



Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society
Established 1962

July / August 2022
Volume 67 / Issue 1

Mission:

The Canton Audubon Society mission is to promote the enjoyment, protection, and conservation of birds, wildlife, plants, and their habitat in order to maintain Earth's biodiversity.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

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.

Membership:

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically a member of Canton Audubon Society.

Meetings & Contacts

Meetings are free and open to the public. They are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm from September thru May.

Location:

Stark Parks
Exploration Gateway, Sippo Lake
5712 12th St NW,
Canton, Ohio 44708.

Visit www.CantonAudubon.org

Or email:

CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook

Phone: 330-209-1261

CAS is a 501(c)3
nonprofit organization

*Denotes kid-friendly articles



THROUGH BUTTERFLY EYES



by Jaclyn Lemmon

Have you ever wondered what the world looks like to a butterfly? You may be surprised to learn that butterflies have one of the widest visual ranges of all wildlife.

Humans have simple eyes with one lens and three types of photoreceptors. Two of the main types of photoreceptors in our eyes are the rods and cones cells. The rod cells are very sensitive to light and are important in dim light but cannot detect colors. The cone cells are responsible for color vision. Humans have three types of cone cells, blue, green, and red and consequently we have trichromatic color vision, which means that all the colors we see are comprised of red, green, and blue components. Each group of cones is able to detect a particular range of light.

Light travels in waves and the distance between the waves is known as the wavelength. Color is a property of light, and light traveling in different wavelengths represent different colors. Long wavelengths look reddish and short wavelengths appear bluish to us humans. White light is made of all wavelengths mixed together and can be seen when a rainbow is in the sky. Humans are able to view visible light with wavelengths from 400 to 770 nanometers. Light outside this range of wavelengths exists but humans are unable to see it.

Butterflies have compound eyes, which mean their eyes are comprised of thousands of optical sensing units, known as ommatidia. Think of this as thousands of mini eyeballs all connected together, each unit with its own lens and photoreceptors. The compound eye allows the butterflies to see in numerous directions at once, and

offers a much wider field of view. Not only do butterflies have the capability of seeing in full color, they also can also view ultraviolet (UV) and polarized light by their photoreceptors. Ultraviolet light has wavelengths ranging from 10 to 400 nm. Like humans, most insects have three classes of photoreceptors. However, most butterflies have six classes of photoreceptors.



Some butterfly species, like the Australian Swallowtail, have up to 15 different types of photoreceptors! Just imagine all the colors they can see!

Butterflies use light to search for food, find potential mates, avoid predators, recognize patterns, and distinguish nectar in flowers. Many plants have evolved to produce UV light patterns when pollinating. Similar to an airplane runway, this UV light pattern lures in the butterflies and provides a symbiotic relationship as the butterfly enjoys the sweet nectar, they in turn aid in the plant pollination. Butterflies also have the ability to produce UV light patterns on their wings, allowing other butterflies to view these patterns and help communicate.



Knowing that butterflies have such complex photoreceptors, we can never truly be able to see what a butterfly sees, as our eyes simply do not have the capability of viewing light in the same spectra. However, if you can imagine the most colorful, speckled, and prismatic fairy world, this is what I imagine their world looks like. You can also check out the amazing ultraviolet photography at the link below. Photos by Linda Chen

SOURCES: <https://kids.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frym.2017.00070>

<https://sensing.konicaminolta.us/us/blog/butterfly-color-vision-like-no-other/>

<https://returntonow.net/2020/11/19/heres-how-bees-and-butterflies-see-flowers-no-wonder-they-love-them/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

► **Board elections results:** New CAS directors beginning June 1, 2022 are Dr. Robert Hamilton IV, Barbra Lewis, and Megan Shoenfelt. Chuck McClaugherty is beginning a 2nd two-year director's term. Connie Rubin is our new CAS secretary. We would like to thank Jacki (Hupp) Lemmon and Ed Priddis who left the board May 31, 2022.

► **Membership renewal:** The new fiscal year began June 1, 2022 and membership renewals are due. As before, they are \$20 for an individual or family and can be paid via check or via PayPal at our website cantonaudubon.org. If you paid a Bluebird or Screech Owl membership (\$50 or more) within the past two years or have sent any amount since January 2022, your membership does not expire until at least June 2023. If you are not sure of your membership status, email Laura Dornan at tldornan68@att.net. See the CAS May/June newsletter online for more information.

