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# Flight Patterns

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

WINTER 2023

**TMAS Board Meeting** - The TMAS Board meetings are held in person in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus. The next board meeting is scheduled for the last week of January (date TBD) – 6:30 p.m.

## President

Dan Hodges  
567.204.7974

## Vice President

Nancy Risner  
419.516.2282

## Treasurer

Eric Broughton  
419.999.1987

## Secretary

Marie Walton  
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## Members At Large

Judy Jacomet  
419.236.1744

## Chair Persons

## Field Trip/Database

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## Bird Seed Sales

Anne Smedley

## Programs

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## Hospitality

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## Media

Zach Walton

## Conservation

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## Education

Vacant

## Publicity- Vacant

## Myeerah Mgmt. Group

Donald Rosenbeck  
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## Ottawa River Coal. Rep.

Dr. Leslie Riley

## Membership

David Gratz

## Webmaster

Michael Wildermuth  
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## Volunteer

Vacancy

## Audubon Adventures

Jennifer Waltz  
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## Enjoy the Seasons for What They Bring...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Each season brings its own beauty and joy to our lives if we allow it to do so. Fall is no exception and is one of my favorite times of year. I enjoy the wonderful colors, the beautiful orange and red of the sugar maples and sassafras, the reds of some of the oaks, the gold of the mulberry, Osage orange and the beech, which changes to brown and stays on almost all winter long.

It's amazing to see the wonderful hues and shades fall brings to our table. I see the maroon of the gray dogwood, the bright ruby red of the burning bush and the multi-colors of the pear, and the red-orange beauty of the black gum and soft maples.

Walking through the varied colors and shapes of leaves lying thick upon the ground with their crisp crunch is another fall favorite. I enjoy raking those leaves and putting them on my compost pile to feed my gardens the next year. Although I know that winter is not far behind I still have to enjoy the moment. Even as I enjoy fall colors, I look forward to the first snows of winter.

This time of year I find all the nests that I did not see during the breeding season. Again I am amazed at their construction and use of materials, the precise placement of each stick or piece of grass or other fibers and the way they can be so hidden I fail to "see" them until the leaves fall from the trees.

Sadly the leaves continue to fall until the trees are bare, but then they reveal other nests I have missed through the season.

I clean my feeders and prepare for another season of bird feeding and watching my feeders to see what visitors I may have.

Winter is coming and the first snowflakes have already fallen. Another season to enjoy!



*A field sparrow nest situated in a red cedar just inches from the ground.*

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

**Does Ohio have any endangered species of birds?**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus**

Did you know that Ohio has several endangered species of birds? Are there more endangered bird species in Ohio than other animal species? Do any endangered birds live near me? Where might I see some of Ohio's endangered birds? What can I do to help?

Abby Ditomassi will be joining us from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, where she is a wildlife communications specialist with the Division of Wildlife. Abby will be presenting a program and answering your questions about Ohio's threatened and endangered bird species.

## **Photo Safari**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus**

Photo Safari! Join us to showcase where you have been and what you have seen in nature during the past couple of years! Did you see animals? Plants? Where have you been and what wonders of the natural world did you see?

## **The Big Eclipse**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus**

Michael Ritchie from the Lima Astronomical Society will be bringing us a presentation about the eclipse that is to occur in April, 2024.

What type of eclipse is this? Can it be viewed safely? How often does it happen? Is it like the "ring of fire" eclipse that was visible from some states in October 2023? Find out answers to these and bring your own questions to learn all about the event.

*Submitted by Nancy Risner*

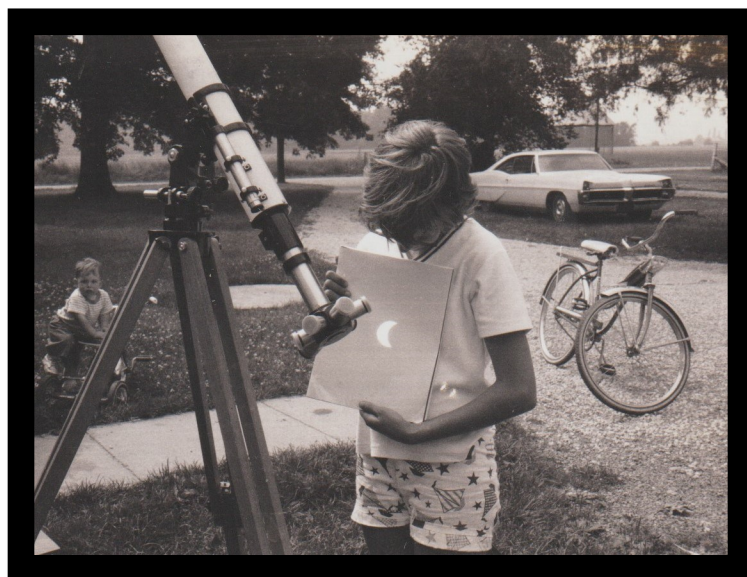


## ***FeederWatch...***

Project FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit various locations across North America. Run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this program enlists the help of community scientists (that's you and me!) to observe birds that visit (mainly) bird feeders during the winter. Identifying visiting birds and tracking their numbers provides important information for scientific study as to the population, range, disease, irruptions, etc., of some of our favorite birds.

