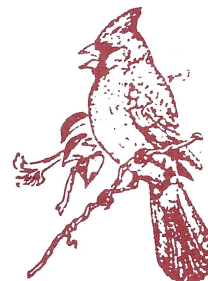


# Audubon *News and Views*



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



Volume 59

June – July – August 2020

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.

**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.**

## KAYAK BIRDING

Lee & I attended a Road Scholar program in Brooksville, Florida in the middle of January, 2020. Entitled “**The Wild and Beautiful Animals of Florida’s Nature Coast**”, this 6 day program was headquartered at the 115-acre Chinsegut Hill Retreat & Conference Center. Set atop the second highest elevation in Central Florida (269’), the Chinsegut Hill Manor House originally built in 1845 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Nestled among magnificent oaks, magnolias and cabbage palms. Originally owned by Florida A&M University, it is now owned and maintained by the Friends of Chinsegut Hill.

While at the program we met Claire Weiser, from the state of Oregon. She is into birding, and loves to kayak. In talking with her, she told Alan that she had written a kayaking/birding article for the Oregon Birding Association. It sounded interesting, so I asked for her permission to use the article in an issue of our AN&V. She checked with the OBA, and they said yes, as long as I included the next paragraph. That paragraph is followed by Claire’s article. All pictures were taken by Claire.

**Thank You Claire.**

**“The article Kayak Birding was originally published in *Oregon Birds*, Volume 45, Number 1, 2019.**

***Reprinted by Permission.”***

## KAYAK BIRDING

**by Claire Weiser**

Imagine you are floating among loons that are preening and showing their young how to dive. That experience years ago got me hooked on birding by kayak. On Clear Lake in Linn County, Oregon, an American Dipper flew from shore to my kayak where it walked around on my boat in front of me for several minutes, eating insects and posing for photographs. Then, it tried to land on my paddle.

**The thing we like most about birding by kayak is that many birds, especially shorebirds, let you get really close when you are just gliding along. Chris and Pam Scranton, Madras, Oregon.**

A kayaker is at the bird’s level. Feeding, hunting, drinking, bathing, preening, and sleeping often happen at or near the shore. Because they are usually preoccupied with these activities, they stay in place longer and are easier to watch. Birds that often fly higher (raptors, swallows, etc.) fly lower over or even perch around water, offering a better look. Osprey will dive right next to a kayak. Even large birds like eagles, owls, and vultures perch near the shore (look up!).



A kayak is an interesting vantage point from which to observe bird behaviors and interactions. You see panoramic action on water, in the air, and on the shore. Birds are active on lava rocks and docks where they hunt insects. Nests are sometimes visible in cliff walls or trees near shore. Lined-up birds sitting along a shore or swimming in the water offer good side-by-side comparisons of species, gender, and age similarities/differences.

**Your view is not obstructed. The animals do not recognize you as a human and you can silently glide up to them. Birdsong is clearer and seems amplified on the water. Kelly and Bruce Hazen, Bend, Oregon**

Some birds are used to being around boats and tolerate them well. Many are curious and will watch you longer than you will watch them. Some are skittish, especially early in the season or with young. Approach cautiously, getting good looks at intervals. Kayaks can maneuver quietly in shallow water and can negotiate reeds and other hidden areas, so be aware that you can unsuspectingly encounter nests. Paddle quietly, do not get too close, drift for a while, limit looking directly at the bird(s), and minimize noise because sound really carries over the water. Exercise good judgment and sensitivity in trying not to disturb birds.

**Birding while kayaking allows a birder close-up looks at bird behavior. It's similar to birding by car where the car or kayak is seen as a part of the habitat and not a prey animal. It allows for close looks at the shoreline while being a safe distance away in the water as opposed to being on a trail where the sounds and motions of humans can be more easily detected by the birds. Non-birders (spouses, kids) may spend more time enjoying birding in a boat rather than from a trail because of the close views. Diane Burgess, Bend, Oregon**

Some of the best wildlife sightings while kayaking and birding are of mammals. I drifted within a few feet of a beaver sleeping on a grass tuft at Crane Prairie Reservoir, Deschutes County, Oregon. Pika and mink live on and in the lava rock along shores. I had to swerve to avoid a muskrat hanging out in the Deschutes River. Otters are everywhere; I have watched them eating and playing onshore right next to my kayak. Deer, coyote, and raccoon can be seen near the shore. Kayaking gives you a front row seat to observe waterfalls and feeder streams (which attract wildlife).

