

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

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Inside...
2001 Fall Feathers & Foliage
Eagle Info
KI Tree Advisory Board
Membership Application or
Renewal Form
Island Meanderings

KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR

YOU AND ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS • WINTER 2002

Take a New Look at KI Audubon Website

By Delores Cole

If you haven't visited our website lately, (www.kelleysisland.ws) it has a new look and some new sections. Below is a summary of what you will find and be sure to come back often!

Home – This always takes you to the home page, which if you scroll down below the main picture includes buttons for the weather, and marine forecast, a wind direction link, and a link to Ohio Birds, a site that provides current bird sightings in Ohio.

Guest Sign-in – Be sure to sign into our guest book during your visit.

Nature Events – This will provide information on future nature events on the island including the Butterfly Festival sponsored by the Historical Association.

Past Nature Events – This section provides a picture essay of the event. Be sure to look at the Kayak Poker Paddle event.

Kelleys Island – Provides general information on the island with a map of the natural areas and a listing of outdoor island activities.

Natural Areas – This section provides you with pictures and a brief description of each of our "island treasures."

Island Birding – If you ever wonder whether a certain species of bird has been on the island, this is the place to look. All Christmas Bird Counts, Monthly Census, and Banding Statistics are documented here. Compare these lists to your yard list and see how many bird species are just outside your window. *Continued Page 2*

Season's End

The Kelleys Island Audubon wrapped up the 2001 season with a final potluck, meeting and program at Inn on November 15th. Twenty-two people attended which is a lot for November! The scheduled guest was **Greg Nageotte**, ODNR Coastal Non-point Program Coordinator. At the last minute he had to due to a family illness. **Lisa Brohl** from Put-in-Bay was attending as our guest. She gladly spoke about the new organization she helped form on Put-in-Bay a year ago. She is the chairperson for the Lake Erie Island's Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy. The chapter evolved from the recent efforts that effectively protected Haunk's Pond on Middle Bass Island.

The mission of the Lake Erie Island's Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy is to encourage conservation and protection of natural and agricultural lands in the Lake Erie islands for the benefit of future generations.

Lisa invited us all over to their meetings anytime. Anyone have a boat?

Thank you Lisa for your interesting presentation. For more information about the group contact:

The Black Swamp Conservancy - Lake Erie Island's Chapter
PO Box 461
Put-In-Bay, OH 43456
419-285-4772

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2001 season a huge success. Have a Happy Winter!

Lori Hayes

President's Message

The importance of Kelleys Island as a migratory bird-refueling stop becomes more evident each spring and fall. The few new birds at our feeders are only a fraction of the species enjoying the smorgasbord of food the green spaces provide. The bays and near shore aquatic plants allow us to host thousands of ducks, grebes and loons on their way across America. We are stewards of some of the finest dining spots on Lake Erie.

The tragedy in New York on September 11th had made life's simple moments more meaningful.

One of our greatest strengths is our capacity for unity--to unite the island, unite the country, and unite the world--and the capacity for change. Maybe we have to work harder together to keep what we hold dear.

Let's never forget it. And don't forget to look up for eagles!

Pat Hayes

Winter Bird Feed

1 cup lard (not Crisco)
1 cup crunchy peanut butter
1/3 cup sugar
1 cup whole wheat flour
2 cups oatmeal
2 cups cornmeal



In microwave melt the lard. Blend in the peanut butter and sugar. Add the flour, oatmeal and cornmeal. Raisins, nuts and bird seed can be added, if you feel generous. Pour into a 9 x 13 baking pan and chill overnight. Cut into squares and watch the birds love it!

DUES REMINDER—2002 DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY

Conservancy Site Plan Holds Meetings to Cover Western Islands

On Nov. 15, **Pat and Lori Hayes** attended a planning meeting for the Nature Conservancy at Mon Ami Restaurant on Catawba Island. The Nature Conservancy's intent was to gather together American and Canadian conservation partners from the Western Lake Erie region to brainstorm about what the stresses are to the biodiversity in the Western Lake Erie Islands.

After listening to several Nature Conservancy speakers we broke into small groups to come up with eight final targets for future Nature Conservancy Planning. The process involved identifying conservation targets, developing conservation goals, assessing viability, and selecting and identifying data gaps. The targets chosen were: Colonial Nesting Birds, The Forest Mosaic, Offshore Reefs and Shoals, Near-shore High and Low Rock Slopes, Sand Beaches, Alvars, Snakes, and lastly Sheltered Embayments including Wetlands.

