Tr-Moraine Audubon Society Newsletter

March/April 2008 Volume 36 No. 2

WEB ADDRESS - http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Volume 36 No. 2

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY EMAIL. Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at waskins@dowhrr.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.

CALENDAR

Mar 4th

TRI-MORaine’s activities continue with the March 4 program meeting in Fellowship Hall, lower level, Market Street Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Market Street corner Cole and West Main Streets, Lima. You may use the courtyard entrance off the rear parking lot or the elevator entrance on the west side of the church where handicapped parking is available. Follow the Audubon signs. Meetings and events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Please note that the Society’s April program meeting will be held jointly with the Upper Maumee Valley Naturalists Club in Van Wert on Thursday, April 24. Details below. In case of bad weather, meeting cancellations will be posted on WLIO (NBC/Channel 35) and WOHL (FOX/Channel 25).

Mar 4th

THE SPiRiT OF HiAWAtA, Tuesday, March 4, 7:30 pm. Join Don and Mary Rosenbeck, TMAS members from Jackson Center, as they share some of the sights - floral, avian, natural, cultural, historic - on Hiawatha’s most populous island, Oahu. We’ll walk through a lush arboretum, visit an ancient temple site and the Dole Plantica, third contains woods, lush cover, and water (800 acres of marsh and 125 ponds). Field tripers will be searching for ducks, hawks, owls, and other wintering birds. A carpool will depart at 10 am from the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy’s on SR 309, Lima. The group will remain until dusk unless a Short-eared Owl is sighted earlier. Binoculars, lunch, camera, and field guides are recommended. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Contact Eric at 419-999-1987 or broughthteric@yahoo.com for questions or more information.

Mar 13th

HANCECK COUNTY NATURALISTS PROGRAM MEETING, Thursday, March 13, 7:30 pm, Christ Church United Methodist, 225 West Bigelove Avenue, Findlay. Michelle Rumschlag, HCN president and Hancock Park District naturalist, will present “Common Weeds in Our Backyards.” For information about the organization and details about upcoming events, contact Betsy Worden, newsletter editor at 419-293-2705 or bworden001@wohrr.com. Two notes of interest: 1) HCN volunteers recorded 59 species on their Dec. 29 Christmas Bird Count and 2) Hancock County now has two eagle nests.

Mar 15th

KILLDEER PLAINS WILDFiELD AREA FiELD TRiP, Saturday, March 15. This is the Society’s annual trek to KPWA, 8,600+ acres in Wyandot and Marion Counties. The area is two-thirds cropland and woodlots while the other third contains woods, lush cover, and water (800 acres of marsh and 125 ponds). Field tripers will be searching for ducks, hawks, owls, and other wintering birds. A carpool will depart at 10 am from the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy’s on SR 309, Lima. The group will remain until dusk unless a Short-eared Owl is sighted earlier. Binoculars, lunch, camera, and field guides are recommended. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Contact Eric at 419-999-1987 or broughthteric@yahoo.com for questions or more information.

Mar 15th

UPPER MAUMEE VALLEY NATURALISTS CLUB FiELD TRiP, Saturday, March 15. The trip takes the place of the regular monthly meeting. The destination is the Maple Sugar Festival at the Johnn Appleseed Metropoli Park District’s McLean Teddy Bear Park, 1 mile northeast of SR 81 on N. Dixie Highway, Lima. The festival features a guided tour along a 1/2 mile “sugar bush” trail. Several living history stops along the trail explain the history and production of maple syrup from pioneer and Indian methods to modern methods. Ohio maple syrup, maple candy, food, and drinks are available for sale. A carpool will depart at noon from Star Common.

For more information or questions contact Lyn Warren, UMVC president, at 419-749-2999.

Apr 10th

HANCECK COUNTY NATURALISTS PROGRAM MEETING, Thursday, April 10, 7:30 pm, Christ Church United Methodist, 225 W. Bigelow Ave., Findlay. This “show and tell” program titled “Bird Nests and Eggs” will be presented by a collector from Cleveland. For more information see March 13 write-up.

Apr 22nd

EARTH DAY 2008, Tuesday, April 22, 38th anniversary. No special chapter celebration is planned. Every day is Earth Day to Auduboners.

