

# Audubon *News and Views*



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



Volume 58

June – July – August 2019

Issue No. 1

The Canton Audubon Society is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to meet our members' varied interests in the field of nature. For some the focus is on birds and animals, for others it's on plants, and still others it's on waterways and diversities of 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 COUNTY PARK DISTRICT'S EXPLORATION GATEWAY**, 5712 – 12<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Canton. You will receive **AUDUBON NEWS & VIEWS** September/October issue with our calendar of activities for the entire year.

Visit our website: [www.cantonaudubon.org](http://www.cantonaudubon.org) or phone 330-209-1261 for further information about our activities.

## Calendar

### June

- Tues. 18 8:00 a.m. **Bird Banding**, Stark Park's (SCPD) Sippo West. Pre-registration, 330-477-3552.
- Wed. 19 4:30 p.m. **CAS Pre-Meeting Bird Walk**. Meet at the Perry/Sippo picnic pavilion for the walk start.
- 5:30 p.m. **CAS Regular Meeting - Summer Picnic**, See June Meeting Preview, page 2.
- Thurs. 20 Noon **National Eagle Day**, SCPD Walborn Reservoir at the Eagle Dock.
- Sun. 23 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Walk**, The Wilderness Center (TWC), Wilmot.  
Learn the natural history of the area and season. Walk around one of the trails with a Wilderness Center guide.
- Sat. 29 1:00 p.m. **Butterfly Walk**, TWC, Wilmot.  
Learn about life cycles of butterflies and how to identify them. Will walk the Prairie Trail to view the common butterflies visiting the area. Cancelled if raining.

### July

- Tues. 2 8:00 a.m. **Bird Banding**, Stark Park's (SCPD) Sippo West. Pre-registration, 330-477-3552.
- Fri. 5 1:00 p.m. **Snake Walk**, TWC, Wilmot.  
Snakes are attracted to areas where they can warm up after a cool evening. Join a naturalist as we hike to these warming spots to find common snakes of the area. Will hike in brushing fields, so wear sturdy shoes and long pants.
- Wed. 10 11:00 a.m. **Herpetology Day**, TWC, Wilmot  
A chance to get up close with native Ohio reptiles and amphibians. Meet live frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles, take a hike to look for snakes, stop by the lake find look for turtles, watch snake and turtle feeding.
- Tues. 16 8:00 a.m. **Bird Banding**, Stark Park's (SCPD) Sippo West. Pre-registration, 330-477-3552.
- Thurs. 18 11:00 a.m. **Butterfly Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. See June 29.
- Sat. 20 4:00 p.m. **CAS Kent & Triangle Lake Bog Field Trip**, to bird and listen for Veery songs. Meet at former Wildlife Garden. Contact Scott if you have questions.
- Fri. – Mon. 26 – 29 **National Audubon Society Convention**, Milwaukee, WI. Go to [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).



## Calendar – Continued

- Sat. 27 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast with the Birds**, TWC, Wilmot.  
Join The Wilderness Center Bird Club in the observation room for coffee, juice and breakfast treats to watch/count birds from the warmth of the indoors – don't forget your camera
- Sat. 27 1:00 p.m. **Butterfly Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. See June 29.
- Sun. 28 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Walk**, The Wilderness Center (TWC), Wilmot. See June 23.
- Tues. 30 8:00 a.m. **Bird Banding**, Stark Park's (SCPD) Sippo West. Pre-registration, 330-477-3552.

### August

- Thurs. 1 11:00 a.m. **Snake Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. See July 5.
- Wed. 7 10:30 a.m. **Butterfly Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. See June 29.
- Sun. 11 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. See June 23..
- Thurs. 15 1:30 p.m. **Life in the Rotten Log**, TWC, Wilmot.  
Discover the abundance of life on rotten logs! Compare the plants and fungi that cling to the bark. Then, turn over rotten logs to see what kinds of creatures call them home. We will MAGNIFY these tiny creatures under microscopes to reveal their survival secrets.
- Sun. 18 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Walk**, TWC, Wilmot. See June 23.
- Wed. 21 6:00 p.m. **CAS Chimney Swift Watch Party**, SCPD Exploration Gateway.  
Bring dinner and a lawn chair to new Chimney swift tower for this watch party.
- Tues. 27 8:00 a.m. **Bird Banding**, Stark Park's (SCPD) Sippo West. Pre-registration, 330-477-3552.  
5:00 p.m. **CAS Board Meeting**. Location TBD.

