



NEWS

Volume 17 No. 1 Summer 2020

THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE

After the long winter, we all looked forward to the return of spring! This spring was cooler than others (as we lugged pots of tender seedlings into the house each evening!) Yet, life in the natural world returned on schedule. Spring peepers were singing, skunk cabbages were emerging, and osprey were returning as we eagerly anticipated our first garden tomato, baseball games, and other rites of the season.

All the while, no one in the world was prepared for what was about to happen! Throughout the entire world, Covid-19 altered all facets of human society. Yes, Covid-19 showed us that we truly are one world! Our everyday activities were no longer advised and/or permitted. People had to “stay-at-home” for their own safety and the safety of others. Families had more “family time” than they’d had in many years.

While this upended everyone’s lives, Mother Nature stayed her course. Due to less human activity, fewer animals were hit by cars. Fewer cars meant less pollution. In turn, our air was getting cleaner! From Washington, D.C. to each and every state, folks were encouraged to take a walk in their neighborhood or local park or hike a nearby trail. Medical doctors and psychologists

recommended that people get outside, clear their minds, and breathe in the fresh air that was now much cleaner due to less auto emissions and industrial pollution. Fortunately, for those of us in Wareham, we have beautiful trails throughout our town and in many neighborhoods. We hope the same is true for our out-of-town supporters. Thanks to your support and volunteerism, the Wareham Land Trust has been able to keep our trails open throughout this pandemic. More than ever, folks are

discovering what is right in their own backyards — Nature to nurture their mind, body and soul. I hope you’ve been able to enjoy our trails and explore all that nature has to offer.

While we humans have to adjust to a “new normal,” Mother Nature does not. And that is a very good thing.

Be well.

—Kathy Pappalardo
President
Wareham Land Trust



PHOTO CONTEST



"A Focused Osprey." Photographed by Bob Scully on April 5, 2020.



"Going for a Hike During Quarantine." Photographed by Kathryn Farnham on March 22, 2020.

To commemorate the upcoming twenty year anniversary of the Wareham Land Trust, we reached out to the community to highlight the importance of land conservation through photography. We hoped to showcase interactions with the environment, and we were not disappointed! We received photos that highlighted beautiful scenery, a wide variety of wildlife, recreation, and connection to the land. Voting took place on Facebook, and the contest reached hundreds of people. We would like to thank everyone who submitted photos!

Bob Scully took the winning photo in the category *The Solitude and Serenity of Nature*. Bob went to the Agawam Herring Run hoping to capture a photo of his favorite migratory bird, an osprey, catching a herring. Bob loves taking pictures of birds, especially osprey, so he joined Wareham Osprey Watch this year. Participating in the Osprey Watch was a great way for Bob to do something he loves while reporting data to a local citizen science project. Bob said joining the program was "a way to contribute by doing something I love to do...It was really a no-brainer."

In the category *People Enjoying the Land*, Kathryn Farnham took the winning photo. It features Kathryn's husband Anthony and her son Charlie. When asked about her inspiration for taking this photo, Kathryn said that she wanted to highlight "that even though we are all quarantined right now, nature is still all around us. They are both smiling and so happy to be out of the house and looking at the beautiful scenery." Kathryn and Anthony have been hiking with Charlie at Myles Standish State Forest since he was three months old, and it is one of the family's favorite spots because it provides a sense of people, which is critical, especially during the pandemic. Kathryn hopes that "now more than ever, we appreciate everything that nature has to offer us."

—Kyla Isakson
TerraCorps Community
Engagement Coordinator

Did you know the Wareham Land Trust is on social media? In the past month:



We acquired over 100 new followers on our Facebook page.



We reached over 550 followers on Instagram.



We had over 350 views on our YouTube Channel videos.

Be sure to like, follow, and subscribe to us on all of these platforms to stay connected!

Hi Kids! The beautiful weather is finally here, and to go with it, your friends at the WLT would like to announce the start of a new feature in our newsletters — your very own Kids' Corner!

You will find puzzles, games, challenges, jokes, and a chance to share your own creations.

To get us started, here's a joke:

Q: What did the big flower say to the little flower?

A: Hey, bud!

Can you come up with a good joke, too? Email your jokes to: admin@warehamlandtrust.org and we'll try to include it in next month's online membership edition!

And finally, a challenge for you: Take the word list from our Word Search and see how many of these things you can find in nature. We hope you can spot all fifteen! Let us know how many you find!

