

"Promoting the study of wild birds  
and the conservation of natural re-  
sources on Kelleys Island."

# HOOT



# OWL

Inside...  
Nest With The Birds Updates  
Yellow Warbler  
Pape Library Update  
KIAC 2001 Schedule  
Thanks to our Friends!

KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR

YOU AND ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS • SUMMER 2001

## KIAC Nest With The Birds 2001—Bird Report

By **Delores Cole**

NWTB was enjoyed by all even in the fog. Had some rain but it seemed to stop during the scheduled walks. Gained three new species for the island records, Northern Bobwhite, Chuck-will's-widow, and Black-bellied Plover. A Chuck-will's-widow could be heard on Monagan Road north of Hamilton. Listen for the "chuck" when he calls if he is still around.

Had 25 species of warblers and a Common Loon decide to show up along the south shore by Neuman's dock. Orchard and Baltimore Orioles were everywhere, we even watched a Baltimore Oriole building a nest in a tree on the north side of the State Park's fisherman's parking lot. Yellow Warblers could be heard throughout the day so much so that at times it was difficult to hear other birds.

Had 10 species of butterflies with hundreds of Red Admirals and American Lady's. Had two species of snakes, Lake Erie Water Snake and Fox Snake. Also saw a new-born fawn.

### **SPECIES SEEN**

#### **CORMORANTS**

Double-crested Cormorant

#### **DUCKS, SWANS, GEESE**

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

Blue-winged Teal

Red-breasted Merganser (Continued on Page 4)



NWTB Guests get a look at the Lakeside Daisy and bird watching from the State Park.

## **NEST WITH THE BIRDS**

By **Lori and Pat Hayes**

Great weather, great speakers and great birds made the 8th Annual Nest With the Birds Week a happy time for all attending.

The week began Sunday, May 13 with a Wildflower Walk led by **Allison Cusick**. Allison is the Chief Botanist for Natural Areas and Preserves with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This was Allison's (Cont. on Page 5)

## President's Message

### **The Birds Are Back**

The leaves and the Rose Breasted Grosbeaks came early this year to Kelleys Island. The Lakeside Daisy was showing its lovely yellow blossom in April. Its flower is pale now but you can still find them if you look. The birds are here. Look for our Indigo Buntings in gravel driveways. They nest here. Many of you have reported an abundance of Baltimore Orioles. Hats off to all who provide housing for Purple Martins.

Our Nest With the Birds week was a success with many enjoying the weeklong programs. A number of different states were represented. Again we applaud all the good work **Delores Cole** does. The speakers she invites are always top-notch. The talk given by **Mary Scott** on her Ivory Bill Woodpecker sighting gave us all hope that an extinct bird may still exist in the swamps of Louisiana. Click on to her website, [www.birdingamerica.com](http://www.birdingamerica.com) to learn more. Everyone in our club made all this possible. We should be proud of the message we are sending.

If you get a chance, stop in the Kelleys Island Library and check out the Pape Natural History Library. This new addition to our library may just answer the questions you have regarding your natural curiosities. See more on it on page 2 of the *Hoot Owl*.

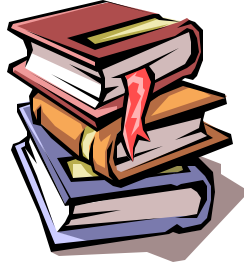
We now have an Audubon display at the Sweet Valley Trading Post. Club member **Jean Kuyoth** has donated (Continued on Page 5)

## **DUES REMINDER—2001 DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY**

## Pape Collection Books Now in KI Library

Below is a list of the books currently available at the Kelleys Island branch of the Sandusky Library in a special area created by contributions to the KIAC in memory of **William F. Pape**. With the funds, a Natural Science section was added to our beautiful new KI Library. The KIAC is still accepting donations to the Pape Memorial Fund. For anyone wishing to make a monetary contribution please send a check or money order to the KIAC, P.O. Box 42, Kelleys Island, OH 43438. Please note on check it is for the Pape Memorial Fund. As a registered 501(C)(3) charitable organization, all gifts and donations to the KIAC are tax deductible.

More books are on order and the Natural Science Library will continue to expand. Our thanks to the Pape Family and all the contributors to the fund who have made this worthwhile and educational prize available to patrons of the KI Library.



