



# Flight Patterns

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

SPRING 2022

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

## ***Volunteer Opportunities...***

Help eradicate garlic mustard from our local parks. Join JAMPD to save our native wild flowers from this invasive species. More information is found on page 3.

***TMAS Board Meeting*** - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held in person at 7 p.m. March 29 and May 31 in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus and on Zoom.

### **President**

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#### **Conservation**

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### **Program**

Dr. Jackie Augustine  
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### **Publicity- Vacant**

### **Myeerah Mgmt. Group**

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

Dr. Leslie Riley

### **Membership**

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Vacancy

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## ***Spring is Coming...***

*By Jeannine C. Roediger*

Like everyone else we watch for signs of spring, especially after a cold, snowy winter. What signs do we watch for each year? Probably the first is groundhog day on February 2. If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow we're to have six more weeks of winter, if he does not see his shadow it will be less. Well, I'm not sure of his accuracy, but chances are we will have six more weeks of bad or cold weather. He saw his shadow this year, they say, so six more weeks.

Is there a true harbinger of spring? For me its just little things. It's the sight of crocuses blooming even in the snow, or the Christmas rose (Hellebore) showing its blossoms. At one time it was seeing the first robin, but with some of our warmer winters, they seem to be around most of the year, although moving further south when it's more severe.

Recently my brother sighted some crows and turkey buzzards flying overhead and in a field. We both thought this was pretty unusual being so early, but decided it may have been due to earlier snow storms south of us while we were pretty snow free up until our later February snow storms. Otherwise, buzzards return to Hinckley in March, another sign of spring.

Perhaps the surest sign is when I hear earthworms "slurping" into the moist ground as I walk across the lawn. That's a pretty sure sign that things are beginning to warm up a bit. If you are like me you are more than ready to see warmer weather.

January and February, although there were brief warm days, were cold months, with lots of wind. This was hard for our feathered friends. For the first part of our open winter, we had few birds at our feeders but when we started getting the heavy snows they came in larger numbers. From Mourning Doves to Horned Larks, I was feeding a lot of birds.

With the snow melting and a few warmer days, they tend to leave and feed in more natural areas. I find this interesting. When they need that supplement they are at the feeders or on the fields where I throw feed, but when snow leaves gaps over the fields and bare land appears they go back to finding their own food.

It always makes me feel good to hear the Horned Larks overhead when we have those snowy days. They seem to remember that I will feed them on the fields, as they will never come into the yard. As long as the snow stays they will greet me each morning waiting for their handout. At times I have had hundreds of them. But as spring starts coming, I can still enjoy their company as they sing across the open fields as I take my morning walk. Spring will come, albeit slower than we would like. We're all ready!



## **Program Meetings...**

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Michelle Comer**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.**

Michelle will be discussing the natural areas and preserves and how they relate to the structure and mission of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

She will discuss the mission and why it is important to native ecosystems and the species that these ecosystems support. She will talk about invasive species, which are the biggest threat to these systems, as well as provide some solutions for combatting a few of the most common invasive species.

Join us in-person at the Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus or by Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://osu.zoom.us/j/9805428282>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## **Family Fun Night**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

Come join us for snacks and activities designed for the young and young-at-heart. Contact Nancy Risner by phone call or text at 419-516-2282 if you would like to help with activities. Join us in-person at the Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus.

## **Out of The Dust – Casey Heilman**

**Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.**

Casey Heilman will be joining us from the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District. Casey will be helping us to understand that conservation of our natural resources can be done by everyone. Best backyard conservation practices will be discussed.



We will look at the Dustbowl and find out how human activity led to the loss of over 850 million tons of topsoil. We will find out what the lingering effects are and how we are still living with the aftermath of the Dustbowl today.

Join us in-person at the Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus or by Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://osu.zoom.us/j/9805428282>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

*Submitted by Nancy Risner*

## **Field Trips...**

**KILLDEER PLAINS FIELD TRIP—Saturday, March 26**

9:00 a.m. start from McElroy Environmental Education Center: 2355 Ada Rd. Lima OH 45801

10:00 a.m. meet at Killdeer Upground Reservoir

Join a naturalist from the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and other members of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to explore some of the 8,000-plus acres of wetlands, prairies, and woodlots at Killdeer Plains as we look for waterfowl and much more! Some walking, but we will mostly be driving between points of interest. Prepare for the weather and pack a lunch/snacks/beverages. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be provided.



