



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Summer 2015

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

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Jennifer Waltz
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Myeerah Nature Preserve Planting Project

Donnie Knight, Private Lands Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, is currently working on a Myeerah Nature Preserve planting project adding to the long term Pollinator Project, building habitat for butterflies and other insects in a large prairie patch.

We need TMAS and other volunteers interested in planting the plugs. The areas have holes dug and some plants are sitting out ready to plant. The holes (photo at left) with flags are for butterfly milkweed once it arrives. Please pass the word that help is needed. Questions or volunteering? Contact Donnie directly at donald.knight@fws.gov.

Bird Banding is for Everyone!

Scientists catch wild birds, place a small metal bracelet on their leg, and release the birds unharmed. This bracelet, or band, carries a unique number allowing the scientist (or any other person encountering the bird) to determine when and where the band was placed. This allows scientists to monitor the survival of local birds, determine the movement patterns of migrant birds, or examine a suite of other things. So what do non-scientists get out of bird banding? They get to spend time outdoors admiring nature and contributing to the generation of new information. It is also very exciting to check the nets, not knowing what might have flown in it. When a bird is captured, one can admire the fine plumage details or other traits unique to that species of bird. Ever see the bristles around the mouth of a flycatcher? Ever consider the variation in the amount of white on the tail of goldfinches? Ever want to know how hard a cardinal can bite? Beginning bird watchers will likely encounter birds they have never seen before. Even artists visit the banding site to sketch birds that would normally be too far away to draw. If you would like to visit a bird banding site, contact Jackie Augustine at augustine.63@osu.edu or Anne Smedley at jmedley@wcoil.com. Jackie's banding dates for the 2015 season are: May 27; June 17, 24; July 8, 22; August 5, 19, 29; Sept 12, 27; and October 10, 24.



Bird Banding photos by Cheryl Erwin

Licensed Bird Bander, Anne Smedley, is looking for help with the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program. There will be 8 banding sessions at Lippincott Bird Sanctuary between May 21st and August 8th. Each session begins at approximately 6am and lasts for 7 to 8 hours. No experience is necessary, but bird ID skills are helpful. Volunteers will help carry and set up equipment, write down data and help handle birds. Two or three volunteers are needed each day. You do not need to commit to all 8 sessions. Please contact Anne Smedley at 419-222-3271 or jmedley@wcoil.com if you are interested.

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.



TMAS BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, July 28, 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

TMAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC: Tuesday, July 7, 2015, Ottawa Metro Park, SR 81 just east of Marimor School. You will find the Miami shelter on your left as you enter the park. It is reserved from 5:30 p.m. until dark. We will eat at 6:30 p.m. The chapter will provide fried chicken. Members and guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverage.



At this year's picnic Jackie Augustine will provide a presentation on birding by ear. Birds are not only fun to watch, they are fun to hear as well. Jackie will discuss the songs of common birds, give hints as how to remember them, and suggest resources to learn more. We will see you there!

TMAS PROGRAM MEETING (SAVE THE DATE): The first program meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015, 7:30 p.m., at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus. Keep your eyes out for more information on this program.



21st ANNUAL RECYCLE FUNDRAISER:



Past volunteers mark your calendar now for this special fundraiser. Saturday, October 10, 2015 will mark the chapter's 21st year manning Wapakoneta's Drop-off Center. Volunteers work 8 a.m. until noon; 25 volunteers are needed to sort items and to unload vehicles. TMAS receives the proceeds from all recyclables handled. Aluminum cans (dry, crushed if possible) pay best and can be donated at the July 7 summer picnic and at the Sept. & Oct. monthly program meetings. Pick up aluminum cans when you go walking during the summer months for this event and use this fundraiser to get to know other Auduboners. For additional info and to volunteer, call Bob or Carol Bertrand at 419.227.9231.

WATCH THOSE RENEWAL NOTICES FROM NAS: NAS does not include membership expiration dates on its renewal notices. Look in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on this newsletter. If it reads "10/15 M", that means your dual membership expires in October of 2015. If it reads "02/15 SM", that means your supporting membership expires in February of 2015. If you want to pay your dual membership way ahead, that's your call, but the chapter is receiving dual membership dates extending out to 2021.

More Pictures from Bird Banding provided by Cheryl Erwin





Tri-Moraine Audubon Adventures Available to Regional Classrooms

Audubon Adventures student and teacher materials for 2014-2015 were presented exclusively through the new website www.AudubonAdventures.org. The Digital Plus subscription was offered to schools, after school programs, and other groups in 8 counties in the TMAS region through Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Educational Funds.

The downloadable, interactive content meets state standards for schools grades 3 – 6, but can be used for older or younger age groups. Lesson plans for classrooms and field based activities correlate to English Language Arts and Science Standards. A subscription includes six e-newsletters, Audubon magazine subscription, ready to use and print materials and ideas for science fair projects for teachers. Students can access online puzzles, games, infographics, Windows on the Wild videos and live webcams through the website.

The three topics for 2014-15 presented on the Audubon Adventures website were Wild About Birds, The Buzz about Native Bees, and Birds & Other Wildlife of Our Towns and Cities. The format for 2015-16 school-year from Audubon Adventures will be a hybrid of printed materials available for students, online components for students and downloadable teacher guides from the website. “Action for Planet Earth” is the theme for 2015-16 and will include 3 topics---At Home in a Habitat, Caretaking our World’s Water, and Power from our Planet.

Audubon Adventures is on Social Media! Find the Audubon Adventures group on Facebook and enjoy inspiring and beautiful pictures and interactive games. Click “Like”, add a Comment and make sure to Share to allow others to enjoy. “Follow” the Audubon Adventures board on Pinterest and also send out a “tweet” on Twitter.