WORD SEARCH

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X J L B A C Z B H N K Q T Q S
L P E P C F T B V O P L A N T
U O B Z P R E F M M W D E N T
H E R O N J Q R P A A T Q O S
R O S P R E Y M K P M I C A O
W P Q D J C T Y U L R O R J R
L Q T A Y C G A T E F O V S S
Q W C N T O P C Z S L J B Q O
Q G F D Q R N O F E O C C I L
C B E E U M U R D E W W W B N
R N G L A O T N F D E X O X Q
O O C I R R V J Y L R W R I T
W Y R O T A Q I C I H K M Q U
L F A N Z N F D A N D J R D A
N S B J E T Q Y O G W T U U E
  
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maple seedling

dandelion

cormorant

osprey

flower

robin

plant

heron

quartz

acorn

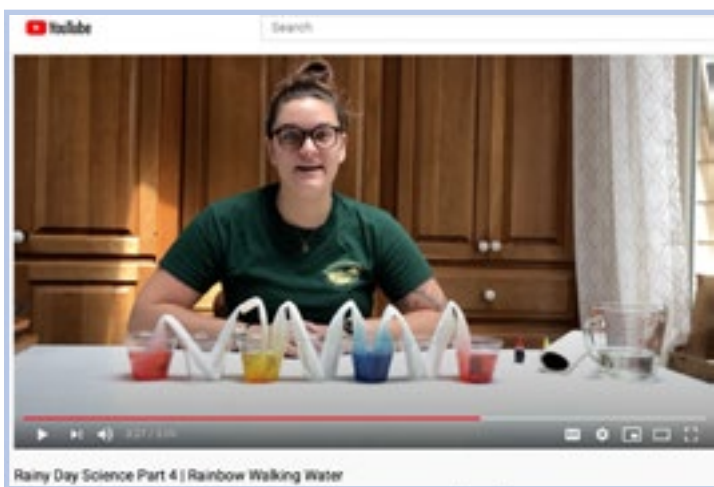
mica

bee

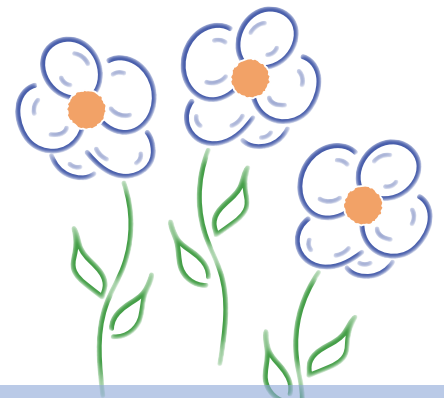
crow

crab

worm

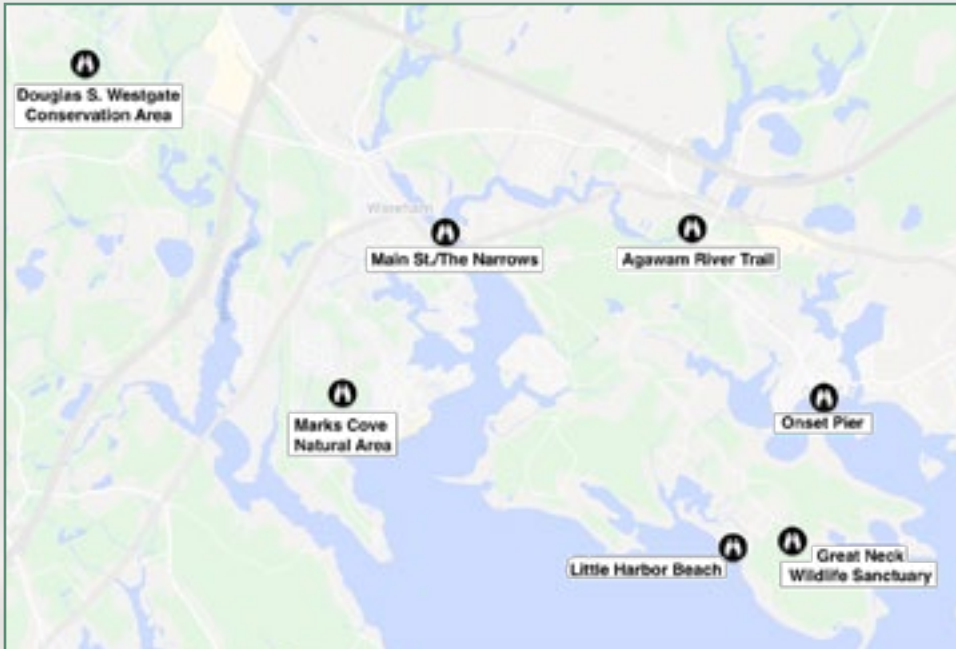


Have you watched Melyssa's Rainy Day Science Series yet? Be sure to go to warehamlandtrust.org and follow all our YouTube videos!



