



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

SPRING 2021

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

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Volunteer Opportunities...

If you are interested in volunteering in any way, President Eric Broughton has some great ideas to do so. Look on Page 3 under Chapter Moving Forward and in Eric's President's column on the back page. There are some unique ways each of us can help. Volunteerism is always appreciated and needed.

TMAS Board Meeting - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 30 and May 25 in the OSU Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima, if possible. Please check our webpage or on Facebook for further information. Lately, all meetings have been virtual.

NESTING TIME for our FEATHERED FRIENDS

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Spring means its nesting time for our feathered friends. Each spring I begin looking for bird nests to see who is nesting near my yard, garden and the fencerows. Although I look for nests on my daily walks, when fall and winter arrives, I marvel at the nests I have missed hiding in and around our shrubs and trees. Birds are a wonder at hiding those nesting places. When I find one I try to keep an eye on it to see if the birds can bring their young to adulthood. Sadly, many things can happen to birds and their young. Predators, freak spring storms of cold, rain and high winds, all take their toll. I know that those parent birds pick themselves up, and for the most part, try again to raise a brood.

Nests come in all different sizes, all different shapes, made of many different things but all are well made. I am amazed at their workmanship as I really look at these nests. From the hanging woven sack of the Baltimore Oriole to the tiny nests of moss, spider webs or thistle down of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird or American Goldfinch, to the huge nests of the Bald Eagle, all exhibit skills in building their homes. Some survive even the cold, strong winds of winter and are used again the next year. The Bald Eagle nest shown at right is probably about 5-6 feet in depth. This time of year the Eagles are already nesting!

Some use mud, some use the finest of hair and grasses, some use moss, lichen, feathers from poultry, small sticks to large sticks as building materials. They are amazing symbols of diligence and hard work! I enjoy viewing each nest and how it is built in the exact size needed for the species, and their use of the same materials every year.

Then there are the beautiful colors of each bird's eggs. I have chickens that lay green, blue, beige and light brown eggs and enjoy gathering them from the nests and marvel at the variations in color. But bird's eggs defy the imagination with their variations of colors, hues and speckling. Although birds and their coloring are wonderful to see, so are their nests and eggs. Take time to watch for birds' nests on your daily walk, but don't disturb them in their quest to raise their young.



Bald Eagle nest found near a Paulding County road.

Program Meetings...

Chris Tonra: Whip-poor-wills – Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7:30

p.m. Chris Tonra, assistant professor in Avian Wildlife Ecology in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University, will be presenting results from his lab's work using GPS to track the rapidly declining Eastern Whip-poor-will from breeding sites across the Midwest along their migration to wintering sites in Mexico and Central America.

He will also discuss the routes they take, the habitats they utilize, and how their distribution varies based on where they breed. In addition, Chris will discuss the conservation implications of these findings. Register in advance at

<https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpf-urpzltGty6TElxDdwqzMU2RAWmy3s5>

Family Fun Night – Nature-related games for children aged 1 to 101,

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 6:30 p.m. Come to our fourth annual Family Fun Night! This event will be a virtual presentation that will be geared toward children, but kids of all ages will enjoy the mix of interactive learning activities. Invite a cousin, friend, co-worker, neighbor, sister, parent – bring someone to Audubon! You won't want to miss the fun! Register in advance at

<https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rceitqz8pGNE9BaDAaFe2zTBa0i0r9Y5R>

PROGRAM MEETING - Robin Bagley: Move over beetles! Why wasps are the champions of diversity – Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:30

p.m. Insects make up about 75 percent of the animal species on Earth. Although beetles are one of the largest groups of insects, wasps also show amazing diversity. Dr. Bagley, professor at The Ohio State University at Lima, will talk

about wasp diversity and her own work on parasitoid wasps, a group of wasps whose larvae slowly eat their host to death. Register in advance at

<https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckfumprTMsh9GPgNTqpoPaJbA8jRdnaAGp>

Submitted by Nancy Risner



Virtual Program Meetings to Continue...

To limit COVID exposure, we will continue meeting virtually. We will be hosting our meetings virtually via Zoom. We thank Ohio State University for continuing to host us with their Zoom account.

For security reasons, you must register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you need help registering, links will also be provided in the events section of our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TriMoraine>) or by contacting Nancy at nrisner@netscape.net or 419.516.2282.

You can attend the meeting via computer or phone, but you will not be able to see the presentation if you join by phone. We encourage people to join the meeting 10 minutes before it starts so we can help with technical problems without delaying the meeting. You can call or text Dan (567.204.7974) or Nancy (419.516.2282) for help, but realize help may be limited or delayed after the meeting starts.

New to Zoom? Here's what you need!

Zoom is an internet-based platform that allows people to join meetings, hear the speaker and other attendees, and view the presentation. You can join by computer or phone. However, if you join by phone, you will not be able to see the presentation – only hear it.

If you do not have computer access, call Nancy (419.516.2282) in advance and she can register you and provide you with a phone number for you to attend the event.



Female Sawfly, Courtesy of Dr. Bagley



This fledgling Robin seems to be saying, "What do I do now?"

