

# BULLETIN

SUMMER 2022



*In this issue:* Spring Bird Behavior—Supporting and Understanding Our Feathered Friends

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# BULLETIN

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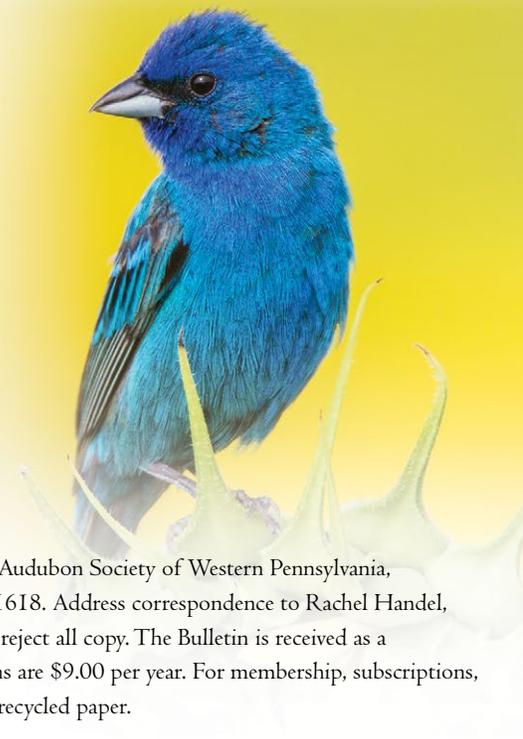
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Indigo Buntings are  
one of the most beautiful  
birds to return to our  
area each Spring.

*Photo by Sunil Gopalan,  
Audubon Photography Awards*



The Bulletin is published four times a year by Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238-1618. Address correspondence to Rachel Handel, Editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject all copy. The Bulletin is received as a membership benefit. Nonmember subscriptions are \$9.00 per year. For membership, subscriptions, or address change, contact ASWP. Printed on recycled paper.



# This Audubon View

We spend a lot of time making recommendations about things you should do around your home to help birds and the environment. Things like planting native plants, cleaning your bird feeders, keeping your cat indoors, and putting tape on your windows to prevent bird collisions. Now, I'm ready to change it up. I'm going to recommend that you stop doing something and still help birds and the environment. Stop mowing your lawn. Well, at least some of it. For the month of May. Why? I've been reading about a movement called "No Mow May." First coined by the UK-based organization Plantlife, it's now being embraced by many organizations and several municipalities in the United States. The goal of the program is quite simple—to encourage the plant life in your yard to grow undisturbed during Spring, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators. Urban areas, where habitat is already at a premium, are ideal locations for this program.



I really love the idea of No Mow May, but I must admit that the siren call of my lawn mower (even my relatively quiet electric one) is a strong one. After what seems like a long winter, I'm eager to spend time working in the yard. My compromise—and I hope yours—is to break the yard into sections. One small section will get the usual spring cleanup, another will be my No Mow (April and) May area, and the other areas will continue to be quality habitat all year long.

I understand that many of you live in communities that have ordinances regarding lawn heights or what's considered to be an "unkempt" property. You can now find No Mow May signs in our Nature Stores—these attractive signs alert passersby that your lawn's growth is purposeful, not neglectful. You can also go all in and enroll in our Certified Backyard Habitat program. Not only does the program support birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial species through the installation of native plants, it's also recognized and embraced by communities throughout the region.

It's your free pass to do more by doing less.

—Jim

## OUR RESERVES, NATIVE PLANT NURSERY, AND NATURE STORES

### BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

• Audubon Nature Store & Native Plant Nursery

### BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055

• Audubon Nature Store

### SUCCOP NATURE PARK

185 W. Airport Road in Penn Township, Butler, PA 16002

• Audubon Nature Store

### TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055

**ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:** For accessibility needs or questions about any of our sites, please contact Brian Shema at (412) 963-6100 or at [bshema@aswp.org](mailto:bshema@aswp.org). For accessibility needs or questions about any of our programs, please contact Chris Kubiak at (412) 963-6100 or [ckubiak@aswp.org](mailto:ckubiak@aswp.org). All other questions regarding accessibility or inclusion can be directed to Jim Bonner at (412) 963-6100 or [jbonner@aswp.org](mailto:jbonner@aswp.org).



# What's Behind SPRING BIRD BEHAVIOR?



Spring's dawn chorus is blissful. Warmer weather, bird sounds emanating from your bird feeder, and then \*plunk\*. The pristine morning is shaken by the sound of a woodpecker going after your prized wood siding.

