

“...keep alive your child's inborn sense of wonder, and renew your own delight in the mysteries of earth, sea and sky.”

from Rachel Carson's
The Sense of Wonder

Every child needs an adult to foster that innocent enthusiasm and wonder about nature. You, without much knowledge yourself, can be that encouraging adult while renewing your own sense of wonder about the world around you. Learn, once again, to stop, look, and listen and take the time to smell, feel, and savor the world around you.



Start by exploring this brochure for information which might spark you or your young friends' enthusiasm for nature.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island would like to help you discover the natural world. We are dedicated to preserving land for all living things, providing educational opportunities for all Rhode Islanders, and advocating for policies that conserve natural resources.

Visit our refuges

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge

301 Brown Avenue • Seekonk, MA

Davis Memorial Wildlife Refuge

Davisville Road • North Kingstown, RI

Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge

Pardon Joslin Road • Exeter, RI

Fort Nature Refuge

1445 Providence Pike • North Smithfield, RI

Kimball Bird Sanctuary

Sanctuary Road • Charlestown, RI

Parker Woodland

1670 Maple Valley Road • Greene, RI

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge

12 Sanderson Road • Smithfield, RI

Ruecker Wildlife Refuge

137 Seapowet Avenue • Tiverton, RI

Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge

Touisset Road • Warren, RI

Environmental Education Center

1401 Hope Street • Bristol, RI

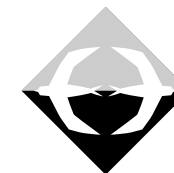
Explore our Headquarters

- The **Hathaway Nature Library** is open to the public for research and casual exploration.
- The **Nature Shop** sells books, binoculars, and bird boxes.
- A **Teacher Resource Center** provides teachers with materials to instruct youngsters about our natural environment.
- Many **weekly programs** are offered throughout the state for children and adults of all ages.

Printed on recycled paper.

9/00

Stop Look & Listen



**Audubon Society
of Rhode Island**

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EDUCATION

CONSERVATION

ADVOCACY

Lie on your back on the ground.

- **feel** the earth support you
- **watch** birds fly overhead, buildings loom, clouds float by
- **close** your eyes and **listen** to the birds, water, wind, and insects
- **concentrate** on the smells around you

Watch the wonder in a child's eyes.

- try to **see** what the child is seeing
- **use** your eyes, ears, and nose to **experience** the world around you
- **notice** the small and inconspicuous
- **fit** the small discovery into the bigger picture

Look at a scene and try to remember it.

- were there **clouds** and what did they look like?
- what shape are the **trees**?
- which **flowers** are in bloom at what time of year?
- where are the **birds** — high in a tree, near the ground, or working the trunk of a tree?
- what did the **rocks** look like?
- what were the **insects** doing?

Keep a journal of your discoveries and do research to learn more.

• Take the 'ug' out of 'bug'!

Even though we tend to use the terms interchangeably, bugs, technically, make up only a small part of the insect world, and all insects are truly incredible. Not only can they carry more, pound-for-pound, than any human being, they pollinate our crops, recycle our debris and carrion, and provide food for many meat-eating creatures from birds to humans.

• "What a cold-blooded person!" — NOT!

People, other mammals, and birds are *warm-blooded* and maintain a constant body temperature. So-called *cold-blooded* creatures (reptiles, fish, and amphibians) control their body temperature by moving into colder and hotter environments.

Watch a snake, a turtle, a frog, or a butterfly. Can you find clues that they may be cold-blooded?

• Are PRECOCIAL birds precocious?

They certainly are! Ducks, geese, pheasants, sandpipers, and plovers all lay large eggs and incubate longer than other birds. When the young finally hatch, they are immediately active and able to forage for themselves. Most young birds need to be fed in the nest until they fledge (develop feathers) and learn to fly.

• What creatures live in your backyard?

Where do they live? Are they there year round? When and what do they eat?



• What are the only three TRUE hibernators in R.I.?

Woodchuck, Meadow Jumping Mouse, and Little Brown Bat's metabolism slows until they are in a state of torpor. Other mammals may sleep for days at a time but become active on warm days.

• Do you know a MAD Horse?

This mnemonic tells us that only four common trees in the northeast have opposite leaves and twigs. These are Maple, Ash, Dogwood, and Horse Chestnut.

• What is biological magnification?

Plants and animals are unable to break down many of the man-made compounds that they consume inadvertently. These compounds build up in their bodies and in the bodies of those in the food web that eat them. This is how the DDT crisis occurred which affected the reproductive abilities of many birds including eagles, osprey, and pelicans.

• What do birds & dinosaurs have in common?

A common heritage! Although some scientists disagree, others believe that birds evolved from small reptiles millions of years ago and that the earliest feathered bird was the *Archaeopteryx*. Birds have a number of reptilian traits such as laying eggs, having partially hollow bones, and scales covering parts of their bodies (birds have scales on their legs and feet).