



# The Hushwing **HERALD**

*Blackbrook Audubon Society*

*Volume 45 Number 4*

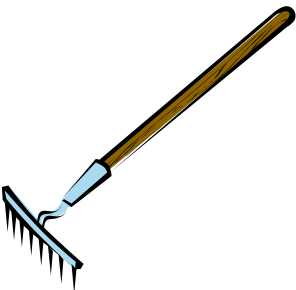
*April/May/June, 2010*

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 20th, 2010**  
**PROGRAM: "Down the Garden Path"**  
**SPEAKER: Dave Gressley**  
**TIME: 7:00 p.m.**  
**PLACE: Penitentiary Glen**

What is a landscape cemetery? Let's find out together as we follow Dave Gressley "Down the Garden Path" as he talks about landscape cemeteries with an emphasis on Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland. We can sit back in our chairs and let Spring come to us as we see the incredible variety of blooming trees, plants and shrubs that make Lake View Cemetery an outdoor museum and arboretum.

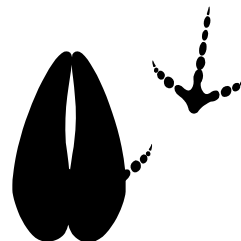


Many of us remember Dave as the lilac guy at the Holden Arboretum. He spent 15 years in Holden's Display Garden curating the lilac collection and another five working primarily with trees in the plant genus collections. Dave is a 1982 Ohio State alumnus, graduating with a B.S. in Agriculture, majoring in landscape horticulture. He has been the Horticulturalist at Lake View Cemetery for four years, performing all of the duties that the entire horticulture department does at the Holden Arboretum, but on a much smaller scale.

**PROGRAM: "Tracking with Dr. Scat!"**  
**SPEAKER: John Kolar**  
**TIME: 7:00 p.m.**  
**PLACE: Meyer Center  
at Big Creek Park**

What animals are lurking in your backyard? Many leave telltale signs of their presence. Enjoy this fascinating program that introduces various types of wildlife evidence (tracks, scat, nests, etc.) as clues that reveal animal presence and activity. Meet Dr. Scat and test your knowledge of animal signs by taking the "scat and wildlife evidence" quiz.

John Kolar has been a naturalist with the Geauga Park District since 2000. Previous to that he worked for 4 years as a naturalist/outdoor educator with Nature's Classroom located at Camp Muskingum. He is a self-proclaimed "nature nut" that specializes in helping people become nuts about nature! John is also the program coordinator for Geauga Park District's Nature Scopes Program, which is sponsored in part by the Blackbrook Audubon Society.



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

**DATE: TUESDAY, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**



## ACTIVITIES

### APRIL ACTIVITY

Date: **Saturday April 24th, 2010**  
 Activity: **Lake View Cemetery**  
 Time: **8:00 AM**  
 Place: **Meet at President Garfield's Monument**

We all know that famous people are buried at Cleveland's Lake View Cemetery and some of us have loved ones buried there as well. But how many of us have actually planned a visit to this local treasure for fun?

Please come along as Blackbrook Audubon explores Lake View Cemetery's 285 acres of rolling hills, which 43 species of breeding birds call home. Naturally, we hope to see some of those birds; in addition, many of the trees, shrubs and plants mentioned in Dave Gressley's "Down the Garden Path" program will be in full bloom.

A cemetery docent will join us on our approximately two-hour walking tour to point out items of interest, so wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Afterwards, both President Garfield's Monument and the Wade Chapel will be open with interpretive guides giving presentations and answering questions. We plan to meet for lunch in Little Italy.

**DIRECTIONS:** Lake View Cemetery's address is 12316 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106. Enter the cemetery off of Mayfield Road or Euclid Avenue and follow the signs to Garfield's Monument. We'll park along one side of the road and meet near Garfield's Monument at 8 AM. If you are interested or need more details about this trip, please call Mary Ann at 216-990-4245.



