



Linda Chen

# Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

**Winter 2025-2026**

**December/January/February**

## **WINTERIZING YOUR YARD IS FOR THE BIRDS!**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm from September thru May.

### **Location:**

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

Visit [www.CantonAudubon.org](http://www.CantonAudubon.org)  
Or email:

[CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook

Phone: 330-209-1261

CAS is a 501(c)3  
nonprofit organization

Winter can be a tough time for birds. Cold weather and food shortages can take a toll and make survival difficult. Adding to their difficulties, the leaves disappear, making it harder to find places to hide from predatory birds.

The good news is that you can help them by making your yard a winter haven for birds. If you already have trees and shrubs, you are off to a great start because even deciduous ones (those that lose foliage in the winter) can have some benefits such as tangles to help shelter them from predators or cavities to take refuge in.

Better yet, you can plant evergreen trees and shrubs which can block winds and snow for sleeping or sheltering birds, helping them to conserve energy and body heat. Such warm places lessen the amount of food they will require to stay alive. Coniferous trees and shrubs have the bonus of providing cones containing seeds for many winter birds. Making brush piles also creates shelter from predatory birds and protection from severe cold, especially for sparrows, juncos and other ground feeding birds.

But of course, shelter is only one of the 3 major needs for birds in winter. Just as important are food and water and these are even easier to provide than shelter. For food you can provide feeders. Use a variety of seed types, peanuts, and suet to help a variety of species find nourishment. Just as importantly, pick a diversity of feeder types, if possible, as different species prefer feeders more attuned to their feeding styles. Ground feeders such as sparrows and Juncos prefer open tray feeders while House Finches and Goldfinches prefer tube feeders. If you can only use one feeder or food type, seed mixes that are heavy on black oil sunflower seeds is best, and a hopper feeder with a large tray for the seed will probably make the most birds comfortable.

In addition to feeders there are a multitude of plants you can plant that provide fall berries that last into the winter giving many non-seed eating birds such as robins a source of food. Many bird species eat both seeds and berries, so such plants provide wide-reaching support. Examples of good fall winter berries are Crab Apples, Bay Berries, Holly and Winter Berries, among others. You can find lists online or get them from your local nursery.



*Junco sheltering in shrub*



Blue Jay at tray feeder

Finally, water is essential. Most water sources tend to freeze during the cold months and eating snow for hydration is dangerous. It causes a cooling down of their body's core which they need to keep burning hot to survive. By using a birdbath heater or providing a water source with a fountain, aerator, bubbler or flowing water, you can keep it from freezing so it can provide healthy and clean water for the birds during the coldest times.

If you do any of these things you are likely to see birds in your yard throughout the winter. Do all 3 and you'll likely see a good number and variety spending most of their time there. So, it's a win-win. You get the joy of watching birds brighten up the dreary winter days and they get a chance to emerge healthy and ready to breed when the snow finally melts and spring arrives!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Holiday Dinner:** Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a silent auction fundraiser, \*see page 7 for dinner reservation details\*
- **Board member positions:** In spring 2026, two current board members will finish their second terms. Beginning June 1, those positions will be available to all CAS members but elections take place in early May. There is currently one vacant seat that can be filled now. Please consider volunteering for a position. We have five board meetings per year that are each two hours long which equals 10 hours of your time yearly.
- **Gifts for the holidays:** If you're looking for bird-themed or unique gifts, books and more, stop by one of our business-supporter's shops. So many great ideas! For a list of these locally-owned businesses, see page 6.
- **Masthead photo:** This month's photo, a Field sparrow, was taken by Linda Chen.

## FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL BIRD FEEDING MONTH



Laura Dorman

Did you know this observance was first recognized in 1994 when Congressman John Porter read a proclamation before Congress highlighting the challenges wild birds face in winter. "I would like to recognize February, one of the most difficult months in the United States for wild birds, as National Bird-Feeding Month. During this month, individuals are encouraged to provide food, water, and shelter to help wild birds survive. This assistance benefits the environment by supplementing the wild bird's natural diet of weed seeds and insects." Visit [www.nationalbirdfeedingmonth.com](http://www.nationalbirdfeedingmonth.com)

## 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. They carry a variety of bird feeders that are 20% off year-round as well as a large selection of bird seed that comes in various sizes such as 5 lb., 25 lb., and 50 lb. bags. The employees will happily load seed into your vehicles for your birds, squirrels, and deer. Our customer service has been appreciated by many throughout the years. Dumont's Seed also carries all of your gardening needs. Find them on Facebook or contact (330) 492-0204. Dumont's Seed Company is a Canton Audubon Society business supporter.

