

# Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

**Spring 2026**  
**March/April/May**

## ***BEAKING IT DOWN!***

**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



*Fish-spearing Beak*

The bird's beak is fascinating. It's an odd construct, a combination of mouth and nose. Many birds also have taste buds imbedded in them so they can "feel" if something is edible without putting it deeply into their mouth. Ducks digging in pond muck for morsels of food do this for example.

For birdwatchers, beaks can be important to determine the identity of a bird. For example, shorebirds can be difficult to differentiate but whether the beak is upturned, straight, or drooping can help a lot. Some people use a beak's length to distinguish between species, such as with the Downy and Hairy Woodpecker or the Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs.

But have you ever wondered why a bird's beak is shaped the way it is? Why is its length important? Why is it thick & heavy (Cardinal), flat (Mallard), or narrow and long (Dowitcher)? The answer to this can be found by answering another question. What does it eat? Or maybe it's the other way around. How can a beak's shape tell us what it eats? Below are some beaks and how they relate to a bird's diet, no matter how you ask the question.

- Hard heavy beaks are used by grosbeaks, parrots, and finches to crush seeds, nuts, and other hard protective cases.
- Woodpeckers, Piculets and other birds that get wood-boring insects have narrowing chisel-shaped beaks to make holes to get them while birds that glean insects from leaves or sally from perches to catch them mid-air have needle-like beaks.



*Seed Eater Beak*



*Soil Probing Beak*

- Many sandpipers and other shorebirds have long thin probing beaks for inserting into wet sand and soil to look for bugs. The length of beak determines how deep they probe meaning that longer beaks don't have to compete with shorter beaks for food, each has his own depth zone.
- Some birds split the difference between the needle like beak of insect eaters and the hard thick beak of seed eaters. Sparrows and other species do this and have a much more opportunistic diet eating nearly everything.

- Of course, raptors have strong, thick beaks. With a hooked shape and sharp point, they can rip the flesh from their prey while holding it down with their strong legs.
- Fishing birds such as herons, egrets, terns, and kingfishers tend to have dagger-like beaks that they can spear fish and other aquatic prey with.
- Birds such as nighthawks, swifts and swallows who “vacuum” up flying insects while soaring the skies have deceptively tiny beaks over their large mouths and tend to have hair-like feather bristles that help direct the insects into it.



*Wood Boring Beak*



*Insect Gleaning Beak*



*All Purpose Beak*



*Flesh-tearing Beak*



*Beak for catching insects in flight*

There are many other examples of standard beak styles and the dietary story they convey. But what may be the most interesting are those unusual beaks that are exclusive to a specific family of birds and seem unusual or outright bizarre. Examples of such beaks are the Skimmers who use the oversized lower mandible to drag (or skim) through the waters as they fly snapping shut whenever they feel a fish in their path. Flamingos use their odd beaks to dangle in the water so they can use the built in lamellae to filter water for shrimp and other small prey. Wrybills have beaks bent sideways which is believed to help them get to larvae hidden in the water underneath stones. Crossbills have crisscrossing upper and lower mandible that allow them to spread pinecones to get the seeds within. And the list goes on.



*Black Skimmer*



*American Flamingo*



*Wrybill*



*Red Crossbill*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2025 Holiday Dinner silent auction:** CAS earned \$300 on the silent auction. We would like to send our thanks to everyone who made this happen!
- **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 with elections taking place in early May. We have five board meetings per year that are each two hours long which equals 10 hours of your time yearly. Please consider volunteering for a position.
- **The Wilderness Center native plant sale:** Online ordering begins Feb 16 for TWC members. Ordering for the public begins March 2, 2026.
- **CAS Picnic on Wednesday, June 17, 2026** will be held at the Sippo Lake Boathouse once again. Details on page 3.
- **Masthead photo:** This month's photo is of a Tree swallow nest taken by Connie Rubin in 2024. The nest, lined with feathers, was in a Bluebird nest box on a trail she monitors at Tam O' Shanter, Stark Parks. During courtship, a male Tree swallow will present a feather to the female as part of their bonding. They use feathers from ducks, geese and other large birds to line their nests for camouflage and to keep eggs warm.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

**March 18, 2026 at 7pm**

### **“Bird of East Africa” by Byron Berger**

Having spent the last 15 years traveling the world and encountering half of its birds, Byron will present a program on the birds of East Africa. This program is an overview of the biomes and unique bird species from Cape Town, South Africa to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Byron is a long-time member of the Canton Audubon Society.

