



Serving Allen,  
Auglaize, Hancock,  
Hardin, Logan, Mercer,  
Shelby, and Van Wert  
Counties in Ohio

# Flight Patterns

## Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Winter 2011

WEB ADDRESS - <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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## CALENDAR

**TRI-MORaine'S 2011 EVENING PROGRAM MEETINGS** are scheduled the first Tuesday of the month, September through November and January through May. Meetings are held in the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima. (Enter campus off Mumaugh Rd.; first building on left). Meetings and events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Dates and times appear in the calendar write-ups below. In case of bad weather (*level 2 in Allen Co.*), meeting cancelations will be posted on WLIO(NBC/channel35) and WOHL(FOX/channel 25).

December 17 & 18  
Christmas Bird  
Counts (CBC)

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**, Sat., December 17, Grand Lake St. Marys; Sun., December 18, Indian Lake. To sign up for the count (or any additional information); see details on page 3 of this newsletter.

January 3  
Program Meeting/  
Potluck Dinner  
6:30pm

**ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK**, Tues., January 3, 6:30pm. Visitor/Student Services Center will open at 6pm. TMAS will provide fried chicken and beverages. Members and guests should bring any of the following--hot or cold dish, salad, rolls, side dish, or dessert and their own table service. Presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their favorite nature photography accompanied by brief narration. A digital projector, laptop, and screen will be furnished. Join fellow nature enthusiasts for a most enjoyable evening.

Board Meeting  
Tuesday Jan. 31  
7pm

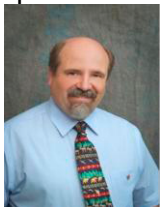
**TMAS BOARD MEETING**, Tues., January 31, 2012, 7pm. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

Orders due Jan. 20  
Pick up orders Feb. 4  
Birdseed Sale

**WINTER BIRDSEED SALE**, Sat., February 4, 9am-4pm, DeHaven Home & Garden Center at 15276 US 224 E, Findlay and 775 Shawnee Road, Lima. The winter restocking sale was started at the request of purchasers who lack space to store large quantities of birdseed. The sale is by preorder only. Order forms will be mailed Jan. 2 to those who made purchases any time in 2010 and 2011. If you would like an order form or have questions, contact Anne Smedley at 419.222.3271. Return your completed order form by Friday, January 20 to ensure sufficient stock on sale day. All proceeds fund local conservation education programs and projects. Remember, prepaid orders only and pickup at either DeHaven location. Volunteers are needed to help those picking up birdseed on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Call Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 (Lima) if you can help organize orders on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> or help on the 4<sup>th</sup>.



February 7  
Program Meeting  
7pm



**INVASIVE SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE TO OHIO**, Tues., February 7, 2012, 7:30pm. Dr. Curtis E. Young, OSU Extension, Van Wert County, will discuss invasive insects and throw in mention of some of the plant species as well. The presentation will look at past and present invasive insect species that have been found in Ohio and the impacts that they have had in Ohio once they arrived. The program will also review some of the species that are knocking on Ohio's door and may soon be moving across its borders. Dr. Young, an entomologist, is best known in the region for his work with the Master Gardener program. Young is also an author, and photographer. This will be of interest to gardeners as well as those interested in bird habitat.

March 6  
Program Meeting  
Save this date



**BUSINESS AT BUCKEYE BLOOMS**, Tues., March 6, 2012. After witnessing the environmental devastation of rose farms in Ecuador, mother & daughter, Kay Studer and Susan Studer King, team up to start an earth-friendly flower farm in Allen County, OH. Buckeye Blooms specializes in fresh-cut, locally and organically grown flowers. Their impact extends beyond the garden: they plant trees to combat soil erosion and climate change, and donate a portion of profits to charitable organizations that work on behalf of food security.

March 17  
Field Trip  
Killdeer Plains  
Save this date

**KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE FIELD TRIP**, Sat., March 17, 2012. Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot/Marion Cos., provides us an opportunity to explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies, and woodlots as we look for ducks, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, sparrows, and other passerines.