## Locations

There are many great birding-while-kayaking spots in Oregon, and, like on land, they are best in the morning before it is too warm or crowded and before the wind picks up. A calm lake or estuary is better than a fast-moving river current, changing tide, or strong wind that you have to keep paddling against, unable to pause to look through binoculars or a camera. Traveling with a gentle current frees your hands for binoculars to birdwatch as you drift along, but keep an eye out for submerged snags or shallow water. Some bodies of water are plentiful for birds in the spring but then become lower later in the season (diverted rivers, reservoirs) or dry up totally. Be aware of water levels or tide charts as well as fee and pass requirements and waterfowl hunting seasons for each launch.

## Kayak Types

A rudder is helpful for turning without paddling so both hands are free for binoculars and/or camera. Pedal kayaks, like the Hobie and other brands, also keep your hands free. In a tandem boat, the front person can bird while the back person paddles (and vice versa).

## Gear

Binoculars can be waterproof or water resistant, or you can use a rain cover. A scope is usually too big and unwieldy to bring, and you really do not need it because you can paddle *to* the birds. A waterproof cellphone case for around your neck through which you can check iBird Pro, take a photograph, record a bird list for the day, etc. is handy. Several types are available online and at paddle shops. Choose the size case in which your phone fits comfortably. Anscot is a sturdy brand. Good views enable chances for photography (a small point-and-shoot with zoom is often just fine.) There are many kinds of floaties to clip on to gear. Since you are sometimes sitting watching birds and not just constantly paddling, dress in easy-to-remove/put-on layers and maybe try a seat cushion (like REI's inflatable Sit Pad curved for a kayak) for comfort and warmth. Bare fingertips are best for operating your phone through a waterproof case, using your camera, and making boat adjustments, etc., so consider "pogies" (hand covers that attach to your paddle) or fingerless gloves. A hat with a visor is helpful to lessen glare from the sun and water.

## Before You Go and Green Birding

When you travel, get tips from experts, try out equipment, and see what works for you by birding from a kayak with a bird tour or local outfitter. Closer to home, borrow a friend's kayak to experience birding from a boat.

Green Birding – birding by your own non-motorized power from your residence – increasing in popularity and necessity. Kayaking, biking, walking, horseback riding, skateboarding, or a combination of anything that does not burn fossil fuels counts



for green birding. Many states have challenges or competitions, and some birders do a Big Green Year. If you live by water, consider birding by kayak as a small contribution to reducing your carbon footprint.

**I feel fortunate that wildlife allows me into their world when I bird by kayak.  
Without the disturbance of noise, fumes or wakes, I think the birds appreciate kayaks, too.**  
**Claire Weiser, Bend Oregon**

Osprey



Bald Eagle



Greenback Heron



Beaver



Claire Weiser



Shorebird & Fish

### **Socially Distanced Birding Challenge**

On May 1 & 2, eleven Ohio Audubon chapters participated in the 'Socially Distanced Birding Challenge' organized by Dayton Audubon Society president Jared Merriman.. Chapter members, including their friends and family, were asked to bird singly or in pairs during a 24 hour period to find as many different bird species as possible within their home counties.

Canton Audubon Society placed third with 123 bird species found collectively. We had a whopping 27 individuals that participated in the event !! CAS board member Ronnie Macko and friends found 90 species and Jon Cefus located 86 species, all in Stark County.

The final results are in! Eleven Ohio chapters competed in the challenge, as well as one unaffiliated team. A total of 193 species of birds were seen throughout the state. The final rankings are below.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Columbus Audubon - 150 species                     | 2. Dayton Audubon - 125 species                |
| 3. Canton Audubon - 123 species                       | 4. Tri-Moraine Audubon - 119 species           |
| 5. Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley - 114 species      | 6. Western Cuyahoga Audubon - 102 species      |
| 7. Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland - 101 species | 8. Black River Audubon - 95 species            |
| 9. Audubon Miami Valley - 83 species                  | 10. Audubon Ohio (Cincinnati) - 63 species     |
| 11. Medina County (unaffiliated?) - 45 species        | 12. Greater Akron Audubon Society - 44 species |

It was unanimous, all participants had a great time and hope the challenge will happen again next year. Maybe next year we can do this again, without so much social distancing! It has even been suggested that maybe Ohio could compete with that "state up north" in another competition.

**Stay safe and happy birding everyone!!**

**2020 - Canton Audubon Society Officers/Directors Ballot for Election**  
**Due Back to Canton Audubon by July 15, 2020**  
**Mail your completed ballot to: CAS P.O. Box 9586 Canton OH 44711**

Voting – 4 officers, 3 directors.

