



# Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

March/April/May 2024

Volume 70 / Issue 5

## BREEDING BIRDS OF OHIO

By Chuck McClagherty

### 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

\*Denotes kid-friendly articles



Spring is the time of year when most wild birds are having their babies. Parents are shifting their attention from courtship, mating, and nest building to feeding and preparing their young to leave the nest. If you keep your eyes and ears open you may see some really fascinating bird behaviors.



A day-old turkey poult sits completely still in high grass while its mother runs noisily through the surrounding area. 6/15/2023 Osnaburg Township, by Chuck McClagherty

A few years ago, I participated in the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas program. Along with more than one thousand other people around the state, I recorded data on the activities and location of wild breeding birds. The first breeding bird atlas for Ohio was done in the 1980's and data collection for the second atlas was completed in 2011. The full report was published in 2016 giving us a good idea of which species of birds are breeding in different areas of the state and how that has changed in the last

20 years. The atlas project was based on hundreds of thousands of sightings of potential breeding birds. These birds represented over 200 different species observed and 186 species are confirmed as breeders in Ohio.

Changes in bird populations during the mid-20th century are interesting and informative. For example, wild turkeys were rare in the early 1980's but became more common throughout the eastern and southern parts of the state. On a single day one spring I recorded four different family groups of wild turkeys including one group that had seven one-day old poults. When turkeys are very young, they don't run or fly when they sense danger. Instead, they become motionless while the mother hen runs in large circles and makes noises to distract the potential threat. However, after only a few days, the young poults are able to fly, and they scatter into the brush and tree tops when faced with danger.

Turkeys are not the only species showing a change in abundance. Northern Bobwhites (also called quail) were once present statewide but are now only common in the southwestern part of Ohio. Ruffed Grouse, which were common twenty years ago, are now much rarer.

Why was there a shift in the abundance of species? There are many answers to this question. Three major factors are changes in habitat, predators, and disease. For

example, wild turkeys were extirpated (extinct in the state) in 1904 as a result of unregulated hunting and loss of forest habitat. In the early 1950's much forest land had regenerated so game farm birds were introduced to reestablish the population, but without success. Then in the late 1950's turkeys were trapped in other states and released in Ohio. These were successful and capture and transport of turkeys into Ohio continued from the 1960's through the 1980's. By the late 1960's the turkey populations had recovered enough to allow hunting in some areas and turkey hunting was allowed statewide beginning in the year 2000. More forest cover, improved breeding stock and tighter game laws worked together to restore the turkey population.

Ruffed grouse prefer brushy areas. As a result, their populations increased from the 1950's through the 1970's as abandoned farms turned into brush lands, but their numbers decreased again as the brush lands turned into forests.

You don't need to go into the forest to find baby birds. There are nests in trees, shrubs and around buildings. Watch carefully and you may see parents busily hauling food and feeding babies. Or you may see the young birds struggling with their initial flights. Late June and early July is the best time to see baby birds in Ohio.

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio is still available and offers an enormous amount of information about species ranges and changes in abundance.

Ref: Rodewald PG, Shumar MB, Boone AT, Slager DL, McCormac. Eds. (2016) The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio. The Pennsylvania State University Press. ISBN 978-0-271-07127-5.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ **Audubon News & Views changes:** The newsletter is changing from a bi-monthly to quarterly publication beginning with this issue.
- ▶ **Masthead photo:** The new ANV photo theme is Eastern Bluebirds! This issue's photo was taken by Scott Watkins.
- ▶ **Open Committee chairs:** Laura Dornan has retired from all CAS positions. Chuck McLaugherty has offered to fill the Membership chair position, thank you Chuck! Open chairs are the Nominating and Fritz College Scholarship committees. Positions on the Newsletter and EDI committees are open as well. If you are interested in joining a committee, contact [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)
- ▶ **CAS board member nominations & elections:** Two board positions will need to be filled beginning June 1, 2024. Current members, Connie Rubin, Megan Schoenfelt, Dr. Robert Hamilton, and Barbra Lewis have offered to run for a second term. An email will be sent to members in early May 2024 for online elections, results will be announced at the May 15 meeting. If you are interested in joining the CAS board or would like to nominate a CAS member to fill a position, contact [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com) by April 15.
- ▶ **The Wilderness Center native plant sale:** Order your plants at the online store here: <https://secure.wildernesscenter.org/np/clients/wildernesscenter/giftstore.jsp?forwardedFromSecureDomain=1>

