

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

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Junior Nature Camp returns
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KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR

YOU AND ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS • SUMMER 2008

KIAC June Picnic

Sat., June 21—6 p.m. Pot luck—7 p.m. Program

Program: Lois Terveen

"Good Parks—Good Times

Erie County Metro Parks 40th Anniversary"

Come celebrate the Summer Solstice with the Kelleys Island Audubon on Sat., June 21st.

Our June meeting is held on a Saturday to accommodate islanders who come only on the weekends. So we hope you can join in the fun at our annual June picnic.

Pot Luck starts at 6 pm with a brief meeting to follow. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. The program will begin at 7 pm.

We are very pleased to have our long time friend of the Kelleys Island Audubon, **Lois TerVeen**, back to give the program. She is the naturalist for the **Erie County Metro Parks** and her program is going to be on the Erie County Metro Parks 40th Anniversary. She will also update us on the counties eagle population.

The festivities will be held at the Pavilion on Addison.

Hope to see you there.

Lori Hayes



The 2nd Annual Great Kelleys Island Bird Hunt

Shane Roberts

On May 12 and 13 we held the second annual **Great KI Bird Hunt**. The weather caused the hunt to get off to a slow start.

On Monday morning's walk, **Laura (Roberts)** and I led six regular "Nest with the Birds" attendees out into a light but steady rain to **Huntington Lane** where we saw a variety of warblers, vireos and thrushes. Once we got over the rise and broke cover there weren't so many birds so we moved to **Bianchi Lane**. On the **Cleveland Natural History Museum** property (known to some as the "**Secret Garden**") we got to see even more warblers, the highlight of which was a Blue-winged Warbler sharing a low rose tangle with a Common Yellow-throat and a wren. Unfortunately not everyone got a glimpse of the bird. There were no entries in the bird hunt on this walk and five possible birds that could have been claimed: Blackburnian Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole.

The afternoon walk was lead by **Greg Miller** (participant in the "The Big Year"

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President's Message

Purple Martins are my buddies. Each morning the birds start clucking and chirping and don't seem to stop. Happy birds, as they should be, living in a 16 room condo on the lake! As colonial nesters, they are very clean. Every year they come back with a few more family. The birds feel safe around man. So says all that has been written.

Steve Merkel and **Kyle Yost** have colonies also. Steve like me, puts up housing and enjoys. Kyle on the other hand has million dollar units with housekeeping. Kyle does it right. He can lower and raise the giant house. He does this to check for blow flies, change nesting material and keep track of family size. Also to keep the trash out, i.e. sparrows and wrens. The newest theory is Martin Houses need larger units. Ask me why. If you would like to start a colony, give me a call. It is so cool to have Martins show up at your house in the spring.

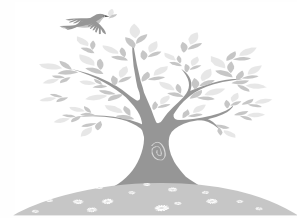
Alex and **Bistra Vizmeg** have planted 100 trees at their new island home. Wow! I didn't go and count but if you would like to see them, drive through Sweet Valley Subdivision. Look for the trees.

I put in a few more fruit trees and I recommend you do too. Sweet payoff with those.

The eagles newest nest is visible from Woodford Road. Look west of the winery at the back of the cow pasture. Sometimes if you look closely you will see the eagles.

Happy Summer!

Pat Hayes



Happy Summer 2008!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2008 DUES?

Nest with the Birds 2008

Shane Roberts

This year's **Nest with the Birds** was a great success even though the weather was a little inclement at times and that the festival did not start with the usual Mothers' Day Wildflower Walk.

Nest with the Birds started at 8 am Sunday morning when **Laura (Roberts)** and I lead two couples on a short walk up **Huntington Lane**. The walk was cool and damp but we did get to see some warblers: Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped and Blackburnian to name a few.

Due to the rain, cool weather and no one showing up for the Wildflower Walk it was cancelled. This gave Laura and I time to scout around the island and see what birds were about. Our personal tally from Saturday afternoon and Sunday was 57 species and the highlights were: Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon and Orchard Oriole. The official Nest with the Birds count at this stage was 51 species, of which eleven were warblers. We ended the day with the Common Loon.

