



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Summer 2016

Serving Allen, Auglaize, Hancock
Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby,
and Van Wert counties



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TMAS BOARD MEETINGS - Tuesday, May 31, 2016, 7p.m. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

PROGRAM MEETING — The first program meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2016, 7:30 p.m., at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus. Keep your eyes out for more information on this program.

ANNUAL TMAS SUMMER PICNIC July 5 at Kendrick Woods, JAMPD. Park information and directions can be found in this newsletter and on the Johnny Appleseed Metro Parks website www.jampd.com/parks-facilities/Kendrick-Woods. Make plans to attend!

23rd RECYCLE/COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER Saturday, October 8 at the Wapakoneta Drop-Off Center. Twenty-five volunteers are needed to work from 8 a.m. to noon to sort items and unload vehicles. TMAS receives the proceeds from recyclables handled. Call Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 to volunteer.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

By Jeannine C. Roediger

The bane of many of us who like to grow trees, shrubs and plants can be poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). A nuisance to mankind, as it causes skin irritations, poison ivy is of great benefit to wildlife and is well loved by many of our feathered friends.

In fall the plants are just covered with the clusters of tan, oval berries. So, when winter comes many birds consume the seeds of the plant, for some making up to 25 percent of their diet while others consume it just on occasion. Red and yellow-shafted flickers and downy and hairy woodpeckers seem to love the seeds of the poison ivy.

If you are like many people you suffer from the rash even if you get downwind of the plant. But, as many of us who study nature find, there are puzzle pieces that fit well together.

For often growing near poison ivy is a little plant that can help prevent that rash. The jewelweed or touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*) can help prevent the rash if you crush the juicy plant leaves and rub on the affected areas after coming in contact with poison ivy. It's also beneficial in treating athlete's foot.

This brings me to the next connection. Those long-tubed orange or yellow flowers are much loved by our ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). They visit the plants each day to seek out the nectar, buzzing from one plant to the next. Since they bloom all summer long it is a good plant to have in the garden to draw these tiny, active birds.



Ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)
Photo courtesy of Lee Miller

An added benefit is the seedpod of the jewelweed which, when touched, will pop open with a tiny spring spraying the seeds away. Take my word for it, grandchildren find this fascinating. Ours hunt diligently for the pods so they can watch them pop. To be perfectly honest, I find them fascinating as well. Jewelweed likes to grow in moist, shaded areas and is easy to grow from seed. This is just another saga of how plants and animals work together to provide food, propagate seeds and, in the case of the touch-me-not, benefit mankind.



Flowers of jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

EEW a Success Despite Raindrops...

Raindrops didn't stop an interesting weekend when the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's 37th annual Environmental Education Weekend was held April 29 through May 1, 2016. The weekend was attended by 43 participants who had the opportunity to attend programs on birds, bird watching, amphibians, tree ID, bluegill fishing, mushrooms, nature crafts and wildflowers. Bird banding, another program offered, presented an opportunity to see some species up close, many usually observed from afar.

Collectively we saw seventy-one species of birds. Lincoln's sparrow and the Canada warbler were observed for the first time in the 37-year his-

Seventy-one bird species seen during EEW

tory of EEW. Other notable observations were of an osprey and solitary sandpiper. A significant change that

occurred in 2011 was the Hydroaxe clearing of approximately 70 acres of autumn olive in several fields through the efforts of US Fish & Wildlife, Pheasants Forever and Tri-Moraine Audubon Society. In the first two years following the clearing of this area, the number of species present increased significantly. A drop in species followed the initial increase to nearly the levels prior to clearing the land. The 2016 count brings us back to near the level immediately after the clearing occurred.

A new habitat restoration project is planned at the Myeerah Nature Preserve for 2016 by US Fish & Wildlife. They will be constructing several small wetland scrapes. These should be completed before our next EEW in 2017. If you like to plan ahead, the date for next year's EEW will be May 5-7, 2017. This is a great family activity and is open to members of all ages.

By Don Rosenbeck



**Environmental Education Weekend
Amphibians and children—a great combination.**



Bird Banding during EEW

Bird Banding at EEW

Bird banding involves catching wild birds, putting a metal bracelet on them with a unique number and releasing them. That way, if that bird is ever caught again, researchers will know when and where it was originally banded. This information is helpful to determine how birds use a given habitat, how long birds live, and how far they travel during migration. For the past couple years, Anne Smedley and I have banded birds at Tri-Moraine's Environmental Education Weekend.

We put up our nets in an area where the invasive olive tree has been removed, and where a new wetland is being constructed. We hope to see how birds respond to these habitat improvements. This year, we caught a field sparrow that was banded last year. It is amazing to think that this bird probably migrated to the southern US and made it back to the same location at Myeerah, at nearly the same day, at nearly the same time of day, in order for me to recapture it. We also captured house wrens and cardinals. If you get the chance to see bird banding in action, you should go. You never know what is going to fly into the net.

By Jackie Augustine



Don't Forget ... TMAS PICNIC on July 5 at Kendrick Woods

The Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's annual picnic will begin at 5:30 p.m. until dark July 5 in Kendrick Woods. Kendrick Woods can be found at 971 N. Defiance Trail in Amanda Township just 10 miles west of Lima and half mile north of State Route 81.

