



Linda Chen

Audubon *News and Views*

Canton Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society

Established 1962

Autumn 2026

**September/October
November**

AUDUBON GREAT LAKES FALL GATHERING OCTOBER 2026

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

Save the date! The Audubon Great Lakes (AGL) 2026 gathering will take place in Ohio at the October 2, 3, and 4 at the Aullwood Audubon Center in Dayton, OH.

Who should attend? The Chapter Gathering is for chapters, societies,

bird alliances, college campus chapters, ambassadors, and bird clubs who are part of the Audubon network and community in the Great Lakes region of five states IL, IN, MI, OH, WI. We welcome board members, engaged volunteers, community scientists, advocates, students, stewards, and staff.

The AGL Gathering is an admission-free weekend event with the intention of building community within the Great Lakes region. Due to travel expenses required to attend, including transportation, lodging, and meals while on the road, AGL is offering travel grants.

Registration link: www.mobilize.us/audubon-great-lakes/event/984907/



Includes: • Plenary and Workshops •
Engagement demonstrations • Evening
events • Birding experiences • Meals:
lunches, snacks, and dinners

Registration questions: please reach out to

Izabela Grobelna, Engagement Manager at izabela.grobelna@audubon.org or call (312) 453-0230 ext. 2012.

Accommodations: A hotel room block has been reserved at Hampton Inn & Suites, Dayton. The link (below) is valid until September 11, 2026. Please call the hotel directly at (937) 832- 3333. Mention Audubon Great Lakes to receive the room block rate.

Hotel location: Airport 180 Rockridge Road, Englewood, Ohio 45322 Hotel: \$124 plus tax per night, per room. Room Block: Audubon Great Lakes.

Continued on page 2

Hampton Inn & Suites online booking using **AGL room rates**:

www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=DAYAPHX&groupCode=CHHAGL&arrivaldate=2026-10-02&departuredate=2026-10-04&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

AGL GATHERING AGENDA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
- Noon-9:00pm (includes Breaks & Dinner) - Noon-2:00pm Optional Bird Walk – Allwood Audubon Center property at the nature center - 2:00-4:00pm Break – Activities on Your Own and Check-in into the Hotel - 4:00-9:00pm Welcome Dinner at Full Circle Brewery	- 7:30am-9:00pm (includes Breaks, Lunch, Dinner) - 7:30-9:00am Optional Morning Bird Walk – Englewood Metro Park - 9:00am Coffee & Pastries at Aullwood Audubon Center - 9:30am Welcome & Introductions - 9:45am Kick-off the Plenary: Break-out Discussions/Presentations/Panels/Demonstrations - 12:00pm Lunch - 5:00-9:00pm Alan Dolan Conservation Advocacy Awards Celebration and Dinner	- 8:00am-5:00pm (includes Breaks and Lunch) - 8:00am Coffee & Pastries at Aullwood Audubon Center - 8:30am-10:30am Conservation at Aullwood Audubon Center: Join Nenita Lapitan, Senior Conservation Manager - 10:30am-12:00pm Presentations and Panels, Break-out Discussion - 12:00pm Lunch - 1:00pm-3:00pm Presentations and Panels, Break-out Discussions - 3:00pm Adjourn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

► **Bird Quest at Fry Family Park:** Friday September 25 at 4pm ending Saturday, September 26 at 4pm.

See details on page 4.

► **The Enchanted Forest October 9 and 10, 2026:** Experience the magic of the Enchanted Forest at The Wilderness Center. Meet woodland creatures along their pumpkin-lit trail. Guests will be guided by the friendly firefly volunteers to meet costumed characters such as Flying Squirrel, Mouse, Coyote, and whoooo knows?! Maybe someone new! These characters will sing, tell jokes, and share stories of their lives in the woodlands.

For more information visit www.wildernesscenter.org

► **Masthead photo:** This month's photo, a Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker, was taken by Linda Chen.

