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Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

FALL 2018

Volunteer Opportunities...

Fall Birdseed Sale—The fall birdseed sale will be held November 2 and 3rd at Layman Feed and Lawn on State Route 309. Order forms will be mailed in late September. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. See page 2 for details.

Christmas Bird Count—The Christmas Bird Count for Grand Lake St. Marys will be held December 15 and at Indian Lake the next day, December 16. Watch the winter newsletter for more information.

TMAS Board Meeting - All TMAS Board Meetings are held in the Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima they begin at 7 p.m. Board Meetings are scheduled for September 25 and November 27. You are welcome to attend.

New Program Meetings-Field Trips— Look on page 2 for upcoming program meetings and on page 3 for Field Trips for the months ahead! Look for information on the COAC workshop on page 3.

UNCOMMONLY COMMON but CERTAINLY NEEDED...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Sometimes we overlook more common birds for the more colorful or the more musically gifted. One often overlooked and maligned is the turkey vulture. They aren't beautiful, nor does their song fill the air in the spring, in fact they have very little voice, just a hiss or a croak. Their service, however is invaluable.

You may have heard of the swallows of Capistrano, but have you heard of the buzzards of Hinckley, Ohio? Buzzards, or turkey vultures, come back to Hinckley from wintering grounds further south. They arrive in Hinckley each year on March 15 as if they have an inner clock. The story goes that in 1818 a hunt for predators and other wildlife, started by a Massachusetts judge named Hinckley, killed hundreds of animals, keeping those needed for food and leaving the remaining carcasses over winter. That presented a feast for the vultures that came back in the spring. Now they come back every year to feast on the road kills of winter or the dead from disease or age. Some older writings seem to imply that they returned to Hinckley even before the 1818 hunt, but whatever the cause they arrive each spring and give Hinckley



a reason for a spring festival.

Soaring on thermals they are graceful and beautiful flyers, with up to six-foot wing spans. It's a common sight in spring and summer to see turkey vultures congregated on a road kill on country roads. They are truly made for their job with featherless heads that can be cleaned by rain and sun. Their sense of smell is very keen and they can zero in on a carcass miles away, gliding in ever lowering circles until they find their meal, cleaning up carrion that often carries disease.

India's vulture populations plummeted due to an anti-inflammatory drug which was used to treat animals. The vultures would consume the treated carcasses which was very lethal. The loss of the vulture population resulted in contaminated drinking water, an increase in wild dogs and rats which can carry pathogens to others, whereas the vultures metabolism is a dead end to those pathogens. They are now trying to rebuild their vulture populations. A truly needed species!!

Year of the Bird....

Tri-Moraine Audubon is celebrating the 'Year of the Bird' with National Audubon, National Geographic, Birdlife International and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. We are celebrating their presence with particular zeal in 2018 because this year marks the 100 anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This pivotal piece of legislation has saved countless birds' lives, but the threats to birds and the act itself continues. Our speaker series for this year focuses on birds – their beauty, their threats, and what we can do to protect them. You will not want to miss them! All meetings are at the OSU-Lima Student Services Center (4240 Campus Dr., Lima, OH) and start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Program Meetings...

Mark Shieldcastle:

Wind Energy and Birds – Can They Coexist? –

Tuesday, September 4, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Air space is an under-protected habitat of great importance to birds. This presentation will discuss the interactions of birds and wind power and the hidden inconvenient truths.

Mark Shieldcastle has 40 years experience in the capture and banding of birds, and has been responsible for over 900,000 banded birds. In 2009, he retired from the Ohio Division of Wildlife where he spent thirty-two years as a wildlife biologist. Mr. Shieldcastle is currently employed as director of research for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory where he leads research on passerines, raptors, shorebirds, rails, and bird/wind power issues.



