**Volunteer Opportunities...**

**Save the Wildflowers**—Help is needed to pull out garlic mustard from several Johnny Appleseed Park District areas. This begins in April and continues through May. See Page 3 for details.

**Ottawa River Cleanup** will be held Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the American Red Cross building, corner of N. Shore Drive and Collett St., Lima. See Page 3 for details.

**TMAS Board Meeting** - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. March 31 and May 26 in the OSU Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima. All are welcome to attend.

**PLANT A TREE, MAKE A DIFFERENCE...**

By Jeannine C. Roediger

We know bird numbers are declining. Have you asked yourself what you can do? I have, and one of the answers I get is to provide more habitat. Plant a tree, shrub, flowers, or provide a water source and food. We can, in just a small way, make a difference.

My father, at the age of 78, planted a 10-acre field to trees. He lived until the age of 91 and saw over 10 years of growth. I remember my brother and I helping him plant row upon row of hardwoods and evergreens. We used a tree spade as there were so many to be planted, but most survived.

Now the property is owned by my nephew, and those trees, after 33 years, have grown to 20-30 feet high and provide habitat for deer, turkey, rabbits, and myriads of bird species. It’s a marvel to look at and shows what can be done to provide shelter for birds and animals. Think of all the oxygen they produced during those years, as well. These trees are a living testament to my father, who always enjoyed nature. Now we are enjoying the fruits of his dedication.

Each of us can do something even though we own a small property. We can provide what our feathered friends need the most. A small yard can harbor a grove of native shrubs, and a few hardwoods or evergreens. Water can simply be a small pan filled daily with fresh water, food can be provided by those same shrubs and plants if you choose native species that provide seeds and berries.

If you have a garden, either vegetable or flower, they too provide seeds. Sunflowers are a good choice and are easy to grow. Tubular flowers draw hummingbirds, even those pesky dandelions draw goldfinch to enjoy their seeds.

I’ve always said I will plant trees until the day I die. If each of us made one small step toward helping our birds, it would make a pretty big impact. I don’t know about you but I will be planting some trees and plants this spring that will give our feathered friends food and shelter. I may not see them reach 33 years of age, but I will enjoy their growth in the years I’m given.
2020 EEW Weekend planned...

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 41st annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) at Myeerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine, May 1st - 3rd. EEW provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a unique environment.

The Myeerah Nature Preserve is operated by the Bellefontaine Joint Recreational District and is 500 acres of meadows, lakes, streams, and woodland. Myeerah is one of 66 sites designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). (www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html)

The educational programs offered include learning about and participating in field trips on birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants, and other nature-related programs. Coinciding with the spring migration of Neotropical migrant warblers and spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide unique educational opportunities for families.

NEW THIS YEAR is a family registration. Bring the whole family (living in a single household) for only $100. That includes lodging Friday and Saturday, five meals and all the programs! Also new, if you can’t make the whole weekend, you can register for either Saturday only or Sunday only.

EEW begins with registration starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1st and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 3rd. All meals are provided for Saturday and Sunday. Due to insurance considerations, overnight registrations are available ONLY for National Audubon members (or TMAS local Supporting members) and their immediate families. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form elsewhere in the newsletter and mail by mid-March or contact Carol Bertrand at 419.227.9231.

For further information contact either Don Rosenbeck at dmrosenbeck@gmail.com or Eric Broughton at broughtoneric@yahoo.com. Submitted by Don Rosenbeck

Membership Chair’s Service Recognized - In the January/February 2006 newsletter, then president, Mary Rosenbeck wrote of the urgent need for a membership database chair, a position requiring both knowledge of database software and attention to detail. In the March/April issue she officially thanked and welcomed Elida member Bill Askins who literally “took the ball and ran with it.”

We now thank Bill for serving 14 years. “I did the mailing for the newsletter and other chapter mailings for all those years, and Bill and I worked together to see that our database was accurate and up-to-date. As changes popped up due to membership mailing requirements, Bill would figure out a way to provide the information needed. Thanks Bill for your friendship and a job well done,” said Carol Bertrand, longtime Audubon member.

