



# Flight Patterns

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

WINTER 2022

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

## President

Eric Broughton  
419.999.1987

## Vice President

## Treasurer

Susan Heaply  
419.302.88862

## 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

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Jennifer Waltz  
419.303.4741

**TMAS Board Meeting** - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held in person at 7:30 p.m. November 29 and January 31, 2023 in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus.

**Volunteer Opportunity**—The 2022 Christmas Bird Count for the Indian Lake area is Saturday, December 17 and for the Grand Lake St. Mary's area, Sunday, December 18. Interested counters can check the TMAS Facebook page or call Eric Juterbock for specific times and places to meet. See page 2.

## What to Feed Our Birds...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Are you a picky eater? Depending upon our preferences and culture, we may decide not to eat certain foods that we don't like or that are not familiar.

Our feathered friends are like this too. Depending upon species and habit, they may not partake of some of our offerings. At the beginning of fall I put out bird food that is a mix of small millet, sunflower seeds, cracked corn and wheat. English sparrows, always the first to come in to feeders, like to throw the sunflowers and wheat out of the feeder and consume the millet and cracked corn. My sunflower seed eaters won't come in until it gets more wintry.

Some birders suggest putting out separate sections for different varieties of seeds to see which may be more popular with the bird species in your yard. I have never done this but have found that the smaller, white proso millet seed is preferred, while red milo sorghum seeds are often sorted out and dropped to the ground. I try to avoid bird seed that has a lot of this type seed. Even wheat and oats don't seem to be favored.

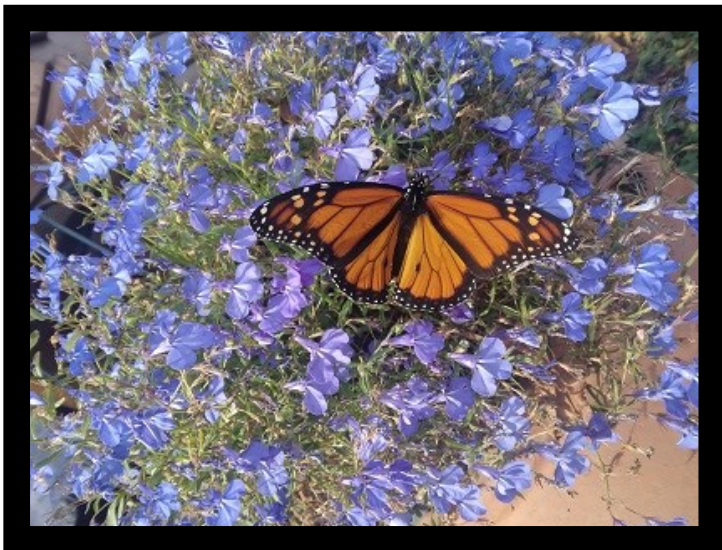
Raisins might be a good fit for robins, and catbirds, but they, except for a few robins, go south for the winter. One book noted that ground-up dog biscuits may be substituted for nut meats and are consumed by chickadee, nuthatches, blue jay, snow bunting, junco and tree sparrows. Another noted that coarse sand or a fine crushed oyster shell is a good addition to our bird feed, as birds need grit to digest their food.

By learning what your birds like, you can aim your bird-feeding mixes to the ones that contain the seeds they prefer. Buying a cheaper feed with seeds that are thrown out of feeder may not be cheap in the long run. Buying a more premium seed mixture may be the best answer. Less waste, for sure.

And, lastly, keep your feeders clean this winter. The Avian flu is still around and keeping things clean goes a long way in preventative care. Plus, remember, if you start feeding this fall, you need to keep filling your feeders all winter and at least to about April 15th. Birds will depend upon us especially on wintry days and those deep cold, snowy events we have during the winter.



Learn what your  
birds like to eat!



**Contrast in seasons.** Above, *Monarch on Lobelia*, photo taken November 4, 2022; Below, *Snow on Smokebush* taken November 12, 2022



### **February 7, 2023 "Black Swamp Bird Observatory"**

Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Visitor and Student Services Center at Lima OSU campus. The Black Swamp Bird Observatory is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. This important refuge is located at the entrance of the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area near Oak Harbor, Ohio. Becca Mathews of Black Swamp Bird Observatory will be updating us on the latest news there, highlighting programs and opportunities. Topics we can explore include migratory birds, diversity of species, wind turbines and birds and bird disease.

### **Program Meetings...December 6, 2022**

**"Pheasants Forever"** Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Visitor and Student Services Center at Lima OSU campus.

Jeff Carlson is a Farm Bill wildlife biologist for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. His work covers four counties: Allen, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert. As a biologist for Pheasants Forever, it is Jeff's job to serve landowners and provide the very best technical and customer assistance possible for the needs on their property.



He deals in large part with CRP, which is a government program that allows landowners to take ground out of row crops and into quality wildlife habitat for a plethora of species. Jeff has been with the organization since May of 2022 and in that rather short time has learned an immense amount that has helped enhance his role.

