

Audubon *News and Views*



Newsletter of the Canton Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
Established 1962



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The Canton Audubon Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to meet our members' varied interests in the field of nature. For some, the focus is on birds and animals, for others, it's on plants and still others, it's on waterways and diversities of land. For all, it is an interest to enjoy, conserve, restore, share with others and to educate both adults and students.

As a member of **National Audubon Society**, you are also a member of the **Canton Audubon Society** and are invited to attend monthly meetings held at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month (September thru June) at the **Stark County Park District's Exploration Gateway** at 5712 12th St NW, Canton. You will receive **Audubon News & Views** throughout the year with our calendar of events. Visit: CantonAudubon.org or Contact: CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

Canton Audubon Society is dedicated to welcoming everyone of all races, ethnicities, religions, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities. To accomplish this, we will identify obstacles and improve opportunities for diverse audiences to pursue nature activities

Pandemic's Effect on Birds

By Laura Dornan

The Pandemic that we have found ourselves in has had a devastating effect on human lives. But how has it affected birds and other wildlife? Does it affect their health? Are there other ways in which wildlife can be affected? There are many questions for which we as yet have no answers, but 5 researchers in the San Francisco Bay area began to find some answers which were published in *Science* in September: "Singing in a silent spring: Birds respond to a half-century soundscape reversion during the COVID-19 shutdown" (by Elizabeth O. Derryberry, Jennifer N. Phillips, Graham E. Derryberry, Michael J. Blun and David Luther), as reported in *The Birding Community E-Bulletin*, October 2020.

By studying and comparing the songs of White-crowned Sparrows from previous years with the songs they sang during the spring lockdown, they learned the birds used the sudden drop in noise from vehicles and planes to their advantage. In previous years, the sparrows had to compete with traffic noise, so they had sacrificed a more complicated song quality for a simpler higher volume song. But when the background noise suddenly died down, the sparrows switched to softer, more complex songs. These songs resembled the songs of their more rural neighbors and contained more information. The rural White-crowned Sparrow vocalizations were the same before and during the pandemic.

This research has shown that birds can be quite resilient to human induced pressures such as noise pollution and quick to respond to improved conditions. As grim and horrendous as the COVID-19 pandemic has been, it also provided a sample of a slower, quieter & simpler world.

Original article can be found at <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/09/23/science.abd5777.full>
The Birding Community E-Bulletin archives at <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>



New regional director elected to National Audubon board representing the Mississippi Flyway – North.



Erin Giese, from Green Bay, WI, has been elected to the NAS board as the new regional director representing the Mississippi Flyway – North. Her term will begin February, 2021. Erin is president of the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society. She serves as Adviser of the Green Bay Audubon Student Conservation Chapter (U of Wisconsin-Green Bay) and works at the UW-Green Bay Cofrin Center for Biodiversity on several bird, wildlife, and habitat-related projects and manages data.

The National Audubon Society has divided chapters into regions across the USA, according to flyways. These areas are represented by regional directors who serve three-year terms limited to two consecutive terms. Although Ohio is part of the Mississippi Flyway, Ohio's eastern edge can also be considered part of the Atlantic flyway.

“Did You Know...”

Flyways are like bird highways. They are established routes or paths used by large numbers of birds when migrating between their breeding and non-breeding grounds. Along the way, they stopover at various locations to feed and rest. North American flyway routes (pictured) extend into South America. Some species fly over oceans between the two Americas to arrive at their destinations. *Map courtesy of USFWS*



Announcements

- ▶ An Audubon News & Views newsletter committee was recently formed; members are Jacki Hupp, Laura Dornan, and Linda Chen. Alan Dolan was newsletter editor for the past 30 years! We encourage members to submit news to share; especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great way to stay in touch. Articles can be submitted via email or as an attachment to the email. Submission deadline is the 1st of the month prior to a newsletter's issuance. We cannot guarantee that an article will be published immediately. Members that are interested in joining or assisting the committee can contact CAS via email. Please include “ANV newsletter” in the email subject line for all submissions or inquiries. *CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com*
- ▶ CAS has been awarded the National Audubon Society Collaborative Grant for our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiative. The amount awarded from NAS is \$500 with CAS matching another \$500. A big thank you to Connie Rubin for her efforts in writing the grant application. Please refer to Jan/Feb 2021 newsletter issue for the EDI article with detailed information.
- ▶ We are reorganizing our Conservation Committee. Anyone who has a particular interest in environmental and wildlife issues and likes to stay abreast of what is happening to our ecosystems, locally or nationally, is needed to help keep the CAS membership informed. Please contact any officer or board director or email *CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com*
- ▶ CAS will now be accepting dues payments or donations via PayPal or credit card. Click the drop-down tab “Payments & Donations” link on our website at *CantonAudubon.org*

