A NATURALIST’S LOOK AT COSTA RICA, Tuesday, April 3, 7:30pm. Local naturalist, Rita Thelen, will give us a tour of Costa Rica which is about the size of WVA and home to a vast variety of plants and animals. Six per cent of the existing biodiversity in the world can be found in this small country that covers only .03 per cent of the surface of the globe. Join Rita for a visual tour of this fascinating country and a discussion of efforts to preserve and protect this treasure. Rita has been a naturalist for National and Ohio parks for over thirty years. She recently retired from her job as senior naturalist at the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District in Allen Co.

SUPPORT THE ORC! The Ottawa River Coalition’s Good Friday fish fry will be held on April 6, 11am to 6:30pm, in the Youth Building at the Allen County Fairgrounds. Note additional information in area media closer to April 6. TMAS is a member organization of the ORC. This is a great way to celebrate Earth Day!

SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS. You are needed to pull garlic mustard at Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District’s Kendrick Woods. You can set your own pace, your work will be appreciated, and being outdoors has its own rewards. Workdays are scheduled as follows: Mondays (9am - noon) April 23 & 30, May 7, 14, & 21, June 4; Thursdays (6pm - dusk) April 26, May 3,10,17,24, & 31, June 7: Saturday (1:30pm-4:30pm) June 2. Additional workdays and hours will be set as needed. For more info and to register as a volunteer, contact JAMPD Naturalist Mark Mohr at 419.223.1025.
April 15-21
National Volunteer Week

April 21
Depart 9:00am
Grand Lake St. Marys
IBA

May 1
Program Meeting
7:30pm

May 14
Field Trip
Big Birding Day
Depart 6:30am

Board Meeting
Tuesday May 29
7pm

July 3
Summer Picnic
Save this Date

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, “Celebrating People in Action”. Tri-Moraine salutes all its volunteers for their support of chapter programs and projects. The Society couldn’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. If you can help, call Bob Bertrand, volunteer chair, at 419.227.9231.

SPRING MIGRATION GRAND LAKE ST.MARYS REGION FIELD TRIP.
Saturday, April 21, 9am. This is a chance to engage with the seasonal return of neotropical migrant songbirds to their temperate North American summer homes. This trip will yield data on migratory species, but there are resident Bald Eagles, waterfowl, and shorebirds should be around. Members from the Lima area can meet in the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy's (SR 309) to carpool-departure at 9am. We will gather at the north end of 40-Acre pond at 9:30am for the watching to begin; walking along the tow-path there is usually productive. We will visit the fish hatchery, state park area, and other sites around the lake, weather, time and enthusiasm permitting. Some of us will likely bird most of the day, anyone available after the day is welcome (plan transportation accordingly). Dress appropriately for the weather, bring binoculars and field guides, and either bring your lunch or spending money for a quick stop in town. Field-trip is free and open to the public; both beginning and experienced birders are welcome. For more information, contact Eric Juterbock at 419.995.8360 (office) or juterbock.1@osu.edu.

18th ANNUAL OTTAWA RIVER CLEAN-UP. Saturday, April 28, 9am-noon. Start at the Allen Co. Red Cross Chapter House, corner of No. Shore Dr. and Collett St., Lima, to register, pick up trash bags, etc. Dress for the weather (old clothes/comfortable footwear). Gloves are mandatory (provided if needed). Youth under 18 MUST have parental permission and be accompanied by an adult. You can register representing any group and it would be great to have some members represent TMAS. Watch area media for more info or call Connie Miller at 419.228.3211.

33rd ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND. May 4-6, 2012. See enclosed application & detailed information on page 3 of this newsletter. This is an excellent opportunity to share your love of nature with family members at an affordable price.

WILDLIFE AND WIND ENERGY. Tuesday, May 1, 7:30pm. Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODNR) Wind Energy Wildlife Research Biologist, Jennifer Norris, will discuss wind turbine farms and wildlife. ODNR supports the development of “green” energy, but also emphasizes that minimizing the potential impact to wildlife and fisheries is part of accomplishing the goals of Senate Bill 221. The passage of SB 221 in 2008 mandates that at least 12.5% of OH energy must come from renewable sources by the year 2025.

BIG BIRDING DAY-WESTERN LAKE ERIE IBAS. Monday, May 14. This annual all-day trek by TMAS birders will visit six or seven of Lake Erie’s best birding locations during the peak of the spring migration. A car pool will depart at 6:30am from Lima’s Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy’s on SR 309. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. The group will leave “rain or shine” and return in the evening. The goal is to spot and identify 100 bird species. Open to the public. All interested birders, including beginners, are welcome. For more information contact Eric Broughton at 419.999.1987 or ebroughton@woh.rr.com.