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



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**April 15, 2026 at 7pm**

### **“Conservation of the World’s Birds” by Carrie Elvey**



A look at climate, fragmentation, habitat loss and other threats to the world’s birds and the success stories that give us hope. Carrie serves as the Community Engagement Specialist at the United Titanium Bug Zoo at the OSU Wooster campus. She is the owner of Darwin's Dream LLC which is dedicated to fostering connections between nature and art and is also a pottery and blacksmith forge artist. She spent 22-years as Senior Naturalist at The Wilderness Center. Pre-meeting bird walk at 5:30pm, meet at EG south-facing balcony.

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**May 20, 2026 at 7pm**

### **“Wild Bees in your Ohio Backyard” by Denise Elsworth**

Ohio is home to over 500 species of bees and other pollinators, but most people don’t recognize the identity or importance of these hard-working creatures. This program will focus on common Ohio bees, including their fascinating biology and life histories. We’ll look at some of the amazing pollinators that call Ohio home, and discuss ways to plant and tend gardens and natural spaces to favor pollinators. Denise is the former Program Director of Pollinator Education at The Ohio State University of Entomology/Extension and is a member of the Canton Audubon Society.

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



**Annual picnic on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 5:15pm**

**Location: Boat Shelter at the Marina**

The annual Canton Audubon picnic will be held at the Sippo Lake Boat Shelter located on the east side of the lake. 5300 Tyner St NW, Canton, Ohio 44708. Handicapped parking is at marina. Chicken and beverages will be supplied. Please bring utensils, plates, and drinking water as well as a side dish or dessert to share with attendees.

The bird walk is at 4:15pm prior dinner, meet in the parking lot.

***Please contact Linda Chen by June 10 if you plan to attend: [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)***


## CAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

May 31 is the end of the fiscal year for the Canton Audubon Society 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 \$2,000 college scholarship, a \$1,500 Hog Island scholarship, and other activities. All chapter membership fees are due now, however, if you recently renewed (since the beginning of 2026), that payment is applied to the 2026-2027 year. Membership categories can be found on 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](http://www.CantonAudubon.org) \*See page 8 for membership dues form. If you have questions about becoming a member or need to know if your CAS membership has expired, please contact [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com) Thank you for your continued support!

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

\* Binoculars are available \*

March 7, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve, 7984 Fulton Dr NW, Massillon, OH 44646 Meet in main Parking Lot
April 4, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Tam O'Shanter Park, 5055 Hills & Dales Rd. NW Canton, Ohio 44708 Meet in the Upper Parking Lot/ Bluebird Box trail
May 2, 2026 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.
June 6, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Sippo Lake Wildlife Conservation Center, 800 Genoa Ave NW, Massillon, Ohio 44646 Parking near Wildlife Conservation Center.
June 17, 2026 Wednesday at 4:15pm	Bird walk at 4:15pm prior to CAS Picnic at Boat Shelter. 5300 Tyner St NW, east/marina side of Sippo Lake. Handicapped parking at marina. Meet in parking the lot.
July 4, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center, 16146 Daniel St NE, Minerva, OH 44657. Meet in parking lot.

- **Shreve Migration Sensation** | Saturday, March 14, 2026 at the Clinton Township Building, 225 E. McConkey St., Shreve, OH 44676. For a complete schedule of events visit: [www.shreveohio.com/migration-sensation](http://www.shreveohio.com/migration-sensation).
- **Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center:** phone: 330-823-7487 | [www.mountunion.edu/nature-center](http://www.mountunion.edu/nature-center)
  - **Bioblitz: City Nature Challenge** - Sunday, April 26, 2026 all day. 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.
  - **Bat Roost Monitoring** - Friday, May 29, 2026 at 8:30-9:45pm
- **Birds in the Hills - Appalachian Understories** | May 1-3, 2026 at Camp Oty'Okwa in the Hocking Hills of Ohio 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. Sponsored by Ohio Ornithological Society.  

[www.appalachianunderstories.com/birds-in-the-hills](http://www.appalachianunderstories.com/birds-in-the-hills)

- **The Biggest Week in American Birding** | May 8, 2026 – May 17, 2026



"The Warbler Capital of the World!" 10-day bird festival with guest speakers, workshops and guided bird trips held at Oak Harbor, Ohio and at Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center, Oregon, Ohio. For events visit [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)



## CHUCK McCLAUGHERTY ELECTED TO OHIO SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In March 2025, Canton Audubon Society member Chuck McClaugherty was elected to the Ohio Sierra Club's new executive committee after reorganization of the Ohio chapter. Chuck serves as the Ohio delegate to the Council of Club Leaders (CCL), a group organized to provide communication between chapters and the national board of the Sierra Club. The CCL reviews and in some cases modifies resolutions from chapters and in turn presents them to the national board for their consideration and action. The resolutions frequently highlight environmental concerns but may also cover internal governance issues.



