



# *The Hushwing* **HERALD**

*Volume 49 Number 3  
February/March, 2013*

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

DATE: Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
PROGRAM: Wildlife in the spring  
SPEAKER: Amy Mihalik  
TIME: 7:00 PM  
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2013  
PROGRAM: A virtual tour of birding NE Ohio  
Speaker: Bill Deininger  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

As we look forward to the snow melting and warmer weather approaching you may notice that many migratory birds are making their way back to Ohio. By the time the Broad-winged hawk returns, it has flown an impressive 4,000 miles! Even some of our winter residents like the Rough-legged hawk leave to fly north to their summer residence. You will get the opportunity to experience an up-close view with several of the migratory birds that live at the Wildlife Center. Learn about each animal's natural history as well as their personal stories.

Another sign that spring is here is the arrival of babies! The Wildlife Center receives approximately 1,000 injured or orphaned native animals, including many species of mammals, waterfowl, songbirds and birds-of-prey. Our goal is to raise them until they are mature enough to be released back into the wild. Learn how you can help wildlife and when it may be best to leave them alone.

Feel free to bring any of the following as a donation to the Wildlife Center:

- Jar lids
- Phone books
- Real feather dusters
- Vet wrap
- Rakes
- Long handled floor scrub brushes
- Parrot/dog toys



Our guest is Bill Deininger, "an avid and obsessed birder" from Lakewood, Ohio. Bill has been birding since high school and is currently a member of Kirtland Bird Club and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. He leads spring bird walks at Rocky River Reservation and participates in the monthly walks given by both organizations. He started filming about 10 years ago and covers most of northern Ohio. He has a vast collection of bird videos.

Our program is not a lecture but an "arm chair" travelogue of northern Ohio's avian population as seen through a video camera. We will be active participants as we view the many species of birds found locally. How many can we each identify? That will be part of the challenge, as we travel with Bill to see the beauty that surrounds us. Please join us for an evening of "feathery" delights.

### **February 2013 IBA Walk**

The February Important Bird Area Walk at the Mentor Lagoons has been rescheduled to the **third** Sunday of the month, at 8 AM on February 17, 2013.

The Mentor Lagoons IBA Walks return to the fourth Sunday of each month at 8 AM in March.

## ACTIVITIES

### February Activity

DATE: Sunday February 24, 2013  
 ACTIVITY: Wintering Owls and Raptors  
 TIME: 10:00 AM  
 PLACE: Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area,  
 Wyandot County Ohio

This expedition is a little further than we normally travel, especially in the winter, but when looking for “wintering” owls and raptors this is the time to go. We will be scouting out the area for owls such as Saw-whet, Long-eared and Barn. These species have been sighted here this winter and we hope to see them all. Short-eared Owls also frequent this area but are best seen at dusk when they are out foraging for their “supper”. If the weather holds up we will plan to stay until that happens. We will plan a side trip to Big Island W.A., which is a little south of Killdeer, to use up some of our extra time before dusk. Other raptors that may be seen include Red-tails, Red-shoulders and Cooper’s Hawks. Possibly Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawks will be sighted.

Plan your trip accordingly to the weather and length of our stay. This has been a productive trip in years past, so why not be “game” for this one?

We will meet at the McDonald’s in Upper Sandusky at 10 A.M. and travel together to the wildlife area. Need more info? Call Jim at 440-257-2507

**DIRECTIONS:** Take your best route to I-71 south and exit at US 30 Mansfield. Follow US 30 west until it meets with US 23. Take this north to McDonald’s, just off the highway (past OH Rt 182) on Wyandot Ave. We will meet here at 10AM  
 GPS users: 1650 E. Wyandot Ave Upper Sandusky 43351

This trip is about 145 miles from Mentor and takes about 2 hrs 20 min.

Jim’s cell phone is 440-339-8258 for use that day.

### MEETINGS OR HIKES CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER

How do I know if a meeting or hike is canceled?