► *Thank you to all Canton Audubon members for the wonderful "retirement" gifts given to me after serving as president. It's been a fun-time, educational, and a very rewarding 10 years! ❤️ Linda Chen*

CAS HOLIDAY DINNER UPDATE

Changes are coming to our 2026 holiday dinner. First Christian Church no longer offers the venue due to the retirement of Diane Clements, their kitchen manager. We have *tentatively reserved Room B at Exploration Gateway for our dinner location and will use a caterer for the meal. Dinner will take place on Wednesday, December 9th however, plans are still in the works. Specific details will be announced at a later date.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

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 **

September 5, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Quail Hollow Park Manor House. Meet at the Manor House parking lot. 3480 Congress Lake Ave, Hartville, OH 44632.
October 3, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Kent State Stark Wetlands Trail, Kent State Stark Campus. Meet at the gravel parking for the trail. 4645 Mega St NW, North Canton, OH.
November 7, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Deer Creek Reservoir. Meet in the main parking lot located off Price Street NE. 14514 Price St NE Alliance, OH.
December 5, 2026 Saturday at 9:00am	Sippo Lake Exploration Gateway. Meet at the south facing balcony at the back of building. 5712 12 th St NW, Canton, OH 44708

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>

HOW THE FARM BILL AFFECTS BIRDS

The Farm Bill is one of the most important federal policies affecting conservation and wildlife habitat. It offers the single largest source of funding for conservation on privately-owned lands and impacts wildlife populations by supporting habitat restoration, setting rules for sensitive lands, and assisting working farms. Incentives and financial assistance provided by the bill encourage land owners to steward portions of their property by maintaining the habitats that birds need.

The 2026 Farm Bill stalled in Congress. In April, the House passed its version, the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, but the Senate Agriculture Committee failed to advance its companion draft (the Agricultural Act of 2026) in August due to partisan disputes over the food assistance program (SNAP).

The current 2018 farm bill extension expires on September 30, 2026.

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

CAS SUMMER EVENTS

Annual June Picnic and Pontoon



Charisma, Scott, Jennifer, Daniel, & Wayne



Bernadine Akermann & Denny Lesko



Jim Massie, Denny Lesko, & Bob Foster

Schoenbrunn Village: Ohio's 250th Celebration

This prosperous village was established by David Zeisberger in 1772 as a Moravian mission among the Delaware (Lenape) Indians. A rare pocket of neutrality, it was located near the Tuscarawas River in present-day New Philadelphia, OH. Schoenbrunn, which means "beautiful spring", was the first settlement in Ohio with a church, schoolhouse and code of laws.

The village was abandoned in 1777 due to pressures from frontiersmen, British forces, and the Revolutionary War. Today, there are multiple Moravian churches in the area. *Ohio History Connection*



Linda Chen & Myra McCoy



Myra McCoy & Scott Watkins
at Sister Lucia's cabin



Beans, corn, & squash are known as the "Three Sisters" by many Native American groups. They were grown together and formed the dietary foundation for many native cultures.



Scott Watkins, Ronnie Macko,
& Denny Lesko

Polli-Palooza at Beech Creek Botanical Gardens

Polli-Palooza was a 2-day event celebrating our incredible pollinators that keep our world blooming! This family-friendly weekend featured presentations on pollinators, workshops, nighttime mothing, and a live butterfly release. Ronnie Macko, a Canton Audubon member, presented a program about hummingbirds.

FUN FACTS ABOUT OWLS

From National Audubon Society

Owls are intriguing birds that easily capture the attention and curiosity of birders. These facts may help clear up a bit of their mystery and reveal what hoot owls really are.



1.) Many owl species have asymmetrical ears. When located at different heights on the owl's head, their ears are able to pinpoint the location of sounds in multiple dimensions. Ready, aim, strike.

2.) The eyes of an owl are not true "eyeballs." Their tube-shaped eyes are completely immobile (they do not move) and provide binocular vision which fully focuses on their prey and boosts depth perception.

3.) Owls can rotate their necks 270 degrees. A blood-pooling system collects blood to power their brains and eyes when neck movement cuts off circulation.

4.) A group of owls is called a parliament. This originates from C.S. Lewis' description of a meeting of owls in The Chronicles of Narnia.

5.) Owls hunt other owls. Great Horned Owls are the top predator of the smaller Barred Owl.

