



# The Hushwing *HERALD*

*Blackbrook Audubon Society*

*Volume 51 Number 1*

*September/October, 2015*

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

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## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015  
**PROGRAM:** Bird Migration  
**SPEAKER:** Larry Richardson  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Penitentiary Glen Nature Center  
(Lake Metroparks)

This program will explore the wonder, mystery, and grandeur of bird migration and how we can learn valuable lessons from our feathered global travelers.

Bird migration provides opportunities for us to witness travelers almost every month of the year. Geography, seasons, weather and bird “life histories” provide birders in the Great Lakes Region many possibilities to learn from and enhance their appreciation for the birds we love to see.

A brief biography of Larry Richardson:  
Discovery addict (not recovering . . . ever)  
Graduate of The Ohio State University, School of Natural Resources  
Retired Executive Director of the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, Bay Village, Ohio  
Member of the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA)  
Avid birder for 45 years

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015  
**PROGRAM:** Gulls 101  
**SPEAKER:** Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** The West Woods Nature Center  
Geauga Park District

Northeast Ohio’s lakefront is a haven for a huge influx of wintering gull species whose identification drives birders to distraction. Noted Cleveland area birder and accomplished avian photographer Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. highlights defining fieldmarks and tips to help gain proficiency with gull identification as birders prepare for the annual blizzards of gulls along Lake Erie.

Born in Phoenix, AZ, but raised in the Cleveland, OH area, Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. is a life-long birder and wildlife photographer with a recent passion for gulls. He enjoys teaching new birders through his easy-going style and having fun along the way. His interest in birds began at a very young age, even before attending his first bird walks in 1975. The Cleveland Audubon Society honored him with an award at age 15 for “Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Conservation”, and he won a bird identification contest sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in the same year.

**Continued on page 3....**





## ACTIVITIES

### SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY

**Date:** Sunday, September 20, 2015  
**Activity:** Lake Erie Bluffs  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Meet:** Meet at Lane Road parking lot  
 (3301 Lane Road, Perry, OH 44081)

By mid-September, fall migration is in full swing! We'll spend the morning at Lake Metroparks Lake Erie Bluffs in Perry. These 600+ acres along Lake Erie offer a variety of habitats: old fields, woodlands, natural bluffs and shoreline. The south shore of Lake Erie is a rest stop for birds crossing the lake, where they can find food and rest up for the remainder of their flight south. Many species fly along the lakeshore rather than cross the lake, and large numbers are often seen flying overhead.

Lake Erie Bluffs is the focus of several current projects. The reservable three-season shelter with flush restrooms at the Lane Road parking area is nearly complete at this printing. An observation deck along the trail -- near the location where last year's Northern Shrike was regularly seen -- is complete. Over the next year or so there will also be a pedestrian bridge connecting the Lane Road parking area with the Clark Road parking area. And we all look forward to a multi-story observation tower to be built at the Clark Road parking area. Lots of changes -- stop by often to see the progress! Remember to dress for the weather -- the winds along the lake can be quite cool this time of year.

**DIRECTIONS:** From the west, take Route 2 east to its end, when you will be on Route 20 east. Turn left on Lane Rd. and follow it to the end, where you will find the Lake Erie Bluffs/Lane Road entrance.



### OCTOBER ACTIVITY

**Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2015  
**Activity:** Fall Colors  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Meet:** Meet at The Holden Arboretum  
 Corning Visitor Center  
 (9550 Sperry Road, Kirtland, Ohio)

Whether you're interested in birding or just want to see the beautiful fall colors, The Holden Arboretum is the place to be in autumn! Covering 3,600 acres, The Holden Arboretum is among the largest arboreta in the United States. Documenting more than 120,000 plants, Holden's horticultural focus is on a recognized collection of trees and shrubs, which are displayed in gardens accompanied by groundcovers and perennials, and in themed collections.

Named as an Important Bird Area by National Audubon Society, with more than 20 miles of hiking trails, Holden is a haven for birds. Since its inception, 218 species of birds have been reliably reported at The Holden Arboretum. Of the 218 total, 93 are confirmed nesting species.

