

September 2021



* * * **ANNOUNCEMENTS** * * *

MONTHLY PROGRAMS AT RUTLAND LIBRARY ARE ON AGAIN!

On the autumnal equinox, which falls on September 22nd this year, the Club will resume monthly in-person educational programs. Kicking off the season is Princeton artist Barry Van Dusen, and we're really looking forward to his lively and beautifully-illustrated talk. Great programs have been lined up for October and November, too. We're optimistic and crossing our fingers for circumstances allowing us to go forward. Health guidelines and requirements of the library as well as state mandates will be followed.



We recommend that all who choose to attend are vaccinated. If protocol for indoor events is the same as when this newsletter is being written, masks may be required; and/or we can open the meeting room windows as well as take advantage of the large space to allow social distancing.

Unfortunately, while we were able to offer remote viewing on the ZOOM platform when guest speakers were in front of their own computers, we currently don't have the technical ability to offer the monthly programs via ZOOM. If you or someone you know can help set this up, contact warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

Watercolor painting of Red Admiral at Woodwalton Fen by Barry Van Dusen

SORROWFUL INCIDENT AT FOSTER PARROTS SANCTUARY



In March, 2020, the coronavirus pandemic brought our monthly programs and educational presentations to a halt. We were sorry to have to cancel the scheduled talk by two dedicated staff members of Rhode Island-based Foster Parrots Ltd.

Although we had hoped to reschedule the program, the Sanctuary experienced a tragic event on April 1, 2021 when a devastating fire destroyed their facility. The lives of 95 beloved animals were lost. The website states: "Each [of the animals] had beautiful and unique personalities and were loved dearly by our staff and volunteers. All of the surviving animals are currently safe and stable. We have a long road ahead as we continue to care for our residents and begin rebuilding from the ground up. Our entire sanctuary facility will need to be rebuilt."

A fall fundraiser and memorial event will take place in Berlin, MA on October 2nd. To learn more, go to <https://www.fosterparrots.com/>

A poster for a fall fundraiser and memorial event. The background is a photograph of a red tractor in a field with trees in the distance under a blue sky with clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.

PLEASE JOIN US

FALL FUNDRAISER AND MEMORIAL

FEATURING:

- LIVE MUSIC BY WILL EVANS
- DELICIOUS VEGAN & VEGETARIAN FARE
- OPEN BEER & WINE BAR
- RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION
- GUEST NON-PROFITS
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

CORDELIA'S FARM
228 PLEASANT STREET
BERLIN, MA 01503

OCTOBER 2, 2021
12 PM to 5 PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

BIRD-FRIENDLY FOREST WEBINAR SERIES

An upcoming webinar series will address best practices for habitat restoration and forest management for birds in New England, with a focus on at-risk species. Bird-friendly Forestry Webinars are open to Regional Conservation Partnership Leaders, Partners, and Forestry and Conservation Professionals. Join Highstead, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon representatives from New York and New England, and the Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative for the upcoming Bird-friendly Forestry webinars focused on best practices in habitat restoration and forestry management for birds in New England, with a focus on at-risk species.

Contact kblake@highstead.net if you have questions.

<https://highstead.net/insights/new-bird-friendly-forestry-webinars-to-support-new-england-birds/>

