



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

WINTER 2024

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

TMAS Board Meeting - Please check the Tri Moraine Audubon website for the next TMAS Board Meeting; usually held the last Tuesday of the month in November. Due to a late Thanksgiving it may be moved. They are held in the OSU Student Services Center on the OSU campus at 7:30 p.m.

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Making a Bird Sanctuary

By Jeannine C. Roediger

A bird sanctuary is a place of refuge where wildlife can find food, water, cover for protection from predators and the elements and places to raise their young. It is not too hard to provide for these elements in your backyard.

Food is provided by shrubs, trees and flowers that provide seeds and fruits, as well as places for insects to thrive, a food source for many bird species.

Water can be provided by a simple birdbath which must be kept full of clean, fresh water, or small ponds that will provide water for drinking and bathing.

Cover will come naturally if you plant native shrubs and trees around the outskirts of your lawn. They can be in a planted in a formal landscape or as a more natural, wild profusion of shrubs that provide food, as well as shelter.

Places to raise young will also come naturally if you plant native trees and shrubs, as well as provide grassy, naturalized areas for those ground-nesting birds.

Even small yards can be utilized for sanctuaries if you provide all the above elements. Perhaps you can get your neighbors interested, as well. Remember that birds and other animals don't see those property boundaries that we set. They are just as satisfied to use your neighbor's trees and shrubs.

As always, native plants, trees and shrubs are always the best. They do well in our climate and the birds are accustomed to what they provide. A recent Audubon magazine article, written by Louise Lief, highlighted the importance of native plants quoting wildlife biologist Sam Droege, "Unlike introduced species, native plants have coevolved with insects and other wildlife, including birds, to form the interconnected webs of ecosystems. Supporting native plants," Droege says, "will lift all boats."

If planting shrubs, they should provide at least six feet of depth for proper cover for our bird friends. And always keep in mind, when choosing something to plant in your yard ensure that it will provide food for insects, birds and other animals.

When positioning feeders, make sure that perches are available nearby, or shrubbery that allows birds to safely fly to higher places to evade predators. See page 3 for more info.



At right, a grassy foreground with mature shrubs and trees in background

Program Meetings...

December 3, 2024 6:30 p.m., Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus Birds, Beaks and Adaptations

Guest: Jennifer Elsworth of Metroparks Toledo

Why does a bird have the type of beak that it does? Are some beaks “general-purpose” while others very specific? As our climate changes, what might that mean for birds and their adaptations for eating.

Join us for a discussion about birds, beaks, and adaptations.

January 7, 2025 6:30 p.m., Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus Tri-Moraine Photo Safari

Have you gone on any trips in the past year? Wilderness adventures? Do you have photos to share? Come share your photos of places you have been and critters you have seen!

Maybe you have nice photos of the natural world. Join us for food, friendship, and photo sharing. Let us know where you have been in touch with nature during the last year.

February 4, 2025 6:30 p.m., Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima Campus Shorebirds and More

Brendan Shirkey will be joining us from Winous Point Marsh Conservancy. Brendan is the research coordinator and oversees many research projects involving flora and fauna of the Conservancy. Brendan earned his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and his master’s degree from Michigan State University. He has been involved in numerous bird surveys on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie and assists with monitoring shore bird populations. Brendan will share with us what is going on with the Conservancy and birds you can look for there. *Submitted by Nancy Risner*



A young Kingbird. Their beaks are used to catch insects on the wing, although they do feed upon some fruits.

2025 EE-MOH Weekend planned... SAVE the date!

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 46th annual Environmental Education event at Myeerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine, on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Environmental Education – Myeerah Open House (EE-MOH) provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a unique environment. The Myeerah Nature Preserve contains 500 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. The preserve, one of 66 sites in Ohio, is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Look for further details for EE-MOH in upcoming newsletters.

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck



A spring hike at an earlier Environmental Education Weekend.

Planting for a Bird Sanctuary...

If you are thinking of making your yard a sanctuary there is help out there. The National Audubon Society has a website that will give you the native plants best for your area. Just go to

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

There you will put in your email address and zip code and the site will lead you to pages of native plants suited for your area and also tells you which birds find them useful and what that plant will provide.

My Aunt Alice, who had amazing flower beds, used to tell me that if you hoe you don't have to mow. There is a lot of truth to this. Mowing produces greenhouse gases while plants provide a cleaner environment.

True, there is some work involved in keeping flower beds and shrubbery in good condition, but the exercise and the fresh air you get far outweigh any disadvantages.

I enjoy wild bergamot (bee balm), both the lavender and the red, as do my hummingbirds. Also jewelweed, an topical antidote for poison ivy, is beloved by hummingbirds.

For my songbirds, such as goldfinch and cardinals, I love the sunny faces of sunflowers, asters and coneflowers. Milkweed, and other wildflowers are also very useful providing food and insect cover.

In shrubbery, spicebush, dogwood, viburnums, and wahoo are favorites. Trees, whether large or small, include native species of oaks, maples, evergreens, hackberry, and nut trees which provide cover, nesting areas and food. Vines, although they can be invasive, include Virginia creeper and trumpet vine. The latter truly loved by hummingbirds.

Making a bird sanctuary makes a difference in a small, but important way. If we each did this it would have an amazing impact.

Submitted by Jeannine Roediger



Providing water whether a small pond or birdbath is a calling card for birds and other wildlife.

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



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WINTER 2024 Newsletter

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President's Message

Hello friends,

As I write this, I'm watching the season change outside, the snow decidedly signaling the end of autumn and beginning of winter. The migrating birds have pretty much all migrated, and I'm excited to watch and learn from our resident birds.

Birds like the White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Cardinal, and American Crow - don't take these familiar friends for granted. Certainly, the winter visitors are a treat, birds like the White-throated Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Pine Siskin.

I think sometimes we get caught up in spring migration or the vibrance of summer that we dismiss winter as not a great time for birding. Our feeders should tell us otherwise. The bustle of Downy Woodpeckers, American Goldfinches and Blue Jays is a constant delight, and a great opportunity to really get to know the birds that call our backyards home all year.

While winter birding, inside or outside, may not have the same diversity as spring birding, intentionally spending time becoming familiar with the local birds goes a long way toward bolstering our appreciation for them, their lives and behaviors, and makes us better birders as well. Perhaps the same can be said for our friends and family. As we celebrate the holidays and approach the new year, I hope we all have an opportunity to learn from and appreciate the familiar: the family, friends, and birds in our lives!

Happy Birding, Dan