Date: **Saturday May 22nd, 2010**  
 Activity: **Magee Marsh- Oak Harbor Ohio**  
 Time: **7:30 AM**  
 Place: **Meet at the Nature Center parking lot**

Once again we are off to the premiere birding spot in the State of Ohio-maybe 2 or 3 states....OK, so it's in the top 25 places in the USA!!! Magee Marsh, with its boardwalk, draws the birding community from all over the country and we will be among them. The number of birds and the number of species that stop in this area is generally as good as it gets. The viewing is also as good as it gets, as the birds seem to be at eye-level or close-by, as they are "showing off" their brilliant spring finery. If you attended last year's trip you will remember that we were there earlier in the spring and missed many warbler species. This year we hope to make up for that and get most of the wood warblers that migrate through.

Plan to bring a picnic lunch and a chair or two, the eating places (i.e. McDonalds) are a little ways away, as we plan to stay the whole day and you won't want to miss what may show up in the eating area. We also plan to visit the other near-by areas such as Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Metzger Marsh or any other place that we hear may be harboring a rarity.

If you need more information call Jim McConnor at 440-257-2507

P.S. If you are doing Bird-a-thon what better place than this to pad your list!



### MAY ACTIVITY



Date: **Tuesday June 15, 2010**  
 What: **Annual Potluck Picnic**  
 Time: **Arrive 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.**  
       **Eat 6:30 p.m.**  
 Place: **Shelter House, Holden Arboretum**

As I write this, there is still snow on the ground and the temperature hasn't been above freezing in a while. However, the days are gradually getting longer, spring will soon arrive and it is time to start thinking about the annual picnic.

This year's event will be held on Tuesday June 15 at the Shelter House at Holden Arboretum in Kirtland. As usual, we will begin gathering around 6:00 p.m. and start eating at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. Blackbrook will have ice and some cold beverages (lemonade, ice tea, spring water) for everyone.

After we finish eating, we will have the drawing for the Bateman book we are raffling off. Then Becky and/or Julie will lead us on a walk around the beautiful grounds.

As the Shelter House has plastic sides that we can roll down in case of rain, the picnic will be canceled only in event of extreme weather. Check the I-Alert closings in WKYC-TV 3, wkyc.com, Newsradio WTAM 1100 AM, wtam.com, our website [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org) or call one of the board members.

Directions: Take Rt. 306 to the bottom of the hill in Kirtland. At the traffic light, turn east (left if you are coming south from Rt. 90, right if you are heading north from Geauga Co.) on Chillicothe Rd. At the next traffic light, turn right on Kirtland-Chardon Rd. Follow that thru the stop sign at Booth Rd. Turn left on Sperry Rd. and follow that to the entrance to the Arboretum. The Shelter House is adjacent to the main parking lot.

### Friends of Blackbrook Audubon

If you would like to support Blackbrook Audubon Society, then you may want to consider a membership in Friends of Blackbrook. You will receive our newsletter four times a year and will be invited to our annual thank-you event. More importantly, you will be helping Blackbrook continue to provide opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy nature. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

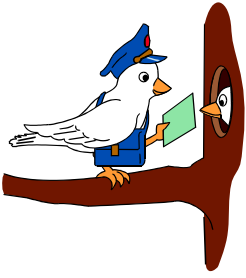
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.





## FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

by Becky Thompson  
 btkingfisher@yahoo.com

No matter who you are or what your computer abilities are you probably have heard of internet buzzwords like facebook, twitter and blog. Many people of all ages, organizations and non-profits are using these internet tools to connect people with similar interests. Blackbrook is no exception. These tools are helping Blackbrook reach out to larger communities as well as connect local communities to our chapter.

