



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

CHARLESTOWN, HOPKINTON, RICHMOND, AND WESTERLY

LONG POND WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE, HOPKINTON

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

Through land conservation, we protect over 450 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond and Westerly. 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 219 acres in Hopkinton, 102 acres in Richmond, 35 acres in Charlestown, and 95 acres in Westerly.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including 10 sites in Hopkinton, 6 sites in Richmond, 15 sites in Westerly, and 9 sites in Charlestown.
- Many of the Audubon properties in Southern Rhode Island protect vulnerable freshwater wetlands.
- Several wildlife refuges in Charlestown and Westerly protect vital coastal habitats, so important for wildlife and coastal preservation 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.

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.

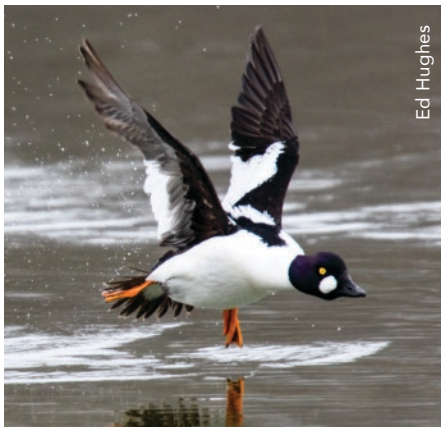
HOPKINTON

- Frequently visit Trinity Lutheran Preschool in Ashaway, bringing nature stories, activities, and animals to young children.
- Visited Ashaway Elementary School Kindergartners for an owl program.
- Well-established relationship with Langworthy Library in Hope Valley. Audubon educators provided five virtual nature programs for library families in 2020.
- Provided vertebrates program at the Ashaway Free Library.



RICHMOND

- Richmond Elementary School has invited Audubon to provide Owls of Rhode Island programs for grade four students.
- The nature-based Meadowbrook Waldorf School for children in Pre-K through grade eight has invited Audubon to visit with nature programs and animals.



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.

AUDUBON PROTECTED LAND

HOPKINTON 219 acres

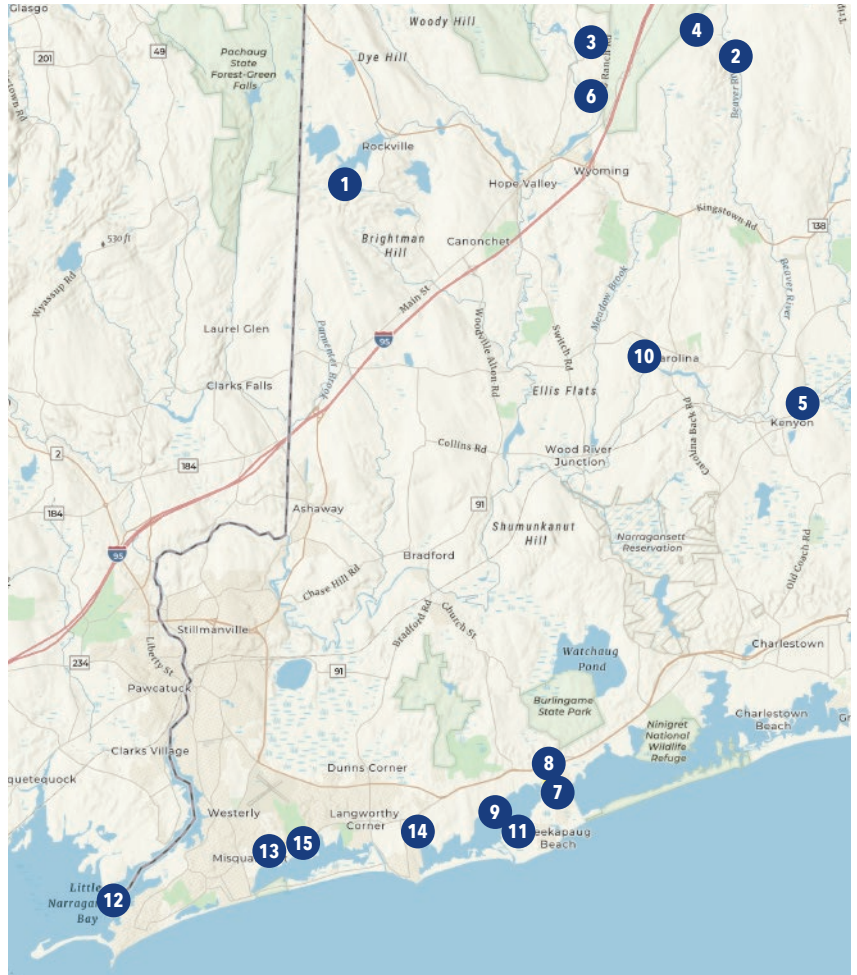
- 1. LONG POND WOODS WILDLIFE REUGE ***
Protected since 1974; approximately 219 acres
Rugged, rocky terrain offers challenging hiking and incredible views in all seasons; part of a large, protected conservation area and extensive two-state trail system.

RICHMOND 102 acres

- 2. BEAVER RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1998; approximately 4 acres
This habitat helps keep water clean for fish and other wildlife.
- 3. CARDI WOODLANDS WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1996; approximately 69 acres
Dense forest protects wetlands and important bird habitat; near Arcadia Management Area.
- 4. COWARD'S HOLE WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1992; approximately 15 acres
Hardwood forest supports birds year round.
- 5. KENYON WETLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1992; approximately 14 acres
These protected wetlands are critical for wildlife.
- 6. WOOD RIVER WETLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1996; approximately 0.3 acre
A small, sensitive wetland area.

CHARLESTOWN 35 acres

- 7. BERRY SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1985; approximately 4 acres
Wooded, swampy habitat.
- 8. BULL BRIER SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1991; approximately 13 acres
Mix of swamp and upland forest; valuable nesting and stop-over spot for birds.
- 9. GAVIT SALT MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1995; approximately 5 acres
Ever-changing salt marsh critical to marine life and protection against sea level rise.
- 10. PAWCATUCK MARSHLANDS WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1988; approximately 7 acres
Important wetlands for wildlife.
- 11. QUONOHONTAUG SALT MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1989; approximately 6 acres
This critical habitat supports marsh plants and birds.



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

WESTERLY 95 acres

- 12. FOSTER COVE WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1995; approximately 1 acre
- 13. LATHROP WILDLIFE REFUGE ***
Protected since 1998; approximately 86 acres
This vast forest and marsh help protect inland areas from sea level rise and offers views of coastal Winnapaug Pond.
- 14. PERKINS POND EDGE WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1981; approximately 1 acre
Small but valuable habitat for birds and wildlife.
- 15. WINNAPAUG POND SALT MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1981; approximately 7 acres
Critical habitat for shore and marsh birds.



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