

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

HOOT



OWL

Inside...
An Inconvenient Truth
Uniqueness of Kelleys
Magee Marsh
Membership Form

KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR

YOU AND ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS • SPRING 2007

Nest with the Birds, 2007

Shane Roberts

Kelleys Island Audubon Club's "Nest with the Birds" is fast approaching and spring migration is well under way. Just two weeks into March, American robins, red-winged blackbirds, common grackles and turkey vultures are back with American tree sparrows and dark-eyed juncos yet to depart.

Mothers' Day, May 13 starts the festival with our usual Wild Flower walk lead by **Allison Cusick** retired ODNr chief botanist

Monday and Tuesday morning and afternoon bird walks featuring "**The Great Rare Bird Hunt**" where monetary prizes will be awarded to one birder (per walk) spotting and pointing out a qualifying bird to the person guiding the bird walk. You do not have to enter the competition

Wednesday through Friday we will be back to our usual Nest with the Birds format morning and afternoon guided bird walks. In the early afternoons there will be the usual bird related program.

Saturday we will end our festival with bird-banding at Long Point from dawn till around 2 pm—weather permitting. Master Bander, **Tom Bartlett** and his capable group of assistants will be your hosts at this event. We will also have two short guided bird walks for beginners while the bird-banding is in progress.

Don't forget the **Woodcock Watch** on the corner of Monagan and Hamilton Roads around 8.30 pm – for this you are on your own. The woodcock rarely fail to perform but you must wait watch and listen as dusk turns into night.

So break out your binoculars and join us for "Nest with the Birds" 2007 on Kelleys Island, Sunday, May 13 through Saturday, May 19. It is going to be yet another amazing festival.

Except for entry into "The Great Rare Bird Hunt" competition, **all other events are free**. For further information please visit kelleysislandnature.com or telephone 419-746-2258.

KIAC Summer Picnic—Saturday, June 9

Lori Hayes

Put Saturday, June 9th on your calendar. Note the date has been changed from the membership letter. Join us for our only Saturday meeting of the season.

Chris Knoll, the seasonal naturalist at **Crane Creek State Park** will be giving a program on "Reptiles and Amphibians of Ohio." He will also be bringing live specimens! Chris is a frequent Kelleys Island Audubon contributor and you may remember his captivating program on eagles a few years ago. We welcome him back!

The evening will start with a Pot Luck at 6 p.m.. Bring a dish to pass, and your own beverage and table service. Following the meal there will be a **BRIEF** business meeting. The program will begin at 7 p.m. This will all be happening at the **Pavilion on Addison St.** The rain place will be **St. Michael's Hall.**

I want to extend a special invitation to those members who are cottage weekenders. We'd love to have you! So bring your family and friends and plan to have a very enjoyable evening with the Kelleys Island Audubon. For more information call Lori Hayes at 419-746-2258.

President's Message

It's time to plant trees. Not many of us know who actually planted the larger trees in our yards. Some of us who have planted trees 50 years ago watched them grow up. We all enjoy the shade and beauty and the fall color they supply us with. The way the tree was planted, location and type were usually carefully planned out. The physical effort of planting and after-care all involved a person who wanted success. Many century-old trees did succeed.

We thank all those who planted them. As the homeowners may change hands, the tree remains the gift of the planter. What a legacy. An afternoon of work increased property value for all of us who can see the beauty of a tree. A lifetime of enjoyment for all.

Now with the ash borer disease found on our ash trees on Kelleys Island it is now more important than ever to plant this year. The State Park said we may lose as many as 40% of the trees on State land. The ash is a strong tree that can withstand high winds. A beautiful tree. Call the Erie County Extension Service for the tree species that would be a good replacement on Kelleys Island.

Now let's try and keep as many trees on Kelleys Island as we can. Trees belong to all of us. We need to protect and keep planting to insure the Emerald in Emerald Isle remains green.

I will again put names in this newsletter who have helped to beautify our island with a tree.

HAPPY SPRING! And remember to look up for eagles!