Why does this happen? And why are birds suddenly so interested in attacking their reflections in your windows? You've probably already guessed that it has everything to do with Spring. And we're here to help you to better understand and support our feathered friends as they settle in for summer, make their nests, and raise their young.

## WHY ARE BIRDS ATTACKING MY WINDOWS?

We all love spring. The days get longer and the weather gets warmer. Flowers bloom and birds start attacking windows. It seems like a rite of passage every April through June in Western Pennsylvania. So why do they do this?

The root cause of this behavior is based on territorial defense. When the days get longer, every spring male bird's hormones rise and the bird begins to select an area to aggressively defend.

Bird territories vary in size depending on the specific species and resources. The American Robin and Northern Cardinal defend relatively small territories, like a small backyard. Other local birds may defend a territory that exceed 50 acres or more.

Since most birds that sing are males and actively defending a territory, any other male is usually dissuaded from invading that space. If there happens to be any reflective surface around—like your windows—the territorial bird sees its own image and mistakes it for a rival.

This triggers an aggressive response as the bird tries to drive the “interloper” away. The activity may continue throughout the breeding season but passes once the active breeding season ends in June. If it continues contact our Nature Store for options that look good while keeping birds from impacting windows.

When placing deterrent tape on windows, remember that it's the window's outside-facing glass that is reflecting, so placing tape on the inside often doesn't work. The good news? Anything you do to reduce window aggression in spring will also help to reduce window strikes throughout the year.

## WHY IS A WOODPECKER ATTACKING MY HOUSE?

Woodpeckers, like the birds we talked about above, claim and defend a territory. In the case of woodpeckers, though, they hammer on the side of your house (and other wooden structures) in the Spring because they're protecting their realm.

“Drumming,” when male woodpeckers repeatedly peck on a hard wood or sometimes metal surface, is a way that the birds broadcast their territory. It works for them—and for other birds—but may not be so appealing to the humans who hear the ruckus.

If you hear drumming from a woodpecker, know that it will subside when the breeding season winds down. There's no proven or reliable method to deter woodpeckers—and sprays and chemicals don't work (and they can negatively impact other beneficial species). But be sure to check out the situation if the drumming continues. It can be a sign that you have insects or other food sources underneath the siding of your house.

**I SEE THE BIRDS EATING INSECTS.  
SHOULD I KEEP FILLING THE FEEDER  
IN SPRING AND SUMMER?**

For as long as there have been bird feeders, there has been the question as to whether birds should be fed all year, or just in winter.

Studies indicate that backyard feeder birds circulate throughout the local environment, using all types of food available to them. In fact, the birds that you see at your feeders may only be getting up to 15% of their diet from your feeders, regardless of the season.

While feeding birds can provide them with a convenient option, it is important to remember that feeders are not the only food source birds are using.

If you are a winter-only bird feeder(er), here are some things to consider...by extending your feeding season, you can enjoy a much wider variety of birds. In spring, you might attract migrating birds to your yard.

Each year, we hear from excited people who have Rose-breasted Grosbeaks or Indigo Buntings visiting their seed feeders.

By offering foods in summer, you could begin enjoying your local Bluebirds, Baltimore Orioles or Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Add in a water source and your yard could attract just about any bird nearby!

You can certainly choose to put a cut-off date on your backyard feeders. But, if you enjoy birds and are excited about the opportunity to see them year-round, we invite you to extend your feeding season.

Are the birds in your neighborhood exhibiting some uniquely Springtime behaviors? If you have questions about what your backyard birds are up to, contact us at [info@aswp.org](mailto:info@aswp.org).

*Story continues on page 10.*

ATTRACT BALTIMORE ORIOLES TO YOUR YARD WITH FEEDERS  
**DESIGNED JUST FOR THEM!**

**Pick up your feeder and feeding supplies at Audubon Nature Stores!**



# Summer

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE



REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT [ASWP.ORG](http://ASWP.ORG)  
OR BY CALLING (412) 963-6100.

Events take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR), Succop Nature Park (SNP), Todd Nature Reserve (TNR), Buffalo Creek Nature Park (BCNP), or online via Zoom.

Register online at [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) or call (412) 963-6100.

