

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

HOOT



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KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR

YOU AND ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS * FALL 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — THOSE WHO SERVE

By Pat Hayes

The theme of the 2002 Kelleys Island Homecoming on Aug 17th was "Those Who Serve." I would like to take a few moments and recognize our members.

Peggy Cooney coordinated Junior Nature Camp that was held August 6th. Her efforts along with **Sandy Tkach** and **Sandy Kilko** and thirty one members made the day a huge success. Did you get that? Thirty one men and women worked to make Nature Camp safe, fun and educational for the 48 children who participated. We had fun too. The VFW has become a real partner with Audubon allowing us each year to use the VFW pavilion and rest rooms. Thank you.

I would like to thank **Sally Hiller** and the KI Landowners for co-hosting with us **Mona Rutger's Back to the Wild Program** she presented at Homecoming. All ages look forward to the wild animals Mona showcases.

Delores Cole has introduced the KI Audubon to the world with the fabulous web page she has painstakingly created: www.kelleysislandnature.com. Her work now includes the KI Historical Association and the KI Chamber of Commerce. The Audubon calendar and wonderful speakers she has obtained for Nest With the Birds Week in May have been incredible.

Tom Bartlett and **Vic Fazio** have nurtured our club for several years. The monthly bird census and bird banding three times a year has given Kelleys Island the solid facts that were needed to become a nationally recognized Important Birding Area. The Dedication ceremony is September 28. Be there! It truly is another feather in Kelleys Island's hat!

The **Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves** and **Kelleys Island State Park** are our partners in Nature. The hard work we all did to get our boardwalk and the two State Nature Preserves shows our community pride.

The long process undertaken to become a non-profit group can be attributed to **Marvin Robinson, Judy DuShane** and **Jean Kuyoth**.

Bill Pape's wanting a community school science library upon his passing is becoming a huge success with all the memorial monies that were sent in and the continued donations backed by our members and friends. Use it!

Continued, Page 2

KIAC Keeping Busy

By Judy DuShane

The last two KIAC meetings have been well attended and informative. In July **Vicki Deisner**, the Executive Director of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) told about the ongoing efforts of OEC and some of their recent initiatives and in August, **Dr. Bruce Latimer**, Executive Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History presented on research in Africa and gave us some wonderful excuses for many of the ailments humans are subject to as a result of our walking upright.

The September meeting is scheduled for Thurs. Sept. 19 at the Pavilion and will include the potluck at 6 p.m. The speaker at 7 will be **Melinda Huntley** of Lake Erie Coastal Ohio. Come hear about this new organization that promotes nature and resource-based tourism along the Lake Erie shores.

The meeting of Thurs. October 17 will be held at St. Michael's Hall and feature Allison Cusick, retired State of Ohio Chief Botanist speaking on Ferns of Ohio. The potluck starts at 6 p.m.

followed by the presentation.

KIAC's second Nature Camp for children in August was once again a great success with 46 children and 32 helpers involved. This year the children went to the KI State Park and learned about many water-based creatures. Thanks to all who came and helped and especially to Peggy Cooney and Sandy Kilko for heading up this educational

Continued, Page 2



Second annual KIAC Junior Nature Camp another grand success!

Be there! It truly is another feather in Kelleys Island's hat!

DUES REMINDER—2002 DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

And I cannot forget **Rosetta Navorska's** wish that her memorial be to the Audubon. The Rosetta Navorska fund supports our monthly bird census program. The list goes on.

Jacquie Kranyak for bringing you this professional and beautifully done newsletter – *The Hoot Owl*. Thank you, Jacquie!

Paul Finnegan for building over 60 bluebird houses for the birds was no small feat. Thank you, too.

Former State Representative **Darrel Opfer** and current State Rep **Chris Redfern** have always listened carefully and helped anyway they could.

U.S. Senator **George Voinovich** visit to the North Pond boardwalk while it was under construction, when he was governor, was not easy but a compliment to the Kelleys Island Audubon.

Thanks to the many B & B's and members who have put up speakers for the night. Especially **Fred** and **Betsy Wolcott** for hosting the bird banders these past several years.

And lastly, the huge turnouts at our monthly meetings, which I think are the most fun of all.

All the members of KI Audubon serve notice that we care and want to educate ourselves and others about Kelleys Island's natural beauty. Take a hike on the Butterfly Trail behind the Historical Society. Thank **Bob Luckay** when you see him.

If **Al** and **Marge Rumell** were still

Pape Memorial Library Growing

By Delores Cole

The William F. Pape Memorial Library, a special section of the Kelleys Island branch of the Sandusky Library featuring educational materials on nature, has just added **82** new books. See a portion of the list of new additions on page 5.