Pat Hayes

2007 DUES ARE DUE—THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY PAID!

Best of Florida birding

Greg Nelson

Fri., Feb. 16th.—Taking off from Detroit Metro Airport, leaving behind five degrees and piles of wind driven snow. Sun is setting with a rosy afterglow that lasts for well over an hour. Venus shines bright above the multi-hued horizon. An excellent start to what I hope is eight days of productive Florida birding.

This trip has been eagerly awaited since the end of last year's, when 144 species of Florida birds were identified. Can that record possibly be broken? Odds

are against it because there will be no boat trip to the Dry Tortugas like last year. However with **Pat (Hayes)** and **Jody's** help who knows?

First day begins with a long drive to Station 5. The stations are a series of water im-

pondments measuring 1.5 miles by 2 miles. When open for tours you get to drive along the dikes and experience what is simply the best birding available in the state of Florida or perhaps any state. We were certainly in a state of euphoria for the next six hours.

Well over 60 species were seen. This includes just about every wading bird, Peregrine falcon, huge flocks of White Pelicans, and both species of Whistling Ducks. After leaving Station 5 we go to a Wal Mart about 20 miles away to pick up the Common Myna, a life bird for me. Not ABA (American Birding Association) count-

able, but a good see just the same. This first day ends with a twilight view of a pair of Barn Owls. Another life bird for me. What a day! Eighty-six species, WOW!

The second day is all about the Western Spindalis, used to be called Stripe headed Tanager. It has been seen in a cemetery in Fort Lauderdale. Despite intense observation for a few hours the bird refuses to be seen. However another uncountable bird the Blue Crowned Parakeet is seen. A life bird Yea! Who cares about the ABA?

The next three days are taken up by a trip to Naples to make a command visit

Jody, (Magic Ears), and a couple of her friends. A Brown headed Nuthatch is the first bird seen. A couple of long hours and three miles of walking later and there is the woodpecker poking his head out of his nest hole. It sure is great when they cooperate. On the hike back to the car along the Sebastian River we observe what looks like hundreds of shiny, smooth, large rocks in the water. They turn out to all be Manatees. Awesome viewing up close and personal!

Friday includes trips to three different places fairly close to Boca Raton. Pickups

include Eared Grebe, Lesser Scaup, incredible close encounters with Sora Rails, Purple Martins, and Hooded Merganser.

Saturday is here. Very sad due to week ending and facing the long trip back to frozen Michigan. However the magic eared one (Jody) is taking us to the Kissimmee Prairie to look for Bachman's Sparrow. Two hours later there it is. Singing and showing off, great way to get a life

bird!

Sun., Feb. 25th. It has been an awesome week. I have totaled 143 species. Last stop before the airport is the cemetery in Fort Lauderdale for one last crack at the Spindalis. Within a couple of minutes of arriving the Hermit Thrush is seen. It looks like a tie with last year because the Spindalis is not cooperating. Like kissing your sister. Time to go, but wait, **Pat** yells, "up there!" A Red Start flies by. 145 breaks the old mark by one. What a great trip. Many thanks to **Lori (Hayes)**, **Jody**, **Caroline (DeBoard)** and of course **Pat**. Great Birding.



Greg Nelson and Pat Hayes.

with my mother. I manage to squeeze in stops at Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Corkscrew Audubon Sanctuary, Tigertail Beach (Marco Island) and Shark Valley at Everglades National Park. Shorebirds are the highlight of these places. Red Knots, Piping Plovers, Wilson Plovers, Dunlins, Dowitchers, and Willets are a few of the species seen. Total after five days is 120, a far cry from the goal.

Thurs., Feb. 22nd we are off to find the Red cocakaded Woodpecker with

An inconvenient truth—A global warming

What you can do to stop global warming

Lori Hayes

Former Vice President Al Gore has taken on the crusade to warn and educate people around the globe about the impending crisis of Global Warming.

The movie—*An Inconvenient Truth*—won the Oscar for Best Documentary this year. If you haven't seen the movie yet. See it. It is now available for rental.



Gore presents a very persuasive argument that global warming does exist. He uses graphics, video and even cartoons to help make global warming easy to understand.

He points out again and again that global warming is not a political issue but a moral issue. The movie is a wake up call for us to take immediate action to cut down on carbon emissions.

