

Audubon *News and Views*



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



Volume 64

September/October 2021

Issue No. 2 *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 / 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.

MYSTERIOUS SONGBIRD ILLNESS

By Chris Dyer

Most of you have likely heard that many birds in the Washington DC area have been dying, having seizures, and/or going blind. This issue has now spread to seven states including Ohio. It is unknown what the cause is and it seems to mostly be affecting Blue Jays, Common Grackles, European Starlings, American Robins. It has also affected Carolina Wrens, Gray Catbirds, House Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, and Northern Flickers but to a lesser extent. As of this writing the ODNR lists Brown, Butler, Clark, Clermont, Delaware, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Warren counties as the most severely affected.

There are many theories as to the cause. One of the most common theories includes the possibility that eating the newly emerged cicada populations has affected the birds, either due to a fungus or accumulated poisons within the cicada themselves. Others have theorized a direct contact with toxins within pesticides. Side effects of such toxins often include neurological issues and seizures similar to those being witnessed currently. Still others believe a disease may be involved.

As a precaution, the ODNR is asking people to pull and bleach their feeders and bird baths and not to use them again until more is known or the disease fades. Just as in the case of Covid-19 last year, it is better to err on the side of caution and safety until science learns what is actually going on.

Such steps are recommended because such places are used communally by birds and makes them excellent places for bacteria or virus to be passed among many birds. Feeders were the prime culprit of spreading the Conjunctivitis outbreak that blinded finches and other birds back in 1994 and beyond. Cleaning feeders once a month with a 50/50 bleach/water solution has become a recommended practice since that time and has helped to keep that disease in check.

Continued on page 2...

The ODNR website states the following:

“If you observe [living] sick birds with these symptoms and/or neurological issues (such as loss of balance, coordination) then please contact your nearest licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

If You Find a Dead/Diseased Bird, the Ohio Division of Wildlife appreciates reports of dead birds that exhibit symptoms such as crusty, bulging, or sunken eyes. Please submit a report online in our Wildlife Species Sighting reporting system to help biologists track the spread of the disease. When reporting, select Bird - Diseased or Dead.”

Owners of chicken and other poultry are being warned to take strict measures to keep their birds safe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

► Canton Audubon will hold in-person meetings beginning September 15, 2021. They will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Exploration Gateway (Room C), Sippo Lake. Masks are **strongly** encouraged at all CAS events. We will practice social distancing.

► Holiday dinner will take place on Wednesday, December 8th at 6pm. The event will be held at First Christian Church (FCC), 6900 Market Ave, North Canton 44721. Cost is \$17/person. Dinner entrée choices this year are turkey, fish or vegetarian. More information will be in the November/ December newsletter. Guest speaker TBD. FCC will take all necessary precautions, social distancing, encouraging mask wearing, etc.

► **Member contributors:** We encourage members to submit news or unusual sightings to share via Chapter Chatter or share upcoming events. Nature-related articles written by members or readers are welcome too! Please send information to Canton Audubon’s email below.

► Chuck McClaugherty will serve as a new Canton Audubon representative on The Wilderness Center’s board of directors. Chuck also serves as a director on the CAS board.

► CAS would like to thank Chris Lamb for her four years of service as a director on Canton Audubon Society’s board.

► New President for Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters; Mark Demyan, from Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, will serve as the new COAC President beginning July 1, 2021 through June 31, 2023.

For questions or submissions, contact CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

FRITZ SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The CAS Scholarship Committee regrets to announce that Canton Audubon will go another year without offering the Fritz Scholarship Award to a college student. Probably at least in part due to the pandemic, the committee received only one application this year. This applicant was hoping to receive a PhD candidacy and was certainly qualified for the scholarship. However, in the end he was not able to enter into the PhD program. The committee wishes him well and we encourage him to apply again when he is able to enter the program.

Canton Audubon thanks the Scholarship Committee members—Lee Dolan, Robert Rohrbaugh, Joyce Stevens, Rose Ann Carper & Laura Dornan for their efforts in helping CAS encourage students who are committed to improving and conserving our natural resources.

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

This is the second in a series. 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 TWO

Are You Seeing Double? Do you have trouble focusing on an object? Do you get headaches when birding? If the **optical alignment** of the lens, one factor in the quality of your optics, is off by even a small amount, the muscles of your eyes must work to compensate, resulting in eye strain and headaches. If alignment is off by a large amount, double or crossed vision will occur. Binoculars can become out of alignment by being bumped or dropped. (Note—**never** carry your binocular by the strap, with the binocular swinging free. This is how most binoculars become out of alignment.) To check the alignment, focus the binocular on a horizontal line, such as a power line or where the wall meets the ceiling in a room. Draw the binocular away from your eye until you see two side-by-side images. If the horizontal line is higher in one barrel than the other, the binocular is out of alignment. This can only be corrected at the manufacturer.

