

Mid-January 2022



## \* \* \* **ANNOUNCEMENTS** \* \* \*

### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS**

Thank you to all CBC participants and compilers! To view the tallies from local CBC efforts, go to: <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/announcements.html>  
Keep checking back for additional reports.

### **MYSTERY PHOTO QUIZ 2022**

In lieu of the in-person February annual meeting where we enjoy an afternoon having lively conversations and learning about wildlife and nature, Ware River Nature Club will again offer a mystery photo quiz challenge. Modest prizes will be awarded, but it's really all about thinking and learning with the part of your brain that's tuned in to natural science, wildlife, and the outdoors. Participants may use ANY resources to search for correct answers, but it can still be tough!

The quiz will be posted on our web-site in a few weeks, and we'll share the answers via a ZOOM meeting in late February.

To get an idea of what the quiz will be like, you can view the 2021 version here:

<http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/mystery-photo-quiz.html>



# WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB IS 9 YEARS OLD...

and you can help us celebrate!

To mark our anniversary in February 2022,  
we're asking for contributions to a compilation entitled:

## TOP NATURE EXPERIENCES OF 2021: SHARING PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS

We'll publish the collection in a special issue of the newsletter and then adapt it as a permanent page on our web-site.

*Hello!! Have you sent your contribution in yet? We want to hear from you!*

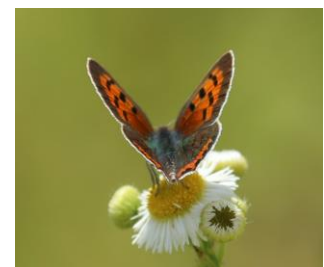
**Please tell us your best nature experience of the past year.** Did you encounter a rare plant you've always wanted to see? Did you observe a new behavior by one of your favorite bird species? Stumble into a patch of some unusual fungi? Learn a new outdoor skill? Get the mammal photograph you've tried to get for years? Solve a great identification puzzle?



*Barry Van Dusen*

For many of us it might be hard to select JUST ONE highlight. For others the favorite experience will be obvious and not difficult to choose. If you're somewhere in the middle and can't readily think of one experience that stands out, this is your opportunity to think back over the past year and all the interesting interactions you've had with the natural world. If you weren't able to be outdoors, consider whether you otherwise came across some information about nature or wildlife that made a big impression.

Send along your description of the TOP nature experience you had in 2021. Be as brief or as wordy as you like. Please send photographs or illustrations if you have them. Identify the general location of your highlight experience. Let us know your name and hometown, and how you would like to be identified in the newsletter and on the web-site; we're happy to use just first names or initials if you prefer.



*Alan Rawle*

**For more information or to submit your experience:**

[warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)

*Deadline is JANUARY 31, 2022*

\* \* \* **UPCOMING EVENTS** \* \* \*

MASS AUDUBON

Online program--

## GRAY AND GRAYER: WINTER GULLS

with David Larson



Friday, January 21st

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Members: \$20

Non-members: \$24

*Photo: Gulls at Turners Falls, February 20, 2018 by James Smith, Pioneer Birding*

Gull identification can be daunting: plumages change with age and season, and there are several species to consider, especially in winter. Rise to the challenge by learning a systematic approach to identifying the common gulls of New England. This online presentation will cover tips for identification, gull behavior, and population dynamics, and compare and contrast our common wintering gulls. You too can get comfortable with the many shades of gray, from nearly black to nearly white. What's more, you can often study gulls from the warmth of your car, without exposing yourself to the winter chill- it's the perfect birding challenge to tackle this winter!

Registration is required:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/80627-gray-and-grayer-winter-gulls-online>

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

[Rescheduled]

# WINTER WALK at BARRE FALLS DAM

Hubbardston

Sunday, January 23rd 9:30 a.m.



Join us for a leisurely morning walk to enjoy the winter landscape and get some fresh air! Depending on the snow depth, participants can choose whether to walk with snowshoes or in sturdy footwear. (The main trails are usually well-used and snowshoes unnecessary.)

