



Ongoing Programs and Events

Audubon Plants for Birds and Homegrown National Park Initiatives



Native Plants: Tips for Success

Plant in small bunches (3-5) of each plant type

- Just as we humans love a buffet, pollinators and birds like their food dense so minimal energy is used to eat. But do keep in mind recommended plant spacing so the plants won't be overcrowded when they've reached full plant size in a few years.

Embrace imperfection

- A few holes and chewed leaves on our trees and shrubs mean the insects and caterpillars are using them. Remind yourself that non-natives tend to be more pest-free from our native bugs for a reason: they're a poor food source. And speaking of messy, let your leaf litter remain in place for the winter. Stalks and grasses serve as cover/shelter and many caterpillars overwinter as pupae in leaf litter.

Start small and don't get discouraged

- This is a process that can be overwhelming if you "bite off more than you can chew." Rome wasn't built in a day. Container gardening can be effective and gratifying. Try interspersing a few natives in an existing landscape. Try to gradually reduce the lawn areas so the lawn areas become smaller paths that are defined by edged natives. Paths are a good way to convince neighbors that your space was planned and not a "haphazard wildland." Specimen trees and shrubs help to create appeal and focal points.
- Keep in mind, that for whatever reasons, there will be failures. Research and choose another species to plant and move on.
- It all takes time and effort. Deer and rabbit browsing can be issues and cages around the trees or shrubs can help. Like all young life, new plants will require nurturing: watering and weeding when the plants are young (years 1-2) will give them a healthy start so that by the third year, they'll be able to withstand droughts and outcompete the surrounding weeds.

Keep it fun and interesting...and keep learning!

- Our chapter has ordered a limited number of 12 x 16" yard signs for members to inform the public of these joint efforts. Please request one (no charge) by sending an email to info@akronaudubon.org.

Related News from the Ohio Turnpike Commission

“Ohio native pollinator partnership grows even stronger in late 2021!”

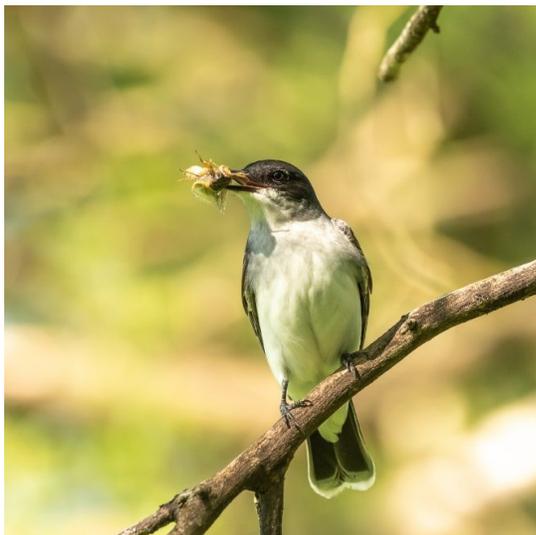


Four new Native Pollinator Gardens will be planted adjacent to their [National Underground Railroad Markers](#) to adorn these important sites. These gardens will be planted this fall at the Commodore Perry and Erie Islands Service Plazas in Sandusky County, Ohio at Mile Marker 100.0, and at the Brady’s Leap and Portage Service Plazas in Portage County, Ohio at Mile Marker 197.0.

[The gardens](#) will be similar to the pollinator gardens planted earlier at the Middle Ridge and Vermilion Valley Service Plazas in Amherst, Ohio and the Mahoning Valley and Glacier Hills Service Plazas in New Springfield, Ohio.

The original gardens feature 17 different Ohio-native plant species. Native plants are adapted to Ohio soil and climate, are easy to care for and are naturally drought-resistant.

These native plant gardens attract pollinators such as bees, birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The gardens also serve as a model to educate and encourage people to grow native species in their own gardens and display a sense of beauty and place that is uniquely Ohio.”



Eastern Kingbird eating an individual of Brood X. Photo by Lynn Gregg

From *BirdWatching Daily*: Help researchers learn which birds eat periodical cicadas.

