

"Promoting the study of wild birds and the conservation of natural resources on Kelleys Island."

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KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR

YOU AND ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS • FALL 2001

Audubon Meeting—September 20

By Lori Hayes

Returning to Kelleys Island for an encore presentation will be **Tim Peterkoski**. Many of you will remember Tim as the KI State Park Naturalist last year. He also gave a program on Ecuador for the KI Audubon in June of 2000. Late last summer he got a full time job with ODNR in the Scenic Rivers Program. We were very sorry to see him leave but happy for his success.

On Thursday, September 20th he will be giving a program on Ohio Scenic Rivers.

Please join us. Pot Luck starts at 6 p.m. and the program about 7 p.m. at the Pavilion on Addison St. Bring a dish to pass, table service and your own beverage. Everyone is welcome. This will be our last outdoor potluck for 2001 so be sure to join us!



2001 Homecoming Parade KIAC Participants—Winners Most Original Float!

Homecoming Parade—Take A Hike!

We "took a hike" and won a plaque at the annual Kelleys Island Homecoming Parade on Saturday, August 18. The KI Audubon won in the "Most Original" category.

Sandy Kilko was our walking float designer. She came up with the idea from our recent successful Junior Nature Camp. She painted a large banner that three kids carried. It said "Kelleys Island Audubon - Take a Hike!". She also made signs for the kids to carry saying things like "Hiking is Healthy," and "Hiking is for the Birds." **Sid Jordan and Sandy Kish Jordan** donated the candy for the hikers to throw at the crowds.

Thank you to Sandy Kilko and her artistic daughters, **Heather and Brook**, the Jordan Family and everybody who participated in the parade. We really proved that "Hiking is Fun!"

Lori Hayes

President's Message

Take A Hike! That's what several children did while representing the KI Audubon at the Homecoming Parade. Not only did they hike, they also won Most Original Float. Thank you to all the children and adults who helped carry the day. Special thanks to **Sandy Kilko** for her usual hard work.

Our first annual KI Audubon Junior Nature Camp was a huge success! I think the 47 children who participated had a great time. The VFW and Butterfly Kingdom deserve a big thank you from all of our community for their wonderful help. I cannot forget **Sid Jordan, Kevin Pape and Jonny Pejau** who were leaders for the East quarry hike portion of the day that all the kids attended. A great time was had by all.

The club has had an active summer. Our programs have been well attended and were very interesting. Fifty-five of us came to hear **Rick Mazzotta**, arborist for the city of Aurora. The day following his presentation Rick provided many free consultations to islanders about their own trees. In addition Rick met with KI Village officials to discuss our island trees. Thank you Rick! And thank you **Bob Luckay** who enlisted Rick as a speaker for us and put him up for the night. We all have to care for island trees. They seem to outlast most of us and provide so much beauty.

Did you know the Ohio Audubon Board of Directors came for an
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DUES REMINDER—2002 DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY

First Annual KIAC Junior Nature Camp—A Grand Success!

By Judy DuShane

The first annual Junior Nature Camp drew 48 children from Kelleys Island and as far away as San Diego, Indianapolis, Pennsylvania and Florida. The children attended three sessions:

1) Arts and Crafts, where each of the children had an opportunity to participate in two very fun and creative crafts—making a foam butterfly refrigerator magnet and a hand-painted nature-themed bandana

2) A free visit to the Butterfly Kingdom, where snacks and juice were served and a sampling of the Pape Natural Science Collection was available for browsing and looking up any natural "finds"

3) And a hike at the East Quarry where the natural environment and some island history were addressed

Sponsors included the Kelleys Island VFW Post where the craft sessions were held and the Sweet Valley Trading Post and Butterfly Kingdom. The Kelleys Island Audubon Club coordinated the camp and gave each family a "Golden Nature Guide to Moths and Butterflies."

Over 25 adult volunteers participated. Leaders of the sessions were **Sandy Kilko**- crafts, **Jean Kuyoth**- the Butterfly Kingdom and **Pat Hayes**- the East Quarry hike. Each age group had a leader as well.

Forty-seven kids and 25 adults participated in the KIAC Junior Nature Camp!