A few years ago I went to an Audubon Ohio conference in Columbus. One of the sessions was dedicated to setting up a chapter blog. A "blog" is an abbreviated version of "weblog," which is a term used to describe web sites that maintain an ongoing chronicle of information. Blogs also allow users to interact with each other via comments. After the session I had this great idea of starting a Blackbrook blog focusing on northeast Ohio nature. The blog can be found at <http://neohionature.blogspot.com/>. It is maintained by our Education Chair, Julie Dougherty. She posts different northeast Ohio nature topics and welcomes viewer ideas, suggestions and photos. Check it out!

In addition to blogging, Blackbrook also has a Facebook fan page. Facebook is a social networking service that allows people to connect with friends, co-workers, and others who share similar interests or who have common backgrounds. Through Facebook individuals and organizations can get Blackbrook updates / reminders on monthly events and post local bird sighting, hotspots and photos. It is free and easy to set up. If you haven't done so already, sign up for an account at Facebook.com. Become a fan by searching on Facebook for Blackbrook Audubon Society.

What are you waiting for? Get connected!

Sincerely,  
 Becky Thompson

## IMPORTANT BIRD AREA WALKS:

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the monitoring project at Strong Acres, The Holden Arboretum. As of February, we submitted 26 checklists with 91 species and 2951 Individuals. Highlights of the checklist include nesting pine warblers and visiting crossbills. The project will end on April 25, 2010 with our last walk! All data will be sent to The Holden Arboretum for potential land management and historical records.

**GREAT NEWS!** Blackbrook Audubon has decided to conduct a fifth year of bird monitoring. We will be collecting data on **the birds that live or visit Beaty Landing, Lake Metroparks**. This 54-acre wooded parcel in Painesville encompasses 3,300 feet of frontage on the Grand River. Starting in May we will be conducting three bird walks a month! These walks will take place on **the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays (8 A.M.) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (7 P.M.)** Everyone who is interested in lending their eyes and ears, meet at **the parking lot at 417 East Walnut Street (State Route 84), Painesville, OH 44077**. The first bird walk at **Beaty Landing, Lake Metroparks** will start on **Sunday, May 9, 2010**.

## Printer Ink and Toner Cartridge Recycling

I am so excited to report that Blackbrook Audubon earned \$60 from Collect, Inc. by gathering used inkjet and laser toner cartridges. Isn't it amazing to think not only were we able to earn money by collecting these items, but if not for our efforts, those items would have otherwise gone into a landfill?

Let's keep up the good work! Please continue to bring your used inkjet and laser toner cartridges to Blackbrook programs, field trips, and IBA walks or make arrangements to drop them off with any board member. Remember, we can only turn in OEM (original equipment manufacturer) cartridges.

Thank you.  
 Mary Ann

## ANNUAL SPRING BIRD WALKS --- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DATES: SUNDAYS APRIL 11, 18, 25  
MAY 2, 9, 16

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.

## Birdathon 2010

Please join us for Birdathon 2010, which will be  
held from Sat. May 15<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2010.

Birdathon is similar to other 'athons' – we see  
how many species of birds we can find during the  
allotted time period. It's easy to participate. First,  
gather a team or you can bird solo if you prefer.  
Then sign up a few sponsors – yourself and maybe a  
few family members and a friend or two. Then pick  
when you want to bird – part or all of any  
consecutive 24 hours during the above week.

It doesn't matter how long you bird, even a couple  
of hours spent watching your feeders is fine.

This year it will be especially easy to participate.  
If you check elsewhere in this issue of the  
Hushwing, you will find that our May field trip plus  
one of our IBA walks fall during the Birdathon  
dates. Join one of these outings and you will have  
lots of people to help you find your birds.

Our goal, like usual, is to raise as much money  
as possible. All of the money raised is used for  
educational programs. Much of the money goes for  
Audubon Adventures that we supply to many  
school classes thru Holden Arboretum and thru the  
Nature Scopes program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the  
Geauga Park District. The Mentor Marsh Nature  
Center also receives a set. Blackbrook also makes  
donations directly to programs like the above-  
mentioned Nature Scopes.

