



# Flight Patterns

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

SPRING 2023

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

**President**

Dan Hodges  
567.204.7974

**Vice President**

Nancy Risner  
419.516.2282

**Treasurer**

Eric Broughton  
419.999.1987

**Secretary**

Marie Walton  
937.694.9441

**Members At Large**

**Birdseed Sales Co-Chair**

Anne Smedley  
419.222.3271

**Field Trip/Database**

Daniel Hodges  
567.204.7974

Nancy Risner  
419.516.2282

Danielle Hodges

419.233.0820

Judy Jacomet  
419.236.1744

**Chair Persons**

**Hospitality**

Evelyn Prater  
567.204.7689

**Media**

Jamie Cunningham  
419.979.8650

**Conservation**

Dr. Eric Juterbock  
216.905.8909

**Program**

**Publicity- Vacant**

**Myeerah Mgmt. Group**

Donald Rosenbeck  
937.596.5330

**Newsletter**

Jeannine Roediger  
567.259.9906

**Ottawa River Coal. Rep.**

Dr. Leslie Riley

**Membership**

David Gratz

**Webmaster**

Michael Wildermuth  
419.999.6461

**Volunteer**

Vacancy

**Audubon Adventures**

Jennifer Waltz  
419.303.4741

**TMAS Board Meeting** - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held in person at 7:30 p.m. March 28 and May 30, 2023 in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus.

**Volunteer Opportunity**—The **Ottawa River Cleanup** will be held Saturday, April 22 beginning at 9 a.m. For further information and registration visit their website at [www.thisismyriver.org](http://www.thisismyriver.org)

**Support the ORC Friday Fish Fry** planned for April 7 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Allen County Fairgrds.

## Where are the birds?

By Jeannine C. Roediger

As I write this it is mid February and the Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for this coming weekend. I will be interested to see what it shows.

On my own territory in rural Van Wert County, birds have been scarce and not showing up at the feeders. Yes, I have had a few Juncos, Goldfinch, Tree Sparrows, Downy Woodpeckers, English Sparrows, House Finches, but that is about all except for the Horned Larks in the field.

I saw three Bluebirds just a few days ago, which seems early for them. I've also seen crows and a few Sandhill Cranes flying south and many geese formations flying both north and south, perhaps some are local.

Buying birdseed has usually been a major investment for the winter. Not this year! Most winters I put out about two gallons of seed per day, more if the weather is inclement. This year I barely have to renew the feeders each day.

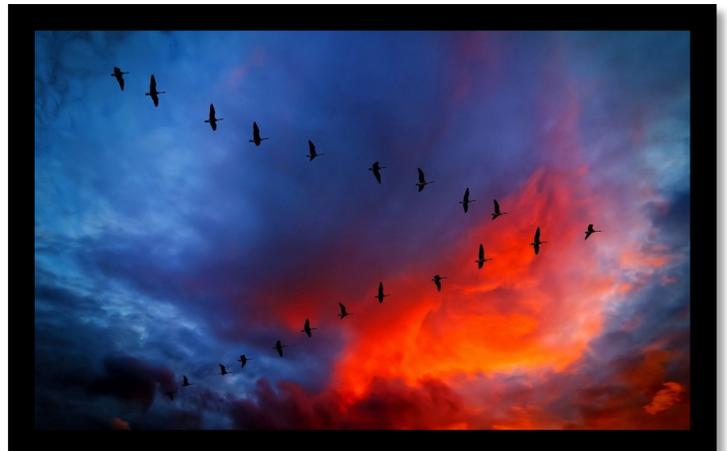
So why? Possibly it is due to the very mild winter and open winter we have experienced. Except for a few really bad days, most of the winter has been mild. Lost due to Avian Flu? I have not seen any dead birds here, so I think this is unlikely. Was there a bigger seed supply so they did not need extra support? Possibly.

But for now I am waiting for information from our annual bird count and the GBBC to see what others are seeing. My brother has reported the same scenario in Auglaize County, few birds.

