



# Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

SPRING 2025

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

**TMAS Board Meeting** - Please check the Tri Moraine Audubon website for TMAS Board Meetings; usually held the last Tuesday of the month, as sometimes they are moved to another date. Our next board meeting is scheduled for March 25. in the OSU Student Services Center on the OSU campus at 7:30 p.m.

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**SHOULD YOU OR SHOULDN'T YOU...**

**BY Jeannine C. Roediger**

I think we're all asking ourselves if we should be feeding our local wild bird populations. Looking at many sources it seems that yes, we can continue feeding our wild birds. Both the USDA and Cornell University say, at this point in time, it's okay to use backyard bird feeders.

Why the concern? Avian influenza is been detected in Mercer, Darke and Van Wert counties and now Auglaize County. Millions of turkey, duck and chicken flocks have been destroyed. Wild geese have been found dead near Grand Lake St. Marys. So there is a concern and it is growing.

In Mercer County about 50 percent of its commercial flocks have been destroyed, according to census data gathered by *The Daily Standard* of Celina. Darke County has also seen major depopulations of commercial birds. In Van Wert County the number is 8,912,430, as reported by *The Daily Standard*. It poses a great economic disaster to those producers and companies and affects consumers at the grocery store.

Usually prevalent in aquatic birds such as ducks, geese and shorebirds it does not seem to affect songbirds as much, they are not as susceptible to HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) and are not thought to play a role in spreading the virus, according to the Cornell University Wildlife Health Lab. And, that is the good news. That, however, may change as the virus changes and mutates.

Regardless, as wildlife advocates we should exercise diligent care in keeping feeders clean and on good repair. It is recommended that you clean your feeders with a solution of one part bleach and nine parts water. Then rinse thoroughly and allow to dry before putting in your bird seed.

Bird baths and water sources should also be cleaned periodically using the same formula.

It is also recommended that you wash your hands thoroughly after tending to your feeders and birdbaths. That too gives a lower risk of spreading disease, just as hand washing is important in preventing other diseases.

Although highly contagious in wild aquatic birds, it is deadly to commercial bird populations. Each of us has a responsibility in doing what we can to prevent further spread of this disease. Keep yourself updated to what is happening on the local level with this disease and act accordingly.



*Brown-headed cowbird at bird bath*

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

**March 4, 2025 - 6:30 p.m., Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus**

**Birds, Bugs & Botany: Connections in the Natural Realm**

**Guest: Judy Semroc, founder of Chrysalis in Time**

Judy is the founder of Chrysalis in Time, the first Ohio chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Judy also serves on the board of the Ohio Ornithological Society (Conservation Committee) and the Ohio Biological Survey.

She has co-authored two natural history guides, "Dragonflies & Damselflies of Northeast Ohio" and "Goldenrods of Northeast Ohio: A Field Guide to Identification & Natural History." For the past 20+ plus years, Judy was a conservation specialist in the Natural Areas Division of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. As a former petroleum geologist and science teacher, Judy loves to learn about and share her passion for the natural world through field trips, interpretive programs and photography. Learn more about Judy's latest adventures and offerings through her new company, Nature Spark!

Website: [www.naturesparkohio.org](http://www.naturesparkohio.org)

Email: [naturesparkohio@gmail.com](mailto:naturesparkohio@gmail.com)

**April 1, 2025—6:30 p.m., Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus**

**Tri-Moraine Family Fun Night**

Join Tri-Moraine Audubon members and friends for our annual Family Fun Night. We will host activities for kids of all ages sponsored by area partners including the Ottawa River Coalition and Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District.

Join us for snacks and crafts for kids, including making a pinecone bird feeder.

***Submitted by Nancy Risner***



*March 4th Speaker Judy Semroc*

**May 6, 2025—6:30 p.m., Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus**

**The Women Who Saved Birds**

**Guest: Rebecca Rose, Conservation Liaison for Ohio Wildlife Center**

Who are the women who saved birds? When did this take place? Join us for guest speaker Rebecca Rose. Rebecca brings a love for nature and conservation biology to all her programs.

Rebecca joined the Ohio Wildlife Center as the conservation liaison after serving previously as environmental education specialist and field conservation manager for the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. She is on the board for the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Friends of Bonobos and the Center for Conservation Peacebuilding in Washington, D.C.

Come learn about the Ohio Wildlife Center, how others have helped animals, and how you can play a bigger role in conservation of species on earth.

## ***Native Plant Sale...***

Our 2nd Annual Native Plant Sale will be held in May. We are still finalizing some of the details. The order sheet will be available on our website. Look for it towards the beginning of March.

We plan to offer the following species of trees and shrubs: Nannyberry, Black Chokeberry, Coralberry, Gray Dogwood, Hazelnut, Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle, River Birch, Wild Black Cherry, Black Oak, and Chinkapin Oak. We have pre-ordered the following flowering plants and grasses: Sweet Flag, Wild Columbine, Blue Wood Aster, Blue False Indigo, Prairie Larkspur, Spotted Joe Pye, Shrubby St. John's Wort, Northern Blue Flag, Dense Blazing Star, Wing-angled Loosestrife, Dotted Mint, Wild Quinine, Smooth Penstemon, Cup Plant, Riddell's Goldenrod, Ohio Spiderwort, Hoary Vervain, Virginia Wild Rye, Purple Love Grass, Porcupine Sedge, and Sallow Sedge.