Cleanliness Is Next To Godliness: The special coatings on the lenses of binoculars are incredibly easy to damage. Extreme care must be taken to prevent them from being scratched by dust and particles. Pelagic birding or just being at the beach will subject your binoculars to salt. Keeping your optics clean is of the utmost importance but it must be done carefully. First, remove dust, etc. from the lens by using a lens blower, fine-haired brush or by blowing on them (though the moisture from you breath can cause dust to stick). Then you can use a **high-quality** microfiber cloth to gently rub the lens in a circular motion. You can use an **alcohol-free** cleaning fluid specially formulated for camera & binoculars. Never use eye glass or household cleaners on your optics. They can destroy the lens coatings. Clean the body by wiping the barrels, focus wheel, and eye cups with a lint-free cloth and warm water or **mild** liquid cleaner. Using the wrong type of solution can damage the rubber coating.

Source: Test-driving Binocs, Birder's World Magazine December 1999

ANOTHER THREAT TO OHIO'S FORESTS



Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) is a disease first discovered in Lake Co., Ohio in 2012. It has since spread to seven states and Ontario, Canada. The first symptom is dark stripes or bands between the veins of the tree's leaves, likely caused by a newly recognized subspecies of nematode, a microscopic worm. Later symptoms include shriveled, discolored or deformed leaves, then reduced leaf & bud production in following years, until the tree eventually dies.

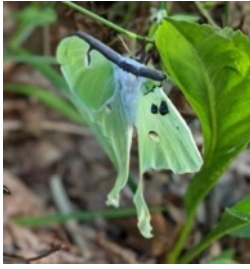
You can help locate beech trees with or without BLD symptoms. Tree Health Survey is an app to train you how to identify beech trees and BLD symptoms, report the severity and submit photos. Tree Health Survey is available at: <https://treehealthapp.cmparks.net> Report BLD, contact ODNR Forest Health Program Administrator Tom Macy at thomas.macy@dnr.state.oh.us

Read more at Mt. Union Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center 2021 Summer Newsletter, www.mtunion.edu/nature-center

Photos courtesy of Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension



CHAPTER CHATTER



➤ Some of you will remember the article “Jacki’s Luna Moth Adventure” in last month’s issue of ANV. She found a freshly hatched Luna moth in mid-June and said it was right on time! Fortunately, Jacki was able to capture these pictures.

Luna moth photos by Jacki Hupp



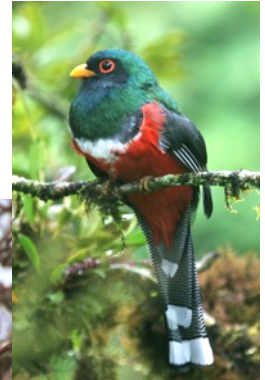
➤ Byron Burger spent a week in the Galapagos and four days in the cloud forests of Ecuador in June and July 2021. While there, he added about 60 new birds to his life list, including several species of Galapagos finches such as Ground, Tree, Vegetarian, Woodpecker and Warbler Finches. This was the second time he has visited Ecuador. After returning home, he had 12-hour turnaround and headed to Minnesota



Large Ground-Finch

to attend a reunion at a camp where he worked as a naturalist in 1992. Byron then spent a week birding there. CAS looks forward to hearing about & seeing pictures of his birding adventures.

Photos by Byron Berger



Masked Trogon ↑
← Red-footed Booby

➤ Canton Audubon was featured in the Canton Repository newspaper in regards to our collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at their Atwood property. We enlisted Darlene Sillick (Ohio Bluebird Society President) to help with Bluebird nest boxes which she donated to USACE. In a letter sent to several newspapers, CAS asked for volunteers to assist the Corps with installation of the boxes. So far, a few individuals as well as a Boy Scout troop have offered to help. The article can be found here. <https://www.cantonrep.com/story/news/2021/07/29/army-corps-engineers-audubon-birds-dam-volunteers-ohio/8064301002/>

RECENT EVENTS



➤ **Juneteenth Celebration:** Canton Audubon Society joined about 30 other vendors at Nimisilla Park in Canton to celebrate Juneteenth on June 19, the first national observance of the new national holiday that recognizes the end of slavery in the US. Our booth featured crafts for kids and lots of handouts regarding Audubon and our countywide Club. We gave out lots of brochures during the five hours we were there, dodged a few raindrops, and talked with some local educators about our willingness to present our “Birding Is for Everyone” PowerPoint and Flight Patterns Program. We even had a milk-jug bird feeder hung up to show visitors how to make their own. It was an enjoyable day!

