



Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

Mar/Apr/May 2025

Spring

SPOTTED OWL PLAN TO MOVE FORWARD

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

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Phone: 330-209-1261

CAS is a 501(c)3
nonprofit organization



Northern Spotted Owl

Can killing a mass number of a species lead to saving a species? If so, should we do it?

The United States wildlife officials recently finalized a plan to kill a little somewhere in the area of 450,000 barred owls in the Pacific Northwest over a 30 year span. The plan is designed to significantly help the struggling Spotted Owl population by getting rid of barred owls that have been spreading west continually for many years. Trained shooters will target the Barred Owls across a maximum of about 23,000 square miles in California, Oregon and Washington.

Only those who are specially trained are permitted to shoot the owls and would need to provide documentation of training or experience in owl identification and firearm skills. The plan would not totally remove Barred Owls from the West. It is less about extirpating them altogether and instead focused on keeping the Spotted Owls from going extinct. Kessina Lee, supervisor at the Fish and Wildlife Service of Oregon says, "We're talking about managing in less than 50 percent of that northern spotted owl range to try and carve out space for those spotted owls."

The Northern Spotted Owl is a federally protected threatened species and California Spotted owls were proposed for federal protection last year, but a decision is still pending. The larger Barred Owl has been out-competing and pushing out the smaller Spotted Owl, causing their population to continually decline. Barred owls were native to the eastern part of the country but began to appear in the Pacific Northwest in the 1970s and have been increasing in that area ever since.

As an added bonus, the culling of Barred Owls is expected to also aid the frog and salamander species that the invasive owls prey on. These and other small animals in the area are falling victim to this new predatory threat which they have not evolved to face.

This is not the first time the US has made the controversial decision decided to kill an "invasive" species to save another species. For example, in 2019 the National Marine Fisheries Service reduced the criteria to kill sea lions preying on salmon swimming along the West Coast in 2019.

Some people are for saving the Spotted Owls from possible extinction while others are critical of the new plan, such as Former Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Kent Livezey. He states that it is "ill-advised" and could cost hundreds of dollars per bird. "We should let nature take its course, Birds (and all animals) move. Competitions arise Should we be stepping in and killing mass numbers of them like this?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Elections/board positions:** **It is election time again and CAS needs you.* We are looking to fill one board seat. Requirements are a willingness to attend at least most of the meetings (via Zoom) and must be a paying member of either the Canton or National Audubon Society. Meetings last 2 hours, 5 times/year. CAS by-laws state that Board Directors/Members can serve two consecutive 2-year terms. Thank you to outgoing director Marlene Bolea who will complete her second term May 2025. If you or someone you know has an interest in preserving birds and our natural heritage, contact Linda Chen or e-mail us at CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com
- **2024 Holiday Dinner silent auction:** CAS earned \$788 on the silent auction and spotting scope raffle. We would like to send our thanks to Laura Dornan for making this happen!
- **\$1,000 Alan Dolan Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship:** Our awardee is CAS member Chuck McClaugherty who will participate in a Family Camp 2025 session.
- **CAS Picnic on Wednesday, June 18, 2025** will be held at the Boathouse again this year, located on the east side of Sippo Lake, Tyner Rd (east entrance) just off of Perry Dr. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, CAS will provide chicken. You will need to bring a plate, utensils, napkins and drink. Begin to arrive at 5:15pm for time to set-up. There will be a pre-meeting bird walk at 4 pm starting from this location. Parking is available in the upper lot or below at the marina with wheelchair accessibility. Pre-picnic bird walk at 4pm, meet in the parking lot Tyner Rd, Sippo Lake.
- **The Wilderness Center native plant sale:** Order your plants online.
- **Masthead photo:** This issue's Eastern Bluebird photo was taken by Connie Rubin.
- **Newsletter photos:** In our next issue, we will begin a **new series of members' photos** for the masthead. Any bird species will be accepted. Please send them to me at CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com

☞ CAS member, Monsignor James Kolp, pastor at St. Mary Catholic Church in Massillon for 26 years, recently passed away at the age of 99. He served the Diocese of Youngstown for nearly 75 years. Msgr. Kolp's favorite bird was the Wood Thrush.



☞ CAS sends condolences to Pat Jones' family. Pat passed away on December 22nd. She was a long-time CAS member, a lover of all animals, especially birds, appreciative of the Audubon programs, as well as an enthusiastic participant of the field trips.

