

# Enjoy Nature... with Webinars from Newton Conservators

Join us for our **Fall Webinar Series** online from **September through mid-November**.

Each program will begin at 7 pm and last approximately one hour. You may register for the programs using the links below or by going to the event listing at [newtonconservators.org](http://newtonconservators.org). You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered.



## Wednesday, Sept. 13 ... Using iNaturalist To Improve Your Identification Skills

Are you interested in improving your plant or animal identification skills? Did you ever wonder how many species of plants and animals inhabit Newton's parks and conservation areas? iNaturalist is an incredibly powerful web-based tool for natural history learning and biodiversity tracking. For example, you can take a few pictures of an interesting butterfly on your phone and post them to iNaturalist. iNaturalist can help you identify the butterfly with computer-driven algorithms *and* crowd-sourced recommendations from a community of experts. You can also query iNaturalist to look for other observations of the butterfly in Newton or any geographic area you are interested in. The Newton Conservators is using iNaturalist for open space biological inventories and bioblitz events. Join Jon Regosin for this webinar to learn about this important tool, including a tutorial and tips to help you use iNaturalist.

Jon is the former Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and is a returning board member of Newton Conservators, for which he's worked on variety of projects including the preservation of Newton Community Farm and Newton Bioblitz. Jon's iNaturalist observations can be seen at <https://bit.ly/3rRcyQM>

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3YnQIRn>



*Herring in the Charles River*

## Thursday, Sept. 28 ... Why We Should Remove the Watertown Dam

Did you know that each spring thousands of migratory fish return to our river to spawn in the lakes, ponds, and tributaries? Across Massachusetts, there is a growing movement to remove aging, defunct mill dams and restore free-flowing, climate-resilient rivers. There are numerous benefits and considerations to dam removal, including reinstating migratory fish passage, restoring the ecosystem, and protecting downstream communities from catastrophic flooding. Join us for a webinar talking about this extraordinary migration and learn why we should remove the Watertown Dam to restore the ecosystem.

Speakers include Lisa Kumpf and Robert Kearns. Lisa is the River Science and Restoration Program Manager at Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), where she oversees the water quality monitoring programs. Her vision for the River Science program is to collect reliable water quality data that is both communicated clearly with the public and used to support CRWA's advocacy goals. Lisa received her B.S. in Geology in 2013 from UMass Amherst and conducted her graduate research at Boston College.

Robert serves as CRWA's Climate Resilience Specialist and works with the team to implement Climate Resilience 101 virtual training sessions for local officials. He also helps manage the Charles River Climate Compact and works to further the organization's advocacy and community engagement goals. Prior to joining CRWA, Robert served as Youth Education and Community Engagement Coordinator with Mass Audubon's Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary through the Americorps program, TerraCorps. Robert holds a Bachelor of Science in the Environmental Science from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3YnRjT7>



PHOTO: MATT PELIKAN

*Male fork-tailed bush Katydid*

### Wednesday, Oct. 18 ... Springers and Singers: The Art and Science of Observing Orthoptera

Widespread, plentiful, and in some cases really loud, Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids) get surprisingly little attention from naturalists. But these insects are everywhere, if often extremely well camouflaged, and anyone can learn to find them and ID them by sight or sound. In this webinar, Matt Pelikan will introduce the basics of Orthoptera biology and ecology, discuss their diversity in eastern Massachusetts, and present a range of tips and tricks for finding and recognizing these interesting insects.

The Director of the Martha's Vineyard Atlas of Life project at BiodiversityWorks in Vineyard Haven, Matt is a lifelong naturalist who has conducted a decade-long survey of the Orthoptera of Martha's Vineyard, documenting more than 50 species on the island. Matt's other interests include bees (his current obsession), butterflies (he compiled and maintains a detailed checklist for the Vineyard), and birds (he's a former editor of the Massachusetts journal *Bird Observer*). You can learn more about the Martha's Vineyard Atlas of Life at its website, [mval.biodiversityworksmv.org](http://mval.biodiversityworksmv.org).

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/47lxlxj>



PHOTO: LUCIA HACKETT

*A barred owl perches delicately on a branch.*

### Thursday, Nov. 2 ... Rodenticides in Birds of Prey in Massachusetts

Some rodenticides (rodent poisons) have the ability to bioaccumulate in the food chain and can potentially affect a predator or scavenger that ingests an animal that consumed the poison bait. In this talk, Dr. Murray will present the findings of her research investigating exposure to rodenticides in four species of birds of prey in Massachusetts.

Maureen Murray, DVM, is the Director of Tufts Wildlife Clinic and an Associate Clinical Professor at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. In addition to her ongoing research on rodenticides in birds of prey, Dr. Murray provides medical and surgical care to native New England wildlife and teaches veterinary students about wildlife medicine in the clinic and in the classroom.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3YsmNaE>



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES

### Thursday, Nov. 9 ... Why Are There So Many Turkeys? (Talking All Things Turkey)

The native turkeys we currently see in such abundance were extirpated from Massachusetts not so long ago. Their revival is a true success story, unless you've tangled with an aggressive one. Join Newton Conservators' Barbara Bates as she explores the habits and natural and cultural history of this interesting bird, including "pecking order" and how it survives so well in our cities.

For more than 16 years, Barbara Bates was a teacher naturalist for Mass Audubon's Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary in Belmont, MA. Before the pandemic, she led guided nature walks for all ages on a variety of subjects and presented programs at several Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Senior Centers. She currently serves on the board of the Newton Conservators and leads walks for all ages. Barbara has retired several times — first from a long career in the high-tech world and more recently from teaching negotiation and conflict resolution as an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern University. She loves all things nature.

**Sign up:** <https://bit.ly/3QqUeZb>