

April 2021



EARTH DAY 2021: WIN A NATIVE TREE FOR A PLACE NEAR YOU!

In honor of Earth Day, Ware River Nature Club will award one native tree (or a pair of native shrubs) for planting in a public space in central Worcester County. Here's how to enter the contest:

- Nominate a suitable park, common, or town property that is able to accept a small native tree or two native shrubs.
- Identify the type of tree and/or shrubs preferred and the reason for your choice.
- Describe the logistics and timing for planting. Great if you can line up volunteers to help dig!
- Describe a long-term maintenance plan, especially with regard to watering.



Send a message with the above information to warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com by midnight on Earth Day, April 22nd.

The winner will be selected by the WRNC Advisory Group in time for spring planting!

SPARK BIRDING

Spark Birding is offering a free program to encourage more people to explore birdwatching as a hobby and to learn the basics. The program is tailored to the New England region and includes a free online course, *Birding Essentials for New England*, that covers bird identification and behavior, essential gear, and our most common birds. The course was developed by noted author and naturalist Peter Alden, former president of Nuttall and Brookline Bird Clubs, with Christopher Bensley of Merrimack Valley Bird Club.

For more information or to sign up, visit <https://www.sparkbirding.com/getstarted>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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HOFFMAN BIRD CLUB-PITTSFIELD

Monthly Meeting via Zoom--

NEW DISCOVERIES IN SONGBIRD MIGRATION

by

Professor Bridget J.M. Stutchbury

Monday, April 5, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Photo by Doug Wipf



Each fall, billions of songbirds leave Canada on an epic journey to their far-away wintering grounds to tropical forests in Central and South America, where they live among toucans, howler monkeys, and jaguars. Dozens of species have experienced serious, long-term population declines that are driven in part by the threats that these birds face on migration and while in the tropics. But only recently has it been possible to track the migration of individual songbirds over part, or all, of their migration journey. Bridget talks about her research on uncovering the mysteries of songbird migration behaviour, and what this tells about the threats they face during their travels.

Bridget Stutchbury is a professor in the Department of Biology at York University, Toronto. She did her M.Sc. at Queen's University, her Ph.D. at Yale and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. Since the 1980s, she has studied migratory songbirds to understand their behavior, ecology and conservation but has also witnessed first-hand the shocking declines of many birds including wood thrushes, barn swallows and bobolinks. She studies the incredible migration journeys of songbirds and the many threats they face along the way. She is on the board of Wildlife Preservation Canada whose mission is to prevent animal extinctions. She is author of *Silence of the Songbirds* (2007) and *The Bird Detective* (2010) and was featured in the award-winning 2015 documentary *The Messenger*.

To join the program,
send a message to hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com, and a link will be sent to you.

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Webinar via ZOOM—

CREATING A HUMMINGBIRD PARADISE AT HOME

Tuesday, April 13th 4 p.m.

We'll discuss the basics of hummingbird biology and ecology, and how you can support hummingbirds right where you are.

Photo by Alan Rawle



Jordan Rutter, Director of Public Relations at ABC will be moderating the conversation with these experts:

- Sheri Williamson, author of *A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America* and *Attracting and Feeding Hummingbirds*
- David Wiedenfeld, Senior Conservation Scientist at American Bird Conservancy
- Tim Meehan, Quantitative Ecologist at the National Audubon Society, author of the study "Interacting with Hummingbirds at Home"

Jordan writes: "Last year, I was lucky to get a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at my flowering oregano! The plant is part of the window box herb garden I keep on my apartment balcony. It's not a big, elaborate, or costly setup, but it was enough to provide food for that beautiful, little 'hummer.' My tiny garden is proof that, whatever space you might have, wherever you are, you can support hummingbirds and enjoy their beauty!"

