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Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Spring 2014

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TRI-MORAINES' 2014 EVENING PROGRAM MEETINGS are scheduled the first Tuesday of the month, September through November and January through May. **Meetings are held in the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima.** (Enter campus off Mumaugh Rd.; first building on left). Meetings and events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Dates and times appear in the calendar write-ups below. In case of bad weather (*level 2 in Allen Co.*), meeting cancelations will be posted on WLIO(NBC/channel35) and WOHL(FOX/channel 25).

PROGRAM – BACKYARD WEEDS – Tuesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. Ever wonder what those weeds that grow in your garden and flower beds or even your driveway are? Learn their names, what uses they provide to us and to wildlife, and the best way to get rid of them. A PowerPoint presentation by Michelle Rumschlag, Hancock Park District naturalist, will be followed by a question and answer period. Join us for this interesting and useful program. This program at the OSU Visitor Center is free & open to the public.

KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE FIELD TRIP, Saturday, March 22, Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot/Marion Counties., provides us an opportunity to explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies, and woodlots as we look for ducks, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, sparrows, and other passerines. Wear warm clothes/bring a lunch/snacks/beverages, field guides/binoculars, etc. Much of the bird-watching will be of the "park and look" variety, but there will be some walking. The chapter's spotting scope will be available for all to use. A car pool will depart at **10 a.m.** from the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309, Lima. Participants may also meet the group at 11am at the Upground Reservoir (look on Killdeer Plains website for map and location of Reservoir). Trippers may stay as late as dusk unless a Short-eared Owl turns up earlier in the day. The field trip is free and open to the public, experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Contact Eric Broughton at 419.999.1987 or broughtoneric@yahoo.com for additional information.

TMAS BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 7p.m. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

PROGRAM – LIVE OWLS – Tuesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. Diane Myers of the Black Swamp Raptor Rehabilitation Center will present a very interesting and educational program when she brings five live owls to this month's meeting. This will be a very special opportunity to see a barn owl, barred owl, great horned owl, long-eared owl, and screech owl up close. The Black Swamp Raptor Rehab program was first established in 1989. In addition to the many educational programs to public and school groups, the program continues to provide care facilities and is devoted to the first aid and release of injured or orphaned birds of prey. The Black Swamp Raptor Rehab is fully licensed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources to rehabilitate and release injured birds of prey. This program at the OSU Visitor Center is free & open to the public.

SUPPORT THE OTTAWA RIVER COALITION! The ORC's Good Friday Fish Fry will be held **April 18, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.,** in the **Youth Activities Building, Allen County Fairgrounds.** Tickets are \$8.00 (all-you-can-eat tickets are \$9.00) and can be purchased at the door. Allow time to check out the great items available in the ORC's silent auction. TMAS is a member organization of the ORC.

SPRING MIGRATION GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS REGION FIELD TRIP, Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. til Noon. We will visit the fish hatchery, state park area, and other sites around the lake looking for migratory species, resident Bald Eagles, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Members from the Lima area can meet in the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy's (SR 309) to carpool-departure at 9am. We will gather at the north end of the 40-Acre Pond at 9:30am for the bird watching to begin; walking along the towpath there is usually productive. Dress appropriately for the weather, bring binoculars and field guides. The field trip is free and open to the public; both beginning and experienced birders are welcome. For more information, contact Eric Juterbock at 419.995.8360 (office) or juterbock.1@osu.edu.

ANNUAL OTTAWA RIVER CLEAN-UP. Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-noon. Start at the American Red Cross building, corner of North Shore Drive and Collett Street, Lima, to register, pick up trash bags, etc. Dress for the weather (old clothes/sturdy footwear). Gloves are mandatory (provided if needed). Youth under 18 MUST have parental permission and be accompanied by an adult. You can register any group and it would be great to have some members representing TMAS. For more information, call 419.221.5177, 419.228.1836, or check out www.allenswcd.com.

SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS. Join other nature enthusiasts to pull garlic mustard and pick up trash at Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District's **Kendrick Woods State Nature Preserve**, one of the six Important Bird Areas in your chapter's service area. The garlic mustard is an invasive from Europe that secretes a toxin into the soil which kills many spring woodland wildflowers. Please join us to help keep this outstanding wildflower region looking its best. Scheduled workdays are the following **Tuesdays: April 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27; June 3 (6 p.m. until dark)**. For more information and to register as a volunteer, contact JAMPD Naturalist Mark Mohr at 419.223.1025.

35TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND, May 2-4 Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 35th annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) at Camp Myeerah, SR 540 near Bellefontaine. EEW provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a truly unique environmental setting. Camp Myeerah is comprised of nearly 500 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. Camp Myeerah, one of 66 sites in Ohio, is designated as an important Bird Area (IBA). www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html

The educational programs offered will include opportunities to learn about and participate in field trips on birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants and other nature related programs. Timed to coincide with the spring migration of Neotropical migrant warblers and the spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide a truly unique family oriented educational opportunity.