☞ CAS sends our condolences to Laura Dornan whose husband, Tim, passed away on January 23. He was a long-time member of Canton Audubon Society. Tim's birding adventures began in the early 1990s and his favorite birds were ducks. He was known for his duck decoy carvings which he had done for nearly 40 years. Tim's wit and humor will be missed.



☞ Our condolences go out to CAS member Linda Nida whose sister, Dottie Jannie, recently passed away.

**CLENDENING DAM PARK wetlands update:** In spring 2023, the US Army Corps of Engineers asked CAS to perform a bird survey at the Clendening wetlands. Participating members located 90+ bird species. Through Chuck McLaugherty's efforts, the location is now recognized as a birding hotspot on the eBird platform.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

*\*All upcoming programs will be both in-person and via Zoom*

### March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm Cuba by Byron Berger

Byron will cover Cuba’s bird touring culture with an emphasis on the more than twenty-five endemic birds and nearly 300 migrant species.  
Pre-meeting bird walk at 5:30pm. Meet at EG south-facing balcony.



### April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

#### “For the Love of “Blue” Birds: Blue Jays, Buntings, Grosbeaks & Bluebirds” by Judy Semroc

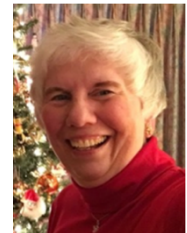
Delve into the species of birds that are blue in color, such as Blue Jays, Buntings, Grosbeaks, and Bluebirds. Their differences, why we see their colors vary under different types and angles of light, and their natural history will all be discussed. Learn how to entice them into your yard or garden. Pre-meeting bird walk at 5:30pm. Meet at EG south-facing balcony.



### May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

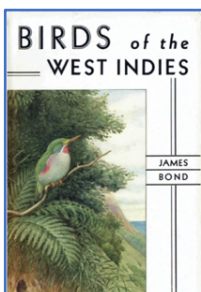
#### “Adventures in the Swamp” by Marlene Bolea

Marlene will present a story-filled journey through Six-Mile Cypress Slough at Corkscrew Swamp in Florida including other areas that she visited. There will be birds, plants, animals and a few surprises along the way. Pre-meeting bird walk at 5:30pm. Meet at EG south-facing balcony.



### Join Scott Watkins on his 1st Saturday Bird Walks

March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Tam O’Shanter, 5055 Hills and Dales Rd NW, Canton, OH 44708. Meet in the parking lot. We will look for Eastern Bluebirds that will be using the new nesting boxes provided by Canton Audubon. Binoculars are available to borrow.
April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve, 7984 Fulton Drive NW, Massillon, OH 44646. Meet in the parking lot behind the white barn. Trails are uneven. Binoculars are available.
May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center, 16146 Daniel St NE, Minerva, Ohio 44657. Meet in the parking lot. Binoculars are available.
June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Metzger Park, 1420 S. Nickelplate St, Louisville Ohio 44641.
July 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	The Wilderness Center – Meet at the solar array parking area, lower lot.
August 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Mohican State Park – Meet at the Covered Bridge.



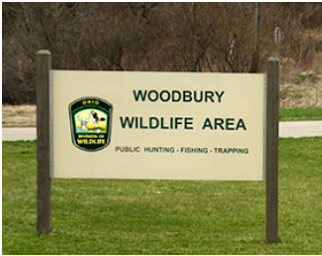
#### **DID YOU KNOW...**

The real James Bond was a famous American ornithologist and expert on Caribbean birds who published a West Indies field guide of birds in 1936. The British author, Ian Fleming, appropriated Bond’s name for his famous James Bond spy novels which were eventually made into movies. While trying to come up with the hero’s name for the novel series, Fleming, an avid bird watcher, spotted his book “Birds of the West Indies” by James Bond. Thus, a spy was born!



