



Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

Summer 2026
June/July/August

ROBERT ROHRBAUGH MEMORIAL FUND

By Lee Dolan

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

Bob Rohrbaugh was a lifetime scientist with a real passion for science; earning two Bachelor of Science degrees from The Ohio State University.

He introduced hundreds of young people to Ohio's wildlife and helped to create a love of nature in many. As part of his Master's program, he planned, designed, and innovatively created the Jackson Middle School Land Lab.



After presenting his ideas to district administrators, he advocated for use of vacant school property which is adjacent to Sauder Elementary and Jackson Middle School, designed the trail system, created interpretive signage, wrote curriculum, provided teacher in-service training on the use of the Land Lab for classroom teachers at various grade levels, and led the clearing of brush and creation of learning areas.

Through Bob's writing of grants, he was able to get field guides and learning tools as well as teacher training in special outdoor education programs. He was also able to obtain a classroom set of binoculars which was very beneficial.

Teachers from many grade levels used the Land Lab. I know from personal experience that this was much to the delight of their students. Nothing was more rewarding to me than when my students would come into the room excitedly that they had received a guidebook or binoculars for Christmas or their birthday.

Bob was also very instrumental in the planning and creation of the Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve, which provides a unique outdoor venue to the citizens of our area and all of Ohio. He also helped design Discover World at the McKinley Museum.

Bob was well recognized in the scientific community. He was honored as Ohio Science Teacher of the Year by the Patel Institute. Among his other honors were: Conservation Teacher of the Year, quarter-finalist for Teacher in Space, nominated for Presidential Award for Science in Ohio, and received the Presidential Award for Excellence.

Even after his retirement from Jackson Local Schools in 2013, Bob Rohrbaugh continued to encourage young students in the field of science. He worked for the

Stark County Education Service Center by driving the SAM (Science and Math) van to deliver special science curriculum materials and ideas to all Stark County School Districts.

He has been a life member of Canton Audubon for many years and served on the executive board. He also served as one of our trustees on the Wilderness Center Board for many years.

Through Bob's generous bequest, Canton Audubon Society has created the *Robert Rohrbaugh Memorial Fund* to honor him by continuing to encourage scientific and natural discoveries for people of all ages. We are now able to award more and larger scholarships to deserving college students as well as scholarships to Audubon camps & workshops. We hope to provide learning programs that will inspire people to pursue the enjoyment of birds and foster an interest in the natural world. Our organization is currently working on developing a new website and producing informational materials to encourage more folks to join us in our work to help preserve the environment. The memorial fund will enable Canton Audubon to continue to influence scientific discovery and share the joy of nature as was Bob's passion and most certainly his wish.

Lee Dolan, along with her husband Alan, were long-time friends of Bob.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

► **Officer and Board member election results:** Scott Watkins will be our new Canton Audubon Society President! Connie Rubin was re-elected as Secretary. Pamela Bast was elected to her 1st term as Director and is new to the Canton Audubon board. Also re-elected for their second terms as Directors are Michael Barath, Bryon Berger & Lee Dolan. Terms last from June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2028. Congratulations to everyone.

Megan Shoenfelt and Dr. Robert Hamilton will be leaving the board May 31, 2026 after finishing their second terms. We appreciate their time and input offered to Canton Audubon these past 4-years. Thank you!

► **CAS Picnic on Wednesday, June 17, 2026** will be held at the Sippo Lake Boathouse once again. Pontoon boat rides will be available. Details on page 3.

► **Masthead photo:** This month's photo, a Prothonotary warbler, was taken by Chuck McClauthery at Magee Marsh in 2015.

AUDUBON GREAT LAKES FALL GATHERING OCTOBER 2026

Save the date! The AGL 2026 gathering will take place in Ohio at the Aullwood Audubon Center in Dayton, OH. Dates of the event are October 2, 3, and 4, details to come.