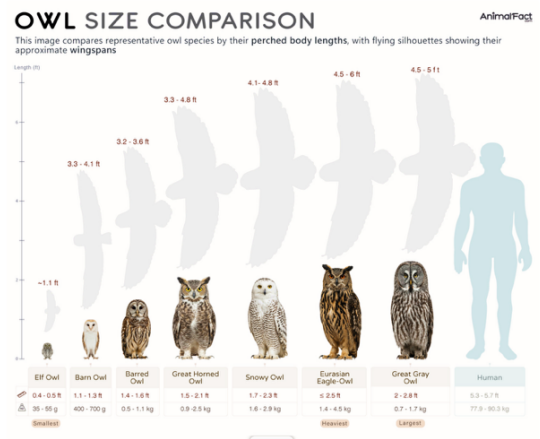
6.) The tiniest owl in the world is the Elf Owl, which is 5 - 6 inches tall and weighs about 1 ½ ounces. The largest North American owl, in appearance, is the Great Gray Owl, which is up to 32 inches tall.

7.) The Northern Hawk Owl can detect—primarily by sight—a vole to eat up to a half a mile away.

8.) Barn Owls swallow their prey whole—skin, bones, and all—and they eat up to 1,000 mice each year.

9.) In fat years when mice are plentiful, usually monogamous Boreal Owls are apt to be promiscuous. Because easy prey means less work for parents feeding their young, males have been caught mating with up to three females, while females have been seen with at least one beau on the side.

10.) Northern Saw-whet Owls can travel long distances over large bodies of water. One showed up 70 miles from shore near Montauk, New York.



11.) Not all owls hoot! Barn Owls make hissing sounds, the Eastern Screech-Owl whinnies like a horse, and Saw-whet Owls sound like, well, an old whetstone sharpening a saw. Hence the name.

12.) Owls are zygodactyl, which means their feet have two forward-facing toes and two backward-facing toes. Unlike most other zygodactyl birds, however, owls can pivot one of their back toes forward to help them grip and walk.

ARNOLD W. FRITZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

It was a banner year for the Arnold W. Fritz Memorial Scholarship and the competition was close! With such highly qualified applicants, the Scholarship Committee recommended that the top two individuals should each receive a \$2,000 scholarship. We would like to congratulate to our 2026 scholarship recipients, Eva Miller and Lauren Sigrist, on their outstanding accomplishments. They will each give short presentations about their studies at the September program meeting.



Eva Miller, who is attending the University of Mount Union, is earning a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Science. She plans to work in the field of agriculture with a focus on sustainable agriculture, conservation, and community education.

Lauren Sigrist, pictured right, is pursuing dual degrees at Kent State University. Her primary degree is a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservation Biology with a concentration in Conservation Biology. She is also pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. Lauren's career goal is to obtain a leadership position at a research lab studying the conservation of threatened and endangered species.



WHAT IS MINDFUL BIRDING

Mindful Birding is also known as casual or slow birding. The goal is to simply slow down and enjoy the birds and nature around you. No binoculars, no rushing around, no checklists. Mindful Birding is about intention, a way to reconnect with nature, to benefit and make a place for the body, mind, and spirit.

"Mindful birdwatching is setting aside knowledge, labels, and expectations while paying full attention - moment by moment and non-judgementally - to our direct experience with birds."

~ Claire Thompson, author of *The Art of Mindful Birdwatching* ~



Read more at *The Mindful Birding Network*, www.themindfulbirdingnetwork.com

Listen to the Mindful Birding Podcast via the website or at:
themindfulbirdingpodcast.buzzsprout.com/2148646/episodes



**CANTON AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 9586
Canton, Ohio 44711

Officers:

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

Committees:

Conservation: Linda Chen, Megan Schoenfelt, Pam Bast

Education: Lee Dolan

Membership: Chuck McClagherty

Newsletter: Chris Dyer, 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 McClagherty,

Scholarship, Alan Dolan Hog Island: Linda Chen, Megan Shoenfelt

Social Media: Linda Chen, Chris Lamb

Website: Scott Watkins

The Wilderness Center Trustee: 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