A sentiment echoed by all who have benefitted from his work.

Help Needed! Membership Chair

So, due to Bill Askins retirement, we have an opening for a Membership Chair. This position requires good computer skills and familiarity with Excel and Microsoft Access. The Membership Chair takes care of our member database.

The database needs to be updated regularly. We receive monthly membership updates from the National Audubon Society, and we need current lists for this newsletter and EEW. The workload varies but is estimated to be less than 10 hours a month. There is variety in this work and it should be interesting.

If you are interested in becoming Membership Chair or would like more information, please contact Volker Jeschonnek, at vjeschonnek@hotmail.com or 419.222.673.

Tri-Moraine’s Strategic Planning Process

To better align our efforts with our goals, Tri-Moraine is starting a strategic planning process and we would like your ideas!

It will start at March’s meeting with break-out sessions to get ideas about what Tri-Moraine is doing well, and what we could improve. Strategic planning will continue throughout the summer. We hope to have a strategic plan set by fall. Let Jackie Augustine know if you would like to be on the strategic planning committee at augustine.63@osu.edu. Submitted by Jackie Augustine
2019 Christmas Bird Count Results - TMAS birders were busy during the Audubon Christmas Bird Count season, as our two counts for the 119th were completed. Note that species new to a count or record high numbers for a count (both based upon the past 31 years) are indicated in bold.

On Saturday, December 14, 2019, the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL) attracted 17 TMAS counters, the second largest group of the last 31 years. Gathering around 7:30 a.m. at the McDonalds in Russell’s Point were: Andrew and Jackie Augustine; Jill Bowers; Allison Brady; Bob Case; Jamie Cunningham; Cheryl Erwin; Steve Jones; Eric Juterbock [coordinator]; Josh King; Stefan Minnig; Evelyn Prater; Mandy Roberts; Mary Rosenbeck; Troy Shively; Allison Weller; and Amanda Weller. Assembled as five groups for the day, we spent 21 group hours in cars covering 185 miles, and 7.25 group hours on foot over 5.6 miles, between 8 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. We found 4,738 individuals of 64 species. Temperatures ranged from 36 to 42 F, with westerly 5-15 mph winds and open water; it was cloudy all day, with some fog early.

The following OHIL birds were seen: Canada Goose, 461; Tundra Swan, 27; Wood Duck, 1; No. Shoveler, 13; Amer. Wigeon, 1; Mallard, 779; Mallard (hybrid), 30; Amer. Black Duck, 4; Redhead, 15; Lesser Scaup, 1; Bufflehead, 11; Common Goldeneye, 3; Hooded Merganser, 8; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Ruddy Duck, 3; Wild Turkey, 12; Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Rock Pigeon, 193; Mourning Dove, 250; Amer. Coot, 60; Sandhill Crane, 33; Bonaparte’s Gull, 166; Ring-billed Gull, 107; Herring Gull, 8; Great Blue Heron, 5; No. Harrier, 5; Cooper’s Hawk, 7; Bald Eagle, 10; Red-tailed Hawk, 17; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Short-eared Owl, 3; owl, sp., 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-billed Woodpecker, 22; Downy Woodpecker, 29; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 10; Amer. Kestrel, 25; Merlin, 1; Blue Jay, 33; Amer. Crow, 18; Carolina Chickadee, 14; chickadee, sp(p). 4; Tufted Titmouse, 22; Horned Lark, 24; White-breasted Nuthatch, 24; Brown Creeper, 5; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 14; Euro. Starling, 1234; No. Mockingbird, 1; E. Bluebird, 5; Amer. Robin, 26; Cedar Waxwing, 12; House Sparrow, 707; House Finch, 13; Amer. Goldfinch, 14; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 16; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 44; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 80; Swamp Sparrow, 1; sparrow, sp., 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; No. Cardinal, 45; and, passerine, sp(p)., 4.

