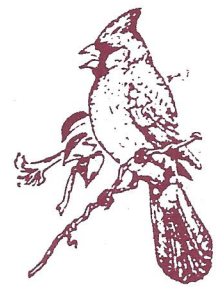


Audubon *News and Views*



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



Volume 53

March – April 2015

Issue No. 5

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 its on plants, and still others it's on waterways and diversities of the land. For all it is an interest to enjoy, to conserve, restore, share with others, and to educate both adults and students.

As a member of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, you are also a member of the CANTON AUDUBON SOCIETY, and are invited to attend our monthly meetings held at 7:00 p.m., the third Wednesday each month (September thru June), at the STARK PARKS EXPLORATION GATEWAY, 5712 - 12th St., NW, Canton. You will receive *AUDUBON NEWS & VIEWS* September/October issue with our calendar of activities for the entire meeting year.

Visit our website: www.cantonaudubon.org, or phone 330-832-2491 for further information about activities.

CALENDAR

March

- Tues.. 3 Noon **Brown Bag Lunch Series – Climate Change in the Midwest, Part 1: Why are we so concerned about carbon?** The Wilderness Center (TWC), Wilmot.
See Brown Bag It on page 7. Questions? 330-359-5235
- Tues.. 10 Noon **Brown Bag Lunch Series – Climate Change in the Midwest, Part 2: How Might Changes In Climate Affect ECOSYSTEMS?** See Brown Bag It, page 7 for specifics.
ODNR Division of Wildlife: Wildlife Diversity Conference 2015, Columbus.
See Diversity, on page 7.
- Wed. 11 8:00 a.m.
- Thurs. 12 6:00 p.m. **Chickadee Box Workshop**, Stark Park's Exploration Gateway. Registration required.
Kits are \$10 ; one kit per family. 330-409-8096.
- Sat. 14 1:00 p.m. **Wilderness Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. Questions? 330-359-5235. FREE.
Join a naturalist for a walk on the trails. See what's interesting today.
- Sat. 15 2:00 p.m. **Marsh Wetland Wildflowers**, TWC, Wilmot. Questions? 330-359-5235. FREE.
Marvin Smith, TWC Botanizers will cover 62 plants typically found around marshes.
- Tues.. 17 Noon **Brown Bag Lunch Series – Climate Change in the Midwest, Part 3: What May Be the Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife?** See Brown Bag It, page 7 for specifics.
- Wed. 18 5:30 p.m. **CAS Pre-meeting Bird Walk**, meet on south-facing balcony of the EG for walk. Denise Lesko is the leader.
- 7:00 p.m. **CAS Regular Meeting – "Climate Change: Impacts on Wildlife"**, presented by Dr. Jeff Corney, Executiv Director – The Wilderness Center
See March Meeting Preview, page 3.
- Sat. 21 7:00 a.m. **Shreve Migration Sensation**, Shreve. Workshops, field trips,
1:30 p.m. **Bald Eagle Walk**, Stark Park's Walborn Reservoir Marina
- Sun. 22 2:00 p.m. **Wildflower Walk**, Stark Park's Walborn (Reeder Ave.)
- Wed. 25 5:30 p.m. **CAS Board Meeting**, Perry-Sippo Library, Exploration Gateway
- Sun. 29 2:00 p.m. **Signs of Spring Hike**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Alliance.
Guided walk with Dr. Chuck McClaugherty to search for signs of the spring season.
FREE. No registration required. Questions? Call 330-823-7487.