CORNER

WAREHAM BIRDING HOTSPOTS



Douglas S. Westgate Conservation Area

Mixed pine forest and retired bogs with an abundance of common backyard bird species. Excellent for beginning birders. Look for Black-capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker.

Main St./The Narrows

The stretch of Wareham River behind Main Street is a haven for wintering waterfowl, but slower in the summer. Look for Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant.

Marks Cove Natural Area

Low scrubby pitch pine and thorny thickets attract wintering songbirds, while the salt-marsh near Cedar Island attracts shorebirds and waterfowl. Look for Northern Cardinal, Willet, Hermit Thrush.

Agawam River Trail

A short trail with many opportunities to see a variety of birds in pitch pine forest and the adjacent river. The herring run attracts predators, including Osprey and Bald Eagle. Look for Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Pine Warbler.

Onset Pier

Onset Bay has a frenzy of terns in the summer and big flocks of ducks in the winter. Look for Common Tern, Long-tailed Duck, Common Loon.

Little Harbor Beach

A reliable beach for summer shorebirds and sea ducks with a chance of seeing nesting shorebirds and their chicks. Look for Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, White-winged Scoter.

Mass Audubon's Great Neck Wildlife Sanctuary

A wonderful variety of habitat provides opportunities for woodland birds, shorebirds, and open field birds. Look for Eastern Bluebird, Chipping Sparrow, Brown Creeper.

—Mike Perrin

TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator

Social Distancing Guidelines

During this time of social distancing, we are happy to continue to offer our trails for exercise, reflection, nature exploration and passive recreation, but we respectfully request you follow these guidelines:

- ◊ Please refrain from using the trails if you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness.
- ◊ Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene, including hand-washing or using hand sanitizer.
- ◊ While on the trails, always have a mask available to wear when another person approaches. Step aside or off the trail to allow for the CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other individuals.
- ◊ Do not use the preserves as a place to meet up with friends for social gatherings, picnicking, sports, etc.
- ◊ If the parking area is full, please depart and find an alternate walk, or return at a later time.
- ◊ Do not pet other people's dogs. Pets could unwittingly transfer the virus from person to person through their fur.

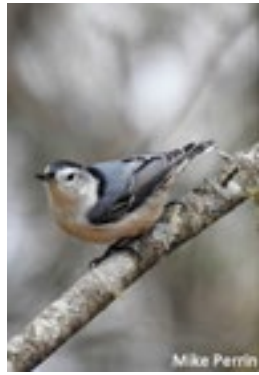


Black-capped Chickadee

Often found in eastern white pine forests, willow thickets, and opens woods, these small, energetic birds are often seen flitting from tree-to-tree.

Chickadees forage for their food, often hanging upside down to reach under branches.

You can often hear them giving their cheery-sounding chick-a-dee call as they fly from tree-to-tree.

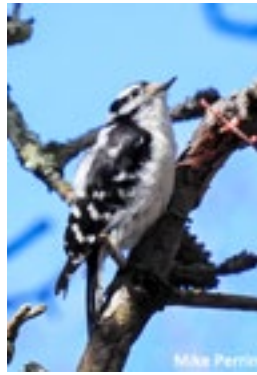


White-breasted Nuthatch

These birds can be seen mainly in eastern white pine forests, and favor the woodland edge along rivers, roads, and clearings.

White-breasted Nuthatches forage for their food and are often drawn to bird feeders for sunflower seeds or suet. In the wild, their diet consists of mainly insects.

These birds sometimes mate for life.



Downy Woodpecker

The Downy Woodpecker is often found in eastern white pine forests, but favors a wide variety of habitats, from wilderness areas to suburban yards.

This bird is the smallest woodpecker in North America.

Due to its small size, it can forage on weed stalks and twigs as well as trees.

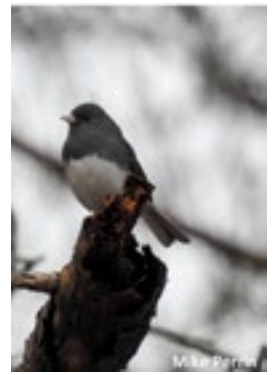


Northern Cardinal

Often found in woodland edges, thickets, pitch pine forests, and shrubland, these well-known birds can also be found in city parks and at backyard bird feeders.

