



Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

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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



CHICKADEES AND WINTER: SURVIVING THE COLD

By Chris Dyer



*This chickadee isn't fat.
He is hiding an insulating layer
of warm air under his feathers.
(picture from internet)*

Black-capped chickadees weigh a mere 12 grams (about a half ounce) and measure only 5-6 inches long. Yet, while many larger birds head south to spend their winters in warmer climates, the Chickadees stay behind to face Ohio's cold and bitter winters. In fact, further north, the Boreal and Mountain Chickadees face even harsher winters. How do they manage it?

To begin with, they follow all the standard plays used by our other wintering birds. They take shelter on cold days. They have a high body temperature (about 102 degrees) that helps keep them warm.

They use an intricate system of down feathers to trap insulating air around their bodies to keep the cold out, and they have few areas of exposed skin other than their legs and feet; which have little blood supply.

But they also have secret weapons very few birds possess at the same level; an insatiable curiosity and amazing memory.

Chickadees throughout North America and Europe have proven to be incredibly curious and willing to try new food sources. In addition, they are quick to pass along their successes to other chickadees. Such curiosity in birds that do not migrate increases their ability to find new food sources during winter months. Blue Tits (a European species of chickadee) used this curiosity to discover how to open the foil on the bottles left by milkman to get to the creamy froth on the liquid's surface. The most amazing thing is that they passed this knowledge along to other chickadees. To test if the birds were actually teaching each other, scientists taught 2 wild Blue Tits how to open a complicated puzzle box to get food and then re-released them into the wild. Within 3 weeks they had taught 75% of the local population of Blue Tits to do the same with similar boxes placed in their environment.

What really makes Chickadees stand out in their bid to survive the cold months is their phenomenal memories. They will hide nearly 100,000 seeds throughout the fall, and then remember where they hid nearly all of them when winter arrives. To do this their brain size will actually increase by about 30% in weight; the additional neurons creating larger memory capacity. When spring comes and food is abundant

again, they will shed this extra brain matter to decrease their weight so they will burn less energy flying. They get this incredible memory at birth, it is not learned or gained over time

How does this strategy help them survive the winter? By hiding food, they waste less energy searching for available food sources as well as less time exposed to bitter cold weather. Less exposure and energy waste, coupled with the increased food they can access this way, allow these small birds to use the energy they get from their caches of food on the important things, such as keeping their internal furnace burning at maximum temperature and staying alive. It is a highly efficient strategy which has served them well. Is it any wonder that chickadees attract mixed flocks of birds that follow them around each winter? The various Titmice, Nuthatches, and even Downy Woodpeckers are likely hoping to find some of the Chickadee's hidden food to increase their own winter survival odds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CAS Holiday dinner** will take place on December 6, (the ***first** Wednesday). Attendees should begin to arrive 5:45pm for check-in and to peruse silent auction items. *See page 6 for auction information. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm, program to follow. The cost is \$18/person. Our guest speaker, Chuck Jakubchak, will present "The 'Nature' of Christmas Symbols". For more information and reservation forms, see page 7. Location: First Christian Church, 6900 Market Ave N, Canton, OH 44721.
- **Hog Island Audubon Camp:** CAS is offering one \$500 scholarship to attend the 2024 Hog Island camp sessions which run from May-September. CAS members and their families are eligible to apply. Check your emails for more information or contact CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com To learn more about the 17 camp programs for teens, adults, & families, go to hogisland.audubon.org . Hog Island camp registration opens Tues. Nov 7 at 1:00 pm.
- **Hartville Elevator bird seed sale:** 111 Prospect Avenue North, Hartville, OH 44632. Friday Nov. 3 from 8am-5pm, Saturday Nov. 4 from 8am-noon. Part of the proceeds are donated to the Quail Hollow Volunteer Assoc.
- **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. CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com or tldornan68@att.net
- **Warbler Writings:** Chris Dyer, CAS member and newsletter letter contributor, writes an online quarterly newsletter: "Warbler Writings". It is free and includes various articles and information on birds and birding. If you would like to receive Chris's newsletter, email him at Budrito04@att.net
- **Masthead photo:** This month's Cardinal photo was taken by CAS member Denise Lesko.
- **CAS E-newsletters** can be found online at the CAS website; CantonAudubon.org - click "Newsletters".

