

May 2022



* * * **ANNOUNCEMENTS** * * *

ANNUAL MEETING & SILENT AUCTION

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our annual meeting and fundraiser auction a fine success!

Speakers Tom Tynning, a naturalist and herp expert, and Alexxia and Michaela Conder of [Turtle Rescue League](#) were outstanding, combining humor and compassion with enlightening facts. The auction raised more than \$450. A portion of the proceeds was donated to Turtle Rescue League. We are grateful for their outstanding efforts on behalf of the turtles of Massachusetts.

Before we know it, it will be time to start plans for a special celebration of YEAR 10 in the life of WRNC. The ten-year anniversary will take place in late winter 2023 at a new venue.

It's not too early to send us any suggestions and ideas for making the 2023 gala an enjoyable and educational gathering. Please send thoughts about potential speakers; nature quizzes, games, or challenges; venue location; or anything else that could enrich the annual meeting experience to warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

AS AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK SPREADS, VIGILANCE AND BIRD-FRIENDLY ACTIONS NEEDED

American Bird Conservancy provides simple steps to help birds now:
[ABCBIRDS.ORG Avian flu article](#)

NEW POST ON WEB-SITE

Our most recent FROM THE FIELD post features birds of prey:

<http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/from-the-field>

WATCH FOR TURTLES ON THE ROAD

Thank you to *Mass Wildlife Monthly*, the online newsletter, for additional turtle news: Spring is the time when hibernating turtles emerge and start to travel in search of food and a mate. Road mortality can have a big impact on turtle populations. Slow down and stay alert to protect turtles on the move this spring. To read more:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/why-did-the-turtle-cross-the-road>

To subscribe to receive *Mass Wildlife Monthly* or to view past newsletters, go to <https://www.mass.gov/lists/masswildlife-monthly-news>



Photo by Doug Wipf

As vegetation grows in along the old roadway the trail gets a bit harder to manage; mowing takes place late in the season. In addition, the short climb to a view of the kestrel box and open field is steep. Ticks are present here as they are everywhere in the Ware River Watershed.

We're the first to admit that this site is a monitoring challenge! The reward is an opportunity for quiet observation of birds that prefer the open, shrubby habitat, such as Indigo Buntings, various warblers, Tree Swallows, and Eastern Bluebirds, as well as a peaceful, unobstructed view of open sky—think raptors in flight!—from the hilltop.

More detailed information is available to anyone interested in this effort.

Contact warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com .

VOLUNTEER WANTED: NESTBOX MONITOR IN BARRE

At a small DCR parcel called Riis Hill, on Route 62 in Barre, WRNC volunteers and others have placed a small number of bluebird/swallow nestboxes and one kestrel box. In addition, we're monitoring for the presence of Bobolinks at the site. We're seeking a volunteer who can make observations there 2-4 times monthly, May-August. The boxes and surrounding landscape may be viewed with binoculars where close access is difficult.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

EARLY-BIRD FRIDAY MORNING BIRDING

with Jeff Johnstone

FRIDAYS: May 13th & 20th 7:00 a.m.



Meet Jeff at Miller's River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol before heading out to explore the North Quabbin area for spring migrants.



These are great opportunities for novice birders to learn from one of our best field naturalists. Experienced birders will enjoy sharing the walk, too.

Come for as long as your schedule allows. Severe weather cancels.

COVID precautions recommended.

Info: Jeff Johnstone 978-249-9052.



May is for the birds!

Mass Audubon is offering many birding programs (on-line) and field trips at their Sanctuaries in our region throughout the month. Except for the fundraiser Birdathon sessions on May 14th, class/trip prices range from \$15-50 for members, \$20-60 for non-members.

[VIEW THE CATALOG](#)



Photo by Alan Rawle

EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST



BIRDING WALK AT WENDEMUTH MEADOW

25 Bates Street

North Brookfield

Friday, May 13th 8 a.m.

Leader: Jeff Smith

Wendemuth Meadow is a pastoral property featuring a diversity of habitats including hayfield, wet meadow, and stream surrounded by patchy woods and shrubland. The property is actively farmed; hay is harvested after Bobolinks and other birds have completed their nesting cycle within the grasslands in early summer.

To sign up, contact jcusworth@eqlt.org



FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

BIRDING AT DCR
KRISTOFF FARM
STERLING

Sunday May 15th 8 a.m.

Leader: Wendy Howes



We'll walk about 2 miles on the old farm roads looking for birds of the fields and woodlands. We can expect a diverse mix of returning short-distance and neotropical migrants. Meeting place is at the end of Merrill Road, off Route 140, in Sterling (¼ mile north of the Route 190 intersection).

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER by sending a message to



WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

IDENTIFYING FOREST TREES AND SHRUBS IN SPRING

with Herm Eck

Forester for Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River Watershed

Coldbrook Road, Oakham

Saturday May 21st 9 a.m. – mid-day



Join us for a casual educational program and walk with Herm to learn identifying features of some common trees and shrubs of the Ware River Watershed. From our meeting place at a Mass Central Rail trail parking area, we'll have a choice of trails to explore. Old historic sites, spring wildflowers, and singing birds may partially distract us from our learning objective!

Dress for the weather and be prepared for biting insects.

Bring beverages and/or snacks if you wish.

We'll postpone or cancel in the event of foul weather.

To register and for specific directions to the meeting place, contact

warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com

PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – PRINCETON HIKES!

HIKE AT TROUT
BROOK
CONSERVATION
AREA, HOLDEN
Wednesday
May 25th 1 p.m.



This will be an easy-moderate four-mile hike.



HIKE AT
WACHUSETT
MOUNTAIN.
PRINCETON
Saturday May 28th
9 a.m.

This moderate-to-difficult hike of four miles on the east side of the mountain will allow some time to enjoy the unique wildflowers of High Meadow.

For more information or to register:
TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com