



# The Hushwing *HERALD*

*Blackbrook Audubon Society*

*Volume 51 Number 1*

*September/October, 2016*

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

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 20, 2016  
**PROGRAM:** Bird Conservation  
**SPEAKER:** Stan Searles  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Penitentiary Glen Nature Center  
(Lake Metroparks)

For over 47 years, Stan Searles has been working with wildlife and conservation programs around the globe. He has worked on every continent except Australia (he will get there). He is currently Executive Director of Global Conservation Connections, a nonprofit conservation foundation, and is a consultant to the National Audubon Society for conservation initiatives in Ohio.

Stan will give us an overview of some successful avian conservation programs, discuss some areas of current concern and describe some of the ongoing projects concerning endangered species.



Stan Searles at work  
in Thailand

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
**PROGRAM:** If You Build It, They Will Come  
**SPEAKERS:** Tami Gingrich and Linda Gilbert  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** The West Woods Nature Center  
Geauga Park District

Field naturalists Tami Gingrich and Linda Gilbert will share their photos and videos from past and present bird research at Frohring Meadows Park since its opening in 2008. This park has attracted a wide variety of bird life due to its prairie and wetland habitat and the program will cover shorebird/waterbird surveys and rail banding research.

In 1996, Paul Frohring, a pioneer in the development of nutritional and medical supplements, donated the land that surrounded his Bainbridge farmhouse to Geauga Park District. Much of the property was once farmland; soybeans, oats, corn, and wheat were harvested here. In 1999, Geauga Park District entered into a 50-year lease with Chagrin Falls for 122 acres adjacent to the Frohring property.

Located in the Chagrin River Watershed, Frohring Meadows is a 298-acre park that features a 100-acre prairie, and trails through the woodlands dominated by red and sugar maples; beech, black cherry, tulip, red oak, ash, and hickory trees also grow there. Vernal pools host a variety of life including several species of amphibians.

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

Note: Blackbrook Audubon will visit Frohring Meadows on October 22. See the details on page 2.





## ACTIVITIES

### SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY

**Date:** Sunday, September 25, 2016  
**Activity:** Important Bird Area – Chagrin River  
**Time:** 8:00 AM  
**Meet:** Meet at Chagrin River Park

(Lake Metroparks) Reeves Road main parking lot  
 Address: 3100 Reeves Rd., Willoughby 44094

The Chagrin River is a highway for migrating birds, and the flight south has begun! We will join the monthly Audubon bird walk that meets the 4th Sunday of each month at this location, which is part of the Chagrin River Corridor Important Bird Area. Our route will follow the easy gravel trails in search of birds in the many habitats of this park, from the river's edge to open fields to shrubby woodlands. Warblers in fall plumage will be a challenge as usual, so come prepared to learn and share ID tips. For details, call Pat Morse at (440) 256-1404 x2101.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Route 2 to the Lost Nation Road exit. Proceed north towards Lake Erie. First light is Reeves road. Turn left onto Reeves and proceed 0.4 mile where you will find the main parking lot.

### Spring Birdathon results:

Thans you all for your time and funds! We raised \$855.00 this year to help fund our *Audubon Adventures* program.

This program introduces young people, their families, and their teachers to the fundamental principles by which the natural world functions. The lessons that *Audubon Adventures* teaches offer an exciting, science-based exploration of those principles at work anchored in nonfiction reading and outdoor and classroom activities that help kids to care for the planet by helping birds and other wildlife.



### OCTOBER ACTIVITY

**Date:** Saturday, October 22, 2016  
**Activity:** Fall Migration  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Meet:** Meet at Frohring Meadows

(Geauga Park District)  
 Address: 16780 Savage Rd., Bainbridge 44023

With fall migration in full swing, Frohring Meadows is a favorite birding hotspot. This park offers unique habitats – the low-lying, wet sedge meadows attract sandpipers, plovers and other shorebirds and the tall grass prairie hosts a variety of sparrows and other songbirds. We'll be nearing the end of shorebird migration and should keep our eyes to the skies for raptors in flight. In recent years numbers of migrating short-eared owls have been reported here. For details, call Pat Morse at (440) 256-1404 x2101.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Cleveland and points east: Travel 77 S until Exit 156 at I-480 E. Keep left to take I-480N E via Exit 26. Keep right to take US-422 E. Take the OH-306 exit toward Bainbridge/Chagrin roads. Turn left onto Chillicothe/OH-306. Turn left onto Chagrin Road/CR-9. Turn right onto Savage Road and continue 0.8 miles. Park is on the left.