With more than 20,000 participants, the Project is able to amass a considerable amount of data to fuel excellent research. Visit [feederwatch.org](http://feederwatch.org) to learn more, or even perhaps participate with the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District at their bird feeding station. Reach out to Dan Hodges ([dhodges@jampd.com](mailto:dhodges@jampd.com)) for more information.

*Submitted by Dan Hodges*



***Safe Way to View A Solar Eclipse***—Photo taken July 10, 1972 at 4:15 p.m. through a 2.4 inch refractor telescope. Children in photo are a bit older now!



### **Ears to Hear...**

The Haikubox (<https://haikubox.com/>) is a program that automatically and continuously listens for bird calls and songs. When a song is detected it records a short audio, which then identifies the species at high, medium or low accuracies. It does not record human sound.

It will record sound within its range, not just at your feeders. Learning to identify bird song is difficult and this device should help. The Haikubox's software did make errors: It identified some unlikely birds at high confidence levels, but were not accurate. It also does not like noisy environments.

But it did get many birds right. To use the Haikubox, you'll need to plug the device into an outdoor outlet in a spot that gets good wifi. The price (\$399) includes a five-year membership, which helps the company cover cloud storage costs for all that audio. This device allows you to stay in bed and listen at dawn instead of rushing to the window to view the singer.



### **Bird Buddy**

Today we can find some "Smart" technologies to identify birds around our home. These devices work like a spy camera that records each bird that comes to our feeder.

The Bird Buddy is a new bird feeder that takes photos when it sees a bird feeding. It will also identify the species and automatically sorts the images into albums.

You can also be notified immediately when a bird arrives, or watch a video feed.

The Audubon Society tried the program out finding it had easy troubleshooting during setup, but they were very impressed by the product's high-quality photos from its 5-megapixel camera.

They say the app is also user-friendly, and its IDs were often accurate, though far from perfect. For instance, they said it identified a Song Sparrow when it was a Chipping Sparrow. The Bird Buddy requires a connection to wifi, and its battery needs a recharge every 5 to 15 days (depending on use), according to the company. A solar roof add-on accessory may be a good investment. Or you can choose to keep it plugged into an outdoor outlet.

A bit on the expensive side, the device currently costs \$169 according to its website. The company has previously had a shipping backlog but they are currently in stock. You can find info at <https://mybirdbuddy.com/>

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

Christmas Bird Count will be held Saturday, December 16 for the Grand Lake bird count; meet at the McDonalds at St. Marys by 7:30 a.m. and Sunday, December 17 for Indian Lake.; meet at the McDonalds at Russells Point at 7:30 a.m. The CBC checks the populations of local birds and winter visitors.

For more information contact Troy Shively at 937-935-9023. Hope to see you there!



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**WINTER 2023 Newsletter**

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Friends,

As we approach the end of 2023, I hope you are able to spend time on the important things in your life—family, friends, traditions, etc. I also hope that we can find some time to appreciate the beauty and importance of nature in our yards and landscapes. As many natural things in Ohio lie dormant over the winter period and our attention is busy with the holidays, it's easy to overlook the important and wonderful things outside our doors.

Not only is winter not a dormant period for a number of organisms, but it is often a great time to see and appreciate many of them! Mosses and lichens, without the shade of leaves are a wonderful highlight. Animal tracks and signs are much easier to spot in winter. Buds on trees are a fun ID challenge. Some plants even bloom in winter (skunk cabbage and witch hazel come to mind). Winter flocks of birds are a delight, with chickadees, cardinals, woodpeckers and more moving through the woodlands together. With appropriate clothing, winter is a wonderful time to be outside! Winter is also a great time to appreciate our natural friends from the indoors as well. Kicking back for a little while to watch the bird feeders out the window is time well spent, in my opinion (and it could contribute to science, see FeederWatch, p.2).

It does not take much to appreciate nature in winter. However, birds need much more than our wintertime offer of seeds. They, along with other organisms, need healthy natural spaces. Nature is filled with complex relationships, a tapestry of interactions where plants and animals depend on each other. And while food in winter is important, birds are dependent on the health of the natural systems they live in. And you can participate in your own backyard! Plant native plants (winter is a great time to plan your garden!), leave the leaf litter, turn off the lights, reduce your lawn. There are countless ways to help make sure that your yard contributes to a healthy ecosystem. This winter may be a great time to consider what you can do... and the birds will thank you for it!

Naturally Yours, Dan

