



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Winter 2015

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

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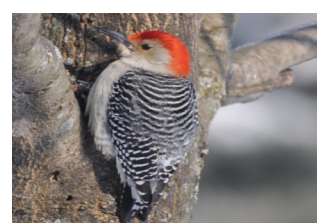
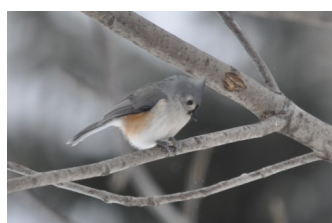


SAVE THE DATE!



TMAS BOARD MEETINGS, Tuesday, November 24, 7 pm and Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 7pm. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

Christmas Bird Counts. Indian Lake on Saturday December 19, 2015 and Grand Lake St. Marys on Sunday, December 21. To sign up for either count please see details on page 3 of the newsletter.



THE 18th GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC), February 12-15, 2016 is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can now participate from anywhere in the world!

It's free, fun, and easy. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year participants turned in more than 144,000 online checklists, creating the world's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest educational and promotional resources. Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For results of the 2014 GBBC, take a look at the Halftime Report, and be sure to check out some of the images in the 2014 GBBC Photo Contest Gallery. On the www.birdcount.org website, participants can explore realtime maps and charts that show what others are reporting during and after the count. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great products. Those interested in participating in the GBBC can find more information by visiting www.birdcount.org. For questions and comments, please contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology gbbc@cornell.edu or National Audubon Society citizenscience@audubon.org. The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited.



Winter Birdseed Sale, Saturday, February 6th, 9am-4pm, DeHaven Home & Garden Center, 775 Shawnee Road, Lima. This restocking sale was requested by purchasers who lack space to store large quantities of birdseed. The sale is by preorder only. Order forms will be mailed on December 29, to those who made purchases in 2014 and 2015. 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. Mail your completed order by Friday, January 22, 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. Call Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 (Lima) if you can help.



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.

FALL BIRDSEED SALE RESULTS Co-chair Anne Smedley reports that the November 7th, 2015 sale raised \$1,191.80 (including \$190.90 in 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 (6,648 pounds), prepared mailing labels, mailed and distributed fliers, made and put up posters, and provided customer service: Susie Closson (Ada); Joanne & Bob Antibus, Ivan & Rachel Friesan (Bluffton); George Bilbrey (Delphos); Evelyn Prater (Harrod); Don & Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Bob & Carol Bertrand, David Betts, John Daley, Mark & Maverick Mohr, Anne & Jason Smedley, Jennifer Waltz (Lima); Bill Angel, Jan Heinrich (St. Marys); and Dianne Knipp, (Wapakoneta).



Wapakoneta Interim Recycle Report. On Saturday, October 10, twenty three volunteers manned Wapakoneta’s Drop-Off Center for the 22nd 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 sorted all those plastic bottles and other containers and unloaded vehicles. Without you this fundraiser wouldn’t be possible: Susie Clossen, Liz Vogt, Priscilla West, Maverick Mohr, Evelyn Prater, Don Rosenbeck, Bob & Carol Bertrand, Anne Edwards, Candace Newland, Lois Risser, Arianna Smedley, Jason Smedley, Anne Smedley, Shirley Wolf, Eric Juterbock, Beth Seibert, Pat Striff, Jennifer Waltz, Dianne Knipp, Mary Andrews, Marea Pouzer, and Phil Valentine. Thanks to all those who brought their recyclable materials to the center that day as well.

Upcoming Programs and Field Trips

ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK, Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 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 an enjoyable evening.

Birding Ohio’s North Coast – Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 7:30pm Jim McCormac, a well-known author and speaker from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, will discuss the where, when, and what to see along Lake Erie. To many people, Lake Erie is Ohio’s greatest natural resource. It is certainly our most conspicuous feature, and plays an enormous role in influencing the Buckeye State’s bird life. Lake Erie and its environs support greater numbers and species of birds than anywhere in Ohio, and most of the Midwest. To date, 396 species have been found in the counties bordering Lake Erie – 94% of all species currently known from Ohio. An incredible 30 species have only been found along the lake. This program will travel far and wide along the lakeshore, looking at the habitats and species that make Lake Erie a world-class birding destination.

Much of this program is based on the new Lake Erie Birding Trail guidebook, which features over 100 of the best birding locales from Conneaut to Toledo. The book is 232 pages, features several hundred color photos, numerous maps, and lots of information about Lake Erie’s bird life and other natural history. It has become the go-to resource for those interested in exploring the natural history of our greatest lake.

If you would like to buy a book (\$20), please contact Jackie Augustine at 567-712-4155 (call or text) or augustine.63@osu.edu by 5 January. She hopes to have them ready for pick-up at the February meeting.



