



* * * ANNOUNCEMENTS * * *

NEW POSTS ARE UP IN “FROM THE FIELD”

From time to time we collect a good number of informative, inspirational, and/or just plain great photographs and stories from our nature observers. A couple of posts harkening back to summer have just been published on the web-site. Visit <http://www.warerivernatureclub.org/from-the-field> and have a look. Additional photos from early fall are waiting in the wings. If you'd like to share some of your September-October pictures, drawings, or field notes about an interesting or striking observation, please drop us a note at warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com.

CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION ABOUT BIRD-FRIENDLY COFFEE

We imagine many of you are coffee-lovers who are trying to do the right thing and buy coffee produced in the most ecologically healthy and sustainable environment for the neotropical migrants and native birds that are present. Should you look for a “Birdwatcher’s Blend” or a package sporting a picture of a colorful tropical bird? What about buying “shade-grown” coffee? After all, coffee farms with some tall trees that provide shade are better for birds, right? Unfortunately, neither buying strategy guarantees that you are buying coffee produced in truly bird-friendly fashion. Not all coffee is grown under conditions that support high species diversity.

A detailed explanation about the forms of certification for various designations we may want to consider when buying coffee—fair trade, shade-grown, certified bird-friendly, etc.—appears in the October 2020 issue of the American Birding Association’s *BIRDING* magazine: <https://www.aba.org/birding-magazine-october-2020/#10> Author Raymond VanBuskirk guides us through the labyrinth of what all those phrases,

designations, and symbols on your bag of coffee really mean. He writes, “Dozens of coffee certifications are out there, but only a few hold water.”

The article is well worth reading, but we’ll cut to the chase: the only truly bird-friendly, 100% shade-grown certification (also certified organic) on the market is Smithsonian-certified Bird Friendly Coffee. Look for these symbols.



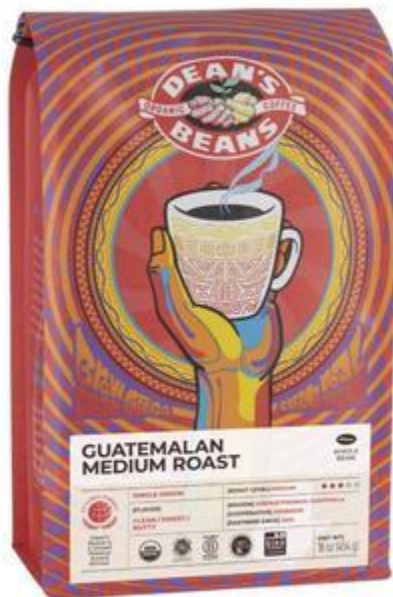
Furthermore, after researching numerous brands of bird-friendly coffee available for on-line

purchase (see <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/buy-bird-friendly-coffee-online>) we can tell you

that one of the most reasonably-priced brands is available through our very own Dean’s Beans in Orange. IMPORTANT NOTE: Although Dean’s Beans coffees bear other noteworthy certifications, only four varieties are

Smithsonian-certified Bird Friendly—Guatemalan French Roast, Guatemalan Medium Roast, Peruvian, and Peruvian French Roast Decaf.

To learn more about Dean’s Beans, visit deansbeans.com



WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE CLUB BY PURCHASING DEAN'S BEANS COFFEE THROUGH US?

PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE TO WARERIVERNATURECLUB@YAHOO.COM WITH THE WORD "COFFEE" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

IF THERE IS ENOUGH ENTHUSIASM, WE'LL EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR PLACING GROUP ORDERS TO RAISE FUNDS.

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

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

BIRDING WORCESTER'S PONDS

Sunday, November 8th 8 a.m.-noon

Leader: John Shea (508-667-1982) [john@beachwells.com]



PHOTO BY TOM MURRAY

Discover some of the beautiful natural ponds within the city during the peak time for migrating waterfowl. Meet inside the entrance to All Faith's Cemetery, Island Rd., Worcester

Please call or text John by 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 7, to register: 508-667-1982

To ensure safe social distancing, the trip is limited to 9 participants plus the leader.

In accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines:

- Group size is limited.
- Participants must be symptom-free.
- Masks or cloth face coverings must be worn when in a public location (Massachusetts COVID-19 Order No. 55, 11/02/2020)



Join us for a Hike and Bring a Lunch! Soapstone Hill, Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, November 8th at 11am
Quabbin Reservoir Gate 36 off West St., Petersham



Photo credit: Sarah Mc

Pack a lunch and take a hike to the top of Soapstone Hill. Enjoy the views over the beautiful Quabbin Reservoir! The trail is a ~3 mile moderately rated trail. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

Email Cynthia to RSVP

ATHOL BIRD & NATURE CLUB

ANNUAL MEETING & WEBINAR

via ZOOM

Wednesday November 11th 7 p.m.

President Dave Small invites members and friends to join the virtual annual meeting. ABNC will take a look back at the year that was, and the year to come.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ARFsTE3JT-KouC6PTvFMtg

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



PRINCETON HIKES!

LITTLE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN PRINCETON

Saturday November 14th 9 a.m.

This will be a moderate 4-mile hike up Little Wachusett Mountain and back via Thompson Road and Dickens Trail.
Road walk on Westminster Road.

LEOMINSTER STATE FOREST: NOTOWN & JANE FONDA'S WORKOUT LEOMINSTER

Saturday November 28th 9 a.m.

This will be a moderate 5-mile hike. From Parmenter, explore some new trails!

Registration is REQUIRED. Please contact trailaroundprincetonma@gmail.com if you would like to join and get meet-up instructions, OR if you change your mind!
COVID rules require masks at all stops and 6 feet of distancing.
Please wear hunter orange or something bright-colored.



WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB

EXPLORING LITTLE-KNOWN TRAILS: PHILLIPSTON

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Sunday November 15th 10 a.m.

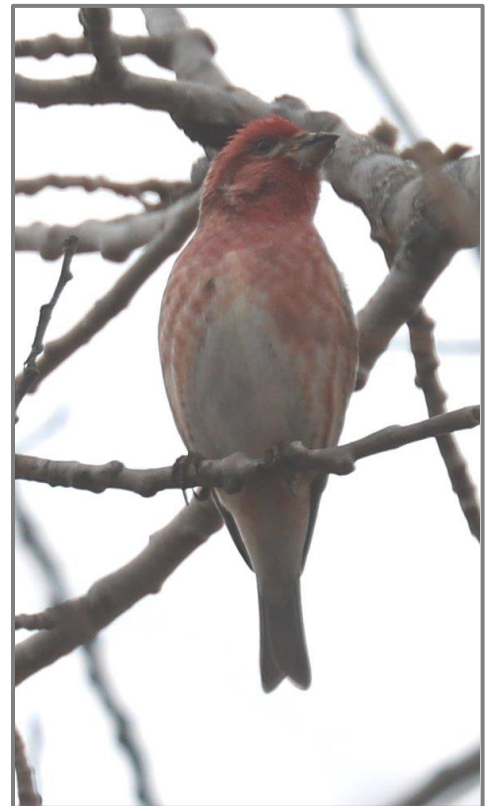
Join us for a birding and nature walk at a site that deserves more attention. Depending on which options we select, the walk will be 3 – 3.5 miles round-trip lasting 3-4 hours during the warmest part of the day. We'll walk through various habitats in search of late-fall migrant birds and boreal species that are irrupting here this year. As usual, we'll be on the lookout for animal tracks and sign.

Easy walking on a wide trail
with distancing opportunity.

Bring beverage, snacks/lunch, binoculars, etc.
and dress for the weather.

Contact warivernatureclub@yahoo.com to
register and get directions to meeting place.

Sorry, cancelled if it rains.



ZOOM WEBINAR:
UNRAVELING THE ANNUAL CYCLE OF THE
WHIP-POOR-WILL

by

Marja Bakermans, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Wednesday November 18th 7 p.m.



Photo by Tom Murray

Eastern Whip-poor-will has been experiencing a 4.4% annual decline in New England and 6.6% in Massachusetts since 1966, yet basic natural history and ecological information is still lacking for this species. In particular, a better understanding of migratory timing, routes, behavior, and wintering locations would allow us to pinpoint the most imminent threats and opportunities across the species' range and develop a full life cycle approach to the conservation of this declining species. This presentation will describe migratory and winter ecology research on whip-poor-will populations breeding in Massachusetts.

Marja received her BS in Biology from Bucknell University and MS and PhD in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University where she focused on the consequences of urbanization and forest management on avian communities. Her favorite part, though, was migrating with Cerulean Warblers down to shade-grown coffee plantations in Venezuela.

Marja conducts research on declining bird species and teaches and advises senior research projects in the Biology Department at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Zoom link: <https://wpi.zoom.us/j/99621503916>