



Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

Dec/Jan/Feb 2024-25

Winter

NOT JUST WINGING IT: WHERE BIRDS MIGRATE

By Chris Dyer

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

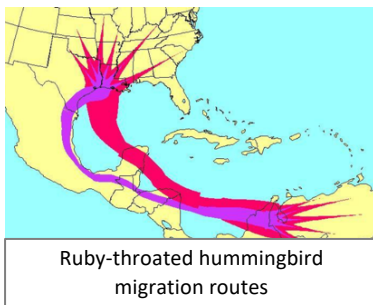
We all know birds fly south for the winter but what is involved and where exactly is “south”? Obviously not all birds migrate, but those that do, go various distances to reach warmer climates. Some birds that leave Ohio may only go a few miles to southern Ohio or to the southern US. Some go to Mexico, Central America or even as far as southern South America. Ohio isn't the beginning point for many of the birds we see. Some have started as far north as the Arctic Circle and are passing through and for some birds, Ohio is south. Each winter we see the arrival of birds from more northern territories that see Ohio's climate as “warmer”, birds like Dark-eyed Juncos and Rough-legged Hawks.



In some places, birds don't really travel in north-south directions at all, but instead travel up and down in altitude; descending from mountains when winter comes and back up when the spring thaw occurs. Birds rarely go to an east or west destination in migration but it happens. Generally, birds in Canada and the Americas stay and those in Europe and Asia travel south to Africa or Australia. They rarely cross the oceans, east to west, unless blown off course or severely lost.

A bird's choice of final destination isn't random. It depends on the species and is ingrained at birth. He goes where his lineage has always gone. A specific place that provides everything he needs for survival and his species has specifically evolved to thrive in. Surprisingly, many of these areas are distinctly different to the type of environments where they breed. Most birds know the place they will go and the way without a guide. They just go.

Overall, there are specific pathways birds use when migrating called flyways. These tend to be shaped by geography, wind patterns, and water. There are 4 major flyways in the United States, Ohio being part of the Mississippi Flyway. Flyways are not like roads or freeways because there aren't true boundary routes, but general patterns bird use as they move. However, not all birds use these flyways.



Most birds prefer to travel over land and those using thermals to soar depend upon it. Many eastern birds fly over the Gulf of Mexico at some point, about 500 miles or more, flying over open water with no breaks. There's nowhere to land and by the time the trip is over, birds are exhausted. Now imagine a hummingbird; which when fattened up for the trip weighs about as much as 2 pennies; flying that distance in one night with no break. It seems impossible!

Flying over vast amounts of water is very dangerous. If a bird runs into a storm or strong winds, it might not make it. Large groups of birds have plummeted into the ocean when sudden storms occur. It's so dangerous, nature hedges its bets. To avoid an entire species of birds dying due to a major storm or cold snap during migration, many species have broken into different groups that take different routes or leave at different times. If one group fails, others may make it and the species will go on. Areas like deserts, large cities, or anywhere food is scarce cause the same problems as open water. The Great Lakes work as a similar, although smaller barrier. Here in Ohio, along the shores of Lake Erie, there are many spots where great numbers of birds stop to rest and fatten up before jumping the lake. Some days in May, birds fill the trees at places like Magee Marsh in such numbers that trees look like they are filled with brightly colored Christmas decorations. Until they move!

As mentioned, some birds make very long trips. The longest is probably that of the Arctic Tern who travels from Antarctica to the Arctic and back each year. His trip can be up to 68,000 miles round-trip. Fortunately, he gets to make stops along the way to refuel. Terns can live about 30 years and some may end up travelling the equivalent of 3 trips to the moon and back in their lifetime spending a good portion of their life in nearly 24 hours of daylight! Even more impressive is the Bar-tailed Godwit. He travels from Alaska to New Zealand and back again. This may not seem as impressive as the Arctic Tern, but during the southern leg of the journey, Bar-tailed Godwits fly over 7,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean the entire way and travel 8 to 9 days without stopping to rest, eat or drink. Godwits don't soar or glide so if they stop flapping, they'll fall into the ocean and drown. Bar-tailed Godwits make this trip every year!



