

Audubon *News and Views*



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



Volume 60

January/February 2021

Issue No. 4 *ARD*

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 land. For all, it is an interest to enjoy, conserve, restore, share with others and to educate both adults and students.

As a member of **National Audubon Society**, you are also a member of the **Canton Audubon Society** and are invited to attend monthly meetings held at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month (September thru June) at the **Stark County Park District's Exploration Gateway** at 5712 12th St NW, Canton. You will receive **Audubon News & Views** throughout the year with our calendar of events. Visit: CantonAudubon.org or Contact: CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

Canton Audubon Society Focuses on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Chuck McClaugherty

I am an ecologist. As an ecologist I have studied and taught about the relationships between organisms and their environment for decades. One of the most amazing things about the natural world is the immense diversity of organisms and environments. And one of the central principles of ecology is that diverse ecosystems tend to be healthier ecosystems. Within a particular climate, diverse ecosystems also tend to be more productive and more resilient in the face of disturbances. Aware of the importance of diversity to ecosystems as well as human societies, the National Audubon Society recently issued the following statement:

The birds Audubon pledges to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. By honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Audubon will bring new creativity, effectiveness, and leadership to our work throughout the hemisphere.

To learn more about National Audubon's EDI initiative you can visit www.audubon.org/about/edi

Several local Audubon Chapters have followed with their own EDI initiatives. Canton Audubon Society followed and created our own Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee. Current members of the committee are Connie Rubin, Laura Dornan, Barbra Lewis, and Chuck McClaugherty with active participation by Chapter President Linda Chen. The committee develop and EDI statement for our chapter and in early November the Canton Audubon Society board of directors unanimously approved this statement for our Chapter:

The Canton Audubon Society is dedicated to welcoming everyone of all races, ethnicities, religions, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities. To accomplish this, we will identify obstacles and improve opportunities for diverse audiences to pursue nature activities.


To put these lofty words into action the EDI committee, with Connie Rubin as chief grant writer, is preparing a grant proposal to the Collaborative Grant program of National Audubon Society. *continued ...*

continued from pg 1...

The proposal requests \$500 from National with our chapter matching that amount for the purchase of 6 pairs of binoculars along with field guides and other supporting materials. These tangible resources will be used in conjunction with “Introduction to Birding” programs that will be developed by CAS and delivered to children and adults, especially in the urban areas served by our Chapter. If funded the program will begin during spring of 2021. The group welcomes and encourages your input and participation.

Here are two interesting books that focus on diversity and the enjoyment of nature that you may enjoy. One of my favorite books is by J. Drew Lanham, a professor of wildlife biology in South Carolina, who happens to be black. The book, “The Home Place: A Colored

Mans’s Love Affair with Nature” (Milkweed Editions 2016) includes several stories of what it is like to be a black man in what is frequently viewed as a white person’s realm. Another book I have found enlightening is “Black Faces, White Spaces – Reimagining the Relationship of African American to the Great Outdoors” by Carolyn Finney and published in 2014 by the University of North Carolina Press. While these two books both focus on race, it is important to recognize that our Chapter’s statement on inclusion goes well beyond race.

It is my hope that by working together we can reduce barriers that make it difficult for others to enjoy aspects of the natural world that we in Audubon value so much. 

Announcements

► CAS board member positions, each with a 2-year term, begin June 1, 2021 for new or returning directors. Elections are in May. Meetings are 5-times per year which are currently held via Zoom. Please consider volunteering as a director for our organization. Contact Linda Chen or Laura Dornan with questions.

CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

► Two board member positions are open at The Wilderness Center (TWC), specifically for CAS members. You must be or become a TWC member to join their board as a CAS representative.

► Bill Heck (Columbus Audubon) has finished his term on National Audubon Society’s board of directors as Regional Director of the Mississippi Flyway-North representing our region of the country. He served for six years and will be replaced by Erin Giese from Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Bill has been a great voice for bird conservation nationally and locally as well as being a great asset to the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters.

Thank you, Bill, for your years of service to Audubon!

☞ Canton Audubon Society would like to send our condolences to longtime CAS members Nickie Wingert and William Courser and especially to Del Nida in regards to their recent passing. Del & Linda have been very active in Canton Audubon for many years and we will miss his presence at meetings.

"Did You Know..."

What is leucism (“LOO-kiz-um”)?

It is the partial loss of pigmentation of feathers, fur or skin but not the eyes. For leucistic birds, one or even all feathers can be white. Read about Luci on page 3.

How do you differentiate between an albino & a fully white leucistic bird? An albino has pink eyes, legs & other fleshy parts but for a leucistic bird, these parts are black. Albino birds cannot produce melanin at all; leucistic birds produce melanin but do not deposit it in some or all of its feathers. The pink features on an albino? That is the blood showing through tissue!

