



Audubon NORTH CAROLINA  
birds + protection

Audubon is proud to be the voice for birds. We take our mission to protect birds and the habitats they need to thrive very seriously. But we know that this mission can never be accomplished without all the people who also care about birds and wildlife. People are the backbone of what we are able to accomplish in conservation. People like you. People who care.

By analyzing our years of bird data, we understand where the most important places to protect for birds are, now and in the future. This analysis also tells us just how important North Carolina is to birds. In fact, our 5,000 acre Donal C. O'Brien Jr. Sanctuary and Audubon Center located in Corolla is in the top 2% of important strongholds for birds on the eastern seaboard. That gives us a big responsibility for managing this spectacular property for the success of the marsh and upland habitats found there and for the forest birds, marsh birds and waterfowl that depend upon them.



We have big plans for this wondrous property. Already we have protected additional acreage to give birds more marsh habitat. And with Hemmingway Bowman Murray Architects we have developed plans to restore existing historic buildings and repurpose other buildings into meeting and lodging space for visitors and researchers. Eventually we will create a living laboratory where scientists from across the United States can work and live to learn and teach conservation leaders how to better protect what we all care about – our amazing birdlife and the very unique and exquisitely important marsh habitat that supports them.

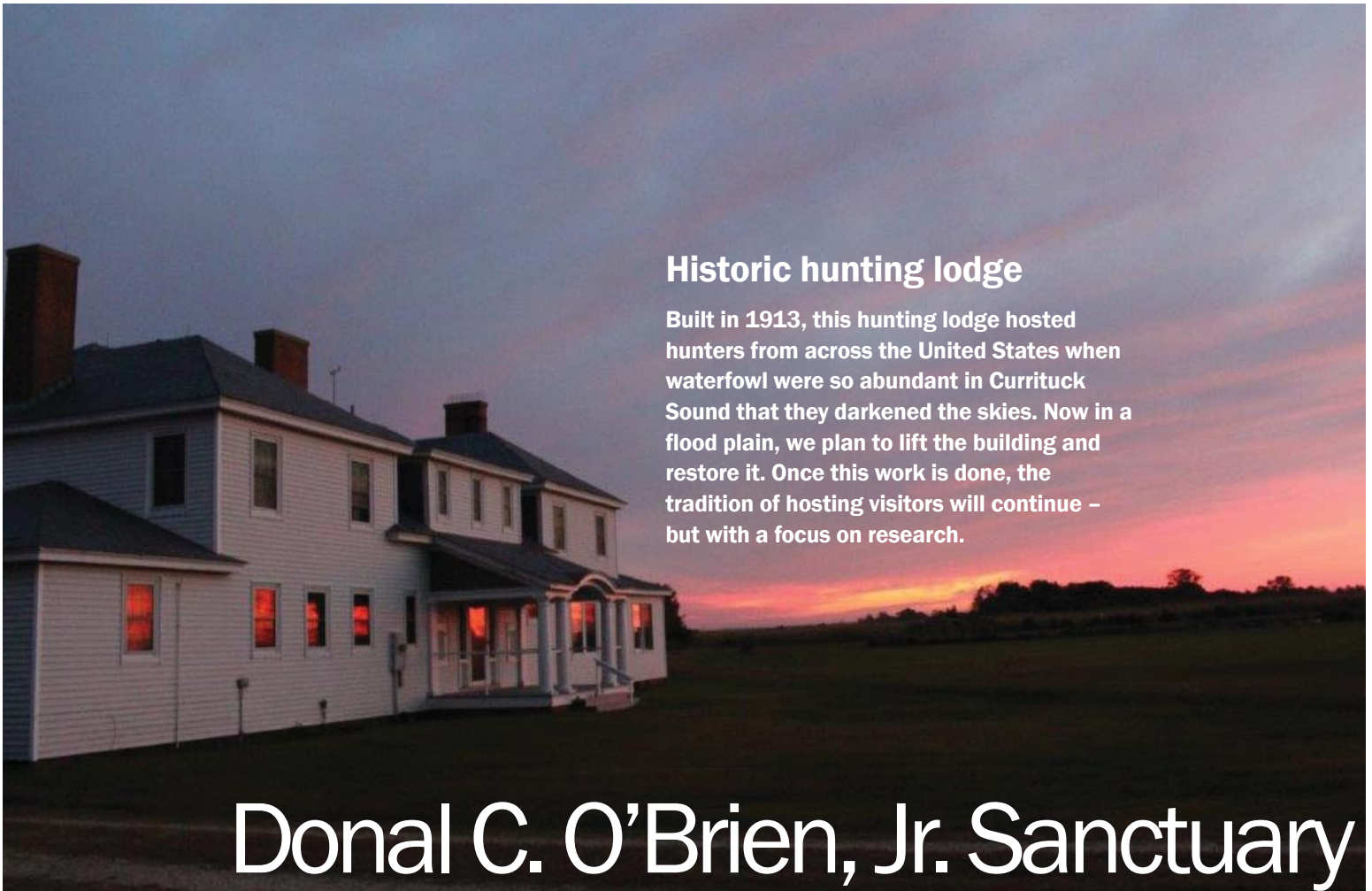
Especially at this time of year we hope that you will support us in our work to help the birds by contributing to our organization. All donations made to Audubon North Carolina stay in North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration in returning a donation, and more importantly, for being a part of our flock!

