



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Summer 2018

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

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TMAS Board Meeting - All TMAS Board Meetings are held in the Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima they begin at 7 p.m. and our next meeting is scheduled for July 31. You are welcome to attend.

Save the Date—The first program meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. Keep your eyes out for more information on this program.

SUMMER PICNIC... Plan now to attend the annual TMAS picnic which will be held July 10 at 6 p.m. at Hermon Woodlands Metro Park on Wapak Road, west of Lima just off State Route 81 in the west shelter. There are restrooms and trails. The Chapter will provide fried chicken, members and guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverages. Dan Hodges will be giving a short presentation and guide a hike.



SPRING, SUMMER ARRIVALS

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Each spring it's a joy to watch our summer visitors arrive from their southern sojourns. I watch for those events of spring with great anticipation. Not only our feathered friends, but the first crocus blooming, the first daffodils, the Christmas rose, the witch-hazel, the forsythia and the red buds.

Robins have always been an early sign of spring, now they seem to stay around most of the winter, retreating south only during severe weather. Their mud-covered nests are in many trees and shrubs in the fencerows and the yard, filled with beautiful blue eggs or yawning babies. Although it seemed late when spring finally arrived by the temperature, it did not hold things up as much as you would think. Our apple trees have always bloomed about May 8 each year; they were right on schedule, as was our resident Baltimore oriole whose bright whistle told me with no uncertain terms he was back just as the apples burst into bloom.



Robin babies



White crowned sparrow

Just a few days prior the yellow of our goldfinch began coloring the feeder. They turn gold quickly once spring arrives. Their happy songs and unique flight patterns are filling the trees and yard. The hummingbird made his appearance, even when flowers were somewhat scarce. However the spring beauty and sweet William were blooming in the woods, offering him some sweet nectar. I quickly put up my hummingbird feeder in anticipation of more arrivals.

The white-crowned sparrows appeared on the ground near the feeder and a rose-breasted grosbeak stopped by for a snack, as did an indigo bunting. One barn swallow arrived at the end of April, by early May we were greeted every day by the whole group's friendly chatter. They are now sweeping the sky for insects, preparing for their brood to hatch and making themselves at home again. Summer is settling into its normal, wondrous routine.

SCIENCE FAIR AWARD WINNERS

Four students won \$25 Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Natural Resources, Conservation, Nature Studies Awards at the Ohio Academy of Science District Six Science Day on March 17 at Ohio Northern University in Ada. Ginny Faeth, 10th grade from Columbian High School, Tiffin, for "The Effect of Antibiotics on Bacteria in Soil;" Emilee Horstman, 8th grade, Ottawa-Glandorf School District, Ottawa, for "Does Fertilizing Your Soil Affect the Nutritional Value of Hay?;" Erin Kaufman, 8th grade, Ottawa-Glandorf School District, Ottawa, for "How Do Different Levels of pH Affect Bean Plant Growth;" Julia Schleeter, 7th Grade, Ottonville High School, Ottonville, for "The Effects of Synthetic Nitrogen Fertilizer on Microorganisms."



Judging the entries for the Tri-Moraine awards were Dr. Ken Oswald and Dr. Katherine Krynak, ONU Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences. The award presentations were given by Dr. Leslie Riley, from the department, consisting of a letter of recognition and cash award. Others assisting with the event were Dr. Jay Mager, Dr. Jamie Sanford, Jane Brown, Melissa Kieffer and Jeff Braychok. TMAS thanks all of those who helped in making this award program a success in furthering student research in the natural sciences.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand

Big Birding Day

WET! Western Lake Erie offered showers all around, both of the water and bird variety! On May 14th Dan Hodges led nine soggy birders through the Magee Marsh Board Walk and Nature Center before calling it an early day and heading home.

Although they were thoroughly soaked, they enjoyed fantastic birding with great looks at warblers and friends up close and personal. Jackie Augustine and four other brave birders started at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and then stuck around to visit several other Important Bird Areas and before the end of the day had tallied up 101 birds! All things considered, it was a great day for birding with friends!

Submitted by Dan Hodges



RECYCLING PROGRAM ENDS

For almost 25 years the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society has aided the Wapakoneta Recycling Center program each October with sorting recyclables. As of June 1st, the center will begin a new program at their city garage where people can deposit their items seven days a week.

Each year since 1994 TMAS provided volunteers for this program. This fundraiser supported many educational and environmental programs and projects, raising over \$15,000 over those years.

Prices for recyclables have plummeted and many groups dropped out of the program, but TMAS continued to provide support as recycling was and is so important for our environment.