Dumont's Seed Company



The Dumont's Seed Company originated in 1869 in downtown Canton and is currently located at 619 30th St. NW Canton, Ohio. We carry a variety of bird feeders that are 20% off year-round. We also carry a large selection of bird seed that comes in various sizes such as 5 lb., 25 lb., and 50 lb. bags. Our customer service has been appreciated by many. The employees at our company will happily load seed into your vehicles for all your birds, squirrels and deer. Find us on Facebook or contact (330) 492-0204. Dumont Seed Company is a Canton Audubon Society business supporter.



Sherese Streamo, owner

Stop by to say hello and check out our awesome displays!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**All upcoming programs will be both in-person and via Zoom*



November 15, 2023 at 7 pm

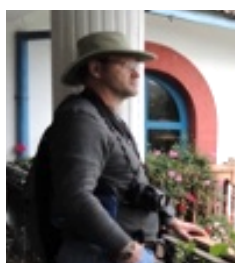
“Migrating Waterfowl & Winter Birds of NE Ohio” by Matt Valencic

Once the pretty summer songbirds have departed for points south, what do birders do? They put on another layer of cloths and go looking for waterfowl – Ducks, Geese, Swans, Loons, Grebes & Gulls. This presentation showcases these hardy visitors along with Hawks, Owls and smaller birds like Snow Buntings, Larkspurs and Kinglets. If you don’t like cold weather, ask about ‘car birding’, a favorite alternative to walking when wind chills plummet!

December 6, 2023, Holiday Dinner

“The ‘Nature’ of Christmas Symbols” by Chuck Jakubchak

For hundreds of years Christmas celebrations have been intertwined with nature as plants, trees, and the environment serve as a backdrop for the holiday. Many of those elements still remain but their meaning and relevance has been overshadowed by cultural change and commercialism. This seasonal program will remind the audience of why we decorate with wreaths and erect evergreens. **Dinner will be served at 6:30pm, program to follow.**



January 17, 2024 at 7 pm

“Avian Survival Strategies” by Chris Dyer

Learn how birds deal with predators, inclement weather and other dangers they encounter on a daily basis. Chris earned a BS in Zoology and spent 11 years working at Sea World in the aviculture department caring for exotic birds as well as caring for wild birds in their avian rehab facility. He spent two years working as a part-time employee for the Wildlife Conservation Center at Sippo Lake and is a member of Canton Audubon Society.

February 21, 2024 at 7 pm, Member’s Night

Members are encouraged to share nature-related photos, vacations, bird info, book reviews, songs, hobbies, trivia and more. There will be a sign-up prior to the meeting to allow time for each participant.

March 20, 2024 at 7 pm TBD By Byron Berger	April 17, 2024 at 7 pm “For the Love of “Blue” Birds: Blue Jays, Buntings, Grosbeaks & Bluebirds by Judy Semroc	May 15, 2024 at 7 pm TBD by Marlene Bolea
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Events

November 4, 2023, 9am Canton Audubon Society	Join Scott Watkins for a bird & nature walk at the Cottonwood Wetlands, Sippo Lake located at 800 Genoa Ave, Massillon, 44646. Meet at the Wildlife Conservation Center. Trails are flat, packed gravel making it accessible for most. Binoculars will be available.
December 3, 2023, 1-5pm Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center	The Visitor’s Center and Huston Cabin will be decorated for the holidays. Stop by from 1-5pm to make ornaments, enjoy acoustic music, or take a walk to cabin. It’s free and fun for the whole family.

SPECIES PROFILE: BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

by Chris Dyer



Chris Dyer

The small chickadee is well loved by birders and non-birders alike. It is common in backyards and its scolding chickadee-dee-dee call brightens up any day. They are agile and fun to watch as they climb, hang upside down, and hop from branch to branch as they indulge in their daily activities. In Summit County where I live, we have the Black-capped Chickadee but just slightly south the Carolina chickadee takes over. The delineating line seems to run from Paulding to Columbiana County. The two are difficult to tell apart and where they meet interbreeding makes it nearly impossible for even the best birders to identify them. In fact, in these areas, both species will often pick-up and sing the song of the other.

