



The Hushwing **HERALD**

Volume 51 Number 4
February/March, 2017

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2017
PROGRAM: Native Bee Identification
SPEAKER: Denise Ellsworth
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Many gardeners know a honey bee when they see one, but what about the other 400+ species of bees that call Ohio home? This program will focus on some of the most common bees, including their fascinating biology and life histories. Why do bumble bees vibrate their wing muscles to the tone of a middle C? How uncommon are queens in the bee world? Why do leafcutting bees cut discs from leaves and petals? And how important are these native bees to pollination and biodiversity? Participants will leave with an appreciation for our native bees and a handy bee ID card.

Our speaker, Denise Ellsworth, directs the honey bee and native pollinator education program through the Ohio State University Department of Entomology on the Wooster campus. In this outreach position, Denise supports and teaches beekeepers, farmers, gardeners and others across the state through a variety of workshops, webinars, written materials and electronic resources. In addition to chasing bees, Denise enjoys gardening, yoga, photography and hiking the towpath trail along the Tuscarawas River with her husband and dogs.



Continued on Page 3.

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
PROGRAM: A Cauldron of Bats
SPEAKER: Marilyn Levand
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Penitentiary Glen Nature Center

Bats are often misunderstood as something to fear because of the many myths surrounding them. The truth is that bats help humans by eating many insect pests that damage crops or bite people. Discover the mystery of the bat as we learn all about this amazing animal, the only mammal that has the power of flight. Our featured guest will be Echo, our big brown bat Animal Ambassador.



You are invited to bring donation items for the Wildlife Center. Some of their priority items are:

- Aquariums—10, 15, 20 gallon (with lids)
- Hoses (preferably non-kink, commercial)
- Nozzles (preferably metal twist)
- Small digital scale—grams
- Gift cards:
 - Petco
 - Pet Supplies Plus
 - Marc's
 - Lowe's
 - Tractor Supply Co.

For a more detailed list, visit lakemetroparks.com and search Wildlife Center.

ACTIVITIES

February Activity

DATE: Saturday, February 25, 2017
 ACTIVITY: Lake Erie Shoreline
 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
 PLACE: Lake & Cuyahoga County shoreline

Winter can be a great time to see a good variety of gulls and waterfowl. We'll start in Fairport Harbor then work our way along the shoreline guided by areas of open water. Be sure to dress warmly as the lakefront can be VERY cold. Bring your spotting scope if you have one.

Directions: We'll meet in Fairport Harbor along the river. In Painesville, follow Richmond Street north; it turns into High Street. Do not follow High Street to the right into town, just stay straight on Water Street which follows the river. Parking lot is at the end. For more information, call Pat at (440) 256-1404 ext. 2101.

MEETINGS OR HIKES CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER

How do I know if a meeting or hike is canceled? Blackbrook Audubon is now registered with the I-Alert system that is seen on WKYC-TV 3, wkyc.com; Newsradio WTAM 1100 AM, wtam.com; as well as our website:

www.blackbrookaudubon.org



March Activity

DATE: Saturday, March 25, 2017
 ACTIVITY: Presque Isle field trip
 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
 PLACE: Presque Isle State Park - Erie, PA

Presque Isle State Park is an area rich in diversity with many rare sightings and has always been a popular destination for our field trips. We'll be watching for waterfowl continuing their northward migration, and hope for some early songbirds on this very early spring day. Please come prepared for the weather and bring your scope if you have one.

Directions: Presque Isle is about a 90 minute drive from Mentor. Follow I-90 to Pennsylvania exit Rt. 832 (Sterrettania Rd.). Turn left (north) and follow it right into Presque Isle State Park. We'll meet at the first pull-off on the right side after you enter the park. For more information or directions, call Pat at (440) 256-1404 ext. 2101.



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is hard at work regarding nominees to represent the Blackbrook Audubon Society in our 2017-18 season. If you would like to nominate someone as an officer or perhaps join a committee, now is an ideal time. The slate of officer nominees will be published in our March meeting email reminder and announced on March 21st. The election will be held at our April 18th meeting.

