



Upcoming Programs and Events



Final program of the season!

GAAS June (Virtual) Program Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we host Bob Dolgan, who will screen his first documentary film, "Monty and Rose: The Story of Chicago's Piping Plovers," shot while he was a volunteer plover monitor on Montrose Beach in the summer of 2019. The short, independent documentary chronicles the story of a pair of endangered Piping Plovers that successfully nested there for the first time in 64 years and the unpredictable series of events--including a proposed music festival that propelled the birds to national headlines. Featuring interviews with key players in the story, including biologists, birders, volunteers and the advocates who spoke out when the music festival was proposed, Bob made this film to inform others about Great Lakes Piping Plovers and the opportunities to protect endangered species most anywhere. A Q & A session will follow the screening.

An update since June 6th: Monty and Rose to be *GrandPlovers*! Ohio has its first pair of nesting Piping Plovers in 83 years: Nish (hatched from Monty and Rose in 2020) and Nellie (hatched in Presque Isle, PA in 2020) are now incubating four eggs at the Maumee Bay beach with an expected hatch date in early July. Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) has had assistance from the Montrose Beach and Presque Isle advocates and has created a website and Facebook page to inform the public: <https://www.maumeebaypipingplovers.org/press-page.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/NellieandNish/>

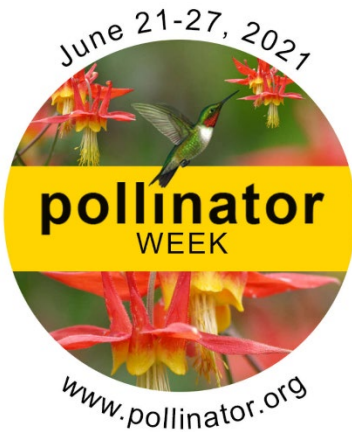
They have erected a protective wire enclosure around the nest and are coordinating the volunteer nest-monitoring (AKA, PloverPosse) efforts from dawn to dusk. Nish and Nellie's nest is also the southernmost of this Great Lakes endangered species.

And more news on Monty and Rose: A skunk predated their nest of 4 eggs only a day or so short of hatching on the night of June 2. But they're now re-nesting and already have eggs in a nest.

Pre-registration is required:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpf-yopj0tHN1kFeyGoOuumIXAWG3FEyCO>

After registering, you'll receive a unique link to join the session.



Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

This week is Pollinator Week, an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. It's a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. The great thing about Pollinator Week is that you can celebrate and get involved any way you like! Lara Roketenetz, manager at UA Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve (a partner of GAAS), is Ohio's state coordinator of Project Wingspan and the Ohio pollinator liaison for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Read more about pollinators and how you can help them:

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators>

Denise Ellsworth, Program Director, Pollinator Education at OSU Entomology's Bee Lab asked that we pass on info about the **Pollinator Week Webinar Series June 21--25, 2021**. Three sessions will be offered daily at 12:00, 1:00 and 2:00 EST

[Register Here](#)

Ongoing Programs

GAAS Plants for Birds and Homegrown National Park Initiative



In an effort to encourage GAAS members to join the movement to plant native plants as a source of food for birds year-round and to inform the public of the need to do so, we've presented programs and information over the past 10 months. In September, we'll be reaching out with a survey so that we can gather some metrics about our efforts and get everyone who participated on the Homegrown National Park map!

We now have a limited number of these 12 x 16" yard signs available for the asking (please email info@akronaudubon.org to request one). The signs have a QR code and are meant to inform passersby of the urgent need to plant native plants, for the birds and for biodiversity.



In addition to planting natives, we must also be vigilant about removing invasive species. This butterweed (*Plackera glabella*), aka *Cressleaf Groundsel*, is a newer native (to central and southeast North America) invasive in Ohio that is rapidly expanding its range and impacting wet woodlands in natural areas. The problem is that butterweed produces massive quantities of seeds with very high germination rates, so high that it produces a dense ground cover and extensive colonies that crowd out and shade out rarer native wetland species. It is also toxic to livestock and humans when eaten and can occur in spring and fall seasons.



