

Audubon *News and Views*



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 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 / ph.330-209-1261

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.

Birding Fry Family Park

by Byron Berger



Grasshopper Sparrow

Fry family Park should be included in any Stark County Big Day birding trip. It has excellent grassland, woodland, and some wetlands. The open areas are good for flyovers of herons and raptors as well. One of the best spots for prairie species in the county. Mile trail near the picnic pavilion is good for such birds as Bob-o-link, Cuckoo, Willow flycatcher, Blackbirds including Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Thrasher, Catbird, and a few warblers and some difficult sparrows. I have had many great photo ops from that trail. Other good areas are the wooded draw near the junction to the barn, the barn area and the pond.

I often bird the prairie loop clockwise until I get the nominate species needed for the day. These could easily include Chat, Meadowlark, Bob-o-link, and several different sparrows.

Sparrows can often be an enigma to a beginning birder. They flush, fly quickly, land, and then are deep in the cover again before one can see enough key identification marks. However, if one concentrates on learning which sparrows to expect in each habitat, and their corresponding songs, it becomes less daunting.

The sparrows often seen on the pavilion loop are House sparrow, Chipping sparrow, Song sparrow, Field sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, and Grasshopper sparrow. The first three are easy with loud and/or extensive songs. The male House sparrow (non-native) has a dark throat, the Song sparrow has breast streaks with a central stickpin and rounded tail, and Chipping sparrow is plain-breasted with a bright rufous cap. The second three dodgers in the grass are more challenging. If one learns the insect-like Henslow's and Grasshopper and the bouncing ball like song of the Field, they can be quickly located. In addition, Henslow's and Grasshopper have a somewhat elongated bill, a flattened head with a stripe, and a short spikey tail. *Continued on page 2...*



Field Sparrow

Continued...



Other field marks on the Henslow's include streaks on the upper breast and a tint of olive color on the head. On the Grasshopper there is an orange-yellow spot near the eye and yellow near the shoulder.

If you bird Fry Family Park later in the season, you will encounter juveniles of many species that are streaked on the breast. Part of the Stark County Park district, Fry is located in East Sparta, southeastern Stark County.

Photos by Byron Berger



Announcements

► BIRDING IS FOR EVERYONE; On June 3, 2021 Laura Dornan & Chuck McClaugherty will present the power point program, "Birding Is For Everyone", for the Bolivar Branch Library. This program was developed by the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion committee and shown for the 1st time at the February meeting of Canton Audubon. This Zoom presentation will be followed up by a "live" bird walk at Fort Laurens on Saturday, June 5 at 9:00 AM. COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Connie Rubin & Chuck McClaugherty will be the group leaders but will welcome any assistance from other CAS members so that group sizes can be kept small. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Connie, Chuck, or Laura. CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

► Board positions are available for Canton Audubon Society, The Wilderness Center (as a representative for CAS) and Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC). A conference call representative is also needed for COAC. Please contact Linda Chen with questions. CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

Canton Audubon Membership

During the past year, the COVID19 pandemic has put a strain on many parts of our lives. Membership in Canton Audubon Society certainly did not need to be one of those strains. Therefore, no membership renewal reminders were sent. Still there were many loyal and generous members who renewed their membership without prompting, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Situations have improved to some extent, but many people are still hurting. Therefore, no individual reminders will be sent this year either. CAS expiration dates will be "ignored" until better times. While CAS still has expenses, organizations we continue to support, and projects we are involved in financially, we will continue to provide for these activities from our current resources. But we will also welcome and thank those who are able to renew their membership as we enter a new fiscal year. To increase the ease of making dues payments & general donations, the CAS website now makes it possible for you to pay with PayPal/credit/debit. Simply go to cantonaudubon.org and click on the Payments/Donations tab.

With increased vaccinations and decreased numbers of COVID cases, field trips may soon be able to resume. Participation in Canton Audubon is still a worthwhile use of your time and resources. Thank you for supporting CAS in whatever way you can.

