



The Hushwing **HERALD**

Volume 48 Number 4
April, May, June, 2013

*Spreading the Love of Nature in Lake,
Geauga and Ashtabula Counties*

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2013
PROGRAM: "Wilderness Next Door"
SPEAKER: Dr. Bob Hinkle
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Join Bob Hinkle for an evening's photo safari to Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park, where majestic moose are a common sight, loons reside on nearly every lake, and in autumn, the hills resound with the calls of wolves. Birds we know give way to northern transition species like boreal chickadees, black-backed woodpeckers, evening grosbeaks and more. Algonquin is a canoeist's paradise, with hundreds of interconnecting rivers, streams and lakes and miles of portage trails. The park is accessible by motor vehicle only along a 30 mile roadway. Over 3,000 square miles of wilderness await visitors just beyond the blacktop.

Bob Hinkle earned his doctorate in wildlife biology and conservation education from Michigan State University and served on faculty there, as well as Vermont's Johnson State College and as adjunct professor of Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. He served as Cleveland Metroparks Chief Naturalist for 30 years, building their interpretive program from three centers and a staff of seven to six centers and a staff of over 70 and was named Chief Naturalist Emeritus upon his retirement just last year.

Bob is a founding member and elected Fellow of the National Association for Interpretation, the national professional association for park naturalists and interpreters. He leads birding and natural history ecotours in a number of locations throughout the US and Canada.



DATE: Tuesday, May 21, 2013
PROGRAM: "Cuts & Blades: Those Shady Ferns"
SPEAKER: Stefanie Verish
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: The West Woods Nature Center

There is an element of danger in the plant community. Inconspicuous, these shady characters live on the edge...of forests and fields, that is. They do not draw attention to themselves with any showy flowers; they do not need to, as they have been around for a long, long time, surviving as they have for some 250 million years, leading double lives. We know what they are, for they are easily identified by their stalks, cuts, and blades.

These plants are ferns, though the only danger in discovering them is that you will become fond of fronds. For a plant without fancy inflorescence, ferns have amazing diversity, and they do not rely upon pollinators for reproduction. Ferns undergo a two-part life cycle and reproduce by spores---much like mushrooms, mosses, and slime molds.

Getting to know these shady characters is easier than you might think. Speaker, Stefanie Verish will help participants explore the natural history of ferns and learn easy tips to identifying some of our most common species.

Stefanie Verish is a Naturalist-Artist with Cleveland Metroparks Look About Lodge. She has a professed fondness for organisms with spores, as well as moths and plants. Stephanie specializes in art-nature programming but is also an author, having worked with scientific illustrator Jennifer Brumfield to create the Fascinated Naturalist's Guide to Ferns of Cleveland Metroparks.

Don't forget to check out our June picnic Activity-- information on page 3!



ACTIVITIES

APRIL ACTIVITY

WHEN: Saturday April 20, 2013
 TIME: 8:00 A.M.
 WHERE: Nature Center of Shaker Lakes,
 Shaker Heights Ohio
 MEET: Main parking lot at 8:00 A.M.

SPRING.....SPRING.....SPROING !!!

The spring migration should be in full swing, with much more to come, and we will travel to one of Cleveland's premier locations for some excellent bird watching. The Nature Center has long been known as a spot to find lots of species as there is so much varied habitat to explore. There is a boardwalk for easy walking, woodland trails for a more moderate walk, but all is easily negotiated. We expect to see early warblers, sparrows, towhees, thrushes and late waterfowl at the lakes.

Come join us for a feathered frenzy. Remember rain or shine so dress appropriately. Need more info? Call Jim McConnor at 440-257-2507

DIRECTIONS: Take I-271 south to exit #32 Brainard/Cedar Rd. Turn left and follow Brainard to Fairmont Blvd. Turn right, continue to North Woodland Rd. Turn left then a slight right onto North Park Blvd. Then a sharp left onto South Park Blvd. Follow to the entrance. There is a traffic round-about on Fairmont Blvd, just continue half way around to stay on Fairmont Blvd.
 GPS users: 2600 South Park Blvd. Shaker Heights OH 44120.



