



# The Hushwing **HERALD**

Volume 47 Number 4  
April, May, June, 2012

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE: Tuesday, April 17, 2012  
PROGRAM: "Man vs. Wild:  
Learning to Coexist with Wildlife"  
SPEAKER: Geoff Westerfield  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center  
Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH

DATE: Tuesday, May 15, 2012  
PROGRAM: "Sensational Birds,  
Sensational Observations"  
SPEAKER: Chuck Jakubchak  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.  
PLACE: The West Woods  
Geauga Park District, Russell, OH

The interaction between wildlife and humans is inevitable, especially as suburban development continues. This program will discuss the various aspects of human-wildlife interactions. We will look at the many facets of humans dealing with nuisance wildlife. This includes things such as deer damage on crops and landscapes, nuisance goose situations, and coyotes in cities. We will also discuss options for dealing with the wide variety of nuisance situations that arise, including the laws that surround these options.

We will hear how rehabilitation of wildlife has grown over the years and how it impacts people. A variety of situations regularly arise in which humans need to deal with animals that need to be rescued or need medical attention. However, there are also situations in which the better solution might be to not do rehabilitation on an animal. We will investigate several of these situations and ways you can help wildlife.

Humans deal with wildlife diseases on a regular basis. Several of the most common diseases and status of these diseases will be discussed including rabies, bird flu and a new and emerging disease to the area called white nose syndrome in bats. Some wildlife diseases can have major health ramifications for people or pets and knowing what to look for will help in understanding how this affects humans.

You know the birds when you see them and can probably identify many by their songs, but what do you really know about the lives of common birds? This beautifully illustrated presentation will provide educational facts and give insights that will enlighten even the most experienced birders in the group!

This program will help you become more attentive to the actions of the birds you watch and more appreciative of their special lives.

Presenter Chuck Jakubchak is a manager for General Electric by trade, but a naturalist at heart. A graduate of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) program, Chuck has presented bird and nature themed programs throughout the state. He has also written articles for numerous publications, including Bird Watcher's Digest and Amish Heartland magazine.

In 2011 he received the Continuing Excellence Award by the Ohio Volunteer Naturalists and was most recently appointed as an advisor to the Ohio Bluebird Society. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University and has a graduate degree in public speaking. He and his wife Jeanne reside in Strongsville. In his own words, Chuck guarantees "to give you a new perspective on the birds you already know!" Come, look and listen for yourself.

Continued on Page 3...

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



## ACTIVITIES

### APRIL ACTIVITY

WHEN: Saturday April 21, 2012  
 TIME: 8:00 A.M.  
 WHERE: Aurora Parks and Audubon Sanctuaries  
 in Aurora Ohio  
 MEET: Novak Audubon Sanctuary parking lot  
 on Townline Road

Spring has started in earnest and we will be exploring several areas around Aurora Ohio that is home to several parks and sanctuaries. Many migrants should have arrived in NE Ohio by this date and many wildflowers will be in bloom. Since many of us have never visited these areas we are fortunate enough to be guided by Tracey Knierim. Tracey leads spring bird walks and flower walks in these areas. Her expertise should make for a very enjoyable day in the field. Be aware that some of the trails are primitive and proper footwear as well as clothing for the weather should be worn.

After birding in the morning, if weather permits, we plan to go on a wildflower hike at one of the best places in NE Ohio Eagle Creek. Tracey will lead us for this excursion also. Plan for a day of it, FUN that is, around Aurora. Need more info? Call Jim at 440-257-2507

**DIRECTIONS:** Take OH Rt. 306 south to Aurora. Turn left onto OH Rt.82 and follow till it makes a big curve. Townline Road goes off to the left only. If you come to Yogi Bear trailer park you have gone too far. When on Townline Road slow down, roll down your windows, go slow and listen or perhaps see Bobolinks, Meadowlarks or even a Grasshopper Sparrow in the open fields. About a mile or so there will be a gravel parking lot on the right side of the road...park there.