LUCI

By Laura Dornan



Early December 2013 was the 1st time we saw her. I wish I had written down the date, but I did not know then that was

the beginning of what would become a wonderful experience. She was quite pretty, with her soft brown and pink coat and sporting a white collar around her neck. And very shy. She would only visit for a few seconds at a time, once or twice a day and often go several days in between visits. And she did not like her picture taken. Nevertheless, I did manage to sneak in 1 photo. She stayed to give us the pleasure of her company for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Then, with nary a good-bye, she went away, and we were sure we would never see her again. After all, being “different” from everyone else makes life difficult. And lonely.

To our surprise, she came back for a couple of quick visits in the spring and again in the winter of 2014. What a wonderful present when she arrived on Christmas day. She was a bit more social and less camera shy, so we enjoyed watching her learn to get along with others. She had also adopted a less conservative fashion style, changing her white collar for a white shawl, and showing off her new, more colorful brown coat with pink and white splashes throughout. But once again she departed in late winter, returning for a few days in spring and early summer. Still not one to linger too long or overstay her welcome, she did not return until Oct. 27, 2015. With her ever present since of style, she had amped up her attire to show off her features in even more white. That winter she decided to not do so much traveling and make this little part of the country her home. We delighted in her almost daily visits and came to know her as Luci. It was good to finally be able to put a name on a familiar face and to know that she would be a part of our family, our daily routine. We began to introduce her to our human friends and family who would ask about her and look for her when

they came to visit. She was also introduced to Canton Audubon members at the February meeting. In April 2016, it became apparent that Luci had not only become accepted by her peers, but she had acquired a beau. We were lucky to be privy to some courtship and then she disappeared for what would be an appropriate amount of time (25 days) for a lady in such circumstances. When we did see her again, we were sorry to learn that it had been a stressful time for her, as she had lost all her beautiful head attire. We never did learn what had transpired during her absence, but we were thrilled to have her back.

When the new fall fashions came out in Sept-Oct 2016, Luci chose her most resplendent wardrobe of all. She came to the party decked in white, a few splashes of pink or tan and accented by a pink crest, wings and tail. The following spring her greatest wish and purpose in life was fulfilled when she brought 3 new beings into this world. What a delight for us to witness them learning at their mother’s (and father’s) feet. Surprise twist...it was Papa who now had a bald head. I guess parenthood can be stressful for all.

Luci continued to raise a family each year and having found the most beautiful outfit of all, has maintained that look. She continued to make our yard a favorite stop on her daily rounds, no longer intimidated by others.

She was featured in an article of the winter 2019/2020 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*. (Vol 43, #2). In the last paragraph of that article, I noted that some cardinals live to be 13-15 years old and I hoped she would be so long-lived. Regretfully, I fear that is not to be. We have not seen her since early March 2020.

Good-bye Luci.
For 6 years you
brought joy into our
lives and we miss
you. 🕊️

Photos by Laura Dornan



Women in Ornithology

In order to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment ratification, awarding women the right to vote, Canton Audubon Society is showcasing the work of women scientists.



FIRST PRIZE JUNIOR AUDUBON CLASS OF WEST NORTH SCHOOL, CANTON, OHIO. EVERY BOX CAN BE USED BY A BIRD

Mary King and May S. Danner

By Chris Lamb


Mary King and May S. Danner, both of Canton, although not formally educated ornithologists, were citizen scientists nearly a century before the term was coined, and influenced others, including children, to know about, love, and care for birds and nature.

Mary King was a Canton school principal. In 1915, while at the West North Street School, she led a Junior Audubon class. The class won 1st prize in Audubon's national competition for best class photo. King described the photo, "April was the 'Month of Birds'.... Wren and Bluebird houses to the number of 130 were placed in yards adjoining the homes of the members...." In addition to birdhouses built by the older boys, the club members displayed bird photos in all the classrooms, decorated the halls, put on a member-narrated bird photo show (projected via lantern), and were invited to talk at other Canton schools on Arbor Day. They spoke about "why and how birds should be protected," and "won many new friends for the birds...."

May Shanafelt Danner (1866-1956) was active in Canton, including the Clio Club (literary), Canton Garden Club, Canton Women's Club, the Humane Society, and the YWCA. In addition to her community

involvement, Danner's obituary also noted her love of birds and bird watching.

Like Mary King, May Danner was involved with the Audubon Society. She submitted directions for a "practical bird bath" and a question about Purple Martin breeding habits to Audubon's *Bird-Lore* magazine. May and Mary were the first women to participate in Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Census in Stark County. Begun in 1900, Edward D. Kimes counted in Canton by 1909. Danner and King first counted December 26, 1918. Their day began at 8:30 a.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m., covering 10 miles on foot. The weather was cloudy and threatening, the ground bare with a sharp wind and a temperature of 25 degrees. The pair observed 12 species and 172 individuals, including 75 Tree Sparrows and 5 Brown Creepers.

