

Athol Bird & Nature Club Field Trips & Meetings 2010

*Unless otherwise noted, programs meet at
the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.*

*If weather is questionable on a field trip day,
please call the trip leader at least an hour before the scheduled meeting time.*

Saturday, January 2, all day **“New Year” Seabird and Gull Excursion**
Our annual ritual to Massachusetts' premier winter birding location. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, or call ahead to join the group at 9 a.m. at Friendly's off the Rte 128 circle in Gloucester. Bring snacks and EXTREME cold weather clothing! *Info:* Mark Taylor 413-498-4380 or birdnorth@hughes.net.

Tuesday, January 12, 8-10 a.m. **Accessible Birding with Joe**
Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

<<>> Wednesday, January 13, 7 p.m. **Snowy Owl Research**
This monthly meeting of the ABNC will be held in the Ruth Smith Auditorium, Orange Town Hall, 6 Prospect St, Orange, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. Norm Smith, director of Blue Hills Observatory, will present a program on his many years of tracking snowy owls at Logan Airport.

<<>> Wednesday, February 10, 7 p.m. **The Cuckoo and the Gypsy Moth**
The regular monthly meeting at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) features Nick Barber, a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences at U-Mass Amherst. A birder since the age of eight, Barber received his Ph.D. in biology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2009, where his dissertation work focused on the interactions between birds, insects, and oak trees in forests. His current work explores how pests of cucumber crops affect beneficial species like pollinators in western Massachusetts.

Saturday, February 13, 7:30 a.m. **Eagle Festival and Plum Island**
Caravan to coastal birding sites, including the Merrimac River Eagle Festival. Sightings sometimes number in the teens in one spot. Other likely winter specialties are snowy and short-eared owls, rough-legged hawks, white-winged crossbills, snow buntings, etc. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, or call ahead to meet the group at 9 a.m. at Burger King on Rte. 110, Salisbury. Bring lunch and a hand-held radio if you have one, and wear extreme cold weather clothing. *Info:* Larry Duprey, 978-249-4964.

Friday, February 19, 8 p.m.**Owl Prowl**

Join one of our premier local owl experts Billy Fregeau in search of wintering owls. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, for carpooling. Limited participation; pre-registration is required. *Inclement weather date:* February 26. *Registration and info:* Billy Fregeau, 978-249-8627.

<<> **Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m.****Bears of Massachusetts**

Our regular monthly meeting at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) features wildlife biologist Ralph Taylor, who will discuss the black bears in Massachusetts and human confrontations with them. How common are black bears in our area? What draws them to our town? Can we learn to live at a respectful distance from these large, furry neighbors? The manager of the Connecticut Valley district of the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Belchertown, Taylor will help us understand those questions.

Sunday, March 28, 8 a.m.**Lovely Weather for Ducks**

Meet Jeff at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, and then head out as he searches for winter ducks in some choice locations. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Tuesday, April 13, 8-10 a.m.**Accessible Birding with Joe**

Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

<<> **Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m.****Birds of Harvard Forest**

Our regular monthly meeting, *co-sponsored with Harvard Forest and held at the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum 324 N. Main St. (Rte. 32), Petersham*, features outstanding photographs by Brooks Mathewson, who over the last two years has captured images of almost all the bird species which breed at Harvard Forest. Mathewson will also discuss recent conservation research involving many of the species, while giving the audience a chance to view close-up images of these forest birds. See his work at www.AvianArtImages.com.

Saturday, April 24, 10-11 a.m.**Fascinating Frogs!**

Join educator Rachel Roberts at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, for a program focusing on the fascinating life cycle of frogs. FREE and geared towards families with young children. *This program is supported in part by a grant from the Athol Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.* To register or for more info, contact Rachel at robertsrml@verizon.net or 413-774-7290.

Sunday, April 18, 7 a.m.**“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff**

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Sunday, April 25, 7 a.m.**“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff**

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Wednesday, April 28, 6 p.m.**Wetland Birds and Migrants**

Join Joan and Larry Duprey at the Orange Wildlife Management Area, 570 North Main Street, Orange, part of ABNC’s celebration of Orange 2010. *Info:* Larry Duprey, 978-249-4964.

Saturday, May 1, 6 a.m.**Mount Auburn Cemetery**

Visit this beautiful historic cemetery, a famous spring hotspot for migrating songbirds. Meet at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) for carpooling at 6 a.m. or at the gate at 7:30 a.m. (Let us know if you’ll be meeting us at the gate.) If time allows, we’ll also visit the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. *Info:* Joan or Larry Duprey, 978-249-4964.

Sunday, May 2, 7 a.m.**“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff**

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Saturday, May 8, 7:30 a.m.**Spring Birds with the Springs**

Join Ann and Jeff Spring at Bicentennial Park near 455 Holtshire Rd. in Orange, part of ABNC’s celebration of Orange 2010. *Info:* Jeff Spring, 978-544-2912.