► **Newsletter Committee:** Jacki Lemmon will be stepping down from the Newsletter Committee. If anyone is interested in participating or helping, please contact Linda Chen or Laura Dornan. Members are welcome to submit articles for the newsletter or information for Chapter Chatter.

► **Open Committee chairs:** Laura Dornan would like to retire as Membership Committee chair. The Nominating Committee chair is open. Please contact Linda Chen or Laura Dornan if you are interested in joining either committee. cantonaudubon.org or tldornan68@att.net.

► **Masthead photo:** This month's Cardinal photo was taken by CAS member Byron Berger.

► **TERRA DEPOT** new hours are Friday and Saturday, 9am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 4pm.

*New location: 7404 Shepler Church Ave. S.W., Navarre, Ohio, 44662. Contact via phone at 330-417-6257 or find "Terra Depot" on Facebook.



COMMON NIGHTHAWK

Chordeiles minor

By Laura Dornan

Chordeiles, from the Greek word *Chorde*, meaning a stringed musical instrument, and *deile*, meaning afternoon or evening, describes this member of the Nightjar family, flying overhead in the evening, hunting insects drawn to street lights. Except it is not very musical. Without even looking at where this bird is placed in the taxonomic order of birds, we know it is definitely not a song-bird just by listening to it. Relaxing on my patio on a summer evening, I would hear the nasal Woodcock-like *peeent-peeent* call and look up to find a Common Nighthawk with the diagnostic white wing patch on the primaries. A perfect way to end the day. In addition to the *peeent* call, males give a croaking *auk auk auk* call and females give a hissing or throaty cluck when defending the nest. Other sounds include a clap of the wings when intruders approach the nest and a booming sound the male makes by flexing his wings while diving, done during courtship or at intruders.



Knowing this was historically a bird of grasslands and pastures, nesting on gravel bars and rock outcroppings, it seemed surprising to me to find them hunting in town. Now I know that with European settlement, Common Nighthawks, which had been rare in Ohio, began to use gravel rooftops for nest sites. By the 1930s, nearly every town and city held resident nighthawks and today nighthawks nest almost entirely on rooftops, raising 2 precocial chicks. In the 1980's Common Nighthawks were found in most of Ohio's 88 counties but *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ohio* found that nighthawks had declined by 67% between the first Atlas period (mid 1980's) and the second Atlas period (mid 2000's).

Nighthawks, and the other nightjar family members such as Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's widow, sport a cryptic pattern of grays, blacks and browns which allow them to blend in to the background as they roost on the ground or lengthwise on a branch. Twice, I have found a nighthawk because I thought a branch "looked funny". In flight, in addition to the white wing patches, a white throat patch and white central tail feathers are also visible.

All nightjar family members have huge gaping mouths enabling them to hunt aerial insects in low light conditions. As the birds fly about with their mouths wide open, they gulp in all insects in their path. The decline in nighthawk populations may coincide with a regional decline in the abundance of flying insects, due in part to increased use of pesticides and to climate change. Another detrimental factor in nighthawk populations is replacement of pale gravel rooftops with smooth, often black tar, surfaces. Thankfully, the birds have shown they will accept gravel pads installed in the corners of non-gravel roofs as nesting sites.

As summer draws to an end, nighthawks begin their annual trek to central South America. They make this journey together in loose flocks, hunting insects as they travel over open areas. In Ohio, these migrations reach peak numbers between August 25 and September 7. Traditionally these groups have numbered 50-200 individuals but recent reports have shown less than 50. The sight of even these smaller groups of nighthawks on a late summer evening will give one quite a thrill. So, keep your eyes peeled on the evening skies this summer. Whether you find 1 or 2 nighthawks hunting your neighborhood, or a small kettle migrating south, it will be an event worthy of your special sightings list.

Sources: *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ohio*; *American Bird Conservancy News*, August 2021

DID YOU KNOW... Common nighthawks and other members of the nightjar family (*Caprimulgidae*) were also known as *goatsuckers* due to a mid-1300's myth that they would fly into barns at night and drink the milk from the teats of goats. This myth may have come about because nightjars were often found around fields of goats and sheep, having been drawn there by the insects attracted to the animals. OR, more likely, this 'myth' came about because of a translation misunderstanding of the Greek "caprimulgus" to "goat-sucker" in the early 1700's. No evidence has been found that the legend existed, this is possible evidence that the legend did not give rise to the name, rather that the name necessitated the creation of a legend to explain it.