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6416159138849/WN_qPmvEMLrQRqXZDIKLFR9Aw?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=ec7941d5-5e8f-4aaa-b773-4b334616795a

MASS AUDUBON

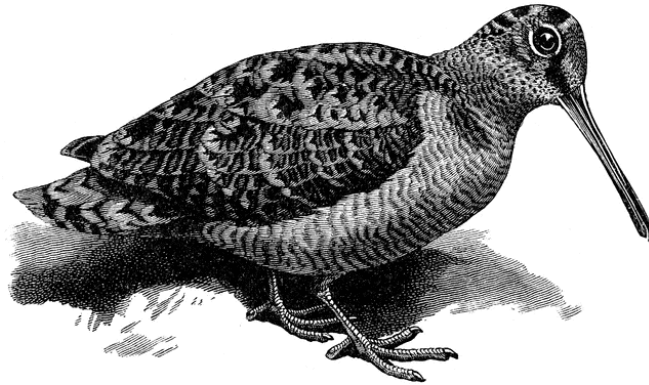
WOODCOCK WALK

with Alison O'Hare

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton
Tuesday, April 13th 7 -8:30 p.m.

For Adults

Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$20.00



Timberdoodles are arriving in fields and meadows near you! Join us as we look and listen for the incredible aerial courtship ritual of the American male woodcock. The distinctive call of the species and its dramatic flight display are among the earliest signs of spring. After a brief outdoor presentation on the natural history of the American Woodcock, we'll walk a short distance into one of the meadows to watch and listen for the show.

PLEASE NOTE: This program will be conducted in accordance with current State and Mass Audubon Covid-19 protocols.

Registration is required:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/wachusett-meadow/78545-woodcock-walk-for-adults>

ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

Monthly meeting via ZOOM—

BIRDING AND BEYOND IN CUBA

with

Paul Baicich and Soledad Pagliuca

Wednesday April 14th 7 p.m.

Join this program and enjoy “visiting” a number of key birding locations on the island --Viñales, Zapata, Guanahacabibes, Cayo Coco, Baracoa, Topes de Collantes, and Havana -- as well as examine opportunities for connecting with our counterparts in Cuba. We will look at fascinating birds, places, and people in terms of advancing bird-related education, conservation, and responsible eco-tourism. Our two presenters wish to convey to you some of the birds, nature, and potential on the island, opportunities that can be found at one of our country's closest neighbors.



Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PAz9lD3LTFq1LHXuRVal7g

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

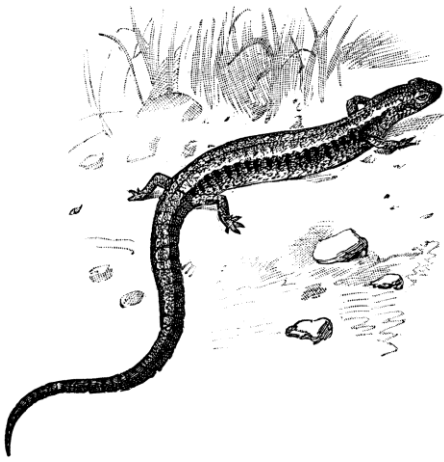
EARLY SPRING NATURE WALK IN PETERSHAM

Saturday April 17th 9:30 -12:30 a.m.



We'll choose a location for this slow-paced, exploratory walk depending upon number of participants, parking availability, and trail length/size. The Petersham area has a number of trails that traverse forested habitat punctuated by streams and wetlands. Besides keeping an eye out for early spring migrants such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Palm Warbler, we'll look for vernal pools and emerging plants, and try to identify trees and saplings by their early buds.

To sign up, contact warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com.
Postponed in the event of inclement weather.



MASS AUDUBON

AMPHIBIAN MIGRATION AND VERNAL POOL ECOLOGY

with Cindy Dunn

Assistant Sanctuary Director

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton

Saturday, April 17th 1- 3 p.m.

Members: \$20.00 Non-members: \$28.00

The annual migration of frogs and salamanders is a remarkable event, but habitat fragmentation and road traffic take an ever-increasing toll on local populations. Vernal pools are essential breeding habitat for migrating amphibians, and also require our stewardship and protection. Join us to meet some of our local species, explore some sanctuary vernal pools, and find out what you can do to help.

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/wachusett-meadow/78474-amphibian-migration-and-vernal-pool-ecology>

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

BIRDING LEICESTER AND PAXTON AREA

Saturday, April 24th 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 28th 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.

Zoom link TBA in mid-April.