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 chapter membership. The fee stays within the chapter and allows us to continue to provide interesting and educational monthly programs, conservation projects, an annual \$1,500 college scholarship, a \$1,000 Hog Island scholarship, and other activities. ALL chapter membership fees are due now, regardless of the month you originally joined. However, if you recently renewed (since the beginning of 2025), that payment is applied to the 2025-2026 year. Other membership categories can be found in the form on the back of this newsletter. The dues can be paid by check & submitted with the form or by PayPal at www.CantonAudubon.org

If you have any questions or need to know if your CAS membership is expiring, you may contact CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com Put "CAS membership" in the email subject line. Thank you for your support!

BE A LAZY GARDENER—BIRDS WILL LOVE YOU

Laura Dornan



If you love gardening but hate the hard work that goes into keeping a 'perfectly neat' garden, then I have good news for you. The best gardens are not the neatest gardens. The best gardens provide food for birds all year long. They do this by having flower stalks, both wild and cultivated, that remain standing through the winter for birds to eat the seeds. These gardens have leaf litter & other dead vegetation remain on the ground providing sites for insects and other invertebrates and their eggs to overwinter. This is food for birds throughout the winter, spring & summer. Clumps of tall, ornamental grasses left uncut in the fall

provide shelter for sparrows, juncos, and towhees during harsh winter days and nights. Soil that is left untrampled remains loosely compacted with a high degree of organic matter—perfect for pupating Lepidoptera. More moths and butterflies next summer! A brush pile of the sticks, branches, tall grasses, & your Xmas tree, etc. that do **have** to be cleaned up will provide shelter & warmth during the winter, as well as a safe spot to avoid predators such as hawks & coyotes. Do the birds (and your back!) a favor this fall. Leave your garden alone to do what comes naturally.

OHIO SANDHILL CRANE COUNT

Save the Date: Saturday, April 12th 2025 at 6:30am – 8:30am (15 minutes before sunrise). Participants will make a series of 5-minute point counts within a designated area. Volunteers are needed!

In 2021, the Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) began a Sandhill Crane count as part of the Midwest Crane Count. The survey is coordinated by DOW, International Crane Foundation and Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and is conducted in pre-selected counties based on available wetland habitat used by Sandhill cranes for nesting. For more information, contact CAS member, Chuck McClougherty at mcclauca@gmail.com

Ohio Crane Count <https://obcnet.org/get-involved/ohio-crane-count>

CANTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 2024 Canton CBC took place on January 3, 2025. There was a total number of 82 species seen with 2 new species for our count: Glaucous Gull and Eastern Phoebe. Both of the Phoebes were at the American Landfill property near the pond edges at opposite ends of the property. Canton Audubon member, Jon Cefus, was the compiler and a total of 15 CAS members participated in the count. Thanks to everyone involved!

What animal is this?



This unusual turtle has a highly domed shell and a large head with a pointed snout.

**See page on answer 7*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

March 19, 2025 at 7pm

“Courtships, Nesting and Chick Rearing” by Chris Dyer



Learn how male birds attract a female mate by singing, dancing, or with colorful plumage. Find out who builds the nest; what is involved in raising newly hatched chicks & teaching them survival skills until young birds can fly and fend for themselves. 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 was a part-time employee for the Wildlife Conservation Center at Sippo Lake and is a member of Canton Audubon Society.

Pre-meeting bird walk at 5:30pm, meet at EG south-facing balcony.

April 16, 2025 at 7pm

“Planting by Numbers” by Denise Ellsworth

Learn about plants, growing steps, and a sample design to support native pollinators. Denise is the Program Director for Pollinator Education at The Ohio State University. Thanks to a USDA IPM grant, the pollinator health team (Denise Ellsworth and Mary Gardiner) launched the Plant by Numbers program in Ohio to educate gardeners about the use and importance of native perennials to pollinators. Three garden themes were unveiled: Specialist Bees, Bumble Bees, and Butterflies and Moths. Each theme includes a garden design, a plant list and growing instructions, all detailed in a full-color handout. Denise earned degrees in Bachelor of Science & Master of Science at OSU and is a CAS member.



Pre-meeting bird walk at 5:30pm, meet at EG south-facing balcony.