With gratitude,

**Heather Starck Hahn**  
Executive Director

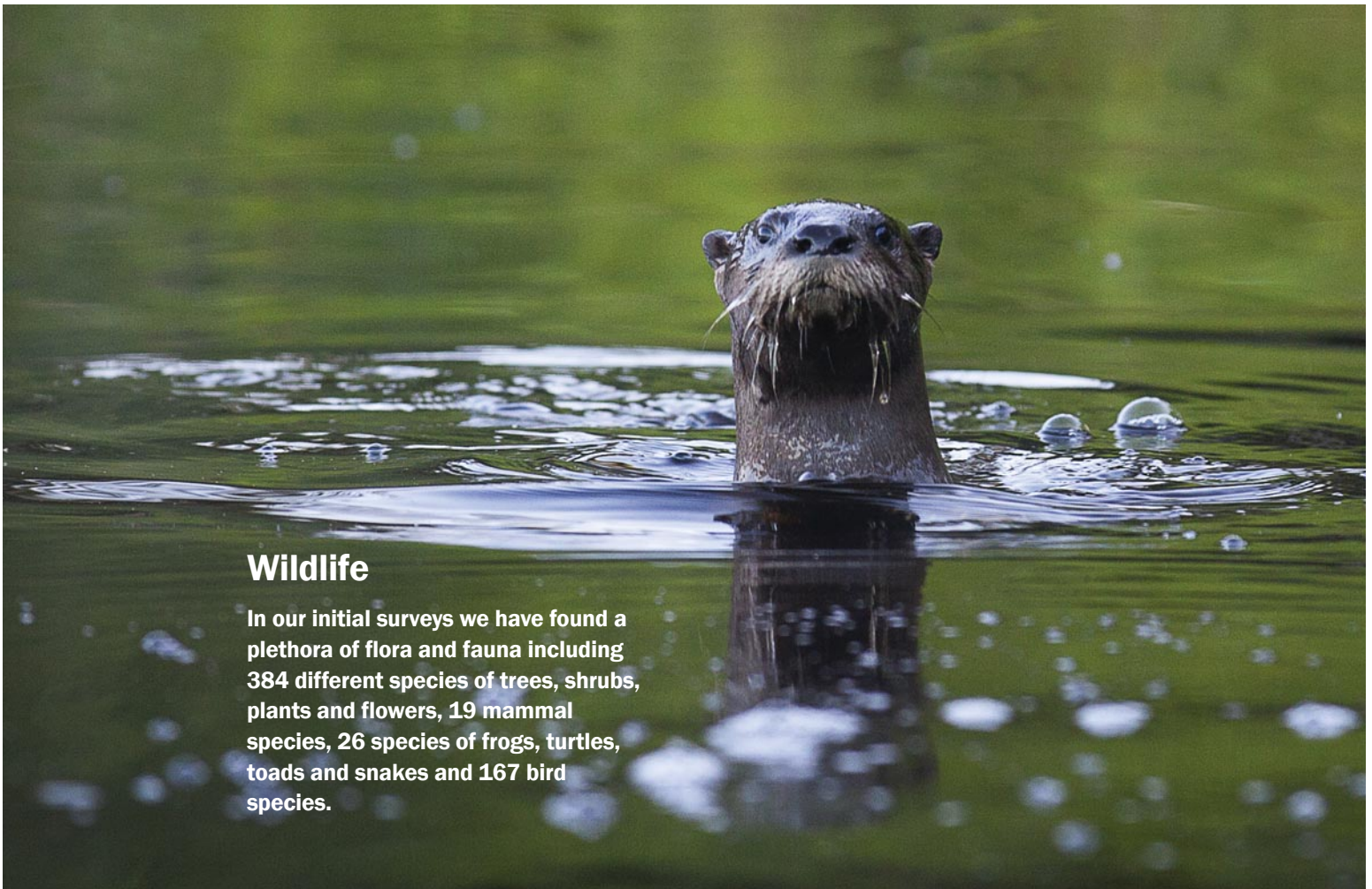




## Historic hunting lodge

Built in 1913, this hunting lodge hosted hunters from across the United States when waterfowl were so abundant in Currituck Sound that they darkened the