Jeff is fairly new to this area overall, having just moved out this way in December of last year from Cleveland, Ohio. This area has a lot of potential for habitat improvement and that is one of Jeff's primary focuses. His presentation will cover what Pheasants Forever is and what their mission entails, how and what biologists do regarding habitat, and some other educational information on CRP, pheasant ecology, and why CRP is beneficial for pollinators and bird species. See you there!

### **January 3, 2023 Photo Safari – share your photos**

Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Visitor and Student Services Center at Lima OSU campus. Have you captured wildlife by photo in the past several months? Have you visited an interesting place and want to share pictures? Come prepared to share your wildlife photos from the past year or two. Contact Nancy Risner at 419-516-2282 (call or text) to have your name on the list of presentations. We look forward to seeing your pictures!

**See at left for February program.**

*Submitted by Nancy Risner*



## State of the Birds Report...

Recently the 2022 State of the Birds Report for the United States was released. Most of it is not good news.

“The United States and Canada have lost 3-billion breeding birds since 1970—a loss of 1 in 4 birds, according to research published in Science in 2019. This steep decline in abundance can be reversed with new scales of conservation actions that benefit not only birds but also wildlife and people” begins this report. They noted that birds in the U.S. show lower trends in every habitat except wetlands, where much research and conservation practices have been put in place. Many species of water birds have increased from eighteen percent to 1,000 percent, whereas Eastern forest birds show a decline of 27 percent.

This report, a collaboration of many birding and scientific organizations, gives us a vision of what can be done to reverse this trend. 1) Increase conservation to bring birds back. The wetland figures show that conservation brought about the reversals for ducks and geese—and improved water quality for people. 2) Restore habitats and improve quality of life. Restoring habitats helps both birds and humans—supporting recreation, economic opportunities and well-being for people. Bird conservation benefits the health of our communities and addresses environmental inequities, the report added. 3) Investing in bird habitats can isolate carbon, improve water security and protect people. We need to support conservation before a species becomes endangered. The Endangered Species Act is the fastest, most effective way to bring birds back. It benefits everyone, the report said.

J. Drew Lanham, an author in the report and an ornithologist, naturalist and writer, summed it up by stating, “Wildlife and people alike are facing growing threats from habitat degradation, climate change and natural disasters. By helping birds, we help ourselves.”

The full report can be viewed at: <https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2022/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/state-of-the-birds-2022-spreads.pdf>



*Cedar Waxwing enjoying last summer's fruits.*

## Using Apps in Birding...

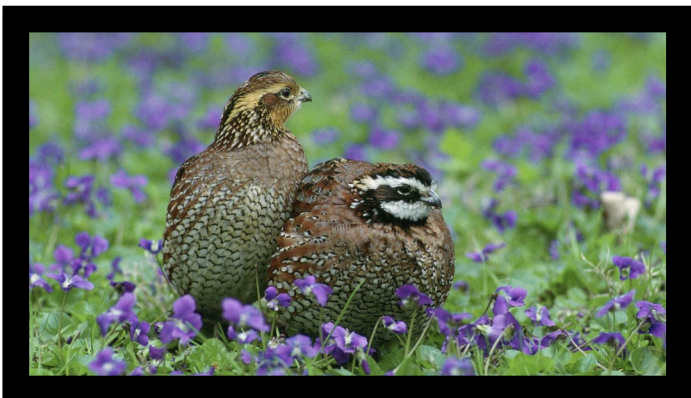
There are many new ways to learn about and recognize our feathered friends, especially online. One of these is Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird, sponsored in part by Audubon. It is an online data collection that helps scientists and researchers, as well as the amateur birder, to gather information on distribution and abundance of populations.

It gives us a place to record our sightings and store our information and photos for other birders around the world to know and use.

It helps find the best birding areas and hot spots near and far. It also helps build better conservation strategies.

You can download the app for free.

To help you learn how to use the app, Audubon's website has a tutorial to help you get started. <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>



## Christmas Bird Count...

Christmas Bird Count will be held Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18 for Grand Lake and Indian Lake. The CBC checks the populations of local birds and winter visitors.

For more information contact Eric Juterbock at 216.905.8909 or [juterbock.1@osu.edu](mailto:juterbock.1@osu.edu) for details on times and meeting places.



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

Greetings,

As 2022 comes to an end, as president of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS), I want to focus this article on two important themes.

First, is gratitude for everyone actively involved with the TMAS and more generally for those doing their small part to support the environment. Our many successes in 2022 are due to the dedicated involvement of volunteers. Our board and various committee chairs spend countless hours every month doing what is necessary to keep TMAS running smoothly.

I am also very grateful for the financial support many of you have been able to provide through your generous donations. Additionally, volunteers step up to lead an activity or program, bring snacks or move chairs, etc. With everyone's help, TMAS continues to be successful in so many different ways.

The other theme is hope for the future. These past three years have been very challenging. The pandemic changed the way we've done so many things. It's good to see that people are slowly coming back to our monthly meetings, programs and field trips. Hopefully, more of you will come back to enjoy a program or field trip, have fun with new and old friends, share a tasty snack and get outside again. If you've been hesitant to get out of the house, I understand. Please know that you are missed and we look forward to the day when we see you again.

Season greetings to you all and my sincere hope that you have a very happy holiday season! Eric