Volunteer Opportunities...

**Fall Birdseed Sale Cancelled** —Due to Covid-19, our fall birdseed sale is cancelled.

**VOTE** Sept. 1 for officers, bylaws, strategic plan and constitution. See page 3.

**Christmas Bird Count** —The Christmas Bird Count will be held December 12 for Grand Lake St. Marys, Mercer County and December 13 at Indian Lake, Logan County. More details will be forthcoming in our winter newsletter.

**TMAS Board Meeting** - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. September 29 and November 24 in the OSU Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima, if possible. Please check our webpage or on Facebook for further information. Lately, all meetings have been virtual, see page 4.

The Song of Birds

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Here you are out in the woods and you hear an unfamiliar bird song. Most birds are elusive and like to keep a few leaves and branches between them and us. Plus add some distance and even colors meld into the background making it difficult to identify that bird unless you have a good pair of binoculars and can rapidly focus in on the subject. Learning bird songs is one way we can say I heard an Indigo Bunting, or a Gray Catbird without actually seeing one.

Most of us are at least familiar with the songs and calls of our more common feathered friends. Learning to recognize more bird songs can be a challenge, but rewarding.

If you are a good whistler, you can mimic many sounds made by birds; others are more daunting. As a child I remember mimicking the calls of the Cardinal’s “Cheer” and the Northern Bobwhite’s “Bob-white” from the woods and fencerows over our farm. I was thrilled to hear them return my call. Probably not a good idea as it is confusing for that bird who is defending his territory.

How do you go about learning more calls? There are several things that may be of help to further your repertoire of song. The study of Mnemonics, or the idea of putting English words to the songs and calls of birds has been around for a long time. There are some you are already familiar with such as the “killdeer” of our Killdeers, the White Throated Sparrow’s “Oh Sweet Canada, Canada, Canada,” or “Peabody, Peabody, Peabody,” or the Northern Cardinal’s “Cheer, Cheer, Cheer.” Putting words to some calls really helps you remember. Some calls are more complicated and take more work to learn.

Another method uses technology, putting bird song and calls on Spectrograms which measure the frequency of sounds in kilohertz (kHz), with a top limit of 10 kHz. It’s a very visual way to hear what our birds are singing and once you familiarize yourself with the process, helps you visualize and remember new and unfamiliar songs. All of these methods take practice and commitment to analyze and remember bird music. Another good aid is Cornell University’s BirdNET which can be downloaded and used to identify bird songs on a spectrogram. Spectrogram symbols are an artist interpretation of a real spectrogram and just emphasizes the basic sounds. Again it gives a visual representation of a bird song. The drawing above is a simplified version of a trill. Identifying song is another way to enjoy our days of birding!!
Volunteers Needed...

Want to do more for wildlife? Get involved! Tri-Moraine is growing and we need your help. Training will be provided. To volunteer or get more information, contact Jackie at augustine.63@osu.edu. Consider volunteering for the following positions:

Assistant Treasurer – Help our treasurer document income and spending, make reports, present reports at board meetings when the treasurer is not available; Time commitment varies by month, but is about one to five hours per month, a little more during initial training.

COAC representative – Join the monthly membership call for the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC); communicate COAC initiatives to Tri-Moraine’s Board, ask Tri-Moraine’s questions to COAC; write a small paragraph summarizing COAC events/initiatives four times a year for Tri-Moraine’s newsletter. Time commitment is one to two hours per month.

Environmental Educators Committee members – Join this new group of volunteers interested in environmental education. The specific initiatives are in development, but could include doing after school activities, developing programming for scout groups, presenting programs to adults at nursing homes, garden clubs, or other community groups. Time commitment is flexible.

Environmental Warriors Committee members – Join this new group of volunteers interested in environmental conservation. By conservation, we mean anything that contributes to the health of ecosystems in our area. Conservation may include advocating for environmental issues, fund-raising for habitat conservation and restoration, or collaborating with outside groups to increase our conservation impact. Time commitment is flexible.

Program Coordinator – This person invites potential speakers to present, distributes information about the presentations to newsletter and publicity coordinator, coordinates logistics of the presentation, reminds speakers of upcoming presentations, arranges room set-up/clean up as needed day of the presentation, and is present during program meetings (or arranges to have someone greet the speaker in their place). Time commitment is five hours during June to contacting speakers for the year, one hour prep per month, and three hours for the meeting the first Tuesday of each month September through May.

Publicity Coordinator – This volunteer receives information about presentations and events and sends that information to newspapers, TV stations, and other locations as needed. Time commitment is about one hour per month.

Social Media Coordinator – This volunteer will manage social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter) and perhaps develop new accounts. They will post events and special interest items, and respond to any direct communication. Time commitment is about one hour per month.  