Audubon News & Views

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March - April

No. 5

April

- Thurs. 2 6:00 p.m. **The Birds, Bees, ...and the Butterflies**, Stark Parks Exploration Gateway.
Better pollination, more wildlife watching, more color by having the right plants in your garden. Presented by Scott Sandbrink of Working Gardens.
- Fri. 3 7:30 p.m. **American Woodcocks: The Sky Dancer**, Exploration Gateway Shelter.
Wear dark clothes and bring a flashlight.
- Mon. 6 7:00 a.m. **Birds Before Work**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Alliance.
Meet Adam Zorn at the Nickelplate Trail trailhead on Pinevale Ave. in Louisville.
RSVP requested - 330-823-7487.
- Wed. 8 6:00 p.m. **Wren Box Workshop**, Exploration Gateway. Kits are \$10; one kit per family.
Registration required. Call 330-409-8096.
- Sat. 11 8:00 a.m. **Bird Banding with Al**, Huston Brumbaugh-Nature Center, Alliance.
Drop in any time between 8 and noon as Al Eibel bands birds. Cancelled if there is rain.
- Wed. 15 5:30 p.m. **Pre-meeting Bird Walk**, Sippo Lake. Meet on the south-facing balcony of the building.
7:00 p.m. **CAS Regular Meeting - "Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve: A Photographer's Perspective"**, present by CAS member Michael Witt. See April Meeting Preview, page 3.
- Thurs. 16 6:30 p.m. **Destination Alaska**, presented by Michael Witt. Exploration Gateway.
To compliment the Stark Parks display of John Muir-Travels in Alaska. Register with the Perry Sippo Branch Library, 330-477-8482, or www.TheSmartStore.org.
- Sat. 18 **Earth Day at TWC**, Wilmot. FREE. Questions? Call 330-359-5235.
Come and participate in various activities all day long.
- 1:30 p.m. **Forest Beauties: Wildflowers**. SCPD - Walborn Marina. Question, call 330-409-8096
- 2:00 p.m. **Birds & Blooms Hike With Adam Zorn**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Alliance.
Join Adam in search of ephemeral flowers and migratory birds. Pre-registration is required, and closes April 16.
- Mon. 20 7:00 a.m. **Birds Before Work**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Alliance.
Meet Adam Zorn at the Nickelplate Trail trailhead on Pinevale Ave. in Louisville.
RSVP requested - 330-823-7487.
- Wed. 22 5:30 p.m. **CAS Earth Day Walk at Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve**, FREE.
Join CAS member, and author, Michael Witt for a "trip back in time". Meet in the Jackson park's parking lot behind the large white barn on south side of Fulton Road, just west of Jackson H.S.
- Thurs. 23 7:30 a.m. **Walk with the Birds**, SCPD Towpath Trail/ John Glenn Grove. Questions, call 330-409-8096.
- Sun. 26 1-4 p.m. **2015 Earth Day Celebration**, Kent State-Stark. CAS will have a table at the event.
2:00 p.m. **Wildflower Hike with Patty Rickard**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Alliance.
Join Emeritus Naturalist Patty Rickard for an exploration of mid-spring wildflowers.
No registration required. Questions? Call 330-823-7487.
3:00 p.m. **Wildflower Walk**, Exploration Gateway. 2 miles. Questions, call 330-409-8096.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 1, 2015 7:00 p.m. **Messing Around with Birds** (For Fun and Science), Scott Weidensaul, author and naturalist. Cleveland Museum of Natural History Explorer Series. cmnh.org.
- May 8 - 15, 2015 **The BIGGEST Week In American Birding**, www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com
- May 8 - 10, 2015 **Festival of the Birds**, Presque Isle, PA www.presqueisleaudubon.org
- Sept. 10 - 13, 2015 **Midwest Birding Symposium**, Bay City, MI. www.midwestbirding.org/mbs2015

March 18 - Meeting Preview

**Climate Change:
Impacts on Wildlife**

Presented by Dr. Jeff Corney

The Midwest region of the United States—from Minnesota to Ohio—currently supports all three major North American ecosystems or “biomes”: eastern deciduous forests, northern coniferous forests, and western grasslands. This unique ecological distribution is a direct result of this region’s current climatic conditions. However, climatologists predict significant changes in temperature, precipitation, and soil moisture patterns taking place over the next 100 years. As each biome is comprised of plants adapted to survive and thrive only within a limited range of climatic conditions, such major shifts in climate will likely result in a corresponding, and potentially radical, shift in the composition of ecosystems throughout the region.

Join us tonight as Dr. Jeff Corney, Executive Director of The Wilderness Center, presents his program to educate us on yet another aspect of Global Climate Change that we may not have thought about.

Dr. Corney is coming up on the one year anniversary of his hiring as the third executive director for TWC (April 1, 2014). He grew up in southeast Michigan, earned his bachelor’s degree in Biology from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Received his masters in Communication Development at Colorado State University, and his masters and doctorate in natural resources from The Ohio State University. He and his wife Sarah, who is originally from northeast Ohio, are the parents of three young.