Apr 24th

STATE OF THE BIRDS IN OHIO, Thursday, April 24, 7 pm, Women’s Club, 654 South Washington Street, Van Wert. The Club is a white Victorian House across the street from the Wassenberg Art Center. There’s a sign on the front lawn. Parking is in the rear and the driveway is along the north side of the house. There’ll be people setting up for the meeting so if you need last minute directions call 419-928-9213. This is a joint meeting of 3 bird clubs such as the Bock Slou’s and the Azalea. A carpool to the Wassenberg Museum and the Reptile House at the Edison Cemetery of the Pacific and the Pearl Harbor/Azuroro Memorial, climb (pant, pant) Diamond Head, and watch the sun set on the north shore of the island. See an Extreme Make-Over Home Edition site “up close and personal” too!

Apr 26th

GLEn HELEN & CliFTON GiRGE NaTURE PReSERVES PluS JiOHN BRYAN STaTE PaRKe, Saturday, April 26. Join us as we hike and explore these outstanding natural areas near Yellow Springs. All three border on each other and you can walk continuously from one to the other along Birch Creek and the Little Miami. The Gorge is a continuation of the Niagara escarpment with high cliffs and waterfalls. The woods should be filled with early migrating birds and spring wildflowers. We can also stop for a visit at the Glen Raptor Center. A carpool will depart from Lima’s Eastgate mall parking lot behind Wendy’s on SR 309 at 8 am. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and clothes and bring your binoculars, camera, and a sack lunch. If picnic weather eludes us, there are many local restaurants available. Fern Albertson will be our field trip guide. If you have questions contact her at 419-634-6381 or waibert@bright.net.

This newsletter is printed on paper made entirely from ECF pulp obtained from 100% farmed eucalyptus trees.

Editing and printing courtesy of your friends at Northland Quick Print.
14TH ANNUAL OTTAWA RIVER CLEANUP, Saturday, April 26, 9 am-noon. Start at the Allen County Red Cross Chapter House, corner North Shore Drive and Collett Street, Lima, to register, pick up trash bags, etc. Dress for the weather (old clothes/comfortable footwear). Gloves are mandatory (provided if needed). NOTE: Youths under 18 MUST have parental permission AND be accompanied by an adult.

APRIL 27 - MAY 3 is NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK. THANK YOU to all our volunteers for their support of chapter programs and projects. The Society is a totally volunteer organization and wouldn’t exist without the voluntary help of its members and friends. Why not volunteer? You’re needed, you’ll be appreciated, you’ll learn more about the chapter and make new friends, and you’ll have a lot of fun. Call Bob Bertrand, volunteer chair, at 419-227-9231.

29TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND, May 2-4
Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 29th annual Environmental Education Weekend at Camp Myeerah, SR 540 near Bellefontaine on May 2nd through May 4th. This weekend provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a truly unique environmental setting. Camp Myeerah is comprised of over 500 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. Camp Myeerah is one of 94 sites in Ohio which has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/ot/ibas.html

The education programs offered will include opportunities to learn about and participate in field trips on birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants and other nature related programs. Timed to coincide with the spring migration of neotropical migrant warblers and spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide a truly unique family oriented educational opportunity!

The weekend begins with registration starting at 5:00 PM on Friday, May 2nd and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 4th. All meals are provided for Saturday and Sunday. Camping options include Treehouses which sleep 6 people and have sleeping pads on the floor, Platform Tents which have sleeping pads for 4, and Covered wagons which have sleeping pads for 5. You may also bring your own tent to pitch near a small pond. Dormitory accommodations are available if you prefer a heated building with full restroom facilities.

Due to insurance considerations, this opportunity is available for National Audubon members (or local Supporting members) and their immediate families only. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form found in this newsletter or contact Bill Askins at waskins@woh.rr.com or 419-339-9751. For further information concerning the weekend visit Tri-Moraine Audubon’s website at www.tri-moraineaudubon.org or contact either Don Rosenbeck at dmrosenbeck@gmail.com or Eric Broughton at ebroughton@woh.rr.com. Information is also available by writing Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, PO Box 5648, Lima, OH 45802-5648.

