



# Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Established 1962

November / December 2021  
Volume 65 / Issue 3

### Mission:

The Canton Audubon Society mission is to promote the enjoyment, protection, and conservation of birds, wildlife, plants, and their habitat in order to maintain Earth's biodiversity

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

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.

### Membership:

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of Canton Audubon Society

### Meetings & Contacts

Meetings are free and open to the public. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm from September thru May.

### Location:

Stark Parks  
Exploration Gateway, Sippo Lake  
5712 12<sup>th</sup> St NW,  
Canton, Ohio 44708.

Visit [www.CantonAudubon.org](http://www.CantonAudubon.org)

Or email:

[CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook

Phone: 330-209-1261

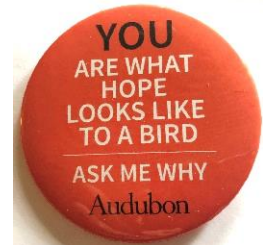
CAS is a 501(c)3  
nonprofit organization

## HOPE, to BIRDS

By Dawn Hewitt, Editor, *Bird Watcher's Digest*

In the past several months, I've moved twice: I bought a new house (built in 1920) two blocks away from my previous one, and I assisted with boxing up and cleaning out the former *Bird Watchers Digest* headquarters to move into its new digs. Thanks to the pandemic, I've been working from home since March 2020. Consequently, my new basement is full of boxes, and the line between BWD editorial boxes and my personal stuff has been blurred for a long time.

In unpacking one box, apparently from BWD, I came upon an orange button pin, given to me by Reader Rendezvous "repeat attendee" Alan Dolan, who died about a year ago. The button reads "You are what hope looks like to a bird."



I remember when Alan gave it to me. I accepted it with a "thank you" but thought, *Hmmmm. That's interesting. I'm going to have to ponder that for a while.* I stuck the pin on the windowsill of my office at BWD, and then put it in a box to move to my home office, where it sat in the dark for more than a year. When I came across it recently as I was unloading into my new home office, again I thought: *What do birds hope for?*

Every day, every bird's number one goal is survival. Birds hope not to be prey to a larger bird or some other predator. They hope for abundant food for themselves, and seasonally, for their offspring, and sometimes for their mate. They hope for a mate in spring, and to pass on their genes—which means that some birds (but not male hummingbirds or brown headed cowbirds, for example) hope for a healthy clutch or two of fledglings each summer. Some hope for a safe migration to warmer climes and a better food supply during winter months, and for a safe return to their breeding territories in spring. They hope for easy survival.

But it is doubtful that birds understand all the recent growing threats of those hopes: that when they return from migration, the fallow farm field where they hatched is now a new subdivision; that the soft, juicy cicada larva that just emerged from 17 years underground has been subjected to pesticide application; that the forest they and their ancestors resided in for centuries stands in charred ruins from a wildfire; that the black stuff floating on the water will stick to and damage their feathers.

Most birds are adaptable, especially when it comes to finding new food sources, and strong individuals have allowed their species to survive for millennia. But adaptation takes time, and sudden and drastic change can be insurmountable for birds.

It's up to us. We who so deeply enjoy birds cannot blithely pursue our hobby without concern for their survival. We share their hopes! But we perceive threats they do not, cannot. We must stand up for bird and habitat protection, conservation and clean air and water. We are what hope looks like to a bird—but only if we act.

\*Reprinted with permission from Bird Watcher's Digest.

[www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/publications/bwd/september-october-2021](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/publications/bwd/september-october-2021)



### REMEMBERING ALAN DOLAN

Alan has been gone just over a year now and the impact he made on all of us has not begun to fade.

He was an inspiration and will live in our hearts forever.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

► ANV Photo contest! There will be a Northern Cardinal photo contest for members of CAS. The favorite picture will be featured on the cover of the January/February newsletter. Photos received will be compiled onto a PDF document and emailed to members for a vote (with how-to instructions). All members are eligible no matter your photography skill or whether you have or are serving on the CAS board or a committee, **one** entry per person. Photos must be received by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Email [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com) , Subject "ANV Photo Contest"

► Holiday dinner will take place on Wednesday, December 8th at 6PM, begin to arrive at 5:45PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30PM. The event is at First Christian Church (FCC), 6900 Market Ave N, Canton 44721. Cost is \$17/person, reservations are required, advance payment is preferred or pay at the door. Dinner entrée choices are chicken, fish or vegetarian lasagna. CAS & FCC will take all necessary precautions, social distancing, encouraging mask wearing, etc. There will be a Silent Auction, donations are appreciated. Our guest speaker is Dr. Sarah Mabey (see Upcoming Programs, page 5). [\\*Reservation form and detailed information on page 7\\*](#)

