



# Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Spring 2018

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

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## Volunteer Opportunities...

**Save the Wildflowers**—Pulling invasive garlic mustard will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in April and May from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning at Kendrick Woods. See page 4.

**Ottawa River Cleanup**—Planned for Saturday April 28 from 9 a.m. to noon. For information look on page 4 or call 419.221.5177 or 419.228.1836.

**TMAS Board Meetings**—Held in the Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima they begin at 7 p.m. and are scheduled for March 27, and May 29. You are welcome to attend.

**Good Friday Fish Fry**—The Ottawa River Coalition's Fish Fry will be held Friday, March 30 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Activities Bldg., Allen County Fairgrounds; eat in or carry out. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$9. Take time to check out the great items available in the silent auction. Food will be prepared by Lock Sixteen. TMAS is a member organization of ORC.

**39TH Annual Environmental Education Weekend, May 4-6**—See inside for details and registration form. A good educational, family weekend!

## I Stand Amazed...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

It will soon be nest building time! I watch with interest as our birds carry bits of straw, plant fiber, string, feathers, even mud, to their nests to provide a home for their hatchlings. I stand amazed at the hundreds, even thousands of trips they will make before they are satisfied with the results. Sometimes they build more than one nest and use the best one. With over half a dozen wren houses, our resident male wren builds in all the houses, perhaps letting his mate choose just the right one.

Even finding the right spot seems to take a lot of decision making. I have watched cardinals search among the shrubbery finding just the right spot to build their nests. Others, like the barn swallows, seem to return to the same nest every year, taking time to add additional support by dabbing with mud, sometimes carried from afar if the weather is dry.

Last fall as we readied our wood stove for the winter we found a sparrow nest in the upper chimney. They had to build a base to support the nest in the stovepipe so it took thousands of trips to bring grasses, feathers, plant fibers and string to make that nest hold their eggs. Notwithstanding that we had put screen around the opening to prevent such an occurrence. How they managed to circumvent the screen each time they returned with nesting material is beyond me. One has to admire their perseverance!

Even more amazing are the weavers. Locally our Baltimore orioles are the most well known. Being a weaver myself, my tools are loom, harnesses, heddles, reed, shuttles and yarns, but orioles use only their beaks to weave the fibers and grasses into a strong nest. Once they build their nest, it often withstands the winter and is used again the following spring. No less intimidating is the way our woodpeckers drill out cavities for their nests in the trees. The resounding hammering tells us loud and clear they are making a home. That homing instinct is very strong, even for us. We too build our "nests" and make a home!



Baltimore Oriole nest

## DECEMBER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS...

Fortunately, the 13 TMAS counters who began assembling for the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL) around 7:30 a.m. on December 16, 2017, at the McDonalds in Russells Point, were not particularly superstitious. We tallied a total of 6,579 individual birds of 54 species on the day; both were average for the past decade (which has typically had better numbers than the previous two). The five field groups included: Cheryl Erwin (Bellefontaine); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Andrew and Jackie Augustine, and Vanessa and Georgie Damschroder (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill and Sally Angel (St. Marys); Troy and Graham Shively (Wapakoneta); and Stefan Minnig (West Liberty). Stillwater was frozen and streams partly so; it was clear all day. Temperatures were 32-45 F, with winds out of the SW at 8-23 mph. For the day, 268.5 miles were covered in 23 group hours by car, and 7.8 miles in 7.25 group hours were covered on foot, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.



**Snowy Owl**

The following OHIL birds were seen (new species or record high numbers over the last 28 years are bolded): **Greater White-fronted Goose, 6**; Cackling Goose, 8; Canada Goose, 2,952; American Black Duck, 18; Mallard, 553; No. Shoveler, 1; Greater Scaup, 2; Lesser Scaup, 6; Bufflehead, 2; Ruddy Duck, 3; Wild Turkey, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 5; No. Harrier, 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Bald eagle, 7; Red-tailed Hawk, 23; Buteo sp(p). 2; Ring-billed Gull, 12; Rock Pigeon, 111; Mourning Dove, 70; **Snowy Owl, 1**; Barred Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 16; Downy Woodpecker, 31; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 4; Amer. Kestrel, 21; **Peregrine Falcon, 1**; Blue Jay, 42; Amer. Crow, 56; Horned Lark, 291; Carolina Chickadee, 21; chickadee, sp(p). 3; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 28; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; kinglet, sp., 1; Amer. Robin, 9; No. Mockingbird, 2; Euro. Starling, 1,100; Cedar Waxwing, 18; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 65; Field Sparrow, 12; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 74; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 13; sparrow, sp(p)., 23; No. Cardinal, 39; House Finch, 45; Purple Finch, 5; Amer. Goldfinch, 35; and House Sparrow, 783.

