

The Hushwing **HERALD**

Blackbrook Audubon Society

Volume 50 Number 1

September/October, 2014

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

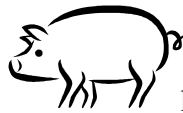
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE: Tuesday, September 16, 2014
PROGRAM: "The Future for Birds
in a Changing Climate"
SPEAKER: Marnie Urso
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
(Lake Metroparks)

Audubon scientists have been working on a detailed scientific study, based in part on Audubon Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird survey data, that quantifies the risk that climate change poses to North America's birds in a greater level of detail and clarity than anyone has been able to predict so far. We already know climate change is a very serious threat to our birds; this report provides details on which birds are most threatened by climate change and where. This "field guide to the future" for birds under various climate change emissions scenarios will offer some important insights as to how we can use adaptation and mitigation strategies to lessen the impact of climate change on birds -- and people.

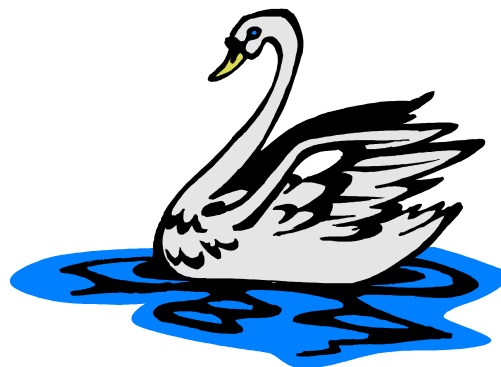
Marnie Urso has been working on environmental public policy in Washington DC and Ohio for the past 16 years. She has been with Audubon for 9 of those years and is currently the Senior Field Manager for the National Audubon Society. Most of her work has focused on Great Lakes Restoration and Climate Change. Marnie is based in Cleveland and enjoys birding with her family along the shores of Lake Erie.

DATE: Tuesday, October 21, 2014
PROGRAM: "Invasive Swine and Swan"
SPEAKER: Craig Hicks, Caleb Wellman
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Meyer Center, Big Creek Park
(Geauga Park District)



Two animals introduced to the U.S. long ago clearly demonstrate the pitfalls of transferring wildlife outside their natural range. Discover how these invasive species threaten Ohio's agriculture and ecosystems in a presentation by two biologists from the USDA, Craig Hicks and Caleb Wellman.

The first invited invader, a mammal brought here almost 500 years ago, now wreaks havoc in 39 states, when three decades ago it was only found in 17 states. Sometimes called a feral pig, wild boar or razorback, feral swine eat farmers' crops, damage habitat with their wallowing and rooting, carry at least 30 diseases and "hog" resources, such as acorns, needed by native wild turkey, blue jays and other wildlife. Feral swine are found in more than 20 counties in Ohio, including Ashtabula, and breed in 13 counties.



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ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014
Activity: Headlands Beach & Mentor Lagoons
Time: 8:00 AM
Meet: Parking Lot #1 (farthest east)

Once again, we choose our initial 2014-2015 season of field trips to “our” premiere birding spot on the east side. The “Headlands”, as we affectionately call it, is a migrant trap for “almost” all of the birds that are seen in Ohio during either the spring or fall. So what better place to kick-off our season than here. We should discover warblers, thrushes, sparrows and possibly some shorebirds. We have had all these species in years past and we will have a good chance to see them again this year. After looking in all the “hiding” places here, we will travel a short distance to the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve in search of more migrants. Join us for a day of fun and adventure. Cole DiFabio will be our leader for the day. Email Julie at jdougherty@gmail.com for more information or directions.

Cole DiFabio has been a birder for eleven years. At 16, he has accumulated a life list of 416 species. He joined the Ohio Young Birders Club in 2010 and has attended numerous field trips with them. He is a regular contributor to the Ohio Birds listserv, eBird and active with the Blackbrook Audubon Society. He has been asked to lead several walks for Blackbrook Audubon at Lake Metroparks Beaty Landing in Painesville, Ohio. This past spring, he assisted with some of the birding walks at The Holden Arboretum. He is the creator of www.jrbirder.com which includes photographs, articles and links on birding.