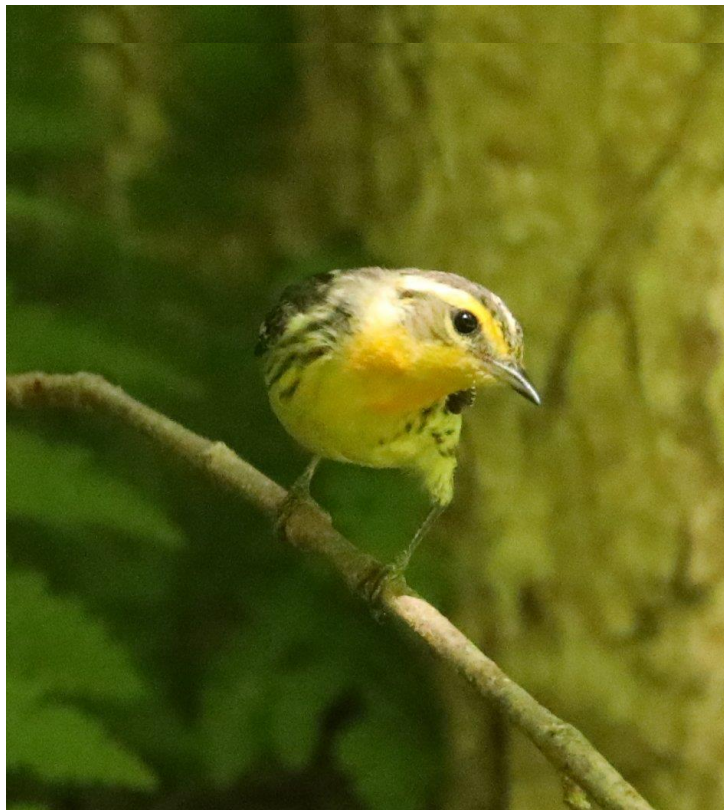


Photo by Alan Rawle

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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.
September 10th, 17th, 24th
October 1st, 8th, 15th

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.



FORBUSH BIRD CLUB



BIRDING WACHUSETT MEADOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Goodnow Road, Princeton

Saturday, September 4th 7:30 a.m. – noon

Leader: Joan Gallagher [joan.snowbird@gmail.com]

Join us to look for the earliest fall migrants along with resident species.

MASS AUDUBON

Online program—

IDENTIFYING HAWKS IN FLIGHT

Thursday September 9th 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Paul M. Roberts

Members: \$20.00 Non-members: \$24.00



Photo by Alan Rawle

Every autumn millions of hawks migrate south, providing the best opportunities to see them in flight. However, identifying hawks in flight is very different from seeing them close-up in photos. This online presentation will introduce you to the eleven most commonly seen hawks in New England, providing the 'keys' and a few tricks for you to begin identifying them at a distance on your own.

By the end of the course, you'll know where and when to look for them,
and how to identify what you find.

Paul Roberts has been studying hawks, their migration, and identification for several decades. He founded the Eastern Mass Hawk Watch (1976) and is past president of the NorthEast Hawk Watch.

Registration is required:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/79331-identifying-hawks-in-flight-online>

PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE--PRINCETON HIKES!

HIKING THE BARRE FALLS DAM AREA

Saturday September 11th 9 a.m.

This will be a long hike of 8.2 miles with about half on some pretty sections of the Midstate Trail and the rest on gravel roads leading back to the old Rutland Prison Camp. We will cross both and East and West branches of the Ware River and will also stop by the Rutland-Hubbardston-Barre corner marker (Witness Stone) on our way around the loop.

To register for this hike:

TrailAroundPrincetonMA@GMail.com

MASS AUDUBON

Online program—

FALL BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Instructor: Eduardo del Solar

Three Saturdays: September 11th, 18th, 25th 10:00 a.m. - noon

Members: \$160.00 Non-members: \$185.00

Learn how to move beyond in-focus branches and out-of-focus birds in this hands-on online bird photography workshop with expert avian photographer Eduardo del Solar. Improve your technical and artistic photography skills by practicing on song birds, warblers, and seashore birds during fall migration.

Classes focus on the skills needed to capture birds in flight, and with portrait, environmental, behavioral, and artistic modes. Skills practice will take place between classes, followed up with sharing and reviewing with the class. Processing and tweaking images using a raw converter like Adobe Lightroom will be covered.

Each student will also receive one additional hour of individual instruction.

DSLR and Mirrorless cameras with full auto and manual functions and telephoto capabilities are ideal for this class. All skill levels welcome although some knowledge of advanced camera functions is helpful.

Registration is required:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/79633-fall-bird-photography-online>



ABC Webinar

Raptors Are Heading South — Get Ready for Fall Migration!



Speakers:

- **Dr. Laurie J. Goodrich, Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science, Hawk Mountain**
- **John Sammler, Education Program Manager, Raptor Center, with live raptor**
- **Joanna Eckles, Bird City Americas Coordinator, American Bird Conservancy**
- **EJ Williams, Southeast Region Vice President, American Bird Conservancy**

Wednesday September 15th 4 p.m.

Peak raptor migration is almost here! Are you ready to observe hawks, eagles, falcons, and more, heading South? In this webinar, you'll learn when and where to find migrating raptors this fall. You'll also get an up-close look at a live raptor on camera and learn more about these birds' distinctive features and amazing abilities. And, since some raptor populations are in decline, you'll learn what ABC is doing to conserve them and what you can do to help.

If you can't make it, you can still RSVP to get the recording sent directly to you after the event.

