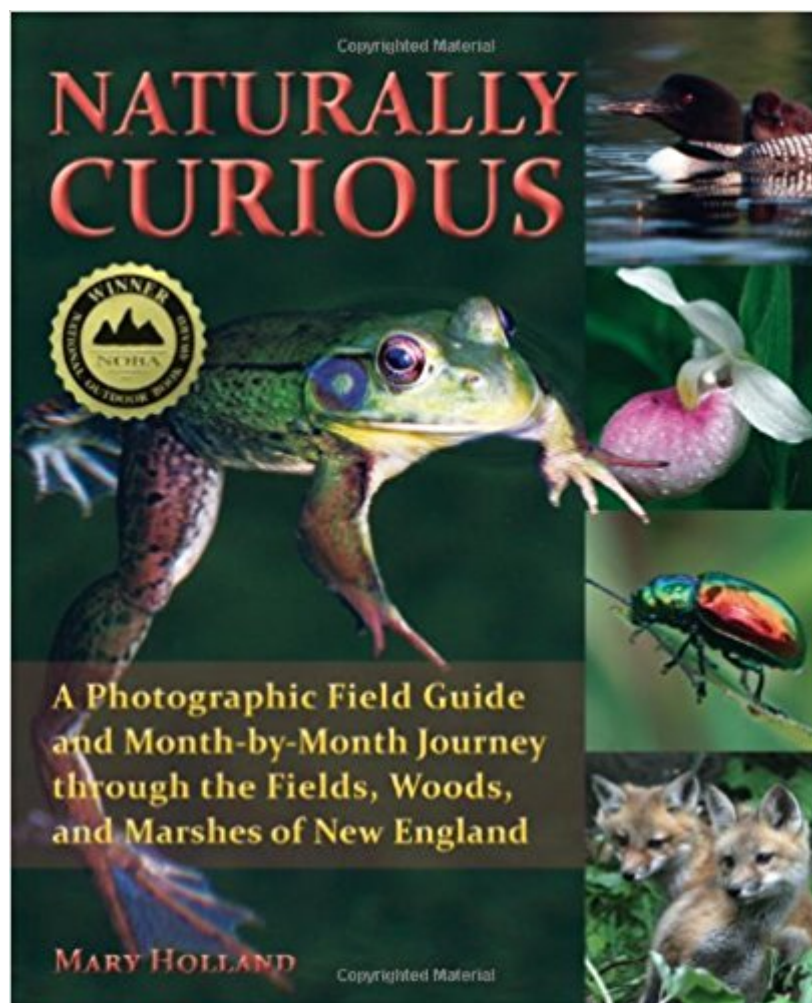




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Naturally Curious: A Photographic Field Guide And Month-By-Month Journey Through The Fields, Woods, And Marshes Of New England



Synopsis

2011 National Outdoor Book Award for Nature Guidebook Are you ready for a black fly bite to get graphic, for a barred owl's call to take on new meaning, and for the life cycle of the eastern newt to suddenly seem complex, beautiful, and intricately bound to the subtle patterns of mysterious underwater landscapes and damp forest floors? Naturalist Mary Holland's new book *Naturally Curious* promises a walk in the woods will never be the same. Holland leads you through the New England seasons out-of-doors—through the sun, rain, and snow; along roadsides and wetlands; above underground burrows and under treetop nesting sites. With just a turn of the page you'll suddenly know more about the creatures that frequent your backyard or the pond you visit every summer than you ever thought possible. *Naturally Curious* perfectly melds practical field guide with informal nature literature, providing you the remarkable opportunity to sit back, relax, and learn something fascinating about the natural world around you.

Book Information

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Trafalgar Square Books (October 15, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570764255

ISBN-13: 978-1570764257

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 1.1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #68,733 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in *Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Wildlife* #56 in *Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > New England* #285 in *Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna*

Customer Reviews

Holland (Milkweed Visitors), a naturalist and wildlife photographer, has an oddball vision of nature that is both informative and entertaining. Her description of her home, where she stores beaver castor glands in her freezer and has a fecal bear plug on display in her living room, prepares the reader for a book that includes pictures of penile bones and other oddities—as well as plenty of natural beauty. Nearly 1,000 color photographs should help the newbie naturalists learn what to look for and where to find it. Readers will delight in images of a newt and spring peeper attempting to mate; remarkably vibrant robins eggs in a nest; and a loon chick swallowing a fish whole. Though

Holland begins her calendar year in March, the start of the mating season as dictated by her Vermont home-base, she provides a simple algorithm for readers to adjust according to latitude. Months are color-coded and organized around species; amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, insects & arachnids give way to plants, and the detail provided about each group is astounding. For Holland and her readers, treasures abound. Photos. (Oct.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