May 19th, 2021 CAS program at 7:00pm via Zoom



This month's program, "The Little Conservation Engine That Could. There are no limits...", is presented by Darlene Sillick. She will discuss projects such as bluebird trails, Purple Martins rigs, Flicker and Kestrel houses and more.

Along with Charlie Zepp, Darlene was co-designer of the Zeppick Bluebird Nest Box. She is President of Ohio Bluebird Society and a member of Columbus Audubon Society where she is Ohio Young Birders Club leader. In 2021, Darlene received the Wildlife Diversity Conservation Award from Ohio Division of Wildlife.

For program questions or Zoom links, email CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com



Biggest Week in American Birding May 6-10, 2021 Virtual Program

This year's Keynote speakers are Dr. Richard Beilfuss, President and CEO of the International Crane Foundation; Dr. Drew Lanham, poet, author and scientist; Corina Newsome, ornithologist and graduate student; Audrey Peterman, co-founder of

Diverse Environmental Leaders Speakers Bureau, Kenn Kaufman, naturalist, author.

There will be beginning, general, advanced, art, and photography workshops including some in Spanish, conservation presentations and world birding travel talks. Registration is required and opened April 5.

Visit: www.BiggestWeekinAmericanBirding.com

Grassland Birds Find Habitat in Former Strip Mine

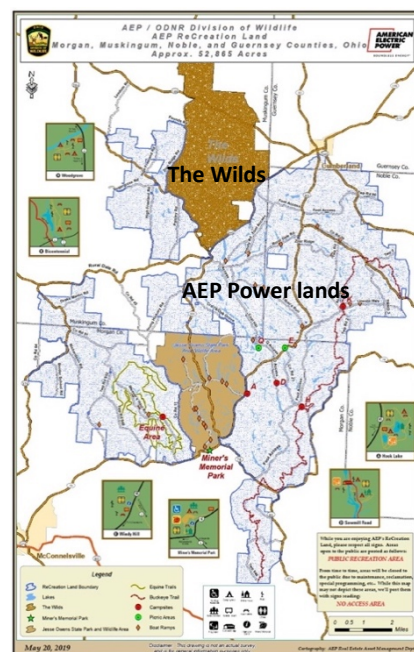
Reprinted from the Ohio Ornithological Society article, July 2015

Surface coal extraction—strip mining—while rightly considered an ecological catastrophe has had an unexpected but fortuitous benefit in southeastern Ohio by creating enormous grasslands during “reclamation.” Many of us are familiar with The Wilds and the adjoining Ohio Power lands in Muskingum County, a good example of this sort of habitat. These grasslands have become key breeding areas for declining species such as the Henslow's Sparrow, and consequently Ohio now supports some of the best remaining populations of grassland breeders in the Midwest. Of course, these sites are sensational for wintering birds, too, in particular raptors. And the hundreds of thousands of acres of reclaimed surface mines are large enough to have altered the wintering range of Golden Eagles and also attract huge numbers of Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, and Short-eared Owls.

Map courtesy of AEP

<https://ohiobirds.org/bird-conservation/bird-conservation-in-ohio>

Editor's note: the light blue area is AEP ReCreation Land. The Wilds is located in the upper brown area of the map.



Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters Spring Gathering

Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) had their virtual spring gathering on April 3, 2021 with 39 Ohio chapter representatives attending. Black River Audubon Society (BRAS), Lorain County, Ohio, was the official host assisted by Izabela Grobelna (Audubon Great Lakes), Bill Heck (Columbus Audubon) and Mark Demyan, (Audubon Greater Cleveland). Jim Jablonski of BRAS, presented the history of Black River and its founding by Jack Smith. Penny Brandau presented a program about Black River Audubon's successful Eastern Bluebird program. She is the manager and volunteer organizer. There are 470 nest boxes, 32 trails, and 48 volunteers. In 2020, a total of 834 Eastern Bluebirds fledged along with 1,268 Tree Swallows, 218 House Wrens and 10 Carolina Wrens from those nest boxes. Surprisingly, no Black-capped Chickadees fledged in 2020.

