



2021 ANNUAL MEETING OPEN TO ALL!

Our annual meeting events on February 28th are open to anyone who is interested.

Sure, we'd love to see you become a member:

(<http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/join-us.html>)

In fact, 2nd prize in the mystery photo quiz is a one-year Club membership.

But we're happy to have you celebrate with us as a Club friend.

THE AUCTION HAS BEGUN

One of our favorite annual meeting events is the fundraiser silent auction. This year it's still happening, and it's still a fundraiser to support our programs and field trips (and the technical needs accompanying them). It certainly will be silent since you can check it out on the web-site at your leisure. Featured are some great natural history books and nature art. Take a look!

Visit <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/auction.html> to view the slideshow and see bidding instructions. Contact warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com if you have something to donate.



PINK LADY'S SLIPPERS

Limited edition, signed

watercolor print

by

Barry Van Dusen

Auction item # 2

TAKE THE MYSTERY PHOTO QUIZ

Check out our challenging set of nature subject photographs—insects, plants, birds, animals, and a few “Can you name this location?” pictures. Prizes will be awarded. Visit <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/mystery-photo-quiz.html> to view the instructions and slide show.



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

We're excited and honored to host well-known naturalist, artist, and writer Julie Zickefoose who will join us from her home in Ohio for our event. Julie will introduce her professionally-produced video about her most recent book, *Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-Luck Jay* and will stay on with us after the video to answer questions. If you've never had the opportunity to meet Julie, consider tuning in for what promises to be an entertaining and heartwarming afternoon program.

Interested in reading the book before the program? We recommend buying directly from Julie here: <http://www.juliezickefoose.com> . Click on the picture of the book. Signed/inscribed copies are available. You don't get that from Amazon! (And an Amazon purchase means Julie receives zero commission.)



WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

2021 ANNUAL MEETING via ZOOM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28TH 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

12:30 p.m. Welcome

12:45 p.m. AUCTION Final PowerPoint show of our auction items along with current bids. (No bidding during this presentation.)
Final bids will be accepted until 7 p.m.

Short break

2:00 p.m. GUEST SPEAKER: JULIE ZICKEFOOSE
SAVING JEMIMA:
LIFE AND LOVE WITH A HARD-LUCK JAY



Short break

3:45 p.m. PowerPoint show of mystery photo quiz with answers.
Winners will be announced.



~ THANK YOU ~

to Dave Small and Athol Bird & Nature Club for making this event possible

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlduihrDksHdSBzNtQswl3NZFZUh1q1cZx>

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

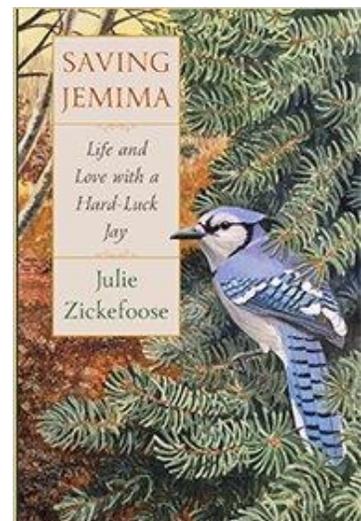
FEATURED PROGRAM—

SAVING JEMIMA: LIFE AND LOVE WITH A HARD-LUCK JAY with Julie Zickefoose



Naturalist/artist/writer Julie Zickefoose thinks of herself as an unsung, minor, rather dirty superhero. Her superpower: saving small, economically worthless wildlife that would otherwise die. An orphaned jay named Jemima was one such foundling. Spending nearly a year healing, studying and raising the young blue jay for release opened the door to their world for Julie. She began writing and illustrating *Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-luck Jay* immediately upon becoming her foster mother. More than a wildlife rehab story, it's the story of life, love and dealing with great loss; of finding grace and redemption in bonding with a wild bird.

Julie Zickefoose lives and works quietly on an 80-acre wildlife sanctuary in the back country of Whipple, Ohio. She is a prolific writer and painter and Contributing Editor to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. *Natural Gardening for Birds*, *Letters from Eden*, *The Bluebird Effect*, and *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest* are joined by *Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-Luck Jay*, the intimate story of how an orphaned bird can save a soul.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT February 12-15, 2021

Four WRNC members used a variety of approaches to look for birds during the GBBC count period. In addition to the backyard “staples” that keep our neighborhoods stocked with bird life—Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and the like—participants found some unexpected and sought-after species.



With foul weather predicted for the 15th, Ted (Rutland) and Wendy & Alan (Hardwick) opted to take their chances on the 13th, even though it was overcast and temperatures were in the low 20s F. Ted outlined a challenge: find as many species as possible at the home birdfeeders, but also try to add to the list by birding anywhere within town limits for an additional 2 hours. Scores were nearly tied; the Hardwick team (34) spotted more species, including a single Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Mockingbirds, a Northern Flicker, and Northern Ravens, but Ted (33) found

higher-scoring (harder-to-find) and somewhat more charismatic Horned Larks, Common Redpolls, Snow Buntings, and a Cooper’s Hawk.

On the 15th, Christy (Paxton) and Doug (Rutland) counted their feeder visitors but also included birds found on short side trips. Again, the scores were nearly tied and feeder species almost identical, but Doug (21) lucked out finding some Horned Larks and one accipiter, while Christy (20) earned 3 points for a rare-in-winter Gray Catbird found lurking in a bittersweet thicket near her home. And although it occurred the day before, Christy’s sighting of a Barred Owl at Rutland State Park was notable.



Northern Flicker by Alan Rawle

Horned Lark by Doug Wipf

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Cooper's Hawk by Ted Purcell

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**ZOOM WORKSHOP–
SHARPIE V. COOPER'S**
with Scott Sumner
Wednesday, February 24th
7- 8 p.m.

This will not be a battle of accipiters, rather Scott will cover the similarities and differences between these two birds of prey. Maybe after this session you will be better prepared to tell these two apart in the field and at the feeder.

HARVARD FOREST SEMINARS

**NOVEL SPECIES AND CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS:
UNDERSTANDING AND MITIGATING
HUMAN IMPACTS ON ECOSYSTEMS**

by **Bianca Lopez**

Thursday, February 25th 11 a.m. - noon

Bianca is a postdoc at UMass and Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC) working at the intersection of invasion ecology and climate change to inform land management. Bianca uses spatial analyses and information on species' traits to understand how people's actions (directly and indirectly) affect natural communities, especially the diversity and composition of plants in urban areas.

This seminar is free and open to the public; no pre-registration is required. For Zoom link or additional information, contact Josh Plisinski: jplisinski@fas.harvard.edu

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, March 9th 7 p.m. Athol Bird & Nature Club – Geology Division
ZOOM webinar –
MY MAGICAL DRIVE TO WORK: PELHAM DOME TO JURASSIC VALLEY
by Harry Sharbaugh

Wednesday, March 24th 7 p.m. Ware River Nature Club
ZOOM program –**THE BIRDS-OF-PARADISE PROJECT**
with Edwin Scholes
Curator of Video and Research Associate
at the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Don't forget to take a look at our FROM THE FIELD posts on the web-site:
<http://www.war Rivernatureclub.org/from-the-field>

Most recent posts are 1/28/21 *Members Art Gallery*
and

12/6/20 *Nature Provides Diversions for Fall, 2020*

If you wish, you may post a comment by clicking on the title of any post.



Snow Buntings by Anne Greene