



**COMMUNITY REPORT**

# **AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island**

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**BARRINGTON, BRISTOL, AND WARREN**

**TOUISSET MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE, WARREN**

## We need your help to continue our vital work in the East Bay.

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 the East Bay.

Through land conservation, we protect close to 170 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in the East Bay. 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](http://www.asri.org/donate) or call (401) 949-5454 ext. 3017.

*Thank you for your support!*

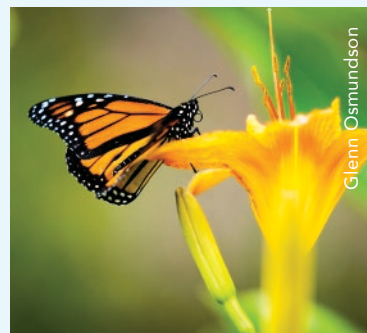
## AUDUBON NATURE CENTER & AQUARIUM, BRISTOL

The Claire D. McIntosh Wildlife Refuge in Bristol is home to the award-winning Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium. Approximately 20,000 visitors enjoy the trails, programs, lectures, and events at the Center each year.

The Nature Center and Aquarium is home to the Palmieri Pollinator Garden, hosts the annual Raptor Weekend event, and provides beautiful nature trails to Narragansett Bay and the East Bay Bike Path. Audubon trails throughout the state, including those in Bristol and Warren, remained open throughout the pandemic. These trails provided critical access to nature for people of all ages and backgrounds.

### CONSERVATION

- Protects approximately 9,500 acres of habitat in Rhode Island, including 64 acres in Barrington, 39 acres in Bristol, and 66 acres in Warren.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including 24 sites in Barrington, 16 in Bristol, and 26 in Warren.
- Administrative coordinator of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on Prudence Island since 2004.
- 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.

### BARRINGTON

- A long-term partnership with St. Luke's School, the Barrington Land Trust, and Waddington School in East Providence has eighth graders conducting water quality and wildlife studies along Annawamscutt Brook.
- Facilitated classroom and field trip programs at Sowams School, Nyatt School, and Primrose School in Barrington.
- Sowams Elementary first graders participated in the All About Birds virtual program.
- Audubon leads popular bird walks and workshops with the Barrington Garden Club and Hameho Garden Club.

### BRISTOL/WARREN

- Presented a Raptor Encounter program to 350 Colt Andrews School students.
- Engaged Guiteras Elementary first grade students with Audubon's sixty-foot inflatable finback whale. Third graders learned about food chains and food webs through Audubon's Everything's Connected program.
- Annually engage all second grade students at Rockwell School in life science programs.
- Works closely with the Living in Fulfilling Environments (L.I.F.E.) program in Warren for adults with special needs.
- Provided camp programs at Mount Hope Farm and Blithwold.
- The Bristol Highlands Neighborhood Association welcomed a program with owls and snakes.
- Partnership with Roger Williams University (RWU) provides opportunities for students to care for our aquaria and serve as education interns.
- Provides community programs at the Rogers Free Library in Bristol and the George Hail Library in Warren.
- In a joint venture between art and science teachers, 35 grade seven students from Highland Charter School engaged with a Barred Owl in a raptor program.
- Summer camp resumed in 2021 with 199 children attending at the Nature Center and Aquarium.
- Presented several nature programs on owls and hawks at the RI Veterans Home Community Living Center.