The **13TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)**, will be held Friday to Monday, February 17-20, hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Participation in the GBBC is free, educational, easy, and best of all, FUN! This online citizens-science census counts birds anywhere at any time during the scheduled weekend. Data is sent via the Internet. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Help scientists define the status of winter birds. Obtain more details and participate by visiting [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). This is a great activity for individuals, classrooms/groups, and families. Need a list of species native to your area that you might see? Regional lists can be found on the website. When tens of thousands of people watch birds and report what they see online, they create a snapshot showing the whereabouts of many hundreds of bird species across the United States and Canada.

This annual gold mine of information about birds comes from participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) where in 2011 an estimated 60,000 bird watchers of all ages took part in the free four-day event identified 596 species and filed 11.4 million individual bird observations. Their reports provide useful information to scientists tracking changes in the numbers and movements of birds from year to year, just as winter is about to melt into spring. Two new species never reported to the count before included a Brown Shrike in McKinleyville, California, and a Common Chaffinch recorded in Placentia, Newfoundland and Labrador—both species well out of their normal ranges. In Alaska, a GBBC participant observed a Brambling visiting her feeder—the only one reported for all of North America.

**UPDATE: CAMP MYEERAH HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT.** In partnership with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, US Fish & Wildlife and Pheasants Forever, Logan Co.; Tri-Moraine Audubon Society is participating in the habitat restoration of almost 90 acres of land at the Camp Myeerah Girl Scout camp near Bellefontaine, Ohio. Donnie Knight of US Fish & Wildlife is acting as the project manager.

Despite setbacks in the schedule due to the wet spring of 2011, significant progress has been made. Acres of the invasive Autumn Olive bush have been physically removed by mechanical means. This has been followed up with an initial burn and herbicide treatment. A second burn was scheduled for early September of 2011. After residual “green up” of any remaining invasives, a second herbicide treatment was to be applied in late October or November of 2011 as weather permitted.

Donnie Knight attended a nursery auction on the second weekend of September to purchase some good sized trees to be used for the project. He will also be ordering the native grasses and forb seeds required for seeding the area in the spring of 2012 after a final herbicide treatment.

Your Audubon chapter is proud to be a part of this project. Camp Myeerah has been the site of our Environmental Education Weekend for over 30 years. As invasive plants began to overtake the grassland fields of Myeerah, a drop in bird species was documented through the field observations which are part of the Environmental Education Weekend. A particular benefit of this habitat restoration project is that the impact of the restoration can be quantified by the past field observations as compared to future observations after the restoration is complete.

**ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE IN OHIO (ALB).** On June 17, 2011, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced that an Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation was found in Clermont County (SE Ohio). This is the first ALB infestation found in Ohio, although it has already cost the federal government over \$370,000,000 to battle this invasion in other parts of the country. The beetle has the potential to cause almost unprecedented damage to trees in North America by killing native species like ash, maple, birch, elm, willows, horse chestnuts, and buckeyes. Detection is the key to stopping this beetle, first found in the US in 1996. Many times ordinary citizens are the ones that discover the presence of the **ALB** and hope remains of eradicating the beetle by education and identification. Unlike the Emerald Ash Borer, the ALB stays with the tree until it dies and therefore does not spread as quickly. We have time to do many things to save our trees. Go to [www.beetledetectives.com](http://www.beetledetectives.com) to find out how you can spot and report this menace.

A special toll-free telephone number has been established by the ODA for Ohioans to report suspected ALB infestations or suspicious large black and white beetles. The number is 1.855.252.6450. Experts say the greatest threat comes from people moving firewood; become educated about the potential of wide spread damage to our trees and forests. Once trees are infected, they do not recover as they are continually re-infested until dead. Management of infected trees will help to eradicate this infestation. To learn more, become a Facebook Friend of Ohio Woodland Stewards or contact the Ohio Cooperative Extension and ask for the Fall 2011 edition of Ohio Woodlands, Water, Wildlife Publication containing information written by Joe Boggs, OSU Extension, Assistant Professor, Entomology, and Amy Stone, OSU Extension, EAB and ALB, Statewide Coordinator.