TMAS BOARD MEETING. Tuesday, May 29, 7pm. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

TMAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC. Tuesday, July 3, 6:30pm, Ottawa Metro Park, SR 81 just east of Marimor School. This is a family oriented event; bring the children and grandchildren.

WAPAKONETA RECYCLE REPORT. In mid-December TMAS received a check for $838.36 for its September 10 work at Wapakoneta's recycling collection facility. More aluminum can donations would be helpful toward the total amount we receive; please save them for next year! Carry a plastic bag when you are out walking and pick up pop and beer cans. This helps reduce litter while helping your health and your chapter at the same time. Dry cans can be turned in at any monthly meeting or at the summer picnic. Kudos to Eric Juterbock, John Daley, and Carol Bertrand for contributing a large percentage of 2011’s aluminum cans. PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THE DATE for this year’s recycle day -- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 -- to either volunteer or deliver your recyclable materials. Thanks to the following 2011 volunteers who sorted all those cans, glass jars, plastic bottles, etc. and unloaded vehicles: Mary Kempen, Priscilla West, and Liz Vogt (Ada); Ivan & Rachel Friesen (Bluffton); Rhonda Beach (Edida); Bob & Carol Bertrand, David & Janice Betts, Anne Edwards, Lois Rissier, Jason Smedley, Wayne Thelen, and Shirley Wolf (Lima); Don & Mary Rosenbauer (Jackson Center); Mary Andrews, Mike & Pam Deoepker, Dianne Knipp, Craig Nolte, Marea Pouzar, and Phil Valentine (Wapakoneta). Thanks to all those who brought their recyclable materials to the center that day.
WATCH THOSE RENEWAL NOTICES FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. When you receive your renewal notices from the National Audubon Society it does not include your membership expiration date. You can find your expiration date by looking in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on this newsletter (e.g., 06/12). This means that your dual National/Chapter membership expires June 30, 2012. If you want to pay your membership way ahead, that’s your call, but the chapter is receiving membership dates extending out to 2018. Any membership concerns regarding your expiration date, the spelling of your name, address change, or new e-mail provider? Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair at 419.339.9751 or waskins@woh.rr.com.

33rd ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND May 4-6, 2012

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 33rd annual Environmental Education weekend at Camp Myeerah, SR 540 near Bellefontaine on May 4th through May 6th. 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 66 sites in Ohio which has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). www.audubon.org/Chapter/oh/oh/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 the 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 4th and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 6th. 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 an option in a heated building with full restroom facilities.

Due to insurance considerations, this opportunity is available for National Audubon members (or TMAS local supporting members) and their immediate families only. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form found on the enclosed EEW registration form 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 dcr.equity@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.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION: AUDUBON ADVENTURES 2011-2012

Audubon Adventures (AA) is a National Audubon Society award winning environmental education program about the natural world and how to protect it for students in grades 3-6. This school year's edition is titled "Feathers, Fur, Fins, and You" and features the amazing wildlife and habitats of Alaska, the ecology of rivers, and the variety and importance of pollination. These full-color educational materials include four class units with and educator's guide for each unit, individual newspapers for students, and an educator's toolkit of practical tips and techniques for incorporating nature study into the classroom curriculum. AA integrates reading with science and other core disciplines and meets science and language arts standards. TMAS has supported the AA program since its inception in 1984.

Tri-Moraine ordered 54 classroom kits and 5 individual kits for the 2011-2012 school year. We thank the following for their contributions in support of this outstanding program: Ann Beat - 3rd grade AA teacher, St. Gerard School; Carol & Bob Bertrand; Penny Pescosolido - 4th grade AA teacher, Perry Elementary School; and the Walter James "Jim" Wright Memorial Fund in support of Allen County classrooms. Participating school districts are listed by county -- ALLEN: Bluffton EVSD (all grade 3 students); Elida LSD (4 grade 4 classrooms, all grade 5 students); Lima CSD (all grade 5-8 students in the Lima South Science/Technology Magnet School); Marimor School (grades 1-4 classroom); Pilgrim Christian School, Lima (grades 4-6 classroom); Shawnee LSD (all grade 3 & 4 students); St. Gerard School, Lima (all grade 3-6 students); St. Rose School, Lima (all grade 5-8 students); Perrys LSD (all grade 4 students); Lima homeschoo1 (1 student) -- AUGLAIZE: Wapakoneta CSD (2 grade 4 classrooms) -- LOGAN: Benjamin Logan LSD (all grade 4 students) -- MERCER: Celina CSD (all grade 4 students at Celina East ES, 2 grade 5 classrooms & all grade 6 students at Celina IS); Immaculate Conception School (all grade 4 students). In addition, there are two special education teachers using AA in their upper grade classrooms in the St. Marys CSD in Auglaize County.

