



Flight Patterns

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SUMMER 2022

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

TMAS Board Meeting - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held in person at 7 p.m. May 31 and July 26 in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus and on Zoom.

Loss of Habitat...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

We hear of habitat loss all the time; it's one of the reasons we have lost bird populations over the years. We know that urban development, road building, expansion of, or new industrial facilities, businesses and stores fuel that loss. Fragmentation of habitat, and the reduction of available resources happens due to these changes. Wind turbines and solar panels are also taking a toll on loss of habitat.

As a home owner, I have come to realize that what I do with my lawn and garden, even how I live, can also effect bird populations. Taking down a shrub or tree that provides food and shelter for birds and other animals makes a difference, maybe a small difference, but they all add up. I think twice about such changes anymore. If it becomes necessary to take down a tree or shrub, I replace it somewhere as soon as possible.

Even the simple act of mowing where flowers bloom and plants, you may call weeds, grow is a loss of habitat for bees and birds. Those unmown places are good places to find insects, flowers for bees to visit and seed for our birds. We may like to see those blemish-free lawns, but they are not good habitat. Perhaps we each need to have a unmown area to let wildflowers bloom and plants go to seed. Then rabbits can find cover, butterflies can find nectar and some bird species can find nesting areas, as well as food. Providing habitat in your yard makes sense, providing food, water and cover so wildlife can raise their young so they can survive is necessary.

We need to protect our Important Bird Areas, making sure that developments and energy projects are not nearby. We need to pay attention to what and where projects are being considered that would cause habitat loss and be willing to speak against them, if necessary. We need to insure that if a project is being considered that they also make sure that it does not cause more fragmentation, loss of habitat or wildlife species.



To lessen impacts on wildlife, *Unmown area featuring dogwoods, ash and Virginia waterleaf.* perhaps its time to cut back and start conserving instead of using more and more energy and natural resources to provide the things we think we need. Even the ordinary use of manufactured items we think we cannot live without adds to habitat loss and degradation of our environment. (Continued on page 3)

President

Eric Broughton
419.999.1987

Vice President

Jackie Augustine
Augustine.63@osu.edu

Treasurer

Susan Heaphy
419.302.88862

Secretary

Marie Walton
937.694.9441

Members At Large Birdseed Sales Co-Chair

Anne Smedley
419.222.3271

Field Trip/Database

Daniel Hodges
567.204.7974

Nancy Risner
419.516.2282

Danielle Hodges

419.233.0820
Judy Jacomet

419.236.1744

Chair Persons

Hospitality

Evelyn Prater
567.204.7689

Media-

Jamie Cunningham
419.979.8650

Conservation

Dr. Eric Juterbock
216.905.8909

Program

Dr. Jackie Augustine
567.712.4155

Publicity- Vacant

Myeerah Mgmt. Group

Donald Rosenbeck
937.596.5330

Newsletter

Jeannine Roediger
567.259.9906

Ottawa River Coal. Rep.

Dr. Leslie Riley

Membership

David Gratz

Webmaster

Michael Wildermuth
419.999.6461

Volunteer

Vacancy

Audubon Adventures

Jennifer Waltz
419.303.4741



Finding insects at EEW Weekend from previous years.

EEW Weekend...

This was the 43rd year for Tri-Moraine Audubon's Environmental Education Weekend (EEW), which was held on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Forty-five people attended the day which was open to the general public. The bird count duration consisted of one day only this year, so that needs to be factored into the counts.

The weather was pleasant with a high of 61 degrees in the afternoon and a low of 52 degrees in the morning. Wind speeds were 8 to 15 mph. There was some precipitation which was heavy at times. Birding was decent with a group total for of 62 species. The group also identified 27 species of wildflowers.

EEW is a great family event and is open to all Audubon members. We hope to see you there next year! Let us know your thoughts on planning for the event in 2023. Should it continue to be strictly a one-day event? Would you prefer an overnight event over a Saturday and Sunday? Or would you like to see us go back to the traditional Friday, Saturday and Sunday event? Thanks for sharing your thoughts! *Submitted by Don Rosenbeck*

Magee Marsh and Lake Erie IBA's — Ten bright eyed (some bushy tailed) birders gathered in the wee hours of Monday, May 16, to venture to northern Ohio to seek beautiful birds along the shores of Lake Erie. They were not disappointed!

The boardwalk at Magee Marsh yielded incredible looks at such birds as Northern Parula, Wilson's, Prothonotary and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Philadelphia Vireos and Green Herons, just to name a few.

We visited Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge after lunch and saw such birds as Sandhill Crane, Dunlin and Semi-palmated Plovers. We continued on to Howard Marsh to view such rarities as Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Gallinule and Black-necked Stilt. We made a last ditch effort trips to Metzger Marsh (Common Tern) and Maumee Bay (nadda) to see what we could find. All in all, we ended the day with a list of 91 species (that includes one road-kill Wild Turkey, but a bird is a bird, right?). We will try again for 100 species next year! *Submitted by Dan Hodges*

JAMPD's 50th Anniversary Celebration!

Join the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District for their 50th anniversary celebration! Saturday, June 25th, at Ottawa Metro Park.

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fishing Derby for kids 15 and under

12:00-6:00 p.m.