We will eat at 6:30 p.m. The Society will provide fried chicken; attendees are asked to bring a covered dish to share, their own table service and beverages.

This 472.29 acre park features a pond, wetlands, walking trails, and a boardwalk, plus playgrounds,

restrooms, picnicking areas and shelterhouses.

There will be a short program given by Daniel Hodges, naturalist, of the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District. Hodges will provide a presentation on dragonflies. Many of us have admired the agility and speed of these predators, but don't know much about them. If you look closely at a dragonfly, you will find that they come in many colors and patterns. Come learn about a few of the 162 species found in Ohio! We hope to see you there!

2016 EEW Bird Walk and Weekend Reports

During the 2016 EE Weekend there were two morning-session "Bird Watching" hikes and a Saturday afternoon "Big Walk" in the woods; these covered most of the habitat available at Myeerah. Rain was the dominant foul weather during our hiking.

We observed the following birds: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey,

Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Sora, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern (Y-S)



Great Blue Heron, photo courtesy of Lee Miller

Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Bluejay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Black and

White Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping

Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole and American Goldfinch.

In addition, I observed these species during scouting: Blue-winged Teal, Green Heron, Solitary Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, Bay-breasted Warbler and White-throated Sparrow. These birds were posted on the EEW list during the weekend: Killdeer, Rock Pigeon, Eastern Kingbird, Swainson's Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo and Canada Warbler.

The total of 69 species for everyone over the three-day weekend probably should not be termed terrible, but it was clear to me that the neotropical migrants, at least, were tending to be late this spring. And, the weather cannot be dismissed. It was not just MNP; through the first 10 days of May, numbers and diversity appeared low at Magee Marsh.

By Eric Juterbock

SCIENCE DAY AWARD WINNERS...

Three young people won a \$25 Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Natural Resources, Conservation, Nature Studies Award at the Ohio Academy of Science, District Science Day held March 19 at Ohio Northern University, Ada.

Nicole Knippen, 7th grade, Ottoville Local Middle School, Ft. Jennings with "Finding a Better Drainage System for Crop Residue Run-off;" Jeremy Leopold, 8th grade, Glandorf Middle School, "The Effect of Hog Manure on Nutrient Run-Off" and Sarah Seeley, 10th grade, Benjamin Logan High School, Bellefontaine, on "Which Agricultural Method is Most Efficient: Aeroponics, Aquaponics or Traditional?"

Dr. Jay Mager, ONU Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences, judged the entries and presented a letter of recognition and award to each winner. Dr. Mager was assisted by Dr. Leslie Riley, Jane Brown, Melissa Kieffer and Jeff Braychok.

TMAS thanks all of the above for their help in making this a successful annual chapter awards program!

By Carol Bertrand

NEWSLETTER by EMAIL

If you would like to receive Flight Patterns, the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society newsletter by email, contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at waskins@woh.rr.com State name, mailing address, email address and your desire to receive the newsletter via email.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand



Bird Banding Opportunities...

Licensed bird bander, Anne Smedley needs your help with the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program. There will be eight banding sessions at the Lippincott Bird Sanctuary between May 21 and August 8. Each session begins at 6 a.m. and lasts for seven to eight hours. Volunteers will help carry and set up equipment, write down data and handle birds. Two or three volunteers are needed for each day. You can help in one or all of the sessions. Please contact Anne at 419.222.3271 or email at jsmedley@wcoil.com if you are interested.



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Summer 2016 Newsletter

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President's Message ...

A big Thank You goes to Environmental Education Weekend chairmen, Eric Broughton and Don Rosenbeck, and their loyal committee for all of their hard work in making the 37th EEW a success.

The program for the weekend included many excellent opportunities to be out-of-doors and learn about the natural world via first hand experiences. The weather was soggy, but participants enjoyed a wide variety of educational sessions designed to inform even the youngest campers. Without TMAS volunteers this program would not be possible. Kudos and salutes to the presenters of all the educational sessions and to the cooks and helpers in the kitchen.



Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's 2016 Annual Appeal is the most important fundraiser of the year. Since TMAS is an all volunteer non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, your support helps to fund overall operational needs such as educational programming, the publication and distribution of the newsletter, insurance coverage and conservation/stewardship pursuits. When you receive your Annual Appeal contribution letter, consider how you can help and direct your funds to an area that will enhance your commitment to conserving our Important Bird Areas (IBAs). ...we CAN make a difference. Watch for your annual appeal letter with its enclosed form!

Plan to attend the Annual Membership Picnic on July 5 at Kendrick Woods (Please note this is a new location.) We look forward to seeing you there to explore this Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Important Bird Area. More information can be found on page two of this newsletter.

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding has an obligation to always respect wildlife, the environment, and the rights of others. The American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics is a great list of principles to promote positive birding practices and may be freely reproduced for distribution and dissemination. You can help by teaching these principles to others insuring the welfare of birds and protecting their environment (all they ask is to acknowledge the role of ABA when promoting this code). Read the entire code at www.aba.org.

President Diane Knipp