Nationally, the Sierra Club is organized into chapters, most of which represent an entire state. There are just over 60 chapters nationwide. The Ohio chapter covers our entire state and it includes three regional groups, Northeast Ohio, Miami, and Portage Trail (Akron) that meet regularly. These groups organize activities ranging from outings to political action campaigns. The Ohio chapter executive committee meets monthly online and once a year in person. Most Canton Audubon members are in the region covered by the Portage Trail group who meet monthly via Zoom and sponsor numerous regional outings.

For more information contact:

Portage Trail Sierra Club: [ptgsc.wordpress.com](http://ptgsc.wordpress.com)

Ohio Sierra Club: [www.sierraclub.org/ohio](http://www.sierraclub.org/ohio)

## IMPACTS OF NEST BOX OVERHEATING FROM EXTREME HEAT, HOW CAN IT BE PREVENTED?



Roof shade

Due to hotter temperatures and more frequent heat waves, nest boxes can become up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit hotter inside than the outside air temperature. Prolonged heat exposure can be deadly for chicks or lead to heat stress, dehydration, and can affect or stop egg development. Since temperatures are hotter during the summer nesting period, overheating is a bigger threat.

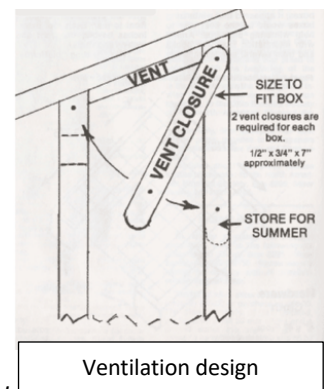
Nest box placement and design can make a world of difference especially since afternoon sunlight increases the internal temperature. To help avoid this, place the box in a location with some afternoon shading, especially for birds like chickadees, wrens, titmice, and warblers. Since bluebirds and swallows prefer nest boxes out in the open, face the entrance hole towards the north and east, away from the afternoon sun.

Ventilation and color are key. Since heat rises, creating gaps between nest box walls and the roof can allow hot air to escape. Roof modifications, using "heat shields" or "shades", allow ventilation preventing heat retention, while the addition of white exterior paint reflects sunlight which can keep the inside of the nest box up to 8 degrees cooler. Although nest box overheating is a bigger problem in areas of the country with hotter temperatures, it will become a greater concern farther north due to the impacts of climate change.

For in-depth information, check these links:

Sialis offers nest box cooling tips, alterations, and nest box designs: [www.sialis.org/heat](http://www.sialis.org/heat)

Audubon: [www.audubon.org/magazine/how-keep-nest-boxes-turning-lethal-extreme-heat](http://www.audubon.org/magazine/how-keep-nest-boxes-turning-lethal-extreme-heat)



Ventilation design

## MOTUS: THE WILDLIFE TRACKING NETWORK

### What is Motus?

The word “motus” is Latin for movement. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System was introduced in 2014 by Birds Canada which is the Canadian equivalent to National Audubon Society. The goal of the network is to promote research, education, and conservation of flying migratory species. It is the largest international collaborative radio-telemetry network, involving hundreds of researchers, conservation organizations, and volunteers tracking birds, bats, and insects such as butterflies and dragonflies. Motus uses real-time tracking of signals from miniature radio transmitters or nanotags which are temporarily attached to target species. These transmitters send out a signal a few times every minute and can be picked up by a Motus tower radio receiver along the way. Radio signals provide data on migration patterns, arrival, departure, length of stay, and habitat usage at stopover locations which helps scientists answer questions about the timing and length of seasonal migration.

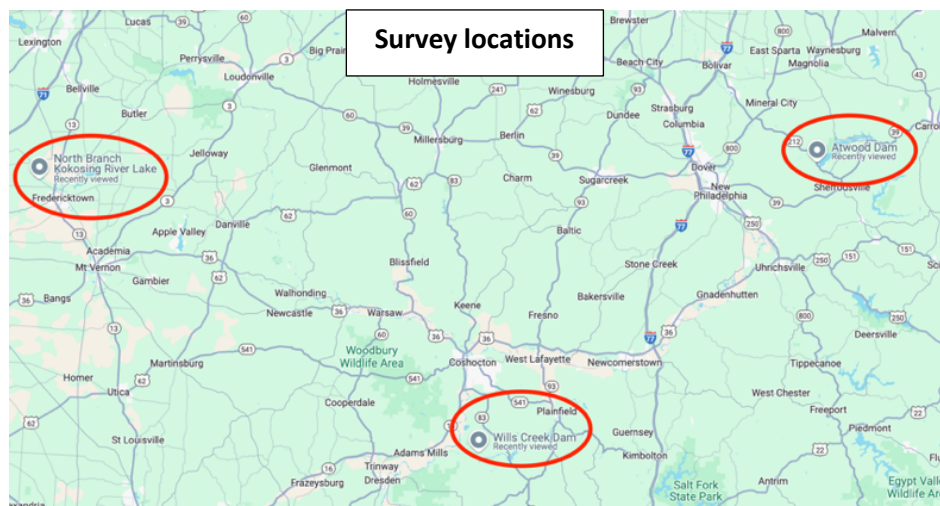
All Motus stations share the same radio frequency across the world. The network operates primarily in the Americas but is expanding across the globe. Currently, the network operates in 34 countries with 2,270 tracking stations, most of which are located in Canada and the U.S.