**FALL BIRDSEED SALE RESULTS.** Co-chair Anne Smedley reports that the November sale raised \$1,261.77 (including donations). TMAS thanks all our purchasers, the media outlets that helped to publicize the event, DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace for providing both Findlay and Lima store locations for the sale and all the other great backup support, and Northland Quick Print for printing the sale fliers. Thanks also to our volunteers who picked up and distributed seed in their communities, toted all those bags (over 3½ tons), prepared mailing labels, mailed and distributed fliers, made and put up posters, and provided customer service: Joanne & Bob Antibus, Ivan & Rachel Friesen (Bluffton); George Bilbrey (Delphos); Don & Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Bill Askins, Bob & Carol Bertrand, David Betts, Denny Bucholtz, John Daley, Russell Reynolds, Tom Sciranka, Anne & Arianna & Morgan Smedley (Lima); and Bill Angel, Jan Heinrich (St. Marys).

## AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Tri-Moraine Chapter will be coordinating two of the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts in Ohio: Grand Lake (Saturday, 17 December 2011) and Indian Lake (Sunday, 18 December 2011). The CBCs offer an opportunity to participate in a little winter birding, and perhaps see some of the winter visitors to our area – especially those that usually do not hang out in our yards. Most importantly, we are collecting very useful data as “citizen scientists.” Data contained in the more than 100 year history of Audubon CBCs is a very valuable source of information about birds. The volume of data obtained during the years of CBCs could not have been acquired in any other way. This could be especially important for the Grand Lake count, since the St. Marys River and Grand Lake represent one of the IBAs in the Tri-Moraine region.

The more counters we have participating, the more fun we can have and the more birds we are likely to tally. All are welcome; less experienced birders will flock with more experienced birders, so everyone's eyes and ears will be useful. Although it is okay to show up at the last minute to participate, it is really helpful in organizing the count efficiently if the coordinator knows in advance (at least the night before) how many counters there will be. To sign up for the count (or any additional information), please contact Eric Juterbock (419-995-8360(day), 937-468-2606(evening), [juterbock.1@osu.edu](mailto:juterbock.1@osu.edu) (email), or, surface mail at 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, OH 45804. To be considered an official count, we must be out for at least eight hours, but individual counters need not participate for the full time. In addition to the counters roaming the 15-mile diameter count circle, one may participate by tallying the birds that visit a feeder located within the circle. Assigned routes for the mobile counters generally involve both road and foot travel. Remember to dress appropriately and to bring such needed items as binoculars, bird guides, food and drinks, etc. Please note that ODNR apparently has no concern for the CBCs or their participants, since they have again scheduled an additional weekend of deer gun season to coincide with the first (and most popular) weekend of the official CBC count period (the dates of which have been established for years). Except for some park lands, we will need to stay out of the woods. I do have some orange vests available if you wish to wear orange and do not usually wear that color.

We will meet at 0730 hrs (a.m.) for both counts, in order to finalize the census routes and be counting by 0800. For the Indian Lake count, meet at the McDonald's in Russell's Point. For the Grand Lake count, meet at the McDonald's at the mall at the intersection of SR 29 and US 33 in St Marys.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving has just passed. Winter is just around the corner. As president of this Audubon chapter, there is a great deal I am thankful for. I think of all the volunteers that quietly take care of getting things done so well. The easiest job in the chapter is that of president because the majority of work is done by the chapter officers, board members, and volunteers. I am also grateful for all of you who have attended a program or a field trip during the year. Your enthusiasm for the work being done in the chapter makes it all worthwhile. I think of friends who have moved away, passed away, or aren't able to get out as often...you are all missed. So in the spirit of thanksgiving and the holidays yet to come, I wish you and your loved ones good health and happiness.