If you're not impressed by the distance birds travel, then consider the speed and effort involved. A typical warbler weighing under ½ an ounce averages 139.8 miles in one night without a break!

WATCH Hummingbird Migration: Crossing the Gulf of Mexico > www.youtube.com/watch?v=QObDsNxShIo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

► **Holiday Dinner:** Wednesday, December 4th. The silent auction fundraiser items were donated by Laura Dornan; duck decoys, books and more plus a Bausch & Lomb spotting scope raffle at \$15/ticket.

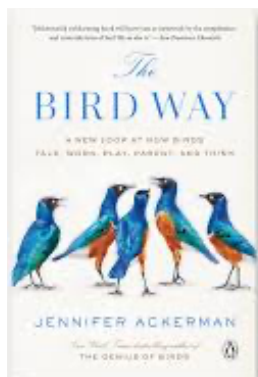
See page 7 for dinner reservation details.

► **\$1,000 Hog Island Audubon Camp scholarship:** offered by Canton Audubon Society. Application forms will be posted at cantonaudubon.org website by mid-November. *See page 5 for more information.

► **Masthead photo:** This month's photo was taken by Chris Dyer.

THE BIRD WAY by Jennifer Ackerman

A Book Review by Chris Dyer



There are really only 4 types of bird books out there. 1) Field guides/books to make you a better birder. 2) Stories of a human's interaction with a bird in the wild or when sharing a living space with it. 3) Birding adventures which are often their pursuit of a big year or some other milestone quest. 4) Scientific studies of birds and what they mean.

Of these 4, the least likely for the average birder to pick-up and read is the scientific type. In fact, many of them are so "scientific" that they forget to be a good read, and instead become slogs through the data and facts to get to any kernels of interest. That is a shame because there is a ton of good, interesting things to learn in these books; even the hard to read ones.

If you ever considered reading a "scientific" book to learn more about the birds you see, this should be the one! It is the single most fascinating book on the subject of bird "personality" and thought that I have ever read. As a bonus, it is written in a down to earth fashion, sharing accounts of bird interactions and not raw data, making it an easy and enjoyable read for anyone; not just those with a science or bird background.

The book is divided into 5 parts, each 2-3 chapters long. The sections are: "Talk", "Work", "Play", "Parent" and "Think." Each section presents stories gleaned from scientists studying bird behavior and what their data suggests. As mentioned, the book does not waste much time on the data itself, just what it means to us (and to the birds). And some of these anecdotes and the meanings are jaw dropping. Ms. Ackerman has a great touch at bringing the birds around us into a more fascinating light than we usually see them in, showing their behaviors in a way that humans can relate to and even be awed by. If you have ever wanted to know more about what lurks in the mind of a bird and see them beyond their beautiful plumage this book is a must read!

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2024-25

The Christmas Bird Count is a community science project throughout U.S. and all of the Americas. If you are interested in participating by IDing species and their numbers, below is a list of local count circles each in 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, visit: www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count

Canton CBC: Friday, January 3, 2025	Contact Jon Cefus at jcefus@gmail.com
Quail Hollow: Saturday, December 14, 2024	Contact Ronnie Macko at quailhollowcbc@gmail.com
The Wilderness Center: Friday, December 20, 2024	Contact Ben Morrison at bmorr10387@aol.com
Tri-Reservoir: * date TBA *	Contact Ethan Kistler at ohiobirder@yahoo.com

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2025

February 14, 15, 16, & 17 are the dates for the 2025 GBBC, a perfect time for you to take the opportunity to introduce a friend, neighbor or family member to one of your favorite pastimes...birding! The National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada invite birders to participate in this Citizen Science event by reporting bird observations, whether from your backyard, around your neighborhood or at your favorite park or nature center.

