



Flight Patterns

Serving Allen,
Auglaize, Hancock,
Hardin, Logan, Mercer,
Shelby, and Van Wert
Counties in Ohio

Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society
May/June 2009 **WEB ADDRESS - <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>**

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Tri-Moraine's final program meeting for the chapter's 2008-2009 year will be held May 5 in Fellowship Hall, lower level, Market Street Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Market Street, corner Cole and Market Streets, Lima. Full details in calendar write-up. You may use the courtyard entrance off the rear parking lot or the elevator entrance on the west side of the church where handicapped parking is available. Follow the Audubon signs. All TMAS meetings & events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

CALENDAR

May 5th **BIRDS & MORE**, Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 pm. Indian Lake State Park Naturalist Vert Molitor will share what's new at the park such as two Mute Swan nesting pairs. She'll also surprise you with some other new park residents. Enrolled in a "Birds A-Z" course offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Vert is picking up all sorts of interesting bird facts. If you maintain a hummingbird feeder, she's got some hints for you. The program won't be strictly for the birds. Other information about animals, plants, and park programs will be included in her presentation, and she'll clue you in about what the Cornell Lab has to offer. Vert, a Logan County resident, is a joint National Audubon Society and Tri-Moraine Audubon Society member.

May 6th **ST. MARYS RIVER - GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS IMPORTANT BIRD AREA DEDICATION**, Wednesday, May 6, 2 pm, St. Marys Memorial Park, Chestnut and South Streets in downtown St. Marys. Exhibits & Refreshments. Hosted by TMAS

The St. Marys River originates just east of Grand Lake not far from the dedication site. A covered bridge spans the river as it wends its way through the park. After leaving Auglaize County the river then traverses Mercer and Van Wert Counties. Approximately 100 miles long, the river joins the St. Joseph River in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to form the Maumee River which flows 130 miles northeastward before reaching Lake Erie.

This Important Bird Area (IBA) includes the St. Marys River corridor and neighboring Grand Lake St. Marys representing elements of both the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River watersheds. It also includes the St. Marys Fish Hatchery on the east side of the lake and the Mercer Waterfowl Area on the west. Grand Lake St. Marys is Ohio's largest inland lake. The IBA provides habitat for mixed bird species including migrant songbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds.

U.K.-based BirdLife International initiated the IBA concept in the mid-1980s. The concept is simple. To save habitat for birds, we have to know where the birds are, compile an inventory of priority areas needed to sustain healthy and diverse bird populations, and then focus attention on these areas. The movement started in Europe, expanded to Africa, and has grown to more than 170 countries with activity on every continent. In 1995, Audubon became the U.S. partner of BirdLife International and the IBA program is the focus of much of Audubon's domestic conservation work. Through this partnership and the work of Audubon's own International Alliances Program, it also links U.S. efforts to species and habitat conservation throughout the hemisphere. The program is operative in 48 states and several Latin American countries. The Ohio IBA program began in 1999 and to date there are 66 designated IBAs in the state. Six of them are in Tri-Moraine's eight-county service area.

IBA BIRD MONITORING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tri-Moraine has a bird monitoring program underway for the St. Marys River - Grand Lake St. Marys IBA. Additional volunteers are needed. If you would like to be part of this effort (or for any additional info), please contact Eric Juterbock at 419-995-8360 (day), 937-468-2606 (evening), juterbock.1@osu.edu, or by surface mail at OSU at Lima, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima OH 45804.

May 11th **BIG BIRDING DAY**, Monday, May 11. This annual trek by TMAS birders will visit six or seven of Lake Erie's best birding locations during the peak of the spring migration. A car pool will depart at 6:30 am from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. The group will leave "rain or shine" and return in the evening. The goal is to spot and identify 100 bird species. Open to the public. All interested birders, including beginners, are welcome. For information contact Eric Broughton at 419-999-1987 or ebroughton@woh.rr.com.

July 7th **SUMMER PICNIC**, Tuesday, July 7, Ottawa Metro Park. Mark your calendar. Details next newsletter.

HANCOCK COUNTY NATURALISTS PROGRAMS & EVENTS. All are welcome. For information about the organization and details about upcoming programs and events contact Betsy Worden, newsletter editor, at bworden001@woh.rr.com or Jill Taber, program chair, at 419-423-2415 or mysilvervete@sbcglobal.net.

