

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.

Jacki's Luna Moth Adventure

By Jacki Hupp



On June 7, 2016 I came home from work and found a female Luna moth laying eggs on the garage door. If you have never seen one before, they are a stunning lime green with long tails on their hind wings, which also have several eye spots, and have furry antennae. They are part of the Giant Silkworm moth and Royal moth family (Saturniidae). Knowing that they would not survive on the garage door, I decided to try to save them so I did a quick Google search. After moving the female to a nearby tree, I scraped the eggs off the door and placed them in a storage container (instructions online).

The tiny caterpillars began hatching about 2 weeks later and were only a few centimeters long, about the width of a toothpick. I learned that this species of caterpillar normally feeds on black walnut, sweet gum or hickory trees. Since we have several black walnut trees in our yard, the hunt for leaves began. I trimmed the end of a low branch and placed it into a quart-sized mason jar and covered with pantyhose to allow air flow at the top. There were approximately 40 caterpillars and I soon realized that they eat a LOT! As they continued to grow, the leaves disappeared quicker and quicker, as did the branches that I could reach on the walnut trees. Then came the challenge of feeding them several times a day; this was especially difficult since I typically go to Put-in-Bay frequently. Since I couldn't leave them home to starve, the caterpillars made several trips to South Bass Island with me.

Continued on page 2...



Luna moth
laying eggs



Luna caterpillar on toothpick

This process continued for about a month until the caterpillars, now approximately 3 inches long and a 1/2 inch thick, began to eat less. I noticed the first pupa in the container (which had progressed to a small plastic insect cage) on July 30, 2016. Once there were no caterpillars crawling around, I moved the pupae onto a paper plate and kept them outside on the screened porch to be exposed to normal weather patterns. Finally, on August 10, the first Luna moth hatched! I took it out at dusk, waved my hand a bit and it awkwardly flew away leaving me with a bittersweet goodbye. Unfortunately, not all 40 caterpillars made it to adulthood, but the whole experience definitely left a lasting impact on me and my family.

Luna moths (*Actias luna*) are primarily nocturnal, found in forested areas and are attracted to light sources at night. In our area of Ohio, they typically have 2 generations (broods) per year. Like many silk moths, the adult moth does not



have mouth parts and therefore does not feed. Adults live for about a week and males will fly long distances to find a mate. Once the female lays her eggs, she dies. Pupae will overwinter in the leaf litter and hatch in spring. Keep an eye out for Luna moths during the summer months; they are truly a joy to see! *Photos by Jacki Hupp*



Announcements

- Board member elections: Ronnie Macko has returned to serve a second 2-year term while Myra McCoy and Marlene Bolea each started 2-year terms, all as directors. Terms began June 1, 2021 and end May 31, 2023. One board position remains open. All officers have returned to their previous positions.
- Board positions are available for The Wilderness Center (as representatives for CAS) as well as one position for Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC). A conference call representative (1 time/month) is also needed for COAC. Please contact Linda Chen with questions. CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com
- Jackie Augustine, COAC President, has resigned due to her new job as Director of Audubon of Kansas. Mark Demyan, from Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, will serve as interim president through June 31, 2021. Congratulations Jackie!
- CAS will participate in the Juneteenth celebration at Nimisilla Park in Canton on Saturday, June 19th. The event begins at 10am. We will have a table set up to share information about birds as well as birding tips. Volunteers are needed to help at our table throughout the day or stop by to visit. CAS will pack up at 4pm and extra help would be appreciated. For questions, contact CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

“Did You Know...”



Birding with binoculars, also known as “opera glasses”, was promoted in 1889 by Florence Merriam Bailey, 132 years ago! At the age of 26, she wrote a book titled “Birds Through an Opera Glass”. The book encouraged bird enthusiasts to observe and study birds in their natural habitat as opposed to capturing them, where they often met their demise, for study in-hand.

Read about binocular tips in ANV’s latest newsletter article series.