We may venture off-trail to look for wildlife tracks and sign, and we'll watch for winter birds.

Plan to dress for the weather, and bring snacks/beverages if you wish.

We'll postpone in the event of stormy or super-cold weather.

To sign up: [warivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warivernatureclub@yahoo.com)

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

ZOOM Program—

# COLORADO GROUSE GRAND SLAM

with Scott Sumner

Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.



Please join us as Scott shares his experiences traveling to Colorado in April for spectacular birds and scenery. April is prime time in the Colorado region for observing the remarkable breeding displays of several species of grouse and prairie chickens at their leks (traditional dancing grounds). And there are plenty of other western bird species he encountered, including ducks, hawks, shorebirds, and western region finches and warblers. Scott will be our expert guide on this virtual trip to a truly special destination.

Scott Sumner has been studying and observing birds for over 45 years throughout Massachusetts, as well as the rest of New England and several other states. His travels have taken him to various “birdy” destinations in Central America, Mexico, and Canada. He has taught bird ID classes at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst, MA since 1980 and is a founding member and past president of the Hampshire Bird Club.

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85489631495?pwd=blp0ZUIBU1FFSzMxVHlkWTlly2xXZz09>



MASS AUDUBON

Online program--

## THE WONDER OF WINTER: WINTER CROW ROOSTS

with Patti Steinman - Education Coordinator, Arcadia

Thursday, January 27th 7 -8 p.m.

Members: \$15 Non-members: \$20



*Winter crow roost, Auburn, Maine 2019 Photo by Alan Rawle*

Crows gather by the thousands each late afternoon during the Massachusetts winter, a spectacular natural history event that takes place in urban areas across the state and beyond. It is an amazing sight to see huge numbers of birds streaming across the skies, resting in trees, and flying in circles before settling down for the night. Why they do this, where are they located, and what we can observe at these communal roosts will be answered, as well as learning the habits and identification of this common bird with uncommon intelligence.

Registration is required:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/80609-the-wonder-of-winter-winter-crow-roosts-online>

PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – PRINCETON HIKES!

# WINTER HIKE/SKI/SNOWSHOE

## LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.



This hike will depend on the snow (or lack of snow) conditions.

Hoping for skiing or snowshoeing!

For more information or to register: [TrailAroundPrincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrailAroundPrincetonMA@gmail.com)



*Eastern Coyote in winter condition, captured on Doug Wipf's Rutland trailcam 11-26-21*

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

# BIRDING CAPE ANN

Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. (Gloucester)

NOTE: Date is subject to change depending on the weather.

Leader: Dan Berard (508-277-1450) Email: [djberard84@gmail.com](mailto:djberard84@gmail.com)

Wintering saltwater species and much more can be found on this very popular trip.

We will stop at Fisherman's Memorial, Eastern Point, Bass Rocks,  
Rockport Harbor, Granite Pier, and Cathedral Rocks.

Meet at the end of the Jodrey Fish Pier off Parker Street in Gloucester at 9:00 a.m.



*Photo by Hema Shasta, February 24, 2019 Gloucester MA*



ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

Online program—\*

# WHY IS BROOK FLOATER RARE? SYNTHESIZING POTENTIAL THREATS TO A FRESHWATER MUSSEL'S PERSISTENCE

with Ayla Skorupa Ph.D.

Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units Program: Massachusetts

Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

Freshwater mussels are in many rivers and ponds throughout Massachusetts. Species presence varies by habitat and dispersal via parasitic relationships with host fish. One mussel, the brook floater (*Alasmodonta varicosa*), continues to decline in abundance relative to co-occurring species. In Massachusetts, some river populations are already lost. This presentation will synthesize potential causes behind brook floater loss in the number of populations and their decline in abundance.



*Photo: Michael Perkins/North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission*

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vVEzmvJIS2qR1KUOBeVQ2A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vVEzmvJIS2qR1KUOBeVQ2A)

***\* A limited-size group MAY be able to attend in person (depending on pandemic status) at Miller's River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Stay tuned for updates.***