May 21, 2025 at 7pm

“Winged Pathways: Rediscovering Ohio’s Lake Erie Birding Trail” by Jamey Emmert



The Ohio Division of Wildlife launched the Lake Erie Birding Trail program, connecting birdwatchers to some of the best birding hotspots in the state. Join Jamey, ODNr’s Avian Education Coordinator, to learn more about the trail’s revised guidebook and website that helps birders to explore, learn, and connect with Ohio’s birdlife. Packed with fresh updates and surprises, this interactive presentation will reignite your passion for local conservation, biodiversity, and citizen science. Jamey is a graduate of Hocking College with an Associate Degree in Wildlife Management. She manages the Lake Erie Birding Trail program, conducts educational workshops, and collaborates with other educators on conservation initiatives.

Pre-meeting bird walk at 5:30pm, meet at EG south-facing balcony.

 **CAS Picnic, Wednesday, June 18th** will be held at the Boathouse shelter, located on the east side of Sippo Lake, Tyner Rd (east entrance) just off of Perry Dr. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, CAS will provide chicken and beverages. Begin to arrive at 5:15pm to allow time to set-up. There will be a pre-meeting bird walk at 4 pm, meet in the parking lot. Pontoon boat rides will available again this year!

Parking is available in the upper lot or below, at the Marina.

CAS 1ST SATURDAY BIRD & NATURE WALKS

** Binoculars are available **

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
June 7 th 2025	Tam O'Shanter Park. Meet at Upper Parking Lot/ Bluebird Box trail. 5055 Hills & Dales Rd. NW, Canton, OH 44708
July 5 th 2025	Frye Family Park. Meet at the Upper most pavilion. 2533 Farber St. SE, Magnolia, OH 44643
August 2 nd 2025	Hoover Connector Trail. Meet at Parking lot by baseball fields. Location across from Walsh University, 1325 E. Maple St., North Canton, OH 44720



CANTON AUDUBON SOCIETY AT STARK ECO FAIR - SATURDAY, March 8, 2025, 2-4pm

Learn about Ohio's environment, what different organizations do to help protect it, how actions in Ohio can affect the global environment, and kickoff our annual community seedbank with free seeds.

Stark Main Library McKinley Room, 715 Market Ave., Canton, OH 44702

- **Shreve Migration Sensation** - Saturday, March 8, 2025. www.shreveohio.com/migration-sensation
- **Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center:** www.mountunion.edu/nature-center | See the 2025 spring newsletter.
 - **Earth Week** - April 22-27. Stop in during the Visitors Center hours for earth-friendly make & take activities.
 - **Bioblitz: City Nature Challenge** - Sunday, April 27 from 1-4:00pm. Help the Nature Center with their biological survey of plants, animals, & insects. Explore on your own or with staff. You can use a smartphone too.
 - **Spring Insect Walk** - Saturday, May 10, 1-2:00pm *Registration required.
 - **Bat Roost Monitoring** - Sunday, May 18 2-4:00pm *Registration required.



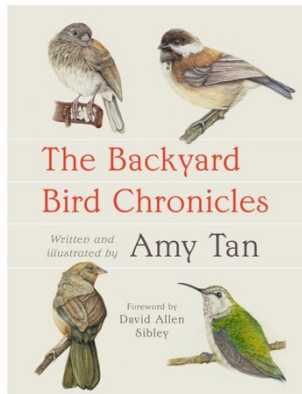
- **Birds in the Hills - Appalachian Understories** May 9-11, 2025 at Camp Oty'Okwa, South Bloomingville, OH 43152 in Hocking Hills. is a Rural Action social enterprise supported by Ohio's Winding Road. Nestled in the foothills of Appalachia, this event provides opportunity for bird enthusiasts of all levels to celebrate and learn together.
www.appalachianunderstories.com/birds-in-the-hills

- **The Biggest Week in American Birding** - May 9, 2025 – May 18, 2025
"The Warbler Capital of the World!" 10-day festival is in Oak Harbor and at Maumee Bay Lodge, Ohio with guest speakers, workshops and guided bird trips.
www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com



THE BACKYARD CHRONICLES by AMY TAN

A Book Review by Laura Dornan



Before I was half way through *The Backyard Chronicles* by Amy Tan, I had already begun composing a review in my head. That's how much I wanted others to know about and read this book. Though I have long known that Tan is a well-respected and admired novelist, I had never read any of her books. But her new, non-fiction book about backyard birding intrigued me.

