



April 2023

## \* \* \* **ANNOUNCEMENTS** \* \* \*

### **NEW POST UP ON WEBSITE**

The latest *FROM THE FIELD* post, entitled *Winter Mammal Watch*, is up on the website [HERE](#)

### **MORE MAMMALS...**

...courtesy of Jim “Hikingcamera” Morelly. Take a few minutes to learn something about mating-season behavior in fishers: <https://youtu.be/yl9-mAjvxwA>  
And compare the young bull moose that appears in the *FROM THE FIELD* post to this animal: [https://youtu.be/mHv\\_61Nx-3](https://youtu.be/mHv_61Nx-3) We think it’s the same moose. Watch closely and you’ll notice him use his tongue to try to pick up Jim’s scent. In case you’re wondering how the interaction ended—Jim deliberately rustled some leaves as a means of instructing the moose to be more cautious of humans. The moose then ran off in a hurry, the appropriate reaction!

Finally, there’s an amusing small mammal video (small mammals, small video) shared by Doug Wipf on this page: <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/newsletter-archives.html> Click on *Small mammal video* below the April 2023 newsletter.

### **BLACK BEARS EMERGING: YOU KNOW THE DRILL!**

Encourage hungry bears to feed on the plentiful skunk cabbage, sprouting grasses, and other vegetation that makes up their natural spring diet. They also eat insects and carrion. Take birdfeeders in, secure trash, and protect bee hives and chickens with electric fencing. More from MassWildlife [HERE](#)

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

Zoom presentation--

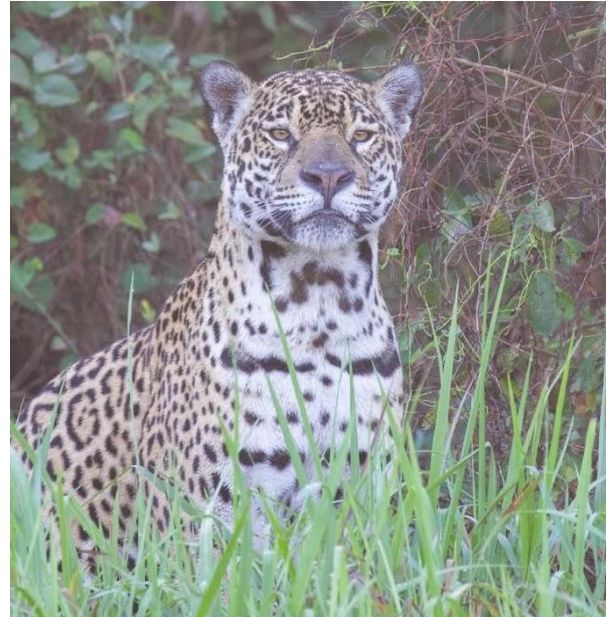
# THE BRAZILIAN PANTANAL

with Dan Berard

Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

The Brazilian Pantanal is the world's largest tropical wetland, home to thousands of individual birds of a dizzying diversity from the massive human-sized Jabiru to the Doritos-sized Subtropical Doradito. The Pantanal is also a mecca for mammals: jaguars, tapirs, monkeys and more, oh deer!

Join Dan Berard for a look at the Pantanal and the nearby Cerrado, a unique savanna habitat. We'll learn about this ecosystem, its inhabitants, and see photos from the Sunrise Birding - Pantanal Birds & Jaguars tour Dan led in 2022.



Dan Berard is a lifelong birder for whom birds were a gateway into a fascination with natural history. He has led birding and natural history tours across North, Central and South America, Hawaii, Trinidad and Tobago, and pelagics on both coasts. When not leading trips for Sunrise Birding, Dan leads local birding and natural history trips and courses and is a supervisor for USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocOCtqDksGNYmlTyG93plcq6rvoh8WYiP>

PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE - PRINCETON HIKES!

## HIKE AT CALAMINT HILL CONSERVATION AREA

Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.



This moderate hike features access to a large beaver pond and lots of rocks!  
Options are trails from either the Calamint Hill parking area (4 miles)  
or Wachusett Meadow Sanctuary (7 miles).