I have not heard a Cardinal, but am hoping as spring approaches I will start hearing some music!

It is concerning as our birds have so many marks against them, loss of habitat, pesticides, fragmented habitat and so many other issues.

I am waiting for spring to see what it will bring in bird numbers and nesting couples.



## EEW Weekend Scheduled...



### **Experience nature at a unique Important Bird Area at the EEW weekend**

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 44th annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) at Myeerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine, on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

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 bird-watching, 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 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and ends Saturday afternoon at 5:00 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 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The day will conclude with a dinner of soup & bread after the final program session ends at 5 p.m.

To view photos of previous weekends, visit the EEWWeekend 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 [broughton-eric@yahoo.com](mailto:broughton-eric@yahoo.com).

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck

## Field Trips...

**KILLDEER PLAINS** - Sat., March 25 – 9:00 a.m. – Start at McElroy Environmental Education Center—Come explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies and woodlots at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area as we look for waterfowl and much more! We'll do 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 caravan 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. This program is in partnership with the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District. Register by March 24 at [jampd.com](http://jampd.com).

**WILDFLOWER WALK** - Tues., April 25 – 6:00 p.m. – Kuffner Nature Preserve—Enjoy the beauty of spring with a walk through Kuffner Nature Preserve. A commissioner from the Heritage Trails Park will lead the hike along wooded nature paths within the preserve. The level terrain is great for all ages, just be prepared for the mud! View a variety of native Ohio wildflowers on the 15.8 acre woodlot. Bring your field guides for identifying flowers & maybe even do some birding too! The address for Kuffner Nature Preserve is: 14910 County Road 66A, St. Marys, Ohio.

**BIG BIRDING DAY!** - Mon., May 15 – 6:30 a.m. – Start at MEEC—Come 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! 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 6:30 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). We will meet at the nature center close to 8 a.m. Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay



into the evening. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome! This program is in partnership with the JAMPD, if possible, please register by May 14 at [jampd.com](http://jampd.com).

Submitted by Dan Hodges

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

**Herbicide Resistance in Common Weeds**, Dr. Zac Beres, OSU Lima faculty—Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

We will meet in the Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus

Dr. Beres studies the development of herbicide resistance in weeds. He has insight into how common weeds become herbicide resistant and the timeframe involved. His research has focused on Roundup-ready crops and the use of Roundup in Ohio and in other states. How long do you think it takes for a common weed such as horseweed to become resistant to Roundup? Come talk to Zac and find out!

### **Family Fun Night**

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

We will meet in the Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's annual Family Fun Night. Come share the experience with friends of all ages. Several tables of activities will be sponsored by local environmental groups. Come enjoy a snack and visit with others and see the crafts and activities for children.

### **Captive Breeding of Garter Snakes**

Dr. Katherine Krynak, ONU faculty—Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. We will meet in the Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus

Ohio Northern University has a captive breeding program for garter snakes. Why? How is this done? Dr. Katherine Krynak and some of her research students will be answering those questions and sharing information about the program and its local ecological importance. Come find out more about garter snakes. *Submitted by Nancy Risner*

### **A brief note from Our Past President:**

As I transition from serving as your president to the chapter treasurer position, I want to say thank you to all the TMAS Board members and volunteers who have shared their valuable time and expertise helping to keep the chapter running so smoothly.

I recognize your important contributions and hope that you will continue to support our new president, Dan. This is part of our planned leadership transition plan and I look forward to an exciting future for TMAS. I will still be at meetings and field trips and hope that you will be able to join us. Thank you again!



### **Christmas Bird Count...**

You will find the Christmas Bird Count on the back of the EEW Registration. We thank Troy Shively for this information.



### **Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program Planned...**

Tri-Moraine is supporting the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District in hosting an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist class series this summer!