Many of our AA teachers are also using the revised edition of the Audubon Adventures Ohio Series this year. Some teachers were familiar with the old edition, but it is new to many. A big Thank You goes to John Daley for the use of his van to pick up these materials at the Allwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton for redistribution to teachers in our service area. Thanks also to Grange Insurance (Columbus) for printing these Ohio materials free of charge. I've written about this series before in the newsletter. I'll share teacher reactions at a later date. If you've never seen the materials, you'll have an opportunity to view them at the March monthly meeting. For more information contact Education Chair Carol Bertrand.

You can now find Tri-Moraine Audubon Society information on Facebook. Look for information about field trips, important bird sightings, and upcoming events. Check out the information and become a Facebook friend. Be sure to click the "LIKE" button for TMAS updates as they occur. Look for the TMAS cardinal logo.

Printing provided by your friends at Northland Quick Print
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE. The official time for electing new officers and board members to 2-year terms is at the annual meeting in May preceding the program meeting. Nominations are open for president, treasurer, and a board member-at-large position. The most urgent need however is the vice-president position (and future president in 2014) unfilled last year. Submit nominations to Chapter Volunteer Coordinator Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 or via the chapter’s mailing address. Nominations must be received no later than March 27, 2012. Prior consent of nominees is required. The slate will be presented at the April 3rd program meeting.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—SPRING OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES

I want to thank all the hard working and dedicated volunteers that make the chapter programs and activities so successful. I also want to recognize our two newest Board members, Russell Reynolds, Field Trip Chair and Candy Newland, Secretary. There are so many people who help as board members and committee chairs, at recycling, bringing refreshments, leading a nature hike, sharing pictures and stories, helping put away chairs after a meeting, and in a hundred other ways.

My priority for the coming year simply put; we need to get more people outside to experience nature and the environment. I thought I would find some insightful quote to inspire you so I did an internet search for “importance of getting outdoors”. I was rewarded with 6,430,000 results on google.com. There were so many articles, so many reasons, and so many different sources that I wondered why so few people know about this. I could relate the many stories why it is so important for children to “get out and play” outdoors and experience bugs, flowers, trees, and of course, birds. I might also tell you all the reasons it is good for adults such as exercise, stress reduction, and spending quality time with your children or grandchildren. If asked to recommend one activity for you and a friend or family to attend it would certainly be the Environmental Education Weekend on May 4 – 6, 2012. It is a fantastic event in a wonderful location, well organized by Don and Mary Rosenbeck, and a great value considering that all food, lodging, & programs for the weekend are included in the $26 adult / $16 child price. I do hope you will look through the newsletter, circle the activities that interest you, mark it on your calendar, invite other friends or family members, and join us for one of the many opportunities that are available for you to experience the great outdoors.

Also check out the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District’s calendar. TMAS is working to help make these activities great spring out-of-doors events. Call the JAMPD office at 419.221.1232 or visit www.jampd.com for additional information.

Spring Nature Exploration Series - Join a naturalist to learn about the ecology of the JAMPD parks’ natural areas this spring. All hikes start at 9am on Saturdays at different locations.

Earth Day Celebration - Numerous activities such as games, reptiles, pond study, and guided hikes will be offered between 1pm and 4pm on Sunday, April 22nd at Teddy Bear Park.

Bird Watching for Beginners – On Tuesday, May 8th starting at 7pm in the McElroy Environmental Education Center, the JAMPD and TMAS are offering a workshop to review basic bird identification skills and tools for anyone interested in learning more about the fun hobby of bird watching.

Spring Bird Watching –On Saturday, May 12th at 8am on the newly constructed observation deck at Lippincott Bird Sanctuary we will watch the birds while sitting comfortably in whatever folding chair you bring. If you are interested, you must register with the JAMPD office by May 10th. On Saturday, May 19th at 8am at Kendrick Woods we will stroll through the woods and fields watching and identifying the birds in this “Important Bird Area” as recognized by the National Audubon Society. If interested, you must register with JAMPD office by May 17th.
2012 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND REGISTRATION FORM
May 4-6, 2012

For more details, please visit our website at http://www.tri-moranieaudubon.org


Name: ______________________________________ Phone: ____________________________
Address: __________________________________ City: ____________________________ Zip: ______
e-mail address: ________________________________________________________________

List all other members of your family/group that will be attending (include ages if under 18):
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Vehicle Make/Model: ____________________________ License No.: ____________________________

Your anticipated Arrival date: ___________ & time: ___________ Departure date: ___________ & time: ___________

A. REGISTRATION FEE:  Due to insurance regulations, the weekend is open to Audubon MEMBERS ONLY
(To become a member, please ALSO complete the Supporting (Local) Membership form found below)

Early Bird registration must be postmarked on or before 4-20-12; $10.00 late fee due per person if postmarked after 4-27-12
We reserve the right to limit the total number of attendees due to limited camp accommodations.

