



# Flight Patterns

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

**Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society**  
**July/Aug. 2009**      **WEB ADDRESS - [www.tri-moraineaudubon.org](http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org)**

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## CALENDAR

**July 4th**      **TOTALLY TERRIFIC TURTLES**, Saturday, July 4, 8 pm, Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater, 2632 Ada Road, Lima. A family campfire and an evening of trivia, tall tales, and terrific turtles. Live animals will be present. NOTE: This program is part of the 2009 Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District Summer Amphitheater Program Series. All programs are free and open to the public. In case of rain programs will be held in the Miami shelter house. For information about other programs in the series contact JAMPD at 419-221-1232 or [www.jampd.com](http://www.jampd.com).

**July 7th**      **TMAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC**, Tuesday, July 7, Ottawa Metro Park, SR 81 just east of Marimor. You'll find the Miami shelter on your left as you enter the park. It's reserved from 5 pm until dark. We'll eat at 6:30 pm. The chapter will provide fried chicken. Members and their guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverage, and a tablecloth and folding chairs if desired. Don't forget your favorite bug spray and unwanted AUDUBON magazine issues for Square Fair giveaways. The picnic offers a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow chapter members. Feel free to arrive early and take advantage of the park's amenities. You can walk the perimeter trail or around the lake, try your luck on the disc golf course (bring your own frisbee), swim (adults \$5, children 3-12 \$3, and children under 3 free) until 8 pm weather permitting, or bring your fishing pole (no license required for the retention pond by the Erie shelter, but required for fishing in the lake). Restroom facilities available. If you haven't already seen your chapter's new banner you'll have a chance to view it at the picnic as it guides you to the shelter.

**July 16th & 20th**      **UPPER MAUMEE VALLEY NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAM MEETINGS**, Thursdays, July 16 and August 20, 7 pm, at the Van Wert Women's Club, 654 South Washington Street. Andy Kleinschmidt from the OSU Extension Office will be speaking about trees at the July meeting. The topic for August is yet to be determined. Watch for local media announcements or for information about the group and more details about upcoming events contact Jean Perchalski at 419-232-4108, 419-231-0495 (cell), [jeperch@roadrunner.com](mailto:jeperch@roadrunner.com) or Lyn Warren at 419-749-2999, [wlvval@verizon.net](mailto:wlvval@verizon.net).

**July 18th**      **NATURE ROCKS/FAMILY & FRIENDS**, Saturday, July 18, 8pm, Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater. Get ready to laugh and sing as award-winning singer and songwriter Chris Rowlands tells stories and sings songs about the Park District's four-legged residents. The entire family will enjoy this special evening of music, art, and comedy. Chris is Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm's outreach naturalist. See note in first calendar writeup for further info.

**Aug 7th & 8th**      **TMAS BOOTH AT SQUARE FAIR 2009**, Friday & Saturday, August 7 & 8, Town Square, Lima, noon to 5 or 6 pm. Drop by and say hello. It's always great to meet new members and say hello to those we know. We'll be in the "Community Groups" tent on West Market Street (parallel to the Civic Center). TMAS and JAMPD always share a tent. The chapter will feature its mini-bookstore and a variety of free materials. Volunteers will answer questions and provide information. Volunteers needed. If you can help, call Carol at 419-227-9231.

**Aug 12th**      **METEOR COUNT!**, Wednesday, August 12, 10 pm, Kendrick Woods. The Perseids (heavy meteor showers) are considered by many to be the year's best display. Assist members of the Lima Astronomical Society as they participate in a national meteor count. No prior experience is needed for this fun evening of "shooting stars", sharing stories, and learning about the night sky. Bring a warm sweater, mosquito repellent, and a comfortable chair or blanket. In case of rain, the program will be cancelled. JAMPD summer program.

**Sept 12th**



**RESPECT  
THE EARTH  
...RECYCLE!**

**On September 12th (Saturday)** TMAS will man Wapakoneta's recycling center open to the public from 9 a.m. until noon. The chapter receives the proceeds from all recyclables handled. Aluminum cans pay best. For additional information or if you can help, call Bob or Carol Bertrand at 419/227-9231. Aluminum cans (dry & crushed if possible) can be donated at the July 7th picnic and or the Sept. 1st monthly meeting.

### TRI-MORaine RECEIVES AUDUBON ADVENTURES RECOGNITION

On May 21 TMAS received a letter of recognition from Elaine O'Sullivan & Bonnie Godfrey, National Audubon Society's Audubon Adventures Office, for the chapter's participation in the Audubon Adventures program for grades 3-6. Twenty six chapters (out of over 480 chapters) representing 21 states were recognized for "their extraordinary efforts in reaching out to 50 or more classrooms" for the 2008-2009 school year. School districts and participating classrooms in the chapter's service area were listed in the January/February issue of this newsletter. The top chapter on the list ordered 140 AA classroom kits while the chapter listed last ordered 51. TMAS is no. 16 while Black River Audubon Society, another Ohio chapter, is no. 18.

