



Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

June/July/August 2024

Summer

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

RAISING ALTRICIAL CHICKS

By Chris Dyer

Raising Young is a difficult and taxing process for a bird. There are two major types of chicks. Precocial chicks, like ducklings; hatch with eyes open, covered in down, and ready to face the world. Altricial chicks, on the other hand, are born blind, naked, and helpless. There are species that hatch somewhere between the two, such as penguins and gulls, but the majority of birds fall into one of the two categories.

Altricial chicks require a lot of time and energy to raise. One of the parents must continue incubating the small, un-feathered chicks to keep them warm, but they now **also need a lot** of food. A male parent may make as many as 500 trips back and forth to the nest a day to feed his chicks. Each newborn needs fed approximately every 15 minutes. A single phoebe was recorded making 845 trips in a day. A titmouse, 70 times in one hour. It is exceptionally difficult for a single parent to raise a brood by themselves although hummingbirds seem to manage it. As chicks grow older and add some weight and feathers, they need incubated less frequently and the incubating parent can join in finding food. Still, there's often not enough available food for all the chicks to survive. And of course, the parents still need to find enough to feed themselves too.

Parent birds don't want predators to find their nest and droppings around the nest can lead a predator straight to it, so parents try to keep the nest area clean. But baby birds poop a lot! Luckily nature provides a diaper of sorts for birds in the way of a fecal sac. This is a small membrane that is wrapped around the chick's waste as it exists the body. The parent simply picks up this little bag in its mouth and flies it far from the nest. I imagine some human mothers would love it if their child's waste came out in what essentially amounts to a sealed baggie. Still, relocating the fecal sack takes time and energy. Predators may still come around and the parent birds will use a number of tactics to defend their nest including mobbing, ariel strikes, and even pooping on the assailant. Defending the nest is taxing but they do the best they can. Eventually they realize it's time to cut their losses and save themselves so they can try again. Rare is the parent bird that sacrifices its life for its young. After all, the chicks won't survive without them anyways.



Altricial Chicks



Parent with flightless chick

Soon, the babies outgrow the nest. With many species, the chicks will have feathers but won't be able to fly yet. They can no longer fit in the nest so they will stay in the tree branches nearby for a while or drop to the ground and hide in the bushes while they finish getting their flight feathers. This means if you see a young bird on the ground that has feathers on its body but can't fly yet, leave him alone or move him into a shrub or low tree limb. **Don't carry him off!** The parents are likely around gathering food for it and he is right where he is supposed to be. Once the chicks have mastered flight, they will follow one or both of the parents around for a while to learn to find food and other tricks they will need to survive.

There are some ways to lessen the workload of raising chicks. For example, in some species, including bluebird; fledglings may stay with the parents to help raise the next brood of chicks which can help reduce the load. Raptors on the other hand, generally just kick their chicks out and the youngster is on his own to figure out how to find food. Perhaps the best at shirking their parental duties are cuckoos and cowbirds, which have abandoned raising their own chicks altogether. Why do all that work when you can get another bird to do it for you?

When all the work is done, some birds, particularly south where the warm season is longer; will start all of it over and have a second or even third brood of eggs. The drive to produce young is that strong! Mourning doves seem to nest continuously. That's one of the reasons they don't waste much time building quality nests. If an egg falls through (which they often do) ...there's plenty more where that came from! Photos from internet.

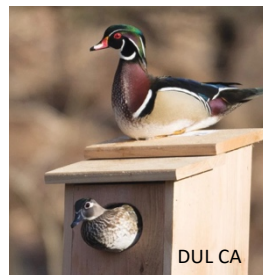
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ **CAS board member election results:** Votes are in! Our newest CAS board members are Michael Barath, Byron Berger, and Lee Dolan. Returning board members, elected for a 2nd term, are Dr. Robert Hamilton, Connie Rubin, and Megan Schoenfelt. All will begin serving their terms from June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2026. We would like to thank outgoing board members for their years of service to CAS. They are Chuck McClaugherty, who is now our Membership chairperson, and Barbra Lewis, our Bluebird trail project organizer for Tam O'Shanter Park.
- ▶ **Committees/chairs:** Open chairs positions for EDI and Nominating committees are available. Submissions to the newsletter are always appreciated! If you are interested, please contact CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com
- ▶ **Newsletter:** Submissions to the newsletter are always appreciated!
- ▶ **Membership renewal:** It's that time of the year again! A basic CAS membership is \$20 per person or family, other membership levels are available. See pages 6 and 8 for more information.
- ▶ **CAS Picnic:** Our yearly picnic will be held on Wednesday, June 19th at the Boat Shelter east/marina side of Sippo Lake, 5300 Tyner St NW, Canton, OH 44708. Chicken and beverages will be supplied, please bring a side or dessert to share. Arrive 5:30pm. A bird & nature walk will begin at 4:30pm, meet in the parking lot. **Please contact by June 11 if you plan to attend.** Handicapped parking is near marina & dock. CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com
- ▶ **Masthead photo:** This month's photo was taken by CAS member, Janice Petko.