Bounce house, zipline, obstacle course, axe throwing, kids under 12 swim free, family comedian entertainment (2 p.m.), food trucks, Nature Area! (see below)

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Live entertainment from Nashville Crush

Visit the Nature Area during the Park District's 50th Anniversary Celebration on June 25 to experience the following and more!!! This area is sponsored in large part by the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society.

Native Plant Sale – pick up some hardy and beautiful grasses, flowers, and woody plants to plant in your garden! We will be giving away plants, so everyone will go home with a beneficial and beautiful native plant!

Live Raptors – Back-To-The-Wild will display a number of Ohio's large raptors, including owls, hawks and even a Bald Eagle!

Butterfly Enclosure – All-A-Flutter Butterfly Enclosure Exhibition offers a unique opportunity to experience first-hand and up-close the wonders of Ohio butterflies!

Animal Ambassadors – Enjoy a display of our own park animals, including reptiles, amphibians and fish!

Nature Projects at the Park – Learn and engage with various nature projects and programs including wildlife monitoring and prescribed burns, as well as some park partners!

Submitted by Dan Hodges

Habitat loss continued...

In a recent Audubon article, (Spring 22) William Montevecchi, a biologist at Memorial University in Newfoundland, put it profoundly when he said, “We don’t have an energy-shortage problem; we have an energy-use problem,” he says.

He continued, “In 2019 the United States, which comprises four percent of the world’s population, accounted for 17 percent of its energy consumption. The reality is that we haven’t mustered the collective will to cut back enough to help wildlife, or ourselves.

“If we’d start conserving instead of consuming, this entire equation would change dramatically and we could start taking real responsibility for the animals we harm,” Montevecchi says.

Is it time to ask ourselves if we need to consume unnecessary goods that add to the escalating problem of ever increasing energy usage and environmental impacts? Although we may “recycle and reuse,” perhaps the “reduce” should be emphasized more and more.

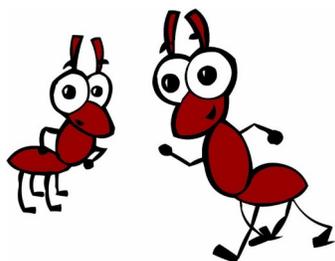
It’s one point that is not often spoken but makes a lot of sense.

Summer Picnic...

The Tri Moraine Audubon Society’s Summer Picnic is scheduled for July 5 at 6 p.m. at Deep Cut Historical Park, 22900 State Route 66. We choose that park because of the newly built Roebuck Shelter, a temperature controlled shelter house along the Miami-Erie Canal!

Tri Moraine will provide fried chicken while members and guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverages.

Come and enjoy the fellowship!



Avian Flu worries...

Excerpt of article and picture from Spring 2022 Audubon magazine

<https://www.audubon.org/news/north-american-birds-face-their-own-pandemic-latest-bout-avian-flu>

“An outbreak of avian flu that has been spreading across the United States and Canada over the past six months only seems to be getting worse. First appearing in Canada last fall, the flu has ravaged industrial flocks and has now been detected in a wide variety of North American wild birds, raising alarms among ecologists...

Historically, avian influenza has posed little risk to common songbirds, but recent infections in Canada and the United States of corvids such as Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens concern researchers about the possibility of an even larger outbreak. And a confirmed case of an infected Black-billed Magpie in Wyoming has Audubon Rockies Community Science Coordinator Zach Hutchinson worried about the possible spread of avian flu through bird feeders. “In the West, Magpies are a common feeder bird for many folks,” says Hutchinson. He points out that corvids, like raptors, are scavengers that could possibly pick up the virus from infected carcasses.

At this point, guidance on whether the public should take down bird feeders has been mixed. While some groups such as The University of Minnesota’s Raptor Center and Cornell Cooperative Extension are advising people to do so, others say cleaning bird feeders, gear, and baths regularly should suffice. The National Audubon Society currently recommends its members to follow the guidelines provided by local and state agencies. As spring migration ramps up, Hutchinson also urges birders visiting parks with waterfowl to disinfect their shoes afterward, which can help prevent transmitting the virus to unaffected areas.”





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SUMMER 2022 Newsletter

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President's Message...

Greetings,

I've attended a few recent Tri-Moraine Audubon activities and it's good to see people come out and join us again. EEW Chair Don Rosenbeck, with Mary's support and assistance, put together a fantastic one-day Environmental Education Weekend. Most everyone wanted us to return to the weekend format again.

Our program chair, Nancy Risner, has done a wonderful job arranging and setting up the monthly program meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Hopefully, more of you will be able to join us when we start again in September.

As we were short of any definition of quorum, a brief annual election will take place at this September meeting.

Our field trip chair, Dan Hodges helped 10 of us identify 91 different bird species during our annual Big Birding Day to the Lake Erie hotspots. I never would have guessed that the pile of feathers on the side of the road was an unfortunate wild turkey. (See Page 2)

Next on our calendar is the Summer Picnic which is described elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you will be able to join us. One more special event planned by our frequent partner, the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, is their 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held June 25. (More information on page 2) In closing, I hope you all have a great summer and find time to get outside and enjoy the great natural world.

Eric