As stated in the Educator's Tool Kit magazine for teachers, “Audubon Adventures helps students see the connection between human activities and the natural world, leading to positive attitudes about conserving Earth's birds, other wildlife and their habitat. Students will discover the thrill of witnessing the beauty and drama of life cycles and natural systems that connect all living things, no matter where they are. Finally students learn that we all have a personal stake and a role to play in the protection and improvement of the environment we all share.

If you know a classroom teacher that might like Audubon Adventures for their classroom, contact AA coordinator, Jennifer Waltz, at 419.303.4741 or by email at rjwaltz71@gmail.com.

BIG BIRDING DAY 2015: The weatherman’s warning of a bad storm around 3 p.m. did nothing to deter the ten intrepid birders from TMAS from making the big trip north on May 11. Meeting around 8:30 a.m., the fearless crew of Jackie, Jackie (not to be confused with Dr. Jackie), Danielle, Don, Mary, Cheryl, Dianne, Linda, Charlie, and Eric began at Magee Marsh and ended the day at Maumee Bay State Park many miles and hours later. The many birds were very cooperative allowing time for identification and photo opportunities at the State and Federal parks on the Lake Erie shore East of Toledo and in open fields nearby.

How many species of birds you ask? Well 101 species, of course; as promised. The members of the group saw (or heard): Pied-billed grebe, Double-crested cormorant, Great blue and Green-backed herons, Great egret, Trumpeter swan, Mallard, Gadwall, Blue-winged teal, American widgeon, Shoveler, Hooded merganser, Turkey vulture, Bald eagles, Sora, Common moorhen, Coot, Killdeer, Golden plovers, Spotted, Solitary, and Semipalmated sandpipers, Greater yellowlegs, Dunlin, Herring, Ring-billed, and Black-backed gulls, Foresters, Common, and Caspian terns, Mourning dove, Screech and Great-horned owls, Chimney swift, Hummingbird, Hairy and Downy woodpeckers, Eastern kingbird, Yellow-bellied flycatcher, Eastern wood pewee, Horned lark, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, and Barn swallows, Purple martin, Blue jay, Crow, Black-capped chickadee, House and Marsh wrens, Catbird, Robin, Swainsons and Gray-cheeked thrushes, Blue-gray gnatcatcher (#100), Starling, Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, Philadelphia, and Warbling vireos, Black/white, Prothonotary, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape may, Black-throated blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Palm, Wilsons, and Canada warblers, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Redstart, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Orchard and Northern orioles, rusty Blackbird, Grackle, Cowbird, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted grosbeak, Indigo bunting (#101), Goldfinch, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Swamp, and Song sparrows. Of course there were Red-winged blackbirds and Canada geese too. There were plenty of good and bad jokes, lunch on the beach, tasty snacks, and for four of the group, a great Greek pizza and dessert pizza enjoyed during the storm. If you have never been part of a Big Bird Day, you should definitely try it next year! Save the second Monday of May as a possible field trip day to the Lake Erie Hot Spots for Spring Migration Birding.





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Counties in Ohio
P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648
Summer 2015 Newsletter

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President's Message

You should have received our Annual Appeal letter in recent days. Your financial support will help us continue projects we have begun in two IBAs (Important Bird Area) in our region; Myeerah Nature Preserve in Logan County and St.Marys River/Grand Lake, St.Marys (Auglaize and Mercer Counties). Needs outlined in the Annual Appeal letter will help us continue habitat restoration and the development of new wetlands habitat. Please return your Annual Appeal letter soon. Your donation will be recognized with a note of thanks. It is exciting that new and developing projects in our service area continue to build and restore habitat. It isn't often that we are in a position to build upon the work of those who had a vision to keep our natural world unmarred.

Habitat conservation and restoration is needed now more than ever. Urban and city sprawl, loss of habitat, and dangers like domestic cats all contribute to declines in bird population. Keeping up with the latest current events news and publications is easier through website and Facebook updates. Facebook sites provide good current information via the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Ithaca, NY), Cedar Bog Nature Preserve, West Central Ohio Birders. Liking these sites on Facebook will get you into the loop of program updates, special bird sightings, and fieldtrip ideas for the family.

May election results for Tri-Moraine officers included John Daley, Treasurer, and Evelyn Prater, Member at Large. Both are two year terms. Evelyn has also graciously agreed to fill the Hospitality Chairman position. THANK YOU to all officers and Chairpersons for another great year!

Please consider becoming an officer in the future. Recently two Member-at-Large positions were appointed, and we continue to look for members that will actively participate in the chapter as an officer. Sheryl Maier, Cridersville and Eric Broughton, Lima serve in these newly created positions, thank you both for helping your chapter grow. We are looking for a Treasurer to assume those duties. Currently, John Daley is continuing to be our Treasurer, but after a long number of years serving in this position, he wishes to retire. (John has agreed to help the new Treasurer become established and will help with next year's budget plan.) Your special talents may be needed. What qualifications? Knowing Quick Books and attending six TMAS Board meetings per year are the basic requirements. Call Dianne at 419.234.7015 for more details.

A big Thank you goes to Environmental Education Weekend chairmen, Eric Broughton and Don Rosenbeck and their committee for all of your hard work in making the 36th EEW a success. The program for the weekend included many excellent opportunities to be out of doors and learn about the natural world via first hand experiences. The weather was great. All of the campers enjoyed a wide variety of educational sessions designed to inform even the youngest campers. Without TMAS Volunteers this program would not be possible. Many thanks also to the presenters of the education sessions and to the cooks and helpers in the kitchen.

Plan now to attend the Annual Membership Picnic, Tuesday July 7, 2015 at Ottawa Metro Park (see calendar of events). We look forward to seeing you there. Invite your family to attend with you and until then...Wishing you good birding!

Dianne