



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

WINTER 2020

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

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Volunteer Opportunities...

Fall Birdseed Sale Cancelled —Due to Covid-19, our fall birdseed sale is cancelled.

Christmas Bird Count—The Christmas Bird Count has also been cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. See page 3.

Other volunteer opportunities are listed on page 3; check them out!

TMAS Board Meeting - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. November 24 and January 26 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, all meetings have been virtual.

Finding Food in Winter, a Bird's Dilemma

By Jeannine C. Roediger

As I traverse the winter landscape my thoughts go to the challenge birds have of finding enough food in winter. As more and more habitat is lost, and fencerows disappear, our feathered friends must find it difficult to locate enough food to survive as winter winds blow across the landscape. But, somehow, they do find small seeds from weeds, grasses and garden plants, as well as trees and shrubs. Some are blown by winds and are found in those open fields, others stay on the parent plant to be consumed.

Along our fencerows many types of plants have gone to seed, as well as trees and shrubs such as the Washington Hawthorn, Bittersweet, Poison Ivy, Wild Rose, and other seed-bearing plants. All of these are eaten by some type of bird, especially during the winter months. Letting gardens and flowerbeds alone rather than cleaning them off for the winter also provides some foods for our birds as they garner seeds and perhaps a late insect or insect eggs. Leaving leaf litter provides habitat for caterpillar pupae and other beneficial insects and amphibians.

But, like many of you, I do supplement the birds chances of finding food by putting up several bird feeders around my home. Not only does it help the birds, but also gives me an uplifting view of many species of birds brightening the winter landscape with their colors and cheerful ways. They lighten up many a winter day.

I've wondered how they find those feeders. Studies seem to suggest that they are found by sight. And, that may be, but I give our common English Sparrow a thumbs up as they often lead other birds to a new feeder. Within one week of putting up a new feeder, I have takers enjoying a repast.

One trait I admire in our birds is that they, for the most part, do not utilize bird feeders until really bad weather comes about. At least that is what I have found. As long as they have natural food sources they will utilize them. If none or fewer are available, and weather is adverse, they will frequent the feeders more heavily. That exception is the English Sparrow which seems to enjoy the feeders all year long, even when other food is available. It's winter, keep those bird feeders filled each day. Birds rely on these food sources; if you stop providing foods, arriving bad weather may cause some birds to perish.



Female Grosbeak at feeder

Program Meetings...

Michael Wilkerson: Fish Management in Ohio-How it is done – Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Wilkerson will discuss what and how the Division of Wildlife manages fisheries in Ohio. Fishery management includes tracking fish and aiding people in catching those fish.

Michael is the fish management supervisor for Northwest Ohio with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. He has an M.S. degree in Fishery Ecology. He has been working with the Division of Wildlife for 23 years. Register at <https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwsf-ysrJliG9MK1QUNX-NnfKJwKhXIFt9J>



ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI – Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

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

You will be able to share your screen, or you can send your photos to Nancy in advance and she will share your photos while you narrate. 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).

Register at https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkd--oqT8oGNDXaOVUj_fzL9Qs6xoqpCOC Contact Nancy to make arrangements for presenting (nrisner@netscape.net or 419.516.2282).

Jim McCormac: Growing Caterpillars: A Tangled Tale of Birds and Conservation – Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

There are perhaps 2,600 species of moths and approximately 140 butterfly species in Ohio. The conspicuous and often showy winged adults are but the short-lived finale of a four-stage life cycle: egg, pupa, caterpillar, and adult. It's caterpillars that make much of the natural world go around. Countless billions become food for other organisms.

Without vegetation-eating caterpillars and the native plants that they require, most songbirds would go extinct, botanical diversity would plummet, and our forests would fall silent. This richly illustrated talk delves into the seemingly magical synergy between flora, caterpillars, and birds. Register at <https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pceqsrD4oGtTRBJZHcNtdatGYtGk2J5bC>



Virtual Program Meetings to Continue...

To limit COVID exposure, we will be hosting our meetings virtually via Zoom. We thank Ohio State University for continuing to host us with their Zoom account.

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 have trouble typing in the complicated (but necessary) website address, links will also be provided in the events section of our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TriMoraine>).

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.

Submitted by Jackie Augustine

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.

TMAS receives bequest...

In recognition of TMAS many environmental education activities, TMAS has been selected to receive \$20,000 from the estate of Judy Bancroft who was born in Toledo, Ohio. Judy was a nurse, and her career was devoted to the education of nurses. She also cared deeply about the natural world. Much of her time was spent caring for the “critters” in the natural environment of her beloved home in Virginia, Quail Song.

