



# Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

SUMMER 2021

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

## ***Volunteer Opportunities...***

Are you proficient in social media? If so, President Eric Broughton is putting out a call for aid in this area and for news outlets. Look on Page 2 for more information on how you can volunteer.

***TMAS Board Meeting*** - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. on July 27, and September 28 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, meetings have been virtual via Zoom, but we hope to meet in person soon.

## ***THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS...***

*By Jeannine C. Roediger*

As I write this I am awaiting a shipment of native wildflowers to plant in my new woodland area planted last year. In it I have planted, oaks, maples, lindens, cottonwoods, sweet gum, black gum, elms, aspen and other soft and hardwoods. This spring I added some choke cherry, amelanchier and viburnums.

The wildflowers include anise hyssop, prairie coreopsis, prairie alumroot, hairy mountain mint, catchfly, little bluestem, butterfly weed, coneflowers, button blazing star, hairy beardtongue, asters and prairie dropseed. All are useful for birds, bees and butterflies.

The area already contains dandelion, red clover, white clover, queen Anne's lace, goldenrod and asters. Although I try to stay with native species, I have planted some crimson clover. It is a more southern growing clover but its beautiful flowers are enjoyable. Many people have a hate relationship with dandelions, I cannot do so as I see the bees busy in the beautiful yellow blossoms on early spring days and see how the goldfinch relish eating the seeds. I don't mind dandelions in my lawn knowing that bees and birds enjoy them and that they are seasonal, they come and they go.

Today, while gardening I noticed the bees really busy in the gill-over-the-ground, another plant many do not like. However, due to its ground cover capabilities and its shallow root system I allow it in my flower bed on a limited basis to curb other weeds and to hold in moisture. It really is a pretty plant even though it is persistent. As a gardener I work with nature rather than against it and find there is a balance.

Another way of working with nature is in my tomato plantings. I usually grow non-determinate tomatoes, or those that never limit their growing. So if I get tomato hornworms, I do not use pesticides or even pick them off, rather I let our native wasps take care of them. If the caterpillars eat some of the plant, that's okay, as it is just a pruning job.

There are many ways we can work with nature. My hope is that we learn to do this more and more rather than relying on harmful chemicals in our gardens, yards and fields. Using native plants is an important start, as they do the best in our environment and are more useful to our bird, bee and insect populations.



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### **Vacancy**

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Goldfinch at feeder

### Using Phone Apps to Identify Birds

While for some of us, there is no substitute for a pair of binoculars and our favorite field book, there are a few free tools that use the best of new technology such as smart phones and special birding applications (apps). The first is called “Merlin.” If you see a bird you can’t identify, you answer a few questions in the Merlin app such as size, colors, location of the bird and the app will suggest what bird it thinks it might be and gives other information about it.

Now if you can’t see the bird but can hear clearly, there is a different app for you called “BirdNET.” Once you open the BirdNET app, it uses your phone’s microphone to record the sounds the bird is making. You easily highlight the specific part of the recording with your bird’s call or song and tell the app to analyze the song. The app will come back with the name of the bird that best matches your recording and offers alternatives if it’s not sure and sample calls that you can play to decide.

Finally there is the “EBird” app for those who keep checklists or those of us who want to see what other birders have seen that day or in that place. There is so much more I could tell you about Ebird, BirdNET and Merlin but nothing is better than you searching and installing them on your smart phone and checking them out yourself. Prepare to be amazed and have fun!

*Submitted by Eric Broughton*



### Virtual Meetings to Continue...

To limit COVID exposure, we will continue meeting virtually for now. Keep watch for updates. Until we can meet in person, we will be hosting our meetings virtually via Zoom. We thank Ohio State University for continuing to host us with their Zoom account. Watch our Facebook page or website for any changes.

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](mailto: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.

**Volunteers Needed** Tri-Moraine Audubon Society is very fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers and the chapter has thrived because of their expertise and willingness to help others in a worthwhile cause. If you are reading this, I hope you believe that protecting the environment and educating others about the natural world around us is important.

There are many little jobs you can do to help out and we have one or two that require some “special” skills. We need to find ways to share information on important news and upcoming events using both social media and area news outlets. Our current volunteers don’t have the expertise to do it as effectively as it could be done. If you are willing to help us communicate more effectively, please send me a message via our Facebook page or via email. Volunteering can be much easier and rewarding than you think! *Submitted by Eric Broughton*

## 2021 EEW Weekend ...

This was the 42nd year for Tri-Moraine Audubon's Environmental Education Weekend (EEW), which was held May 1, 2021. Due to state mandates and local health department regulations, the "weekend" event was limited in the number of attendees and was open to the public only one day. Everyone who attended had a good time!

