



Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

Upcoming Events

TODAY Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 3:30-4:30 pm Tracks and Bones and Other Surprising Winter Finds Webinar with Barbara Bates

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/tracks-and-bones-and-other-surprising-winter-finds/>

Many animals are secretive, avoiding people, and finding food at night. Snow and mud provide a canvas for tracks and enable us to see who has been out and about. Join Newton Conservators Board Member and Mass Audubon Habitat's Barbara Bates and discover what tracks and animal signs you can find in winter in your own backyard.



This is a virtual program for all ages from Mass Audubon Habitat Sanctuary. This event is sponsored by the Belmont Public Library. Register by clicking on the event here: <https://belmontpubliclibrary.net/events/>

Thursday, January 21, 2021 7:00-8:30 pm DCR Public Meeting on Improvements to Hammond Pond Parkway

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/dcr-public-meeting-on-improvements-to-hammond-pond-parkway/>

At this meeting, DCR will present preliminary plans for a pedestrian- and bike-friendly redesign of Hammond Pond Parkway between Beacon Street and Route 9, and will ask for public comments about the plans. The Parkway runs through the middle of Newton's Webster Conservation Area and DCR's Hammond Pond Reservation. Please note that the date of this meeting was changed to January 21st from its original date. [Use this link to register for the meeting.](#)



After the meeting, the presentation will be available for viewing at <https://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings>. DCR encourages the public to share additional feedback, with a deadline for receipt of comments by DCR on Thursday, February 4, 2021. Comments may be submitted online at www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment.

Saturday, January 23, 2021 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Ohio Lepidopterists Feature Caterpillar Lab's Sam Jaffe



If you missed Sam Jaffe's wonderful [presentation last fall at our annual meeting](#), our friends at the Ohio Lepidopterists (those who study Butterflies) extended an invitation to see Sam again this Saturday on a [Facebook live stream](#) from their annual meeting. Sam Jaffe, of The Caterpillar Lab, will present directly from a studio set up in The Caterpillar Lab's museum space. Using a combination of live presentation, digital microscope work, slides, and life history image plates, Sam will delve deeper into the world of native caterpillars than ever before. By exploring complex natural history stories involving caterpillars, their host plants, and their predators and parasitoids, the true scope and importance of biodiversity will be revealed. This presentation goes beyond the established narratives of bees and butterflies and will hopefully help

guide us further in our efforts to support and promote local biodiversity.



Wildlife Biologists Who Got Their Start in Newton

Richard Primack has an interesting article in the Newton Tab about wildlife biologists who got their start here in Newton. Included are such experts as Sam Jaffe, founder of the [Caterpillar Lab](#), birding experts and authors Ollie and Nick Komar, and Sabrina Hepburn, and forestry expert Brendan Whittaker, all with strong ties to the Newton Conservators. See the article at the following link: <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/newton-tab/2021/01/16/biologists-ecologists-reflect-newtons-wild-spaces/4165481001/> .

Sabrina Hepburn has a great article in the recently published free online *Birder's Guide to Basics Special Issue of Birding*, with an article "Safety and the Solo Birder" at <https://www.aba.org/birding-magazine-december-2020/#42>. The goal of this issue is to present foundational information that beginners and seasoned birders alike can use to make their birding more enjoyable.



Christmas Bird Count Results - Sunday, December 20, 2020



The Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place the Sunday before Christmas organized by Pete Gilmore and Liane Hartnett. There was deep snow still from the prior December snowstorm but three teams ventured out to tally up all the birds they could find on that chilly day - a total of over 1400 individual birds of 45 different species. These figures would be further combined with other groups within

what is called the Greater Boston Count Circle.

Thanks to the following birders who assisted with the count: Dorothy Anderson, Joe Anderson, Suzette Barbier, Becky Briesacher, John Briesacher, Ian Buzby, Max Chalfin-Jacobs, Sue Denison, Ted Kuklinski, Andy Liu, Haynes Miller, Steve Olanoff, Ian Reid, Linda Rinearson.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Count</i>
Canada Goose	388
Mute Swan	3
American Black Duck	1
Mallard	145
Ring-necked Duck	3
Bufflehead	9
Hooded Merganser	11
Common Merganser	1
Wild Turkey	15
Great Blue Heron	3
Turkey Vulture	6
Coopers Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	6
Ring-Billed Gull	25
Mourning Dove	26
Eastern Screech Owl	3
Great Horned Owl	2
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	15
Downy Woodpecker	33
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Northern Flicker	3
Blue Jay	96
American Crow	9
Common Raven	1
Black-Capped Chickadee	107

Tufted Titmouse	30
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7
White Breasted Nuthatch	35
Brown Creeper	1
Carolina Wren	11
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
American Robin	84
Northern Mockingbird	5
European Starling	70
American Tree Sparrow	2
Song Sparrow	24
White-throated Sparrow	7
Dark-eyed Junco	75
Northern Cardinal	24
House Finch	19
White-winged Crossbill	8
American Goldfinch	56
House Sparrow	83
TOTAL	1461
Species	45

Annual Meeting Has Been Postponed to the Fall
Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Newton Conservators 60th Anniversary Celebration
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-conservators-60th-anniversary-celebration/>

We hope that you can join the Newton Conservators for our 60th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, October 27 to be held at Post 440. This Annual Dinner Meeting will be in person with an engaging speaker and delicious meal - provided vaccine distribution goes according to plan! Await further details and registration information. We just wanted to give you a heads up. It was felt by the Newton Conservators board that our originally scheduled May date was too early for a large in person event.



