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# Flight Patterns

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

AUTUMN 2024

**TMAS Board Meeting** - The TMAS Board meetings are held in person in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus. The next board meeting is scheduled for September 24 at 6:30 p.m.

## President

Dan Hodges  
567.204.7974

## Vice President

Nancy Risner  
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Dr. Leslie Riley

## Membership

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## CONCERNING PROBLEMS...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

I am very concerned and it's something I have shared with you in the past. Each spring as our woodlands leaf out they are hit with ever increasing herbicide damage caused by drift from more and more toxic products.

My concern lies with the fact that these trees are hit each year and show leaf problems each and every spring that stays with them throughout the growing season. How long can a tree survive if its energy-producing ability is decreased by severe leaf curl and damage? It's a question that haunts me as I see my oaks, tulip trees, red bud, walnut, hickory, river birch, trumpet vines and other native trees and shrubs suffer year after year. Not just countrysides are being affected, city dwellers, parks and recreation areas, state forest and nature preserves are all seeing damage. I've even seen it in trees growing in nurseries.

This year my "organic" garden was also affected. My strawberries are just now coming out of being hit earlier, as were the green beans and tomatoes. So then I wonder how much herbicide residue I am getting when I eat the fruits and vegetables from my "organic" garden.

Is our country's overall health also being affected? So many chronic diseases are on the rise, from cancers to dementia. Studies are showing chemicals are being found in humans exposed to these chemicals. Glyphosate (Roundup), 2-4 D and dicamba are all showing up in these studies.

The same can be said for birds and other wildlife as they eat from tainted seeds and plants in our woodlands and fencerows.

*Continued on page 3*



*Damage on trumpet vine above and tulip tree below*

## ***Program Meetings...***

**September 3, 2024** - 6:30 p.m. Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus

**Birding across Ohio and beyond: Toledo Zoo and Aquarium participation in bird conservation.**

Jeremy Dominguez, birding outreach coordinator and ornithologist for the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium will bring a flying start to our TMAS program season. Jeremy became interested in birds while in Alaska serving in the US Navy.

While back in Ohio his interest quickly grew to obsession. Jeremy did an "Ohio Big Year" in 2015 to get better acquainted with the birds of his home state. In 2016 and 2017 Jeremy traveled all over the US seeking birds. In 2018, Jeremy went back to school in Southeastern Ohio, graduating from Hocking College with a degree in Ecotourism and Adventure Travel.

In 2020 Jeremy took on his biggest birding adventure yet doing a "Lower 48 US Big Year" and setting the record for 724 species seen. Jeremy has since spread his wings to international travel exploring places like China, S. Korea, Spain, Costa Rica, Mexico and The Bahamas.

Since February of 2022, Jeremy has taken the position of birding outreach coordinator and ornithologist at The Toledo Zoo and Aquarium. As well as his work duties he is also an eBird reviewer for the Greater Toledo area as well as Vice President for The Ohio Ornithological Society.



**October 1, 2024** - 6:30 p.m. Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus

**Nature Photography 101, Jamie Cunningham**

Do you love nature? Do you own a camera? Then this class is for you! Join professional wildlife photographer Jamie Cunningham of Sabrewing Nature Tours for tips and tricks to capture great images, no matter what type of camera you are using!

This class covers the basics from do's and don'ts, when is the best time to shoot, composition, recommended gear, beginning editing and more!



*Jamie Cunningham and camera*

**November 5, 2024** - 6:30 p.m. Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus

**What should we know about native plants and birds?**

Dave McPherson owns and operates Star Farms Native Plants. He collects and grows plants that are native to Ohio. Located in Hardin County, south of Kenton, Star Farms provides native plants for sale that are excellent for humans and birds.

As a cooperating partner with Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, Dave assisted with our Native Plant sale this past spring. Dave will share with us knowledge and facts about several species and how they help support the bird population in Ohio. Need ideas on how to improve birding in your yard? Need a bird-friendly and beautiful tree? Come join us for great information and news about available plants.