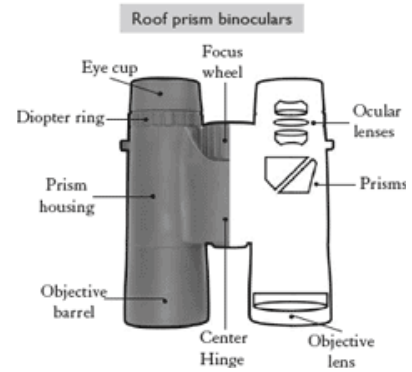
Opera glasses photo by Laura Dornan

BIRDING TIPS FOR NEW (& NOT-SO-NEW) BIRDERS

This is the first in a new series of articles. While the tips offered here may seem to be directed towards people new to birding, we are sure that even those who have been birding for decades will find some tidbits of helpful information.

TIP # 1: KNOW YOUR BINOCULAR—PART ONE, by Laura Dornan

What Do the Numbers Mean? On every binocular there is a set of numbers, most likely located on the center focus wheel. Something like 7x35, 8x42, or 10x50. The first number and x is the amount of magnification. The second number is the diameter of the **objective lens** (larger lens nearer to object being viewed) in millimeters. This lens gathers light. The larger the objective lens the more light is let into the binocular. The other number refers to the **Field of View/FOV** (width in feet being viewed at 1000 yards). Usually as magnification increases, field of view decreases. But this is also dependent on other factors in the construction of the binocular. My mid-priced Ranger is 8x42 with 6.25 FOV; my husband's higher end Swarovski is 8.5x 42 with 7.4 FOV.



www.opticsplanet.com/howto/how-to-choose-binoculars.html

Fit It to Your Face: **Interpupillary** distance (the distance between your eyes) is different for everyone. The barrels of the binocular are hinged...looking through the lens, you will likely see two circles around the FOV. Move the barrels apart or closer together till there is one circular FOV.

How Deep Are Your Eyes? Binoculars have adjustable eye cups to position eye pupils the correct distance from the eye piece and exclude side light. The cups twist up, pop up or roll down. UP for those without glasses, DOWN for those with is the general rule, but individual eye depth is also a factor so find which position works best for you.

Focus, Focus, Focus: There are three types of binocular—individual focus, fixed focus, and center focus. Individual focus is often used by the military but is not fast enough to follow flitting warblers in tree tops. Fixed focus is fine if you have absolute perfect eyesight. The binocular does not focus on individual objects, your eyes do, just as they do without the binocular. Most of us do not have perfect eyesight, so central focus is the way to go. This binocular has a center focus ring for fast focusing for both eyes...AFTER some initial adjustment. Most central focus binoculars have a ring on the right eyepiece that will correct for imperfect eyesight, (**diopter** ring). Note: some binoculars have a lock down mechanism on the diopter. First, while looking through the binocular, cover the right lens with the lens cover or your hand, or close your right eye and focus on a distant object (a sign with different size lettering is perfect), using the center ring. When all letters and edges are sharp, uncover the right eye and cover the left eye.

Don't touch the center ring. Unlock the diopter if needed. Adjust the diopter ring until the view is sharp. The view will now always be in focus, using only the center focus. Look at the diopter ring. You will see a + and a - on either side of an arrow on the barrel and an arrow on the ring. Take note of where the arrow on the ring lies in relation to the barrel markings and remember it. Hint: if your memory is as bad as mine, you can put a drop of nail polish or white out on the barrel or ring to mark the spot. That's it! Check the diopter ring before each birding session to assure the binocular will focus each time you use it.

Source: "Choosing and Using Binocs". *Bird Watchers Digest*, Nov/Dec 1999

Next issue—Are You Seeing Double?; Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness.

Chapter Chatter



Janice Petko

➤ From Janice Petko: Four Pine Siskins showed up at one of my window feeders on May 17, 2021 however, I did not see any after that. It is the first time I have seen them this late in the year.

Editor's Note: *Birds of Ohio*, published 2004, states siskins are Rare in 3rd week of May. In 2020 the last reported sighting was May 19 at Sandy Ridge Reservation.