- 1) Bats of the World by Gary Graham (Golden Guide)
- 2) Bird Life: A Guide to the Behavior and Biology of Birds by Stephen Kress
- 3) Birds, Nests and Eggs by Mel Boring
- 4) The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds by Darryl Wheye
- 5) Birds by Herbert Spencer Zim (Golden Guide)
- 6) Butterflies and Moths by John Farndon
- 7) National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America by Jon L. Dunn
- 8) Peterson's Flashguides : Eastern Trailside Birds by Roger Tory Peterson
- 9) Fun with Nature: Take A-Long Guide by Mel Boring
- 10) Insects: A Guide to Familiar American Insects by Herbert Spencer Zim (Golden Guide)
- 11) Newcomb's Wildflower Guide by Lawrence Newcomb
- 12) A Field Guide to the Bird's Nests by Hal Harrison (Peterson Field Guide)
- 13) A Field Guide to Warblers of North America by Jon Dunn ( Peterson Field Guide)
- 14) Backyard Birds by Jonathan Latimer (Peterson Field Guides for Young Naturalists)
- 15) Young Naturalist Guide to Butterflies by Jonathan Latimer
- 16) Young Naturalist Guide to Caterpillars by Jonathan Lattimer
- 17) Young Naturalists Guide to Songbirds by Jonathan Latimer

- 18) Shorebirds: Beautiful Beachcombers by Arthur Morris
- 19) The Sky Observer's Guide: A Handbook for Amateur Astronomers by R.Newton Mayhall
- 20) Snakes, Salamanders, and Lizards by Diane Burns
- 21) Spiders and Their Kin by Herbert Levi
- 22) Tracks, Scats and Signs by Leslie Dendy
- 23) Young Naturalist Guide to Wildflowers
- 24) Wildflowers, Blooms and Blossoms (Take A-long Guide) by Diane Burns
- 25) Wildflowers of Ohio by Robert L. Henn

The books below are on order or may have arrived by the time of this publication's printing.

- 1) Birds of North America by Chandler Robbins
- 2) Eastern Birds by James Coe
- 3) Reptiles of North America by Hobart Smith

## We Couldn't Do It Without You—Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

In every issue of the Hoot Owl we intend to try our hardest to thank all those who help the KIAC to be the success it is.

- **Sandy and Lee Tkach** for cleaning out all of the Bluebird Trail Bluebird boxes in late February
- **Bob Luckay** for his hard and successful work on the new Butterfly Trail at the Historical Museum
- **Dan Neuman** who covered the cost of our speaker's ferry fees for Nest With the Birds Week
- **Sweet Valley Trading Post** for the Natural Areas Display space they have given us
- **Father Nick** for the use of St. Michael's Hall
- **Chris Yako, Bob Luckay, Judy DuShane, June Campbell, Peggy Cooney, Gretchen Larson, and Lori and Pat Hayes** for set up, hosting and clean up at the hall
- **Campbell Cottage B & B, Himmelblau House, Sun and Surf B&B, The Inn, Southbay Lodge, The Larsons and The Walcotts** for lodging
- **Delores Cole** for arranging speakers, creating flyers, making travel and room arrangements for speakers
- **Jacque Kranyak Pejeau** for NWTB media release

Thank you all once again. If we missed anyone we're sorry. Please let us know.



**THANKS TO ALL OUR SPEAKERS, WALK LEADERS AND EACH AND EVERY GUEST AT OUR 8TH ANNUAL NEST WITH THE BIRDS WEEK!!**

# Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

By Delores Cole

"Sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet!" is the song of this small warbler, which looks just like its name. One of the earliest warblers to arrive on Kelleys Island, the Yellow Warbler is hard to miss and is easily seen and heard everywhere. This warbler frequents a variety of brushy habitats, including overgrown fields, shrubby swamps, and backyard thickets. The male's bright and cheerful song is a rapid series of high-pitched notes roughly conforming to the pattern: "sweet, sweet, sweet, sweeter-than-sweet" or "sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm-so-sweet."

**Description:** *Length:* 11-13 cm. *Adult male:* Plumage mostly rich yellow but back more olive-yellow; breast streaked with rufous; tail dark olive-green, the inner vanes yellow; wings dark olive-green, the feathers edged with yellow. *Adult female:* Similar but paler; breast plain or slightly striped with rufous.

**Voice:** Song a bright, musical sweet-sweet-sweet, sweeter-than-sweet. Call a sharp chip.

**Breeding Nest:** Neat and compact, composed of grass, weed stems, pieces of string, cotton wool, plant down and other soft materials, with a lining of plant down, hair and sometimes dandelion "fuzz." Typical nest sites are low bushes, very often in garden shrubbery, but sometimes higher up in deciduous trees

**Eggs:** 4-5; greenish white, thickly marked with various shades of brown. Nest construction is well underway during the last of May and continues well into June. Sets of first laying are often complete by the end of the first week in June.