Monday morning saw us getting re-acquainted with five of our birding friends and regular Nest with the Birds birders from Michigan, Ohio and Georgia. The weather was still a little soggy but with persistence we picked up a few great birds including Red-eyed and Warbling Vireo, Great-crested Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Blue-winged Warbler. The 4 pm walk lead by **Greg Miller** started out a little slowly. We were adding a bird here and there until we sat down at the tower on the **North Pond/Boardwalk**. As we watched, a variety of birds passed us by including a Green Heron, Palm, Black and White, and Bay-breasted Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The day's count added five more warbler species for a total of 16.

Tuesday morning and afternoon bird walks were led by Greg. The day was warm and sunny and a lot of the warblers that had been on the island appeared to have left. We

birded at the end of **Woodford Road**, **Titus Road**, **Bianchi Lane**, and the Boardwalk. It was a good day for migrating raptors, with Osprey, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk, and Bald Eagle being seen. As Laura and I climbed out of our car at the North Pond parking lot we both heard "Bees buzz and a bees buzz buzz," so me with camera in hand went hunting for the bird with this voice. I photographed what I was thinking was a Blue-winged Warbler but Laura said there was something odd about the bird because it had yellow wing



Brewster's Warbler photo by Shane Roberts

bars instead of the usual white. Later it was identified as a Brewster's Warbler a hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers but closer to the Blue-winged due to its clean yellow throat and lack of facial markings other than the eye line. The stripes on its wings are pale lemon yellow. (Did any of you notice the other clue? It sang both its parents songs!)

Tuesday evening we learned about the unconfirmed Mango sighting (you can read more about this in the "Great Kelleys Island Bird Hunt" in this issue).

Wednesday morning Greg lead us on another bird walk on which we had Scarlet Tanager, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Northern Parula. The day was particularly wet and most birds seemed to be taking shelter.

At our 1 pm program, **Larry Rosche** (a field researcher for Cleveland Museum of Natural History) gave us an informative and visual presentation titled "Fascinating

Flying Creatures." Larry's presentation featured some of **Judy Semroc's** (one of his field assistants) very impressive photography. The presentation covered flying creatures ranging from very tiny and/or colorful insects to a selection of birds.

It was still damp when Larry guided us on the 4 pm bird walk to North Pond and the Boardwalk. There, some of us were privileged to see a Northern Water Thrush and all of us, possibly our first Wilson's Warbler this spring.

Thursday, I cut out to assist **Tom Bartlett** with bird banding, the weather was great and the number of birds had greatly increased over night. From memory I think we banded one hundred plus birds. Part of this banding was a demonstration for some of the island school children. At midday I took some time out to set up the hall for **John Pogacnik's** fascinating presentation "**Birds and Weather**" which explained some of the how's, why's and when's of spring migration. This explained what we (as birders) should be looking for in the spring and autumn weather

patterns, that may produce some awesome birding. Around 2 pm I returned to the banding station for 2 or 3 more hours.

While I assisted with emptying nets for Tom, John Pogacnik guided the morning and afternoon bird walks to **Long Point** and the end of **Woodford Road** respectively. They had a productive day on all accounts, particularly down by the lake on the east side where a midge hatch was occurred and many birds seemed gathered there to share in the feast.

Friday, Tom and **Paula Bartlett**, with some assistance, performed the monthly bird census, while some of his team banded. While they worked, I played. Our guest guide and presenter, **Bob Petit** (Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, MI) led us on walks to the end of Woodford Road and to North Pond. Between

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Nest with the Birds, cont. from page 2

these walks Bob gave the 1 pm presentation on “**Bird Sounds.**” This excellent and mainly audio presentation gave us some clues on how to go about committing bird songs to memory, just as we do the names of our favorite songs and music.

Saturday morning before sunrise Tom Bartlett and his assistants (yes, me too) were out setting up the mist nets to catch whatever birds flew into them. Although the day was a little slower than Thursday we banded a good selection of warblers, thrushes and orioles. It is always good to catch up with the regular attendees and meet new people that attend these demonstrations. Some of the day's highlights were the banding of a Savannah Sparrow and observation of a Black-crowned Night Heron, a Pine Siskin and two Bald Eagles at **Long Point.**

Laura and I ended our vacation with a walk on the **Lilac Walk**, just down from the school. Although we were too late to see the lilacs at the peak of their glory we were pleasantly surprised by a half dozen Ruby-throated Hummingbirds zipping about, chattering and landing on branches just feet from our faces. We heard a Common Yellowthroat singing nearby and watched a pair of Yellow Warblers gleaning insects from the foliage.

To all of our presenters and guides a special thank you. Your presence and expertise helps us make “Nest with the Birds” a festival that should not be missed. Also, I would like to thank all who attended. We hope we’ll see you again at the next “Nest with the Birds” or at our September “Feathers and Foliage” festival.

