



# Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Spring 2019

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

## Volunteer Opportunities...

**Ottawa River Cleanup** will be held Saturday April 27 from 9 a.m. until noon. We will start at the American Red Cross. Look on page 4 for more details.

**TMAS Board Meetings** are held in the Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at the OSU Lima campus. They begin at 7 p.m. and will be held March 26 and May 28. All are welcome.

**Good Friday Fish Fry** for support of the Ottawa River Coalition will be held Friday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Activities Building on the Allen County Fairgrounds. Tickets can be purchased at the door; food prepared by Lock Sixteen. A silent auction will be held. No prices were available for tickets at press time. See page 3 for details.

**EEW Weekend** is planned for April 26-28 at Myeerah Nature Preserve near Bellefontaine. This is a family-oriented educational weekend you won't want to miss. Look on page 3 for details.

## Color me Amazed...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Spring with all its beauty and color is just around the corner. It's fascinating to see early leaves appear, crocuses blooming in a late snow or tulips unfurling their bright colors before other plants break out in leaf and bloom. Tiny new leaves show colors of red, yellow, lime and light green. Buds appear to burst, ready to send out flower or leaves. It's a wonderful time to view the panoramic colors of nature.

I have always been fascinated by color. It doesn't matter where it comes from, plant, animal, sky, clouds, water colors or oils, the different hues, tints, shades and gradients just intrigue me.

Take our feathered friends. If you have had the opportunity to view some of our friends really close up, you know that to say a bird is brown or gray is simply untrue. Take a Mourning Dove, some would say they are a gray bird, perhaps with a bit of white. But if you look closely, there are pinks, tans and grays of different tints and hues, really beautiful.

To call any bird plain is just not truthful. Look at one of our most common birds, the English Sparrow. They have shades of brown, black, white and grays mixed in their feathering. Even they are pretty.

Perhaps color comes into play more when you think of our native Northern Cardinal; the male is flaming red. But the more nondescript female is just as pretty with her hints of reds, yellows, browns and tans. Think of the Baltimore Oriole, the Goldfinch, the Bluebird, the Indigo Bunting and the list could go on and on, all beautiful in their coloring, all different. An artist is faced with a difficult task to replicate their elegance.

It's a smorgasbord of color that can be echoed anywhere nature shows its face. Leaves, usually green, can be different shades when breaking out in the spring, change if drought occurs and flame when fall frosts their edges. From the tiniest bird, to the largest plant, nature fills our eyes with a feast of color from a huge painter's palette. It's an amazing panorama of color that takes the breath away.



Indigo Bunting

### President

Cheryl Erwin  
937.539.0759

### Vice President

Treasurer  
Susan Heaphy  
419.302.88862

### Secretary

Judy Jacomet  
419.222.7820

### Members At Large

#### Birdseed Sales Co-Chair

Anne Smedley  
419.222.3271

### Media

Sheryl Maier  
419.234.0250

### Hospitality

Evelyn Prater  
419.757.3461

### Field Trip Chair

Daniel Hodges  
419.223.1025  
Eric Broughton  
419.999.1987

Volker Jeschonnek  
419.222.2673

### Other Officers

#### Conservation Chair

Dr. Eric Juterbock  
216.905.8909

#### Program Chair

Jackie Augustine  
567.712.4155

### Publicity

Carol Bertrand  
419.227.9231

### Chairpersons

#### Project Chair

Donald Rosenbeck  
937.596.5330

### Newsletter

Jeannine Roediger  
567.259.9906

#### Ottawa River Coal. Rep.

Dr. Leslie Riley  
509.432.4834

#### Membership Chair

Bill Askins  
419.339.9751

### Webmaster

Michael Wildermuth

#### Volunteer Chair

Bob Bertrand  
419.227.9231

#### Audubon Adv. Liaison

Jennifer Waltz  
419.303.4741

## 2018 Christmas Bird Count Results...

The first weekend of the 119th 2018-19 Audubon Christmas Bird Count season saw TMAS busy with their two counts. On Saturday, December 14, 2018, nine of us arrived by 7:30 a.m. at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL), here we organized for counting in five groups during the day. Counters included: Ivan Friesen (Bluffton); Joshua King (Celina); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Andrew and Jackie Augustine, and Jamie Cunningham (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); and Troy Shively (Wapakoneta). We spent 20.5 group hours in cars covering 267 miles, and 8.25 group hours on foot over nine miles, between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m..