## HIDDEN BIRDING GEM: WOODBURY WILDLIFE AREA

By Chris Dyer



What makes Woodbury great for birding? Woodbury encompasses roughly 14,615 acres, which includes grassland, scrubland, woodland & 42 ponds. If you wish you can visit a different spot nearly each time you go. Another reason is that there are few, if any, other people around; giving the impression that it's only you and the birds left in the world. It's a great place for driving around, finding a nice-looking spot to pull over & then walking the roadside to see what turns up. Many of the roads are gravel and some are dead ends, so traffic is virtually non-existent.

Some of the birds that are abundant here during spring and summer include Prairie Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Both Cuckoos, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Scarlet Tanager. They should be found nearly every visit with minimal effort. The OOS site lists Kentucky Warblers and Hooded Warblers among breeding species here.

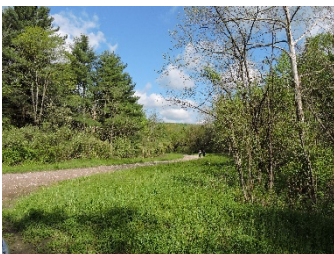
The northern area of Woodbury is heavily wooded. The best place to begin your birding in this area is the campground. You can find the entrance off of CR17 or Township Rd 56. There is a small pond at the site and the campground is rarely used these days, leaving a lot of open spots in an easy to walk area. Behind the campground is open field and across the street from it is a well forested area. This all adds up to a wide variety of birds waiting to be discovered. 131 species have been recorded on eBird for the campground, but as only 62 checklists have ever been submitted here, there is likely more to discover. During migration it's a good spot to find warblers. A Blue Grosbeak was recorded here in the past. There are several other roads that run through the northern area of Woodbury that can be explored. However, some are badly eroded and need repairs so drive slowly and be prepared to turn around. Still, there can be some very good birds in those areas.



*Campground Pond*

South of the campgrounds and bisecting Woodbury is State Rte. 541. On either side is grassy and scrub terrain full of birds. It is a busy road so pulling over here, isn't suggested. Instead, look for small parking areas if you wish to stop. Or better yet, pull off at the dove hunting parking lot for a while. There is a gravel path that leads up the hill and for those wishing to stay out of the tall grasses; it is a perfect way to explore these overgrown fields. It is home to birds who like scrubland including Flycatchers, various Sparrows (such as Grasshopper), Brown Thrashers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Meadowlarks & Common Yellowthroats. At the pine grove at the top, I usually find Prairie Warblers. It is also a great highpoint to look across the fields for a beautiful, scenic view.

Just as good, if not better, are the several small roads extending south from the western end of 541 across from the dove hunting area. They are great to explore by car or on foot. Grasslands & scrubs dominate here as well, meaning there is a good amount of Sparrows, White-eyed Vireos, Mockingbirds and the birds listed above. Ruffed Grouse have even been recorded here. The occasional pond in this area can host Herons, Waterfowl, or Swallows as well as drawing many other songbirds as well.



On the eastern section of 541 the off-shooting roads eventually take you to the most southern portion of Woodbury. My personal favorite spot to bird here is CR 70. Take 4 from 541 to pick it up after the barricade that blocks the northern portion of the road. You can park at the barricade and begin there. When finished here, drive SE on 70 until it dead ends at 297. The best bet is to drive slowly, stopping frequently to get out and explore any areas that you see or hear birds. There are also some small foot paths that are worth exploring on foot. The woods that line the road here are thick but mostly made up of shorter and younger growth so straining your neck to look up isn't necessary. Grosbeaks, Blue-winged Warblers, and Scarlet Tanagers are almost always found here as well as a good variety of other warblers and migrant



songbirds. You could spend your entire day birding this road and not even make it anywhere else. There are only 28 checklists for this area but still 128 species are recorded here on eBird.