The planning process will continue next year at a Canadian location.

Lori Hayes

KI Audubon Website

Continued from Page 1

Photo Tours – Each season provides you with a photo tour of the island. Have you ever seen the island with snow, if not, click through the Winter Tour?

Audubon Club – This section gives you a history of the Audubon Club on the island, our mission statement, and who the officers are, as well as the meeting schedule.

Local Species – Here we document all the birds, butterflies, dragonflies, plants and trees, etc., that are found on the island. If you have anything to add to any of the lists, just send e-mail to info@kelleysisland.ws. Please include the date, location, and species seen. We do want to hear from you and look forward to having you share your sighting.

L E Water Snake – Provides information about the Lake Erie Water Snake and a photo essay of the Fall 2001 hibernation tracking being done by graduate students from Northern Illinois University. This section also includes the quarterly *LEWS News*.

Shipwreck Preserve – This section will grow as more information about our preserve and the sunken ships in it becomes available.

What's New - Provides a list of new pages recently added to the website.

Site Map – This is an Index of the website to assist you with finding something quickly.

Nature News - This is a collection of news articles about the island, fishing, botany, as well as news releases from ODNR.

Other Links - This page gives you a listing of other nature-related website links.

Nature Watch - Here you can register and add postings about what you have seen recently or what nature area you particularly like on the island.

Contact Us - You can e-mail the webmaster from this link with any questions or comments.

Historical Association – This is a must see if you enjoy Kelleys Island history.

Bird Gallery I - Here you can see pictures of the birds banded in the spring of 1996 taken by Bruce Simpson.

Bird Gallery II – These spring bird pictures were taken by Jerry Hopson from Maryland.

KELLEYS ISLAND—2002 NATURE EVENTS

May 12 - 18	Nest With the Birds
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

KELEYS ISLAND AUDUBON POTLUCKS, MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Thursdays: March 21, April 18, July 18, Aug 15, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21

Potlucks are held at 6 p.m., and meeting follows at 7. March meeting at **June and Bill Campbell's** home, Campbell's Cottage, April meeting at St. Michael's Church Hall on Chappel. This year's June meeting is being scheduled for Saturday, June 29 as the First Annual KIAC Picnic to give islanders and visitors who aren't here during the week, an opportunity to attend. 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.

Prolific Eagles Means More Nests—Keep an Eye Out for Them

OAK HARBOR, OH -- The nation's symbol continues to fly high above the Buckeye state and state wildlife biologists are asking Ohio residents to report bald eagle nesting activity they observe in their communities. Ohio's resident bald eagles are busy this time of year as they carry out nest maintenance chores in preparation for next spring's nesting season, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

"Landowners, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts can be a tremendous help by reporting anything that looks like a new nest, or any nest building activity," said Mark Shieldcastle, wildlife biologist with ODNR's Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station in Ottawa County. "Reports from the general public on eagle nest building activities enable us to more closely monitor the population of this state endangered bird."

Ohio's nesting bald eagle population has gone from only four active nesting pairs along southwestern Lake Erie in 1979 to a modern record 74 nesting pairs in 25 counties recorded during the 2001-nesting season. A record 10 young fledged Ohio nests this year.

Each fall, adult eagle pairs perform routine repairs by adding sticks, twigs, and grasses to established nests. Some eagles may rebuild nests that were destroyed due to storms, while others may be reestablishing their nests at new locations. Young eagles reaching matur-

ity are also building new nests, as they scout new breeding territories for their first nesting season. Successful nesting seasons with record number of eaglets raised in Ohio nests over the past decade are producing a snowball effect. Increasing numbers of new nests are popping up each year as the young from each hatch reaches breeding maturity at 3 to 4 years of age.



"We never know where a new nest will show up. These young birds establish nesting territories across the state, showing no preference over public wildlife areas to private lands," Shieldcastle said. "Woodlots and remote areas along watersheds are generally the most preferred nesting habitat for eagles. It's very possible there are nests in remote areas that no one has yet discovered." Bald eagles build their nest high in large trees, usually near a body of water. A typical nest averages 4 feet in diameter, is 2 to 4 feet thick, and can weigh as much as a ton. The largest eagle nest ever recorded was

the "Great Nest" at Vermilion, Ohio. It measured 12 feet high and 8 feet wide, and weighed nearly two tons. Different eagle pairs used this nest for more than 35 years until it was destroyed after falling 80 feet to the ground during a storm in March 1925.