Below are the 10 things you can do from the movie and five extra things Kelleys Islanders can do.

1. Change a Light

Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

2. Drive Less

Walk, bike, carpool or take metro transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive!

3. Recycle More

You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.

4. Check Your Tires

Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere!

5. Use Less Hot Water

It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a low-flow showerhead (350 pounds of CO₂ saved per year) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year).

6. Avoid Products With a Lot of Packaging

You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%.

7. Adjust Your Thermostat

Moving your thermostat down just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

8. Plant a Tree

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

9. Turn Off Electronic Devices

Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you're not using them will save thousands of

pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

10. Be Part of the Solution

Learn more and get active at ClimateCrisis.net

Five things Kelleys Islanders can do

1. Drive a golf cart instead of a car. Better yet, drive an electric golf cart.
2. Ride a bike instead of driving.
3. Share trips to the mainland.
4. Recycle. Our transfer station recycles aluminum cans only. There are recycling stations in Pt. Clinton. On Buckeye Blvd. in the Pharmor parking lot. Also behind the Erie County building in Sandusky.
5. Don't heat your house in the winter when you are gone. Drain your pipes and turn off your electricity.

SAVE THE ISLAND SAVE THE PLANET! THANK YOU!

From "This Old House Magazine," April 2007

Deer Repellent

- 1 bar Fels Napatha soap, grated into slithers
- 2 bunches scallions, roughly chopped
- 2 heads of garlic, cloves peeled roughly chopped
- 4 eggs
- Chili powder, lots

Fill 1/2 of a 5-gallon bucket with hot water. Shave soap into bucket to dissolve. Place scallions, eggs and chili powder in a large piece of doubled cheesecloth. Tie up the ends of cloth tightly; use a wooden spoon to crack the eggs. Place pouch in bucket. Fill the bucket with more water; cover tightly with lid. Place in a shaded area and let sit for 1 week. Transfer in batches to a pump sprayer. Apply after each rain-fall or every 2 weeks.

Deer are browsers, eating whatever they find, and are voracious eaters, as we all know. Some of their favorite munchies are common landscape plants, including roses, tulips, hostas, and many ornamental shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardens. Deer are highly intelligent and very adaptable; when they get hungry enough, they will test the limits of just about every preventative measure. Eventually deer will get used to anything, so rotating repellants and combining them with other tools like scare tactics and fencing will keep them confused for a while.

Commercial products such as Deer-Off and Plantskydd are unpalatable to deer. Predator scents such as lion or coyote urine are effective, as well as having a dog leaving his/her scent all around your yard and garden. Human urine has not been reported as being successful.

Plants deer don't like: Spring: Bleeding heart, Bluebell, Crocus, Daffodils, Fritillaria. Summer: Bluebeard, Catmint, hyssop, lavender, monkshood. Marigolds. Groundcovers: Aguga, Lily of the valley, Pachysandra. Shrubs: Boxwood, Russian Olive.

Fences need to be 8 feet tall. Erecting a 5-6 foot fence within 6 feet of a building has been successful on the island, as the deer won't jump into the small area. If anyone has found their deer repelling methods to work, let KI Audubon know so we can pass it on to everyone.

The Uniqueness that is Kelleys Island

Shane Roberts

Kelleys Island never ceases to amaze us. My wife **Laura** and I are always pleasantly surprised with the ever-changing natural face of Kelleys Island.

Both of us being avid bird watchers spend most of our time on the island in the woods or walking roads like **Titus**,



Whimbrel

Huntington and **Bianchi** with binoculars in hand. One of the secrets to our successes in seeing some of the less common avian visitors to the island is to look for movement in the walls of green.

Laura is particularly good at sighting birds. Her knack of finding unusual birds is uncanny. Often she finds and points out Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers that although they both breed in Ohio, are not as common as other warbler species.

During **Nest with the Birds 2005**, it was Laura that pointed out the Willet resting on "Roger's Landing," **Camp Patmos** but needed help identifying it. A little later the same day on a bird walk led by **Tim Kranyack**, Laura pointed out the Black-throated Gray Warbler, which Tim requested I take photographs of as he made the identification. The photographs confirmed the identification and were submitted to the **Ohio Ornithological Society** as part of the documentation for an Ohio State bird sighting record.

