



October 2021

\* \* \* **ANNOUNCEMENTS** \* \* \*

**STATE AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS DISCOVER INVASIVE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY POPULATION IN WORCESTER COUNTY**



Adult Spotted Lanternfly  
Photo by Lawrence Barringer, PDA

The MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) announced on 9/28/21 that a small, established, and breeding population of the invasive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) was detected in Worcester County, in the city of Fitchburg. For further details regarding what is currently known about this population in Fitchburg and MDAR's response, [read MDAR's press release](#).

**What Should You Do?**

Residents and professionals living and working across the Commonwealth should learn the life stages of the spotted lanternfly and be able to identify their eggs, immatures, and adults. At this time, it is particularly valuable to learn how to ID spotted lanternfly adults and egg masses. If you think you have found any of the life stages of this insect in Massachusetts, [report them immediately here](#).

In particular, if you know of tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)\* growing nearby, check that preferred host for adults and egg masses and report anything suspicious using the link above. That said, spotted lanternfly adults and eggs masses (and immatures when active) may be found just about anywhere.

\*The tree of heaven is a rapidly growing deciduous tree native to China and Taiwan that has become a widespread invasive species across North America. Learn how to identify this invasive tree here: <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>.

### **Should You Treat?**

At this time, the only established (breeding) population of spotted lanternfly in Massachusetts is in a small area of Fitchburg. Therefore, there is no reason to preemptively treat for this insect in other areas of Massachusetts at this time. If you suspect you have found spotted lanternfly in additional locations, please report it immediately to MDAR at the link above. If you are living and working in the Fitchburg area, please be vigilant and continue to report anything suspicious.

### **What is at Risk?**

The spotted lanternfly feeds on over 103 different species of plants, including agriculturally significant crops (apple, peach, grape, etc.) and trees and shrubs that are important in our managed landscapes and natural areas. Due to various factors, spotted lanternflies are also a significant public nuisance once they become established.

For more Information

- [UMass Extension: Spotted Lanternfly fact sheet](#)
- [MDAR's Spotted lanternfly fact sheet](#)
- [Nursery Best Management Practices](#) (January 2021)
- [Checklist for Residents in or near Infested Areas](#)



Nymphs of SLF, from left to right, youngest to oldest. Photo by Teá Kesting-Handly

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

## EARLY BIRD BIRDING WITH JEFF JOHNSTONE

Fridays at 7:30 a.m.  
October 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Join Jeff for this look at our local fall migrating birds.

A meet-up location will be decided from where the group will head out to explore the North Quabbin area for fall migrants and regular resident 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.

Call to reserve your spot: Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.



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### PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE--PRINCETON HIKES!



## HIKE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MT. WACHUSETT

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

This hike will be about 4 miles in length. It won't be to the summit but rather on some of the quieter trails in order to avoid the crowds but still provide some good views.

If the sun comes out it should be a pretty hike!

To register: [TrailAroundPrincetonMA@GMail.com](mailto:TrailAroundPrincetonMA@GMail.com)

## FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

# BIRDING QUABOAG POND AND VICINITY

Sunday, October 10th 7:30 a.m. – noon

Leader: Rodney Jenkins 508-757-5010 [paxtonfarmer140@charter.net](mailto:paxtonfarmer140@charter.net)

Quaboag Pond can be an excellent spot for waterfowl not usually seen inland.

We will also visit nearby fields and stop at the Quaboag Bridge.

Waterproof footwear is advised.

Meet at the Lake Quaboag parking lot on Shore Road in Brookfield

Group size is limited. Please contact Rodney by 5 p.m. on 10/9, to register.



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## HARVARD FOREST SEMINARS

# PLANNING LAND FOR DEEP DECARBONIZATION

by David Hsu

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. – noon



The world must rapidly shift to clean energy sources in order to avoid causing additional catastrophic damage to the climate. While there are many fierce debates about the nature, speed, and cost of the necessary energy transition, there is also fairly good agreement about what needs to be built to enable deep decarbonization throughout the United States.

Free and open to the public; no pre-registration is required.

For additional information or for ZOOM link, contact Josh at

[jplisinski@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jplisinski@fas.harvard.edu)

[Join seminar online](#) on 10/13 at 11 a.m.



ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

ZOOM Program—  
**VOYAGERS, VISITORS AND HOME**  
by Dale Monette  
Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

Join Dale Monette for this window on the world of New England wildlife. The program focuses on birds that visit New England just for a stopover during migration, birds that spend months here, birds that show up for only a few days far out of their range, or birds and mammals that live here and call New England home. Dale's book of the same title was five years in the making and represented many miles hiked, not to mention the gallons of blood lost to mosquitos in ponds and swamps! Here are the images and the stories behind the project. From great gray owls to right whales, here is what Dale found in his travels around New England.



Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OkAyoe2xSzK-lyjl8nxOUw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OkAyoe2xSzK-lyjl8nxOUw)

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FORBUSH BIRD CLUB



**BIRDING WACHUSETT  
RESERVOIR & VICINITY**  
Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 7 a.m.

Leader: Kevin Bourinot (978-376-1498)  
[kevin.bourinot@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.bourinot@gmail.com)

Locations include River Road/Thomas Basin, Muddy Pond, the Waushacum Lakes, and several Reservoir gates. Meet at the corner of River Road and Thomas Street in West Boylston.

Please pre-register with the leader.

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

# EXPLORING FALL FUNGI

with Joe Choiniere

BARRE FALLS DAM, HUBBARDSTON/BARRE

Sunday, October 17<sup>TH</sup> 1-4 p.m.



Our persistent summer rains have fueled widespread mushroom fruiting which has continued into the fall. On this October walk we may encounter *Amanita*, *Russula*, *Lactarius* and other common groups, and also some of the more mid- and late-fall groups like *Clitocybe* and *Hygrophorus*.

**Face masks required for this event.**

Besides your face mask you may wish to bring magnifying lens, camera, and/or a field guide if you have one.

**Number of participants is limited. Pre-register:**

[warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)

ALLEN BIRD CLUB-SPRINGFIELD

BIRDING QUABBIN  
RESERVOIR  
BELCHERTOWN

Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 8 – 11 a.m.

Leaders: Tim Carter 413-323-0601 and  
Beth Spirito 413-348-7447



Looking for ducks, loons, grebes, eagles, and late migrant songbirds.  
Meet at the Visitor's Center off Route 9 at 8:00 a.m.

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FORBUSH BIRD CLUB



BIRDING HIGH RIDGE  
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
AREA

WESTMINSTER/GARDNER

Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m.

Leader: Tom Pirro 978-874-5212  
tpirro2010@gmail.com

We will look for late migrants and new arrivals.

This richly diverse habitat includes old fields, mature woods, and wetland areas.  
Directions: From Westminster Center, turn onto Bacon St. Drive 0.6 mile and bear  
left at the fork on to Overlook Rd. Continue to the parking area before the gate.

Please contact the leader to pre-register.

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

# AVIAN RESPONSE TO A LARGE-SCALE TORNADO IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Drew Vitz, State Ornithologist  
Wednesday October 27<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.  
Rutland Public Library

On June 1, 2011 a large tornado cut a 40-mile path of destruction from Westfield to Charlton in south-central Massachusetts. This natural disturbance heavily damaged the existing mature forest and gave rise to a substantial amount of young forest habitat. To document the avian response to this rare event, MassWildlife and partners deployed automated recording units (ARUs) during the nesting period to record bird songs in areas that were impacted by or adjacent to the tornado's path. Drew will tell us about the outcome of this effort, the bird species that showed up as the forest began to regenerate, and about species diversity in young forest habitat.

