

"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 2005

Fall Feathers & Foliage Festival Sat., Sept. 24

Lori Hayes

Visitors flock to Kelleys Island in the fall to see the birds flock to Kelleys Island on their long migration south. The Kelleys Island Audubon Club has a day-long festival planned to show off our migratory visitors.



Great Crested Fly-catcher enjoying a dust bath.. Photo by Shane Roberts.

but can ID it. The Glacial Grooves is the highest natural point on the island and an excellent vantage point for hawk watching. He was there from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bird Banding on Long Point was held from 7 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Master Bird Bander, Tom Bartlett and his assistants are studying migratory birds and their habits and let visitors be part of the experience. Children relished the opportunity to release the birds after they were banded. And our Bird Adoption Program was very successful.

After a break and a picnic lunch at the campground we held our Tree I.D. Walk at 1:00 p.m. State Park Ranger, Mike Monnett was our expert guide.

All events were free and the whole day was sponsored by the Kelleys Island Audubon Club.



Sydney Metcalf releases a Gray-cheeked Thrush. Photo by Shane Roberts.

President's Message

Before modern man came to America high water (flooding) would dissipate through a system of flood plains and wetlands. The rains and water would then be filtered out and everything would return to normal. Nature's plan provides plants and animals that can survive these short lived events.

On Lake Erie, the Great Black Swamp was diked, dammed and drained. This giant overflow system stretched from Sandusky to Toledo. The swamp was really Lake Erie with trees. If this historic swamp were still in existence today, many of our high water and flooding events would never happen.

I am very sorry for the people in the Gulf region. The disaster of Katrina and Rita showed us that Mother Nature has the upper hand and that maybe the natural flood controls work the best. The Kelleys Island Kayak Poker Paddle donated \$200 to the hurricane victims.

Another season is coming to a close. I want to thank all of our club members for their continued support. I would like to give a big Thank You to Delores Cole for her work in organizing Nest With the Birds and the Feathers and Foliage Bird Festivals. Delores is stepping down from this aspect of the club. We all thank her for her generous work. She will stay on as our web page manager.

I want to welcome Shane and Laura Roberts as board members. New ideas and faces keep us interesting.

I hope many of you can attend the October 20th meeting. We raffle off the loon. Also, nationally known photographer, Ian Adams will be our speaker with a wonderful slide presentation.

Don't forget to look up for eagles - they're really up there! **Pat Hayes**

DUES REMINDER—2005 DUES ARE DUE NOW

Events abound in Fall

Judy DuShane

The September 15 Kelleys Island Audubon Club meeting featured our own **Barb Coleman**, Docent for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, speaking on "Magical Butterflies and More". This year we have seen many butterflies on the island. Explain what she said and did....

On October 20 we will have the renowned nature photographer **Ian Adams** as our speaker. He will show some of his wetland photos. (Browse his book on Ohio at the **Sweet Valley Trading Post**.) This meeting will be held at **St. Michael's Hall**. The raffle for the carved loon, binoculars and a carved shorebird will also be held at the October meeting. See **Peggy**

Cooney if you have not yet gotten tickets. This raffle is one of the major means of support for the club.

Our events begin with a potluck at 6:00, a short Audubon meeting and then the program at 7:00. Bring a dish to pass, your table setting and beverage and join us. You do not have to be a member to attend.

September was a busy month at Kelleys Island for events centered around nature with the KI Historical Association's "Butterfly Festival" on Sept. 10 where Pat and **Lori Hayes** tagged Monarch butterflies, the "Kayak Poker Paddle" on Sept. 17, Fall Feathers and Foliage Festival" (FFF) on Sept. 24. For further information on any of these events see the website at www.kelleysislandnature.com.

Back to the Wild --Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Education Center

Judy DuShane

Mona Rutgers and her staff of "Back to the Wild" were pleased that two Kelleys Island organizations, the **KI Audu-**



Above is a snowy owl who was ensnared in a twin-treble hook fishing lure. Her beak was also ensnared. This owl was able to be released after rehabilitation because the person who found her called "Back to the Wild." Photo from Back to the Wild website.

bon (KIAC) and the **KI Landowners Association** (KILA) cooperated to bring them to the Kelleys Island Homecoming. As their reputation for "rehabbing" wild animals and then releasing them when it is possible grows, the number of animals they receive is expanding greatly. Unfortunately their budget as a non-profit organization hasn't kept pace. They receive no government funds so our contributions really make a difference.

