

Audubon *News and Views*



Volume 58

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



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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 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 - 12th 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 or phone 330-209-1261 for further information about our activities.

Calendar

Given the current state of our lives (COVID-19) as this is being written, there is no calendar, because all Audubon activities have been cancelled for the foreseeable future – at least through the middle of the summer season.

CANTON AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

Laura Dornan, Membership Chair

Another fiscal year has passed and a new one begins 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. 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 sent your dues to CAS, Attn: Laura Brown to address on return address page



Sorry you had to miss this yearly walk at Metzger Park in Louisville due to COVID-19. It's always on the 1st Saturday in June. See you in 2021.



EARTH

Still
Needs
U!

WNS Update

Compiled By Cynthia Norris

White-nose syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease, has affected many species of hibernating bats. Several especially susceptible species have experienced population losses up to 98 percent in areas where WNS has spread. The disease is named for the distinctive white fungal growth on the face and wings of affected bats. The infection causes bats to wake up too soon and too often from hibernation, which exhausts their fat reserves before spring when sustainable amounts of food can be found. It was first recorded in a cave in east central New York in 2006. It appears to have come from Europe via accidental introduction. It is **not** transferable to other mammals, or us. The fungus is *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (formerly known as *Geomyces destructans*). The best efforts of wildlife managers, biologists and cavers (cave explorers) have failed to prevent this bat disease from spreading coast to coast.

This fungus has been in Europe and China for some time. Those bats have over time, developed immunity to it, but the time and toll the natural immunization took is unknown.

Here, many measures and treatments have been tried or considered. To save the survivors, many documented hibernacula (caves occupied by significant numbers or endangered hibernating bat populations) are now protected year-round.

Currently, there has been a slow increase in the trend of non-intrusive summer monitoring of hibernacula/cave roosts, but not maternal colonies (May-September). It seems the best thing that we can do is not disturb bats. In Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii (so far, it is not in the Canadian provinces of: Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) according to a map on the National Speleological website

https://caves.org/WNS/images/WNS_MAP_19-08-30_300.jpg

Other dangers to bats loom on the horizon: Wind Power Facilities.

Information:

Bat Conservation International

"Bats Migrate" Posted on April 29, 2013 by mkjcaylor USFWS April 29th Bat Fact.

Merlin Tuttle, PhD online

"White Nose Syndrome – a new threat to cave bats" By Craig Stihler, Wildlife Biologist, WV Division of Natural Resources and Barbara Douglas, Senior Endangered Species Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WWVFO

"Economic importance of bats in agriculture science" by: Justin G. Boyles, Paul M. Cryan, Gary F. McCracken, and Thomas H. Kunz

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1201366>

Abstract

White-nose syndrome (WNS) and the increased development of wind-power facilities are threatening populations of insectivorous bats in North America. Bats are voracious predators of nocturnal insects, including many crop and forest pests. We present here analyses suggesting that loss of bats in North America could lead to agricultural losses estimated at more than \$3.7 billion/year. Urgent efforts are needed to educate the public and policy-makers about the ecological and economic importance of insectivorous bats and to provide practical conservation solutions [Publisher: American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science 01 Apr 2011: Vol. 332, Issue 6025, pp. 41-42 DOI: 10.1126/science.1201366].

5 Ways to Help the Eastern Monarchs

A primary cause of monarch decline is habitat loss. Monarchs need blooming native wildflowers, trees and shrubs which provide nectar for the adult butterflies to feed upon, as well as native milkweed plants that are the sole food source for monarch caterpillars. The conversion of natural habitat into cropland, highways and suburban landscapes dominated by lawns, non-native plants and pesticides is taking a steep toll.

If you live east of the Rockies, you can help the eastern monarch. It's relatively easy to create monarch habitat in your own yard, garden and throughout your community. When we each make an effort to restore habitat right outside our doors, it can add up to big benefit to monarchs.

Here are five ways you can get involved helping restore habitat for monarchs right outside your door:

1. **Plant Milkweed** – Milkweed is the only food source for monarch caterpillars. By planting it in your yard or other garden spaces in your community, you'll provide monarchs with a critical resource so they can successfully reproduce and rebuild their populations. Always plant species native to your specific area. Species such as swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), purple milkweed (*A. purpurascens*), whorled milkweed (*A. verticillata*) and even common milkweed (*A. syriaca*) are native over much of the East. Don't plant non-native tropical milkweed (*A. curassavica*) which can be problematic.

