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Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Summer 2019

Volunteer Opportunities...

Tri-Moraine is hosting the Ohio Council of Audubon Chapters on June 2. Volunteers are needed for note-taking, photography/social media, bringing a breakfast item, bringing fruit, bringing a dessert (2), and set up (10-11 a.m.), and tear down (4-5 p.m.). To volunteer, contact Jackie at augustine.63@osu.edu or 567-712-4155. More information is listed on Page 2.

Don't forget...

Annual Picnic—The Tri-Moraine picnic, planned for July 2 at 6 p.m., will be held at the Allen County Farm Park on Route 81. Look on page 2 for details.

TMAS Board Meeting—The board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30 at 7 p.m. in the OSU Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive. All are welcome to attend.

The Wonder of Birds

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Many, many years ago, (I hate to think how many) we were given a class assignment to find and identify birds. Well, even at 12, I was a pretty experienced birder so this was not a hardship, but great joy! I could do something I really liked for school. How great was that!

So on an early spring day, my brother and I started out on our bicycles to tour a country block to see what we could find. This was a bicycle shared by three sisters and me. I still remember the wonder of seeing those beautiful birds. Although many I had seen previously, it was just fun to do it as a class assignment. Not only did I record the species, but did watercolors of each bird I identified.

There was the beautiful cardinal, the catbird, the robin, a wood duck found in a neighbor's woods, a mallard, even a Canada goose. I don't remember how many I needed to finish the assignment, but I am sure I went above and beyond.

That wonder has stayed with me to this day. Yesterday while doing dishes, I saw an indigo bunting come to the feeder, then a few minutes later a Baltimore oriole. Goldfinch, now bright yellow, also came into the feeder. Plus that same morning I was greeted by several barn swallows swooping into the barnyard, just back from their southern sojourn.

There was a wren vying for a birdhouse with a sparrow. The sparrow lost as the hole was just too small for him. A blue heron flew overhead with its long legs stretched far behind it, a mallard flew up from a pond in the ditch, and killdeer ran and called over the fields. A brown thrasher sang from the bushes in the fencerow and two male cardinals were competing for the love of a female.

Oh, the wonder of it all! Finding a robin's nest with those bright, blue eggs, or seeing the babies stretch their necks for food, it's just a wonder and wonderful to witness. It never gets old! The wonder stays with us as we witness the miracles of nature every spring and summer. Enjoy!!!



Robin's nest with babies.

TMAS Picnic Planned...

Plan now to attend the annual TMAS picnic which will be held July 2 at 6 p.m. at Allen County Farm Park, 1582 Slabtown Road, just off St Rt. 81 east of I75. There are restrooms and trails. A walk of a mile or so will take you to a nice woods on the property.

The Chapter will provide fried chicken; members and guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverages. Following the meal, Jamie Cunningham will give a short presentation about the do's and don'ts of nature photography.

Charter Member Remembered

Dr. Herbert J. Beil, 87, passed away March 2 in Spencerville. He was a founding member of Tri-Moraine and attended the organizational meeting in 1974 to form the Chapter. He maintained a dual NAS/Chapter membership until his death, and was the last remaining charter member still in membership.

Dr. Beil was an ophthalmologist in Lima and held many interests from being a falconer to piloting his own plane. Very interested in nature, he attended program meetings, no matter the topic, and enjoyed many chapter fieldtrips.



Tri-Moraine to host the COCA in June

On June 2, Tri-Moraine will host representatives from Audubon chapters throughout Ohio at the quarterly workshop of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) at the OSU-Lima Campus. The day will be filled with field trips, talks, conversation, and networking. The schedule is below:

9:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m. — Hike at Lippincott Bird Sanctuary.

11 a.m.- 4 p.m. — Seminars on statewide advocacy (advancing environmental legislation).

Lunch available for \$10 — pre-registration required. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/421710981973842/>

4 p.m.—5:30 p.m. — Hike led by OSU Faculty of the Ohio State Lima Tecumseh Natural Area.

Please attend to show the strength of our chapter. Volunteers are needed for note-taking, photography/social media, bringing a breakfast item, bringing fruit, bringing a dessert (2), and set up (10-11 a.m.), and tear down (4-5 p.m.). To volunteer, contact Jackie at augustine.63@osu.edu or 567-712-4155.

Submitted by Jackie Augustine

Augustine heads Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters

Jackie Augustine, Tri-Moraine's program coordinator, was elected as president of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters in March. She has been Tri-Moraine's representative on monthly COAC membership meetings, and attended COAC's last four quarterly workshops.

The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters promotes chapter development by sharing the best practices, brainstorming solutions to common problems, and building relationships in workshops. Already, knowledge gained at the workshops has been used to apply for grants and to expand our social media efforts.