Active nests are currently recorded in the following Ohio counties: Coshocton (1), Delaware (1), Erie (7), Geauga (2), Guernsey (1), Harrison (1), Henry (1), Huron (2), Knox (2), Licking (1), Lorain (2), Lucas (5), Mahoning (2), Marion (1), Mercer (1), Noble (1), Ottawa (11), Portage (3), Ross (1), Sandusky (10), Seneca (4), Summit (1), Trumbull (5), Wayne (1), Wood (2), and Wyandot (5).

Anyone who observes bald eagles actively building a nest, or discovers a large nest that they think may be an eagle's nest, should contact an ODNR Divi-

sion of Wildlife district office or county wildlife officer. Anyone who discovers a nest should not approach the area. Human disturbance to bald eagles may prompt an eagle pair to abandon a nest. Such human disturbances also carry heavy state and federal penalties. The state's bald eagle management program is funded by the sale of the Ohio Bald Eagle License Plate and contributions to the state income tax check-off program for Wildlife Diversity and Endangered Species.

**From the ODNR
Submitted by Delores Cole**

2001 Fall Feathers and Foliage Festival Best Ever!

By Delores Cole

This year's Fall Feathers and Foliage Festival boasted one of the best weekends ever for our event. It was sunny, the temperatures were moderate and there was no rain. Festival participants began arriving Friday evening. Our bird banding station on Long Point was opened up well before dawn by **Tom Bartlett** and his crew of banding volunteers, who set up the nets. The thrush hadn't expected to see anyone quite that early!

All of the birds caught in the nets are banded, checked for fat content, measured and weighed. Some were kind enough to pose for pictures for us before they resumed their flights. Tom said it was the best fall banding ever on the island. During 93 net hours among 10 nets, we banded 139 individual birds from 23 species. High tallies included 33 Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets and 31 Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes.

Throughout the day more than 200 visitors joined us at the



Kelleys Island State Park Manager Craig Morton escorts a large group on his tree walk portion of the FFFF Day.

Long Point banding site! Tom was able to point out distinguishing field marks of each bird as the people crowded around the banding table to see the whole process.

Documentation is very important. For each bird banded, the band number is recorded as well as the species, estimated age and the size information mentioned earlier. These records are maintained in a database for easy access in case a banded bird is caught again. When this happens, figures and dates are compared to tell us about the bird's life since the previous banding.

The 8:15 a.m. bird walk at North Pond Nature Preserve was led by **Jim McCormac**, a research botanist with ODNR. He had quite a crowd to lead with more than 35 birders looking for fall migrants. Carolina Wrens were singing and Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, American Redstart, common Yellowthroat, and Wil-

son's Warblers were seen along the boardwalk. Cedar Waxwings were seen and heard everywhere as well as Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows. Thrushes seemed to be all over the island that weekend and seen and heard on the walk were more Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes.

Craig Morton, our State Park Manager,

led the 1 p.m. Tree Identification Walk. This year he took the group into the quarry below the Glacial Grooves to view the growth that had established itself after the area was abandoned from quarrying. More than 45 people joined him. Craig showed walk participants a diagram of the old quarry operation which included pictures and maps of all the old structures that existed during that time. This material was initially put together by **Kurt Boker**, a former Kelleys Island School teacher.

Kevin Metcalf, a Trailside Naturalist at the Cleveland Metro Parks manned our Hawk Watch site at the Glacial Grooves, the highest point on the north side of Kelleys Island. With an east wind all of the odds were against us for most of the morning. We did see a resident hawk or two and many Blue Jays and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

After lunch, the wind shifted out of the north and we viewed Sharp-shinned Hawks and Bald Eagles.

Sunday, the day after the official Hawk Watch, visitors from Cleveland had more favorable winds tallying up to 65 birds flying over the grooves in two-and-one-half hours which included 1 Osprey, 8 Bald Eagles, 7 Northern Harriers, 33 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Coopers Hawks, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 14 American Kestrels, 6 Merlin and 2 Peregrine Falcons.

It was a spectacular event. The visitors who took part in the various components of the weekend asked loads of questions of our experts, had a great time, and many asked when our next event would be. Thanks to one and all who took part and to all those from the island and the Kelleys Island Audubon Club who helped!



Judy DuShane's grandson Jeff Wicks was one of the many youngsters who got to help out with bird-banding. Jeff is holding a Kinglet.

