



* * * ANNOUNCEMENTS * * *

2021 ANNUAL MEETING--THE AUCTION HAS BEGUN!

One of our favorite annual meeting events is the fundraiser silent auction. This year it's still happening, and it's still a fundraiser to support our programs and field trips (and the technical needs accompanying them). It certainly will be silent since you can check it out on the web-site at your leisure. Featured are some great natural history books and nature art. Take a look!

Visit <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/auction.html> to view the slideshow and see bidding instructions. Donations are still being accepted, so contact warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com if you have something to offer.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING--TAKE THE MYSTERY PHOTO QUIZ!

Check out our challenging set of nature subject photographs—insects, plants, birds, animals, and a few “Can you name this location?” pictures. Prizes will be awarded. Visit <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/mystery-photo-quiz.html> to view the instructions and slide show.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING--SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER!

We're excited and honored to host well-known naturalist, artist, and writer Julie Zickefoose who will join us from her home in Ohio for our event. Julie will introduce her professionally-produced video about her most recent book, *Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-Luck Jay* and will stay on with us after the video to answer questions. If you've never had the opportunity to meet Julie, consider tuning in for what promises to be an entertaining and heartwarming afternoon program.

Interested in reading the book before the program? We recommend buying directly from Julie here: <http://www.juliezickefoose.com>. Click on the picture of the book. Signed/inscribed copies are available. You don't get that from Amazon! (And an Amazon purchase means Julie receives zero commission.)

[Note: If your library is a CW Mars catalog member, you may borrow this book at no charge. There are currently 22 copies available in the system, with none on hold. If you are interested in purchasing a used copy, please contact Wendy at warerivernatureclub.org for advice on avoiding booksellers with less than stellar reputations.]

*** * * UPCOMING EVENTS * * ***

ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

ZOOM Program:

**EMILY DICKINSON,
BIRDS, AND
BIRDING
IN 19TH CENTURY
MASSACHUSETTS**

with Elizabeth Bradley
Program Coordinator, Emily
Dickinson Museum, Amherst

Wednesday February 10th 7 p.m.



Join us for a look at: *The Way to Know the Bobolink: Field Notes on Dickinson's Birds*. We know Emily Dickinson's birds as metaphors of hope, symbols of seasonal change, and less frequently, as subjects. We'll explore a small collection of poems that feature those species she knew best—the New England backyard birds and probable visitors to the Dickinson meadow—whose presences herald a distinctly American poetry. We'll situate Dickinson's literary birds alongside bird ecology, behavior, and the burgeoning field of ornithology in 19th Century Massachusetts. The program will conclude with some of the poet's works that feature observations of native birds.

Register for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_poplinHRpmw1S688q5Zow

After registering, you'll receive a confirmation email.

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

VALENTINE'S DAY WALK



BARRE
(Location TBA)
Sunday,
February 14th
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[NOTE: We have reached the maximum number of participants for this walk, but you may add your name to a waiting list in the event of a cancellation.]

Join us for a winter walk—weather permitting-- during which we'll keep an eye out for winter birds and mammal tracks and sign. Depending upon the number of participants, we'll select a location that provides opportunity for physical distancing, and we'll follow the masking protocol.

Bring binoculars, cameras, snacks, and beverages if you wish.

Number of participants will be limited.

Pre-register at warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com

to receive directions and updates.

Plans may change with regard to weather and trail conditions.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Monday, February 15th

Twenty minutes, one hour, several hours, or all day—you choose!

The Great Backyard Bird Count takes place February 12th-15th this year. We've selected President's Day as the day to challenge Club members and friends to get out and find some birds! How about a little friendly competition between towns?

The goal is to find and identify as many different kinds of birds as possible. You can observe in your own yard at your birdfeeder, or take a walk anywhere. You can watch birds for an hour or keep searching all day. Owls heard outside of daylight hours count, too, as long as they're heard during the February 15th 24-hour period. Using American Birding Association codes (below), our scorekeeper will keep track of species, points, observers, and towns where the birds are found.

