



Flight Patterns

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

Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Nov/Dec 2008

WEB ADDRESS - <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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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.

CHAPTER CALENDAR

Program meetings continue on the first Tuesday of the month in Fellowship Hall, lower level, Market Street Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Market Street, corner Cole and West Market Streets, Lima. Use the courtyard entrance off the rear parking lot or, for those who wish to avoid steps, the elevator entrance on the west side of the church where handicapped parking is available. Follow the Audubon signs. A brief welcome & business update (10 minutes max) precede the program. See write-ups for details. Meetings/events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Nov
1st



FALL BIRDSEED SALE, Saturday, November 1, 9 am - 4 pm, DeHaven Home & Garden Showplace in Findlay and Lima. Did you forget to order your birdseed? You can still purchase seed on sale day at both DeHaven locations. Walk-ins are welcome. Have a Question? Contact Anne Smedley in Lima at 419-222-3271. Because birdfeeding brings enjoyment to young and old alike, birdseed makes a wonderful holiday - or "any time" - gift. Chapter bookstore items will be on display.

Nov
4th

"DEEP BLUE" - Tuesday, November 4, 7:30 pm. A "stunning reminder of how beautiful our planet can be" (National Geographic), this acclaimed movie is from the creators of the BBC series "The Blue Planet." 7000 hours of footage were shot by 20 special camera teams in locations all around the world. Join us for this spectacular 1 1/2 hour sea adventure featuring whales, penguins, sharks, polar bears, seals, and other creatures so rare they've never been seen before on film. There will be no business meeting. The film will start at 7:30 pm. Allow time to grab your dessert and beverage, take a seat, and enjoy the show. NOTE that bookstore items will not be displayed at the November meeting. If you need a book or books for holiday giving, call Carol at 419-227-9231 for meeting pickup.

NO DECEMBER MEETING. A joyous holiday season to all!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS. Tri-Moraine does counts at both Grand Lake St. Marys and Indian Lake. See details in separate article by Conservation Chair Eric Juterbock.

Jan
6th

ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER AND PHOTO SAFARI, Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 pm. Note the date on your new calendar and start selecting favorite pictures to share at this popular event. Details in January/February newsletter.

HANCOCK COUNTY NATURALISTS PROGRAMS & EVENTS At 7 pm on Thursday, November 13, HCN's program "Litter Awareness & Recycling" will be held at Christ Church United Methodist, 225 West Bigelow Avenue, Findlay. On Thursday, December 11, same time/same place, Bob Sams, outstanding birder, will present "A Review of Winter Birds" in preparation for the group's Christmas Bird Count. The CBC date had not been set at presstime. All are welcome. For information about the organization and more details about upcoming programs and events contact Betsy Worden, newsletter editor, at 419-293-2705 or bworden001@woh.rr.com or Jill Taber, program chair, at 419-423-2415 or mysilvervette@sbcglobal.net.

UPPER MAUMEE VALLEY NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAMS & EVENTS

On Thursday, November 20, John Perchalski, noted Van Wert birder, will present a program of photographs and calls of winter birds to gear up for the club's Christmas Bird Count. The meeting will be held at the new high school in room 209 (enter through gymnasium door). All are welcome. Watch for time of meeting, CBC date, and other details in local publicity. You can also get details about upcoming programs and events and information about the club from Lyn Warren, UMNVC president, at 419-749-2999 or wlvval@verizon.net or Jean Perchalski, publicity chair, at 419-232-4108, 419-231-0495 (cell) or jeperch@roadrunner.com.

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY & POLAR BEAR NATION

"Year of the Polar Bear," an initiative to promote polar bear awareness kicked off nationwide Jan. 1. The polar bear was placed on the endangered species list in May 2008 due to concern over melting ice and rising temperatures in the Arctic Circle. According to expertvoices.nsd.org, two seas that support approximately 20% of the world's polar bear population, the Beaufort and the Chukchi, are being considered for use by oil and gas companies, leaving the polar bear's future even more uncertain. At ONU, the initiative has been named "Polar Bear Nation" and will feature a wide variety of events throughout the 2008-2009 school year. Proceeds will be donated to Polar Bear International, a non-profit organization dedicated to polar bear conservation and education. The first lecture was noted in our last newsletter. An Oct. 28 presentation (Dr. Mark Bekoff) was announced at our Oct. meeting. On Feb. 21, note Polar Bear Day, an event focused on activities for children. More information, as well as how to get involved in the project, can be found at www.onu.edu/pbnevents. Most events are free of charge although donations will be requested.