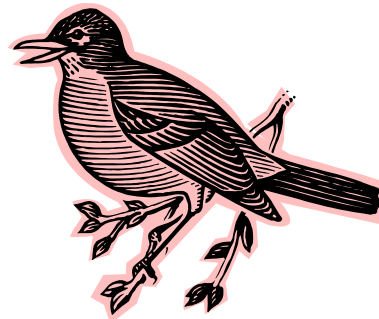
The students make good use of the materials.  
Here are some comments from notes they have  
written.

“Thanks for supporting us with the binoculars,  
field guides and Audubon Adventures. I like them  
very much and have used them for many things  
outdoors.”

“Thank you for supporting the Nature Scopes  
program. I really like the binoculars I got from it.  
One day, I used them to find some deer bones!  
(But, then the bones broke and got yucky, so I  
threw them out.) I wouldn't have found them  
without you!”

“Thank you for giving to support the Nature  
Scopes Program. I like my binoculars, field guides  
and other materials (Audubon Adventures) very  
much and I have used them to look at birds in my  
backyard. The program taught me that there is  
more to nature than what you can see.”

“The program taught me to use the binoculars as  
a microscope. In the future I plan to use them to  
watch birds.”



For more  
information, please  
contact Nancy at  
(440) 257-1090 or  
angydy@earthlink.  
net.

## Light Pollution

Some people are aware of the problem of light pollution while others have never given it a thought. Anyone with a telescope in Northeast Ohio is aware of the problem. Not only do amateur astronomers need to contend with our clouds and humidity and air pollution causing haze in our atmosphere, as development encroaches into rural areas, light pollution increases.

There are kids living in large cities who don't believe there are stars in the sky, because they've never seen them. Light pollution is not only a problem in the Eastern United States, but also in the Western United States where National Park Rangers complain that we are losing our heritage of starry nights. Light pollution is a global problem as well as local and national. Light pollution is wasteful – one statistic says light fixtures that send light up and out rather than down, waste 75% of the energy they consume. That's 75 cents for every dollar spent; 75% of the coal burned; 75% of the emissions released into the atmosphere.

We are not only wasting our money and resources, but we are threatening wildlife. We all know lights attract a wide variety of insects, which can cause problems around your home in the summer months. If your lights are frequently on, insects will gather to nest and feed near your lights, even when they are turned off.

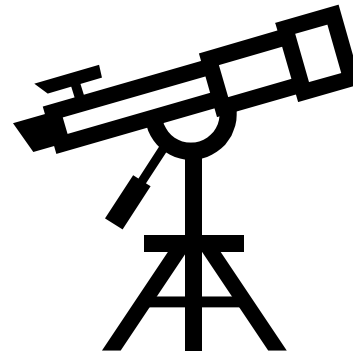
Artificial lighting seems to have the greatest impact upon birds. Most songbirds evolved to fly at night, when there are fewer predators and the winds subside. When birds fly through a brightly-lit area, they become disoriented and often collide into brightly illuminated buildings. Since 1990, Chicago's Hancock Center douses its ornamental night lighting during the spring and fall and has reportedly saved 1,500 birds PER NIGHT that otherwise would have died by crashing into the tower, mistaking the building's lights for the sun or

moon. In 2006, 2,000 dead birds from 89 different species were gathered in downtown Toronto and put on display at the Royal Ontario Museum to encourage people to turn off unnecessary lights.

Collisions with glass windows are estimated to take the lives of millions of birds every year! So, what can we as individuals do? Turn out your lights when they are not needed. If you are not expecting guests or coming home in the wee hours, turn out your outside lights. Many people want to have lights on as a safety feature. Consider timers, but a much better option is to install motion detectors, which will turn on lights as needed.

Consider lower wattage bulbs, sometimes a 40 or 60 watt bulb will do as well as a 100 watt bulb. If you are replacing lights, install only full cut off fixtures, which will direct the light downward rather than up and out. (Check out the rebuilt section of Route 2 between Mentor and Willoughby to see what down cast highway lighting looks like). Let your city planners know you are concerned about light pollution and request they adopt sensible lighting regulations and lights out programs during peak migrations.