MAY ACTIVITY

WHEN: Saturday May 11, 2013
 TIME: 8:00 A.M.
 WHERE: **North Kingsville Sand Barrens,
 North Kingsville Ohio**
 MEET: **Sand Barrens parking area**

This field trip will offer more than bird watching as we walk these ancient sand dunes that were formed more than 12,000 years ago. The North Kingsville Sand Barrens are host to an extraordinary variety of plants and animals. Some found nowhere else in Ohio. Fossil sand dunes are rare in Ohio, as most were lost to development, but fortunately this one was protected in 1996 as part of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History preserve system. These dunes are about one-half mile from the Lake Erie shoreline. The rolling sandy ground here is an oak savannah habitat that is very uncommon in this region.

Please join us for a trip back into history as we look for birds, plants and critters that call this spot "home". We also will be eyeing near-by Cathedral Woods Preserve for more flora and fauna. Since we are not far from Conneaut Harbor we may also take a look at the beach area for shorebirds or other migrating species. All in all this should be another interesting trip. Dress for the weather... rain or shine.

P.S. There are no facilities at the dunes, but some are available near-by in Kingsville. Need more info? Call Jim McConnor 440-257-2507

DIRECTIONS: Take I-90 east to OH Rt.193 exit. Turn left and follow OH 193 north to US Rt. 20. Take US Rt. 20 east to Poore Rd. Travel north on Poore Rd. to the railroad tracks. The preserve is on the west side of Poore rd. A sign is located at the entrance.

Photo courtesy of Debbi Schuster



June Picnic

Date: Tuesday June 18, 2013
 Activity: Annual Potluck Picnic
 Time: Start gathering at 6:00 P.M.
 Eat around 6:30 P.M.
 Place: Veterans Park in Mentor

Please join us for our annual potluck picnic. It will be held on Tuesday June 18th in the pavilion in Veterans Park, 5470 Hopkins Rd., Mentor, OH. We will begin gathering at 6:00 p.m. and start eating around 6:30. A walk will follow dinner.

Everyone is welcome. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. Blackbrook will provide the basic beverages – lemonade, iced tea and water - along with ice (lots of it if it is as warm as it was last year!) Or, if you prefer something else, you can bring your own.

Directions to Veteran's Park: From either the east or west, take Rt. 2 to the Center Street exit in Mentor. Head north (a right turn at the end of the exit ramp if you are coming from the east, a left turn if you are coming from the west). At the intersection with Hopkins Rd. and Plains Rd., continue straight ahead. The road name changes to Hopkins and the park will be just ahead on the left, next door to Shore Middle School. If you are travelling on I90, you will take the Center Street exit off that road and head north. After crossing Rt. 84 and Rt. 20, you will pass under Rt. 2 and can continue with the directions above.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREA WALKS: We would like to thank everyone who participated in the monitoring project at Mentor Lagoons. As of February, we submitted 9 checklists to ebird, totaling 103 species. Highlights of the checklist include all seven Ohio woodpeckers. The project will end on April 28, 2013 with our last walk!

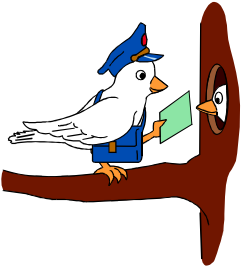
GREAT NEWS! Blackbrook Audubon has decided to conduct an eighth year of bird monitoring. We will be returning to our first location **Chagrin River Park**. In 1993 Lake Metroparks acquired 101 acres along the Chagrin River, located in the communities of Eastlake and Willoughby. Most of the park's natural areas are made up of dense shrubs with pockets of mature forest bordering wetland areas. Trails are flat asphalt and gravel.