## 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

## BARRINGTON 64 acres

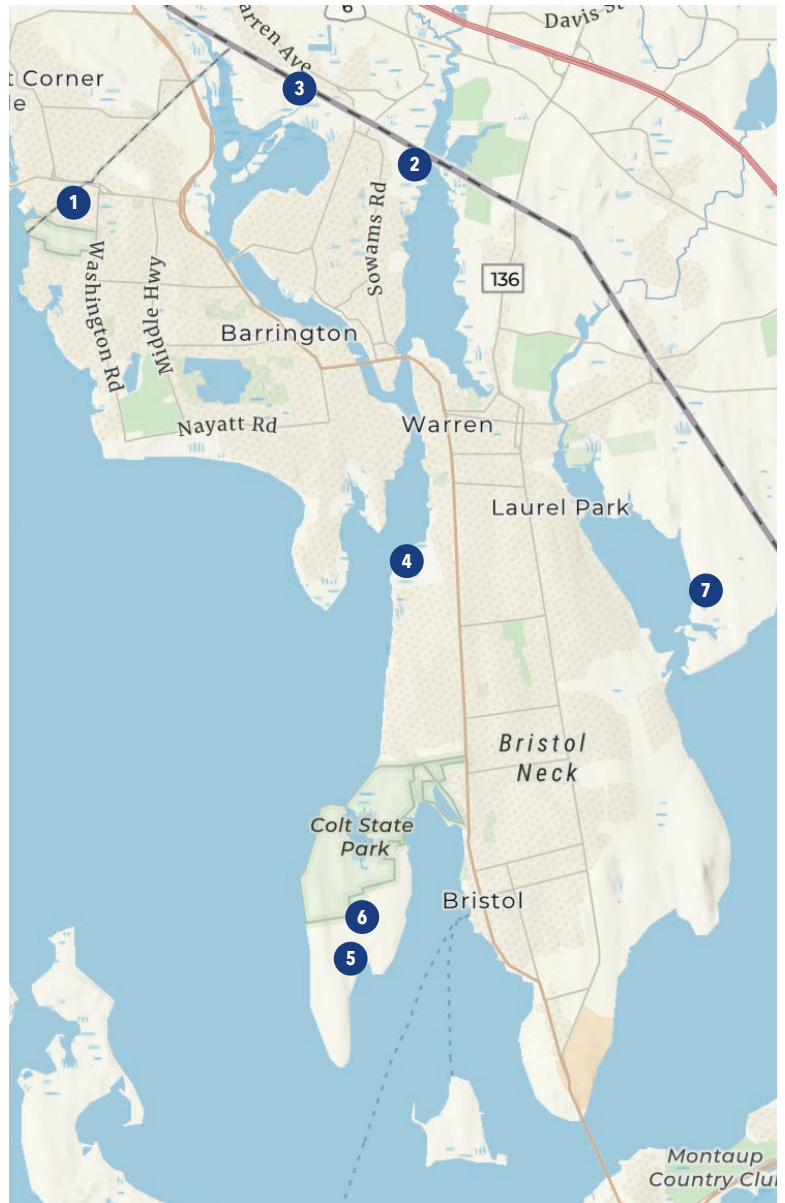
- 1. ANNAWAMSCUTT BROOK RESERVE WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1974; Approximately 5 acres  
Protects headwaters of a coastal stream; provides woodland habitat for birds near Haines Park.
- 2. BARON SALT MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1976; Approximately 16 acres  
Protects sensitive coastal marsh; nesting site for coastal birds and critical stopover for migratory birds.
- 3. HUNDRED ACRE COVE WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1960; Approximately 43 acres  
Extensive marsh protects valuable tidal wetlands and supports Osprey and other coastal birds.

## BRISTOL 39 acres

- 4. CLAIRE D. MCINTOSH WILDLIFE REFUGE \***  
Protected since 1992; Approximately 26 acres  
Home to Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium. Supports Osprey and other coastal wildlife; buffers coastline from storms and sea-level rise.
- 5. POPPASQUASH WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1995; Approximately 4 acres  
Woodland habitat for songbirds and other animals within a residential neighborhood.
- 6. USHER COVE WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1968; Approximately 9 acres  
Preserves sensitive coastline and marsh habitat; protects upland habitat and homes from storms and sea-level rise.

## WARREN 66 acres

- 7. TOUISSET MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE \***  
Protected since 1990; Approximately 66 acres  
Mix of coastal shrubs, grassland, forest and salt marsh habitats; supports wildlife while protecting land from sea-level rise.



\* Wildlife refuge with trails open to the public. Visit [asri.org/hike](http://asri.org/hike) for details.



 **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.**