Previously, Dr. Corney served as Managing Director of the University of Minnesota’s ecological research station, the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve and taught as Adjunct Faculty in Ecology. Dr. Corney’s primary area of interest focuses on the human dimension of natural resource management.

Refreshments tonight are courtesy of Lee & Alan Dolan.

April 15 - Meeting Preview

**“Jackson Bog: A
Photographer’s Perspective”**

Presented by Michael Witt

“Dead still silence as the thousand-foot wall of dirty grey ice looms above. The Wisconsin glacier stands tall, cool and dominant. As immovable as any mountain. As powerful as a hundred hurricanes. Yet, it sculpts the landscape, but oh so slowly, as it bulldozes its way south.”

That description of the environment of what is now Jackson Bog some 10,000 years ago, is the first paragraph of Mike’s book Jackson Bog, which he authored to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve in 2005.

The cliché says: “A picture is worth a thousand words”, and photographs can have a powerful impact. That being the case, Mike has many words, in the form of Images he has taken at the “Bog” (really a fen) during his many early morning forays in the bog with his faithful companion dog Ilsa.

Mike is a versatile self-taught photographer, best known for his nature subjects. Raised in West Virginia, educated in engineering and having a master’s degree in business, Mike left management after more than 25 years to pursue passions in photography, travel and auto racing. He is also a former board member of Canton Audubon.

After seeing his program this evening, you can accompany Mike into this state nature preserve on Earth Day, April 22 at 5:30 p.m., as he leads a Canton Audubon-sponsored field trip in the bog/fen.

Refreshments tonight are courtesy of Linda & Del Nida.

Eat at Chipotle, Help Stark Parks

If one of your favorite restaurants is Chipotle, you can help Stark Parks raise some money on Earth Day – April 22.

Visit any of the 4 Chipotle restaurants in Stark County on April 22, along with a SCPD newsletter, flyer, or your smart phone. 50% of your meal’s proceeds will be donated to **Friends of Stark Parks**. An email blast will be sent out so you can use your smart phone.



**Okay, so it's a blackbird. But it's not just *any* blackbird...
It's the Rusty Blackbird, and it is in trouble!**

Rusty Blackbirds have experienced an 85-99% population drop in the last half-century. Over the last 15 years, research on Rusty breeding and wintering ecology has allowed us to develop conservation strategies to protect this vulnerable species. But many questions still remain, and Rusty Blackbird migration habits are largely a mystery. Are there hot spots where many Rusties congregate during migration? Are similar migratory stopover areas used by Rusties each year, and are these areas protected?

The International Rusty Blackbird Working Group, in partnership with eBird, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Smithsonian, and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, is launching a spring migration Blitz. The objectives of the Blitz are:

1. Identify migratory stopover sites
2. Determine consistency of numbers/timing of Rusty Blackbird migration
3. Strengthen relationships with state and federal agencies in order to advance Rusty Blackbird conservation
4. Engage the birding community and create increased awareness and excitement about Rusty Blackbirds

**Will you accept a Rusty Challenge?
This spring, help advance our understanding of one of the most rapidly declining land birds in north America**

Go to

<http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/> for complete information and to help!

Save the Date! Audubon Convention 2015

Audubon Convention 2015 will take place July 10-13, 2015 at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, Virginia. Join fellow leaders from across the Audubon network for fellowship, learning and sharing. Send your name and email address to convention@audubon.org for more information and details about registration, which will open in early 2015 (Note: All Convention 2013 attendees have already been added to this list).



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mystery. First, Merlin asks you a few simple questions. Then, almost like magic, it reveals the list of birds that best match your description. Pick your bird, then delve into more photos, sounds, and ID tips about your bird!

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- Created for beginning and intermediate bird watchers, Merlin identifies the 400 most common bird species in the United States and Canada (excluding Hawaii).
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- Enjoy more than 1,000 photos of birds, including males, females, and juveniles.
- Learn ID tips from Cornell Lab experts.
- Listen to beautiful bird songs and calls from the Cornell Lab's Macaulay Library.
- It's all free! The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's goal is to help millions to learn about birds.