Canton Christmas Bird Count 2020

By Jon Cefus, Canton Christmas Bird Count compiler



Chris Lamb

On Thursday December 17th, a group of 38 dedicated birders participated in a restart of the Canton Christmas Bird Count with the circle located entirely in Stark County. This count, OHCT, ran at one time from 1908 to 1950. I am not sure why it stopped in 1950, so if you know anything about that, please contact me. Thank you! It's worth noting that in 1935 the participants reported an amazing 181 Northern Bobwhite Quail on count day. It is unlikely that in my lifetime we will find 1, which speaks volumes about how the dynamics have changed for birds over the years.

Participants used safe Covid-19 protocols and no gathering happened during or after the count. In the future, we hope to be able to gather for fellowship at a location that the Canton Audubon Society will help facilitate. A big thank you to the Canton

Audubon Society, who voted to keep this CBC going after I am no longer able to function as organizer and compiler. I also want to thank Kent Miller for being an integral part of helping to get this organized and for hours of scouting before count day.

I was able to recruit an awesome group of Stark County residents, or folks who were born in Stark Co. (that's you Larry), as well as other very talented birders and naturalists to help our count be successful. These teams got up before dawn, birded hard all day, and many did not arrive home until well after dark. Some folks spent literally all-day walking parks and areas we had access to conduct the count with a pretty consistent light snowfall throughout the day. Thank you Canton CBC participants! YOU are the reason this was so successful. Mercifully, the winds were light to calm all day. The recent snowfall (around 3-4" on the ground) made for good winter birding conditions.

Our group created a social media account in order to share messages of what folks were seeing and what we still "needed" in terms of expected species. The first report of the day was a Long-tailed Duck on Lake Cable. A great start. Our group seeking gulls was able to tally 4 species (Ring-billed, Herring, Lesser Black-backed, Iceland), and then later a team member picked up Bonaparte's for a total of 5 species in inland Ohio, a good number. We had good success with half-hardy birds like Killdeer, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrushes, Bluebirds, Robins, Fox Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. We had 3 Merlins found in our count area, something that would have been quite extraordinary not many years ago. Other falcons included many American Kestrel, and 1 of the downtown Canton resident Peregrines. We also had a Common Raven, which is a very rare bird in Stark Co, despite their obvious resurgence in Eastern Ohio after being extirpated. It is nice to see/hear their return to Ohio.

We had good weather conditions for ducks, geese, and other waterfowl as most water was still open. All told, 21 species of waterfowl were located on the day. We also had 3 Count Week species of waterfowl. The winter irruption of northern "finch" species was represented by reports of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. We did not have any Crossbills or Grosbeaks, though. We had 4 species of Owls, including Long-eared Owl. We had all the expected species of hawks, except Rough-legged, which is not a common bird in Stark in the winter. By the end of the day, our intrepid group of participants tallied an amazing **92 species** for our first CBC effort in the restart of this old circle. We also had 4 Count Week species, including a flyover group of Sandhill Cranes.

Jon Cefus is the East-Central Ohio Regional Director for the Ohio Ornithological Society.

Thank you to the 21 CAS member participants: Betty Carty, John Callahan, Jon Cefus, Linda Chen, Lee Dolan, Laura & Tim Dornan, George Goldsworthy, Jackie Hupp, Chris Lamb, Denise Lesko, Barbra Lewis, Ronnie Macko & Shari Jackson, Chuck McClaugherty, Myra McCoy, Cynthia Norris, Connie Rubin, Liz Snedecker, Scott & Linda Watkins.

The Christmas Bird Count history

By Linda Chen

A popular activity on December 25th was known as the Christmas side hunt. Participants, with guns, competed in teams to see who could kill the most birds no matter the species, beauty or rarity. Frank Chapman, an ornithologist and founder of Bird Lore (the precursor to Audubon Magazine) was appalled by this practice. In the year 1900, Mr. Chapman proposed the idea that birds should be counted on Christmas Day instead of killing them. Thus, the Christmas Bird count had begun. On December 25th, 1900, 27 birders in the US and Canada participated in the event finding 90 species of birds.