Black-capped Chickadees are well known for their bravery and insatiable curiosity. With a little patience they can easily be trained to eat from a person's hand. They are usually the first bird to come and inspect my feeders when I am adding new food, often daring to land mere feet away from me while they wait for me to finish. They are mostly known as seed eaters but they will also glean insects from leaves.

When breeding season arrives, they will build their nests in cavities. They nest in decaying trees and stumps, using their beaks if necessary to remove soft decaying wood to increase the nest. They will also use nest boxes, and can use houses designed for wrens. Whether the nest is in a tree or box, they line it with softer materials such as moss or even cocoons. They will lay usually lay 6-8 eggs but can lay less and have even been recorded laying up to 13. They usually only raise 1 brood a year. Both parents raise the chicks but ten days after the fledglings have left the nest the parents will leave them on their own; even forcibly keeping them from remaining.

Social birds, Chickadees are great communicators and warn their neighbors of dangers, adding additional "dees" to their "chickadee" alert call to determine the level of danger. Danger level is determined by the size of the threat. Larger intruders are considered slow and less dangerous, so human and large hawks earn only a few "dees," while smaller more agile threats such as Merlins earn up to twelve. Their actual song is a simple whistled "Fee-bee" sometimes translated as "Cheese-burg." They also have a soft "teeship" call which broadcasts their whereabouts and other basic information to their mates or social group.

Oddly, Black-capped Chickadees don't sing to defend the boundaries of their territories as other birds do. Instead, they save their song to use when directly facing another chickadee in their territory.

Black-capped Chickadees do not migrate and remain in Ohio year-round, living off food they stored the previous fall. In winter, chickadees form small flocks of 6-10 birds, usually focused around a successfully breeding pair. Some flocks remain close to the successful nest, but others roam about. The flocks that stay put, defend their territory from other flocks, in the same way pairs defend their territory in breeding season. These chickadee flocks will often be joined by other species, such as Brown Creepers, Kinglets, Titmice, Nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers; creating a mixed flock. In spring they are often followed by migrating Warblers who count on their knowledge of the area to find good food sources.

The average life span of chickadees is a mere 2 to 3 years due to the dangers they face but they have the ability to live much longer. The oldest known chickadee was over 11 years in age.



Laura Dornan

BIRDING TIPS FOR NEW (& NOT SO NEW) BIRDERS



By Chris Dyer

This is the 12th part of the 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.

Where to Bird Part 2: HOTSPOTS

What is a “birding hotspot?” It’s basically just a place where you can find a lot of birds. Hopefully they contain birds that you won’t find in your yard or local city park. Birding hotspots can change over time and even from season to season. A flooded field could attract waders after the winter’s thaw but as the waters dry up the area is no longer a hot spot. A place can be good for birding in the winter but less “birdy” in the summer and places of migration stop-overs can slow down considerably when migration ends.

If you are new to birding and looking for good birding hotspots there are multiple ways to look for them.

1. **Books** - A lot of books list good birding spots and the more Ohio specific the books are, the better they will be for this area. For example, Jim McCormac’s book “Ohio Birds” has a list of 100 good Ohio birding sites with a brief description of the top 20. One thing to remember about books is that once printed they don’t change; so, if they are too old; they may be somewhat outdated.
2. **Other birders** - Fellow birders offer valuable insights to the best birding spots. They can even provide updates as to what birds have been seen lately and where specifically at that site they can be found.
3. **eBird & other online sights** - There are various online sights that can tell you good places to bird such as the OOS site or eBird. eBird is probably the best, as you can find area maps showing hot spots. By clicking on them you can see recent sightings as well as seasonal bar graphs of every bird that was seen there.
4. **Find your own** - You can find your own hotspot to bird if you know somewhere that has great habitat.