► The Wilderness Center's bird seed sale: orders end November 5. Visit <https://wildernesscenter.org>

### UPCOMING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2021/22

**Canton CBC:** Thursday, December 16, 2021. Contact Jon Cefus, [jcefus@gmail.com](mailto:jcefus@gmail.com)

**The Wilderness Center:** Friday, December 17, 2021. Contact Ben Morrison, [bmorr10387@aol.com](mailto:bmorr10387@aol.com)

**Quail Hollow:** Saturday, December 18, 2021. Contact Ronnie Macko, [quailhollowcbc@gmail.com](mailto:quailhollowcbc@gmail.com)

**Tri-Reservoir:** Saturday, Jan 1, 2022. Contact Ethan Kistler, [ohiobirder@yahoo.com](mailto:ohiobirder@yahoo.com)

For those traveling and interested in participating in the CBC, a nearby count can be found at the provided link. Click to zoom into your location, a contact link will appear.

<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>

### CHAPTER CHATTER

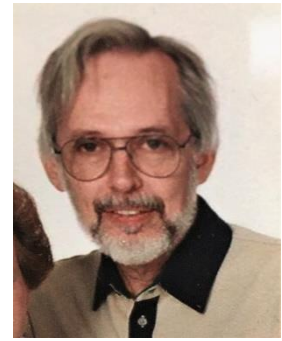
Safe travels to all our winter snowbirds heading south to Florida, Texas, Georgia, Arizona or other warm destinations. We will keep the home fires burning and look forward to your return in the spring.

Congrats to Janice Petko whose picture of a Pine Siskin at her feeder in May was included in the Spring issue of the Ohio Cardinal.

## FRITZ SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

One year ago this November, Canton Audubon Society lost a long-time cherished member when Del Nida passed away. He was a funny, generous and kind man who is missed by many members. But his memory will live on in many ways. One of those ways will be through the scholarship CAS offers to college students every year. Del's wife, Linda, is a charter member of the scholarship committee, including establishing the scholarship and getting it listed on [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com). While she no longer is able to serve on the committee, this work is important to her. Linda has donated \$1000.00 to CAS to be used for the scholarship. The next scholarship awarded by Canton Audubon will be known as the Arnold W. Fritz Memorial Scholarship, in Memory of Del Nida.

Thank you Linda and RIP Del.



## ATTENTION YOUNG BIRDERS!



If you love watching birds and are between the ages of 10 to 18, the American Birding Association has a program that may be of interest to you. The Young Birder of the Year Mentoring Program provides an opportunity to enhance your skills as you engage in a selection of modules (Field Notebook; Conservation/Community Leadership; Illustration; Writing; Photography) and learn from some highly respected birders. You can participate in this program at whatever level is best for you, whether it is submitting just one module or vying for Young Birder of the Year. To learn more about this extraordinary program, visit the ABA website at: <http://www.aba.org/young-birder-year-contest> Registration is until **November 30, 2021**, so don't procrastinate!

## BIRDING TIPS SERIES

By Laura Dornan

We hope you are enjoying the new series, *Birding Tips*, and maybe learning something new in each one. But we could use your help. Many of you reading this newsletter have been birding long enough to have gained some insight into little hints that made birding easier or have helped you in identification by sight and/or song. Perhaps there are habits you have developed or resources you use regularly that have enhanced your enjoyment of birding. You think everyone knows about those things and you really have nothing to contribute. But that is not so! Whether we have been birding for a month, a decade, or a lifetime, we all have some tidbits of helpful information to share. The AN&V committee request your help to make this series of *Birding Tips* articles become *birders helping birders*.

There are several ideas for articles available to choose from. Three Canton Audubon members have volunteered to write an article, which you will see in the coming months. Some subjects that we would like to see include: Key to Bird ID; Field Notebook; Sketching; Photography; Finding Birds; Birding Apps.

If one or more of these subjects sound at all interesting to you, please contact me by phone or email, and we will talk about how the subject can be approached. If you do not have my contact info, send an email to CAS, (see address on back of this newsletter) and I will contact you. PLEASE help us make this series a CAS effort.