Moving water was partly thawed, but standing bodies of water were frozen (with only a few relatively small patches of open water on the lake and ponds), even though air temperatures during the count were 41-48 F. It was cloudy all day with winds out of the northeast and light to moderate rain after 1:30 p.m. Note that species new to a count or record high numbers for a count (both based upon the past 30 years) are indicated in bold).

We recorded the following OHGL birds: Snow Goose, 12; Canada Goose, 1063; American Black Duck, 1; Mallard, 368; No. Shoveler, 23; Redhead, 3; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Ruddy Duck, 1; duck, sp(p). 94; Wild Turkey, 10; Great Blue Heron, 15; **Osprey, 1**; No. Harrier, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Accipiter, sp., 1; **Bald Eagle, 14**; Red-tailed Hawk, 14; American Coot, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 69; Herring Gull, 14; gull, sp(p)., 38; Rock Pigeon, 82; Mourning Dove, 246; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; **Red-bellied Woodpecker, 23**; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 5; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; woodpecker, sp., 1; Amer. Kestrel, 33; Blue Jay, 66; Horned Lark, 45; Carolina Chickadee, 17; chickadee, sp(p)., 4; Tufted Titmouse, 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 22; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 7; Carolina Wren, 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; kinglet, sp. 1; E. Bluebird, 11; Amer. Robin, 20; Euro. Starling, 2897; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 41; Dark-eyed Junco, 58; Song Sparrow, 49; Swamp Sparrow, 3; sparrow, sp(p)., 2; Northern Cardinal, 42; Red-winged Blackbird, 2; House Finch, 12; Amer. Goldfinch, 15; and, House Sparrow, 870. The totals include 52 species and 6391 individual birds.

The Indian Lake CBC (OHIL) attracted 13 TMAS counters, who began assembling around 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at the McDonalds in Russells Point. Between 8 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. we tallied a total of 8013 birds of 63 species.

Probably the most surprising absence was not seeing a Sharp-shinned Hawk in either count. The OHIL number of individuals was mid-range, but the 63 species tied the highest count (2016) of last 30 years.

The six field groups included: Cheryl Erwin (Bellefontaine); Evelyn Prater (Harrod); LeAnn Swonger (Huntsville); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Jackie Augustine and Amanda Weller (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill and Sally Angel (St. Marys); Dianne Knipp and Troy Shively (Wapakoneta); and, Stefan Minnig (West Liberty).

The water was frozen and streams partly so; it was overcast with some clearing late in the day. Temperatures were 33-45 F, with moderate winds out of the North. For the day, 400 miles were covered in 37 group hours by car, and seven miles in 7.5 group hours were covered on foot.

The following OHIL birds were seen: Canada Goose, 1809; Tundra Swan, 8; American Black Duck, 27; Mallard, 1689; Mallard (domestic), 3; No. Pintail, 3; Canvasback, 3; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Lesser Scaup, 11; Common Goldeneye, 2; Hooded Merganser, 1; Ruddy Duck, 2; Wild Turkey, 6; Great Blue Heron, 2; No. Harrier, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 6; Red-tailed Hawk, 26; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; hawk, sp., 2; Ring-billed Gull, 135; Rock Pigeon, 76; Mourning Dove, 493; E Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; owl, sp., 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 33; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 31; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; woodpecker, sp., 2; Amer. Kestrel, 23; Merlin, 2; **Blue Jay, 147**; Amer. Crow, 20; Horned Lark, 42; Carolina Chickadee, 32; chickadee, sp(p). 4; Tufted Titmouse, 13; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 33; Brown Creeper, 5; **Winter Wren, 3**; Carolina Wren, 9; wren, sp., 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; E. Bluebird, 19; Amer. Robin, 44; No. Mockingbird, 5; Euro. Starling, 1900; Lapland Longspur, 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 42; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 70; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 17; Swamp Sparrow, 2; **E. Towhee, 2**; Northern Cardinal, 69; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 6; House Finch, 26; Amer. Goldfinch, 21; and, House Sparrow, 1019.

A few additional notes might be helpful, beginning with bolded items. The only new species at either count was the OHGL osprey, for which the only element of surprise for me was that it was a year with a lot of ice. I assume that they are nesting in the area, as a pair was regularly seen at OHIL this summer, and they have nested at OHGL in the recent past.

Equally unsurprising were 14 eagles, since they seemed to be everywhere this past year; on at least two occasions I saw 10 in same area – not a bad recovery for a species well down the road to extinction 50 years ago! The 147 Blue Jay at OHIL was just over 50% greater than the previous high count; the other two OHIL highs were for species not seen at all most years (e.g., WIWR was only second in 30 years).