Selections are subject to change depending on greenhouse conditions. We look forward to providing our community with a good selection of native plants to help enhance our neighborhood habitats! *Submitted by Anne Smedley*

## ***Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters....***

The mission of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) is to aid chapter development in strength, growth and leadership through dialogue and networking between the Chapter affiliates, individuals, and the National Audubon Society. And to provide an independent, collective voice of Ohio Chapters and affiliates in all Audubon affairs. COAC is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization.

Tri-Moraine Audubon is a member of COAC. Our former chapter member Jackie Augustine was very involved in COAC's mission, activities and leadership. Other Ohio chapters involved in COAC include Audubon Miami Valley, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Audubon Society of Ohio (Cincinnati Area), Audubon Society of Mahoning Valley, Black River Audubon Society, Blackhoof Audubon Society, Canton Audubon Society, Columbus Audubon Society, Dayton Audubon Society, Greater Akron Audubon Society, Greater Mohican Audubon Society and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society.

COAC zoom meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Members share support, program ideas and Chapter activity information. They also share information on resources, training and conservation. New individual COAC members are very welcome and needed. For more information, contact Tri-Moraine Audubon COAC representative Judy Jacomet at 419-236-1744.

***Submitted by Judy Jacomet***

## ***Field Trips Planned....***

### **KILLDEER PLAINS FIELD TRIP**

**Saturday, March, 15, 9 a.m. – Start from McElroy Environmental Education Center (2355 Ada Rd)**

10 a.m. – Meet at Upground Reservoir.

Join a naturalist from Johnny Appleseed Park District and the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to explore some of the 8,000-plus 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 late afternoon. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Registration is encouraged by March 14 at [jampd.com](http://jampd.com)

### **ROOKERY WALK**

**April 24 - 6:30 p.m. at OSU Lima**

Great Blue Herons nest at OSU Lima's beautiful 200-acre preserve. We'll explore a variety of forest types as well as a recently restored prairie as we search for the first signs of spring!

We will be looking for wildflowers and listening for the spring songs of birds and frogs in the great outdoors. Meet at the trailhead at the end of the parking lot northeast of the visitor center. Prepare for muddy trail conditions.

### **BIG BIRDING DAY!**

**Monday, May 5 – 6:30 a.m. Meet at MEEC (2355 Ada Rd)**

Join a naturalist from Johnny Appleseed Park District and the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to 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!

A carpool with park vans will depart at 6:30 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd), meeting at the Magee Nature Center at 8:30 a.m. Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the evening. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages and field guides are recommended. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be provided. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome!

Be sure to register early for a seat in the van. Registration is encouraged by May 4 at [jampd.com](http://jampd.com).

***Submitted by Dan Hodges***



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**SPRING 2025 Newsletter**

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

I'm so excited for spring! Even now I can hear the resident birds practicing their tunes and before long the first migrants of the year will be trickling in. Red-wing Blackbirds are my harbinger of spring and they should be here as you read this. Watch for this charismatic and familiar bird in roadside ditches and wetland areas - even your backyard, if you're lucky! Blink once and Killdeer are back, vociferously! A plethora of waterfowl pour through the area in early spring. Then you know the fun is really beginning. Raptors, Sparrows, Swallows, Flycatchers, Thrushes, Warblers, Vireos, Orioles... So many birds!

Some are stopping on their long journey north; others are back to raise families in our backyards. I'm excited to see them return, it feels like welcoming old friends. I'm more excited to share them with new friends (the people type), like you! I believe that's the power of birds; birds bring people together.

Hopefully you can take advantage of Tri-Moraine's offering of education and experiences. With the "rare ducks" field trip to Killdeer Plains, the Rookery Walk and Big Birding Day we're trying to offer opportunities to get outside and go birding with our community. With our educational programming, including Birds, Bugs & Botany, Family Fun Night and Women Who Saved Birds, we're hoping you have the opportunity to learn, but also connect with each other! Combine education and experience, add in some conservation and you can join us for Environmental Education Weekend as well! That's what we are here for, connecting people and birds through conservation, education and experience.

Our board is currently working on solidifying our strategic plan for this organization, a vision for where we are and where we are going. Join us at our programming or board meetings and offer your thoughts, we want to hear from you!

Naturally, Dan Hodges

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

On December 14th, 2024, the Indian Lake Christmas Bird Count was held and the weather was very cold and most of the lake was frozen. We had around six people surveying and we had a total of 47 species with no real rarities, waterfowl were pretty much absent with the lake being frozen. We had no record highs for any species due to the weather.

On December 15th, the weather was a little better, but we only had four people take part in the Grand Lake CBC. Fifty-three species were found with no high counts, but one new species with American White Pelican, a species that has been expected, but not recorded until this year. All in all, it was a fun weekend even though the participation was lower than usual. Any day birding is a great day!

