



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Spring 2017

Serving Allen, Auglaize,
Hancock, Hardin, Logan,
Mercer, Shelby, and Van
Wert counties

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419.303.4741

TMAS Board Meetings... All are welcome to attend the TMAS board meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 and Tuesday, May 30 at 7 p.m. both held in the Visitor/Student Center, 3900 Campus, Drive, OSU-Lima Campus.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO

KILLDEER PLAINS FIELD TRIP, March 25 – Killdeer Plains is an Important Bird Area (IBA) covering 8,000 plus acres of wetlands, prairies and woodlots. Trip is free and open to the public. Look on page 3 for further information on car pooling and other facts.

SPRING WILDLFLOWER, EARLY BIRD MIGRANTS April 29—This event, held in conjunction with the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, is held in Kendrick Woods. Further information can be found on page three.

EEW WEEKEND—The Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 38th Annual Environmental Education Weekend May 5th, 6th and 7th at Camp Myeerah, located near Bellefontaine. You, your children and grandchildren can experience nature in a unique environmental setting.

Look on page three for more information. **Due to insurance issues, only TMAS members and their immediate families can register.**

BIG BIRDING DAY– Western Lake Erie IBAs—Another great birding opportunity to visit Lake Erie's IBAs on May 15. More details on page 3.

PROGRAM MEETINGS PLANNED—Details on Page 3

Making Sense of Flowers: Ohio's Flowering Plant Families and How to Know Them – Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 7:30 p.m. will feature Bob Klips, an Associate Professor at Ohio State – Marion.

Breeding Birds of Lippincott Bird Sanctuary - Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 7:30 p.m. –Our own Anne Smedley will talk about her numerous years of bird banding at Lippincott Bird Sanctuary.

Exploring Environmental & Field Biology at Ohio Northern University – Tuesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. will look at the unique nature of the environmental and field biology program at ONU.

AWAITING THOSE SPRING ARRIVALS

By Jeannine C. Roediger

As winter draws down and spring moves nearer my eyes and ears are tuned to new voices, new sights and new arrivals. By March the buzzards return to Hinckley and we see them spiraling on wind thermals as they go about their business. I hear killdeer calling and see them running on long, slender legs across the yet-to-be-planted fields. All of these things are as much harbingers of spring as the Christmas rose, crocuses, daffodils and the “slurp” of night crawlers as we pass over soggy lawns.

As April turns to May my ears are listening for the return of our barn swallows, who have been occupants of our barns and other buildings since we have been here, well over forty-three years. At first it may be just one or two but soon the whole flock is back making our barnyard a friendly cacophony of family sounds. They line our electrical lines constantly throughout the summer as they tend their young, eating insects and keeping us serenaded. Then over a period of weeks other spring arrivals return, some just passing through, making me guess if I hear their unfamiliar voices. It's a natural progression that we look forward to each year. We stand amazed at how our winter species withstand harsh weather and how our summer visitors can migrate thousands of miles to return to the same place year after year. It's reassuring in this age of environmental uncertainty.



Barn swallow feeding nestlings.

SAVE DATE—

Annual picnic
on July 11
at 6:30 p.m.





Members enjoying EEWEEKEND in 2016.

38TH ENVIRONMENTAL EDU. WEEKEND

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 38th annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) May 5, 6, 7 at the Myeerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine. EEW provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature at Myeerah which comprises 450 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland and is one of 66 sites in Ohio designated as an important Bird Area (IBA). www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html

The programs will allow learning and participation in birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants and other nature related programs. Timed to coincide with the spring migration of Neotropical migrant warblers and the spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide a truly unique family-oriented opportunity.

EEW begins with registration starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5th and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 7th. All meals are provided for Saturday and Sunday. **Due to insurance considerations, this opportunity is available for National Audubon members (or TMAS local supporting members) and their immediate families only.** The registration form for EEW, included in newsletter, also has a membership application. It can also be printed from the www.tri-moraineaudubon.org website; or contact either Don Rosenbeck at dmrosenbeck@gmail.com or Eric Broughton at broughtoneri@yahoo.com for further information. The registration sheet should be mailed in mid-March. For more information on Audubon membership contact Bill Askins at waskins@woh.rr.com or 419.339.9751. To view the EEWPhoto Gallery visit online at www.tri-moraineaudubon.org.

KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE FIELD TRIP, Saturday, March 25, Wyandot/Marion counties, provides an opportunity to explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies, and woodlots as we look for ducks, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, sparrows and other passerines. Wear warm clothes and bring a lunch/snacks/beverages, field guides/binoculars, etc. Birdwatching will be of the “park and look” variety, but there will be some walking. The chapter's spotting scope will be available for all to use. A carpool will depart at 10 a.m. from the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309, Lima. Or participants can meet the group at 11 a.m. at the Upground Reservoir (look on the Killdeer Plains website for map and location of Reservoir). Trippers may stay as late as dusk. The field trip is free and open to the public, experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Contact Eric Broughton at broughtoneri@yahoo.com for more information.

ANNUAL OTTAWA RIVER CLEANUP, Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to noon. Starting at the American Red Cross bldg., corner of N. Shore Drive and Collett in Lima, you register and pick up trash bags, etc. Dress for weather, gloves are mandatory, provided if needed. Youth under 18 MUST have parental permission and be accompanied by an adult. For more info call 419.221.5177, 419.238.1836 or at www.allenswcd.com or www.lacrpc.com

SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS. Join others to pull garlic mustard and pick up trash at Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District's Kendrick Woods, an IBA. Garlic mustard, an invasive species, secretes toxin into the soil and kills native plants. Scheduled days are Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon, April 17, 24, May 1, 8; Tuesdays 12:30-4 p.m., April 18, 25, May 2, 9; Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 12-noon on April 19, 26 and May 3, 10; Thursdays 12:30—4p.m. April 27, May 4, 11. To register as a volunteer and for info contact JAMPD Land Steward Mark Mohr at 419.221.1232 or mmohr@jampd.com. Volunteers must call to verify park location each work shift.

BIG BIRDING DAY-WESTERN LAKE ERIE IBAs, Monday, May 15. This annual all-day trek will visit six or seven of Lake Erie's best birding locations during the peak of spring migration. A car pool will depart at 6:30 a.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. The group will leave “rain or shine” and return in the evening. The goal is to spot and identify 100 bird species. Open to the public. All interested birders, including beginners, are welcome. For more info, contact Eric Broughton at broughtoneri@yahoo.com.

PROGRAM MEETINGS FOR SPRING

Making Sense of Flowers: Ohio's Flowering Plant Families and How to Know Them – Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Bob Klips, an associate professor at Ohio State – Marion, will lead a riveting discussion of the connection between flowers and fruits, and how to recognize flowering plants found in Ohio. Bob is also an excellent photographer – you will be amazed at the fascinating details visible in his photos. If you remember the moss program Bob led at one of our Environmental Education Weekends, you know it will be an enjoyable evening!

Breeding Birds of Lippincott Bird Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Our own Anne Smedley will talk about her numerous years of bird banding at Lippincott Bird Sanctuary. She will discuss why bird banding is so important for monitoring the health of bird populations, and how it is done without harming birds. Learn about the common and not-so-common birds that can be found.



At right, Rose Breasted Grosbeak

Exploring Environmental & Field Biology at Ohio Northern University – Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

During this talk we will discuss the unique nature of the environmental and field biology program at ONU and highlight a few of the research projects that are taking a closer look at impacts on freshwater communities in Ohio. (Election of officers/board members will also take place.)

SPRING HIKE AT KENDRICK WOODS, Saturday, April 29, 1:30 p.m. Enjoy the sights and sounds of spring as we walk amid budding leaves and fresh spring breezes! Binoculars are not required, but they may be helpful as we keep an eye on the sky for spring migrants at Kendrick Woods, an IBA. Other spring finds may include a plethora of spring wildflowers, frogs and toads, salamanders and more! This program is co-sponsored by the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society with JAMPD. Be prepared for weather and ground conditions. Register by April 27th by calling Don Hodges at 419.221.1232 or for more info.



