



The Hushwing **HERALD**

Blackbrook Audubon Society

Volume 52 Number 1

September/October, 2017

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE: Tuesday, September 19, 2017
PROGRAM: Hach-Otis and Pleasant Valley:
A History
SPEAKER: John Lillich
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
Lake Metroparks

DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 2017
PROGRAM: Deer above, worms below:
How they affect the forest understory
SPEAKER: Ryan Trimbath
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Big Creek Park
Geauga Park District

The Hach-Otis Wildlife Sanctuary and dedicated State Nature Preserve, located at the end of Skyline Drive off of River Road in the City of Willoughby Hills, is open to the public each day during specified hours. Red fox, white-tailed deer, raccoon, wild turkey, squirrels and less noticeable animals such as snakes, frogs, and small rodents call the sanctuary home. As part of the Chagrin River Corridor, Hach-Otis is considered to be an Important Bird Area.

The Hach-Otis sanctuary originally consisted of 81 acres of marked boardwalks and trails. The Preserve doubled in size to 162 acres during the spring of 2017. New trails will be developed within the next few years. The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland retains ownership and is responsible for its management. Our program speaker, John Lillich, will share with us the story of Hach-Otis and Pleasant Valley.

John, a former President of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, has served as Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee for over 20 years and is still a working member of the committee. He has been the care taker and manager of Hach-Otis for over 36 years. In 1990, John was the recipient of the Lake County Environmental Improvement Award in the individual category.

Most of us are familiar with the changes to our woodlands caused by an overabundance of white-tailed deer. We've seen the five-foot browse line and loss of saplings leading to a decreased ability to regenerate a forest and giving rise to colonization by non-native and invasive plants. Other changes are taking place underground and at the surface of our soil. Earthworms, which have not been found in this part of Ohio since the last ice age, have been introduced and are impacting forest health as well. While conventional wisdom tells us earthworms are beneficial to farmers and fishermen, evidence is building that shows their rapid consumption of leaf litter prevents the formation of the "duff layer," which is important to tree seedlings, wildflowers and ferns.

Our speaker for the evening, Ryan Trimbath, will explain the cascade of effects brought about by deer and earthworms and how these changes to the forest understory complicate the lives of songbirds. He will describe his three-year study on Hooded Warblers (*Setophaga citrina*) in and around the Cuyahoga Valley.

Continued on Page 3.





ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017
Activity: Mentor Birding Hot Spots
Time: 8:00 AM
Meet: Meet at Headlands Beach State Park in Mentor

By the end of September fall migration is certainly in full swing! Dust off your binoculars and we'll visit some nearby birding spots and look for songbirds, waterfowl, raptors and everything in between. Our other stops will include Lake Metroparks Veterans Park and Wake Robin Trail in the Mentor Marsh. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the farthest eastern parking lot at Headlands Beach State Park (closest to the Headlands Dunes Nature Preserve). If by chance the main drive is closed, use the fishing access. Bring your binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. For more information, contact Pat Morse at 440-256-1404 x2101.



OCTOBER ACTIVITY

Date: Sunday, October 29, 2017
Activity: Bluffs to Bluffs
Time: 8:00 AM
Meet: Meet at Lake Erie Bluffs in Perry

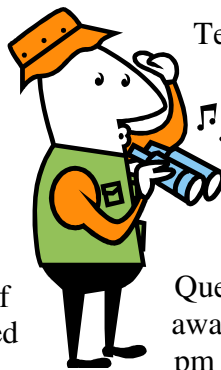
Spend a day along the Lake Erie shoreline – from Lake County, Ohio to western Pennsylvania! We'll meet at Lake Metroparks Lake Erie Bluffs in Perry, Ohio. We'll walk the level trails above the lakeshore in search of resident birds, then we'll climb the 50' tower to get great views of Lake Erie. We'll keep a sharp eye out for the waterfowl and gulls floating on the water and flying by and also any raptors that may be cruising by or perching for a well-deserved rest. Our next stop will be the Erie Bluffs State Park near Erie, Pennsylvania. (It's about a 50 minute drive.) This is a prime location for migrating raptors and a new destination for us. Meet at the Lane Road parking lot at 8:00 a.m. (Lake Erie Bluffs in Perry). Bring your binoculars and spotting scope if you have one. Dress for windy weather! For more information, contact Pat Morse at 440-256-1404 x2101.