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center (HBNC) has a yearly event where birds can be watched in their observatory. Experienced birders will be in attendance to help ID birds. The event is free and open to the public. Learn more at the GBBC website at www.birdcount.org | HBNC: ph 330-823-7487

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

November 20th at 7pm

“Ohio Owls” by Linda Watkins



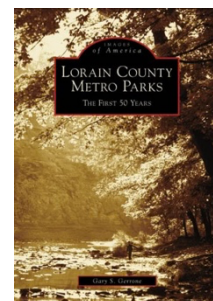
Explore the world of Ohio’s native owls, learn intriguing facts about them. Linda will discuss the ups & downs of caring for these amazing birds and the rehabilitation of them. She has worked as a Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist for nearly 20 years at Stark County Park District’s Wildlife Conservation Center. Her primary field is birds and she has developed rehab diets and training protocols for them. Linda also mentors new volunteers in bird care at the center.

A program bonus – the audience will meet Ambassador Owls!

December 4th Holiday Dinner

“I Only Bird While I’m Awake” by Gary Gerrone

Listen to humorous tales of learning, seeking, finding, identifying, and enjoying birds. ...and of how birds that made Gary a better Naturalist...and a better person. He served as the award-winning naturalist supervisor for most of his 30-plus years with the Lorain County Metro Parks, and currently manages both Geneva and Headlands State Parks. His writing resume includes nearly 400 published pieces including his long-running nature column and the authoring of the book “Lorain County Metro Parks: The First Fifty Years.” **In-person ONLY**



January 15th at 7pm Members’ 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 schedule time for each participant.

February 19th : Byron Berger – “Birding Cambodia”

March 19th : Chris Dyer – “Courtships, nesting and chick rearing”

April 16th : Denise Ellsworth – “Planting by numbers”

May 21st : TBA

CAS 1ST SATURDAY BIRD & NATURE WALKS

** Binoculars are available **

December 7 th , 2024 Saturday at 9:00am	Towpath Trail – Lake Ave. Trailhead near Ernie’s Bike Shop. Meet in parking lot. 135 Lake Ave. NW, Massillon, OH 44646
January 4 th 2025 Saturday at 9:00am	John Glenn Grove Towpath Trail. Meet at the Trailhead Parking Lot. 8000 Warmington Rd SW, Navarre, OH 44662
February 1 st , 2025 Saturday at 9:00am	Quail Hollow Park. Meet at the Manor House. 13480 Congress Lake Ave NE, Hartville, OH 44632
March 1 st 2025 Saturday at 9:00am	Walborn Reservoir Eagle Observation Area. Meet at the observation parking lot. 13600 Marlboro Avenue Northeast Alliance, Ohio 44601
April 5 th 2025 Saturday at 9:00am	Petros Park lake. Meet at the Woodland Shelter. 3519 Perry Dr SW, Canton OH 44706
May 3 rd 2025 Saturday at 9:00am	Sippo Lake Wildlife Conservation Center. Meet in parking lot. 800 Genoa Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44646

STARK COUNTY BIRD QUEST RESULTS



Seven teams (16 participants) explored the county on September 13 & 14 and visited 12 different parks, preserves and locations. 85 bird species were identified during the 24 hours of Bird Quest which included 9 species of wood warblers. A total of 5 raptors were seen; Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Barred Owl.

The most common species reported were the Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, American Goldfinch, and Northern Cardinal. The least common species reported were the American White Pelican at Berlin Reservoir and a surprise appearance of Bobolinks at the Walborn Reservoir Eagle Observation Area.

