



# Flight Patterns

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**Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society**  
Spring 2015      WEB ADDRESS - <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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**TRI-MORAINE'S 2015 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., OSULima. (Enter campus, off Mumaugh Rd.; first building on the 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 cancellations will be posted on WLIO(NBC/channel35) and WOHL(FOX/channel 25).

**PROGRAM – GARDEN MEDICINE**, Tuesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. Many culinary herbs such as thyme, oregano, rosemary and lavender which we grow for flavor, color or scent also have known medicinal uses. This talk will discuss some of these medicinal properties and the plant constituents responsible for them. Participants will learn how to make herbal mouthwashes, teas, bug repellants and salves from common herbs found in most of our gardens. Samples will be available to try and recipes will be provided. The program will be presented by Dr. Vicki Motz, PhD; Department of Biological and Allied Health Science; Ohio Northern University. Dr. Motz has been teaching physiology and various aspects of herbalism for over 30 years. Since coming to Ohio Northern University in 2008, she has worked to raise herbal awareness and make ONU a Center for Herbal Education. She is a Master Gardener and is on the Board of the Ohio Academy of Science. This program at the OSU Visitor Center is free & open to the public.

**TMAS BOARD MEETING**, Tuesday, March 24, 2014, 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

**KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE FIELD TRIP**, Saturday, March 28, 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 and bring a lunch/snacks/beverages, field guides/binoculars, etc. Much of the birdwatching 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 11 a.m. at the Upground Reservoir (look on the 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 Anne Smedley at 419.222.3271 for additional information.

**SUPPORT THE OTTAWA RIVER COALITION**, Friday, April 3, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The ORC's Good Friday Fish Fry will be held in the Youth Activities Building, Allen County Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$8.00 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.

**PROGRAM – WEST AFRICAN RODENTS, SHREWS, AND BATS**, Tuesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. Ryan W Norris, PhD and new Assistant Professor of Biology at OSU-Lima will discuss the findings of several expeditions to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia between 2003 and 2010. Dr. Norris will focus on the unique and unusual rodents, shrews, and bats that he encountered in the West African tropical forests. There will be lots of pictures, including new species, and species not known from the area before. Dr. Norris will also talk about the challenges for conservation and try to put things in perspective in light of the recent Ebola outbreak in the area.

**SPRING MIGRATION GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS REGION FIELD TRIP**, Saturday, April 25, 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 9 a.m. 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 [juterbock.1@osu.edu](mailto:juterbock.1@osu.edu).

**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 vice-president (2-year term), treasurer (2 year term), and member at large (3 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 Friday, March 27, for the slate to be presented at the April 7 program meeting. Prior consent of nominees is required.

**ANNUAL OTTAWA RIVER CLEAN-UP**, Saturday, April 25, 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](http://www.allenswcd.com) or [www.lacrpc.com](http://www.lacrpc.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. Scheduled workdays are the following Mondays (9 a.m. til noon) April 20 & 27; May 4 & 11; June 1 & 8 - Tuesdays (9 a.m. til noon) May 26 & June 2 - Thursdays 6 p.m. until dark) April 23 & 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28. For more information and to register as a volunteer, contact JAMPD Naturalist Mark Mohr at 419.223.1025 or [mmohr@jampd.com](mailto:mmohr@jampd.com)

**36TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND, May 1-3, 2015**, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 36th 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.htm](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.htm).

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 1st and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 3rd. All meals are provided for Saturday and Sunday. 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 or contact Bill Askins at [waskins@woh.rr.com](mailto: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](http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org). For further information concerning the weekend contact either Don Rosenbeck at [dmrosenbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dmrosenbeck@gmail.com) or Eric Broughton at [broughtoneri@yahoo.com](mailto:broughtoneri@yahoo.com).

**PROGRAM – SPEAKING WITH AN ACCENT - DIALECTS IN BIRD SONG**, Tuesday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Angelika Nelson, Curator of the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics and the Tetrapod collection in the Museum of Biological Diversity at The Ohio State University will share how birds are one of the few animal groups that learn vocalizations. Song learning coupled with restricted dispersal can lead to geographic variation, or dialects, in bird song. These dialects, similar to dialects in humans, are important in communication, when attracting a mate or defending a territory. Researchers at the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics have studied the white-crowned sparrow, a songster with distinct song dialects, in the lab and in the wild at the Pacific Northwest coast for many years. Angelika will present some findings from this and her own research on this species. The white-crowned sparrow is not unique and you will also hear examples from other species. Join us for an evening appreciating nature's music! She teaches "Ohio Birds" and advises students in the Ornithology club at The Ohio State University.