PRESIDENT’S CHAPTER NOTES.......The official time for electing new officers and board members is the annual meeting in May preceding the monthly program meeting. Nominations are open for president (2-year term) and secretary (2-year term). Submit nominations to Carol Bertrand at 419-227-9231 or Annette Kovic at aekovic@yahoo.com. Nominations must be received no later than Friday, April 11. Prior consent of nominees is required. The slate will be presented at the April program meeting in Van Wert.....TMAS board meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 7 pm, room 205, Market Street Presbyterian Church, Lima.......450 original Audubon prints are housed in the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa, Canada. They were originally purchased for $1000. They are now worth over $10,000,000.......You may obtain information about current and future programs resulting from a grant received by Ohio Northern University’s Working Group on Religion, Ethics, and Nature by consulting its website at www.onu.edu/org/wgren. All programs are free and open to the public......Carol M. Bertrand
**2007 - 2008 ANNUAL APPEAL: A SUCCESS**

Tri-Moraine, an incorporated, all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, asks for your financial support once a year to help the chapter maintain and expand its local educational, environmental, conservation, and stewardship programs and projects. For the 2nd year we had an anonymous donor willing to match the total of your contributions up to $1000. We didn't meet the challenge last year, but this time around we made it. Contributions of $1720 were received ($1650 for non-specified use and $70 for the St Marys River-Grand Lake Important Bird Area Habitat Preservation & Conservation Project). Add the $1000 matching donation for a total of $2720 ($2580 non-specified and $140 for the St. Marys... Project). We also thank those members and friends who made in-kind and financial donations throughout the year and therefore were not mailed Annual Appeal requests. The Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following people for their Annual Appeal contributions: Anonymous (2), Roy & Esther Baldridge, Cindy Basinger, Bob & Carol Bertrand, Jill & John Bowers, Warren Brim, Myron D. Brown & Marjorie M. Rummel, Robbin A. Clark, James B. Dennis, Jim & Jan Heinrich, Harold E. Jennings, Tim & Sandra Kennedy, Jackie & Bill Light, Bob Obermeyer, John & Carla Olds, Lois Risser, Joan Schoeniger, Jim & Karen Spurgat, and Jack A. Woodward.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION**

Carol M. Bertrand, Education Committee Chairman
1232 Belvidere Ave., Lima OH 45801-3533, 419-227-9231

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES** provides outstanding educational materials designed for students in grades 3-6. Multidisciplinary learning experiences provide accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. The teacher receives a classroom resource manual and students receive a full-color newspaper for each unit. This year’s theme is “Back From the Brink: Success Stories From the Endangered Species Act.” Topics: Bald Eagle, American Alligator, Grizzly Bear, and Gray Whale. Special kit components are “Nature Journaling for Everyone” and “Backyard Conservation.” AA integrates reading with science and other core disciplines and meets science and language arts standards. Students develop an understanding of the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship while learning new skills.

Tri-Moraine ordered 82 AA 2007-2008 classroom resource kits and is a leader among Ohio Audubon chapters. We thank the following for their contributions in support of this program: Ann Beat - AA teacher, St. Gerard School, Lima; Benjamin Logan Local School District, Logan County; Bob & Carol Bertrand; Walter James "Jim" Wright Memorial Fund (funds AA classrooms in Allen County).

Participating school districts are listed by county -- ALLEN: Bath LSD (1 grade 4 classroom); Bluffton EVSD (3 grade 3 classrooms); Elda LSD (4th and 5th grade students, 4 grade 6 classrooms); Lima CSD - Heritage ES (2 grade 3 classrooms), South MS (5th grade students, science magnet students), Unity ES (3 grade 4 classrooms); Lima Seventh-Day Adventists School (all students); St. Gerard School, Lima (3rd and 5th grade students); St. Rose School, Lima (5th and 6th grade students); Perry LSD (2 grade 4 and 3 grade 5 classrooms, grades 3-6 students in the enrichment program); Shawnee LSD (3rd and 4th grade students); Spencerville LSD (4th students and grades 3-6 students in the enrichment program); AUGLAIZE: Wapakoneta CSD - Northridge ES (2 grade 4 classrooms); HANCOCK: Findlay CSD - Chamberlin Hill IS (3 grade 4 classrooms); HARDIN: Upper Scioto Valley LSD (2 grade 4 classrooms); LOGAN: Benjamin Logan LSD (4th grade students); MERCER: Celina CSD - Celina East ES (3rd and 4th grade students); Celina IS (6th grade students); Celina West ES (4th grade students); Immaculate Conception School, Celina (grades 3-6 students); Parkway LSD (4th grade students); VAN WERT: Van Wert CSD - Goedde Building (3 grade 5 classrooms).