From Erie and points north: Take I-90 W until Exit 200 at OH-44. Turn left at OH-44 toward Chardon. Turn right onto Girdled Road/CR-202. Turn left onto Auburn Road/CR-409, and follow Auburn Road. Turn right onto Kinsman Road/OH-87. Turn left onto Chillicothe Road/OH-306. Turn right onto East Washington Street/CR-606. Turn left onto Savage Road and continue 0.4 miles. Park is on the right.

From Warren and points west: Take I-422 W until Bainbridge/Chardon roads exit to OH-306. Turn right onto Chillicothe Road/OH-306. Turn left onto Chagrin Road/CR-9. Turn right onto Savage Road and continue 0.8 miles. Park is on the left.

## October program continued:

A low-lying, wet sedge meadow habitat serves as an important feeding stop for migrating shorebirds such as plovers and sandpipers. Aquatic invertebrates living in the shallow water provide ample food for hungry migrants.

The abandoned farm fields have become an ideal setting for a special habitat creation project featuring a tall grass prairie, a habitat that might have been found in parts of Ohio when early settlers roamed the territory. The prairie includes warm

season grass species such as Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Switch Grass. There



are a number of flowering plants associated with this habitat, such as Purple Coneflower, Blazing Star, New England Aster, and Mountain Mint.

### 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 15<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.

## THE MESSENGER

Explore humanity's deep connection to songbirds, and what their struggle may be telling us.

WHERE: Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Drive, Cleveland OH 44106

WHEN: 9/28/2016 at 6:00 PM

PRICES: CMNH Members are Free; Non-members are Free with general admission

The Messenger, a new documentary by award-winning filmmaker Su Rynard, chronicles the struggle of songbirds worldwide to survive in turbulent environmental conditions brought about by humans. The demise of songbirds could signify the crash of ecosystems globally, akin to the disappearance of honey bees and the melting of the glaciers.

Find out what's killing our songbirds, and what can be done about it. As in ancient times, songbirds may once again be carrying a message to humans—one that we ignore at our own peril.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is one of the few venues in Ohio screening this film. An environmental festival featuring local conservation organizations kicks off the evening at 6pm. The film screening begins at 7. This event is included with general admission, only \$8/person after 5pm Wednesdays!





## FROM the DESK of the PRESIDENT

By Mary Ann Wagner

To borrow a phrase from Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". So many of our Blackbrook Audubon family have experienced major health crises within the past few months. Perhaps you've faced your own challenges or shared the experience with a loved one. Did an appreciation of nature help you persevere? What are some of your favorite glimpses of nature that brighten your days? Watching a bird splash joyfully in a birdbath or a butterfly flitting from flower to flower? Perhaps you prefer a walk in the woods, listening to the birds sing? Seeing the power of dark storm clouds rolling in and the hope and promise of a rainbow after the storm? There are many ways nature can refresh and energize. Blackbrook's motto is "Spreading the Love of Nature in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties." I hope the love of nature will help you weather whatever personal storms you face.

After a hot and mostly dry summer, fall is here with cool, crisp days. The kids are back in school and the holidays will be here before we know it! Please keep Blackbrook Audubon in mind as you do your fall cleaning. We are always happy to accept donated bird and nature themed items for our annual November ticket raffle. The proceeds help us purchase Audubon Adventures for school classrooms. We usually have books and pictures. Some years we have had birdhouses or birdfeeders or figurines. It's always fun to see the variety of items we will have available for people to win.

Enjoy the color of the changing leaves and cheer on the Monarch butterflies and fall migrating birds as they pass through our area heading to their winter homes. It's an urban myth that you'll discourage hummingbirds from migrating if you leave your feeders up. Our Ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate in response to the shorter length of daylight and need nectar to power their

journey to Mexico and Central America. Keep those feeders up throughout September.

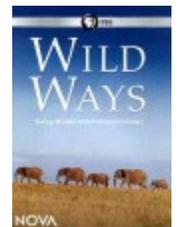
Blackbrook Audubon invites you to get out and experience Northern Ohio this fall. Please see the details elsewhere in this Hushwing.

## Check out these new DVDs at your local library



**American eagle** - from the PBS show Nature. In the 1960s, this symbol of the United States became an emblem of environmental degradation.

Following their protection as an endangered species, bald eagles have come roaring back. PBS also produced this program with the same title in 2008. Both were narrated by F. Murray Abraham. 60 mins.