To register for this ZOOM presentation click on title below:

[Webinar: Raptors Are Heading South — Get Ready for Fall Migration!](#)

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB



ALMOST-AUTUMN NATURE HIKE WARE RIVER WATERSHED BARRE Saturday September 18th 9 a.m.

Join us for a hike of about 3 ½ miles on old roadways in the Ware River Watershed in Barre.

On the way to our destination--Riverside Cemetery--we'll watch for migrant birds that are still on the move as well as late butterflies, interesting insects, fungi, and whatever else grabs our attention. The walk is over mostly-flat terrain through wooded areas.

Some notes of interest about the cemetery may be found at:

<https://heritagezen.blogspot.com/2010/09/tombstone-tuesday-jacob-riis-riverside.html>

To sign-up, contact warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com



Photos by Doug Wipf

MASS AUDUBON

BIRD MIGRATION AT BROWN HILL
WACHUSETT MEADOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
PRINCETON

Instructor: Alison O'Hare

Sunday September 19th 1- 3 p.m.

Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$14.00

September is the time of year when birds are moving south.

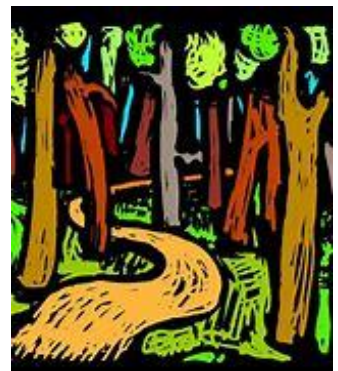
The destination on this hike is Brown Hill, at 1,312 feet the highest elevation on the Sanctuary. While at the summit, take in the view of one of the possible flight paths followed by hawks as they fly over Wachusett Mountain. There will be a short discussion of how to differentiate hawks in flight. Throughout the program, we'll also be on the lookout for other migrating birds, including fall warblers, sparrows, and more. Expect a moderately strenuous walk of approximately three miles.

Registration is required:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/wachusett-meadow/79707-bird-migration-at-brown-hill>

PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE--PRINCETON HIKES!

**SENIOR HIKE AT
LEOMINSTER STATE FOREST
Wednesday September 22nd 10 a.m.**



This hike of about 3 miles will take the group past the pretty Crow Hill Ponds and maybe up to the bottom of the Crow Hill cliffs.

To register: TrailAroundPrincetonMA@GMail.com

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

HOME AND AWAY: WANDERINGS OF A NATURE ARTIST

with Barry Van Dusen

Wednesday September 22nd 7 p.m.

Rutland Public Library, 280 Main Street, Rutland



In this illustrated talk, nature artist Barry Van Dusen will take us on trips around the corner and across the globe. Come along to see some spectacular scenery, meet some interesting people, and, of course, see some good birds! Barry will share his experiences as Artist-in-Residence at several museums and botanic gardens around New England. We'll then accompany him and a team of international artists as they travel to far-off destinations with the Artists for Nature Foundation-- the fenlands of England, the coastal forests of Peru, and a bird migration hotspot in Israel. Finally, we'll visit Maine, with stops at the Rangeley Lakes region and Acadia National Park.

Barry will be offering for sale original watercolors, notecards, and prints.

Barry W. Van Dusen is an internationally recognized wildlife artist living in central Massachusetts. His articles and paintings have been featured in Bird Watcher's Digest, Birding, and Yankee magazines, and he has illustrated a variety of natural-history books and pocket guides.

In 1994, Barry was elected a full member of London's Society of Wildlife Artists. His work has been exhibited regularly in the prestigious Birds in Art Exhibition (Wausau, Wisconsin), as well as in many galleries in the United States and Europe. At the invitation of the Artists for Nature Foundation, Barry has traveled to Spain, Ireland, England, Israel, India and Peru, working alongside other wildlife artists to raise money for conservation of threatened habitats.

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

BIRDING BOLTON FLATS WMA AND VICINITY

Sunday September 26th 7 a.m.

Leader: Kevin Bourinot

(978-376-1498) kevin.bourinot@gmail.com

In late September, the weedy fields attract a wide variety of species.

Meet at the parking lot on Route 117

in Lancaster, ¼ mile west of the junction of Route 117 and 110.

Please wear waterproof knee-high boots.



**Registration Now Open for the
2022 Northeast Wildlife Trackers Conference**

https://rowe.center/take-a-walk-on-the-wild-side-tracking-animals-in-rows-woods/?mc_cid=5b994aa6e5&mc_eid=424da69a10