Then, as now, the local birders knew each other and of each other's efforts. Edward Kimes, reported this to *The Wilson Bulletin* in 1912: "...To Mrs. May S. Danner and Miss Mary King, who have done considerable field work at Congress Lake, belongs the credit of first finding the Veery nesting within the confines of the county (Stark); and of being the first to note the Cerulean Warbler within the same territory. 

UPCOMING ZOOM PROGRAMS

CAS Program Linda Gilbert

State of the Dragons: The Ohio Odonata Survey

January 20, 2021 7:00-8:30pm Wednesday



In 2017, a new state-wide Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) survey was undertaken to assess the diversity and status of these wetland insects. The survey was funded for three years with 2019

being the last year. An update will be given on the methods, tools, new state records and the results of the survey thus far.

Linda Gilbert serves on the staff of Geauga Park District in dual roles as a naturalist and field technician. Dragonflies and damselflies are her specialty, and she conducts dragonfly/damselfly surveys on several park properties. Linda is a co-author (with Larry Rosche and Judy Semroc) of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio*, 2nd ed. field guide and is also the northeast Ohio regional coordinator for the Ohio Odonata Survey. Linda is a professional musician and holds degrees in music from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music and Cleveland State University. Hobbies include nature photography and water-gardening.

Member's Night

February 17, 2021, 7:00pm Wednesday

March, April & May: TBA

Read about Winter Finches at [Audubon.org](https://www.audubon.org):
"This Winter Marks an Incredible 'Superflight' of Hungry Winter Finches"

Winter Finch Irruption of 2020-2021

There has been an irruption or "superflight" this year of winter finches such as Evening & Pine Grosbeaks, Common & Hoary Redpolls, Pine Siskins, White-winged & Red Crossbills, and Purple finches as well as other passerines such as Red-breasted Nuthatches.

During winter, they are usually found in the northern regions of North America known as boreal forests. Occasionally, they head south when their normal winter food sources of cone crops, certain seeds and fruits becomes scarce in spruce-fir, pine-oak, pinyon-juniper, and aspen forests as is the case this year.

However, in 2021, these birds also had a very successful breeding season due to a surplus of insects, specifically, spruce budworms, a favorite. That means more food is needed for more birds this winter.

Look for winter finches at your feeders. They are often



Evening Grosbeak

found in large groups. Scan evergreen, cone-producing trees such as hemlock and spruce.

Evening & Pine Grosbeaks enjoy sunflower, safflower and peanuts at platform or hopper feeders and on the ground.

Redpolls and Pine Siskins prefer nyger/thistle, white millet and hulled sunflower seeds. They will perch on tube and platform feeders.

Crossbills eat sunflower and nyger at platform or tube feeders and on the ground.

Purple finches enjoy sunflower, safflower, nyger, millet and suet at platform, hopper and tube feeders.

Red-breasted Nuthatches enjoy sunflower, safflower, peanuts, and suet.

For specific info about Stark County and surrounding areas and tree species where winter finches might be found, check the CAS Facebook page article written by Kent Miller.

Bird Conservation News in 2020

► July 1, 2020, U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 919 – Bird-Safe Buildings Act as part of the Invest in America Act. This bipartisan bill requires that public buildings being constructed, acquired or altered significantly by the General Services Administration incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features. Rep. Quigley first introduced this bill in 2010.

► July 7, 2020, Nevada Court protects nesting for rare Bi-State Sage-Grouse from off-road vehicle groups who planned a 250-mile dirt bike rally in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. It is one of the last places this isolated population of Greater Sage-Grouse can breed.

► July 22, 2020 U.S. House of Representatives passed the Great American Outdoors Act. This bill fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually and also creates the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. Money funding LWCF comes from off-shore oil and gas drilling royalties in U.S. waters.

► August 11, 2020, a federal court overturned a reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that would have upended decades of enforcement and let industry off the hook for killing birds. U.S. District Court Judge Valerie Caproni wrote that “if the Department of the Interior has its way, many Mockingbirds and other migratory birds that delight people and support ecosystems throughout the country will be killed without legal consequence.”

► Partnership to save American Horseshoe Crabs:
The Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition was formed by conservation orgs and businesses in an effort to stop the dramatic decline of horseshoe crabs and restore the ecosystem for birds and wildlife. The nutrient-dense crab eggs are a vital food source for Red Knots and other shorebirds in the Delaware Bay, a stopover during their northern migration.