Editor's note: My sincere thanks to CAS member Nancy Baker-Cazan for letting me know about this FREE app for the smartphone (either iPhone or Android). While I haven't used it yet, it is ready for my next mystery bird sighting

EMERGING SOLAR PLANTS SCORCH BIRDS MID-AIR

IVANPAH DRY LAKE, Calif. (AP) — Workers at a state-of-the-art solar plant in the Mojave Desert have a name for birds that fly through the plant's concentrated sun rays — "streamers," for the smoke plume that comes from birds that ignite in midair.

Federal wildlife investigators who visited the BrightSource Energy plant last year and watched as birds burned and fell, reporting an

average of one "streamer" every two minutes, are urging California officials to halt the operator's application to build a still-bigger version.

The investigators want the halt until the full extent of the deaths can be assessed. Estimates per year now range from a low of about a thousand by BrightSource to 28,000 by an expert for the Center for Biological Diversity environmental group.

The deaths are "alarming. It's hard to say whether that's the location or the technology," said Garry George, renewable-energy director for the California chapter of the Audubon Society. "There needs to be some caution." The bird kills mark the latest instance in which the quest for clean energy sometimes has inadvertent environmental harm. Solar farms have been criticized for their impacts on desert tortoises, and wind farms have killed birds, including numerous raptors.

"We take this issue very seriously," said Jeff Holland, a spokesman for NRG Solar of Carlsbad, California, the second of the three companies behind the plant. The third, Google, deferred comment to its partners.

The \$2.2 billion plant, which launched in February, is at Ivanpah Dry Lake near the California-Nevada border. The operator says it is the world's biggest plant to employ so-called power towers.

More than 300,000 mirrors, each the size of a garage door, reflect solar rays onto three boiler towers each looming up to 40 stories high. The water inside is heated to produce steam, which turns turbines that generate enough electricity for 140,000 homes.

Sun rays sent up by the field of mirrors are bright enough to dazzle pilots flying in and out of Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

Federal wildlife officials said Ivanpah might act as a "mega-trap" for wildlife, with the bright light of the plant attracting insects, which in turn attract insect-eating birds that fly to their death in the intensely focused light rays. Federal and state biologists call the number of deaths significant, based on sightings of birds getting singed and falling, and on retrieval of carcasses with feathers charred too severely for flight.

Audubon News & Views

Volume 53 March - April 2015 No. 5

Ivanpah officials dispute the source of the so-called streamers, saying at least some of the puffs of smoke mark insects and bits of airborne trash being ignited by the solar rays. Wildlife officials who witnessed the phenomena say many of the clouds of smoke were too big to come from anything but a bird, and they add that they saw "birds entering the solar flux and igniting, consequently become a streamer." U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials say they want a death toll for a full year of operation.

An October 2013 photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows a burned Yellow-rumped. Given the apparent scale of bird deaths at Ivanpah, authorities should thoroughly track bird kills there for a year, including during annual migratory seasons, before granting any more permits for that kind of solar technology, said George, of the Audubon Society.

The toll on birds has been surprising, said Robert Weisenmiller, chairman of the California Energy Commission. "We didn't see a lot of impact" on birds at the first, smaller power towers in the U.S. and Europe, Weisenmiller said.

The commission is now considering the application from Oakland-based BrightSource to build a mirror field and a 75-story power tower that would reach above the sand dunes and creek washes between Joshua Tree National Park and the California-Arizona border. The proposed plant is on a flight path for birds between the Colorado River and California's largest lake, the Salton Sea — an area, experts say, is richer in avian life than the Ivanpah plant, with protected golden eagles and peregrine falcons and more than 100 other species of birds recorded there.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials warned California that the power-tower style of solar technology holds "the highest lethality potential" of the many solar projects burgeoning in the deserts of California. The commission's staff estimates the proposed new tower would be almost four times as dangerous to birds as the Ivanpah plant. The agency is expected to decide this autumn on the proposal.

While biologists say there is no known feasible way to curb the number of birds killed, the companies behind the projects say they are hoping to find one — studying whether lights, sounds or some other technology would scare them away, said Joseph Desmond, senior vice president at BrightSource Energy.

