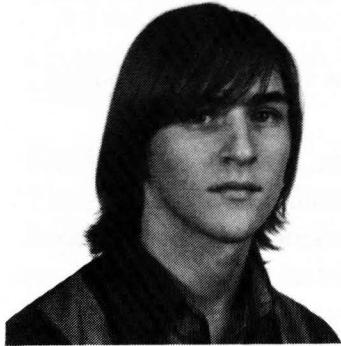




# SAVING WETLANDS



**Name:** Bradley Roberts  
**Age:** 16  
**Grade:** 11  
**Town:** Aynor, South Carolina  
**School:** Aynor High School  
**Goal:** Get people to write letters and make phone calls to save endangered wetlands

## WHAT HE DID

### Summary

Wetlands—areas like swamps and marshes—are very important to the environment. They're the home and breeding grounds for many valuable birds and animals, they help reduce flooding, and they fight water pollution.

Bradley found out from his science teacher that wetlands are being destroyed all over the U.S. to make space for houses, office buildings and other developments. Even in his own "backyard," local wetlands have recently been turned into golf courses.

Disappointed that "humans are more interested in short-term investments at the risk of our natural resources," Bradley started an activist group in his local Audubon Society chapter to speak up about preserving wetlands.

### Results

He recruited about 35 people (mostly adults) from the chapter to protest wetlands destruction by writing and calling congresspeople, senators, and the President regularly. He says, "I helped people see how easy it was for them to do



something. Just one letter a month can make a big difference in the area and in the country."

## HOW HE DID IT

1. He joined the local Audubon Society chapter (his science teacher, the chapter president, told him about it).
2. He read a newsletter called *The Audubon Activist*, which has tips for contacting legislators about the wetlands (and includes information about other ecology issues).
3. He realized the chapter members cared about protecting wetlands, but weren't doing much to save them. "People didn't write letters; they thought sending checks to the Audubon Society was enough," he says.
4. At the next chapter meeting, he made a presentation on how to be an activist, using the information he'd learned from the *Audubon Activist* and *Audubon* magazine. He invited interested people to come to a training meeting.
5. At the meeting, he gave people tips on how to write letters and make calls that would have an impact.
6. People began writing and making calls on their own.

## YOU CAN BE A HERO

*Speak up about preserving wetlands and other natural areas.*

- The National Wildlife Federation recommends: "Call government officials when you hear that a building project is planned for a park or other wild place. Your municipal supervisor, city or county planning office, or other local government office may be able to explain the situation."
- For a free copy of the *Audubon Activist*, write to Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.
- To find out if there's an Audubon chapter near you, write Chapter Services, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.