In each issue of the Hoot Owl we will try to give our readers an excerpt from one of the new selections. **Be sure to stop by the Kelleys Island Library to pick up a few of these highly informative, kid-friendly books.**

2003 Calendars Are In

\$12.00

Featuring 12 new island scenes



Contact A Kelleys Island Audubon Club board member or purchase at the Sweet Valley Trading Post or at the next KIAC meeting.

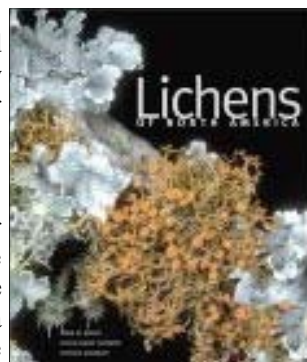
Lichens—What Are They?

Lichens are a combination of a fungus and an algae but have a unique structure and appearance quite different from either. Existing worldwide and growing on a variety of surfaces, including rocks,

soil, and trees, they may appear leafy, shrubby, mossy, crusty, or jellylike and are seen in a wide range of colors, from brilliant oranges, yellows, and reds to dull grays and browns.

Have you ever wondered what that orange "stuff" was on a rock that you saw on your walk on the North Shore Loop Trail?

Well, rest assured you will find it in *Lichens of North America*, one of the new Pape Memorial books. A comprehensive introduction, this book dis-



KI Audubon Keeping Busy

Continued from Page 1

experience; and **Craig Morton** and **Sandy Tkach** for managing the State Park's end of the program.

KIAC has two special events set for Sat. Sept. 28. The schedule for the Feathers and Foliage Festival including Bird Banding and the Important Birding Area dedication are on Page 5. This year Kelleys Island is being honored by the Ohio Audubon as an "Important Birding Area". This designation is difficult to get and various dignitaries will be on hand to recognize the island.

At the bird census on Aug. 15, 63 species were sited which is good for this time of year. A Summer Tanager was found at a feeder at the Inn and an immature eagle was seen the next day on the east side. The Tkach's had a regular eagle visitor for over a week.

Watch for the terns and other shore birds that are beginning to move through now.

A team of KIAC members went out and trimmed overhanging branches on the North Pond Trail and Boardwalk. It was getting difficult to get through the brambles and bushes. So **Pat** and **Lori Hayes**, **Peggy Cooney**, **Barb Weltman** and **Don Angsworth** got permission and took their pruning shears down to the trail and cleared the path. This is just another way your local Audubon Club serves the island.

The 2003 calendars are now available and note cards, fridge magnets and bookmarks make wonderful holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. Contact one of the officers to get yours. A "silent auction" is being held at meetings for a beautiful stained glass lamp handmade by **Kip** and **Barb Ohlemacher**. Come to the Sept. meeting and bid on this one-of-a-kind treasure to make it your own. And then be sure to come back for the October meeting when it will be auctioned off!

cusses the biology, structure, uses, and ecological significance of lichens and is illustrated with 90 additional color photos and many line drawings. English names are provided for most species, and the book also includes a glossary that explains technical terms.

Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*)

Submitted by Delores Cole

Migrating from as far as southern South America, chimney swifts come to the eastern and central half of the United States to breed. These small, sleek, bluish-black "bows and arrows" are seen on Kelleys Island April through September. You may have noticed them as they scour the skies for flying insects. Their stiff, flickering movements alternate with long, graceful sweeps of flight. The chimney swifts acrobatic movements and chattering flight calls signal us to the onset of summer.

Chimney swifts, unable to perch or stand upright as songbirds do, are uniquely equipped to roost only to vertical surfaces. Although they will occasionally roost in the open, they prefer the safety of an enclosed area such as a chimney, airshaft or abandoned building.

As a result of deforestation and the loss of large hollow trees as natural roosting and nesting sites, chimney swifts adapted to using man-made structures. However, the use of metal chimneys and the increasing desire of homeowners to cap their chimneys have made these roosts scarce too.

Cool fact: Chimney Swifts perform an aerial courtship display by holding their wings stiffly upward in a V, one bird gliding closely after another, their chirping calls run together as a twittering song. Occasionally a third or fourth swift joins in pursuit

Description: 4 3/4-5 1/2" in size. Chimney Swifts have been described as a "cigar with wings." They have streamlined bodies with stubby, blunt tails and short, wide bills. They are uniform gray-brown above; the under parts are dark brown from mid-breast to the tail, and the throat is light gray gradually darkening toward the breast. The long, slender wings are black-brown, with slightly lighter flight feathers. The tail is dark gray-brown, but little of it shows except when it is spread. Each tail feather ends in a spine that extends past the web.

Voice: Loud, chattering twitters.

Nesting: 4 or 5 white eggs in a nest made of twigs cemented together with saliva and fastened to the inner wall of a chimney or, rarely, in a cave or hollow tree.

Habitat: Breeds and roosts in chimneys; feeds entirely on the wing



over forests, open country, and towns.