There are three Special Education teachers also using AA in their upper-grade classrooms, one in the Ada EVSD in Hardin County and 2 in the St Marys CSD in Auglaize County. Another enterprising teacher is using AA as a bridge between her preschoolers and their parents. There are always exciting results when creative teachers use AA in the classroom.

**SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS**

This will be Tri-Moraine’s ninth year helping in the battle to save the wildflowers at Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District’s Kendrick Woods. Work days are scheduled as follows from 5:30 pm until dusk: Mondays beginning April 14 and continuing April 21 and 28, May 12 and 19, and ending June 2; Thursdays beginning April 10 and continuing April 17 and 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, ending June 5. Great progress has been made, but additional help is needed. For full information and to register as a volunteer contact JAMPD naturalist Mark Mohr at 419-223-1025.

**REUSEABLE SHOPPING BAGS** -- Consider the number of plastic bags Americans toss in their trash. As environmentally aware shoppers we can easily do something about this waste. Rays, The Andersons, and Meijer are now selling such bags, but your TMAS bookstore carries 4 bags for your selection and these bags are MADE IN THE USA. 3 bags are made from heavy, ten ounce, 100% natural unbleached canvas duck and the 4th bag is made from EcoSpun, a white materials made entirely from 100% post-consumer recycled soda bottles. All handles are made from tough cotton webbing. The bags are easy to pack (side gussets and rectangular bottom similar to a grocery store large paper bag), hold up to 40 lbs. easily, and are washable. Great for groceries, the library, etc. Prices range from $4.25 to $7.00 (including tax) depending on design and material. These bags are carried as a service to members and the public, not for fund-raising. They make thoughtful gifts and considering the cost and waste of gift bags, ribbon, and bows can also serve as gift bags. Available for purchase at monthly meetings and special events. Call 419-227-9231 for more information. **SHOP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIND -- REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!**

**WINTER BIRDSEED SALE RESULTS** -- Anne Smedley reports that $503.45 (including $169.90 in donations) was realized from the chapter’s February 2 preorder-only restocking sale for regular purchasers. All proceeds support local education and conservation programs and projects. The Society thanks those who purchased seed, DeHaven Home & Garden Shop with the use of both Findlay and Lima store locations for the sale and all the other great backup support, and Northland Quick Print for printing the sale flyers. Thanks, too, to volunteers Bob & Carol Bertrand, Denny Bucholtz, and Anne Smedley for their work on sale day in Lima.
2007 Christmas Bird Count Results

For the first time in the 16 years I have been coordinating one or more of the local CBCs, several days of forecasts of a severe winter storm led to the postponement by a week of the counts. Although the storm did not materialize with the severity that was predicted, road conditions on Saturday and overall weather on Sunday would have made counting birds dangerous, uncomfortably and unprofitable. Certainly the tradeoff was to our advantage for the Indian Lake count, as conditions on Saturday, 22 December 2007, were pretty good. As the 12 TMAS CBC birders met at McDonalds in Russell’s Point at 0730 hrs, it was a little cloudy, and much of the lake surface was frozen, but there was a SW wind at 10-15 mph, and the temperature was 43 F. It was to become sunny by noon and warm to 53 F. Working in four groups, we were: Bill and Sally Angel, with Brianna Braun (St. Marys); Curtis and Brian Gingerich, and Tim Schlabach (Belle Center); Ralph and Troy Shively (Bellefontaine); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); and, M. L. (Doc) Stephenson (Wapakoneta). We covered 277.5 miles in 21.5 group hours by car, and 13.5 miles in 10 group hours on foot.