They were; **Peggy Cooney** with pre-K-Kindergarten, **Carolanne Tkach**, grades 2-4 and **Vicki Finnegan** with the older group. Others who assisted for the program were; **Shirley Crabill**, **Laura Van Benken**, **Kevin Pape**, **Sean Elfers**, **Sid and Sandy Jordan**, **Susan Stacho**, **Jacque Kranyak** and **Jonathan Pejeau**, **Ken and Carol Geschke**, **Fran Minshall**, **Lois Giles**, **Madeline Williams**, **Duke and Judy DuShane**, **John Kilko**, **June Campbell** and **Lori Hayes**.

Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive! The funds for the camp came from the Audubon's annual raffle and sales of calendars and miscellaneous items such as bookmarks, magnets and note cards. Your support helped make this event possible and we're already planning next year's version, which will, of course, be even better!



Every attendee was treated to a But-



Ospreys Reintroduced to Ohio

Submitted by Delores Cole from the ODNR web site

Since the summer of 1996, 187 young ospreys (also known as fish hawks or fish eagles) have been placed in hack boxes at five locations around Ohio in an attempt to reintroduce the bird to the Buckeye State. This osprey reintroduction project may last as long as 10 years, with a total of 200 birds scheduled to be released. The young ospreys were donated to the Ohio project by New York, Virginia, and Maryland, states that already have established osprey populations. The sites chosen for the releases were Deer Creek Wildlife Area in central Ohio, Lake La Su An Wildlife Area in northwest Ohio, Portage Lakes in northeast Ohio, Salt Fork Wildlife Area in southeast Ohio, and Spring Valley Wildlife Area in southwest Ohio. Each hack box location was selected based on three criteria: 1) appropriate osprey habitat and an adequate food supply of fish, 2) proximity to a wildlife area work unit so that the young birds could be easily monitored by biologists, and 3) not within an active bald eagle territory, a bird that could be a competitor with ospreys.

Ospreys were once a common sight throughout North America, but persecution and the wide-spread use of chemical pesticides such as DDT during the middle of the twentieth century led to a drastic population decline. In Ohio, the last successful osprey nest was recorded at Grand Lake St. Mary's in western Ohio in 1913. Unsuccessful nesting attempts were made by pairs of birds as late as the 1940s at Burr Oak Lake in southeast Ohio and Buckeye Lake in the central part of the state.

"The goal of the Division's osprey reintroduction program is to establish a self-sustaining population of ospreys in the state by the year 2010," said **Michael J. Budzik**, chief of the Ohio Division of Wildlife. "We are attempting

to increase Ohio's wildlife diversity by replacing a species of bird that was once here," Budzik said. "In addition, we also want to foster an appreciation and awareness of ospreys in Ohioans by providing viewing opportunities wherever possible."

And ospreys are spectacular birds to watch, particularly when they are feeding. Hovering high above a lake, river, or pond, these large white and dark-brown birds search for fish cruising near the surface. Spotting one, they quickly fold their wings and dive, hitting the wa-



ter talons first. Ospreys are the only species of bird that combines this plunge-diving feeding behavior with a raptorial foot--a foot with a flexible toe that can be moved to grip a slippery fish with two toes pointing forward and two back. The bottoms of an osprey's feet are also specially adapted for gripping and carrying fish, as they are covered with short, sharp spines. Once airborne again, the bird manipulates the struggling fish so as to carry it head first, making it more streamlined in flight. The osprey also removes any water from its feathers as it flies by shaking itself, much like a dog.

The young ospreys (four to six weeks old) placed in the hacking towers this past summer were fed a diet of fresh and frozen fish, mainly suckers, carp, and catfish. The food was lifted into the towers via a long pole with a basket on the end. And although ospreys will not imprint on

people, human contact was minimized as much as possible. The birds remained in the barred hack boxes for two to three weeks before the doors were opened and they were free to come and go, but fish continued to be provided until the young ospreys learned to successfully hunt on their own.

The first-year survival rate for the hacked ospreys is expected to be about 40 to 50 percent. Those that do survive will migrate south, some as far as Central and South America. They are expected to return to Ohio in three to four years as breeding adults. Once mated, the pair will build a stick nest lined with grasses either over or near water. Also, the Division of Wildlife will be helping the birds as much as possible by constructing nesting platforms in suitable, secure osprey habitat.