2. **Provide Nectar** – Adult monarchs feed on flower nectar. In addition to milkweed, which provides nectar as well as being a food source for monarch caterpillars, plant other native blooming wildflowers, trees and shrubs so adult monarchs have a food source.
3. **Don't Use Pesticides** – Monarchs are insects and broad-spectrum insecticides will kill them, both as caterpillars as well as in their adult butterfly form. Herbicides will kill the monarchs' food sources. Commit to using pesticide-free organic gardening techniques at home.
4. **Reduce Lawn** – Lawns provide no habitat to monarchs and lawn care pesticides can kill them. Lawns also require large amounts of water to remain green, which wastes this precious resource. Replace lawn with beds of native blooming plants (including milkweed) adapted to local rainfall levels to help boost monarch numbers.
5. **Join the Mayor's Monarch Pledge** – Contact your local elected officials and ask them to sign on to our Mayor's Monarch Pledge to make the community-wide commitment to adopt practices that will support western monarchs.

Image by ARD



In order to celebrate in 2020 the 100th Anniversary of ratification of the 19th Amendment that awarded women the right to vote, Canton Audubon Society is showcasing the work of women scientists.

Women in Ornithology

Genevieve Estelle Jones

Ohio's Audubon

Submitted by Scott Watkins

Genevieve Estelle Jones was born May 13, 1847 to Dr. Nelson E. Jones and Virginia Jones in Circleville, Ohio. As a child "Gennie" formed an interest in the nests and eggs of birds when her father began to take her with him in his buggy on the way to visit patients. During the trip it was common to stop and collect nests and eggs of breeding birds and store them in a

cabinet to be studied later. It was common for amateur naturalist in the 19th century to do the same.

During one of the buggy rides, Gennie found a nest of a Baltimore Oriole. She longed to know more about the bird that had built such an interesting nest. She searched for reference material to read but discovered that there had never been a book about the nests and eggs of the American birds written.

The paintings were based on careful measurements of the nests and eggs freshly gathered by Jones' brother. The completed pictures would be bound into a series of books and offered for purchase in black and white or watercolors. The first set of illustrations with descriptions received praise from leading ornithologists at the time for their scientific accuracy. Unfortunately, after only 15 illustrations, Genevieve died of Typhoid fever at the age of thirty-two. Her family decided to complete the project over the next seven years and the first complete collection was published in 1886.

Genevieve Estelle Jones including her family and friends filled an important missing gap in the field of ornithology. Although she only lived a short thirty-two years, Gennie showed that having a simple love of nature and a passion to share information can contribute to the knowledge and most importantly the preservation of birds.

Collections can still be seen today at the Pickaway County Historical Society in Circleville, Ohio and Virginia Jones' personal copy is now owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Sources for this article include:

Collections of the Cleveland Museum of Nature History; The Ohio Historical Society Columbus, Ohio; Essay by Joy M. Kiser from Smithsonian Libraries; Wikipedia article on Genevieve E. Jones.



Genevieve Jones.

Courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio

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Mon. – Closed

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STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

Administration: 330-477-3552

5300 Tyner St., NW Canton 44708

The Exploration Gateway (EG)

5712 – 12th St., NW Canton 44708
 330-409-8096 www.StarkParks.com

TERRA DEPOT

4202 Portage St., NW North Canton 44720
 330-526-8067 www.theTERRAdepot.com

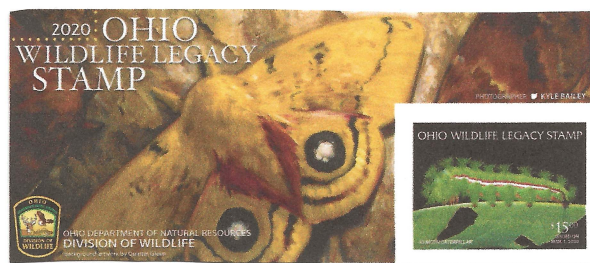
Mon. – Fri. 9-6 Sat. 9-4

Bird seed, feeders, houses

The Io Moth is easily identified by the distinctive hindwing eyespots. When the forewings are folded the eyespots are invisible. If a predator such as a bird pokes the moth, it rapidly flicks open its forewings and exposes the fearsome looking “eyes”. Studies have shown that this sudden visual overload often spooks predators. Male Io Moths have yellow forewings whereas those of the larger female are darker reddish-brown. Io moths come to lights, although males visit far more frequently than females.

The 2020 Io stamp will be on sale for \$15 at our monthly meetings. \$3 from the sale of each stamp goes to the CAS treasury.

