

HOOT



OWL

Inside...
Upcoming Events
KIAC Description
Birdathon and Nest W/Birds
Seven Years of Bird Banding
Membership Application or
Renewal Form

!! COME ONE—COME ALL!! SATURDAY, JUNE 29

KIAC First Annual Picnic At the Pavilion

We'll have the place settings and soft drinks, you bring yourself, and your family and friends, with a dish to share.

Featuring

Fred
Snyder
Ohio
Sea
Grant
Topic
Lake Erie
Resources
and Many
Faces of



Our Lake.

Fred is an associate professor with Ohio State University Extension. He holds Bachelors of Science and Master of Science degrees in fisheries management from Ohio State University and has served as the District Sea Grant Extension Specialist on western Lake Erie since 1978. His marine advisory efforts have focused on fishing industry development, exotic species in the Great Lakes, water quality improvement, tourism and coastal business development. He currently is working with lake levels issues, watershed protection and exotic species movement.

President's Message

By Pat Hayes

High winds and heavy rains often disrupt the spring nestings of our island birds. It is often sad to see a robin's nest and young washed or blown right out of the tree. It's a part of nature that happens, and the birds understand.

The birds continue with their spring ritual, as a new nest is completed. Eggs are laid and the species will continue. Nothing is ever destroyed in nature, only habitats are altered.

Today a Kelleys' Island student, **Nicole Wagler**, brought a disturbed nest with a newly hatched robin and two eggs to me. Together, we put the hour-old baby in a nest with similar-sized birds and slipped the two eggs into another unsuspecting robin's hatch. All should be well. Who says you cannot fool Mother Nature?

Look for migratory shorebirds on the beach in the morning during the first minutes of daylight. While you are there, don't forget, to look up for eagles!

2002 KI Audubon Club Raffle Tickets Enclosed

We've taken the liberty of enclosing two booklets of our 2002 raffle tickets. The prizes are better than ever this year:

- A 2' Custom Stained Glass Window, featuring a red-winged blackbird in cattails
- Bushnell Birding Binoculars
- Large, Handmade Redwood Bird Feeder
- Hand-carved Shorebird

The tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. If you can sell them, or buy them, we greatly appreciate it. Please see Page 2 for a close-up look at what the KIAC has been accomplishing. We've enclosed an envelope to mail the ticket stubs along with a check made out to KI Audubon Club. Please submit cash payments to Peggy Cooney.

DUES REMINDER—2002 DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY

Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC) Activities

By Judy DuShane

What exactly does our Audubon Club do, some have asked recently. The KIAC promotes the natural resources of the island and works with other organizations with similar goals. But how?

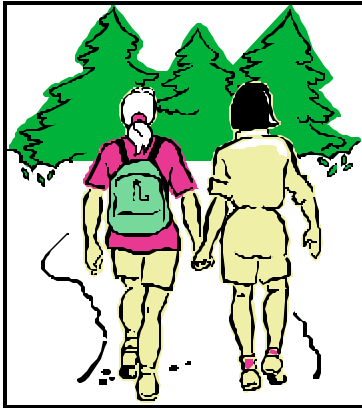
Two major events that bring over 300 people to the island are the week-long spring "Nest With the Birds" and the one day "Fall Feathers and Foliage Festival" to be held on Sept. 28 this year. Bird banding during these programs contributes to ongoing research about bird habits and migration patterns.

Monthly meetings and potlucks inform members and guests about different nature related topics such as frogs and toads, island trees, the effects of cormorants on fishing, lake issues (June 29) and many interesting others. A monthly bird census is taken and results are shared widely through publications and web sites. The census is supported by the Navorska Memorial and also provides data for bird researchers.

Another memorial fund honors F. Wm. Pape through a natural science book collection at the Kelleys Island library. Look under the east windows and browse some great books on a variety of nature topics focusing on this region and beyond. The most recent memorial fund was established in memory of Duke DuShane through which a display of models of the Adventure, one of our historical shipwrecks, will be placed at the Kelleys Island State Park.

Two grants have allowed us to design and publish brochures on the North Pond and Alvar Nature Preserves and the Seven Natural Treasures of Kelleys Island: these two nature preserves, the Glacial Grooves and Inscription Rock, the East Quarry, Scheele Preserve and the North Shore Loop Trail. Assistance from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission,

the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and various others have insured the accuracy of these brochures. Reprinting is now handled through the general fund which comes from membership dues, the annual raffle and sales of such things as the calendar, magnets, book marks and



note cards. The brochures are distributed through the KI Chamber of Commerce, the KI State Park and island businesses.