Visit their website at www.backtothewild.com to learn more and donations can be sent to PO. Box 423,4504 Bardshar Rd., Castalia, OH 44824. Call Mona at 419.684.9539 if you would like to visit

See ten years of bird census—visit Kelleys Island Audubon Club's website at www.kelleysislandnature.com

Golden-winged Warbler - Vermivora chrysoptera

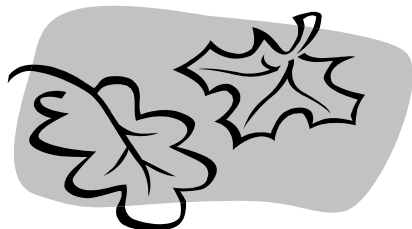


Shane P. Roberts

During summer, the uncommon Golden-winged Warbler is found in the northeastern United States and Canada, where it breeds. These birds winter from Central America to north-western South America.

The Golden-wing male is the only warbler with the combination of a black throat and yellow wing patches. Other field marks include a yellow forehead, black eye patch bordered in white, blue-gray back and white breast and underparts. The female is similar in appearance but the black on face and throat are replaced with gray. Their favored habitat is brushy clearings, open woodlands and heavy undergrowth where they nest on or near the ground.

In Ohio, the territories of the Golden-winged and its very close relative, the Blue-winged Warbler overlap and occasionally the two species interbreed. The offspring of these pairs produce fertile cross species that are either Brewster's or Lawrence's Warblers. Each of these crosses have distinctive markings that are a combination of the adult bird's field marks.



Island Meanderings

Kelley Sanderson

September arrived in mid-August this year. After 20-some days of 90+ degrees and about a dozen days of 89 degrees, these cooler autumn breezes were most welcome. Beautiful sunsets in the western sky streaked with corals, lavenders, blues and greens lured many island visitors to the shoreline to watch the spectacular color show. Every one I see, I think is the "most" beautiful. The next evening is another, and another. I guess they ALL are most beautiful!

Early warbler migration seemed to be happening, too, and the goldfinches were dressed in their bright yellow mating colors by June. Since goldfinches line their nests with thistle down, they don't build their nests until August-September when the thistle flowers turn to downy seed. Bonaparte Gulls started arriving in early August. Recognized by their smaller size and black heads, the Bonapartes summer across Canada from Lake Huron to Alaska. Now they are on their way south to winter along the east, west and south coasts of the U.S. Lots and lots of them stop off at Niagara Falls to feed on small fish in the Niagara River until the ice forms. But, we enjoy them around the Lake Erie Islands each spring and autumn. Remember, I said September arrived early this year!

I recently visited Back-to-the-Wild, the wildlife rehab station near Castalia. The last time I was there was a few years ago,

and I was impressed at that time by the professional program and facilities of **Mona Rutger** who rescues injured animals and nurses them back to health. Right now she has five eagles which have been injured, plus one sick from West Nile Virus which left him blind. There are also about a dozen different owls, a variety of shorebirds including egrets, herons and gulls, a variety of critters (some of which I wouldn't rehabilitate - possum and raccoons), six young deer fawns, snakes, salamanders, turtles, a bobcat, albino fox and lots of others.

Many of the animals are confiscated by wildlife officers, since private ownership of wild animals without a permit is illegal. Some were collected by hobbyists who grew bored and "donated" them to Back-to-the-Wild.

The facility has grown from need, as more and more sick and injured animals are rescued by caring persons and turned over to Mona for help. During my tour, Mona told me that all costs are covered only by voluntary donations. There is no fee to tour the facility, and she will take her education program wherever invited. Only private donations support the center, no government funds. Donations are welcome and are badly needed to feed the animals and maintain the rehab station. They are tax-deductible, too.

