



*** * * ANNOUNCEMENTS * * ***

WINNER OF MAY SCAVENGER HUNT CHALLENGE

Ted Purcell of Rutland submitted his photographs worth 42 points to win our second “virtual field trip” Scavenger Hunt. His prize was a choice of one of the many excellent, fine-quality books about nature, ecology, birding, and gardening which we recently acquired. Kudos to Ted for finding and capturing some challenging items on the list. Some of his photos are up on our web-site:

<http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/past-events-2019-2020.html>

A third outdoor scavenger hunt suitable for individuals, twosomes, or three people practicing suggested safety guidelines will be announced in June.

WEBINARS!

With the option of hosting monthly programs at Rutland Public Library unavailable to us due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are pleased to offer our very first Webinar on May 27th, the time slot of our customary monthly program. We’re hoping to host the originally-planned May program by Foster Parrots in June, using an as-yet-undecided remote format. Meanwhile, Joe Choiniere, one of the founders of WRNC, will present next week’s Webinar. We’re looking forward to his interesting perspective on plant observation. See UPCOMING EVENTS below for details.

FIELD TRIPS

We're hoping to start offering field trips again soon. We'll plan to visit uncrowded locations, limit the number of participants, and observe social distancing guidelines. Ideas for field outing locations and topics are always welcome. Write to warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com .

INVASIVES POSTER

If you'd like to help spread the word about the troublesome invasive properties of Garlic Mustard and Common Orange Daylilies, a poster suitable for printing and sharing is at <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/announcements.html>

BOBOLINKS AND BLUEBIRDS

It's that time of year again when birds get down to the business of nesting and rearing young. Ware River Nature Club is interested in monitoring the populations and breeding success—or lack thereof—of these two species in locations on central MA public lands. We are seeking volunteers to monitor the many nestboxes at High Ridge WMA in Westminister that are used by bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and House Wrens, as well as the fields there that are used by Bobolinks. Drop us a line if you'd like to help!

FINDING SANCTUARY

An Artist Explores the Nature of Mass Audubon

by **Barry Van Dusen**

with a foreword by **John Hanson Mitchell**

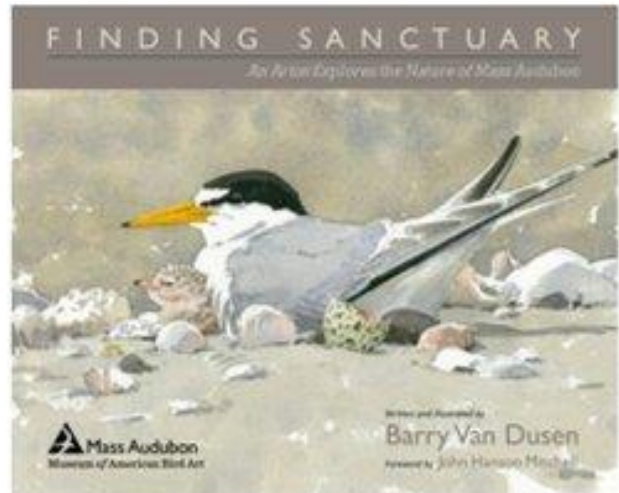
Over the course of four-and-a-half years, nature artist Barry Van Dusen visited all 61 of Mass Audubon's public wildlife sanctuaries, nature centers, and museums, producing drawings and paintings at each location. In this book you'll find many paintings of Barry's favorite subject—birds—along with landscapes, flowers and plants, butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, salamanders, turtles, frogs, and fish.

Follow Barry's travels and share in his adventures—from the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket to the mountain peaks of the Berkshires. You'll read about hatching turtles on Cape Cod, rare orchids in the Connecticut River Valley, and a bear encounter in a western Massachusetts forest.



In an introductory chapter, Barry shares the challenges and rewards of documenting nature first-hand, and describes how he uses his field sketches to develop more complex works back in the studio.

Birders, naturalists, conservationists, gardeners, artists, art appreciators, and all outdoor folks will find "sanctuary" in these pages.



