



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

FOSTER, JOHNSTON, AND SCITUATE

GEORGE B. PARKER WOODLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE, FOSTER

We need your help to continue our vital work in Foster, Johnston, and Scituate.

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 Foster, Johnston, and Scituate.

Through land conservation, we protect over 900 acres in Foster and Scituate. 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.

CONSERVATION

- Protects approximately 9,500 acres of habitat in Rhode Island, including approximately 787 acres in Foster and 116 acres in Scituate.
- Wildlife refuges in Foster and Scituate protect valuable forest habitats and freshwater wetlands, so important for wildlife and natural resources.
- Coordinates the Osprey monitoring program at more than 250 sites in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
- Protects large areas of forest that are critical in the face of climate change.

Thank you for your support!



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.

JOHNSTON

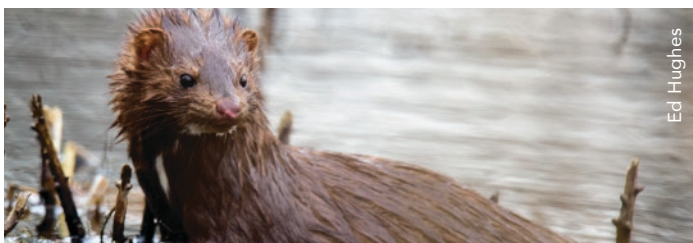
- Developed Schoolyard Habitat project for outdoor learning with teachers and faculty at Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School.
- Brought nature stories and animal ambassadors for grades K–1 to Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School.
- Has provided the All About Birds program for fourth grade students at Winsor Hill Elementary School for several years.
- Brought nature stories and animal ambassadors to St. Rocco School for grades K-2.
- Guided a habitat field trip for fourth grade students at Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School.
- Audubon inflatable whale was brought to students in grades 1–3 during summer programs at Thornton Elementary School.
- Cherry Hill Pre-school students have enjoyed Audubon nature stories and met animal ambassadors.

FOSTER

- All students at Clayville Elementary School participated in a schoolyard Everything's Connected nature program.
- Guided second graders at Clayville Elementary School on a Nature Detectives field trip.

SCITUATE

- Brought numerous outdoor nature programs and a virtual owl program to students at North Scituate Elementary School. Have also led field trip programs for first graders.
- Presented a pollinator program at the Gentian Garden Club at the North Scituate Community House.



Ed Hughes

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.



Karen Johnson, New Bedford



Ed Hughes

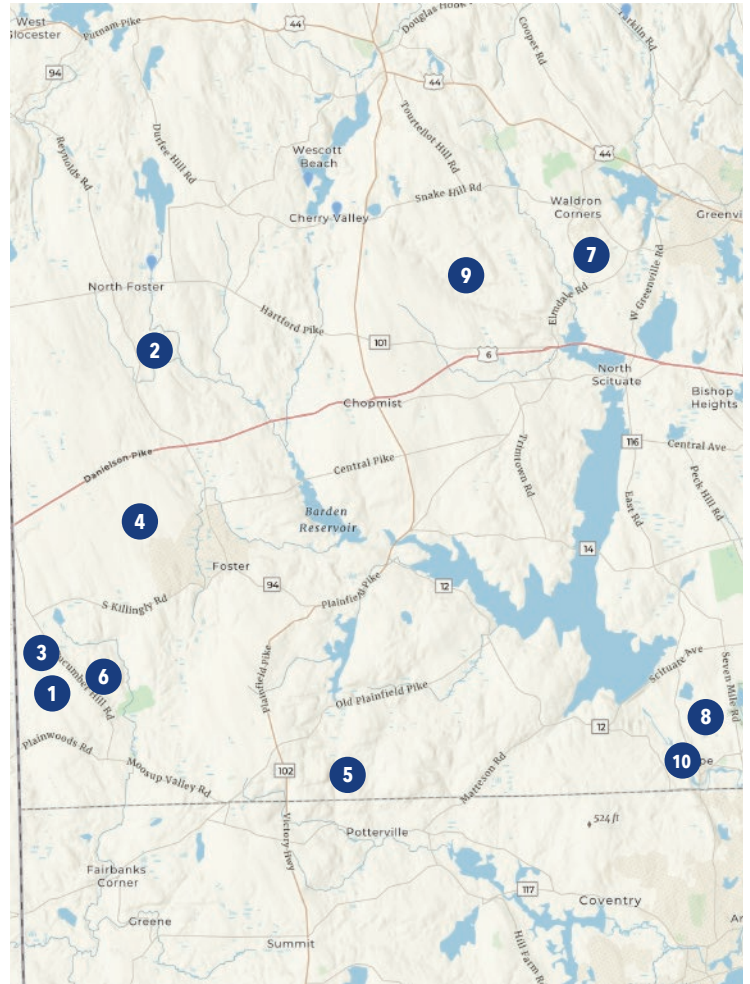
AUDUBON PROTECTED LAND

FOSTER 787 acres

- 1. ADAM BALWIERCZAK WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 2001; approximately 125 acres
Adjacent to Audubon's DeCurtis Wildlife Refuge and Foster Land Trust, this is part of a large tract of protected forest.
- 2. CARDI SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1994; approximately 130 acres
This land is part of a larger protected area and offers forest, open water, and swamp habitat.
- 3. DECURTIS WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 2003; approximately 80 acres
Next to Audubon's Balwierczak Wildlife Refuge and Foster Land Trust, this is part of a large tract of protected forest.
- 4. DOUGLAS & MARY THOMAN WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1996; approximately 36 acres
Large hardwood forest.
- 5. GEORGE B. PARKER WOODLAND ***
Protected since 1956; approx. 376 acres, part in Coventry
This large wildlife refuge straddles the border of two towns; it contains extensive and rigorous hiking trails.
- 6. HARRINGTON WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1993; approximately 40 acres
Vital forest and swamp habitats are found here.

SCITUATE 116 acres

- 7. ALICE O. HARRIS MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1976; approximately 44 acres
This property contains mature forest and rolling terrain, habitat for many species of wildlife.
- 8. CRANBERRY BROOK PRESERVE**
Protected since 1981; approximately 30 acres
Contains streams and forest.
- 9. HUNTINGHOUSE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 2004; approximately 30 acres
This rolling landscape of mature forest and extensive wetlands is important bird habitat.
- 10. OTTER POINT PRESERVE**
Protected since 1974; approximately 12 acres
South of Scituate reservoir, this property protects fresh-water wetlands.



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



Jason Major



Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk



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