In addition to the areas I have mentioned above, there are numerous other roads, fields, and paths to explore. It is a large area and it hides many nooks and crannies. Every time I visit, I find a new place to explore (and new birds).

eBird splits the site into several smaller listing so it's hard to get a total count of birds seen here but I know it's quite large. I have not yet birded this area in the winter or fall but I imagine it would be good in either season with the fields providing habitat for wintering raptors. eBird lists Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl as winter visitors.

If you come mid-May or later, ticks can be abundant in the high grasses. If you are squeamish about ticks, you may want to stay to the roads and avoid exploring grassy areas. Also, be aware there are no bathrooms so you may have to take a quick trip to Coshocton, which is only 15 or so minutes away. The same is true of places to eat so if you plan on spending a full day here either pack a lunch or plan to head into town for lunch. *Photos by Chris Dyer*



*Yellow-billed Cuckoo*



*Yellow-breasted Chat*



*Prairie Warbler*



*White-eyed Vireo*

## BETTER LIVING THROUGH BIRDING

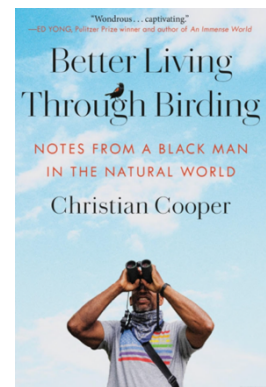
### Notes From a Black Man in The Natural World by Christian Cooper

A BOOK REVIEW by Laura Dornan

On Memorial Day, 2020, Christian Cooper, a gay African American, was birding the Ramble in Central Park when he encountered a white woman who was walking her dog---off leash. He politely and calmly asked her to leash her dog, as per the posted signs placed throughout the Ramble. But she not only refused, she became hysterical and threatened to call the police and tell them she was being attacked by a Black man. Cooper remained calm and collected throughout the experience, all the while continuing to record what was happening. As is often the case in these troubling times, the video went viral.

This is the story of how a self-described queer Blerd (Black nerd) from a somewhat dysfunctional family came to be in this situation and to be able to handle it with such aplomb. Cooper has a passion for birds and birding, a love of traveling, and a great talent for storytelling. This is a book about birds and birding but it is not a 'bird book'. He has included *Bird Tips* but it is not a guide on being a better birder. It is a book of discovery and joy; of heartbreak and perseverance.

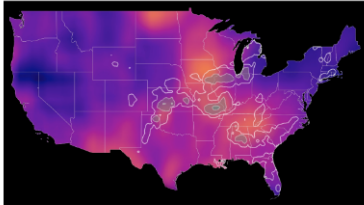
I found this memoir a delight to read---full of passion and honesty. It provides insight into the world of nature and the ability to navigate through the messiness and prejudices of our own lives. Do yourself a favor. Buy this book or borrow it from the library, then immerse yourself in a world of Better Living.



## NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN BIRDING

### By Scott Watkins

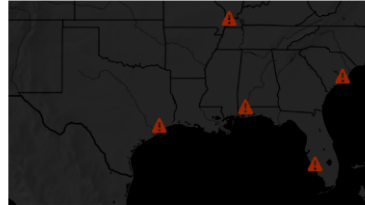
BirdCast is a new, online interactive technology which makes real time predictions on the number of birds migrating during the migration season. It can be found at the [birdcast.info](http://birdcast.info) web page. The page has tools to allow the user to explore the areas below.



#### Bird migration forecast maps

Bird migration forecast maps show predicted nocturnal migration 3 hours after local sunset and are updated every 6 hours. Colorado State University and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology currently produce these forecasts.

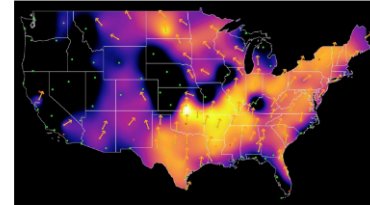
[Learn more](#)



#### Local bird migration alerts

Search with our local migration alert tool to determine whether birds are passing overhead near your city tonight!