Kelleys Island Audubon has been a supporter of Back-to-the-Wild for many years. The Kelleys Island Landowners

Association has collaborated with Audubon to sponsor the Back-to-the-Wild display and educational program to Kelleys Island for the Homecoming event. The birds she brings are magnificent and attract many children and adults to learn and admire the birds and animals. It is thrilling to see Kestrels, Saw-whet owls, Screech owls, Barred owl, Great Horned owl up close. The beautiful colors and patterns of their feathers are splendid. Thanks to Audubon and the Landowners for bringing them to Kelleys Island, and thanks to all of you who will send donations to Back-to-the-Wild, 4504 Bardshar Road, Castalia, Ohio, 44824.

The island is quieter now that kids have returned to school and fewer visitors are here. The grass is so green, the crickets and tree frogs sing us to sleep, mornings are peaceful, and it is so quiet you can hear the hummingbirds at the feeders. It is time to start stockpiling suet blocks and sunflower seeds for winter feeding. Another wonderful summer on Kelleys Island is just about over.

Another year of our lives has passed. Another new baby in the family, another wedding, another wrinkle and gray hair. Ah, but it can't be any better than another year on Kelleys Island. Happy Autumn!

Butterfly Festival

Lori Hayes

The Monarch butterflies were gliding above the Old Stone Church on Division Street to check out what was going on down below. It was the annual Kelleys Island Historical Association's (KIHA) Butterfly Festival, held on Sat., Sept. 10th.

The Monarch butterfly is celebrated on Kelleys Island because we are a way station for the butterfly on their fall journey to the mountains in central Mexico.

Arts and Crafts, displays and delicious baked goods and food were featured.

Kelleys Island Postmaster, **Jean Boyd** was on hand with her Butterfly Bears and one-of-a-kind Kelleys Island Butterfly Cancellation Stamp, which she designed. Dozens of the limited edition bears were sold to commemorate the one-day cancellations. Jean arranged for 100 of them with special

collars, denoting their number and birth on Kelleys Island. The special cancellation bear stamp is a fine collector's item. The KIHA will be offering a post-purchase of postcards with the special cancellation for sale over the next couple of months.

Pat Hayes, President of the Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC), gave a Monarch Tagging Show to an avid audience of young and old alike. I sold Monarch Adoption Certificates. Adoptive parents can keep track of their own butterfly on the Monarch Watch website. Thirty-seven Monarchs were tagged that day.

The Kelleys Island Historical Handmade Quilt Raffle, with the beautiful hand-crafted quilt done by **Terri Betzenheimer**, was won by: **Richard Lyon**. Standing proudly off to the side was the shell of the new home of the Kelleys Island Historical Society. It is going to be beautiful and is very much anticipated.

A big Thank You to all of the many volunteers who made the Festival a big success!

Kroonmeyer family donates bench



The **Kent Kroonmeyer** family donated a bench to the Kelleys Island State Park East Quarry. His family, including, his wife, two children and their families, is pictured here at the Memorial Service. East Quarry visitors will enjoy this wonderful opportunity to sit and rest while enjoying the beauty of one of our island's natural jewels. Mr. Kroonmeyer worked for the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Division. The bench features his name and a "Save our Snakes" sign.

Rock Elm painting donated



"Rock Elms of Scheele Preserve," was donated to the KIAC by island artist, **Joe Corso**. KIAC is raffling this gorgeous painting of a colorful autumn view of the state's only remaining stand of rock elms—which happens to be at KI's Scheele Preserve—for ten dollars per ticket. The raffle will close and be drawn once all tickets are sold. Tickets will be held to only 100 tickets.. This prize is valued at seven hundred dollars. Photo of Joe Corso painting by Shane Roberts.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets make Kelleys a major stopover

On the third day of a northeast blow, birds dropped out of the sky by the hundreds. Sunday, October 9, calls from all sides of the island reported little yellow birds with red caps were flying into windows, filling up trees, devouring seeds at backyard feeders. **Kim Watkins** saw them in the downtown park. **Shelley** at the Marina picked up several after they hit the windows. **Campbells** rescued one which survived a window hit and observed 30-40 at their feeders.

Fred Walcott said they cleaned out his finch feeders in

minutes. He checked his bird book and read a notation that on the same date in 1998, hundreds of Ruby-crowned Kinglets stopped at Kelleys Island on their southern migration. By noon on Monday, they all had left on a light NE breeze and over calm waters. What an amazing experience to see so many at one time. It was also good to hear so many island residents had enjoyed this rare treat and were interested enough to tell others. Thanks, everyone, for being Island Birders!