Kelley Island Tree Advisory Board

By Jean Kuyoth

A small group of citizens on the Island have formed a study group to analyze need for the adoption of a Tree Ordinance and Tree Commission.

Asked by Planning Commission Chairmen to look into this matter was **Anne Sennish** and myself. We were concerned about Planning Commission's reluctance to recommend to Village Council the formation of a Tree Commission on Kelleys Island.

Several meetings have been held with State Park Manager **Craig Morton** and KIAC President **Pat Hayes**

attending. At the first meeting it was decided to "start softly" and focus on community education and awareness.



The prevention of soil compaction around tree roots and preservation of existing trees through proper care were discussed.

Some of the goals this group would like to achieve are being able to help property owners on the island when they have tree problems and try to get their questions answered. Also eventually get Kelleys Island desig-

nated as a "Tree City USA" through The National Arbor Day Foundation.

There is a State Forester assigned to Erie County that the Board could have come over for a meeting to help us with our ideas. We will have to book him well in advance as he has a three-county territory to cover.

Quoting from Anne Sennish, "Trees are a canopy which stands over Kelleys Island and are only second to the lake as our most valuable natural asset."

Anyone wanting to join this group is greatly welcomed. There will be a presentation by Craig Morton at the April Audubon meeting. Please plan on attending.

Island Meanderings

By Kelley Sanderson

What a wonderful autumn we have had on Kelleys Island! It is mid-November and the days are clear, sunny and warm. The winter birds are here, busily devouring the contents of the feeders—Chickadees, Nuthatches, Goldfinches in their winter grays, Downy woodpeckers, Titmice and House finches. A drive around the island reveals lots of ducks gathering for their migration south. The Buffleheads are among the first arrivals in the spring and the last to leave in the fall after spending the summer in the upper reaches of Canada. They are the cutest of the ducks with their short bodies and white heads. Although spotting a Loon not far off shore is pretty exciting.

On a recent sunny Sunday afternoon, we took a hike through the East Quarry, entering off Woodford Road. Instead of shuffling through crackling fall leaves, the trails were the bright green of spring grass. A soft breeze demanded a light winter coat and mittens, and winter boots kept our feet warm and dry. Deer tracks were abundant. Even a few hearty wildflowers nodded their last nods and provided islets of color in the winter woods. The silence was broken by the sweet "chick-a-dee-dee-dees" as they escorted us down the lanes. Our old dog scared up a rabbit to show his bravery.

Ha! That rabbit was safe and gone before the dog even knew it was there.

As we approached the long-abandoned quarry we suddenly became aware of the "roar" of the waves on the north shore, and the wind reminded us of the chilly northeasters of winter soon to arrive. Then the Eat Quarry suddenly appeared, and I am always surprised at the beauty of the starkness and the ragged rocks in contrast to the surrounding woods and the glassy surface of Horseshoe Lake. As we sat quietly on a bench at the edge, I thought once more about how fortunate we are to live here on Kelleys Is-

land, where we can celebrate the changing seasons and enjoy the special beauty of every season of the year.

I hope that like *Frederick*, my favorite children's book about a field mouse, that you have stored up wonderful memories of summer to enjoy all winter long.

I wish you the happiest of Holidays! And remember to feed the birds. Maybe this year Santa will finally bring me a birders hat.

Meteors and Owls—Mother Nature Puts On A Show!

By Lori Hayes

At first, most of the islanders ignored the news bulletin about the impending meteor shower because what is the chance of having a clear sky in Ohio in November? But when the scheduled night loomed near during a string of unusually clear, warm and calm weather, the islanders crawled out of their warm beds in droves and spent an hour or two between 4 and 6 a.m. oohing and aahing the night sky's wondrous spectacle. The media and scientific community-hype on the Leonid Meteor Showers promised they would be the best in 100 years - and they were fantastic!