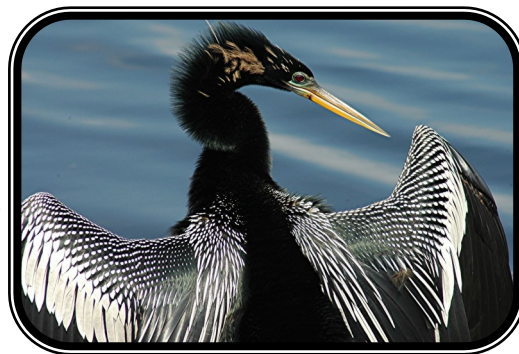
Tami Lunan: Plants for Birds – Tuesday, October 2, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Tami Lunan is the Ohio field organizer for the National Audubon Society. Based in Cincinnati, Tami uses her expertise in public policy and community building to mobilize Audubon chapters and members to take climate action.

One of her current initiatives is the Plants for Birds initiative (<https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>). Bird-friendly landscaping provides food, saves water, and fights climate change.

Tom Hisson: A World of Birds – Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Birds are one of the earth's most fascinating groups of animals. Scientists believe that there are nearly 10,000 species living throughout the world. Each species of bird is unique in its shape, color, behavior and life history. For nearly 45 years Tom Hisson, retired education manager and naturalist at the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm near Dayton, Ohio, has held a deep fascination and passion for the world of birds. Tom began watching birds that came to his feeders during the winter. While in junior high school Tom joined many Dayton Audubon Society field trips and had members take him "under their wing" to teach him how to identify Ohio's birds. Tom's passion led him to teach a spring ornithology class for adults in the Dayton area and to lead many exciting trips.



In the Everglades

In 'A World of Birds,' Tom will present a fascinating program about his experiences with his top 25 favorite birds. Tom has visited exciting places in Ohio, Michigan, South Florida and the Everglades, Australia, Peru, Kenya, Costa Rica, Galapagos Islands, Utah and Alaska. He will share stories and colorful photographs of the birds that have inspired him. *Submitted by Jackie Augustine*

BIRD SEED SALE...

The Fall Birdseed Sale will be held Friday, November 2nd from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, November 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Layman Feed & Lawn, 705 E. Main St. (SR 309), Elida. This sale is by preorder only.

Order forms will be mailed in late September to those who made purchases in 2017. If you would like an order form or have questions, contact Anne Smedley at 419.222.3271 or download a form from the chapter's website or Facebook page. Mail your order by Friday, October 19th to ensure you receive your order. All proceeds benefit local conservation, education programs and projects. Volunteers are needed. Call Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 if you can help.

Submitted by Anne Smedley



EXPIRATION DATES EXPLAINED—Membership expiration dates are not included on magazine labels or renewal notices. Look on the upper right hand corner of this newsletter. If it reads "08/19 M" it means your dual membership expires August of 2019. If it reads "05/19 SM" that means your local supporting membership expires May of 2019. An "M-S" or "SM-S" means the membership is under suspension and you will no longer receive the newsletter. "D" stands for donor and "C" stands for courtesy. Questions can be directed to Bill Askins, membership chair, at 419.339.9751 or waskins@woh.rr.co
Submitted by Carol Bertrand

FIELD TRIPS...

Rare Orchids! Saturday, September 22nd 1:30 p.m.
Carpool from Wendy's @ Eastgate (2 p.m. at Oakwoods)

Come visit a rare orchid, October Ladies'-Tresses, at Oakwoods Nature Preserve in Hancock County. This flower was discovered recently and may be the largest colony (and one of the most northerly) of the species in the country and is a great find! Other natural things abound at this park as well.

Autumn Colors at Myeerah, Sunday, October 14th,
3 p.m. Carpool from Wendy's @ Eastgate (4 p.m. at Myeerah lodge)

Myeerah Nature Preserve is a 450 acre natural area maintained by Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District. TMAS has been intimately involved with its acquisition and its ongoing conservation. While we've all heard about it and we host Environmental Ed Week-end there in the spring, many of us haven't witnessed the preserve in all its autumn glory – now's the time!

Grand Lake St Mary's Fish Hatchery and more, Saturday, November 17th, 1:30 p.m. Carpool from Wendy's @ Eastgate (2 p.m. at Fish Hatchery)

November brings the last chance to catch the dawdlers of migrating birds as they head south for the winter. While our songbirds have moved on, a lot of waterfowl species are still passing through. We'll start at the Fish Hatchery and see what we can find before moving on to good birding spots nearby.