Admission to The Holden Arboretum will be waived. However canopy walk and tower will have a fee of \$4.00 for both. Tickets are first come first serve. No group tickets are available.

#### DIRECTIONS:

Take Route 306 south past Route 90. Continue on Route 306 to the bottom of the hill. Turn left on Route 615. At the first traffic light, turn right on Kirtland-Chardon Road. Travel 3.6 miles to Sperry Road. Turn left on Sperry Road. Travel 1.4 miles, turn left on main drive to reach the Warren H. Corning Visitor Center.

## October program continued:

Chuck is an avid member of the Ohio birding community, and his efforts to assist and educate novice birders via social media are well known, yet he is the first to admit that one never stops learning! Chuck has presented a number of programs for different birding organizations where he shares his photos and stories. His photography has appeared in many print publications and birding sites online, as well as on his personal pages.

Chuck is currently employed as a Seasonal Naturalist with Cleveland Metroparks and is a member of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) and a graduate of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program (OCVN), and is very excited to be presenting his Gulls 101 program for you!



## 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 \$107! This year, the ticket auction will be held during our November 17<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties.

## Put our November activity on your calendar now!

### November Activity

**When:** Sunday, November 1, 2015 9:00AM

**Where:** Presque Isle State Park, Erie PA

**Meet:** Nature Center parking lot

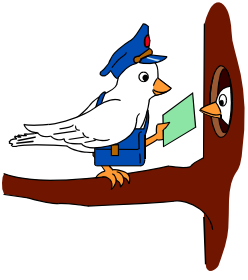
Another of the "great" place to bird, that is not too far away from us, is Presque Isle State Park. We are choosing this site because it is not only an area rich in diversity but because we have had many requests to repeat this adventure. We should have a delightful day of exploring and locating many species of birds. Waterfowl is on the move and there still are many late "stragglers" migrating south. There have been many rare sightings at this location including a Wood Stork several years back. Please come prepared for the weather and bring your scope as some of the waterfowl can be a little distant. The Nature Center is on the left shortly after you enter the park. DO NOT meet at the new environmental center before entering the park. See ya there!

**Directions:** Take I-90 east and in PA take Exit #18

PA Rte. 832 toward Presque Isle/  
Sterrettania. Turn left onto Rte. 832  
Strettettania Rd and follow to the park. It is about a 90 minute trip and approx. 78 miles from Mentor. If you need more information



call Jim McConnor at 440-257-2507.



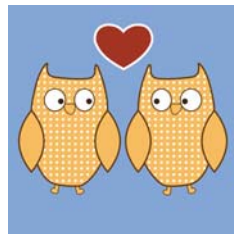
## FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

By Mary Ann Wagner

Although I haven't seen "my" Baltimore Orioles for a few years, a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was a daily visitor at my feeder this summer. Sometimes she had a friend with her, and in August, I noticed three hummingbirds hovering and chasing each other in the yard. They all appear to be females, but I suppose they could be young males who have not yet developed the trademark red throat. The male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will migrate first, with the females following a few weeks to a month later. Folklore says we should take down our hummingbird feeders, otherwise we encourage the birds to stay and freeze to death. Research tells us now that the migration is triggered by day length. If we leave our hummingbird feeders up until late in the fall, we are helping migrating stragglers who otherwise might have trouble finding something to eat during their journey to Central America.

Another migration rite is the sight of Tundra Swans. I most often see them at night. I think they sound like someone is having a party with people laughing and talking and dogs barking, until I realize the sound is coming toward me from the sky and I look up to see large white birds flying overhead in a "V" formation. Sometimes they number just a few dozen, other times, there are hundreds of them.

Hundreds of millions of birds are killed every year during migration when they strike tall buildings. Harvey Webster of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History has told us about the "Smart Light Safe Flight" initiative to encourage building owners to turn off decorative exterior lighting, dim lobby and atrium lighting and to turn off interior lights or draw blinds during peak migration. So far, the Terminal Tower on Cleveland's Public Square and the Fifth Third Center on Superior Avenue have agreed to participate.