We were down to six full-day counters, and one part-timer for Sunday, December 17, 2017; all began arriving, along with a reporter from WLIO TV, by 7:30 a.m. at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL). I was also joined for an hour by a small group from Grand Lake St. Marys State Park in the early afternoon. We counted in five (small) groups during the day, including: Cheryl Erwin (Bellefontaine); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Jackie Augustine (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill Angel (St. Marys); and, Troy Shively (Wapakoneta). We spent 21.75 group hours in cars covering 341.1 miles, and 12.2 group hours on foot over 11.7 miles, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Moving water was partly frozen, and standing bodies of water were frozen; air temperatures during the count were 32-37 F. It was clear in the morning, but mostly cloudy all afternoon, with light rain for several hours; southerly winds were 0-8 mph.

### **2017 Christmas Bird Count "Pretty Average"**

We recorded the following OHGL birds: Cackling Goose, 1; Canada Goose, 1,634; Mallard, 387; Wild Turkey, 5; Great Blue Heron, 36; Great Egret, 1; No. Harrier, 6; Cooper's Hawk, 5; Accipiter, sp(p)., 2; Bald Eagle, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 22; hawk, sp., 1; Ring-billed Gull, 61; Herring Gull, 10; gull, sp(p)., 232; Rock Pigeon, 481; Mourning Dove, 362; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13; Downy Woodpecker, 36; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 5; Amer. Kestrel, 33; **Merlin, 1**; Blue Jay, 46; Horned Lark, 191; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 16; White-breasted Nuthatch, 31; Brown Creeper, 12; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; E. Bluebird, 3; Amer. Robin, 18; Euro. Starling, 3530; **Cedar Waxwing, 55**; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 99; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 52; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 44; No. Cardinal, 49; House Finch, 34; Amer. Goldfinch, 69; and, House Sparrow, 1,338. The totals include 44 species and 8977 individual birds.

The year's counts were pretty much average. The numbers of species, total number of individuals and numbers of individuals for the vast majority of species are in the middle of the ranges for the 29 years of data I have at hand. Notable, of course, were the four species new to the counts – three at Indian Lake; that three of these were uncommon and rather showy raptors makes them a bit more special. And, in spite of the lack of exciting trends, anyone really digging into year-to-year comparisons can find points of interest. For example, last year I noted that the 10 Blue Jays at OHGL was the lowest number in 28 years; 46 this year was a big increase. Mourning Doves there last year totaled 9 (1 three years ago); this year – 362! OHIL count last year had 322 doves, and this year 70, so there is not really any pattern.

Thanks to all of the volunteers! Once again, don't forget to look for opportunities to bird in the two CBC areas and the St. Marys River-Grand Lake IBA. Other IBAs in the Tri-Moraine area include Myerah Nature Preserve, Lawrence Woods, Kendrick Woods, Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs. Bird data from these areas can be very useful in monitoring the health of the sites - keep your binoculars handy!

- Eric Juterbock (CBC coordinator)

## 39TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND, May 4-6

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 39th annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) at the Myeerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine. EEW provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a truly unique environmental setting. The Myeerah Nature Preserve is operated by the Bellefontaine Joint Recreational District and is comprised of nearly 500 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. The Myeerah Nature Preserve, one of 66 sites in Ohio, is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). ([www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html](http://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 p.m. on Friday, May 4th and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 6th. 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 elsewhere in the newsletter and mail by mid-March 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 [broughtonerich@yahoo.com](mailto:broughtonerich@yahoo.com)

*Submitted by Don Rosenbeck*

## Year of the Bird...

This year, 2018, is the Year of the Bird, a yearlong celebration of birds. The National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are joining hands to celebrate birds. Although we always celebrate and focus on birds, this year these organizations are especially making it a big deal.

Not only is it the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which was pivotal legislation that continues to save birds lives, but each year finds our feathered friends under new threats in our environment.

To be part of the event, take simple actions that will help birds, from taking part in bird counts to providing nesting materials or planting trees and shrubs for habitat. By providing birds food, fresh water and habitat we give them the building blocks for their continuing presence in our lives.

For more information go to <http://www.audubon.org/yearofthebird>

## Congratulations...

Kevin Haver of Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District is the 2017 Harvey Woods Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Haver has faithfully served the citizens of Allen County with the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District for more than 40 years.