BrightSource also is offering \$1.8 million in compensation for anticipated bird deaths at Palen, Desmond said.

The company is proposing the money for programs such as those to spay and neuter domestic cats, which a government study found kill over 1.4 billion birds a year. Opponents say that would do nothing to help the desert birds at the proposed site.

Power-tower proponents are fighting to keep the deaths from forcing a pause in the building of new plants when they see the technology on the verge of becoming more affordable and accessible, said Thomas Conroy, a renewable-energy expert.

When it comes to powering the country's grids, "diversity of technology ... is critical," Conroy said. "Nobody should be arguing let's be all coal, all solar," all wind, or all nuclear. "Every one of the technologies has a long list of pros and cons."

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AN HISTORIC MOMENT FOR PURPLE MARTINS IN OHIO

House Bill 404 passed through the Ohio House of Representatives on April 2, 2014. Governor Kasich has signed the bill into law. Officially Portage Lakes is now known as the PURPLE MARTIN CAPITAL OF OHIO.

Gov. John Kasich recently signed legislation making this long-sought designation official.

"This has exceeded our wildest dream," Larry Hunter, president of the group, said in a press release. "We went from one nesting pair in 2000 to the Purple Martin Capital in 2014."

State Rep. Anthony DeVitis, R-Green, had pledged during his reelection campaign to try to get the legislation passed before the end of the session. He said the legislation will "bring increased awareness of the value of the Purple Martin in the Portage Lakes area."

"Helping them prosper in their natural habitat will greatly contribute to the Purple Martins' ability to reduce the need of using harmful chemicals to control insects in our community," he said.

The association hosts several activities a year to educate the community about these beneficial birds. According to Hunter, the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association is planning a celebration of this victory on May 8 at Prime 93 in New Franklin.

Any Canton Audubon Society members who wish to cruise the Portage Lakes sometime in August – when the Martins are engaged in their "pre-migratory roost" – should contact Alan to reserve a seat (only eight available) on the pontoon boat ride to observe this avian spectacle. Cost for the boat ride is \$25 per person.

ODNR - Wildlife Diversity Conference

The Aladdin Shriners' Complex, located at 3850 Stelzer Rd. in Columbus, just south of Morse Road will be the site of this year's Wildlife Diversity Endangered Species Program.

Online registration, at WILDOHIO.GOV, is highly recommended. Registration is now \$35 per person.

The theme is "Wildlife Challenges and Positive Connections". There will be 8 presentations, and plenty of displays by many organizations. If you want to lunch at the Complex, you must pre-register for it, otherwise you will have to leave the building to eat – no outside food may be brought into the Complex.

Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamps will be available. Canton Audubon will have the 2015 stamp available at our March 18 meeting. The Eastern Bluebird is the subject. The cost is \$15 per set, with \$2 from each set going to CAS. One change from the previous 5 years is that if you order an OWL stamp individually by mail, it WILL NOT include a pin. However, the bulk purchases such as what CAS has done, WILL include the pin.

So you can, with a purchase, support ODNR's Division of Wildlife, AND, the Canton Audubon Society. See Alan.

Brown Bag It

Bring a sack lunch and join TWC's Executive Director, Dr. Jeff Corney for this three part series exploring climate change and the effects it may have on Ohio's natural areas. The Midwest's climate supports three major ecosystems: deciduous forests, coniferous forests, and grasslands. However, due to rising levels of carbon in the atmosphere, climatologists predict significant climate changes over the next 100 years. As each ecosystem is comprised of plants adapted to survive and thrive only within a limited range of climatic conditions, such changes will likely result in a corresponding shift in the composition of ecosystems throughout the region. Wildlife depends on the food, water and shelter provided by a region's ecosystems. As vegetation types shift and water resource availability changes, wildlife habitats may be altered to the point where animals in this region may be impacted. The cost is \$10 for each of the 3 sessions for TWC members, or \$20 for all 3. Non-member cost is \$15 per session or \$30 for all 3. Questions? Call 330-359-5235.

Canton Audubon Society
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Canton, OH 44711-9586



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_____ Bluebird (business supporter, 2 year)	\$50
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_____ Other (name your amount)	_____
Introductory National Audubon Society/	
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