Virtual Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters October Gathering

On Saturday, October 3, the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) and the Canton Audubon Society will hold a virtual meeting for all Audubon members throughout Ohio. The day is going to be filled with talks, conversation, and networking. The schedule includes chapter success stories (including a Tri-Moraine success story), a COAC business meeting, and a special presentation by Andy Jones from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Please attend to show the strength of our chapter. For more information contact Jackie at augustine.63@osu.edu or 567.712.4155 or see COAC’s Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/CouncilofOhioAudubonChaptersCOAC/.

Submitted by Jackie Augustine

Tri-Moraine Field Trips

Due to the unstable nature of our current situation, we won’t be scheduling field trips at this time.

If/when the social restrictions are lessened and it is safe to participate, we will announce field trips via our Facebook page.

If you don’t have access to social media, you can contact the Fieldtrip chair, Dan Hodges, to be notified of upcoming trips  

Submitted by Dan Hodges
**Elections, Constitution Planning..**

We need your help with moving Tri-Moraine Audubon forward! VOTE Sept 1: Board Member Elections, Constitution/Bylaws Changes, and Strategic Plan Support at our annual general meeting

1. **ANNUAL ELECTION** - The members elect a president (2-year term), a secretary (2-year term), and two members-at-large (3-year terms). There could be a conditional vacancy at vice president (1-year term), too, see below. The Nominating Committee suggests the following candidates for the vacancies

   For President, Eric Broughton
   For Secretary, Marie Walton
   For Member-at-large (2 spots), Judy Jacomet and Nancy Risner

   Eric Broughton is currently our vice president. If he would be elected president, there would be a vacancy at vice president (1-year term). In this case, the Nominating Committee suggests

   For vice president (conditionally, see above), Jackie Augustine.

   Nominations from attendees are possible at the election on the condition that the nominee has given prior consent (“right of the floor”).

2. **CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS** - The Board presents a revised Constitution and Bylaws to the members for approval. The language has been updated extensively to streamline and reflect current practices. The full text of the new Constitution and Bylaws is available at our website http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org/

3. **STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2024**—The Board presents its Strategic Plan 2020-2024 to the members for approval. The full text of the Strategic Plan is available at our website http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org/ You must be present and a member in good standing to vote. Register in advance for this meeting:

   https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvfu2uqD4qHdpPsms5DpsaDI-sVoPBFRvN

   Submitted by Jackie Augustine

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**A Note of Thanks...**

Thank You for the Ohio Audubon Adventures materials used for the Summer Food Program at the YWCA in Van Wert. The theme of Trees, Prairies and Wetlands were included in Grab and Go Food bags.

One topic per bag was included and coordinated so that families received all three. The bags were available for children ages 18 and under at various locations in Van Wert County for weekly and/or weekend distribution.

*Tammy Campbell, SWCD Education Coordinator (Pictured above)*

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**Bird Watching Amid Pandemic...**

According to the National Audubon Society bird watching and bird feeding have increased since the pandemic. People are spending more time at home. It makes sense that bird watching would increase.

Nothing is more calming than hearing the music our birds produce. Viewing their beautiful colors and all types of species makes us more aware of their diversity.

Take time out of your day to listen and look for new bird species in your neighborhood. Put out some water and feed and see what you can draw to your backyard. You may be surprised to see what comes your way.

*English Sparrow at birdbath*
**Fall 2020 programs will be virtual...**

To limit COVID exposure, all public gatherings on the Ohio State Lima campus have been canceled through December 2020. Additionally, Tri-Moraine did not want to seek another venue because our members are our greatest resource, and we did not want to risk their health.

However, the good work of Audubon cannot be stopped! We will be hosting our meetings virtually via Zoom. We thank Ohio State University for continuing to host us with their Zoom account. Those moderating the Zoom meeting behind the scenes have received security training. We are taking every precaution to avoid Zoom-bombing, or persons saying or sharing unwanted materials. Each meeting has a unique link, and you must register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you have trouble typing in the complicated (but necessary) website address, links will also be provided in the events section of our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/TriMoraine). We encourage people to join the meeting ten minutes before it starts so we can help with technical problems without delaying the meeting. You can call or text Dan (567.204.7974) or Jackie (567.712.4155) for help, but realize help may be limited or delayed after the meeting starts.

**New to Zoom? Help available**

Zoom is an internet-based platform that allows people to join meetings, hear the speaker and other attendees, and view the presentation. You can join by computer or phone. However, if you join by phone, you will not be able to see the presentation – only hear it.

If you have never used Zoom before, or if you just want to try it out, we can offer you help at an evening social the day before the first meeting. You must register for the event online. If you do not have computer access, call Jackie (567.712.4155) in advance and she can register you and provide you with a phone number for you to attend the event. To join, go to this link:

https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtcO2opjwjE93s_nmvCgplo5pJMrmnnX6

**2020-2021 Programs Set!**

Some programs are outlined on page five, but here is a list of all upcoming programs.

