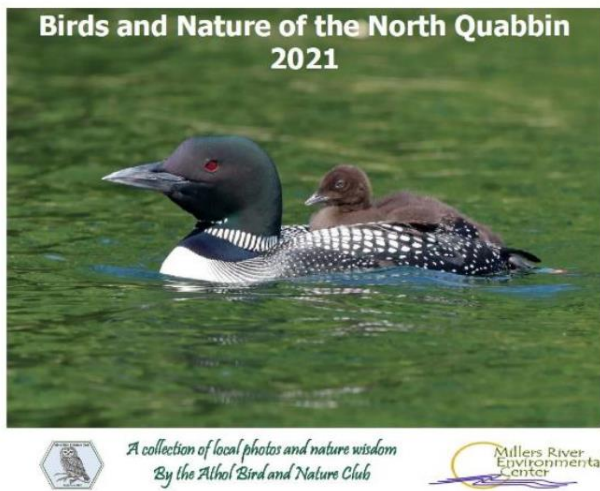




* * * **ANNOUNCEMENTS** * * *



The Athol Bird and Nature Club (ABNC) calendar, chock full of nature notes, trivia questions and, of course, some amazing photos of local birds, animals and plants, is now available.

<https://atholbirdclub.org/abnc-2021-calendar/>

NORTHEAST WILDLIFE TRACKERS NEWSLETTER

Northeast Wildlife Trackers sent out a terrific newsletter in the aftermath of their successful fall conference. The Fall 2020 issue is packed with information about opportunities to learn more about tracks and sign of the wild animals that inhabit New England. Find out about on-line courses, presentations, and much more:



<https://www.robly.com/archive?id=d53412628ab2db37721b6b26be1ead6d&v=true>

[GIFTS FOR NATURE LOVERS](#)

If you're familiar with Sam Jaffe and his marvelous Caterpillar Lab, you'll truly



appreciate the wonderful caterpillar-themed items here:

<https://the-caterpillar-lab.myshopify.com/>

Maine Department of Fisheries & Wildlife has some unique items for sale. We especially like the Maine Birder Band, a metal band that can be attached to binoculars, camera, or other outdoor gear as identification in case the item is lost. But they have other items, too.

https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/WebShop/public/product?store_id=3&product_id=376

Mass Wildlife offers some excellent publications:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/masswildlife-publications>

Bird ornaments abound, so where do you start?! Some of the finest hand-carved and painted birds—with correct plumage characteristics—are by Gary Poisson of Eddington, Maine:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MaineBirdCarvings>

Three authoritative books for native plant lovers are available from Native Plant Trust:

<http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/for-your-garden/books/>

Who knew that home mushroom grow kits can be found at some of the big box stores? Still, we like the idea of supporting a New England business that can provide support and great customer service. There are some nice little kits here, and some big cultivation ideas, too:

<https://northspore.com/pages/growkits>

If you're a person who likes to send notes and cards reflecting your love of birds as well as your interest in supporting local artists, you might like these collections by FreshPondFeathers of Cambridge. Our favorite is the *Spring Birds* package. Custom orders available.



https://www.etsy.com/shop/FreshPondFeathers?ref=shop_sugg§ion_id=22949557

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY 121st ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



Watchers and counters who would like to help with the annual Christmas Bird Counts sponsored by National Audubon Society are welcome!

Consider getting involved. All enthusiastic birders may participate. While a full day of birding can be rewarding, some may choose to spend only part of the designated day birding. Participants can be assigned areas within the count circle and cover them on foot and/or by car OR conduct a count of the birds coming to their yards and feeders (if within the boundaries of a count circle).

Count circle territories may be viewed here:

<https://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=fadfb421e95f4949bde20c29a38228bd>

STURBRIDGE CBC

Includes sections of Charlton, Holland, Brimfield, Southbridge, the Brookfields, etc.
MONDAY December 14th [Foul weather date: WEDNESDAY December 15th]
Compiler: Mark Lynch (508-799-9343) Email: moa.lynch@charter.net

WORCESTER CBC Includes parts of Paxton, Holden, Clinton, Shrewsbury, etc.
SATURDAY December 19th [Foul weather date: SUNDAY December 20th]
Compiler: John Liller (508-877-5770) Email: john.liller@worcesteracademy.org

ATHOL CBC Includes sections of Phillipston, Templeton, Royalston, Orange, etc.
SATURDAY December 19th Contact: Dave Small Dave@atholbirdclub.org

GROTON-OXBOW CBC Includes parts of Lunenburg, Townsend, Pepperell, Shirley, etc.
SUNDAY December 20th Contact: waverivernatureclub@yahoo.com

WESTMINSTER CBC Includes sections of Princeton, Hubbardston, Gardner, Fitchburg, etc.
THURSDAY December 31st
Compiler: Charles Caron (978-874-5649) Email: caronenv@aol.com

QUABBIN CBC Includes the reservoir, sections of Hardwick, Ware, Petersham, Belchertown, etc.
SATURDAY January 2nd
Compiler: Scott Sumner Email: ssurner@aol.com

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

**EXPLORING LOCAL TRAILS:
PETERSHAM NATURE HIKE**

Sunday December 13th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Continuing our series of leisurely hikes where we stop to take a look at interesting natural features such as birds, trees, fungi, animal tracks and the like, we'll select a scenic spot in Petersham.

Location will be determined by snow cover--or lack thereof—
and number of interested participants

in order to provide adequate physical distancing space.

Plan to dress for the weather and bring food/beverage if you wish.

Contact warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com to sign up.

Sorry, cancelled if the weather is stormy.

PRINCETON HIKES!

PEABODY-METCALF LOOP TRAIL PRINCETON

Tuesday December 15th 1 p.m.

This will be an easy 3-mile loop, taking in the beaver pond and views of a large, open field.

TROUT BROOK & CENTRAL MASS RAIL TRAIL AREA Saturday December 19th 9 a.m.

This will be an easy-to-moderate 4-mile hike. We will explore some of the trails and roads on the Holden side of the Central Mass Rail Trail

Registration is REQUIRED. Please contact trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com if you would like to join and get meet-up instructions, OR if you change your mind! COVID rules require masks at all times and 6 feet of distancing. Please wear hunter orange or something bright-colored.