Aullwood Nature Center and Aullwood Farm is located at 1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, OH 45414



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ALL UPCOMING PROGRAMS WILL BE BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM



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 at 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 begins 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

September 16, 2026 at 7pm

“Flying Jewels: Attracting Dragons, Damsels & Hummingbirds to the Home Habitat” by Judy Semroc



Judy Semroc will speak about the natural history, biology, and importance of dragonflies, damselflies and hummingbirds and how to attract them to your yard and garden. She is a conservation specialist, field biologist and naturalist with 35+ years experience offering hands-on exploration-based learning programs, field trips, and biological surveys through Nature Spark. Judy has co-authored “Dragonflies & Damselflies of Northeast Ohio” and “Goldenrods of Northeast Ohio: A Field Guide to Identification & Natural History”. Pre-meeting bird walk begins at 5:30pm at Exploration Gateway, south facing balcony. www.naturesparkohio.com

October 21, 2026 at 7pm

“Dark Matters” by Carrie Elvey

Plants and animals need dark skies. They rely on natural light cues for navigation, timing of major life events, and protection. Learn how you can help keep the skies dark for wildlife. 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 begins at 5:30pm at Exploration Gateway, south facing balcony. www.darwins-dream.com



November 18, 2026 at 7pm

“How to find an Owl” by Gary Gerrone



Gary served as the award-winning Naturalist Supervisor for most of his 30-plus years with the Lorain County Metro Parks and managed 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.” Gary is a highly regarded birder well-known for his bird calls as well as his historical musical presentations.

CAS 1ST SATURDAY BIRD & NATURE WALKS

* Binoculars are available *

June 6, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Sippo Lake Wildlife Conservation Center, 800 Genoa Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44646 Parking near Wildlife Conservation Center.
June 17, 2026 Wednesday at 4:15pm	CAS Picnic at the Boat Shelter, 5300 Tyner St NW, east/marina side of Sippo Lake. Handicapped parking at marina. Bird walk 4:15pm prior to dinner, meet in parking lot.
July 4, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center, 16146 Daniel St NE, Minerva, OH 44657. Meet in parking lot.
August 1, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	The Wilderness Center, 9877 Alabama Ave SW, Wilmot, OH 44689. Meet at the Solar Panel parking Lot.
September 5, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Quail Hollow Park, 13480 Congress Lake Avenue, Hartville, OH 44632. Meet at the Manor House parking area.
October 3, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Kent State Stark Wetlands Trail at Kent State Stark Campus, 6000 Frank Avenue NW, North Canton, OH. Meet at the trail parking lot behind the library.
November 7, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Deer Creek Reservoir, 14514 Price St. NE, Alliance, OH 44601. Meet at reservoir parking just off on Price St.
December 5, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Sippo Lake Exploration Gateway, 5712 12th St NW, Canton, OH 44708. Meet at the south facing Balcony.

4TH ANNUAL STARK COUNTY BIRD QUEST

4pm Friday, September 25 through 4pm Saturday, September 26, 2026



The Stark County Bird Quest is a 24-hour fun and friendly “competition” or challenge for all ages and birding skill levels. This family-friendly event is free and includes introductory workshops, information on where to go birding, and guided walks during the event. Join us at Fry Family Park for celebration at the end of the 24-hour challenge. It’s our way of bringing teams together for fellowship and to recap the previous 24 hours. Stark Park’s Fry Family Park Visitor’s Center is located at 2533 Farber St SE, Magnolia, Ohio.

For required registration forms and in-depth information, including Bird Quest Species Checklist and the official flyer, visit: <https://cantonaudubon.org/stark-county-bird-quest>



National Pollinator Week is June 22-28, 2026

Pollinator Week is an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. It's a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them.
www.pollinator.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

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

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
Printing services
M-F: 10am-4:30pm, Closed S/S

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

NATIVE PLANTINGS FOR FALL MIGRANTS

By Linda Chen

Although it might seem a bit early to discuss fall migration, now is the time to add certain plants to your yard that will aid birds on their journey southward. They are especially drawn to berry producing plants with a high lipid or fat content meaning not all berries are created equal. Because birds burn through a massive number of calories during long-distance flights, foods with high energy, lipid, and antioxidant content are needed to help them build fat reserves and to reach their necessary body weight quickly with some birds gaining up to 50% of their weight. Many birds switch from a high insect diet in spring and summer to one higher in fruits and fats in autumn.