We will be conducting one bird walk a month for a year! These walks will take place on **the 4th Sundays (8 A.M.)** Everyone who is interested in lending their eyes and ears, meet at the **Reeves Road Parking Lot at 3100 Reeves Road, Willoughby, OH 44094**. The first bird walk at Chagrin River Park will start on **Sunday, May 26, 2013**.

See website below for more information on Chagrin River Park:

<http://www.lakemetroparks.com/select-park/chagrin-river.shtml>





FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

by Julie Dougherty
julieodoc@gmail.com

Last weekend I was working in the yard and went on a bike ride as it was in the 70's. Today it is in the 30's with about 5" inches of snow on the ground. This weekend there has been a steady stream of birds at my feeders. The difference a week makes in northeast Ohio.

I took my dog Tucker for a walk today at Geneva State Park and was delighted to see a red headed woodpecker flying amongst the trees in the wetland area. Turkey vultures, red winged blackbirds, mourning doves and a few killdeer were also spotted recently.

The spring migration is always a fun time for birders. Soon we will once again witness a colorful spring with warblers in their bright breeding plumage, orioles, hummingbirds and many more surprises.

Mid April through May there are many spring bird hikes in local parks that are for beginner and experienced birders. The Geauga Park district starts their annual spring bird walk series on April 14th. For more information go to www.geaugaparkdistrict.org. ; The Holden Arboretum begins their Audubon bird walks on Sunday, April 14th promptly at 7:30 AM at the Corning Visitor Center. Lake Metroparks begins Sunday morning bird walks on April 14th. For more information go to www.lakemetroparks.com. Don't forget Blackbrook Audubon also has a bird walk on the 4th Sunday of every month. Check our website www.blackbrookaudubon.org for more information.



Nominating Committee Report

Every year, in the spring, we in Blackbrook Audubon Society have an election for the four most important officers on our Board of Directors. And every year in this Newsletter we always print the list of those candidates for those offices in the "spring" issue. So we're doing our job here and your job, then, is to attend our April meeting and vote for these fine candidates to show your support for all the time, effort and work they (and the other members of the Board) do for Blackbrook Audubon Society. Here, then, are the Nominations for those four important offices.

For President: **Julie Dougherty**
for Vice President: **Jim McConnor**
for Secretary: **Diane Valen**
and for Treasurer: **Mary Ann Wagner**

Friends of Blackbrook Audubon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Amount: ____ \$25 ____ \$30
____ \$40 ____ \$50 and over

I would like to receive a paper Hushwing

I would like to receive an electronic copy of the Hushwing and here is my email address to send it to: _____

I do not wish to become a member of Friends, but would like to donate _____

Please make checks payable to: Blackbrook Audubon Society and mail to: James McConnor 5758 Beech Dr. Mentor on the Lake, OH 44060 Call (440) 257-2507 for more information.

Birdathon 2013

Last year's Birdathon was very successful. Over \$1,300 was raised and a total of 151 species were seen by one or more teams. The 'best' birds seen were a Least Tern and a Kirtland's Warbler, both unusual for Ohio in the spring. Several new people participated and we even had one member who was out of the country who took the time to bird and turn in a list and a donation. Thanks Brenda.

Please join us. This year's version will be held from Sat. May 11th thru Sun. May 19th. To participate, just pick a 24 hour period within that time and go birding for part or all of it. Round up some friends or family to sponsor you and see how many species of birds you can spot. You can put together your own team or you can join an existing team. You may also participate in an existing bird walk (like the regular Sunday morning spring walks) or a field trip and count the species you see during that as your list.

The money goes to provide Audubon Adventures to elementary school children in Northeast Ohio (over \$1000 a year) and for other education programs.

