

Fall 2026

Flight Patterns

West Central Ohio Birding Community

— Tri-Moraine Audubon Society —

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

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



IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept 1 -
Bluebirding
- Sept 5 -
GrandLake FT
- Oct 6 -
J.J. Audubon
- Oct 10 -
Litzenberg FT
- Nov 3 -
Woodpeckers
- Nov 14 -
Library FT

Does *Troglodytes aedon* sound familiar?

If you watched Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood in the 1970s, you might remember that in the "Neighborhood of Make-Believe," a puppet named King Friday XIII had a wooden pet bird named Troglodytes Aedon. It turns out that the name is the binomial of a real bird, the House Wren. House Wrens weigh in at around a half an ounce, but for their small size they sing a loud song. Apparently, some Native American cultures called the House Wren a name that means "big noise for its size." These little birds can be found from southern Canada south through parts of Mexico at different times of the year, dining on spiders and insects.

There is a male House Wren in my backyard. He sings on hot days, and he sings on cool days. He sings when it is about to rain and resumes singing after the rain. His song is a cheerful, bubbling sort of tune. It is like listening to a happy, sunny day. If you are new to birding or just have difficulty memorizing (like me!), be of good cheer. The House Wren sings and sings his happy song all day long. Now, I can recognize that bird and one of its songs.

Start with one bird. Make it one you have in your yard or one that you find interesting. There are good birding websites and apps in which to find information, and you can start linking birds with their songs. Be reminded by the cheerful song of the House Wren that today is a good day to smile and appreciate our feathered friends and their environment. And join us for our September through May program season to learn even more about birds. I look forward to seeing you soon. In the meantime, happy birding!

President's Pen

Nancy Risner

Have You Ever Wondered? What I've Learned in 40 Years of Bluebirding

Tuesday, Sept 1, 2026, at 6:30 pm
- OSU Lima Visitor Center -



Julie Zickefoose is an accomplished writer who illustrates her own books with watercolors. Her works include *Saving Jemima*, *Baby Birds*, *The Bluebird Effect*, *Letters from Eden*, and *Natural Gardening for Birds*. She fights invasive plants, gardens, does a bit of songbird rehabilitation, and is Advising Editor for BWD Magazine, the former Bird Watcher's Digest, to which she has contributed since 1986. A recent book was the updated and expanded *Bird Watching for Dummies* (Wiley, 2025). *Bluebird Landlord* is her most recently released work, so look for it wherever you get books!

Join us for our inaugural presentation of the 2026-27 season, in which Julie will be offering stories and information about bluebirds. Much of what she has learned has been through many patient years of trial and error, improving along the way. Come learn what it takes to attract and care for bluebirds. Be one of four lucky winners of a door prize and get one of Julie's books, signed by the author! Snacks are provided!

EDUCATION

The Man in the Myth: J.J. Audubon

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

John James Audubon, the namesake of the National Audubon Society, has historically been considered to be the founding father of American birding. His artwork, his writing, and his legacy have influenced generations of birders. But who really is Audubon? Where does the man begin, and the mythology end?

Zach Walton, Librarian at OSU Lima, leads us on a historical dive into the facts behind John James Audubon. Snacks are provided!



Woodpeckers of Ohio

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

What does it mean to be a woodpecker? What do they eat? Where do they live? What are their unique behaviors? Haley Williams is a Naturalist with the Johnny Appleseed Park District of Lima, Ohio. Join us in November for an engaging program to learn more about these wonderful and unique birds. Snacks are provided!

Grand Lake Birding

Saturday, Sept 5, 2026, at 8:30 am
- Grand Lake St Marys -

EXPERIENCES

Spend part of your Saturday of Labor Day weekend with us, as we join forces with the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, of eastern Indiana, for a trip to Grand Lake.

ODNR operates a state fish hatchery at the eastern end of Grand Lake, and by early September several of the ponds will be drained for the season. The hatchery's 26 ponds, both drained and full, attract shorebirds, gulls, waterfowl, and other birds as they migrate through the state.

At the southwest corner of Grand Lake we'll explore Mercer Wildlife Area, which offers varied bird habitat across 1,408 acres—cropland, meadows, ponds, and extensive shallow wetlands that connect to the lake. After exploring both birding hot spots, we'll enjoy lunch together along the beautiful shore of Grand Lake, be sure to bring a lunch and beverage.

