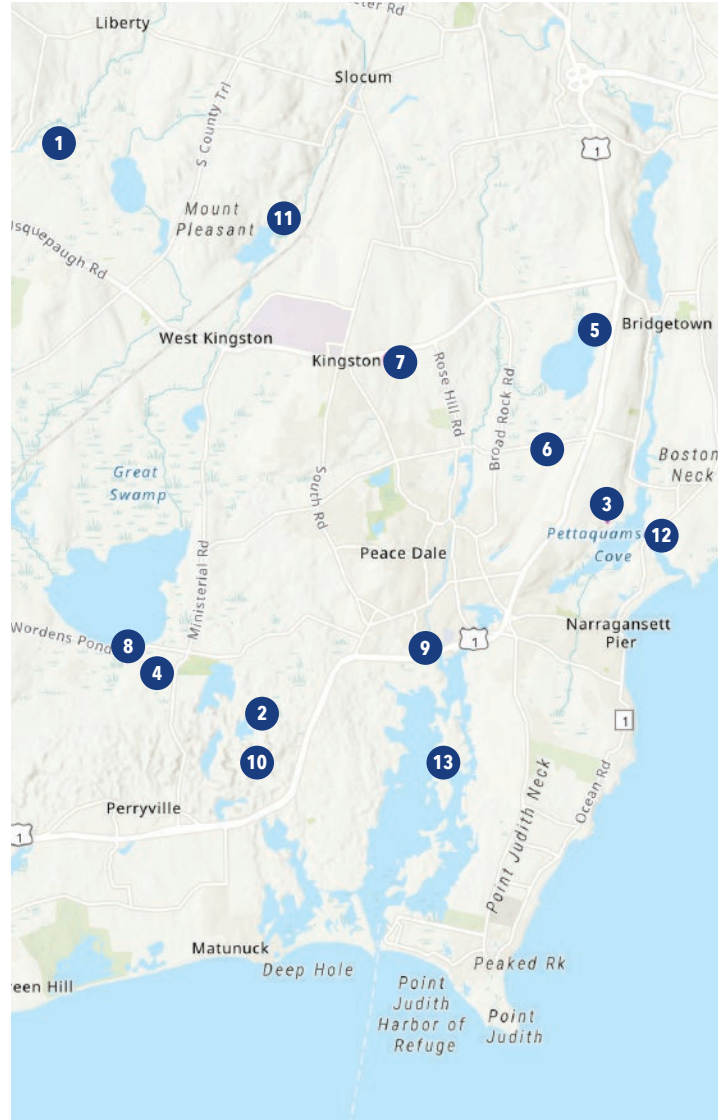
10. CEDAR SWAMP POND WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1981; Approximately 4 acres
Mixed wetland forest provides valuable habitat for birds in a suburban landscape.

11. ELDRED WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1960; Approximately 48 acres
This large forest is a valuable property in a rapidly-changing landscape.

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.



NARRAGANSETT 32 acres

12. PETTAQUAMSCUTT RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1971; Approximately 12 acres
Protects long stretch of Narrow River shoreline down to the Dunes Club, home to wading birds and marsh sparrows.

13. RAM ISLAND MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1971; Approximately 20 acres



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