Our thanks to Wapakoneta for welcoming us into the program and for the many wonderful volunteers for those years of service to the cause and to our Audubon chapter.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand

ACCURATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION...

Our chapter does not share its membership information with others. Please help us keep up-to-date records by contacting our membership database chair at waskins@woh.rr.com. Please report any incorrect information on your mailing label, upcoming change of address, change of email address or new telephone number. We appreciate your help, thank you!



Experiencing EEW with a dragonfly

Environmental Education Weekend

This was the 39th year for Tri-Moraine Audubon's Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) which was held May 4-6, 2018 at the Myerah Nature Preserve. The weather was fantastic with a low of 44 degrees Saturday night and a high of 77 degrees on Friday. There was no rain over the weekend. This was the first year that the event was co-sponsored with the Bellefontaine Joint Recreational District that manages the property with the oversight of the Myerah Management Group.

Birding was spectacular! We identified a record number of species with a group tally of 90 species. That includes a number of first time sightings. New sightings this year were the hooded merganser, willow flycatcher, Wilson's warbler, yellow-throated warbler and gray-cheeked thrush. The group also identified 36 species of wildflowers. If you are not into birds or wildflowers, there were many other program activities in which to participate.

Saturday evening the group was entertained by Dan Hodges and his father taking requests to play favorite songs. As darkness fell, Dan had setup a "moth sheet" and folks were up to the wee hours of the night as they saw a large variety of moths attracted by the moth sheet.

EEW is a great family event and is open to all Audubon members. We hope to see you there next year!

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck

Three New Audubon Adventures

New for 2018 are three Audubon Adventures titled "The Buzz About Native Bees," "Birds on the Move" and "Plants are for the Birds!"

Tri-Moraine will purchase these and any of the other 40-plus topics available for classrooms or groups. Contact Jennifer Waltz, educational liaison, for more information at 419.303.4741.

Online content for all of the 40-plus topics is free through the website www.audubonadventures.com and serves unlimited students.

"Ohio Trees" and "Flow of Life" materials are being used by the Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District for the Delphos Public Children's Library and Van Wert Elementary Summer Science Camp.

Submitted by Jennifer Waltz



DEDICATION of SIGN...

Ohio State at Lima is in the process of restoring 17 acres of prairie habitat in their Tecumseh Natural Area. This is the third year of its restoration. The first year involved removing weedy vegetation, the second spreading seed and mowing and this year watching which prairie plants are established and removing invasive species.

On June 21st at 3 p.m. there will be a short dedication ceremony for a sign located near the parking lot on the southeast corner of Mumaugh and Reservoir roads, across from Procter and Gamble. The sign will describe the restoration process and identify important prairie plants and animals. We hope you can make it!

TMAS was approached for the gift of a sign with funding from the Ellen and Jim Wright Memorial Fund which is administered by TMAS. The sign was installed in May.

Submitted by Jackie Augustine

CONGRATULATIONS... Duane and Jean Boyd of Lima, longtime TMAS members, were recently honored by Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District for their many years of volunteer service. This year's JAMPD Arbor Day celebration was held April 27 in Heritage Park where two swamp white oaks were planted in recognition of their service.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...

The Biggest Week In Birding 2018 has passed and thousands of people spent at least a few hours on the boardwalk at Magee Marsh. In fact, fifteen of us from the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and Johnny Appleseed Metropark District made the trek north to immerse ourselves in warblers for a day. If you don't have the opportunity to travel north for Biggest Week, does that mean you miss the warbler migration? Not if you are observant and regularly practice "patch" birding. How does one practice patch birding?

First, find someplace local - your own yard, a local park, nature area, or anywhere you visit on a regular basis to look for birds.

Next, spend time at your patch observing the birds – ideally, during different seasons and times of day. Last, keep a list of the birds you observe at your patch.

One of the easiest places to start is in your own yard. And before you say, "I never see anything interesting in my yard," give it a chance! Over the years, the following birds have made an appearance at my half acre property: robin, catbird, mockingbird, goldfinch, chipping sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, field sparrow, song sparrow, chickadee, yellow warbler, Northern flicker, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, house finch, bluebird and Cooper's hawk, just to name a few!

And even better? I can bird my patch whenever I have five or ten minutes free by just walking out the door.

Additionally, taking the time to watch birds in my yard has given me new insights to behavior and habits which help to increase my knowledge and understanding of our feathered friends.

I hope everyone gets the chance to spend some time at Magee Marsh during migration, but in the meantime, enjoy the activity at your local patch and let me know what you find!

Cheryl Erwin, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society President



Magee Marsh visitors