

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

# HOOT



# OWL

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KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR

YOU AND ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS • WINTER 2006

## End of season pot-luck party

### Lori Hayes

It was far from a sad farewell to the season at the Kelleys Island Audubon End of the Season Pot-Luck party held Saturday, November 19 at The Inn. There was a surprising amount of people still on the island that came and everyone had a nice time. The Audubon provided the ham and people brought food to go along with it. There was crackling fire in the fireplace and the Christmas decorations were up, and the inn was filled with the laughter of happy people. It is how the old house is supposed to be.

The Kelleys Island Audubon had a very successful year: From our presence at the Wing Watch Bird Festival, to the Nest With the Birds week in May where many people attended and got excited about our spring migration. To the monthly pot-lucks and programs where the people stuffed with food did not get bored to sleep by the interesting speakers. Programs were varied from butterflies to volcanoes!

In September we had our month of events—The Butterfly Tagging Show, The Kayak Poker Paddle and the Feathers and Foliage Bird Festival. Beside our fall owl banding project we also had a spring and fall bird banding at Long Point.

**Tom Bartlett** just finished up his 8th year of doing monthly bird censuses.

All of our programs and activities show people that nature does count on Kelleys Island. After all, isn't that why we're here? Because we love Kelleys Island.

See you soon!

## Club member receives award

### June Campbell

The Ohio Environmental Council has bestowed the "Environmental Innovation Award" to **Joe Scaletta**, SDC Homes and Neighborhoods, Avon Ohio.

The award was described in the "Watch!" magazine, "Developers often draw the ire of conservationists. But Joe Scaletta is no ordinary developer. Dedicated to protecting vital natural areas, his company rejects the cookie-cutter mold of modern suburban developments. Working with nature, Joe's company builds energy efficient homes and developments that protect wetlands and incorporate innovative storm water controls. In an industry rife with shortsighted, slap-dash builders, SDC Homes and Neighborhoods is a shining star."

Joe and his wife **Leslie** and daughters have a summer home on East Point Drive and are members of Kelleys Island Audubon Club. At one of our first bird banding sessions about 10 years ago, Joe, Leslie and their 6-year old daughter, **Giovanna**, visited to see the birds. Giovanna was enthralled when she was allowed to hold a newly-banded bird until it flew away.

Congratulations, Joe. We add our praise to the Ohio Environmental Council for recognizing your innovations and excellence.

## President's Message

International travelers have long known of Kelleys Island's hospitality. The milkweed and goldenrod welcome the Monarch butterfly on his long trip. The cedars offer protection for the saw-whet owls we now know stay with us. The Mayflies offer bountiful harvest for the swallows. The gull and terns eat everything and go everywhere. The ducks cherish the shallow water around us for fast food on north and southbound journeys. South American warblers rule the island in May. And the turkey vulture eats who doesn't make it. Everything goes together nicely.

How do we fit in? We rule the roost. We giveth and we taketh away if we see fit. It is our watch. Please invite a friend to some of our programs this summer. They may enjoy it.

It appears eagles are cruising the North Pond. We should know soon if nesting is going to happen. I know that islanders will be looking up and forward to a new island resident.

**Pat Hayes**



*Turkey vulture on the North Shore Loop Trail last Summer. Photo by Shane Roberts.*

**DUES REMINDER—2006 DUES ARE DUE NOW**

## Fall owl banding

**Lori Hayes**

Do Northern Saw-whet owls pit-stop on Kelleys Island during migration? That's one question **Tom Bartlett**, our KIAC banding expert wants to answer. To find out, he started a fall owl banding station at **Scheele Preserve** on Kelleys Island the fall of 2003. On Nov. 15, 2003 he captured his first Northern Saw-whet owl. His enthusiasm prompted him to band four nights in the fall of 2004. A total of 7 owls were banded that fall.