The following day, December 15, 2019, only five made the call by 7:30 a.m. at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL), and three of these volunteers were only available until noon! So, we organized in two groups for the morning, and the two survivors were joined by one new counter for the afternoon. We tried to cover as much of the count circle as possible solo; also, two additional counters were active in St Marys during the afternoon. Counters included: Bill and Sally Angel; Jackie Augustine; Jill Bowers; Eric Juterbock [coordinator]; Barb Kuhns; Mary Rosenbeck; and Kay West. We counted for 6.4 group miles on foot in 6.4 group hours in cars covering 185 miles, and 7.25 group hours on foot over 5.6 miles, between 8 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. We found 4,738 in 64 species. Temperatures ranged from 27 to 32 F; winds of 0 to 15 mph from west. It was again cloudy all day with no precipitation.

We recorded the following OHGL birds: Canada Goose, 2573; Greater White-fronted Goose, 20; American Black Duck, 1; Mallard, 251; No. Shoveler, 2; Redhead, 1; Bufflehead, 7; duck, sp(p). 5; Rock Pigeon, 53; Mourning Dove, 53; Sandhill Crane, 231; Ring-billed Gull, 129; Herring Gull, 15; gull, sp(p)., 424; Great Blue Heron, 11; No. Harrier, 2; Cooper’s Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 11; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Red-billed Woodpecker, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 28; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 7; Amer. Kestrel, 16; E. Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 65; Carolina Chickadee, 20; chickadee, sp(p)., 1; Tufted Titmouse, 10; Horned Lark, 32; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Brown Creeper, 5; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 13; Euro. Starling, 719; No. Mockingbird, 1; E. Bluebird, 9; Amer. Robin, 1; House Sparrow, 594; House Finch, 23; Amer. Goldfinch, 5; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 58; Dark-eyed Junco, 86; Song Sparrow, 63; sparrow, sp(p)., 3; No. Cardinal, 68; and, passerine, sp(p)., 2. The totals include 46 species and 5676 individual birds.

Notes of interest include that the OHIL number of 64 species bested the previous high of last 31 years (63 in 2016 & 2018). Also of note in that count was that Troy’s group of 6 located 59 species. The number of Sandhill Cranes at OHGL was nearly 5 times the previous high, which stands out even though their appearance at CBCs is sporadic and #s vary considerably. Three species at OHGL had record high counts, Tundra Swan, Bonaparte’s Gull and Bald Eagle. The eagles are breeding in the area and more commonly seen. The other two species probably benefited from the warmer than normal weather and the lack of ice on the lake. For OHGL, Eastern Phoebe had only been seen once before (2002) in the previous 31 years, and this was the third consecutive year without seeing a crow!

Thanks to all of the volunteers! Once again, don’t forget to look for opportunities to bird in the two CBC areas and the St. Marys River-Grand Lake IBA. Other IBAs in the Tri-Moraine area include Myeerah Nature Preserve, Lawrence Woods, Kendrick Woods and the Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs. Bird data from any of these areas can be very useful in monitoring the health of the sites – and posting your observations on eBird would make it easier for that to be accomplished. Keep your binoculars handy!
New Constitution and Bylaws Planned

This is an advance notice that the Board aims to have a vote by the membership on a new Constitution and Bylaws for Tri-Moraine Audubon Society at the General Meeting on May 5.

Over the past years, considerable efforts have been spent on this project and as we continue this work, we will keep the membership informed. Submitted by Volker Jeschonnek
**Planned Field Trips**

**KILLDEER PLAINS FIELD TRIP** —Saturday, March 28th - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Eastgate Parking Lot

Come explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies and woodlots at Killdeer Plains and search for waterfowl and much more! Some walking, but we will be mostly driving between points of interest. Prepare for the weather and pack some lunch/snacks/beverages.

A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be provided. A carpool will depart at 10 a.m. from Lima’s Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy’s on SR 309. We will meet at the Killdeer Upground Reservoir at 11 a.m.