### WINTER AND NATURE OPPORTUNITIES

I do hope you won't let a little cold weather keep you from enjoying nature these next few months. One of my fondest memories is sitting all bundled up for an hour in the woods after a heavy snow. It was amazing how quiet and beautiful it was. When you sit quietly, the squirrels, birds, and mice scurry around in the snow and put on quite a show. I hope you will find time to go on a hike after a snow yourself. See all the bird nests, look for animal tracks, and just take time to see how beautiful nature can be in every season. If you don't have a window bird feeder yet, consider asking Santa for one. Window feeders stick to a window with suction cups, sometimes have a one-way mirrored film, and hold various amounts of feed. What makes them special, especially in winter, is that once the birds find them, you'll have a steady stream of different birds visit you all winter. The fact that you can be watching in your robe and slippers from only a short distance away makes it even more special. –Eric

**NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL.** Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at [waskins@woh.rr.com](mailto:waskins@woh.rr.com). State name, mailing address, e-mail address, and your desire to receive Flight Patterns via e-mail. You will receive an e-mail notice of website availability containing a URL you can click on that will take you to the newsletter (in PDF format) on the chapter's website.

**MEMBERSHIP.** If you are reading this newsletter and would like to become an Audubon member, you can check out the TMAS website for info about the two types of membership offered by the chapter. You can download a membership form or obtain a brochure by contacting Bill Askins at the above e-mail address, calling him at 419-339-9751, or mailing to Bill @ the chapter's PO Box. This information is for new members only. No renewals.

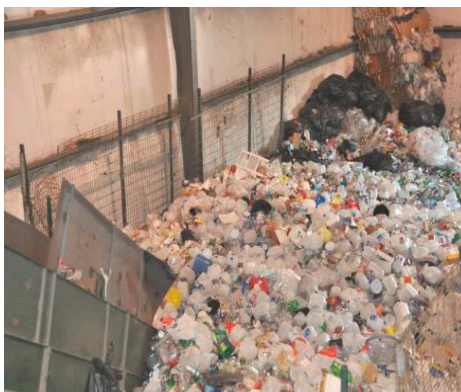


You can now find Tri-Moraine Audubon Society information on Facebook. Look for information about field trips, important bird sightings, and upcoming events. Check out the information and become a Facebook friend. Be sure to click the “LIKE” button for TMAS updates as they occur. Look for the TMAS cardinal logo.





**Address Service Requested**



TMAS visited the Van Wert Solid Waste Management District on Saturday Oct. 15. George Brake, director of this county facility, led the group through the two recycling "streams" of materials and special items collections.



VWSWMD accepts all plastic containers, 1 through 7, food and beverage containers, plus plastic lawn chairs. The center offers a free book exchange and composted lawn wastes for area residents.



## **ANNUAL FINANCIAL APPEAL**

Once a year, I share with you some accomplishments of the past year and ask that those who are able to support financially our many programs and good works. Your Audubon chapter, through the excellent work of many volunteers, has been doing some great work in habitat restoration at Camp Myeerah near Bellefontaine. Besides a lot of time and hard work, the chapter invested some of your money and captured the attention and support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW). In the past two weeks, the money the chapter donated to the project attracted some very special grants. One grant of \$1,000 is from the National Audubon Society's Collaborative Funding Initiative and is one of three funded in the state of Ohio. The other \$1,000 grant is from the fine folks at the Midwest Birding Symposium, the board members of the Ohio Ornithological Society, the staff of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and employees of the Lake side Association. Members of TMAS have been going to Camp Myeerah for the chapter's Environmental Education Weekend for over thirty years. The work being done with USFW, the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, and Pheasants Forever, Logan County is restoring the fields around the camp with native grasses, trees, and wildflowers while removing autumn olive bushes and other invasive plants. These two grants will enable us to purchase native prairie wildflower seeds for the habitat plantings. To make a long story short...without your financial support of the chapter through the Annual Appeal, birdseed sales, or recycling the chapter would not have been able to make the initial investment which has now been increased tenfold through these generous grants and support of the USFW tenfold. I just wanted to give you this one example of the great work being done and to acknowledge the generous support provided by the two grants. Through your ongoing support of the Annual Appeal we can continue educational programs and environmental projects.

Eric Broughton, President