



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Winter 2017

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

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Volunteer Opportunities...

Look on Page 3 for information about participating in the **Christmas Bird Count in December** and the **Great Backyard Bird Count on February 16-19**, held each year to see how our native bird populations are doing. To add your name to the Christmas Bird Count, call Eric at 216.905.8909.

Our annual **Winter Bird Seed Sale** is also coming. Look on Page 3 for information and call Bob Bertrand to volunteer at 419.227.9231.

PROGRAM MEETINGS...

Beginning on Page 2 you will find a list of program meetings beginning **January 2nd** with the **Annual Photo Safari**.

Most program meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Visitor/Student Center, 3900 Campus Drive, OSU-Lima, however our **February 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m. program titled "Amphibians of Ohio" by Eric Juterbock**, will be held in the Farmer Theater in Reed Hall (Building #8 at <https://lima.osu.edu/aboutus/campus-maps-and-directions.html>).

"Get the Buzz on Native Bees" by Barb Snyder will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m. She will detail the lives of our native bees from honey to cuckoo bees.

Other program meetings are scheduled for **Tuesday, April 3rd for Family Fun Night and Tuesday, May 1 with Becky Mitchell from the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District on "Best Management Practices to Improve Soil and Water Resources in Allen County."** Watch the spring newsletter for these details. All are free and open to the public.

TMAS Board Meetings are scheduled for November 28, January 30 and March 27; and held at 7:30 p.m. in the Visitor/Student Center, 3900 Campus Drive, OSU-Lima. All are welcome to attend.

DO YOU TWEET ? Did you know that you could follow Tri-Moraine on Twitter? Twitter is often faster than email or Facebook. Additionally, many leaders in the nature conservation and appreciation communities use it for networking and staying informed of the latest topics and conservation initiatives. Try it out! Follow us @TriMoraine

Telescopes for Star-Gazing Bird Watching

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Many years ago I purchased a 2.4 inch refractor telescope to aid my research for the American Association of Variable Star Observers. Well, when children came along staying up part of a night just wasn't going to happen as sleep became pretty precious. So, the telescope has since been used more for terrestrial purposes.

Although refractors will show everything upside down, it makes little difference once you become accustomed to it. I have used it to watch my bluebird houses to see if they are occupied without having to approach them. I can watch them from my yard, while they are a field away. Although binoculars are much more portable, the telescope has higher magnification and stands on a sturdy tripod. It offers a clear view of what is happening far away.

One can also take pictures without disturbing parent birds and although equipment is available to hold cameras, a steady hand works as well. I caught this Baltimore oriole on a return to the nest high in our maple tree this past summer.

When dusk clouds our vision, a telescope, even binoculars, will show things our eyes cannot see. I once zoomed in on a red fox in front of a woods, and viewed the commotion a horned owl was causing other birds when it roosted in the top of a tree. It's one more tool to watch our feathered friends without upsetting them or interfering in their daily lives.



Upcoming Program Meetings



ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK, Tuesday, January 2, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Visitor/Student Services Center will open at 6 p.m. TMAS will provide fried chicken and beverages. Members and guests should bring their own table service and any of the following – hot or cold dish, salad, rolls, side dish or dessert.

Presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their favorite nature photography accompanied by brief narration – that means YOU!!

A digital projector, computer, and screen will be furnished. PowerPoint format works best, but a folder with digital photos also work. Please limit your photos to a dozen or so (or whatever you can present in 10 min). Join fellow nature enthusiasts for an enjoyable evening of reminiscing about all the amazing things we were able to observe this year.

AMPHIBIANS OF OHIO Eric Juterbock: Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m.** Check below for new location for this program.

The southern Appalachian Mountains have more species of salamanders than any other area of that size on the planet. The amphibian diversity of the entire range, from Maine to Alabama, probably exceeds that of any other temperate region.

The multimedia show is comprised of hundreds of photographic images choreographed to an Aaron Copland ballet, and cele-



brates this landscape and biodiversity. Eric Juterbock originally created this slide-based show in 1978, but has recently completed a multi-year effort to update it to a HD digital format with all new photography. It will be a show that you don't want to miss!

**This program meeting will be in a different location than usual. It will be held in the Farmer Theater in Reed Hall (Building #8 at <https://lima.osu.edu/aboutus/campus-maps-and-directions.html>) in order to get an optimal viewing experience.