Source: "What the Goatsucker Means", *Birding Magazine*, November 2021

MILKWEED PLANT CONSERVATION

While many people think of the common milkweed plant as a troublesome weed to be vigorously discouraged, those of us who love butterflies know it is vital to the continued existence of the monarch butterfly. It is the only plant on which the larva feed. But due to rural habitat development and agricultural use of herbicides, milkweed plants are disappearing.

In an effort to help ensure the continued survival of milkweed plants and monarch butterflies, the Stark Soil & Water Conservation District, in cooperation with Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, invites people to collect milkweed pods during September and October. These pods can be turned in to SSWCD to be used by ODNR and OPHI in planting roadways and other sites.

Follow these tips when collecting:

- * Before you collect, become familiar with the common milkweed to avoid harvesting from similar plants.
- * Collect the pods when they are **dry, gray or brown**. Locate plants in late August, early September and keep an eye on the pods while they ripen, then pick them once they turn brown.
- * If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- * Store the pods in paper bags: plastic bags collect moisture. Keep pods in a cool, dry place until you turn them in.
- * Put the date & county collected on the bag when you turn them in. Pods can be collected between Sept. 1 and Oct 31 and can be dropped off at the office at 2650 Richville Dr. SE, Suite 100, Massillon between 8 AM and 4:30 PM. For information, call 330-451-7645.

TWO BAD WORMS

The compilers of this newsletter try to consistently inform Canton Audubon members about many different conservation measures, even the unusual and unexpected. In this case it is invasive worms that we should be on the lookout for. First, the Asian Jumping Worm, also known as “snake worms”, “crazy worms” and “red wigglers” for the thrashing about they do when disturbed. There are several species in the Genus *Amyntas*. They look very similar to night crawlers, another non-native species, with the difference being jumping worms have a smooth, milky-white “collar” near the head and night crawlers have a pinkish collar closer to the center of its body.

These invasive worms consume the leaf litter and other organic materials on the surface of the soil, leaving it dried out and degraded. They have been in the eastern U.S. Since the early 1900's and in the past ten years have expanded to the mid-west. In July, 2021, dense populations were discovered in several areas of the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. There is more that needs to be learned about the impact of these species. If you think you may have these worms in your garden or woods, please report them to Ohio State University at the website: www.go.osu.edu/asianjumpingworms For more information on the worms and how to identify them, see <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/jumpingWorm.html>

The other worm to be concerned about is the hammerhead worm, a predatory worm that eats other beneficial organisms living in the dirt: earthworms, snails, slugs and arthropods. They can be up to 12 inches long, have a crescent-shaped head and are usually yellow, orange or brown with one or more stripes along the back. Their mouths are on the underside of the body toward the middle and they wrap around their prey to consume it.

Hammerheads are shiny and covered in a slimy substance and they produce a neurotoxin that can irritate bare skin. They reproduce asexually so do not cut them in half, as you will then have two new worms. The best way to kill them is to use either salt or rubbing alcohol.

Hammerhead worms are a terrestrial flatworm native to Asia, Australia, Africa and South America and commonly found in southern states. They are probably introduced to new areas through movement of soil and potted plants. They have recently been seen in Darke, Portage and Trumbull, counties.

Sources: *Canton Repository*, April 26, 2022, *April Helms* and May 25, 2022, *Emily Deletter*; *Huston- Brumbaugh Nature Center Newsletter*, Fall/Winter 2021, 'Summer Surprise', Dr. Chris Stanton

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

This is the seventh 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.

FINDING BIRDS

By Laura Dornan

While 'out in the field' you may discover that actually finding birds can sometimes be hard. Here are some suggestions that may help in the hunt.

Be aware of what you wear. No bright or white colored clothes. Subdued, earth-toned clothes will help you blend in. Stay away from noisy clothes! Nylon wind pants and snow pants are great for staying warm but not for walking quietly.

The early bird gets the worm and the early birder gets the bird. Birds are most active between 7:00 and 10:00 in the morning. They also have another foraging binge in late afternoon, especially in winter. But they are still around in the middle of the day, you just have to work harder to find them.

Night birding is for the birds! Specifically, Purple Martins at dusk in August. Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills, and Chimney Swifts at dusk all summer. Woodcocks at dusk and dawn in March and April. Rails, such as Soras and Virginia Rails all through the night. Even Mockingbirds are known to sing all night long. And don't forget the owls! Great-horned, Barred, and Screech-owls are the most common but short-eared at dusk, and long-eared in the winter are not to be forgotten.

