

Flight Patterns

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

Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Jan./Feb. 2011

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

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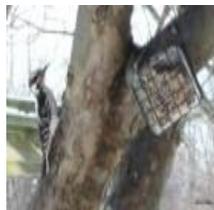
CALENDAR

TRI-MORAINES 2011 EVENING PROGRAM MEETINGS are scheduled the first Tuesday of the month, September through November and January through May. Meetings are held in the Welcome Center (formerly OSU Extension Office) at 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima. (Enter campus off Mumaugh Rd. for easiest access; first building on the 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, meeting cancelations will be posted on WLIO(NBC/channel35) and WOHL(FOX/channel 25).

January 4, 6:30 pm
Program Meeting
OSU Campus

ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK, Tuesday, January 4, 6:30pm. TMAS will provide fried chicken and beverages. Members and guests should bring a hot or cold dish, salad, rolls, side dish, or dessert and their own table service. Photo/PowerPoint presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their favorite nature photography accompanied by brief narration. A computer and screen will be furnished for your discs or memory sticks. Please let Eric Broughton, ebroughton@woh.rr.com, know if you will be providing pictures so he can organize our show. This meeting is always a highlight. Join fellow nature enthusiasts for a most enjoyable evening.

February 5
Birdseed sale



WINTER BIRDSEED SALE, Saturday, February 5, 9am-4pm pick-up at DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace, 775 Shawnee Road in Lima and 15276 US 224 E in Findlay. The winter 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 January 3 to those who made purchases any time in 2009 and 2010. If you would like an order form or have questions, contact Anne Smedley at 419-222-3271. Your completed order form must be mailed by Friday January 21 to ensure sufficient stock on sale day. All proceeds fund local conservation education programs and projects. Remember, prepaid orders only and pickup at either DeHaven location.

February 1, 7:30pm
Program Meeting
OSU Campus



LOONEY TUNES: MALE LOON YODEL COMMUNICATIONS, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7:30pm. Jay Mager, ONU Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biological and Allied Health Sciences, will discuss aspects of his research in North- Central Wisconsin focusing on the specifics of how male loons acquire territories and defend them. You can learn much about a male loon from his tune! Male loons communicate information about their fighting abilities and motivation to escalate a contest through an acoustic signal called a yodel. Geared to the nature enthusiast, do not miss the highlights of Dr. Mager's Wisconsin research.

February 18-21

14TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC), Friday through Monday, February 18-21. GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada for the amateur observer. Participation in the GBBC is free, educational, easy, and best of all, FUN! This online citizens-science census counts birds anywhere at any time during the scheduled weekend. Data is sent via the Internet. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Help scientists define the status of winter birds. Obtain more details and participate by visiting www.birdcount.org. This is a great activity for individuals, classrooms/groups, and families. Need a list of species native to your area that you might see? Regional lists can be found on the website. Need to learn about common backyard birds? A helpful bird guide can be found at www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/.



STILL HAVEN'T PURCHASED YOUR "OWLS"? Priced at \$15 (the ODNR price), the OWLS is still available at TMAS program meetings and events like the upcoming birdseed sale, (February 5), or by mailing a check (payable to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society) to PO Box 5648, Lima, OH 45802-5648.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL. Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at waskins@woh.rr.com. State name, mailing address, e-mail address, and your desire to receive Flight Patterns via e-mail. You will receive an e-mail 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.

MEMBERSHIP. If you are reading this newsletter and would like to become an Audubon member, you can check out the TMAS website for info about the two types of membership offered by the chapter. You can download a membership form or obtain a brochure by contacting Bill Askins at the above e-mail address, calling him at 419-339-9751, or mailing to Bill % the chapter's PO Box. This information is for new members only. No renewals.



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• Mercer • Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in Ohio
P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648

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Remember the Winter BIRDSEED SALE Feb 5!

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FALL BIRDSEED SALE RESULTS. Co-chair Anne Smedley reports that the November sale raised \$1,899.41 (including \$478.60 in donations). TMAS thanks those who purchased seed, DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace for providing both Findlay and Lima store locations for the sale and for 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 heavy bags, prepared mailing labels, mailed fliers, made and put up posters, and provided customer service: Dick Carpenter (Ada); Joanne & Bob Antibus (Bluffton); George Bilbrey (Delphos); Don & Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Bill Askins, Bob & Carol Bertrand, David Betts, Denny Bucholtz, John Daley, Jonathan Mohr, Tom Sciranka, Anne & Arianna Smedley (Lima); and Bill Angel (St. Marys).

