



**COMMUNITY REPORT**

# **AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island**

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**LITTLE COMPTON AND TIVERTON**

**EMILIE RUECKER WILDLIFE REFUGE, TIVERTON**

## We need your help to continue our vital work in Little Compton and Tiverton.

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 Little Compton and Tiverton.

Through land conservation, we protect almost 100 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in Little Compton and Tiverton. 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!*

## CONSERVATION

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- Protects approximately 9,500 acres of habitat in Rhode Island, including 36 acres in Little Compton and 63 acres in Tiverton.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including five sites in Little Compton and five sites in Tiverton.
- 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 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.

## LITTLE COMPTON

- Long-standing relationship with Little Peeps Montessori Natu-raskola, a pre-school focused on outdoor learning and nature. Audubon brings activities and animal ambassadors to the young students several times a year.
- Annually visit the Wilbur-MacMahon Elementary School in Little Compton. In 2020, Audubon presented a virtual Owls of Rhode Island program for third graders.
- Presented a raptor program with live owl to the Sogkonate Garden Club.

## TIVERTON

- Ranger Elementary School students visited the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium for Coastal Explorations programs.



Ed Hughes



Scott Ruhren

## 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.



Mary Ann Cofrin

# AUDUBON PROTECTED LAND

## LITTLE COMPTON 36 acres

### 1. ELIZABETH H. TURNER WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1999; Approximately 17 acres  
This vital forested habitat is in a rapidly changing landscape and provides habitat for birds and other wildlife.

### 2. HAFFENREFFER WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 2001; Approximately 14 acres  
Coastal grassland and shrubby edges are key stopover spots for migrating birds.

### 3. LONG POND MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1991; Approximately 1 acre

### 4. SPECTACLE ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1972; Approximately 4 acres

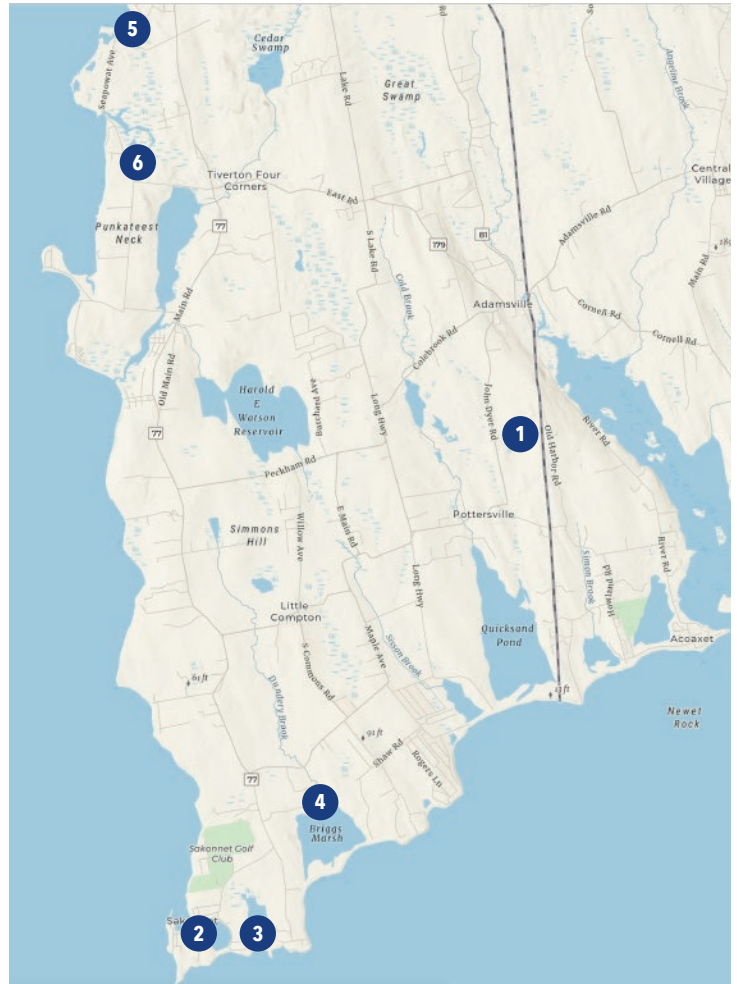
## TIVERTON 63 acres

### 5. EMILIE RUECKER WILDLIFE REFUGE \*

Protected since 1965; Approximately 51 acres  
A mix of upland forest and extensive salt marsh offers habitat for many birds and wildlife.


### 6. SAPOWET MARSH WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1993; Approximately 12 acres  
Coastal habitat protects birds as well as surrounding areas from storms.



\* 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.**  
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