“The power of partnerships and collaborative research is evident in the success of Motus, which is contributing to numerous conservation efforts across the world.” *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

### We need your help!

### BIRD SURVEY for U.S. ARMY CORPS of ENGINEERS CONTINUES THROUGH JULY 2026

Please consider helping Canton Audubon Society with the ongoing USACE bird surveys at Atwood Dam, Wills Creek Dam, and Kokosing Lake. The Corps plans to install Motus towers at these three locations which will track birds, especially during migration. Other than Canton Audubon, collaborators on this project are Birds Canada, The Ohio State University Tonra Lab, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, The Wilds, the Ohio Prairie Network, and the Ohio Bluebird Society. Bird surveys will take place through July 2026 and will be documented using eBird. We are requesting that birders begin surveying by March for the start of early spring migration. Surveys are done at your own convenience, any time, day, or location. Chuck McClagherty scouted two areas in December. His report: Wills Creek is a long, narrow body of water with lots of potential while Kokosing is smaller and has few trails. Please contact Linda Chen with locations and number of hours that you surveyed. For questions email: [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)



## Endangered Species Day, May 15, 2026

Always the third Friday of May



### BIRD CONSERVATION NEWS IN 2025

#### The 2025 State of the Birds Report and Tipping Point Species

Tipping Point species are “birds that have experienced the steepest population losses.” In the past 50 years, those populations have decreased by 50 percent with 42 Red Alert, 37 Orange Alert, and 33 Yellow Alert species. Approximately one-third or 229 bird species in America are considered to be of high or moderate concern. In recent decades, birds with the greatest losses are those depending upon a single habitat for survival making them indicators of habitat health. Policies to reverse bird declines, protect vulnerable populations and their habitats require urgent conservation. Visit [www.stateofthebirds.org/2025](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2025)

**Bird Banding Lab of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** is facing potential elimination due to the proposed 2026 federal budget cuts targeting the Ecosystems Mission Area with the Bird Banding Lab (BBL) being a critical part of it. The BBL manages the largest database of bird banding records in the world and is the official issuer of federal bird bands with 1 million bands issued annually. If the BBL closes, they would stop issuing metal bands that are legally required for banding in the U.S.A. The lab was established in 1920 following the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act and was created to manage and analyze bird banding data to monitor their population health. Since 1904, approximately 60 million birds have been banded in North America.

#### Great Lakes Piping Plovers Record-Breaking Year

In 2025, Great Lakes Piping plovers set a new record for the number of unique nesting pairs throughout the Great Lakes region. At 88 pairs, this is the highest count since they were listed as endangered in 1986 under the Endangered Species Act. The long-term recovery goal is to maintain a minimum of 150 nesting pairs for at least five consecutive years with half of those pairs nesting outside of Michigan. Because of Lake Michigan’s sandy, eastern shoreline, Michigan has the highest concentration of the breeding population in the Great Lakes with critical habitat at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. In 2025, there were no nesting Piping plovers in Ohio. The Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains Piping plover populations are listed as Threatened.

#### 126<sup>TH</sup> Christmas Bird Count

The 2025 Canton Christmas Bird Count took place on January 2, 2026 with 15 CAS members who participated and helped spot the 81 bird species counted. A new species for our count was a Yellow-breasted Chat that had been visiting a backyard in the count circle. We would like to thank CAS members, Jon Cefus, Compiler for the Canton CBC as well as Ronnie Macko, Compiler for Quail Hollow CBC for organizing the counts and for their dedication to birds. Thanks to everyone who participated!

#### Audubon’s Climate Watch, Spring 2026

Since 2016, Climate Watch volunteers have collected data which Audubon scientists use to document how birds are responding to climate change and shifting their ranges. Join us, for 1-day only, by observing birds in your area, using specific protocol, and helping us learn about how birds are responding to changing climate. The next watch period is May 15 - June 15. Visit [www.audubon.org/community-science/climate-watch](http://www.audubon.org/community-science/climate-watch) | Contact Scott Watkins at [CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CantonAudubonSociety@gmail.com)

#### 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



**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,

**Education:** Lee Dolan

**Membership:** Chuck McClagherty

**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 McClagherty,

**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:**

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)..... \$ \_\_\_\_

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)