*Continued to page 4*

## Ottawa River Coalition Good Friday Fish Fry...

The fish fry is scheduled for April 19, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., in the Youth Activities Building, Allen County Fairgrounds, eat-in or carryout. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Prices had not been set at press time. Food will again be prepared by Lock Sixteen. Be sure to schedule time to check out the great items available in the ORC's silent auction. TMAS is a member organization of ORC.

## EEW Weekend planned...

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 40th annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) at the Myeerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine, April 26-28. EEW provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a unique environment. The Myeerah Nature Preserve is operated by the Bellefontaine Joint Recreational District and is 500 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. The Preserve, one of 66 sites in Ohio, is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). ([www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html))

The educational programs offered include opportunities to learn about and participate in field trips on birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants and other nature-related programs. Coinciding with the spring migration of Neotropical migrant warblers and the spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide a truly unique family-oriented educational opportunity.

EEW begins with registration starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26 and ends on Sunday afternoon, April 28. 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. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form elsewhere in the newsletter and mail by mid-March or contact Bill Askins at [waskins@woh.rr.com](mailto:waskins@woh.rr.com) or 419-339-9751. To view photos of previous weekends, visit the EEW Weekend Photo Gallery on Tri-Moraine Audubon's website at [www.tri-moraineaudubon.org](http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org) For further information contact either Don Rosenbeck at [dmrosenbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dmrosenbeck@gmail.com) or Eric Broughton at [broughtonerich@yahoo.com](mailto:broughtonerich@yahoo.com) Submitted by Don Rosenbeck

## Field Trips coming up...

**KILLDEER PLAINS FIELD TRIP- Sat., March 23 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Eastgate Parking Lot** - Explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies and woodlots as we look for waterfowl and more! We will be driving between points of interest, limited walking. Prepare for the weather; pack lunch/snacks/beverages. A few binoculars and field guides will be provided. All are welcome. A carpool, including the park van, will depart at 10 a.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. We will meet at the Killdeer Upground Reservoir at 11 am. The van will be back at 4 p.m. For van seat call 419-221-1232 by March 22.

**GROSS MEMORIAL WOODS STATE NATURE PRESERVE-Sat., April 20, 1:30 p.m. – Eastgate Parking Lot** Gross Woods is one of the more intact old-growth woods and mixed-species swamp forests remaining in this part of the state. This is also an opportunity to visit Shelby County, an underserved area of our TMAS territory. A carpool will depart at 1:30 p.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall.

**BIG BIRDING DAY! Mon., May 13, 6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Eastgate Parking Lot** - Come visit one of the hottest birding spots in the world! Partnering with the JAMPD, we will spend the morning on the boardwalk and visit the nature center after lunch. The park van will plan to be back at 3:00 p.m. A carpool, including the park van, will depart (rain or shine) at 6:30 a.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309, arrival close to 8:15 a.m. Prepare for weather, and pack lunch/snacks/beverage. A few binoculars and field guides will be provided. All skill levels are welcome! For a van seat, call 419-221-1232 by May 10.

**VAN WERT COUNTY BIRDING TOUR- Sat, May 18, 8 a.m. – Eastgate Parking Lot** According to eBird, Van Wert County currently ranks 88th in Ohio for both the number of bird species recorded (168) and the number of birders submitting checklists (234 lists). Let's find some county records! A carpool will depart at 8 a.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall. The first stop will be Venedocia Cemetery on Ohio 116 at approximately 8:45 a.m. We will visit as many hotspots in the county as possible before lunch time. Prepare for the weather and pack snacks/beverages. A few binoculars and field guides will be provided. All skill levels welcome!

Submitted by Dan Hodges



**Go Native...** Are you interested in native plants? Here are two places where you can find them. The Aullwood Audubon Center will hold their 15th annual plant sale on April 12-13 at the Aullwood Charity A. Krueger Farm Discovery Center, 9101 Frederick Pike, Dayton, 45414. Friday is for pre-order pick up only and Saturday for public sales. For more information, go to <http://aullwood.audubon.org/events>

Also, native plants are available at Star Farms Native Plants owned by Dave McPheron, at 14789 St. Route 292, Kenton, Ohio 43326 Phone 937-935-3970 Email—[plantman12@windstream.net](mailto:plantman12@windstream.net) Open by chance or appointment. Native plants, always the best choice, are suited for our area; most do not have the invasive qualities that non-native plants display.