#### **Slate of officers:**

President : Linda Chen\_\_\_\_ Vice President: Scott Watkins\_\_\_\_ Secretary: OPEN\_\_\_\_ Treasurer: Laura Brown\_\_\_\_

**Directors:** Going off the board: Jim Massie Connie Rubin Laura Dornan

**Nominees to Replace:** Barbra Lewis\_\_\_\_ Charles McClaugherty\_\_\_\_ Edmund Priddis\_\_\_\_ Jacki Hupp\_\_\_\_ (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

**Write-ins: Office/Nominee**\_\_\_\_ **Office/Nominee**\_\_\_\_

**Voting Deadline is July 15 to get your Ballots returned.**



**CAS BUSINESS SUPPORTERS**

**DUMONT SEED COMPANY**

619 30<sup>TH</sup> ST., NW Canton 44706  
330-492-0204

Lawn, Garden, Hydroponic Supplies &  
Seasonal Christmas Shop

**HARTVILLE ELEVATOR**

111 Prospect Ave., N Hartville 44632  
330-877-9320

M – F 8-5 Sat. 8-Noon Sun. Closed

**HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH NATURE CENTER**

University of Mount Union  
1972 CLARK AVE. Alliance 44601  
330-823-7487

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

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

**Donna Matako Landscape Services**  
8361 Portage St., NW Massillon 44646  
330-832-7080

Lawn care, 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 [www.StarkParks.com](http://www.StarkParks.com)

**TERRA DEPOT**

4202 Portage St., NW North Canton 44720  
330-526-8067 [www.theTERRAdepot.com](http://www.theTERRAdepot.com)

Mon. – Fri. 9-6 Sat. 9-4  
Bird seed, feeders, houses

**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”.

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.**



See Page 3

**Socially Distanced Birding Challenge**



**Factors in Bird Decline**

North America has lost nearly three billion over just the last five decades. A lot of that story has to do with behavior of not only the birds, but equally important, that of human behavior.

In 1963, Roger Tory Peterson, possibly the godfather of North American bird watching, estimated the total bird population at between 12 – 20 billion birds in 1960.

The loss of billions of birds on U.S. soil is not unprecedented. That was a single species of bird! In the late 1800's, passenger pigeons gathered in flocks of two billion birds. That happened because it was easy to do using just traps and guns. But they were in decline for other reasons too.

Of those three billion birds, it has happened to a wide suite of bird species, for various reasons. Most belong to 12 bird species, including warblers, finches, swallows and sparrows. Aerial and grassland insectivores, shorebirds and possibly some seabirds are all in serious states of decline. Many of the birds were quite common 50 years ago!

Even two of our most common invasive North American species, the European Starling and house sparrow are declining today.

Question. Can we have almost eight billion humans inhabiting the planet and expect not to have any major impact on the habitat of birds, flowers, and other wildlife? Everywhere in the world, we are gobbling up forests for building homes, turning grasslands into monoculture farmland, useless for birds, and eating up everything in the seas.

The next two factors contributing to the decline of birds are related, and both revolve around insects. Organochlorine chemical pesticides (DDT) and even more poisonous pesticides, organophosphates (OPP) diazinon and malathion being two of 40 OPP registered for use in the U.S. in 2010. The most insidious human-designed chemical pesticide of all, are the neonicotinoids. See **"Migratory Birds Threat"**, next column.

**CAN WE UNINSTALL  
2020**

**& Install It Again**

**THIS VERSION HAS A VIRUS**

**"Migratory Birds Threat"**

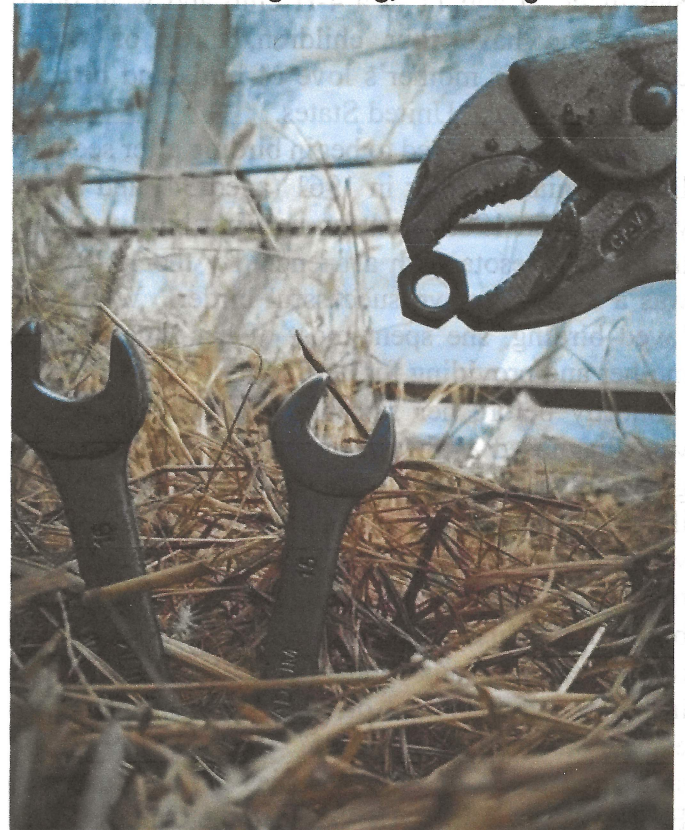
From National Wildlife Feb/Mar 2020 Issue