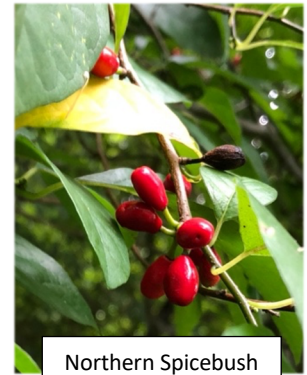


Arrowwood Viburnum

Birds have shown a preference mostly for dark berries of native plants which have a high nutritional value. These fruits generally ripen in late summer and autumn. However, warmer temperatures are causing berries to ripen earlier than usual and, in some cases, the change has been drastic. Low nutrient, non-native berrying plants of similar color do not compare to our native plants.

The following plants contain a high lipid content: Shrubs such as Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) and Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) have a nearly 50% fat content. Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) averages approximately 35%. Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), a vining plant, can contain up to 50% fat along with Tupelo or Black gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and Sassafras trees (*Sassafras albidum*). *Note: Male and female plants are needed for spicebush, tupelo and sassafras for berries to form.

Native berries with a higher carb content, yet still containing healthy fats, are dogwood species in general, viburnums, elderberry, chokeberry, sumac, and red cedar trees; just a few examples of berries providing quick fuel. Think of an energy drink! These berries remain on plants longer while high lipid berries spoil quicker. If you decide to add several fatty berrying plants to your yard, check the fruiting times and try to choose ones that supply berries at different times. An added bonus with these plants; they are great for pollinators too!



Northern Spicebush



Gray dogwood
Sally & Andy Wasowski



Tupelo or Black gum tree



Sassafras tree



Virginia creeper

“NUMBER 5,000 and BEYOND”



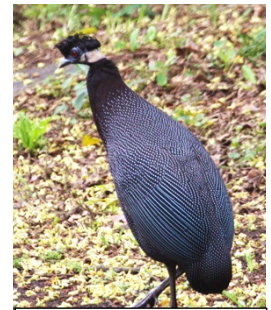
Byron Berger, of Canton, Ohio, took a three-week birding tour in 2024 with Joshua Olszewski of Birding Ecotours in South Africa. As Byron prepared for the tour, it became apparent that the magic number of 5,000 birds was possible. That happened on October 28, 2024 with a crested guineafowl in Saint Lucia, South Africa. Byron then set a goal of half the known species (5,500) for 2026. Private tours were taken using excellent private guides in Ethiopia and Madagascar (about 60 species). They were followed by Thailand group tours with Rockjumper Birding Tours, also out of South Africa. Byron was able to photograph the Madagascar Pochard and the Spoonbill Sandpiper both in one trip. The Rockjumper leaders were outstanding and went way beyond what other leaders might have done. They were Ryan Tyrer for the mainland and Uthai Treesucon for the southern peninsula.



Nicobar Pigeon #5,500

Number 5,500 was the Nicobar pigeon at Mu Ko Similan National Park Island on November 21, 2026. The group had to embark and disembark through difficult surf, risking their expensive camera gear. The pigeons were difficult to see as we walked through the island. By noon though, they were eating the crumbs off the tables of the lunch area. Group photo: Byron Berger, Shelly Sundgren, Uthai and local guides.

Byron is a long-time member of the Canton Audubon Society.



Crested Guineafowl
#5,000



Audubon's "Birds on the Move" is a four-part documentary series tracking the incredible journeys of migratory birds from Canada's Boreal Forest to Philadelphia's Urban Oasis, Phoenix Desert Rivers, and Colombia. The series showcases critical habitats, scientists tracking birds, urban communities making cities safer for migration, and indigenous-led conservation efforts aimed at protecting species across the Western Hemisphere. These stories show how migration connects all of us in the Americas and why protecting our planet protects birds as well.

