



TRI-MORaine

AUDUBON SOCIETY

# Flight Patterns

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

## Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Mar/Apr 2009

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

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Tri-Moraine's programs continue on the first Tuesday of the month in Fellowship Hall, lower level, Market Street Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Market Street, corner Cole and West Market Streets, Lima. You may use the courtyard entrance off the rear parking lot or the elevator entrance on the west side of the church where handicapped parking is available. Follow the Audubon signs. Meetings and events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Dates and times appear in calendar write-ups. In case of bad weather, meeting cancellations will be posted on WLIO (NBC/channel 35) and WOHL (FOX/channel 25). A good idea! Bring a donation of food for the West Ohio Food Bank to the March 3 potluck.

### CALENDAR

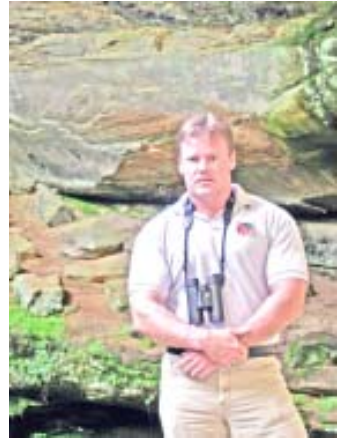
**Mar 3rd ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK**, Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 pm. Since we got snowed and iced out in January, we're giving this popular program another shot. Fellowship Hall will open at 6 pm. TMAS will provide fried chicken and beverages. Members and guests should bring a hot or cold dish, salad, rolls, side dish, or dessert and their own table service. And don't forget your food donation for the Food Bank! Slide/PowerPoint presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their recent favorite nature photography accompanied by brief narration. Time allotted depends upon number of presenters. Slide projector, carousel, digital projector, laptop, and screen will be furnished. Join your fellow nature enthusiasts for a most enjoyable evening!

**Mar 13th CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM**, Friday, March 13, 7:30 pm, Ohio Northern University's Freed Center, Elizabeth Kolbert, presenter. This program was detailed in the last newsletter calendar. You can check it out on our website or for full information go to [www.onu.edu/pbnevents](http://www.onu.edu/pbnevents).

**Mar 28th KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE AREA FIELD TRIP**, Saturday, March 28. Join us as we search KPWA's 8,600+ acres in Wyandot and Marion Counties for ducks, hawks, and owls. Wear warm clothes and bring a lunch, field guides, and binoculars. Field trippers will carpool departing at 10 am from the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309, Lima, or meet the group at the Killdeer Reservoir, corner SR 67 and County Highway 75 at 11 am. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Contact Anne at 419-222-3271 for more information.

**Apr 7th WILD OHIO: THE BEST OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE**, Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 pm. Based on Jim McCormac's new book of the same title with imagery by Gary Meszaros, this program is a photographic journey through the best remaining wild places in the Buckeye State. From southern haunts bordering the Ohio River to lakeshore habitats buffering Lake Erie, Ohio is filled with wild landscapes. We'll look at some of the

creatures and plants that make these sites so special and the global role Ohio plays in conservation. This is a spectacular program. Jim is the avian specialist for the ODNR's Division of Wildlife. After 30 years of observing birds, his Ohio list stands at 352. Many of you have purchased a copy of his book *Birds of Ohio* from the chapter's bookstore and enjoyed the wonderful program he presented in Celina on the history of the St. Marys River. We'll have copies of his book on which the program is based, his bird book, and another book to be released in the spring *Great Lakes Nature Guide*. He'll be happy to autograph books following the program for those who wish to purchase copies.



**Apr 18th FINDLAY RESERVOIR, RIVERBEND PARK, & SPRINGVILLE MARSH FIELD TRIP**, Saturday, April 18. We'll be on the lookout for shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds, and wildflowers. Dress for the weather and wear hiking shoes. Bring lunch, field guides, and binoculars. Trippers will carpool departing at 8:30 am from the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. Contact Anne at 419-222-3271 for more information.

**Apr 22nd EARTH DAY 2009**, Wednesday, April 22, 39th anniversary. No special chapter celebration is planned. Every day is Earth Day to Auduboners.