We recorded the following Indian Lake (IL) birds (new species or record high numbers over the last 19 years are bolded): Canada Goose, 415; Mallard, 30; Great Blue Heron, 6; No. Harrier, 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper’s Hawk, 5; Accipiter, sp., 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 38; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Buteo, sp., 1; Amer. Kestrel, 40; Ring-billed Gull, 565; Rock Pigeon, 149; Mourning Dove, 370; E. Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; owl, sp., 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 38; Downy Woodpecker, 41; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 5; Blue Jay, 53; Amer. Crow, 140; Horned Lark, 52; Carolina Chickadee, 37; chickadee, sp(p), 6; Tufted Titmouse, 19; White-breasted Nuthatch, 25; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 5; Amer. Robin, 3; No. Mockingbird, 3; Euro. Starling, 1031; Cedar Waxwing, 19; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 71; Field Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 23; White-throated Sparrow, 52; White-crowned Sparrow, 23; sparrow, sp(p), 4; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 105; No. Cardinal, 97; Ea. Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 7; House Finch, 21; Amer. Goldfinch, 50; and, House Sparrow, 905. This is a total of 49 species, and 4501 individuals. In addition, we saw Bald Eagle, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Common Grackle, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin during the count week.

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We recorded the following Grand Lake (GL) birds (conventions as above): Great Blue Heron, 6; Amer. Kestrel, 3; Ring-billed Gull, 736; Herring Gull, 5; Rock Pigeon, 28; Mourning Dove, 17; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Horned Lark, 47; Blue Jay, 11; Amer. Crow, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; kinglet, sp(p), 2; Amer. Robin, 13; Euro. Starling, 1409; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 48; Song Sparrow, 33; White-throated Sparrow, 6; sparrow, sp(p), 3; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 89; Lapland Longspur, 63; Snow Bunting, 7; No. Cardinal, 24; House Finch, 24; Amer. Goldfinch, 18; House Sparrow, 432; and, unid. bird, 2. This is 42 species and 2173 individuals.

This year’s counts were not that surprising given the weather of the count days and of the season to that point. For the past 19 years, for which I have good records, only 3 IL counts have exceeded this year’s 49 species; only 3 GL counts have recorded fewer species than this year’s 42. Both lakes had been frozen the week before, so the general absence of waterfowl species was expected, as were the flocks of tundra birds after the previous week’s snows. In contrast, we really had not had any significant period of severe weather, so there were tardy robins, yellow-rumped warblers and blackbirds. Notable specific points include the new record low numbers of mallards at IL and of mourning dove, blue jays, Carolina chickadees and cardinals at GL – although the weather is probably the culprit. There were a number of high counts for the last 19 years at IL.

Sunday, 23 December 2007, dawned seasonably warm, but quite windy; it was rapidly downhill from that point. A TMAS crew of three arrived by 7:30 at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC (Jill Bowers (St. Marys), Eric Juterbock and M. L. (Doc) Stephenson); Bill Angel started later to experience the real weather. We worked in three groups, and spent 13.25 group hours in cars covering 140 miles, and 7.5 group hours on foot over 8.75 miles. The temperature ranged from 46-25 F with 21-37 mph winds, generally from the southwest. We recorded the following Grand Lake (GL) birds (conventions as above): Great Blue Heron, 6; Canada Goose, 1275; Muscovy, 1; Mallard, 30; Great Blue Heron, 6; No. Harrier, 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper’s Hawk, 5; Accipiter, sp., 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Amer. Kestrel, 3; Ring-billed Gull, 736; Herring Gull, 5; Rock Pigeon, 28; Mourning Dove, 17; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Horned Lark, 47; Blue Jay, 11; Amer. Crow, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; kinglet, sp(p), 2; Amer. Robin, 13; Euro. Starling, 1409; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 48; Song Sparrow, 33; White-throated Sparrow, 6; sparrow, sp(p), 3; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 89; Lapland Longspur, 63; Snow Bunting, 7; No. Cardinal, 24; House Finch, 24; Amer. Goldfinch, 18; House Sparrow, 432; and, unid. bird, 2. This is 42 species and 2173 individuals.

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Thanks to all of the volunteers – keep your binoculars handy!

- Eric Juterbock, compiler