AUDUBON ADVENTURES 2010 – 2011. Audubon Adventures (AA), a National Audubon Society program, publishes educational materials for students in grades 3-6. Full-color resources include a classroom manual for the teacher and unit newspapers for each student. This year's edition is titled "Wildlife on the Move," an exploration of migrating animals. It profiles the amazing journeys and life cycles of different birds, insects, and sea creatures. The Action for Planet Earth component focuses on improving habitat for migratory wildlife. AA integrates reading with science and other core disciplines and meets science and language arts standards. TMAS has supported the AA program since its inception in 1984 and is reaching out to 77 classrooms this year.

Thanks to the following for their contributions in support of this outstanding program: Benjamin Logan Local School District, Logan County; Celina City School District, Mercer County; and the Walter James "Jim" Wright Memorial Fund in support of Allen County classrooms. Participating school districts are listed by county --ALLEN: Bluffton EVSD (3 grade 3 classrooms); Elida LSD (4 grade 4 classrooms, all grade 5 students, 4 grade 6 classrooms); Lima CSD (Lima South MS - grade 5-8 science magnet students); St. Girard School, Lima (grade 3-6 students); St. Rose School, Lima (5-8 grade students); Perry LSD (3 grade 4 classrooms); Pilgrim Christian School, Lima (4-6 grade students); Shawnee LSD (3-4 grade students) -- AUGLAIZE: Wapakoneta CSD (3 grade 4 classrooms) -- LOGAN: Benjamin Logan LSD (grade 4 students) -- MERCER: Celina CSD (grade 4 students at Celina East ES, 2 grade 5 classrooms & all grade 6 students at Celina IS); Immaculate Conception School, Celina (grade 4 students). In addition, there are three Special Education teachers using AA in their upper grade classrooms, one in the Ada EVSD in HARDIN County and two in the St. Marys CSD in AUGLAIZE County.

YOUR ANNUAL APPEAL DONATION IN ACTION -- HABITAT RESTORATION AT CAMP MYEERAH

In the summer of 2009 Tri-Moraine, given the go-ahead by the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, initiated a long-range program to improve the quality of the wildlife habitat at Camp Myeerah (CM) in Logan County. An Important Bird Area (IBA), CM is one of six IBAs in the chapter's 8-county service area and the site of its annual Environmental Education Weekend. TMAS nominated CM for IBA status.

Invasive species including autumn olive, bush honeysuckles, and multiflora rose are rampant. Chapter members toured the property with conservation specialists and Girl Scout personnel to evaluate both the problems and the solutions. The scope of the problem was vast and the decision was made to investigate the availability of partnerships and grants. The result was a coalition of the Girl Scouts, Tri-Moraine, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Pheasants Forever of Logan County and a combined pot of cash and in-kind service. At the chapter's November program meeting, USFWS's Donnie Knight and NRCS's Mike Retterer gave a graphic presentation of progress to date. Approximately 80 acres have been cleared for the restoration of grasslands (oak savannah and prairie). In the spring the land will be prepared for seeding and various grasses and *forbs* (flowering plants other than grasses) will be planted. **And that's where your chapter's \$5,000 pledge gets put to work!**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brrrr! It's difficult to get very excited about the great outdoors here in this part of Ohio when the wind chill temperature is -2 and there is 4 inches of blowing snow covering everything. During these winter months, be aware that any TMAS activity or event scheduled on a day/time when a Level 2 Snow Advisory is in effect for Allen County will be automatically canceled. In any case, please use your own good judgment, when deciding to travel to a winter TMAS event (especially when traveling long distances or on unplowed roads).

On a positive note however, the holidays and the cold weather do bring family and friends together to share good food, laughs, and the latest news. The goal of the chapter's Potluck Dinner and Slide Safari is to do the same things for local Audubon members and guests. Speaking of friends, TMAS extends our most sincere thanks and congratulations to Rita Thelen, Senior Naturalist, of the Johnny Appleseed Park District on her retirement. Her enthusiasm in sharing knowledge has had a great impact on the thousands of school children and adults over the years.

Allow me to suggest a New Year's Resolution for all of us in 2011... let us all resolve to get out and enjoy nature more often in the New Year. Whether you just visit the local park some afternoon or attend an upcoming TMAS activity, there is a lot of wisdom in the saying "stop and smell the flowers". Until the flowers appear again, stay warm! Until next time, Eric