Running for ten Thursday evenings from mid-June through August with two Saturday outings, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the natural world with like-minded people!! For more information, email Dan Hodges at [dhodges@jampd.com](mailto:dhodges@jampd.com)

### **Choosing Binoculars...**

Binoculars are an essential tool for birders, but with so many models on the market, it can be daunting to find the perfect pair. It's been three years since the Audubon Society first published a binoculars guide.

In July, of 2019 dozens of attendees at the Audubon Convention descended upon a Milwaukee park to review nearly 50 pairs of binoculars from 16 companies under a range of conditions over three days.

Volunteers rated the models on a 1 to 10 scale for a variety of factors, including clarity, brightness, color rendition, and eye relief. For complete details and further information on their findings visit <https://www.audubon.org/gear/binocular-guide>



Serving Allen • Auglaize  
Hancock • Hardin • Logan  
Mercer • Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in  
Ohio  
P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648  
**SPRING 2023 Newsletter**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LIMA, OHIO PERMIT  
#153

**Address Service Requested**

### **Incoming President's Message - Greetings friends and bird lovers!**

It wasn't the cardinal, but his song that hooked me. I remember one morning in high school (yes, I was a fairly late blooming nature lover) in the late spring listening to what became one of my favorite sounds. The "purdy, purdy, purdy, CHEerrr CHEerrr" of this bird was beautiful, so I looked around. The Northern Cardinal is somewhat conspicuous, bright red in a sea of the green and brown of spring trees. Plus they have a habit of singing from the top of open trees. So, it didn't take long before I clapped eyes on the singer. Ahha! While simple and ordinary for some, it was a moment that meant a lot to me. So, maybe it wasn't so much his song, but the connection I was able to make between a bird, that I already liked, and a sound, that was really cool. I was able to connect those dots. I've since connected more dots, like the Northern Cardinal's relationship with berries, seeds, caterpillars, mirrors, snakes, bushes, and states. Another fitting connection is to Tri-Moraine, as the bird on the logo.

The mission of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society is: "to promote the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, including agricultural systems, while focusing on the enjoyment of birds and the natural environment through fellowship, education and stewardship for the benefit of our future generations."

There's a lot there and certainly a lot of good work to do! One of my goals as incoming president is to help facilitate connections. I think Tri-Moraine can be a catalyst for connecting people with birds and nature, and that connection can lead to appreciation and protection. That's been my mantra for a while, and my day job at the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District allows me to try to do that a lot. But here there is tremendous opportunity. I believe this group is inspirational. That we can maintain and grow our society with experiences and engagements that facilitate a positive interaction with nature. We can learn and have fun while helping a wide range of folks connect with the natural world. And, hopefully, inspire you to take that message home and share it with those you love.

I am very excited to step into the role of president for the TMAS this spring. I want to thank Eric Broughton for his dedication and continued service. Eric has been a mainstay of TMAS for as long as I've been around and continues to apply his energy and talent to the betterment of this group. His leadership and perseverance, with help from others, has kept us going "through zoom and high water," as they say. I hope to follow in the footsteps of Eric and other past presidents to serve this society as best I can. Thankfully he's not going anywhere, so I'm confident that I will have plenty of help along the way.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with Tri-Moraine. Our work - fellowship, education, and conservation - would not be possible without you. I look forward to connecting with you soon, and don't forget, get outside!

Dan Hodges

**Christmas Bird Count results...** TMAS once again completed our two counts on the first weekend of the 2022-23 Audubon Christmas Bird Count season, the 123rd such count. Note that in these summaries, species new to a count or record high numbers for a count (both based upon the past 32 years) are indicated in bold).