**Save the date for the 2025 Stark County Bird Quest – September 12 & 13, 2025!*

ALAN DOLAN CONSERVATION ADVOCACY AWARD from Audubon Great Lakes

Congratulations to Rob Swindell, Executive Director of the Black River Audubon Society in Lorain County, OH, who received the award for his leadership in science, advocacy, education and outreach. Rob helped lead the installation of Lorain County's first Motus towers, writes a bi-weekly column for the Chronicle-Telegram "Winging It," regularly appears on New Day Cleveland TV program, helped to preserve a 200-acre IBA (now a park), and does numerous public program presentations. These are just a few of his accolades.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award, especially knowing the legacy of Alan Dolan," said Swindell. "It is a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated volunteers and conservationists at Black River Audubon."

ALAN DOLAN HOG ISLAND SCHOLARSHIP

Canton Audubon will award one \$1,000 scholarship for Audubon Hog Island Camp for the 2025 summer sessions. The camp is a world class facility for research, education, and conservation and an education camp for adults, families & teens. Those who are interested must fill out an application, tell us why you would like to attend and what you hope to gain from the experience. We also ask that you share that experience with a brief presentation at a CAS program meeting or a small article for the CAS newsletter. All CAS members are eligible to apply as well as Ohio residents living in the CAS the region (Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Mahoning, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties). Hog Island is located off the coast of Maine. hogisland.audubon.org

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 44632
Ph: 330-872-9320
Birds seed, Feeders and supplies
M-F 8am-5pm, Sat: 8am-noon Sun: closed

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center

University of Mount Union
1972 Clark Ave. Alliance, OH 44601
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

What animal is this?



This quarter's species is another species common to northeast Ohio but less frequently noticed than last quarter's. You may even see them in your own backyard. I'm sure you can guess the family but do you know the species?

**See page 7 for answer*

Last month's species answer: Carolina wren

JUNCOS: OHIO'S SNOWBIRDS

By Chris Dyer

When the first Dark-eyed Junco arrives, you know winter isn't far behind. Despite my disdain for the cold and gray of the winter season, it always warms my heart to see them flash across my backyard as they dart from tree to tree.

The bird we know as the Dark-eyed Junco was actually a group of five different birds that were lumped into one species in 1973. The bird we see in Ohio generally were the Slate-colored Junco although an occasional Oregon junco appears. The Oregon subspecies has an orangish-brown side and back instead of an all-gray coloration.

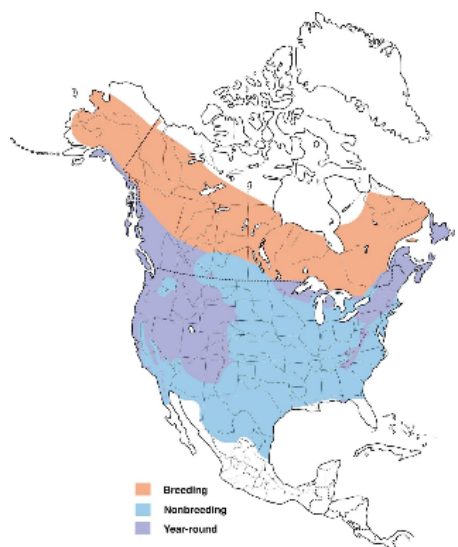


Dark-eyed Junco

Juncos are members of the sparrow family but with their overall gray color and white belly, it's hard to confuse them with their brethren. Of particular interest are the outer white tail feathers that contrast with their inner gray ones. These white feathers serve multiple purposes. First, they work as deflective coloration to distract and draw a predator's strike to the tail when the junco takes flight, instead of a more vital body part. In winter in males, a larger white patch shows dominance. Other males concede to him in matters of food and perching. Bolder and bigger white tail feathers likely attract females during breeding season as well.

Juncos are one of the most numerous birds in the United States during winter. They are very social, spending winter in large flocks and mixing freely with other species, especially other sparrows. Like most sparrows, they are more comfortable on or near the ground where they hop more than walk or run. They remain low, sheltered among foliage and shrubbery. They even build their nests on the ground or very close to it. Whenever flushed or frightened though, they tend to go slightly higher to a limb or the edge of a thicket where they can survey the situation from safety.

