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Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

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Mar/Apr 2007

Volume 35 No. 2

Program meetings continue on the first Tuesday of the month March and May 2007 in Fellowship Hall, lower level, Market Street Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Market Street, corner Cole and West Market Streets, Lima. You may use the courtyard entrance off the rear parking lot or the elevator entrance on the west side of the church where handicapped parking is available. Follow the Audubon signs. Mark the Tuesdays on your calendar and join us. You'll be most welcome. Meetings and events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Note dates and times in calendar writeups. See April 10 for information about the program meeting in Celina. On May 1 TMAS will celebrate its 30th anniversary as a fully chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society. Please plan to be with us that evening.

In Remembrance.....



Eleanor B. Sonnett (Aug. 22, 1918 - Jan. 12, 2007) was a longtime member of Tri-Moraine. She loved watching birds and had a number of feeders in the yard of her Ada home. She was therefore one of our loyal birdseed purchasers. As any program chair will tell you, you can't have a program without an audience. Eleanor was a regular at our monthly meetings and made many Audubon friends. The last few years were difficult for her, but there she was first on her walker and then in her wheelchair. She was last with us in October thoroughly caught up in Tom Hissong's beautiful photography. Eleanor was a special lady and she always had a smile on her face.

Walter James "Jim" Wright (March 20, 1921 - Jan. 17, 2007) was a good friend to Tri-Moraine. Jim liked to be active and he liked to be outdoors. He was a Project Recycle volunteer for many years. Jim also decided to collect aluminum cans as he got his daily exercise and then he expanded his operation by maintaining collection boxes at a local golf course, The OSU at Lima campus, and a popular eatery. He collected thousands of pounds of cans in the Lima area over a period of several years. Proceeds from the sale of these cans were given to The Nature Conservancy and to Tri-Moraine to help support the chapter's Audubon Adventures (AA) program. The Society thanks those who have made donations to Tri-Moraine in memory of Jim. All donations will be used to fund future AA classrooms in Allen County.



Mar 6th LAWRENCE WOODS STATE NATURE PRESERVE, Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. This Important Bird Area (IBA) is one of six IBAs located in Tri-Moraine's eight-county service area. Dr. Carl W. Hoagstrom (Alger), retired professor (Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences, Ohio Northern University) and Tri-Moraine member, is conducting a continuous bird survey for Audubon Ohio. This survey will determine the variety of birds present in support of the Preserve's IBA designation. Dr. Hoagstrom's PowerPoint presentation will be the perfect introduction to the chapter's April 21 field trip. See the field trip writeup for significant animal/plant species and details about Lawrence Woods.

Mar 17th Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area Trip. Killdeer Plains is an 8,500+ acre wildlife area located in Wyandot and Marion Counties. Its habitat consists of meadows, marsh, woods, prairies, ponds and cropland. We will have the opportunity to view a variety of passerine, raptor and waterfowl species. These include Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Canvasback, Northern Pintail, and many others. We will be leaving from the Rays parking lot on SR 309 behind Wendy's at 10am. Those who wish to meet us at Killdeer can find us at the upland reservoir at 11am. Dress for the weather, bring a lunch, binoculars and field guides. We will stay till dusk in the hopes of spotting a Short-eared Owl. For additional information or questions please contact Anne Smedley at 419-222-3271 or jsmedley@wcoil.com. This trip is open to the public.

Mar 24th MONITORING THE ST. MARYS RIVER IMPORTANT BIRD AREA, Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Room 182, Wright State University -- Lake Campus, 7600 SR 703, Celina. This workshop is sponsored by Audubon Ohio and Tri-Moraine Audubon Society with generous support from the George Gund Foundation. Presenters will be Tom Bartlett (expert birder, master bird bander, and experienced bird survey monitor) and John Ritzenthaler (Director of Habitat Conservation, Audubon Ohio). The workshop will include an introduction to Important Bird Areas, an overview of surveys and monitoring, field methods, ID by songs/calls, and what to do with your data. Cost of the workshop, \$10 (adults) and \$5 (students), includes continental breakfast, snacks, lunch (suitable for vegetarians), and all handouts. Preregistration is required to assure sufficient food and materials for participants. Preregistration deadline is Thursday, March 15. To obtain a preregistration form contact Carol Bertrand (419-227-9231) or Annette Kovic (aekovic@yahoo.com).