If you would like more information, contact Nancy at angydy@earthlink.net or 440-257-1090. I will also have information at the April program meeting. Care to donate or sponsor without leaving your house? Use the form below:

I would like to support **Birdathon 2011**

Direct donation \$ _____

Pledge per species \$ _____ per species

If you are sponsoring a specific team, please indicate the name of a team member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail donations to: PO Box 1306, Mentor, OH 44060-1306

or donate thru PayPal on our web site:
(www.blackbrookaudubon.org)



Photo courtesy of Dan Pancam

2013 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp

The Division of Wildlife receives no taxpayer dollars to conserve, restore and manage Ohio's wildlife and its habitat. The majority of those efforts are supported by hunters and anglers through the purchase of licenses and permits. Financial support is also received through donations to the Ohio Wildlife Diversity Fund, the purchase of specialty license plates, such as the Cardinal license plate, tax check-off, and now the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp. Projects such as tracking the migration of Sandhill Cranes are possible in part because of funds derived from the sales of the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp. You can help to put your stamp on these and other wildlife conservation projects.

The 2013 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp features one of our most popular songbirds, the Black-capped Chickadee. The stamp packets cost \$15 and include a pin, decal suitable for car windows, and pencil sketch artwork by Julie Zickfoose. You may purchase a Wildlife Legacy stamp at Blackbrook Audubon programs or you can purchase the stamp online directly from the Division of Wildlife at www.wildohio.com.

Together we can keep the wild in Ohio.

ANNUAL SPRING BIRD WALKS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DATES: SUNDAYS APRIL 14, 21, 28
MAY 5, 12, 19

TIME AND PLACE: 7:30 A.M. ZIMMERMAN
TRAIL PARKING LOT

Located on Headlands Road just west of entrance to
Headlands Beach State Park

Blackbrook Audubon has been leading this walk since the 1940's and is often the best one in the Cleveland area for number of species seen during this time frame.

Come prepared for the weather as this is a rain or shine (sometimes snow) event. Remember that 90-95% of the birds we see in the entire year are seen during these six weeks so make your plans now to join us each week for great birding.

If you need more info call Jim McConnor at 440-257-2507 or Anders Fjeldstad at 440-257-7611.

If you can't join us there are other walks on the same dates. Check Lake Metroparks, Geauga Park District or The Holden Arboretum for times and locations.



Who Wants to Be a Winner?

Time is running out to purchase a raffle ticket to win the large 20" x 26" framed and matted print of a raccoon in a tree. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for 6 tickets. The drawing will be held during Blackbrook's June 18th picnic at Veteran's Park. The winner need not be present to win. All raffle proceeds will benefit the purchase of Audubon Adventures for school classrooms and other educational programs.

Lake Metroparks is part of the Lake Erie Birding Trail

The trail, a series of 84 premier birding locations along Ohio's north coast, was unveiled during the Midwest Birding Symposium in mid-September 2011. This project was coordinated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife.



A birding trail is a directory of the most productive and accessible birdwatching sites in an area with the goal of bringing people to the birds. The Lake Erie Birding Trail closely follows the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation America's Byways program, and covers Ohio's entire 312-mile coastline.

The 84 trail sites represent over 30 federal, state, county, and local park districts and management agencies. Lake Metroparks has six parks featured in the Lake Erie Birding Trail. Arcola Creek Park (Madison Township) is located in the Ashtabula loop. Hell Hollow Wilderness Area (Leroy), Girdled Road Reservation (Concord Township), Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park (Fairport Harbor), Penitentiary Glen Reservation (Kirtland) and Chapin Forest Reservation (Kirtland) are part of the Cleveland loop. Two of the parks, Girdled Road Reservation and Hell Hollow Wilderness Area, are of particular interest to birders as they are designated Important Bird Areas by Audubon Ohio for their role as breeding areas and places of rest and feeding during migration.

Birdwatchers wanting to learn more about the trail and the sites it features can visit the Lake Erie Birding Trail's website at lakeerieohiobirding.info to find maps, lists of amenities, an annotated checklist of bird species found along the lake, identification tips, an events calendar, visitor information, and many other birding resources.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT GOES A LITTLE BIRDIE!