Erin Geise, the new Regional Director of Mississippi Flyway – North, introduced herself to COAC members. She works at the University of Wisconsin's Cofrin Center for Biodiversity where she is the senior research specialist. Dr. Lara Roketenetz, University of Akron's field manager at the 400-acre Bath Nature Preserve Field Station, presented a program focused on pollinator habitat and pollinator partnerships in Ohio. The Director of Grange Insurance Audubon Education Center, Leigh Ann Miller's presentation was about volunteer success programs with the development of sustainable programs within chapters. Izabela updated members on Audubon's Vision for the Great Lakes and the virtual National Convention July 16-18, 2021 as well as other topics. There was a tribute to Alan Dolan at the end of the day. During a photo slideshow, COAC members shared fond memories of him. Watch the program here: <https://counciloac.org/chapter-gathering-spring-2021>

Black-browed Dabbler

By Jacki Hupp



In October 2020, two men, Muhammad Suranto and Muhammed Rizky Fauzan, accidentally captured an unknown bird while gathering forest products in South Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo. The two did not know what species the bird was so collected photographs and notes then released the bird back to the forest. They then shared their information with a local bird watching group, BW Galeatus, in hopes of identifying it. Ultimately the group along with other ornithologists identified the bird as the black-browed Babbler, which was last collected between 1843 and 1848! Very little is known about the

Black-browed Babbler, and it currently listed as Data Deficient, but with this new discovery, scientist plan to travel to Borneo to learn more. The captured babbler's iris, bill, and legs were slightly different colors that the original specimen, but this was somewhat expected as these areas lose their tint and are artificially colored during the taxidermy process. A brief paper about the discovery was published February 25, 2021 in *BirdingASIA*. A quick google search will show an abundance of information on this topic.

Source: *Birdwatchingdaily.com*

Photo by Muhammad Suranto and Muhammed Rizky Fauza

World Migratory Bird Day is May 8, 2021

World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated the second Saturday of May. Nearly 40% of the world's bird population, billions of them, make their incredible journey every year, in spring and autumn. The primary reason for spring migration is the search for abundant food sources needed to raise their young.

"Did You Know..."

Most birds migrate at night and are called nocturnal migrants. These species include buntings, cuckoos, flycatchers, grosbeaks, orioles, sparrows, tanagers, thrushes, vireos and warblers. They use the moon and stars along with Earth's magnetic field to guide them. Species such as cranes, falcons, hawks, hummingbirds, loons, pelicans, swallows and swifts migrate by day and are called diurnal migrants. They rely on the sun, their sight and internal compasses.

Ohio's May Migration, Who and When?

With the arrival of neotropical migrants, May is considered prime bird watching season and peak migration occurs during the first half of May.

Late April: (and into May) brings Black-and-white, Palm, Black-throated Green, Nashville, Pine, and Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Sparrows, Herons, Egrets, Rails, Rusty Blackbirds, Broad-winged hawks and Osprey.

Early May: brings large numbers of neotropical migrants traveling through Ohio. Blue-wing, Common Yellowthroats, and Prothonotary warblers, Ovenbirds, as well as Cuckoos, Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Tanagers, and Vireos.

Mid-May: look for Magnolia, Blackpoll, and Bay-breasted Warblers, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, shorebirds.

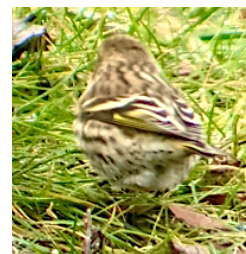
Late May: Connecticut, Mourning, Wilson's, Canada Warblers, Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers, and shorebirds.

June: While migration has wound down, shorebirds are still on the move.

Chapter Chatter

➤ From Jacki Hupp; “This is the first year I have noticed Pine Siskins in my yard, they likely have visited before but I didn’t pay attention. On January 2, I counted 13 of them under my feeder! They are very small and have a yellow stripe on their wings.”

➤ Laura & Tim Dornan went birding in their “patch” in mid-March and made an exciting new discovery. There is a Great Blue Heron rookery just outside the city limits of Louisville! The rookery can be seen from the west side of the north end of St. Louis Cemetery and it appears to hold about 26 nests. Twenty herons were seen sitting on or standing next to nests on the day of discovery.



