



The Hushwing **HERALD**

Volume 53 Number 4
April, May, June, 2018

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE: Tuesday, April 17, 2018
PROGRAM: "Majestic Alaska"
SPEAKERS: Alan Studt and Gale Franko
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center,
Lake Metroparks

Home to spectacular birds, wildlife, and habitats, experience the beauty and grandeur of Alaska through the photography of Alan Studt at our April program. Experience majestic Mt. Denali with a flight landing on the Ruth Glacier. See orca whales in beautiful Resurrection Bay and the stunning scenery of Kenai Fjords National Park. Enjoy a spectacular 26-gliacier cruise into pristine Prince William Sound.

Alan Studt works as a graphic designer and is a professional artist and photographer. Gale Franko is a registered nurse and the co-host of Channel 3's "In the Sky". Alan and Gale sing professionally in a duo called, "Desmond and Molly". Art, Music & Photos online at www.AlanStudt.com



DATE: Tuesday, May 15, 2018
PROGRAM: "A Look into the Lives of Ohio's
Peregrine Falcons"
SPEAKERS: Chris and Chad Saladin
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: The West Woods Nature Center,
Geauga Park District

Get to know the largest falcon in Ohio, recipient of one of the most successful recovery efforts seen in the eastern U.S. and the reportedly fastest bird in the world. This describes the Peregrine Falcon, a bird of prey that tonight's speakers monitored officially for the Ohio Division of Wildlife from the 1990s until 2015, when peregrines were removed from Ohio's endangered list.

Chris and Chad Saladin are a husband and wife team with a self-described obsessive passion for Peregrine Falcons. They continue to monitor various peregrine nest sites in Northeast Ohio and will share with us how these raptors demonstrate their dynamic personality, speed, and agility.

Research showed that DDE, a by-product of DDT, accumulated in the fatty tissue of female peregrines and disrupted their production of normal calcium layers in egg shell formation. Before WW II and the widespread use of DDT, there were about 40 pairs of Peregrine Falcons in the Midwestern United States, almost all nesting on cliffs. By 1968, the peregrine population was completely eradicated east of the Mississippi River. Peregrine Falcons were placed on the federal endangered species list in 1970. Following the U.S. ban of DDT as well as captive breeding and hacking of young falcons in Canada and the U.S. by multiple groups such as The Peregrine Fund, their numbers began to rebound.

Continued on Page 3.



ACTIVITIES

APRIL ACTIVITY

DATE: Saturday, April 28, 2018
ACTIVITY: Early Migrants Lakeshore Birding
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
PLACE: Meet at Conneaut Harbor

Our winter weather this year has been challenging to say the least, and most of us are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring migrants. Conneaut Harbor is a good area to watch for shorebirds and waterfowl, most in breeding plumage, as they make their way to northern breeding grounds. We will scout the open water and mudflats for these arrivals. Then we'll proceed to nearby Walnut Beach, a more inland area, to look for early land birds such as Hermit Thrush, kinglets and swallows to mention a few.

Remember to dress for the weather as this is a "rain or shine" event. Bring your binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. There is no restroom at the harbor, but you will pass a McDonald's in Conneaut if you need to stop. See you at the harbor! Need more info? Call Pat Morse at 440-256-1404 ext. 2101.

DIRECTIONS: Use 1207 Broad St., Conneaut, OH 44030 as your destination. Take I-90 EAST to exit #241 Conneaut, OH Rt. 7. Turn left (north) into town, then turn RIGHT (east) at Rt. 20 and go to traffic light, past the Post Office, and turn LEFT (north) onto Broad St. Follow to the end, go down the hill and turn left toward the Port Authority Office/Ramps/Beach. Then turn right toward the water and we'll meet in the parking area right in front of the water. It is approximately 55 miles from Mentor and takes an hour or so to arrive.

News Flash: As of the first week of April, we have one confirmed eaglet in the Mentor Marsh nest and two in the Eastlake nest!

MAY ACTIVITY

DATE: Saturday, May 19, 2018
ACTIVITY: Spring Migration in Quiet Places
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
PLACE: Meet at Lake View Cemetery

SPECIAL NOTE: Please RSVP for this field trip to pmorse@lakemetroparks.com or 440-256-1404 x2101.

Cemeteries are often great places to find birds, especially those in urban areas where there are few green spaces for migrants to rest and fuel up. We'll begin by exploring Lake View Cemetery's 285 acres of rolling hills, which 43 species of breeding birds call home. Then we'll caravan to the Erie Street Cemetery near Progressive Field and perhaps Calvary Cemetery near Garfield Heights, too. From there, local reports of interesting migrant sightings will determine the rest of our day's adventure. As always, dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. For more information, call Pat Morse at 440-256-1404 ext. 2101.