"I'd like to recommend this great new book by Mary Holland, which is focused on New England. Every biozone should have such a book." #151;Richard Louv, Audubon Medal winner and bestselling author, *The Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle*#147;What a wonderful book! It's a guided tour of the noteworthy natural happenings of each month, tying together everything from maples to mayflies to moose." #151;David Sibley, author, *The Sibley Guide to Birds* and *The Sibley Guide to Trees*"Naturally Curious is a top-shelf book I'll reach for often. If the camera had been invented in Thoreau's day, this is the book he would have created himself." #151;W. D. Wetherell, author, *The Smithsonian Guide to Natural America*#147;This may be the ultimate book for nature-curious New Englanders. Not only is it smart and comprehensive, it's laid out in a way that corresponds with how we actually see the world around us: not one group of species at a time but all at once#151;birds and frogs and plants and everything else#151;what a treat!" #151;Bill McKibben, author, *The End of Nature*, and founder, 350.org"Mary Holland offers an encyclopedia of nature in New England#151;really, the Northeast#151;lavishly illustrated and rich in fact and lore. You know she knows the fauna and flora of which she writes, because this patient and experienced observer has documented what she's seen with more than 700 of her own splendid photographs." #151;Jack Sanders, author, *The Secrets of Wildflowers*"Naturally Curious will undoubtedly compel many readers to go outside at any time of year to see in nature what Ms. Holland so deftly explains in her book. It is filled with useful information, whether you are a skilled naturalist or someone just beginning to know and love nature." #151;Laura Johnson, president, Massachusetts Audubon Society"This book is a must-have for all curious naturalists. Organized by the month, Holland covers numerous and varied species found in New England, from insects, amphibians, and reptiles, to birds, mammals, and plants. Very well illustrated with color photos throughout, it's all there, ready to enrich your life throughout the year." #151;Paul Rezendes, author/photographer, *Tracking & The Art of Seeing* and *The Wild Within*#147;Naturally Curious is a lovely book for the general public. Holland, a naturalist, wildlife photographer, and writer, provides an engaging

introduction to the complexity of nature's interactions. Full of photos, most of which are from the author, the book also contains numerous charming illustrations. Choice (March 2011)

I have enjoyed Mary Holland's blog for quite some time. Her regular pictures and brief write-ups focusing on the natural splendour of Northeastern flora and fauna provide a perfect break between tasks during the hustle of my daily workday in downtown Boston. This work is an opus of transportive vistas to the natural world that we are both so close to and so distant from. In that regard, I found myself thinking of this work as more of a guidebook to a world many of us have overlooked or as an 'English to Nature' dictionary. The first copy I ordered is going abroad as a gift to a good friend who just moved from New England to London for work and misses the New England wildlife, while the second is for my own enjoyment (more will likely be coming in the holiday month). Along with beautiful and remarkable pictures, the book follows a monthly theme and works to capture the most important seasonal aspects for different species. One can easily flip to any page for a brief foray into the natural world, or spend hours starting in the opening 'March' section of Fisher Cat tracks in the spring snow and the plump, emerging Skunk Cabbage and then follow the teeming crescendo of life through the warming Spring months and into summer and beyond. This is a remarkable collection from a lifetime of patient and open observation of a world many of us feel increasingly distant from. Perfect for those curious by nature.

Loads of information about the natural world around us. I live in New England where this book covers nature from March to April. I have learned so much at my very adult age that I wish I had known years ago. Mary Holland is a gem.

I have a Lot of nature books and this is by far one of the BEST I have ever had. The author segments the book by the Month that the Flowers and Animals appear and are active. She give Basic useful information on what you will find if you live in New England or are visiting the area. WELL WORTH THE PRICE. Her pictures are Great. Well worth the price. No more guessing "what is that?" Get outside and enjoy our world!

This book is really well done. Every New Englander should own this. It is broken down into months and what's going on in nature. I have been trying to read the corresponding sections as the year goes by which is really a unique experience; I feel very in tune with the environment around me as I

am aware of what nature is doing at every moment of the year, and this book will teach you that something new is going on nearly EVERY moment of the year. We humans have so much control over our environment, we tend to think in terms of seasons, if even that. We don't ever have to change our existence because we simply control our immediate environment: food, water, shelter, temperature. But in the natural world, EVERY moment is a progression through the seasons which directly affects the activity of every plant and animal in the natural world. Every day for plants and animals contains activities that will directly affect their survival. This book enlightens and humbles by making us aware of this activity.

This is a unique book as far as I know. I have several naturalists' books covering Vermont and the Northeast, and have seen nothing of this breadth, covered to this depth. So much interesting information about birds, amphibians, mammals, insects, plants. This would be useful to those in the mid-Atlantic, New York, and even wider geographic regions. The author gives a month-by-month look at what's going on in the natural world, and so much of the information would simply be moved forward or back a month in other regions, but would still be relevant because of the wide overlap of species. Very readable. Couldn't put it down. I consider myself pretty knowledgeable about the natural world, but there was much that was new to me in this book. I would have loved to have this to use as a text when I was teaching. Suitable for a wide range of ages.

It is ironic that I ordered this book at the same time that I bought some Kindle accessories...but this is a book you need to have as a book, I think. It gives both brief and in-depth overviews of what you can see outdoors, month by month, in New England. There is a good deal of cross-referencing, allowing you to get the overall picture, and also, if you want, to learn more by looking at details discussed in other months than the one you are reading at the time. Lots of pictures, all to the point. There are occasional typos, but they don't cause problems in understanding. (Not sure why there should be any, really, since the overall work is of such high quality.)

Here's a book that lives up to the reviews 100% and more. I'm a naturalist and enjoy field guides and am fairly knowledgeable about judging what's out there. This book is spot on. The photography alone is worth the price. The insights into each month are well-researched. The author knows a great deal about all aspects of nature. Her intelligence, sense of humor, and writing style are incredible. I hope that she will continue to write wonderful guides for those of us who are naturally curious in New England. I'd like to tempt her to a field guide on New England Wildflowers. Her

photography skills would capture detail. Some photography wild flower field guides don't capture how the plant is actually growing in the wild, or the light conditions are wrong. This writer knows what she wants the picture to show clearly.

I bought this book last November for a friend who loves to explore in the NH forests and is always telling my husband about his finds. So I bought a 2nd copy and gave it to my husband for his birthday this year. We've been looking it over and are amazed at the amount of information there is on animals, birds and plants that are native to the Northeast. We learned a lot already and can't wait to take it with us camping in the summer!

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