

Audubon *News and Views*



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



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May - June 2015

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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 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

May

- Fri.. 8 - Sun. 17 **THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING.** See "Biggest Week" on page 5.
- Tues. 12 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Walk**, The Wilderness Center, Wilmot (TWC). Questions? 330-359-5235.
Join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Steve Upperman.
- Fri. 15 All Day **Endangered Species Day**, See "ESD" on page 5.
- Sat. 16 9:00 a.m. **CAS Field Trip, Poland Woods**, Poland, Ohio. Wildflowers, birds, and Virginia Bluebells. Meet in front of The Wildlife Garden on Portage St., NW to carpool. Bring snacks, water, camera, binoculars and whatever paraphernalia you need.
- 9:30 a.m. **Monitoring Monarchs Conference**, TWC, Wilmot. Questions? 330-359-5235.
Share your love of monarch butterflies with others and learn how to create habitat, help monitor and support conservation for this imperiled species. Dr. Karen Oberhasuer from the University of Minnesota's Monarch Lab and Monarch Joint Venture will be our keynote speaker, giving us all the latest updates on the state of the monarch. Registration includes lunch, \$30.
- Wed. 18 5:30 p.m. **CAS Pre-meeting Bird Walk**, meet on south-facing balcony of the EG for walk.
- 7:00 p.m. **CAS Regular Meeting - "Ohio's Birds Records Committee"**, presented by Paul Gardner, secretary. See May Meeting Preview, page 2.
- Sat. 23 1:00 p.m. **Breeding Birds**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Alliance. 330-823-7487.
A family-friendly walk to look & listen for birds that breed at the Nature Center.

June

- Wed. 10 5:30 p.m. **CAS Board Meeting**, Perry-Sippo Library.
- Wed. 17 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Walk**, The Wilderness Center, Wilmot (TWC). Questions? 330-359-5235.
- 5:00 p.m. **Pre-meeting Bird Walk**, Sippo Lake. Meet at the covered picnic shelter.
- 6:30 p.m. **CAS Summer Picnic**, See June Meeting Preview, page 2.
- Sat. 20 8:00 a.m. **Bird Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. TWC Bird Club. All ages welcome.
- Sat. 27 2:00 p.m. **Buckeye MARTINFEST**, Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association. At State Mill Road Launch Ramp. Question? Call Larry Hunter, 330-644-1540.

May - Meeting Preview
Ohio's Birds Records
Committee

Presented by Paul Gardner

Have you heard about or gone to look for any rare birds this past year and wondered just how rare it is? Have you ever looked for a reported "first time seen in Ohio" bird and hoped that it would be an "accepted and countable bird" that you could add to your Ohio List? And what if you are the one to stumble upon a possible rare bird? Would you know what to do? Just who are the people who make these decisions and why should we care if a bird is documented correctly? After all, if you feel that you saw a bird adequately and were able to identify it, why is it anybody else's business?

The Ohio Bird Records Committee consists of 9 members whose responsibility it is to validate records of rare birds in Ohio, thus increasing our knowledge of Ohio's bird life. They are also responsible for the official list of Ohio bird species. Paul Gardner is the current Secretary of the OBRC and he will speak at the May 20 meeting about the work of the committee, how to document a rare bird, what the criteria is for a review list bird, and show us some of the rare and vagrant birds that have been found in Ohio. This is bound to be an interesting program that will provide a peek at the inner workings of the birding community and a look at some of the birds we seldom see in Ohio or sometimes even in this country.

We will also be electing four board members of the CAS. See "May CAS Elections" on the next page. Our refreshments tonight will be courtesy of Linda & Del Nida.

June 17 - Meeting Preview
"Picnic in the Park"

JOIN US TONIGHT FOR THE KICKOFF OF OUR 54TH MEETING YEAR.

We'll start with our now-traditional pre-meeting bird walk, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the covered

picnic pavilion on your right as you are driving up the entrance to Exploration Gateway.