DIRECTIONS: Use 12316 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106 as your destination. Lake View Cemetery is located near the Coventry and Little Italy communities of Cleveland's near east side. The public restrooms at Lake View may not be open that early, so plan ahead on your trip into town. Please park at President Garfield's monument.





June Picnic

Date: Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Program: Annual Potluck Picnic

Time: Meet at 6:00 p.m. – Eat at 6:30 p.m.

Place: Beaty Landing, Painesville

The 2018 edition of Blackbrook's annual potluck picnic will be held on Tuesday, June 19th at Beaty Landing (Lake MetroParks) located at 543 East Walnut Street in Painesville.

We will gather at 6:00 P.M. and begin eating at 6:30 P.M. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. You should also bring your own preferred beverage. A walk will follow dinner.

We have reserved the new shelter and there are indoor restrooms. There are only about 25 parking places in the main parking lot and we often have a large crowd; so if anyone is able to car pool it would help.

To reach Beaty Landing, exit Rt. 2 in Painesville. Turn left on Richmond St. for about 1 ½ miles. Turn left on East Prospect St. (Rt. 20) for ½ mile and then right on N. State St. Follow that for a little over ½ mile and then bear left on Bank St. Turn left on East Walnut St. There are two entrances to the park. The older entrance is partway down the hill. Do not use that. Go to the lower entrance (before the bridge) at the bottom of the hill. Turn left into the park.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Continued from Page 1: Peregrine Falcon Program

Peregrine Falcons did not historically nest in Ohio. However, a pair successfully fledged two juveniles from a nest on the Commodore Perry Motor Inn in downtown Toledo in 1988. This prompted Ohio to join the Midwest Peregrine Falcon Restoration Project. The Ohio Division of Wildlife hacked 46 juvenile peregrines in Cincinnati, Akron, and Columbus. The Division

also provided safe nesting structures, organized volunteer groups to monitor nest sites and managed nesting pairs who occurred in new locations. When possible, nestlings were fitted with leg bands and blood samples taken at three weeks of age for genetic evaluation and analysis of the level of toxic substances. Banding data and blood samples were sent to the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center.

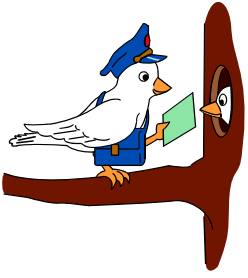
Peregrine Falcons were removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999 and were downlisted to threatened on the Ohio endangered species list in 2008. They were delisted entirely in 2015. In 2016, the Division changed monitoring protocols for the species: it no longer bands chicks at nesting sites, and it monitors only a subset of nests every other year. Ohio had approximately 24 nesting pairs in 2016.

Peregrine means *wanderer* in Latin. Chris and Chad "wander" near and far to keep track of peregrine families. In 2012 they created a Facebook page called, "C&C's Ohio Peregrine Page" where they write about and post photos of local peregrines. They've had photographs on exhibit at the Midwest Peregrine Society's Bell Museum traveling exhibit and some photos published in the former "Birder's World" magazine, The Cleveland Bird Calendar, and in several editions of the Hawk Migration of North America Journal.

The Saladins participated in rehabilitation work with peregrines at the Medina Raptor Center, including rescuing injured raptors. Now that the "official" monitoring of Peregrine Falcons has ceased, Chris and Chad continue to observe and study them and hope to provide assistance to this specialized raptor as needed.



Courtesy of Chad and Chris Saladin, 2017



FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

By Becky Donaldson

Do you eBird? Do you iNaturalist? Both are great citizen science projects that are easy and fun to use and help you document what you see. Do you want to and don't know how? Grab me at a meeting or a bird walk and I'll help you get started!

From SciStarter.com: Science is our most reliable system at gaining new knowledge and citizen science is the public involvement in inquiry and discovery of new scientific knowledge. 1. Anyone can participate, 2. Participants use standard protocol so data can be combined and is high quality, 3. Data can help scientists come to real conclusions, and 4. Wide community of scientists and volunteers work together and both the public and scientists have access to the data.

April 27-30, the greater Cleveland area (includes Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties) is participating in an iNaturalist challenge called the City Nature Challenge. It began in 2016 with Los Angeles challenging San Francisco and now in 2018 has 60 cities worldwide competing to see who can document biodiversity by making the most observations of nature, find the most species and engage the most people in the 2018 City Nature Challenge.