Submitted by Jackie Augustine

WATCH 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 "10/18 M" that means your NAS/TMAS dual membership expires in October of 2018. If it reads "02/18 SM" that means your supporting membership expires in February of 2018. If you want to pay your dual membership ahead that is up to you. The chapter is again receiving extended dual memberships. If you have questions about your membership contact Bill Akins at 419.339.9751 or at waskins@woh.rr.com

GET THE BUZZ ABOUT NATIVE BEES*

Barb Snyder: Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Barb Snyder is a Master Gardener, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, and a member of the Hardin County Herb Society.

Her presentation will discuss all things related to bees including: when and how bees diversified into the many species we see today, detailed accounts of how native bees go about their daily lives, the role bees play as pollinators and indicators of healthy habitats and the problems faced by bees today. If you have never heard of carpenter, squash, mason, mining, sweat, leaf cutting, or cuckoo bees, this talk is for you!



MORE UPCOMING PROGRAM MEETINGS –

Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 7:30 p.m.: Family Fun Night* Nature-related games for children of all ages.

Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 7:30 p.m.: Becky Mitchell*, Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District - Best Management Practices to Improve Soil and Water Resources in Allen County.

*Co-sponsored with Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District



COUNT THE BIRDS FOR THE GBBC

Be prepared to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 16-19, 2018. You can count birds anywhere for at least 15 minutes or longer. Keep track of the numbers and species of birds you see and how long you watched. Make your best estimate of how many you see of each species. Large flocks are a challenge, but your best guess is valuable. Enter your information on line at BirdCount.org

Add a new checklist for each new day, new location or for the same location and day at different times of the day. Your participation is important to keep track of bird populations. For further information go to <http://gbbc.birdcount.org> The GBBC is sponsored by the National Audubon Society, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited.

WAPAKONETA RECYCLE REPORT...



On October 24, 22 volunteers manned the Wapakoneta Drop-off Center for the 24th year. Our thanks to these volunteers who sorted the recyclables and unloaded vehicles. They were Liz Vogt (Ada), Sheryl Maier (Cridersville), Evelyn Prater (Harrod), Bob Bertrand, David Betts, Anne Edwards, Susan Heaphy, Judy Jacomet, Volker Jeschonnek, Candace Newland, Tom Sciranka, Beth Seibert, Anne Smedley, Jason and Morgan Smedley, Shirley Wolf, (Lima), Eric Juterbock (Rushsylvania), Pat Striff (St. Marys), Dianne Knipp, Marea Pouzar, Phil Valentine and Ingrid Willmott (Wapakoneta.) Our thanks also to those bringing in recyclables. We will receive the check for our efforts later and it will be reported in the next newsletter.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand

WINTER BIRD SEED SALE COMING...

The Winter Birdseed Sale will be held Friday, February 2nd from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, February 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Layman Feed & Lawn, 705 E.

Main St. (SR 309), Elida. **This sale is by preorder only.**

Order forms will be mailed in late December to those who made purchases in 2016-17. If you would like an order form or have questions, contact Anne Smedley at 419.222.3271 or download a form from the chapter's website or Facebook page. Mail your completed order by Friday, January 19th to ensure you receive your order. All proceeds benefit local conservation, education programs and projects. Volunteers are needed for this sale. Call Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 if you can help.



RESULTS OF FALL BIRD SEED SALE...

Co-chair Anne Smedley reported that the November 3-4 sale raised \$993.45 which includes \$242.90 in donations. We thank our purchasers, the media that publicized the event, Northland Quick Print for printing the sale fliers and Layman Feed & Lawn for providing the sale facilities and all others who supported this event.

Thanks also to the volunteers who picked up and distributed seed in their communities, totaled the 311 bags (5,916 pounds), provided mailing labels, mailed and distributed fliers, made and put out posters and provided customer service.

Submitted by Anne Smedley

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Between December 14, 2017 and January 5, 2018, volunteers will be counting birds across the hemisphere in the 118th Christmas Bird Count. Last year there were counts in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces, and over 150 count circles in Latin America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere in the western hemisphere. Those 2,536 counts by over 73,000 observers tallied over 56 million birds of 2636 different species (641 = 24% in U.S.).

Locally, the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's volunteer citizen scientists will be conducting two counts: Indian Lake, on Saturday, December 16, 2017, and Grand Lake St Marys, on Sunday, December 17, 2017. The CBC is a chance to check up on our local birds, and maybe even see a few rare winter visitors. Admittedly, last year's weather was uncooperative, but our efforts do yield data that is extremely valuable for understanding the status of both local and global bird populations. The volume of data described above could not have been acquired in any other manner. CBCs have revealed the dramatic impact climate change is already having on birds, as well as disturbing declines in common birds, including kestrels. 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. Our national symbol, which currently nests and is commonly found in the count areas, would not have been seen just a couple of decades ago.



Although such factors as weather and habitat certainly affect both diversity and numbers of birds seen on a count (e.g., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada 117th CBC had 170 field counters for 47 spp., vs. Indian Lake's 14 for 63 spp.), generally, more counters will lead to more birds being seen. All birders are welcome to participate; those with less experience, or who are unfamiliar with the area of the count, accompany those with more experience. Everyone's eyes and ears can be useful! Although it is okay to show up to count at the last minute, it greatly aids the coordinator in organizing the count to know at least the night before how many birders to expect. To sign up for the count (or for additional information), please contact Eric Juterbock at 216-905-8909 (cell), juterbock.1@osu.edu (email), or (surface mail) at 5480 County Road 5 North, Rushsylvania, OH 43347.

An official count requires that there be counters out for at least eight hours, but individuals need not participate for the full time. A count takes place within a circle with a diameter of 15 miles. Assigned routes for mobile counters generally involve some combination of automotive and foot travel; individuals living within the circle may count birds visiting their back yard or feeder. Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather, and to bring such needed items as binoculars, bird guides, food and drinks, etc.

In order to finalize the census routes and be counting by 8:00 a.m. we will meet at 7:30 a.m. for both counts. Meet for the Indian Lake count at the McDonalds in Russells Point, and for the Grand Lake count at the McDonalds at the mall at the intersection of SR 29 and US 33 in St Marys.

Submitted by Eric Juterbock

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL... Contact Bill Akins, chapter membership database chair, at waskins@woh.rr.com. State name, mailing address, email address and your desire to receive "Flight Patterns" by email. You will receive a notice of website availability with a URL, click on it and it will take you to the PDF format newsletter on the chapter's website.



Serving Allen • Auglaize
Hancock • Hardin • Logan Mercer
Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in Ohio
P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648

Winter 2017 Newsletter

Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 16-19, 2018

Address Service Requested



President's Message...

Tri-Moraine's evening program meetings are scheduled September through November and January through May. Meetings are held in the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima, unless otherwise noted. Meetings and events are free and open to the public. In case of bad weather (Level 2 in Allen Co.), meeting cancellations will be posted on WLIO (NBC/Channel 35) and WOHL (FOX/Channel 25). Look on page 2 for descriptions of the programs.

You may recall seeing the name of Bill Askins, TMAS chapter membership database chair, printed in our newsletter. He is responsible for getting your mailing label, email address and other correspondence to you. Thank you Bill for all you do for TMAS. Special Congratulations are in order since Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District made Bill "Volunteer in the Spotlight" in their Fall Cider Press Newsletter. Bill was honored for his current role as volunteer Trail Monitor at Kendrick Woods. Each week he walks the entire trail system to report on conditions of the trail like downed limbs and wind damage. Kudos to Bill for all your work for JAMPD and TMAS!

Here are ways you can help collect data that will help birds for the long-term:

THE 118th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be held December 16th at Indian Lake and December 17th for Grand Lake St. Marys area. (For additional information you can contact Eric Juterbock at 216.905.8909 or online at juterbock.1@osu.edu and on page 3 of this newsletter.) This is a citizen-scientist activity that you can be part of regardless of your level of expertise. This is a great way for teens be involved in a practical application of data collection while they hone bird skills.

THE 21st GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC), February 16-19, 2018 is an annual event that counts birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It's free, fun, and easy. Each submission helps researchers 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. For more on the results of the 2017 GBBC, be sure to check out some of the images in the 2017 GBBC Photo Contest Gallery. See page 2 for more information for this year's GBBC. Until the next time we meet, good birding to you,

President Dianne Knipp