The 5 best spots to bird in Ohio (in my opinion)

1. **Magee Marsh Area** - One of the top spots in the country and the best in Ohio for migrating warblers. It includes Magee Marsh, Howard Marsh, Ottawa WA & other nearby sites. This is a migratory rest stop for many migrant species preparing to jump Lake Erie. From shorebirds to rare birds this spot has it all. There have been 348 species recorded at Magee Marsh alone.
2. **Shawnee State Forest** - Near the Ohio River, Shawnee State is reminiscent of the Appalachian Mtns in feel. Over 100 species of birds nest here. It is a great place for Kentucky, Hooded, & Worm-eating Warbler and other southern Ohio species. As an added bonus, the scenery is beautiful!
3. **Mentor Area** - Mentor Headlands, Mentor Marsh, Mentor Lagoons and other spots in the area collectively make up this area. They are a great place to look for migrants in spring and fall. In addition, winter can provide some great ducks and some years have included scooters and Long-tailed ducks.
4. **Woodbury Wildlife Area** - Relatively unknown compared to the other spots on the list, Woodbury is one of my personal favorites. A combination of woods and scrublands along with some ponds thrown in; it is a great spot for chats, Prairie & Blue-winged Warblers, Henslow’s and Grasshopper Sparrows, both Cuckoos and many other Ohio breeding scrubland species.
5. **Killbuck Marsh/Funk Bottoms** - One of the largest remaining wetlands in Ohio, Killbuck and nearby Funk Bottoms are a great place to find marsh birds, shorebirds, and ducks. Prothonotary Warblers are abundant and during migration, many other birds can be found here. It is an excellent spot to find Sandhill Cranes.



*Magee Marsh Boardwalk
The hottest of Ohio’s hot spots*

Closer to home and perfect for short trips: The Wilderness Center; Cuyahoga Valley National Park; Sippo Lake; Nimisila Reservoir

1ST ANNUAL STARK COUNTY BIRD QUEST



The 1st Annual Stark County Bird Quest (BQ) was a great success. Adam Zorn, Manager of Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, organized the event, collaborating with Stark County Park District (SCPD), The Wilderness Center and Canton Audubon Society (CAS). BQ is a 24-hour birder & family-friendly challenge with teams of two or more people. There were 28 people, 11 of whom were CAS members, representing 13 teams who dropped off checklists. A total of 126 species were reported on submitted checklists. The goal for each team was to find as many bird species as possible with team “Trash Birders” taking the honor at 100+ species which included a Connecticut Warbler. There were 19 different parks or preserves reported as birding locations. Award certificates were passed out for the youngest & oldest aka “golden” birder, best team name, most places visited, most species seen, and more. A 2024 Bird Quest event will be planned for next year.

Thanks to Scott Watkins, VP-CAS, who created the BQ webpage and to David Green, SCPD Education Manager, for reserving the Fry Family Park Visitor’s Center, where we held “after celebration”, and for tabulating BQ results.

We especially want to thank Adam Zorn for organizing this successful event!



Bird Quest participants

124th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT LOCATIONS 2023/2024

The Christmas Bird Count is a community science project with participants throughout U.S. and the Americas, from Baffin Island, Canada to Guam, Barbados and Drake’s Passage, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. If you are interested in participating in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, below is a list of local count circles. Each count is performed within a circular area having a 15-mile radius. You will be assigned a location in the circle/s you choose. If you’re interested, please contact the person/s listed below.

For more information or locations, visit: www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count

Canton CBC: Friday, December 29, 2023

Contact Jon Cefus at jcefus@gmail.com

The Wilderness Center: Friday, December 15, 2023

Contact Ben Morrison at bmorr10387@aol.com

Quail Hollow: Saturday, December 16, 2023

Contact Ronnie Macko at quailhollowcbc@gmail.com

Tri-Reservoir: * date TBA *

Contact Ethan Kistler at ohiobirder@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY DINNER SILENT AUCTION

Every year Canton Audubon holds a Silent Auction at the Holiday Dinner. This fundraiser is the only income, other than the annual dues, that CAS has to finance the program, education, conservation, and other activities provided by Canton Audubon. The past few years has seen a decline in the number of bids placed along with the dollar amount. Part of this downward trend has been due to the Covid Pandemic, but other factors have also played a part.

This year Myra McCoy and Megan Shoenfelt are attempting to reverse this trend with a more organized auction. They would like people, who have been obtaining items for the auction throughout the year, to bring them to one of the meetings before the December 6th dinner. Megan & Myra will have donation forms available. If you will not be at any of these meetings, arrangements can possibly be made for pick up. Donations can be brought to the dinner but it will be much easier for Myra & Megan to organize the auction by having the items beforehand. Donations brought December 6 should arrive at the church **by 5:30 to 5:45**. Please, no later. And it will be helpful if you let them know what you are bringing so table space can be reserved.