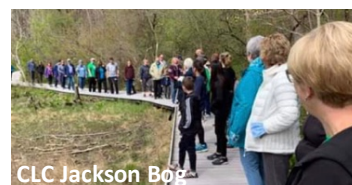
Recent Events



CAS at Jackson Bog

➤ Christ Lutheran Church held an Earth Day walk in memory of Alan Dolan at Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve.

➤ Canton Audubon hosted two Earth Day walks, one at Mahoning Valley Trail in Alliance having 9 non-member guests including two reporters from the Alliance Review. The second walk was held at Jackson Bog with 9 attendees, 2 of which were guests.



CLC Jackson Bog

➤ World Migratory Bird Day/Global Big Day May 8th bird walk: Canton Audubon hosted a walk at Cottonwood Wetlands, Sippo Lake. There were 14 attendees, 7 being guests. A total of 31 bird species were seen. Baltimore Orioles kept the group entertained.

➤ CAS led a bird walk at Fort Laurens in Bolivar, on June 5th with 7 non-member guests attending. The walk was a follow-up to an EDI program presented at the local library. Birds of note were Indigo buntings, a Bald Eagle and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.



Sippo Lake

Ohio Native Plant Partnership Grows Even Stronger

Ohio Turnpike Commission, Andrew Herberger, Service Plaza Operations Director

On Earth Day, we proudly announced another project with our environmental partner **Keep Ohio Beautiful** on Ohio Turnpike social media.

Four new Native Pollinator Gardens will be planted adjacent to our **National Underground Railroad Markers** in late 2021 to adorn these important sites. These gardens will be planted this fall at the Commodore Perry and Erie Islands Service Plazas in Sandusky County, Ohio at Mile Marker 100.0, and at the Brady's Leap and Portage Service Plazas in Portage County, Ohio at Mile Marker 197.0.

The gardens will be similar to the pollinator gardens planted earlier at the Middle Ridge and Vermilion Valley Service Plazas in Amherst, Ohio and the Mahoning Valley and Glacier Hills Service Plazas in New Springfield, Ohio.

The original gardens feature 17 different Ohio-native plant species. Native plants are adapted to Ohio soil and climate, are easy to care for and are naturally drought-resistant. They attract pollinators such as bees, birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The native plant gardens also serve as a model to educate and encourage people to grow native species in their own gardens and display a sense of beauty and place that is uniquely Ohio.

Albinism vs Leucism

By Jacki Hupp



Have you ever observed a white or partially white bird or critter in the wild? If so, you may have been lucky enough to see a true albino specimen. I recently was this lucky myself, when I got to see a true albino deer in our neighborhood. Albinism is a genetic condition caused when both parents carry the recessive gene thus resulting in the animal's inability to create melanin, which is the pigment needed to color skin, feathers, scales, eyes, and hair. Leucism is the partial loss of coloration/pigmentation and ranges from a few small patches to a full white coat/feathers; however, leucistic animals most often

still have colored eyes and other body parts, such as the snout of a deer.

True albinos have no pigment at all and therefore their eyes (and snout as in deer) will appear pink, which is actually just the blood vessels showing through the skin. Albino/leucistic animals are almost always fighting for their life from birth. Without the ability to blend in with their surroundings, they often become easy targets for predators. The lack of pigmentation in their eyes causes troubles with vision and without color to the skin, they are more susceptible to melanoma and damages from the sun. This can be especially difficult for reptiles and other cold-blooded animals. As we all know, many animals like birds, attract a mate with their appearances and lavish colors and patterns, without this, albinos are less likely to mate.

There are also other genetic conditions that impact pigmentation throughout the body, including gene mutations in frogs that cause different wavelengths of light to be filtered out, results in a blue looking bullfrog. Plants can also have albinism and as such can lack the all-important chlorophyll pigments or chloroplast membranes needed for photosynthesis. This significantly reduces survivability. Some plants have white flowers or other parts. Terms associated with plant albinism include hypochromia and albiflora and similar to animals, the severity of albinism varies.

