



# Flight Patterns

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

## Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Winter 2013

WEB ADDRESS - <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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The Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS) provides environmental educational programming to residents of Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties in Ohio. For more information, including the latest newsletter, please visit our website at: [www.tri-moraineaudubon.org](http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org) and on Facebook.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**TRI-MORAINES'S 2013-14 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., OSU-Lima. (Enter campus off Mumaugh Rd.; first building on 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 cancelations will be posted on WLIO (NBC/channel35) and WOHL (FOX/channel 25).

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**, **Saturday, Dec. 14**, Grand Lake St. Marys; **Sunday, December 15**, Indian Lake. Counts start at **8 a.m.** To sign up for either count (or obtain additional information); please see details on page 3 of this newsletter.

**ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK**, **Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 6:30pm.** Visitor/Student Services Center will open at 6pm. TMAS will provide fried chicken and beverages. Members and guests should bring any of the following--hot or cold dish, salad, rolls, side dish, or dessert and their own table service. Presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their favorite nature photography accompanied by brief narration. A digital projector, laptop, and screen will be furnished. Join fellow nature enthusiasts for a most enjoyable evening.

**TMAS BOARD MEETING**, **Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 7pm.** All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the OSU Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

**WINTER BIRDSEED SALE.** Saturday, February 1, 9 am-4 pm, DeHaven Home & Garden Center, 775 Shawnee Road, Lima. This restocking sale was started at the request of purchasers who lack space to store large quantities of birdseed. The sale is by preorder only. Order forms will be mailed at the end of December to those who made purchases in 2012 and 2013. If you would like an order form or have questions, contact Anne (Lima) at 419.222.3271 or download a form from the chapter's website or Facebook page (after Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>). Mail your completed order by Friday, January 17, to ensure sufficient stock on sale day. All proceeds benefit local conservation projects and education programs. Remember, prepaid orders only and pickup at DeHaven's in Lima. Volunteers are needed to assist those picking up birdseed. Call Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 (Lima) if you can help.

**PROGRAM MEETING - Lake Erie Adventures - Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 7:30 p.m.** This interesting presentation by OSU student and TMAS chapter member, Stephanie Harpster is one you will not want to miss. Stephanie will share her experiences this past summer at the Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie and the opportunities she was provided. Stone Lab has operated as a freshwater field station since 1895 and as a part of The Ohio State University since 1925. With Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University is a national leader in research that solves the most pressing problems facing the Great Lakes. Stephanie lived on the Flagship Brig Niagara with forty other people while under sail taking a course and conducting research. Stephanie enjoyed the great environment and gained a lot of knowledge from her hands-on experiences.

**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**, Citizen scientists, classrooms, and families can help document a "snapshot" of birds by participating in a free, educational, easy, and best of all, FUN way! All ages and skill levels are welcome. From Feb. 14-17, 2014 record and report online the birds in your backyard or neighborhood at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc/](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/) or search online for The Great Backyard Bird Count. Learn more by clicking on the "How to Participate" prompt and check out how to submit your checklist on the toolbar at the masthead. These reports provide useful information to scientists tracking changes in the numbers and movements of birds from year to year, just as winter is about to melt into spring.

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND** TMAS's March Program Meeting on Backyard Weeds with Michelle Rumschlag on March 4, 2014 and the Chapter's annual field trip to the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area to watch and identify waterfowl, hawks, owls, and much more on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

**FALL BIRDSEED SALE RESULTS.** Co-chair Anne Smedley reports that the November sale raised \$1,448.16 (including donations). TMAS thanks all purchasers, the media outlets that helped to publicize our event, DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace, Lima, for providing its facilities for the sale and all the other great backup support, and Northland Quick Print for printing the sale fliers. Thanks also to our volunteers who picked up and distributed seed in their communities, toted all those bags (7,500 pounds), prepared mailing labels, mailed and distributed fliers, made and put up posters, and provided customer service: Judith Magee (Ada); Mary Neeley (Alger); Joanne & Bob Antibus, Ivan & Rachel Friesen (Bluffton); George Bilbrey (Delphos); Evelyn Prater (Harrod); Don & Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Bob & Carol Bertrand, David Betts, John Daley, Tom Sciranka, Anne & Jason Smedley, Arianna Smedley, Morgan Smedley, Olivia Smedley, Rita Thelen (Lima); Bill Angel, Jan Heinrich (St. Marys); and Dianne Knipp, (Wapakoneta).