Contact Megan at megan@theterradepot.com or Myra at myra222@mymccoy.com

If you have not decided on something you would like to contribute towards the auction, there is still time. A wide variety of items can make for a successful fundraiser. But in addition to having some great items, plenty of generous bidders are also needed! So come to the Holiday Dinner prepared to enjoy good food, catching up with old friends, an entertaining program, and bidding wars on a variety of items. Come with something, go home with something else! It will be a fun night.

CAS Business Supporters

Dumont's Seed Company
619 30th St NW, Canton, OH 44709
Ph: 330-492-0204
Bird seed, Feeders, Supplies, Lawn, Garden

Hartville Elevator
11 Prospect Ave N, Hartville, OH
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
Ph: 330-823-7487
T-F: 9am-4pm, Sat 1pm-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm, Closed Mon

Little Sparrow Bookshop
1200 N Main St, North Canton, OH 44720
Ph: 330-967-2142
New & used books, Audiobooks, gifts, Local authors & artists
T, W, F: 11a-6p, Th: 11a-7p, Sat: 10a-5p, Sun: 12-4p, Closed Mon

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
Ph: 330-409-8096 www.StarkParks.com

The Towne Printer
2403 Cleveland Ave Canton, OH 44709
Ph: 330-455-4550
M-F: 10am-4:30pm, Closed S/S
Printing services

The Terra Depot
Megan Shoenfelt
7404 ~~Shepler~~ Church Ave SW
Navarre, OH 44662
Ph: 330-471-6257
Bird Seed, Feeders, Houses, Statuary
www.theTERRAdepot.com
Thu & Fri: 10am-4pm
Sat: 9am-4pm, Sun: 12pm-4pm

CANTON AUDUBON HOLIDAY DINNER RESERVATIONS, Wednesday, December 6th, 2023

*** Begin to arrive 5:45pm for check-in. Dinner at 6:30pm ***

Location: First Christian Church, 6900 Market Ave N., Canton, Ohio 44721

Attendee Name/s	Chicken Cordon Bleu	Baked Fish	Vegetarian Lasagna	Cost
TOTAL:				

- Meals are \$18 each which includes sides, salad, roll and dessert with coffee and tea as beverage.
- *If you have special dietary requirements, please notify early so FCC can try to accommodate you.
- Table seating will be 6 people per table.
- Send reservations and check to: Canton Audubon Society, PO Box 9586, Canton, Ohio 44711-9586.
- Due to holiday postal delays, mail reservations by November 18. Note "Holiday Dinner" in check memo.
- **RESERVATIONS ARE DUE NOV 27.** *Pre-payment is preferred but payment is available at the door.
- The Silent Auction is the only CAS fundraiser, please consider making a purchase. *Bring donation items to the November program meeting or to the dinner no later than 5:45pm.
- Email CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com with questions. Add "Holiday Dinner" in the email subject.

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
Myra McCoy, Treasurer - 2023-2025
Connie Rubin, Secretary – 2022-2024

Directors:

Marlene Bolea - 2021-2023, 1st term
Dr. Robert Hamilton IV – 2022-2024, 1st term
Teresa Kaminski- 2023-2025, 1st term
Barbra Lewis – 2022-2024, 1st term
Chuck McClagherty - 2022-2024, 2nd term
Megan Shoenfelt – 2022-2024, 1st term

Conservation: Linda Chen

EDI: Laura Dornan, Lee Dolan, Barbra Lewis,
Chuck McClagherty, Cynthia Norris, Connie Rubin,

Education: Lee Dolan

Membership: Laura Dornan

Newsletter: Laura Dornan, Chris Dyer, Linda Chen

Programs/Field Trips: Scott Watkins

Publicity: Connie Rubin

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

Scholarship, Hog Island: Dr. Robert Hamilton IV,
Megan Shoenfelt, Chuck McClagherty,

Social Media: Linda Chen, Chris Lamb

Website: Scott Watkins

The Wilderness Center Trustees

George Goldsworthy
Chuck McClagherty

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

Canton Audubon Society (Chapter code: S69)

* 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 at www.CantonAudubon.org