Aquilegia or columbine loved by hummingbirds

Grant Received

Tri-Moraine received a \$1000 Collaborative Funding grant from the National Audubon Society. The grant supports opportunities to engage Audubon members and the public through environmental education and conservation.

We will be using the money to provide native plants for the landscaping at South Science and Technology Magnet in Lima. The students have worked all year learning about how plants support caterpillars, which support birds, and are very excited to see the plants grow. This is one of two “Plants for Birds” initiatives that Tri-Moraine is leading. The other is using native plants for landscaping at the South Jackson Street Community Garden, also in Lima.

Both projects will have their kick-off during the last week of May. If you are interested in helping host a picnic dinner for the South Science pro-



Monarch butterfly and caterpillar on milkweed

ject for students and their parents (exact date/time TBD), or help with distributing seeds at the South Jackson event from 5-7 p.m. on May 31, please contact Jackie at augustine.63@osu.edu or 567.712.4155. Submitted by Jackie Augustine

Ottawa River Wildlife and Visualization

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society is a member of the Ottawa River Coalition (ORC), an organization dedicated to a healthier Ottawa River.

ORC maintains a comprehensive website www.thisismyriver.org which gives information and insights on the river and community. Although it benefits people, the Ottawa River also provides important habitat for wildlife.

TMAS suggested and partnered with the ORC to create the wildlife section on the website showing photos of common plants and animals along the river. The photos were taken by our member Volker Jeschonnek.



Gray Squirrel enjoying sunshine near Pine Street Bridge

Photo by Volker Jeschonnek

The Ottawa River Visualization Project is an important resource that allows users to view locations on the river and to put them into context through an interactive map with Points of Interest. It can be found on the website under Map of Watershed Features. The project is continuous with the aims of including more locations, and integrating additional information and photos.

If you have photos of plant and animal species taken along the river, submit them to Anne Decker at 419.234.8176 or at decker@bright.net for consideration. Identify your subjects and state where the pictures were taken.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand



EEW weekend camaraderie

Environmental Education Weekend

This was the 40th year for Tri-Moraine Audubon's Environmental Education Weekend (EEW), which was held April 26-28, 2019 at the Myeerah Nature Preserve. The weather was a bit challenging with a low in the 30s on Friday and a high on the weekend only in the low 60s.

Rain showers persisted over much of the weekend, but we did have dry weather on Saturday morning. This was the second year that the event was co-sponsored with the Bellefontaine Joint Recreational District, who manage the property with the oversight of the Myeerah Management Group.

Birding was mediocre. We identified a fewer number of species tallying 55 species – about one half of the previous year. With the weekend scheduled one week earlier than in the past, we did have a very good woodland wildflower count. The group identified 35 species of wildflowers. There were many program activities for your participation if you were not into birds or wildflowers.

EEW is a great family event and is open to all Audubon members. We hope to see you there next year! **SAVE THE DATE – May 1-3, 2020!**

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck



Jack-In-The-Pulpit

Science Day Award Winners

Tri-Moraine awarded \$25 Natural Resources, Conservation, Nature Studies Awards to four students for their entries in the 2019 Ohio Academy of Science District Six Science Day on March 16 at Ohio Northern University in Ada.

Winners were Julia Schleeter, 8th grade, Ottoville High School, Ottoville, for "The Effects of Fertilizer Runoff containing Phosphorus, Nitrogen, and Potash on Amoeba Proteus;" Taylor Liebrecht, 8th grade, Fort Jennings Middle School, Fort Jennings for "Do Vitamins Promote Plant Growth;" Paige Jones, 9th grade, Paulding High School, Paulding, for "How do Different Types of Worms Affect Plant Growth?;" and Winifred Bodin, 5th grade, Benjamin Logan Elementary School, Bellefontaine, for "Biological and Chemical Assessment on the Mad River Over Nine Months."



TMAS thanks the members of the ONU Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences for judging entries for the awards, presenting letters of recognition to the award-ees, and for organizing the event.

They include Dr. Jay Mager, Dr. Leslie Riley, Jane Brown, and Jeff Brachok.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand

Magee Marsh Visit Fantastic!

There were 13 courageous birders who braved the early morning hours on Monday, May 13th to trudge up to the lake to witness the annual migration of songbirds, (and more) as they head north to their breeding grounds.

The rain stopped once we arrived and, despite chilly weather, we had a great time. We hit the boardwalk in the morning and headed home after lunch. Even with a shortened trip we still tallied 62 species between us, with fabulous looks at many birds including such warblers as the Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Cape-may and more!

We also had an interesting encounter with a hungry Red-winged Blackbird – ask the youngest member of our birding group, Phoebe Hodges, for more details. Plan on joining us next year, usually the 2nd Monday of May!