SIX ADDITIONAL SPECIES SEEN DURING 2016 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - Technically, this account should probably begin “2016-17 CBC results,” since a three-day storm resulted in a two weeks plus delay in the Tri-Moraine counts. Nevertheless, twelve TMAS counters began arriving at 7:30 a.m. at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL) on Saturday, December 31, 2016, five groups were active during the day, including: Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Kyle Hesed (Kansas) Jackie and Andrew Augustine, and Cory Sims (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill Angel (St. Marys); Dianne Knipp and Troy



Mallard Ducks well represented in CBC

and Graham Shively (Wapakoneta); and, Kay Nooker (Wisconsin). We spent 20.87 group hours in cars covering 285 miles and 8.5 group hours on foot over 10.7 miles, between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Moving water was mostly free of ice, but standing bodies of water were mostly still frozen (i.e., only a few relatively small patches of open water on the lake and ponds), even though air temperatures during the count were 33-43 F. It was cloudy all day with southerly winds 4-27 mph (mostly in the windier range).

We recorded the following OHGL birds: Canada Goose, 1911; American Black Duck, 2; Mallard, 457; Mallard hybrid, 1; No. Shoveler, 2; No. Pintail, 4; Redhead, 1; duck, sp(p). 10; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Great Blue Heron, 11; Bald Eagle, 8; No. Harrier, 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper’s Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 20; Sandhill Crane, 20; Ring-billed Gull, 104; Herring Gull, 6; gull, sp(p)., 28; Rock Pigeon, 49; Mourning Dove, 9; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 24; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Amer. Kestrel, 23; Blue Jay, 10; Amer. Crow, 4; Horned Lark, 133; Carolina Chickadee, 1; chickadee, sp(p)., 14; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; E. Bluebird, 5; Amer. Robin, 10; Euro. Starling, 3549; Cedar Waxwing, 14; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 180; Field Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 25; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; sparrow, sp(p)., 1; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 44; No. Cardinal, 24; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; House Finch, 60; Amer. Goldfinch, 25; and House Sparrow, 826. The totals include 49 species and 7679 individual birds.

Beginning at 7:20 a.m. Monday, January 2, 2017, untraditionally late in the count season for TMAS, counters began assembling at the McDonalds in Russells Point for the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL). Five groups included: Cheryl Erwin (Bellefontaine); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Andrew and Jackie Augustine and Kris Hutch (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill and Sally Angel and Sophia and Brianna Braun (St. Marys); Dianne Knipp and Troy and Graham Shively (Wapakoneta); Still water was mostly frozen and streams mostly open; it was overcast nearly all day. Temperatures were 36-46 F, with winds out of the SE at 0-8 mph. For the day, 362.7 miles were covered in 31.75 group hours by car, and 14 miles in 11 group hours were covered on foot, between 7:50 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The following OHIL birds were seen (new species or record high numbers over the last 28 years are bolded): Snow Goose, 2; **Ross’s Goose, 1; Canada Goose, 3007**; goose, sp(p)., 5; Gadwall, 2; **Amer. Wigeon, 1**; Amer. Black Duck, 4; **Mallard, 2128**; Mallard hybrid, 7; **Blue-winged Teal, 6**; No. Shoveler, 12; No. Pintail, 8; Canvasback, 1; Great Blue Heron, 4; Bald eagle, 4; **No. Harrier, 22**; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper’s Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 26; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Buteo sp(p). 3; Ring-billed Gull, 314; Pigeon, 211; Mourning Dove, 322; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 18; Downy Woodpecker, 56; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Amer. Kestrel, 38; **Mer- *Pileated Woodpecker presence seen last three years; seen only once in prior 25 years .*** **lin, 1**; Blue Jay, 32; Amer. Crow, 50; Horned Lark, 215; Carolina Chickadee, 14; chickadee, sp(p). 18; Tufted Titmouse, 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 53; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 13; E. Bluebird, 2; Amer. Robin, 17; No. Mockingbird, 2; Euro. Starling, 2450; Cedar Waxwing, 3; Lapland Longspur, 148; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; E. Towhee, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 157; Song Sparrow, 30; Swamp Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 3; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; sparrow, sp(p)., 38; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 55; No. Cardinal, 89; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; E. Meadowlark, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; House Finch, 91; Amer. Goldfinch, 25; and, House Sparrow, 373. This is a total of **63 species**, and **10165 individual birds**.

