

HOOT OWL

A Newsletter for the Kelleys Island Audubon Club

Inside

2023 Events & Meetings
Field Station Update
Pollinator News

A Look Back

In 1992, a small group of Kelleys Island residents formed the Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC) to protect, preserve and develop natural habitat for the birds and wildlife that inhabit the island. The KIAC was led by President Pat Hayes and Program Chair Lori Hayes, who continue in those capacities to this day.

Original board members Jean Kuyoth and June Campbell continue to serve respectively as the Treasurer and Secretary for the club, as they have since the inception. The board has expanded in more recent years to include others who work in various capacities to support and improve the natural areas on the island, including the KI Schools Field Station, the KI State Park, and the KI Village Park Board as well as interested community members. *(Cont on pg. 11)*

KIAC Celebrates 30 Years

President's Message by Pat Hayes

The partnerships that the Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC) have forged over the years have helped to shape the island we know today. Over forty years ago, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History introduced Islanders to the Monarch butterfly and its need for habitats to survive on its perilous journey to Mexico each fall. Research followed, and islanders were trained to capture and tag the beautiful butterflies to learn more about their migration. This important conservation work motivated Lori Hayes and me to lead the effort to launch the KIAC.

In 2023, the KIAC marks its 30-year anniversary. Over the decades, the KIAC has become a cornerstone to conservation efforts on Kelleys Island, helping to enhance what makes it special to us all. Working with the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, KIAC was instrumental in creating two State Nature Preserves: The Boardwalk at the North Pond and the North Shore Alvar.

(Continued on page 2)



Founding KIAC Board Members Jean Kuyoth and Pat Hayes, joined by visitors for the club's first bird walk | 1993

(President's Message continued)

These initial preserves laid the foundation for more park lands. The Curilla and Monagan Preserves both have benefited from local donations. We thank the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for all the hard work they did to make these preserves possible. The Village of KI Park Board has been a strong ally as well.

KIAC monthly speakers have helped educate islanders and visitors about our natural areas and how important they are to our ecosystem, especially the relationship between "birds and botany." Lakeside Daisy preservation created the funding needed to purchase the Beatty Quarry which later became the Huntley Beatty Preserve. Migrating birds desperately need these habitats for refueling and resting on both their northern and southern journeys.

Our spring and fall birding events have grown in popularity over the years. Banding colorful songbirds in the spring or bundling up to watch owl banding in the late fall piques the curiosity of the young and old. *Science Saturday* and *Nature Camp* programs put on by the KI Schools Field Station are a must for adults and children during the summer months.

With 30 years behind us, there is more adventure to come. The birds and bees are waiting at our new pollinator habitats courtesy of Chris Ashley, KI State Park.

As always, when you explore the island be sure to look up for eagles. They have a great place to live!

Visit us at KelleyIslandNature.org

A Summer of Learning: Science Saturdays

Science Saturdays is a partnership between KI State Park, KIAC and the KI Field Station. This weekly series features interactive exploration centered around a wildlife topic. Families and learners of all ages are invited to explore hands-on science fun during these free drop-in events, held at the KI State Park pavilion at (unless noted otherwise), 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays through Labor Day. Scheduled topics include:

May 27 | Plankton: Dr. Doug Kane, Heidelberg University- Assistant Professor of Biology & Environmental Sciences Department, National Center for Water Quality Research

June 3 | Salamanders

June 10 | Snakes

June 17 | Turtles

June 24 | Amphibians

July 1 | Reptiles

July 8 | Turtles

July 15 | Island Fest:
Come visit us at Island Fest!
We will have our live animals for up-close, hands-on fun.

July 22 | Fishing Derby: Prizes for most fish, smallest fish, biggest fish, most gobies and biggest fish/species!

July 29 | Pollinators & Pancakes

Aug. 5 | Snakes

Aug. 12 | KI Homecoming: Come visit us at Homecoming! We will have our live animals for up-close, hands-on fun.