Seventy percent of North American breeding bird species travel thousands of miles north, from Central and South America, to their breeding grounds and return to warmer climates during our winters. Find out more about these long-distance travelers by watching the series on Audubon's YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@NationalAudubon>

THE FISHER: RECOLONIZING OHIO

By Chris Dyer



The Fishers (sometimes called fisher cat) was once a member of our naturally occurring fauna but disappeared from our state in the 1800s. But there is some hope that this enigmatic species is returning to colonize Ohio. Since they disappeared, there have only been 40 confirmed fisher sightings across nine northeast Ohio counties (Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Trumbull, Mahoning, Lake, Jefferson, Harrison, and Tuscarawas), according to the ODNR. But about 26 of those sightings happened in the past three years. They appear to be

moving westward from established populations in Pennsylvania and naturally colonizing Ohio. Especially exciting, a pregnant Fisher was found as roadkill in Ashtabula County in February of 2023, indicating they are making a home here and not just wandering into the state. They mostly live in southern Canada, New England and New York, but can also be found in scattered locations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia.

What is a Fisher? A member of the weasel family, the Fisher is poorly named, as its diet consists mostly of small rodents, squirrels, rabbits, birds, eggs, fruit, nuts, and carrion. They are especially known for their skill at hunting porcupine. They can also opportunistically prey on poultry and domestic cats.

Fishers are larger than most of Ohio's weasel family members. They have a weasel-shaped body, bushy tail, tapered muzzle, and low rounded ears. Adults grow to a length of 20 to 25 inches, excluding the 13 to 16.5-inch tail, and can weigh between 3 and 15 pounds. Males are larger and heavier than females. In comparison, its close family member the skunk weighs up to 13 pounds, and total length varying between 18 and 32 inches. Minks, which they closely resemble, are a mere 12 to 16 inches head to tail and weigh only 1-2.25 pounds. Fishers are forest-dwellers and are proficient climbers.

They are currently protected in Ohio so they can't be trapped or shot.

If you are fortunate enough to see a Fisher, The Division of Wildlife request that you report it to them as well as any bears, bobcats, weasel or badgers you may see. Report observations, including photos or videos, to the Division of Wildlife via the **HuntFish OH** mobile app or at **wildohio.gov**. Contact your county wildlife officer to report roadkill fishers. It is not permitted to collect roadkill carcasses.



Fishers can get quite large



The U.S. House of Representatives passed *The American Water Stewardship Act* (H.R. 6422), legislation that reauthorizes critical regional watershed initiatives through 2031, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). It is currently under consideration in the Senate. Without reauthorization, the Great Lakes

Restoration Initiative is set to expire this year, at the end of September 2026. Federal agencies use GLRI resources to strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long term goals. **Areas Of Focus:** Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern, Habitats and Species, Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health, Invasive Species, and Foundations for Future Restoration Actions. GLRI is the largest investment in the Great Lakes system in twenty years and this system is the largest fresh surface water in the world. Read more at <https://www.glri.us>



CANTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 9586
Canton, Ohio 44711

Officers:

Scott Watkins, President - 2026-2028. ph 330-209-1261
VP – open 2026-2028

Myra McCoy, Treasurer - 2025-2027
Connie Rubin, Secretary – 2026-2028

Directors:

Michael Barath - 2026-2028, 2nd term
Pamela Bast - 2026-2028, 1st term
Byron Berger - 2026-2028, 2nd term
Linda Chen – term ends 2027
Lee Dolan - 2026-2028, 2nd term
Ronnie Macko – 2025-2027, 1st term
Two open Directors positions available

Committees:

Conservation: Linda Chen, Megan Schoenfelt, Pam Bast
Education: Lee Dolan
Membership: Chuck McClaugherty
Newsletter: Linda Chen
Programs/Field Trips: Scott Watkins
Publicity: Connie Rubin
Rohrbaugh Memorial Fund: Lee Dolan, Linda Chen, Connie Rubin, Megan Schoenfelt, Scott Watkins
Scholarship, Fritz (college): Lee Dolan, Scott Watkins, Rose Ann Carper, Chuck McClaugherty,
Scholarship, Alan Dolan Hog Island: Linda Chen, Megan Shoenfelt
Social Media: Linda Chen, Chris Lamb
Website: Scott Watkins
The Wilderness Center Trustee: 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