

# Monthly Pollen

June 2022



## Native Pollinator



Photo Credit: Bruce Bartel

### Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*

**Description:** Adult males are flame-orange and black with a solid black head and a white bar on their black wings. Females and young are yellow-orange on their breast with gray head and back and two white bars on black wings. 23-30 cm wingspan with sturdy bodies and long, thick-based pointed bills.

**Flight:** Spend summers from Canada to Mexico and migrate to the south in winter.

**Nesting Habitat:** Up high in large, leafy deciduous trees in open woodland, forest edges, or wooded wetlands.

**Foraging Habitat:** Forage in canopy of bushes and trees for insects, caterpillars, fruits, and sips nectar.

**Behavior:** Solitary unless in mating season. Monogamous with males spreading wings and tale while singing to attract the female.

## Native Plant



### Ohio Buckeye Tree, *Aeculus glabra*

**Description:** Rounded tree with low, sweeping branches of dense foliage. 20-40 feet at mature height. Leaves are compound with 5 leaflets, each up to 6 inches long. Fruits of shiny brown nuts covered by a prickly husk. Large yellow-green clustered flowers 12 inches long.

**Bloom Time:** May-June.

**Native Habitat:** Full to partial sun in acidic, moist soil that is well-drained.

**Value:** One of the first trees to leaf out in spring and provides food and habitat for butterflies, small mammals, and migrating birds.

## Nifty Nests



Photo Credit: Donna Briggs

### Nifty Nests

**Woven Art:** Orioles' distinctive nests are constructed in the slender upper branches of trees. The gourd shaped nests hang 3-4 inches deep with a 2-3 inch opening and large bottom chamber. The bottom chamber is shaped to the female's body.

**Nest Materials:** The nest are constructed by females from grass, bark, wool, animal hair and sometimes even artificial fibers such as cellophane or twine. It is first anchored to a branch with a long fiber which is then poked and tangled to add more fibers until the desired size and shape is constructed.