After helping found the district in 1972, Haver has served in virtually every role within the park district and was named to executive director in 1984 and continues to serve in that capacity to this day.

During his time as director, he has led the district's growth from one park with 30 acres to 14 parks with over 1,400 acres. Haver not only faithfully serves the Park District but also serves on various boards in the community and is a past member of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Board of Directors.



## **SAVE the WILDFLOWERS**

Help Johnny Appleseed Park District save our native flowers from garlic mustard, an invasive weed from Europe. We will begin pulling at Kendrick Woods, then move on to Hermon Woods, Teddy Bear, Lippincott Bird Sanctuary and Heritage Park.

Pulling will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in April and May from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.. If you



*Garlic mustard*

would like to help, please contact

Anne Smedley at 419-221-1232 or ASmedley@jampd.com. If you have any sturdy woven plastic bags to put the pulled mustard in, please bring them along or donate at the park office.

*Submitted by Anne Smedley*

## **2017 ANNUAL APPEAL RESULTS...**

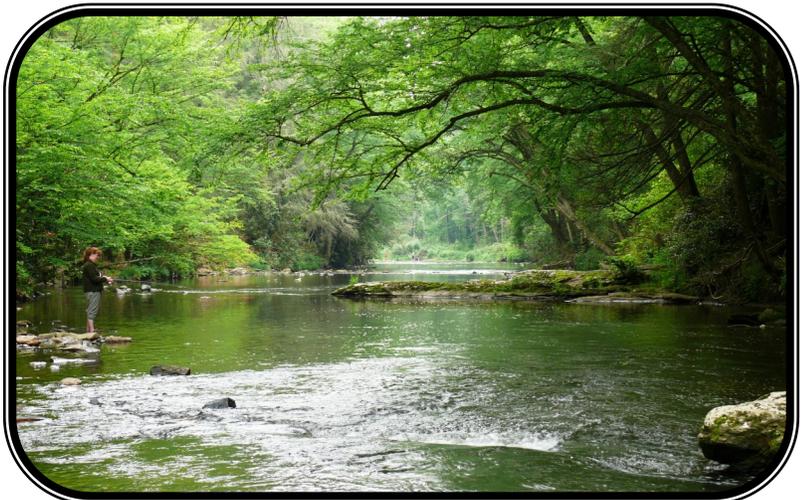
Each year Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS) asks for financial support to help the chapter fulfill conservation and educational goals at the local level. This year (2017) donations totaled \$3,400. With these trying economic times TMAS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of these donors: Jackie and Andrew Augustine, Bob and Carol Bertrand, Charles Canfield, Robbin Clark, Meg and Miner Dickason, Margaret M. Edwards, Cheryl Erwin, Ivan and Rachel Friesen, Dorothy Garwick, Susan Heaphy, Jim and Jan Heinrich, Dan, Danielle and Phoebe Hodges, Sabine and Volker Jeschonnek, Eric Juterbock, Dianne Knipp, Earl and Joyce Lhamon, Bill and Jackie Light, Gloria McCloy, Candace Newland, Judith Nichols, Evelyn Prater, Lois Risser, Don and Mary Rosenbeck, Rick Smith, Jim and Karen Spurgat, Jennifer Stark, Linnville Taggart, Elizabeth Vogt, Marilyn Voisard, Carol Waesch, Jack A. Woodward, and Carol Wright as well as fourteen anonymous donors. We also thank members and friends who made in-kind contributions and donations throughout the year. TMAS is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

**THANK YOU**

*Submitted by Carol Bertrand*

## **OTTAWA RIVER CLEANUP...**

Held Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to noon, registrants will start at the American Red Cross building, corner of N. Shore Drive and Collett Street, Lima. You can register, pick up trash bags and other necessary items. Gloves are mandatory and are provided if needed. Please dress for the weather (old clothing, comfortable, sturdy shoes that can get wet). Youth under 18 are welcome but MUST have a "Volunteer Form" signed by parent/guardian and at least be accompanied by one adult for every five minors.



We would like to have great TMAS representation, however, any group can register. For full information you can call 419.221.5177 or 419.228.1836 or at [www.lacrpc.com/environment/ottawa-river-cleanup.aspx](http://www.lacrpc.com/environment/ottawa-river-cleanup.aspx) A free lunch, tee-shirt and certificate of appreciation will be given to participants.