In support of this major focus on environmental education, the TMAS Board of Trustees intends to use this generous \$20,000 bequest and \$20,000 from the TMAS savings to fund new initiatives that will support the expansion of environmental education in the chapter's eight county area. While the details are being worked out on how best to support the TMAS vision and values, I wanted you to know that there will be many positive things occurring in the next few years. Submitted by Eric Broughton

Volunteers Needed

Want to do more for wildlife? Get involved! Tri-Moraine is growing and we need your help. Training will be provided. To volunteer or get more information, contact Jackie at augustine.63@osu.edu. Consider volunteering for the following positions:

Assistant Treasurer – Help our treasurer document income and spending, make reports, present reports at board meetings when the treasurer is not available; Time commitment varies by month, but is about one to five hours per month, a little more during initial training.

Publicity Coordinator – This volunteer receives information about presentations and events and sends that information to newspapers, TV stations, and other locations as needed. Time commitment is about one hour per month.

Social Media Coordinator – This volunteer will manage social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter) and perhaps develop new accounts. They will post events and special interest items, and respond to any direct communication. Time commitment is about one hour per month.

Thanks to Judy Jacomet and Nancy Risner who answered our request for help in our last newsletter. Judy will be Tri-Moraine's COAC representative and Nancy will be the program coordinator beginning in January.

Submitted by Jackie Augustine

Winter Bird Count Cancelled... For this new Covid world, Audubon has announced full support for not conducting a count this year, and, furthermore, lists considerable restrictions for any counts that are attempted

They point out that missing one year's data from a record of decades will not harm the science. I will add that their announcement came out the end of September and the situation is now much, much worse than it was then. Therefore, we have decided that Tri-Moraine will not be conducting CBCs this winter.
Eric Juterbock, CBC coordinator

Save the Date!

UPCOMING PROGRAM MEETINGS –

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7:30 p.m.: Chris Tonra: Whip-poor-wills

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 6:30 p.m.: Family Fun Night – Nature-related games for children aged 1 to 101.

Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:30 p.m.: Robin Bagley: Move over beetles! Why wasps are the champions of diversity.



More Opportunities...

Environmental Educators – Join this new group of volunteers interested in environmental education. The specific initiatives are in development, but could include doing after school activities, developing programming for scout groups, presenting programs to adults at nursing homes, garden clubs, or other community groups. Time commitment is as much or as little as you wish to contribute.

Environmental Warriors - Join this new group of volunteers interested in environmental conservation. By conservation, we mean anything that contributes to the health of ecosystems in our area. Conservation may include advocating for environmental issues, fund-raising for habitat conservation and restoration, or collaborating with outside groups to increase our conservation impact. Time commitment is as much or as little as you wish to contribute.

To join **Environmental Educators**, contact **Eric** (broughtonerich@yahoo.com). To join **Environmental Warriors**, contact **Jackie** (augustine.63@osu.edu or **567-712-4155**). Anyone in high school or older can join. We will schedule a time when the most people can attend. We anticipate meeting once a month. We hope to start meeting in January.

Submitted by Jackie Augustine





Serving Allen • Auglaize
Hancock • Hardin • Logan
Mercer • Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in
Ohio
P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648
Winter 2020 Newsletter

Presidents Message...

Greetings! While the pandemic and politics continue to dominate the news and affect our lives to varying degrees, I want to use this newsletter to focus on the many excellent things going on in the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS). First our new TMAS Strategic Plan was recently approved. I want to highlight just a few sections in that plan that will guide us now and in the years to come. The TMAS vision is “Be the leader in West-central Ohio in promoting conservation and environmental education.” 1) “TMAS is the voice of wildlife and wildlands in West-central Ohio; 2) TMAS works to educate people about natural resources, and inspire them to take action to protect wild places; and 3) TMAS believes conservation is not only good for wildlife, but that wild lands are good for human well-being”

Environmental Education is at the core of Tri-Moraine’s mission and vision. In 2019, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society was chosen as the recipient for the Organization Award by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. From the strategic plan - “However, we could do more to bring nature appreciation to all ages throughout our entire region. As part of the strategic plan, we will gather those leaders within Tri-Moraine that are organizing these environmental education efforts and invite more people to get involved. This group will brainstorm what additional environmental education opportunities are possible, identify resources and collaborators that could be utilized, and create a plan to accomplish their initiatives. We call this group ‘Tri-Moraine’s Environmental Educators.’ We believe that by forming a community of volunteers eager to contribute to environmental education, we will have a greater likelihood of success and make a bigger impact in our community than we would if we had just supported individual efforts.”

If you are passionate about environmental education and want to be a member (or would like more information) of the Environmental Educators group I mentioned earlier, please contact me at broughtonerich@yahoo.com. If you are planning your estate and like Judy Bancroft (see page 2) care deeply about the natural world and would like to support ongoing environmental efforts, please consider including a gift to TMAS. Finally, I hope that each of you has a healthy and happy holiday season!

Eric