



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

SUMMER 2023

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

TMAS Board Meeting - The TMAS Board meetings are held in person at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Services Center on the OSU Lima campus and are typically held the last Tuesday of the odd months. Look for any changes on Facebook or our website at <https://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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The Intricacies of Birds...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

I'm always amazed at bird behaviors, both normal and sometimes abnormal. The dragging wing of the Killdeer drawing you away from her hatchlings, to the instinct that lets the Cowbird lay her eggs in someone else's nest for others to raise, all are fascinating behaviors.

The Barn Swallows seem to arrive and leave on a very tight time schedule, as if tuned into an internal clock. They announce their arrival with twitters and zips and I welcome them back for the banter and music they provide all summer.

Although not unusual crow behavior, my niece, who lives in Florida, had Fish Crows coming to her home to feed on cat food. If the food was gone, they noisily told her about it. She enjoyed seeing them so continued to feed them. They thanked her by bringing her a treat, a small hot sauce packet from KFC!

My grandmother recalled that she had put out yarn for a Baltimore Oriole nest one spring. When the yarn was gone, the Oriole came to the screen door, noisily telling her she needed more to make that perfect nest.

We enjoy that interaction between the birds and us, even if it is just that they remember when we have treated them the summer before and come back to the same place for their treats this year.

Just trying to find a bird's nest is difficult with the secretiveness and skill they hide them. The accompanying picture of a Field Sparrow nest was only found because the bird flew off and I saw her nest. If she was already off the nest it took me awhile to locate it again it was so well hidden.

Some people have trained certain wild bird species to eat out of their hands. This takes patience and time.

Watching our native birds go about their daily lives is a lesson in ornithology. Much can be learned by backyard observations. Keeping one's eyes on bird feeders, trees and shrubs, one can find some interesting behaviors. Bird watching is not just for the Important Bird Areas!



Field Sparrow nest with four eggs.

EEW Weekend Held...

This was the 44th year for Tri-Moraine Audubon's Environmental Education Weekend (EEW).



Spring wildflowers—Sweet William and Jack-in-the-Pulpit

It was held on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Forty-four people attended the day which was open to the general public.

The bird count duration was

a single day this year again, so that needs to be factored into the counts.

The weather was pleasant with a high of 66 degrees in the afternoon and a low of 57 degrees in the morning. Wind speeds were 11 to 13 mph. We were blessed with a mostly clear day with some showers moving in that evening.

The number of bird species was down with a group total of just 40 species. That number may be adjusted as I receive additional individual's count records. The group also identified 30 species of wildflowers.

EEW is a great family event and is open to all Audubon members. We hope to see you there next year! Let us know your thoughts on planning for the event in 2024. Should it continue to be strictly a one-day event? Would you prefer an overnight event over a Saturday and Sunday?

If you would like to volunteer with putting on this event, please contact Don Rosenbeck. Thanks for sharing your thoughts!

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck

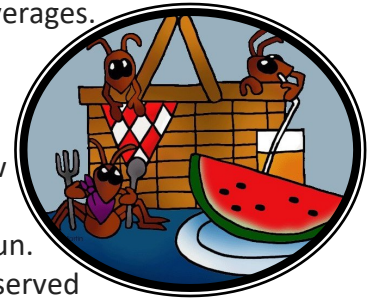
Summer Picnic

The Tri-Moraine Summer Picnic is scheduled for WEDNESDAY July 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Allen County Farm Park, 1582 Slabtown Road, Lima, OH. Having just enjoyed the fireworks on Independence Day, a park naturalist will give a short presentation on nature's light show - the fireflies!

Tri Moraine will provide fried chicken. Members and guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverages.

The picnic offers a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow chapter members and to invite friends to join the fun.

The park playground is reserved along with the barn, there is room to play in the yard (bring a frisbee, corn hole, or bocce ball!), and the flush restroom facility will be available. Come and enjoy the fellowship!



Submitted by Dan Hodges



Happy Fourth of July!