Another new educational effort is the "KIAC Nature Camp for Kids" which will be held on Aug. 7 this year. Last year about 50 children participated. We also promote Kelleys Island at Islandfest, KI Homecoming, Regional Wing Watch and the Butterfly Festival. A formal relationship with the KI Historical Association contributes to the maintenance of the Butterfly Nature Trail behind the Old Stone Church. KIAC is an institutional member of the KI Chamber of Commerce.

Individual members serve on many advisory groups and boards and represent Kelleys Island and the natural world in these positions. Some also conduct research on various animals and plants such as frogs and toads, butterflies (including tagging Monarchs) and dragonflies. KIAC wants to help keep the characteristics that drew many of us to the island alive and well. The health of Lake Erie and its inhabitants both human and otherwise are important to all of us.

This newsletter *The Hoot Owl* is published quarterly and you can visit KIAC's new website www.kelleysislandnature.com to keep up to date on upcoming events and recent nature happenings.

Stop by for one of our potlucks. Just like you, we love the island and its bountiful natural beauty.

Birdathon Great Success



This year during Nest With the Birds Week, on Thursday, May 16, instead of having two, three-hour bird walks and a two-hour indoor program, we formed two teams and then birded all day. Despite a little rain, the Birdathon teams—in two cars each—went out to spot the most bird species for the day.

This had to be accomplished by visiting each of our seven natural island treasures: The Alvar Preserve, Glacial Grooves, Inscription Rock, East Quarry, North Pond Preserve, Scheele Preserve and the North Shore Loop. (If you haven't seen our *Island Treasures* brochure, be sure to pick one up at the KI Chamber office or the Sweet Valley Trading Post and Butterfly Kingdom.)

Another rule for the Birdathon teams was that they each had to spot a Lake Erie Water Snake and each team did!

What an energetic bunch! The Birdathon was a huge success and is definitely something we'll try to repeat next year.



MERLIN, *Falco columbarius*

Submitted by Delores Cole

Seen March through November on the island, the so-called "Pigeon Hawk" is most abundant during the migrations of smaller birds, on which it feeds. It is swift and aggressive, regularly harassing larger hawks and gulls and attacking intruders at its nest. As with other falcons, the female begins incubating as soon as the first egg is laid so the young hatch at intervals; when food is scarce, the larger young are fed first, the smaller ones sometimes dying of starvation. This seemingly heartless procedure ensures that some young will be raised successfully even in hard times.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:

Slightly larger than kestrels, merlins appear uniformly dark in the field. Males are brighter than females, with slatey blue wings and back, dark head, and dull facial markings. The underside is rufous with dark streaks. The tail is slatey gray with a dark terminal band. Females are uniformly brown with light, brown streaked undersides. Immatures resemble the female.

VOICE:

High, loud cackle, also klee-klee-klee like an American Kestrel, but usually silent.

RANGE:

Breeds from Alaska east through Mackenzie to Newfoundland and south to Wyoming, Montana, and northeastern Maine. Winters mainly in southern United States north along West Coast to British Columbia and on East Coast to southern New England; locally elsewhere north to southern Canada. Also in tropical America and Eurasia.

HABITAT:

Nests are found in forests or scrublands, which are broken up by open areas in which to hunt. Merlins can be seen virtually anywhere on the island. Look for them perched on the top of dead snags. A



favorite place seems to be on the snag seen above the village jail downtown.

NESTING:

Like other falcons, merlins do not build their own nests, but instead use the old stick nests of crows or magpies. Up to

five eggs may be laid and incubated by the female. The young remain together after fledging and may migrate south together.

FEEDING HABITS:

Merlins feed primarily on small to medium-size birds, but will take insects, rodents, and small lizards. They have been known to take birds as large as pigeons but more often they take small passerines or shorebirds weighing less than 50 grams.

Keep Birds from Hitting Your Windows

It's probably a case of mistaken identity. The bird perceives its own reflection as a competitor and is attempting to drive it away by "attacking" the window. Songbirds may repel other individuals in order to reduce competition for mates, food, and secure nesting and roosting sites, etc. When they do this in the breeding season, this increases their chances of successfully raising their own young.