NOTICE: ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

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<th>Qty</th>
<th>Early Bird Registration (On or before Apr 20)</th>
<th>Regular Registration (Apr 21 - 27)</th>
<th>Registration Fee (Qty x Fee)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adults (13 and older)</td>
<td>@ $26.00 each</td>
<td>Add $6.00 each</td>
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<td>Children (2 - 12)</td>
<td>@ $16.00 each</td>
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<td>Children - Under 2</td>
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Please indicate any dietary restrictions/preferences: Veg ______ (# people) Other ______ (# people)

B. LODGING - Please indicate by } (check) a 1st AND 2nd choice (in case of unavailability of your 1st choice)
(Your quantity of desired ONLY IF more than 1 unit is required – i.e. 2 tents)

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<th>(1st Choice)</th>
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<td>(2nd Choice)</td>
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<td>ACCOMODATIONS (note quantity available in each category)</td>
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<td>PERSONAL TENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>TREEHOUSE* (sleeps 6) - 4 units</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVERED WAGON* (sleeps 5) - 7 units</td>
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<tr>
<td>DORMITORY (bunk beds - sleeps 30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLATFORM TENT (sleeps 4 - 5) – 12 units</td>
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Please make checks payable to TRI-MORAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY, and Mail registration form to Eric Broughton, 3167 Clemens Dr, Lima OH 45806-1101.

A program brochure will be “mailed” as confirmation of your reservation; please indicate whether you would prefer to receive the brochure via _____ e-mail or _____ regular mail. (Please check only one.)

TMAS CAMP MYEERAH EEW POLICIES

1) Parents, grandparents and guardians must supervise the children under their care in a manner which assures the children’s safety and that of other persons, as well as the environment.
2) No individual campfires are allowed.
3) No firearms or weapons of any kind are allowed.
4) All participants must adhere to the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio policies. The Girl Scout policies will be posted at the Camp Myeerah Lodge.

Failure to follow these policies shall result in corrective action that may include expulsion from the campground and may affect future registration for EEW programs.

Become a Supporting Member of TRI-MORAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY – ONLY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY NOT NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERS
Tri-Moraine, a totally volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS).
TMAS serves Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties.

All members receive a membership card, eligibility to attend Environmental Education Weekend, the chapter’s mailings including its bi-monthly newsletter & a 10% discount on chapter nature store purchases. To report membership issues, contact Bill Askins at 419-339-9751 or e-mail waskins@woh.rr.com.

Name (please print) ____________________________ Telephone ____________________________
Street, PO Box, Apt. No. __________________________ City, State, ZIP __________________________ E-mail __________________________

All dues renew annually at same rates:
[ ] Individual (18 and over) -- $10  [ ] Couple -- $15  [ ] Student (through HS) -- $5  [ ] Do not share name with NAS
[ ] Family -- $20 (Circle one): Parent(s)/children under 18 OR Grandparent(s)/children under 18  [ ] Contact me about volunteer opportunities

Please Circle desired newsletter format: Paper or E-mail __________________________

Check for $__________ enclosed (Payable to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society - PO Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648)
TMAS 2011 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

TMAS counters arrived at 0730 hrs at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL) on Saturday, 17 December 2011. Despite a lower than expected turnout, those intrepid counters that did appear were chomping at the bit – actually, it was probably hotcakes and egg McMuffins! Anyway, six counters (two new to OHGL), in three groups, started the day, with another counting during the middle of the day. They were: Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Daniel Hodges (Lima); and, Bill Angel, Jill Bowers and Debbie Knox (St. Marys). We spent 19.5 group hours in cars covering 241 miles, and 8.5 group hours on foot over 13.5 miles, between 0805 and 1725 hrs. The temperature ranged from 30-32 °F with 0-9 mph winds, from the WSW. Water was mostly open, skies were cloudy, and a snow shower soon after we began left just under an inch of snow on the ground.

