



The Hushwing **HERALD**

Volume 49 Number 4
April, May, June, 2014

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2014
PROGRAM: "Nests (With a Side of Eggs)"
SPEAKER: Chuck Jakubchak
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Nests (With A Side of Eggs) combines photos, drawings and factual information to enlighten both the novice and experienced birder. The presentation discusses nest construction, comments on incubation and overviews the unique egg characteristics of common birds.

You may remember Chuck Jakubchak from our May 2012 program, when he presented "Sensational Birds, Sensational Observations". He also presented a program at this year's Shreve Spring Migration Sensation. Chuck, a birder for more than 18 years, is a graduate of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program and has presented bird and nature themed programs throughout the state. He has written articles for Bird Watcher's Digest, Heart of Ohio Magazine and WildOhio.

In 2011, Chuck received the Continuing Excellence Award from the Ohio Volunteer Naturalists and is an advisor to the Ohio Bluebird Society.

He and his wife Jeanne have lived in Strongsville for more than 27 years.

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



DATE: Tuesday, May 20, 2014
PROGRAM: "Of Mast and Men - the Life, Times and Demise of the Passenger Pigeon"
SPEAKER: Harvey Webster
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: The West Woods Nature Center

One hundred years ago this September, Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon, fell dead in her cage at the Cincinnati Zoo. With her death, the Passenger Pigeon became extinct. And yet a mere 100 years before, the Passenger Pigeon was thought to be one of the most numerous species of bird on earth, accounting for perhaps 25% of all birds in North America. Frontier descriptions of flock size defy imagination. Flocks darkened the skies for days on end in migration. Nesting colonies could occupy 50 square miles or more.

Join in a look at the history of this remarkable species, the nature of its extraordinary numbers, current thoughts on the causes of its extinction and the lessons for conservation. After all, it was the stunning loss of this and other species at that time that helped kick-start the modern conservation movement. Too late for the 'blue meteor', but many species have been nurtured back to healthy populations and their habitats have been preserved as a result of the push for conservation 100 years ago.

Yet now in the 21st Century, we still hear about an impending extinction crisis. So what have we learned from the extinction of these once common species? How are we keeping the memory of these extinct species alive and relevant? How are we helping to strengthen wildlife populations today and preserve the habitats that are necessary for their survival? How can people help?

Harvey Webster is Director of Wildlife Resources at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.



ACTIVITIES

APRIL ACTIVITY

WHEN: Saturday April 26, 2014
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
WHERE: Magee Marsh - Oak Harbor, Ohio
MEET: Nature Center parking lot

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

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. We are going just a little earlier than our last trip but many passerine species should be landing for our pleasure.

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 our leader for this trip, Pat Morse at 440-256-1404 Ext 2101

Don't forget we are meeting at the Bird Center parking lot, NOT the BSBO very near the entrance. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend!!!

MAY ACTIVITY

WHEN: Saturday May 17, 2014
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
WHERE: Lakeshore Reservation, Perry, Ohio
MEET: Park entrance

We close our season with an outing to a favorite site near home, Lakeshore Reservation located in Perry Ohio. As spring is in full swing we are keeping our eyes and ears open for the spring migrants that will be streaming in from the south and heading to faraway places in the forests "up north" to raise their new families.

The spring warblers will be in their finest plumages and we will endeavor to discover as many as we can as they pass through our area and Lakeshore Reservation. We may also travel to Lake Erie Bluffs if time and weather permit. Please join us. Remember this is a rain or shine event so be prepared. Bring a friend! For more info call Jim at 440-257-2507

DIRECTIONS: Follow OH Rt.2 east toward Perry. Turn north onto Antioch Rd. and follow to park entrance. Turn left to the "new" side of the park. For GPS users it is 4799 Lockwood Rd. North Perry Village OH 44081





June Picnic

Date: Tuesday June 17, 2014
 Activity: Annual Potluck Picnic
 Time: Start gathering at 6:00 P.M.
 Eat around 6:30 P.M.
 Place: Reeves Rd. Picnic Shelter,
 Chagrin River Park

OK everyone. It's time to dig out the recipe files, dust off the crockpot and make something delicious for our annual summer picnic. All are welcome.

As per usual, we will start gathering at the picnic shelter at 6:00 p.m. and begin eating around 6:30 p.m. Blackbrook will provide some beverages: water, lemonade, ice tea. Please bring a dish to share, your own place setting and any other beverages you might prefer.