Sponsor a Tree to Honor Those Who Lost Their Lives to COVID-19.

The 4C Tree Project aims to honor the memory of lives lost to COVID-19 by celebrating life through the planting of trees, and you can help to make it a success by sponsoring a tree! This program is spearheaded by **Green Newton's Environmental Youth Leadership Program**. Why trees? Practically speaking, they: Capture carbon dioxide from the air, store carbon in the trunk, leaves and soil, and release oxygen into the atmosphere; offer cooling shade, block cold winter winds, attract birds and wildlife; contribute to a clean water supply by preventing soil erosion and chemical runoff; provide grace and beauty to our homes and community!



Trees symbolize life, connection, strength and ancestry. It is hoped the planting of young trees will help our community look ahead to renewed vitality and balance in our lives while remembering the lives we lost and the challenges we endured. We hope that each sighting of a 4C tree will remind us of how precious life is and how important it is for us to care for the environment that sustains it. Find out more at this [link](#).

Hot Tips for Cold Weather Biking

Biking has been one great way to get outside and deal with stress of Covid. Newton has lots of good biking opportunities - e.g. along the Charles River Pathway. It may be cold but if you dress properly, you can still enjoy biking in the wintertime. Check out these seven hot tips for winter biking from the [Rails To Trails](#) organization at this [link](#). And keep up with all things "Bike" with our local biking organization - [Bike Newton!](#)



Environmental Justice and the Crisis of Environmentalism

Dr. Daniel Faber, Environmental Justice Research Collaborative

Webinar Video - January 12

Watch the video of *'Environmental Injustice and the Crisis of Environmentalism'* a presentation by Dr. Daniel Faber on January 12. Director of the Northeastern Environmental Justice Research Collaborative, Dr. Faber speaks about climate change and the ecological crisis, as well as issues of environmental and climate injustice. Climate change is an existential threat to humanity. Dr. Faber argues that we must embrace a more transformative politics of environmental justice that addresses the root causes of the ecological crisis, as well as an inspiring vision of a new and better world. This free webinar program was co-sponsored by Green Newton and the Newton Free Library, and was a part of the Green Newton Library Series. Find presentation info and video link at: <https://www.greennewton.org/watch-the-video-of-environmental-injustice-and-the-crisis-of-environmentalism/>



Newton Conservators Newsletter

Find our latest Winter 2020-2021 Newsletter online at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters> which contains the following interesting and informative articles:

- [Full Edition](#)
- [Arriving at the Whole Story](#)
- [2020 Annual Meeting](#)
- [History of Newton's Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation - the Prequel](#)
- [Thank you, AnnaMaria Abernathy](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Birding Along the Charles River in the Winter of COVID-19](#)



NEWSLETTER

Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • WINTER 2020-2021

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Arriving at the Whole Story



Left to right: *Carpocapsa Giant Silk Moth*, *Hyalophora catespiae*, found on hawthorn, Boston MA. *Elm Sphinx*, *Ceanothus amyntor*, *Mimic of dried elm leaves*, found at Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, Harvard MA. *Abbott's Sphinx*, *Sphecodina abbottii*, *False-eye and grape-patterns*, found in Newton, MA on fox grape.

My name is Sam Jaffe, and I founded The Caterpillar Lab — an educational outreach, art, and science non-profit organization that uses native caterpillars and their stories to engage and inspire the public with their own, local, and ecologically important creatures. The Caterpillar Lab is a fluid thing, constantly changing as we learn from our audiences and our creatures alike. I would like to share with you a little about how my work, my perspectives, and The Caterpillar Lab's goals have shifted over the years and present a short piece that demonstrates how we now understand our caterpillars and how we hope to challenge our audiences to see the natural world in a new way.

Twelve years ago, my work was only caterpillars. But much has changed over the last decade. When I started photographing and educating with these charismatic insects, my attention was squarely focused on the caterpillar as an object, a moment in time, something beautiful, curious, and unexpected. My images of caterpillars, which highlighted their impressive camouflage,

bright warning colors, or strange inflatable tails and false eye-spots drew people in, sparked interest and imagination. But today, caterpillars represent so much more to me. From working so closely with these insects for so long, from rearing over five hundred species and countless thousands of individuals, and from bringing them to meet audiences every spring, summer, and fall, the world of caterpillars has exploded in size.

A caterpillar is indeed beautiful and inspiring on its own; I will never tire of them as individual characters that deserve our attention just for being... awesome! But a caterpillar also represents something much bigger, and much more meaningful. At the Lab, we have seen caterpillars grow, shed, pupate, and emerge as adults, we have gathered a seemingly endless variety of host plants to supply for our specialist feeders, and we have witnessed time and time again as parasitoid wasps and flies have fed on our caterpillars internally, emerged, and moved through their own cycles of growth and reproduction.

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PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



We would be very grateful for your continued support by joining Newton Conservators or renewing your membership. Perhaps, consider renewing at a higher level, adding an extra donation, or purchasing a gift membership for someone else who is passionate about open space.

You can renew or join the Newton Conservators online at <https://newtonconservators.org/renewal-2020/>. A link to our annual members' renewal letter outlining last year's activities can also be found at the above link.

Donations may be made at our secure link <https://newtonconservators.123signup.com/donation/21167>. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we also accept donations for a number of affiliated local open space groups including Friends of Webster Woods, Friends of Houghton Garden, the Riverside Trails Working Group, Trails Fund, and others. As part of the donation process, you can specify a group in the "Comments" section of the form. Thanks so much!

Mission: *The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.*

- E-Bulletin Editor & President Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (ebulletin@newtonconservators.org)

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