A place for every bird. Know what birds to expect in the habitat you are in. And know where to look in those habitats. In wooded areas, start at the ground, search for birds scratching in the leaf litter, then mid-story looking at trunks and branches, then move to the canopy. In wide open areas, search the sky first, then move to the ground. In both areas, use a slow sweep from left to right, raise your binocular and sweep again right to left. Continue in this manner and then repeat.

Be quiet, walk slowly, stop often. Turn your phone off! Limit talking to what is necessary and keep your voice soft and low. Pay attention to your surroundings and clear your mind of distractions.

Look. Obviously for birds moving about but also for movement of branches, leaves, grass. Look first with the unaided eye before raising the binocular. Start with obvious perches—snags, poles, power lines. Scan the sky often.

Listen for bird songs and calls. Learning to identify a bird by song takes practice but is not as hard as you might think. Use mnemonics to help you remember the songs. Cardinals may sing "Whit, whit, cheer, cheer". Also listen for drumming of woodpeckers, tapping of nuthatches, wing whir of doves. Birds splashing in water or scratching in leaf litter will alert you to their presence. The most important tip of all—Don't give up! Be present in the moment and look with purpose!

ERIE, THE MAUMEE BAY PIPING PLOVER UPDATE

As all regular Ploverville followers will recall, in October of 2021, Erie, an Ohio Piping Plover chick had to be captured and transported to the Detroit Zoo because the bird had suffered an injury. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Ohio Department of Wildlife (DOW), and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) were concerned that Erie was not likely to migrate at that point.

After examination, it was determined that Erie was a female and was not releasable for multiple reasons. Following discussions between the USFWS, DOW, Detroit Zoo, and Dr. Francie Cuthbert (Piping Plover expert from the U of Minnesota), it was decided that Erie should remain in captivity permanently at the Detroit Zoo. She will become an ambassador for the species, helping to educate the public on the recovery of the Great Lakes Piping Plovers.

Erie is doing great, and has adapted well to her new surroundings. We are incredibly grateful to the Detroit and Toledo Zoos for caring for Erie and providing her a safe, permanent home.



A FAREWELL TO MONTY

The beloved Piping Plover, Monty, of Montrose Beach, Chicago, passed away May 13. He was seen at the beach behaving oddly and stumbling before dying. A necropsy revealed that Monty had a severe fungal infection including laryngitis which restricted his airway.

According to Dr. Francie Cuthbert (U of Minnesota), "Monty's case is the first fungal respiratory disease detected in Piping Plovers, but that is simply because in-depth necropsies on this species (and other wild birds) are extremely rare and are usually focused on more common causes of death such as Botulism E or this year, Avian Influenza. A thorough necropsy is simply not done routinely. So, just how rare or common this cause of mortality is, is not well known for all birds in general."

Monty and Rose were the first Piping Plovers to nest in Chicago in over a half century. During their three years at Montrose Beach, they successfully fledged seven chicks. Imani, a chick born to them in 2021, was spotted at Montrose Beach in May 2022. Nish, a 2020 offspring of Monty & Rose and father of Erie (who is now at the Detroit Zoo), nested at Maumee Bay, Ohio in 2021. Neither Nish nor his mate, Nellie, has returned to Ohio this year.



CHAPTER CHATTER



➤ The Kent State/Stark wetlands walk was attended by nine people on Saturday, June 11 and was led by current board members, Dr. Robert Hamilton and Scott Watkins. This was a combined event; a belated Black Birders Week walk and a registered Audubon Great Lakes state-based walk that coincided with their virtual event. Birds seen or heard during the walk included Green and Great Blue herons, Barn Swallows, Eastern Phoebe. Photo by Chuck McClaugherty.

➤ The CAS Picnic, which was on hold the last two years, was attended by 20 weather-hardy members on a very humid day with a temperature of 95 degrees! It was held at the Boat Shelter, Sippo Lake East. Thanks to all who came out to make this another successful event.



➤ CAS attended the Juneteenth Celebration at Nimisilla Park in Canton for the 2nd year. We passed out literature to the public and raffled bird themed baskets while Barbra Lewis was busy assisting children with crafts.