Ospreys use the same nest year after year, which sometimes grows to be as much as five feet wide and several feet deep. Ideal nest locations consist of an open, high platform near a good supply of fish. An open approach to the nest is essential, especially for a bird with a four-and-one-half-foot wingspan. Usually three or four eggs are laid by ospreys and both parents help with the chore of incubation. The eggs are white with brown splotches and about the size of a large domestic hen's egg. They begin hatching in about 38 days, usually in the order they were laid. This means that the last young to hatch are smaller and several days behind their siblings in development. This is a significant disadvantage for the younger birds, and as a result usually only two chicks per nest survive to fledging.

Ohio has had some recent unexpected help in its osprey restoration project by wild ospreys. In 1995, the first modern-day osprey

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Osprey Reintroduction *Continued from*

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in Ohio was recorded along the Ohio River in Jefferson County. And in the spring of 1996 a pair of ospreys built a nest at the Berlin Wildlife Area in Portage County.

Will Ohio's osprey reintroduction program eventually be successful? Only time will tell. But in the meantime, the Division of Wildlife will continue placing young ospreys in hack boxes each summer during the next 10 years and crossing its fingers.

Source: ODNR Website



2002 KIAC Calendars Now Available

Late last year the KIAC decided to test the waters for interest in an island calendar featuring color photos of our beloved paradise. **Delores Cole** made up only about 100 and everyone who bought one loved it.

Delores has just finished the 2002 edition featuring all-new color photos from various points on the island, taken throughout the year.

They are currently available at The Sweet Valley Trading Post on Division, or by calling Delores Cole at 440 461-1084. The calendars cost \$12.00 + 2.00 shipping if you would like it mailed to you. Check or money orders for the



full amount should be sent to Delores Cole, 1247 Roland Road, Lyndhurst, OH 44124-1260.

Don't miss your chance to have one of these beautiful island pictorials for 2002!

KIAC FALL FEATHERS AND FOLIAGE 2001 SCHEDULE



Saturday, September 29, 2001

Celebrate Fall Migration on Kelleys Island

7 a.m.—2 p.m. Bird Banding

With Tom Bartlett, Master Bander
Meet at Long Point

8:15 a.m. Guided Bird Walk

With Jim McCormac, Research Botanist, ODNR

Meet at the North Pond Nature Preserve Boardwalk Parking Lot on Ward Road (mud boots may be needed)

1 p.m. Tree and Foliage Walk

With Craig Morton, Park Manager, Kelleys Island State Park

Meet at Kelleys Island State Park fisherman's parking lot (mud boots may be needed)

9 a.m.—3 p.m. Hawk Watch

With Kevin Metcalf, Naturalist, Cleveland Metro Parks

Meet at Glacial Grooves State Memorial on Division Street



Birds literally drop from the sky as they stop to rest and refuel on Kelleys Island during their journey south to winter homes. Our quiet island provides diverse habitats for our traveling feathered friends. Join us for bird banding, hawk watching and a full day of birding and nature fun!

*The "Feathers and Foliage Festival" includes a variety of activities that are all **FREE OF CHARGE and OPEN TO ALL AGES!***

Butterfly and Dragonfly Census Success

By Delores Cole

The KIAC annual butterfly and dragonfly census took place August 25 – 26. **Larry Rosche** and **Lou Gardella** assisted KIAC members and their friends with the census over a beautiful sunny weekend. The butterflies

were active with temperatures in the 80's. Dragonflies were a little scarce

due to the island's lack of rain and standing water. We counted 27 different species of butterflies, 11 species of dragonflies and 82 species of birds.

Beginning shortly after 9:00 AM on Saturday at the butterfly bush on the side of the Kelleys Island Historical Society, the area yielded many different species including Common Buckeyes and Silver-spotted Skippers. The Census continued along the Butterfly Trail on the grounds.

There, Lou and Larry showed us how to identify butterflies and dragonflies as they skillfully netted them



to give us a close up look. Every other known butterfly bush on the island was surveyed for butterfly species including bushes at the Kelley's Island Wine Co. and the Sweet Valley Trading Post. Giant Swallowtails were evident as well as many Skippers and Cabbage Butterflies, which seemed to be everywhere! We tallied more than 1000 of them!