Behavior: As a group, swifts are highly specialized for high-speed aerial life. They have long, saber like wings that are either extended in flight or folded back when at rest; unlike swallows, they are never held bent at the joints. Compared to swallows, swifts are less maneuverable and are less adept in flight at low speeds. Swifts forage for flying insects, sometimes quite high in the sky, and drink by dipping their bills in water while flying.

Range: Chimney Swifts are widespread and common throughout North America east of the Rocky Mountains. On occasion, some have bred in Southern California and possibly in Arizona. Large flocks gather in the fall and roost in chimneys, sometimes by the hundreds or even thousands. The majority departs the breeding grounds in late August or September to begin the long migration south. Flying by day, they cross the Gulf of Mexico and travel through Central America to winter along river edges and the edges of tropical lowland forest in

Letter to KIAC President

Dear Pat,

I wanted to thank you for providing the great information about nature trails on Kelleys. Our trip Saturday was fantastic - due to the great weather, great butterflies and last minute planning from our phone call.

We saw 17 species of butterflies - the unusual ones for us were the giant swallowtail and hackberry butterfly - we don't get those in Lake County.

Our first stop was the Long Pond trail where we saw lots of butterflies, then glacial grooves (there wasn't much there). After that, our group was tired, so we went to the butterfly house (they gave us a 20% discount in the shop), historical society, and a drive around the lakeshore.

Thanks again for your help!

Jen McAnlis
Stewardship Manager
Lake Metroparks

Kayak Poker Paddle SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

By Lori Hayes

If you're looking for blue water adventure join in the fun at the Kelleys Island Kayak Poker Paddle on Saturday, September 14th.

Leisurely paddle around Kelleys Island while stopping at five island beaches to pick up a poker card.

At the last beach paddlers show hands. Best hands wins!!



There are many great prizes.

Registration starts at 9 am at the Kelleys Island State Park Sand Beach.

For more information contact Lori Hayes at 419-746-2258 or innki20@yahoo.com

Sponsored by the Kelleys Kayak Klub, Kelleys Island State Park and

Island Meanderings

By Kelley Sanderson

The brisk northeast wind is churning up the whitecaps and foretells of autumn's imminence. After a very warm and dry summer, it is refreshing and invigorating and perfect weather for a light daytime sweater and a snuggly blanket at night. I noticed today that the cottonwood trees are losing their leaves, and the horse chestnuts already have brown-edged leaves. Soon the island will wear its golden-glow dress of turning leaves, and that special scent of autumn will appear. Ah, Kelleys Island in all its splendor - aren't we lucky to be here!

Every summer at least one House Finch establishes a nursery in the hanging baskets on the back porch. Watering the plants becomes a challenge so as to not harm the nest or the baby birds. One morning as I approached the nest with my watering can held high, a mother bird startled me by almost exploding out of the nest. She sat on a nearby branch and watched as I took the basket down and observed the perfectly round nest with four little speckled eggs. A magic marker "X" on the outside of the pot marked the safe place to water. After I replaced the basket to its hanger, it took about 15 minutes for the mother to return. We watched and carefully watered for a couple of weeks until one day I peeked and saw one tiny mute mouth open waiting for lunch. A couple of days later four tiny mouths were visible. The mother or father (both seemed to be feeding) would land on the hanger, make gentle "chirp" sounds for a minute or so before you could hear the chatter of many tiny "peeps." Then she would dive into the plant, and there was silence for a couple of minutes, then lots of chatter as she flew back onto the hanger. A few "chirps" to her babies, and they would become silent, as though instructed by mom to be quiet while she was gone.

We watched this activity for about two weeks, and occasional peeks into the nursery revealed a growing and feathering brood. They soon seemed awfully crowded in that little nest under the flowers. Then yesterday I approached the plant with my watering can held high, and one flew out. When I touched the pot to steady it, another left, and a third took flight as I lowered the can to pour. I guess the fourth was actually the first, because the nest was empty. All three birds were strong flyers and made good escapes to nearby trees. We watch lots of House Finches around the yard and hear their songs in the morning and know that four of them must be our babies. Those

pretty little birds with their beautiful songs, red heads and chests, striped bellies and sweet dispositions will be back next year, for sure.

During a recent visit of relatives, we visited the Historical Society Church and wandered the path of the Butterfly Trail. The tall grasses of summer had been blown down by wind and rain, but the path was dry and nicely mowed. Many plantings of butterfly bushes, yarrow, purple coneflower, rudbeckia and a natural stand of milkweed, all looked strong and healthy. The kiosk provided information to identify the butterflies common to the area, but we only saw those little white "cabbage" butterflies. A garden bench conveniently placed in the shade provided a lovely resting spot. We didn't see any bluebirds, but if I were a bluebird, I'd want to live in one of the boxes in such a pleasant place. The youngsters in our group had great fun figuring out the answers to the Nature Quiz and were delighted to receive "Kelleys Island Pencils" as their prize for their correct answers. This trail is going to be added to our "visitor tour," because it is a delightful place!