**Neonics: a growing threat to migratory birds.**

In previous studies, scientists have documented how a widely used class of insecticides called neonics, short for neonicotinoids, are devastating bees in many parts of the country. Now, a new investigation provides the first evidence that these agricultural chemicals also may be harming migratory birds. Birds are exposed to the insecticides if they eat neonic-coated seeds on farmlands when they stop to rest and refuel during spring migration – which occurs at about the same time many farmers are planting the coated seeds for crops such as soybeans and corn.

Studying one migratory species, the white-crowned sparrow, under controlled conditions, Canadian researchers found that ingesting even tiny doses of a neonic causes the birds to lose weight, decreasing their ability to survive and reproduce. "The chemical is causing the birds to become somewhat anorexic and delay their migratory journeys," says coauthor Christy Morrissey, an ecotoxicologist at the University of Saskatchewan. "It's clear evidence these chemicals can affect bird populations." The research, published in *Science*, represents another potential blow to migratory birds that range in farmlands, especially grassland species that are among the fastest-declining groups of birds in North America.

**The IMAGE below is courtesy of CAS member Arlene Nussbuan's brother, Al. The title is courtesy of former CAS VP Craig Zondag, now living in Vermont**



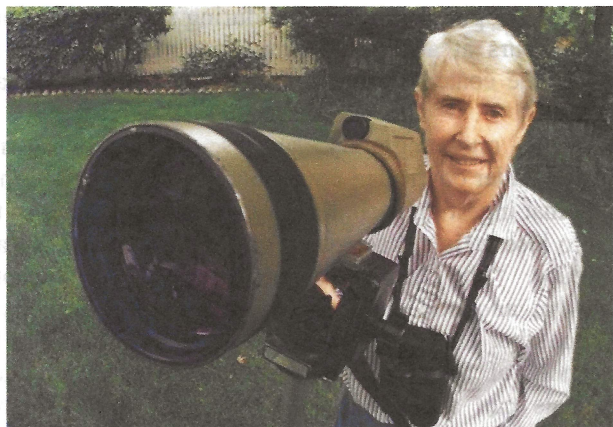
**"After being fed nuts, they bolt !"**



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

### **Women in Ornithology**

**by Jacki Hupp**



### **Phoebe Stetsinger (Burnett)**

**June 9, 1931 - November 23, 1999**

Phoebe Burnett was born to Naomi Geddes and Leo Burnett on June 9, 1931 and grew up near Lake Zurich, Illinois. She met her future husband, David Stetsinger, at age 11 at a 4-H club and went on to marry and have four children, three of whom continued their mother's love of birds and became researchers in the United States.

She became inspired to begin birding after seeing a Blackburnian warbler in 1961 (aged 34) and a few years later in 1985, went on her first bird watching trip in Minnesota with a friend. By the 1970s she was a locally known successful birder. While she loved birding, she spent most of her time being a mother and providing for her family.

Shortly before her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday (1981), Phoebe was diagnosed with terminal melanoma and was given only a year to live. Rather than succumb to her illness or seek treatment, she took a trip to Alaska to watch birds and returned home to find her cancer in remission. Her cancer went on to return active then back into remission approximately five years at a time. Stetsinger took copious field notes which helped in her accomplishment of being the first person to exceed 8,000 species in 1995. That year (1995) she submitted a list of 8,040 species to the American Birding Association (ABA) and to the Guinness Book of World Records. By the time of her death, she had

documented observing 8,398 species, nearly 85% of the known species in the world (~10,000 known species). This was a huge accomplishment, especially considering all the obstacles she encountered.

