



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, December 17, 2021

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



Happy Holidays!



December is here but many days it sure doesn't seem like we're on the verge of winter with 60 degrees one day and freezing snow the next!

On Sunday (12/17), is the the annual census of birds in Newton as part of the annual [Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count](#). Read all about it below and we would be happy to have you join in if you are so inclined in helping find seven swans a swimming or possibly four calling birds.

The Winter 2021-2022 issue of the [Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) has been mailed and is also available on our website. It has a cover story on some of our recent events aimed at young naturalists, an account of our Annual Meeting in October, more history of our Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department, a book review, and information on DEI & Land Conservation. Links to all can be found below.

A good number of our highly successful webinar series presentations are now available on our [YouTube video channel](#) including recent additions of Alan Noguee's tour of Cold Spring Park, Don Lubin's presentation on the importance of ferns, and Barbara Bates talk on fresh water ponds.

Our [Annual President's Report and Renewal Letter](#) is available online. And we would be most grateful if you [renewed your membership or joined](#) us officially for the first time to support our important open space work!

In the New Year we will be transitioning to a new email newsletter format which will look a little different. We have already moved to a different internal database with membership, donations, and emails much more integrated.

Have you noticed the absence of winter moths this year? They usually showed up a little past Thanksgiving. They were somewhat fewer last year but this fall, I have seen none. How about you?

We wish you the best of holidays and hope you enjoy some of them out and about in the wilds of Newton!

Sunday, December 19, 2021, 8 am - Noon (Owling 5 - 7:30 am) Newton Christmas Bird Count

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/christmas-bird-count-2021/>

You are invited to join the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Newton. This year's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Newton takes place on Sunday, December 19th starting around 8 am. This is the 122st year of the CBC and helps to measure changes in population of our avian species (and perhaps more global trends such as climate change). Perhaps you have heard that North America has lost more than 1 in 4 birds in the last 50 years. How do we know? Partially from the annual Christmas Bird Count!



Small teams will be organized which will cover designated locations around the Newton area. The groups will be convening at 1 Raeburn Terrace, Newton Highlands at 8 am before heading out. Please come only if you are vaccinated and wear a mask. There will be an owling team which will be heading out from the same location at 5 am for the early birds.

Please sign up ahead of time and depending on the number of volunteers, you will be assigned to a small group with a leader. Leaders will turn in their results which will be consolidated into an overall Newton count which will in turn be consolidated to the overall Greater Boston Count.

The most common question of course is "how do you know you don't count the same bird twice?" Well you can't know for certain but we try our best! Your questions about the count can probably be answered at <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird>. If you might want to tune up your bird ID skills, check out Pete Gilmore's video photo talk about Birds at Cold Spring Park at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBm4Xr016ps>

Despite the warm weather today, Sunday will be somewhat cold. Dress warm, have some weather resistant footwear since there may be snow on the ground.

If you are interested in joining the count this year, please email our Newton CBC Coordinator, Liane Hartnett (lianehartnett26@gmail.com). Please let her know if

you will joining the early owling group or one of the later teams or both. Include your name, email, and phone number (cell if possible).

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our Winter 2021-2022 Newsletter is now available at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters>.



NEWSLETTER

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open space since 1961



WINTER ISSUE

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • WINTER 2021-22

NEWTON CONSERVATORS

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Hands-On Nature for Children

For the first time this fall, Newton Conservators offered walks especially for children and their parents. Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, board members of Newton Conservators, led the walks at two different locations: Dolan Pond and Riverside Park (by the Charles River). We played nature-themed games to train eyes for camouflaged animals. This was to demonstrate how predators catch prey and how those prey avoid the predators, and to illustrate how deer can get out of balance with their habitat. Our walks through the landscape also revealed treasures like the remains of a turtle nest, where everyone got a chance to feel the remnants of turtle eggs!

Judging by the reactions from both children and parents, everyone had lots of fun. We plan on offering more walks for families with young children again soon.



PHOTOS THIS PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT AND TOP TO BOTTOM: PHOTOS 1, 3, 4, COURTESY BARBARA BATES, PHOTOS 2, 5, SAM CORBIN

The Winter 2021-2022 issue contains the following interesting articles:

- [Full Issue](#)
- [Hands-Nature for Children](#)
- [Newton Conservators' 60th Anniversary Annual Meetin - Oct 27, 2021](#)

- [History of Newton Parks, Playgrounds & Recreation: Part 3](#)
- [Books: A World on the Wing by Scott Weidensaul](#)
- [Recent Events on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice in Land Conservation](#)

Recent Videos

You may have attended some of our informative webinars during the pandemic. Many of them are currently available on our [YouTube Channel](#) at the links below (listed alphabetically). A handy index of all our videos can be found at <https://newtonconservators.org/videos/>. We expect to be adding many more of the previous webinars in the coming months and are looking forward to another new webinar series in Spring 2022!

- [Caterpillars: The Whole Story](#) - Sam Jaffe - October 21, 2020
- [Cold Spring Park: Problems, Progress and Possibilities](#) - Alan Noguee - May 5, 2021
- [Fall Plumage: Virtual Bird Walk in Cold Spring Park](#) - Pete Gilmore - October 1, 2020
- [Ferns: More Important Than You Might Think](#) - Don Lubin - October 8, 2020
- [Meet the Monarchs](#) - Ted Kuklinski - September 16, 2020
- [Recognizing and Removing Invasive Plants](#) - Bruce Wenning - October 14, 2020
- [Web of Life of a Freshwater Pond](#) - Barbara Bates - September 24, 2020
- [Why Care About Invasive Plants](#) - Eric Olson - September 17, 2020

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS 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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