At 6:30 p.m. we'll have a potluck picnic followed by fellowship, and another bird walk if the interest is present.

Bring a table service and a dish to share with others. CAS will provide the meat and beverage, unless you have a special favorite beverage (no alcohol though).

Either email or call Alan or Laura to let them know you are planning on coming so we can have enough food. Don't worry about rain. If it is inclement, we'll be inside the EG building. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE ON JUNE 17.

Chapter Chatter

Canton Audubon lost the last charter member of the 1962 founders of this organization we know of, with the passing of Jean Fritz, March 28, 2015.



Jean was the widow of Arnold Fritz who is considered one of the three founders of this organization. The Fritz name will live on in CAS history since we named the Canton Audubon Society's Arnold Fritz Scholarship after our founder. Canton Audubon thanks Barbara Bauer (former CAS President) for attending the calling hours to represent, this organization....Laura Dornan, CAS VP, is recovering from her knee replacement surgery in November. Husband Tim is also recovering from his medical needs....Linda Nida, CAS board member, has just finished her radiation therapy. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery....Linda Chen (CAS board member) and your president are recovered from the fractures....This winter has been tough on the CAS leadership....On a note different from the medical ones just noted, Alan has reached the end of his eight years tenure as the Regionally Elected Board Member for the Mississippi Flyway North of the National Audubon Society's national board. He and Lee have to come up with their own travel ideas now, although they do plan on attending the NAS Convention this July in Leesburg, VA. See the article elsewhere in this issue. LASTLY, planning is under way for the programming for our 54th year - 2015-16. Ideas? Contact an officer or board member.

Keep Common Species

Synopsis by Alan Dolan

The January/February 2015 Winter Edition of ODNR Division of Wildlife's **Wild Ohio** contains an article written by Jim McCormac entitled THE VALUE OF COMMON. I found the article very interesting – not something new for a Jim article.

Ohio has about 425 species recorded, more than any of our surrounding states except for Michigan's 950-plus species. Ohio's bird diversity is a consequence of the range of habitats found in Ohio: western prairies, Lake Erie, the Ohio River and Appalachian foothills. Jim says the list of species grows by one or two species each year. About 180 species of birds breed in Ohio each year. ODNR Division of Wildlife lists 18 breeding species as endangered or threatened. Protection of rare birds is important.

But as important as protecting rare birds is, McCormac states "it is important to keep common species common". The vast majority of bird species that breed in Ohio are at least fairly common, and many are abundant.

Jim's article then goes on to list the top 11 breeding birds in Ohio, by abundance, with some interesting facts about each bird species. He ends the article with the top 25 nesting land birds by abundance in Ohio.

The Top 11 Breeding Bird Species in Ohio are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. American Robin | 6.6 million |
| 2. Song Sparrow | 5.0 million |
| 3. Chipping Sparrow | 3.5 million |
| 4. House Sparrow | 3.4 million |
| 5. Common Grackle | 2.6 million |
| European Starling | 2.6 million |
| 7. Indigo Bunting | 2.5 million |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 2.5 million |
| 9. Northern Cardinal | 2.2 million |
| 10. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher | 1.8 million |
| Mourning Dove | 1.8 million |



His list of top 25 nesting land birds ends with the Barn Swallow, 610,000.

With all the stresses on state funds to keep programs running, Ohioans should be grateful and supportive of DOW fundraising sources to keep their work current, relevant, and ongoing. Those

funding sources keep DOW out of the state programs funding mix to some degree.

Please support ODNR Division of Wildlife's: Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamps, hunters', fishers' and trappers' annual licenses, specialized license plates, Ohio state tax return checkoff, and donations from wildlife enthusiasts. Thank you to all who do.