*Stop by to say hello and check out the awesome displays to find your perfect holiday gifts!*



Sherese Streamo, owner & operator

## TERRA DEPOT CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND



You are invited to the November 2026 TERRA DEPOT open house, where you can shop for all your bird feeders, seed, and holiday gift giving! There will be drawings, sales, refreshments, and a lovely, fun holiday atmosphere! On Saturday afternoon from 3pm-6m, join the social get together in the classroom with even more goodies! Terra Depot sells bird supplies, native plants, statuary, and homemade jams. They offer various classes during the year and are a Canton

Audubon Society business supporter. Find them on Facebook.

Open House hours are Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 6pm.

They are located at 7404 Shepler Church Ave SW, Navarre, OH 44662.



*Megan Schoenfelt,  
owner & operator*

## ALAN DOLAN HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The \$1,500 Hog Island camp scholarship has been awarded to Leslie Bast who is an Education Naturalist for the Stark County Park District. Previously, she was a Program Instructor for the Conservancy of Cuyahoga Valley National Park for three years. Some of her favorite programs that she has led are avian adventure bird walks, night hikes, and nature exploration classes. In 2020, Leslie received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography from Kent State University. During that same year, she turned to photography during the COVID shut down and found an escape when photographing birds and other wildlife. Leslie plans to attend the camp session "Photography of Maine Birds and Landscapes" in 2026. Congratulations Leslie!

## CAS 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY BIRD & NATURE WALKS

*\* Binoculars are available \**

December 6 <sup>th</sup> 2025 Saturday at 9:00am	Middle Branch Trail, 1714 Schneider St, Canton, OH 44721 Meet at Veterans Community Park parking area.
January 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	John Glenn Grove Towpath Trail, 8000 Warmington Rd SW, Navarre, OH 44662 Meet at the trailhead parking lot.
February Saturday at 9:00am	Crystal Spring Towpath Trail, 4503 Erie Ave NW, Canal Fulton, OH 44614 Meet in the Crystal Spring parking lot.
March Saturday at 9:00am	Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve, 7984 Fulton Dr NW, Massillon, OH 44646 Meet in main Parking Lot
April Saturday at 9:00am	Tam O'Shanter Park, 5055 Hills & Dales Rd. NWCanton, Ohio 44708 Meet in the Upper Parking Lot/ Bluebird Box trail
May Saturday at 9:00am	Pike Ridge Park 7498 East Sparta Ave., Magnolia, Ohio 44643. The park is located just north of Fry Family Park on Rt 800/Cleveland Ave SE. Meet in the parking lot.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

**November 19, 2025 at 7pm**

### **"Moon Over Canton" by Chuck Jakubchak**



"Moon Over Canton" highlights the role that the full moon played in the lives of Native North Americans and how the full moons were used to mark the passing of time during the year. This presentation combines nature, Native American Indian lore, and the rationale behind the specific names assigned to our monthly full moons. The names of the full moons may be centuries old, but they are still relevant to 2025. If you enjoy looking at a moon lit sky you should enjoy this program. Chuck is an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, has been an avid birder for more than 25 years, and has written articles for Birdwatcher's Digest. Chuck retired from GE and resides in Strongsville along with his wife Jeanne.

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**December 10, 2025 at 7pm**

### **"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 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." *\*Program is In-person ONLY\*.*



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**January 21, 2026 at 7pm**

### **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.

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**February 18, 2026 at 7pm**

### **"LBJ" Sparrows and Finches of NE Ohio by Matt Valencic**



Little Brown Jobs! That's how many of us identify sparrows and finches, mostly because they are LBJs! But each of the 28 species we find in NE Ohio has one or more features to help lead to its identity. Through lots of photographs this program introduces you to these small birds, where to find them, when to expect to see them, and how to separate them from similar species. It's time to put a name to the face! Matt became a Geauga County Master Gardner Volunteer to learn more about the plants and organisms that are critical to bird habitat. His favorite pastime is photographing birds in Geauga County. He is also an active member of the Sanctuary Committee where he leads the charge against non-native, invasive plants in the sanctuaries