What you can do:

Decrease the reflectivity of your windows:

Pull down your shades: white curtains or blinds can make it difficult for birds to see their reflections.

Put the screens in windows to make them less reflective.

Consider soaping your windows for a couple of weeks.

Break up the reflection by hanging something in your window.

Create a physical barrier:

Build a net frame to act as a barricade by mounting fine-mesh netting (available at garden centers or hardware stores) in a rigid frame, using shelf brackets to hold the frame a couple of inches away from the window. Install indoor-outdoor blinds on the outside of your windows.

Wait for the end of the breeding season:

As the season progresses, hormones levels will decline and these birds will become less aggressive.

Discontinue feeding until autumn:

If you cut off that supply, you will decrease the incentive to be near your home and may encourage birds to expand their territory away from your windows.

Food for Thought:

Recent evidence shows that collisions with glass may be a major source of avian mortality that's widely overlooked. Experts believe that about 100 million birds die each year in collisions with buildings and skyscrapers in the U.S. and Canada alone.

Source: www.audubon.org

Bird Feed List

Sunflower seeds -- a good all-around choice. Many stores sell them, and many birds like them.

Millet -- finches, sparrows, blackbirds, and doves go for this one.

Safflower seeds -- cardinals like these flat, gray seeds.

Cracked corn and peanuts

Milo -- these are the small, reddish seeds that are tossed away by many birds who find them in mixes. But jays and doves in the southwestern states really go for them.

Thistle seeds -- you'll need a special feeder with extra-small feeding holes if you want to put these tiny seeds out for the goldfinches who like them.

GROW Sunflowers -- plant some sunflower seeds in the ground. When the flowers grow and the seeds ripen, the big plants will be natural bird feeders.

Suet -- that's the hard, white fat found on some meat. You can get it at supermarket meat departments. It also comes in packages at garden shops and feed stores. Birds that love eating insects will love suet, too. Birds such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees eat suet.

KIAC 2002 Nest With the Birds Week Nets 141 Species

**Total Species 141
Warbler Species 27**

Common Loon
Double-crested
Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron



Black-crowned
Night-Heron
American Bittern
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Lesser Scaup
Red-breasted Merganser
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Ring-necked Pheasant
Sora
Killdeer
Short-billed Dowitcher
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone
Dunlin
Ring-billed Gull
Great Black-backed
Gull

Herring Gull
Caspian Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Eastern Screech-Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated
Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed
Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hair Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied
Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested
Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged
Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Black-capped
Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Blue Jay
American Crow
European Starling

Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue
Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green
Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Kirtland's Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-crowned
Sparrow



KELLEYS ISLAND—2002 NATURE EVENTS

June 29
KIAC Annual Picnic
August 7
Junior Nature Camp
August 24
KIAC Coastweeks Hike
Sept. 7
Butterfly Festival
Sept. 14
Kayak Poker Paddle
Sept. 28
Feathers and Foliage Festival

KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON POTLUCKS, MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

**July 18, Aug 15,
Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21**

Potlucks are held at 6 p.m.,
with meeting following at 7.
See info on special June
meeting picnic on page 1.

The July, August and September meetings will be held at the Pavilion on Addison, and the October meeting will most likely be held at St. Michael's Church Hall. The November meeting will held at **Pat and Lori Hayes'** home, The Inn.

You do not need to be a member of the KI Audubon Club to attend meetings.

Island Meanderings

By Kelley Sanderson

"Rain, rain, go away! Come again another day! Little Suzie wants to play." This childhood ditty keeps running through my mind as the spring rains continue to replenish the moisture lost during the last few years. I know it is healthy for our earth and a phase of the continuous cycle. But it has rained too darn much this spring!

Meanwhile, the songs, calls, chirps and antics of the migrating and returning birds have lifted my spirits. They don't seem to mind the rain, as long as they can find an umbrella-leaf to crouch under, and they are soon singing again when the rain lightens. Maybe it is the variety of feeders in our yard and the many choices of delectable options for the birds, but we seem to have more birds this spring than ever before. Rose-breasted grossbills hung around for several days, preferring sunflower seeds as their diet. Dressed in their black-and-white feathered tuxedos, they are stunningly beautiful with the almost fuchsia-pink bib on their white chests. A pair of Red-headed woodpeckers joined the backyard crowd for a couple of weeks until they, too, headed on further north. The rain I cursed kept the migrating birds around longer than usual, so I really should praise the rain!