The weather was pleasant with a high of 60 degrees on Saturday and 67 on Sunday. The low temperatures were 30 degrees on Saturday and 40 on Sunday. There was no precipitation on either day.

Birding was excellent with a group total for both days of 77 species. The group also identified 37 species of wildflowers. To keep the bird count duration consistent with previous years, Dr. Eric Juterbock also counted on Sunday, May 2nd.

EEW is a great family event and is open to all Audubon members. We hope to see you there next year! SAVE THE DATE – May 7, 2022!

*Submitted by Don Rosenbeck*

## Election Results...

During the Chapter's May Program Meeting, there was a brief Annual Meeting with updates to those in attendance of our many activities and accomplishments in the past year, despite the pandemic.

As part of the meeting, elections were conducted and the following were unanimously reelected: Susan Heaphy as Treasurer and Dan Hodges and Jamie Cunningham as Members-at-Large. Thank you to all who participated and to these three outstanding chapter volunteers.

*Submitted by Eric Broughton*

**COAC News...**The Tri Moraine Audubon Chapter recognizes and thanks Jackie Augustine for her tireless work and excellent leadership of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters, which she led since its new beginning. We wish her happiness and success in her new adventure with Audubon in Kansas.

COAC meets at least once monthly, recently by Zoom or phone. Members represent many Ohio Audubon chapters including Greater Cleveland, Canton, Western Cuyahoga County, Cincinnati, Columbus, Black River, Akron and Mahoning Valley.

COAC informs and supports conservation efforts and causes. Recently our local chapter voted to approve financial support for Monitoring Neotropical Migrants in Winter, which documents changes in bird populations and disseminates that information. Our donation will be combined with those of other COAC chapters to support a study at a specific site in Central America.

We recently received a letter from COAC's treasurer, Nancy Howell thanking us for renewing our COAC membership, and for our work in education and advocacy. She said Tri-Moraine Audubon has provided wonderful ideas and projects during COAC meetings.

*Submitted by Judy Jacomet*



*Baltimore Oriole enjoying an orange*

## Summer Program Opportunities...

**BIOBLITZ** - June 19th—A bioblitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many living things in a given area as possible. Join the fun with the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District as we search for life in McLean Teddy Bear Park (2004 N Dixie Hwy). Come with your smartphone/camera to join in or just show up to have fun! Start things off with a bird hike at 7:30 a.m., naturalist tutorial at 9 a.m., head into the park at 9:30 a.m., capture some invertebrates at 11 a.m. and finish up around lunch time. Come for a little while or stay all day, either way we'll have fun. Please register at [jampd.com](http://jampd.com).

**Naturalist Show**—August 14 - Join the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District crowd at the amphitheater in Ottawa Metro Park (2632 Ada Rd) at 7 p.m. to see one of the most extremely talented and enthusiastic nature educators around. An outreach educator and naturalist from Aullwood Audubon, Chris Rowland's show will entertain and enlighten the whole family!

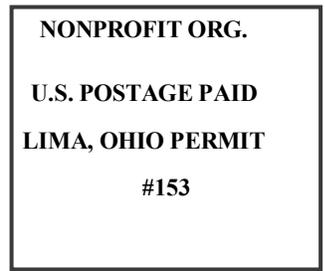
*Submitted by Dan Hodges*



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## **SUMMER 2021 Newsletter**



**Address Service Requested**

### ***Presidents Message...***

Well a few days ago, the CDC said that those of us who have gotten both vaccinations can stop wearing their mask in most places. These past fifteen months have been difficult for everyone to varying degrees and tragic for far too many. I understand how a person's beliefs on the pandemic will affect how they view our plans for the future. Some will say it's still too soon.

As the leaders of TMAS consider how to move safely "back to normal" we are doing our best to consider all the factors. Sometimes the decisions are not so easy. Is it still too soon to have a summer picnic? Can we plan to resume our monthly program meetings on the OSU-Lima campus as we are used to doing? I've already been asked that we video and broadcast live the monthly program meetings for our members who live far from Lima. This also allows those who are still worried about the virus to stay home a little longer.

No matter in what manner we do get together in the future, there is a lot going on in the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and with all the other groups that we work with. We are continuing to look for ways to best implement the strategic plan completed last year. My goals are to reach out to all the other environmental education and conservation groups in the area to share ideas and information and look for ways to better work together. As we include other groups, you can be sure that we want to include all of you.

Thank you for all your support!

Eric