2021 EEW Weekend planned...

Well this year the “weekend” will be a little different as we strive to comply with the Covid-19 mandates in place at this time. Our 42nd annual Environmental Education Weekend will be at the Myeerah Nature Preserve on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

It will not be an overnight event. It will still include numerous opportunities for educational programs for learning about and participating in field trips on birdwatching, wild-flowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants, and other nature-related programs.

Myeerah Nature Preserve is comprised of 500 acres of meadows, lakes, streams, and woodland. It is one of 66 sites designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html

Your registration includes participation in the guided field trips, snacks, lunch and dinner. Sunset will be at about 8:30 pm that time of year so we'll conclude with a campfire and s'mores, so be sure to bring the little ones!

For further information contact either Don Rosenbeck at dmrosenbeck@gmail.com or Eric Broughton at broughtoneric@yahoo.com. *Submitted by Don Rosenbeck*



Barn Swallow feeding its hungry babies.

Winter Bird Count Was Cancelled... For this new Covid world, Audubon has announced full support for not conducting counts this year, and, furthermore, lists considerable restrictions for any counts that are attempted

They point out that missing one year's data from a record of decades will not harm the science. I will add that their announcement came out the end of September and the situation is now much, much worse than it was then. Therefore, it was decided that Tri-Moraine would not conduct the CBCs this winter.

Eric Juterbock, CBC coordinator

Chapter Moving Forward... As you can see Environmental Education is at the core of Tri-Moraine's mission and vision. In 2019 Tri-Moraine Audubon Society was chosen as the recipient for the Organization Award by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

From the strategic plan - “However, we could do more to bring nature appreciation to all ages throughout our entire region. As part of the strategic plan, we will gather those leaders within Tri-Moraine that are organizing these environmental education efforts and invite more people to get involved. This group will brainstorm what additional environmental education opportunities are possible, identify resources and collaborators that could be utilized, and create a plan to accomplish their initiatives. We call this group ‘Tri-Moraine's Environmental Educators.’

We believe that by forming a community of volunteers eager to contribute to environmental education, we will have a greater likelihood of success and make a bigger impact in our community than we would if we had just supported individual efforts.” We have created a new Facebook group called “Tri-Moraine's Environmental Educators Collaborative” so that all those park naturalist, nature group leaders, and teachers with a passion for the outdoors will have a place to share ideas, resources, and plan for joint activities. Your chapter will continue to look for new ways to support these efforts and expand and enhance the quality and quantity of environmental education in this region. The chapter Board is reviewing our mini-grant application and getting that ready so they are available when those “normal” days return again. In addition to this Environmental Education group, the new Strategic Plan creates another group focused on conservation efforts including habitat improvement and awareness campaigns and advocacy/lobbying for conservation initiatives. While the details are being worked out on how best to support the TMAS vision and values, it is important to know that you approve of our efforts and direction. Whether you are passionate about birding, the environment, conservation, or educating children I welcome your feedback and ideas. Please take some time to contact me at broughtoneric@yahoo.com. *Submitted by Eric Broughton*



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

P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648

SPRING 2021 Newsletter

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Presidents Message...

Greetings! Well as I write this article, we're waiting for up to a foot of snow tomorrow, new Covid-19 cases are way down, 2-million people were vaccinated yesterday, and as you have read in this newsletter, your Audubon chapter is making plans for a time when things start to return to "normal." You may remember that in the last newsletter I went over the three main values of the chapter which are "TMAS is the voice of wildlife and wildlands in west-central Ohio; TMAS works to educate people about natural resources, and inspire them to take action to protect wild places; and TMAS believes conservation is not only good for the wildlife that inhabit them, but that wild lands are good for human well-being".

Our efforts to save our environment requires people willing to step up and offer to help. Experience is not a requirement and I have no intention of asking anyone to do something they have no training/orientation to do, or more time than they can spare, or doing something you are not comfortable doing. I want to create an army of volunteers where a great many people do one thing. We are open to working with area business, groups, or college students seeking practical experiences making a difference in the real world.

Do you have expertise or are you majoring in program with a heavy emphasis on social media (we need someone to coordinate our social media)? We conduct a major fundraiser each fall, a bird seed sale where people order high quality bird seed in advance and pick it up on a Saturday in November. Is there an opportunity for a business or a marketing major to help us plan and grow such an event? Within the region are a great many natural areas, would you or a group you represent be willing to stop by to pick up trash occasionally? Perhaps you're just tired of sitting at home and want to join other people in making a difference where your time and assistance are genuinely valued. We are starting new efforts like the Environmental Education group (See page 3) where I need help supporting teachers and naturalists. You only need to care and be willing to help. If you want more information on any of these opportunities, please take some time to contact me at broughtoneric@yahoo.com.

If you are planning your estate, and like Judy Bancroft, care deeply about the natural world and would like to support on ongoing chapter environmental efforts, please consider including a gift to TMAS. Remember you can support the chapter's Annual Appeal as the need is ongoing as is our desire and commitment.

Eric