



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

WINTER 2019

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

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Jennifer Waltz
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Volunteer Opportunities... Christmas Bird Count—The Christmas Bird Count for Indian Lake is Dec. 14 and Dec. 15 for Grand Lake St. Marys. More details found on page 3. Mark your calendars!

Winter Birdseed Sale— The Winter Birdseed Sale will be held Friday, January 31 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, February 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Layman Feed & Lawn, 705 E. Main St., (SR 309), Elida. This sale is by Preorder Only. Order forms will be mailed in December to those who purchased in 2018-19. If you would like an order form or have questions, contact Anne at 419.303.1766 or download a form from the chapter's website or Facebook page. Mail your completed order by Friday, January 17 to ensure you receive your order. All proceeds benefit local conservation, education programs and projects. Volunteers are needed for this sale. Call Anne Smedley if you can help.

TMAS Board Meeting - The next TMAS Board meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. January 28 and March 31 in the OSU Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima. All are welcome to attend.

Birds Abound in Artistic Endeavors...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

Think of birds and art and many creative avenues come to mind, from the stylistic ink paintings of the Japanese, to bronze sculptures, to wood carvings, photography, fiber arts, porcelain figures, stained glass and paintings. They have persisted throughout the ages and touch every culture.

Our love of birds transcends from bird watching, bird feeding and monitoring their health and environment, it also comes out in amateur photography and art endeavors in all mediums, even in poetry and other forms of written expression. I am sure each of us has been involved in one form or other of these efforts to bring birding to another level.

These art forms just emphasize our love and admiration for our feathered friends. They allow us to express ourselves in the physical, putting down on paper or fabric or sculpting likenesses that celebrate the beauty and diversity of birds. It's something I have done all my life. These efforts are not masterpieces by any means, but a way I connect my love of birds with other areas of my life.

My home reflects that with many wooden swans decorating our home, with pictures of birds taken by my sister and me, wooden carvings of birds from another sister, and in quilts I have made throughout the years. If you love birds, if you are creative, you have to make them live in your art forms, as well.

Some of you may wonder why; I would have to answer that those of us involved in these art forms have to create. It's in our genes, our DNA. It just is.



Swan wood carving by Judy Chalou



Watercolor by Jeannine Roediger



Wool Ball Felted Ornaments by Dianne Knipp



Appliqued quilt detail

TMAS WINTER PROGRAM MEETING

Clint McCoy: Deer Management: It really is all about people!* Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 7:30 p.m.



“Over trained and under prepared.” Wildlife managers spend years in school preparing for the dream job only to find that they would have been better served by degrees in sociology, psychology, anthropology, and economics.

As hunter numbers continue to shrink and deer populations expand, relationships with Ohio’s hunters, landowners, and residents will be more important than ever. Clint McCoy, deer biologist for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, will talk about why wildlife managers must wear so many more hats than just the biologist’s to be successful.

ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Visitor/Student Services Center will open at 6 p.m. Tri-Moraine will provide fried chicken and beverages. Members and guests should bring their own table service and any of the following – hot or cold dish, salad, rolls, side dish, or dessert. Presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their favorite nature photography accompanied by brief narration – that means YOU!!

A digital projector, computer, and screen will be furnished. PowerPoint format works best, but a folder with digital photos also work. Please limit your photos to a dozen or so (or whatever you can present in 10 minutes). Join fellow nature enthusiasts for an enjoyable evening of reminiscing about all the amazing things we were able to observe this year.

Randy Rogers: Birding on Rum - a Cuban Adventure!*
Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Cuba is home to wonderful endemic birds including the bee hummingbird and Cuban parrot, but can be a challenging travel destination. Randy Rogers, Cedar Bog Association president, will discuss travel to Cuba, the island's special birdlife, and what to expect and how to get the most out of a Cuban birding adventure. Instructions for "Hemingway's Havana Pub Crawl" are included!

Randy Rogers has been birding around the world since 1998. He has been to Cuba twice, once with the Ohio Ornithological Society where he was the trip leader and once with the Theodore Roosevelt Association. He completed "Hemingway's Havana Pub Crawl" both times.

Jamie Cunningham: Spectacular Waterfowl Migration of the Western Lake Erie Basin*

Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 7:30 p.m.



Great Blue Heron, photo by Lee Miller

Explore the wonders of the diverse waterfowl species that migrate through Lake Erie's marshes in early spring. From immense Trumpeter Swans, down to the petite Green-winged Teal, see what makes Lake Erie an important stop over spot for ducks, geese, loons, and more!

Jamie spends most of her free time photographing birds around Ohio and the United States. Her favorite groups are waterfowl and shorebirds. She is an Ohio Young Birder Club Advisor and guides birding festivals in her free time, including for the Biggest Week in American Birding.

*Submitted by Jackie Augustine *Co-sponsored with JAMPD*

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING PROGRAM MEETINGS – Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m.: Family Fun Night* Nature-related games for children aged 1 to 101.

Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 7:30 p.m.: Susan Gershman: * “The science of animal behavior: What we can and can’t learn from watching animals” *Co-sponsored with Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

COAC CORNER...