Aug. 19 | Viniculture & Viticulture: Crooked Tree Vineyard

Aug. 26 | Geology: Ohio Geological Survey

Sept. 2 | Monarch Butterflies: Tagging & Migration



Another Banner Year for Bird Banding!

A record number of birds - and people! - joined Tom and Paula Bartlett for bird banding in 2022, the 27th season of avian research on Kelleys Island.

Records were made (and broken) throughout 2022's banding season. Of particular interest was the number of Northern Cardinals banded on Long Point: 82, eclipsing the previous record of 60 from 2020. In total, the Bartletts banded close to 1,560 individual birds from 78 species. This brings the total number of birds banded on Long Point to 20,549 representing 115 species. Uncommonly banded species included: two Warbling Vireos (7th and 8th), a Marsh Wren (4th), an Eastern Towhee (7th) and a Golden-winged Warbler (4th). Twenty species were banded in record high numbers and another four species tied their high number. Perhaps the biggest banding highlight of the year was a Golden-crowned Kinglet banded October 25th. It was the 25,000th bird banded on the island.

Owl banding returned in the fall at the Scheele Preserve, the North Loop of KI State Park, and the North Pond State Nature Preserve. In total, 134 Northern Saw-whet Owls and seven Eastern Screech-Owls were banded along with four foreign recaptures. Another milestone occurred on Dec. 1, when the 1,200th Northern Saw-Whet Owl was banded on the island.

Throughout the year, banding activities along with KIAC-sponsored festivals, KI Field Station programs, Road Scholar trips and Western Reserve Land Conservancy activities brought people together to learn more about the birds and conservation on the island. In 2022, close to 2,350 people visited the banding stations, including more than 360 that attended the 10th annual Owl Fest in Nov.

For details on 2023 banding events, visit KelleyIslandNature.org.



The Bartletts with Pat Hayes and the 25,000th bird banded on the island!



Golden-winged Warbler | Paula Bartlett

Fields in Bloom

Kelleys Island Pollinator and Partnership Update 2023

In the summer of 2020, the Kelleys Island Pollinator and Partnership planted the first native seed mix at three sites on the island with the hopes of establishing pollinator habitats to attract and nourish native bees and butterflies, as well as other species. Indeed, in a short period of time, we have seen the emergence of Black-eyed Susan, Milkweed, Blue Vervain and Coneflower at the sites, as well as other plant species. As a result, many species of bees and butterflies have been observed, in addition to dragonflies, birds and mammals making use of the food source and cover afforded by those plants.

In the cycle of establishing a pollinator habitat, we are now entering our maintenance phase. Our plots are maturing, and it's time to begin a three-year mowing rotation. Mowing will help free up some of the native plant species and set back invasive, less desirable plants, such as Common Mullen. It will also prevent woody plants from getting too big.



New signage guides visitors | Jim Zeller



Blackpoll Warbler in Fall | Julie Schuler

Mowing is best done in February or March. Few plants have begun to grow, and ground nesting bird species have not started yet. Minimal damage to plants and animals is important to the viability of these plots. However, due to the wet spring, mowing may be limited to higher ground with the intention of mowing again next winter when the ground freezes. Hopefully, a controlled burn may also viable be in the future. Burning does a better job of releasing nutrients and freeing up new seed, but the obstacles to conducting a controlled burn on the island must first be addressed.

A permanent kiosk with information describing these efforts can be found at the pollinator field across from the KI airport. You can learn all about pollinator habitats and our partnership by reading the display. Then, take a walk around the site to observe the fruits of our labor.



Monarch | Jackie Taylor

Monarch Butterflies: The Importance of the Lake Erie Islands to their Migration

Each fall, around mid-September, many monarch butterflies are observed crossing over the Great Lakes heading south to Mexico to their overwintering habitats. The Eastern Monarch Butterfly's range extends across three countries: Southern Canada, the United States and Mexico. The butterflies travel up to 2,500 miles, and it takes them about two months to complete their annual migration south.