A walk will follow and be sure to bring your binoculars as Chagrin River offers excellent birding.

Directions: From either the east or west, exit Route 2 at Lost Nation Rd. Head north. At the first traffic light north of the interchange, turn left on to Reeves Rd. Then turn left again at the park entrance. Drive to the main parking lot and we will be in the shelter adjacent to the parking.

MONTHLY BIRD WALKS

Join us for bird walks on the 4th Sunday of each month at Veterans Park in Mentor beginning Sunday, May 25 at 8:00 a.m. Beginners and experienced birders welcome.

Admission is free to all. Bring binoculars.



ANNUAL SPRING BIRD WALKS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DATES: SUNDAYS APRIL 13, 20, 27

MAY 4, 11, 18

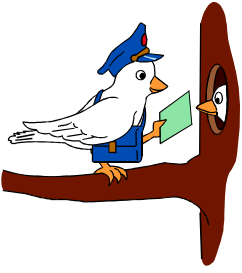
TIME AND PLACE: 7:30 A.M. ZIMMERMAN TRAIL PARKING LOT

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.



FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

by Julie Dougherty
julieodoc@gmail.com

IS IT SPRING YET? How many times have we asked this question this early spring? It seems that we are still stuck in a winter pattern of colder temperatures. One day we are teased with a 50 degree day only to be brought back to reality a few days later with temperatures at night in the single digits and daytime temps in the teens. This year has not been our worst winter but maybe because of the extreme cold temperatures and heavy snow fall it has increased our desire for winter to be done and spring to show up. Hopefully by the time this Hushwing comes out we will be having normal temperatures and spring will definitely be here.

I am seeing some signs of spring with skunk cabbage in bloom, snow drops have started to rise from the frozen ground. Yesterday I had numerous red winged black birds and grackles in my yard. Definitely a good sign. Killdeers have been spotted at the Holden Arboretum and the Canada geese have returned in numbers.

As the birds migrate to their spring homes, keep in mind they will be hungry and their natural food may not be available yet particularly because of the extended winter so any help you provide will be helpful.

I look forward to spring with the warmer days and evenings but also the singing of the birds and my favorite spring peepers. I hope everyone has a wonderful warm spring which will eventually get here and hopefully we will not just jump to summer temperatures too quickly.



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: **Mary Ann Wagner**
for Vice President: **Becky Thompson**
for Secretary: **Laurie White**
and for Treasurer: **Debbi Schuster**

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 _____

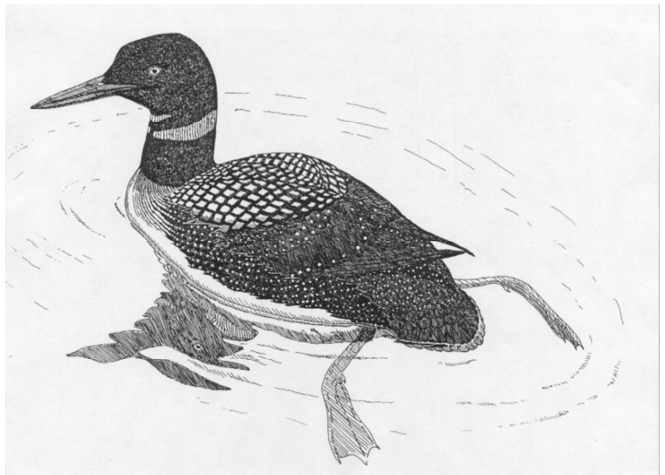
Please make checks payable to: Blackbrook Audubon Society and mail to: James McConnell 5758 Beech Dr. Mentor on the Lake, OH 44060 Call (440) 257-2507 for more information.

Birdathon 2014

May is almost here and it is time again for our annual Birdathon. This year's event will be held from Sat. May 10th thru Sun. May 18th. It is our largest fund raiser and the money is used to provide Audubon Adventures to elementary students in our area. Hundreds of students receive them through programs at Holden Arboretum. Other sets are distributed to Geauga Co. teachers thru the Geauga Park District and the Nature Center at Mentor Marsh also receives a set. In our current fiscal year, we have spent over \$1300 on this project.