WOOD DUCK NEST BOX PROJECT

Canton Audubon Society has been awarded the National Audubon Society Collaborative Grant for a Wood Duck nest box project. The grant will supply half of the cost for this project and funds donated to CAS in memory of Tim Dornan will be used to fund the other portion. Tim was a long-time duck carver and member of Canton Audubon Society.

Four nest boxes along with posts, baffles, and hardware will be purchased for the US Army Corps of Engineers (Muskingum District) who will install them at Clendening Dam Park, Tippecanoe, OH near the wetlands/boardwalk and possibly at Beach City and Bolivar Dams. CAS plans to hold walks in these locations with hopes of seeing nesting ducks.



CAS PICNIC AND BIRD/NATURE WALKS

June 1, 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Metzger Park – Meet in parking lot. 1420 S. Nickelplate St, Louisville Ohio 44641.
June 19, 2024 Wednesday at 5:30pm	<u>CAS Picnic</u> is at the Boat Shelter, 5300 Tyner St NW, east/marina side of Sippo Lake. Handicapped parking at marina. Bird walk 4:30pm prior, meet in parking lot.
July 6, 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	The Wilderness Center. Meet at the Fritz Solar Array at the bottom of the parking lot. 9877 Alabama Ave SW, Wilmot, OH 44689.
August 3, 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Mohican State Park – Meet at the Covered Bridge which is near Campground B. Park Rd., Perrysville, OH 44864.
September 7, 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Mahoning Valley Trail – Meet at 182 E. Gaskill St. Alliance, OH 44601.
October 5, 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Fry Family Park – Meet in the parking lot. 2533 Farber St SE, Magnolia, OH 44643
November 2, 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Deer Creek Reservoir – Meet at 14514 Price St, Alliance, OH 44601.
December 7, 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Tow Path Trail – Meet at Lake Ave. Trailhead near Ernie’s Bike Shop. 135 Lake Ave. NW, Massillon, OH 44647

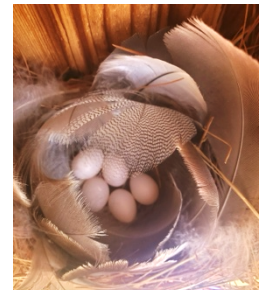
TAM O’SCHANTER “HOTEL” FULL

The 15 bluebird nest boxes installed at Stark Park’s Tam O’Shanter Park, with a matching grant from the National Audubon Society, are nearly full. Box #15 had the first resident; an Eastern Bluebird laid 4 beautiful blue eggs. As of May 15, one egg had hatched. Box #14 has a family of Black-capped Chickadees, with at least two tiny nestlings begging for food.



Bluebird nest
By Connie Rubin

Ten other boxes have Tree Swallow nests, most with eggs, but no babies yet. Their nests are very distinctive, with feathers surrounding the top. Their eggs are white. The nesting boxes at Tam O’Shanter are being checked once per week by Michael Barath or Connie Rubin, Audubon Board members. Audubon member Barbra Lewis is checking six boxes near Sippo Lake Park’s Sommer Wildlife Center. Audubon Board member Teresa Kaminski is checking bluebird boxes weekly at Petros Lake Park.



Tree Swallow nest
By Connie Rubin

CAS BOARD MEMBER BIO

Our featured member is Teresa Kaminski
Term June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2025



Teresa was born and raised in Canton, Ohio and is a retired Clinical Microbiologist. She is an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist as well as being an avid outdoor enthusiast her entire life. Theresa enjoys hiking, backcountry camping, birding, kayaking/paddle boarding, cross-country skiing, and quietly observing the natural world around her. Teresa’s current projects include transitioning her backyard into a wildlife/pollinator habitat and performing a BioBlitz of the life found in her tiny piece of paradise. She joined the CAS board June 1, 2023.