There are a few notable points, the high number of species seen at OHIL, six species more than any other of the past 28 years of my records, should top the list. At least partially, this was due to a rather large number of waterfowl species – itself a bit unexpected since the lakes had been completely frozen over before the sparse open water on count days. Mallard and Canada Goose are the only consistently observed waterfowl. At OHGL, e.g., 19 additional species of ducks have been counted, none more than a third of the time and only three of these even 25% of the last 20 years. OHIL is similar, with the exception that American Black Duck has been counted in 11 of the last 28 years. Another high point could be the Pileated Woodpecker at OHGL, for the second time in 3 years, since it was only observed once in the 25 years before that. A low point of the year would be that the 10 Blue Jays at OHGL marks the lowest number in 28 years. The most surprising absence was no Golden-crowned Kinglets in either count, since they have been present in at least half of the past 20 years at both. Thanks to all of the volunteers! Once again, don’t forget to look for opportunities to bird in the two CBC areas and the St. Marys River-Grand Lake IBA. Other IBAs in the Tri-Moraine area include Myeerah Nature Preserve, Lawrence Woods, Kendrick Woods and the Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs. Bird data from these areas can be very useful in monitoring the health of the sites - keep your binoculars handy! Submitted by Eric Juterbock (CBC coordinator)

AUDUBON ADVENTURES Liaison Jennifer Waltz promotes the Audubon Adventures series (audubonadventures.org) to local schools and organizations. The series was recently used by the Van Wert County Soil and Water Conservation District. “I have used “Flow of Life” in the classroom to help me explain what a watershed is and that we are all connected around the U.S. The students like the adventures because they see what other students are doing and gets them thinking. Teachers like this because it helps them meet their curriculum standards in a fun and different way. Thank you, for all your help and hope to work with you in the future” said Tammy Campbell, SWCD education coordinator.

OTTAWA RIVER COALITION GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY—April 14 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Youth Activities Bldg., Allen County Fairgrounds, eat in or carry out. Tickets are \$8 at the door. Check out the items available in the Silent Auction. TMAS is a member organization.



Serving Allen • Auglaize
Hancock • Hardin • Logan Mercer
Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in Ohio
P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Environmental Educational Weekend

Address Service Requested

President's Message... Winter 2017 has been mild in comparison to winter's past. Right on schedule the garden catalogs arrived and TMAS gardeners pored over them choosing new varieties and old favorites. Close to home and good for your garden, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm at 1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton (check map west of Dayton Airport, Vandalia) will hold its 13 Annual Native Plant Sale April 21 (pre-order pick-ups) and April 22 . For more information on native plants, see the National Audubon Society's newly launched "Plants for Birds" website database at www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds. Simply enter your zip code for a list of plants appropriate for our growing area. You can plan the perfect garden spot to attract more birds, butterflies, and bees. Also, check the list of activities at Aullwood for many family-centered events throughout the spring and summer.

THANK YOU to all TMAS members and friends that contributed to the 2016 Annual Appeal. A total of \$3715 was collected to continue our work restoring habitat, providing educational meeting speakers and materials, and supporting bird conservation efforts like Black Swamp Bird Observatory at McGee Marsh, Oak Harbor, Lake Erie. New habitat development in our region is paramount as water conservation efforts and land management often destroy existing habitat for our nesting and migratory birds. Your financial



help is most needed and appreciated. Contributors were Jackie and Andrew Augustine, Bob and Carol Bertrand, Steven and Doris Bales, Jill Bowers, Dan and Robbin Clark, Ivan and Rachel Friesen, Jeanne S. Gamble, Jim and Jan Heinrich, J. Eric Juterbock, Dianne Knipp, Bill and Jackie Light, Gloria McCloy, Candace Newland, Rosalyn Rinehart, Lois Risser, Jim and Karen Spurgat, Jennifer Stark, Beth Theisen, Phillip M. Valentine, Carol Waesch, Jack Woodward, Carol Wright and 24 other donors who wished to remain anonymous.

The Myreeah Management Group met in January but due to newsletter space, a full report cannot be included here but will be available soon.