In September on the islands there are clusters of butterflies, known as "roosts," in the trees at night utilizing the same trees each year. The roosts are like the ones found at the overwintering sites they create in Mexico, with as many as a few hundred butterflies to several thousand roosting at one time. The butterflies rely on their geographic compass, weather conditions, the sun's angle and food to migrate.

The Lake Erie Islands provide vital food sources & a critical place to rest for the Monarch Butterfly's journey south.

One of the main stopover sites for monarchs migrating across Lake Erie is at the South Bass Island Lighthouse. On a nice sunny day (55 plus degrees Fahrenheit) you will see them nectaring on the wildflowers. Once the sun begins to set, the butterflies will roost for the night. Otherwise they are on-the-move, headed south to continue their journey.

Audubon Board Member and KI Schools Field Station Director Jackie Taylor has tagged over 2,500 butterflies over the last ten years on the Lake Erie Islands. Some of these butterflies, tagged on South Bass during peak migration, have been recovered in the overwintering sites in Mexico. In 2022, peak migration occurred on September 19 and 20th on the Islands. The KI Schools Field Station partnered with OSU's Stone Laboratory and the KI State Park in tagging 151 butterflies on South Bass, North Bass, Gibraltar and Kelleys Islands. In future years, it is hoped that the newly seeded pollinator fields on Kelleys Island will help ensure successful migrations for these beautiful and remarkable creatures.



Roosting Monarchs | Jackie Taylor

KI Field Station Update:

2023 Includes Expanded Opportunities for Adventure

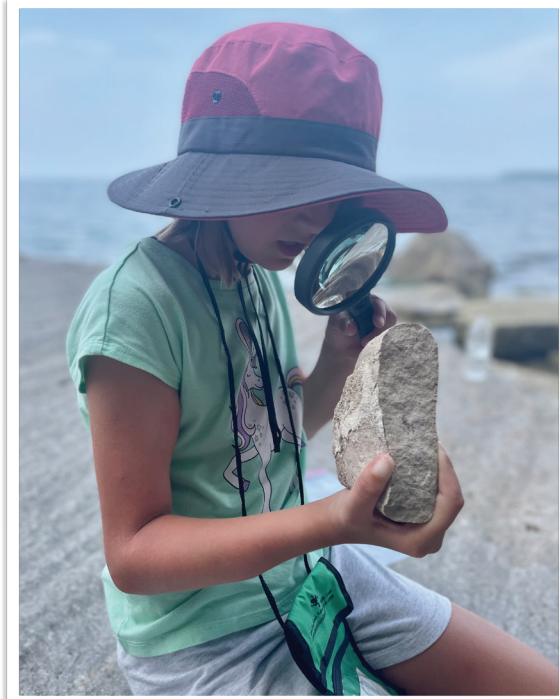
This will be the Kelleys Island Field Station's fifth year hosting the Nature Camp Program for children 4 to 12 years old. The mission is to encourage natural curiosity of the outdoors by engaging campers in fun and educational activities. The 2023 camp theme is "Things with Wings." Each day will focus on a different topic: birds, bats, damselflies, pollinators, dragons and macro-invertebrates! Camps also include fun physical activities, including kayaking with the older campers and nature walks through the beautiful preserves and parks on Kelleys Island.

Younger campers (ages 4 to 8) will meet from June 26 to 29, while older campers (ages 9 to 12) will meet from July 3 to 7. Please check the registration form (*at right*) for age specific times for each camp. Nature Camp is a cooperative effort with the KI School District, the KI Field Station, KIAC and the KI State Park.

This is the first year we are hosting a Jr. Naturalists (JN) program for youth 13 to 18 years old.