**WAPAKONETA INTERIM RECYCLE REPORT.** On Saturday, October 12, twenty four chapter members manned Wapakoneta's Drop-off Center for the 20th consecutive year for this fundraising project. Our check for all recyclables handled won't be received until the new year. We'll let you know results in the spring issue of this newsletter, but we want to thank the following volunteers who handled all those cans, glass jars, plastic bottles, etc. and unloaded vehicles: Mary Kempen, Judith Magee, Priscilla West (Ada); Ivan & Rachel Friesen (Bluffton); Don & Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Bob & Carol Bertrand, David & Janis Betts, Lois Risser, Arianna Smedley, Jason Smedley, Shirley Wolf (Lima); Eric Juterbock (Rushsylvania); Mary Andrews, Mike & Rita Borges, Dianne Knipp, Sue Seisel, Phil Valentine, Lindsey Zelonka (Wapakoneta); Stephanie Harpster (Waynesfield). Thanks also to all those who brought their recyclable materials to the center that day.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF BIRDBATHS: A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA FOR BIRD LOVERS**

Water is one of the most important things birders can add to their backyard to attract birds. All bird species need water, and adding one or more water features to your yard will quickly attract feathered friends. Birds need water for two reasons: drinking and preening. Water helps keep a bird's body cool both from the inside and outside. Water baths can also remove dust, loose feathers, parasites and other debris from a bird's plumage. Offering water in your backyard will attract more birds than just food sources, since birds that would **not** normally visit feeders can be tempted by water features. Birdbaths are the fastest, easiest way to add water to your backyard bird habitat. Birdbaths come in three basic designs:

- **Pedestal:** These classic bird baths stand three to four feet above the ground and include a post-style base on an elevated dish. Pedestal bird baths may be plastic, metal, ceramic or concrete and come in varying decorative designs and colors.
- **Dish:** A simple saucer or shallow bowl can be used for a dish bird bath. Dishes can be used at different heights by being placed on the ground, a fence, patio table, stump or steps. Hanging dishes and models that attach to deck railings are also available.
- **Heated:** A heated birdbath is essential in colder climates. It takes a great deal of energy to melt snow to drink, and birds willingly visit available water sources all year round. Heater accessories can be added to existing bird baths. Fully heated models are available as well.

For birds to feel comfortable using a bird bath, it should not be more than two or three inches deep. Adding an overturned saucer or level rocks to the center of the bath can add a shallower section or island for birds to use. Water features will attract the most birds when the water is clean and fresh. Standing water features such as bird baths and dishes should be cleaned often, which a good reason to place it near the house where you can enjoy the birds and have a hose nearby to refresh the water in the bird bath easily.

**CAMP MYEERAH UPDATE** - Girl Scouts of Western Ohio moving forward to Protect Camp Myeerah through Agreement with Bellefontaine Park! Girl Scouts of Western Ohio has been successful in working with the Ohio Trust for Public Land, the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and the Bellefontaine Park District to develop a long-term plan that transfers ownership of Camp Myeerah to the park district but will preserve the integrity of the camp and allow continued use of the camp property by the public, including Girl Scouts. Roni Luckenbill, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio CEO said, "We are very encouraged about the progress of this agreement. This is a win for the Girl Scouts, for the community and for the preservation of a unique and beautiful piece of property." Girl Scouts of Western Ohio's Board of Directors have made continued usage by Girl Scouts a priority in considering potential options for the camp. This long-term plan was put in motion late January, when Girl Scouts of Western Ohio's Board of Directors voted to consider an offer from the Ohio Trust for Public Land for the purchase of Camp Myeerah. The land trust was working in partnership with the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, with whom the Girl Scouts have a long standing conservation easement partnership at Camp Myeerah. The land trust worked to secure funding through the Clean Ohio Fund and to develop a long-term plan that would preserve the integrity of the camp. The Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and the land trust were just recently awarded a Clean Ohio Grant which was an important step in moving this agreement forward. Many thanks to the very dedicated TMAS volunteers whose time and effort have made this possible!