➤ **Rodman Library:** Canton Audubon Society offered their program “Birding for Everyone” to 27 participants at Rodman Public Library in Alliance on July 19th. Laura Dornan, Connie Rubin, and Chuck McClagherty jointly presented the program and afterwards they led a short bird walk on the Stark Parks Iron Horse Trail beside the library. Chimney swifts, turkey vultures, and song sparrows were among the birds enjoyed by the participants.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 15, 2021

“Feathered Miracles” by Chuck Jakubchak

Birds are more than beautiful and many species perform miraculous feats throughout their lives. This program will review the accomplishments of numerous avian species and discuss how their actions make our world a better place. Lots of colorful photos and interesting facts will help entertain and educate.

Chuck is an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist and has been an avid birder for more than 25 years and was a past board member of The Wilderness Center. He has written articles for Birdwatcher's Digest and other publications. Chuck retired from GE in 2013 and resides in Strongsville along with his wife Jeanne.



October 18, 2021

“It’s a Birds World” by Mary Lou Jubin

Hammered Dulcimer with Music, Photos & Stories

Mary Lou is a retired elementary teacher, photographer and musician. She presents informational nature and historical story programs accompanied by photography and hammered dulcimer music.



November 17, 2021, “Marvelous Turkey Vultures” by Carrie Elvey from The Wilderness Center.

Pre-meeting Bird Walks September 15 and October 18, 2021:

Meet at 5:30pm on the south facing balcony, Exploration Gateway.

PARKS FOR POLLINATORS BIOBLITZ, September 11, 2021 at Stark Park’s Fry Family Park. Check-in between 10 am-4 pm. The iNaturalist app will be used to take pictures of plants, insects and animals and will help with pollinator information in the area. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. www.inaturalist.org/projects/parks-for-pollinators-fry-family-park-bioblitz

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, September 25, 2021 Volunteer opportunities are available with US Army Corps of Engineers at the Atwood Dam/Atwood Lake southeast of Zoar, Ohio. They will be doing invasive plants removal and possibly bluebird nest box installations. For more information, contact Scott Kraynak: (740) 604-6470 / (701) 226-3067. Scott.P.Kraynak@usace.army.mil or contact Hunter.S.Simmons@usace.army.mil (at Atwood location)

BIRDABILITY WEEK is October 18-24th. Birdability is a program designed specifically for people with limited mobility or other health challenges but is open to all. The goal is to get those individuals outside, at accessible locations, to enjoy birds and nature. CAS will hold a bird walk during Birdability Week, details TBD. Binoculars will be supplied. Check for updates at CAS Facebook & website pages as well as an announcement in the Canton Repository. Find out more at www.birdability.org

CAS Business Supporters

Dumont Seed

619 30th St NW, Canton, Ohio 44709
330-492-0204
Bird seed, Feeders and supplies,
Lawn, Garden

Hartville Elevator

11 Prospect Ave N, Hartville, OH
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

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 Ladybug Garden Center & Gift Shop

Donna Mataka Landscape Services
8361 Portage St NW, Massillon, OH 44646
330-832-7080
Birding supplies Landscapes,
Garden, Spring/Fall Clean-up
M-F: 9a-6p, Sat: 9a-5p, Sun: 10a-3p
www.theladybuglawncare.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

MOURNING DOVE

Zenaida macroura

By Laura Dornan



The mourning dove is one of those birds that we usually don't give a whole lot of thought to. They are so ubiquitous we hardly even notice them when out birding. It is one of the most common birds in North America, ranging coast to coast from southern Canada to central Mexico and occupying almost every habitat known except for wetlands and unbroken forests.

But when we do take time to stop and notice this often-overlooked bird, we will realize what a pretty bird it is. The soft, buffy coloring, iridescence on the sides of the neck, light blue eye-ring, bright pink feet and the bluish-gray crown and pinkish breast of males can certainly turn your head. If this subtly colored plumage isn't enough to make you an admirer of this member of the pigeon family, listen to the soft, comforting but

mournful Coooo.....Coooo sounds that give the bird its common name.

Courtship includes an aerial display which I have never seen. However, from my patio, I have often observed the ground display of the male dove as he woos the object of his affection. He puffs up his throat and chest feathers to show off the beautiful iridescent feathers and begins to approach her. While nodding his head, bowing and cooing he pursues the female in the hope she will welcome his attention. But she is not so easily won over and scurries away. It is quite fun to watch as she leads him on a merry chase all around the yard. I admire his persistence and she eventually succumbs to his advances.



While there are many reasons to be an admirer of this bird, one of the most interesting is the way it raises its young. Starting with the most flimsy of nests, the female lays two eggs. We used to have doves nest on our front porch every year. There were more sticks on the porch floor than there were in the nest and looking up at it from underneath, you could see straight through. Still, the eggs never seemed to fall out. Both parents brood the eggs around the clock, the male during the day, the female at night, for two weeks.