KIAC membership

Judy DuShane

If you have a colored sticker on your *Hoot Owl* address label it means we have not yet received your 2008 membership dues. Dues are only \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family.

There is a form to send on the back of this issue Dues help fund our ongoing programs. We appreciate your support and if your membership renewal crossed in the mail we apologize.

Additional donations are always welcome and are always tax deductible, as we are a registered 501(C) 3. The **memorial donations** are used for census, program and research work and the **Pape Fund** builds our natural history and science collection at **Kelleys Island Library** and educational outreach associated with it.

Nature Camp for kids returns

Submitted by Judy DuShane

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club's Nature Camp for kids will be held on **Wed. July 30. "Creepy Crawlies on Kelleys Island"** will feature **Kristen Stanford**, AKA the **Snakelady** who was on the *Dirtiest Jobs* TV program. She will bring some of her "friends" for a show and tell. Salamanders and frogs will be on the agenda, too.

Details are still being worked out but look for applications in the next issue of *Kelleys Life* and around the island in early July. Anyone who wishes to volunteer contact **Peggy Cooney** at 419-746 2614. It's been said in previous years that the volunteers have almost as much fun as the kids. Check out the KI Audubon website at www.kelleysislandnature.com for information as the plans progress.

NestWatch website offers training

The **NestWatch** team is excited to announce that our new web site at www.nestwatch.org is now live!

NestWatch is a citizen-science project that teaches people how to properly monitor nests and collect data used to track nesting success of North American breeding birds. It has been designed for novices as well as experienced nest monitors and includes an interactive quiz for participants to become "certified" to monitor nests.

NestWatch is free to join and all materials needed to participate are available online. This includes downloadable data collection sheets, the NestWatch manual, protocol, code of conduct, discussion forums, and multimedia resources. All observations are submitted online where they are accessible through maps or downloaded as Excel or pdf files.

The development of this web site as well as the NestCams, has been quite an undertaking and includes the merging of The Birdhouse Network into NestWatch. All the great materials developed for The Birdhouse Network exist now as a resource center located at www.nestinginfo.org. The Birdhouse Network and its focus on cavity nesters was crucial to building a solid base of dedicated nest monitors and enables us to now present the opportunity to monitor and report on all nesting birds in North America.

You can use your existing Birdhouse Network/Lab of Ornithology username and password for NestWatch. It is not necessary to create a new account for each project you participate in. If you are a new participant, please register today.

As always please be in touch with any questions or suggestions and feel free to circulate this information to other interested parties and organizations. Thank you for your continued support of citizen science projects at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Tina Phillips, Project Leader & Kitty Gifford, Project Assistant

NestWatch & NestCams—Cornell Lab of Ornithology

KELLEYS ISLAND AUDUBON CLUB 2007 FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2007 **\$ 1671.09**

Income

Membership Dues 2007	1810.00	
Donation General Fund	1564.50	
Pape Memorial	65.00	
Poker Paddle Donation	50.00	
Merchandise Sales	357.50	
Raffle Ticket Sales	374.00	
50/50 Raffle	88.00	
Interest	22.33	
NWTB Hunt	50.00	
Outdoor Film Festival	1000.00	
Corso Paintings Raffle	300.00	
Bird/Butterfly Adoptions	120.00	
Total		<u>\$5876.33</u>
		<u>\$7547.42</u>

Expenses

Transportation	580.50	
Supplies/Materials	333.12	
Newsletter	381.00	
Postage	176.45	
Raffle Expense	211.45	
Donations to Other Organizations	300.00	
Miscellaneous	31.01	
Internet Fees	191.30	
Liability Insurance	251.00	
Nest with the Birds	24.39	
Resort Area Excise Tax	107.12	
Educational Conference	194.00	
Dues	270.00	
Bird Census	380.00	
Feathers & Foliage	33.96	
Returned Check	150.00	
Rtn Ck Fee	10.00	
Transfer to Savings	75.00	
Transfer to Pape Memorial	750.00	
Total		<u>(\$4450.30)</u>

Balance as of December 31, 2007 **\$3097.12**

First Federal Savings of Lorain Bank Statement as of 12/15/07 **\$3530.14**
 Outstanding Checks 433.02

Balance **\$3097.12**

Checking Account	\$3097.12
Petty Cash	50.00
Pape Memorial Savings	3036.33
Memorial Fund	<u>832.74</u>