### March Activity

DATE: Saturday, March 16, 2013  
 ACTIVITY: Shreve Spring  
 Migration Sensation  
 TIME: 7 AM to 4:45 PM  
 PLACE: Shreve Elementary School  
 Shreve, Ohio

This spring migration event includes self-guided tours with experts located at help stations in the nearby Killbuck Marsh, Shreve Lake, Brown’s Bog and Funk Bottoms wildlife areas, Ohio’s largest inland natural wetland complex, covering 5,671 acres. At the school, enjoy a full day of “Sensational” Family-Friendly Activities in addition to the six workshops held by well-known experts in their fields. This year’s workshop speakers are: Chuck Jakubchak (remember him from our May 2012 program?), Cheryl Harner, Judy Semroc, Jim McCormac, and Kimberly and Kenn Kaufman.

**A \$10 admission fee (\$15 per immediate family)** includes all events and six workshops. Registration begins at 7:00 AM at Shreve Elementary School and includes FREE MAPS to the help stations located in the marsh. Help stations are open 8:00 AM to noon. The Birder’s Market Place opens at 8:00 AM with items for sale including a large selection of binoculars, spotting scopes, nature photographs and books, wildlife art by local artists and educational items.

**Directions:** The event takes place at the Shreve Elementary School, 598 North Market St (State Route 226), Shreve, OH 44676. Members may choose to drive on their own or carpool. If you wish to carpool, call Mary Ann at 216-990-4245 by March 9<sup>th</sup>. Food will be available for purchase or bring your own lunch and snacks.

Blackbrook Audubon is now registered with the I-Alert system that is seen on WKYC-TV 3, wkyc.com; Newsradio WTAM 1100 AM, wtam.com; as well as our website: [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org)



## 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**

## Ticket Raffle Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in our fourth annual ticket raffle at the November program. Whether you donated items or purchased tickets, we appreciate your support. There were many useful or decorative items from which to choose.

The raffle was a great success! Over 40 people were in attendance and we raised \$110 to be used toward the purchase of Audubon Adventures for school classrooms. The most sought after prizes were a 2012-13 "Duck" Stamp, a \$25 gift certificate to the Holden Arboretum and a Yo-Yo Ma music CD.

Please keep the November 2013 ticket raffle in mind as you come across nature-related items you may want to donate.



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The 113<sup>th</sup> CBC was held on December 15, 2012. We had 41 participants in 14 teams to cover our 15 mile circle which is centered in Painesville, Ohio. We also had 7 feeder counters to aid in our results. The weather was cold, about 35 degrees, and cloudy, but no snow. The water was unfrozen and so we had a successful count. We tallied 77 species and 93,532 individuals. Red-breasted Mergansers accounted for 79,000 birds as they had massed for their winter migration to the east coast and other areas south. We had a few unusual birds such for this time of year like Northern Pintail Duck, Brown Creeper and Northern Shrike.

Many thanks to ALL of our participants for their efforts, for without them this task would be impossible. To view all of the results visit our web site [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org) and click on the CBC results tab.

Regards, Jim McConnor

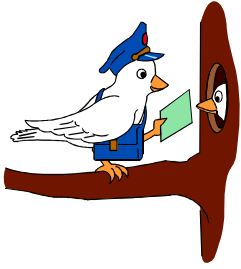
## Raccoon Raffle Tickets

You may remember that Blackbrook Audubon held a raffle for a framed print of Roger Beuck's Northern Saw-whet Owl photo. The ticket sales raised \$65 toward the purchase of Audubon Adventures and the owl print went home with the happy winner.

This year, everyone has an opportunity to win another photo donated by Roger; a large 20" X 26" framed and matted print of a raccoon in a tree. We will sell raffle tickets for \$1 each or 6 for \$5 through June 18<sup>th</sup>. The drawing will be at our annual picnic in June, which will be at Veterans

Park in Mentor. The winner need not be present to win.





## FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

by Julie Dougherty  
[julieodoc@gmail.com](mailto:julieodoc@gmail.com)

How many of you have bird feeders up for the winter? I have several and this winter, have had a lot of activity at them due to the snowfall and the cold temperatures. In February, everyone has an opportunity to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count from Friday, February 15 through Monday, February 18th. It is an easy activity where you can watch birds from the comfort of your warm house and record species and numbers. Or you can go on a hike and count birds.

How do you participate? You can do this all four days, just the weekend, or only one day for at least 15 minutes. Keep track of the kinds of birds you see, how many of each bird. Make sure you do not count the same birds twice. For example, 5 Chickadees, 3 white breasted nuthatches. If there is a huge flock that shows up like starlings, make a best guess on the number.

What do I do with this information? You can go to the website [www.BirdCount.org](http://www.BirdCount.org). You would put in a new list for each time you count on the same day or different location. The important thing is to keep track of the amount of time that you are recording.

Why is the bird count important? Scientists collect the information used by the Great Backyard Bird Count to track what is happening with bird populations. They also use information from Christmas bird counts, bird-a-thons, etc. The data collected over years helps them follow migration patterns, species decline/increase, diversity in areas, etc.

Take the time if you will to record for the weekend. If you do not have access to a computer you can hand in your results to me at the front desk of the Visitor Center at The Holden Arboretum and I will be happy to enter the data for you.

## How to Join Blackbrook Audubon Society

Many of you reading this are already members of Blackbrook. But for those of you who aren't and would like to join, there are two ways you can do so. You can join the National Audubon Society and if you live in our territory - Lake, Geauga or Ashtabula Counties - you will be assigned to this chapter. Or, if you prefer not to belong to the national organization, you can join Friends of Blackbrook as a Chapter member. (See below) We are a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible.

And if you wish to belong to National Audubon and also provide additional support to Blackbrook, you can do both.

### Friends of Blackbrook Audubon

Blackbrook is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

\_\_\_\_\_

Friends of Blackbrook Audubon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

## OHIO NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES ASSOCIATION

With the difficult economic climate that our Nation and Ohio has experienced in the past several years, downsizing has been the trend for many agencies and businesses. The same is true for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, which suffered severe budget cuts that have affected the Department's programs and activities. During the Strickland Administration, the Department dismantled the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) starting in 2009 when the Scenic Rivers Program was transferred to the Division of Watercraft. The Natural Heritage Program was transferred to the Division of Wildlife in 2010 and transferred the preserve managers and daily operations to the Division of Parks and Recreation, which is already severely understaffed, and reduced the DNAP's budget to zero in Fiscal Year 2011.

The dismantling of DNAP has left our once nationally recognized system of state nature preserves in jeopardy. As a result, many of the preserves are rapidly deteriorating and the features for which they were protected, including rare and endangered plants and animals, are threatened. Many preserves are being overrun by invasive species and unchecked natural succession and the Division of Parks and Recreation simply does not have the staff or capacity to respond as well as it needs to without additional funding, commitment, and experienced, biologically trained personnel to do so.

As a result, major stakeholders held a Natural Areas Constituency Strategic Planning Meeting on February 17, 2012, and participants recommended that there needed to be an organization to reestablish and re-energize a statewide constituency or "Friends" group for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and to marshal a large, dedicated volunteer workforce to assist in managing the preserves and natural areas in Ohio.



An application for non-profit corporation status was filed with the Ohio Secretary of State, and ONAPA became a reality on April 5, 2012. Until the Ohio General Assembly can be convinced to replace the tax dollar support the program needs, volunteers must do most of the work, especially in monitoring the preserves, habitat management, and educational activities on the preserves. Even if funding and qualified leadership are restored in the future, the Ohio nature preserve system will always need the help of dedicated volunteers who will continue to work and support the preservation of Ohio's finest natural areas and preserves.

