



Flight Patterns

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

Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Nov./Dec. 2010

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

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CALENDER

TRI-MORAINE'S 2010-2011 EVENING PROGRAM MEETINGS are scheduled the first Tuesday of the month, September through November and January through May. Meetings are held in the Welcome Center (formerly OSU Extension Office) at 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima. (Enter campus off Mumaugh Rd. for easiest access; first building on the 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, meeting cancelations will be posted on WLIO(NBC/channel35) and WOHL(FOX/channel 25).

November 2
7:30 pm
Program Meeting
OSU Campus



HABITAT RESTORATION AT CAMP MYEERAH (IBA), Tuesday, November 2, 7:30 pm. US Fish and Wildlife Service's Donnie Knight will present an update on the habitat improvement project at the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio's Camp Myeerah in Logan County. The current emphasis is on the restoration of grasslands. The project is a collaborative venture involving the Girl Scouts, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, and Pheasants Forever of Logan County. Donnie will detail the problems that exist such as the infestation of autumn olive. In addition, he will address some future potential habitat improvements that could be made at Myeerah. While the focus is on Camp Myeerah, he will also discuss how the US Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, may be able to assist other landowners with habitat restoration on their own properties. One Program example is the Oak Savannah Initiative in central Ohio. Tri-Moraine has at least a 30-year history of involvement with the Girl Scouts and Camp Myeerah. The Camp was nominated for Important Bird Area (IBA) status by the Society. Camp Myeerah is one of six IBAs in the Society's eight-county service area.

November 6
Birdseed sale



ANNUAL FALL BIRDSEED SALE, Saturday, November 6, 9 am-4 pm, DeHaven Home & Garden Showplace in Findlay and Lima. If you forgot your prepaid orders you can still purchase seed on sale day at both DeHaven's locations. Walk-ins are welcome. Questions? Call Anne in Lima at 419-222-3271. Please remember, bird feeding brings enjoyment to young and old alike. That makes birdseed a great holiday or any-time gift. (Half our prices remain the same this year, half are lower. The hanging suet feeder is no longer available, however a no mess sunflower treat is offered instead.) Volunteers are still needed to tote those bags to purchasers' vehicles. Call Bob Bertrand at 419-227-9231.

November 18
Program of interest

West Central Ohio Land Conservancy Dinner and Program, Preserving the Family Farm, November 18 at Holiday Inn and Suites 803 South Leonard Ave., Lima Ohio. Pre-event tickets only, at \$12.00 before November 5th. Guest speaker David Marrison, Ashtabula OSU Extension Office, will discuss "questions to consider" when preserving the family farm and making the transition to the next generation. For more information call 567-204-5101.

November 20
Saturday
9:00 am field trip

MIGRATING WATERFOWL-PUTNAM WETLAND EXPLORATION, Saturday November 20, 9 am-12:30, led by Dr. Jackie Augustine, Asst. Professor of Biology, OSU-Lima. Putnam Wetland is located on the north side of state Route 385, approx. two miles west of Roundhead, Ohio, in Hardin County. In 2007, the Putnam tract was approved for the Wetlands Reserve Program, a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. Work began that summer by the building of 13 ponds to attract a variety of migratory waterfowl. In spring 2008 more than 5,000 trees were planted and the tract was seeded with annual and perennial grasses. Meet in the parking lot behind Wendy's in the Eastgate Shopping Center in Lima at 9 am. If anyone wants to meet at the baseball/soccer fields on the north side of Roundhead, be there at 9:30 to follow us from there. Participants should expect moderate walking/hiking of about 1 mile (uneven terrain, off-trail), but not a lot of elevation change. Bring binoculars, snacks, a water bottle, and dress for the weather. Expect to be done by noon, back to Lima by 12:30. Public is invited to attend.

Save this date
January 4
6:30 pm

TMAS Jan. 4 program meeting will be a member photo safari and potluck dinner. Slide/CD presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their favorite nature photography accompanied by a brief narration. Media equipment is available at the OSU-Lima meeting room. See you there!

OFFSET YOUR CO2 EMISSIONS. Determine your carbon footprint at www.mindocloudforest.org and calculate your offset. Consider a donation to plant native trees in Important Bird Areas or IBAs.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL. Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at 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.



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• Mercer • Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in Ohio
P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648

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Remember the BIRDSEED SALE Nov. 6th!

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STILL HAVEN'T PURCHASED YOUR "OWLS"? The Ohio Division of Wildlife receives no tax money to conserve, restore and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Division is funded by hunting/fishing license fees, the tax check-off, and your purchase of an Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp (OWLS). Help support habitat restoration, purchase land, preserve endangered and threatened species, fund wildlife and habitat research, provide educational products for students and wildlife enthusiasts, etc. Chapter member Russell Reynolds' photograph of the Baltimore oriole is featured on this inaugural stamp. Priced at \$15 (the ODNR price), the OWLS is available at TMAS program meetings and events like the upcoming birdseed sale, (November 6), or by mailing a check (payable to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society) to PO Box 5648, Lima, OH 45802-5648.

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Tri-Moraine Chapter will be coordinating two of the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts in Ohio: Indian Lake (Saturday, 18 December 2010) and Grand Lake (Sunday, 19 December 2010). 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 (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 CORNER. There are so many exciting things happening in Audubon these days. At the October program meeting, 75 people learned all about Owls in Ohio during a very interesting program by Jim McCormac. Future meetings promise to be just as interesting. All the field trips this fall and winter will be local so that everyone can more easily join us. It doesn't matter whether this will be your 1st or 101st Audubon field trip. The trips are all designed to be of interest to everyone. I must tell you though that the main reason I attend Audubon meetings and events is to see old friends and meet new people who share a common interest in nature and the environment. Sure it would be easier to stay at home, but then I would miss the fun, friends (old and new), and new things I learn from local "experts". So check your calendar for the next Audubon program or field trip and don't just watch a show on nature; get out and experience our great outdoors with your friends in the Audubon Society. For those of you who attend Audubon meetings regularly, a couple words of warning....no Audubon program meeting in December....January meeting is a potluck dinner and member's slide show that starts at 6:30 p.m. not the usual time....Remember to save your flower seeds this fall for the Annual TMAS Seed Exchange to be held next March....The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Eric Juterbock....Oh yes: May each of you have a very Happy Holiday Season! Pres., Eric Broughton