



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

SUMMER 2024

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

TMAS Board Meeting - The TMAS Board meetings are held in person in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus. The next board meeting is scheduled for July 30 at 6:30 p.m. Look for any schedule changes on Facebook or our website at <https://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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Summertime...

By Nancy Risner

"If there are a hundred people in a room and only one mosquito, that bug will find me," I complained to Grandpa years ago. Scratching one itchy bump raw, I grumbled, "I don't know why they exist!"

Grandpa's eyes twinkled at the opportunity. "If you were a Little Brown Bat instead of a little girl, you would love to eat mosquitoes for dinner." I wrinkled my nose. "And although the Eastern Red-Spotted Newt gets some negative attention for its toxic skin, it does eat mosquito eggs and larvae." Grandpa turned and gestured towards the refrigerator, "Some dragonfly species help by eating mosquito larvae before they become adults." I pondered quietly as I eyed a picture being held by a bluebird magnet. It was a grandchild's fingerpainting of a dragonfly.

"And we can't forget the birds," Grandpa continued. "Nighthawks have long tails to help them maneuver while flying to catch mosquitoes right out of the air. And of course there is the special bird house in the back yard. It is for Purple Martins, long known for their use of mosquitoes as lunch. It's all part of a big plan for who eats what. You don't eat mosquitoes, but somebody does."

Grandpa was not a college graduate. He had not even attended college. He grew up on a farm where they had to invent ways of fixing things that broke or do without the items. Learning on the farm about metals and what can be done with them, he later worked as a machinist's mate. A large piece of equipment in a factory would break, and Grandpa would create a part to get the machine working again. He always seemed so smart. He would learn facts that never left his brain. We would go outside in the evening and watch bats catching mosquitoes mid-air. Birds reported to eat mosquitoes include the Eastern Bluebirds, Red-Eyed Vireos, Tree Swallows, Yellow Warblers, Downy Woodpeckers, House Wrens, Baltimore Orioles, and even Hummingbirds. There are probably more. Like Grandpa said, it's all part of a big plan of who-eats-what. Next time you get mosquito bites, think about the birds that are helping reduce mosquito populations. Can you find any of them in your part of the world?



Above: Tree Swallow. Below: Hummingbird. Photos courtesy of Dan Hodges.

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

This bright golden warbler species has migratory paths that bring some of their members to Ohio in early spring. Its breeding habitat is primarily wooded swamps occupied by black willow, buttonbush, sweetgum, red maple, hackberry, and other hardwood species. This warbler nests close to still or slowly-moving water, lining holes in trees with plant fibers and moss. Its thin bill is useful for pulling insects and spiders from their hiding spots.



Prothonotary Warbler photo courtesy of Dan Hodges

TMAS SUMMER PICNIC

Tues., July 2 – 6:00 p.m.

**Heritage Park/Lion's Den
(1772 Reed Rd)**

When we couldn't have Family Fun Night in the spring, we decided to save many of our family-friendly activities for this program. Tri-Moraine will provide fried chicken; members and guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverages. The picnic offers a wonderful opportunity to get to know Tri-Moraine members and to invite friends to join the fun. The park playground is available, there is room to play in the yard (bring a frisbee, corn hole, or bocce ball!), and the flush restroom facility will be open.

Submitted by Dan Hodges

PROGRAMS AT THE PARK

A strong supporter of Tri-Moraine, the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District offers several programs in Allen County throughout the summer that fit the mission of our organization.

One series that may be of particular interest to Tri-Moraine members is the Park's breeding bird survey, "Birding in the Parks" which will be held at 8 am on 6/11 at Kendrick Woods, 6/26 @ Haver Ridge, and 7/9 @ Lippincott Bird Sanctuary.

Other highlights include Day camps, for 5-6 year olds, 7-9 year olds, 10-14 year olds, and Teenagers, covering a variety of topics including nature, kayaking, archery, and more! Hiking and kayaking programs, nature playgroups and many others!

Visit jampd.com and follow the Park on Facebook or Instagram to learn more!