## Program Meetings coming soon...

**Dale Gnidovic: Teeth, Jaws, & Claws\* – Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 7:30 p.m.** This talk looks at the tremendous diversity of theropods, the carnivorous dinosaurs, and why scientists believe birds are living dinosaurs.

Dale is the collections manager and curator at the Orton Geological Museum at The Ohio State University.

**Family Fun Night Program\* – Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 7:30 p.m.** Tri-Moraine is known for supporting initiatives to foster adult learning through program meetings, field trips and connecting youngsters with nature through our Audubon Adventures programs and Environmental Education weekend (see our website and this newsletter for more information.)

Now we are trying to bring nature enthusiasts of all ages together in our annual Family Fun Night! This event is not just for kids – it is for families of every shape and size. Young squirmy kids? No children? Widowed? No problem! Come as you are and invite friends and family! The format for the Family Fun Night is a series of tables with fun, hands-on, learning activities.

Folks from Tri-Moraine, Johnny Appleseed, and Ohio State-Lima will host tables with live animals, trivia, nature crafts and more! You won't want to miss the fun!

**Warblers 101\* – Dan Hodges – Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 7:30 p.m.** Warblers, a small but challenging group of song birds that are hard to identify, are often dismissed (or unknown!) because they can be difficult to see by the casual observer. But with 25 nesting species in Ohio and another dozen that regularly visit, they are worth noting at the least. Here is your chance to learn about these flying gems; their beauty, songs, habits and more!

Dan Hodges is a Tri-Moraine member and a naturalist for Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District. The talk will feature photographs from another Tri-Moraine member, Jamie Cunningham.

\*Co-sponsored Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District  
Submitted by Jackie Augustine



**Christmas Bird Count continued...** Based upon my 30 years of data for the counts, an interesting pattern is evident. Between 1989 and 1998, the OHGL count yielded the most species nine times; in contrast, for the years 2009 and 2018, the OHIL count was greater every year but one. Perhaps this is evidence of more habitat?

Thanks to all of the volunteers! 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 Myerah Nature Preserve, Lawrence Woods, Kendrick Woods and the Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs. Bird data from any of these areas can be very useful in monitoring the health of the sites; posting your observations on eBird would make that accomplishment easier. Keep your binoculars handy!

Submitted by Eric Juterbock (CBC coordinator)

**Winter Birdseed Results...** The February sale raised about \$470 and about \$180 in donations. Thanks to our purchasers, the media, Northland Quick Print for printing the sale fliers and Layman Feed & Lawn for providing the facilities and all who supported us. Thanks to Dave Betts and Denny Bucholtz for helping load into vehicles, to Bob and Carol Bertrand for donating the cost of mailings and order form preparation. If anyone is not currently on the mailing list and would like to receive a flyer for the November, 2019 sale, please contact Anne at 419-222-3271. *Submitted by Anne Smedley*

**OTTAWA RIVER CLEANUP** will be held Saturday, April 27, from

9 a.m. to noon. We will start at the American Red Cross building, corner of N. Shore Drive and Collett St., Lima. You can register, pick up trash bags and other items. Gloves are mandatory and are provided if needed. Dress for the weather (old clothing, comfortable, sturdy shoes



*Photo of Ottawa River by Volker Jeschonnek*

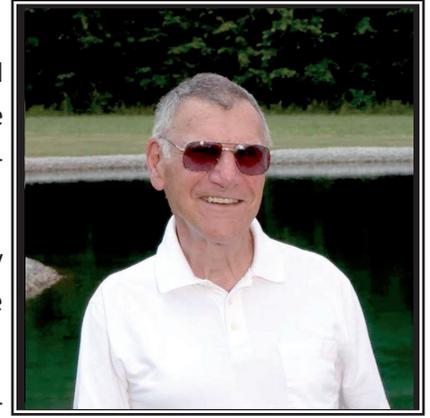
that can get wet). Youth under 18 are welcome but MUST have a "Volunteer Form" signed by parent/guardian and at least be accompanied by one adult for every five minors. We would like to have great TMAS representation, however, any group can register. For full information you can call 419.221.5177 or 419.228.1836 or at [www.lacrpc.com/environment/ottawa-river-cleanup.aspx](http://www.lacrpc.com/environment/ottawa-river-cleanup.aspx) A free lunch, tee-shirt and certificate of appreciation will be given to participants. *Submitted by Carol Bertrand*

### ***Longtime Audubon member passes...***

John Daley, 80, passed away Sunday, February 17 at his home in Lima. He and his mother, Margaret Eckford, were longtime, active members of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society. Both enjoyed the program meetings, field trips, the annual Environmental Education Weekend and other events.