Bird Flight Patterns and Music

As we presented in our May program, our chapter has purchased this curriculum for a local Akron school and with that purchase comes the added benefit of allowing our members to view the 10-segmented concert video. The link and password below will bring you to the Bird Flight Patterns and Music webpage. Please be respectful of the password-protected privilege and do not share with others. On this page you will find the full concert video (53 minutes) and online curriculum with activities, lessons, extra musical performances, composer interviews

and educational games (a more explicit curriculum has been sent to educators). The webpage with concert video and online activities will remain active for viewing through June 2022 and you may visit and revisit at any time! The education director at NBSO has asked for feedback from our members. If you'd care to comment, please do so by writing to info@akronaudubon.org.

Bird Flight Patterns and Music Link:

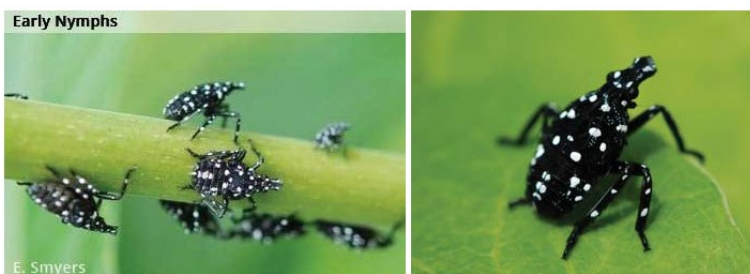
<https://nbsymphony.org/bird-flight-patterns-and-music-curriculum/>

The video requires a password. If you are a member of the Greater Akron Audubon Society, please send a request to info@akronaudubon.org for the password. Please do not share the password with others.

Birders! Be on the Lookout for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF): This invasive planthopper was first seen in east-central Ohio last fall and could decimate fruit and nut trees as well as hops and hardwoods such as oak, walnut and poplar; economically, viticulture, tree fruit, nursery and timber industries could be greatly impacted. Small, gray egg masses protected by a waxy covering overwinter and hatch in early May. Four instar stages of nymphs then progress throughout the summer. The adult moth stage is seen in late summer and fall and is approximately 1 inch long and ½ inch wide with black bodies and brightly colored wings. Although it favors the invasive tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) as its food source, SLF damage is caused by the insect feeding on the trunk and branches of over 70 plant species of woody plants.

Report It

If you suspect a spotted lanternfly infestation, at any life stage, please report the finding to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Plant Pest Control (614-728-6400, plantpest@agri.ohio.gov).



Of Interest?

A **Kickstarter** campaign for **Terra**, a device that listens, identifies, and connects to the birds and nature around you while building a massive new conservation network. Scott Whittle, co-author of *The Warbler Guide*, and other collaborators have a Kickstarter (crowd-sourced funding) campaign to raise capital for an ambitious new project that will only be funded if it reaches its goal of \$266,700 by Thursday, July 1 2021 10:06 AM EDT. In conceptual design, Terra is a device that can be placed in your yard. It contains a set of microphones and a radio receiver for radio-tagged birds. Using an app, it will allow one to identify birds and wildlife in your yard, even when not actively listening, and it will identify what radio-tagged birds are flying near your home. Multiple devices will gather a network of data in real time to record migration in North and South America and eventually worldwide. For more information, see <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/theterraproject/listen-to-birds-and-wildlife-build-a-new-conservation-tool/description>

[Please note that this is for information purposes only and GAAS is not promoting or encouraging anyone to invest or fund this project.]



Art Connection...From Cornell Lab's Team eBird:

Maya Lin's *Ghost Forest*, "an immersive installation that visualizes the bleak effects of climate change," on exhibit in New York's Madison Square Park through Nov 14, 2021. Delayed for a year because of COVID, the exhibit "comprises a forest of 49 towering desiccated Atlantic white-cedar trees 'planted' in the oval lawn of the park to create an ominous micro-landscape that references the impact of climate change on the environment. Lin has also developed a soundscape that will allow visitors traversing the installation to listen to the calls of endangered and extinct species once native to New York City. Cornell's Macaulay Library recordings provide backdrop to the haunting installation that also highlights habitat loss.



[Listen to some of the animals found in Lin's Ghost Forest](#)

The dead trees were sourced from a restoration project located within the New Jersey Pine Barrens, a site spanning more than a million acres where “ghost forests” are increasingly lining the waterways due to saltwater infiltration from rising sea levels and other climate change-related causes. While patches of dead vegetation tend to recover over time, experts believe the Pine Barrens will never fully recover.

