Birder’s Certificate Program
Take your birding to the next level!

Mass Audubon developed the Birder’s Certificate Program in collaboration with college faculty, experienced birders, and professional ornithologists, offering an opportunity for dedicated birders to learn the finer points of avian life from the experts.

This program is equivalent to an undergraduate-level ornithology course, with the addition of extensive field time and the opportunity for self-directed study.

ABOUT MASS AUDUBON
With more than 125,000 members and supporters, Mass Audubon protects 38,000 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. Learn how at massaudubon.org.

Mass Audubon
Birder’s Certificate Program
2020-2021

TO REGISTER
Visit: massaudubon.org/birderscertificate
Call: 978-462-9998
Email: mvokey@massaudubon.org

TUITION
Mass Audubon Members: $1,500
Nonmembers: $1,600

Photographs by David Larson, Bill Lawless, and Joppa Flats Banding Station.
Program Structure
The Birder's Certificate Program is made up of eleven required modules and your choice of one of two elective modules.

Each module includes an online lecture component (3-4 hours), as well as field exercises held at various locations (4-5 hours). In between modules, you’ll have assignments to complete at home before the next class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Date</th>
<th>Module</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2020</td>
<td>Systematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 24, 2020</td>
<td>Evolution &amp; Speciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21, 2020</td>
<td>Field Identification</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 19, 2020</td>
<td>Anatomy/Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16, 2021</td>
<td>Bird Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20, 2021</td>
<td>Feathers and Flight</td>
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<td>March 20, 2021</td>
<td>Feeding Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17, 2021</td>
<td>Migration</td>
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<td>May 22, 2021</td>
<td>Avian Vocalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19, 2021</td>
<td>Breeding Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17, 2021</td>
<td>Field Ornithology</td>
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</tbody>
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In addition to these eleven modules, each student is also required to complete one independent study module: either a self-directed project, or a series of elective papers. In either case, the student must submit a report on the project or papers for evaluation by the faculty.

Instructors

Jon Atwood
Director of Bird Conservation, Mass Audubon

Bill Gette
Founding Sanctuary Director, Joppa Flats Education Center

David Larson
Director, Birder's Certificate Program; Ornithologist, Joppa Flats Education Center

David Moon
Community Science and Coastal Resiliency Manager, Mass Audubon North Shore Region

Wayne Petersen
Director of Important Bird Areas Program, Mass Audubon

Scott Santino
Teacher-Naturalist, Mass Audubon North Shore Region