[Learn more](#)

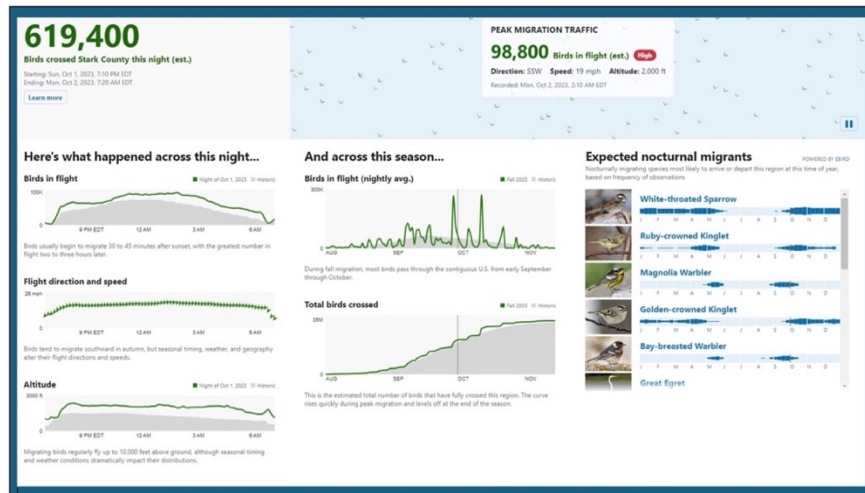


#### Live bird migration maps

See real-time analysis maps of intensities of actual nocturnal bird migration, as detected by the US weather surveillance radar network between local sunset to sunrise. Cornell Lab of Ornithology currently produces these maps.

[Learn more](#)

Users can enter their state or county and see multiple features including the number of birds that crossed the county last night, the direction birds are flying, and the speed they are flying including altitude. It also highlights the expected species that should be migrating, based on historical data from ebird.org.



BirdCast is free to anyone and does not require any type of account or sign-on. If you're trying to plan a birding trip and want to know the best days to go look during migration, BirdCast can be an invaluable tool.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2023

This year, 18 Canton Audubon members participated in six different count circles with a total of 280 volunteer hours. Ronnie Macko, compiler for the Quail Hollow count, donated 55 of those hours. In the Canton circle, 81 bird species were seen with the Purple Finch and Common Yellowthroat being added to the circle's historical count records. CAS members Chuck McLaugherty had 44 hours, Shari Jackson-35 hours, and Cynthia Norris-26 hours. Thanks to all of the 2023 CBC volunteers!



## OHIO SANDHILL CRANE COUNT

**Save the Date:** Saturday, April 13th 5:30am – 8:30am. Participants will make a series of 5-minute point counts within a designated area. Volunteers are needed!

In 2021, the Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) began a Sandhill Crane count as part of the Midwest Crane Count. The survey is coordinated by DOW, International Crane Foundation and Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and is conducted in pre-selected counties based on available wetland habitat used by Sandhill cranes for nesting. According to DOW, observers reported 357 Sandhill cranes during the April 2023. Stark County was not historically included in the survey; however, organizers are considering adding it to the list of surveyed counties.

For more information, contact Chuck McClagherty at [mcclauca@gmail.com](mailto:mcclauca@gmail.com)

Ohio Crane Count <https://obcnet.org/get-involved/ohio-crane-count>

## BIRD CONSERVATION NEWS in 2023

### CAS Business Supporters

#### Dumont's Seed Company

619 30th St NW, Canton, OH 44709  
Ph: 330-492-0204  
Bird seed, Feeders, Supplies, Lawn,  
Garden

#### Hartville Elevator

11 Prospect Ave N, Hartville, OH  
Ph: 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  
Ph: 330-823-7487  
T-F: 9am-4pm, Sat 1pm-5pm,  
Sun 1pm-5pm, Closed Mon

#### Little Sparrow Bookshop

1200 N Main St, North Canton, OH 44720  
Ph: 330-967-2142  
New & used books, Audiobooks, gifts,  
Local authors & artists  
T, W, F: 11a-6p, Th: 11a-7p,  
Sat: 10a-5p, Sun: 12-4p, Closed Mon