**BIG BIRDING DAY-WESTERN LAKE ERIE IBAs**, Monday, May 11. 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 info, contact Eric Broughton at 419.999.1987 or [broughtoneri@yahoo.com](mailto:broughtoneri@yahoo.com).

**TMAS BOARD MEETING**, Tuesday, May 26, 7pm. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

**FINAL WAPAK RECYCLE REPORT**, Many thanks to all the hard working volunteers and those who make a special effort to collect and drop off cans, bottles, papers, and plastics. Payment for over 7,000 pounds of allowable materials netted the chapter \$725.47.

**2014 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS,** On Saturday, December 20, 2014, a dozen TMAS birders met at the McDonalds in Russells Point for the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL). The day's counters included Cheryl Erwin (Bellefontaine); John & Ralph Shively (Russells Point); David Bohla (Lakeview); Jackie & Andrew Augustine (Lima); Eric Juterbock [Coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill & Sally Angel (St. Marys); and Sophia Braun, Dianne Knipp & Troy Shively (Wapakoneta) in four groups. The water was mostly frozen, and it was overcast throughout the day. Winds were calm, with temperatures 26-28 F. We covered 243 miles in 21 group hours by car, and 7.5 miles in 8.25 group hours on foot, between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The following OHIL birds were seen (new species or record high numbers over the last 25 years are bolded): Snow Goose, 2; **Cackling Goose**, 4; Canada Goose, 380; Mute Swan, 5; Trumpeter Swan, c.w. (= count week); **Gadwall**, c.w.; Mallard, 477; Canvasback, 3; Redhead, 1; Lesser Scaup, 15; Bufflehead, 13; Red-breasted Merganser, 10; Ruddy Duck, 34; Horned-billed Grebe, 6; Double-crested Cormorant, 4; Great Blue Heron, 1; Bald eagle, c.w.; No. Harrier, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 12; Amer. Coot, 3; Bonaparte's Gull, c.w.; Ring-billed Gull, 834; Herring Gull, 5; Rock Pigeon, 44; Mourning Dove, 192; Great Horner Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 32; Downy Woodpecker, 44; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 9; Amer. Kestrel, 14; Blue Jay, 85; Amer. Crow, **52**; Horned Lark, 20; Carolina Chickadee, 39; chickadee, sp(p). 23; Tufted Titmouse, 25; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 20; Brown Creeper, 5; Carolina Wren, 8; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Amer. Robin, 1; No. Mockingbird, 4; Euro. Starling, 1375; Lapland Longspur, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 133; **Chipping Sparrow**, 1; Field Sparrow, 20; Song Sparrow, 32; White-throated Sparrow, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 17; sparrow sp., 4; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 80; No. Cardinal, 49; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; House Finch, 33; Pine Siskin, 4; Amer. Goldfinch, 26; and, House Sparrow, 757. This is a total of 57 species, and 4975 individual birds counted on the day (in addition to the four species seen only during count week). Four Grey Squirrels were the only mammals Dianne and I saw all day. In addition, between 6:40 and 7:25 p.m., I spent 30 minutes at three sites southwest of the lake calling and listening for owls and heard none.

TMAS counters arrived at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL) on Sunday, December 12, 2014. Ten counters, in five groups, were active during the day: Don & Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Eric Juterbock [Coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Jackie & Andrew Augustine (Lima); Bill Angel, Allison Brady, Jill Bowers & Frank Kulhman (St. Marys); and Dianne Knipp (Wapakoneta). We spent 23.75 group hours in cars covering 290.2 miles, and 10.75 group hours on foot over 13.85 miles, between 0800 and 1730 hrs. The temperature ranged from 19-36 F with 0-10 mph winds, from the SE. Water was mostly frozen and the skies were clear.

We recorded the following OHGL birds: Cackling Goose, 3; Canada Goose, 1100; Wood Duck, 3; Mallard, 109; No. Shoveler, 8; Horned Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 4; Bald Eagle, 5; No. Harrier, 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 23; Ring-billed Gull, 880; Herring Gull, 41; gull, sp(p)., 143; Rock Pigeon, 171; Eurasian Collared-Dove, 14; Mourning Dove, 1; Great Horned Owl, c.w.; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 24; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; *Picoides sp.*, 1; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Amer. Kestrel, 14; Peregrine Falcon, c.w.; Blue Jay, 93; Amer. Crow, 1; Horned Lark, 22; Carolina Chickadee, 4; chickadee, sp(p)., 19; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 28; Brown Creeper, 7; Carolina Wren, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; E. Bluebird, 5; Amer. Robin, 26; Euro. Starling, 2150; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 113; Field Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 16; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 97; No. Cardinal, 62; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; House Finch, 15; Purple Finch, 1; Amer. Goldfinch, 26; and, House Sparrow, **1349**. This is 47 species and 6,628 individual birds (in addition to the two species only seen during count week); Dianne and I also saw 3 Fox Squirrels and 8 Grey Squirrels, and Bill Angel saw 3 deer.