**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.



AUDUBON SOCIETY

Serving Allen • Auglaize • Hancock • Hardin • Logan  
 • Mercer • Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in Ohio  
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## July / August 2009 Newsletter

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### CAN YOU HELP? HARDIN COUNTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

With the cost of gas escalating again, it's nice to find volunteer opportunities right in your own backyard. The chapter's February meeting featured Barb Snyder from Mount Victory. An Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program graduate, Barb shared her enthusiasm for the program. Barb has adopted the Silver Creek Center for Environmental Studies in Hardin County as an ongoing community project. The Center is located on SR 67 W about two miles from Kenton. It's on the north side of the road and if you look sharp you'll spot the wooden sign in front. The twenty-five acre Center was donated to the Hardin Soil & Water Conservation District in 1986. In 1993 TMAS donated \$300 for the materials to construct an observation blind. The chapter held two summer picnics there over the years, now the Center is in need of some TLC. Invasive species need to be tackled, cleanup from vandalism and the littering of trash needs to be done, trees/wildflowers/resident birds need to be identified, and the list goes on. If you can help, give Barb a call at 937-354-2140 or email her at bsnyder12@columbus.rr.com and tell her you'd like to lend a hand to revitalize the Center.

### BIG BIRDING DAY

On May 11, TMAS's Big Birding Day, eleven birders (Ruth, Tom, Frank, Fern, Evelyn, Mary, Rachel, Ivan, Don, Jackie, and Eric) set out bright and early for a day of fun, food, and great birding. We visited Seven Birding hot spots on the western Lake Erie shore and by dinner time members of the group had collectively seen and identified 106 different species of birds (#106 was a male ring-necked pheasant waiting for us on the side of the road as we left our final stop for the day). Highlights include a black-crowned night heron, osprey, Wilson's phalarope, common moorhen, screech owls and great horned owlets, sora, least bittern, bald eagle, and twenty-eight species of warblers. Set aside the date, May 10, 2010, so you can join in the fun and birding with us next year.

### 2009 ENVIRONMENTAL WEEKEND REPORT

This year's EEW was held May 1-3. Don Rosenbeck reports that there were 51 participants (33 adults and 18 children). The program format was the same as past years with 3 blocks of programs on Saturday and 1 block on Sunday with four programs offered during each time block. Activities included bird walks, wildflower walks, pond ecology, owl calling, reptiles and amphibians, etc. Barred owls were seen Friday evening and woodcocks Saturday evening. 57 bird species were tallied. New this year was the addition of supervised activities for kids (e.g., carving turtles from soap and cane pole fishing) during the times between program offerings. This helped discourage kids from going off on their own between programs and received good feedback on the evaluation forms. The new camp policies implemented this year seemed fairly well received and did curb problems experienced in previous years.

### 2009 MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendar! On September 17-20 the Midwest Birding Symposium (MBS) is returning to Lakeside, Ohio, for the first time in a decade. Organizers of this premier birding event expect a capacity crowd of as many as 1,000 bird watchers from around the continent to converge along the shores of Lake Erie. The symposium will feature field trips to the area's best birding spots, programs and performances by North America's leading bird watchers, a vendor area with nature products and services, and an opportunity for birders to network with hundreds of their fellow enthusiasts. Tony Award winner Jane Alexander, NPR commentator Julie Zickefoose, Pulitzer Prize finalist Scott Weidensaul, and Roger Tory Peterson Award winner Kenn Kaufman are among the many speakers confirmed for the symposium. Sign up before July 15 and pay \$75 instead of \$95 by registering early! To register and for much more information go to [www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php). If you are interested in attending, email Eric at [ebroughton@woh.rr.com](mailto:ebroughton@woh.rr.com) and perhaps we can coordinate our travel plans.

**PRESIDENT'S CHAPTER NOTES**..... TMAS board meeting Tuesday, July 28, 7 pm, place TBD..... The St. Marys River - Grand Lake St. Marys Important Bird Area dedication held on May 6 took place on the covered bridge in Memorial Park in downtown St. Marys. This is a beautiful park and the bridge was appreciated on such a wet day. It was warm and there was no wind so the 50 attendees and exhibits kept nice and dry. The chapter thanks Rev. Charles Richtmyer for his invocation, Auglaize County Commissioner Doug Spencer for his kind words, the volunteers who planned the dedication, and those who helped on dedication day. Thanks also to the exhibitors: Heritage Trails Park District of Auglaize Co., Miami and Erie Canal Corridor Association, West Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Grand Lake St. Marys/Wabash Watershed Alliance, and Eagles of the Grand Lake St. Marys Area. An introduction of selected attendees was followed by brief remarks about the IBA made by your chapter president and remarks by Gary Steinbrunner, conservation outreach specialist for Audubon Ohio's St. Marys River Basin Conservation Initiative. TMAS and the Initiative also had exhibits. An unveiling of the global and chapter signs for the IBA concluded the dedication ceremony followed by refreshments..... TMAS has received word that its proposal for global warming educational materials has been accepted for a 2009 Audubon Ohio mini-grant. More about this grant in the next newsletter.