Send a message to warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com with *Bird Count* in the subject line if you plan to participate. We'll let you know the best way to report your sightings throughout the day. Tell us if you are using eBird to report your sightings.



CHECKLIST CODES

Code-1 & Code-2: Regularly occurring.

Includes regular breeding species and visitors. There is no firm designation between Code-1 and Code-2 species, except that logically Code-1 species are more widespread and are usually more numerous. Code-2 species have a restricted North American range, are more widespread, but occur in lower densities, or are quite secretive making their detection often difficult. Some Code-2 species are harder to find than some species that have higher codes.

Code-3: Rare Species that occur in very low numbers, but annually, in the ABA Checklist Area. This includes visitors

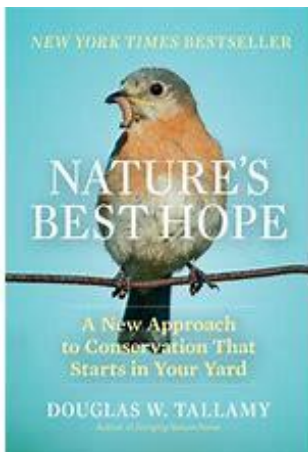
and rare breeding residents.

Code-4: Casual Species not recorded annually in the ABA Checklist Area, but with six or more total records—including three or more in the past 30 years—reflecting some pattern of occurrence.

Code-5: Accidental Species that are recorded five or fewer times in the ABA Checklist Area, or fewer than three records in the past 30 years.



VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION



NATURE'S BEST HOPE: A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION THAT STARTS IN YOUR YARD

by Doug Tallamy

Thursday February 25th 7 p.m.

Join us for an on-line discussion about this inspiring book which focuses on conservation at the grassroots level. The book highlights methods for improving our properties by removing lawn and planting native vegetation, thereby supporting native insects, vital parts of the “web of life.”

We’ll brainstorm ways in which we can make changes in our backyards to help enhance wildlife habitat.

Contact Jess at jcusworth@eqlt.org .

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

2021 ANNUAL MEETING via ZOOM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28TH 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

12:30 p.m. Welcome

12:45 p.m. AUCTION Final PowerPoint show of our auction items along with current bids. (No bidding during this presentation.)
Final bids will be accepted until 7 p.m. on this day.

Short break

2:00 p.m. GUEST SPEAKER: JULIE ZICKEFOOSE
SAVING JEMIMA:
LIFE AND LOVE WITH A HARD-LUCK JAY



Short break

3:45 p.m. PowerPoint show of mystery photo quiz with answers. Winners will be announced.



~ THANK YOU ~

to Dave Small and Athol Bird & Nature Club for making this event possible

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlduihrDksHdSBzNtQswl3NZFZUh1q1cZx>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

FEATURED PROGRAM—

SAVING JEMIMA: LIFE AND LOVE WITH A HARD-LUCK JAY with Julie Zickefoose



Naturalist/artist/writer Julie Zickefoose thinks of herself as an unsung, minor, rather dirty superhero. Her superpower: saving small, economically worthless wildlife that would otherwise die. An orphaned jay named Jemima was one such foundling. Spending nearly a year healing, studying and raising the young blue jay for release opened the door to their world for Julie. She began writing and illustrating *Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-luck Jay* immediately upon becoming her foster mother. More than a wildlife rehab story, it's the story of life, love and dealing with great loss; of finding grace and redemption in bonding with a wild bird.

Julie Zickefoose lives and works quietly on an 80-acre wildlife sanctuary in the back country of Whipple, Ohio. She is a prolific writer and painter and Contributing Editor to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. *Natural Gardening for Birds*, *Letters from Eden*, *The Bluebird Effect*, and *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest* are joined by *Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-Luck Jay*, the intimate story of how an orphaned bird can save a soul.

