



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

JAMESTOWN



Fox Hill Salt Marsh



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND
12 SANDERSON ROAD
SMITHFIELD, RI 02917

FOX HILL SALT MARSH, JAMESTOWN

We need your help to continue our vital work in Jamestown.

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 Jamestown.

Through land conservation, we protect 90 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in Jamestown. 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 90 acres in Jamestown.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, with 15 sites in Jamestown including a nest camera at Marsh Meadows.
- Collaborates with state, federal, and local groups in statewide salt marsh restoration including Marsh Meadows in Jamestown.
- 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.

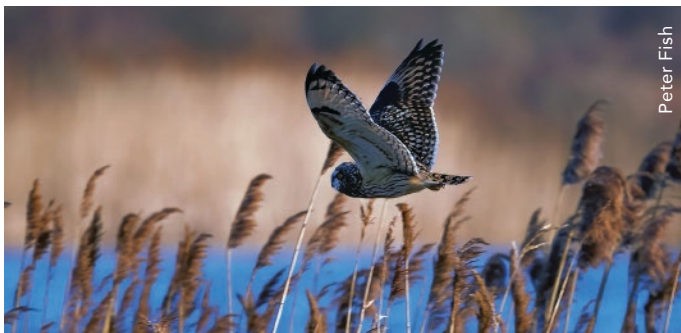
SCHOOLYARD HABITAT RESOURCE GUIDE

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.



Matt DiMato

- All kindergarten students from Melrose School visited the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium to explore the wildlife refuge and meet an owl.
- Melrose School first grade students visited the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium to explore the shore looking for shells, crabs, and Osprey.
- Fourth graders at Melrose School received a visit from Audubon educators who brought an animal ambassador for a Bird of Prey program.
- Owls of Rhode Island program at the Jamestown Philomenian Library served 59 local children.
- Since July 2020, Senior Director of Education, Lauren Parmelee has been writing nature articles for Newport This Week that highlight the wildlife and open spaces found in the region.



Peter Fish

ADVOCACY

- Participated in Coastal Resources Management Council hearings, speaking in opposition to expansion and dredging at the Jamestown boatyard. Audubon requested a review of the water type classification in this area which is adjacent to the Dumplings, an Audubon property on Jamestown.
- 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.



Mary Ann Cofrin

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.

JAMESTOWN 90 acres

1. THE DUMPLING

Protected since 1971; Approximately 0.5 acre

A small island in the bay, home to coastal birds and marine life.

2. FOX HILL SALT MARSH

Protected since 1970; Approximately 45 acres

A large and diverse salt marsh protects shoreline; birds and marine species feed and breed here.

3. MARSH MEADOWS WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1964; Approximately 21 acres

Salt marsh and tidal creeks support many wading birds and fish; home to an Osprey nest.

4. RACQUET ROAD THICKET WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1960; Approximately 19 acres

Dense thicket of trees and shrubs protects nesting birds and spring and fall migrants; the property buffers the island from storms.

5. SHEFFIELD COVE SALT MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1964; Approximately 5 acres

Home to many wading birds and sea ducks; protects shoreline from sea level rise and storms. This location is a popular kayaking and shell fishing area.



Scott Rühren



Chris Powell



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