Chagrin River Bird Quest

FREE! 4 PM Friday, September 22nd to 4 PM Saturday, September 23rd

Get a team together of two or more people and explore the Chagrin River Valley from Lake Erie south to the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland's bird sanctuaries in Aurora in search of fall migrants. Bird on your own or join experienced birders for a guided bird walk. How many species can your team check off in 24 hours?

Register early and attend a FREE introductory Birding Workshop 9-11 am Saturday, September 16 at the Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland, OH. Update your skills and learn new ones with experienced birders as instructors. Hand-outs, full color slide presentation with bird songs and refreshments.



Team check-in and final registration from 4-6 pm Friday, September 22nd at the West Woods Nature Center, 9465 Kinsman Road, Novelty, OH. Pick up maps, checklists, and FREE t-shirts for your team.

Quest Celebration! Checklist turn-in and awards. Hearty refreshments served 4 to 6:30 pm at the West Woods Nature Center.

Registration required. For more details, visit www.clevelandaudubon.org.

October program continued:

Ryan will share his findings from his master's thesis, which also covered forest modifications by humans. In one interesting twist, results suggest that exotic plant species like multiflora rose provide important habitat for wildlife in forests that are susceptible to heavy browse from deer and soil disturbance by exotic earthworms where native plants are functionally absent.

Ryan John Trimbath graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Wildlife & Conservation Biology and has since pursued a career studying forest ecology with a focus on forest-breeding songbirds. Ryan has worked as a field biologist on a number of projects throughout Ohio, Maryland, New Hampshire, Oregon and Wisconsin for groups including Ohio State University and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Currently Ryan coordinates the deer management program at Cuyahoga Valley National Park and is a student in the Integrated Biosciences PhD program at the University of Akron.



The Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) relies on the shrub layer for nesting. (USFWS, New Jersey Audubon)

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 \$153!

This year, the ticket auction will be held during our November 21st 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.

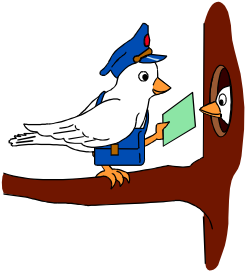
We very much appreciate your support in order to purchase Audubon Adventures for 3rd through 5th grade classrooms in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties.

eBird Tutorial: Finding places to go birding

Are you going on vacation this winter, or perhaps a business trip, and want to know where to go birding? eBird can help you! Before you start, find the name of the county where you are going (e.g., Phoenix, AZ is in Maricopa County).

- Go to www.ebird.org
- Select **EXPLORE DATA** then type in **MARICOPA, AZ**. Hit enter.
- Scroll down the page on the right to find **TOP HOTSPOTS**. Click on one.
- At the top where you see **ALL MONTHS** select the month of your visit. Next to it (ALL YEARS) select **LAST TEN YEARS** then click **SET**.
- The list you see will be organized by the most recent sightings at the location. Try some of the options on the page to sort your data or print checklists.

Thanks to our Cleveland Audubon friends for the Tips!



FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

By Becky Donaldson

Hello! I am Becky Donaldson and am excited to be serving as Blackbrook Audubon Society's President this year. Please stop and introduce yourselves to me if we've never met—a lot of faces are familiar, but there are members who I don't know yet and I look forward to meeting you!

I am a Cleveland Museum of Natural History Naturalist at Mentor Marsh and love wetlands and all of the diverse life in them—from insects to plants to birds. At the Marsh, this is an exciting time with our large scale restoration project headed into year two and I love to share the successes stories of this project—especially the rare birds at the Marsh. Just ask me!

Fall is such a great time of year—sights, sounds, smells, tastes. I love it all! First of all, fall bird migration with fall plumage is a challenge every year (almost like relearning warblers every spring!) as well as the challenge of figuring out the plumage of young birds. But while we're out birding, it's also enjoyable to revel in late summer blooms of goldenrods and asters (and the myriad insects seeking sustenance on the flowers). In addition to viewing birds and colorful fall foliage, make sure you take the time to breathe in the remarkable scent of fall, its snappy, cooler air and listen to the crunchy leaves. Ooh, and don't forget to bring your fall snacks with you on outdoor adventures—fresh, crisp apples and pumpkin baked treats. What do you enjoy most about fall birding and outdoor adventures?