Cackling Goose, Gadwall and Chipping Sparrow were new species for the last 25 years of OHIL, but had been counted at OHGL during that time (and the week before this year's CBC, I observed 12 chipping Sparrows at 40 A Pond); Horned Grebe had been counted once before at OHIL, and was a new species at OHGL this year. Only once in the past 25 years (2005) had we found 57 species on count day, but the 4 count week species allowed us to break 60 species for the first time! The number of individual birds seen at OHIL was mid-range over that time period. The count-week Peregrine was a new species for OHGL for the quarter century. The 47 species we recorded tied last year for the highest count since 2008; total numbers at OHGL were mid-range, also. The single Mourning Dove was almost literally off-the-charts low; only once in the past 25 years have their numbers been below 40 (17 in 2008). Does a record high number of House Sparrows counterbalance, anyone? Blue Jays posted the highest count in 19 years. This, along with the high numbers of jays and crows at OHIL, perhaps means that the corvids are finally showing recovery from West Nile. This was a hard year to predict beforehand, with the record cold at the outset of winter, yet only one modest snowfall. Apparently, the relative lack of snow cover won out, which does make sense, since those species which are not always present throughout winter remain as long as food is available, and snow affect food availability.

Thanks to all of the volunteers! Once again, don't forget to look for opportunities to bird in the St. Marys River-Grand Lake IBA. And, now, there is more reason than ever before to do some birding at Myeerah Nature Preserve. Bird data from either region can be very useful in monitoring the health of the IBAs - keep your binoculars handy! - Eric Juterbock



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## Spring 2015 Newsletter

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#### President's message:

What an exciting time of year to plan and reflect on all the birds you might see in 2015. The possibilities are endless! One spring event that may help you see more birds is the fieldtrip to Killdeer Plains on March 28. This always proves to be a great birding day. The Big Birding Day, May 11, at Western Lake Erie IBA's will get everyone excited as you can add many species to your "list" by just walking the boardwalk. Mark your calendars now. Last year we were rained out by a downpour so we look for only blue skies on May 11.

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to all those who participated in the Christmas Bird Count. Although it was a cold and overcast weekend, we saw **many** species and we couldn't have covered so much area without you! Plan on helping next year, we could use at least one additional team in the Grand Lake/St. Marys count area. We usually make our count weekend just prior to Christmas day, so plan now to be part of this great birding event in 2015

If you are planning a short trip, the Allwood Audubon Center and Farm, near Vandalia, OH, is just an hour away from our area and has a large variety of programs and activities you may find of interest. They have a very easy-to-use webpage and you can follow them on Facebook as you plan trips for family members of all ages. Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm was also recently highlighted (pg 26) in the 2014 Audubon Annual Report for working with the Dayton International Airport to replace 1, 140 acres of farmed land with a native tall grass prairie. Aullwood has collaborated with the Federal Aviation Administration to study how planting tall grass prairies can reduce bird strike incidents with planes. Tall grasses attract small birds like sparrows that do not interfere with planes, whereas mowed grass attracts geese and gulls. We look forward to hearing the results of the study.

Our Annual Appeal will be starting in March. This appeal will help the Chapter collect funds that will be used for developing habitat, education, and for our two major IBA's Grand Lake/St. Marys River, and Myeerah Nature Preserve. You will receive a letter outlining specific needs and highlighting how your previous gifts were used. Your 2015 gift to TMAS will again be used wisely and you can earmark your gift to Grand Lake/St. Marys, Myeerah Nature Preserve, or area of greatest need should you have a preference.

Another "Annual Appeal" wants you to consider becoming more familiar with TMAS by working on a committee and being more active with the TMAS Board of Officers. Our past officers, committee workers, and support members have worked hard to build a program of which we can all be proud, but like many organizations TMAS needs more old and new workers. Your ideas are important to us and we want to hear ideas concerning programs and field trips. What better way can you help than by being an officer or active committee member? Elections will be held in May and nominations will be taken through April. Offices open are Vice President, Treasurer, Publicity, and Hospitality; please consider what you can do to help TMAS in an administrative capacity.

Have a great Spring!  
Dianne