Sunday, May 9, 7 a.m.**“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff**

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Tuesday, May 11, 8-10 a.m.**Accessible Birding with Joe**

Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

<<>> Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m.**Bobcats of Massachusetts**

This regular monthly meeting at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) features Laura Hajduk, who will cover the basics of the bobcat, *Lynx rufus* – the biology, ecology, and habits of this secretive and elusive predator. Laura is the Furbearer and Black Bear Project Leader for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. She started with the agency in April of 2008 as the Furbearer Project Leader, and took over the Black Bear Project in October of 2009. Laura received her B.S. from Northern Illinois University and her M.S. from Southern Illinois University, where she studied space and habitat use of long-tailed weasels.

Saturday, May 15, 6:30 a.m.**Annual Northfield Birding Trip**

Bob Coyle and Mark Taylor lead us on ABNC's traditional excursion to Northfield in search of spring migrants. Meet at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) at 6:30 a.m. or join us at the country club parking lot in Northfield at 9 a.m. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Bob Coyle, 978-249-6083.

Sunday, May 16, 7 a.m.**“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff**

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Wednesday, May 19, 7 a.m.**Mid-week at Mount Auburn**

A more relaxed excursion to the famous cemetery for those available during the week. Less crowds, more birds! Same beautiful gardens. Possible stop for lunch on the way back. Meet at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) for carpooling at 7 a.m. or at the main gate at 8:30 a.m. *Info:* Joan or Larry Duprey, 978-249-4964.

Saturday, May 22, 8 a.m.**Five for the Birds**

Join Jeff Johnstone in exploring his five favorite birding spots in Orange, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. Meet at the Orange Airport on East River St. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Sunday, May 23, 7 a.m.**“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff**

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Sunday, May 23, 1 p.m.**Birds & Butterflies Buffet**

This is a fundraiser that allows lots of time for birding, butterflying, a hike in the Quabbin or a walk to the beaver pond while visiting with members and friends of the Athol Bird & Nature Club. A lunch of delicious assorted salads and dessert will be offered at the home of John Harkins and Laurel Lussen, 137 South Main St., New Salem. Their gardens are spectacular! Please RSVP Laurel by May 16 at laurellussen@yahoo.com. A \$10 donation is requested. Bring your binoculars and your appetite.

Sunday, May 30, 7 a.m.**“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff**

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Thursday, June 3 - Monday, June 7 Connecticut Lakes, NH

Caravan to the beautiful boreal forests of northern New Hampshire seeking birds, butterflies, and dragonflies – and of course, moose! Adjust the weekend to your needs: arrive Thursday or Friday night and leave Sunday or Monday. Members only. Deposit required; registration deadline May 10. *Info and registration:* Joan and Larry Duprey, 978-249-4964. **THIS TRIP IS FULL!! We are accepting names for a waiting list in case of cancellations. Please note date change from previous schedule.**

Saturday, June 5, 8:30 a.m. Boghaunters & Other Dragonflies

Join ABNC president Dave Small and naturalist Lula Field at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) for an introduction to these fascinating creatures and then carpool to the field. Participants should bring lunch, insect net, and a sense of adventure; be prepared for wet feet. Children welcome. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Dave Small, 978-413-1772 or Dave@dhsml.net.

Tuesday, June 8, 8-10 a.m. Accessible Birding with Joe

Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

Saturday, June 12, 11 a.m. The Nature of the Pike

Join Lula Field and Christine Beckert Long in an exploration of the old Brattleboro Turnpike and Hosmer Wood, part of the Orange 2010 celebration. Meet at the top of the hill at Hosmer Wood, on Rte. 2A 230 West Main Street west of Orange Center. *Info:* Christine Beckert Long, 978-249-0246 or christyblue@juno.com. *Co-sponsored with New England Forestry Foundation and North Quabbin Woods.*

Sunday, June 13, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Exploring Quabbin

Join ABNC president Dave Small in this natural history exploration of Interior Quabbin. Reservation required; limited participation, with preference given to ABNC members. To reserve your spot, e-mail Dave at Dave@dhsml.net by June 10.

Saturday June 19, 9 pm - late night Moth Ball

Join ABNC president Dave Small and naturalist Lula Field at Dave and Shelley's house, 1542 Pleasant St., Athol, to search for lunas, underwings, silkmoths and other night flying insects. Participants are invited to bring their tents, snacks to share and favorite moth baits. (Don't know what those are? You'll find out!) Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Dave Small, 978-413-1772 or Dave@dhsml.net.

