

Jackson, Lenawee, Washtenaw Cooperative

Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin



Daylight savings has passed, selection Sunday is coming up, and many people have reported sightings of red winged back birds. This means that spring is around the corner, and invasive species are going to be budding out! Before you start cleaning up your garden, wait until native insects such as bees have had a chance to emerge!

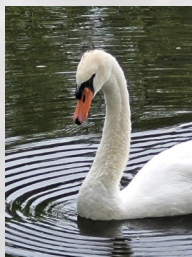
The Ethics of Invasive Species Management!

The other day I was excited to have photographed a barred owl while on a hike, and decided to do some research into this species as I wasn't familiar with it. To my surprise, I found this species was considered an invasive species in parts of western USA! Barred owls were prevented from migrating west until European settler's planted trees allowing the owls to cross the Great Plains. Now, they are outcompeting the northern spotted owl as they have a high reproductive and are more generalists. Government agencies are seeking comment on a plan that includes shooting them (as releasing them elsewhere would just spread the problem to new areas). As you can imagine, there was a lot of opposition. In Michigan, we face a similar dilemma when it comes to managing mute swans, which are considered invasive for similar reasons but people enjoy watching these graceful swans. People laughingly tell me that the red swamp crayfish is a tasty species and we should let it take over local ponds. This begs the question, what is the ethical thing to do?

If humans are the reason the invasive species are here, should we intervene to protect the native species? How much money and time do you invest on the issue? What kind of animal rights do the invasive species have? Do we have an obligation to use non-lethal methods or lethal methods that are humane? Arguments for doing nothing include how invasive species will fill a niche that native endangered species can't fulfil, or how people find joy in seeing these animals as they spend time outside. This is a complex situation that we cannot possibly solve here, but we do need to reflect on what our role is in managing for invasive species, and addressing some of the biases that exist in making these decisions, such as prioritizing species that "look cute" or are considered charismatic and/or symbolic. Check out some of our social media links for more information and discussion!



a)



b)



c)

Species like a) barred owls, b) mute swans and c) red swamp crayfish create ethical dilemmas where they are invasive and impact native species and human experiences.

Upcoming Events

March 20th—NAISMA: Collaboration and Innovation: Working at Multiple Scales at the Department of the Interior to Manage Invasive Species; 2pm –4pm. Registration required:

naisma.org/event/collaboration-and-innovation-working-at-multiple-scales-at-the-department-of-the-interior-to-manage-invasive-species/

March 21st—Not MI Species Webinar: I Wash My Bottom, Do You? Engaging the Boating Industry in AIS Prevention; 9am-10am. Registration required:

us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3jXlMAhCTA2AjcKnrxi71A#/registration

April 11th—Not MI Species Webinar: Untangling the Knot: Identifying Effective Detection and Treatment Regimes for Invasive Knotweeds; 9am-10am. Registration required:

us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KkcNKirgQsWHFPMaDU6nnw#/registration

Website of the Month

Michigan has many different types of recreational trails people can use. This website has links to trails such as ORV, snowmobiles, hiking, biking, and associations to prioritize native species and -go selling invasive ornamental plant species.

michigan.gov/dnr/places/state-trails

Invasive Species Spotlight—Japanese Knotweed

- *Fallopia japonica* is native to Asia
- Alternate spade-shaped leaves, red stems while young grow tough and bamboo-like
- Can reach 4 to 8 ft. tall
- Spreads by underground stems called *rhizomes*
- Each broken piece can grow into a new plant
- Seeds can spread the plant quickly several blocks away



Native Species Spotlight—Northern Barred Owl

- *Strix varia* are stocky, have round heads with a heart shaped face
- Mottled brown and white back with brown bars on breast
- Prefer large, unfragmented mixed forests and nest 20-40 ft. high in tree cavities
- Eat small animals, amphibians, and birds (even grouse), and usually hunt after sunset or at night
- Considered invasive in parts of California and Oregon



If you have questions, please contact JLW Cisma Coordinator Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089.

Visit our website for more events and resources: jlwcisma.weebly.com



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