This year brought even bigger plans. He decided to band on four consecutive weekends starting Oct. 28th. His banding station became even more sophisticated. He put up 5 nets, a state of the art sound system to lure in the owls and even a very life-like decoy carved by **John Lortz**. We posted the dates on the island Post Office bulletin board so interested people could come out to the Scheele Preserve and see what was going on. Many did. Tom set up the nets just before dark each night and usually stayed out until midnight. KIAC board member, **Shane Rob-**



*Saw-whet owl at Scheele Preserve from last November.*  
Photo by Shane Roberts.

**erts** was his loyal assistant.

Over the course of the four weekends or 195 net hours, Tom banded a total of 9 Northern Saw-whet owls and 2 screech owls. Most of the saw-whets were 1st year immatures because their underwings were pinkish when they were held up to a black light.

Tom feels pretty confident that the Northern Saw-whet owl does migrate across Lake Erie on its way south in the fall and that Kelleys Island is a very important resting area.

Come on out next year and meet a Saw-whet owl!

## Endangered Species Act threatened

**Delores Cole**

Sometime this year, U.S. Representative Pombo's Anti-ESA bill, ironically called the "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005," will come before the Senate. This bill is on the federal level, so anyone from any state should be looking into it. This bill was passed by the House of Representatives last September (Kucinich and Kaptor voted against it).

We need to educate ourselves on this bill so we can write and/or call our Senators and let them know how we feel. If this bill passes, it will considerably weaken the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Some information on the act is below, but further information can be found at [www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org).

The addresses of our Ohio Senators are as follows:

**Senator Mike DeWine (OH-0S1)**  
**United States Senate**  
**140 Russell Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510-0001**  
**(202) 224-2315**

**Senator George V. Voinovich (OH-0S1)**  
**United States Senate**  
**524 Hart Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510-0001**  
**(202) 224-3353**

### **A synopsis of the proposed changes:**

- Undermines the Requirement of Federal Agencies to Ensure that Their Actions Do Not Jeopardize the Continued Existence of Listed Plants or Animals.
- Repeals Critical Habitat and Prohibition on Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat Without Providing Adequate Assurances that Habitat Necessary For Recovery Will Be Protected.
- Puts Roadblocks in the Way of the Use of the Best Available Science.
- Places Endangered Plants and Animals at Risk from Development and other Actions that "Take" Endangered Species.
- Requires the Federal Government to Pay Landowners to Not Violate the Law.
- Eliminates the Endangered Species Committee

Blocking the "Extinction Bill" could be one of the most significant battles related to the conservation movement we could ever participate in since the Endangered Species Act was put into law in 1973.

# Island Meanderings

## Kelley Sanderson

Our beautiful, warm, golden autumn gave way to a furious winter. Thanksgiving weekend brought strong southwest winds which made for some pretty rough crossings to join families for the holiday. When the wind finally died down, our bird feeders were hanging limp and empty. We went out to fill them and the leafless trees and bushes were heavy with little birds waiting for food. Soon the Goldfinches, House finches, Juncos, Tree sparrows, Downy woodpeckers and Chickadees were busy filling up on sunflower and niger thistle seed. Their "cheep-cheeps" showing their appreciation.

"Fatso" the squirrel claimed the platform feeder as his own and gobbled up the sunflower seeds. This is the fattest Fox squirrel we have ever seen - it looks like an orange housecat and must weigh about 15 pounds. He will not get hungry when he hibernates this winter!

A Coopers hawk has been hanging around and obviously feeding well on his diet of little birds. We see him swoop down and scatter the little ones, and we've seen him perched in a neighboring tree, probably digesting his last meal. We've rescued a couple of juncos which hit the windows in their haste to escape by carefully picking them up and gently holding and covering them with the other

hand. After a few minutes they recover and fly off. We had learned that injured birds die more from the cold and shock than from the injury, so we keep them warm in our hands, and it works.

After the first snowfall, off-island friends came over, wanting to enjoy what they knew would be a perfectly beautiful day. During the ride around the island, we all enjoyed the shrubs and trees with their bare branches heavy with snow. Titus Road was especially beautiful, but Ward Road was, too. We stopped at the Scheele Preserve for a hike and followed the path, breaking the fresh snow with our footprints. There was no wind inside the Preserve, but we could hear the NE waves breaking on Long Point.