**Apr 19th thru 25th NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**, April 19-25. Tri-Moraine salutes all its volunteers for their support of chapter programs and projects. The Society couldn't exist without the voluntary help of its members and friends. Why not volunteer? You're needed, you'll be appreciated, you'll learn more about the chapter and make new friends, and you'll have a lot of fun. If you can help call Bob Bertrand, volunteer chair, at 419-227-9231.

**Apr 25th 15TH ANNUAL OTTAWA RIVER CLEANUP**, Saturday, April 25, 9 am-noon. Start at the Allen County Red Cross Chapter House, corner North Shore Drive and Collett Street, Lima, to register, pick up trash bags, etc. Dress for the weather (old clothes/comfortable footwear). Gloves are mandatory (provided if needed). NOTE: Youth under 18 MUST have parental permission AND be accompanied by an adult. You can register representing any group and it would be great to have some members represent Tri-Moraine. Watch area media for more info.

**NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY EMAIL.** Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at [waskins@woh.rr.com](mailto: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.

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AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Address Service Requested**


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***EEW Registration Form Enclosed.***

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May 6<sup>th</sup> **ST. MARYS RIVER - GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS IBA DEDICATION**, Wednesday, May 6, 2 pm. All details not finalized. Mark this date on your calendar. Full information will be in the May/June newsletter.

**HANCOCK COUNTY NATURALISTS PROGRAMS & EVENTS.** All are welcome. For information about the organization and details about upcoming programs and events contact Betsy Worden, newsletter editor, at [bworden001@woh.rr.com](mailto:bworden001@woh.rr.com) or Jill Taber, program chair, at 419-423-2415 or [mysilvervette@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mysilvervette@sbcglobal.net).

**UPPER MAUMEE VALLEY NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAMS & EVENTS.** All are welcome. For info about the club and upcoming programs and projects contact Lyn Warren, president, at 419-749-2999 or [wlwval@verizon.net](mailto:wlwval@verizon.net) or Jean Perchalski, publicity chair, at 419-232-4108, 419-231-0495 (cell), or [jeperch@roadrunner.com](mailto:jeperch@roadrunner.com).

### 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Education Weekend May 1-3, 2009

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 30<sup>th</sup> annual Environmental Education weekend at Camp Myeerah, SR 540 near Bellefontaine on May 1st through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This weekend provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a truly unique environmental setting. Camp Myeerah is comprised of over 500 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. Camp Myeerah is one of 66 sites in Ohio which has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). [www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html)

The education programs offered will include opportunities to learn about and participate in field trips on birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants and other nature related programs. Timed to coincide with the spring migration of neotropical migrant warblers and the spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide a truly unique family oriented educational opportunity!

The weekend begins with registration starting at 5:00 PM on Friday, May 1st and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. All meals are provided for Saturday and Sunday. Camping options include Treehouses which sleep 6 people and have sleeping pads on the floor, Platform tents which have sleeping pads for 4, and Covered wagons which have sleeping pads for 5. You may also bring your own tent to pitch near a small pond. Dormitory accommodations are available if you prefer an option in a heated building with full restroom facilities.

Due to insurance considerations, this opportunity is **available for National Audubon members (or TMAS local Supporting members) and their immediate families only**. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form found in this newsletter or contact Bill Askins at [waskins@woh.rr.com](mailto:waskins@woh.rr.com) or 419-339-9751. For further information concerning the weekend, visit Tri-Moraine Audubon's website at [www.tri-moraineaudubon.org](http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org) or contact either Don Rosenbeck at [dmrosenbeck@gmail.com](mailto:dmrosenbeck@gmail.com) or Eric Broughton at [ebroughton@woh.rr.com](mailto:ebroughton@woh.rr.com). Information is also available by writing Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, PO Box 5648, Lima, OH 45802-5648.



Once a year Tri-Moraine, an incorporated, all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, asks for your financial support to help the chapter maintain and expand its local educational, environmental, conservation, and stewardship programs and projects. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year our anonymous donor was willing to match the total of member/friend contributions up to \$1,000. Once again we met the challenge. To date donations total \$1630. Add the \$1,000 matching donation for a total of \$2,630, just \$90 less than last year. In these difficult economic times the Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of former and new donors for their Annual Appeal contributions: Anonymous (7) - no name is listed without the consent of the donor, Bruce & Marcia Arnold, Roy & Esther Baldrige, Carol & Bob Bertrand, Maria Borba, Warren Brim, Robbin Clark, James B.