The three incorporators of the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA) are: naturalist Richard E. Moseley Jr., who built the Ohio Natural Areas Program from scratch in 1970 when the law was passed, to his becoming the first Chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves when the program became a division of ODNR in 1975, making it one of the most successful natural areas programs in the country; naturalist Guy Denny, the first assistant chief of the division and later chief of DNAP for 5 years until his retirement in 1999; and natural resources administrator Robert McCance, who put together the DNAP Ohio Natural Heritage Program and the Income Tax Check-off Program, two of the most successful such programs in the country and who later went on to head up the natural areas program for the state of Kentucky. These three individuals along with 13 other well-known natural areas specialists comprise the all volunteer ONAPA Board.

Blackbrook Audubon is proud to have joined ONAPA as an Organizational and Founding Member and looks forward to participation in future programs and activities including hikes and work projects in our area.

There is much to do, and ONAPA needs you! See [www.ONAPA.org](http://www.ONAPA.org) for more information.



**OHIO NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVES ASSOCIATION**  
*Protecting Ohio's natural legacy*

## Lake Metroparks Upcoming Programs

All programs require pre-registration unless noted.  
Call (440) 358-7275 or visit  
[www.lakemetroparks.com](http://www.lakemetroparks.com) for more information and  
to register.

### Butterfly Identification

I: Saturday, Feb. 9, 10-11:30 am

II: Saturday, Feb. 16, 10-11:30 am

Environmental Learning Center

Ages 18 and older, FREE

Enjoy the beauty of butterflies while learning about  
our local butterflies and skippers of spring, summer  
and fall.

### Bird Walk

Saturday, Feb. 9, 8:30-10 am

Saturday, March 16, 8-10 am

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Ages 12 and older, FREE

Lake Metroparks has a variety of habitats that offer  
the chance to see many species of birds. Bring  
binoculars and field guide if you have them.

Beginners welcome.

### Rain Garden Workshop

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7-8:30 pm

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Ages 18 and older, FREE

Learn how to include rain gardens in your landscape  
plans at this program presented by the Lake Soil &  
Water Conservation District staff. Rain gardens are  
a great way to deal with standing water in low-lying  
areas and they provide important habitat to  
butterflies and hummingbirds.

### Birding for Beginners

Wednesday, March 13, 7-9 pm

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Ages 13 and older, FREE

This class is designed for the new birder. We will  
discuss the basics of how to get started including  
binoculars, field guides and identification tips for  
some of the easier groups of birds.

### Day Trip along the Lake Erie Birding Trail – Huron/Lorain Loop

Saturday, March 23, 8 am-5 pm

Depart from Penitentiary Glen

Ages 18 and older, \$40 per person

The Lake Erie Birding Trail connects some of the  
best hot spots along the lakefront from Conneaut to  
Toledo. Explore the Huron/Lorain section, from Old  
Woman Creek to Sandy Ridge.

### You might be a birder if...

-Someone yells "Duck!", and you look up and shout  
"Where?"

-Your kids are named Buteo and Accipiter.

-People stop and stare when you pish at the  
shrubbery at the local mall.

-Your spouse says, "It's either me or the birds," and  
you have to think about it.

-You pay a neighbor kid \$20 to roll on a carcass and  
lay still while you search the sky for vultures.

-You try to talk your kid into going to college in  
Belize so that you have an excuse to go and bird  
there.

-A machine squeaks at work and you describe it to  
maintenance as sounding like a black-and-white  
warbler.

-You spend fifteen minutes preparing dinner for  
your family, and thirty minutes mixing and placing  
seed for your birds.

-You wake up your spouse at 5:30am and exclaim,  
"Is that a phoebe I'm hearing outside the window?"

-You're willing to fight with  
anyone who criticizes your  
optics.