- **Sept. 1** – Ask a Birder! Panel Discussion
- **Oct. 6** – Migration, Andy Jones, Cleveland Natural History Museum
- **Nov. 3** – Plants for Birds, Grange Insurance Audubon Center
- **Dec 1** – Ohio Fisheries, Mike Wilkerson, ODNR
- **Jan 5** – Photo Safari
- **Feb. 2** – Growing Caterpillars: A Tangled Tale of Birds and Conservation; Jim McCormac
- **Mar. 2** – Whip-poor-wills; Chris Tonra, Ohio State University
- **April 6** – Family Fun Night
- **May 4** – Move over beetles!: Why wasps are the champions of diversity; Robin Bagley, Ohio State Lima

*Mallard family at Indian Lake State Park*
Ask a Birder! – Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

One of the wonderful things about Tri-Moraine Audubon Society is that its members are experts on a wide diversity of flora and fauna. For this program, we have asked the birders in our group to discuss birds, birding, and their favorite places to see birds in Allen County and west-central Ohio.

This program will utilize a panel discussion format, so you will be able to ask questions of the panelists and get answers in real time. Get ready to have your bird questions answered! Register in advance for this meeting:

https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvfu2uqD4qHdPMpswPCasDI-sVoPBFIrvN

Andy Jones: Migration All Around Us: How Birds Navigate the Americas* Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Andy Jones is an expert on birds and their evolutionary history. He studies many aspects of birds, and in recent years has focused on bird migration in northern Ohio. We are in one of the best places in the world to see the spectacle of bird migration!

However, birds face many obstacles along their migration routes. Lights Out Cleveland is a collaborative project monitoring downtown Cleveland’s bird-building collisions. Field monitoring is carried out by volunteers daily throughout migration.

In Fall, 2017 alone, over 1,800 collisions were recorded. The collision data are providing insights on which species are at greater risk, and at which sites. Attend this talk to learn about bird migration and learn what you can do to protect migrating birds. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkce2pqT4rGdMr_bTgZCCySOa1Ve6W_x
*Co-sponsored with Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

Allison Clark: Plants for Birds* Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Allison Clark is the education program manager for Grange Insurance Audubon Center. She will discuss “Plants for Birds” Ever wonder how to attract more birds to your home without buying bird seed?

Audubon’s Allison Clark will explain how to do just that. By planting native plants in your yard you too can have a whole menagerie full of birds. Allison will also be going through Audubon’s Plants for Birds database to help you learn what will best grow in your gardens and what kinds of birds you can attract to your home. Not only can you learn how to help the birds but native plants will also help local pollinator populations. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUldOypfTwjEtZiUcItEp89k1T2EMWLkp6

Welcome New Members...

Your membership in the National Audubon Society also brings you membership in the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and this newsletter.

Join us on our field trips and meetings. Your newsletter brings you all the information on chapter activities. You can also go to our chapter website or Facebook and Twitter accounts to see what is going on.
**Presidents Message...**

Greetings, I hope that you are doing well during these uncertain times. I am currently the interim president for the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and the plan is to make it official at our virtual meeting in September. This will be a year of change for the chapter. At the same virtual meeting in September as the election, we will be reviewing, discussing, and voting on a new constitution and by-laws to guide how we operate, and a new strategic plan that will provide a pathway for the chapter as we move forward into the future.

One of my priorities is to cultivate, develop, and support the future leaders of the chapter. While in the larger world, there are many troubling and challenging things going on, my goal is to carry on the wonderful work my predecessor, Cheryl, began and fully implement the great ideas contained in the new strategic plan. One of these objectives is to make our gatherings (when we are able to safely gather again) both informative and social events. I want to make sure that if you come to a meeting you feel part of a group of people with a shared interest in nature and the environment that is friendly, fun, informative, and makes a difference.

I am very fortunate to be working with wonderful volunteers who are actively doing the real work that goes on in the chapter. While the job of president takes time (about five hours a week), these volunteers make my job very easy. In order to successfully move forward, I will need even more help. What we need is new volunteers willing to spend just five hours a year helping us with some of the important tasks that must be done. Would you be willing to greet people and welcome them to a future meeting? Would you be willing to represent the chapter by attending a community event and passing out information and answering simple questions about the chapter? Would you come early to help set up the meeting room and stay to clean up once a year? Would you bring refreshments to a future meeting? These are all one-time tasks that are simple but critical to our success.

Besides getting more people to help with such small but important tasks, my other priority is getting people to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. to one of our future field trips (when we can safely have field trips again). These children will be running this world someday. Who will show them the wonders of nature and appreciation of the environment if we don’t start doing it now? If you have an idea to share, or think you could volunteer for five hours a year, I look forward to hearing from you. The best way to contact me is by email to broughtoneric@yahoo.com. Thanks for reading all the way to the end and for being part of this great organization we call the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS). *Interim President Eric Broughton*