The National Audubon website has more information: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org), as does the International Dark Sky Association, which is [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org) and FLAP, the Fatal Light Awareness Program, which is out of Canada: [www.flap.org](http://www.flap.org) and the Geauga Park District: [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org). Also, look for Blackbrook Audubon's booth on Earth Day (April 18th) at Lake Metroparks' Penitentiary Glen for additional information.



## Mentor Marsh Spring UPDATE

### May-June 2010 Programs

Mentor Marsh is an interpretive nature preserve of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) and the State of Ohio (ODNR) Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Trails are open daily, year-round, dawn to dusk. The Nature Center is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays noon to 5 p.m., April through October. Special nature programs and guided hikes are offered every at 2 p.m. There is no charge and all are welcome. During the week, programs for groups are available by appointment at a nominal charge. For more information, contact the Nature Center at: 440-257-0777, by mail at 5185 Corduroy Rd., Mentor, OH 44060, or by email at rdonalds@cmnh.org.

April 4 The Nature Center will be closed for Easter.



April 11 Early Spring Signs. Join us on a hike in the upland forest overlooking the Marsh as we'll scout for early wildflowers and other signs of spring.

April 18 Amphibian Adventures. Let's see what the amphibians are up to this spring in and around the Marsh. We'll start at the Nature Center by listening to frog and toad calls then go "hunting" for the amphibians.

April 25 Migratory Birding at its Best! Spring is the time to bird in Northeast Ohio. Let's amble through the hot spots around the Marsh looking for early spring migrants. We'll have some binoculars and field guides to lend.

May 2 Project Bud Burst at the Marsh. Join us for some citizen science sleuthing. Budburst is a program observing where and when leaves, flowers and fruits appear on plants through the season. Come explore the marsh and take part in the Budburst Project. All are welcome-no experience is necessary and we will provide materials.

May 9 Celebrate Mother's Day and Mother Earth. Bring Mom on a walk in the wilds of Mentor Marsh. Let's enjoy the spring's subtle colors, shapes, and fragrances in the Marsh's emerging meadows, prairies, and wetlands. We'll focus on whatever captures our attention. Bring your own field guides and binoculars or we will have some to lend.

May 16 Spring Migration Madness. Want to learn about some of the colorful birds migrating though Northeast Ohio this spring? Join us for a walk through field, forest and along water's edge as we look and listen for our spring beauties. Bring your own field guides and binoculars or we will have some to lend.

May 23 Bald eagles in the Marsh? Join us for a short informational session about bald eagles, learn about the lives of bald eagles and share our stories of sightings. Afterwards, we'll hike and hope to catch a glimpse of these mighty symbols from our trails.

May 30 Lagoons Discovery Hike- Meet us at the Mentor Lagoons City Nature Preserve trailhead (8365 Harbor Dr.) for a walk at the western edge of the Marsh. Bring your own field guides and binoculars or we will have some to lend.

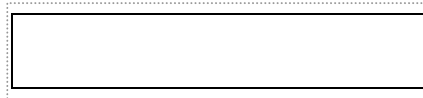


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**AT [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org)**

Becky Thompson - President  
Bruce Roberts - Editor



## **Time Is Running Out!**

Don't forget to purchase a raffle ticket for your chance to win "The World of Robert Bateman". A book similar to this autographed 1985 first edition copy listed on Amazon.com for \$95.

All proceeds will benefit Audubon Adventures, a nature newsletter Blackbrook Audubon sponsors for many local classrooms. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please see any Blackbrook board member, send email to [blackbrookaud@aol.com](mailto:blackbrookaud@aol.com) or call Mary Ann at 216-990-4245.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 chances for \$5. The drawing will be held at our picnic in June at The Holden Arboretum. Winner need not be present to win.