➤ CAS extends our sympathies to:

- ☛ Bonnie Twaddle whose mother passed away on May 13 at age 99. She had been living with Bonnie for the past 7-years and was assigned Hospice Care 5 years ago, far surpassing the life expectancy of a person on Hospice Care, thanks to the dedicated and superior care Bonnie was able to provide.
- ☛ Connie Rubin whose brother recently passed away.

AUDUBON GREAT LAKES VIRTUAL GATHERING



On June 10, 2022, Audubon Great Lakes (AGL) held its bi-annual gathering. The keynote speaker was Marshall Johnson of North Dakota who is Chief Conservation Officer for NAS. He spoke on the importance of the Great Lakes Region to Audubon's work. We also heard from Daniel Suarez about AGL volunteer stewardship and listened to chapter advocacy stories from the region.

This year, AGL encouraged chapters throughout the 5-state region to host local birding trips on June 11th and 12th that showcased natural areas in their home states. Canton Audubon along with eight other chapters registered events with AGL and all were awarded \$312.50 to use for their trips. CAS used the funds to purchase field guides of varying levels to give to non-members attending bird walks, to offer a student membership to the Kent State student who attended our June 11th walk and for drinks and snacks afterwards.

ALAN DOLAN CONSERVATION ADVOCACY AWARD

The Great Lakes Conservation Advocacy Award was created by Audubon Great Lakes in honor of Alan Dolan's legacy. It aims to motivate and inspire the AGL network and recognizes dedicated volunteers whose contributions make an impact locally or regionally. It was awarded to one outstanding Audubon volunteer in the AGL 5-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.



The 2022 recipient of this new award was Jennifer Kuroda, from Rockford IL. She is President of both Sinnissippi Audubon Society and Audubon Council of Illinois. Jennifer has exhibited leadership and passion for birds and wildlife through her involvement in numerous campaigns such as the installation of nest cams in downtown Rockford for the Peregrine fledge watch; by helping to launch the Bird City Illinois program; and the commissioning of murals of birds threatened by climate change for the Audubon Mural Project. She successfully advocated to save Bell

Bowl Prairie, the last remnant prairie in Illinois, from Rockford airport development and is founder of the Illinois Bobcat Foundation.

Jennifer was nominated for this award by both Northwest Illinois Audubon Society & Sinnissippi Audubon Society. To find out more about her efforts, read the links below.



*Read about and view the Rockford murals: www.audubon.org/news/the-audubon-mural-project-takes-flight-rockford-illinois

*Audubon Mural Project: www.audubon.org/amp

*Read how Rockford earned a Bird City designation: www.rockrivercurrent.com/2021/12/21/rockford-named-an-illinois-bird-city-heres-how-it-earned-the-designation

STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT DIRECTOR RETIRES

Stark Parks Director, Bob Fonte, retired May 2022 after serving in the position for 26 years. During his tenure, the park district grew from four to fifteen parks and from one mile of trails to a 120-mile trail system. Canton Audubon Society regularly uses the park district facilities and trails that were created while Mr. Fonte was director. We would like to thank him for all that he has done for Stark County residents throughout the years and wish him well in his future endeavors.

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



The Newsletter of Canton Audubon Society

Officers:

Linda Chen, President - 2021-2023
Scott Watkins, VP - 2021-2023... ph 330-209-1261
Laura Brown, Treasurer - 2021-2023
Connie Rubin, Secretary - 2022-2024

Directors:

Marlene Bolea - 2021-2023, 1st term
Dr. Robert Hamilton IV - 2022-2024, 1st term
Barbra Lewis - 2022-2024, 1st term
Ronnie Macko - 2021-2023, 2nd term
Chuck McClaugherty - 2022-2024, 2nd term
Myra McCoy - 2021-2023, 1st term
Megan Shoenfelt - 2022-2024, 1st term

AN&V: Laura Dornan, Linda Chen

Conservation: Linda Chen

EDI: Chuck McClaugherty, Laura Dornan,
Connie Rubin, Barbra Lewis, Lee Dolan

Education: Lee Dolan

Membership: Laura Dornan

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

Publicity: Connie Rubin

Recycling: Diane & Tom Hert

Scholarship: Laura Dornan (chair), Lee Dolan,
Joyce Stevens, Bob Rohrbaugh, Rose Ann Carper

Social Media: Linda Chen, Chris Lamb

Website: Scott Watkins

The Wilderness Center Trustees (1 seat available):

George Goldsworthy
Chuck McClaugherty

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

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

*** OR, PAY ONLINE via CAS WEBSITE ***