Knowing just how hard these animals have to fight to stay alive definitely makes the sighting of this albino deer a memorable experience. My family and I have been able to see it a few times and each time is just as exciting as the first. *Photo by Jacki Hupp*

Sources: Iowa DNR (<https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-News-Releases/ArticleID/2711/What-makes-an-animal-albino>) and Wikipedia

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Dumont Seed 619 30th St NW, Canton, OH 44709 330-492-0204 Bird seed, Feeders & Supplies Lawn, Garden	Hartville Elevator 11 Prospect Ave N, Hartville, OH 44632 ph: 330-872-9320 Birds seed, Feeders and supplies M-F 8am-5pm, Sat: 8am-noon Sun: closed	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
The Ladybug Garden Center Donna Matako Landscape Services 8361 Portage St NW, Massillon, OH 44646 ph: 330-832-7080 Birding supplies Landscapes, Garden, Spring/Fall Clean-up M-F:9a-6p, Sat: 9a-5p, Sun: 10a-3p www.theladybuglawncare.com	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	The Terra Depot 4202 Portage St NW, North Canton, OH 44720 330-526-8067 Bird Seed, Feeders, Houses, Gifts M-F: 10a-5p Sat: 9a-5p, Sun: Closed www.theTERRAdepot.com

CAS Board Member Bios

Our featured member is Edmund Priddis

Term June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2022

Edmund Priddis is a recent transplant to Ohio from the West. Edmund was born and raised in a small town in Wyoming south of Jackson Hole and Yellowstone National Park. He remembers identifying and feeding birds with his mom from a young age and enjoyed being out in the National Parks and Forests near his hometown. He studied Zoology at Brigham Young University in Utah and then did graduate work in Integrative Biology (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) at the same institutions.



After teaching at Utah Valley University for a little over a year he moved with his wife and three children to southern Arizona to teach at a community college on the U.S. border with Mexico. He found himself in a birders paradise and spent the next nine years in the “hummingbird capital of the United States.” When he wasn’t teaching, he would volunteer with local nature organizations and along with students took a number of excursions into Mexico and Central America which gave him opportunities to see an even wider variety of birds. Edmund moved his family, now six children strong, to Ohio to take on the role of Biology Department Chair at Stark State College. He has lived in Ohio for three years now and enjoys the green, water and opportunity to explore new areas in stark contrast to the southern mountains of Arizona. He is currently working on a PhD in Higher Education through University of Toledo and continues to look for ways to volunteer and spend time outdoors.

Endangered Piping Plovers Nest on the Shores of Western Lake Erie

From Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO): “For the first time in 83 years, Piping Plovers (a Great Lakes endangered species) have returned to the shores of Ohio’s Lake Erie beaches to breed. “Nish,” hatched on Montrose Beach in Chicago, Illinois, and “Nellie,” hatched at Presque Isle in Pennsylvania, now have three eggs in their nest at Maumee Bay State Park. Both are one-year-old birds hatched in 2020.”

BSBO will create a volunteer nest monitoring program and protect the nest with a wire exclosure (an area where unwanted animals are excluded).

Some of you might remember Canton Audubon’s April program about Monty and Rose. Nish is the offspring of this Chicago pair. An update about Monty and Rose: This year, the pair had four eggs in their nest that were close to hatching, but sadly a skunk was able reach into the wire exclosure and eat all of the eggs. The good news is that Monty and Rose are in the process of starting a new nest and the wire exclosure will be enlarged to prevent predators from getting new eggs.

☛ Monty and Rose are becoming “Grandplovers”: <https://www.chicagopipingplovers.org/public-updates/monty-and-rose-are-going-to-be-grandparents-grandplovers>

Canton Audubon Society is proud to be a supporting member of Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

Birding is therapeutic. Everyone who enjoys birds knows that.

The June issue of Birdwatching Magazine had a whole article on the subject. Following is a poem from which an excerpt was quoted in that article. It will surely speak to each of us.

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind star waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



Piping Plover chick, Lake Michigan. L Chen



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Canton Audubon Society

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