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<b>March 18, 2026 at 7pm</b>	<b>April 15, 2026 at 7pm</b>	<b>May 20, 2026 at 7pm</b>
Byron Berger	Carrie Elvey	Denise Elsworth
Program to be announced	"Conservation of the World's Birds"	"Wild Bees in your Ohio Backyard"



## UPCOMING CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

### 2025 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas Bird Count is a community science project throughout U.S. and Canada which now includes all of the Americas. Today, the count takes place within a 15-mile (diameter) circle between December 14<sup>th</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas Bird Count began in the year 1900 and was the brainchild of ornithologist Frank M. Chapman. He proposed the idea of a “Bird Census Count” as opposed to the annual Christmas “Side Hunt”. Prior to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, hunters would choose sides or teams and with their guns, they would go in pursuit of birds. They would kill as many birds as possible, as well as other wildlife, within a given time. Upon returning, the group with the largest pile of animals won the competition.

On Christmas Day in 1900, the first Bird Census Count had 27 participants in 25 places in the United States and Canada. They counted 90 species. Today, there are over 2,100 count circles within North and South America. It is one of the biggest, organized birding events around the world and has become a holiday tradition for over 50,000 birders yearly.

If you are interested in participating by IDing species and their numbers, below is a list of local count circles. For more information, visit: [www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count](http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count) or contact one of the compilers listed below.

<b>Canton CBC:</b> Friday, January 2, 2026	Contact Jon Cefus at <a href="mailto:jcefus@gmail.com">jcefus@gmail.com</a>
<b>Quail Hollow:</b> Saturday, December 20, 2025	Contact Ronnie Macko at <a href="mailto:quailhollowcbc@gmail.com">quailhollowcbc@gmail.com</a>
<b>The Wilderness Center:</b> Friday, December 19, 2025	Contact Ben Morrison at <a href="mailto:bmorr10387@aol.com">bmorr10387@aol.com</a>
<b>Tri-Reservoir:</b> Tuesday, December 16, 2025	Contact Ethan Kistler at <a href="mailto:ohiobirder@yahoo.com">ohiobirder@yahoo.com</a>

### AUDUBON’S CLIMATE WATCH 2026



Since 2016, Climate Watch volunteers have collected data which Audubon scientists are able to use to document in peer reviewed research that birds are responding to climate change and shifting their ranges. You can join us in this mission by observing birds in your area, using our specific protocol, and helping us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate. Climate watch periods are January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 and May 15<sup>th</sup> to June

15<sup>th</sup> 2026. Email Scott Watkins at [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)

or visit [www.audubon.org/community-science/climate-watch](http://www.audubon.org/community-science/climate-watch) for more information.

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC) 2026

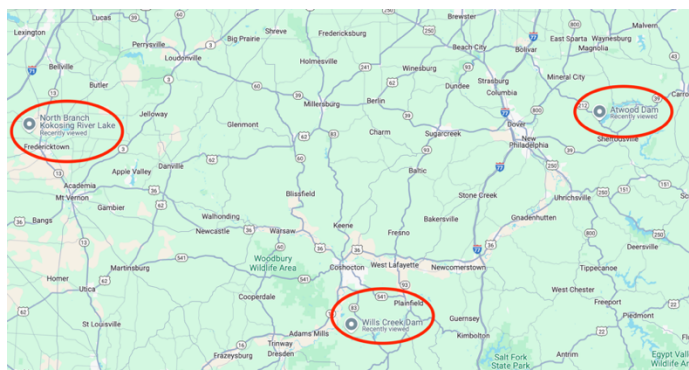
In 2026, the GBBC takes place on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>. The Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada invite birders to participate in this citizen science event by reporting bird observations, whether from your backyard, around your neighborhood, at your favorite park or nature center. Data is entered into eBird and results are near “real-time”. The GBBC was launched in 1998 and became the first online participatory community science project which has now become a global project.



