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# Flight Patterns

[www.tri-moraineaudubon.org](http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org)

FALL 2023

**TMAS Board Meeting** - The TMAS Board meetings are held in person at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus and are typically held the last Tuesday of the odd months. The next board meetings are scheduled for September 26 and November 28.

## **President**

Dan Hodges  
567.204.7974

## **Vice President**

Nancy Risner  
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## **Treasurer**

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## **Secretary**

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### **Program**

### **Publicity- Vacant**

### **Myeerah Mgmt. Group**

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### **Newsletter**

Jeannine Roediger  
567.259.9906

### **Ottawa River Coal. Rep.**

Dr. Leslie Riley

### **Membership**

David Gratz

### **Webmaster**

Michael Wildermuth  
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### **Volunteer**

Vacancy

### **Audubon Adventures**

Jennifer Waltz  
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## ***Nature Can Recover, if We Allow It..***

By Jeannine C. Roediger

We all lament the loss of habitat that seems ongoing in our culture. But, I take some comfort in the fact that nature can recover. It was something my Mother pointed out many years ago.

We were walking in our backyard and we noticed hundreds of tiny oaks sprouting under the parent tree. She remarked how, if left to its own devices, nature can recover and claim back what's been lost. She was right.

I see it in our yard every day. Trees come up in every place that the mower does not reach. Some are buried by squirrels, some by their own seed dispersal method or dropped by birds. They sprout, and if not for my efforts, could quickly form a jungle of growth.

The tenacity of plants is truly amazing. One sees seeds sprouting, growing and producing seeds from tiny plants in sidewalks, tucked near foundations, in the crack of a rock, in gravel driveways, anywhere they find some moisture and nutrients.

One sees these plants grow as tiny versions of their parents, showing flowers infinitely smaller than their more advantaged cousins, but producing seeds, none-the-less. I always find this amazing. They may not produce as many seeds but they produce enough to ensure the next generation. I love to see this, it gives me renewed hope.

I once found a tiny cottonwood growing in a rock while fishing at a nearby lake. I carefully tugged it out of its crack, knowing that in drier weather it would not survive. I planted it in a pot prior to moving it outside and watched in delight as it grew and grew, putting on more and more new leaves, taking advantage of its more gentle habitat.

I enjoy looking for these tiny miniatures wherever I walk or hike and always marvel how their will to survive makes them flourish under the harshest conditions. As I said, it gives me renewed hope that given a chance nature can turn things around and survive.



***A miniature Queen Anne's lace  
growing amongst clover.***

## **Field Trip Opportunities...**

### **Tecumseh Nature Preserve**

**September 12 - 6:00 p.m. at OSU Lima**

OSU Lima maintains a beautiful, 200-acre preserve that includes a variety of forest types as well as a recently restored prairie. We'll meander under massive oak trees, gawk at a Great Blue Heron rookery, and generally enjoy the final days of summer in the great outdoors. Meet at the trail head at the end of the parking lot northeast of the visitor's center.



### **Autumn Colors at Myeerah**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 p.m. at Myeerah Lodge (7405 State Rt 540 Bellefontaine, OH 43311)**

Myeerah Nature Preserve is a 450-acre natural area maintained by the Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District.

TMAS has been intimately involved with its acquisition and its ongoing conservation. While many have heard about it and we host Environmental Ed Weekend there in the spring, many of us haven't witnessed the preserve in all its autumn glory – now's the time!

### **Night Hike**

**November 16 – 7:00 p.m. at Hermon Woodlands**

We'll join the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District to see, hear, smell, touch, and taste the forest at nighttime. We'll practice using all our senses to help guide us as we embrace the dark!

You may bring a flashlight, but we will turn it off during portions of the hike. Be prepared for the weather and ground conditions. Register online at [jamp.com](http://jamp.com) by Nov 15.

### **Other Events of Interest**

Join the Johnny Appleseed Park District for some of their fall events. Find more information at [jampd.com](http://jampd.com)

**Sept 9 – Oct 28**, Saturday morning hiking series – Walking Thru Autumn!

**Oct 19** – Winter Birds and Bird Feeding evening program

**Oct 21** – International Observe the Moon night with the Lima Astronomical Society

**Oct 28** – Meet the W.I.L.D., engaging evening program/hike

*Submitted by Dan Hodges*

## **Program Meetings...**

**Attention to all!** We will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. for general meetings this year. We will still meet at the Visitor and Student Services Center on the Lima OSU campus. Special meetings and activities may take place at alternate times and locations, so watch for future announcements.

**Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Birds of Indian Lake**

Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima campus

We will kick off our 2023-2024 season with Troy Shively, local bird expert and coordinator of the Christmas Bird Counts of Indian Lake and Grand Lake St. Mary's.

He has extensive knowledge about local birds and will be sharing information about his new book featuring birds of Indian Lake. His book is free, and he will let us know where we can find it. Come meet Troy and find out about the birds that make Indian Lake their home!

**Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Featuring: The Common Loon**

Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima campus

John "Jay" Mager, Professor of Biological Sciences at Ohio Northern University will be our guest. His research interests and education focus on the behavioral ecology of birds. Specifically, his current research focuses on the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Jay will share findings from his recent research into the biology and social behavior of these beautiful birds.

**Tuesday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Gardening for Moths...for Birds**

Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima campus

Jim McCormack, Columbus Audubon, will be our guest. Jim has a strong bird and wildlife background. He works with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, where he applies his vast knowledge of plants.

His birding interests include authoring several books. He authored *The Great Lakes Nature Guide* (2009) and co-authored the *Breeding Birds Atlas II* (2014). He is an expert about plants for moths and moths as food for Ohio's birds.

He has won numerous awards, including the Ludlow Griscom award (2009, Ohio Ornithological Society) and the Ohioana Book award in 2010. His latest book focuses on *Gardening for Moths* and will be available for only \$35. Come and hear from Jim, buy a book, and have it signed by the author!

*Submitted by Nancy Risner*



**Luna moths**



## The Northern Cardinal...

Excerpts Taken from National Audubon Society Website

By Kharishar Kahfi

Editorial Intern

Renowned for its striking red plumage, the Northern Cardinal is among the most abundant and cherished songbirds in North America.

There's no getting around it: People love cardinals. And why not? Both male and female are beautiful birds that are easy to identify and a joy to see. As such, the Northern Cardinal is the state



bird for seven states, the mascot for innumerable sports teams, and even the subject of folklore.

Cardinals can be found in a wide variety of habitats—from deciduous forests to urban parks—throughout the eastern United States and Midwest, extending into western Texas and southern Arizona. They are year-round residents wherever they live and keep their crimson plumage no matter the season, providing a welcomed splash of color during snowy eastern winters. In early spring, their full-throated *cheer, cheer, cheer* song is an exciting sign that the seasons are shifting. Read on to discover more about this spellbinding species.

1.) Surprisingly, the Northern Cardinal's original U.S. range was mostly southern, with the species beginning its expansion northward in the early 1900s.

2.) So where'd the "Northern" in the bird's name come from then? In 1983, the American Ornithologists' Union—now the American Ornithological Society (AOS)—added this directional to help differentiate the species from other, more southern species also bearing the name cardinal, including the Yellow Cardinal

3.) As for the second part of the Northern Cardinal's common name, that has long been inspired by the bird's bright red plumage, which reminded people of the crimson robes and caps worn by the cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church.

4.) The bird's scientific name is *Cardinalis cardinalis*, but cardinals have had many colloquial names depending on their breeding. For more fun facts about our State Bird, go to <https://www.audubon.org/news/10-fun-facts-about-northern-cardinal>

## Tri-Moraine Aids in Bird Banding...

Tri Moraine is involved in the support of two bird banding stations in Nicaragua - Ometape and Los Guatuzos from the Institute for Bird Populations (MBI). Monitoring Neotropical Migrants in Winter (MoSi) is an exciting project that Audubon Chapters via COAC (Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters) have provided funding. Why support bird banding in Central America?

As birders, we are aware that many of the birds we enjoy during migration or the breeding season spend much of their non-breeding season in the southern hemisphere. As scientists, we need to know information to help conserve habitats for migrants as we do for other species.

The banding stations, located in remote areas, are able to get needed supplies through Audubon chapter donations. Banding begins in November, and while we, as supporters, would like to have communication with the banding stations, internet services and infrastructure are not reliable or always available and communications in Spanish require translation. As a result, there is a "lag time" between banding services and information that the stations provide.

Our Tri Moraine Audubon chapter is a member of COAC and has provided financial support for this project for several years. At our July chapter board meeting, we voted to contribute \$500 to continue this support. Watch for further MoSi and COAC updates in future newsletters.



**Monarch on Lobelia**

Submitted by Judy Jacomet



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#### President's Message

Another wonderful summer in the books! As the bird song has given way to the bugs, I'm reminded of both the novelty and predictability of the natural world we live in. Bird bustle around us, busy fattening up as many prepare for long migrations. Like flowers in the prairie, they often appear in waves, moving through Ohio in succession through the fall (though perhaps not as pronounced as the winter).

Many shorebirds have moved on by the time of your reading, but warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, and many other songbirds are just getting ready in the month of September. Next come the sparrows and then kinglets and friends. Finally, the waterfowl migration carries the baton. And before you know it, our summer visitors are gone, and our familiar winter friends visit our feeders again.

All these birds, some we enjoyed in the spring, others we've had all year, offer exciting opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature! With autumn there are so many new and exciting things to learn and experience, and yet there is a certain comfort knowing what to expect in the familiar patterns and faces.

It will be good to see you again at our monthly meetings and field trips - new people to meet and things to learn, but a familiar routine and good friends. As we move forward, especially working on our strategic plan, I'm comforted by the familiar and yet excited for growth and innovation. It's going to be a great year!

Naturally yours,  
Dan Hodges