### September

- Wed. 18 5:30 p.m. **CAS Pre-Meeting Bird Walk**. Meet at the south-facing balcony overlooking Sippo.  
7:00 p.m. **CAS Regular Meeting**. See September/October AN&V for program information.

## Metzger Park. June 1 Bird Walk IMAGES!



Bird Walk Participants at Canton Audubon Society sign in the Park





Scott taking a Closeup of Something – Laura Dornan & Scott – Scott & Laura overlooking Field  
Laura & Scott participating, even with some mechanical help!



Bluebird on Bluebird Box - Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly - 6 Checkerspots puddling on sidewalk

While we only saw 2 or 3 Bobolinks, and a couple of Eastern meadowlarks, plenty of Red Winged blackbirds, and no Savannah sparrows – what we did see above made up for the scarcity of some birds. Plus, the time for 9 CAS participants to interact with each other is always a plus on a walk.

### **CANTON AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP**

**Laura Dornan, Membership Chair**

Another fiscal year has passed and a new one began on June 1. That means time to renew memberships.

Chapter memberships provide funds for our yearly operations, including programming, newsletter, support for other environmental organizations, conservation projects, annual college scholarship and operating expenses. All National Audubon members are automatically members of the local chapter; however we do not receive any of the

National level dues after the first year of National membership so additional chapter memberships are certainly welcomed. If you are uncertain about your membership status, you may contact me, either by phone or email through the CAS email at [cantonaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:cantonaudubonsociety@gmail.com). We will always welcome those who prefer not to or are not able to me a financial contribution.

Be sure to check out the membership levels on the form on the back of this newsletter to find one that

best suits you. Please send your dues to Canton Audubon Society, Attn: Laura Brown to the address on the form.

### **June 20 –NATIONAL AMERICAN EAGLE DAY**

Observed each year on June 20th is National American Eagle Day. This day is set aside to honor our national symbol, raise awareness for protecting the Bald Eagle, assist in the recovery of their natural environments and take part in educational outreach.

The Bald Eagle is both the national bird and the national animal of the United States of America and appears on its Seal.

In the latter 20th century, the Bald Eagle was on the brink of extinction in the continental United States. Eventually, populations recovered and on July 12, 1995, the species was removed from the U.S. Federal Government's List of Endangered Species and transferred to the List of Threatened



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Species. On June 2007, it was withdrawn from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in the Lower 48 States.



The Bald Eagle's range includes most of Canada, Alaska, all of the contiguous United States and northern Mexico. They can be found near large bodies of open water where there is an abundant food supply and old-growth trees for nesting.

Opportunistic feeders, Bald Eagles survive mainly on fish, swooping down and snatching them from the water. Their nests are the largest nests of any North American bird and the largest tree nests ever recorded for any animal species. The largest recorded eagle's nest was found in St. Petersburg, Florida. It measured 9.5 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep. It weighed in at nearly 3 tons.

The name "Bald Eagle" derives from an older meaning of "white headed" as the bird is actually not bald. The adult eagle is mainly brown with a white head and tail.

### **HOW TO OBSERVE**

For more information on National American Eagle Day visit [www.eagles.org](http://www.eagles.org).

Use #NationalAmericanEagleDay to share on social media.

### **HISTORY**

National American Eagle Day is sponsored by The American Eagle Foundation.

### **June 1 Was The Beginning Canton Audubon's 58<sup>th</sup> Year**

Canton Audubon Society operates on a fiscal year June 1 – thru May 31. So June 1, 2019 was the beginning of our 58<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Since it is the beginning of the 2019-2020 business year, your chapter Supporter dues are due as a local member.

If you are a National Audubon Society member, they will mail you notice of when your dues are due.

If you are a National member, and your zipcode is one that Canton Audubon serves, you are automatically a Canton Audubon member too. It is your option to pay chapter supporter dues also. 100% of Chapter Supporter dues goes to Canton Audubon. National dues only revert to the local chapter for the first year you are a member, if you used(d) an application with our chapter identified on it. We receive nothing from National on subsequent renewals after the first year.