For those of us who may be interested in more flower walks Tracey's complete schedule is listed at <http://www.nativeplantsocietyneohio.org> click on Schedule of Events

### MAY ACTIVITY

WHEN: Saturday May 5, 2012  
 TIME: 8:00 A.M.  
 WHERE: Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
 – Indigo Lake  
 MEET: Indigo Lake parking lot  
 on Riverview Road

Spring migration is getting into full swing and we are going to “kick it off” with a trip to one of the “pearls” of northeast Ohio, Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This park covers 33,000 acres, we will just be visiting a “small” section but it should be “large” in birds. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles and many other neo-tropic migrants will be heading north and stopping at this pristine area.

Most people know of the tow path at Brecksville Station, but it is generally full of foot and bicycle traffic so we will find a quieter spot to look for the migrants at Indigo Lake. We may visit other areas as time and weather permit.

We will be guided by Doug Marcum who works for the Park as a Wetlands biotechnician. Doug has a BS degree from Kent State and has lived in NE Ohio all of his life. He has many fine photographs and a blog spot for anyone who may be interested. Photos at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos//dougmrcum>

Blog at <http://dougmrcum.blogspot.com/>

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-271 south to OH Rt. 8 (south) and exit at OH Rt.303. Go west to Peninsula Ohio and turn left onto Riverview Rd. (south) .Go about 2 miles or so to the gravel parking lot for Indigo Lake. It is just past Szalay's Farm and Bolanz Rd. If you pass the Beaver Marsh you have gone too far. For GPS users the address is 4300 Riverview Rd. Peninsula OH 44264  
 Need more info? Call Jim at 440-257-2507





## Geauga Park District to Host Summer Picnic

From apple orchard to walking trails...  
sugarbush to sandtraps to sledding hill...  
successful business to popular park...

Geauga Park District's Orchard Hills Park has a rich history that will unfold during Blackbrook Audubon's annual potluck/picnic scheduled for **6 pm on Tuesday, June 19 (with dinner at 6:30)**.

Pack your picnic basket with a favorite passing dish, your own table service and a beverage of choice and join in this special summer gathering. An ideal setting, delicious food and good company are the recipe for success, but as an added bonus, Nancy and Jim Patterson will share stories of their 5-generation history on this property and explain the vision that led to making this a unique gem in the Geauga Park District network of parks. Afterwards, picnickers are invited to lace up walking shoes for a guided hike over the gently



rolling trails to get a 1st hand look at some of the conservation efforts employed in transforming this former golf course into multi-use parkland.

The park entrance is just north of Patterson's Farm Market at 11340 Caves Road. Participants will picnic at the main shelter just off the parking lot. The shelter is fully accessible and includes indoor/outdoor space with plenty of picnic tables and a grill. See [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org) or call 440-286-9516 for more detailed directions.

## Continued from April program:

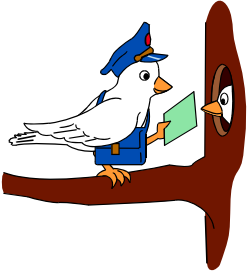
There are several reasons to view wildlife and different aspects will be discussed, including some unique ways for you to increase your personal wildlife viewing opportunities.

Our guest speaker, Geoff Westerfield, grew up in Cuyahoga Falls in Summit County, allowing him to learn about human-wildlife interactions in a suburban environment. He has an Associate's degree from Hocking College and a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. Over the past 12 years, he has worked for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, mainly dealing with the many facets of human-wildlife interactions. His career has allowed him to get a balance of perspectives from both suburban and rural interactions.



**Why is this male giving food to the female? The answer might not be what you expect!** Photo by C. Jacobchak





## FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

by Julie Dougherty  
julieodoc@gmail.com

How many members out there saw the movie "The Big Year?" We have something similar called the Bird-a-thon. You can have a fun time watching the birds within a 24 hour period and at the same time help raise money for our Audubon Adventures program. Participate in the upcoming Birdathon May 12-May 20. You are able to pick the day and times during that 24 hour period to find as many species of birds that you can. Form a team or go solo, challenge other friends to see who can raise more money! Talk to friends and co-workers about sponsoring you either at a flat rate or per species. 100 percent of the proceeds from the Bird-a-thon go directly to fund our Audubon Adventures program. This program provides classroom kits at \$45.95 each to students in grades 3-5 in Lake and Geauga County.

