



COMMUNITY REPORT

AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island



MIDDLETOWN, NEWPORT, AND PORTSMOUTH

SALTMARSH SPARROW

We need your help to continue our vital work on Aquidneck Island.

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 Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth.

Through land conservation, we protect close to 260 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife on Aquidneck Island. 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 14 acres in Newport and 245 acres in Portsmouth.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including nine sites in Newport, 29 sites in Portsmouth, nine sites on Prudence Island, and two in Middletown.
- Properties in Newport and Portsmouth protect valuable coastal habitats, natural areas that are critical in the face of climate change and sea-level rise.
- Administrative coordinator of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on Prudence Island since 2004.

Thank you for your support!



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.

NEWPORT

- Long-term relationship with St. Michael's Country Day School Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms. Audubon educators have visited St. Michaels bringing nature stories, activities and animals into their classrooms for many years.
- A new collaboration with the Martin Luther King Community Center was established in 2020. Audubon educators provide Pre-K classrooms with nature stories, animal visits and schoolyard explorations. Audubon also runs a nature exploration series after school for students in first to fifth grades and has brought science and nature programming to their summer camps.
- 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 on Aquidneck Island.
- Audubon naturalists often lead popular bird walks on Aquidneck Island at outdoor green spaces such as Brenton Point State Park, Miantonomi Park, Ballard Park, Sachuest National Wildlife Refuge and Third Beach.

MIDDLETOWN

- Gaudet Middle School in Middletown invited Audubon for a Raptor Encounter program serving 200 students.
- Middletown Library often invites Audubon to provide raptor programs during school vacation weeks.

PORTSMOUTH

- Hathaway School second graders regularly participate in Audubon's Life Cycles program that enhances their classroom studies.
- Hathaway School has also been part of the Audubon and US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) Schoolyard Habitat Project. Working with a team of teachers, parents, school staff and the principal, Audubon and USFW supported the planning and development of an outdoor pollinator garden and learning space with funding, expertise and resources. Audubon educators also provided professional development on outdoor learning for teachers and staff.
- Pennfield School has invited Audubon to bring science programming to students. Audubon educators facilitated programs for 94 Pennfield students in pre-K to grade 5.
- Works in partnership with Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on Prudence Island.
- Students from Prudence Island School visited the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol.

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.



Hope Foley

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.

NEWPORT 14 acres

1. OCEAN DRIVE MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1967; approximately 14 acres

Two parcels of tidal marsh and forested upland make up this wildlife refuge. It contains valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife and supports an active Osprey nest.

PORTSMOUTH 245 acres

2. CHIPAQUISSETT WILDLIFE REFUGE

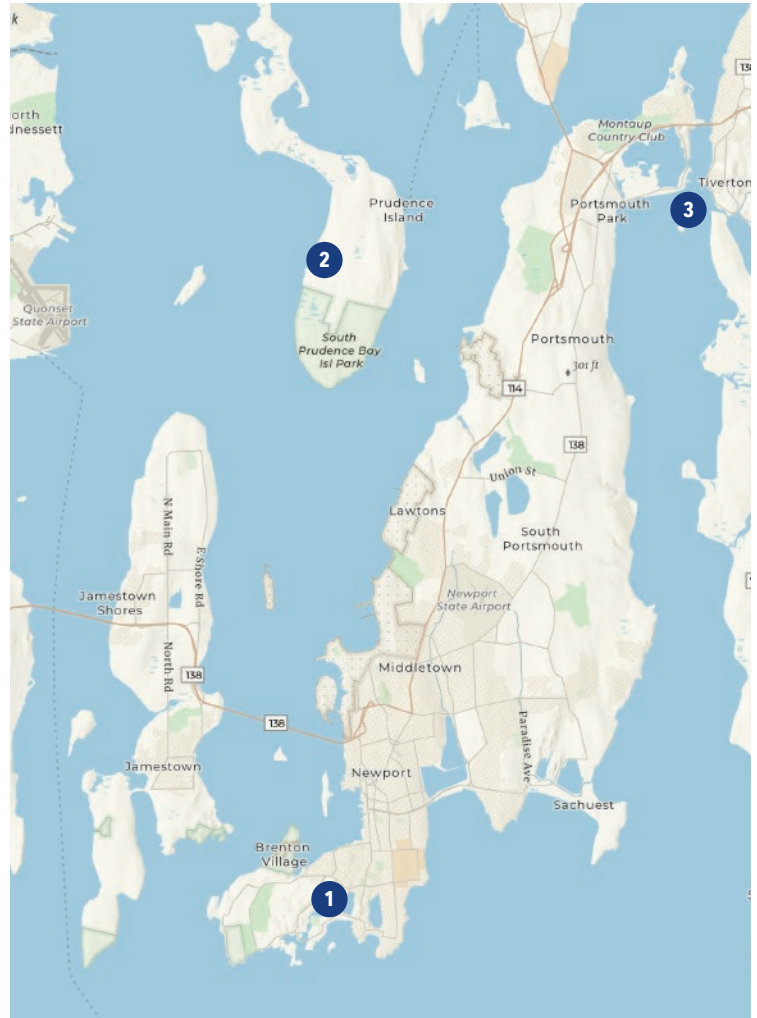
Protected since 1997; approximately 240 acres

This large forest in the center of Prudence Island offers year-round habitat for birds and other wildlife.

3. GOULD ISLAND ROOKERY WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1964; approximately 5 acres

This rocky island in Narragansett Bay contains active nesting sites for heron, egrets and cormorants.



Ed Hughes



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