This year is a big year for TMAS as we will be celebrating 40 years since our National Audubon Chapter Charter was granted in June of 1977. Look for small celebration events throughout the year, but we will have a special Birthday Party event at the May Program Meeting on May 2, 2017. We hope to see you. Happy Birding , Dianne

IN REMEMBRANCE—Warren Brim (3-31-1930– 11-15-2016) was a founding member of TMAS. A physics professor at OSU-Lima, he attended the first meeting to explore an Audubon chapter in our area and served on the steering committee to set goals and meet requirements for National Audubon Society chapter status. He had served the chapter wherever needed from recycling to field trips and as a long-term representative to the Ottawa River Coalition. He aided the annual EEW weekend at Camp Myeerah. We are proud that Warren was one of us and know he would be proud that as a result of the chapter's efforts Myeerah Natural Preserve is now open to the public. *Submitted by Carol Bertrand*

2017 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND REGISTRATION FORM

May 5 – May 7, 2017

For more details, please visit our website at <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Early Bird - April 21, 2017**

Regular - April 28, 2017

Name: _____

Phone: _____

(please indicate if cell OR home)

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

e-mail address: _____

List all other members of your family/group that will be attending (**include ages if under 18**): _____

Vehicle Make/Model: _____

License No.: _____

Your anticipated – Arrival date: _____ & time: _____

Departure date: _____ & time: _____

A. REGISTRATION FEE:

Due to insurance regulations, the weekend is open to **Audubon MEMBERS ONLY**
(To become a member, please ALSO complete the Supporting (Local) Membership form found below)
Early Bird registration must be postmarked on or before 4-21-17; \$10.00 late fee due per person if postmarked after 4-28-17
We reserve the right to limit the total number of attendees due to limited camp accommodations.
NOTICE: ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Qty	Early Bird Registration (On or before Apr 21)	(Regular Registration) (Apr 22 – 28)	Registration Fee (Qty x Fee)
_____ Adults (13 and older) -	@ \$30.00 each	Add \$10.00 each	_____
_____ Children (2 - 12) -	@ \$20.00 each	Add \$10.00 each	_____
_____ Children - Under 2 -	FREE	FREE	_____
Total Registration Fee:			_____

Please indicate any dietary restrictions/preferences: Veg _____ (# people) Other _____ (# people)

B. LODGING

Please indicate (by check mark) a 1st AND 2nd choice (in case of unavailability of your 1st choice)
(Please indicate the quantity of each desired ONLY IF more than 1 unit is required – i.e. 2 tents)

(1 st Choice)	(2nd Choice)	ACCOMMODATIONS (note total quantity available in each category)
_____	_____	PERSONAL TENT
_____	_____	TREEHOUSE (sleeps 6) - 4 units
_____	_____	DORMITORY (foam mattresses on floor - sleeps 30)
_____	_____	PLATFORM TENT (sleeps 4 - 5) – 4 units (2 wheelchair accessible units are available upon request)

Please make checks payable to **TRI-MORaine AUDUBON SOCIETY**, and Mail registration form to Eric Broughton, 3167 Clement Dr, Lima OH 45806-1101.

A program brochure will be “mailed” as confirmation of your reservation; please indicate whether you would prefer to receive the brochure via _____ e-mail or _____ regular mail. (Please check only one.)

TMAS MYEERAH NATURE PRESERVE EEW POLICIES

- 1) Parents, grandparents and guardians must supervise the children under their care in a manner which assures the children's safety and that of other persons, as well as the environment.
- 2) No individual campfires are allowed.
- 3) No firearms or weapons of any kind are allowed.
- 4) All participants must adhere to the **Bellevue Joint Recreation District** policies.

Failure to follow these policies shall result in corrective action that may include expulsion from the campground and may affect future registration for EEW programs.

Become a Supporting Member of TRI-MORaine AUDUBON SOCIETY – ONLY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY NOT NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERS

Tri-Moraine, a totally volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS).
TMAS serves Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties.
All members receive a membership card, eligibility to attend Environmental Education Weekend & the chapter's mailings including its quarterly newsletter.
To report membership issues, contact Bill Askins at 419-339-9751 or e-mail waskins@woh.rr.com.

Name (please print)

Phone

Street, PO Box, Apt. No.

City, State, ZIP

E-mail

All dues renew annually at same rates:

[] Individual (18 and over) -- \$10 [] Couple -- \$15 [] Student (through HS) -- \$5 [] Do not share name with NAS

[] Family -- \$20 (Circle one): Parent(s)/children under 18 OR Grandparent(s)/children under 18 [] Contact me about volunteer opportunities

Please Circle desired newsletter format: Paper or E-mail

[] Do not send Flight Patterns (newsletter)

Check for \$ _____ enclosed (Payable to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society - PO Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648)