

# Citizen Science Project Opportunities 2011

An easy way to help conservation organizations is with Citizen Science Projects. Many are as simple as “when you see something rare, report it!” Others ask for monitoring of blooming flowers, nesting birds, or road-killed animals. The important projects detailed below need your help!

## **Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife**

[www.linkinglandscapes.info/roads/home.html](http://www.linkinglandscapes.info/roads/home.html)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and the Vernal Pool Association have launched a long-term and multifaceted effort to minimize the impact of the existing road network on rare and nongame wildlife, while improving highway safety. The effort is specifically looking at three main impacts: 1 – general wildlife roadkills, 2 – vernal pool salamander migration, and 3 – turtle crossing hotspots.



## **Climate Change, Budburst**

[www.budburst.com](http://www.budburst.com)

Budburst gives you the chance to monitor the dates that plants and trees bud or bloom in the spring and enter your data online. This is a great way to monitor how climate change may be impacting the natural cycle of the seasons.



## **Cornell University**

[www.birds.cornell.edu/CitSci](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/CitSci)

If you are interested in habitat requirements of forest birds, want to track color variation of pigeons, or have feeders or nesting birds you love to watch, check out the numerous citizen science opportunities at Cornell.



## **Mass Audubon Owl Reporter & Breeding Bird Atlas II**

Do you have owls in your neighborhood? Have you heard or seen an owl? If so – you can report it to Mass Audubon on their Owl Reporter page at: [www.massaudubon.org/owls](http://www.massaudubon.org/owls)  
Are you an avid birder? Help out with a large effort across the state to survey our Massachusetts breeding birds at: [www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas](http://www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas)

Flip Me Over, Please!

## Firefly Project – Museum of Science, Boston

[www.mos.org/fireflywatch/home](http://www.mos.org/fireflywatch/home)

Boston's Museum of Science, along with Tufts Univ. & Fitchburg State College are studying the status of fireflies in MA. Firefly sightings can be reported on the website.



## Concord Christmas Count

[www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc)

Help count Massachusetts' local birds – either as part of a field team or by watching your feeder from your window. If you are interested in helping with this important effort in December and January, contact Stephanie Koch at [stephanie\\_koch@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_koch@fws.gov).



## Rare Species Reporting

Anytime you are on refuge land and come across a rare species, give us a call or drop us a note here at the refuge so we can add it to our records and report it accordingly to any other agency. You can call the refuge Biological Staff at 978-443-4661 x 24 or 37, or email in a report to Stephanie at [stephanie\\_koch@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_koch@fws.gov). Here is a short list of some of the species to watch for:

Blanding's Turtle

Blue-spotted Salamander

Musk Turtle

Common Moorhen

Pied-billed Grebe

Spotted Turtle

American Bittern

Least Bittern

Sedge Wren

Marsh Wren

Sora

Eastern Hog-nosed Snake

King Rail

Eastern Ribbon Snake

## Nighthawk Surveys, SuAsCo and Nashua Rivers

<http://www.borobirding.net/>

If you are interested in getting out and enjoying late summer evenings by the river, check out the nighthawk website and consider signing up as a volunteer nighthawk counter! The purpose of the survey is to collect key statistics on the continuing dramatic decline in Common Nighthawk migrants that began in the Boston and SuAsCo valley areas more than 100 years ago and has now spread across all of central and northern MA, north to northern Canada