Buying an OWL Stamp allows wildlife enthusiasts the opportunity to directly impact the future of Ohio’s native animals. For \$15 you’ll receive a collectible stamp, window cling, pin, & commemorative card.



The stamp proceeds support:

- * Habitat restoration, land purchases and Conservation easements.
- * Keeping common species common.
- * Endangered & threatened native species.
- * Educational products for students and wildlife Enthusiasts.
- * Wildlife and habitat research projects.

We will have OWL stamps from some of the previous years for sale at the meetings too.

**2020 OHIO
 WILDLIFE LEGACY
 STAMP**

The Io Moth caterpillar is covered with spines that can deliver a nasty rash, it is best to leave them be. This mother is named after Io, a young maiden in Greek mythology. One of the largest moons of Jupiter is also named “Io”.



CANTON AUDUBON SOCIETY
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BT III Remembrance Day

by Alan Dolan

March 25, 2020 marked the one year anniversary of the passing of Bill Thompson III, editor of Bird Watcher's Digest, from pancreatic cancer. As a subscriber to BWD, you're AN&V editor received an email with a UTube video from Bill's successor, Wendy Clark, who now serves as BWD's President & Publisher.

2019 was a tragic year for the Thompson's, and BWD. In addition to Bill's death, about two months later, Elsa Thompson, Bill's mother, died when her home in Marietta burned. Elsa, and her husband Bill Thompson, Jr. were founding publishers of BWD, 42 years ago.

Lee and I were introduced to Elsa & Bill, Jr. sometime around 1980. A friend of ours, Ruth, who was a brides' maid in our wedding, and lived in Marietta, knew we were into birding, so she introduced us the Elsa & Bill on a visit to Marietta. When we arrived, they were working on, and assembling, an early issue of Bird Watchers' Digest – at the dining room table in their house.

Over the years, Lee and I attended workshops sponsored the Thompsons and BWD. So we got to know the family a little better. I would call the Thompson family the #1 ambassadors for birds, and bird watchers. Some of you may remember Bill and his wife Julie Zickafoose entertaining Canton Audubon at our chapter's 50th anniversary celebration, June 2012, at LaPizzaria.

Wendy's message on the UTube video, was that Bird Watcher's Digest has designated March 25 as BT III REMEMBRANCE DAY. Each year, on that date, BWD will remember Bill. If anyone has stories, memories, photos they would like to share, they can either post them to Faebook #BWDDOR, or BWD, each March 25.



Wayne National Forest – Big Win!!

With all the troubling news recently about the coronavirus (COVID-19), it's been easy for good news to get lost in the fray. **That's why I couldn't wait to tell you that we just achieved one of the most significant conservation victories in Ohio history!**

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) just won its three-year legal battle to protect the Wayne National Forest, Ohio's only national forest located in Southeast Ohio, by stopping fracking in its tracks.

A federal judge ruled that federal agencies failed to consider threats to public health, endangered species, and watersheds before trying to lease out forest areas for oil and gas development. For the time being, this ruling stops fracking in the Wayne. And since it requires the agencies to go back to the drawing board, it may stop fracking in the Wayne for many years to come!

This victory for Ohio's environment sets a key precedent emphasizing the fact that federal agencies must consider the impacts of fracking.

Keeping fracking out of the Wayne is crucial. Oil and gas development would disrupt Ohio's only national forest with roads, well pads, and gas lines, which would destroy endangered Indiana bat habitat, scar the forest, and threaten to pollute watersheds that support millions of people.

Plus, this is a huge win — literally. For context, the 40,000 acres covered by this ruling is larger than Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Ohio's only national park) and measures approximately the size of 30,303 football fields! **That's how much public forest we just saved from oil and gas development**

The OEC brought this lawsuit in May 2017 along with conservation groups including the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, and Heartwood. We couldn't have this victory without our legal team, our partners, and without the help of frontline communities in Southeast Ohio, as well as all of you.

Thank you for your support!

Plants in Peril

Imperiled plants rarely attract as much attention as at-risk animals, yet they actually outnumber them. There are 943 U.S. plant species federally listed as endangered or threatened compared to 718 animals.

Globally, Craig Hilton-Taylor, head of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List Unit, says that 3,229 plants are considered critically endangered ("an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild"), 5,727 endangered ("a very high risk") and 6,817 vulnerable ("a high risk"). Because only 11 percent of known plant species have been assessed for inclusion on the Red List, these numbers are certain to rise.

Canton Audubon Society
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100% RECYCLED PAPER



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