Although Brood V of the 17-year Cicadas emerged in our area in 2016, Brood X cicadas can be found in parts of 15 states, from Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan to Delaware, Maryland, and North Carolina, as well as in Washington, D.C. and are the largest of all the populations; it numbers in the hundreds of billions. If you have seen birds eating periodical cicadas, researchers want to hear about it. The birds that eat cicadas are surprisingly poorly documented, and you can help fill this gap by reporting your sighting at <https://bit.ly/BirdsEatingCicadas>. You can help researchers study how the cicada emergence changes local food webs — perhaps even allowing other insects to thrive and eat more leaves on local trees. Birds are the key to understanding how cicadas affect other parts of the forest. You can join in on this scientific discovery by sharing any observations of birds eating cicadas using a five-question survey, or you can actively gather quantitative data using the protocols found on <https://friendtocicadas.org/brood-x-bird-feastprotocol>.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Breeding Bird Census: June 11 – June 20, 2021

Doug and Michelle Vogus are the coordinators of this huge citizen science project and they rely on our cooperation and help to make the effort a success. There are **three areas** that don't have coverage this year. They include Area 12- Stow/ Silver Lake, Area 15- North Hill, and Area 25- west of Mogadore. Please see the bounds of these areas at <http://www.akronaudubon.org/summer-census-territories.html>

If you can help, please get in touch with Doug and Michelle at 330-352-2355 or vogeye@gmail.com

Camp Canopy is a week-long camp June 13-18th, for high school students

(those who have completed 8th grade through just graduated 12th grade). There is still time to register! If you know of a teen that might be interested in learning more about forestry and wildlife, please pass on this information. See

<https://campcanopy.com/>

OAKS, life-long learning opportunities for nature enthusiasts at **The Wilderness Center**, is offering **Gardening with Native Plants** Thursday, June 17, 11:00 a.m.

From the first blossoms of spring to the last blooms of fall, learn about the Ohio native plants you can use in your gardens. Cost: \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members: Register by calling 330-359-5235

An invitation to join a virtual Audubon EDI Program Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

“Christian Cooper in Conversation: Celebrating Diversity of Birds and People” – with Juliet Moderow, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society and Barry Treu, Freeport Art Museum

After a video of a racist confrontation while he was birding in Central Park went viral, Christian Cooper drew on that experience to author the Black Lives Matter comic, “It’s a Bird” for DC Comics. That continued his decades-long activism on behalf of racial justice, LGBTQ equality, and expanding democratic access in American society. Christian is a writer and board member of New York City Audubon.

Register to join via

Zoom: <https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwsceGtqTMiG9BL9WCxrFIKXdGI1PCriNlw>

Medina Raptor Center Benefit, Saturday June 19th 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at

The Bird Store and More, 117 Merz Blvd, Akron, OH 44333

The Raptor Center is an organization which relies strictly on donations to survive. It has been a very difficult year for them since they were unable to do their regular in-person programs. The Bird Store and More will be hosting a live program with the Raptor Center and some of their owls, hawks and other birds of prey. Although cash donations are the most important to the Medina Raptor Center, other donations such as bird seed, suet, and gift cards from Home Depot or Lowe's, Amazon.com, Rodent Pro are much appreciated. A complete wish list for supplies they need is here: <https://www.medinaraptorcenter.org/donate/> As extra incentive to donate, drop a donation off anytime between now and June 19th at the store (address above) and you will be entered to win a \$100 Gift Certificate.

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.

In a strange and exciting turn of events, a 2020 male nestling (Nish) of Monty and Rose has been discovered to be nesting with a female from the Presque Isle, PA nest site at Maumee Bay State Park. Here is an update from Bob Lane as he wrote on the Ohio ListServe, the Ohio-birds mailing list, a service of the Ohio Ornithological Society.

"On Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 9:28 AM Robert Lane wrote:

With the hope the Pipers are still here the morning of June 1st! The following is some background information on the beautiful and endangered Piping Plovers presently at the beaches at Maumee Bay State Park Lucas County. With a lot of luck, and help, hopefully they will be the first nesters in Ohio in about an unbelievable eighty years. The last Ohio breeders disappeared from Lake Erie in 1942.