UPPER MAUMEE VALLEY NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAMS & EVENTS. Programs are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Van Wert Women's Club, 654 South Washington Street. On May 21 Janet Torson from Decatur, Ind. will speak on the life of bees. Rita Thelen, senior naturalist for the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, will present "Sights and Sounds of the Night" on June 18. For information about the club and additional details about upcoming programs contact Lyn Warren at 419-749-2999 or wlvval@verizon.net or Jean Perchalski at 419-232-4108, 419-231-0495 (cell), or jeperch@roadrunner.com.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY EMAIL. Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at waskins@woh.rr.com. State name, mailing address, email address, and your desire to receive Flight Patterns via email. You will receive an email notice of website availability containing a URL you can click on that will take you to the newsletter (in PDF format) on the chapter's website.



AUDUBON SOCIETY

Serving Allen • Auglaize • Hancock • Hardin • Logan
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May / June 2009 Newsletter

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2009 DISTRICT SCIENCE DAY AWARD WINNERS

Four outstanding student entries won \$25 Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Natural Resources, Conservation, Nature Studies Awards at the 2009 Ohio Academy of Science District Science Day held March 14 at Ohio Northern University: Morgan Arrington, grade 8, Glandorf E.S., for "The effects of sun exposure on plant biodiversity in a wood-lot edge"; Amy Price, grade 12, Benjamin Logan H.S., for "Screening for the presence of *Bacillus thuringiensis*"; Matthew Bracken and Austin Mansfield, grade 7, Continental M.S., for "The Bio Plastic Problem" (considers the speed of BioPlastic degradation); Diana Saintignon, grade 12, St. Marys H.S., for " The effect of taurine on *Carassius auratus*" (investigating the effect of an effluent toxin on common goldfish). The award winning entries were deemed "exceptional" by Audubon member Dr. Jay Mager, ONU Department of Biological & Allied Health Sciences, who judged the competition for TMAS. In addition to the cash award, each student received a letter of recognition from the chapter and an offer of a one-year Audubon student membership. NOTE: These entries were also rated Superior by two randomly-selected Science Day judges making them eligible for presentation at the upcoming state assembly.

Dr. Nancy Woodley and Dr. Julie Adams from the Department were the organizers for the District Science Day and assisted Dr. Mager in the determination of potential awardees. Dr. Timothy Rice and undergraduate student Kelly Jasko assisted Dr. Mager in the presentation of the awards. The chapter very much appreciates the help of all the individuals who made District Science Day 2009 a meaningful experience for participating students.

SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS

The pulling of garlic mustard is underway at Kendrick Woods. Did you know that Kendrick Woods is an IBA? If you can help or would like additional information, contact Mark Mohr, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District naturalist, at 419-223-1025. Leave name, phone number, and if available morning, afternoon, or evening hours. You will be contacted on the preceding Fridays with the schedule for the upcoming week. Why not join us? Your help will be appreciated.

PRESIDENT'S CHAPTER NOTES.....TMAS BOARD MEETING at Evelyn Prater's home, Tuesday, May 26, 7 pm.....Eric Broughton, NOMINATING COMMITTEE chair, will submit the following slate for voting at the annual meeting on May 5 preceding the program meeting: vice president, 2-year term, Eric Broughton; treasurer, 2-year term, John Daley; member at large, 3-year term, Evelyn Prater.....Anne Smedley reports that the WINTER BIRDSEED SALE netted a profit of \$781.48 (includes \$261.20 in donations).....An April 4 booth at Lima's DeHaven Home & Garden Showplace featuring the chapter's mini-bookstore and crafts for children (\$1 donation per craft project) was set up to help raise money for the CHILDREN'S GARDEN behind The Allen County Museum. Funding was recently cut by the Allen County Commissioners. Donations were also solicited at the April 7 program meeting. A check for \$123.50 has been sent to help the cause.....The March 28 field trip to KILLDEER PLAINS drew 18 participants and the big find of the day was an Eurasian Wigeon.....Those of you who didn't make the APRIL 7 PROGRAM featuring Jim McCormac missed a real treat. The 52 of us who were there had a marvelous evening.....Evelyn Prater headed up a TMAS booth at the KENTON EARTH DAY CELEBRATION on Sunday, April 26.....Carol Bertrand represented TMAS at the Girl Scouts Of Western Ohio ANNUAL EARTH DAY EVENT 2009 at Camp Myeerah.....If you have PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS for the 2009-2010 chapter year, please contact Fern Albertson, program chair, at 419-634-6381 or fabertson@embarqmail.com.....To submit FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS contact Anne Smedley at 419-222-3271 or jsmedley@wcoil.com.....Remember to mark your calendar for Saturday, September 12. That's the chapter's annual WAPAKONETA RECYCLE PROJECT DAY and we need lots of volunteers. AND SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS!.....Enjoy the warmer days coming our way and hope to see you at the summer picnic.



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