

Flight Patterns

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

— Your West-Central Ohio Birding Community —

P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648

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



IMPORTANT DATES

- Mar 3 -
Vultures
- Mar 21 -
Killdeer Plains FT
- Apr 7 -
Birding!
- May 2 -
Myerah FT
- May 5 -
Warblers
- May 16 -
Magee Marsh FT

Spring Forward!

Spring is here, and ready to be better than ever! Even now, birds on their way back. This could be the best spring we've ever had! Like the birds we love, we're poised for forward movement. We're ready to embrace the challenges we're faced with and overcome obstacles in our path.

This is the story of migrating birds in our area. Be it the American Woodcock, who has to deal with the pressures of predation, short distance migration, limited habitat, endless dancing and more. Or the warblers, traveling often thousands of miles, dropping out of the sky, exhausted, to try to refuel just to land in the field of view of your binoculars.

Birds are testaments to resiliency. they just keep coming, no matter the difficulty. They are determined to bring their beauty and song to a yard near you. It could be your yard even, if you build it right.

This spring, perhaps more than any other, I am excited for what is on its way. So take a minute, or a day, and get outside and be inspired by our feathery friends!

Dan Hodges



The Case for Vultures

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:30 pm
- OSU Lima Visitor Center -

Have you seen a vulture lately? When is the last time you've taken the time to really appreciate them? Come to this exciting talk led by Johnny Appleseed Metropark's **Marie Walton** on one of nature's most important creatures! You'll learn about how they came to be, the very specific niche they fill, more about their behaviors, and how beneficial and fundamental these birds truly are!

Birding: The comic book we get to live!

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:30 pm
- OSU Lima Visitor Center -

What if birding were a comic book full of origin stories, epic quests, elusive nemeses, and unexpected superpowers? **Killian Sullivan** shares his journey to 700 US species and ABA's Young Birder of the Year as a graphic novel come to life. His path has been shaped by mentors, friends, and a birding community who have taught, inspired, and challenged him. Killian's story shows how birding is more than a hobby – it is a shared adventure where every birder writes their own heroic story!

Killian, recently recognized as Young Birder of the Year by the American Birding Association is a 14-year-old birder from Columbus, Ohio. His birding passion began with a Steller's Jay in Lake Tahoe and his love for birds continues to grow each day. Birding complements his love for travel, adventure, and rock climbing. His favorite destinations are southeast Arizona, New Jersey's Cape May, and any pelagic trip; he is perhaps the youngest birder to see 700 species in the United States! At home, he loves observing one of his favorite birds – the Carolina Wren.

SPRING PROGRAMS

Warblers of Ohio

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:30 pm
- OSU Lima Visitor Center -

Does Ohio have warblers? If so, where are they and where do they travel? What resources do these birds need while in Ohio? What can we do for Ohio's warbler populations? Learn about the warblers that visit and reside right here in Ohio!



Brittany Leick-Laird leads the TZ Bird Club, which is the bird club of the Toledo Zoo. She coordinates bird walks, day trips, youth camps, workshops and other birding activities.

Brittany earned a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology from Unity College and has been involved in many activities such as habitat management, program coordination, and bird rescue.



Killdeer Plains Field Trip

Saturday, March 21, 2026 - 10:00 am

Killdeer Plains Upground Reservoir

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.

We will meet at the Killdeer Upground Reservoir at 10 am. Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the afternoon. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome.

Myeerah Nature Preserve - EEW Field Trip -

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 9:00 am

- 7405 OH-540, Bellefontaine, OH 43311 -

SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Enjoy a day for exploration and field study at the Myeerah Nature Preserve near Bellefontaine, Ohio on May 2nd. The bird walk starts at 9am, bring a picnic lunch, and take a wildflower walk afterward! You may extend your personal time both earlier or later, the preserve is open dawn to dusk!

Myeerah Nature Preserve was established in 2014 through the efforts of TMAS and The Trust for Public Land. It was a former Girl Scout camp of Appleseed Ridge Girl Scouts (1963, Lima) which had combined with the Girl Scout camps of Toledo and Cincinnati forming the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. The foresight of the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio made possible this unique 449 acre site (an Audubon Important Bird Area) as a nature preserve which is managed by Bellefontaine Parks Recreation Department for the enjoyment of all.



Big Birding Day!

Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 8:30 am

- Magee Marsh Nature Center -

Come visit some of the hottest birding locations in the world! This is peak migration for our songbirds, and our birding trip will begin at the most popular hotspot first - Magee Marsh. We'll move on to neighboring areas including Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Howard Marsh, and more!

Plan to meet at the Magee Marsh Nature Center at 8:30 am (carpool depart at 6:30, location TBD). Feel free to stay with the group as long as you like, some participants bird until the evening. Prepare for the weather, bring binoculars if you can, and pack a lunch/snacks. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome!

- Become a Member -

To join or renew your membership please visit our website or email davgratz@gmail.com.

Memberships are from July 1st of the current year to June 30th the following year.

Membership forms are available at monthly meetings.

- Donate to TMAS -

To donate to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society please visit our website. Donations help support programs and projects listed on our website. TMAS is a 501(c)(3) organization

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Birding Adventures

David Gratz

At the February Tri-Moraine Audubon Society meeting we learned about the many physical and mental health benefits of spending time in nature looking at wild birds from Holly Merker, author of two books and a co-host of the Mindful Birding Podcast.

Put this into practice this spring with an exceptional birding experience at Secor Metropark located at 10001 W Central Avenue, Berkey, OH 43504. Just west of Toledo the park's mature woodlands are a haven for many birds during spring migrations and approximately 180 bird species have been documented. More information about the park is at www.metroparkstoledo.com.

You can also strike out on your own using the online Lake Erie Birding Trail interactive map at Lake Erie Birding Trail | Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This is your invitation to get out, slow down and enjoy nature while supporting your health and wellbeing.

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 - hodgesdan90@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Count

On Saturday December 20th, 7 people participated in the Grand Lake St. Mary's CBC, conditions were windy and most of the lake was frozen, hindering waterbird numbers. (HC) means highest count of all time.

Snow Goose - 13
Canada Goose - 657
Tundra Swan - 8 (HC)
Mallard - 185
Northern Shoveler - 1
Redhead - 2
Common Goldeneye - 1
Great Blue Heron (Blue form) - 17
Cooper's Hawk - 1
Bald Eagle - 12
Red-tailed Hawk - 7
Ring-billed Gull - 3
Herring Gull - 11
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) - 59
Mourning Dove - 158
Belted Kingfisher - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 12
Downy Woodpecker - 6
Hairy Woodpecker - 2
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) - 5
American Kestrel - 13
Blue Jay - 26
American Crow - 15
Horned Lark - 25
Carolina Chickadee - 9
Tufted Titmouse - 11
White-breasted Nuthatch - 9
Brown Creeper - 2
Carolina Wren - 10
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 3
Eastern Bluebird - 5
American Robin - 24
European Starling - 286
Lapland Longspur - 3
American Tree Sparrow - 95
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) - 33
White-crowned Sparrow - 9
White-throated Sparrow - 12
Song Sparrow - 6
Northern Cardinal - 19
House Finch - 4
American Goldfinch - 12
House Sparrow - 144

On Sunday December 21st, Eight of us held the Indian Lake CBC. Conditions were fair, but the lake was almost completely frozen which limited our overall species numbers.

Greater White-fronted Goose - cw
Canada Goose - 874
American Black Duck - 4
Mallard - 196
Great Blue Heron (Blue form) - 12
Northern Harrier - 10
Cooper's Hawk - 1
Bald Eagle - 9
Red-tailed Hawk - 8
American Coot - 1
Sandhill Crane - cw
Ring-billed Gull - 2
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) - 47
Mourning Dove - 27
Great Horned Owl - 1
Red-headed Woodpecker - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 16
Downy Woodpecker - 7
Hairy Woodpecker - 3
Northern Flicker - 9
Pileated Woodpecker - 1
American Kestrel - 8
Blue Jay - 24
American Crow - 45
Horned Lark - 23
Carolina Chickadee - 11
Tufted Titmouse - 8
White-breasted Nuthatch - 7
Brown Creeper - 4
Carolina Wren - 6
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 4
Eastern Bluebird - 5
American Robin - 17
Northern Mockingbird - 2
European Starling - 845
American Tree Sparrow - 24
Dark-eyed Junco - 35
White-crowned Sparrow - 7
White-throated Sparrow - 17
Song Sparrow - 12
Swamp Sparrow - 2
Northern Cardinal - 38
Eastern Meadowlark - 24 (HC)
House Finch - 9
American Goldfinch - 12
House Sparrow - 78

Troy Shivley

BIRDS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