From the birds leg bands, it has been determined that of the three that have been present, the male came from Chicago on Lake Michigan, 235 miles to the west, and the two females from Presque Isle on Lake Erie, 175 miles to the northeast. All three being hatched last year. The possible history making male came from a clutch of three, one of the "Chicago Piping Plovers" from Montrose Beach Dunes Natural Area, parented by the now famous "Monty and Rose". Hatched the third week of June, he along with two other siblings, was banded on 06/29/20. His bands are: UR orange w/a star, UL silver, LL purple, & LR no band. Great Lakes Pipers all have an orange band. Inland breeding males normally have a narrow black breast band that wraps around the back and below the white collar.

Some nesting facts: Piping Plovers are normally monogamous. Breed in mid May to early June. Have one brood per year, with three to four eggs in the clutch. Incubation is by both sexes, lasting 27 to 28

days. The nestlings fly at 30 to 35 days. Thus they are helpless on the beach until early August. Their normal life span is 8 to 11 years, but up to 14. Banded adults often return annually to the same nesting area and have been known to have the same mate in consecutive years. Even though each may winter at a different location. In all probability, these Maumee Pipers, plus their potential offspring, will spend their winters 1100 miles due south on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

The last word is: An effort to protect these very special long missing visitors, must be made! Whatever inconvenience it takes!!!--Bob Lane / Mahoning County”

On Tue, 1 Jun 2021, Kenn Kaufman responded to Bob’s post: Re: Maumee Bay Piping Plover Potential Nesting

“Thanks to Bob Lane for providing the background information on the Piping Plovers currently at Maumee Bay State Park. I agree one hundred percent with Bob's statement that an effort must be made to protect these birds. The good news is that such an effort is already under way.

Kimberly Kaufman and others from Black Swamp Bird Observatory, plus several individuals from the Toledo birding community, have been on the scene for the last several days. The state park officials, plus agents from the state and federal wildlife agencies, are fully on board with the need to protect the plovers. The area where the birds have been going through courtship activities (on the inland beach section of the park) has been cordoned off and volunteer monitors have been watching the site. As of last night, May 31, the plovers had established a nest and had laid the first egg. Let's hope these pioneers are successful in their historic nesting attempt!--Kenn Kaufman / Oak Harbor, Ohio”

Pre-registration is required:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpf-yopi0tHN1kFeyGoOuumiXAWG3FEyCO>

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

Urgent Advocacy Action Alert from Marnie Urso, Policy Director, Audubon Great Lakes

Urge your Ohio State Senator to oppose SB 52 today.

Ohio's clean energy future is at risk. Adopting renewable energy is critical to reducing pollution, lowering global temperatures, and preserving the places that Ohio's birds need to survive. Audubon strongly supports renewable energy — including solar, wind, and geothermal power — that is properly sited in ways that avoid, minimize, and mitigate negative impacts on birds and other wildlife. If allowed to pass, Senate Bill 52 gives county officials authority to functionally veto a proposed solar or wind energy project at the last minute of the power siting process. Ohio legislators should be leading on energy policy, not putting our state in reverse.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife would like your support for the Ohio Bullfrog logo license plate. They are working with the Dublin school that designed the plate and need 150 signatures from citizens who have a valid Ohio Driver's License that intend to purchase the license plate. It will provide funds to the Wetland Habitat fund to restore wetlands. Feel free to share the info with others who might want to help in this cause.



The deadline is June 22nd . Please send this completed document <https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/static/bmv4820.pdf> to Paula Farrell (Paula.Farrell@dnr.ohio.gov). The information needed to complete the form: designate the Wetland Habitat fund and the Bullfrog license plate at the top, then enter your information and provide your signature. Thank you!

GAAS WEB PAGE! Have you visited our new website?

Last month, we announced our new website. This month we'd like to publicly acknowledge all the work that Marie Morgan has done to keep the Christmas Bird Count history on our website. Thanks to Marie, a former CBC compiler for 27 years, we now have the entire history and count information available in Excel or pdf format on the website. This was a major effort and we can't thank her enough. If you happen to run into Marie, introduce yourself and thank her for all she's done for our chapter for MANY years. She also compiled the chapter's history and created the slideshow with historical content into the 1990s that anyone can access on the website.

Website content is a work in progress so be sure to visit regularly: <http://www.akronaudubon.org>. If you've missed or deleted these **For the Birds** emails, they are also posted in the archives. And if you have suggestions or would like to help maintain the website, we need your help as well! Please direct questions or comments to info@akronaudubon.org

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