### CAS Business Supporters

#### Dumont Seed

619 30th St NW, Canton, Ohio 44709  
330-492-0204  
Bird seed, Feeders and supplies,  
Lawn, Garden

#### Hartville Elevator

11 Prospect Ave N, Hartville, OH  
330-872-9320  
Birds seed, Feeders and supplies  
M-F 8am-5pm, Sat: 8am-noon Sun: Closed

#### Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center

University of Mount Union  
1972 Clark Ave. Alliance, OH 44601  
330-823-7487  
T-F: 9am-4pm, Sat 1pm-5pm,  
Sun 1pm-5pm, Mon: Closed  
[www.mountunion.edu/nature-center](http://www.mountunion.edu/nature-center)

#### Stark County Park District

Administration: 330-477-3552  
5300 Tyner St NW, Canton, OH 44708  
Exploration Gateway (EG)  
5712 12th St NW, Canton, OH 44708  
330-409-8096 [www.StarkParks.com](http://www.StarkParks.com)

#### The Ladybug Garden Center & Gift Shop

Donna Mataka Landscape Services  
8361 Portage St NW, Massillon, OH 44664  
330-832-7080  
Birding supplies Landscapes,  
Garden, Spring/Fall Clean-up  
M-F: 9a-6p, Sat: 9a-5p, Sun: 10a-3p  
[www.theladybuglawncare.com](http://www.theladybuglawncare.com)

#### The Terra Depot

4202 Portage St NW,  
North Canton, OH ,44720  
330-526-8067  
Bird Seed, Feeders, Houses, Gifts  
M-F: 10a-5p Sat: 9a-5p, Sun: Closed  
[www.theTERRAdepot.com](http://www.theTERRAdepot.com)

## BIRDING TIPS FOR NEW (& NOT-SO-NEW) BIRDERS

By Laura Dornan



This is the third in a series. While the tips offered here may seem to be directed towards people new to birding, we are sure that even those who have been birding for decades will find some tidbits of helpful information.

### TIP # 2: SELECTING AND USING A FIELD GUIDE—Laura Dornan

A good field guide should have top-notch artwork or photographs. Which is better for you is up to you to decide. Look for a very talented artist or photographer who uses lighting, posture, background and other factors to best show the overall bird as it may appear under different circumstances.

It should also have range maps depicting breeding, winter, and migration routes (large enough to be easily read and understood) and descriptive text next to the picture of the bird. It should have a quick find index. It should have information on habitat, behavior, preferred food & feeding methods. It should have good description of the bird songs. It should have information on breeding and pictures depicting all the plumage stages of a bird. And it should be of a size that is convenient to put in a jacket pocket or at least a backpack pocket that is easily accessible.

There are a LOT of field guides on the market. So how many of them fulfill all of these requirements? NONE! You cannot have a field guide that carries all that information and still be small enough to carry in the field. So, what to do? Nowadays, many people choose to rely solely on various phone apps for bird identification questions (We are saving that discussion for another day.) But many of us still like to have an actual book to turn to, even if we don't always carry it in the field. The fact that no one field guide can serve all needs is why so many of us feel the need to have several guides. "I never saw a field guide I didn't have to have" is a mantra followed by many birders.

I am not going to try to suggest specific books here. There are far too many good guides, with more being published all the time. Instead, I am going to suggest if you are in the market for a new (or your first) guide, go to the library. Check out several different guides and go birding! Like binoculars, actually using them in the field is the best way to know what you like and don't like in a guide. If you can't find the book you want to try, ask around. You probably know someone who does have it.

Once you have your new guide—or while "test-driving" a borrowed one, try this Field Guide Scavenger Hunt to become familiar with the guide.

- 1 From the How To Use This Guide section, learn how the species accounts are arranged.
- 2 Find out where these parts are located on a bird: tertials, scapulars, lores, auricular mantle, malar stripe.
- 3 How does your guide describe the song of a Carolina Wren?
- 4 In what parts of North America does a Gray Catbird spend in summer, winter, migration, and year-round?
- 5 Find a bird that is sexually dimorphic. What are the differences?
- 6 Open the guide to any page. Reading the text, find a bird whose behavior can be a clue to the identification.
- 7 How many different shaped bird bills can you find?

By completing this search through your Field Guide, you now have a familiarity with it that will help you easily find useful information. And make it a habit to read your guide(s) just for the heck of it.





## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 17, 2021, 7PM

### “Marvelous Turkey Vultures” by Carrie Elvey

Vultures are such a common sight on the Ohio landscape, they are often passed over without much of a thought. Their fascinating ecology and adaptations are anything but common, however. This program will explore this most unique bird and encourage you to give them a second (and maybe ever third) glance the next time one soars overhead.

Carrie is the Senior Naturalist and Community Engagement Coordinator at The Wilderness Center. She is also an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist instructor.



**\*Pre-meeting event 6:15pm – 6:45pm\*** at the Sommer Wildlife Conservation Center at Sippo Lake, 800 Genoa Ave NW, Massillon, 44646. Meet and Greet with “Volt” the Stark Parks education Turkey Vulture.