For directions and more information:

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Or call (440) 286-9516

Don't let spring slip up on you unappreciated, get out and enjoy the changing seasons during one of Geauga Park District's free birding programs/walks listed below, or get reacquainted with woodland wildflowers, amphibians and other seasonal highlights detailed on the Park District Website.

April 3 - Sky Dance: Nature Takes Flight –
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve (7:30-8:30)

April 9 – Birding Geauga: From Jungles to Geauga – The West Woods (7-8:30 pm)

Spring Bird Walks – (7:30-9:30 am)

April 14 – Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

April 21 - Frohring Meadows

April 28 – The Rookery

May 5 - Eldon Russell Park

May 12 – Big Creek Park/Meyer Center
Parking Lot

May 19 – Swine Creek Reservation/Woods
Edge Parking Lot

Participate in a Greater Cleveland tradition since 1933. Seasoned bird watchers assist novices of all ages with observation and identification. Walks held rain or shine, except for thunderstorms and/or high winds. Dress for the weather. Bring binoculars and a bird guide or borrow one of ours.

May 9 – Summer Songsters/Nearby Nesters
– The West Woods Nature Center (7-8:30 pm)

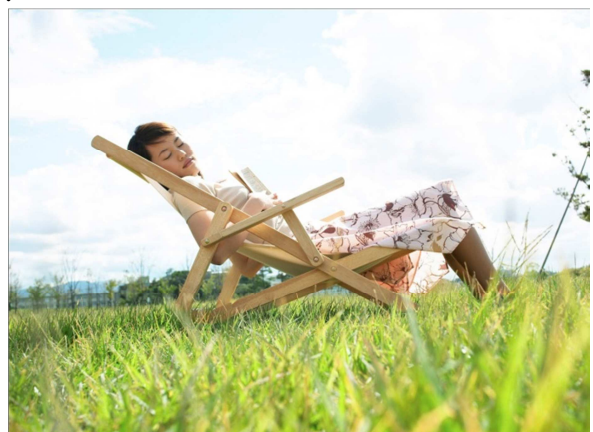
**June 8 – Purple Martin and Swallow
Colony Bus Tour** - Meet at Burton Village
Gazebo

Headlands Dunes Bird Sit

On Sunday, May 19th, the last of Blackbrook Audubon's spring bird walks steps off from Zimmerman Trail at 7:30 AM.

For those wanting a less strenuous group bird watching experience, come to the picnic area at the far eastern side of Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve any time after 8:30 AM. We'll provide the coffee (restrooms with flush toilets are nearby). You should bring your own chair, binoculars and a field guide if you have one and we'll sit and watch the birds come to shrubs and trees near us. The Dunes are a haven for warblers before they venture across Lake Erie in April and May. Bring a snack if you want and stay for as little or as long as you like. The birders starting from Zimmerman Trail will be strolling by about 9 AM. You can walk with them along the fisherman's trail and out to the beach if you are interested.

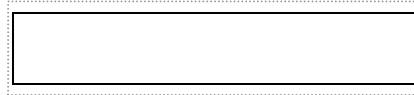
The picnic area is close to the parking lot. Plan to bring an umbrella in case of rain and dress warmly or bring a blanket in case the weather is cool. Headlands Beach State Park is at the northern terminus of State Route 44 (Heisley Road) in Lake County. As you enter the State Park, follow the access road straight to the end and turn left into the last row of parking lot for the State Nature Preserve. Look for a group of people sitting in lawn chairs near a picnic table displaying the Blackbrook Audubon banner.



BLACKBROOK AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO Box 1306
Mentor, OH 44061-1306

LOOK FOR BLACKBROOK ON THE WEB!
AT www.blackbrookaudubon.org

Julie Dougherty - President
Bruce Roberts - Editor



A Quote to think on.....

Each moment of the year has its own beauty,
a picture which was never before and shall never be seen again.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson