

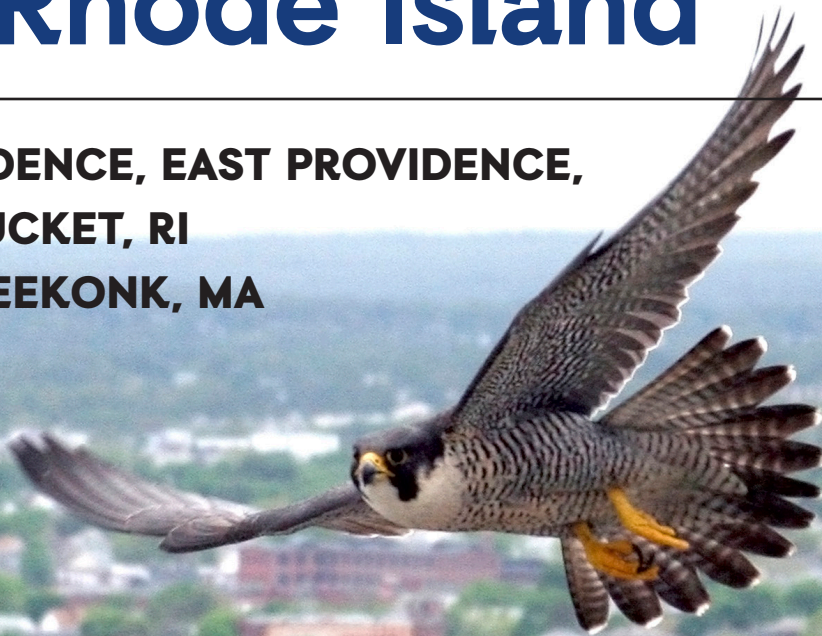


**COMMUNITY REPORT**

# **AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island**

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**PROVIDENCE, EAST PROVIDENCE,  
PAWTUCKET, RI  
AND SEEKONK, MA**



**PEREGRINE FALCON**



## We need your help to continue our vital work in Greater Providence.

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 Providence, North Providence, Pawtucket, RI and Seekonk, MA.

Through land conservation, we protect close to 200 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife at Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk, MA. One of Audubon's most visited properties, Caratunk is just minutes from Providence, North Providence, and Pawtucket. Our wildlife refuges 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](http://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 and 196 acres in Seekonk, Massachusetts.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including six sites in Providence, 19 sites in East Providence, 6 sites in Pawtucket, and 12 sites in Seekonk and Swansea, MA.
- Protects large areas of forest habitat in Northern Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts that are critical in the face of climate change.
- Caratunk Wildlife Refuge is one of Audubon's most visited properties, offering numerous birding walks, nature programs, camps and events.



Audubon Summer Nature Camp at Neutaconkanut Park; a collaboration with the Providence Parks Department. Photo by Hugh Markey  
Cover photo by Peter Green



## 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.

### PROVIDENCE

- Partnered with Providence Community Libraries during the pandemic, providing 11 virtual programs within ten community libraries.
- On-going partnership with Children's Friend social service agency, providing Head Start summer programs at nine centers in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls.
- Taught virtual watershed and water quality programs virtually to students at Sophia Academy charter school and New Urban Arts students from Central High School as part of an art and science educational partnership with the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center and the Rain Harvest Arts Festival in Roger Williams Park. This project will continue in 2022.
- Brought hands-on science and nature programming to 12 public and charter schools and 6 private and parochial schools in Providence.
- Provides beginning birding programs and walks in conjunction with Professor Nancy Jacobs environmental class at Brown University.
- Long-time partnership with Providence After School Alliance, offering many years of after school and summer programming to middle school students.
- Partnership with Providence Parks and US Fish & Wildlife to provide free "Providence Birding Adventures" in city parks every month for the past several years.
- Serves various branches of the Greater Providence YMCA with after school and summer programming.
- Provided virtual and outdoor programming for adult audiences at Hamilton House, the Providence Public Library, and Edgewood Garden Club.
- Manages the Providence Peregrine Webcam, allowing the public an up-close look as Peregrine Falcons nest each year box atop the Superman Building. Also organizes the annual banding of the young Peregrine Falcons, so that scientists may follow their movements to learn more about the species.

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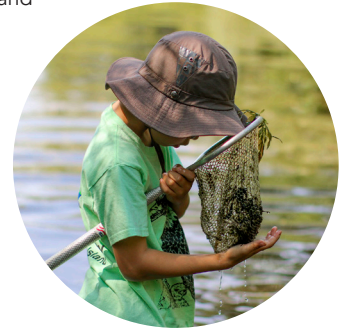


Peter Green



## 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.
- With support from the Office of Sustainability, Audubon researched and wrote, "Pesticide and Chemical Free Management Practices" documenting current chemical use practices in the City of Providence and recommending strategies to increase protections. The report helped launch the City's Pesticide Free campaign.



# EDUCATION, CONTINUED

## PAWTUCKET

- Long-term partnership (since 2012) with Pawtucket Public Schools serving 600 to 700 third graders annually by providing in-school science programs and field trips.
- Partner with Children's Friend social service agency, providing Head Start summer programs at nine centers in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls.
- Provides science and nature-related educational programs to students at St. Cecilia's School, International Charter School, and Goff Junior High School.
- Provided nature stories and animal visits at Smithfield Avenue Nursery School and the Children's Workshop early education center.

## NORTH PROVIDENCE

- St. Mary's Home for Children brought students to explore the coast at the Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol.
- Brought nature programs and animal visits to families at North Providence Library.

- Brings in-school science programming to students at Birchwood Middle School and Dr. Joseph A. Whelan Elementary School.
- Brought nature programs and animal visits to North Providence Library.

## SEEKONK, MA

- Provides in-school science and educational programs to students at George Martin Elementary School, Kevin M. Hurley Middle School, and the South Coast Educational Collaborative.
- Summer Camp at Caratunk Wildlife Refuge has been a long-standing community tradition for children.
- Holds numerous guided birding walks, nature programs and events at the Audubon Caratunk Wildlife Refuge.
- Local scout troops meet at Caratunk and Audubon educators assist with environmental badges.



# AUDUBON PROTECTED LAND

## SEEKONK, MA 196 acres

### CARATUNK WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1971; approximately 196 acres  
 Diverse habitats including wetlands, grasslands and forest; popular refuge for birding, hiking, Audubon programs and summer camp. Open to the public.

Visit [asri.org/hike](http://asri.org/hike) for trail maps and details.



Glenn Osmundson



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