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society has become a sustaining member of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC). COAC connects Audubon chapters throughout the state during gatherings held twice a year and monthly phone meetings. COAC is currently seeking chapter input on what type of programming would be the most benefit to chapters. Options being considered are:

1. Urban Birding - This would provide strategies for developing meaningful urban birding experiences and for engaging local communities. Aspiration: To extend programming and membership to underserved communities
2. Birding for the Mobility Challenged (aka Butt Birding) - Bird watching is a great activity for those with mobility challenges, such as the disabled or elderly. This would provide strategies for developing birding tours where birds can be seen from vehicles. Aspiration: To extend programming and membership to underserved communities
3. Wildlife-minded mowing (aka Wild Ditches) - This would provide literature on wildlife-minded mowing (delaying mowing until August), and strategies for how to collaborate with city, county, and state agencies and private individuals to delay conducting mowing activities until after grassland birds are done nesting. Aspiration: To protect habitat of grassland nesting birds
4. Plants for Birds - This would provide information about bird-friendly gardening, funding sources and grant writing, and components of successful plantings. Aspiration: Depending on where bird-friendly practices are enacted, extending programming and membership to underserved communities or faith-based communities; fundraising. Which option do you think will be the most benefit to Tri-Moraine? Please send your input to Jackie Augustine at augustine.63@osu.edu by Dec 9. *Submitted by Jackie Augustine*

2019 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS...

Between December 14, 2019 and January 5, 2020, volunteers will be counting birds across the hemisphere in the 120th Christmas Bird Count. For the 118th count, there were counts in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces, and over 150 count circles in Latin America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere in the western hemisphere. Over 2,585 counts by nearly 77,000 observers tallied over 59 million birds of 2673 different species. Locally, the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's volunteer citizen scientists will be conducting two counts: **Indian Lake, on Saturday, December 14, 2019, and Grand Lake St Marys, on Sunday, December 15, 2019.**

The CBC is a chance to check up on our local birds, and maybe even see a few rare winter visitors. Our efforts yield data that are extremely valuable for understanding the status of both local and global bird populations. CBCs have revealed the dramatic impact climate change is already having on birds, as well as disturbing declines in common birds, including kestrels.

Although such factors as weather and habitat affect the count (e.g., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada 117th CBC had 170 field counters for 47 spp., vs. Indian Lake's 14 for 63 spp.), generally, more counters will lead to more birds being seen. All birders are welcome to participate; those with less experience, or who are unfamiliar with the area of the count, accompany those with more experience. Everyone's eyes and ears can be useful! It greatly aids the coordinator in organizing the count to know at least the night before how many birders to expect. To sign up for the count (or for additional information), please contact Eric Juterbock at 216.905.8909 (cell), juterbock.1@osu.edu (email), or (surface mail) at 5480 County Road 5 North, Rushsylvania, OH 43347-9750.

Individuals need not participate for the full eight-hour count. A count takes place in a 15-mile diameter circle. Routes generally involve some combination of automotive and foot travel; individuals living within the circle may count birds visiting their backyard or feeder. Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather and to bring such needed items as binoculars, bird guides, food and drinks, etc. In order to finalize the census routes and be counting by 8:00 a.m., we will meet at 7:30 a.m. for both counts. Meet for the Indian Lake count at the McDonalds in Russells Point, and Grand Lake count at the McDonalds at the mall, SR 29 and US 33 in St Marys.

CHECK OUT THE NEW AUDUBON ADVENTURES. It is called Sharing our World with Birds and has three separate topics: Sharing our Shores, Seabirds-Ocean Mariners and Raptors-The Birds of Prey. Tri Moraine will purchase materials for classrooms, after school groups, libraries, soil and water conservation groups, nature and science camps and homeschoolers. This series meets Ohio's learning state standards for grades three thru fifth grades and applicable up through eighth grade. *Submitted by Jennifer Waltz, Audubon Adventures*

FALL BIRDSEED RESULTS...Co-chair Anne Smedley reported that the November 1st & 2nd sale raised approximately \$1,215. The chapter also received nearly \$176.85 in donations. We thank our purchasers, the media that publicized the event, Northland Quick Print for printing the sale fliers and Layman Feed & Lawn for providing the sale facilities and all others who supported this event. Thanks also to the volunteers who picked up and distributed seed in their communities, toted the 271 bags and suet cakes (5,320 pounds), provided mailing labels, mailed and distributed fliers, and provided customer service that day. *Submitted by Anne Smedley, Co-Chair*

Presidents Message... It's that time of year, again! Have you been shopping? Or are you still looking for that "perfect" gift for someone special? We all have one or two folks on our list each year that leave us wondering, "What would he/she like?" If you are like me, you don't really want or need more stuff. Many of us are trying to downsize now so someone else isn't stuck with the task later. Wouldn't it be great if you could find a gift that not only honored the recipient, but also, benefited the world in some way? Tri-Moraine Audubon might be able to assist!

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving the annual appeal letter from Tri-Moraine Audubon. In it, you will find the many ways TMAS supports IBAs (Important Birding Areas) and other environmentally friendly organizations and locations in our eight-county area. You will have the opportunity to designate where your donation will go, either to a specific area or in an area to be determined later by the TMAS membership.

If someone asks what you would like for Christmas, suggest they send a donation to Tri-Moraine Audubon on your behalf; what better way to cut the clutter in your life and benefit the environment. Donations to TMAS are tax deductible. Another opportunity to support TMAS is a gift – to yourself! Admit it. You treat yourself during the holidays if you find a good deal!

TMAS is also offering the opportunity to take a birding trip that benefits the organization. Although a destination is still not decided, Arizona and Costa Rica are being considered. A portion of the total cost of the trip is a donation made to Tri-Moraine Audubon. Sabrewing Tours, an established birding tour company, is offering the trips. What an incredible opportunity to take a small group birding trip to a new location, as well as benefit your local Audubon society!

Hopefully, I've alleviated some of the stress of your holiday shopping by offering a couple of options for those hard to buy for folks on your list! Thank you in advance for remembering Tri-Moraine Audubon! Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy, happy 2020! Cheryl Erwin TMAS president



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Hancock • Hardin • Logan • Mercer
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P.O. Box 5648, Lima, OH 45802-5648
Winter 2019 Newsletter
December Birdseed Sale