BIRDING PIPE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

By Chris Dyer



Black-crowned Night-Heron
By Chris Dyer

Last May, I birded Pipe Creek WA for the first time. This hidden gem is found six miles east of Sandusky and located just off Cedar Point drive (the main entranceway to Cedar Point amusement park). It is on a peninsula stretching into Lake Erie and into Sandusky Bay. Although it is a mere 97 acres with much of it inaccessible due to marsh units, the location on the lake and those very water units makes it a nice draw for many migrating birds.

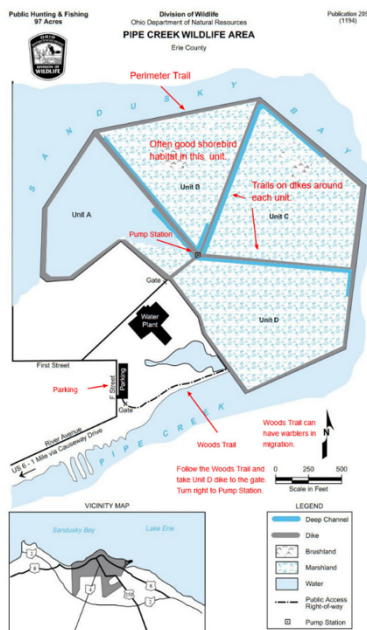
There are four water units with dikes surrounding each. They range from one to three feet in depth so there are a number of vegetation and mudflats within them. The dikes double as walking paths so you can easily walk entirely around each unit. Several also have channels to one side up to eight feet deep creating additional habitat. The water levels of three units are artificially controlled while the fourth has open access to Lake Erie. Overall, you'll see mudflats, marsh, lakefront, some grassy areas and a short-wooded trail that leads into the marsh area.

When you first arrive don't overlook the shrubs and bushes by the parking lot. On the day I visited they were full of Cape May Warblers and a few other migrants. Next, follow the walking path in past the small pond. Be sure to scan this area in detail as these trees are a great spot for migrating songbirds to rest and feed before jumping the lake. We found 9 species of warbler in this small stretch as well as Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, White-Throated Sparrow, and Warbling Vireo. The pond here is loaded with thick reeds and can hide some treasures of its own.



Indigo Bunting
By Chris Dyer

Once you reach the dikes, you can walk them in any order you like. The lower water units, such as Unit B (see map) are especially good for shorebirds in season. The unit is large enough that a scope is recommended but as the path winds around its entirety, it isn't absolutely necessary if you don't mind missing out on some of the flightier species. We left our scope in the car but still got exceptional looks at most of the species on hand. Unit B can be good for shorter legged herons as well, such as Green and Night-heron. The deeper units house waterfowl and herons and the high reeds in other areas shelter a variety of passerines such as Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, etc. Here we easily found several Indigo Buntings, Kingbirds, a Great-crested Flycatcher and Yellow Warblers. Bitterns of both species are regularly reported there as well. The high grasses can also house a few bird species and Meadowlarks and Bob-o-links appear here frequently.



For such a small area with limited trees, the number of species seen here has been very good over the years. Over 234 species have been seen at this location as per eBird. Obviously, shore birds, waterfowl, and waders are the main attractions here. In fact, nearly all of Ohio's rails, herons, gulls, shorebirds, terns, and waterfowl have been seen here at some point and over 100 songbirds have appeared here. Several waders breed at Pipe Creek and the young can be seen as summer progresses. Common Nighthawks nest on the rooftops at nearby Cedar Point and often can be seen from here. My own visit was in May and lasted only four hours and we explored only 2/3 of it but we found an amazing 53 species of bird in that short time. A decent sized list of rarities has been seen at Pipe creek including Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Black Tern, Sedge Wren, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Tri-colored Heron, and Purple Gallinule to name just a few.



American Woodcocks
By Chris Dyer

During winter months when open, the area is home to Harriers and Short-eared Owls as well as various waterfowl if the water remain unfrozen. Of course, the usual winter sparrows and other birds will be present as well.

There are some restrictions to keep in mind if you plan to bird here. The area is closed at dark year-round and is not open to the public at all from September through December except for duck hunting. Unit A is usually closed to the public during much of the summer and into fall to protect a colony of nesting common

terns. Other units are still accessible, and the terns can be viewed from a distance with scopes. In addition, if visiting during the summer, the traffic getting in and out of the area can be excessive during peak Cedar point hours. There are bathrooms on sight but they are only port-a-potties.