Explore another ongoing project of Maya Lin online: <https://whatismissing.net>

A Field Guide for Fledgling Birders from NPR’s LifeKit, a weekly series of podcasts and newsletters to enhance the human life experience.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/21/999050796/a-field-guide-for-fledgling-birders>

Wait, if you’re not a new birder, this audio and written piece still has plenty of interesting material to explore, including:

- Urban birding for **every body**
 - Links to Explore.org and Cornell’s FeederWatch cam
 - Birdability, <https://www.birdability.org/> a crowd-sourced website that documents accessibility in outdoor spaces. With over 600 spots mapped, it has info on how accessible a trail is, and it provides information about parking, ramps, bathrooms, surfaces, the height of railings and more.
 - Birding skill enhancement tips with links to National Audubon articles and Cornell Lab’s videos on YouTube.
 - Links to free and paid phone apps
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BirdNote Storytelling Series to start Monday, June 28th at 8:00 p.m. Susan Fox Rogers, editor of *When Birds Are Near: Dispatches from Contemporary Writers*, and writers Dr. J. Drew Lanham and Christina Baal will share readings and discuss their insights about birds, humans, and the wonders of the natural world. Use the button below to RSVP for this free virtual event!

[RSVP for the BirdNote Storytelling Series](#)

Save the Date

The next gathering of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters will be held October 16th in Columbus at the Grange Audubon Center. Kenn Kaufman will be the keynote speaker. Members from all chapters are encouraged to come network and get involved. An informal social gathering and bird walk will be held on Friday, October 15th.

Bird-Related Summer Reading?

Jennifer Ackerman's, *The Bird Way* (2020) or *The Genius of Birds* (2016) Penguin Press, both upending our traditional views of how birds live and how they vary in all respects, demonstrating that there is no single bird way.

Scott Weidensaul's *A World on the Wing The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds* (2021), W.W. Norton, about the enormous leaps in the science of migration and the cutting edge tools and citizen science that's aiding researchers.



Advocacy closer to home:

Trail Advocates of Summit County (TASCforce) <https://www.tascforce.org> is asking for our individual and collective help. A proposed, north-south oriented multi-purpose rail trail (Veteran's Trail) would use an abandoned rail right-of-way in Summit County; the trail would connect with seven other existing or proposed trails and would run through the cities of Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Silver Lake, Stow, and Hudson. Although the railway has not been used since 1996 and the Veteran's Trail has been under study for over 16 years, the owner (Metro RTA) is now considering entering into an agreement that would re-activate the railway by a commercial enterprise. To get caught up on the facts surrounding the proposed trail and the possible industrial use of the tracks, see this [news article](#) from the Akron Beacon Journal. TASCforce needs our show of support by signing up online at their website under "Get Involved!" tab. Our chapter has been working behind the scenes with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to preserve a property located adjacent to the proposed trail in the Hudson area. Please show your support and also encourage others to help make this multipurpose trail a reality.



THE BIRDING COMMUNITY E-BULLETIN

This monthly email is distributed to active and concerned birders and is dedicated to the joys of birding and the protection of birds and their habitats. Among the praises,

“I’m pretty well tuned into birding and bird conservation, and I get information from many sources, but my single most concentrated source is the Birding Community E-Bulletin. When it arrives, I drop everything and read it right away, and without fail, I learn important new things every time.” –Kenn Kaufman

If you’d like to receive this bulletin via email, sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/E-bulletinSIGNUP>
Past issues are archived and can be accessed on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>

Summer Hiatus

This is the final email of the 2020-2021 GAAS Program year. ***For the Birds*** will resume the second week of September. In the meantime, please visit our chapter’s web page, <http://www.akronaudubon.org> for pertinent news and updates or to peruse past issues.

Our chapter needs your engagement!

- Advisory Board members to join us on monthly zoom meetings
- Program Chair/coordinator for virtual and live speaker’s series
- Webmaster to help maintain website, tech skills needed
- Bird Seed Sale Coordinator
- Monthly chapter rep for Audubon Great Lakes and/or Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) zoom or phone calls.
- Bird Walk/Field Trip Coordinator
- School and community outreach coordinator
- Christmas Bird Count compiler/understudy
- Bird Censuses, for occasional conservation of private properties

Please email info@akronaudubon.org with any questions or comments or offers to help.

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