I enjoy reading about the birding experiences of others, be they Big Days, Big Years, birding vacations or newbie birders. But I never expected to enjoy reading about the backyard birds at one person's home as much as I enjoyed this book. Tan's observations from her dining table are entertaining and informative. They are dispensed with humor, compassion, and knowledge and I am amazed at how much I learned about even the most common birds that I thought I was very familiar with.

Tan does allow anthropomorphism into her journaling—this is not, after all, a scientific journal. But her journals do what scientific writing is supposed to do—ask more questions. I believe this window into her bird observations is making me a better observer of the birds at my feeders.

When Tan is watching birds, she is also drawing them. Every journal entry is accompanied by sketches and more detailed renditions. Her preferred medium is colored pencils, which I believe is an unusual choice for most wildlife artists. But in Amy Tan's hands those pencils turn simple drawings into portraits of beauty and charm.

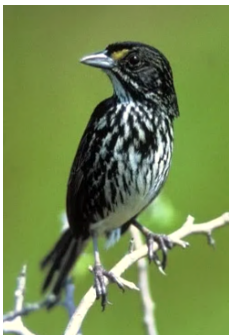
I borrowed *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* from the library but I will be purchasing it soon. This is a book I will want to read often. I think you will too,

Endangered Species Day, May 16, 2025

Always the third Friday of May

The Endangered Species Act (ESA), a landmark piece of 20th-century legislation designed to protect one of our most crucial natural resources—biodiversity—is under attack in the 21st century. This law, signed by Richard Nixon in 1973, has prevented the extinction of American species, such as the Great Lakes Piping Plover (listed 1986), Kirtland's Warbler (listed 1973), and the Whooping Crane (listed 1970). The Endangered Species Act cannot be repealed by a Presidential Executive Order.

The purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to conserve endangered and threatened species and their ecosystems. Habitat loss is the primary cause of higher extinction rates. Other causes are over-exploitation of wildlife for trade and commerce, “medicinal” purposes, as well as nonnative species competition, pollution, and diseases.



A case of habitat loss: The Dusky Seaside Sparrow was a non-migratory songbird common in Southern Florida marshes of Merritt Island and St. John's River. In an attempt to decrease mosquito populations around Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island was flooded in 1963 decimating the sparrows' nesting grounds causing their numbers to collapse. DDT had also been applied to the area for many years. Remaining marshes around the St. John's River were drained for highway construction and industry, and that, along with pesticides and pollution pushed the sparrows over the edge. The Dusky Seaside Sparrow was listed endangered in 1966 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The last female was seen in 1975 and the remaining males were captured where they lived out their days at Walt Disney World's Discovery Island Nature Reserve. On June 17, 1987, the last Dusky Seaside Sparrow died.

BIRD CONSERVATION NEWS IN 2024

Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act

In April 2024, the Enhancements Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden. This bill reauthorized the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), which funds on-the-ground conservation and research across the Western Hemisphere. It is the only grant program of its kind for migratory birds.

Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Release in Everglades

Over the past two decades, the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow has plummeted from more than 1,000 birds in the wild to less than 100, making it the most endangered bird in the continental United States. Through a captive breeding program, the 1000th Florida Grasshopper Sparrow was released on July 16, 2024 at Avon Park Air Force Range.

Ohio Successes

- **Bald eagle population:** The spring 2024 survey estimated 841 active bald eagle nests in Ohio. The average nest success rate was 82%, and there were 1.6 eaglets per active nest. The bald eagle was once an endangered species, with only four nesting pairs in Ohio in 1979.
- **Trumpeter swans** were removed from Ohio's threatened species list and have made a great comeback. Ohio Division of Wildlife has been working to restore their numbers for 28 years. According to ODNR, the population is currently 900 Trumpeter swans in 26 counties.
- **Sandhill Crane Count:** In 2024, volunteer observers reported 412 Sandhill cranes during the fourth annual Midwest Crane Count. The results show a 15% increase in sightings from 2023 when and 357 cranes were observed.
- **Wetlands and habitat restoration:** The Ohio Department of Natural Resources created 5,993 acres of wetlands and associated habitat restoration.

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



Answer: What animal is this?

Common or Eastern Musk Turtle. Commonly referred to as the stinkpot, this unusual turtle can release foul musky odor from scent glands on the edge of its shell. It is highly aquatic and probably its most diagnostic feature is the yellow striping on its head. It is only officially found in 10 counties within Ohio based on the Ohio Herp atlas, but this includes both Summit and Medina. I also know of one young musk turtle found at



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)..... \$ ____

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