

September 2022



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

**HAWK COUNTING ENTHUSIASTS NEEDED!**

Are you someone who has a more than casual interest in raptors? Do you look forward to watching hawks and other birds of prey as they migrate through our area every fall? Would you consider spending some dedicated hours--3-4 hours per day, one or more days per week—observing and counting migrating raptors from a stationary location in Barre? Hawk-counting season has already begun, so if you're interested you can start right away!

In 2002, Bart Kamp set up an official hawk watch site at Barre Falls Dam, and data collection began. Donna Schilling soon joined the effort and was hooked, so much so that her interest and enthusiasm continues. Through the years there has been an ever-changing crew of fellow watchers. But as is the case with so many volunteer projects, attrition has been significant, and the BFD hawk watch site is now rarely staffed. Donna and others acknowledge that they can be on-site in spirit this year, but not in person to do the actual counting.

Here's a general idea of how it works: observers commit to watching and counting at the designated Barre site (there is the possibility that the viewing location may be moved a short distance) during prime daytime hours when weather conditions are suitable. Number of hours per week can be flexible, but the more, the better. Coverage is needed September through October, and into November if possible. Bird numbers are then reported on-line via Hawk Migration Association of North America's Hawkcount web-site.



*Northern Harrier*

*Photo by Alan Rawle*

Experienced hawk watchers will tell you that there are terrific highs and terrific lows, both in numbers and diversity of migrants and in the moods of the observers! The best days bring comfortable weather, an opportunity to enjoy a picnic lunch and other birds and birding companions that might appear at the site, along with a steady stream of southbound raptors. The not-so-thrilling days tend to feature erratic or cold weather combined with a scarcity of birds on the move. But all observations, or the lack thereof, are a great contribution to our body of knowledge about populations and migratory pathways and trends.

Would you like to give it a try? Contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com) and we'll connect you to the local experts!

To learn more about the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration, go to [www.hmana.org](http://www.hmana.org).

By searching [hawkwatch.org](http://hawkwatch.org) you can find all the numbers and observation notes from the Barre hawk watch from 2002 through April, 2022.

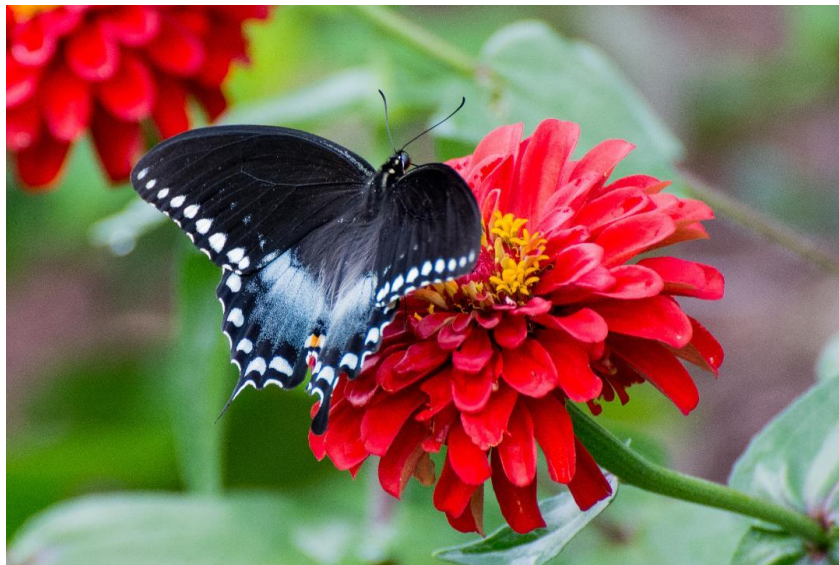


## **SPRING “FROM THE FIELD” WEB PAGE NOW POSTED**

From time to time our webmaster posts seasonal photos with a special theme. The most recent post hearkens back to early spring, with a look at short-lived wildflowers and insects. Visit <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/from-the-field>

Did you know you can leave comments regarding these posts? Below each at the left-hand margin is a small *O* Comments notation. By clicking on it you'll have the option of writing something to share.

We welcome your photographs, artwork, and nature anecdotes and hope you will contribute. This is YOUR Club! Send to [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)



*Spicebush Swallowtail on zinnia*

*Photo by Bill Platenik*

## **MOTUS TRACKING STATION INSTALLED IN HARDWICK**

East Quabbin Land Trust's Mandell Hill Preserve in Hardwick now boasts of being part of the MOTUS Wildlife Tracking Network. Scientists across the northeast that are exploring the migration patterns of all sorts of critters are collaborating to get the real-time data on where their study creatures are traveling to and from. The MOTUS receiver can “hear” the birds, bats, and insects up to 10 miles away! EQLT is excited to be part of this collaboration that will help managers and policy makers with important decisions.

To learn more about this project and/or explore data, visit <https://motus.org/>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### MASS AUDUBON



#### Online program— **IDENTIFYING HAWKS IN FLIGHT**

with Paul Roberts

**Thursday**

**September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Members: \$20**

**Non-members: \$24**

Every autumn millions of hawks migrate south, providing the best opportunities to see them in flight. However, identifying soaring hawks at a distance 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 and a few tricks for you to identify them at a distance on your own. By the end of the presentation, you'll know where and when to look for them, and how to identify what you find.