APR 10th HISTORY OF THE ST. MARYS RIVER, Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, Wright State University -- Lake Campus, 7600 SR 703, Celina. James S. McCormac is Avian Education Specialist for ODNR's Division of Wildlife. Before that he was a botanist for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He is also president of the Ohio Ornithological Society and coauthor of Birds of Ohio (Lone Pine Pub., c2004, pap.). Jim has explored along the St. Marys River for many years and during the course of these explorations he has found many very rare plants. One of them, Catchfly Grass, was the first discovery in Ohio and the entire Great Lakes drainage. The speaker's visual presentation, including both animals (e.g., Prothonotary Warbler, Pugnose Minnow, etc.) and plants, recounts the history of the river and why these rarities are found in and along the river today.



APR
15th
-
21st

April 15-21 is NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK. TMAS salutes all its volunteers for their support of various activities and projects such as providing meeting refreshments, representing the chapter at local and state meetings and other functions, assisting with the Society's bookstore, toting that birdseed, serving as officers/board members/committee chairs, making posters, recruiting new members, helping with the newsletter, counting all those birds, presenting programs, sorting mountains of recyclables, staffing the chapter's booth at community events, leading field trips, and the list goes on. TMAS is a totally volunteer organization and the chapter would not exist without the help of its members. Why not volunteer your help to the cause. We need you and, not only will you learn more about your chapter and make new friends, you'll have a lot of fun.

Thanks!

Apr
21st

Lawrence Woods State Nature Preserve and IBA and Big Island Wildlife Area Trip. Lawrence Woods, located in Hardin County, is the largest known mature forest in this region. The preserve is 1,035 acres of forest and prairie. It is home to many significant animal species which include: four-toed salamander, spotted salamander, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cerulean Warbler, Sedge Wren, Bobolink, Pileated Woodpecker and many others. Dry areas of the forest contain oak - hickory communities, and as the ground grades to wetter conditions beech - maple, beech - oak - maple, and maple - ash - oak swamp communities can be found. Areas that are inundated most of the year house buttonbush swamps as well as heart-leaf plantain and marsh marigold. Heart-leaf plantain is only found in three sites within Ohio. Grove sandwort is another rare species that can be found. In addition we will be able to view many familiar spring wildflowers and many birds returning or passing through on spring migration. Big Island Wildlife Area is 5,000 acres of wet prairie, marshes woodland, cropland, and ponds. We will be able to view a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. We will spend the morning at Lawrence Woods and the afternoon at Big Island. We will be leaving at 8am from the Rays parking lot on SR 309 behind Wendy's. Bring binoculars and field guides. Pack a lunch, or plan to purchase lunch in Kenton. Those who wish to meet us at Lawrence Woods should be there by 9am. If you wish to go to Big Island only we will meet in the parking lot on the corner of La Rue - Prospect Rd and Agosta - Meeker Rd at 1pm. For directions, further information or questions please contact Anne Smedley at 419-222-3271 or jsmedley@wcoil.com. This trip is open to the public.

Apr
22nd

EARTH DAY 2007, Sunday, April 22, 37th anniversary. No special chapter celebration is planned. Every day is Earth Day to Auduboners.

Apr
23rd

NATURE & CULTURE, Monday, April 23, 7-9 p.m., Ohio Northern University, Business College, Dicke Forum - Bill Jordan, director of New Academy for Nature and Culture and codirector of DePauw University's Institute for Nature and Culture. This is another offering from the ONU Working Group on Religion, Ethics and Nature (WGREN). Please verify time and other details and keep up-to-date about program offerings by visiting www.onu.edu/org/wgren.

Apr
28th

13TH ANNUAL OTTAWA RIVER CLEANUP, Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. - noon. Start at the Allen County Red Cross Chapter House, corner North Shore Drive and Collett Street, Lima, to register, pick up trash bags, etc. Dress for the weather (old clothes/comfortable footwear). Gloves are mandatory (provided if needed). To volunteer for a TMAS team call Bob at 419-227-9231. NOTE: Youth under 18 MUST have parental permission AND be accompanied by adult.