This year's Monarch butterfly migration is expected to be the best we've seen since 2011. The growing conditions for milkweed and nectar plants have been favorable this summer and we are seeing more Monarch caterpillars and butterflies than the past few years. Hopefully, we will see migrating Monarchs roost together overnight before continuing their journey to Mexico.

Blackbrook Audubon invites you to get out and experience Northern Ohio this fall. Please see the details elsewhere in this Hushwing.

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### Doris Killinen McKinven Bird Collection

A collection of bird figurines in glass, ceramics, metal and wood, which belonged to Doris (nee Killinen) McKinven (November 4, 1919-July 1, 2014) has been donated by her children to the Blackbrook Audubon Society in her memory, to support the work of the chapter. Doris was born and grew up in Fairport Harbor, OH, and returned with her husband, John, to live in Fairport in 2002. Because she loved birds throughout her life, her three children would frequently gift her with a bird figurine from their travels abroad. Her collection includes birds from Austria, France, Mexico, England, Denmark, and beyond. Doris particularly loved owls, and so there are a number of owl figurines. At her request, her husband made a framed sign in calligraphy with the words: "A computer cannot make a bird's nest." The sign has also been donated to the chapter.

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**Please note:** The September/October issue of the Hushwing Herald is the only one we send via US mail to all 750+ of our members. For the other three issues per year, please sign up for email newsletters at [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org)

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## 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.

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### 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.

## Lake Metroparks Programs

### Bird Walks

**Ages 12 and older, FREE**

These morning birding adventures area at Lake Metroparks’ best birding location, located along major migration corridors with histories of good migration days. New birders are welcome!  
Sat, Sept. 12, 8-10 a.m., Lake Erie Bluffs-Lane Rd.  
Sat, Sept. 19, 8-10 a.m., Penitentiary Glen  
Sat, Oct. 3, 8-10 a.m., Lake Erie Bluffs-Lane Rd.  
Sat, Nov. 14, 8-10 a.m., Lake Erie Bluffs-Lane Rd.

### Waterfowl Watch

**Ages 18 and older, FREE**

November is a great time to view ducks, gulls and other waterfowl along Lake Erie. If the weather is bad, we will scope the lake from the windows of the new shelter.  
Sun, Nov. 29, 8-10 a.m., Lake Erie Bluffs-Lane Rd.

### Fall Migration Easy Chase Day

**Ages 18 and older, \$40 per person**

Hawks, songbirds, ducks and more! Destinations will be “naturalists’ choice” based on weather patterns and migration activity.  
Sat, Sept. 19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., depart from Penitentiary Glen  
Sat, Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., depart from Penitentiary Glen  
Sat, Nov. 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., depart from Penitentiary Glen

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

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



# BLACKBROOK AUDUBON SOCIETY 2015 – 2016 SCHEDULE

For more information visit [blackbrookaudubon.org](http://blackbrookaudubon.org)  
All programs are **FREE** and open to the public

## **Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
Penitentiary Glen  
Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH  
Larry Richardson—Bird Migration

## **Sunday, September 20, 2015**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.  
Lake Erie Bluffs  
For more information contact Pat  
[pmorse@lakemetroparks.com](mailto:pmorse@lakemetroparks.com)

## **Saturday October 17, 2015**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.  
Fall Colors, The Holden Arboretum  
For more information contact Becky  
[bkingfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:bkingfisher@yahoo.com)

## **Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
The West Woods - Geauga Park District  
Russell Twp, OH  
Chuck Slusarczyk Jr. - Gulls 101

## **Sunday, November 1, 2015**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.  
Presque Isle  
For more information contact Pat  
[pmorse@lakemetroparks.com](mailto:pmorse@lakemetroparks.com)

## **Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH  
Dave Roberts- Antarctica

## **December**

All Day  
Christmas Bird Count  
Check website for more details

## **Saturday, January 16, 2016**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.  
Geauga County Amish Birding  
For more information contact Pat  
[pmorse@lakemetroparks.com](mailto:pmorse@lakemetroparks.com)

## **Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH  
Dave Pretnar - Bird Feeding

## **Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center  
Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH  
Tammy O'Neil & Traci Keller- Bobcats