©Jim McCormac



©Jim McCormac

PROGRAM MEETING – Update on Myeerah Natural Area – Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 7:30pm

Chris Meyer from Bellefontaine Parks & Recreation Department will give an update on the progress, challenges, and goals of preserving Myeerah Natural Area. TMAS facilitated the purchase of Myeerah from the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio and transfer to Bellefontaine Parks & Rec. This unique area has old growth forest, restored prairie, restored wetlands, a fishing pond, and numerous trails. Hundreds of species of resident and migratory birds, salamanders, butterflies, fish, and other wildlife call Myeerah home. Myeerah is also the location of TMAS’s Environmental Education weekend which is held annually during the first weekend in May. Myeerah Natural Area is open to the public from dawn until dusk, and is located at 7405 St. Rt. 540, Bellefontaine, OH. Come see what Myeerah is all about!

GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS RESTORATION SUPPORT. At the September 1, 2015 Program Meeting, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society presented a check to Grand Lake St. Marys (GLSM) Restoration Manager Milt Miller in the amount of \$2500 for work being done to restore the lake. This gift purchased seeds and plantings for work being finished in Phase Two and start of Phase Three which is part of the filtering wetland restoration on GLSM's south shore. One positive outcome for this approach to lake restoration is that it also provides habitat for birds of many species and the number of birds returning to this area is increasing yearly. This great project is a direct application of 2015 Annual Appeal contributions and fundraising efforts from recycling and birdseed sales. Thank You to those donors that helped us reach this goal of supporting birding habitat and development.

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts Between December 19 and January 5, 2016 there will be over 60,000 volunteers counting birds across the hemisphere. The Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and the other volunteer citizen scientists will be conducting two counts locally: **Indian Lake on Saturday, December 19, 2015, and Grand Lake St. Marys on Sunday, December 20, 2015.** The CBCs offer an opportunity to participate in a little winter birding and perhaps see a few of the winter's avian visitors to our area— particularly those that do not hang out in our backyards! This year's count will be the 116th, and the data collected is invaluable to our understanding of the status of both local and global bird populations. CBCs have revealed the dramatic impact climate change is already having on birds, as well as disturbing declines in common birds, including Northern Bobwhite quail. The many decades of data not only help identify birds in need of conservation action, but also reveal success stories, like the comeback of the Bald Eagle.

To be considered an official count, counters must be out for at least 8 hours. However, individual counters need not participate for the full time. The count takes place within a circle with a diameter of 15 miles.

In order to finalize the census and be counting by 8:00am, we will meet at 7:30am for both counts. Meeting for the Indian Lake count will be at the McDonalds in Russels Point and for Grand Lake St. Marys will be McDonalds on State Route 29, just off of US 33 in St. Marys. To sign up for the count, or for additional information, please contact Eric Juterbock at 216-905-8909, or by email at juterbock.1@osu.edu.

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Fact Sheet

The members of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society are a diverse group of people with a common interest in our natural environment. We like to watch birds, butterflies, and bugs; stop and smell the wildflowers; and learn about and marvel at nature's wonders. We go on outdoor field trips, take pictures, feed birds, educate, recycle, support environmental activities, plant trees, and enjoy spending time with other nature lovers.

We invite you to join us!

The mission of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS) is to promote the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, including agricultural systems, while focusing on the enjoyment of birds and the natural environment through fellowship, education, and stewardship for the benefit of future generations.

The Tri-Moraine Audubon Society provides environmental educational programming to residents of Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties in Ohio.

Monthly program meetings occur on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the OSU-Lima Welcome Center (formerly the Extension Office) at 3900 Campus Drive, just off Mumaugh Road in Lima, Ohio.

Current information will be found in our quarterly newsletter or by visiting the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Facebook page or TMAS website: www.tri-moraineaudubon.org



The nature of childhood has changed...there's not much nature in it. We all have those memories from childhood: jumping into a cool lake on a hot summer day, intently watching ants on the march or spending hours just laying back and looking at clouds. And whether we realized it or not, those moments in the outdoors helped shaped our views on the world around us. But those kinds of memories are fading fast for many young people today. Young people today spend less time outdoors in nature than ever before. A generation ago, 75% of American kids played outside daily; nowadays, only 25% do. Children are spending just minutes per day learning and playing outdoors and more than seven sedentary hours per day in front of electronic media. Childhood as a whole has moved indoors due to various societal shifts in how children spend their time. Increased afterschool activities including homework and sports, shorter or nonexistent recess, lack of access to green spaces and concerns over unsupervised outdoor play have all contributed to today's children spending significantly more time inside than their parents did. This trend is reflected across all demographics and without regard to geographic location. However, children within urban environments, particularly those within under-resourced urban communities, face the greatest barriers to engaging nature through outdoor play and exploration. Getting kids back outside is more important than ever — for the sake of the kids and the future of our planet. Spending time outdoors at a young age is critical to fostering a healthy conservation ethic. **We invite you to join us!**