EEW begins with registration starting at 5:00 PM on Friday, May 2nd and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 4th. All meals are provided for Saturday and Sunday. At this time, the full range of camping options are not available. However, a separate mailing to all past attendees is planned for mid-March which will provide all this information and much more.

Due to insurance considerations, this opportunity is **available for National Audubon members (or TMAS local Supporting members) and their immediate families only**. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form found at the bottom of the registration sheet to be mailed in mid-March or contact Bill Askins at waskins@woh.rr.com or 419-339-9751. To view photos of previous weekends, visit the EEWEEKEND Photo Gallery on Tri-Moraine Audubon's website at www.tri-moraineaudubon.org. Or, for further information concerning the weekend contact either Don Rosenbeck at dmrosenbeck@gmail.com or Eric Broughton at broughtoneri@yahoo.com. **Watch for special mailing with more info & registration form!**

PROGRAM – TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM – Tuesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. Bruce Smith, an outstanding teacher at Benjamin Logan Schools will be sharing information on the school's "Mad River and the Trout Ecosystem" program for students in grades 4 through 12. Started with a \$5,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund and now in its second year, this notable program is supported by Trout Unlimited and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Bruce will describe the after school program and how the brown trout eggs are received as eggs, hatched in the classrooms, raised, and then released in the Mad River. Come join us and discover some of the wonderful things being accomplished in an area school system through the efforts of some remarkable students and one dedicated teacher.

BIG BIRDING DAY-WESTERN LAKE ERIE IBAs. Monday, May 12. This annual all-day 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 a.m. 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 more information, contact Eric Broughton at 419.999.1987 or broughtoneri@yahoo.com.

TMAS BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, May 27, 7pm. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES 2013-2014. National Audubon Society's award-winning environmental education program for students in grades 3-6 introduces students to the essential principles that determine how the natural world operates and features compelling examples that show these principles at work. With captivating hands-on activities, students learn that we all have a personal stake in the health of the environment and play an important role in its preservation and improvement. Audubon has gone green with this school year's eco-friendly four-unit edition titled SHARING OUR WORLD WITH BIRDS. The student newspapers are half the former size and classroom guides are abbreviated. A new website includes exciting interactive web content to enhance the printed materials. Integration of online content and print materials is discussed on the website. Teachers are notified via email as new content becomes available. How teachers react to this new version of AA will be very interesting. All classrooms are not equal where technology is concerned. We'll keep you posted as we receive feedback from our AA teachers. Audubon Adventures is free to classroom teachers. The only requirements are that classrooms be located in the chapter's 8-county service area and that materials be used by the teacher with students in the classroom and to facilitate outdoor nature activities. TMAS has supported the AA program since its 1984 inception.

WINTER BIRDSEED SALE RESULTS Co-chair Anne Smedley reports that the February 1st restocking sale raised \$528.51 for the support of the chapter's local education and conservation programs and projects. The Society thanks those who purchased seed, Lima's DeHaven Home & Garden Showplace for the use of their facility and all their great backup support, and Northland Quick Print for printing the sale flyers. Lima volunteers assisting customers on sale day were Bob and Carol Bertrand, Denny Bucholtz, and Anne Smedley.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE The official time for electing officers and board members is at the annual meeting in May preceding the program meeting. Nominations are open for president (2-year term) and secretary (2 year term). Submit nominations to Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 or via the chapter's mailing address. Nominations must be received no later than Monday, March 24, for the slate to be presented at the April 1 program meeting. Prior consent of nominees is required.

2013 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS – by Eric Juterbock

At 0730 hrs on Saturday, 21 December 2013, at the McDonalds in St. Marys, six TMAS birders met in preparation for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL). Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Jackie Augustine (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Jill Bowers (St. Marys); and, Dianne Knipp (Wapakoneta) counted in three groups. The water was mostly frozen, and it was mostly overcast with some sprinkles of rain in the early afternoon. Winds were from the north at 4-15 mph, with temperatures 40-50 F. We covered 246 miles in 19.5 group hours by car, and 1.5 miles in 1.75 group hours on foot, between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The following OHGL birds were seen: Canada Goose, 642; Mallard, 303; mallard hybrid, 2; duck, sp(p)., 50; Great Blue Heron, 13; Bald Eagle, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 3; *Accipiter* sp., 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Bonaparte's Gull, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 33; Herring Gull, 3; gull, sp(p)., 25; Rock Pigeon, 45; Eurasian Collared Dove, 3; Mourning Dove, 72; dove, sp(p)., 3; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 6; Amer. Kestrel, 21; Blue Jay, 60; Amer. Crow, 1; Horned Lark, 10; chickadee, sp(p). 21; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 11; Brown Creeper, 5; Carolina Wren, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 14; Euro. Starling, 2160; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 62; Song Sparrow, 23; Swamp Sparrow, 2; sparrow sp., 21; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 18; No. Cardinal, 16; House Finch, 4; Amer. Goldfinch, 10; and, House Sparrow, 362. This is a total of 40 species, and 4066 individual birds for the day.