In 2005, John was elected treasurer of our Society and served in that capacity for over a decade, and then as assistant treasurer until his death. He was a graduate of Ohio Northern University with a major in accounting.

He was a gifted photographer and his beautiful photographs of birds, butterflies and native plants were used in Tri-Moraine's displays at the Allen County Fair, the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District's Apple Festival, the Earth Day Celebration in Faurot Park and other events.



*John Daley*



Photos by John Daley:  
Black Swallowtail &  
Monarch Butterflies



He also created colorful posters to publicize chapter program meetings, the Fall Birdseed Sale and the Great Backyard Bird Count, as well as short nature videos with musical soundtracks that were shared with his fellow bird lovers.

John was a good friend to many of us and will be missed.

### ***How does Audubon make a difference?***

-Nearly 500 local chapters nationwide engage members in grassroots conservation action.

-Audubon environmental policy, education and science experts guide lawmakers, agencies and our grassroots in shaping effective conservation plans, actions, and the policies to support them.

-More than 2,500 Audubon-designated Important Bird Areas identify, prioritize and protect vital bird habitat from coast to coast—in partnership with BirdLife International, our IBA conservation efforts support species and their habitats across the Western Hemisphere.

-"Community scientists" collect vital data through Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count, the Coastal Bird Survey and other initiatives, generating groundbreaking analyses and guiding scientists and policy makers in addressing the needs of birds and other wildlife.

-Special ecosystem-wide conservation initiatives focus on protection and restoration of the nation's most special places from Alaska's Tongass to Sagebrush country and the Louisiana Coast.

-Audubon centers and sanctuaries are hubs of conservation exploration, research, and action, allowing millions to discover and defend the natural world.

-Educational programs and materials combine with Audubon Magazine, the nation's most acclaimed conservation magazine, to introduce schoolchildren, families, and nature-lovers of all ages to the wonders of nature and the power of conservation at home and around the world.



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

## Spring 2019 Newsletter

**Address Service Requested**

### ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...***

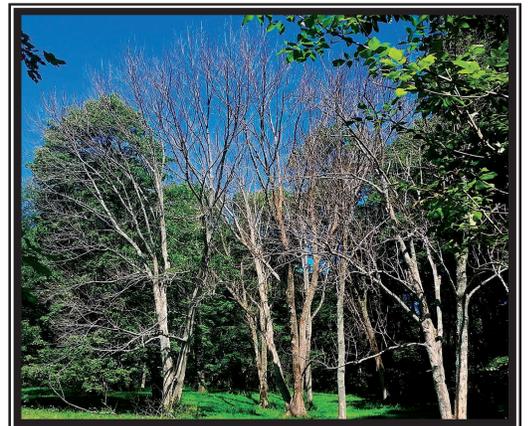
Another one of the hats I currently wear is that of volunteer naturalist at Cedar Bog Nature Preserve in Champaign County. As a volunteer, I try to spend time on the boardwalk just observing on my own. It is sometimes easier to observe when not distracted by conversation.

A recent walk brought to mind a conversation I had with a visitor a few years ago. His question was, why didn't we remove the downed and dead wood left by the scourge of the Emerald Ash Borer. If you have visited recently, you can't help but notice all the downed trees – mostly Ash – on the south loop of the boardwalk trail. The sheer number seemed to distract from his enjoyment of the fen.

Most, but not all of us, are hardwired to desire neat and tidy surroundings; even in nature! Our gardens, parks, and most yards, are studies in neatness and symmetry with flowers limited to tidy beds. Nature, though, is neither neat nor tidy, at least to our standards. Nature is chaotic, colorful, dynamic and wild.

It's difficult to see all those trees we've lost to another invasive pest. But, as always, nature isn't deterred. I reminded our visitor that within years or even months, those downed trees would provide habitat and sustenance for various insects, plants and animals. The snags and trunks left standing will be utilized by insects and the birds that feed on their larvae. In time, the logs will decay and become part of the fen soil feeding new growth.

At Cedar Bog, in a few short weeks, the leaves of Skunk Cabbage will unfurl and hide many of those downed logs. Before that happens, an observant person will find bright green mosses, colorful fungi, emerging new growth, and perhaps a sunning snake or skink. Hopefully, our visitor has continued to enjoy the quiet and beauty of Cedar Bog on his walks with a new appreciation for the dynamic processes happening all around. On your next walk in the emerging spring woods, take time to search for evidence of nature's version of recycling.



*Cheryl Ervin, President*