**Range** Breeds north to near the limit of trees from Alaska to Labra-

dor and south to northern South America and the West Indies. Winters from Florida and southern California to South America.

**Remarks** This is one of our most lovable and valuable garden birds. We await its return in May as eagerly as we do that of the robin in March, and we regret its departure in fall. Besides providing enjoyment



with its beautiful form, color and song, it works from morning till night devouring insects that attack our roses and other plants of ornamental and economic importance.

The Yellow Warbler is one of the principal victims of the cowbird, which lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. A cowbird lays only one egg per foster nest, but she may lay eggs in four or five nests in a short time, thus jeopardizing many broods. If the female Yellow Warbler discovers a cowbird parasitizing her nest, she quickly covers the alien egg with a new foundation and lays another clutch. Occasionally a nest is found with up to six layers, each containing one cowbird egg.

The Yellow Warbler's predominantly yellow coloring sets it apart from all other small Kelleys Island birds.

## Identification Tips:

- Length: 4 inches
- Small, active, insect-eating bird
- Thin, pointed bill
- Mostly yellow plumage
- Upperparts greenish-yellow
- Greenish-yellow wings and tail with yellow feather edges
- Plain yellow face with yellow eye ring surrounding dark eye
- Yellowish legs

## Adult male:

- Plumage golden yellow
- Rusty streaks on breast and flanks

## Female and immature:

- Plain yellow plumage
- Streaks on breast absent or barely noticeable
- Some birds have pale gray wash to plumage (southwestern United States)

## Similar species:

The male Yellow Warbler is easily recognized by its golden yellow plumage and rusty streaks on the breast. Females and immatures are similar to other mostly yellow warblers. Prothonotary Warblers have blue-gray, not yellowish wings and white undertail coverts. Wilson's and Hooded Warblers have a yellow supercilium and a more capped appearance. Blue-winged and Orange-crowned Warblers have dark eye-lines.

## **NWTB Bird Sightings** (Continued from page 1)

### **HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS**

Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES**

Turkey Vulture

### **OSPREY**

Osprey

### **HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES**

Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk

### **PHEASANTS, GROUSE, QUAIL AND TURKEYS**

Ring-necked Pheasant

### **WOOD-PARTRIDGES**

Northern Bobwhite

### **SANDPIPERS**

American Woodcock  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Ruddy Turnstone

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS**

Black-bellied Plover  
Killdeer

### **GULLS AND TERNS**

Ring-billed Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Herring Gull

### **LOONS**

Common Loon

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES**

Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove

### **NEW WORLD CUCKOOS**

Black-billed Cuckoo  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

### **NIGHTJARS**

Common Nighthawk  
Chuck-will's-widow  
Whip-poor-will

### **SWIFTS**

Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

### **KINGFISHERS**

Belted Kingfisher

### **WOODPECKERS**

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Willow Flycatcher

Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird

### **CROWS AND JAYS**

Blue Jay  
American Crow

### **VIREOS AND ALLIES**

White-eyed Vireo  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Warbling Vireo

### **WAXWINGS AND SILKY- FLYCATCHERS**

Cedar Waxwing

### **THRUSHES**

Eastern Bluebird  
Veery  
Swainson's Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
American Robin

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS**

Gray Catbird

### **STARLINGS**

European Starling

### **NUTHATCHES**

Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch

### **WRENS**

Carolina Wren  
House Wren

### **GNATCATCHERS**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

### **SWALLOWS**

Tree Swallow  
Purple Martin  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Cliff Swallow

### **KINGLETS**

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

### **CHICKADEES, TITS**

Black-capped Chickadee

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

House Sparrow

### **SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES**

American Goldfinch  
House Finch

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS**

Blue-winged Warbler  
Tennessee Warbler  
Nashville Warbler

Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Cape May Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Mourning Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Wilson's Warbler  
Canada Warbler

### **BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, TANA- GERS, ALLIES**

Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Eastern Towhee  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Northern Cardinal

### **INDIGO BUNTING BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES, ORI- OLES**

Baltimore Oriole  
Orchard Oriole  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Bobolink

### **STATISTICS**

Species seen - 123



## *NWTB Week (Continued from Page 1)*

3rd appearance at Kelleys Island Audubon Events and Audubon members knew his walk would be special. About 37 people were entertained by Allison's unique way of mixing botany and high drama!

Sunday night was the Premier of the Woodcock Sky Dance. The main performers were a male and female American Woodcock. The male comes out at dusk each spring and does an elaborate "sky dance" to attract a female. The opening act was the male coming onto the stage - a grassy clear area - and making several peent sounds, then suddenly flying straight up into the sky, and then slowly twittering back down to the ground to the exact spot where he started. During the second act the male spread his wings wide open and displayed his feathers to an interested female. **Kevin Metcalf**, our guide, said this was very rare for us to see this. The final act was private.