Federal Duck Stamps save more than ducks

Reprinted from the Audubon Magazine

"Duck Stamps" are required of hunters in order to hunt waterfowl. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Ducks Stamps," are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and sold to hunters. Ninety-five cents out of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps go directly to the purchase or lease of wetland habitat under the protection of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In this manner, the hunters have contributed materially to protecting the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Here is the evidence that Paul Baicich presented recently in BirdWatcher'sDigest.com : "The 56,000-acre Cache River National Wildlife Refuge - core 'home' of the re-discovered Ivory-billed Woodpecker - was founded relatively recently (16 June 1986). This National Wildlife Refuge has been recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the RAMSAR Convention. Out of its current 56,000 acres, fully 43,816 acres, or over 77% was acquired through funds that have come through the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. (That cost was \$38,057,436.)

"Similarly, the nearby and much larger - at over 160,000 acres - White River National Wildlife Refuge has had 10,145 acres acquired through \$5,254,645 from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, of which the stamp is a major contributor.

If you ever needed proof that the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is not 'just for ducks,' well, this is it!"

You don't have to be a hunter to purchase a Duck Stamp. Even if you are not a hunter, your purchase of a duck stamp every year directly increases wetland habitat protection. Since the program started in 1934, over two million Federal Duck Stamps have been purchased in Ohio. The new 2005-2006 Federal Duck Stamp is on sale now. If you want to purchase one, you can do it by phone (U.S. Postal Service 1-800-782-6724), online at www.duckstamp.com, at many post offices, and at many major stores that sell sporting goods. The price is \$15 and, as noted above, ninety-five cents of every dollar goes to the purchase of wetlands.

An added benefit of buying a Duck Stamp is that it will get you a free admission to National Wildlife Refuges (like the storied Ding Darling Refuge on Sanibel Island) that normally require an admission fee.

Glacial Glimpses

Lori Hayes

How many places can one walk to see the remains of a Devonian Sea, the sculpturing of the last ice age, ruins of the late 1800s industrial age, and the current beauty of a rocky shoreline, all under a late summer deep blue sky?

Twenty-five hikers, led by **Pat and Lori Hayes**, were treated to such a walk on Sunday, September 4, 2005 at Kelleys Island as part of the 2005 Ohio Coastweeks celebrations. Titled Glacial Glimpses, the walk included hikers ranging in age from two to seventy and from as far away as Louisville, Kentucky. A high point of the tour was an appearance by the famed, but endangered, **Lake Erie Water Snake**, who demonstrated its camouflage abilities upon the smooth limestone of the Alvar. Many hikers left with a new appreciation of this place with desire to return again one day.

Science Academy names Fellows

Columbus, OH---The Ohio Academy of Science today named eight Ohioans and one Floridian honorary Fellows. Among them was **H. Thomas Bartlett**, Tiffin Columbian HS, Tiffin; ornithology and habitat.

Fellows have rendered some special service to The Ohio Academy of Science or have made extensive, productive scientific, technological or educational contributions to society.

"Election as an honorary Fellow is the highest form of recognition by peers offered by The Ohio Academy of Science," said **Lynn E. Elfner**, the Academy's CEO.

The Ohio Academy of Science is a membership-based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. The Academy is the leading organization in Ohio to foster curiosity, discovery, and innovation and to unite all who value education, science, engineering, technology, or their applications to benefit society. The Academy conducts an annual meeting and science days, and publishes an international, multi-disciplinary, scientific journal.

Tom Bartlett is the Master Bird Bander who has been banding the birds on Kelleys Island for 10 years and who has been running the monthly bird counts on the island. His work has been instrumental for ornithological research in the state and on Kelleys Island.

Congratulations Tom!



Lake Erie Coastal Highway Trail now an America's Byway

It's official! The **Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail is now an America's Byways™ designated by the Federal Highway Administration**. The announcement was made recently by U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Norman Mineta** in Washington, D.C. Attending the celebration were **Melinda Huntley**, executive director of Lake Erie Coastal Ohio; **Frank Lichtkoppler**, Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Byways Chairman and an Ohio Sea Grant Extension Specialist; and **Paul Staley**, ODOT Scenic Byways Section Chief.