May
4th
-
6th

**28th Annual Environmental Education Weekend
May 4-6, 2007**



Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 28th annual Environmental Education weekend at Camp Myeerah, SR 540 near Bellefontaine on May 4th through May 6th. This weekend provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a truly unique environmental setting. Camp Myeerah is comprised of over 500 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. Camp Myeerah is one of 94 sites in Ohio which has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html


The education programs offered will include opportunities to learn about and participate in field trips on birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants and other nature related programs. Timed to coincide with the spring migration of neotropical migrant warblers and the spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide a truly unique family oriented educational opportunity!

The weekend begins with registration starting at 5:00 PM on Friday, May 4th and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 6th. All meals are provided and a variety of camping options are available as well as dormitory accommodations. Due to insurance considerations, this opportunity is **available for National Audubon members (or local Supporting members) and their immediate families only**. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form found in this newsletter or contact Bill Askins at waskins@woh.rr.com or 419-339-9751. For further information concerning the weekend visit Tri-Moraine Audubon's website at www.tri-moraineaudubon.org or contact either Don Rosenbeck at rosenbeck@voyager.net or Eric Broughton at ebroughton@woh.rr.com. Information is also available by writing Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, PO Box 5648, Lima, OH 45802-5648.

PRESIDENT'S CHAPTER NOTES.....The OHIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS II (2006-2010) still needs volunteers. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer or as a private landowner (allowing a volunteer on your property, submitting your own observations, or encouraging other private landowners to participate), visit www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/ for more information and to download a participation form. You may also contact Jill Bowers, OBBA II volunteer regional coordinator and TMAS member, at jill531@watchtv.net or 419-394-4504.....TMAS BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., Evelyn Prater's (Harrod).....Volunteer chair Bob Bertrand is looking for volunteers to help with the annual GARLIC MUSTARD PULLS (usually late April into early June) at Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District's Kendrick Woods. Call Bob at 419-227-9231 or park naturalist Mark Mohr at 419-223-1025 (M-F, 9-5) for more information and to volunteer.....The official time for electing new officers and board members is the annual meeting in May preceding the regular monthly meeting. Nominations are open for vice president (2-year term), treasurer (2-year term), and member-at-large (3-year term). Submit nominations to Carol Bertrand at 419-227-9231 or Annette Kovic at aekovic@yahoo.com. Nominations must be received no later than Friday, March 30. Prior consent of nominees is required. The slate will be presented at the April program meeting in Celina.,,,,,Don't forget! International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 12. Volunteers needed for Allen County count. Mark your calendar. Full details May/June newsletter.



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- I do not wish to receive AUDUBON magazine
 - I do not want my name shared by the National Audubon Society with any other organization
- Newsletter format wanted (Circle only one):** paper, email, or email notice of website availability

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Contribution of _____ to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, to fund local programs and projects.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
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Mail form and payment to:
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 LIMA, OHIO 45802-5648

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Proceeds support **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** classrooms in our 8-county service area.

When ordering by phone or website, be sure to mention Tri-Moraine Audubon Society's Code (lower right corner) to ensure credit for \$7.50 to our chapter.

BBN rents its subscription list. Get around this by marking the box below. Use the same wording -- Mark my name "nonrentable" -- if subscribing by phone or website.

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Bird Watchers Digest is North America's leading magazine for bird watchers. Become a subscriber AND benefit our chapter.

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 Mar/Apr 2007 Newsletter

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2006 Christmas Bird Count Results

On Saturday, 16 December 2006, the 12 TMAS CBC birders, met at McDonalds in Russell's Point at 0730 hrs. Working in five groups, we were: Bill and Sally Angel (St. Marys); Curtis and Brian Gingerich (Belle Center); Bill and Jackie Light (Lima); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] and Matt Miller (Rushsylvania); Evelyn Prater (Harrod); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); and, M. L. (Doc) Stephenson (Wapakoneta). Winds were from the south at 6-17 mph, with temperatures 31-54 F. There was very little ice (only puddles and edges were frozen), and it was mostly sunny all day. We covered 268.75 miles in 20.75 group hours by car, and 12 miles in 11.5 group hours on foot.