The Northern Cardinal mainly feeds by foraging, hopping on the ground or in low bushes. These birds favor sunflower seeds at bird feeders.

The males are bright red in color, while the females are a more muted reddish-brown.



Dark-eyed Junco

Dark-eyed Juncos are part of the sparrow family and prefer conifers and mixed woods. In Wareham, they can be found in pitch pine or shrubland.

In winter especially, flocks of juncos can be found around woodland edges and suburban yards, feeding on the ground. They feed mostly on insects and seeds, and sometimes berries.

These birds make ticking calls as they fly up into bushes.

A FIELD GUIDE: Common Birds in Wareham

Visit our website's [RESOURCES](#) page for Melyssa's downloadable field guides!

—Melyssa Millett

TerraCorps Youth Education Coordinator

Eastern Bluebird

Part of the thrush family, these birds can be seen in open meadows or fields, or in forest clearings and scattered trees.

In the past, the Eastern Bluebird population was at risk due to loss of habitat and nesting sites, but the population has been increasing, likely due to birdhouses in many areas.

The Eastern Bluebird is the most widespread of the three bluebird types, and feeds by foraging for insects and berries.

Yellow Warbler

You can find these small yellow birds near open fields, or the forest edge.

As part of the wood-warbler family, Yellow Warblers favor bushes or thickets, near swamp edges or streams, or gardens.

The Yellow Warbler's diet consists of mostly insects, including mosquitoes, flies, spiders, and caterpillars.

Red-winged Blackbird

These birds can be found in coastal areas or marshland, as well as in cultivated land that is located near water.

The Red-winged Blackbird is part of the blackbird and oriole families, and breeds most commonly in freshwater or brackish marshes.

The red shoulder patches of the males are hidden under body feathers until the male sings. They are known for their bold temperament, often attacking larger birds like hawks and crows that fly over the nesting area.

Red-winged Blackbirds feed mostly on insects and seeds by foraging on the ground.

Great Blue Heron

These majestic birds can be found in coastal areas or marshland, including swamps and tidal flats.

The largest heron in North America, the Great Blue Heron can be seen standing in shallow waters or flying over marshland.

The Great Blue Heron forages in calm, fresh waters, slow-moving rivers, or shallow coastal bays and estuaries. These birds nest in trees or shrubs near the water.

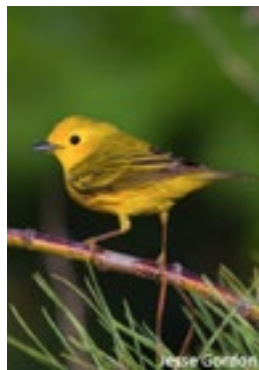
These birds eat mostly fish, but also frogs, salamanders, turtles, snakes, insects, rodents, and other birds.

Osprey

Often seen soaring overhead, these birds can be found around coastal areas and marshes, including freshwater rivers and lakes, brackish estuaries, and saltwater.

These expert fishers will fly slowly over the water to spot fish, and plunge feet-first into the water to grasp their prey in their talons.

Osprey will nest on any platform that is off the ground, including atop utility poles and on boats. These birds may use the same nest for years, gradually adding to it each year.



The Wareham Land Trust is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to protecting and conserving Wareham's open space and natural resources. All gifts and bequests to the WLT are tax-deductible within IRS guidelines. With 54 miles of shoreline, Wareham claims some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the Commonwealth. From bogs to barrier beaches, forests to farmlands, we are surrounded by a diversity of lands and natural resources.

Would you like to become a member?

Join our efforts to preserve Wareham's open space!

Individual:	\$15.
Family:	\$25.
Friend:	\$50.
Sustaining:	\$100.
Sponsor:	\$250.
Benefactor:	\$500.
Lifetime:	\$1000.
Other Contribution:	\$_____

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please send contributions to: The Wareham Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 718
Wareham, MA 02571-0718

Contributions may also be made online via our website.

For land donations or corporate membership opportunities, please contact us for information!

warehamlandtrust.org • 508.295.0211 • info@warehamlandtrust.org

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not."

—Theodor Seuss Geisel

We are always looking for people who care "a whole awful lot" about protecting open space. To help us in our mission, click or tap the VOLUNTEER button at warehamlandtrust.org.

We look forward to meeting you!

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