Her impressive will power to overcome cancer landed her in various meccas of the world, from pristine mountains, to deserts, swamps, and intense jungles. She suffered numerous injuries throughout her treks and was even kidnapped and raped by five men with machetes while birding in Papa New Guinea. She also survived malaria, a potentially deadly boating accident, and being taken hostage in Ethiopia; yet, throughout all this, Phoebe continued birding. However, her hunt for every bird in the world ended suddenly on November 23, 1999, when a tour bus she was on in Madagascar crashed and she was killed.

Her memoir, *Birding on Borrowed Time*, which was published in 2003, describes her enthusiastic hunt for more bird species than any other person in the world (at that time). One quote from the book (from an internet reviewer) indicates she claimed "*If it's my last trip, so be it - but I'm going to make it a good one and go down binoculars in hand.*" Another book wrote in her honor is titled *Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds* and was written by Olivia Gentile (March 2010).

I chose Phoebe for several reasons, including her strength and fighting spirit, her birthday being one day after mine, and the fact that she began bird watching after spotting the magnificent Blackburnian warbler, which is also one of my favorite warblers.

Resources:

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/may-june-2009/the-endless-race>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoebe\\_Stetsinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoebe_Stetsinger)

## **Thank You !!**

On behalf of **Your Stark Park board**, and the **Friends of Stark Parks board**, a big **THANK YOU** to all Canton Audubon Society members, friends & relatives who voted Yes for Issue #20 – the Stark County Park District .01 mil levy renewal.

It was the most popular item on the spring ballot. Issue #20 had 38,605 (61.39%) YES votes, and 24,276 (38.61%) NO votes on a total of 62,881 votes.

Based on the use of parks nationwide while experiencing the pandemic, imagine no active Stark Parks if the levy had failed?



**How to Stop Window Strikes**  
**During Spring Migration**

*by Rob Ripma on March 23, 2017*

**It's never good to find beautiful birds that have died due to window strikes in your yard, hopefully with these simple tips you can avoid this situation.**

Window strikes kill many birds and it's always unpleasant to find these beautiful creatures dead in your yard. Luckily, there are things you can do to help stop this issue from occurring. Here are some of my top tips for stopping this issue.

1. Go to **abcbirds.org** to see recommendations by American Bird Conservancy, on your windows to cut glare and make the windows stand out to birds. Many of these products are very easy for anyone to apply to their windows.
2. Hang reflective items in front of the window. This will get the birds attention and direct them away from the window.
3. Place bird feeders within 3 feet or outside of 10 feet of all windows. If birds do hit the windows from inside 3 feet, they are unlikely to hurt themselves.
4. If you've tried these things and you're still getting window strikes, consider put screens on all of your windows. I'm lucky to have a house with screens on all my windows so I rarely find a bird dead due to a window strike!



©Rob Ripma You do not want to find a Chestnut-sided Warbler dead in your yard due to a window strike!

It's not only homes that are killing birds due to window strikes, all kinds of buildings can also cause problems. That's why, in many cities, concerned conservationists have started Light Out programs. These programs encourage businesses to make wise decisions that will help stop window strikes which will save thousands of birds. Lights Out projects have been started in many major cities. A simple Google search should reveal if your city has started one of these programs. Cleveland has a Lights Out program, and Canton is in the process of starting one (check with Scott Watkins of Canton Audubon for information).



©Brian Zwiebel American Woodcocks strike windows in cities more often than most of us would think.

**How do you prevent window strikes at your home?**

**CANTON AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP**  
**Laura Dornan, Membership Chair**

Another fiscal year has passed and a new one, Canton Audubon's 59 year, began on June 1. That means time to renew chapter memberships.

If you are a National Audubon Society member, NAS will mail you notice of when your dues are due. If you are a National member, and your zipcode is one what 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 use(d) an application with our chapter identifier on it. We receive nothing from National on subsequent renewals after the first year

Chapter memberships provide funds for CAS yearly operations, including programming, newsletter, support for other environmental organizations, conservation projects, annual college scholarship and operating expenses

If you are uncertain about your membership status, you may contact me, Laura Dornan, either by phone (330-875-3421), or mail 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 make 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 CAS, Attn: Laura Brown to address on return address page.



Canton Audubon Society  
P.O. 9586  
Canton, OH 44711-9586

100% RECYCLED PAPER

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V.P.	- Scott Watkins	330-209-1261
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	- Jacki Hupp	2018-2020
	- Chris Lamb	2019-2021
	- Ronnie Macko	2019-2021
	- James Massie	2018-2020
	- Connie Rubin	2018-2020
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www.cantonaudubon.org – Like us on Facebook  
EMAIL: cantonaudubonsociety@gmail.com

<b>CANTON AUDUBON SOCIETY</b>	
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 /	
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