### **WINDOW BIRD FEEDERS: ANOTHER GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA**

There are many benefits of Window Bird Feeders that make them a great first bird feeder, or an addition to existing Birdfeeders. A window bird feeder will allow you to observe birds up close and allow the viewer an unobstructed view as their bird visitors fly around and rest to eat. Study your birds carefully, and determine who your visitor is. Your birds will not be frightened away as they would if you were standing outdoors with them, and this will allow you to get a "birds eye" view. Window bird feeders may also provide you with an economical solution to dealing with squirrel problem areas. If you live in such a squirrel problem area, simply try to find a window to which squirrels cannot jump such as a window with no branches close by. Window Feeders are easy to clean with warm water and mount quickly to windows usually with suction cups. As you perform your daily duties around the house you can enjoy watching the birds perform their duties outdoors. Window mounted birdfeeders allow bird watching to be effortless and enjoyable.



## AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Tri-Moraine Chapter will be coordinating two of the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts in Ohio: Grand Lake (Saturday, December 14, 2013) and Indian Lake (Sunday, December 15, 2013). The CBCs offer an opportunity to participate in a little winter birding, and perhaps see some of the winter visitors to our area – especially those that usually do not hang out in our yards. Most importantly, we are collecting very useful data as “citizen scientists.” The data contained in the more than a century of Audubon CBCs is a very valuable source of information about birds (this is the 114th count!). The volume of data obtained during the years of CBCs could not have been acquired in any other way. And, there are lots of data – the more than 2200 counts take place in all 50 states and all Canadian provinces, and extend into the southern tropics of this hemisphere.

Furthermore, the data could be especially important for the Grand Lake count, since the St. Marys River and Grand Lake represent one of the Important Bird Areas in the Tri-Moraine region. The more counters we have participating, the more fun we can have and the more birds we are likely to tally. All are welcome; less experienced birders will flock with more experienced birders, so everyone's eyes and ears will be useful. Although it is okay to show up at the last minute to participate, it is really helpful in organizing the count efficiently if the coordinator knows in advance (at least the night before) how many counters there will be. To sign up for the count, (or for any additional information), please contact Eric Juterbock (419-995-8360 (day), 937-468-2606 (evening), [juterbock.1@osu.edu](mailto:juterbock.1@osu.edu) (email), or, surface mail at 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, OH 45804. To be considered an official count, we must be out for at least eight hours, but individual counters need not participate for the full time. In addition to the counters roaming the 15-mile diameter count circle, one may participate by tallying the birds that visit a feeder located within the circle. Assigned routes for the mobile counters generally involve both road and foot travel. Remember to dress appropriately and to bring such needed items as binoculars, bird guides, food and drinks, etc. Please note that ODNR apparently has yet to be concerned for the CBCs or their participants, since they have again scheduled an additional weekend of deer gun season to coincide with the first (and most popular) weekend of the official CBC count period (the dates of which have been established for years). Except for some park lands, we will need to stay out of the woods. I do have some orange vests available if you wish to wear orange and do not usually wear that color.

We will meet at 0730 hrs. (a.m.) for both counts --in order to finalize the census routes and be counting by 0800. For the Indian Lake count, meet at the McDonald's in Russell's Point. For the Grand Lake count, meet at the McDonald's at the mall at the intersection of SR 29 and US 33 in St Marys.