Bees

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Denise earned a Master of Science from the Ohio State University, School of Natural Resources in Columbus, Ohio, with an emphasis in Environmental Education (1994) and a Bachelor of Science from the Ohio State University, Department of Plant Pathology, in Columbus, Ohio with Minors in Art History and Italian (1992). She is a former garden writer for the Akron Beacon Journal and an educator in many areas of entomology and horticulture, including plant pests, integrated pest management, plant identification, and botany. Her areas of emphasis are in bee health and integrated pest management, pollinator identification, conservation and habitat enhancement, and plant and insect phenology

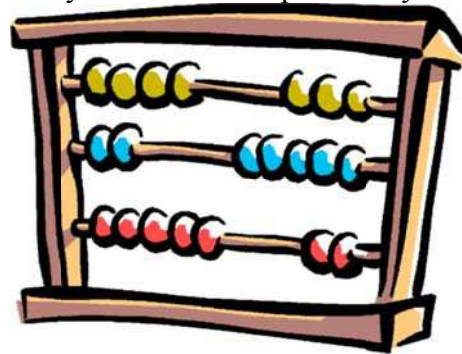


CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

117th Christmas Bird Count December 31, 2016

The morning of Blackbrook's Christmas Bird Count on New Year's Eve dawned cloudy and windy but thankfully dry. Thirty volunteers counted 60 species. Some of the species observed were a Merlin at Lake Erie Bluffs, Carolina and Winter Wrens at Veteran's Park and a Northern Mockingbird and American Kestrel near Tyler Boulevard.

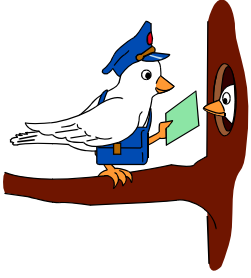
Once again "thank you" to all who helped with this year's count! Hope to see you all next year.



Important Bird Areas (IBA)

Blackbrook's Chagrin River Corridor IBA committee took a winter break. We'll be gearing back up to heavily monitor the spring migration at Chagrin River Park and possibly Chapin Forest. Please let us know if you would like to help with this important citizen's science project. We will hold a brief demonstration on how to enter information into eBird.com at 6:30 PM on April 18th immediately before our program at the Holden Arboretum. Look for more details in the next issue of *The Hushwing Herald*.

During February and March, our Chagrin River Park IBA Walks continue on the 4th Sunday of the month at 8 AM. The park is located at 3100 Reeves Road, Willoughby, OH 44094. Meet at the Reeves Road main parking lot.



FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

By Mary Ann Wagner
maryannelizabeth@aol.com

Cleveland Metroparks retired chief naturalist Robert D. Hinkle, PhD has been writing an occasional blog on nature as well as on activities within the Chagrin River Watershed Important Bird Area for the Blackbrook Audubon website and our Facebook page. Bob writes much more eloquently than I do and his blog is well worth reading. From time to time, people disagree with one another, but that's where the conversation begins. Sometimes we become so caught up in what we plan to say next, we don't really listen to what the other person is saying. Be sure to share thoughts and opinions with mutual respect. As we try to convince others to share our viewpoint, sometimes we have to agree to disagree.

What are you doing to make our world a better place? Everyone has the ability to do something. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle has become a habit for many of us. Donate your time or funds to a cause. Educate yourself on issues. Participate in citizen's science projects meaningful to you. Write or call your elected officials. Send letters to the editors of newspapers. Plant native trees, shrubs and flowers for native wildlife.

We not only need to reconnect kids with nature, we need to reach adults too. Blackbrook Audubon now has business cards with our logo and website address. Carry one with you, and if you should strike up a conversation with someone who professes interest in birds and nature, please pass along our business card. Tell a friend or neighbor about the Blackbrook Audubon Society. Better yet, invite the friend or neighbor to attend a Blackbrook program or field trip with you. To quote from Bob's blogs, "local Audubon chapters, should be, can be, on the forefront of change. Our Earth is an amazing place, more amazing than we can ever understand, and we have been tasked as stewards. Let us be determined and diligent in our tasks."

THE UNIVERSAL LAWS OF BIRDING

Sacrificial Lamb Law - The bird will be seen by others only after you, as the sacrificial lamb, leave. (*unknown*)

Sitting in the Woods Corollary - The bird will be seen by others only after you have snuck into the woods to take care of biological responsibilities. (*Jim Frazier*)

Hoffman's Law - You may look for a particular bird for 20 years without finding it, but once you DO find it you find them everywhere. They turn up in your driveway, on your porch, EVERYwhere. They suddenly become robin-like in their numbers. (*Carolyn Hoffman*)

Cates' Arbor Advisory - Never look up into a tree with your mouth open. (*Bob Cates*)

Elizabeth's Consideration - The bird that you struggle through difficult terrain, endure multiple injuries and screw up your schedule for, will be waiting for you above your car in the parking lot. (*Elizabeth Miller?*)

Weather Advisory - Mark Twain reportedly said of the Northeast weather: If you don't like it, wait a few minutes and it will change. Birders say: When you go out in the morning, the wind will be in your face. No matter when you come back in, however, the wind will still be in your face. (*Bruce Roberts*)



How to Join Blackbrook Audubon Society

Many of you reading this are already members of Blackbrook. But for those of you who aren't and would like to join, there are two ways you can do so. You can join the National Audubon Society and if you live in our territory - Lake, Geauga or Ashtabula Counties - you will be assigned to this chapter. Or, if you prefer not to belong to the national organization, you can join Friends of Blackbrook as a Chapter member. (See below) We are a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible. And if you wish to belong to National Audubon and also provide additional support to Blackbrook, you can do both.