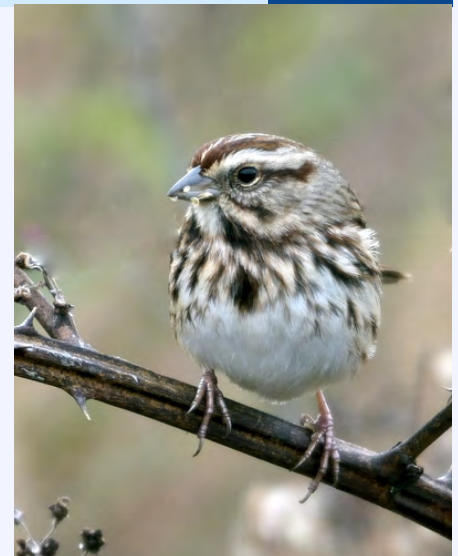
We'll rendezvous at 8:30 a.m. at the Grand Lake Saint Marys State Park shelter house #3 on the east end of the lake. Expect to spend 4 hours birding (if you want to!) and be prepared for the weather and ground conditions. To find directions in Google Maps, search for "Grand Lake shelter house #3."

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Saturday, Oct 10, 2026, at 8:30 am
- 6100 US-224, Findlay, OH 45840 -

Enjoy mid-fall birding at a tremendous birding location. Litzenberg Memorial Woods is made up of 227 acres of rolling countryside, wooded ravines, and a grand expanse of wetlands and prairie. The diversity of habitat and prime location along the Blanchard River make it a host for a variety of fall migrating birds.

We'll spend most of our time in the south end of the park, birding toward the Blanchard River. Expect to spend 1-2 hours birding. Meet in the main parking lot - 6100 US-224, Findlay, OH 45840



Birds in the Books

Saturday, Nov 14, 2026, at 4:00 pm
- OSU Lima Library -

Join an avid birder and local librarian for a tour of how to go birding in the books. We'll spend time discussing birds in literature, engaging in a scavenger hunt, viewing renowned birdy books and, potentially, take a short walk in Tecumseh Nature Preserve. Meet at the Library and expect a 1-2 hour tour.
4240 Campus Dr, Lima, OH 45804

- 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

Bird Facts!

1. There are over 11,000 known species of birds in the world.
2. The Arctic tern migrates around 44,000 miles annually—from the Arctic to Antarctica and back.
3. The wandering albatross has the longest wingspan—up to 12 feet.
4. Some species of ducks sleep with one eye open.
5. The first recorded bird strike was in 1905, when Orville Wright's plane hit a bird and killed it.
6. Some birds, like pigeons, were used in wartime for delivering messages.
7. Birds have three eyelids—upper, lower, and nictitating membrane.
8. Some birds sleep while flying long distances.
9. The bald eagle builds one of the largest bird nests—up to 2 tons.
10. Birds that are raised for meat and eggs (poultry) are the largest source of protein eaten by humans.

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Board of Trustees

- Interim President - Nancy Risner - Program Chair
 - nrisner@netscape.net
- Vice-President - Vacant
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Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Committee Chairs

- Ottawa River Coal. Rep. - Dr. Leslie Riley
- Myeerah Mgmt & EEW Chair - Don Rosenbeck
- Audubon Adventures - Jennifer Waltz
- Executive Director - Dan Hodges
 - hodgesdan90@gmail.com

Business

Our September meeting will constitute the Chapter's annual business meeting. At this time we will be voting on nominations for open board positions. Current vacant/interim positions include president, vice president, and member at large.

Volunteers

The work of our community is done by a handful of dedicated and passionate volunteers. We would like to recognize a few outstanding volunteers this fall. If you see them, thank them for their service to our group! We appreciate you!

Michael Wildermuth
Anne Smedley
Evelyn Prater
Jeannine Rodiger
Carylon Bertrand

If you are interested in participating in bird education, experiences, or conservation, reach out to a board member - we would love your help!

**BIRDS
BRING
PEOPLE
TOGETHER**

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org



COMMUNITY