Go science!

Becky

Birdathon 2018

Birdathon 2018 will be held from May 12 to 20, 2018, and is a major fund raiser for Blackbrook Audubon Society supplying funds for Audubon Adventures provided to students visiting Mentor Marsh and through the Nature Scopes program at the Geauga Park District.

As per usual, birders will form a team, choose their 24 hour 'window' and try and see how many species of birds they can tally during that time period. They collect donations for their efforts which support Birdathon. An easy way to do this is to join a walk or hike during that time period and use the birds they see with others on that walk.

More information will be available at our April meeting or you can contact Nancy Dilgren at angydy@earthlink.net. Please join us!

We also encourage people to support our efforts with donations to Birdathon even if they do not wish to go birding. See any board member at one of our programs or field trips or mail a donation to Blackbrook Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1306, Mentor, OH 44061-1306.

Spring Bird Walks

It's almost time for our annual Spring Bird Walk series. Hope you can join our Blackbrook Audubon sponsored site to bird the areas at the north end of Mentor Marsh, Headlands Beach State Park and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve this spring.

Walks are the last three Sundays in April and the first three Sundays in May and begin at 7:30 a.m. and usually last a few hours (or however long it takes to bird this area!). We meet at Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve's Shipman Pond parking lot on Headlands Rd.

Contact Becky or Dan Donaldson at rdonaldson@cmnh.org or dan.donaldson2@gmail.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you out there!

Nominating Committee Report

Every spring, the members of the Blackbrook Audubon Society hold an election for the four elected offices on our Board of Directors. The nominees were announced at our March 20th meeting. If you would like to nominate someone as an officer or perhaps join a committee yourself, now is the ideal time. The election will be held at our April 17th meeting. The following people have been suggested by the Nominating Committee:

President:	Becky Donaldson
Vice President:	Debbi Schuster
Secretary:	Trevor Wearstler
Treasurer:	Mary Ann Wagner

Headlands Dunes Bird Sit

Blackbrook Audubon's version of a "Big Sit" will be Sunday, May 20th beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Sit, held on the last Sunday of the Audubon spring bird walks, has become a popular tradition. Come to the picnic area near the parking lot at the far eastern side of the Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve anytime after 8:30 a.m. We'll provide coffee and other beverages. You should bring your own chair and binoculars, and we'll sit and watch birds come to nearby shrubs and trees.

This is a perfect activity for people to enjoy a group birding experience but who may not be able to walk or stand for extended periods of time. The entrance to the new handicapped accessible boardwalk to the beach is not far from where we'll be sitting. The restrooms at the park are being remodeled but should reopen in plenty of time for spring birding season.

Headlands Dunes is a haven for warblers before they migrate across Lake Erie in April and May. Bring a snack to share if you want and stay for as little or as long as you are able. The birders starting from Zimmerman Trail at 7:30 a.m. will be joining us about 9 a.m. You are welcome to walk along the fisherman's trail and out to the beach with them if you like.

Bring an umbrella in case of rain and dress warmly or bring a blanket if 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 (P-1) for the State Nature Preserve. Look for a group of people sitting or standing near a picnic table displaying the Blackbrook Audubon banner.



Lake Metroparks Programs – April and May Highlites

14th Annual Hummingbird Sighting Contest

Guess when the first hummingbird will be spotted at the Penitentiary Glen Nature Center! If your guess is closest to the date and time (between 9 am and 5 pm) that the first hummer is spotted at PG, you will win a hummingbird feeding station. All entries must be in before May 1. Enter your guess at the Nature Center or at lakemetroparks.com. Call 440-256-1404 ext. 0 for information.

Bird Walks - FREE

Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. New birders are welcome!

Saturday, April 14, 7:30-9:30 am at Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Wednesday, April 25, 8-10 am at Veterans Park

Thursday, May 17, 8-10 am at Chagrin River Park – Reeves Rd.

Saturday, May 26, 7:30-9:30 am at Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Family Birding Class– New!

\$10 per family

Learn some of the basics to get your family started in the great activity of birdwatching, followed by a short bird walk.

Sunday, May 6, 9-11 am at Penitentiary Glen

Birding Bus Trip for Families– New!

\$25 ages 18 & older, \$5 ages 5-17, ages 4 and younger FREE (all children with adult)

Hop on our bus and let us take you to Painesville Township Park pier, Lake Erie Bluffs and more!

We have binoculars to borrow. Pre-registration is required for everyone due to limited seating.