#### 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  
Ph: 330-409-8096 [www.StarkParks.com](http://www.StarkParks.com)

#### The Towne Printer

2403 Cleveland Ave Canton, OH 44709  
Ph: 330-455-4550  
M-F: 10am-4:30pm, Closed S/S  
Printing services

#### The Terra Depot

~~Megan Shoenfelt~~  
7404 ~~Shepler~~ Church Ave SW  
Navarre, OH 44662  
Ph: 330-471-6257  
Bird Seed, Feeders, Houses, Statuary  
[www.theTERRAdepot.com](http://www.theTERRAdepot.com)  
Thu & Fri: 10am-4pm  
Sat: 9am-4pm, Sun: 12pm-4pm

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared 10 U.S. bird species extinct.

Eight of bird species declared extinct in 2023 were from the Hawaiian Islands. They are the Kauai akialoa, Kauai nukupuu, Kaua'i 'ō'ō, Large Kauai thrush, Maui ākepa, Maui nukupu'u, Molokai creeper, and Po'ouli. The Kaua'i 'ō'ō was the last surviving member of the Mohoidae family and represents the only complete extinction of an entire avian family in modern times.

The other U.S. bird species presumed extinct are the Bachman's Warbler, once found in the southern U.S. It may have gone extinct as a result of habitat destruction both on the breeding and wintering grounds. The extinction of the Bridled White-eye, endemic to Guam, is attributed to habitat loss and predation by the introduced brown tree snake.

### Upland birds are in decline in Ohio.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced a statewide effort focused on creating and improving upland bird nesting and brood-rearing habitats. This includes woody edges, native grass field borders and native shrubby cover.

Upland bird species include wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse and ring-necked pheasant. Bobwhite quail, found in pockets of southwest Ohio, have seen a 71% population decline since 2011 or an annual rate of 11%.

### Record-breaking breeding season for Great Lakes Piping Plovers.

In 2023, 80 pairs of Piping plovers nested in the Great Lakes region, the highest number since being listed as endangered in 1985. This was an increase of eight nesting pairs compared to 2022. The population had been relatively stagnant with around 70-75 pairs in recent years but the increase of nesting pairs is due, in part, to the record fledgling numbers in 2022. The recovery goal is 150 nesting pairs in the Great Lakes Watershed. The USFWS released 4 Piping plover chicks at the Cat Island Restoration Site in in Lower Green Bay, a first-time release in Wisconsin.

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



*The Newsletter of Canton Audubon Society*

**Officers:**

Linda Chen, President - 2023-2025  
Scott Watkins, VP - 2023-2025... ph 330-209-1261  
Myra McCoy, Treasurer - 2023-2025  
Connie Rubin, Secretary – 2022-2024

**Directors:**

Marlene Bolea - 2023-2025, 2<sup>st</sup> term  
Dr. Robert Hamilton IV – 2022-2024, 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Teresa Kaminski- 2023-2025, 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Barbra Lewis – 2022-2024, 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Chuck McClaugherty - 2022-2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Megan Shoenfelt – 2022-2024, 1<sup>st</sup> term

**Conservation:** Linda Chen

**EDI:** Laura Dornan, Lee Dolan, Barbra Lewis,  
Chuck McClaugherty, Cynthia Norris, Connie Rubin,

**Education:** Lee Dolan

**Membership:** Laura Dornan

**Newsletter:** Laura Dornan, Chris Dyer, Linda Chen

**Programs/Field Trips:** Scott Watkins

**Publicity:** Connie Rubin

**Scholarship, Fritz (college):** Laura Dornan (chair),  
Lee Dolan, Joyce Stevens, Bob Rohrbaugh, Rose Ann Carper

**Scholarship, Hog Island:** Dr. Robert Hamilton IV,  
Megan Shoenfelt, Chuck McClaugherty,

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

**Website:** Scott Watkins

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

**Canton Audubon Society (Chapter code: S69)**  
\* 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  
\* OR, PAY ONLINE at [www.CantonAudubon.org](http://www.CantonAudubon.org)