Pipe creek is about 15 minutes west of Sheldon Marsh and can make a great pairing with it for a well-rounded birding day.



WINGS OF WONDER AVIARY

Raptor Hallow Sanctuary



"Bwana" the White-cheeked Turaco

Raptor Hallow Sanctuary and Beech Creek Botanical Gardens and Nature Preserve are proud to announce the opening of the Wings of Wonder Aviary, a collaborative project funded with grants from the Greater Alliance Foundation, Visit Canton, and a donation made by Jim Nero. This exhibit consists of a 35' wide, 78' long, 15' tall greenhouse which has been transformed into an immersive, walk-through experience featuring grassland, woodland, and wetland habitats. As guests venture through each habitat, they have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of twenty-three individual birds representing eight different species. The

aviary currently houses birds that are native to Asia, Africa, South America, and species that can be found right here in Ohio! Future plans for the aviary involve increasing the bird collection to include more exotic species as well as non-releasable native songbirds.

The Wings of Wonder Aviary is now open to the public Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Sunday, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. We are pleased to announce the aviary will be open for public viewing all year round, with operating hours changing according to the season. Raptor Hallow and Beech Creek are seeking passionate volunteers to engage with the public as they explore this new exhibit. Visit www.raptorhallow.org
Location: 11929 Beech Street NE, Alliance, OH 44601

If you are interested in receiving more information about volunteering, you may contact Amy VanLew, the General Curator of Raptor Hallow Sanctuary, at avanlew@raptorhallow.org



"Ozark" the Ring-necked Pheasant

WARBLER MIGRATION: GEMS FROM THE SKY

By Chuck McClougherty



Prothonotary Warbler
Magee Marsh 2015
By Chuck McClougherty

On a warm May day a few years ago, I decided to spend a few hours in my kayak on a reservoir near Alliance. Before I even got my boat into the water I had heard three different species of warblers. It took a few minutes to locate them but when I did my search was rewarded with views of small bright yellow birds. The three species were the Yellow Warbler, the Common Yellowthroat and the Prothonotary Warbler. All three species are brightly colored and active but they are sometime hard to see among the leaves and branches where they feed and nest.

The Prothonotary Warbler is sometimes called the Golden Swamp Warbler. It has, to my eyes, the richest yellow color of all the warblers. The Prothonotary Warbler gets its name from its intense yellow plumage. According to most sources, this name was derived from rich yellow robes worn by protonotaries (meaning first recorder), very high-ranking clerks to the Roman Catholic pope.

Prothonotary Warblers build their nests in cavities of trees near water. I was able to see several birds in the process of building their nests. They almost always add some moss to the nest. The softening of the moss may be a good idea because these birds lay more eggs than the average warbler with as many as eight eggs.

The eggs and young are subject to intense predation. Snakes, flying squirrels, red squirrels, house wrens, raccoons, and even field mice have all been observed eating eggs or baby warblers. Adults are preyed upon by snakes and hawks.

Prothonotary Warblers spend their winter in mangrove swamps along the coasts of Central America and northern South America. They begin their northward journey in February or March and reach our area by late April or early May. Apparently anxious to get back to their wintering grounds they often leave as early as July.


This beautiful bird species played a role in a Congressional hearing relating to the accused spy, Alger Hiss. One of his accusers, in trying to demonstrate that he knew Hiss well, described Hiss's excitement at seeing a Prothonotary Warbler. In later testimony and unaware of the words of his accuser, Hiss confirmed that he indeed had been excited by seeing a Prothonotary Warbler. This bit of evidence, combined with other evidence of perjury, led to a trial, conviction and 44 months of jail time for Alger Hiss. It also propelled a then little-known politician, Richard Nixon, into the public eye.

Hopefully you can see or hear some of these tiny long-distance travelers as they summer with us here in Ohio. Warblers are truly gems from the sky; small, rare and very beautiful.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

May 31 is the end of the fiscal year for Canton Audubon and the time that annual memberships expire. All Audubon programs are free to the public but CAS appreciates the financial support that members give in the form of a \$20.00 annual membership. This allows us to continue to provide interesting and educational monthly programs, conservation projects, an annual college scholarship, and other activities. ALL membership fees are due now, regardless of what month you originally joined. *However, if you recently renewed or joined (since the beginning of 2024), that payment is applied to the 2024-2025 year. Other membership categories can be found on the form on page 8, back of this newsletter. Contact cantonaudubonsociety@gmail.com with questions.