His favorite place to bird is anywhere an LB can be spotted! Some favorite spots for birding locally include Mentor Headlands, The Holden Arboretum and Magee.



OCTOBER ACTIVITY

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014
Activity: Little Mountain Hike
Time: 1:00 PM
Meet: The Holden Arboretum Visitor Center

Little Mountain—Past, Present and Future. This “mountain” may not tower over Lake County as its name suggests, but the slopes and cliffs that lead up to Little Mountain’s 1,266-foot summit offer a unique tapestry of human and natural history.

There are few traces left of the 300-room hotels, woodland cabins and recreation facilities that once covered the peak, serving as a summer playground for the rich and famous of Cleveland for almost a century. The bustling activity of a resort has been replaced by a silent, towering forest of white pines and eastern hemlocks that one might expect to find in the wilds of upstate New York or eastern Canada, but not in Ohio.

In fact, almost everything about this area suggests a northern source, from the forest over our heads, to the quartz pebbles within the outcrops of Sharon conglomerate, to the soil under our feet, to the rare, delicate and sometimes inconspicuous ferns and wildflowers growing in joints and crevasses of the outcrop.

Join Pat Biliter as we walk the Little Mountain trail. Discover the rich natural and social history of Little Mountain.

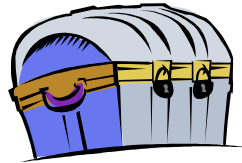
Email Julie at jdougherty@gmail.com for more information or directions.



October program continued:

Our second case, a bird released in North America in the late 1800's for a seemingly innocent purpose, first turned up in Ohio just over 100 years ago. We wanted Mute Swans to adorn ponds but when we looked harder, we found an "ugly duckling" that destroys wetlands with feeding habits that increase water turbidity and reduce submerged aquatic vegetation. About the size of our native Trumpeter Swan, Mute Swans are not silent in their defense of territory and demand for the limited marsh space still found in Ohio.

Our speakers will also tell us what steps are being taken to monitor swine and swan and to mitigate their damage, in cooperation with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other agencies. Ohio Wildlife Services is conducting intense management efforts to reduce damage and loss in southeastern Ohio, and to eliminate newly emergent populations of feral swine in the western and northern portions of the State.



Ticket Auction Items Needed

Over the years, Blackbrook Audubon's annual ticket auction has been very successful. We always have fun choosing which items to bid upon and last year we were able to raise \$192! This year, the ticket auction will be held during our November 18th program at the Holden Arboretum.

We need new or gently used books, DVDs or other nature-related items. Perhaps you enjoy making birdhouses or place mats or nature themed Christmas decorations. Or you may see a great end of season sale on hummingbird feeders. Please consider donating to Blackbrook Audubon. Bring your item to a field trip, IBA walk or the September or October programs. Any items not needed for the ticket auction may be used as future door or raffle prizes.

We very much appreciate your support in order to purchase Audubon Adventures for 3rd through 5th grade classrooms in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART OF NATURE

At

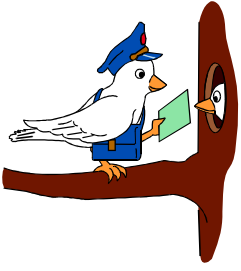
THE HOLDEN ARBORETUM

Saturday, November 15 – Sunday, January 4, 2015

The beauty of Northeast Ohio provides the inspiration for handcrafted gifts by regional artists. Celebrate nature's splendor and browse each artisan's creativity for original gifts. This event promotes regional artists with nature-inspired works and crafts from environmentally responsible materials. Watch for Tuesday Night Trunk Shows featuring select artists, as well as the Holiday Shop and Drop where we provide activities for your kids while you shop! A portion of each sale supports The Holden Arboretum.

The first Tuesday Night Trunk Show will be Tuesday, November 18th from 5-8 pm. Come early to the Jim McCormac talk at our member's meeting at The Holden Arboretum at 7 pm to shop.





FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

By Mary Ann Wagner

I can't believe its fall already! What happened to summer? Between the cool temperatures and occasional monsoons, summer really zipped past and it's already time for the fall migration and Blackbrook Audubon's new schedule of programs and field trips. The entire schedule for the season is included in this edition of the Hushwing. You'll notice a few months may have TBD in regard to date or time for field trips. Please check our website at www.blackbrookaudubon.org or future Hushwings for updated information. We've tried to put together an interesting mix of programs by some presenters new to our rotation as well as new presentations by some of our favorite speakers.

Blackbrook Audubon continues to lead Bird Walks at 8 AM the 4th Sunday of every month through March 2015 at Veterans Park in Mentor. These walks are appropriate for experienced as well as beginning birders of all ages. Veterans Park has woods as well as an inland lake and offers paved trails and restrooms.

We have new Blackbrook Audubon Society hats featuring our owl logo. They are made of waxed cotton and are dark khaki with a brown bill. They cost \$15 each. If you are interested, speak to any officer or board member.

I've decided to discontinue Blackbrook Audubon's printer cartridge recycling program. We just don't collect the volume of cartridges needed to raise money. I find that I have to store the cartridges for many months before I have enough to turn in, and some of them begin to leak and damage the other cartridges in the box. I believe the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo still collects used printer cartridges to raise funds and OfficeMax or Staples offer credit toward future ink purchases, but there are rules as to how their programs work. Best Buy accepts used inkjet cartridges for recycling as well.

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 electronic or paper 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 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.

With sympathy, we note the passing of long-time Audubon supporter William C. Kvet. Bill was an explorer at heart, who loved all things outdoors, and he and his wife Roz attended many of our programs over the years.

A beloved Industrial Arts teacher, Bill had many adventures over the years with friends and family including camping, back packing, canoeing, fishing, hunting and traveling west to the mountains. His other hobbies included fireworks, metal detecting, collecting antique padlocks, knife throwing, cracking the bullwhip, digging ponds in his back yard, riding his tractor, driving his 1965 Mustang and watching old Sci-Fi movies.



Check out the great activities at Lake Metroparks this fall:

<http://www.lakemetroparks.com/programs/events.shtml>

And also check out what's happening at Geauga Park District's online calendar:

<http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org/calendar.shtml>

Bird-feeding links from National Audubon

Choosing a Feeder

Following are a variety of feeders to accommodate specific types of birds and their diets. Choosing more than one will help attract more species and avoid feeder congestion.

<http://getintobirds.audubon.org/choosing-feeder>

Feeder Location

There are a few key points to consider when deciding where to put your feeder. It's not as simple as hanging it from the nearest tree...

<http://getintobirds.audubon.org/feeder-location>

Selecting Seeds

Different birds are attracted by different kinds of seed, so try offering a variety in separate feeders. Just make sure that the seed is compatible with both the feeder and the birds you hope to attract. Check out our home-made recipes for even more options.

<http://getintobirds.audubon.org/selecting-seeds>

Hummingbirds and Nectar Feeders

Maintaining a backyard hummingbird feeder can help provide the birds with nectar critical to their survival, especially during the fall when they need to double their body mass before migration.

<http://getintobirds.audubon.org/hummingbirds-and-nectar-feeders>

Feeder Maintenance

Cleaning birdfeeders and birdbaths is a crucial practice in preventing the spread of disease between birds.

<http://getintobirds.audubon.org/feeder-maintenance>

Anti-Squirrel Safeguards

Squirrels are a notorious nuisance for birds and the people trying to feed them.

<http://getintobirds.audubon.org/anti-squirrel-safeguards>



BLACKBROOK AUDUBON SOCIETY 2014 – 2015 SCHEDULE

For more information visit blackbrookaudubon.org
All programs are free and open to the public

Tuesday, September 16, 2014
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen

Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH
 Marnie Urso—Global Warming and Birds

Saturday, September 20, 2014
Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.

Headlands Beach and Mentor Lagoons

For more information contact Julie
julieodoc@gmail.com

Sunday, October 19, 2014

Field Trip: - 1:00 p.m.