Paul M. 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.

Pre-registration is required.

[REGISTER](#)



ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

## EARLY BIRD BIRDING

with Jeff Johnstone

Fridays: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. - around noon



*Photo by Alan Rawle*

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

Call him to reserve your spot: 978-249-9052

## WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

# IDENTIFYING GOLDENROD AND THE INSECTS THAT LOVE IT

North Common Meadow  
Petersham

Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>  
9 a.m. – noon



*Photo by Doug Wipf*

Join us for a collaborative learning opportunity as we put our heads together to distinguish different species of goldenrod and, while we're at it, the various insects that are using it as a source of pollen or nectar. This will be a slow, easy walk. Bring your favorite field guides, apps, binoculars, and camera. After we make our best efforts in the field for a couple of hours, we'll retreat to the Petersham Country Store and/or Petersham Common for lunch (bring your own if you wish) to study photographs and plant specimens.

No insects will be collected!

To sign up, contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)

PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
PRINCETON HIKES!

# NIGHT HIKE

## WACHUSETT MEADOW SANCTUARY

### PRINCETON

Saturday September 10th

7:30 p.m.

Leader: Karen Rossow



The moon is full! This will be a 3-mile easy-to-moderate hike with headlamps.

For more information or to register: [TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com)

MASS AUDUBON

# HIKE TO BROWN HILL WACHUSETT MEADOW SANCTUARY, PRINCETON

**Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> 1-3 p.m.**

**Leader: Alison O'Hare**

**Members: \$15 Non-members \$20**



*Immature Scarlet Tanager*

*Watercolor by Barry Van Dusen*

**Watch and listen for any migrating birds, including warblers, sparrows, and hawks as you hike to the summit of Brown Hill, the highest point on the sanctuary. At the top, we'll scan a flight path often used by hawks as they fly over Wachusett Mountain during their annual migration to Central and South America. Learn about seasonal raptor and songbird movements and how different birds accomplish this amazing feat. Expect a moderately strenuous walk of approximately three miles over hilly and sometimes rocky terrain.**

**Registration is required.**

**[REGISTER](#)**



PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
PRINCETON HIKES!

HIKE: KRASHES FIELD  
TO PEABODY BEAVER POND  
Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.

An easy-to-moderate hike along Princeton Land Trust trails.  
We want to show off our new benches!

For more information or to register:  
[TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrailaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com)



*Photo by Alan Rawle*

ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

# SEASONS OF THE LOON

with Jillian Whitney

Wildlife Biologist

DCR Division of Watershed Protection-Natural Resource Section

Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

Miller's River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol\*



*Photo by Doug Wipf*

Jillian will present a lively and informative program  
about these charismatic birds  
and how they are faring in our region.

*\*This program may also be available via ZOOM. Check  
<https://atholbirdclub.org/> for updates.*

## WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB



*Photo by Doug Wipf*

# BIRDING & NATURE WALK MOOSE BROOK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA BARRE Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.- noon

This leisurely walk will take us through a short segment of wooded brookside habitat before the trail leads uphill along a shrubby powerline area with some boggy edges. The trail then meanders downhill to more woods, open fields, and a roadside pond. We should encounter a variety of migrant birds as well as some common residents, and we'll keep our eyes open for dragonflies and other insects.

A variety of shrubs at this spot provide an opportunity to practice shrub identification skills.

Bring binoculars, field guides, and camera, and snacks/beverages if you wish. We'll cancel or postpone if it rains.

To sign up, contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com)



MASS AUDUBON

Online  
Program—  
**THE  
SCIENCE  
OF FALL**

with Tia Pinney

Education  
Coordinator/Senior  
Naturalist

Wednesday

September

21st

7:30 -9 p.m.

Members \$25

Non-members \$30



New England is known for its breathtaking color as leaves transition from summer green to vibrant yellows, oranges, and reds. Learn more about what's happening outdoors as the summer turns to fall, days get shorter, and nights get colder. What do these changes mean to the plants and animals in our ecosystem as we approach winter?

Registration is required.

[REGISTER](#)





*Sandhill Crane family in Hardwick September 3, 2022*

*Photo by Alan Rawle*

## PRINCETON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – PRINCETON HIKES!



# HIKE AT LEOMINSTER STATE FOREST

Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>  
9 a.m.

A hike of 4-5 miles, easy-to-moderate,  
on trails that the group  
hasn't previously explored

For more information or to register:

[TrilaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com](mailto:TrilaroundprincetonMA@gmail.com)

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB  
Our monthly educational programs resume!

# PICKING YOUR BATTLES WITH INVASIVE PLANTS

with Karro Frost

Plant Restoration Biologist

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.

Rutland Public Library, 280 Main Street, Rutland



Many of us are chagrined to discover a vast array of non-native invasive plants in our yards and gardens—Oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard, glossy buckthorn, Japanese honeysuckle. . . the list goes on!

Where do we start if we want to tackle these invaders?

Karro will discuss ways to approach the invasives on your property and prioritize which to control first, as well as discuss the new invasives that are, unfortunately, on the horizon.

This will be an in-person presentation.

Please contact [warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com) if you would like to register to attend via ZOOM. We will try to accommodate you.