



COMMUNITY REPORT

# AUDUBON SOCIETY of Rhode Island

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COVENTRY, EAST GREENWICH, AND WEST GREENWICH

MAXWELL MAYS WILDLIFE REFUGE, COVENTRY



## We need your help to continue our vital work in Coventry, East Greenwich, and West Greenwich.

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 Coventry, East Greenwich, and West Greenwich.

Through land conservation, we protect over 2,000 acres of natural habitat for birds and wildlife in Coventry, East Greenwich, and West Greenwich. 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 17 acres in East Greenwich, 75 acres in West Greenwich, and 1,978 acres in Coventry.
- Coordinates the state-wide Osprey monitoring program, including three sites in East Greenwich, three sites in West Greenwich, and two sites in Coventry.
- Protects large areas of forest and coastal habitats 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.

### COVENTRY

- Coventry Parks and Recreation Department regularly brings their spring vacation and summer campers on field trips to the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol.
- Westwood YMCA invited Audubon to bring the Inflatable Whale program to their children.
- Child Care Plus has brought their summer campers to the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol for nature explorations.
- Holds numerous guided birding walks and nature programs at both the Audubon Maxwell Mays and Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuges in Coventry.
- Visited Coventry Public Library with Owls of Rhode Island program.
- Presented program on backyard birds to residents of Brookdale Centre of New England.



### EAST GREENWICH

- Partnership with East Greenwich Parks and Recreation brings many Audubon programs to children during school vacations and summer months.
- RI National Guard invited Audubon to bring the Inflatable Whale program for 30 children to explore.
- Brought Audubon animal ambassadors and programs to children at Sweet Peas Village and the Montessori of Greenwich Bay.
- Visited 20 third grade students at James Eldredge School with programs on owls, life cycles, and food webs.
- Second and third grade students at Our Lady of Mercy School went on a ponding adventure at Audubon Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge in Exeter. Second graders also participated in a virtual Life Cycle of Frogs program.
- Brought owl programs with live birds to Atria Harborhill, The Seasons Assisted Living, and Anchor Bay at Greenwich.

### WEST GREENWICH

- Environmental education collaboration with The Greene School in West Greenwich continues to expand.
- Provided Louttit Library with a virtual Life Cycle of Frogs program for young patrons.

## ADVOCACY

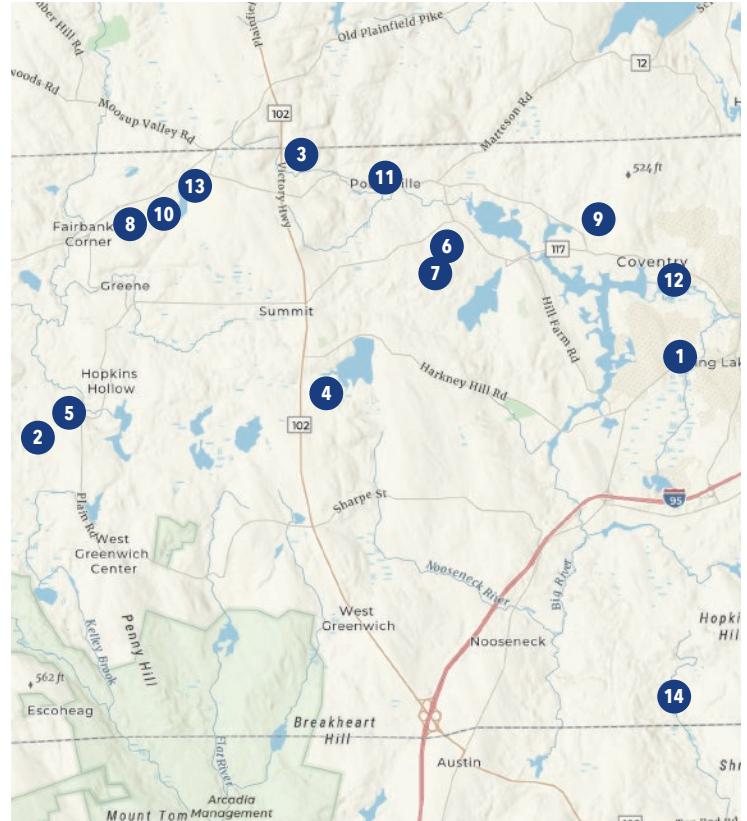
- Co-led the successful, multi-year campaign for the Act On Climate bill, which passed in 2021 and was signed into law on April 10 by Governor Daniel McKee. Climate change is the biggest threat to birds, wildlife, and people as it brings flooding, hurricanes and fires. This bill updates Rhode Island's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

## COVENTRY 1,978 acres

- 1. EARL FORRESTER WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1992; Approximately 4 acres
- 2. EDWARD & PHOEBE McALPINE MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1980; Approximately 198 acres  
Large tract of forest contains vital vernal pools and abundant wildlife.
- 3. GEORGE B. PARKER WOODLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE \***  
Protected since 1941; Approximately 880 acres, part in Foster  
One of the largest and most rugged of Audubon's properties, it boasts the longest trails on an Audubon refuge.
- 4. MAXWELL MAYS WILDLIFE REFUGE \***  
Protected since 2010; Approximately 295 acres  
Dry upland forest, a pond, streams, and historic buildings are highlights of this popular destination on Victory Highway.
- 5. HENRY J. LARKIN WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1984; Approximately 420 acres  
Large forested tract in a landscape of protected land.
- 6. HERRERA WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1993; Approximately 5 acres  
Contains mixed forest that is home to diverse wildlife.
- 7. JAMES BEATON MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1995; Approximately 30 acres  
Upland forest along the Washington Trail Bike Path.
- 8. JANINE A. PETRARCA WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1997; Approximately 20 acres  
Mixed forest is mostly dry but also contains some wetland habitat.
- 9. MANZO MEMORIAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1996; Approximately 38 acres  
Located on Flat River Road, this forested land is named in honor of a fallen serviceman.
- 10. PERCHED BOULDER WOODS WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1981; Approximately 52 acres  
This rugged and rolling forest is near Rice City Road and Warwick Brook.
- 11. POTTERVILLE WETLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1990; Approximately 5 acres  
This small forest is on Maple Valley Road south of Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge.
- 12. SOUTH BRANCH WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Protected since 1986; Approximately 2 acres  
Part of a larger landscape of reservoir protection, this wildlife refuge supports waterfowl and other birds.
- 13. WATERMAN POND WILDLIFE REFUGE \***  
Protected since 1993; Approximately 29 acres  
Deep shade and a pleasant walk to the pond are highlights of this wildlife refuge.



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



## WEST GREENWICH 75 acres

- 14. FISHERVILLE BROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE \***  
Protected since 1988; Approximately 75 acres in West Greenwich (plus 934 acres in Exeter.) This large wildlife refuge with public access in Exeter also crosses the border into West Greenwich.

## EAST GREENWICH 17 acres

- HUNT RIVER SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE** (Not shown on map)  
Protected since 1965; Approximately 17 acres  
This dense forest and swamp along the quiet Hunt River crosses the North Kingstown border.



**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.**