May 7--Celebrate Bald Eagles at the Eagle Fest at Mentor Marsh Nature Center



Help us celebrate the 8th year of nesting Bald Eagles at Mentor Marsh. Mentor Marsh's Eagle Fest is to be held from 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, May 7 at the Mentor Marsh Nature Center at 5185 Corduroy Road in Mentor. Visit mini-stations to learn more about eagles and take part in hands-on activities-- build a mock-eagle nest, hold a replica skull in your hands, learn more about bald eagles and bird biology. Other activities for the fest include live animal programs, conservation exhibitors, kids' activities, face painting, silent and chance auction fundraiser, food vendors and art/crafts vendors. No registration is required to attend open house activities at the Nature Center. All activities are rain or shine.

Register for one of four Naturalist led hikes to overlook the bald eagle nest from our trails at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.-- **Registration for hikes is required.** Spotting scopes will be provided. Binoculars available for borrowing or bring your own. Trails may be muddy this time of year, so wearing footwear that can get muddy is recommended. Space is limited for hikes. To register for a bald eagle hike or for more information, call the Mentor Marsh Nature Center at 440-257-0777, email rdonaldson@cmnh.org or message us at the Mentor Marsh Facebook page.

The Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve's mission promotes stewardship of Mentor Marsh for its environmental and aesthetic value and provides educational, scientific and recreational opportunities for visitors to the unique ecosystem and interactive nature preserve. Mentor Marsh is an interpretative nature preserve of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the State of Ohio (ODNR) Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Visit the Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve web site at www.cmnh.org, search for Mentor Marsh or find Mentor Marsh on Facebook.

Friends of Blackbrook Audubon

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 _____

Email address _____

Amount: ___ \$25 ___ \$30
 ___ \$40 ___ \$50 and over

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.



What is 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.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

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.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, 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.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

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. We 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.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

Raffle Results

Several birdfeeders and birdhouses, plus a bat house, books and decorative items went home with lucky winners of our November ticket raffle. Blackbrook Audubon raised \$153 toward our commitment to purchase Audubon Adventures for school classrooms. Thank you for your participation!



Volunteer Opportunity: Join Mentor Marsh's volunteer group in monitoring our eagle nest. Requires monitoring a minimum of 1 hour a week. Training and equipment will be provided. Contact Becky Donaldson, Mentor Marsh Naturalist at rdonaldson@cmnh.org for more information

Get Geared Up For the Great Backyard Bird Count!

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can now participate from anywhere in the world!

It's free, fun, and easy. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share.

In 2016, Great Backyard Bird Count participants in more than 130 countries counted 5,689 species of birds on more than 162,000 checklists!



Northern Cardinals by Michele Black, Ohio, 2015 GBBC

During the count, you can explore what others are seeing in your area or around the world. Share your bird photos by entering the photo contest, or enjoy images pouring in from across the globe. New in 2016: you can add photos and sounds to your checklist

The 20th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2017. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest educational and promotional resources.

Restoring Endangered Seabirds: Lessons From Puffins & Terns

Dr. Stephen Kress, Vice-President for Bird Conservation, National Audubon Society and Director, Seabird Restoration Program & Hog Island Camp will be presenting an Explorer Series lecture at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on Friday, April 28, 2017.

In a world where humans have decimated seabird populations, a beacon of hope shines from recent efforts to restore puffin and tern populations on Maine islands. Learn how methods for restoring puffins and terns are helping rare seabird species worldwide and how new tracking technology is revealing ocean habitats that are essential to seabird conservation.

Doors open 5:30 PM. Enjoy complimentary light appetizers, a cash bar and live music. Museum exhibits, galleries and store are open. Meals available for purchase at Exploration: A Zack Bruell Restaurant. Discover more about the Museum at the welcome table hosted by the Women's Committee. Dr. Kress' presentation begins in the auditorium at 7 PM, followed by Q&A.

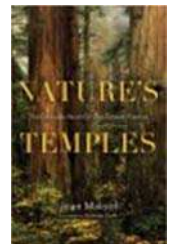
Advance tickets cost \$12 until 11:59 PM April 27th; \$14 the day of the lecture. Special event parking rates apply: \$8 in the Museum garage. Visit cmnh.org for more details.

New Nature Titles at Your Local Libraries:



Native plants of the Midwest: a comprehensive guide to the best 500 species for the garden

Nature's temples : the complex world of old-growth forests



Giraffes : Africa's gentle giants
DVD from PBS Nature

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

Mary Ann Wagner - President
Bruce Roberts - Editor

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

Henry David Thoreau

