



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

NORTH KINGSTOWN AND EXETER

FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE, EXETER

We need your help to continue our vital work in North Kingstown and Exeter.

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 North Kingstown and Exeter.

Through land conservation, we protect over 2,000 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in North Kingstown and Exeter. 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 approximately 156 acres in North Kingstown and 1,969 acres in Exeter.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including 21 sites in North Kingstown and 2 sites in Exeter.
- Protects large tracts of forested land in Exeter and North Kingstown, natural areas that are critical 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.

NORTH KINGSTOWN

- Leads numerous bird and nature walks in the North Kingstown area highlighting the beautiful open space found within its borders.
- Seventy-five third grade students from Stony Lane Elementary School visited the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium for an owl program and nature walk.
- Audubon educators visited kindergartners at Stony Lane Elementary School to bring a nature story and live animal.
- Forest Park Elementary School third graders enjoyed an Audubon nature program and a visit from a live owl.



EXETER

- Leads year-round birding walks, nature programs, and hikes for all ages at the Audubon Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge.
- Assists community scout troops with nature-related badge programs at the Audubon Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge.



ADVOCACY

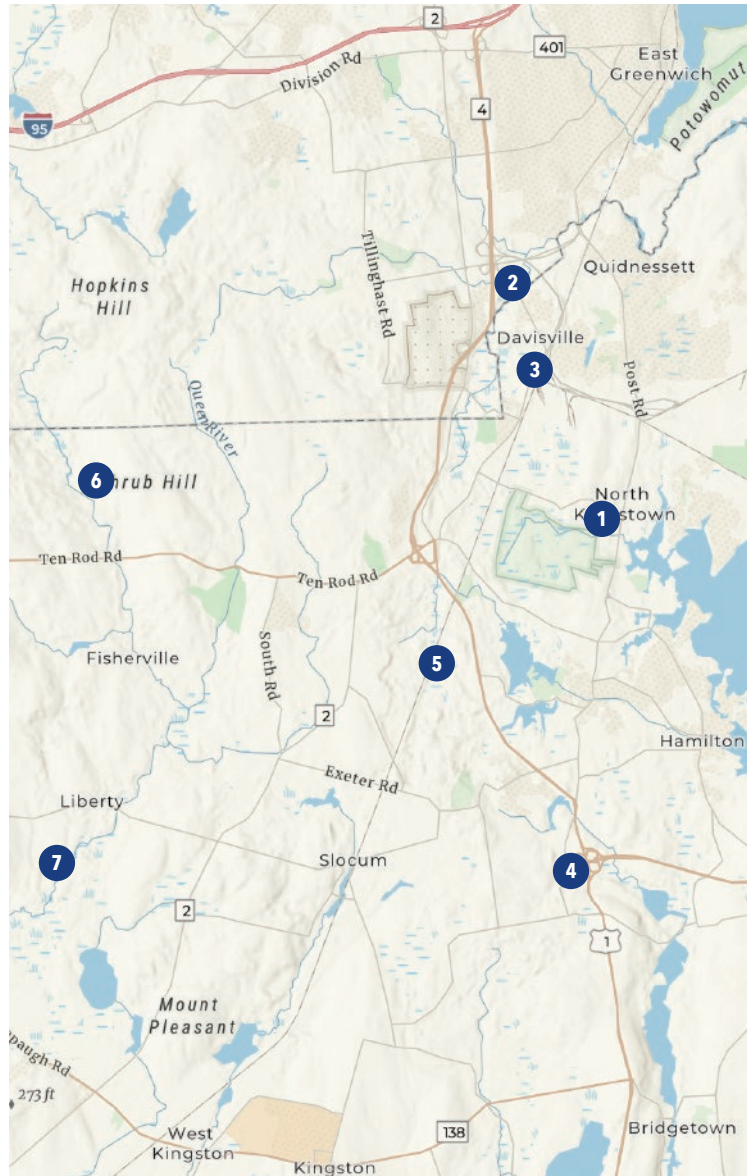
- Co-led the successful, multi-year campaign for the Act On Climate bill, which passed in 2021 and was signed into law on April 10 by Governor Daniel McKee. Climate change is the biggest threat to birds, wildlife, and people as it brings flooding, hurricanes and fires. This bill updates Rhode Island's 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

NORTH KINGSTOWN 156 acres

- 1. COCUMSCUSSOC BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1964; Approximately 16 acres
Mature woodland habitat within a larger protected forest.
- 2. DAVIS MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ***
Protected since 1965; Approximately 41 acres
With forested hills and swampy shorelines, this property protects miles of the Hunt River.
- 3. HUNT RIVER SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1966; Approximately 41 acres
Dense and diverse swampy forest.
- 4. ISABEL BRIGHT STEARNS MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1982; Approximately 45 acres
Rolling hills with hardwood forest between Pendar Road and Route 1.
- 5. LAFAYETTE CEDAR SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1986; Approximately 13 acres
Protected forest in a suburban landscape.



EXETER 1,969 acres

- 6. FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE ***
Protected since 1988; Approximately 934 acres in Exeter, plus 75 acres in West Greenwich. The second-largest Audubon wildlife refuge is in two towns; rolling hills, mature forests, large grasslands, ponds and streams are an oasis for birds, wildlife and nature enthusiasts.
- 7. MARION EPPLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Protected since 1979; Approximately 1035 acres in Exeter, plus 65 acres in South Kingstown. The largest Audubon refuge crosses borders into two towns. It protects the regionally diverse Queen River and surrounding wetlands including white cedar swamps.

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



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