Submitted by Dan Hodges

Helping Birds Survive

Birds are experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change and habitat loss. These dangers will only grow over time. You can help birds thrive right where you live by making your yard more bird-friendly. Follow the steps below to create a patch of vibrant habitat that attracts colorful birds and their sweet melodies. If you don't have a yard, you can still help birds by creating a native plant container garden on your patio or balcony. Even very small patches of habitat provide tired, hungry birds with exactly what they need.

1. Choose Native Plants. Focus on native plants that provide a good variety of bird food throughout the year for nesting, migrating, and wintering birds. As you make your selections, think about providing the following food groups:

Bugs: Native trees, such as oaks, willows, birches, and maples, and native herbaceous plants, such as goldenrod, milkweed, and sunflowers, host many caterpillar species that are a vital source of protein for birds, especially during the breeding season.

Fruit: Many shrubs and small trees provide berries that ripen at different times, so include seasonal varieties: serviceberry and cherry for birds during the breeding season and summer; dogwood and spicebush for songbirds flying south; cedar and holly trees to sustain birds through cold winter days and nights.

Nuts and seeds: Trees such as oaks, hickories, and walnuts provide fat and protein rich food that birds hide, or "cache," to provide food through the cold winter. Native sunflowers, asters, and coneflowers produce loads of tiny seeds that are finch and sparrow favorites.

Nectar: Red tubular flowers, such as native columbine, penstemon, and honeysuckle, serve up nectar for hummingbirds. Flowers in the aster family, such as coneflowers, asters, and Joe-pye-weed, are very attractive to insect pollinators like butterflies, moths, and bees, in addition to providing seeds for birds.



Brown Thrasher on nest

2. Plan Your Bird Habitat. Think of your garden as a habitat that you are creating to provide birds with food, shelter, and nesting sites throughout the year.

Map it out: Measure your planting space and then either draw it out on paper or walk your garden bed to figure out which plants will fit best where. Create "habitat layers." If you have room, try to provide the plant layers you might find in a natural habitat.

Large canopy trees provide many resources including nuts, nest cavities, and other roosting spots. Shrubs and small trees often provide fruit, as well as nesting sites for songbirds. Herbaceous plants, including perennials, annuals, and groundcovers, provide seeds for birds and a rich habitat for pollinators. Decaying leaves, wood, detritus, and soil form the base of your habitat, and a home for many invertebrates that birds eat, including the pupae of most moth caterpillars—a favorite of baby birds.

Lose some lawn: Consider reversing the typical pattern of small garden beds surrounded by large expanses of lawn. Larger patches of habitat with lawn pathways will create a rich wildlife habitat and lovely effect in your yard. (You can start small; every bit counts and less mowing!)

Cluster plants in masses: Group five or more of the same plant species together. This creates an attractive look and is also favored by pollinators, which prefer to feed from a mass of the same flower species. Place taller plants towards the back of your borders, with lower-growing species at the edges of paths or lawn. Design for color and continuous blooming throughout the gardening season. Pay attention to each species' stated dimensions when full grown, so plants aren't too crowded.

Need more plant specifics? If you're seeking more details about bloom and fruiting time, growing seasons, or full-grown plant dimensions, check the online databases offered by the USDA or the National Gardening Association.

3. Remember the water. Water is an often overlooked resource that birds need year round. Include hollowed boulders that catch rainwater or a man-made bird bath for birds to drink and bathe. Consider a drip bath or fountain feature; the sound of running water is particularly attractive to birds. Keep your bird bath clean and use fresh water. To keep your birdbath fresh, just rinse and scrub it with nine parts water, one part vinegar. Skip the synthetic soaps and cleansers. For more ideas go to <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly>

(Taken from the audubon.org website.)



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Summer 2019 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information about Tri-Moraine Audubon's recent Environmental Education Weekend. Although Mother Nature didn't get the memo to provide sun and warmth for the entire weekend this year, participants were still able to enjoy all the outdoor activities planned.

Don Rosenbeck and the EEW committee do a wonderful job of planning the offerings each year, but it's my understanding that participation has waned in recent years. If your preference is for more sedentary activities, offerings have included a nature craft, slide presentations on various nature topics, up close views of mosses, invertebrates, and other items that are brought back to the building.

For more active participants, there are a variety of walks and hikes offered to look for birds, flowers, geologic formations, and mosses. Fishing is even a possibility if the weather allows!

Offered for the first time this year was Forest Bathing or Shinrin-yoku, a slow, contemplative walk through the forest taking time to truly experience your surroundings. It was a wonderful blend of active (walking through the forest) and sedentary (time spent meditating on our senses). If you haven't attended or haven't attended lately, is there a reason? What is keeping you and/or your family from joining us?

I would love to hear from you regarding what obstacles are keeping you from attending EEW weekend. Is it the time of year, activities offered, dietary limitations, physical limitations, or something else?

At the end of this message you will find my email address. Please feel free to send me an email and share your thoughts. We would love to have you join us next year! caerwin23@gmail.com Cheryl Ervin, President



EEW Weekend