### Special Events

#### BIDS, BOOZE, AND GOOD FOODS

*Sunday, May 15, 12–4pm / BCNP*

Enjoy local brews, wines, coffee, and other cold drinks—along with tasty foods—while you browse a variety of themed baskets up for raffle. It's all to support Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's Buffalo Creek Nature Park! While you're here, purchase an arm's worth (or more) of raffle tickets and choose which basket(s) you want to take a chance on winning.

#### NATIVE PLANT NURSERY OPENING DAY SALE

*Saturday, May 14, 9am–5pm / BFNR*

Are you ready to kick off this year's gardening season? We'll have a wide selection of true western Pennsylvania native perennials, shrubs, and trees available and staff on hand to help you choose the right native plants for your yard. An extra 10% discount will be offered—that's 20% off for ASWP members and 10% off for non-members. Native plants attract and support birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects—and they're beautiful, too! Learn more about them by visiting our native plants section at [aswp.org](http://aswp.org).

#### PICNICS IN THE PARK

*Thursdays, June 23, July 21, & August 25, 6:30–8:30pm / SNP*

Our popular Picnics in the Park are back for 2022! Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy free live music at Succop Nature Park. Visit [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) for a list of bands that will be performing.

### Birding & Nature Hikes

#### BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST LED MORNING WALKS

**BCNP:** Every Tuesday at 9am; Free

**BFNR:** Every Wednesday at 9am; Free

**SNP:** Every Thursday 9am; Free

**TNR:** Every Friday at 9am; Free

#### BEGINNING BIRDING HIKE

*Saturday, May 7, 9–11am / BFNR, SNP & BCNP*

Ever wanted to go bird watching, but didn't know where to begin? This program helps beginning birders to get their feet wet in one of the fastest growing outdoor activities—birding! This program will show you how to use binoculars and field guides while discovering the secrets to become a better birder! Free.

### Online Natural History Programs

#### CHIMNEY SWIFTS: LIFE ON THE WING

*Tuesday, May 3, 7pm / Zoom*

Some people say that Chimney Swifts look like a cigar with wings! These smudge-gray birds nimbly maneuver over rooftops, fields, and rivers to catch insects. Learn about the life history of this enigmatic little bird that spends almost its entire life airborne, as well as ASWP's Chimney Swift conservation efforts across the region. Free.

#### MUSHROOMS FOR MUGGLES

*Tuesday, May 17, 7pm / Zoom*

Don't know much about mushrooms and need a place to start? Join us for an overview of the major mushroom types and their critical ecological role. There's more to mushrooms than meets the eye! Free.

## FROGS OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Tuesday, June 7, 7pm / Zoom*

Frogs play an important role in our Pennsylvania ecosystems, serving as both prey and predator, and are considered indicators of environmental health. Learn more about and hear the sounds of fascinating local frog species that live in our region. Free.

## POLLINATOR POWER!

*Saturday, June 25, 7pm / Zoom*

Pollinator Week is June 20-26; which of our local pollinators might visit your backyard? Learn to identify the most valuable players on your pollination team and get tips on how you can support them with your plantings and practices. This program is geared towards adults; interested older children are welcome. Free.

## THE BIRDS AND THE BEANS: WHY SHADE GROWN COFFEE HELPS BIRDS (AND TASTES BETTER!)

*Tuesday, July 5, 7pm / Zoom*

Bird-friendly, shade-grown coffee is grown and harvested under the canopy of mature trees—a process that parallels how coffee was historically grown. But with most farms converting to full-sun operations, crucial habitats for migrating and resident bird species are being lost. This program will discuss how shade grown coffee helps birds, where to find it, and why it tastes better. Free.

## TREE ID

*Tuesday, July 19, 7pm / Zoom*

Western Pennsylvania has a number of interesting and important tree species in our local ecosystems. This program discusses a number of the main types, their ecology, and how to identify them. Free.

## *Hands-on & Outdoor Programs*

### FORAGING IN THE FOREST: LOCATING EDIBLE, MEDICINAL, & USEFUL PLANTS

*Saturday, May 7, 2–4pm / INR*

Native and non-native plants are good for birds, pollinators, and wildlife—but did you know that many can also be eaten by people? Learn how to identify and responsibly enjoy edible plants that are found in our region. \$5 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

### MAKE & TAKE: CREATE A WALKING STICK & HIKE

*Saturday, July 2, 10am–12pm / BCNP*

*Saturday, July 2, 2–4pm / BFNR*

*Saturday, June 4, 10am–12pm / SNP*

A walking stick is a great tool to have on the trail. Using tough and sustainable birch wood, we will create custom walking sticks with an inlaid compass, leather lanyard, and measurement notches. During the hike, we will use our sticks to measure the height of trees and navigate using the compass. All materials are provided. One walking stick per registration. \$25 per member group; \$35 per nonmember group.