If you are interested, you can receive **Wild Ohio** by purchasing a Wild Ohio magazine membership. Go online to wildohio.gov and click on the Wild Ohio Customer Center to purchase a membership for \$10. For those online who purchased a hunting or fishing license, Ohio Wetland Stamp, or an Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp through the Wild Ohio customer Center, the cost is \$5. You can purchase your magazine by mail for a cost of \$10. To request a mail-in form please contact 1-800-945-3543.

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BIG YEAR**Birding Without Borders**

Noah Strycker is going global. A 28-year old 'bird nerd', with little more than a backpack and a spotting scope, is attempting to crush the round-the-world-Big Year record.

You can follow Audubon's intrepid correspondent in **AUDUBON** magazine and on his daily blog at Audubon.org/noah as he travels from Antarctica to Zambia, trying to identify 5,000-plus species in 365 days. You'll be able to view his route, take a look in his bag, and track his numbers in real time.

The current record is 4,341 species, in 2008, by a British couple, Ruth Miller and Alan Davies.

Noah hopes you'll join him on this quest, through updates on the blog and in **AUDUBON** magazine.

May CAS Elections

CAS VP Laura Dornan reports the following slate of Directors, to be voted on at our May 20 meeting. Linda Chen and Chuck Hewett agreed to run for another two year term as directors. Linda Nida and Mary Schilstra are term-limited off as directors. Joanne Ditter and Kristen Beck have agreed to run for those two expiring seats on the board.

The CAS wishes to express a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Linda and Mary for their years of dedicated service as CAS board members. Their time, incite, support are greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. Mary will continue as our chapter's Conservation Committee Chair. Linda, after her recovery, will be a special aid to the board and your president. They will not be lost nor forgotten. Ladies, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

WILD

Suburbia

Citizen Science to Track

Bobcats, Bears, Coyotes, Fishers and Foxes

The Wild Suburbia Project (www.wildsuburbiaproject.com) began in Marcy 2013 to solicit observations of bobcats, bears, coyotes, fishers, and foxes from local residents in Westchester County, NY and Fairfield County, CT. All five species are present in that region, however, not much is known about where they live and how many there are. The Project has

since expanded to New York City and Long Island to better understand the presence and distribution of those animals in that region, and now Wild Suburbia is coming to Ohio.

The University of Mount Union's Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center is teaming up with the project originators from The Mianus River Gorge, Teatown Lake Reservation and Westmoreland Sanctuary to study five mammal species in our area, but they need your help! Local residents are an important source of information about local wildlife and nature. The Wild Suburbia Project team would like to enlist your participation to provide information about where and when you have seen these animals.

Adam Zorn, Program Manager for Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, worked with the initial Wild Suburbia project in NY, and is the contact person for it in this area.

Three workshops are being scheduled during this summer, and will be noted in the summer issue of AN&V. If you would like information about the program before that time, contact Adam at 330-82-7487, or zornas@mountunion.edu.

Pollinator Week

June 15 - 21, 2015

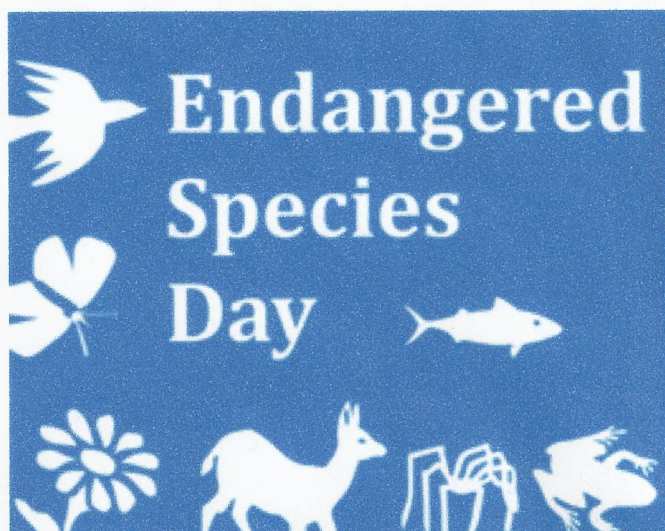
Pollinator Week was initiated and is managed by the Pollinator Partnership.