Today, bird counts are performed in designated areas within a 15-mile radius. When Jon Cefus decided to create a new bird count circle in Stark County, he stumbled upon the historical Canton count that had ended in 1950. We were all unaware. Thanks to Jon, the Canton Christmas Bird Count has been revived 70 years later and was met with great success. *Read more at National Audubon: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/history-christmas-bird-count>*

Upcoming CAS programs

March 17, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Stark Park's presents Eagles at Walborn Reservoir

2021 will hopefully mark the 16th year of eaglets hatching in a nest located in a tall pine tree at Walborn Reservoir. The nest is located along the shoreline off Marlboro Ave. with an observation platform within a few hundred yards away.



Volunteer Eagle Watchers for Stark Parks, Bob Berrodin and Bonnie Tewanger, will share the history of the nest, the different eagles who have raised over 25 eaglets there, and the latest updates for the 2021 season.

April 21, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Monty and Rose, a film about Chicago's Piping Plovers



"Monty and Rose" tells the story about a pair of endangered Piping Plovers attempting to nest on Montrose Beach, a busy beach in Chicago. The short, independent documentary chronicles these special birds and an unpredictable series of events including a proposed music festival that propelled them to national headlines. Monty and Rose became the first Piping Plovers to nest within the city limits of Chicago since 1955.

Greatest threats facing Piping Plovers: habitat loss and degradation; nest disturbance and predation. Currently, there are 65-70 nesting pairs on all five Great Lakes. The filmmaker, Bob Dolgan, began work on the movie in 2019 after the plovers arrived in Chicago. He will present the program.

May 17, 2021 TBA

For questions or links to programs, email CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

Women in Ornithology

This is the final article in our series celebrating the 100th anniversary, in August 2020, of the 19th Amendment ratification awarding women the right to vote. Canton Audubon Society is showcasing the work of women in science.

Four Women Who Influenced the Environmental Movement

By Jim Massie

One of the most famous is Rachel Carson (1907-1964) an author, marine biologist and activist. Her book “Silent Spring” (1962) showed that there was something more than birds in the forest and exposed the destructive efforts of the pesticide industry. In advocating for the environment, one of her legacies was to approach conservation through love rather than fear and a determination to preserve what we value. Carson explained the ecology of life in the wild and the interactions among the diversity of animals, reiterating the long-held conception that we hold the earth in trust for succeeding generations. “Silent Spring” inspired others to continue her legacy. Her activism led to a ban of DDT and other pesticides, eventually leading to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. Rachel is remembered more today as the woman who challenged the concept that humans could obtain mastery over nature by chemicals, warfare and space exploitation. Carson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Jimmy Carter.

Frances Haverstrom (1907-1998) is one of America's first female biologists – an author (publishing 12 books and over 150 scientific papers), naturalist and ornithologist, known for her work with the great prairie chicken in Wisconsin and for her research on birds of prey. She and her husband, Frederick, published articles on prairie chickens (quite instrumental in their preservation), and also on hawks and other raptorial birds. She was a protégé of conservationist, Aldo Leopold, and was the only woman to earn a graduate degree under his tutelage. Frances was instrumental in shaping the conservation ethic of the 20th century.

Minna Hall and her cousin Harriet Hemenway's activism remains a key event in the history of ornithological conservation. In addition to egrets, by 1886 it was estimated that 50 North American bird species were being slaughtered for their feathers. Minna and Harriet's efforts in promoting a boycott of the fashion trade in feathers culminated in the formation of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, founded in 1895-96. Later in 1896, Pennsylvania created their Audubon Society and in the next few years many other states' bird lovers followed suit. The National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals became the National Audubon Society, as it was incorporated in 1905. Minna Hall was instrumental in promoting the Weeks-McClearn law. This act prohibited the spring hunting and marketing of migratory birds and the importation of wild bird feathers for women's fashion. It also gave the Secretary of Agriculture the power to set hunting season nationwide, making it the first U.S. law ever passed to regulate the shooting of migratory birds. This act also allowed the use of federal funding to purchase forest land for conservation. This led to the creation of 52 National Forests in 26 states (and has since included 20 National Grasslands to expand the purchase of protected land to 154+ sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico). The Weeks-McClearn law (ending the plume trade) was replaced by the stronger and more robust Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This legislation was supported by Henry Ford, who said “the only time I ever used the Ford organization to influence legislation was on behalf of the birds.”