## STORIES AROUND THE FIRE

*Sunday, May 29, 1–2pm / BCNP*

There's something about telling a story while you sit around the fire. Join us as we grab a cup of cocoa or cider and gather around the fire. We will tell a story and then do a participant story where you have a chance to add to the adventure. This event takes place outdoors. \$5 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## SUNDAYS IN THE PARK

*Sundays, June 26; July 24; August 28, 11am–2pm / BCNP*

Enjoy summer in the park! Who's up for a game of croquet, corn hole, or throwing a Frisbee around? Purchase lunch from one of the local food trucks that will be on-hand or bring your own picnic, enjoy some music, and play some lawn games. Free.

## FLYING JEWELS: DRAGONFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS

*Saturday, July 30, 10am–12pm / BCNP*

*Saturday, July 9, 10am–12pm / BFNR & SNP*

Let's explore the world of dragonflies, our "flying jewels." We will begin in the classroom with a review of our common species and their habits. Afterward, we'll visit the pond to see them in person! Suitable for adults and older children. \$5 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## MOTH MANIA

*Tuesday, July 26, 9:30–11:30 pm / BCNP*

It's National Moth Week! An Environmental Educator for Jennings Environmental Learning Center will teach us about these mostly nocturnal flying insects and see what our night lights attract. Let's see how many moths we can identify—you might be surprised by the wide variety of moths that we will find. \$5 per member, \$10 per nonmember

## *Native Plants*

These native plant programs are underwritten by our good friends at the Fox Chapel Garden Club.

## SUPPORTING POLLINATORS

*Thursday, May 12, 7pm / Zoom*

Pollination is an extremely critical component for successful reproduction in plants. Discover the fascinating survival strategies plants use to lure pollinators critical to seed pollination and how you can support these species in your yard with native plants. Free.

## BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

*Thursday, June 16, 7pm / Zoom*

Did you know that your backyard can serve as an important part in keeping our local ecosystems healthy? This program shows people how to select native plants for their backyards, creating a beautiful wildlife habitat. Free.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

Thursday, July 14, 7pm / Zoom

Invasive species are introduced and non-native. These plants or animals can severely degrade our local habitats. This program discusses the impact of invasive species as well as native plant replacement strategies. Free.

## Community Science

### NATIVE POLLINATORS

Saturday, May 14, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Saturday, May 14, 3–5pm / SNP

Saturday, May 21, 10am–12pm / BFNR

Pollination is an essential part of a well-functioning and productive ecosystem. Pollinators play a key role in the development of over 150 food crops in the United States. However, scientists have shown long-term declines in pollinator population trends for some North American pollinators, including our native bumble bees. This program discusses our native pollinators and how to help them—including a primer on Bumble Bee Watch, a community science program designed to track and conserve North America's bumble bees in your own yard. Free.

### SUMMER NIGHTS AND FIREFLIES

Thursday, June 30, 8–10pm / BCNP, BFNR & SNP

Is there anything more enjoyable than a summer night filled with fireflies? Did you know that some fireflies can synchronize their flashes or that others trick different fireflies and lure them to become an evening snack? Learn about our state insect and its interesting life—and how to count fireflies in your own backyard. We will start with a presentation then go outside to observe and count as night falls. Free.

## KEEP YOUR PLANTS ORGANIZED AND YOUR GARDEN LOOKING GREAT

with Gardening Tools and Décor from Audubon Nature Stores!



## MONARCHS & MILKWEED

Saturday, July 23, 10am–12pm / BCNP, BFNR & SNP

Milkweed is a critically important food source for Monarch Butterflies. In this program, you'll learn about Monarchs' conservation challenges and how you can help by planting milkweed. We will also discuss the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, which is a long term study of the distribution, breeding, and mortality rates of monarch butterflies as they have gone in steep decline. This community science project engages people in observing and studying the milkweed habitat including identifying all life stages of the Monarch butterfly in the field. Free.

## Kids and Preschoolers

### FLEDGLINGS: AGES 3-5

Tuesdays: May 10, June 14, July 12, 10–11:15am / SNP

Wednesdays: May 11, June 8, July 13, 10–11:15am / BCNP

Thursdays: May 12, June 9, July 14, 10–11:15am / BFNR

Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. Fledglings programs incorporate stories, a walk, and activities to introduce new and fun nature themes to young participants. A parent or caregiver must be present. \$4 member; \$6 nonmember.