skies. Now in a flood plain, we plan to lift the building and restore it. Once this work is done, the tradition of hosting visitors will continue – but with a focus on research.

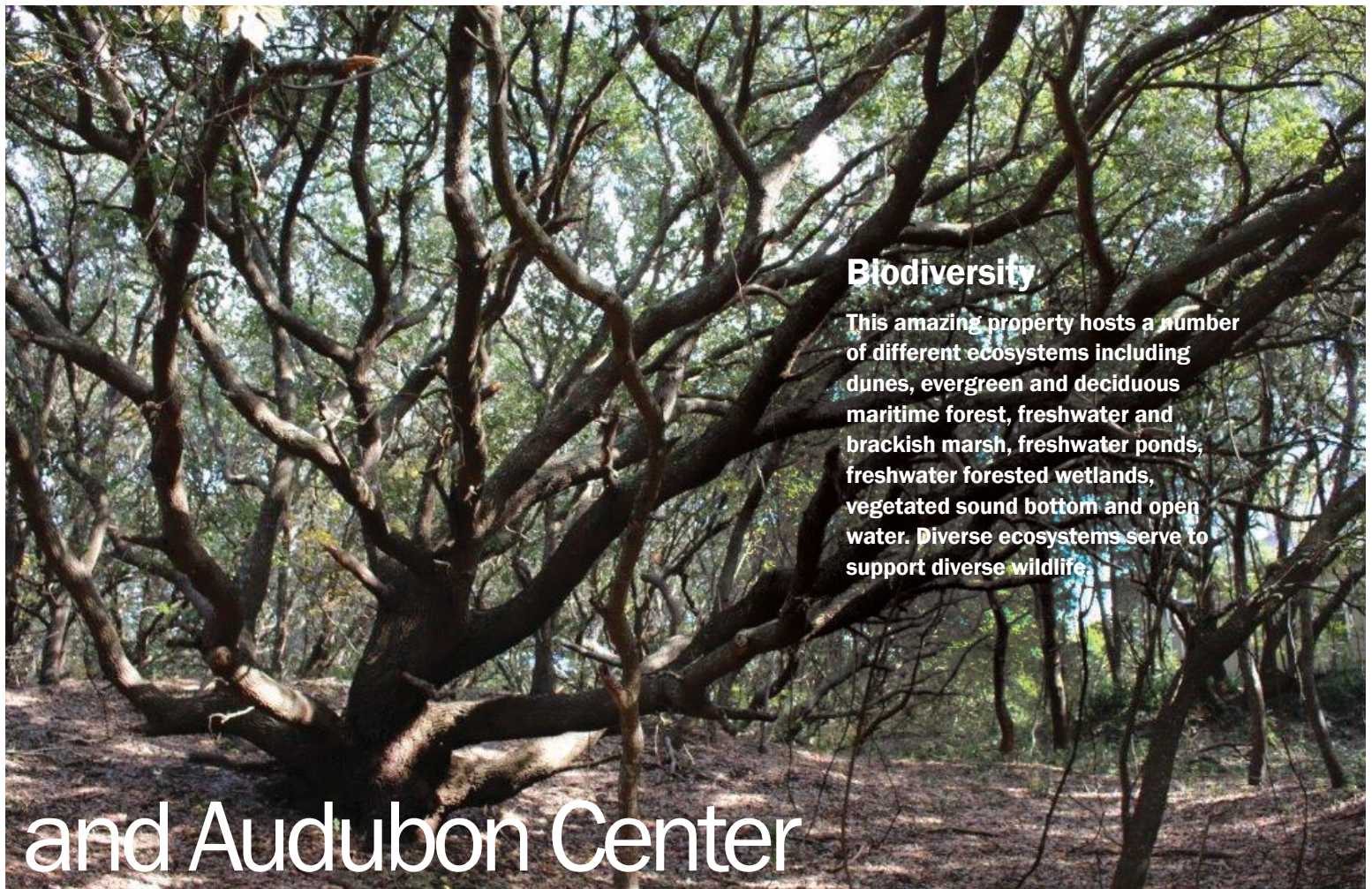
# Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. Sanctuary