The JN program is a Youth Conservation Leadership Club of nature enthusiasts dedicated to protecting our environment through education. Members venture outdoors together to meet scientists and conservationists, participate in research, and learn about our natural world.

KI Schools Field Station will also continue to host *Science Saturdays* from Memorial Day to Labor Day and will add a *Nature Story Hour* and *Sunset Hikes* as the season progresses. Check out our website for more information and for additional registration forms for Nature Camp and the Jr. Naturalist Program: KelleysIslandFieldStation.org.



Kelleys Island Nature Camp Registration Form 2023

PLEASE PRINT

Child's Name _____ Parents Name _____

Birth Date _____ (Month/Day/Year-Check Age Requirements-Must be of Age by Camp Date)

Island Address-Include Dates This Address Should Be Used

Home or Mailing Address-Include Dates This Address Should Be Used

Island Phone _____ Emergency Contact _____

E-Mail Address _____

T-Shirt Size (circle one) YOUTH- SM M L XL ADULT- SM M L

(X) Preferred Camp Session(s)	Dates:	Times:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intro to Nature Camp (4yrs.)	June 26- 29	9-10AM
<input type="checkbox"/> My 1 st Nature Camp(5-6yrs.)	June 26- 29	10:30-11:30AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Camp (7-8yrs.)	June 26- 29	12:30-2PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adventure Camp I (9-10yrs.)	July 3-7	9-11AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adventure Camp II (11-12)	July 3-7	11:30AM-1:30PM

Camp Fees

\$50.00

Kelleys Island School Student \$25.00

If you are a Kelleys Island Audubon Club Member you will receive a Nature Camp discount!

KIAC Membership Level _____

Amount discounted \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed After Discount \$ _____

You have my permission to use photos of my child participating in Nature Camp. NO NAME will be used with online photos of Nature Camp.

Kelleys Island Life Kelleys Island School Website Facebook Kelleys School Newsletter

Make checks to Kelleys Island School. Mail to Nature Camp Program PO Box 382 Put-in-Bay, OHIO 43456

Permission Form

I fully understand that the nature of recreational and educational activities associated with Nature Camp includes an inherent risk of danger, which may result in personal injury or harm to my child. I grant permission for my child to participate in the program and activities of Nature Camp at the Bay, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Kelleys Island School and Field Station, its staff, directors, employees, Agents and/or representatives from any claim for any injury or damage which may result from my child's attendance at and participation in the Nature Camp at the Bay. I authorize emergency medical treatment if none of the above-named emergency contact persons can be reached at the time of an emergency.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____



Kelleys
Island
Audubon
Club



2023 Kelleys Island Audubon Club Annual Membership Form



- Giant Swallowtail** \$15.00 Annual Individual Membership:
25% Nature Camp Discount
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** \$25.00 Annual Family Membership:
50% Nature Camp Discount
- Monarch Butterfly**- \$100.00 Annual Business Membership:
75% Nature Camp Discount, and a Certificate of Appreciation.
- Lakeside Daisy** \$500.00 Lifetime Membership:
100% Nature Camp Discount

In addition to my membership, I would like to donate to:

Nature Camp Fund

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the Kelleys Islands Nature Camp, to be used only for expenses and equipment related to the Nature Camp Program.

Donation to Memorial Fund

I would like to donate \$ _____ In Memory of _____

Donation to Pape Memorial Fund (Natural Science Library) \$ _____

Avian Study of the Birds of Kelleys Island

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to support the collection, management, and the relaying of information from banded and marked birds on Kelleys Island.

Pollinator Fund- If you wish to donate to this fund, please send a separate check along with the membership.

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the Kelleys Island Pollinator Habitat for Conservation, Education, and Research of the Kelleys Island's pollinators.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to Kelleys Island State Park PO Box 851, Kelleys Island, OH 43438

Please make checks payable to Kelleys Island Audubon Club

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club is a 501 (c)3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

The mission of the Kelleys Island Audubon Club is to bring into closer association those interested in the study of wild birds and in the conservation of natural resources of Kelleys Island; to further the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of ecology; and to cooperate with other organizations having similar objectives.