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, seven of us were present for the Indian Lake Christmas bird count. The weather started out cold and did not improve much during the day with wind increasing from light to gusty by afternoon. Together, we spent 35 hours over 299 miles driving and 6 hours over 7.5 miles on foot counting birds in the Indian Lake CBC circle. We recorded the following birds: Canada Goose, 276; Mute Swan, 1; Gadwall, 6; American Wigeon, 12; American Black Duck, 36; Mallard, 674; Northern Shoveler, 15; Northern Pintail, 54; Red-head, 6; Lesser Scaup, 9; Bufflehead, 12; Hooded Merganser, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Ruddy Duck, 20; Loon Sp,1; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Horned Grebe, 16; Double-crested Cormorant, cw; Great Blue Heron, 3; Northern Harrier, 11; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 8; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 13; American Coot, 806; Sandhill Crane, cw; Bonaparte's Gull, 112; Ring-billed Gull, 236; Herring Gull, 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull, 3; Rock Pigeon, 11; Mourning Dove, 63; Great Horned Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Northern Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; American Kestrel, 5; Merlin, 1; Blue Jay, 24; American Crow, 27; Horned Lark, 95; Carolina Chickadee, 10; Tufted Titmouse, 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 7; Eastern Bluebird, 4; American Robin, 15; European Starling, 903; Lapland Longspur, 1; American Tree Sparrow, 13; Dark-eyed Junco, 53; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 12; Swamp Sparrow, 5; Northern Cardinal, 20; Eastern Meadowlark, 3; House Finch, 8; American Goldfinch, 13; House Sparrow, 248.

The totals include 66 species and 3963 individual birds. A loon species found far out in the center of the lake was thought by a couple birders to be a Pacific Loon, which would be a first count and first county record, but they felt that they couldn't be 100% confident in the ID given the distance. Bonaparte's Gulls and Horned Grebes were still around in good numbers, as the lake hadn't frozen yet and I suspect this is true for many other counts in our area. These numbers were much better than the previous year, but were a little below average on species and overall numbers. The 2021 Count only had two observers, so that might explain the increase in numbers.

The following day, Sunday, December 18 had many of the same counters for the Grand Lake St. Mary's CBC, though not all were available all day. All met at McDonald's in St. Marys for directions and most were underway by 8 a.m. We spent 36 group hours in cars covering 318 miles, and 8 group hours on foot over 8 miles, between 4 a.m. and 6 p.m. Temperatures ranged from 18 to 27 F, with heavy wind and lots of open water; it was cloudy all day.

For the day, we found 6126 individuals of 52 species. The following birds were seen: Greater White-fronted Goose, 76; Snow Goose 3; Cackling Goose, 2; Canada Goose, 1611; Mallard, 159; Ring-necked Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup, 21; Bufflehead, 11; Hooded Merganser, 1; Ruddy Duck, 3; Duck Sp., 40; Great Blue Heron, 6; Northern Harrier, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 11; Red-tailed Hawk, 12; American Coot, 1; Sandhill Crane, 17; Ring-billed Gull, 408; Herring Gull, 43; Rock Pigeon, 23; Mourning Dove, 94; Eastern Screech Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Downy Woodpecker, 16; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Northern Flicker, 5; American Kestrel, 25; Merlin, 1; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Blue Jay, 59; American Crow, 7; Horned Lark, 90; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 7; Eastern Bluebird, 2; American Robin, 30; European Starling, 2155; Lapland Longspur, 100; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; American Tree Sparrow, 69; Dark-eyed Junco, 347; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 10; Northern Cardinal, 48; House Finch, 14; American Goldfinch, 24; House Sparrow, 494.

Several points are worth noting. The Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were unexpected, though both have been becoming more and more regular in our area in the winter. Three Eastern Screech owls were nice as it can be difficult to find them this time of year as they are not particularly vocal. The wind made it difficult to find many songbirds, and that accounted for the numbers being slightly below average. All in all we had a great weekend and hope to build on it with even larger numbers in the years to come. This was my first year as compiler, so I'm sorry for inevitable mistakes, but I also want to thank Eric Juterbock for helping me take over the compiling and for all he has done for the counts in the past. These two counts would probably not still be active if it wasn't for his leadership. We are lucky to have him!

*Submitted by Troy Shively*



*Eastern Screech Owl*