In case of bad weather (Level 2 in Allen County), meeting cancellations will be posted on WLIO (NBC/35) and WOHL (FOX/25)


Program Meetings	Field Trips/EEW
9/1 Update on Grand Lake St. Marys - Milt Miller - GLSM Restoration Comm	9/19 Cedar Bog - Urbana - Cheryl Erwin
10/6 Landscaping with Native Plants - Jan Hunter - Naturally Native Nursery	10/17 The Woods, a Fen, and Esker Expedition - Eric Broughton
11/3 Langsdon Mineral Collection - Tony Rotondo - (Mercer County Library)	12/19 Christmas Bird Count - Grand Lake St. Marys - Eric Juterbock
1/5 Potluck Dinner & Photo Safari (Starts at 6:30 p.m.)	12/20 Christmas Bird Count - Indian Lake - Eric Juterbock
2/2 Birding Ohio's North Coast - Jim McCormac - Ohio Division of Wildlife	2/13 Great Backyard Bird Count
3/1 Myeerah Nature Area - Kris Myers - Bellefontaine Joint Recreation Dist	3/26 Killdeer Plains IBA - Marseilles - Ann Smedley
4/5 Global Climate Change - Daniel Berger - Bluffton University	4/23 Tecumseh Natural Area - OSU Lima Campus - Area Experts
5/3 Bats: What You Didn't Learn Watching Batman - Marne Titchenell - OSU Ext	4/29-30, 5/1 Environmental Education Weekend - Don Rosenbeck
7/5 Summer Picnic (Starts at 6:30 p.m.)	5/9 Big Birding Day - Western Lake Erie IBAs - Eric Broughton



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Winter 2015 Newsletter

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President's Message

President's message:

Need a winter project that takes very little energy? Do you enjoy the flowers of summer, but find gardening not to your liking? Learning more about pollinator plots or native gardens via an internet search will help you develop a plan you can implement this winter. Seen locally at Myeerah Nature Preserve, Logan Co. and at the Gilliland Nature Sanctuary, Franklin Township, Mercer Co. patches of grasses mixed with native flowers are being established for modeling and reference. In our TMAS woodlands region these newly established pollinator plots will help build habitat for insects and birds that pollinate flowers...always a good thing. You can create a large or small native plant bed in your home garden to attract birds and butterflies with minimal soil preparation. If you have plants that are native to our region, you will be providing a valuable food source for many pollinator species and the plants are drought tolerant due to their deep roots. Late fall and early winter is an ideal time to start a native flower pollinator plot. Many of the native seeds need a cold snap and wet weather to make germination ideal. Some sources suggest tossing seeds on the bare ground just as a heavy snow is starting (or on top of new snow in early winter, but you risk having seeds eaten or blown away). It is not too late to consider this technique for flowers you might enjoy next summer.

One of the best ways you can help TMAS is to participate in the Christmas Bird Count in our area December 19 at Grand Lake and December 20 at Indian Lake (see more information in this newsletter). This is a citizen-scientist activity that has one hundred fifteen years of history to give a snapshot on the state of birds in the Americas and Pacific islands. You can be part of this fun activity and we can always use extra bird counters regardless of your level of expertise. Have a teen your family? This is a great way for them to be involved in a practical application of data collection while they hone bird skills.

Another way you and your family can help is to get involved with a program like FeederWatch (sponsored by Cornell Lab birds.cornell.edu or FB Project FeederWatch) which is a "winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance." FeederWatch data has helped track the spread of infectious diseases like Mycoplasma gallisepticum, a bacterial pathogen, in House Finches since it emerged in 1994 and which has spread westward from the East coast over the last twenty years. Later this winter (February) Cornell Lab and Audubon's GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT will also give a snapshot of data across the country as to the health and abundance of birds in our area. Both of these activities you can do from the comfort of your own home. You can be part of FeederWatch right now and people of all skill levels can participate. Please mark your calendars now for The GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT February 12-15, 2016...we need your help in recording the birds in the TMAS region.

The Annual Appeal responses continue to trickle into our mailbox. Thank You for your gift that will help programs we have established in our IBAs (Important Bird Areas). This is a gentle reminder that it isn't too late for charitable end-of-year giving. TMAS is a 501(c)(3) organization. A thank you will be sent to document your gift.
Merry Christmas! and Happy birding in the New Year
Dianne