### **CAS BUSINESS SUPPORTERS**

#### **DUMONT SEED COMPANY**

619 30<sup>TH</sup> St. NW Canton  
330-492-0204

Lawn, Garden, Hydroponic Supplies &  
Seasonal Christmas Shop

#### **HARTVILLE ELEVATOR**

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

M – F 8-5 Sat. 8-Noon Sun. – Closed

#### **HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH NATURE CENTER**

University of Mount Union  
1972 Clark Ave. Alliance  
330-823-7487

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

#### **THE LADY BUG GARDEN CENTER & GIFT SHOP**

##### **Donna Mataka Landscape Services**

8361 Portage St., NW Massillon  
330-832-7080

Lawncare, Hardscapes, Snow Removal  
Spring/Fall Cleanup, Tree & Shrub Services

M – F 8-6 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-3

#### **STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT**

Administration: 330-477-3552

5300 Tyner St., NW Canton 44708

The Exploration Gateway (EG)

5712 – 12<sup>th</sup> St., NW Canton 44708

330-409-8096 [StarkParks.co](http://StarkParks.co)



## Great Smoky Mountains National Park - A Dolan Perspective

by Alan Dolan

Lee & I registered for a 6-day Road Scholar program. Riding the Virginia Creeper Bicycle Trail in Abingdon, VA. starting May 19. We decided to visit Great Smoky Mountain National Park the 5 days before the Road Scholar program since we have never been to that national park.

To say the least it is different than many of the parks we have visited, and learned quite a bit about this eastern U.S. national park. First off, there is no "E" in Smoky!

Visiting the park is like driving through a forest, because that is what you are doing a majority of the time. Very few open fields. The 521,895 acre park is cloaked in deep green forest (over 100 species of native trees), home to a staggering variety of plants (1,500 species) and animals including (240 bird species -  $\frac{3}{4}$  of which are neotropical migrants), salamanders ((30 species), and the park is an ark for hundreds of other animals including 50 kinds of fish. The black bear is the undeniable symbol of the Great Smoky Mountains. The last figure I could find put their estimated number at 1,700 in the late 1990's.

Other animals that inhabit the Park include the Eastern cottontail rabbit, red wolf, groundhog, red fox, coyote, bobcat, river otter, white-tailed deer and the wild boar.

Your elevation change goes from 1,031 feet in Pigeon Forge and 1,292 feet at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to 6,643 feet above sea level at Clingmans Dome which is just over the state border in North Carolina. Yes, Great Smoky National Park spans two states.

The most surprising information we learned from reading a few of the trailside signs are that the park is one of the most pristine parks in the eastern U.S. Few places in Eastern North America sustain the great variety of life than Smoky Mountain National Park. Animals within the park can be born, propagate, live their lives, and die with little influence from humans. Such abundance is a function of topography and climate. Varying elevations provide endless combinations of moisture, temperature and wind, sunlight and soil types.

But, in recent decades air quality has decreased dramatically. Because the mountains tend to trap air currents, the effect of air pollution on visibility and plant life is greater in the Smokies than some other areas. Air pollution comes to the Smokies from sources both far and near. Today many of the Smokies' plant and animal species suffer from pollution-induced impacts such as acid precipitation and high ozone.

So why is the park called Smoky Mountain?

The Cherokee described these mountains *shaconage* meaning "blue, like smoke." A smoke-like natural bluish haze - and mist-like clouds that rise following a rainstorm provide the inspiration for the name Smoky Mountains. During the growing season the Smokies' lush vegetation emits large quantities of moisture and organic compounds. Together they form the natural haze, which is thickest on calm, sunny humid days. But the misty veil is not all nature's work. Air pollution contributes too. In recent decades, visibility in Great Smoky Mountains National Park has decreased dramatically. Because mountains tend to trap air currents, the effect of pollution on visibility and plant life is greater in the Smokies than in some other areas.

Air pollution comes to the Smokies from sources both far and near. Pollutants - and the problems they bring - take many forms. Today, many of the Smokies plant and animal species suffer from pollution-induced impacts such as acid precipitation and high ozone.

In summation, this is one of the better national parks we have visited, even though there is a lack of landscape photographic opportunities. If you want to get down, and look more closely there is plenty to see - even though the two young girls who passed us on one of the paths never looked up from their cell phones, to make sure they were clearing us coming in the opposite direction - nor did we see either of them look at any of the surroundings they were walking past. What a shame!

Speaking of walking, a 70 mile stretch of the 2,178 mile Appalachian Trail winds through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

And, if you want to visit the park, there are plenty of accommodations in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg. But they are also two of the biggest back-to-back commercial tourist traps we have seen. So pick a non-holiday, non-high tourist time to go. You will enjoy the park though!



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 /	
Canton Audubon Society membership	\$ 20