As this article is being written, this Administration's Fish and Wildlife Service is considering removal of some bird protections under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This is why it is critical for our future to advance the environmental goals of the planet. Rachel Carson, Frances Haverstrom, Minna Hall and Harriet Hemenway used their talents, knowledge, determination and activism to succeed in their mission to preserve our planet's wildlife. Inspired by nature and guided by science, these individuals have given us a valuable gift to preserve.

Information Sources

- No Egrets, an article in the March, 2013 issue of Smithsonian Magazine
- My Double Life: Memoirs of a Naturalist by Marlene Zuk
- Silent Spring, Since Silent Spring by and inspired by Rachel Carson
- Walk When the Moon is Full by Frances Haverstrom
- Making Moonlight Memories by Sarah Piecuch
- Massive Science (A content and media company), Wikipedia.org

Board of Directors

It is election time again and CAS needs YOU. Chris Lamb will be completing her second term on the board. CAS By-laws state that Board Directors can serve two, 2-year terms, so her seat needs to be filled. We are hoping that there are a few Canton Audubon members who are interested in helping CAS continue as a viable, healthy organization that brings education, conservation, and resources in natural history and the environment to the community.

The Board meets five times a year and are currently being held via Zoom. The only requirement of a Board member is to be willing to attend at least most of the meetings and to be a paying member of either Canton Audubon or National Audubon. If you or someone you know has an interest in preserving our natural heritage, please contact CAS President Linda Chen, any current Board member or e-mail CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com. Myra McCoy and Marlene Bolea have agreed to accept a director's position and Ronnie Macko has graciously agreed to serve another term. One position is available. A huge thank you to all!

Chapter Chatter

....is being revived! It will feature news regarding events and happenings of CAS members. Birthdays, anniversaries, births and deaths can be announced here. Or, tell us about bird trips or festivals you have attended; have you done a Big Day, Big Month or Big Year?; reached a special birding milestone?; seen a special bird in your backyard? Especially during these times, it is good to let others celebrate and commiserate with you. Let's stay connected and informed. Send your happenings, a short blurb, to CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

Our first Chapter Chatter concerns a CAS member and a Business Supporter. Over the holidays, a chapter member was doing business with one of our Supporters and thought it would be nice to "pay it forward", especially given these tough times. So, this member generously paid the Business Supporter's dues as a way to say thank you. THAT is the way to support our supporters! CAS thanks you and the Supporter thanks you.

Beginning of Earth Day, April 22

January 28, 1969—An oil well off the coast of Santa Barbara, CA blew, spewing more than 3,000,000 gallons of oil & killing 10,000 seabirds and marine mammals.

October, 1969, UNESCO conference in San Francisco, a proposal for a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace on March 21, 1970, (the equinox).

November, 1969, Senator Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin, was flying over Santa Barbara and saw the 800 square mile oil slick. This inspired him to create a day for environmental "teach-ins" and rallies.

Why April 22? Nelson felt this celebration needed to focus on college students. The week of April 22 there were no finals or spring breaks, no religious holidays and it was late enough in the spring to have decent weather. The 22nd fell on a Wednesday, a day most likely to have all students at school.

Earth Day events have become standard around the world, featuring environmental clean-ups, hikes, outdoor events, educational opportunities and more. It is the most celebrated secular holiday in the world. But for the 2nd year in a row, we are forced to celebrate while social distancing. Nevertheless, celebrate we must! Go hiking, take a kid birding, pick up litter along your favorite trail, plant a tree, start a pollinator garden. Make the most of this Earth Day, Every Day. In that spirit, *April is Ohio Native Plants Month!*



CAS BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

DUMONT SEED COMPANY

619 30th St., NW Canton 44706
330-492-0204

Lawn, Garden, Hydroponic Supplies &
Seasonal Christmas Shop

HARTVILLE ELEVATOR

111 Prospect Ave., N Hartville 44632
330-877-9320

M - F 8-5 Sat. 8-Noon Sun. Closed

HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH NATURE CENTER

University of Mount Union
1972 CLARK AVE. Alliance 44601
330-823-7487

T-F 9-4 Sat. 1-5 Sun. 1-5
Mon. - Closed

THE LADY BUG GARDEN CENTER & GIFT SHOP

Donna Mataka Landscape Services
8361 Portage St., NW Massillon 44646
330-832-7080

Lawn care, Hardscapes, Snow Removal
Spring/Fall Cleanup, Tree & Shrub Services
M-F 8-6 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-3

STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

Administration: 330-477-3552

5300 Tyner St., NW Canton 44708

The Exploration Gateway (EG)
5712 - 12th St., NW Canton 44708
330-409-8096 www.StarkParks.com

TERRA DEPOT

4202 Portage St., NW North Canton 44720
330-526-8067 www.theTERRAdepot.com

Mon. - Fri. 9-6 Sat. 9-4

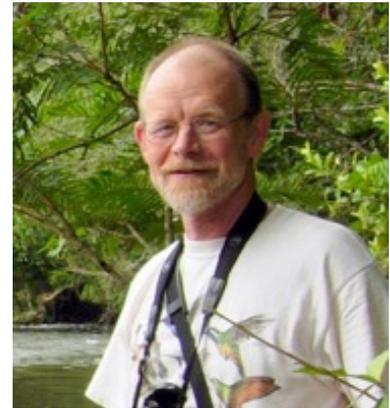
Bird seed, feeders, houses
Decorations, gifts, succulents

CAS Board Member Bios

Our featured member is **Chuck McClaugherty**

Term **June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2022**

Chuck McClaugherty was born and grew up in the New River Valley of Southwest Virginia. Living in this area, the love of nature came easily. He was supported by having both sets of grandparents nearby to encourage his love of the natural world. He made his first bird list in 2nd grade, inspired by his second-grade teacher Mrs. Snapp. He was an active Boy Scout, earning the rank of Eagle Scout when he was 13. The Appalachian Trail was walking distance from his front door and he and his friends took several multi-day backpacking trips and numerous day hikes in the mountains located in that area.



Chuck attended college at Cornell University where he majored in Wildlife Biology and Entomology. While at Cornell he volunteered at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, assisting with the Peregrine Fund which was located there at the time. As part of that experience, he and two friends were tasked with returning red-shouldered hawk hatchlings from Ithaca, NY to the Everglades National Park from where the eggs had been collected for research on ideal hatching condition for raptor eggs. During and after college Chuck worked for the Virginia State parks, first as a seasonal naturalist, then as the state supervising naturalist and finally as the Appalachian Trail Superintendent for the state of Virginia. He later became the Director of Maymont Park in Richmond, Virginia, managing a historical Victorian mansion and gardens and a regional environmental education center including an aviary and an avian rehabilitation center (He has a scar on top of head from an injured barn owl - sort of a birder's tattoo).

Missing the challenge of research, Chuck returned to graduate school, first at the University of Virginia, earning a degree in environmental science and then to the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he earned a doctorate in forest ecology, followed by a year as a Fulbright Scholar in Sweden studying forest nutrient cycling. He continued research in the general area of forest ecology as a research associate at Virginia Tech and a research assistant professor at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York. From there he moved to Alliance, Ohio where he was hired at (then) Mount Union College as the Dr. John D. Brumbaugh professor of ecology and environmental science and director of the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. During this time, he served on the Alliance city shade tree commission and the green (sustainability) commission and on the board of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, one year as president. Since retiring in 2018 he has focused attention on climate change. He and his wife recently granted a perpetual conservation easement to the New River Land Trust on fifty acres of forest land in the mountains of Virginia that has been in his family since prior to the Civil War. He still goes birding every day no matter where he is. He lives in Alliance, is married to Martha, and has two daughters and two grandsons.



Canton Audubon Society
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Officers:

Linda Chen, President
Scott Watkins, VP.....ph 330-209-1261
Laura Brown, Treasurer
Barbra Lewis, Secretary

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Chris Lamb - 2019-2021
Ronnie Macko - 2019-2021
Chuck McClaugherty - 2020-2022
Ed Priddus - 2020-2022

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Website: Scott Watkins

The Wilderness Center Trustees (2 seats available):

George Goldsworthy 2017-2020

We're on the Web!

www.CantonAudubon.org

E-mail: CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

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Canton Audubon Society

Chapter Supporter Membership Application
Does not include National Audubon Society Membership

___ Song sparrow (Student).....\$10
___ Cardinal (Basic Individual/Family).....\$20
___ Bluebird (Business Supporter, 2 years)..... \$50
___ Screech Owl (Sustaining)..... \$75
___ Bald Eagle (Life)..... \$300
___ Other (name your amount)..... \$ ___
___ *Introductory National Audubon Society/...\$20

Canton Audubon Society Joint Membership

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City: _____
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