May: Dandelion Seed: Dandelions and Spring Color

June: You Little Stinker: Skunks

July: Lost Ladybug: Meadow Insects

## Buffalo Creek Watershed and Important Bird Area Series

Offered free of cost by Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Buffalo Creek Watershed Coalition with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Fund.

### BECOMING STORMWATER SAVVY (INCLUDES A FREE TREE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED)

Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 pm / BCNP

Stormwater runoff is the primary way that pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, petroleum products, harmful bacteria (pet waste), and other toxic materials are transported into our waterways. Because of increased development and more intense rain, we've been experiencing more and more stormwater runoff. Luckily, we can all make a difference. There are many ways that we can all help reduce stormwater runoff.

Join ASWP and Penn State Extension to learn more about stormwater, ways that you can reduce stormwater runoff from your property, and improve water quality in our region.

This program is open to everyone. Residents of the Buffalo Creek Watershed will receive a free tree for attending. Please register in advance at [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org) by calling (412) 963-6100 so that we can be sure to have enough trees.

### STREAM EXPLORATION DAY

*Friday, July 22, 10am–3pm / BCNP*

Are you looking for a fun way to cool off this summer? Grab your family and friends and join Danielle Rihel, Buffalo Creek's Watershed Coordinator to learn about streams and how to keep our local waterways healthy. Explore Little Buffalo Creek as we search for macroinvertebrates and learn about watersheds and their ecology.

This is an experiential program, so come prepared to get wet; water shoes are required and you may wish to pack a towel and/or change of clothes. Registration is required.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### BEECHWOOD CONSERVATION CORPS

*Wednesdays: 5/11, 6/8 & 7/13 or Saturdays: 6/25 & 7/23  
10am–12pm / BFNR*

Join Audubon to help make Beechwood even more bird-friendly and learn new skills that you can use in your own yards and neighborhoods. Work will include removing invasive species and re-planting high wildlife native species. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary.

Interested but not able to make these dates? Contact Tim Byan, Whetzel Land Steward, at [steward@aswp.org](mailto:steward@aswp.org) or (412) 963-6100 to learn about additional ways to get involved with habitat enhancement at ASWP's properties.

### HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

*Saturday, May 7, 9am–12pm / BFNR  
Saturday, May 28, 9am–12pm / TNR*

Volunteers are needed to help make Beechwood even more bird- and pollinator-friendly. Activities will include removing invasive species and replacing them with high wildlife-value native plants such as milkweed. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. Special thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarchs and Pollinators Conservation Fund for its support of this project.

## Save the Date!

FOR THESE EVENTS AT  
BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK!

FLYING SOLO FARM FAIR  
*Saturday, August 27, 10am–4pm*

The Flying Solo Birding Club is a birding club started by an ASWP volunteer and Master Birder. Members have some incredible talents and at this event, they're selling their wares in support of Audubon. Join us for the second annual fair being held at Buffalo Creek Nature Park.

SECOND ANNUAL BUFFALO CREEK  
WATERSHED FESTIVAL  
*Saturday, September 10, 10am–3pm*

Join ASWP, the Buffalo Creek Watershed Coalition, and watershed partners for a day of family-friendly educational activities focused on exploring and celebrating the Buffalo Creek Watershed and Important Bird Area.

## Mother's Day Gifts

### THAT WILL MAKE MOM SHINE!

Audubon Nature Stores have gifts for all of the special people in your life. Our stores feature colorful and handcrafted, sterling silver jewelry made by Women of The Cloud Forest. When you purchase these fair trade products, proceeds support habitat preservation in the Amazon rainforest.



# What's Behind SPRING BIRD BEHAVIOR *Continued from Page 5*

## POPS OF COLOR

As the trees begin to leaf out, you may think that your eyes are fooling you when you see a vibrant visitor in the branches. Spring brings colorful, beautiful birds into our region. Be on the lookout for some of our favorites, including male Indigo Buntings, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, and male and female Wood Ducks. *Bird information courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology.*



### INDIGO BUNTING

Male Indigo Buntings are all blue in color and are sometimes called “blue canaries” because of their vibrant singing. You’ll find Indigo Buntings in weedy fields and shrubby areas near trees, singing from dawn to dusk atop the tallest perch in sight or foraging for seeds and insects in low vegetation.