A carpool will depart at 9 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). We will meet at the Killdeer Upground Reservoir at 10 a.m. Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the midafternoon. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome.

**SPRING BIRD WALK - Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.**

Explore Kendrick Woods with a naturalist from Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District as we venture into the trails of Kendrick Woods to see what feathered friends are out and about.

This is the time to find early spring migrants. Can we find 50 species for 50 years of park history? A limited number of binoculars will be provided and bird-watchers of all skill levels are welcome. Be prepared for the weather and (often wet) ground conditions. Register at [www.jampd.com](http://www.jampd.com) by April 15.

**BIG BIRDING DAY! - Monday, May 16**

6:30 a.m. start from MEEC (2355 Ada Rd)

8:30 a.m. meet at west entrance to boardwalk

Join a naturalist from Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and other members of the Tri Moraine Audubon Society to visit some of the hottest birding locations in the world! This is peak migration for songbirds, and our birding trip will start with the boardwalk at Magee Marsh and potentially include the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge driving tour, Howard Marsh and more!

A carpool will depart at 6:30 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the evening. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. *Submitted by Dan Hodges*



## ***2022 Environmental Education Weekend...***

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 43rd annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) at Myerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine, on Saturday, April 30, 2022. EEW provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a unique environment.

The Myerah 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 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 30th and ends Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m. Box lunches will be provided for lunch at noon on Saturday. There will be three sessions with field trips and environmental educational programs running from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

To view photos of previous weekends, visit the EEWEEKEND 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 [broughtoneric@yahoo.com](mailto:broughtoneric@yahoo.com).

*Submitted by Don Rosenbeck*

## ***Eradicate Garlic Mustard...***

Help Johnny Appleseed Park District save our beautiful spring wildflowers from garlic mustard, an invasive weed from Europe.

We will be pulling at Kendrick Woods and Hermon Woods. Pulling will take place every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings starting on Wednesday April 13th through May 27th from 9 am to 12 pm.

Work takes place off trail, so bring mud boots. If you would like to help, please contact Anne Smedley at [Asmedley@jampd.com](mailto:Asmedley@jampd.com) or call 419-221-1232.



If you have any sturdy woven plastic bags to put the pulled mustard in, please bring them along or donate at the park office.

*Submitted by Anne Smedley*

## ***Ottawa River Coalition Fish Fry...***

The Ottawa Coalition Good Friday Fish Fry will be held on April 15 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Allen County Fairgrounds. Dine-in and to-go options will be available.

The Ottawa River Coalition held their annual meeting virtually on January 20. Award recipients included: Nutrien Lima Nitrogen (Member Organization of the Year), Jessica Begonia (Volunteer of the Year), Adam Haunhorst (Outstanding Watershed Partner) and Gary Werling (Watershed Improvement Award).

## ***Ottawa River Cleanup...***

The annual Ottawa River Cleanup is planned for April 2022 from 9 AM - 12 PM (Date and Location TBA).

*Submitted by Leslie Riley*



**Christmas Bird Count Results...** TMAS once again completed our two counts on the first weekend of the 2021-22 Audubon Christmas Bird Count season, the 122nd such count. Note that in these summaries, species new to a count or record high numbers for a count (both based upon the past 31 years) are indicated in bold).

On Saturday, December 18, 2021, only two of us were present for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL) – so Troy Shively and I separately covered the circle as best we could. Raining and 34 F when I left home in Logan Co. bound for St. Marys, the weather did not improve much during the day; 34-38 F, with wind increasing from light to gusty by afternoon, overcast and gloomy with frequent sprinkles of rain; and splashing through the puddles at those sites walking around to look for birds. Together, we spent 9.5 hours over 142 miles driving and 4.25 hours over 4 miles on foot counting birds in the Grand Lake CBC circle. The only mammals I saw were 5 grey and 2 fox squirrels.