This program is co-sponsored by the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District and the park van will plan to be back at 4 p.m. Register with the Park District (419-221-1232) by March 27 for a seat in the van. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome.

**KUFFNER NATURE PRESERVE** —Saturday, April 25th – 1:30 p.m. – Auglaize County

Visit this beautiful preserve with a guide from Heritage Trails Park District. At 16 acres, its size is not particularly impressive, but it does boast a beautiful display of wildflowers and it is a good site for migrating songbirds.

We’ll take a hike to explore the mile and a half of trails at the preserve and maybe learn a little about the parks in Auglaize County. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at 14840 County Road 66A St Marys, OH 45885.

**BIG BIRDING DAY–WESTERN LAKE ERIE IBAs** —Monday, May 11th – 6:30 a.m. to ??? P.m. – Eastgate Parking Lot

Almost as a rite of passage, all true birders (brand-new beginners, casual hobbyists, and hardcore chasers alike) need to visit the Ohio shores of Lake Erie during the peak of spring songbird migration.

Come along as we take our annual trek to visit a few of Lake Erie’s best birding locations. Stops will include the famous boardwalk at Magee Marsh and a driving tour of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and more!

A carpool/caravan will depart (rain or shine) at 6:30 a.m. from Lima’s Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy’s on SR 309. We plan to be at the nature center (called “Crane Creek Wildlife Research” on Google) at 8:30 a.m. Prepare for the weather and pack lunch/snacks/beverages. Binoculars, sun protection, and field guides are also recommended. Although several birders will stick around for most of the day and share an evening meal, feel free to leave as early as you like. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome!  

**February 2020 Birdseed Sale Results** —We sold over 1,700 pounds of birdseed in the winter sale. Thanks to our generous purchasers, the chapter earned $317.51 plus $106.95 in donations.

Thank you to Bob and Carol Bertrand for donating the cost of mailing the flyers. Thank you to Layman’s for providing a location. Thank you to Denny Bucholtz for helping distribute the purchases at pick up. Submitted by Anne Smedley

**Program Meetings...**

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Jamie Cunningham: Spectacular Waterfowl Migration of the Western Lake Erie Basin – Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. * - Explore the wonders of the diverse waterfowl species that migrate through Lake Erie’s marshes in spring. From immense Trumpeter Swans, down to the petite Green-winged Teal, Lake Erie is an important stop for ducks, geese, loons, and more! Jamie spends most of her free time photographing birds around Ohio and the United States. Her favorite groups are waterfowl and shorebirds. She is an Ohio Young Birder Club Advisor and guides birding festivals in her free time, including for the Biggest Week in American Birding.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT PROGRAM* – Tuesday, April 7 6:30 -8:30 p.m. —Come to our third annual Family Fun Night! This event is not just for kids—it is for families of every shape and size. Young squirmy kids? No children? Widowed? No problem! Come as you are! If you can, invite a cousin, friend, co-worker, neighbor, sister, parent—bring someone to Audubon! The format for the Family Fun night is a series of tables with fun, hands-on, learning activities. Folks from Tri-Moraine, Johnny Appleseed, and Ohio State-Lima will host tables with live animals, trivia, nature crafts and more! Don’t miss it!

Susan Gershman: The Science of Animal Behavior: What we can and can’t learn from watching animals – Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.* - Animal behavior is fascinating; humans spend countless hours watching nature programs and looking at cute animal videos. But to actually understand the underlying reasons why animals do what they do, we need to apply the scientific method. In this talk, Gershman will discuss the myth vs. the science of animal behavior, why the study of animal behavior is important, and how the scientific method can be used to study of animal behavior, with her own research as an example. Gershman studies the evolution of animal behavior with research focus on reproductive behaviors in insects, especially crickets and flies. She is especially interested in how complex behaviors used in mate attraction evolve, and how mate attraction behaviors may cause a conflict of interests between males and females.