Join Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center (HBNC) for their yearly event where birds can be watched in center’s 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](http://www.birdcount.org) HBNC: phone 330-823-7487

## BIRD SURVEY for U.S. ARMY CORPS of ENGINEERS

We need your help! Bird surveys for USACE continue at Atwood Dam, Wills Creek, and Kokosing Lake which are documented via eBird. The corps plans to install Motus towers at these three locations which track birds, especially during migration. Surveys will take place through summer of 2026 BUT we really must have birders out in February or March for spring migration. Please let us know if can help. For questions email: [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)



## ARNOLD W. FRITZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Elisia Frey, the 2025 Arnold Fritz scholarship awardee, is a student at Malone University. She presented a wonderful program on Wednesday, September 17 about her lifelong conservation work and future goals in that field. Elisa is pictured, right, with her instructor Kristen Beck who is the director of the live animal collections at Malone University. Kristen is also executive director of Clover Field Wildlife Care rehabilitation facility in Canton and is a Canton Audubon Society member.

## THE TOWNE PRINTER



The Towne Printer, a locally owned business founded by Phil Giavasis, has operated in Canton since 1978. They offer a wide range of printing services to meet your needs, from business cards to flyers, brochures, and banners. Currently, Phil's son Lou helps run the print shop and Phil is there regularly to greet customers. The Towne Printer is a business supporter of Canton Audubon Society and they've printed our newsletters for decades. Contact them at 330-455-4550 for your holiday printing needs and year-round printing needs as well. They are located at 2407 Cleveland Avenue NW, Canton, Ohio 44709.

### 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](http://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](http://www.theTERRAdepot.com)  
Thu & Fri: 10am-4pm  
Sat: 9am-4pm, Sun: 12pm-4pm

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL STARK COUNTY BIRD QUEST RESULTS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stark County Bird Quest was a great success. Adam Zorn, Manager of Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, organized the event and collaborated with Stark County Park District, The Wilderness Center and Canton Audubon Society. This year there were 8 teams, 22 birders, 14 parks/preserves visited, 128 species of birds reported overall with 21 species of warblers. Tennessee Warbler and Common Yellowthroat were the most frequently reported warbler species. Mark your calendar for next September, dates to be announced.

Thank you to Scott Watkins, VP of Canton Audubon Society who maintained the Bird Quest webpage and led guided hikes, to Michelle Leighty from The Wilderness Center who led guided bird walk, and to David Green, Education Manager and Leslie Bast, education naturalist, both of Stark Parks for reserving the Fry Family Park Visitor's Center and participating in guided hikes. A special thanks goes out to Adam Zorn for not only leading guided hikes but for organizing everything to make it a fun and successful day!

### 2025 HOLIDAY DINNER



**DINNER RESERVATIONS, Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

**\* Begin to arrive between 5:30 - 5:45pm. Dinner at 6:30pm \***

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

Attendee Name/s	Italian Chicken	Baked Fish	Vegetarian Lasagna	Cost

**TOTAL:**

- Meals are **\$19.00 each** which includes sides, salad, roll and dessert with coffee and tea as beverage.
- Please contact Canton Audubon Society with \*dietary restrictions.
- Send reservations with check to: Canton Audubon Society, PO Box 9586, Canton, Ohio 44711.
- **RESERVATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 1.** \*Pre-payment is preferred but payment is available at the door.
- The Silent Auction is the only CAS fundraiser.
- Email [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com) with questions. Add "Holiday Dinner" in the email subject.



**CANTON AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 9586  
Canton, Ohio 44711

**Officers:**

Linda Chen, President - 2025-2027  
Scott Watkins, VP - 2025-2027... ph 330-209-1261  
Myra McCoy, Treasurer - 2023-2027  
Connie Rubin, Secretary – 2024-2026

**Directors:**

Michael Barath - 2024-2026, 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Byron Berger - 2024-2026, 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Lee Dolan - 2024-2026, 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Dr. Robert Hamilton IV – 2024-2026, 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Ronnie Macko – 2025-2027, 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Megan Shoenfelt – 2024-2026, 2<sup>nd</sup> term

**Conservation:** Linda Chen, Megan Schoenfelt,

**EDI:** Lee Dolan, Chuck McClaugherty,  
Cynthia Norris, Connie Rubin,

**Education:** Lee Dolan

**Membership:** Chuck McClaugherty

**Newsletter:** Chris Dyer, Linda Chen

**Programs/Field Trips:** Scott Watkins

**Publicity:** Connie Rubin

**Scholarship, Fritz (college):** Scott Watkins, Lee Dolan, Rose Ann  
Carper, Dr. Robert Hamilton IV, Chuck McClaugherty,

**Scholarship, A. Dolan Hog Island:** Dr. Robert Hamilton IV,  
Megan Shoenfelt, Linda Chen

**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](http://www.CantonAudubon.org)