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SPRING 2024

TMAS Board Meeting - The TMAS Board meetings are held in person in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 26 at 6:30 p.m.

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Changes through the decades...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Change, they say, is a part of our lives. Living for eight decades I have seen many changes, as did my parents before me. Those changes also include what I have noticed in my minute part of the natural world. Growing up the outdoors was our playground, and we paid attention to any changes or anything unusual. We spent all of our time outside. One thing I don't remember seeing was the V-formation of Sandhill Cranes going south or north like I do today. They are hard to miss as they are very vocal as they fly across. I would have noted that as a child and been curious about them. Cardinals of course were in evidence, all types of sparrows, barn swallows, cat-birds, robins and other more common species.

Several changes, however, can be noted. Often Ring-Necked Pheasants would be seen traveling along the fencerows, the males beautiful coloration so evident. "Bobwhite" calls were often heard across the fields. We would mimic their calls so we could hear them be returned. It's been a long time since I've heard a Bobwhite Quail call or seen one of their nests hidden in tall grasses and filled with white eggs. I have seen them in Northern Indiana and enjoyed watching the parents parade their young in single file behind them. Meadowlarks were more common then as there were many pastures.

As a child we were living just a few miles from Grand Lake St. Marys. After the corn was harvested we often saw large flocks of Canada geese fly into our fields to browse on dropped kernels of corn or weed seeds. Their V-shaped flying pattern was very familiar. It seems their numbers have increased over the years, especially those that stay the winter.

Wild Turkeys were never seen, nor were there any White-tailed Deer or Bald Eagles. Coyotes were not around, but many Red Fox with their pluming red and white-tipped tails were spotted. Owls were much more in evidence. Both Screech Owls, Barn Owls and Horned Owls were very common. There were many old barns and hollow trees that supported their habitation.

Every homestead had a woods and fencerows were a given to separate land ownership or to keep livestock in if put out on pasture or in a field to eat cornstalks or dropped ears of corn. Bird habitat was predominant and easily found. I miss some of the birds I once saw as very common, but acknowledge and appreciate the new species that are seen today.



Wild turkeys are now more prevalent.

Program Meetings...

Top Five Birding Beatdown

Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus

Top Five Birding Beatdown with our own Dan Hodges and Zack Walton. Our special guest will be Dr. Jackie Augustine.

This event will be loosely patterned from the TV series. Join us for this unusual birding presentation and have some fun with two of our TMAS members and our special guest.

Family Fun Night

Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus.

Join us for kid-friendly crafts and activities at our TMAS Annual Family Fun Night. Two groups hosting kid-friendly activities are the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District with the Ottawa River Coalition. Young and young-at-heart please join us for a fun evening of activities!

Are there Peregrine Falcons locally?

Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Visitor and Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus

Did you know that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife has been monitoring Peregrine Falcons in Lima, Ohio? Are the falcons doing well? Are there any baby falcons this year?

Sara Zaleski is a Wildlife Research Technician with the ODNR Division of Wildlife. She will be bringing us information about Peregrine Falcons and their role in the environment. If there are new little ones, Sara will bring pictures. Let's hope that there are little falcons this spring!

Submitted by Nancy Risner



Peregrine Falcon



Birdwatching at a former EEW day.

A Day at EEW...

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) becomes: Environmental Education – Myeerah Open House (EE-MOH).

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS) will host a day for exploration and field study at the Myeerah Nature Preserve near Bellefontaine, Ohio on May 4th. This new format is meant to adapt to busy lifestyles.

A formal schedule will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may extend your personal time both earlier or later (the preserve is open dawn to dusk) as fits your needs. The camp lodge will be open for your use from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. There will be a picnic lunch for registered participants in the lodge at 11:30 a.m. TMAS will be providing a meat dish for those registered. You will need to bring your own drinks and also a side dish to share if you'd like.

Scheduled activities for the day will include:

- ☺ 9:00 a.m. – birdwatching
- ☺ 12:30 p.m. – wildflower walk
- ☺ 3:00 p.m. – nature hike

You may attend all or any part of the day for a \$5 fee. Children under 12 years of age are free. Please make checks payable to TRI-MORAINES AUDUBON SOCIETY, and mail payment with names of attendees and their ages to Eric Broughton, PO Box 5648, Lima OH 45802-5648.