## Wildlife

In our initial surveys we have found a plethora of flora and fauna including 384 different species of trees, shrubs, plants and flowers, 19 mammal species, 26 species of frogs, turtles, toads and snakes and 167 bird species.





## **Biodiversity**

**This amazing property hosts a number of different ecosystems including dunes, evergreen and deciduous maritime forest, freshwater and brackish marsh, freshwater ponds, freshwater forested wetlands, vegetated sound bottom and open water. Diverse ecosystems serve to support diverse wildlife.**

# and Audubon Center

## **Marsh**

**Not enough is known about the saltmarsh sparrow other than that its numbers are declining along with the decline in marsh habitat. Once thought to be worthless nuisance sites, marshes are now understood to be important as nurseries for seafood, wildlife habitat and flood protection making preservation of the few intact marsh complexes critical.**





# A legacy of protection



Audubon North Carolina's newest sanctuary, the Donal C. O'Brien Jr. Sanctuary and Audubon Center is destined to become a premier research and education facility and critically important conservation site for birds and wildlife. Already we are working with local

universities and hosting east coast meetings to hone in on research projects to start on site. Projects that will provide information to many others on the best practices to help restore marshes and sounds.

There is simply no other place like it on the eastern seaboard.

Shortly after taking management of the property in 2010, we were in serious discussions with the owners of marshlands next to the Audubon Sanctuary. We, and our partners, knew that the more marsh that could be put

into conservation, the better. Late last year an additional 1,500+ acres of marsh were added to the existing 2,600 acres. Simultaneously another marsh property was put into protection creating a perpetually protected 7,000 acre ecosystem in the heart of Currituck County. Now when visitors travel to the Outer Banks for sun and fun, they can also take in a North Carolina treasure by hiking or kayaking inside this amazing property. A property that belongs to all of us.

Right now, we have big plans, a lot of property and some significant conservation wins. Moving forward we will have to grow our staff of two, upgrade and expand the trail system and renovate our buildings for use by program participants and residential researchers.

We can't do it without you.

I hope that you will support our work here and across North Carolina as we continue to relentlessly pursue the protection of our beautiful birds. Please return the enclosed envelope today and become a part of the legacy of protection that is Audubon.

## Did your portfolio increase in value this year?

Donating appreciated securities enables you to support Audubon while conserving cash for other uses, and helps you avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation. Donated shares must be appreciated in value and owned for longer than one year.

It is important to note that the legal date – and value – of your gift depends on when Audubon receives it, not when

you instruct your broker to make the transaction. If you would like to make a gift of stock, have your broker contact Raji Mosa at 212-979-3167 or [rmosa@audubon.org](mailto:rmosa@audubon.org). And, don't forget to call us at Audubon North Carolina 919-929-3899 to let us know your gift is on the way!

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE FEARN



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A STATE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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