Tuesday, June 22, 4 p.m. Reading the Landscape

Join Harvard Forest's John O'Keefe in this look at field and forest, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. Meet at Tully Meadow Farm (the former Gale Farm), 485 Tully Rd., Orange, and ramble from there to Flagg Rd. *Info:* John O'Keefe, 575-0866. *Co-sponsored with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.*

Thursday, July 8, 5 p.m.**Exploring the Black Gum**

Join ABNC president David Small and Fred Heyes of Heyes Forest Products at Mattawa Four Corners (the corner of Holtshire and Chestnut Hill Roads.) and proceed from there into a black gum swamp, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. *Info:* Heyes Forest Products, 978-544-8801. *Co-sponsored with the Massachusetts Forest Landowners Association.*

Tuesday, July 13, 8-10 a.m.**Accessible Birding with Joe**

Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

Sunday, July 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**12th Annual Garden Tour**

In an encore of our popular tour last year, we'll be visiting more gardens in New Salem, in conjunction with that town's Old Home Days. Tickets (\$5/person or \$15/carload) will be available at Bruce's Browser and Agway in Athol; Noel's Nursery, North Quabbin Woods and Educare in Orange; and at the New Salem General Store. Day-of tickets, garden plants and blueberries will be available at the New Salem General Store. The event benefits the Millers River Environmental Center. *Presented with help from the North Quabbin Garden Club.*

Sunday, August 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**Orange Bicentennial Garden Tour**

In celebration of Orange's 2010 Bicentennial, we're featuring the gardens of Orange and North Orange in this benefit for the Millers River Environmental Center. Tickets (\$5/person or \$15/carload) will be available at Bruce's Browser and Agway in Athol; Noel's Nursery, North Quabbin Woods and Educare in Orange; and at the New Salem General Store. Day-of tickets, garden plants and blueberries will be available at Maple Valley Farm, 190 Main St., North Orange. *Presented with help from the North Quabbin Garden Club.*

Tuesday, August 10, 8-10 a.m.**Accessible Birding with Joe**

Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

Saturday, August 14, 10 a.m.-noon**August in the Park**

Join expert birders Joan and Larry Duprey and amateur botanist Christine Beckert Long in a stroll through the Alan E. Rich Environmental Park and Cass Meadow near 50 Main St. in Athol to discover the nature of an environmental park and the long-term vision for the area. *Info:* Chris Long, 978-249-0246 or christyblue@juno.com. *Co-sponsored with the Friends of the Park.*

Saturday, August 28, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lake Rohunta's Aquatic Plants

Bring your canoe or kayak and join botanist Matt Hickler in this exploration of the identification and ecology of fresh-water plants, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. Meet near 25 Eagleville Road at the boat launch, off Rte. 202. *Info:* Matt Hickler, 978-249-5517.

<<>> Wednesday, September 8, 7 p.m. DCR Gull Study

Why do we see gulls so far inland? This monthly meeting at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) will address that question when Ken MacKenzie and Dan Clark discuss the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Gull Study – research into ring-bill, herring and black-back gulls in Massachusetts, including their movements, feeding and use of public water supplies. Ken is a senior wildlife biologist and Dan is the Director of Natural Resources for DCR.

Saturday, September 11, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Exploring Tully Mountain

Allen Young, author of *North of Quabbin Revisited* and other books of local interest, will lead us on a loop trail exploring the mountain, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. Meet at the parking area near 98 Mountain Rd. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy on the summit. *Info:* Allen Young, 978-249-7612.

Saturday, September 11, 1-2 p.m. Monarch Mania!

Join educator Rachel Roberts at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, for a program exploring the complete life cycle of butterflies with emphasis on the monarchs who will be migrating through our area at the time. FREE and geared towards families with young children. *This program is supported in part by a grant from the Athol Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.* To register or for more info, contact Rachel at robertsrml@verizon.net or 413-774-7290.

Tuesday, September 14, 8-10 a.m. Accessible Birding with Joe

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Saturday, September 25, 6 p.m. Nighthawk Watch

Join Jeff Johnstone at Riverfront Park near 14 East River St. in Orange, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Saturday & Sunday, October 2 & 3, 11 a.m. The Chestnut Story

Meet at the headquarters booth at the Garlic & Arts Festival, for a short hike in the Fittz Family Forest to learn about the glory days of the chestnut, its tragic demise, and the promise of the future. Guides for this event, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010, will be Lula Field and Christine Beckert Long. Those who wish can continue the hike to an overlook with a magnificent view of Orange's Chestnut Hill, led by Daniel Bolton. For directions to the festival, visit the

website: www.garlicandarts.org. Info: Chris Long, 978-249-0246 or christyblue@juno.com. Co-sponsored by New England Forestry Foundation and North Quabbin Woods.

Tuesday, October 12, 8-10 a.m.

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