If desired, you may explore the grounds on your own and select only those formal programs that interest you most. A group species list will be tabulated for both birds and wildflowers – continuing the citizen science program for the 45th year!!! Open to Audubon members and the general public, so come and bring a friend! We hope to see you there.

Myeerah Nature Preserve was established in 2014 through the efforts of TMAS and The Trust for Public Land. It was a former Girl Scout camp of Appleseed Ridge Girl Scouts (1963, Lima) which had combined with the Girl Scout camps of Toledo and Cincinnati forming the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. The foresight of the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio made possible this unique 449-acre site (an Audubon Important Bird Area) as a nature preserve which is managed by Bellefontaine Parks; Recreation Department for the enjoyment of all. Myeerah Nature Preserve is located at 7405 State Route 540 eight miles east of Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck

Field Trips...

Killdeer Plains Field Trip, Sat., March 23

We will start at 9:00 a.m. from McElroy Environmental Education Center: 2355 Ada Rd. Lima OH 45801 or meet at 10:00 a.m. at Upground Reservoir, Killdeer Plains.

Join a naturalist from the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and other members of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to explore some of the 8,000-plus acres of wetlands, prairies and woodlots at Killdeer Plains as we look for waterfowl and much more! Some walking, but we will mostly be driving between points of interest.

Prepare for the weather and pack a lunch/snacks/beverages. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be provided. A caravan will depart at 9 a.m. from the McElroy Environmental Education Center (2355 Ada Rd. Lima). We will meet at the Killdeer Upground Reservoir at 10 a.m. Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the midafternoon.

Experienced and beginning birders are welcome.

Tecumseh Nature Preserve Walk, April 29 - 6:00 p.m. at OSU Lima

OSU Lima maintains a beautiful, 200-acre preserve that includes a variety of forest types as well as a recently restored prairie. We'll meander under massive oaks as we search for the first signs of spring!

We will be looking for wildflowers and listening for the spring songs of birds and frogs together in the great outdoors. Meet at the trailhead at the end of the parking lot northeast of the visitor center.

Big Birding Day, Monday, May 13, 6:30 a.m. start from McElroy Environmental Ed. Center (2355 Ada Rd)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at west entrance to boardwalk at Magee Marsh. Join a naturalist from Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and other members of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to visit some of the hottest birding locations in the world! This is peak migration for songbirds, and our birding trip will start with the boardwalk at Magee Marsh and potentially include the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge driving tour, Howard Marsh and more!

A carpool will depart at 6:30 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the evening. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome.

Submitted by Dan Hodges



Purple aster with Monarch butterfly

New—Native Plant Sale...

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will be hosting their first annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18. Pickup times are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Dot's Pet Center at 3565, Shawnee Rd, Lima, Ohio 45806. Please fill out the order form included in this newsletter, then mail the form by May 3 to Anne Smedley, 1564 Crayton Ave, Lima, OH 45805. Make sure to place a preorder to guarantee getting your preferred species.

We have a handful of tree and shrub species in limited amounts from Star Farms Native Plants in Kenton. In addition there are 20 species of perennial flowering plants available from Natives in Harmony.

Dave McPherson of Star Farm Native Plants will be on location with an additional selection. He will also be available to answer your questions about native plants. Orders must be picked up on the day of the sale. Any orders not picked up by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 th will be donated to sale volunteers, Dot's Pet Center employees or Johnny Appleseed Park District.

Pre-orders must be mailed by May 3 to Anne Smedley. If you have any questions about the sale or plants being offered, please contact Anne Smedley at 419.303.1766.

Submitted by Anne Smedley



Pileated Woodpecker



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President's Message

Friends,

Bird is the word. I don't know about you, but I love the spring! I enjoy each season, the summer sun, the autumn colors, even the patience of winter, but spring tops them all. It's the time of frogs and salamanders, the former singing their hearts out for their mates. It's the time for new plant growth and wonderful flowers, truly a treat to enjoy. It's the time for insects and other arthropods to come back to life, butterflies are a typical favorite but don't forget the bees, beetles, flies and friends. But really, it's the time for birds. Birds everywhere. Big birds, little birds, colorful birds, loud birds, cute birds, water birds, songbirds, birdy bird birds.