We recorded the following OHGL birds: Snow Goose, 2; Canada Goose, 756; Mallard, 162; Mallard, hybrid, 2; No. Shoveler, 9; Gadwall, 27; Hooded Merganser, 4; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Rock Pigeon, 8; Eurasian Collared-Dove, 1; Mourning Dove, 74; Bonaparte's Gull, 14; Ring-billed Gull, 402; Herring Gull, 44; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 17; No. Harrier, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 12; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 4; Amer. Kestrel, 7; Merlin, 1; Blue Jay, 34; American Crow, 3; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 17; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 4; Euro. Starling, 783; House Sparrow, 125; House Finch, 3; Amer. Goldfinch, 8; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 71; Dark-eyed Junco, 15; Song Sparrow, 50; and, No. Cardinal, 35. The totals include 46 species and 2754 individual birds. Interestingly, that is the same number of species we found in our last (2019) count, although the number of individual birds was just under 60% fewer. Given that we were only 25% of the number of counters, in half as many groups as for OHIL count, results were not that bad!

The following day, Sunday, December 19 had more counters for the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL), though not all were available all day. Counters Bill and Sally Angel, Brianna Braun and Cole Davis; Eric Juterbock [coordinator]; Evelyn Prater; Troy Shiveley, Graham Shively, Ralph Shiveley and Leann Swonguer, all met at McDonald's in Russell's Point for directions and some were underway by 8 a.m.; Don and Mary Rosenbeck joined the count later. In four groups, we spent 21.5 group hours in cars covering 227 miles, and 7 group hours on foot over 7 miles, between 8 a.m. and 5:17 p.m. Temperatures ranged from 29 to 36 F, with light wind from the NE and open water; it was cloudy all day. For the day, we found 6655 individuals of 58 species.

The following OHIL birds were seen: Canada Goose, 864; No. Shoveler, 102; Gadwall, 73; No. Pintail, 44; Mallard, 526; Mallard (hybrid), 20; Redhead, 80; Bufflehead, 24; Hooded Merganser, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Ruddy Duck, 15; duck, sp(p)., 400; Double-crested Cormorant, 2; Rock Pigeon, 60; Mourning Dove, 397; Amer. Coot, **800**; Ring-billed Gull, 677; Herring Gull, 4; Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5 (previously seen only during count week); Great Blue Heron, 7; **Black Vulture, 2**; No. Harrier, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Bald eagle, 3; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 12; **Golden Eagle, 1**; Great Horned Owl, 2; owl, sp., 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 22; Downy Woodpecker, 34; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 10; woodpecker, sp., 1; Amer. Kestrel, 36; Merlin, 1; Blue Jay, 52; Amer. Crow, 24; Carolina Chickadee, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; chickadee, sp(p). 23; Tufted Titmouse, 14; Horned Lark, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 33; Brown Creeper, 4; Carolina Wren, 5; Euro. Starling, 1514; E. Bluebird, 1; Amer. Robin, 84; House Sparrow, 346; House Finch, 21; Amer. Goldfinch, 9; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 28; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 102; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 19; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 7; No. Cardinal, 51; and, passerine, sp(p)., 2.

Several points are worth noting. For the OHGL count, the number of species seen equaled the median for counts since 2010, but the number of individual birds seen was 1/3 lower than any other count in that period. This seems reasonable, since lower effort may result in missing a few rare species, but will almost certainly lead to fewer birds seen overall. Thus, we saw no species new to the count and only 1 (PB grebe) not seen since 1999. In contrast, Horned Larks had been seen every year since 1996, often in considerable numbers (809 in 2010), and we saw none (probably due to less time available for driving rural roads, where they are most likely to be). For the OHIL count, the number of individual birds seen was the median for the past nine counts and the number of species was in the middle third; i.e., this year's results were rather typical. It is also the case that the number of species of ducks observed on the recent OHIL counts (typically 8 or 9) is unusually high compared to those of the 1990s and the first decade plus of the 2000s. Although I do not have detailed records of the amount of ice, based upon my posted one-word descriptions, there has recently been less ice/more open water at CBC time, allowing the ducks to hang around.

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 Myeerah 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 – and posting your observations on "ebird" would make it easier for that to be accomplished. Keep your binoculars handy!

- Eric Juterbock (CBC coordinator)



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

Greetings,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and surviving another Ohio winter. I've been thinking ahead to spring and ordering seeds and plants.

Your chapter leadership has also been busy planning programs and field trips for this spring too. We are still adapting to the Covid situation in special events like the Environmental Education Weekend which will be just one busy day in 2022.

I want to thank all these dedicated volunteers for all their time and hard work. I also want to thank all of you who made donations during the membership campaign last year or the Annual Appeal this year.

Your generous support has enabled us to continue offering top-quality programs and activities. So stay warm and healthy and I look forward to seeing your smiling faces at some upcoming event.

Eric