**Answering "yes" to any of  
these questions qualifies  
you as a birder.**

## GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT Upcoming Programs

### Sunday Travelogues

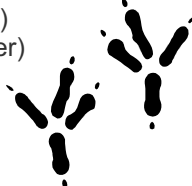
No need to hibernate this winter with another terrific line up of travel adventures on the docket for The West Woods Nature Center. Each Sunday at 2 pm you are invited to enjoy these sure-fire cures for cabin fever and whet your appetite for your own past or future travels...

2/3 Paddling North: A week in the BWCA (Bruce & Susan Bennett)

2/10 Adventures in Kenya (Roger Horvath)

2/17 Explorers in Iceland (Bill & Sue Berger)

2/24 Out West by Bus (Karen Morgan)



### Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday-Monday, February 15-18, Noon-4 PM

The West Woods Nature Center

Stop by anytime during the designated hours and help count winter birds at our feeders as part of this annual nationwide count. Also view results as they come in on our computer and learn which kinds of seeds and feeders are the most successful.

Wheelchair/stroller accessible.

### Happy Bird Day

Saturday, February 16, 1-4 PM



The West Woods Nature Center, Oak Room & Mastin Classrooms

1 PM: Backyard Birds of Winter; 2 PM: Bird Feeding Basics and Beyond; 3 PM: Bird Housing

Bring birds into your life to make every day a Happy Bird Day! Bird bonuses (while supplies last): Make a sturdy plastic jar chickadee house, make up a bag of super seed mix, and receive an ODNR bird booklet & bird song CD. Also enjoy our feeding station and find out how armchair bird watchers can contribute valuable scientific data to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's FeederWatch throughout the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Wheelchair/stroller accessible.

### Sap's-A-Risin'

Sundays, March 3, 10 & 17, Noon-4 PM

Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge, Sugar House & Grounds

Visit Geauga Park District's sugar house, sugar bush and lodge for a walk through time and a sweet taste of how the maple sugaring industry evolved from the Native American tradition to modern methods. Help gather sap in the sugar bush, enjoy historical interactions with costumed interpreters, see sap boiling in the sugar house and have a taste, then warm up with live music and maple treats in the lodge. Also held March 10 and 17. Partially wheelchair/stroller accessible.

### Best Bets for Birding Geauga: Wings of Early Spring

Friday, March 29, 7-8:30 PM

The West Woods Nature Center, Oak Room

This illustrated program will highlight when and where to experience the early stages of spring migration with waterfowl/waterbirds, cranes, herons, vultures and passerines such as Phoebes, swallows, sparrows and blackbirds.

Wheelchair/stroller accessible.

### Waterfowl Welcome

Saturday, March 30, 9-10:30 AM



Offsite, LaDue Reservoir

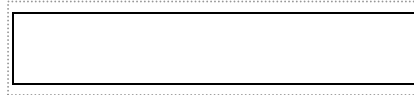
A bird outing for early spring migrants, briefly afoot at LaDue marina followed by carpooling along the reservoir, pausing to use spotting scopes to view Common Loons, Bald Eagles, ducks, and more. Meet at the marina parking area at Valley and Washington streets, east of Route 44 (Auburn Corners).

*For more information or a full list of Geauga Park District programs, call 440-286-9516 or visit <http://geaugaparkdistrict.org>.*

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

**LOOK FOR BLACKBROOK ON THE WEB!**  
**AT [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org)**

Julie Dougherty - President  
Bruce Roberts - Editor



### **Burkett's laws of birding**

The First Law of Birding: The greater the time spent searching for a rarity, the greater the chances it will be sitting on your car when you return to the parking lot.

The Second Law of Birding: There are two sides of a tree; the side facing you and the side where the bird is.

The Third Law of Birding: When you see the bird that you have always wanted to see, it will be in the last spot you thought of looking for it.

The Fourth Law of Birding: The best bird seen during a trip is usually seen in bad light, isn't calling or singing, is seen for less than a second, and is the last "trip bird".

-- by Cody Burkett, Phoenix, AZ