Dennis, Judge & Mrs. Glenn H. Derryberry, Ken & Sondra Dreitzler, Elizabeth Hardesty, Jim & Jan Heinrich, Harold Jennings, Tim & Sandra Kennedy, Clara D. Leigh, Bill & Jackie Light, Rebecca Manship, Peter M. Noyes, Lois Risser, Joan Schoeniger, Janis Schwager, Anne M. Smedley, Jim & Karen Spurgat, Gary Steinbrunner, Amanda Wischmeyer & Jon Tuttle, Jack A. Woodward, Carol Wright. We also thank the members and friends who make in-kind and financial donations at other times throughout the year.

### SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS

Volunteers are needed April through June to pull garlic mustard at Kendrick Woods. If you would like to volunteer or would like additional information contact Mark Mohr, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District naturalist, at 419-223-1025. Leave name, phone number, and if available morning, afternoon, or evening hours. You will be contacted on the preceding Fridays with the schedule for the upcoming week. Some TMAS volunteers have been pulling away for years. Why not join us? Great progress has been made but more hands are needed. You can set your own pace, your work will be appreciated, you get to know some really great people, and being outdoors has its own rewards.

### WATCH THOSE RENEWAL NOTICES FROM THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

When you receive your renewal notice from the National Audubon Society note that it does not include your membership expiration date. You can easily find your expiration date by looking in the upper righthand corner of the mailing label on your chapter newsletter (e.g., 06/09 M). This means that your National/Chapter membership expires June 30, 2009. If you want to pay your membership way ahead, that's your call, but the chapter is receiving membership dates extending out to 2015. If you have any membership concerns regarding your expiration date, the spelling of your name, etc. contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair at 419-339-9751 or [waskins@woh.rr.com](mailto:waskins@woh.rr.com). He's also the one you contact about an address change or new email provider.

**PRESIDENT'S CHAPTER NOTES.....**The official time for electing new officers and board members is the annual meeting in May preceding the monthly program meeting. Nominations are open for vice-president (2-year term), treasurer (2-year term), and member at large (3-year term). Submit nominations to Eric Broughton at 419-999-1987 or [ebroughton@woh.rr.com](mailto:ebroughton@woh.rr.com). You may also contact Eric via the chapter's mailing address. Nominations must be received no later than Friday, April 3. Prior consent of nominees is required. The slate will be presented at the April program meeting,.....TMAS board meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 7 pm, Market Street Presbyterian Church, Lima.....Don't forget to put a reminder on your calendar about the Ottawa River Coalition's annual Good Friday (April 10) fish fry held at the Allen County Fairgrounds. Watch area media or call 419-227-9231 for more details closer to date of event. Tri-Moraine is a member of the ORC.

## 2008 Christmas Bird Count Results

Twelve TMAS birders met at McDonalds in Russell's Point at 0730 hrs on Saturday, 20 December 2008, for the Indian Lake CBC. Four working groups included: Ralph and Troy Shively (Bellefontaine); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Bill and Jackie Light (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill and Sally Angel (St. Marys); and, Brianna Braun, Dianne Knipp and M. L. (Doc) Stephenson (Wapakoneta). Winds were from the east at 9-14 mph, with temperatures 22-27 F. There was very little open water (ice covered most of the lake and much of small streams), 0-3 inches of snow on the ground, and it was mostly cloudy all day. We covered 277.4 miles in 20.5 group hours by car, and 8 miles in 11.5 group hours on foot, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