**TMAS ON FACEBOOK** Have you checked out our Facebook page? Did you know you can post your own special bird and nature photos? Did you enjoy a past program meeting? Be sure to tell us on Facebook how much you enjoyed a field trip or program meeting. Please give it a try and share some of your favorite photos.

## TREAT YOURSELF OR A FRIEND and SUPPORT TMAS'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Bird Watcher's Digest** (BWD), a magazine about bird watching, for bird watchers, by bird watchers (North America's leading magazine for bird watchers), flew off the press in Marietta, Ohio, in 1978.

**Now, for each NEW, one-year (six issues) subscription at BWD's regular rate (\$19.99), BWD will return half the cost (\$10.00) to TMAS to support our education program!**

You may place your order in one of ways:

- 1. Go directly to the Bird Watcher's Digest website**  
Note, if you do not wish them to share your personal information with other entities, look under > Optional Items and enter "Mark my name nonrentable" in the section labeled "Special Instructions or comments."
- 2. Telephone Bird Watcher's Digest at 1-800-879-2473**  
Be sure to mention our code "SSTMAS" so that TMAS will get credit for your subscription!

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**Only NEW paid subscriptions are eligible (no renewals and no bill-me's).**

All chapter proceeds will go toward the support and expansion of the chapter's *AUDUBON ADVENTURES* program in school classrooms in our 8-county service area.

## Subscribe and Save!

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**Winter 2013 Newsletter**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Good things are happening all across Ohio in avian research and programming. One example is the **first** Ohio Avian Research conference that was held October 2013 at Dennison University Columbus, Ohio. This conference brought together professionals, students and government agencies as well as citizen scientists to present and share research projects. When we participate in local and statewide conferences and programs we extend birding information to birders of all levels of expertise. Plan now to participate in the 2013 Christmas Bird Count and The Great Backyard Bird Count in February, two ways you can participate in TMAS programs and help collect valuable field information. These are good ways to help gather information that can be compared over many years and support efforts to protect habitat and bird populations, (plus make new friends and enjoy the fun of birding with your family.)

I am now working on the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's Chapter Annual Report to the NAS. TMAS is very proud of its involvement in education, monitoring Important Bird Areas, publishing informative newsletters, networking with other naturalist groups like JAMPD and USF&W for programming and land management, and all that is reflected in our activities included in the yearly report. We are an active volunteer group, and looking at the list of this year's accomplishments, it reflects on the dedication of our many volunteers. Were you aware we have representatives on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lima-Allen Co. Regional Planning Commission and the Ottawa River Coalition? Both of these groups address the health of watersheds/rivers, creeks, and habitat throughout our region. Thank you volunteers for all you do to represent TMAS and our region whether it be serving on a board, collecting data, working to save habitat, taking a turn at the recycling center, or selling bird seed.

At the November 5 TMAS program meeting the raffle for the Winter Cardinal, (limited edition print), by American Wildlife Artist Guy Coheleach was won by Bill Roshak. Bill, resident of Hancock Co., is Board President of the West Central Land Conservancy. Congratulations! Thank you to everyone that supported the raffle project and to the donors of the framed artwork.

Looking at our calendar for the new calendar year (listed below) please take a few minutes to jot down the next program meetings on your own calendar and as we start the New Year, enjoy all of those winter birding opportunities. Wishing you good birding!

Dianne

Program Meetings	Field Trips
1/7 Potluck Dinner & Photo Safari (Starts at 6:30 p.m.)	12/14 Christmas Bird Count - Grand Lake St. Marys
2/4 Lake Erie Adventures - Stephanie Harpster	12/15 Christmas Bird Count - Indian Lake
3/4 Backyard Weeds - Michelle Rumschlag	3/22 Killdeer Plains - Marseilles
4/1 Black Swamp Rehabilitator's Live Raptors - Diane Myers	4/26 St. Marys River - Grand Lake St. Marys IBA