Front Cover: Least Tern with Chick at Sampson's Island



May 2020

192 pages, 8 1/2 x 10 1/2"

**33 full-page color + 215 color + 108 b/w illus,
with endpaper maps**

Edition limited to 1,500

ISBN: 9780578640617

Hardcover: \$38.00

Order: <https://www.massaudubon.org/about-us/mass-audubon-shop>

 **Mass Audubon**
Museum of American Bird Art

* * * UPCOMING EVENTS * * *

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

ZOOM WEBINAR → **OVERLOOKED PLANTS**

with Joe Choiniere

Wednesday May 27th 7 p.m.

“In this unusual period, I have found myself spending much more time in the field, looking at nature, especially plants. Now with the spring season finally upon us, there are all those great wildflowers to seek out in familiar places. We all have our little calendars of what blooms when and where, and certainly don’t want to miss the spring beauty, trillium, or trout lily in their yearly and ephemeral blooming periods. Yet after two or three trips to see the marsh marigolds, perhaps a little boredom sets in for me and I begin to look around and beyond the known, for the lesser known---the ***overlooked plants***. This leads to many discoveries---“I remember this plant, I haven’t seen it in years,” moments. And I find when I mention underappreciated plants to participants in my nature classes, they’re often unaware that the plants even exist.

These overlooked plants are not rare, or even uncommon---they are often abundant species which escape our notice for various reasons. I find several possible rationales at play: 1) overlooked plants live in the same habitat as another very showy plant species and bloom at the same time; 2) they are small and inconspicuous---unexpected, really; 3) it might be that our search image just doesn’t exist for these species; and 4) quite possibly they may be just too difficult to identify.

This will be a program outlining a few of these plants and their natural histories. Don’t expect to hear about what you already know. Come ready to learn.”

Joe Choiniere is a lifelong naturalist with an special interest in the most common species of biota across many groups including fungi, lichens, mosses, ferns, vascular plants, moths, butterflies, birds, herps, and mammals. He has led and taught nature programs and courses for over 40 years for groups, organizations and individuals in both his personal work and for Mass Audubon. He has a BS degree in Natural History from the University of Massachusetts.

→ **Joseph Choiniere is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting** ←

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the nature of the ZOOM application, the moderator of this meeting cannot ensure that it is not being recorded by any of the attending parties. By clicking or dialing into this meeting you agree not to hold the moderator accountable if your picture or voice is circulated by one of the attendees.

JOIN MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85333702290>

Meeting ID: 853 3370 2290

.....
ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

ZOOM WEBINAR → **WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE:
NATIVE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS**
with Dan Jaffe

From bumblebees to monarch butterflies, pollinators are in the news these days. Large scale habitat-destruction, the overuse of pesticides, and climate change all play a role, but the question remains: what can the average person do? Join Dan Jaffe as we discuss what each and every one of us can do to help the pollinators. Which plants are the best to plant, what strategies can we follow to create robust pollinator habitat, and how do we do it all without losing the beauty and usability of the gardens we love?

Dan Jaffe earned a degree in botany from the University of Maine, an advanced certificate in Native Plant Horticulture and Design from Native Plant Trust (formally New England Wild Flower Society), and has years of nursery management and plant sales experience. He is passionate about ecological horticulture, building both sustainability and wildlife value into every landscape, and the foraging and cultivation of wild edible plants. He is the Horticulturalist and Propagator for Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary and the staff photographer. His book Native Plants for New England Gardens was released spring of 2018.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3P3JJX68QTuC7K_091D5tQ

STATUS OF OTHER LOCAL NATURE & OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES

WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

Events through 6/30/2020 are canceled

Please enjoy time outdoors with your household members.

During this time the portable restrooms are removed from the Mass Central Rail Trail to protect from spreading the virus. Please greet others on the trail with a smile or wave as you pass at a good distance. Do not pass closely or draw near to people or pets on the trail.

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

<http://forbushbird.org/events?view=calendar&month=05-2020>

Some **MASS AUDUBON** trails are open.

<https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/trails>

TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS—Properties that are open

<http://www.thetrustees.org/COVID19/open.html>

MASSACHUSETTS STATE PARKS/DEPT. of CONSERVATION & RECREATION

Massachusetts state parks and other natural resources managed by DCR remain open and accessible to the public.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-state-parks-covid-19-update>

MASS WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management Areas are open, fishing is open, and trout stocking will continue. <https://www.mass.gov/news/masswildlife-covid-19-response>