*Photo courtesy of Julie Torkomian/Audubon Photography Awards.*



### RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Thanks to the male’s green, shimmering feathers, Ruby-throated hummingbirds can look like jewels in the full sun. Attract them to your backyard with hummingbird nectar and native flowers. You’ll find that they’re quite bold and will feed with people standing close-by.

*Photo courtesy of Patricia McGuire/Audubon Photography Awards.*



### BALTIMORE ORIOLE

The Baltimore Oriole’s song means “spring” to many. The birds tend to be up high but the male’s bright orange feathers are easy to see. They’re fond of fruit and nectar as well as insects, and there are special feeders that hold fruit and jelly—made just for them.

*Photo courtesy of Richard Rigterink/Audubon Photography Awards.*



### SCARLET TANAGER

Described as “blindingly gorgeous” birds, male Scarlet Tanagers have striking red bodies and jet black wings and tails. They tend to stay high in the forest canopy singing rich, burry songs. In your backyard, the birds will visit berry plants, including huckleberries and serviceberries.

*Photo courtesy of Randy Streufert/Audubon Photography Awards.*



### WOOD DUCK

Male Wood Ducks are iridescent chestnut and green, with ornate patterns on nearly every feather. In this species, the females also get to show off a delicate white pattern around the eye. They live in wooded swamps, where they nest in holes in trees or in nest boxes put up around the edges of lakes.

*Photo courtesy of Harry Collings/Audubon Photography Awards.*

## BIRDS HITTING YOUR WINDOWS?

Millions of birds are killed and injured each year due to window strikes. Prevent bird injury with Window Alert products from Audubon Nature Stores.



# Ask the NATURALIST

## BABY BIRD SEASON DOS AND DON'TS

*Over the next few months, baby birds may be found outside of their nests. This can be a shocking experience for a person who finds the bird and is genuinely concerned for its safety.*

Birds grow very quickly and sometimes leave the nest before their feathers fully grow out. This can make for an awkward first flight that makes it seem as if the bird has been injured or abandoned.

If you do notice a baby bird outside of its nest, do your best to leave it alone. If the first flight didn't go smoothly, the bird may be taking some time to recover before making its way back into the nest. The birds' parents are generally in the area and monitoring the baby's movements. Additionally, the parents may not immediately intervene—they do have other young to be looking after.

Just because the baby appears to be on its own doesn't mean that it is.

However, if the baby bird looks to be at risk; for example, if it's in direct sunlight or otherwise exposed to predators, you can assist the bird by moving it beneath a nearby shrub or bush (if the nest is not in reach or sight). Keep the bird as close to the place you found it as is possible—this will also help the parents to find their MIA young one and bring it back into the nest.

If the baby bird is in serious peril with visible injuries—and this is true of any injured wild animal—your best bet is to contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. And remember—it's not true that bird parents won't care for a baby that's been touched by a human. The parents' number one priority is raising eggs to hatch and fledge the nest.



**AUDUBON**  
**NATURE  
CAMPS**  
**FOR KIDS AGES 5-18**

Audubon's summer camps get kids into nature. No screens, no devices.  
Build friendships, make memories, and connect with the outdoors.

**SUMMER IS A TIME TO  
EXPLORE, HAVE FUN—AND  
LEARN ALONG THE WAY!**

Camps take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (Fox Chapel), Succop Nature Park (Butler), and Buffalo Creek Nature Park (Sarver). Register today at [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org) or by calling (412) 963-6100.

 Audubon Society  
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
[www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org)

# AUDUBON News

## NISOURCE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AND COLUMBIA GAS AWARD \$10,500 GRANT

ASWP recently received a generous grant from the NiSource Charitable Foundation and Columbia Gas to support our work to expand the Rights of Ways (ROWs) for Pollinators Program. ROWs are areas that include areas such as roadsides, railways, and transmission and pipeline corridors—necessary parts of society but not always the prettiest. They're also poor habitats for Monarch Butterflies and other wildlife. This grant will help ASWP to restore, enhance, and improve ROWs throughout western Pennsylvania, turning them into quality habitat.

In addition to its financial support for the project, NiSource and its regional Columbia Gas staff have also supported this initiative through donated time and providing training on invasive species management to project partners such as PennDOT staff.

This grant expands on work started in 2021 that was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarchs and Pollinator Conservation Fund.