Total in all accounts. **\$7016.19**

Submitted by KIAC Treasurer Jean Kuyoth

KELLEYS ISLAND NATURE EVENTS

2008

June 21—Fifth Annual KIAC Picnic & Program—Lois TerVeen, Erie County



Metroparks, "Metroparks 40th Anniversary"—Pavilion at 6 p.m., bring a dish to share, program at 7

July 17—Potluck—Patricia Guenther, Educator - "A Ghost From the Past"—Pavilion at 6 p.m., program at 7

Aug. 21—Potluck—Phoebe Van Zoest - Education Specialist, Old Woman's Creek—Pavilion at 6 p.m., program at 7

Aug. 31—Glacial Glimpses—A walk as part of Coastal Week program—meet at fisherman's Parking lot at the end of Division Street.

Sept. 6—Monarch Butterfly Festival at KI Historical Museum/Old Stone Church—butterfly tagging and talk

Sept. 13—Kayak Poker Paddle—meet at State Park Beach

Sept. 18—Potluck—Tom Hissong, Education Coordinator, Aullwood

Audubon Center - "Travel's of an Ohio Naturalist"—Pavilion at 6, meeting at 7

Sept. 20—Fall Feathers and Foliage—bird banding at Long Point

Oct. 16—Potluck, meeting, program TBA—St. Michael's

Nov. 8—6 p.m.—End of the Audubon Season Party at The Inn. "Meet Tom Bartlett," our bird-banding coordinator.

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.

Monthly potluck/meeting/program sessions begin with the potluck dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a brief meeting and a nature program.

The Great KI Bird Hunt

Cont. from Page 1

and book of the same name) in weather that was a little drier than on the morning walk. About seven people signed up for the afternoon hunt. The walk started out rather quietly at **Sandy Beach** with about 5 species of birds including two gulls and a Spotted Sandpiper. From there we moved to **North Pond Trail** and the **Boardwalk**. Again this was quiet as we made our way to the beach and then on to the lookout tower over the pond. While we rested on the lookout we were pleasantly surprised by a parade of warblers and other species that worked their way past us. Here once again were the same five possible prize birds that could have been claimed but were not.

Tuesday morning's walk had another five entries in the "Hunt" with several possible prize birds, but to my knowledge no prizes were claimed. The highlight bird for all those on the afternoon walk was the Brewster's Warbler singing and feeding in a tree at the entrance to North Pond trail. (Brewster's is a cross between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers more closely resembling the Blue-winged.)

It was at dinner with **Greg Miller** at **The Village Pump** that we learned of the possible sighting of a Green-breasted Mango (hummingbird). A credible couple from **Kalamazoo, MI** asked Greg what hummingbirds are in the area, that are almost the size of a sparrow. After answering several of Greg's questions (which he later told us they gave all the right answers to!) it was the Green-breasted Mango that Greg came up with as their possible bird. Luckily Laura had her Palm PDA with National Geographic's "Birds of North America" on it with her. She brought up a picture of the Mango and the couple then said they were sure that this was the bird they saw. Their sighting was around 4:30 pm on the North Pond trail, about a half hour before we passed the place where they had watched it. (We had them show us the spot straight after we all finished eating.) **Pat Hayes** and I put up hummingbird feeders while Greg posted the un-confirmed sighting on the Internet. We kept an eye on the feeders in the hope the bird would re-appear but to my knowledge it hasn't been seen again.

This is why Laura and I love Kelleys Island and birding there. Every "Nest with the Birds" we see, hear, and/or photograph some unusual bird or birds for the island. We always spend a whole week vacation on the island for the Nest with the Birds festival and this is usually solid birding from the time we arrive until the time we leave. I do take some time off to assist **Tom Bartlett** with bird banding which can produce its own surprises – more on this on page 2.

Thanks to all of you that joined in the hunt. Maybe next year one of you will see a Kirtland's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler or some new species for the island.

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

June

Flycatchers,
eastern phoebe,
swallows, blue-
grey gnatcatcher,
mockingbirds,
loggerhead
strike.



July

Lesser and
greated yellow-
legs, semi-
palmated sandpi-
pers, short-billed
dowitchers, east-
ern phoebes, yellow warblers, Baltimore orioles.

August

Mallards, blue-winged teals, yellowlegs, semi-palmated
sandpipers, semi-palmated plovers.

September

Blue winged teals, green winged teals, rails, great
egrets, terns, gulls, bald eagles, warblers, vireos,
thrushes, white-throated sparrows.