If you would like to participate but don't feel confident enough to go it alone, call Nancy Dilgren or see a board member at a member meeting and we can get you on a team. This is spring migration time, an opportunity to see exciting birds. There is an article included in the Hushwing that provides more detailed information and contact information.

We would love to see as many members as possible participate this year. If you aren't able to participate but would like to donate directly to our Audubon Adventures program there is information on our website.

Thank you.

## IMPORTANT BIRD AREA WALKS:

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the monitoring project at Mentor Marsh/Headlands Dune State Nature Preserve. As of February, we submitted 17 checklists with 134 species. Highlight of the checklist include 20 warbler species. The project will end on April 8, 2012 with our last walk!

**GREAT NEWS!** Blackbrook Audubon has decided to conduct a seventh year of bird monitoring. We will be collecting data on **the birds that live or visit Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve**. Adjacent to a marina, this unique, 450 acres of green space and nature and water trails features a mile and a half of wild beach and five miles of hiking trails that meander through a coastal forest and marsh.

We will be conducting one bird walk a month for a year! These walks will take place on **the 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays (8 A.M.)** Everyone who is interested in lending their eyes and ears, meet at the preserve parking area at **8365 Harbor Drive, Mentor, OH 44060**. The first bird walk at Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve will start on **Sunday, May 27, 2012**.

**See website below for more information on Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve:**

<http://cityofmentor.com/play/explore/mentorlagoon/snaturepreserve/>





## Birdathon 2012

Birdathon 2012 will take place beginning Saturday, May 12 at midnight and end Sunday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. We hope many of you will decide to participate. All funds raised in the Birdathon are used to benefit education!

What is Birdathon? Blackbrook members go out birding and ask people to pledge donations to support their efforts.

How do you participate? Grab your binoculars, line up a few sponsors, maybe find a friend or two and go out and see how many species of birds you can see in a 24 hour period during the above dates. You do not have to bird the whole 24 hours nor do the hours have to be consecutive as long as you're starting and ending times are no more than 24 hours apart. You could take a walk around your neighborhood before work in the morning and then go to a nearby park that evening. You can even bird in your backyard or watch your feeders through a window.

If anyone would like to join an existing team, check with me and I will try to match you up with someone. I personally will be out and about in Lake County one weekday that week (exact date depends on weather) and would love to have people join me for all or part of the time. Contact Nancy at (440) 257-1090 or [angydy@earthlink.net](mailto:angydy@earthlink.net).

Care to donate or sponsor without leaving your house? Use the form below:

I would like to support **Birdathon 2012**

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 44061-1306

or donate thru PayPal on our web site:

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

## THE HUSHWING NEWSLETTER IS GOING ELECTRONIC!

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and deliver information to our members in a timelier manner, our Hushwing Herald will be going electronic. Starting September 2012, only our first issue, which includes the program / field trip calendar for the year, will be snail mailed to all Friends of Blackbrook (chapter members) and Blackbrook's National Audubon members (magazine subscribers). The remaining issues will be delivered via email or directly accessible through our website.

**In order for us to implement this change we need your help! If you have not done so already, please sign up for an electronic version by going to Blackbrook's website.** You will be asked to subscribe to the newsletter using your email address. Once you follow the few easy steps, your email is stored on a safescribe database. This allows only the manager of this mailing list to send you general email communications, survey invitations, or event invitations with your permission. You also have the freedom to unsubscribe to these emails at any time. Most importantly, your email address will not be sold, nor will spam be sent.

Any Friends of Blackbrook or Blackbrook's National Audubon members that do not use or that do not have access to email, or those that cannot access Blackbrook's website; no worries! You can still receive mailed paper copies of the Hushwing Herald! All you have to do is contact Becky at 440-488-1162.



## ANNUAL SPRING BIRD WALKS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DATES: SUNDAYS APRIL 15, 22, 29  
MAY 6, 13, 20

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

### May 6 Bald Eagle Open House at Mentor Marsh Nature Center

All are invited to celebrate bald eagles with  
activities from 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, May 6 at the  
Mentor Marsh Nature Center. Visit mini-stations to  
learn more about eagles and take part in hands-on  
activities--build a mock-eagle nest, hold a replica  
skull in your hands, learn more about bald eagles  
and bird biology. No registration is required to  
attend open house activities at the Nature Center.  
Register for one of three guided hikes to overlook  
the bald eagle nest from our trails at 12:30, 2 and  
3:30 p.m., Registration for hikes is required.  
Spotting scopes will be provided. We will also have  
binoculars to lend. Space is limited for hikes, so  
register soon!