The Programs and bird walks the rest of the week were very good and anywhere from 20 - 30 people attended each time. **Gary Gerrone** from Lorain Metroparks taught us how to recognize birds by their voices not by what they're saying. Just like we do with our friends. **Jed Burt** from Ohio Wesleyan gave a program on his new revolutionary studies in commercial bird feather decomposition which will surely have a major impact on waste disposal around the world.

**Mary Scott**, of Birding America, told the tale of her search for the supposed extinct Ivory Bill Woodpecker in Louisiana. **Peter Gottsching's** slide show and talk on Birds of Antartctica and the Falkland Islands mesmerized us about an area many of us will never see.

The week's grand finale was Bird Banding at Long Point with Master Bird Bander, **Tom Bartlett** and his merry banders who banded 74 birds with 27 species and 2 recaptures. Some of the highlights observed were the Black-billed Cuckoo, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Osprey, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Blue-winged Warbler.

Thanks to all who participated in this year's NWTB, be sure to come back for the rest of our 2001 meetings, potlucks, bird walks and bandings and mark your calendar for the Fall Feather and Foliage Festival, September 29th!

## **President's Message** *(Continued from Page 1)*

space for us to showcase our club. The Nature on Kelleys Island is a favorite of island visitors and residents alike. Thank you Jean and thank you Delores for making the display board.

The summer programs are all set so I look forward to seeing everyone there. Potlucks and slide shows are a great venue for friendship to continue and chance to meet

## Island Meanderings

### **By Kelley Sandersun**

It hardly seems possible that we have had eight enjoyable years of "Nature Camp" on Kelleys Island. So many enthusiastic and informative speakers have brought us increased awareness and understanding of the wonderful natural areas on Kelleys Island and the exciting creatures who inhabit it. This years "Nest With the Birds" was as good as always!

**Mary Scott** made us believe that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still exists in the Louisiana swamps. Her entertaining recount of preparing for and sloshing through the muck had us all laughing heartily. We also shared her excitement of actually seeing what the "authorities" declared an EXTINCT species. What an afternoon that was! Her T-shirt said "I Want to Believe". After her presentation, I really DID believe!

As many times as I hike the North Pond Boardwalk, I still find great joy in its beauty and the revelation of something I hadn't seen before. Taking that walk with **Allison Cusick**, Chief Botanist for Natural Areas and Preserves, was almost like a religious experience. Allison knows so much about the plants, terrain, ecology of the North Pond, and his love of his subject shines through. What a treat to take that walk with Allison. It makes you appreciate so much more what we know is a very special place.

Well, the Tree Sparrows are busy building a nest in one of the decorative bird houses near our back door. Both the males and females look the same -- same coloring, same size, a beautiful iridescent green head, back, tail and wings, with a white throat and belly. One perches nearby, chirping all the time, with its little neck aquiver while chirping. The other is a very busy builder, bringing grasses and small twigs time after time. We tried to figure out which was the builder, mom or dad, and finally decided it was the mom, with the dad "supervising". Actually, I think the male is guarding the territory while the female sets up housekeeping. She makes the nest as she wants it. Seems right to me!

The whole island is abloom with iris, daisies, roses and lilies. The newly planted geraniums, marigolds and impatiens promise a color blaze for summer. Goslings follow their parents on parade around the marina. Mama ducks sill sit on their eggs. Cormorants fly by in long formations. And all the birds seem to sing all day long. Kelleys Island is indeed a special place, and here we are amidst all of it. Are we lucky, or what!

new people with similar interests. So keep waving to everyone, keep your feeders full and look up for eagles.

**Pat Hayes**

## Kelleys Island Audubon Club Membership Form

(For new members AND renewals. If your mailing label is highlighted in yellow—your 2001 dues are now past due.)

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](http://www.kelleysisland.ws)

#### Board Members

**Pat Hayes**

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Pape Fund

**Lori Hayes**

Events Coordinator

**Jacque Kranyak**

Hoot Owl Editor

**Judy DuShane**

Grants Coordinator

**Delores Cole**

Program Coordinator

## 2001 KIAC Schedule of Events

- Thurs., June 21—Speaker and potluck at Addison Pavilion
- Sun., July 15—Nature Walk, North Pond Preserve
- Thurs., July 19—Speaker and potluck at Addison Pavilion
- Thurs., August 16—Speaker and potluck at Addison Pavilion
- Sat., August 25—Butterfly Census, KI Historical Society on Division
- 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



### **REMINDER:**

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