Jacki Hupp



➤ CAS members had an impromptu walk at the Cottonwood Wetlands, Sippo Lake. Attending were Scott, Barbra, Myra, Cynthia, Byron and Linda. It was a beautiful, sunny day and 23 species were sighted which included a Brown Creeper. Also seen were a busy Chickadee pair making a nest in a freshly broken tree. Thanks to Cynthia for the Downy Woodpecker photo.

➤ Jon Cefus, new secretary of the Ohio Bird Records Committee, wrote about this committee & how it functions in the March issue of Chip Notes, the Ohio Ornithological Society newsletter. His article is summarized below.

The nine-member OBRC exists to increase knowledge of Ohio’s bird life by validating records, maintaining public archives of rare occurrences of birds in the state, and establishing the official list of Ohio bird species. The committee’s task is to decide if the sighting of a rare bird is documented sufficiently for the historical record, not whether the bird was seen. If you use eBird to list and track your sightings including photos, videos & audio, it is still helpful to the committee to send a written report documenting the sighting. The form for this can be found on the OOS website.

The process of reviewing birds for eBird users and for the OBRC is evolving and will allow regional reviewers to submit reports to OBRC. This will streamline the process and allow more time for committee members to conduct the research they need. eBird and the OBRC, using different methodologies and each serving vital functions, will be able to work together to provide an accurate record of the birds of Ohio.

Read the article here: “Get To Know Your Ohio Bird Records Committee” March 18, 2021
<https://ohiobirds.org/get-to-know-your-ohio-bird-records-committee>

➤ Chapter Chatter continued on page 6.

CAS Business Supporters

Dumont Seed
 619 30th St NW, Canton, OH 44706
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 Bird Seed, Feeders, Supplies,
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 M-Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 10am-4pm
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Stark County Park District
 Administration: 330-477-3552
 5300 Tyner St NW,
 Canton, OH 44708
 Exploration Gateway (EG)
 5712 12th St NW, Canton, OH 44708
 330-409-8096 www.StarkParks.com

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center
 University of Mount Union
 1972 Clark Ave. Alliance, OH 44601
 330-823-7487
 T-F: 9am-4pm, Sat 1pm-5pm,
 Sun 1pm-5pm, Mon: Closed
www.mountunion.edu/nature-center

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www.theTERRAdepot.com

Chapter Chatter continued...

➤ From Barbra Lewis; Birding Ohio had several posts on Facebook about an unusual bird visiting a backyard feeder in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Connie Rubin called and asked if I wanted to ride along to see the rarely viewed Painted Bunting. Always up for an adventure, I gladly joined her, and we headed south in her SUV. Now, I don't doubt that many of you know that Connie and I can get into very lively discussions, you know the kind that consumes all attention? So, no one will be surprised to learn that we did not hear the GPS tell us to head south on S.R. 93, and instead, we found ourselves on a narrow, winding, often dirt road mostly closed due to spring flooding, but thankfully open that day, winding back to 93. For a while, we were concerned we would disappear into an SUV-eating pothole or would be lost in the backwoods of T-County, never to be heard from again. We were grateful when the state road appeared and had a much smoother ride, leading us to a residential neighborhood in Sugarcreek.

The online instructions indicated we were to park in the street and stand in the next-door neighbor's driveway to observe the feeder. We started down the drive and found a couple standing, bins to eyes. They excitedly described where to look, and sure enough, we were quickly rewarded by a vivid red chest and vibrant blue head as the bunting perched on a branch, nicely silhouetted by the white pine behind him. Oh! The colors of this tiny Cardinal cousin, his stout bill facing us as if we would need it to make the I.D. Connie clicked away, capturing many photos, and then he kindly took a little hop to face the other direction so we could see the brilliant green of his back, the soft, dove-like gray of his primaries. The bitter cold of the windy March day finally drove us back to the warmth of heated seats, but what a delight to have seen such a gem! We are grateful to the property owners' who shared their driveway and back yard with so many people who, like me, added a lifer that day.