Word must have spread through the Baltimore oriole families, because it seemed like hundreds were on the island during Nest With the Birds week. We heard about hanging oranges in the trees to attract the orioles, so we bought the last few from the store to feed to the birds. Those oranges were so juicy and looked so delicious I was hesitant to hang them in the trees, but I'm sure glad I did! Within 10 minutes several brightly painted orange and black orioles were on the strings and eating the oranges. They also liked the suet cakes, and what was left over from winter feeding soon disappeared. The orioles, Downy woodpeckers, House finches, Goldfinches, and the Grackles with their beautiful iridescent green heads kept our backyard buzzing for weeks! A couple of Scarlet tanagers and Indigo buntings also stopped to refuel. Hummingbirds continue visit-

ing. Even skeptics commented that those birds were wonderfully interesting and fun to watch! One non-believer in the joys of bird watching told me, "I saw one of those yellow chickadees, and he was really cute." Ah-ha! Another "closet birder" in our midst.

After a particularly clear and quiet night, the backyard population drastically diminished, as the birds moved on, stepping their way across Lake Erie from island to island to the Canada mainland and their summer breeding grounds. One pair of orioles remains, so they must have decided it was a nice neighborhood for nesting.

Today the Tree sparrows continue to scout the birdhouse near our back porch. Last year a family moved in, and we so enjoyed watching the nest-building, egg-sitting, feeding the young and the great first flight of the fledglings. One female apparently selected the house and is fending off a number of males, whose intentions are not clear. She has really chattered at them and chased them away, dive bombing, very feisty. One male is allowed to bring in straw and twigs for nesting. I know what his intentions are! She is one tough bird!

This morning we saw evidence of a marauding raccoon as one of our birdhouses had all the stuffing torn out of it and scattered on the ground, dead baby birds included. Even though they were English sparrows, which I know are junk birds, it made me sad to see their nest destroyed. It seems like at every level of life, there are marauders who enjoy destroying what others hold dear. Those of us who cherish life and the natural beauty around us must maintain our resolve to protect what most people profess to value, but many would rather destroy.

What a wonderful feeling to see the sunshine and a clear, bright day. It is still quiet before the weekend. Kelleys Island is at its best!

See you at the Audubon potlucks this summer. Share the dishes of the great KI cooks, and enjoy the programs about natural topics. Maybe you can even bring along a "closet birder."

Kelleys Island Audubon Club—Upcoming Meetings

July 18—6 p.m. Pot Luck—7 p.m. Program

***"ISOLATED WETLANDS IN OHIO
HOW DO WE PROTECT THEM"***

**Featuring Vicki Deisner, Executive Director
Ohio Environmental Council**

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is a statewide environmental advocacy organization that supports community-driven environmental efforts and leads statewide policy campaigns. The organization is responsible for the best net metering bill in the nation, a million-dollar revolving loan fund, and leading a Great Lakes Initiative. The OEC also led a campaign in the Great Lakes that decreased the discharge of bio-toxins into the Great Lakes.

August 15—6 p.m. Pot Luck—7 p.m. Program

**Featuring Bruce Lattimer, Director
Cleveland Museum of Natural History**

Lattimer has gained world renown for his archeological field studies in Africa.

Be sure to come for all of our great summer events!