Photo Cameron Davidson

removed, rats eradicated that could prey on chicks and sand was added. Barges filled with sand and gravel were anchored nearby as additional habitat. Plastic bird decoys and speakers playing calls were used to attract birds. All of their efforts paid-off, terns, skimmers, and gulls returned including a new colony of Snowy Egrets!

► Displaced Seabird Colony in Virginia is Relocated:

In autumn 2019, Virginia Dept of Transportation paved a 6-acre nesting area for a \$3.8 billion bridge-tunnel expansion project on South Island. The site was crucial nesting habitat for terns, skimmers and gulls. In 2020, VA Dept of Game rushed to create habitat on the man-made Rip Raps Island, built in 1818 housing Fort Wool. Vegetation was



Black Skimmer ►

Keith Ramos USFWS

CAS BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

DUMONT SEED COMPANY

619 30TH 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 Mataka 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 – 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
Decorations, gifts, succulents

Tributes to CAS Past-President

Alan Dolan (1944-2020)

~ Our world is a little emptier after the loss of Alan Dolan. I was reflecting on the timeframe when Alan and Lee and I met and was shocked when I realized we met nearly twenty years ago. Stark Parks and Malone University (then Malone College) used to host a Wildlife Conference. Booths and presenters would gather to talk about current trends and updates and all things Ohio wildlife. I was new to the area and new to my position. It was a bit intimidating, but Alan and Lee both made an impression. I visited the Audubon Society booth and met friends with welcoming smiles. Passionate about birding and conservation, we shared stories about trips we'd been on, life lists and favorite critter sightings. I didn't realize then how instrumental the Dolan's would be to Stark Parks or even just the rays of sunshine they both would show themselves to be with their positive attitudes and generosity.

The Dolan's have gone on to be dedicated supporters of Stark Parks, making substantial contributions to our Wildlife Conservation Center, and numerous fundraising events. As key members of our Friends of Stark Parks organization they participated in booths and presentations on our behalf and would share information and articles with us to keep us informed and aware of important issues. But what really impressed me was how they *always* showed up. For big things and for small things. Always with a smile, a sense of humor, and a lightheartedness that made you remember the real reason we were all here: *to take care of each other and this place we all call home*. It's hard for me in writing this to separate out Alan from Lee because they were always together, side by side in their mission. I hope Lee will always feel that the friendships he and Lee have built over the years are a source of support to her in this sad time. Our world is a little empty after the loss of Alan Dolan,

but the bright spot he left behind in teaching us about how to care will never be dimmed.

Rest in Peace, Friend.
Sarah Buell

~ Alan and Lee Dolan began Volunteering at The Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center on May 3, 2003 for our International Migratory Bird Day Kickoff

(go figure!) Enthusiastic, energetic, sociable, and a strong desire to share their knowledge of birds with others was my initial opinion of this couple. Those first opinions remain, but the list has grown to include compassionate, trustworthy, committed, helpful, life-long learners, teachers, naturalists, conservationists, 2 peas in a pod, and more.

Alan began Volunteering as a Trail Guide for elementary school field trips in March 2005. He always came with a big smile, enthusiasm, and his love of the out-of-doors to share with us and the students. Alan's energy was infectious! Lee joined him as a Volunteer Trail Guide the following year. That was when I really became aware of how inseparable the two were. Lee and Alan continued to Volunteer for the Nature Center through November 2018. Thank you, Lee and Alan, for the positive impact you have made on us, our visitors, and the lives you have touched worldwide!

On Behalf of the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center Staff,

Bonnie Twaddle
Community Outreach Coordinator



Canton Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9586
Canton, Ohio 44711



Member Address

Officers: Linda Chen, President
Scott Watkins, VP.....ph 330-209-1261
Laura Brown, Treasurer
Barbra Lewis, Secretary

Directors: Alan Dolan, Past President
Jacki Hupp - 2020-2022
Chris Lamb - 2019-2021
Ronnie Macko - 2019-2021
Chuck McClaugherty - 2020-2022
Ed Priddus - 2020-2022

AN&V Editor: Alan Dolan

Conservation: Linda Chen, Mary Schilstra

Education: Lee Dolan

Membership: Laura Dornan

Programs/Filed Trip: *Scott Watkins,
Laura Dornan, Linda Chen

Publicity: Connie Rubin

Social Media: Linda Chen, Chris Lamb

Recycling: Diane & Tom Hert

Scholarship: Laura Dornan

Website: Scott Watkins

The Wilderness Center Trustees (3):
Alan Dolan 2019-2022
George Goldsworthy 2017-2020

We're on the Web!
www.CantonAudubon.org
E-mail: CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook

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/...\$20
Canton Audubon Society Joint Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL TO:

Canton Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9586
Canton, Ohio 44711-9586