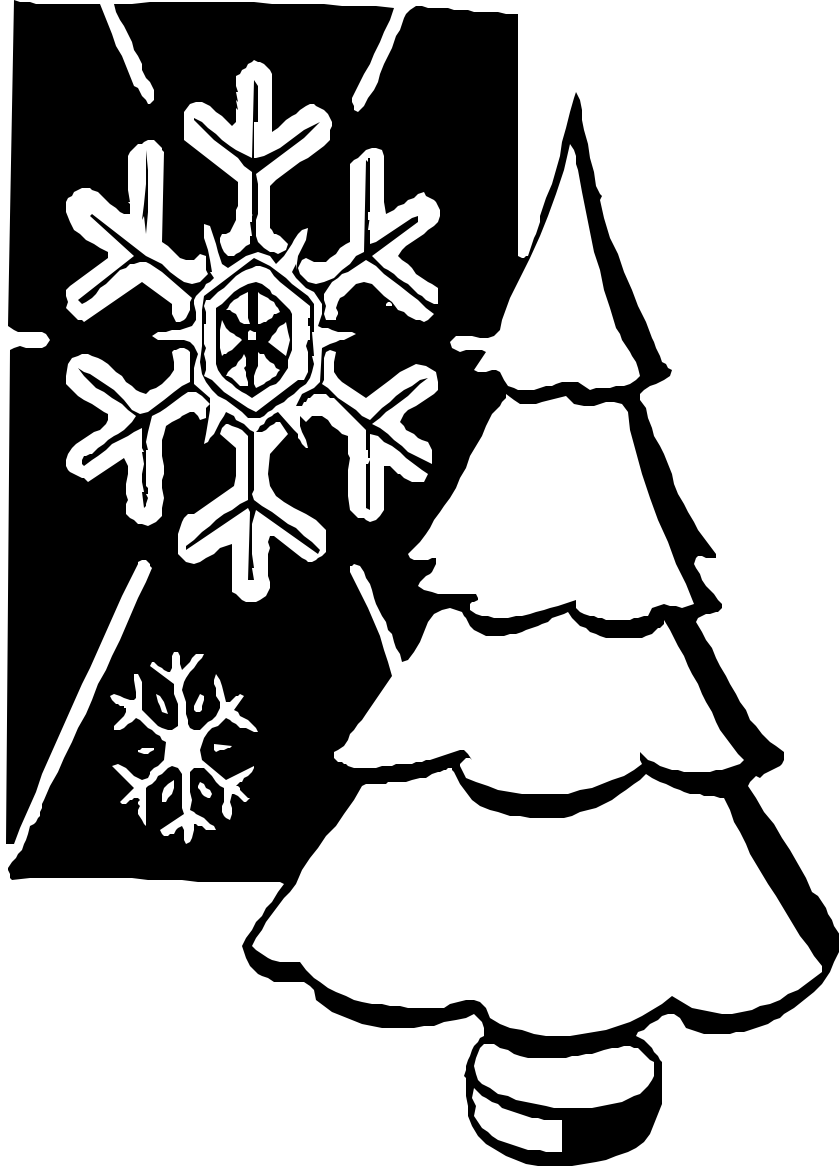
Fisherman **Bob Yontz** from Columbus may have only caught two fish that night but he saw 120 bottle rockets zing across the sky.

Terry Kranyak hosted a meteor watching party. People drank coffee and ate chocolate croissants. Terry tested the durability of his new dock with the throng of meteor gazers.

Tom Bartlett, our Audubon's Master Bird Bander, decided it would be a good night to band owls. The owls were too enthralled with the meteor show to pay any attention to Tom's alluring owl calls and nets!

Thank you Mother Nature for such a wonderful show!

Happy Holidays to You and Yours
and Best Wishes for a Soaring 2002!



THANK YOU!

Special thanks to our members and supporters. Please keep us in mind for your holiday giving. Membership in the Kelleys Island Audubon Club is quite inexpensive and makes a wonderful gift. A membership form is on the next page. Below is a list of past contributors to our organization's special funds. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. General donations are also welcome. All donations are tax deductible. We couldn't exist without your continuing support!

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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

_____ 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.

KIAC November Census

The unusually warm and calm weather was exceptional for both the birds and bird-watchers alike. The November Census takers observed 61 species of birds. Some of the highlights of the day were:

- 2 Gray Ghosts (Northern Harriers) migrating from Canada
- Lapland Longspur
- 3 Pipits
- 5 Red Polls
- 68 Common Loons (no reference to islanders!)
- 2 Bluebirds
- Gray Catbird

This month's census takers were: **Tom and Paula Bartlett, Vic Fazio, Pat Hayes, Delores Cole, Lori Brumbaugh, Zac Baker, Brian Bacchus, Mike and Mikey Mielke.**

Look for the final results on the Kelleys Island Audubon website: www.kelleysisland.ws

Kelleys Island Audubon Club

P.O. Box 42

Kelleys Island, OH 43438

www.kelleysisland.ws

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