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AUDUBON SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S CHAPTER NOTES.....Alaska has sued the federal government because of the placement of the polar bear on the endangered species list. The state says the designation will harm its economic development and tourism industry.....Contact me if you would like to view Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." Available from TMAS, this thought provoking film about the impacts of global warming is well worth your time.....Thanks to Bob & Carol Bertrand and Carol Wright for manning the chapter's booth at JAMPD's 21st Apple Festival at Allen County Farm Park.....TMAS board meeting November 25, 7 pm, Market Street Presbyterian Church.....National Audubon Society is implementing a new membership data system to replace the old deficient system. The chapter has received no membership updates since June. Please bear with us until the new system is fully in place.

OHIO CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER NATURALIST PROGRAM IN ALLEN COUNTY

Information including class schedule, topics to be covered, class fee, etc. is now available. To receive a copy by mail call 419-227-9231, or consult the information posted on our website. Flyers were on hand at the Apple Festival and the October meeting. Copies will be available the day of the birdseed sale in Lima and at the November program meeting.

GOING GREEN

"Lima Public Library is Going Green!" That's the title of a recent handout from LPL. Congratulations to the library staff for getting on the environmental bandwagon and special kudos to Steve Moser, children's librarian, for getting the ball rolling. Our thanks to Candy Newland, Assistant Director, for permitting TMAS to list the following frightening plastic facts printed on the flyer taken from The Wall Street Journal, the EPA, National Geographic, etc. *500 billion to one trillion plastic bags are used world-wide each year, 100 billion in the U.S. alone. *12 million barrels of oil are needed to make the 100 billion plastic bags used in the U.S. each year. *Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled in the U.S.; most go into landfills. Plastic bags also flap from trees, float in the breeze, clog roadside drains, drift on the high seas and fill sea turtle bellies. *Plastic bags are banned in many African countries where the bags are clogging sewers and helping to spread disease. *In China, plastic bags are referred to as "white pollution." *In Ireland, a 15 cent (about 20 cents U.S.) tax on plastic bags was introduced in March 2002 where it has resulted in a 95% reduction in their use. *More than a million seabirds, 100,000 marine mammals, and countless fish die in the North Pacific each year where a giant swirl of plastic bags has gathered. *1000 years are needed for a typical plastic bag to decompose. As they decompose, tiny toxic bits seep into soil, lakes, rivers and oceans. *According to the Environmental Protection Agency, plastics are the fourth largest category of municipal solid waste. Plastic bags photo degrade into plastic dust which fills our environment and works its way into our food sources.

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts

It has recently snowed in the Pacific Northwest and in Utah, so it must be time to start thinking about Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)! The Tri-Moraine Chapter will be coordinating two of the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts in Ohio: Indian Lake (Saturday, 20 December 2008) and Grand Lake (Sunday, 21 December 2008).

The CBCs offer an opportunity to participate in a little winter birding, and perhaps see some of the winter visitors to our area – especially those that usually do not hang out in our yards. Most importantly, we are collecting very useful data as “citizen scientists.” The data contained in the more than 100 year history of Audubon CBCs is a very valuable source of information about birds. The volume of data obtained during the years of CBCs could not have been acquired in any other way.

The more counters we have participating, the more fun we can have and the more birds we are likely to tally. All are welcome; less experienced birders will flock with more experienced birders, so everyone's eyes and ears will be useful. Although it is okay to show up at the last minute to participate, it is really helpful in organizing the count efficiently if the coordinator knows in advance (at least the night before) how many counters there will be. To sign up for the count (or for any additional information), please contact Eric Juterbock (419-995-8360 (day), 937-468-2606 (evening), juterbock.1@osu.edu (email), or, surface mail at 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, OH 45804. To be considered an official count, we must be out for at least eight hours, but individual counters need not participate for the full time. In addition to the counters roaming the 15-mile diameter count circle, one may participate by tallying the birds that visit a feeder located within the circle. Assigned routes for the mobile counters generally involve both road and foot travel. Remember to dress appropriately and to bring such needed items as binoculars, bird guides, food and drinks, etc. Please note that ODNR apparently has no concern for the CBCs or their participants, since they have again scheduled an additional weekend of deer gun season to coincide with the first (and most popular) weekend of the official CBC count period (the dates of which have been established for years). Except for some park lands, we will need to stay out of the woods. I do have some orange vests available if you wish to wear orange and do not usually wear that color.

We will meet at 0730 hrs. (a.m.) for both counts, in order to finalize the census routes and be counting by 0800. For the Indian Lake count, meet at the McDonald's in Russell's Point. For the Grand Lake count, meet at the McDonald's at the mall at the intersection of SR 29 and US 33 in St Marys.