We have a superb lineup of speakers for our programs and field trips this year which your membership fees help fund. There are also several ways to help fund our programs including donations and Amazon Smile. Grab a Board member if you have any questions with this. As always, we love to hear your feedback to guide our future programming and other club affairs.

Finally, I hope you'll learn and grow with Blackbrook Audubon. Be sure to share your nature sightings and new information you learn along the way with us all.

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

Please note: The September/October issue of the Hushwing Herald is the only one we send via US mail to all 600+ of our members. For the other three issues per year, please sign up for email newsletters at www.blackbrookaudubon.org

NWF Habitat Steward Training with Mentor Marsh and Lake SWCD

Thursdays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9 & 16 6:30-9 pm AND
Saturdays, November 4 & 18 9 am-2 pm; \$35

Learn about pollinators, citizen science attracting wildlife, landscaping for wildlife, habitat restoration, native plants and seed collecting over a 24 hr. training program to teach you how to create wildlife habitat and turn around and teach others. This program is engaging, fun, highly informative and provides you with an opportunities to interact with natural resources professionals and others with a passion for wildlife.

Registration deadline: October 16, 2017

Questions and to register, contact Becky Donaldson
rdonaldson@cmnh.org

Now on Facebook!

Follow us on Facebook or give us a Like! Another way to keep up to date with what is happening at your friendly local neighborhood club.

Goldenrods of Northeast Ohio

By Jim Bissell, Steve McKee, and Judy Semroc

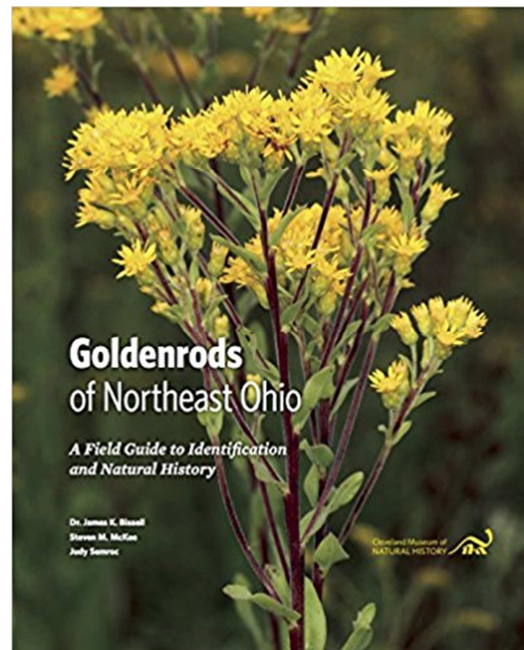
Illustrations by Lucy Williams

Goldenrods are the unsung heroes of Northeast Ohio's natural landscapes, occupying key roles in ecosystems across the region. This guide provides a comprehensive resource for understanding and identifying the 21 goldenrod species that grow in the Northeast Ohio region. Inside, you'll find:

- Meticulous drawings and stunning photography highlighting defining physical features and growth habits of each species
- A dichotomous key that is the definitive resource for identifying goldenrods in the field
- Information about the ecological significance of goldenrods

The authors of *Goldenrods of Northeast Ohio* are among Ohio's most respected professional botanists and naturalists. Their collaboration has resulted in a guide that offers the most up-to-date botanical information presented in an easy-to-use format. Purchase online at Amazon.com or with a check payable to CMNH for \$18 (includes tax and shipping) and mail to:

Botany Department
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
1 Wade Oval Drive
Cleveland, OH 44106



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: ___ \$30 Individual Membership
 ___ \$45 Family Membership
 ___ \$Additional amount

I do not wish to become a member of Friends, but would like to donate _____

Make Checks payable to
Blackbrook Audubon Society

Send to
Friends of Blackbrook
PO Box 1306
Mentor, OH 44061-1306



BLACKBROOK
Audubon Society

2017 – 2018 BLACKBROOK AUDUBON SOCIETY SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
Penitentiary Glen
Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH
Haeh Otis / Pleasant Valley
John Lillich

Saturday, September 30, 2017
Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.
Headlands / Veterans Park / Wake Robin
For info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
Big Creek - Geauga Park District
Chardon Twp., Ohio
Deer & Earthworm Impacts on Forests
Ryan Trimbath