## FORESTRY MULCHING MAKES BEECHWOOD EVEN MORE BIRD-FRIENDLY

ASWP is working to improve the region's habitat both on and off of our reserves. This Spring, we performed forestry mulching—also known in scientific literature as Masticating—to manage dense thickets of invasive shrubs at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

With the invasive shrubs out of the way, ASWP conservation staff and volunteers will work to replant the area to create high-quality habitat that supports birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

A total of 10 acres were cleared with a forestry mulcher:

- Five acres along a Duquesne Light Right of Way (ROW), visible from Hart's Run Road. This area will be transformed into a meadow which will support Monarchs, bumblebees, and other native pollinators. Meadow planting will take place in Fall 2022.
- Five acres in the Pine Hollow section of the property—an area where there'd been extensive ash tree die off as a result of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. Ash trees are pioneer trees and had comprised a majority of the tree canopy in that area. The invasive insects moved through and killed the ash trees, wiping out most of the tree canopy and allowing invasive shrubs to overtake the area. Now that this is cleared, forest restoration plantings have begun and will continue for several years.

This project was made possible through the generous support of Davey Tree Expert Company, Duquesne Light Company, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Fund, and the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership. Special thanks to Rob Kruljac from Davey for donating his time and training staff on how to run the machine!



# Memorials AND Honors



## Memorials

**Henry Bakkila**

Lori and Matthew Swensson

**Gerard Condron**

Rebecca Decker

**John Fetkovich**

Gail and Bruce Ehrenberger

**Javier Gomez**

Carol and William Rodgers

**Butch Haney**

Steven Cook

**Judy & Rich Klaiber**

Beth and Gus Succop

**Nancy Lyons**

Amy Coombs

**June Marshall**

Carol Fletcher  
Cindy and Don Princeler  
Elizabeth and Patricia Ronczka

**Franklin McCarthy**

Ohio University  
Sally Greulich  
Susan and James Hutchinson  
Donna and George McGannon  
Leanna Zelonka

**John Micija**

Beaver Falls Area School  
District Student Council and  
National Honor Society

**Quinn Peyton**

Amy and Rudolph Maceyko

**Tim Prepelka**

Crafton Heights United  
Presbyterian Church

**Ruth Ralston**

Amy and Rudolph Maceyko

**Esther Shibler**

Harriet Kruman

**Suzanne Weaver**

Patrick Berdine  
Pat Fisher  
Cora and John Pruss  
Jan Sweeney  
Sally and Len Weaver  
Cheri Zielinski

**Lois Wigton**

Ilene Bailey  
Anne Muhl

## Honors

**Kristen Pesci**

Marilyn Pesci and  
Charles Dizard

**Eleonor Rico**

Rebecca and James Mauch



LOOKING FOR THE  
*Perfect Location*

FOR YOUR  
WEDDING, SHOWER,  
BIRTHDAY PARTY, OR  
OTHER EVENT?

Contact us at (412) 963-6100 to learn more about all of your rental spaces, surrounded by the beauty of nature. We offer rentals at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, Succop Nature Park, and Buffalo Creek Nature Park.

*Photo courtesy of Michael Will Photographers*

# SHARE AUDUBON WITH YOUR FRIENDS: GIFT THEM AN *Audubon Membership*

Give the gift of birds and nature with a yearlong membership to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. They will enjoy a 10% discount on Nature Store purchases and bird seed, advanced notice of sales and events, discounts on the nature programs they love, a subscription to our quarterly Bulletin, invitations to members-only events, and updates on important scientific, conservation, and legislative issues, all while you get the 100% good feeling of supporting the birds and environment of our region! Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is a nonprofit organization supported in large part through membership dues. You can also join or renew your membership at [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or Renewal Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$35          | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservationist: \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household: \$50           | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward: \$1,000       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist: \$100         | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Level: \$100      |
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Go online now or mail this form with payment to:  
ASWP Membership, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

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*NOTE: Gift memberships will be sent directly to the recipient.*

How to list your recognition on the recipient note:

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*A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

## *Special Thanks* TO OUR SUPPORTERS

*Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania wishes to thank the following companies, foundations, and other organizations for their support of our programs, projects, and places. Contact us at (412) 963-6100 for more information on how your company or organization can get involved with ASWP.*

- |   |  |                                |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
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| Ally Bank   | I Noah Guy, LLC  | Patagonia Pittsburgh           |
| American Eagle Outfitters                                   | Laurel Foundation                                      | Penn Township Commissioners    |
| Armstrong Farms Landscape Supply                            | Milton G. Hulme Charitable Foundation                  | Piccadilly Herb Club           |
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| Church Brew Works Foundation                                | National Audubon Society                               | Schwab Charitable              |
| Clark Hunter Foundation                                     | National Fish & Wildlife Foundation                    | Sol Power Yoga, Sarver         |
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# NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