Eight years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown to be an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. www.pollinator.org

Wildlife Watchers Wanted

Spend time in Stark parks or trails? Stark Parks are looking for volunteers to provide visitors with the opportunity to connect and appreciate the wonders found in Stark County.

Contact Corianne Kocarek, Volunteer Coordinator for the Stark County Park District to find out more. 330-409-8993, or ckocarek@starkparks.com.



Endangered Species Day marks its 10th year anniversary on May 15. Chapters can celebrate the many success stories of birds brought back from the brink and remind everyone that many plants and animals still need a strong Endangered Species Act to help them survive and ultimately thrive.

Zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens, wildlife refuges, conservation groups, national parks, museums, and schools throughout the country will hold tours, open houses, special presentations, exhibits, milkweed plantings/butterfly garden installations, habitat clean-ups/other restoration events, children's activities and more on May 15, that weekend and throughout May. If you're looking for ways to be involved in this important celebration.

Under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened.

"Endangered" means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Threatened" means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

More than 1,300 species of plants and animals are currently listed as either threatened or endangered in the United States.

While extinction is still a real threat for many species, there is hope. Conservation actions carried out in the United States under the Endangered Species Act have been successful in preventing extinction for 99 percent of the

species that are listed as endangered or threatened.

So why do we study endangered species and learn about endangered species

Conservation? There are several reasons: Endangered and threatened species of wildlife and plants are of ecological, historical, esthetic, recreational, and scientific value to us all. Ultimately, these species are a part of the complex web of life that supports us every day.

Birding's "Biggest Week" Partners to Help Cerulean Warbler and Other Migratory Birds



One of the world's premier annual birding festivals, known as **The Biggest Week in American Birding** ("Biggest Week"), will feature for the second year in a row a "carbon offset" component to advance bird conservation. This year, the festival suggests a \$10-per-person donation to enhance habitat for the imperiled Cerulean Warbler and other migratory birds.

The funds raised through the carbon offset will boost reforestation efforts by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) in Latin America, which has

supported the planting of more than 3.5 million trees and shrubs to date, improving wintering habitat for Cerulean Warblers and many other bird species.

Celebrating its sixth year, the Biggest Week will take place in northwest Ohio from May 8 to 17 and is hosted and organized by Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO). One of the festival's main birding locations, Magee Marsh, was recently voted as the top birding spot in the U.S. by readers of **USA Today**.

There are two ways to donate to the carbon offset/reforestation project. Participants in the Biggest Week can make a donation as part of the registration process. Those who want to give to the project without attending the event can contribute via a special donation page.

The Cerulean Warbler was formerly one of the most abundant breeding warblers in the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys, but is now one of the country's most imperiled migrant songbirds. Overall, Cerulean Warbler numbers have plummeted almost 70 percent since 1966.

The **Biggest Week** is the largest birding event in the country and features some of the best birding North America has to offer. It helps attract tens of thousands of people annually and, according to BSBO's post-event economic impact study, injects around \$37 million into the local economy. The festival is headquartered at Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center (which also provides support for the event), with additional vendors and activities at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

The 2015 event features about 250 different activities over the course of ten days. Those activities range from dozens of different birding excursions to bird banding opportunities, equipment demonstrations, workshops on bird song training, and raptor identification, as well as a host of photography training sessions including one on how to use your iPhone camera more effectively.

Northwest Ohio is believed by many to be the best place to witness the spring migration of songbirds anywhere in North America.

For inquiries about the event, call BSBO at 419-898-4070 or visit the **Biggest Week** website.

