

Late April 2021



## **LOOKING FOR PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO KEEP YOUR CAT SAFE WHILE PROTECTING BIRDS?**

Domestic cats (*Felis catus*) can make wonderful pets. But cats that roam outdoors can have serious consequences.

Across the globe, cats have been introduced into new habitats by people with terrible results. Outdoors, cats are a non-native and invasive species that threaten birds and other wildlife, disrupt ecosystems, and spread diseases. Now numbering well over 100 million in the United States, cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making cat predation by far the largest source of direct, human-caused mortality to birds.

American Bird Conservancy's *Cats Indoors* program educates the public and policy makers about the many benefits to birds, cats, and people when cats are maintained indoors or under an owner's direct control. In addition to advocating for responsible pet ownership solutions, we also oppose Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) for feral cats because of the persistent and severe threats posed by these cats on the landscape.

ABC is leading a movement to overcome local and national challenges caused by roaming cats through science-based policies and management. The organization invites you to join a growing network of diverse stakeholders, such as animal shelters, veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, and conservation biologists, to build a future that is better for cats, better for birds, and better for people.

→ [Check out ABC's Solutions for Pet Cats page.](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB



## EARLY BIRD BIRDING WITH JEFF JOHNSTONE

Fridays at 7 a.m.:

April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>

Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

Meet at Miller's River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol before heading out to explore the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. These are great opportunities for the novice birder to learn

from one of our best field naturalists. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Severe weather cancels. Info: Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Covid rules will still be in effect. Masks, no carpooling, and no sharing optics. As vaccinations become more common some rules may be modified.

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### FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

## BIRDING LEICESTER AND PAXTON AREA

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 7 a.m. – noon

Contact leader to sign up:

Susan LaBree (508-826-2160) [susangoldens@charter.net]

Meet behind Worcester Airport, on Mulberry Street, Leicester.

The fields can host Eastern Meadowlark, and warblers find the shrubby woods attractive. We will then proceed to Muir Meadow in Paxton and look for birds along the trail to Southwick Pond.

Please bring waterproof footwear for the trails at Muir Meadow.



WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

Monthly Program via ZOOM—

# THE NATURE OF SPRING

with Joe Choiniere

Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.



Naturalists universally love springtime. The calendar procession of natural events--arrival of migrant birds, wildflowers blooming, movements of vernal pool amphibians, and other well-known Spring phenomena never go unappreciated. There is also much more. Organisms including mosses, lichens, fungi, grasses, and other animals such as mammals exhibit interesting and remarkable spring-time occurrences as well. There's a lot happening out there! In this program Joe will share some of both the commonplace and lesser-known signs of spring.

*A founding member of WRNC, Joe Choiniere has worked in the conservation field for over 40 years and taught numerous courses in all aspects of nature study. He is a lifelong naturalist and holds a B.S. in Natural History from UMass/Amherst.*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83749138739>

Meeting ID: 837 4913 8739

MASS AUDUBON

Online program—

# WILDFLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND

Presenter: Ted Elliman, Botanist, Native Plant Trust

Author of *Wildflowers of New England*

Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup> 7 -8:30 p.m.

Members: \$20 Non-members \$24



Bursting with colors, wildflowers enrich the springs and summers of New England, attracting pollinators and floral-aficionados. Learn how to identify local wildflowers and more from botanist Ted Elliman, author of 'Wildflowers of New England'. You'll review trilliums, lady slippers, jack-in-the-pulpit, bunchberries, and more in this online class. Leave with a renewed appreciation for these scenic plants, the ability to identify them in the field, and the wisdom gained through stories of conservation efforts.

Registration is required.

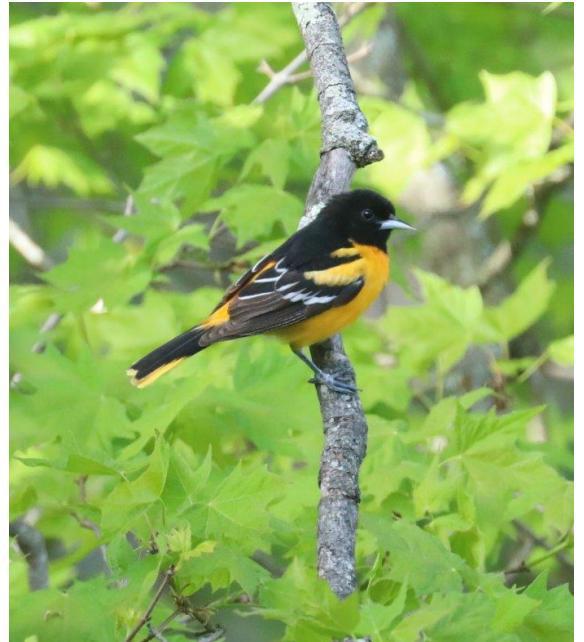
<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/78319-wildflowers-of-new-england-online>

## FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

### BIRDING OXFORD, DUDLEY & VICINITY

Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 7.a.m.

We will check the Osprey nest at Greenbrier for these regular breeders and hike trails through varied habitats. Meet at MacDonald's parking lot on Sutton Avenue, Exit 4B off Route 395. Please be prepared to hike. To register, contact leader Paul Meleski: (508-757-2950) pmeleski1@msn.com



### BIRDING AT HIGH RIDGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 a.m.

This large, historic property includes old fields, mature woods, and wetland areas. Meet at the gated end of Overlook Road in Westminster. Directions: From the Rt. 2/Rt. 140 intersection (New Exit 92/Old Exit 25), drive west on Route 2A in Westminster. Turn right onto Elliott Street, then right onto Bacon Street. Bear left at the fork onto Overlook Road. Continue to the parking area before the gate. Please be prepared to walk. To register, contact leader Wendy Howes: (413-967-4737) warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com