We recorded the following Indian Lake (IL) birds (new species or record high numbers over the last 18 years are bolded): Canada Goose, 1594; Mute Swan, 1; Wood Duck, 2; Amer. Black Duck, 3; Mallard, 175; mallard hybrid, 11; **Bufflehead, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 2;** duck, sp(p)., 401; Wild Turkey, 1; Great Blue Heron, 3; Bald Eagle, **4;** No. Harrier, 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 26; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Amer. Kestrel, 16; Ring-billed Gull, 495; Herring Gull, 5; Rock Pigeon, 144; Mourning Dove, 420; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 21; Downy Woodpecker, 28; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 9; Blue Jay, 26; Amer. Crow, **215;** Horned Lark, 327; Carolina Chickadee, 21; chickadee, sp(p). 8; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 18; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; E. Bluebird, 10; Amer. Robin, 13; No. Mockingbird, 1; Euro. Starling, 1322; Cedar Waxwing, 32; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 125; **Fox Sparrow, 8;** Song Sparrow, 15; Swamp Sparrow, **2;** White-throated Sparrow, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; sparrow, sp(p)., 3; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 175; No. Cardinal, 78; Lapland Longspur, **630;** Brown-headed Cowbird, 27; House Finch, 19; Pine Siskin, 2; Amer. Goldfinch, 53; and, House Sparrow, 885. This is a total of 53 species, and 7424 individuals. E. Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl and Snow Bunting were seen during count week, but not on count day.

A House Sparrow was already chirping at 0723 hrs (with just a couple of light patches in the sky) as the TMAS crew arrived at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC on Saturday, 27 December 2008. Perhaps this was a response to the unseasonably warm temperatures brought in by the southerly winds. There were 8 counters, in 4-5 groups: Troy Shively (Bellefontaine); Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill Angel, Jill Bowers, and Frank Kuhlman (St. Marys); and, Dianne Knipp and M. L. (Doc) Stephenson (Wapakoneta). We spent 20.5 group hours in cars covering 301.8 miles, and 12 group hours on foot over 12 miles, between 0745 and 1715 hrs. The temperature ranged from 59-66 F with 16-25 mph winds, generally from the southwest. Water was mostly frozen, skies were cloudy all day, and there was still from 0 to 3 inches of snow on the ground.

We recorded the following Grand Lake (GL) birds (conventions as above): Snow Goose, 6; Canada Goose, **2808;** **Cackling Goose, 14;** Mute Swan, 2; **Tundra Swan, 6;** Amer. Wigeon, 1; Amer. Black Duck, 15; Mallard, 854; No. Shoveler, 3; No. Pintail, **62;** **Canvasback, 2;** Ring-necked Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup, 1; Common Merganser, **14;** Red-breasted Merganser, 5; merganser, sp(p)., 10; duck, sp(p)., 80; **Wild Turkey, 6;** Great Blue Heron, 5; Bald Eagle, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 4; *Accipiter*, sp., 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 12; *Buteo* sp., 1; Amer. Kestrel, 14; Ring-billed Gull, 169; Rock Pigeon, 32; **Eurasian Collared-dove, 13;** Mourning Dove, 40; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 22; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 1; **Pileated Woodpecker, 1;** woodpecker, sp(p)., 1; Blue Jay, 36; Amer. Crow, 5; Horned Lark, 112; Carolina Chickadee, 24; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 11; Amer. Robin, 21; Euro. Starling, 1390; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 135; Song Sparrow, 25; Swamp Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; sparrow, sp(p)., 1; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 118; Lapland Longspur, 1; No. Cardinal, 47; Common Grackle, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; House Finch, 38; Amer. Goldfinch, 98; and, House Sparrow, 519. This is 55 species and 6825 individuals.

There were several record high counts for specific species, as well as new species recorded, based upon the records I have for the last 20 years. In most cases these are likely due to the relatively short time span for which my records extend. Only the Cackling Geese and Eurasian Collared-doves were new for the combination of the two counts; the geese are a recently recognized species (formerly a race of Canada Goose) and the doves are introduced and spreading in the U.S. – apparently breeding in Celina. The high number records were mostly only a little larger than the previous best count. Two exceptions are worth note. Lapland Longspurs wander around in winter in flocks, usually with Horned Larks; the number was much greater than any we have recently tallied, but most were in two huge flocks. I saw those, and I haven't seen a single longspur since, even though lark and snow bunting flock are around with every snowstorm. Crow numbers have typically been much lower at GL than IL for the last 20 years, even before West Nile. For 3 of the past 4 years, IL counts have been over 100; I suspect the landfill north of Bellefontaine may be a factor, as I regularly see large crow flocks around the landfill, or feeding in fields in the broader area. Swamp Sparrows were not typically counted until four years ago on either count, but have seen on 3 of 4 and 2 of 3 recently. Yellow-rumped Warblers show a similar pattern. Perhaps this is due to a warmer climate?

Thanks to all of the volunteers – keep your binoculars handy!

- Eric Juterbock