After hatching, both parents feed the chicks. And here comes the weird part: Both parents feed the chicks, not seeds or insects like most songbirds, but MILK! Milk from a bird? From a father bird? What gives? Well, a couple of days before the eggs hatch, both parents go through hormonal changes in which the lining of the crop changes into a cottage cheese like consistency. The baby dove sticks its head into the open mouth of the parent and sucks up this "pigeon milk" with its beak, as through a straw. The first few days the diet is entirely pigeon milk and then gradually begins to be supplemented with partially digested seeds. The young fledge after about two weeks and continue to be fed by the parents for another two weeks, when they are able to find seeds for themselves.

This is just a small example of how some of the most common birds can also be the most interesting ones. I hope this inspires you to find other unique facts about birds and their behavior and biology.

Sources: *Timberdoodle Newsletter of Friends of the 500th*, Mourning Dove article by Sandy Rogers; *Lives of North American Birds* by Kenn Kaufman; *The Birder's Handbook* edited by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin and Darryl Wayne; *Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by Donald & Lillian Stokes. Thank you to Lee Dolan for suggesting this article.



DID YOU KNOW.....?

The common name 'dove' in the family Columbidae is probably a derivative of 'dive', referring to the birds' erratic flight pattern. 'Pigeon' is from the Old French 'pignon'. The Columbidae family is among the few birds that can drink by suction, sticking their heads in the water and drinking continuously; most other birds must take one bill-full of water at a time and tilt the head back to swallow. Question—Could this ability have any connection to the baby birds sucking pigeon milk from their parent's mouths?

COAC 2021 FALL GATHERING

Saturday, October 16, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Columbus



We're delighted to announce that Kenn Kaufman will be our keynote speaker! Our lineup of additional speakers will include Darlene Sillick (Ohio Bluebird Society President), Rebecca Swab from the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, one of our own Ohio Young Birders, and more.

The COAC Fall Gathering is all about collaboration. We'll have helpful hints and real projects for collaboration among chapters and between chapters and other organizations. Experience it and you'll agree: *it's for the birds!*

Special Friday Evening Activities

Join us on Friday evening for social activities, a bird walk at Green Lawn Urban

Cemetery, and opportunities to work with colleagues from across Ohio. We will showcase the best that Columbus has to offer to make your evening both fun and productive. Hotel suggestions will be available.

This year's Fall Gathering will be held at Grange Insurance Audubon Center. The Center provides a home for Audubon Great Lakes in Ohio and for *all* Ohio chapters. Come join us and tour the home of Audubon of Ohio. COST: \$20 which includes lunch.

More information and registration: <https://mailchi.mp/3986dee7aa9b/coac-2021-fall-gathering?e=251197deb7>



CAS BOARD MEMBER BIO

Our featured member is Marlene Bolea

Term June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2023



Marlene Bolea is presently a life member and bird chairman for the Lake Cable Garden Club, Canton Audubon Society and the Garden Club of Ohio. She has been an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist since 2016. Marlene monitors a bluebird trail at the Algonquin Mill and a trail at the Bluebird Farm in Carrollton, Ohio. She is a life member of the Carrollton Historical Society and member of the Ohio Bluebird Society. Although retired since 2006, her 31 years as an elementary educator with Jackson Local Schools has emphasized the importance of being a life-long learner. She has continued to broaden her knowledge through her travels, interactions with birding experts, reading and recent webinars. She has given entertaining and informative bird programs to garden clubs, Stark Parks and other groups for the past fifteen years.



Canton Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9586
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The Newsletter of Canton Audubon Society

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Linda Chen, President
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Laura Brown, Treasurer
Barbra Lewis, Secretary

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Jacki Hupp – 2020-2022
Ronnie Macko - 2021-2023
Chuck McClaugherty - 2020-2022
Myra McCoy – 2021-2023
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Conservation: Linda Chen, Mary Schilstra

EDI: Chuck McClaugherty, Laura Dornan,
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Programs/Filed Trip: *Scott Watkins,
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Publicity: Connie Rubin

Recycling: Diane & Tom Hert

Scholarship: Laura Dornan

Social Media: Linda Chen, Chris Lamb

Website: Scott Watkins

The Wilderness Center Trustees (1 seats available):

George Goldsworthy
Chuck McClaugherty

*We serve Stark, Tuscarawas, Carroll and parts of
Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison,
Holmes, Mahoning, Summit & Wayne Counties.*

www.CantonAudubon.org

E-mail: CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

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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

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Name: _____

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* OR, PAY ONLINE via CAS WEBSITE *