OPEN FOR THE SEASON MAY 14

**NURSERY HOURS:  
TUESDAY– SUNDAY; 9 AM – 5 PM  
GET DISCOUNTS ON OPENING DAY!**

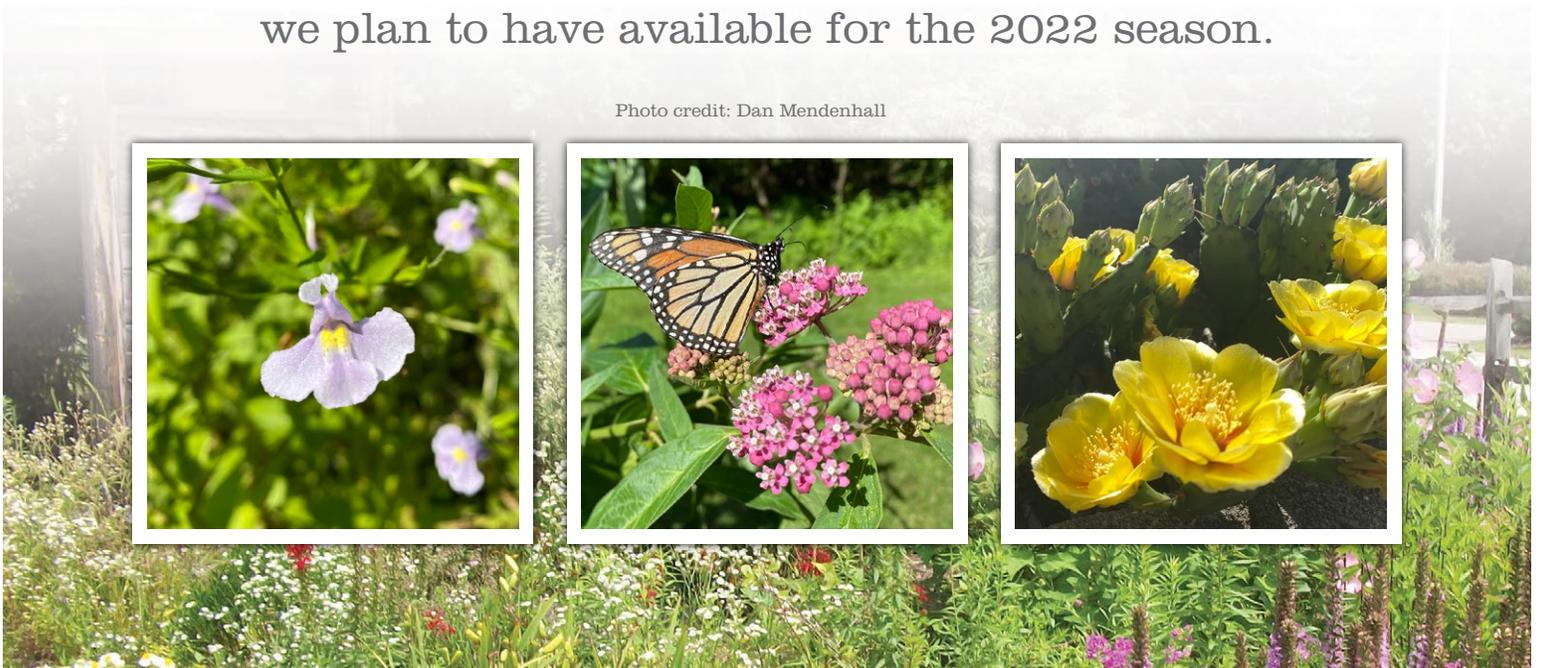


Audubon's native plant nursery is open through October. We offer over 150 species of true Western Pennsylvania perennials, trees, and shrubs to attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects to your yard.

**Thinking about this year's garden?**

Visit [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) to see the list of native plants that we plan to have available for the 2022 season.

Photo credit: Dan Mendenhall





614 DORSEYVILLE ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

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Tuesday-Sunday from 9am-5pm

**BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK**  
154 Monroe Road in Sarver · 724-295-3589  
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**SUCCOP NATURE PARK**  
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Tuesday-Saturday from 12-5pm  
Expanded summer hours coming soon