Submitted by Dan Hodges

Birding results...

Tri-Moraine @ Magee Marsh

On Monday, May 13th, 15 intrepid birders ventured to northern Ohio from Tri-Moraine to get our taste of spring migration! We started at Magee Marsh Boardwalk and got great looks at a variety of species including Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Philadelphia Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, Bald Eagle, Wilsons Warbler, Green Heron, among many others. We even had a poor look at a Golden-winged Warbler - a highlight for some, a frustration for others. After lunch we toured Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, where we added a number of birds to our list, including Sedge Wren, Sora, Trumpeter Swan (with cygnets!), Semipalmated Plovers (so cute!), American White Pelicans, and more. We bade farewell to many of our birding group after that tour. We finished at Howard Marsh Metropark, where we missed out on the Yellow-headed Blackbird, but got great looks at a Black-necked Stilt and added Common Gallinule, Horned Lark, and a few more to the list. With a little help from a Ruby-throated Hummingbird flyover on the drive home, we managed 89 bird species on the list this year. See below for the complete list. Please join us next year and help us get to 100 birds!

Submitted by Dan Hodges

Environmental Education Weekend (day)

The 45th year for Tri-Moraine Audubon's Environmental Education Weekend (EEW), was held on Saturday, May 4th, 2024. Sixteen people attended the day which was open to the general public. This was the first year in which the format was modified somewhat to allow for more personal time to explore the nature preserve on your own. Guided sessions continued to be an option. All in attendance opted for the guided sessions.

Temperatures were moderate and we experienced periods of rain or mist throughout the day but did have some sunshine as well. The high temperature was 75 degrees in the afternoon after a low of 66 degrees in the morning. Wind speeds were about 6 mph. It was a good year for the number of bird species logged reaching 83 species for the group. Note that this includes audio as well as visual sightings. The group also identified 24 species of wildflowers.

Held annually at the Myeerah Nature Preserve a few miles outside of Bellefontaine Ohio, EEW is a great family event and with the new one-day format is open to all Audubon members and non-members as well. We hope to see you there next year!

Article and photo submitted by Don Rosenbeck.

Join us...

TRI-MORAINES AT THE ALLEN COUNTY FAIR

Don't forget to stop by the Conservation Tent in the SW corner of the Fairgrounds (by the pond) during the Allen County Fair to visit the Tri-Moraine booth and other local partners including Allen County Soil & Water, the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District, the Ottawa River Coalition, and more!

FALL PROGRAMS

Join us on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 for a program featuring Jeremy Dominguez, resident ornithologist at the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium. Come see what the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium is doing for bird conservation. Join us at 6:30 pm in the Visitor and Student Services Center, OSU Lima campus.



Enjoying nature on EEW day.



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SUMMER 2024 Newsletter

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President's Message

Cheers to another good year of bird programming - monthly meetings, field trips, EEW, a native plant sale, and more! We haven't met our attendance goals, but we're seeing improvement in a number of areas, and that's encouraging. Hopefully you can join us for our summer picnic, an opportunity to come together, bring some friends, relax, and enjoy each other. We had to cancel our Family Fun Night in April, so we have some fun activities planned for the picnic! This year the picnic is Tuesday, July 2nd. Dinner is at 6:30, but activities start at 6! I hope you can make it! And then, before you know it, we will be ready to start another great season of connecting people and birds!

The good things that we're doing and trying to do - the field trips, meetings, grant opportunities, conservation initiatives, fundraisers, this newsletter - these are the result of the hard work of a few dedicated people. I'm grateful to be part of a team that wants to do good things in this area, for people and for birds. The Tri-Moraine leaders on the board (which could be you, there are several openings!) are committed to our mission and will be evaluating our goals and objectives as we spend some time this summer updating our strategic plan and hammering out where we are and where we're going as an organization.

Your input is valuable. Talk with your board members and don't be afraid to offer constructive criticism. You are welcome to attend board meetings to offer input (the next one is the last Tuesday of July), or join the board and help us lead the organization forward!

Happy Birding!

Dan