Little Mountain, The Holden Arboretum

For more information contact Julie
julieodoc@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Big Creek-Geauga Park District

Chardon Twp., Ohio
 USDA - Feral Pigs and Mute Swans

November 2014

Field Trip:- TBD

Ottawa Auto Tour

For more information contact Pat
pmorse@lakemetroparks.com

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH

Jim McCormac—Lake Erie Birding Trail

December TBA

Christmas Bird Count

Check website or call Jim at
 440-257-2507 for more information

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH
 Chuck Jakubchak - Cute Chicks

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

Bird Chase Tour

For more information contact Pat
pmorse@lakemetroparks.com

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH

Debbi Schuster - Galapagos

Saturday, February 28, 2015

Field Trip: - TBD

Mosquito Lake

For more information contact Debbi
debbischuster@live.com

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

The West Woods - Geauga Park District

Russell Twp, OH

GPD Staff - Woodcocks

March 2015

Field Trip: - TBD

Woodcock Hunt

For more information contact Becky
btkingfisher@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

Sandy Ridge

For more information contact Pat
pmorse@lakemetroparks.com

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH

Lisa Rainsong - Amphibians and their Songs

May 2015 TBA

Bird-a-thon

Check website or call Nancy at
 440-257-1090 for more information

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

For more information contact Mary Ann
maryannelizebeth@aol.com

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH

Mary Ann Wagner - The Monarch Butterfly
 Crisis

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Annual Potluck Picnic

Location : Veterans Park
 Meet at 6:00 – eat at 6:30 p.m.

Walk to follow

BIRD WALKS

Join us for bird walks at Veterans Park every 4th Sunday (at 8 a.m.) thru March 2015.
 5730 Hopkins Road , Mentor OH 44060 ; weather permitting.

Scarecrow Row

Blackbrook Audubon has been invited to build a scarecrow for the Holden Arboretum's Goblins in the Garden event. A couple years ago, we built our first ever "scary crow" for the contest and much to our surprise, we WON first place in the People's Choice category! Our scarecrow had "feathers" on his head (rhododendron leaves painted black and glued to a large flower pot) as well as on his "hands". He stood over 6 feet tall and wore binoculars around his neck.



We will need to use reusable and recyclable materials, including plant matter for all aspects of our scarecrow. The scarecrow will need to stand up to weather conditions, including rain, dew and wind for up to two weeks. We need donations of appropriate materials such as clothing, gloves, and stuffing material (although newspaper and water soluble packing peanuts won't work well).

We also need volunteers who have time to get together late in September to help assemble the Blackbrook Audubon scarecrow. Members of our assembly crew will each receive a pass to attend the Goblins in the Garden event at the Holden Arboretum from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, October 4th and Sunday, October 5th.

If you want to participate, please send an email to maryannelizebeth@aol.com or call 440-255-0961.

Green Energy Ohio Tour Week - October 3, 4, & 5, 2014

The 2014 Green Energy Ohio Tour, organized by Green Energy Ohio (GEO)

GEO is the Ohio Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) - GEO's 12th Annual Tour is part of the ASES National Solar Tour

This FREE statewide event on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 3, 4, & 5 provides the unique opportunity for people to visit and talk with owners living and working with clean energy technologies. This interactive GEO Tour Web Site will again present Tour Site Descriptions uploaded by Site Owners pinpointed on an interactive Google Map shown by five regions and statewide with ability to show sites by county, site type and technologies.

Use GEO's website as an interactive tool to search the past 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 Tours as well as the 2013 Tour.

DESIGN YOUR OWN TOUR HERE FOR 2014:

<http://www.greenenergyohio.org/ost/search.cfm?yr=2014>



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

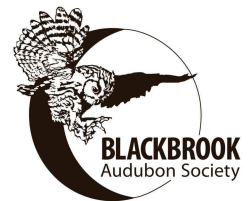
LOOK FOR BLACKBROOK ON THE WEB!
AT www.blackbrookaudubon.org

Mary Ann Wagner - President
Bruce Roberts - Editor

GROUNDED!

by Helen Adams

I like to watch the buzzards
Sailing high in the blue;
I wish that I could join them
And glide in circles too.
But because of my fear of heights
It's more likely than not
I'd only walk in circles
In the parking lot.



Formerly of Painesville, Helen now observes Turkey Vultures from her home in McConnellsville, along the Ohio River. She may even be seeing an occasional Black Vulture.