Ten TMAS counters arrived at 0730 hrs at McDonalds in Russell's Point for the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL) on Sunday, 22 December 2012. The four groups included: Evelyn Prater (Harrod); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Jackie Augustine (Lima); Bill and Sally Angel (St Marys); Dianne Knipp (Wapakoneta) and, Sophia Braun and Stephanie Harpster (Waynesfield). We spent 24.5 group hours in cars covering 283.5 miles, and 7.5 group hours on foot over 9.5 miles, between 0800 and 1730 hrs. The temperature ranged from 55-43 F with 12-33 mph winds, from the SW. Water was mostly frozen and skies were cloudy.

We recorded the following OHIL birds ((new species for the last 25 years are bolded)): Canada Goose, 1352; Mute Swan, 9; American Black Duck, 1; Mallard, 214; Mallard, hybrid, 5; Great Blue Heron, 7; No. Harrier, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 8; Ring-billed Gull, 7; Rock Pigeon, 56; Mourning Dove, 265; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 17; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 3; woodpecker, sp(p)., 3; Amer. Kestrel, 15; **No. Shrike, 1**; Blue Jay, 70; Amer. Crow, 45; Horned Lark, 75; chickadee, sp(p)., 25; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 17; Brown Creeper, 5; Carolina Wren, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; E. Bluebird, 7; Amer. Robin, 9; Gray Catbird, 1; Euro. Starling, 2316; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 32; Field Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 14; sparrow, sp(p)., 52; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 91; No. Cardinal, 34; Brown-headed Cowbird, 16; House Finch, 4; Amer. Goldfinch, 36; and, House Sparrow, 1034. This is 43 species and 5914 individual birds; Dianne and I also saw 28 Fox Squirrels and 7 Red Squirrels.

Both counts were delayed a week by a severe winter storm, and the count day weather had not improved much – although the temperature warmed sufficiently to allow heavy rain Saturday night such that flooding interfered on Sunday! Conditions therefore likely explain the underwhelming results. At both counts the number of species was the second lowest in the last 10 years (the lowest counts were in different, though consecutive, years); the total number of birds seen was approximately in the middle of the range for both sites. However, since the number of individuals seen is so heavily influenced by invasives and semi-domesticated species, the medium range totals do obscure the fact that most of the regularly observed species were seen in lower numbers than usual. Still, only House Finch at OHIL logged a record low count, and their numbers vary wildly from year to year. OHIL also had the only new species for this CBC, a Northern Shrike. It is worth noting that almost all water was frozen, and had been for over a week, so the paucity of water-associated birds is no surprise.

Thanks to all of the volunteers! And, don't forget to look for opportunities to bird in the St. Marys River-Grand Lake IBA. Bird data from that region can be very useful in monitoring the health of the IBA - keep your binoculars handy!





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Spring 2014 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: Just like everyone else I am getting tired of winter, but have enjoyed staying inside to read, watch the birds at the feeder, and plan my garden via all the seed catalogs that have arrived in January and February. The good news is that we will soon be ready for the first of the monthly TMAS field trips this spring. Mark your calendar for the first one to Killdeer Plains on Saturday March 22. This field trip is always the highlight of March, providing an opportunity to see some of the early spring arrivals and migrant species in Northern Ohio.

Internet and social media now provide opportunities to view Audubon Magazine on line and on Facebook. Audubon Magazine posts weekly photos taken by readers, articles of interest, and conservation updates. (To access Audubon on Facebook, “like” Audubon Magazine.) Locally, The Tri-Moraine Audubon Society web and Facebook pages have recently posted meeting cancellations which may be faster than the TV/radio postings. Other Facebook pages you might enjoy for beautiful photos are Birds and Blooms Magazine and Porch Sitters Union of America.

The most recent issue of Audubon magazine had a feature article concerning the 2014 Federal Farm Bill in which it offered insight as to how it will support conservation, wildlife, and renewable energy. To read the complete article, “Farm Bill Will Yield Benefits to Birds and Other Wildlife”, go directly to Audubon Magazine, conservation section on line.

A few members have inquired about the Annual Appeal letter. We are waiting until later in March to issue the Annual Appeal letter so that we may know what the needs may be for our IBA’s. Please consider your annual gift as we develop our conservation, habitat, and educational programs.

Wishing you good birding!
 Dianne

Program Meetings
3/4 Backyard Weeds - Michelle Rumschlag
4/1 Black Swamp Rehab Owls- Diane Myers
5/6 Trout in the Classroom - Bruce Smith
7/1 Summer Picnic (Starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Field Trips/EEW
3/22 Killdeer Plains - Marseilles
4/26 St. Marys River - Grand Lake St. Marys
5/2-4 Environmental Education Weekend
5/12 Big Birding Day - Western Lake Erie IBAs