*Submitted by Nancy Risner*



## Concerning...

Continued from page 1

Feeding their young insects and larva that feed on plants that have been contaminated compounds the problem. Deer and other mammals also eat these contaminated plants. How long can they survive this onslaught as well? I don't have the answer and that is what haunts me.

These herbicides are very volatile and one never knows when or where the problem drifted from. They drift for miles and miles and often, due to weather conditions, rise up at night to again cause an onslaught of damage. In a recent *Chicago Tribune* article written by Michael Hawthorne, he quoted a spokesperson from Prairie Rivers Network who said it can be called "chemical trespassing" and a "violation of other people's property."

Chemical companies expound on how safe these herbicides are if used correctly, yet are paying out millions of dollars to those who have been exposed and are developing cancer and other diseases.

Some organizations are taking note. A recent study by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and authored by Prairie Rivers Network personnel looked into this very problem, but how soon can changes be made? We are being bombarded with more and more harsh chemicals as weeds become resistant. It's clear something needs to be done.

Your voice to both state and national senators, representatives, governors, EPA and Department of Agriculture officials will help get this message across. There are other methods out there to control weeds and more can be developed to preserve our health and the health of birds, plants and the animals around us. Make your voice count!!! If you see damage to your trees, please report it to the Department of Agriculture. Nothing can be done unless we see and report the problem.



**Damage on  
River Birch**

## Field Trips...

### BIRDING MIGRANTS AT THE LAKE

Sat., Sept. 14 – 9:00 a.m. -

Join local birding expert, Troy Shively, author of the *Birds of the Tri-Reservoir Area*, for a personalized birding tour of Indian Lake birding hotspots. Troy coordinates the Christmas Bird Count for both Grand Lake and Indian Lake and has intimate knowledge of the best birding spots in the area.

Meet at Oldfield Beach.



**Blue Heron at Grand Lake St. Marys**

### BIRDING BLUFFTON NATURE PRESERVE

Wed., Oct. 9 – 6:00 p.m. - Moyer Nature Center

This 160 acre preserve boasts a variety of habitats, including woodlands (with impressive spring wildflowers), wetland areas around a large pond, and trails through riparian habitat along Riley Creek.

One of the highlights of this area is the swinging bridge spanning the creek. We'll take a walk and enjoy the fall color as well as late migrating birds!

Meet at the Moyer Nature Center, by the pond. Dress for the weather and ground conditions.

### LATE FALL HIKE at MMP

Fri., Nov 22 – 9:00 a.m. – Motter Metro Park

Explore the prairie in late fall at beautiful Motter Metro Park. The Park District has been busy at this location, and we'll inspect habitat restoration work and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature in late autumn.

Dress for the weather and ground conditions.

*Submitted by Dan Hodges*



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### ***President's Message***

It's migrant time! Every summer it surprises me how it seems so early for birds to be getting ready to leave. Swallows and Purple Martins gather on the power lines, twittering flocks of warblers move through the canopies of woodlands; it won't be long until Sandhill Cranes can be heard flying high overhead. With the influx of young birds, fresh off the nest, we have more birds in the air than at any other time in the year. And yet, because they aren't advertising their presence with flashy colors or beautiful songs, they often go unnoticed.

This coming year at Tri-Moraine, we'll learn about conserving birds around the world, how to appreciate them with photographs, what are the top five birds, great plants for birds and much more. We'll also have opportunities to get outside and watch some birds, nearby and in other parts of Ohio.

But more than watching or learning about them, we can help them too. Plant native plants now, so next year the birds can benefit from the berries and bugs. Turn your lights off, so they don't get confused and lost on their migration. Keep your cats indoors, so they don't kill off our young, feathered friends. There is a lot that we can do to enjoy AND support our birds!

Naturally Yours, Dan Hodges



***Barn Swallows are finishing nesting and preparing to migrate***