A few minutes later, not more than one hundred yards away, someone spotted this medium-sized bird with a lot of white in its plumage and there was some consideration that it may have been a very late Snow Bunting. Photographs of the bird were inconclusive as to what it

was but on reflection my feeling is it may have been a leucositic sparrow or robin feeding on the ground with a group of White-throated Sparrows. This was not our first sighting of a bird afflicted with leucositis, in May 2004, while at Nest with the Birds with Laura's parents, we saw an almost white robin with a rufous breast. It was pulling worms from the lawn in front of a barn on the west side of Division Street. (By the way, I spotted this bird.)

On April 30th Laura and I were here for a KIAC board meeting and we had to have our "fix" of bird watching so we headed out to the secret garden around 9 am to see what birds could be found. We stood on the plateau and as Laura tried to find a Warbling Vireo, I watched this warbler/sparrow-sized bird looking for grubs on hanging grape vines, lower tree limbs and the under-story shrubs. This olive-backed bird with the olive-blending into the brownish wings and a very indistinct pale lemon yellow wash to its underside had dark grayish legs and bill. The bill was the classic conical sparrow bill. After searching through all the sparrows, buntings and finches likely to be found in Ohio I concluded that this was a female Painted Bunting. The only other bird to come close in description was a seed-eater but its range is limited to the southern tip of Mexico and extremely unlikely to show up on Kelleys Island. Unfortunately, this is an unofficial sighting because Laura did not get a good long look at it and we did not get photographs. When I described this bird to several experts, they agreed that it was possible that it was a Painted Bunting that I saw and it was about the right time of year to see them.

Our surprises aren't always restricted to the two legged and feathered varieties either. Last year during the 2006 Feathers and Foliage Festival, I was accompanied by two of my sisters visiting from New Zealand, as **Delores Cole** put on a dinner for the bird banders at **Leeside**. While we dined, we watched a dozen or more deer browsing her neighbor's lawn. As we

watched, the deer became very nervous and fled waving their white tails as a very healthy coyote loped out into the open. We had heard coyotes on the island but this was the first we had seen one. Several of us attempted to get photographs but if other photographs were like mine, they were all blurred because of distance and low light levels.

The following morning at about 6 am I headed out to **Long Point** to assist with setting up nets for the Feathers and Foliage bird banding. On the way, as I headed out **Woodford Road**, just east of **Kelleys Island Winery** I caught sight of a fine eight point buck as the headlights of our car swept over him. He stood and watched as the car approached. Further on, just north of **Scheele Preserve**, I got to see my first good view of a fox that bounded across the road in front of the car. The fox's long bushy tail being waved high made this an easy identification. In the past we have had brief glimpses of animals at the edges of our car headlight illumination that could have been and possibly were fox. Unbelievably, moments



Wood Thrush

later, I spotted another mammal scampering for cover. The coloration, size and the way it moved had me thinking it was possibly a badger although this is extremely unlikely as their habitat is usually soft and sandy soil. Maybe it was another fox! Close by I found what could be a den that this animal was using, but if it were fox I would have expected an odor similar to that of skunk, near the den.

Unfortunately rain delayed our set up of nets and the birds were not co-

Uniqueness of Kelleys

(from previous page)

operating and the final tally of birds banded for the day was only five but even so I had another great day on Kelleys Island and my sisters got a close-up look at a handsome male Northern Flicker.

On the November census with **Tom**



Purple Sandpiper

Bartlett we saw an extremely late Wood Thrush, this should have been long gone (well south) but we watched and photographed it as it foraged in leaves for grubs, worms and insects.

The December census and Christmas Bird Count coincided and this time Tom and I saw a California Gull with its reddish-colored head sitting on the water off of Sandy Beach. This is a rare visitor to Kelleys Island. Minutes later we found a couple of dozen Eastern Bluebirds on **North Pond** at the north eastern corner of the cemetery, these were not unexpected but are always a pleasure to watch.