For more information or to register: [TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com)



*American Robin*

*Photo by Doug Wipf*

ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

# THE GUESTS OF ANTS

by Christina L. Kwapich PhD

Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

In-person at Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol or via ZOOM



Photo: with permission from Taku Shimada

This talk will explore the hidden biodiversity inside ant nests and the behavioral mechanisms that diverse parasites employ to infiltrate ant societies. Some intruders tickle ant mouth parts to steal regurgitated meals, while others use specialized organs and glandular secretions to entice ants or calm their aggression. Once able to “speak the language,” these outsiders can masquerade as ants. Suddenly colony members can no longer distinguish friend from foe.

Christina L. Kwapich, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Ecology at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and the co-author of the book *The Guests of Ants: How Myrmecophiles Interact with Their Hosts* (2022, Harvard University Press). Her laboratory examines the organization of labor in seed-harvesting ant societies, subterranean ant nest architecture, and ant guests. Register in advance:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Z-Y4dR2sTkS3Ta-8BeGBng](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z-Y4dR2sTkS3Ta-8BeGBng)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and link.

ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

# EARLY BIRD BIRDING

with Jeff Johnstone

Fridays:

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a. m.



Meet up with Jeff at Millers 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. For information, contact Jeff at 978-249-9052.



*Common Merganser ballet on Quaboag Pond, March 5, 2023*

*Photo by Martin Bannish*

## PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE - PRINCETON HIKES!



### MIDSTATE TRAIL HIKE SAVAGE HILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Wednesday April 19th  
10 a.m.

This will be an easy-to-moderate 4-mile hike on the west side of Princeton. This is an “out and back” hike on the Midstate Trail, which skirts Savage Hill in Princeton and connects between Old Colony Road and Paddock Road in Rutland.

### HIKING THE LYNDE BASIN TRAILS

Saturday  
April 22nd  
9 a.m.



This is a 4.5 mile walk around the Wekepeke reservoirs in Sterling. The hike offers a loop around the property and out through the town forest, with pretty views of the water including a small waterfall, and a side walk out to a small cow field. Rated moderate due to hills.

For more information or to register: [TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com)

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

# BIOMAP: BRINGING CONSERVATION TO COMMUNITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

with Alec Kaisand and Sarah Wasserman

BioMap Outreach Specialists, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wednesday April 26th 7 p.m.

Rutland Public Library 280 Main Street Rutland

OR via ZOOM



Join us for a presentation about the newly-enhanced BioMap from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. BioMap is an online resource that identifies critical land and waterways throughout Massachusetts most in need of conservation. BioMap's comprehensive approach identifies the most critical habitats for rare species, fish, and wildlife, along with intact and climate resilient ecosystems and landscapes. It includes regional connectivity data, statewide conservation priorities, and resources unique to each municipality for making informed local decisions. This presentation will cover what's new with BioMap, a live demonstration, and time for questions and discussion.

To register to view remotely via ZOOM  
contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)

NOTE: ZOOM link and info will be sent 24-36 hours prior to program.

## FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

### BIRDING MULBERRY & SYLVESTER STREETS, LEICESTER

Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>

7 a.m. - mid-day

Leader: Susan LaBree

508-826-2160

[susangoldens@charter.net](mailto:susangoldens@charter.net)



Meet behind Worcester Airport, on Mulberry Street, Leicester. The fields here can host Eastern Meadowlark, and warblers find the shrubby edges attractive. On Sylvester Street we'll walk a shady trail looking for woodland species.



*Photo by Anne Greene*



## FORBUSH BIRD CLUB



## BIRDING HIGH RIDGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>

7 a.m. - mid-day

Leader: Tom Pirro

978-874-5212

[tpirro2010@gmail.com](mailto:tpirro2010@gmail.com)

This large, historic property includes old fields, mature woods, wetlands, and a heron rookery. Please be prepared to walk. Meet at the East Gardner Road gated entrance where the road ends. Travel 3 miles north of the Route 2 /Route 140 intersection (Exit 92) via Town Farm Road/North Common Road. Turn left onto East Gardner Road, Westminster.

### MASS AUDUBON

To see April programs and classes, click [HERE](#)

All require registration and fee.