Take a little time this spring, maybe at one of Tri-Moraine's programs, to enjoy the spring from a bird's perspective, a bird's eye view, so to speak. You might see those frogs as tasty snacks for returning Green Herons, or those wildflowers as nectar stops for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Certainly, all that plant growth harbors delicious caterpillars for just about any birds, including warblers like the Northern Parula. And those bugs are a favorite snack for flycatchers like the Eastern Phoebe.

When you take a step back, you might come to the conclusion that it really is all about the birds. At least, you could view it that way. And that is a big part of Tri-Moraine's mission, National Audubon's as well, to approach holistic ecosystem conservation and restoration through the lens of birds and how we as people can connect with them. It is amazing how much we can benefit from coming from that angle. If we can protect birds, we can protect pretty much everything else. But more than that, birds are wonderful objects of our interest. They are great study subjects, are environmental indicators, have many symbiotic relationships, and many are ecosystem engineers. Birds teach us and inspire us, they visit us and sing to us, they bring us beauty and entertainment. To sum it up, I think The Trashmen (and The Rivington's before them) were right, the Bird is the Word!!

Naturally Yours, Dan Hodges

Christmas Bird Count Totals...

On December 16th, 2023, the Grand Lake CBC was held and though the weather was mild for the time of year, only two participants were able to make it. We had a total of 44 species with no real rarities, but waterfowl was well represented as Mercer Wildlife area was open and full of ducks and geese. The only historically high count was for robin with 144. We saw Greater White-fronted Goose 2, Snow Goose 4, Canada Goose 756, Gadwall 8, American Black Duck 29, Mallard 395, Northern Shoveler 8, Northern Pintail 3, Hooded Merganser 2, Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 11, Bald Eagle 8, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Sandhill Crane 2, Ring-billed Gull 420, Herring Gull 16, Mourning Dove 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 7, Downy Woodpecker 3, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 6, American Kestrel 4, Blue Jay 13, Horned Lark 15, Carolina Chickadee 13, Tufted Titmouse 5, White-breasted Nuthatch 7, Winter Wren 1, Carolina Wren 6, Golden-crowned Kinglet 2, American Robin 144, American Tree Sparrow 15, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 55, White-throated Sparrow 11, Song Sparrow 5, Swamp Sparrow 7, Northern Cardinal 27, House Finch 18, American Goldfinch 13, House Sparrow 109, Total Individuals 2198, Total Species Reported 44.

December 17th, the weather was cold and rainy, but we had five individuals take part in the Indian Lake CBC. 63 species were found with historically high counts for Ross's Goose, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and Peregrine Falcon. All in all, it was a fun weekend even though the participation was lower than usual. Any day birding is a great day!

For Indian Lake we spotted Ross's Goose 1, Canada Goose 261, Wood Duck 2, Gadwall 2, American Black Duck 24, Mallard 693, Canvasback 1, Redhead 24, Greater Scaup 3, Lesser Scaup 52, Bufflehead 12, Hooded Merganser 12, Ruddy Duck 25, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Double-crested Cormorant 1, Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 4, Black Vulture 35, Northern Harrier 7, Cooper's Hawk 4, Bald Eagle 13, Red-tailed Hawk 16, Rough-legged Hawk 2, American Coot 611, Sandhill Crane cw, Bonaparte's Gull 25, Ring-billed Gull 543, Herring Gull 6, Lesser Black-backed Gull 2, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 28,



American Coot

Mourning Dove 16, Great Horned Owl 1, Short-eared Owl 2, Belted Kingfisher 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 5, Downy Woodpecker 9, Hairy Woodpecker 4, Northern Flicker 3, American Kestrel 18, Merlin 1, Peregrine Falcon 1, Blue Jay 6, American Crow 8, Carolina Chickadee 4, Tufted Titmouse 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 12, Brown Creeper 1, Winter Wren 1, Carolina

Wren 6, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, Eastern Bluebird 2, American Robin 34, Northern Mockingbird 2, European Starling 1696, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) 1, American Tree Sparrow 15, Dark-eyed Junco 68, White-crowned Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 43, Song Sparrow 12, Northern Cardinal 18, Rusty Blackbird 2, House Finch 3, American Goldfinch 41, House Sparrow 198, Total Individuals 4657, Total Species Reported 63.

Submitted by Troy Shively