*Submitted by Carol Bertrand*

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS...**

**Killdeer Plains Field Trip**, planned for **Saturday, March 24th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Come along to explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies and woodlots as we look for waterfowl and much more! Prepare to be out in the weather and pack a lunch/snacks/beverages. Field guides/binoculars are encouraged, but we will share! Some walking, but we will be mostly driving between points of interest. We are partnering with the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District. A carpool, including the park van, will depart at 10 a.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. The park van will plan to be back close to 4 p.m. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Register with the Park District (419-221-1232) by March 22 for a seat in the van.

**Lawrence Woods** scheduled for **Saturday, April 28**, departing at 1:30 p.m. from Eastgate Mall Parking Lot. Travel with us to Lawrence Woods, a 1,000 acre swampy forest in Hardin County. We will explore the one-plus mile board walk in this state nature preserve known for large, mature trees and incredible wildflowers! We are partnering with the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District for this field trip. A carpool, including the park van, will depart at 1:30 p.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. We should arrive at LW approximately 2:15 p.m. and be back in Lima close to 4:30 p.m. Register with the Park District (419-221-1232) by April 26 for a van seat.

**Big Birding Day! Monday, May 14, 6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Ride along as we partner with the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District for our annual visit to one of the hottest birding spots in the world, Magee Marsh! This year will be a shorter trip as we plan to spend the morning at the Marsh and after lunch visit the nature center and then call it a day. A carpool, including the park van, will depart (rain or shine) at 6:30 a.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. You are welcome to stay longer, but the park van will plan to be back close to 2:30 p.m. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages and field guides are recommended. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome! Register with the Park District (419-221-1232) by May 11 for a seat in the van.

*Submitted by Dan Hodges*

### **PROGRAM MEETINGS...**

**Barb Snyder: Get the Buzz about Native Bees – Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m.\***



Barb Snyder is a Master Gardener, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, and a member of the Hardin County Herb Society. Her presentation will discuss all things related to bees including: when and how bees diversified into the many species we see today, detailed accounts of how native bees go about their daily lives, the role bees play as pollinators and indicators of healthy habitats and the problems faced by bees today. If you have never heard of carpenter, squash, mason, mining, sweat, leaf cutting, or cuckoo bees, this talk is for you!

**Family Fun Night Program\***

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 7:30 p.m.**

Tri-Moraine is known for supporting initiatives to foster adult learning through program meetings and field trips and to connect youngsters with nature through our Audubon Adventures programs and Environmental Education Weekend (see our website for more information about these great events!). Now we are trying to bring nature enthusiasts of all ages together in our first annual Family Fun Night! This event is not just for kids – it is for families of every shape and size. Young squirmy kids? No children? Widowed? No problem! Come as you are! If you can, invite a cousin, friend, co-worker, neighbor, sister, parent – bring someone to Audubon! The format for the Family Fun night is a series of tables with fun, hands-on, learning activities. Folks from Tri-Moraine, Johnny Appleseed and Ohio State Lima will host tables with live animals, trivia, nature crafts and more! Don't miss the fun!

**Best Management Practices to Improve Soil and Water Resources in Allen County, Tues. May 1, 7:30 p.m.**

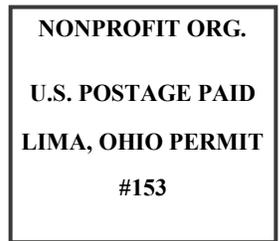
Becky Mitchell, Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, will be available to discuss opportunities for landowners to improve the soil and water on their properties.

\*Co-sponsored by Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

*Submitted by Jackie Augustine*



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**Spring 2018 Newsletter**



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### ***President's Message...***

It's just been a couple of months since I took over the position of president for the Tri-Moraine Audubon Board from Dianne Knipp. All those months ago since I said yes to Dianne's request to be vice-president suddenly came to an end and it's now my turn to serve. With your help, I hope to keep Tri-Moraine Audubon active and relevant as an organization and continue all the work of those who served before me.

One of the ways we can keep Tri-Moraine Audubon active and relevant is to contribute information on our local Important Birding Areas during the Christmas Bird Count. If you have never participated because you felt you didn't have enough birding knowledge to contribute, you are missing a wonderful opportunity!

The day starts early with everyone meeting to divide the count area into manageable sections. Inexperienced birders are paired with more knowledgeable folks and sent out to drive their designated areas to count. While the process sounds rather dull, it is anything but!

Participants spend the day scanning the roadsides, bird feeders, woodlands, fields and skies for all manner of interesting birds. And between stops, participants become friends sharing knowledge, stories and laughter. I look forward to seeing more of you on the 2018 Christmas Bird Count and at the many opportunities we have to gather before then!

*President Cheryl Erwin*