Indian Lake - Canada Goose 78, Mallard 37, Hooded Merganser 12, Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 1, Black Vulture 12, Turkey Vulture 7, Northern Harrier 2, Cooper's Hawk 2, Bald Eagle 4, Red-tailed Hawk 14, American Coot 18, Sandhill Crane 9, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 104, Mourning Dove 27, Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 1, Red-headed Woodpecker 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 9, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Northern Flicker 6, Pileated Woodpecker 1, American Kestrel 8, Merlin 1, Blue Jay 26, American Crow 31, Horned Lark 3, Carolina Chickadee 2, Tufted Titmouse 11, White-breasted Nuthatch 19, Brown Creeper 5, Carolina Wren 3, Golden-crowned Kinglet 6, Eastern Bluebird 2, American Robin 17, Northern Mockingbird 1, European Starling 1589, American Tree Sparrow 16, Dark-eyed Junco 26, White-crowned Sparrow 3, White-throated Sparrow 15, Song Sparrow 5, Eastern Towhee 1, Northern Cardinal 13, House Finch 3, American Goldfinch 5, House Sparrow 395.

Total Individuals 2567, Total Species Reported 47

### **Grand Lake St. Marys Count**

Canada Goose 576, Tundra Swan 2, wood Duck, American Black Duck 7, Mallard 1043, Northern Shoveler 18, Northern Pintail 2, Green-winged Teal (American) 1, duck sp. 1010, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, American White Pelican 56 US, HC, Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 4, Northern Harrier 2, Cooper's Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 14, Red-tailed Hawk 6, Sandhill Crane 2, Ring-billed Gull 19, Herring Gull 34, gull sp. 117, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 111, Eurasian Collared-Dove 1, Mourning Dove 27, Belted Kingfisher 2, Red-headed Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 6, Downy Woodpecker 4, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 2, Pileated Woodpecker 1, American Kestrel 6, Blue Jay 11, American Crow 2, Horned Lark 4, Carolina Chickadee 6, Tufted Titmouse 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 6, Brown Creeper 1, Winter Wren 1, Carolina Wren 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 5, American Robin 83, European Starling 1534, American Tree Sparrow 16, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 17, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 3, Northern Cardinal 9, Red-winged Blackbird 7, Common Grackle 2, Brown-headed Cowbird 3, House Finch 2, Pine Siskin 6, American Goldfinch 3, House Sparrow 375.



***White Pelicans—Picture taken at Yellowstone National Park***

Total Individuals 5226; Total Species Reported 53

US = Flagged as an unusual species; HC = Flagged as an unusually high count; LC = Flagged as an unusually low count



## ***Environmental Education Weekend...***

Saturday, May 3, 2025 Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) becomes: Environmental Education – Myeerah Open House (EE-MOH).

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS) will host a day for exploration and field study at the Myeerah Nature Preserve near Bellefontaine, Ohio on May 3rd. A formal schedule will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may extend your personal time both earlier or later (the preserve is open dawn to dusk) as fits your needs. The camp Lodge will be open for your use from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

There will be a picnic lunch for registered participants in the Lodge at 11:30 a.m. TMAS will be providing a meat dish for those registered. You will need to bring your own drinks and also a side dish to share if you'd like.

Scheduled activities for the day will include:

- \* 9:00 a.m. – Birdwatching
- \* 1:00 p.m. – Tour of Myeerah conservation projects with Donnie Knight of USFW
- \* 3:00 p.m. – Wildflower walk

You may attend all or any part of the day for a \$5.00 fee. Children under 12 years of age are free. Please make checks payable to TRI-MORAINES AUDUBON SOCIETY, and mail payment with names of attendees; their ages to Eric Broughton, PO Box 5648, Lima OH 45802-5648.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 27th .

If desired, you may explore the grounds on your own and select only those formal programs that interest you most. A group species list will be tabulated for both birds and wildflowers – continuing the citizen science maintained at this location for the 46th year!!!

Open to Audubon members and the general public so come and bring a friend! We hope to see you there.

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.

Myeerah Nature Preserve is located at 7405 State Route 540 eight miles east of Bellefontaine, Ohio.

## ***An Owl Story....***

A barred owl was found on The OSU Lima Campus this winter grounded beside the Cook Hall gymnasium.

A student reached out to chapter archivist, Zach Walton, who with the guidance of the TMAS secretary, Marie Walton, and president, Dan Hodges, determined this owl was likely sick or wounded.

Under the direction of our county Game Warden Craig Barr and with the assistance of TMAS vice president, Nancy Risner, and Robin Bagley of the biology department at The OSU Lima Campus, the owl was safely transported to Nature's Nursery that very day.

After being treated for a fungal infection, the owl was released on January 17 back into the nature preserve on the campus.

***Submitted by Zach Walton and others***

## ***ORC Fish Fry to be held...***

The Ottawa River Coalition met at Cenovus Refinery on November 21, 2024. The biggest news is that the ORC Good Friday Fish Fry is back on this year!

This will be held at the Allen County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 18, 2025. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact the Ottawa River Coalition Director Lydia Archambo (lydia@allenswcd.com).

***Submitted by Leslie Riley***