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December 8, 2022 Holiday Dinner

### “Extraordinary Adaptations” by Dr. Sarah Mabey

The Science and Wonder of Migration: The migratory life is more than just an easy trip to the sunny tropics. Migration is a demanding and dangerous endeavor. Learn how migratory birds meet the challenges of life on the move and how scientists are uncovering their extraordinary adaptations.

Dr. Mabey is an Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the Environmental Studies Program at Hiram College.

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January 19, 2022, 7PM via Zoom

### Bird Flight Patterns and Music Curriculum

Explore the connection between bird flight and musical motion in this concert video performed by the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra. The video includes an interview with Xavi Bou, photographer for the Ornithographies Project, David Lentink from Stanford University’s bird flight and robotics lab, and Sam Claggett, Conservation Education Specialist from Buttonwood Park Zoo. The orchestra performs works by Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Vaughn Williams and more.

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February 16, 2022, 7PM

### Member’s Night

Members can share nature-related photos, vacations, bird info, book reviews, songs, hobbies, trivia and more. There will be a sign up prior to the meeting so we can allow time for each participant.

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## BACKYARD BIRD DINERS REOPENED

On September 8, the Ohio Division of Wildlife announced that it is safe, with caution and vigilance, to return to feeding birds. There is still no known cause for the mysterious illness that affected so many species this past spring and summer. Research continues to be conducted but reports of the illness have slowed considerably. Most of the affected birds were immature. Eye swelling, crusty discharge and neurological signs including disorientation are symptoms of the disease which typically results in death. The disease has not been known to be passed to humans, domestic livestock or poultry.

ODNR stresses that there are many other diseases that can be passed to songbirds at feeders and it is important to keep feeders clean. Clean your feeders weekly using a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach, 9 parts water), rinse and dry thoroughly. If sick or dead birds are found in the vicinity of feeders, remove feeders for a period of 7 to 10 days. It is wonderful to be able to return to the pleasure of watching birds at our feeders but we must do so responsibly.

## PILEATED WOODPECKER

*Dryocopus pileatus*

By Laura Dornan



The American Birding Association selected the pileated woodpecker as its Bird of the Year for 2021 so as we close out the year, I thought it appropriate that we learn a few fun facts about this fascinating and much-admired bird.

First, things first: how to pronounce the name of this bird. Is it *pie – lated* or *pill – e – ated*? There has been much debate on which is the correct pronunciation so let's clear the air. It doesn't matter, they are both correct. While we are on the subject of the name, where does the word pileated come from? It comes from the Latin *pileatus* which means "capped". And capped it certainly is, with that magnificent red crest.

The pileated woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in North America (15" - 19" long) and easily identified with its black body, black and white facial markings, white underwing coverts and of course that red crest. We know to tell the sexes apart look for the red malar patch (mustache) on the male and the absence of it on the female. A lesser known, and harder to spot, field id for the female is a tinge of yellow on the dark feathers in front of the crest, making this area appear brown.

When I first started birding in the 1970's, these birds were very hard to find and could only be found in deep mature forests. After we saw the 1<sup>st</sup> one, it was 10 years before we saw another. But as the large forest areas have disappeared, pileateds did what many people thought would not happen ...they adapted. Today they can be found in smaller wood lots, suburban and even urban areas as long as there are quite a few large trees present. Living, dead and dying trees. Standing and fallen trees.

Mated pairs share territory year-round but roost separately, either in separate trees or separate cavities in the same tree; one cavity can be quite crowded for these large birds. The tree will have multiple entrances to escape predators. Both sexes excavate the nest hole, incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. The young fledge at about one month and remain dependent on the parents for several months. These nest cavities are seldom reused by the woodpeckers but do provide nest sites for many other cavity-nesting birds and mammals, including wood ducks, bluebirds, screech-owls, bats, racoons, and squirrels. The pileated does sometimes let other smaller birds such as the chimney swift share the nest cavity.

Some people feel the pileated woodpecker is a pest bird because it uses its large stout bill to dig deeper into the tree than other woodpeckers can reach, which does great damage to the tree. The truth is the pileated is searching deep into the tree for carpenter ants and wood boring beetle larvae. The presence of these insects means the tree is already dying.

Thanks to the ABA for making this remarkable woodpecker the Bird of the Year.