The America's Byways™ program, formerly known as the National Scenic Byways Program, honors a unique collection of American roads, their stories, and treasured places. The mission of the program is to provide resources to the byway community in creating a unique travel experience and enhanced local quality of life through efforts to preserve, protect, interpret and promote their special features. In order to achieve America's Byways™ designation, Lake Erie Coastal Ohio had to complete a nomination form

and develop a Corridor Management Plan that demonstrates the importance and integrity of our region's intrinsic qualities – natural, historical, recreational, cultural, archaeological and scenic. Over the last three years, Lake Erie Coastal Ohio has conducted a resource inventory, developed a management plan with stakeholder input, and begun creation of interpretive themes. With these tools at our disposal, we were able to clearly state our region's natural, historical and recreational qualities in order to achieve this important designation.

WHAT IS THE AMERICA'S BYWAYS™/NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY PROGRAM?

The National Scenic Byway Program was established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. The first routes were designated in 1996. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain routes as National Scenic Byways. President Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient

Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), authorizing a total of \$175 million for America's Byways™ technical assistance and grants to states and Indian tribes in August, 2005, providing additional resources for the America's Byways™ program through 2009. The Federal Highway Administration promotes the collection as America's Byways™. Yesterday's celebration designated 45 new America's Byways™, creating a current total of 125 America's Byways™ in 44 states. Since 1992, the program has provided \$300,000,000 funding for 1,665 designated byway projects.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING A NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY?

The America's Byways™ program focuses on promotions preservation, partnerships and building community pride.

In 2004, \$23,854,702 was distributed to 345 projects in 44 states.

Kelleys Island Audubon Club
P.O. Box 42
Kelleys Island, OH 43438
www.kelleysislandnature.com
Board Members
Pat Hayes
President
Peggy Cooney
Vice President
June Campbell
Secretary
Jean Kuyoth
Treasurer
Lloyd Burns
Delores Cole
Judy DuShane
Lori Hayes
Jacquie Kranyak
Shane Roberts
Laura Roberts
Sandy Tkach

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

Kelleys Island Audubon Club Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

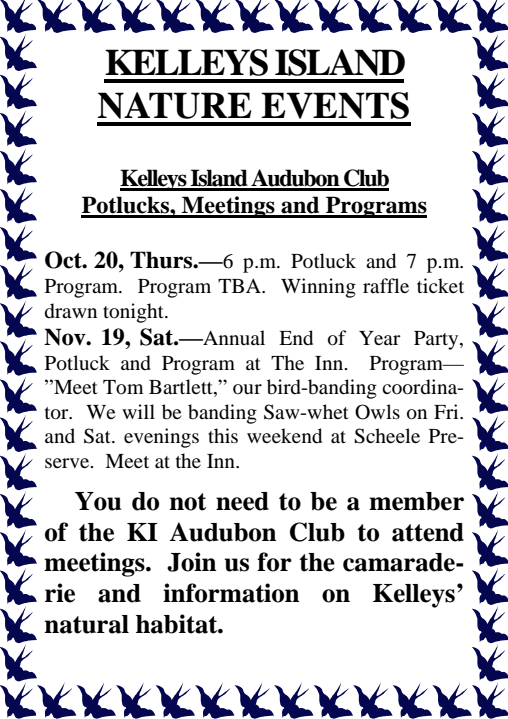
Amount Enclosed:

- _____ \$15 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.



KELLEYS ISLAND
NATURE EVENTS

Kelleys Island Audubon Club
Potlucks, Meetings and Programs

Oct. 20, Thurs.—6 p.m. Potluck and 7 p.m. Program. Program TBA. Winning raffle ticket drawn tonight.

Nov. 19, Sat.—Annual End of Year Party, Potluck and Program at The Inn. Program—“Meet Tom Bartlett,” our bird-banding coordinator. We will be banding Saw-whet Owls on Fri. and Sat. evenings this weekend at Scheele Preserve. Meet at the Inn.

You do not need to be a member of the KI Audubon Club to attend meetings. Join us for the camaraderie and information on Kelleys’ natural habitat.