## **Sunday, February 21, 2016**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.  
Lake County Shoreline  
For more information contact Pat  
[pmorse@lakemetroparks.com](mailto:pmorse@lakemetroparks.com)

## **Saturday, March 12, 2016**

Field Trip: - Noon  
Killdeer Plains  
For more information contact Pat  
[pmorse@lakemetroparks.com](mailto:pmorse@lakemetroparks.com)

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016**  
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center  
Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH  
Becky Donaldson - Invasive Plants

## **Saturday, April 16, 2016**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.  
Conneaut Shorebirds  
For more information contact Pat  
[pmorse@lakemetroparks.com](mailto:pmorse@lakemetroparks.com)

## **April 2016**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
TBA  
The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH

## **May 2016 TBA**

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

## **Saturday, May 14, 2016**

Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.  
Cleveland Lakefront  
For more information contact Pat  
[pmorse@lakemetroparks.com](mailto:pmorse@lakemetroparks.com)

## **Tuesday, May 17, 2016**

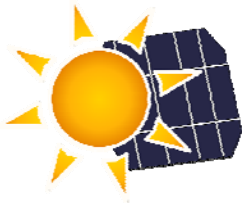
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.  
Big Creek-Geauga Park District  
Chardon Twp., Ohio  
Doug Marcum- TBD

## **Tuesday, June 21, 2016**

Annual Potluck Picnic  
Location : Orchard Hills Park  
Meet at 6:00 – eat at 6:30 p.m.  
Walk to follow

## **BIRD WALKS**

Join us for bird walks at Orchard Hills Park every 4th Sunday (at 8 a.m.) thru March 2016.  
11340 Caves Rd, Chesterland, OH 44026 ; weather permitting.



## Green Energy Ohio Tour Week - October 2,3, & 4, 2015

The 2015 Green Energy Ohio Tour, organized by Green Energy Ohio (GEO)

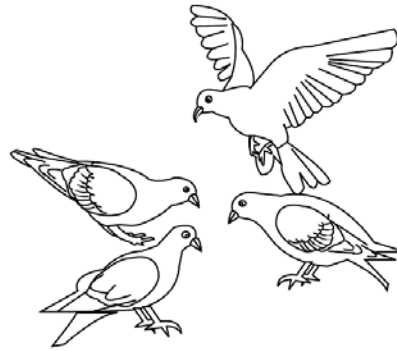
GEO is the Ohio Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) - GEO's 13th Annual Tour is part of the ASES National Solar Tour

This FREE statewide event on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 2, 3, & 4 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 Tours as well as the 2014 Tour.

DESIGN YOU OWN TOUR HERE FOR 2015:

<http://www.greenenergyohio.org/ost/search.cfm?yr=2015>



## Birds

Find and circle all of the birds that are hidden in the grid.  
The words may be hidden in any direction.

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R O B N N C F R N C L C D
E R W L C Y L A R A D K A
D O V E A N A A L N W E L
E W R W R C N J E C I S S
I L A O D E K R E P O E L
W I R R I R W B G U A N K
L O R R N O N A I G L W W
C K L A A B M N U R L B A
N R O P L I L L W E D K H
L L O S I N L G E L G A E
C C N W O O D P E C K E R
K E C A P I G E O N L O O
N A C I L E P C W A K A E
    
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- |           |         |            |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| BLACKBIRD | FALCON  | ROBIN      |
| BLUE JAY  | HAWK    | SEAGULL    |
| CARDINAL  | MAGPIE  | SPARROW    |
| CRANE     | OWL     | SWAN       |
| CROW      | PELICAN | WOODPECKER |
| DOVE      | PIGEON  | WREN       |
| EAGLE     |         |            |

BLACKBROOK AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 1306

Mentor, OH 44061-1306

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

Mary Ann Wagner - President

Bruce Roberts - Editor

“But in the early 1970s, we were not birdwatching. We were birding, and that made all the difference. We were out to seek, to discover, to chase, to learn, to find as many different kinds of birds as possible — and, in friendly competition, to try to find more of them than the next birder. We became a community of birders, with the complications that human societies always have; and although it was the birds that had brought us together, our story became a human story after all.”

— Kenn Kaufman, *Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder*