Our friends knew the naked trees by the bark and buds, so tree ID-ing was fun. Just past the Rock Elm patch is a grove of very tall Kentucky Coffee Bean trees. We learned they have a "punk" bark sort of like cork, and some of the trees still had a few bean pods still hanging. When the path disappeared into the trees, we continued east by forging our way through the thick underbrush on the recently acquired Cleveland Museum of Natural History's 140 foot wide section all the way to the lake. We could see the lake through the trees, and it looked so lovely and peaceful and silent on the lea side of Long Point.

When we broke through the brush to the beach dune, a pair of Black ducks flew up, quickly followed by a flock of about 50 or more Mallards which exploded into the air. Quiet followed, and we just stood there and marveled at the beauty of the lake in the crisp winter air. The most exciting winter experience was a few days later during a drive on Titus Road. Always on alert for deer, my eyes searched the edges of the road for movement. Suddenly a rabbit erupted from the brush, running like fury across the road, quickly followed by a coyote which caught the rabbit, gave it a strong shake and carried it off into the woods. The whole thing only lasted less than 10 seconds. Wow! I wondered, did I really see that? I still wonder.

On a happier note, the Eagles have been observed working on their nest in the North Pond area. It looks bigger than last spring. That is the usual behavior of a pair of eagles, to improve the nest in the fall in preparation for nesting in the spring. We will watch closely all winter for eagle activity and hope for a successful hatch and fledge in the spring.

We will also keep feeding the birds, enjoy watching them while in the warm house, take winter hikes into the quiet woods and enjoy our very beautiful island home.

## First meeting to focus on your own backyard

### Lori Hayes and Judy DuShane

The first meeting of the Kelleys Island Audubon Club will be held on April 20 at St. Michael's Hall. The topic will be "Feeding Birds in Your Backyard" with **Andy Lihani**, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. He will bring some different feeds and bird houses to get you ready for the spring migration. Come at 6:00 for the potluck, 6:45 for the short meeting and the program will begin at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

Other program dates this year include:

June 10—Saturday Picnic meeting, Pavilion; July 2; Aug 17; Sep 21—Pavilion; Oct 19—St. Michaels. For a complete list of the island's nature events, please see Page 4.

## Seasonal birds to look for

### January

Swans, geese, bald eagle, northern shrike, mergansers, hawks, owls.

### February

Great blue heron, swans, geese, bald eagle, pintails, gyrfalcon, owls.

### March

Common loon, grebes, American bittern, brants northern shoveler, merlin, hawks, mergansers, soras, pectoral sandpiper

### April

Yellow-rumped, Nashville, western palm, swamp, black and white, black-throated, worm-eating, hooded, Louisiana, Kentucky, yellow-throated and prairie warblers; white-throated, swamp and song sparrow; hermit thrush; rub-crowned kinglets.

**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  
**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**

- April 20**—Potluck, meeting—St. Michael’s Hall, Andy Lihani, speaker— “Feeding Birds in Your Backyard”
  - May 14-20**—**Nest with the Birds**—a weeklong event featuring daily walks, talks and family fun events, visit our website (kelleysislandnature.com) or see next *Hoot Owl* for further information
  - June 10**—**Annual Picnic**—Pavilion at 6 p.m., bring a dish to share, program at 7
  - July 2**—Potluck, meeting—Pavilion at 6 p.m.
  - Aug. 9**—**Nature Camp for Kids**
  - Aug. 17**—Potluck, meeting—Pavilion at 6 p.m.
  - Sept. 3**—**Glacial Glimpses**—A walk as part of Coastal Week program
  - Sept. 9**—**Monarch Butterfly Festival** at KI Historical Museum/Old Stone Church—butterfly tagging and talk
  - Sept. 16**—Kayak Poker Paddle
  - Sept. 21**—Potluck, meeting—Pavilion at 6 p.m.
  - Sept. 30**—Fall Feathers and Foliage
  - Oct. 19**—Potluck, meeting—St. Michael’s
- You do not need to be a member of the KI Audubon Club to attend meetings or any club event. Join us for the camaraderie and information on Kelleys’ natural habitat.**