Sources: American Bird Conservancy, [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org); Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org); National Park Service, [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

## LAKE ERIE PIPING PLOVER UPDATE

Nellie & Nish both headed south right on schedule. Later one chick, Kickapoo, was killed by a predator (possibly a mink) then Erie was found by one of the Plover Patrol members, injured. He was taken to Toledo Zoo where he was cared for by the veterinary staff for 12 days and then released back onto the beach at Maumee Bay State Park. Meanwhile Ottawa & Maumee began their trip south on Aug 23. As of October 8, Erie continues to patrol the beaches, with plenty of time remaining to head south.

Diana Steele is Northeast Regional Director for OOS [diana.steele@ohiobirds.org](mailto:diana.steele@ohiobirds.org)

**CAS BOARD MEMBER BIOS**

**Our featured member is Myra McCoy**

**Term June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2023**

I grew up in Canton but moved to Atlanta after two years at Ohio State University and one year in Boston. After a few years in Atlanta, I spent some time at Nantahala Outdoor Center in the Smokey Mountains in North Carolina. This organization’s mission was protecting the environment by facilitating training for Olympic whitewater paddlers, accommodating thru-hikers of the Appalachian Trail, providing limited guided raft trips down the Chattooga, Ocoee and Nantahala Rivers and providing lots of recreational programs for outdoor activities. I returned to Atlanta to complete my undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting at Georgia State University always intending to return to Western North Carolina. I worked as a CPA having my own practice for most of my career and also served as a volunteer accountant with nonprofit organizations whose focus was primarily on child care for low-income families, agencies supporting families who were homeless and refugee resettlement issues.



After 40 years in Atlanta, I purchased a ½ interest in 23 acres of the most beautiful property on the planet in Western North Carolina between Boone and Asheville where I intended to retire. Enjoying that property is where I became interested in birding as our cherry tree attracted lots of Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch and Warblers and seemed to be a migrating resting place for Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. On weekends we would celebrate with an extra cocktail when we spotted a Goldfinch, Indigo Bunting and Cardinal all on the feeder at the same time peacefully ignoring each other. As both my brother’s and mother’s health began to fail, I moved back to Canton and sold the North Carolina property.

In Ohio, I have previously served as Treasurer of the Canton Area League of Women Voters, Auburn Knolls Condominium Association and The North Canton Ladies Literary Club. I continue to maintain a limited practice for clients with whom I have worked for over 30 years and just can’t seem to move them on to another CPA firm. In the summer I enjoy volunteering in the butterfly house at Beech Creek Botanical Gardens & Nature Preserve and am working on trying to improve my quilting skills.



**CANTON AUDUBON HOLIDAY DINNER RESERVATIONS, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

<b>Attendee Name/s</b>	<b>Panko-Parm Crusted Chicken</b>	<b>Baked Fish</b>	<b>Vegetarian Lasagna</b>	<b>Cost</b>

**Total:**

- Meals are \$17 which include salad, roll and dessert with coffee and tea as beverage.
- Chicken and fish sides are roasted potatoes and vegetable.
- Send reservations and check to: Canton Audubon Society, PO Box 9586, Canton, Ohio 44711-9586.
- Due to postal delays, mail reservations by November 20<sup>th</sup>. Note: “Holiday Dinner” in check memo.
- Reservations are due Nov 30. \*Pre-payment is preferred\* but is available at the door.
- There will be a Silent Auction, donations are appreciated. Please bring to the dinner, early if possible.
- Email [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com) with questions.

**Canton Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 9586  
Canton, Ohio 44711



*The Newsletter of Canton Audubon Society*

**Officers:**

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

**Directors:**

Marlene Bolea - 2021-2023  
Jacki Hupp - 2020-2022  
Ronnie Macko - 2021-2023  
Chuck McClagherty - 2020-2022  
Myra McCoy - 2021-2023  
Ed Priddus - 2020-2022

**AN&V:** Jacki Hupp, Laura Dornan, Linda Chen

**Conservation:** Linda Chen, Mary Schilstra

**EDI:** Chuck McClagherty, Laura Dornan,  
Connie Rubin, Barbra Lewis, Lee Dolan

**Education:** Lee Dolan

**Membership:** Laura Dornan

**Programs/Filed Trip:** \*Scott Watkins,  
Laura Dornan, Linda Chen

**Publicity:** Connie Rubin

**Recycling:** Diane & Tom Hert

**Scholarship chair:** Laura Dornan

**Social Media:** Linda Chen, Chris Lamb

**Website:** Scott Watkins

**The Wilderness Center Trustees (1 seat available):**

George Goldsworthy  
Chuck McClagherty

*We serve Stark, Tuscarawas, Carroll and parts of  
Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison,  
Holmes, Mahoning, Summit & Wayne Counties.*

**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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL TO:

Canton Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 9586  
Canton, Ohio 44711-9586

CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com