Tri-Moraine at the Allen County Fair

Don't forget to stop by the Conservation Tent in the SW corner of the Fairgrounds (by the pond) during the Allen County Fair to visit the Tri-Moraine booth and other local partners including Allen County Soil & Water, the Park District, the Ottawa River Coalition, and more!



Audubon Adventures..

I have been in the schools and assisted living facilities this winter with the small Wild Republic birds. The students and residents each get a bird to hold and squeeze to make the bird's sound.

I talk about the bird, telling the students what they eat or where they like to nest.

I try to leave a copy of one of the Audubon Adventures and a field guide from Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

I also encourage each room to watch the bald eagles nesting in Avon Lake Ohio. This watching brings the students more questions and helps them learn the life cycle of the bird. I have really enjoyed this whole process. Join us in watching the Avon Lake Bald Eagles.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/avonlakeeaglecam/live>

Thank You for Your Support
Tammy Campbell
Van Wert Soil and Water District

Programs at the Park

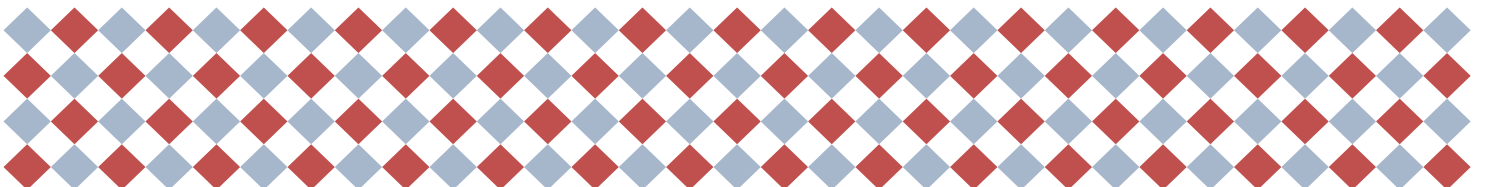
A strong supporter of Tri-Moraine, the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District offers several programs in Allen County throughout the summer that fit the mission of our organization. Some highlights include:

Day camps, for 5-6 year olds , 7-9 year olds, 10-14 year olds, covering a variety of topics including trees, nature, kayaking, archery, and more!

Saturday evening amphitheater programs include nature-focused Chris Rowlands, JAMPD Naturalists, Steve Madewell, Dr Insecta, hiking and kayaking programs, nature playgroups and many other topics!

Visit jampd.com and follow on Facebook to learn more!

Submitted by Dan Hodges





Serving Allen • Auglaize
Hancock • Hardin • Logan
Mercer • Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in
Ohio
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SUMMER 2023 Newsletter

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President's Message

We have had a great year of programming - monthly meetings, field trips, EEW, and more! And we're steadily seeing attendance come back up, not quite to B.C. (Before Covid) levels, but definitely moving in the right direction. With all the great things summer has to offer, the vacations, sports, BBQs, nature and general busyness of our lives, it is easy to forget the community that we have built, and are building. That is why I appreciate the summer picnic, an opportunity to come together, bring some friends, relax and enjoy each other. This year the picnic is not Tuesday (the 4th) but Wednesday (the 5th). I hope you can make it! And then, before you know it, we will be ready to start another great season of connecting people and birds!

The good things that we're doing - the field trips, meetings, grant opportunities, conservation initiatives, fundraisers, this newsletter - these are the result of the hard work of a few dedicated people. I'm grateful to be part of a team that wants to do good things in this area, for people and for birds. The Tri-Moraine leaders on the board (which could be you, there are several openings!) are committed to our mission, and will be evaluating our goals and objectives as we spend some time this summer updating our strategic plan and hammering out where we are and where we're going as an organization.

As always, your input is incredibly valuable. Look for surveys in the future and don't be afraid to offer constructive criticism. You are welcome to attend board meetings to offer input (the next one is the last Tuesday of July), or join the board and help us lead the organization on to the next chapter! Happy Birding! Dan