A few evenings ago we watched a beautiful sunset with our west side friends. After enjoying refreshments and a chat, we headed home after dark. Traveling east on Titus Road at a somewhat slow speed, being watchful for deer on the road, suddenly a large gray moth entered the headlight tunnel. In a flash, a bat swooped down and nabbed it. The bat barely missed the car, and as it flew off with its prize uttered a screech. It happened so fast we wondered if we actually saw it. Bats are not so commonly seen on the island anymore, so we were pleased to know that at least one is still around.

Our beautiful island natural areas continue to diminish. It is especially sad to see the new road on Long Point, right through the middle of the peninsula, not an improvement to the existing road but a brand new scar in the woods. Across from the cemetery another wide strip was recently clear-cut for a fence. I hope the migrating birds are still able to find friendly habitat as they island hop across the lake between their winter and summer homes. The birds bring us so much pleasure and are one of the features of the natural areas which make Kelleys Island such a special place.

Yes, we certainly are lucky to be here. Take a hike this fall to enjoy our beautiful island, and may your summer
m e m o r i e s
k e e p

Hummingbird Fuel

Hummingbirds get the energy they need to maintain their astonishing metabolism primarily from flower nectar and the sugar water they find at feeders. For protein and other nutrients, they also eat soft-bodied insects and spiders; "Hummers need nectar to power the bug eating machine that they are."

Think of them as miniature flycatchers, and sugar is just the fuel for getting their real nourishment. You might try setting out some overripe fruit--banana peels are good--to attract flies for your hummers.



 Audubon OHIO



**Kelleys Island
Important Bird Area
Dedication**

**September 28, 2002 at 2:30 p.m.
Kelleys Island State Park
Sandy Beach**

*To our Members, Friends and Sponsors,
You are invited to join us in this special celebration
to dedicate Kelleys Island as an
Important Bird Area in Ohio.*

*Park in the fisherman's parking lot at the end of Division
Street and walk down the hill to the beach.*



2002 Junior Nature Camp—Shirley Crabill reading a fun story.

**FEATHERS AND FOLIAGE
FESTIVAL SCHEDULE
September 28, 2002
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 Bota-
nist, ODNR

*Meet at the North Pond 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 the 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, Cleve-
land Metro Parks

*Meet at The Glacial Grooves State Me-
morial at end of Division St.*

**New Books at Pape Library
Partial List—15 of 82**

1. **Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio**
(Bulletin of the Ohio Biological Survey, New
Series, Vol 9, No 1) by David C. Iftner, John
A. Shuey, John V. Calhoun

2. **Salamanders of Ohio** (Bulletin New
Series, Vol 7, No 2) by Ralph A. Pflingsten,
Floyd L. Downs (Editor)

3. **Dragonflies Through Binoculars : A
Field Guide to Dragonflies of North Amer-
ica** (Butterflies and Others Through Binocu-
lars Field Guide Series) by Sidney W. Dunkle

4. **Lichens of North America** by Irwin M.
Brodo, Sylvia Duran Sharnoff, Stephen
Sharnoff

5. **Orchids of the Western Great Lakes
Region** (Bulletin, No 48) by Frederick W.
Case

**The Woody Plants of Ohio : Trees, Shrubs,
and Wood Climbers Native, Naturalized, and
Escaped** by Emma Lucy Braun

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Kelleys Island Audubon Club Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Amount Enclosed:

_____ \$10 Individual Member

_____ \$25 Family

_____ DuShane Memorial Fund

_____ Rosetta Navorska Memorial Fund Donation (Bird Census)

_____ Pape Memorial Fund Donation (Natural Science Library)

As a registered 501 (C)3 all contributions to KIAC are tax deductible.

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.

15 New Pape Library Books

Continued from Page 5

7. **Grasses** : An Identification Guide by Lauren Brown
8. **Field Guide to the Grasses, Sedges and Rushes of the United States** by Edward, Knobel
9. **How to Identify Grasses & Grasslike Plants : Sedges and Rushes** by H. D. Harrington
10. **Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas** by Bruce Peterjohn, L. Rice
11. **Wildflowers of Ohio Field Guide** by Stan Tekiela
12. **Animal Tracks of the Great Lakes States** : Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin by Chris Stall, Steve Whitney (Illustrator)
13. **Amphibians and Reptiles of the Great Lakes Region** (Great Lakes Environment) by James H. Harding
14. **Biogeography of the Island Region of Western Lake Erie** by Jerry F. Downhower
15. **Bats of the World** by Gary L. Graham, Fiona Reid (Illustrator)



Kelleys Island Audubon Club
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Hoot Owl Editor

REMINDER:

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