During the winter, their diet is 75% grain and seeds, but they will take in berries as well. In breeding season, they will also feed on invertebrates. They are not shy birds and will come readily to feeders but prefer open/tray or ground feeders. They also prefer millet to sunflower seeds overall.



Junco migration map

We tend to think of Juncos in Ohio as strictly winter birds, but there are Juncos that breed in Ohio in the most northeast portion, in heavily coniferous areas. Still, most leave in late April heading mostly for Canada and the New England states and returning as early as late September. Many Juncos stay year-round in the western US and there is a small band extending south from Canada through Pennsylvania as far south as Tennessee in the higher elevated mountains that stay as well. Interestingly, Female Juncos migrate further south than males, travelling as far as Texas and Florida, meaning that in Ohio we have mostly the male population spending the winter with us.

The voice of the Junco is a sweet high sound, like the tinkling of a minute bell. It is similar but more musical than the sound of the Chipping Sparrow. The oldest recorded Junco lived at least 11 years and 4 months; recaptured in 2001 in WV, the same place it was originally banded. ~

What animal is this?



Answer: Wood Frog

Looking like a frog version of the Lone Ranger, this frog has a range that extends all the way north to Alaska. I find several of these frogs hiding in the tall grasses of my backyard whenever I mow. That's because these frogs don't spend their time at ponds and other water sources like most of their cousins, but instead prefer moist woodlands instead.

CHAPTER CHATTER

First Saturday Bird Walk, October 5th

On the most recent First Saturday bird walk at Fry Family Park, Canton Audubon members were happy to have a special guest attend the event. John Summer, son of Joe Summer, and his friend attended. Both were displaced at the time due to the Hurricane Helene devastation in North Carolina and are active in the local Audubon chapters there. We would like to wish them well and send out prayers to all the families affected by the most recent storms in these states.



\$12 Million Available for Great Lakes Habitat Restoration

Since 2010, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has funded more than 7,500 restoration and protection projects totaling more than \$3.7 billion to target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long-term goals. GLRI Action Plan III was published in 2019 to guide restoration and protection through 2024. Action Plan IV will cover 2025 through 2029.

In September, NOAA announced \$12 million funding in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for habitat restoration in 2025 federal fiscal year. Projects that restore Great Lakes habitats and lead to significant and sustainable benefits for Great Lakes native fish species.

Projects selected through this funding opportunity will help sustain the multiple benefits the Great Lakes provide by: 1 Supporting valuable fisheries and coastal resources. 2. Improving the quality of our water by restoring coastal wetlands. 3. Providing recreational opportunities for the public's use and enjoyment. 4. Increasing the resilience of Great Lakes communities.



2024 HOLIDAY DINNER

CAS HOLIDAY DINNER RESERVATIONS, Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

*** 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	City Chicken (made w/ pork)	Baked Fish	Vegetarian Lasagna	Cost

TOTAL:

- Meals are **\$19.00 each** which includes sides, salad, roll and dessert with coffee and tea as beverage.
- Send reservations with check to: Canton Audubon Society, PO Box 9586, Canton, Ohio 44711.
- **RESERVATIONS ARE DUE NOV 25.** *Pre-payment is preferred but payment is available at the door.
- The Silent Auction is the only CAS fundraiser. This year, all auction items were donated by the Dornans.
- Email CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com with questions. Add "Holiday Dinner" in the email subject.



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

Education: Lee Dolan

Membership: Chuck McClaugherty

Newsletter: Chris Dyer, Linda Chen

Programs/Field Trips: Scott Watkins

Public Outreach: Lee Dolan, Chuck McClaugherty,
Cynthia Norris, Connie Rubin,

Publicity: Connie Rubin

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

Scholarship, Alan Dolan Hog Island: Dr. Robert Hamilton IV,
Megan Shoenfelt, Chuck McClaugherty,

Social Media: Linda Chen, Chris Lamb

Website: Scott Watkins

The Wilderness Center Trustees:

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 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:_____

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