Dues can be paid by check & submitted with the form in CAS newsletter OR by PayPal at www.cantonaudubon.org

We would like to thank you for your continued support! 

OHIO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE ISSUES 2023 REPORT

*Excerpted from an article by Jon Cefus, Secretary,
Ohio Birds Record Committee of the Ohio Ornithological Society*

The following is a summary of the Ohio Bird Records Committee's (OBRC) actions in 2023, based on reports to the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) and other sources:

The OBRC reviewed 105 new records in 2023, dating from 2007 to November of 2023. **As of December 2023, the official list of species in Ohio stands at 450.**

Seven species were added to that number over the course of the year:

- Common Gull (Cuyahoga Co., Dec 2022 – Jan 2023),
- Broad-billed Hummingbird (Medina Co., Nov 2022),
- Glaucous-winged Gull (Cuyahoga Co., Jan 2023),
- Ash-throated Flycatcher (Cuyahoga Co., Nov 2022),
- Ferruginous Hawk (Huron Co., Jun 2023),
- American Flamingo (Warren Co., 2023), and
- Western Flycatcher--added in 2023 when the American Ornithological Society lumped together Cordilleran Flycatcher and Pacific-slope Flycatcher.

Several other noteworthy records were accepted:

- Boreal Chickadee, Portage County, March 2023-- first record of Boreal Chickadee confirmed in Ohio in 50 years!
- A second Glaucous-winged Gull in Cuyahoga County in March 2023.
- Black-chinned Hummingbird (2nd record) Delaware County, November 2023.

Finally, the first confirmed nesting record of American White Pelican was accepted after the committee received well documented evidence from an island in Erie County from May of 2023.

Four species met the threshold to be removed from the OBRC list of Review Species: Swallow-tailed Kite, Western Kingbird, Western Tanager, and Hoary Redpoll. However, the committee can revisit whether any species should be returned to the list if evidence demonstrates a need to do so.

The OBRC is one of a multifaceted group of organizations evaluating bird records. At recent elections in December 2023 Canton Audubon member Jon Cefus indicated his willingness to remain as OBRC Secretary for another year.

3 candidates were voted onto the committee, including Ben Morrison from Stark County, Tim Colburn and James Mulle.

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
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M-F: 10am-4:30pm, Closed S/S
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7404 Shepler Church Ave SW
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www.theTERRAdepot.com
Thu & Fri: 10am-4pm
Sat: 9am-4pm, Sun: 12pm-4pm



"Monday Blues" by John Blumenkamp. Great Grey Owl

Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards

The awards were founded in 2015 by professional photographers Paul Joynson-Hicks & Tom Sullivan, to promote wildlife conservation with awards to sustainable wildlife conservation organizations. This year the recipient will be the Whitley Fund for Nature which supports conservation leaders working in their home countries across the global south.



"Dispute" by Jacek Strankiewicz of Poland. Green Finches



CANTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 9586
Canton, Ohio 44711

Officers:

Linda Chen, President - 2023-2025
Scott Watkins, VP - 2023-2025... ph 330-209-1261
Myra McCoy, Treasurer - 2023-2025
Connie Rubin, Secretary – 2024-2026

Directors:

Michael Barath - 2024-2026, 1st term
Byron Berger - 2024-2026, 1st term
Marlene Bolea - 2023-2025, 2nd term
Lee Dolan - 2024-2026, 1st term
Dr. Robert Hamilton IV – 2024-2026, 2nd term
Teresa Kaminski- 2023-2025, 1st term
Megan Shoenfelt – 2024-2026, 2nd term

Conservation: Linda Chen, Megan Schoenfelt,

EDI: Lee Dolan, Chuck McClagherty,
Cynthia Norris, Connie Rubin,

Education: Lee Dolan

Membership: Chuck McClagherty

Newsletter: Chris Dyer, Linda Chen

Programs/Field Trips: Scott Watkins

Publicity: Connie Rubin

Scholarship, Fritz (college): Lee Dolan, Bob Rohrbaugh,
Rose Ann Carper, Scott Watkins, Dr. Robert Hamilton IV

Scholarship, A. Dolan 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
- ___ Screech Owl \$50
- ___ Bluebird (Business Supporter, 2 years)..... \$50
- ___ Bald Eagle (Life)..... \$300
- ___ Other (name your amount)..... \$_____
- ___ *Introductory National Audubon Society/...\$20

Canton Audubon Society Joint Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

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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