The dragonfly list included Familiar Bluets, Common Green Darners (we saw over 70 of these), Wandering Gliders, Ruby Meadowhawks, and a Yellow-legged Meadowhawk to name a few. We saw a few dragonflies flying around Turtle Pond on Monagan Road, even though it had no water in it. This year's species list doubled from what we saw last year due to the expert help we had.

Warblers are coming through now, too. We gained a glimpse of a Wilson's, Canada, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Blue to name a few of the fourteen warbler species tallied. We had good looks at a Merlin perched in a snag on Ward Street and saw two Ospreys one of which was carrying a fish. Least, Yellow-bellied and Great-crested Flycatchers were viewed along with a great list of shorebirds such as Baird's, Spotted, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers.

Thanks to Larry and Lou for their expert guidance with this year's census, Sweet Valley Trading Post for donating water to the very thirst surveyors, and to KIHA for the new Butterfly Trail.

Over the years we all are becoming more in-tune with our wonderful island. Now if we could just learn to live with these unsightly dandelions!

Look for migrating shore birds on the East Side of Kelleys and be sure to look up for Eagles!

Pat Hayes

It's Monarch Time

By Marge Clapper

In late August and early September the Monarch Butterflies make their annual migration from Eastern Canada to Mexico. Kelleys Island is well known for its large gatherings of the Monarchs and it is impossible to differentiate the number of them who summer on Kelleys Island and those who are migrating.

What makes our island so appealing to them is our abundance of the milkweed plant which the Monarchs need for their survival. They lay a pale green egg on the underside of the milkweed leaf. The caterpillar that hatches from the egg is ravenous for only one food—the juicy tissues of the milkweed plant. The toxins from this juice is stored up in their body cavity for life and their bitter taste protects them from being preyed upon by birds, bats, spiders and other insects.

It seems to me that there are fewer Monarch Butterflies clustering here due to many causes contributing to their destruction, the latest being—bio-engineered corn pollen.

Because of a lot of home building on the island,

as well as clearing land for new water and drainage lines, a lot of milkweed is being destroyed. Kelleys Islanders should preserve all milkweed plants remaining on the island to ensure our island's Monarch population—both resident and migrating and we strongly encourage islanders to plant flowers that attract the Monarchs, namely the butterfly bush, lilacs, zinnias and bee balm so that we can all enjoy these interesting butterflies for many generations to come!



President's Message *Continued*

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(informative) visit this summer? They were very interested in all of our activities and seemed to be quite impressed with how active we are.

Judy DuShane and yours truly were guest speakers at the International Coastal Zone Conference in Cleveland. We have already been invited to speak to the Lake Erie Conference in Mentor this Fall. (Without your support it would be very hard to get our message of Island Habitat Preservation out. Thanks for your help and support.)

Kelleys Island Audubon Club Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Amount Enclosed:

_____ \$10 Individual Member

_____ \$25 Family

_____ Pape Memorial Fund Donation (Natural Science Library)

_____ Rosetta Navorska Memorial Fund Donation (Bird Census)

Send to: Kelleys Island Audubon Club
P.O. Box 42
Kelleys Island, OH 43438

Annual membership runs from January 1, through December 30, and should be paid as early in the year as possible. A membership card will be sent to you when your dues are received. Prompt payment will assure that you receive all issues of the *Hoot Owl* and other important member correspondence.

Kelleys Island Audubon Club

P.O. Box 42

Kelleys Island, OH 43438

www.kelleysisland.ws

Board Members

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Judy DuShane

Grants Coordinator

Delores Cole

Program Coordinator

2001 KIAC Schedule of Events

- **Thurs., Sept. 20—Speaker and potluck—St. Michael's Hall on Chappel**
- **Sat., September 29—Fall Feathers and Foliage Bird Banding at Long Point**
- **Thurs., October 18—Speaker and potluck at St. Michael's Hall**
- **Thurs., November 15—Speaker and potluck at St. Michael's Hall**



KI 2001 Homecoming Parade featured an energy-efficient theme. Here's the Island Singers using their vocal energy.

REMINDER:

As a 501(C)(3), the KIAC is a registered charity, therefore, all gifts and donations to it are tax deductible.