We recorded the following OHGL birds (new species or record high numbers over the last 23 years are bolded): Great Blue Heron, 17; Canada Goose, 376; Amer. Black Duck, c.w.; Mallard, 556; No. Shoveler, 55; Redhead, 1; Bufflehead, 10; duck, sp(p), 12; Wild Turkey, 3; Bald Eagle, 1; No. Harrier, 6; Cooper’s Hawk, 5; Horned Hawk, 17; Amer. Kestrel, 15; sandpiper sp. (peep), 1; Ring-billed Gull, 218; Herring Gull, 9; gull, sp(p), 1186; Rock Pigeon, 155; Mourning Dove, 140; Great Horned Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 19; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 2; woodpecker sp., 1; Horned Lark, 62; Blue Jay, 25; Amer. Crow, 3; Carolina Chickadee, 1; chickadee, sp(p), 18; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 2; Amer. Robin, 17; Cedar Waxwing, 10; Euro. Starling, 2849; No. Cardinal, 51; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 30; sparrow, sp(p), 17; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 48; Common Grackle, 600; House Finch, 95; Amer. Goldfinch, 39; and, House Sparrow, 1165. This is 42 species and 7876 individuals.

At 0730 hrs on Sunday, 18 December 2011, at the McDonalds in Russell’s Point, fourteen TMAS birders met in preparation for the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL). There were five groups of counters: Ralph Shively (Bellefontaine); Bob and Jackie Connour and family (Findlay); Evelyn Prater (Harrod); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); David Bohla (Lakeview); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Bill and Sally Angel (St. Marys); Arlene Hawkins (Urbana); and, Brianna and Sophia Braun and Troy Shively (Wapakoneta). The water was mostly open, less than 1 inch of patchy snow was on the ground, and it was partly cloudy until clearing around 2 p.m. Winds were from the southwest at 5-14 mph, with temperatures 30-39 °F. We covered 359.6 miles in 24.5 group hours by car, and 13 miles in 10.25 group hours on foot, between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The following OHIL birds were seen (conventions as above): Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 130; Mute Swan, 5; Amer. Black Duck, 1; Mallard, 355; mallard hybrid, 8; No. Shoveler, 32; Ring-necked Duck, 10; Common Merganser, 6; Red-breasted Merganser, 8; merganser, sp(p), 5; duck sp(p), 4; No. Harrier, 8; Cooper’s Hawk, 3; Accipiter sp., 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 22; Buteo sp., 1; Amer. Kestrel, 23; Amer. Coot, 70; Sandhill Crane, c.w.; Killdeer, 8; Ring-billed Gull, 633; Herring Gull, 3; Rock Pigeon, 83; Mourning Dove, 92; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 23; Downy Woodpecker, 29; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; woodpecker sp., 1; Horned Lark, 77; Blue Jay, 62; Amer. Crow, 101; Carolina Chickadee, 19; chickadee, sp(p), 16; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 1; Amer. Robin, 3; No. Mockingbird, 1; Euro. Starling, 949; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 3; No. Cardinal, 64; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 111; Song Sparrow, 16; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; sparrow, sp., 37; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 66; Red-winged Blackbird, 10; Common Grackle, c.w.; Brown-headed Cowbird, 5; blackbird sp(p), 100; House Finch, 69; Amer. Goldfinch, 39; and, House Sparrow, 1306. This is a total of 51 species, and 4691 individuals.

At OHGL, the only new species was the peep sandpiper that flew through the snow shower past us to land far out in the muddy bottom of a drained but snowy hatchery pond; the only record high number was for a flock of grackles – a species seen only three times in the past 23 years (singles twice, two once). Northern Shoveler also had a high number, but they have only been seen four times in past 23 years. Canada Goose, Downy Woodpecker, chickadees, titmouse, WB nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Amer. Tree Sparrow and junco were all seen at the low end of their range of CBC numbers for the site — several the lowest in 13-15 years. OHIL had no new species and no record high counts; the 8 harriers is 1 fewer than the number seen in two of the past 23 years. This is only the second time that shovelers and either merganser have been recorded in the past 23 years. Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, and Carolina Wren were at the low end of their respective ranges of count numbers at this site. Of all the low numbers, only the geese and wrens were consistent between sites. Although interesting, those two species have nothing in common, so a pattern is doubtful. Perhaps more interesting is the decidedly uneventful year with respect to birds that avoid us in the paucity of waterfowl and late season migrants quite surprising. I doubt any of us were surprised to miss seeing those birds mostly driven to us from up north by bad weather.

Thanks to all of the volunteers! And, don’t forget to look for opportunities to bird in the St. Marys River-Grand Lake IBA. Bird data from that region can be very useful in monitoring the health of the IBA - keep your binoculars handy! - Eric Juterbock