Sunday, October 29, 2017
Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.
Lake Erie Bluffs / Erie Bluffs State Park, PA
For info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

Sunday, November 19, 2017
Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.
Headwaters Park / LaDue Reservoir
For more info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH
Mentor Marsh Restoration
David Kriska

December 2017
All Day
Christmas Bird Count
For info contact Dan Donaldson
Danook057@yahoo.com

Tuesday, January 16, 2018
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
Penitentiary Glen
Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH
Veery Song Research
Courtney Brennan

Saturday, January 20, 2018
Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.
Lorain Impoundment / Avon
For info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
Penitentiary Glen
Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH
Song Birds of Ohio - Gary Meszaros

Saturday, February 24, 2018
Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.
Amish Country / Hayes Road
For info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

Sunday, March 18, 2018
Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.
Columbia Reservation / Lorain County
For info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
Penitentiary Glen
Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH
Ohio Canal Natural History in 1834 – Joe Hannibal

Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
Penitentiary Glen
Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH
Alaska – Alan Studt

Saturday, April 28, 2018
Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.
Conneaut Harbor / Walnut Beach
For info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

May
Bird-a-thon
Check April Hushwing

Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.
The West Woods-Gauga Park District
Russell Twp, OH
Chris & Chad Saladin, Peregrine Falcons

Saturday, May 19, 2018
Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.
Lakeview Cemetery / Erie Street
For info contact Pat Morse
440-256-1404 x2101

Tuesday, June 19, 2018
Annual Potluck Picnic
Location: Betty Landing
Meet at 6:00 – eat at 6:30 p.m.
Walk to follow

CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED IMPORTANT BIRD AREA WALKS
Join us for bird walks at Chagrin River Park every 4th Sunday at 8 a.m. thru March 2018
3100 Reeves Rd, Willoughby, OH 44094; weather permitting.

CHAGRIN RIVER IMPORTANT BIRD AREA INITIATIVE

The Chagrin River Corridor Important Bird Area (IBA) recognizes the intrinsic and ecological value of the diverse natural habitats found within the Chagrin River watershed. The IBA represents portions of Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, and Portage counties. This includes over 71 miles of river/riparian habitat (encompassing 1000 acres.) The Chagrin River Corridor represents a nearly unbroken ribbon of forest, old field, and wetlands amid towns, suburbs, and farms. Some of Ohio's rarest birds call these beautiful places home. Winter Wrens and Dark-eyed Juncos breed in the cool hemlock ravines. Bobolinks can be found singing in the sky above grasslands. Long-distance migrants return year after year to the mature riparian forests – Cerulean Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanagers, Black-throated Green Warblers to name but a few of these remarkable birds.

Blackbrook Audubon formed an IBA committee to help increase the knowledge base of avian diversity and abundance over time across the annual cycle and representative habitats and to promote public awareness of the ecological value of the Chagrin River Corridor IBA. New committee members are always welcome.

Our Important Bird Area Walks continue on the 4th Sunday of each month at 8 AM at Chagrin River Park in Willoughby. Everyone who is interested in lending their eyes and ears should meet at 3100 Reeves Road, Willoughby, OH 44094. We will be in the main Reeves Road parking lot. All skill levels are welcome.

Anyone birding the Chagrin River Corridor on their own can help the initiative by entering their current sightings into eBird.com. If you are birding with a group, one person should enter the checklist and copy other group members. Each person can then edit his/her own list. See eBird.com for specific details. If you have old but not yet entered in eBird checklists from the Chagrin River watershed, we are interested in them!

Please contact Mary Ann at maryannelizebeth@aol.com if you have old checklists or want information about the IBA committee or bird walks.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Chagrin River Park that Gus Lanese took during our IBA walk on 8/28/16.

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Blackbrook Audubon every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. The Blackbrook Audubon Society is registered as one of the almost one million eligible 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations.

Thank you. We appreciate your support!

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

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

Becky Donaldson - President
Bruce Roberts - Editor

“The sharp thrill of seeing them [killdeer birds] reminded me of childhood happiness, gifts under the Christmas tree, perhaps, a kind of euphoria we adults manage to shut out most of the time. This is why I bird-watch, to recapture what it's like to live in this moment, right now.”

– Lynn Thomson, *Birding with Yeats: A Mother's Memoir*