Saturday, May 19, 8 am-1 pm, depart from Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Check online at www.lakemetroparks.com for further details and more great local birding programs!





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 Blackbrook Audubon Society.

Please tell your friends and family. We appreciate your support! You can also find a link at our website to go directly to AmazonSmile. Check it out at www.blackbrookaudubon.org.....

Look for Blackbrook Audubon at Earth Day Events

We will have a table at each location below. All three events are free.

If you can help staff the Blackbrook table for any amount of time, please contact us at blackbrookaud@aol.com

City of Mentor Celebrate Earth Day

Saturday, April 21 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Eleanor B Garfield Park, 7967 Mentor Ave, Mentor

Learn how to live your greenest, most sustainable lifestyle. You'll have the opportunity to make a rain barrel, play the Can-Kruncher game, make a bird feeder from a water bottle, and other great upcycled projects. There will also be food trucks, music, and local vendors! Naturalists from the City of Mentor and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will be on hand to lead hands-on activities and answer questions. For information call Bonnie Rice, Keep Mentor Beautiful Executive Director at 440-974-5780 or email at rice@cityofmentor.com.



Lake Metroparks

Earth Day 2018

Sunday, April 22 Noon - 4 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Theme - Weather

- Eco-fair with local conservation organizations
- Earth Day Marketplace with locally-made and fair-trade products
- Free tree for each family
- Wildlife programs
- Games and crafts
- Miniature train rides 1:00 - 3:00 weather permitting

Gauga Park District

Earth Day Extravaganza

Sunday, April 22 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The West Woods

Theme: Your Backyard

- Talks on streams, organic lawn care, coyotes, plant giveaways
- "Live Birds of Prey Show: Ohio's Raptors" presented by Harvey Webster of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Bird mist netting / banding
- Garlic mustard pull contest (invasive plant)
- Amphibian & reptile show-n-tell
- A nature craft - seed bombs
- The Hunger Squad food truck



Trevor's Tips

Greeting Fellow Birders,

Now that spring is here and we are starting to see many more birds arriving in Northeast Ohio, we also start to see more birders out and about. This is a great time to review some mindful birding practices. While birding in Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula counties and beyond; we are ambassadors of the hobby and our obsession. Therefore, we need to respect all birds, their habitat, and other bird watchers. And, more often than not, all three of these elements come into play while birding.

Respect the birds' territories and do not get too close. We do not need to trample sensitive habitat to get a closer look at a bird. Besides, that is why we have binoculars. Plus, destroying habitat is counterproductive to Audubon's conservation goals. In addition to being mindful of bird habitat, it is also never okay to trespass onto property while birding. Always ask permission first.

One of the best parts of spring is hearing bird songs, but only when they are coming from the birds themselves. Avoid the use of audio playbacks and pishing calls. They can distract birds that are defending territory and can pull them away from nesting and feeding duties. It can also be frustrating for other birders in the area. Use headphones if you need to confirm a bird call.

Birds are not always the most cooperative in letting everyone have the best look. Take the time to help other birders see the bird with simple descriptions of the bird's location. Do not harass birds with the use of a LASER pointer. Please be a patient birder.

For a more comprehensive guide; go to <http://mindfulbirding.org/images/mindful/pdfs/complete.pdf>



Mentor Marsh Bald Eagle Fest, Sunday, May 6, 12-5 p.m.

Join us for our 9th annual celebration of our nesting Bald Eagles!

Mentor Marsh Nature Center
5185 Corduroy Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060.

Reservations **required** for hikes. Join in hands-on activities to learn about eagles and watch live animal programs. Food is available for purchase. . Reservations can be made by calling the Nature Center at 440-257-0777 or emailing rdonaldson@cmnh.org .

How to Join Blackbrook Audubon Society

Many of you reading this are already members, but if you know someone who would like to join, here are the particulars.

Blackbrook is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Friends of Blackbrook

Audubon

Please check one:

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

_____ \$30 Individual Membership

_____ \$45 Household Membership

_____ \$ Additional Donation

Hushwing via Snail Mail

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Check payable to: Blackbrook Audubon Society

Mail to: Friends Of Blackbrook

PO Box 1306

Mentor, OH 44061-1306

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
Mary Ann Wagner – Assistant Editor

“Do you ne'er think what wondrous beings these?
Do you ne'er think who made them, and who taught
The dialect they speak, where melodies
Alone are the interpreters of thought?
Whose household words are songs in many keys,
Sweeter than instrument of man e'er caught!”

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW, *Tales of a Wayside Inn*