February— Short-eared Owls near Indian Lake, Tuesday, February 19th, 4 p.m. Carpool from Wendy's @ Eastgate

March—Killdeer Plains, Saturday, March 23rd, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Carpool from Wendy's @ Eastgate (11 a.m. at Killdeer Reservoir)

April—Shelby County, Gross State Nature Preserve, Saturday, April 20th, 10 a.m. (meet at) Gross State Nature Preserve

May- Big Birding Day, Magee Marsh Field Trip, Monday, May 13th, 6:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Carpool from Wendy's @ Eastgate

Van Wert County Birding Tour, Saturday, May 18th
8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Tour of hotspots in Van Wert (meeting place TBA) *Submitted by Dan Hodges*

MORE UPCOMING PROGRAM MEETINGS...

January 8 (6:30 p.m.) – Member potluck and photo safari – bring your bird photos/stories from the year and anything else you would like to share!

***February 5 – Matt Shumar, Lights Out Ohio:** Bird Conservation at the flip of a switch?

***March 5 – Dale Gnidovec, Orton Geological Museum** at The Ohio State University: **Teeth, Jaws & Claws – the Carnivorous Dinosaurs and Why Birds Are Dinosaurs.**

***April 2 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) – 2nd Annual Family Fun Night:** Whether you are 'Wise as an Owl' or 'Bird Brained' – you will learn and have fun at this interactive event. It will be a hoot!

***May 7 – Dan Hodges, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District: Warblers 101**

**Co-sponsored with Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Parks*



Sign Dedication a Success...

On June 21, Tri-Moraine hosted a dedication ceremony of a sign purchased from Tri-Moraine's Ellen and Jim Wright Memorial Fund. The sign describes the prairie restoration process and some of the plants and animals that visitors may see while visiting the area.

About 20 people were in attendance to hear about everyone who came together to make this project happen: Fábio Leite, associate dean, Ohio State Lima; Jay Smith, Smith Landscaping and consultant to the restoration; Cheryl Erwin, president, Tri-Moraine Audubon; and Dan Wright, son of Ellen and Jim Wright. *Submitted by Jackie Augustine*

Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters will hold a workshop and nature tours on Sunday, September 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Myeerah Nature Preserve, 7405 State Route 540, Bellefontaine, OH. This event is hosted by Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and will feature workshop topics on several environmental areas, as well as some nature tours spotlighting some of Myeerah's features. Register by Sept. 1. Contact Betsey Merkel at info@wcaudubon.org for further information.



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Fall 2018 Newsletter

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November Birdseed Sale

Presidents Message...

We Need YOU! Every newsletter from Tri-Moraine Audubon Society is full of opportunities for our members and friends to be involved in the group no matter your abilities or time constraints. This month, I would like to highlight just a few you might consider.

The beautiful posters you may have seen that advertise our monthly program meetings have been designed by John Daly, a long-time member of Tri-Moraine Audubon. If you've seen one, you know that John always took great care in creating an eye-catching and informative poster. John has decided it's time to pass the torch to someone else. Do you have an interest in desktop publishing? Maybe you have a creative side looking for an outlet. One of our members has stepped up and offered to cover the poster for the September meeting, but we still need someone to step into John's shoes. How about you?

Another opportunity exists as we are in search of someone to take on the vice-president position. You would be required to attend a board meeting every other month and participate in the discussions and decisions. The vice-president would fill in if the president is unable to attend a meeting and perhaps take the president position in a couple of years!

The following are some options if you just want to show up and help – the TMAS birdseed sales, providing snacks and drinks for our monthly program meetings, setting up and tearing down for meetings, providing snacks for the upcoming COAC meeting at Myeerah, assisting with our booth at the fair and Apple Festival are just a few ideas. Otherwise you can always be an ambassador for TMAS and invite someone new to a program meeting or field trip. We welcome everyone to our scheduled events! One last way to help is to respond to the annual appeal letter. Tri-Moraine Audubon does a wonderful job of supporting programs and sites that are positive forces for environmental stewardship. Your annual appeal donation assures that these programs can continue the important work they began. If you still aren't sure how you can help, ask at the next meeting – we'll put our heads together and find an opportunity for you to shine! *Cheryl Erwin TMAS president*