**Wild ways** - From Yellowstone to the Yukon, to Southern Africa's elephant highways stretching across five nations, explore how newly established wildlife corridors may offer a glimmer of hope to some of our planet's most cherished, but endangered, species. PBS show Nova, 60 mins.

**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. 10, 8-10 a.m., Lake Erie Bluffs-Lane Rd.

Sat, Sept. 24, 8-10 a.m., Penitentiary Glen

Sat, Oct. 8, 8-10 a.m., Lake Erie Bluffs-Lane Rd.

Sat, Nov. 19, 8-10 a.m., Lake Erie Bluffs-Lane Rd.

### Following the Lake Erie Birding Trail

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

Bird movement along Lake Erie can be spectacular in the fall. We will work the lakefront to find the best waterfowl spots, such as Lake Erie Bluffs, while searching for other interesting birds.

Sat, Oct. 22, 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>



We note the passing of Clyde Robert "Bob" McCullough on July 17, 2016. Bob was a volunteer for the Geauga Park District and was later appointed as a Park Board Director. He saw the park district grow from two parks to 18 public parks during his 48 years there. He was an active birder who organized and compiled the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count for many years. We will miss our friend and fellow birder.



## 2016 – 2017 BLACKBROOK AUDUBON SOCIETY SCHEDULE

For more information visit [blackbrookaudubon.org](http://blackbrookaudubon.org)

*All programs are FREE and open to the public*

### **Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen  
Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH  
Stan Searles—Bird Conservation

### **Sunday, September 25, 2016**

Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.

Chagrin River Park IBA  
For more information contact Pat  
440-256-1404 x2101

### **Tuesday, October 18, 2016**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

The West Woods - Geauga Park District  
Russell Twp, OH  
Shorebird Research at Frohning Meadows  
Tami Gingrich & Linda Gilbert.

### **Saturday, October 22, 2016**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

Frohning Meadows  
For more information contact Pat  
440-256-1404 x2101

### **Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH  
Andy Jones—Who Keeps Changing  
My Field Guide

### **Sunday, November 20, 2016**

Field Trip: - 8:00 a.m.

Sandy Ridge Reservation  
For more information contact Pat  
440-256-1404 x2101

### **December 2016**

All Day

Christmas Bird Count

For more information contact Dan  
Danook057@yahoo.com

### **Tuesday, January 17, 2017**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen  
Lake Metroparks, Kirtland, OH  
Greg Orr - Seals/Sea Lions

### **Saturday, January 21, 2017**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

Mosquito Reservoir  
For more information contact Pat  
440-256-1404 x2101

### **Tuesday, February 21, 2017**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center  
Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH  
Denise Elsworth— Bees in Your Backyard

### **Saturday, February 25, 2017**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

Lake Erie Shoreline  
For more information contact Pat  
440-256-1404 x2101

### **Tuesday, March 21, 2017**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Penitentiary Glen Nature Center  
Lake Metroparks Kirtland, OH  
Marilyn Levand - Bats

### **Saturday, March 25, 2017**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

Presque Isle  
For more information contact Pat  
440-256-1404 x2101

### **Tuesday, April 18 2017**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH  
Ann Rzepka - Wildflowers

### **Saturday, April 29, 2017**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

The Holden Arboretum  
For more information contact Becky  
440-602-3852

### **May 2017**

Chagrin River Watershed IBA

Bird-a-thon

Check website for more information

### **Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

Program Meeting: - 7:00 p.m.

Big Creek-Geauga Park District  
Chardon Twp., Ohio  
Mike Sustin— Black Bears in Ohio; Past,  
Present and Future

### **Saturday, May 20, 2017**

Field Trip: - 9:00 a.m.

Magee Marsh  
For more information contact Pat  
440-256-1404 x2101

### **Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

Annual Potluck Picnic

Location : Chagrin River Park  
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.  
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 has 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 [maryannelizabeth@aol.com](mailto:maryannelizabeth@aol.com) if you have old checklists or want information about the IBA committee meetings or bird walks.



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

### Important Bird Areas Explained

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a site that has been selected for its outstanding habitat value and the imperative role it plays in hosting birds, whether for breeding, migrating, or over-wintering. Taken together, IBAs form a global network of critical habitat.

The Important Bird Area designation is recognized internationally, and thousands of IBAs have been designated across Europe, Asia and North America. The National Audubon Society coordinates the IBA program in North America; today, there are more than 2,500 state-level IBAs in the U.S. and nearly 450 globally-significant IBAs in the U.S.

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

“If it looks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, we have at least to consider the possibility that we have a small aquatic bird of the family anatidae on our hands.”

— Douglas Adams