*Co-sponsored with Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

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**Presidents Message...**

Winter has been so mild my urge to dig in the soil and plant something hit much sooner this year! Luckily, my schedule has been so full, I haven’t given in to the urge yet. As much as I love winter, I really look forward to getting out to look for insects, flowers, buds, and birds as the weather warms. I’ve shared before about the many opportunities that Tri-Moraine Audubon offers to get outside and enjoy nature. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find details about the annual TMAS Environmental Education Weekend held at Myeerah Nature Preserve near Bellefontaine.

Fundamental to every EEW is the opportunity to experience Myeerah Nature Preserve through wildflower walks, birding, fishing, nature study, as well as an evening campfire....with singing! Participants are welcome to camp for the weekend, or new this year, join in activities for the day. And to keep everyone motivated and nourished, all meals are cooked on-site and are included in your reservation. Food is plentiful and delicious!

Additional topics included this year include Spiders, Nature Photography, Birding for Children, Stream Stroll, and a “Moth Night.” Environmental Education Weekend offers everyone a chance to unplug, unwind, and make new discoveries while participating with multiple generations. Past participants have included entire families, from grandparents to grandchildren. However, we also welcome singles, couples, and friends. The structure of the weekend allows ample opportunities to meet new folks and share observations. A chapel service is offered on Sunday morning for attendees who wish to participate. Gather family and friends and register for EEW 2020. Come join us and make memories that will last a lifetime! Cheryl Erwin

Hiking at Myeerah Nature Preserve

**EW Registation 2020**

**Spring 2020 Newsletter**

P.O. Box 95728 Lima OH 45802-9748

Shelby and Van Wert Counties in Ohio

Hardin • Logan • Mercer •Auglaize

Allen

**Audubon Society President**
2020 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND REGISTRATION FORM

May 1 – 3, 2020

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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Early Bird - April 17, 2020  Regular - April 24, 2020

Name: ___________________________________________________  Phone: ____________________________  (please indicate if cell OR home)

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: __________

Is anyone in your household a member of National Audubon Society or a local chapter?  Y   N  Chapter Name: _____________  
(Due to insurance regulations, weekend registrations are open to Audubon MEMBERS ONLY)

A. FULL WEEKEND REGISTRATION FEE (Friday night thru Sunday afternoon) - ONE-DAY ONLY Option on back:  
Early Bird registration must be postmarked on or before 4-17-20; Additional $10.00 late fee due per person if postmarked after 4-24-20  
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>(Regular Registration) (Apr 18 – 24)</th>
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<td>Adults (13 and older) - @ $40 each</td>
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_____ Non-Member Registration - Add $20 per household for Local Family Membership (includes Parent(s) or Grandparent(s) & children under 18)  

Please indicate any dietary restrictions/preferences below:  
Vegetarian ________ (# people)  Other (Please specify) - ____________ (# people) ____________

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

(1st Choice) (2nd Choice)  
ACCOMMODATIONS (note total quantity available in each category)  
PERSONAL TENT  
TREEHOUSE (sleeps 6) - 4 units  
DORMITORY (foam mattresses on floor - sleeps 30)  
PLATFORM TENT (sleeps 4 - 5) – 4 units (2 wheelchair accessible units are available upon request)  

(Over)
Please make checks payable to TRI-MORAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY, and Mail registration form to Eric Broughton, PO Box 5648, Lima OH 45802-5648.

We reserve the right to limit the total number of attendees due to limited camp accommodations.

NOTICE: ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

C. ONE-DAY ONLY FEE

Early Bird registration must be postmarked on or before 4-17-20; Additional $10.00 late fee due per person if postmarked after 4-24-20

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<td>$75/Family</td>
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Please Choose One: Sat ____ Sun ____

Total Registration Fee: ___________

Please indicate any dietary restrictions/preferences below:

Vegetarian _________ (# people)  Other (Please specify) - _________ (# people) ________

Please make checks payable to TRI-MORAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY, and Mail registration form to Eric Broughton, PO Box 5648, Lima OH 45802-5648.

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 MYEERAH NATURE PRESERVE 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 Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District policies.

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.