We recorded the following Indian Lake (IL) birds (new species or record high numbers over the last 18 years are bolded): Canada Goose, 1095; Mute Swan, 1; Mallard, 195; mallard hybrid, 1; duck, sp(p)., 3; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 13; **Turkey Vulture, 1** (note: CBC web site indicates one previously seen in 1931!); No. Harrier, 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, **8**; *Accipiter*, sp., 1; Red-tailed Hawk, **36**; *Buteo*, sp., 1; hawk, 4; Amer. Kestrel, 26; Killdeer, 3; Ring-billed Gull, 480; Herring Gull, 4; gull sp(p)., 9; Rock Pigeon, 77; Mourning Dove, 356; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 17; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; woodpecker, sp(p)., 3; Blue Jay, 18; Amer. Crow, 48; Horned Lark, 152; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; chickadee, sp(p), 9; Tufted Titmouse, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 33; Brown Creeper, 5; Carolina Wren, 5; E. Bluebird, 8; Amer. Robin, **193**; No. Mockingbird, 1; Euro. Starling, 3133; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 63; Field Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 29; Swamp Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; sparrow, sp(p)., 3; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 62; No. Cardinal, 59; Rusty Blackbird, 5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 23; blackbird, sp(p)., 17; House Finch, 38; Amer. Goldfinch, 47; and, House Sparrow, 482. This is a total of 48 species, and 6843 individuals.

The TMAS crew arrived by 7:30 at McDonalds in St. Marys for the Grand Lake CBC on Sunday, 17 December 2006. The early hour was more than balanced by the extremely warm temperatures brought in by the second straight day of southerly winds. There were 10 counters, who worked in five groups: Bill Angel and Briana (St. Marys); Gary Dietz (Celina); Eric Juterbock (Rushsylvania); Bill and Jackie Light (Lima); Leesa Reynolds (Celina); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); and, M. L. (Doc) Stephenson (Wapakoneta). We spent 23.5 group hours in cars covering 197.8 miles, and 14 group hours on foot over 14.9 miles. The temperature ranged from 56-59 F with 6-15 mph winds, generally from the southwest. Water was open and skies were cloudy all day.

We recorded the following Grand Lake (GL) birds (conventions as above): Great Blue Heron, 20; Greater White-fronted Goose, 4; Snow Goose, 4 white and 2 blue; Canada Goose, 1777; Mallard, 381; N. Shoveler, 40; Bufflehead, 2; Muscovy, 1; duck, sp(p)., 28; Bald Eagle, 2 ad; No. Harrier, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 3; *Accipiter*, sp., 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 15; Amer. Kestrel, 10; Amer. Coot, 1; Ring-billed Gull, **2258**; Herring Gull, 1; Rock Pigeon, 131; Mourning Dove, 591; Great Horned Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 39; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 3; woodpecker, sp(p)., 2; Horned Lark, 134; Blue Jay, 28; Carolina Chickadee, 7; chickadee, sp(p)., 44; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 21; Brown Creeper, 7; Carolina Wren, **21**; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; E. Bluebird, 2; Amer. Robin, 52; Euro. Starling, **3916**; No. Cardinal, 80; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 88; Song Sparrow, 35; Swamp Sparrow, 2; sparrow, sp(p)., 52; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 90; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; House Finch, 79; Amer. Goldfinch, 96; and, House Sparrow, 728. This is 44 species and **10842** individuals.

This year's counts were really rather average, in spite of the absence of any winter weather by count time. IL began a bit chilly, but ended with the warmest temperatures of the past 18 years; at GL, the day started warmer than any previous count temperature during the same period. Both the numbers of species and of individuals were a little above average at IL; at GL, the number of species was considerably below average, even though the number of individuals was the highest of the last 18 years. The absence of any crows at GL was unusual but not unique. There were a few unusual sightings during both counts. Turkey Vulture at IL was a first for the last 18 years; the CBC web site lists only one sighted previously; cormorant, killdeer and rusty blackbird have each only been seen a few times previously. At GL, both snow geese and shovelers appeared for the first time since 1995; swamp sparrows appeared for the first time since 1993; white-fronted geese were only seen before in 2004. Robins show an interesting pattern in both counts, where they have appeared virtually all of the past nine years but a third or fewer of the previous nine. Global warming perhaps?

Thanks to all of the volunteers – keep your binoculars handy!

- Eric Juterbock, compiler