Seven Years of Bird Banding

SPECIES	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Black-billed Cuckoo	1		1					2
Eastern Screech-Owl			1					1
Red-bellied Woodpecker				1				1
Downy Woodpecker	1	1						2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1				2			3
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2				9	1	4	16
Acadian Flycatcher	2		1		1			4
Trail's Flycatcher	11				12	2	2	27
Least Flycatcher	2	6	1	3	2	6	8	28
Great Crested Flycatcher					2			2
Eastern Kingbird	2							2
White-eyed Vireo		1	1					2
Blue-headed Vireo		1	1	1				3
Red-eyed Vireo		3		1	2	1	2	9
Blue Jay		1			1	2		4
Tree Swallow				16	6	4		26
Barn Swallow							1	1
Black-capped Chickadee	6	9	37	32	25	2	6	117
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1			1				2
White-breasted Nuthatch				5				5
Brown Creeper			2	1				3
Carolina Wren				1				1
House Wren	1	2	1	2	4	1	6	17
Winter Wren			1	3	2	1		7
Sedge Wren					1			1
Golden-crowned Kinglet			9	4	1	17		31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,		1	6	3	4	16		30
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				1			1	2
Veery	2	1		1				4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	8	1	3	6	1	4	34
Swainson's Thrush	10	12	2	3	17	5	2	51
Hermit Thrush			4			14		19
Wood Thrush		2						2
American Robin		1		5	5	4	3	18
Gray Catbird	3	7	2	4	3	2	2	24
European Starling		2			1	1		4
Cedar Waxwing					2			2
Blue-winged Warbler	1	2						3
Tennessee Warbler	4					2		6
Orange-crowned Warbler		2						2
Nashville Warbler	2	4		3	2	4	2	17
Northern Parula	1							1
Yellow Warbler	13	8	2	5	6	2	5	41
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	4	1	3	6	3	2	22
Magnolia Warbler	18	16	8	9	28	8	10	97
Cape May Warbler	1	1						2
Black-throated Blue Warbler		1	4	1	1	1	1	9
Yellow-rumped Warbler	25	18	2	1	1	36		83

Bird Banding Stats Continued

SPECIES	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Palm Warbler	1	2			1			4
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	1				1		4
Blackpoll Warbler	6		2		1	1		10
Black-and-White Warbler	3				1		2	6
American Redstart	7	1	8	3	9	2	10	40
Ovenbird	5			1		1	4	11
Northern Waterthrush		2	2	1			1	6
Connecticut Warbler					1			1
Mourning Warbler	2			1	3	1	1	8
Common Yellowthroat		8	1	1	3	2	2	17
Hooded Warbler	1		1					2
Wilson's Warbler	5	2	5	3	11	7	4	37
Canada Warbler	10	2	1		7	7		27
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	1						3
Scarlet Tanager	2	1			1			4
Chipping Sparrow				2	2			4
Field Sparrow						1		1
Savannah Sparrow				1				1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	6	2	1	1	1	1	13
Swamp Sparrow		5	1	2		1		9
White-throated Sparrow		2	4	13	2	10		31
White-crowned Sparrow		5		2	1	1		9
Dark-eyed Junco		9	1	1	5	2		18
Red-winged Blackbird	24	5		9	8	7	6	59
Common Grackle	4	1	1	3	9	3	6	30
Brown-headed Cowbird			1	3		3	2	9
Orchard Oriole					5			5
Baltimore Oriole			5	3	3	5		16
Northern Cardinal	5	5	2	3	5	10	7	37
Indigo Bunting			5	1	1	4	1	12
Purple Finch	1							1
House Finch		1	4	24	2	5		36
Pine Siskin	1							1
American Goldfinch	2		2	3	17	1		25
House Sparrow			1	18	12			31
Total Birds Banded	205	174	139	216	267	227	106	1334
Total Species Banded								86
Days Banding	3	4	5	7	8	6	2	35
Net Hours	102	102	130	219.8	190	186	118	1047.75
Birds Banded Per Net Hours	2.01	1.71	1.07	.92	1.41	1.22	0.9	1.26
Recaptures	2	3	4	25	15	4	4	27
Casualties	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird						2	3	5

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.

Pape Library Update



Donated by Tom & Paula Bartlett:

The Sibley Guide to Birds

The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior

By David Allen Sibley

Raptors of the World

By James Ferguson-Lees and David A. Christie

Donated by Lori & Pat Hayes:

Birds of the Beach

Donated by Bill and Ann Toneff:

How to Spot an Owl (The How to Spot Series)

By Patricia Sutton and Clay Sutton

Donated by Delores Cole:

Fossil Fauna of the Island Region of Western Lake Erie

By Lulu M. Bowe

Donated by Judy DuShane:

Atlas of Bird Migration

Edited by Jonathon Elphick

The Ohio Nature Almanac

Edited by Stephen Ostrander

The Nature Company Guides –Birding

By J. Forshaw, S. Howell, T. Lindsey and R. Stallcup

Book of North American Birds

Reader's Digest

Birds, Their Life, Their Ways, Their World

Reader's Digest

Song and Garden Birds of North America

By Alexander Wetmore

Kelleys Island Audubon Club

P.O. Box 42

Kelleys Island, OH 43438

www.kelleysisland.ws

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REMINDER:

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