



**COMMUNITY REPORT**

# **AUDUBON SOCIETY** of Rhode Island

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**SMITHFIELD AND GLOCESTER**

**POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE, SMITHFIELD**

## We need your help to continue our vital work in Smithfield and Gloucester.

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 Smithfield and Gloucester.

Through land conservation, we protect close to 560 acres in Smithfield and Gloucester. 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 approximately 267 acres in Smithfield and 291 acres in Gloucester.
- Two wildlife refuges in Smithfield protect valuable freshwater wetlands, streams, and mature forest, so important for wildlife and water resources.
- Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge is home to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island headquarters.
- 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.



## 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.

## SMITHFIELD

- Visits the East Smithfield Library with nature stories and programs for young children. Also presented a virtual Owls of Rhode Island program for local families.
- Presented raptor and reptile programs at the Greenville Public Library and guided families on nature discovery walks.
- Provide summer field trips for Smithfield YMCA campers.
- Led summer field trips for children at Cadence Academy.
- Reached 119 students at Raymond LaPerche Elementary School with three Audubon nature programs.
- The entire student body at Anna McCabe Elementary School participated in Raptor Encounter presentations with Audubon birds of prey.
- Schoolyard ecology explorations for fifth grade students were held in the outdoor classroom and nature trail at Old County Road Elementary School.
- Fifth grade students at Old County Road Elementary School participated in a Bird Brains program, discovering the highly intelligent corvid family of birds.
- Provided summer outreach for children at Kids Klub in Smithfield.
- Audubon naturalists lead numerous hikes, birding walks, family nature programs and lectures at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge.

## GLOCESTER

- Visited Harmony Public Library families with vertebrate and owl programs, including live animals.
- Brought nature stories and a live owl to the Harmony Childcare and Learning Center.



Kevin Bernard



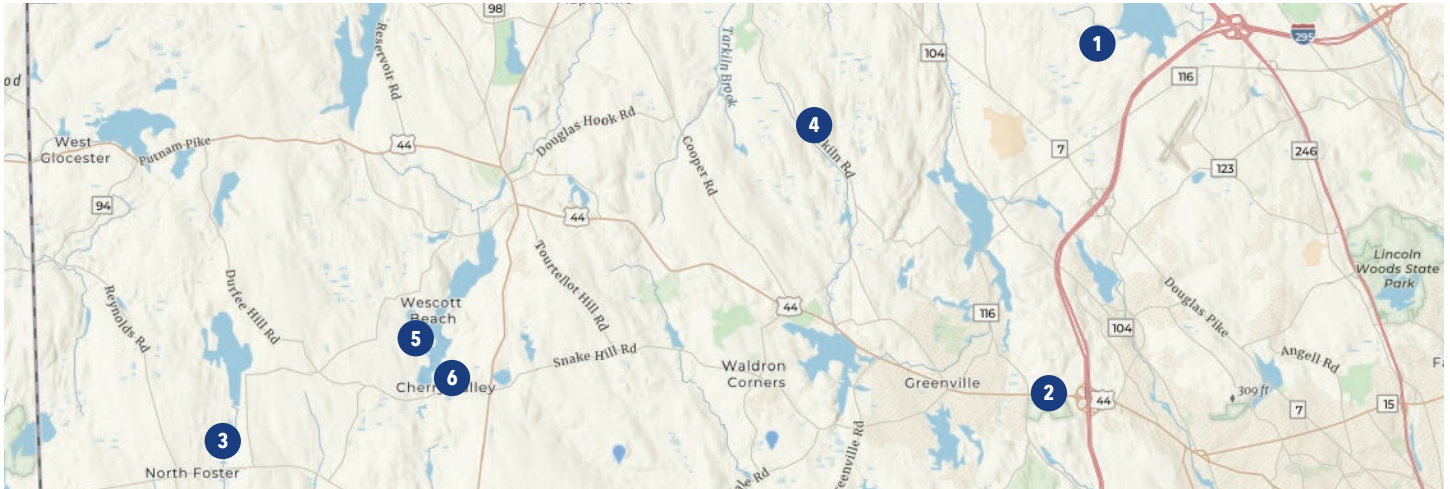
Jerome Montvilo

## 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



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

## SMITHFIELD 267 acres

### 1. LYNCH-DESPRES WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1995; approximately 138 acres  
This rocky and swampy refuge protects valuable habitat within a changing landscape of increasing subdivisions and corporate campuses.

### 2. POWDER MILL LEDGES WILDLIFE REFUGE \*

Protected since 1980; approximately 129 acres  
Home to Audubon's headquarters, this property has a well-visited trail system through field, rolling hills and forest.



## GLOCESTER 291 acres

### 3. BEAVER DAM RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1979; approximately 76 acres  
Swamps and forest support birds and other wildlife.

### 4. ETHEL M.C. NEWMAN WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1991; approximately 202 acres  
This large refuge also crosses the town border into Smithfield. Old pastures and mature forest protect valuable headwater streams.

### 5. KEECH POND LOTS WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1987; approximately 2 acres  
Protected hardwood forest.

### 6. PATRICIA A. CASH WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protected since 1980; approximately 11 acres  
Mostly red-maple swamp and cranberry bogs.





**SUPPORT NATURE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND DONATE TO AUDUBON TODAY.**

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