Great Backyard Bird Count Sets New Species Record

Nearly half the world's species identified in four days

New York, NY; Ithaca, NY; and Port Rowan, ON – Participants from more than 100 countries submitted a record 147,265 bird checklists for the annual **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT** and broke the previous count record for the number of species identified. The 5,090 species reported represents nearly half the possible bird species in the world. The 4-day count was held February 13-16, the 18th year for the event, a joint project of the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** and **National Audubon Society** with partner **Bird Studies Canada**.

The bitter cold, snowy weather in much of the northeastern United States and much of Canada was a major factor in this year's count. In much of the Northeast, Sunday was particularly frigid and windy, and the number of reports showed an obvious dip as some counters were forced indoors. As one participant in Quebec noted, watching birds came with a price as wind chill temperatures rarely topped -20 degrees Celsius (zero degrees Fahrenheit).

For those who did brave the cold, the GBBC data will help to better understand the impact of the cold on birds and bird populations. For example, scientists will be able to compare the abundance of some so-called "half-hardy" species, such as Carolina Wren and Yellow-rumped Warbler, to see if this cold winter has affected their populations.

Snowy Owls are one of the most charismatic and emblematic birds of winter. They breed in Arctic regions worldwide and drop south in some winters ("irrupt"), depending on food supplies and their breeding success in the previous summer. The winter of 2013-14 was a huge year for these owls which appeared in amazing numbers across the Great Lakes states, Northeastern U.S., Atlantic Coast, and southern Canada. GBBC reports for 2015 also show a surge in Snowy Owl sightings across the same range, though the frequency of reports is about half of last winter's. This is a well-known phenomenon with Snowy Owls, with the

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year after a very large invasion often being referred to as an "echo flight."

Winter finches—such as Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, redpolls, and crossbills—are popular among GBBC participants. These birds also "irrupt" south of their usual haunts depending on food supplies, so their numbers in a given region may change widely from year to year.

2015 was a banner year for Pine Siskins which are reported on 10.5% of GBBC checklists so far. Compare that to 1.2% of checklists in 2014 when most siskins stayed far north in Canada. Siskins will likely be hanging around through April and May, especially if the feeders are stocked with their favorite nyjer (thistle) seed.

Surprisingly, a Eurasian species, the Brambling, appears on the Top 10 list of most reported species for the first time ever. Since November, some of these birds have been spotted on the West Coast and others strayed even farther by turning up in Montana, Wyoming, and Ontario, with one 2015.

GBBC record in North America from Washington state. But the Brambling's appearance among the Top 10 can be traced to one checklist from Germany reporting a flock estimated at one million birds. Up to three million Bramblings have been known to gather at that site

In North America, California sits atop the leader board with the most checklists submitted and the greatest number of species, followed by Pennsylvania and New York. Ontario, Canada, is in the Top 10 for the second year in a row, nudging past Ohio and Georgia.

Outside of the U.S. and Canada, India was once again a star performer, nearly doubling the number of checklists submitted to more than 6,800 and reporting the greatest number of species so far with 717.

Top 10 most frequently reported species (number of checklists reporting this species)

Northern Cardinal	59,083
Dark-eyed Junco	59,074
Mourning Dove	48,313
Downy Woodpecker	45,399
Blue Jay	41,671
American Goldfinch	39,880

House Finch	39,241
Tufted Titmouse	38,191
Black-capped Chickadee	36,363
House Sparrow	34,564

Top 10 most numerous species

(sum of all across all checklists):

Snow Goose	1,494,937
Canada Goose	1,110,946
Brambling	1,000,047
European Starling	630,610
Mallard	579,330
American Coot	501,152
American Robin	488,063
Dark-eye Junco	465,939
Red-winged Blackbird	432,513
American Goldfinch	364,963

It's Here! **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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- Linda Chen 2013 - 2015
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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 year)	\$50
_____ Screech Owl (sustaining)	\$75
_____ Bald Eagle (life)	\$300
_____ Other (name your amount)	_____
Introductory National Audubon Society/ _____ Canton Audubon Society membership	
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