Audubon Adventures is an environmental newsletter published by the National Audubon Society. It encourages youth to learn about the natural world. Each issue contains material on a nature related topic (this year's theme is birds). Environmental stewardship is encouraged and the students also get a chance to practice some of the skills they learn in class for the proficiency exams; for example using graphs and related math skills. Useful internet links are provided. Outdoor learning activities are suggested. I will have copies available at our April program meeting if you would like to examine one.

making a direct donation or pledging money per species seen. And for the most fun, participate directly in birdathon. All you need to do is pick a 24 hour period (or any part thereof) during the dates mentioned above and go out and see how many species of birds you can find. Round up a sponsor or two or sponsor yourself. You can bird on your own, form a team or go on one of the many bird walks that are held during May and count the birds you see then. You can even do a feeder count in your own yard. If you would like more information, please contact Nancy at angydy@earthlink.net or call 440-257-1090.



Drawing courtesy of Steven D'Amato



Photo courtesy of Dan Pancam

If you would like to help with this fundraiser, there are different ways you can do this. You can make a direct donation which can be handed to any board member at a meeting or mailed to Blackbrook Audubon, PO Box 1306, Mentor, Ohio 44061. Or you could also sponsor a birdathon team, either by

I would like to support **Birdathon 2014**

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: Blackbrook Audubon, PO Box 1306, Mentor, OH 44061-1306

or donate thru PayPal on our web site:

www.blackbrookaudubon.org

Lake Metroparks Bird Walks

Sunday Morning bird walks at Lake Erie Bluffs (free)

- April 13 Sunday (7:30 – 10:00 a.m.)
- April 20 Sunday (7:30 – 10:00 a.m.)
- April 27 Sunday (7:30 – 10:00 a.m.)
- May 4 Sunday (7:30 – 10:00 a.m.)
- May 11 Sunday (7:30 – 10:00 a.m.)
- May 18 Sunday (7:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Saturday Morning bird walks (free)

- April 19 Sat (8:00 – 10:00 a.m.) Chagrin River Park
- May 3 Sat (7:30 – 9:30 a.m.) Penitentiary Glen Reservation
- May 10 Sat (8:00 – 10:00 a.m.) Veterans Park
- May 17 Sat (8:00 – 10:00 a.m.) Chagrin River Park

Fee programs – Please register online at <http://lakemetroparks.com/programs/>

Warbler Migration Madness

May 2 Fri (7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

Warbler Migration Madness

May 16 Fri (7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

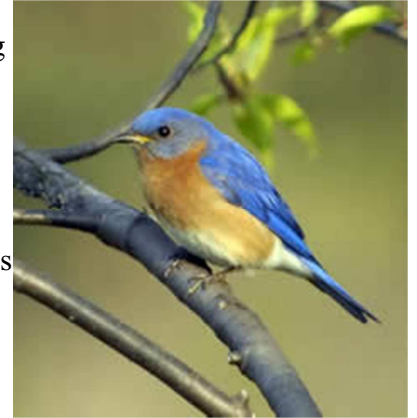
100 Bird Day in Lake County! (Date change)

May 17 Sat (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)



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

April 23 – Avian Olympics: Bird Migration Explained– The West Woods (7-8:30 pm)

Spring Bird Walks – (7:30-9:30 am)

April 13 – Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

April 20 - Frohring Meadows

April 27 – The Rookery

May 4 - Eldon Russell Park

May 11 – Big Creek Park/Meyer Center
Parking Lot

May 18– 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 30 – Mayfly Evening Canoe Float –
Eldon Russell Park (8-10:00 pm)

Headlands Dunes Bird Sit

On Sunday, May 18th, the last of Blackbrook Audubon's spring bird walks steps off from Zimmerman Trail at 7:30 AM.

For 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.....

It is strange and fine -- Nature's lavish generousities to her creatures. At least to all of them except man. For those that fly she has provided a home that is nobly spacious -- a home which is forty miles deep and envelopes the whole globe, and has not an obstruction in it. For those that swim she has provided a more than imperial domain -- a domain which is miles deep and covers four-fifths of the globe. But as for man, she has cut him off with the mere odds and ends of the creation. She has given him the thin skin, the meager skin which is stretched over the remaining one-fifth -- the naked bones stick up through it in most places. On the one-half of this domain he can raise snow, ice, sand, rocks, and nothing else. So the valuable part of his inheritance really consists of but a single fifth of the family estate; and out of it he has to grub hard to get enough to keep him alive and provide kings and soldiers and powder to extend the blessings of civilization with. Yet, man, in his simplicity and complacency and inability to cipher, thinks Nature regards him as the important member of the family -- in fact, her favorite. Surely, it must occur to even his dull head, sometimes, that she has a curious way of showing it.

- *Following the Equator* - **Mark Twain**