To cap the day off, on Long Point we found and photographed a Purple Sandpiper one of three spotted earlier in the day by one of the other CBC groups. This rounded off another great day for me on Kelleys Island, though it was cold and breezy I ended up adding two new birds to my life list.

Therefore, with our almost four-and-a-half years visiting the island in all types of weather and observing all of these things, our love of the island is increasingly enhanced. If you are a Kelleys Island resident, you should treasure these natural resources. Kelleys Island is magic!

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area & Crane Creek State Park

Excerpted from Magee Marsh online information—

To get there: In Ottawa and Lucas counties, ten miles north of Oak Harbor. The entrance is on Ohio 2, seventeen miles west of Port Clinton, 8 miles west of the Davis-Besse plant and two miles west of Ohio 19. This wonderful mosaic of marsh, impounded ponds, swamp forest, and the waters of Lake Erie is one of the premier birding locations in the United States. The area includes the Crane Creek State Park beach. The marsh was purchased by the state in 1951, and in 1956 the Crane Creek Wildlife Experiment Station was established. Taken together, the area comprises 1,821 acres of extensive marshes, ponds, woods, Lake Erie beach, and fields.

An attractive nature center is located a short drive from the entrance, and a paved road crosses the width of the marsh to the Lakeshore, where there are beaches, woods, picnic facilities, and a fine nature trail. Considerable numbers of Canada Geese have been induced to nest in the area. With the addition of migrants, many thousands of these birds are present in late October and November and again in March. In May and June, proud and protective parent birds shepherd their goslings about the refuge, even up onto the roads, where it is a common sight to see families of geese holding up traffic. During the greater part of the year, there is good birding from the moment one enters the wildlife area.

A roadside pond just inside the entrance frequently overflows its banks during wet weather and attracts shorebirds, geese, gulls, egrets, and an occasional rail. In spring and summer, there are Tree Swallows and Purple Martins flying about the visitor center and there is always the possibility of seeing one of the Yellow-headed Blackbirds that have nested nearby in recent years. The shallow ponds behind the center should be

searched for shore birds such as Solitary, Pectoral, Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. From the visitor center, turn left and continue down the road to the east, take the bend to the north and slowly follow the road as it intersects the vast width of Magee Marsh.

The water levels vary greatly from year to year, and season to season, affecting the ease with which one can see appreciable numbers of birds. When the water is low, mudflats are exposed and the wading birds tend to concentrate in a few favored places. From April through October, there are good numbers of Great Blue Herons, a few Green-backed Herons, plenty of Great Egrets (sometimes close to the road) and lesser numbers of the more secretive Black-crowned Night Herons. In March and April, ducks are plentiful, along with large flocks of American Coots, and a sprinkling of Pied-billed Grebes. Tundra Swans are a possibility during the first part of the period, especially in March. Ring-billed and Herring Gulls will be liberally scattered about the marsh, and there's always a good chance of finding a little flock of Water Pipits along the water's edge. Look for migrating hawks in the skies. Toward the end of April, when many of the waterfowl have departed, there are still some birds that stay behind to nest. And a few other water birds arrive daily as the season progresses into May.

Entrances to the boardwalk bird trail are located at the west and east ends of the parking lot. The boardwalk is handicapped-accessible and was built to provide a safe efficient circuit of the area -- a fine example of a bird "trap." Surrounded by marsh on three sides and the lake on the fourth, this bit of swamp forest attracts huge numbers of passerine birds during the spring migration and only slightly fewer numbers in the fall.

Kelleys Island Audubon Club
P.O. Box 42
Kelleys Island, OH 43438
www.kelleysislandnature.com

REMINDER:

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

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

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.

Seasonal birds to look for

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.



Early May

Yellow-rumped, magnolia, chestnut-sided, Nashville, black and white, and yellow warblers; Swainson's thrushes; ruby-crowned kinglet; white-throated sparrow; blue jay; common yellowthroat; orioles; tanagers, grosbeaks.

Late May

Magnolia, Wilson's, mourning, Canada, and bay-breasted warblers; indigo bunting; cedar waxwing; American redstart; red-eyed vireo.

June

Flycatchers, eastern phoebe, swallows, blue gnat