Book Review

By Laura Dornan

Field Notes From An Unintentional Birder, a memoir by Julia Zarankin



Many, maybe most, birders who are passionate about birds & who go on to write books on the subject, started birding as a youngster or young adult. They become confident, assured, & talented in their field & go on to great things. Their books inspire us, teach us, fill us with dreams and in the end often leave us knowing that we will never quite measure up.

Julia Zarankin stumbled into birding as an adult. She did not really want to be “a birder”. She had no talent for discerning subtle differences in plumage, was tone-deaf & terrible at learning bird songs (despite being the daughter of two concert pianists) and was NOT an outdoor type of person, afraid of just about every living thing. Nevertheless, she persevered with the hobby and birding became everything to her. But this book is not just about why or how she became a birder, or about birds, or any of the myriad subjects you might expect of a book with this title. It is about how birding helped her understand and adapt to her complicated upbringing. A wry, humorous, sometimes poignant tale of a girl, born in the USSR and growing up in many countries. Julia was insecure and unsure of what she wanted in life. Birds helped her find her way.

Julia describes herself as a “lifelong beginning birder”. She helps us see and accept our own foibles, all the while laughing at ourselves. Whether you are simply curious about birds & birding, a newbie in the birding community, another lifelong beginning birder or an experienced & advanced birder who still, on occasion, “misidentifies things with gusto”, you will find yourself in the pages of this book. And you will know that you do measure up. Do yourself a favor and read this book.



Mycoplasma or Avian Conjunctivitis Outbreak Affects Goldfinch

By Laura Dornan

This past spring has seen another kind of epidemic....this one affecting the birds that come to our feeders, particularly finches. It is Mycoplasma or avian conjunctivitis, a disease that affects the eyes of birds, making them become blind and unable to find food. Julie Zickefoose has experienced an unusual number of cases this year and she documents the experience on her blog at juliezickefoose.blogspot.com. This disease first surfaced several years ago and is primarily spread among birds at birdfeeders.

Here is an excerpt from Julie's blog explaining how to keep the disease under control.

"And so I ask you, if you're seeing sick finches--house or gold--with swollen, closed eyes, please harden your heart and take your feeders down. Allow the birds to disperse. Don't invite them into a place that's teeming with Mycoplasma. They're better off foraging naturally, dispersed and socially distanced. Soak your feeders in a joint compound bucket with detergent and bleach (one-part bleach to 10 parts water, or a good healthy glug for a full bucket). Let them soak for 15 min, and soak all parts--flip them over if they're too long to submerge completely. Rinse them and put them away for a few weeks, or--as I do now-- for the spring and summer. You might need to bust them back out for that March or April snowstorm, or that cruel May freeze, and you'll be glad you disinfected them if you do."

Julie also made some very interesting discoveries regarding what type of feeders to use, and to avoid, to contain the spreading of this disease. Spoiler Alert: tube feeders are a problem! For a heart-wrenching and compelling story visit the 3 chapters detailing her discoveries, Goldfinch Hospital; Miracle on the Patio; Caught in the Whirlpool, at tinyurl.com/goficare; tinyurl.com/patiofinch; tinyurl.com/finchpool

Audubon's Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes for Birds and People

From Audubon Great Lakes /
National Audubon Society

Audubon Great Lakes released an ambitious new report, *Restoring the Great Lakes for Birds and People*, which offers blueprint for how to address the threats facing the Great Lakes for the benefit of birds and people. With more than 10,000 miles of shoreline, Audubon has identified the nearshore watersheds of the Great Lakes that most need our help. The projects and programs highlighted in this report are critical for helping the region recover from coastal degradation, climate change and invasive species. You can read the full report here: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/great-lakes-restoration>



Securing a bright future for the birds and people of the Great Lakes region has never been more important. As the largest freshwater ecosystem on the planet, the Great Lakes provide clean drinking water to 40 million people and serve as a global resource to millions of birds. Audubon's vision for the Great Lakes will ensure that the waters and lands of this iconic ecosystem remain healthy for communities of birds and people that rely on them for survival.



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Canton Audubon Society

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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
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