To register for a bald eagle hike or for more  
information, call the Mentor Marsh Nature Center at  
440-257-0777 or email [rdonalds@cmnh.org](mailto:rdonalds@cmnh.org)

## Who Wants to Be a Winner?

Roger Beuck has donated one of his favorite  
photographs to the Blackbrook Audubon Society. It  
is a framed 8" X 10" print of the Northern Saw-  
whet Owl seen during the April 17, 2011 Spring  
bird walk at Headlands Dunes.

His photo won first place last year in the Nature  
Category of the Gates Mills Garden Club Photo  
Contest. The photograph can be seen online at  
[www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org), by scrolling through  
the photo gallery.

A raffle for the owl print will take place during our  
picnic at Orchard Hills on June 19th. The winner  
need not be present. Chances to win are available  
now and cost \$1 each or 6 chances for \$5. See any  
Blackbrook board member to participate.

All proceeds will support Blackbrook Audubon's  
mission to promote conservation and restoration of  
ecosystems with emphasis on birds and habitat  
through education and advocacy within Lake,  
Geauga and Ashtabula counties and adjacent  
communities.



## Spring is here!

**For directions and more information:**

[www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://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 13 - Evening Woodcock Watch!** - The Rookery (7-9 pm)

Listen for the "peent" of the pudgy woodcock and witness his enchanting spring ritual dance. Frog calls, redwing maneuvers and other signs of spring are an added bonus as we await the twilight performance.

**April 15-May 20 – Spring Bird Walks** – (7:30-9:30 am)

See [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org) for locations of the six walks held in April and May so as to 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 weather. Bring binoculars and bird guide or borrow one of ours.

**April 19 - Nomadic Birder/Back Packing Southern Africa** – The West Woods (7:30-8:30 pm)

Join University of Cape Town student and former Geauga Park volunteer, Ethan Kistler, as he shares his adventures from his four month backpacking trip through eight African countries. Last year he set out in search of rare and localized birds from South Africa to Tanzania!

**May 20 – Coffee with the Birds** – Swine Creek Lodge (10-11:30 am)

Participate in the last bird walk of the spring season, then join a naturalist for an "inside" look at bird watching as we enjoy sitting around our bird feeding station indoors with beverages and snacks. Stop by anytime during the program hours.

## Headlands Dunes Bird Sit

Interested in going on a Blackbrook field trip or bird walk, but not willing to commit to a long walk? We have the ideal opportunity for you! On Sunday, May 20th, the last of the Audubon 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 lawn near the picnic area at the far eastern side of Headlands Dunes State Park between 8:30 and 10:30 AM. We'll provide the coffee (the restrooms with flush toilets are nearby). You should bring your own chair, binoculars and a field guide if you have one, and we'll 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 at Zimmerman Trail will be strolling by about 9 AM. If you are interested, you can join the end of that walk.

The lawn area is near the parking lot. Plan to bring an umbrella in case of rain and dress warmly or bring a blanket, as the temperature may be "cooler near the lake". Headlands Beach State Park is at the northern terminus of State Route 44 (Heisley Road) in Lake County. As you enter the State Park, bear right along the access road all the way to the far eastern end, which is the Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve. Turn into parking lot #1 and look for the Blackbrook Audubon banner.

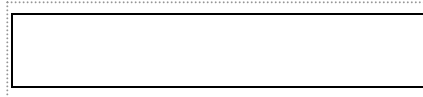


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**LOOK FOR BLACKBROOK ON THE WEB!**  
**AT [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org)**

Julie Dougherty - President  
Bruce Roberts - Editor



### **A Quote to think on.....**

*Look at the trees, look at the birds, look at the clouds, look at the stars... and if you have eyes you will be able to see that the whole existence is joyful. Everything is simply happy. Trees are happy for no reason; they are not going to become prime ministers or presidents and they are not going to become rich and they will never have any bank balance. Look at the flowers - for no reason. It is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are.*

~Osho