

December 2022



* * * ANNOUNCEMENTS * * *

A SURVEY ABOUT OPEN SPACE IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) is seeking input via an online survey regarding how to spend federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant monies. To remain eligible for funding, a Statewide Comprehensive and Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) must be updated every 5 years. This survey will aid in development of the next SCORP. From the EOEEA website ([Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-land-and-water-conservation-fund-grant-program)):

The National Park Service requires the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years to remain eligible for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program. Since the program was established in 1965, more than \$100,000,000 has been awarded statewide to projects in every county in the state for the acquisition of conservation and park land, development of new parks, or renovation of existing parks.

As a part of the update, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is asking for opinions on outdoor recreation and open space from all users of Massachusetts' outdoor recreational facilities. The [survey](#) should take about 10 minutes to complete. It is critical for us to hear from as many residents as possible to know how to best distribute LWCF funding over the next five years.

Any questions should be directed to Melissa Cryan, LWCF Stateside Coordinator, at SCORP.2022@mass.gov.

There is more information available on that site. If you want to have a voice in how money is spent on some of our state's public land, click the blue "survey" link above.

WORCESTER'S WINTER CROW ROOST

At our October monthly program meeting we hosted Craig Gibson, who gave a presentation about the huge winter crow roost in Lawrence. Craig provided some fascinating information about this phenomenon, an annual gathering of thousands of individual crows from scattered and sometimes distant points. He also mentioned other known crow roosts in the state.

A short time prior to Craig's talk, Scott Wahlstrom noted a similar large gathering of crows in downtown Worcester and made this video: <https://youtu.be/h8kLeJNaJo4>

Craig took note of Scott's directions and paid a visit to the area on November 22nd. Here's what he had to say:

Was able to break away and make a last-minute trip to Worcester this afternoon in search of the overnight crow roost!

WOW....what an amazing sight... discovered the Crows around Coes Park in Worcester and then watched them settle into the trees along the south side of Coes Pond and down around the spillway in the SE corner... quite a show.

Made a posting eBird a few minutes ago and will work on pulling together a new posting for the blog over the next few days....at least 3500 Crows, with both American and Fish Crows.

Thought you might enjoy the attached image!



* * * UPCOMING EVENTS * * *

HARVARD FOREST SEMINARS



Online seminar— NUTRIENT LIMITATION AND PLANT STRATEGIES IN TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE FORESTS

by Michelle Wong

Wednesday, December 14th 11:00 – noon

Michelle Wong is a terrestrial biogeochemist and an ecosystem ecologist.

She studies how plants and microbes interact with nutrients to shape ecosystems. Utilizing observational and modeling-based approaches, she evaluates how nutrients affect ecosystem processes, such as nitrogen fixation and denitrification. She also studies how nutrients cycle in the environment and evaluates how anthropogenic activity has altered nutrient cycling.

[Join seminar online](#)

Our most recent FROM THE FIELD post is now up!

SEASON FINALE:

FAREWELL TO THE WARM-WEATHER MONTHS OF 2022

<http://www.warerrivernatureclub.org/from-the-field>

Many thanks for your photo contributions!

Send your photos to: warerrivernatureclub@yahoo.com

Ruth Shaw Memorial Geology Series

The Geology of the Rocky Mountains

with Dr. Steve Winters

Sunday December 18th 1 p.m.

Millers River Environmental Center 100 Main Street Athol
or via ZOOM



The geology of the Rocky Mountains is that of a discontinuous series of mountain ranges with distinct geological origins. Learn more at this talk.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0bqM94sbTLmWHNc2iYwgBw

Pectoral Sandpiper
Quabbin Reservoir, Hardwick
October 27, 2022
Photo by Alan Rawle



PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – PRINCETON HIKES!

HIKE AROUND CALAMINT NORTH TRAILS

Wednesday December 21st 1 p.m.

This will be an easy-to-moderate hike of 3.5 miles using the Calamint Hill North Trails, around the Beaver Pond and the Princeton Land Trust Appell property.



MUDDY POND, WESTMINSTER HIKE

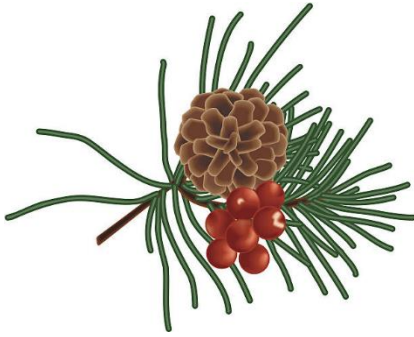
Saturday December 31st 9 a.m.

This 4-mile hike out and back to Muddy Pond in Westminster will be along the Midstate Trail.

For more information or to register:

TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com

REGIONAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



Consider taking part in the 123rd Christmas Bird Count, a nationwide Citizen Science project sponsored by the National Audubon Society.

To learn more about the counts
--history, science, and data --visit

www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count

To view maps of count circles, click [HERE](#)

If you're interested in participating, contact the compiler(s) for details.

STURBRIDGE--Wednesday, December 14th
(Blizzard date Thursday, December 15)
Compiler: Mark Lynch 508-799-9343
moa.lynch@charter.net

WORCESTER -- Saturday, December 17th
(Snow/ice date: Sunday, December 18)
Compiler: John Liller 508-877-5770
john.liller@worcesteracademy.org

ATHOL -- Saturday, December 17th
Compiler: David Small 978-413-1772
dave@atholbirdclub.org

UXBRIDGE -- Sunday, December 18th
(Snow/ice date: Wednesday, December 21st)
Compiler: Strickland Wheelock
508-265-2896 skwheelock@yahoo.com

GROTON-OXBOW - Sunday, December 18th
Compiler: Jon Skinner
yo.shiyoyoer@gmail.com



WESTMINSTER- Tuesday, January 3, 2023
(Date subject to change)
Compiler: Chuck Caron
978-874-5649 caronenv@aol.com

QUABBIN -Saturday, December 31st
Compiler: Scott Surner ssurner@aol.com

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo by Anne Greene

NEW YEAR'S BIRDS IN WORCESTER

Sunday January 1, 2023

Starting at noon

Leader: John Shea

508-667-1982

john@beachwells.com

Start a new year of birding with
Forbush Bird Club! Meet at the
entrance to All Faiths Cemetery,
7 Island Road, Worcester.

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