Pat Hayes – President, Barbara Zeller - Vice President, June Campbell – Secretary, Jean Kuyoth – Treasurer,

Jim Zeller, Lori Hayes, Jackie Taylor, Chris Ashley, Virginia Coyne, Tom Pieratt

Find us online at: Kelleysislandnature.org

The Village of Kelleys Island Park Board

Connecting Residents and Visitors to Outdoor Opportunities

Addison Street Community Park: Playground Update

If you've noticed changes at the Community Park on Addison Street, it's a sign of good things to come. In fact, thanks to the work of the KI Park Board and donors, new playground equipment will be installed in the near future.

The project overcomes many safety concerns that existed with the previous play equipment, which was removed in 2021. Since then, the Park Board worked to acquire the money needed for more updated equipment that would

meet the needs of a new generation of visitors and residents. As of April 2023, \$135,000 in funds, through donations and grants, is allowing the board to complete Phase 1 of the project. This phase includes a new swing set and expanded play space. Fundraising for Phases 2 and 3 of the project is already underway. If you would like to donate to help add more equipment to the playground, please do so through the Community Chest, which is a 501c(3) organization, designating "Playground Improvement" on your check.

Renderings of the proposed Phase 1 structure.
See more images for the new design at KelleysIslandNature.org.



Donations are being accepted to add more equipment to the playground.

Checks can be dropped off at the Village Office or mailed to:

KI Community Chest / PO BOX 734 / KI, OH 43438

Managing Nature Preserves

The other main focus of the Park Board's work is to manage and maintain the nature preserves on the island. These important areas invite islanders and visitors to enjoy walking trails, woods, meadows and wildlife. Since the Board does not have funds to purchase property, we work with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to acquire funds to purchase property and create preserves. Maps and descriptions of the current preserves can be found at KelleysIslandNature.org.

The Park Board meets at the Community Park on Addison Street at 6 p.m., the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend and give their input as we plan for the future of our island parks.

A Rare Sighting & a Tale of Inspiration: The Ever Elusive Kirtland's Warbler

In a 2012 *Hoot Owl*, there was a short article about a Kirtland's Warbler sighting on the eastern end of Woodford Road. It is interesting that the sighting was considered so rare as to be newsworthy. Yet, the story of the once endangered - and still highly rare - Kirtland's Warbler species can teach us a lot about the success of conservation efforts.

Once upon a time, in the dense forests of Michigan, there lived a small, delicate and highly elusive bird. With its yellow throat and black-and-gray striped back, the Kirtland's Warbler was a beautiful and unique creature that had captured the hearts of birdwatchers and environmentalists alike. The species is named after Dr. Jared Kirtland, a Cleveland physician and amateur naturalist, who collected the first specimen in 1851.



Kirtland's Warbler

However, in the mid-1900s, the Kirtland's Warbler faced a serious threat to its existence. The forests it called home were being cleared for logging and other human activities. The bird's habitat was shrinking rapidly, and it was on the brink of extinction, alarming environmentalists and birdwatchers alike. That's when a team of conservationists and biologists came together to launch a mission to save the tiny warbler. They studied the bird's behavior, habitat and mating patterns to gain a better understanding of its needs.

**In the 1970s, only a few hundred Kirtland's Warblers remained.
Today, the population has risen to over 2,000.**

They found that one of the most unique aspects of the Kirtland's Warbler is its nesting habits. It only nests in young jack pine forests that are between five and 20 years old, and the trees must be a certain height and density. This is because the Kirtland's Warbler feeds almost exclusively on the larvae of a single insect, the jack pine budworm, which is most abundant in these young jack pine forests. Scientists worked tirelessly to restore the jack pine forests, planting trees and creating a haven for the Kirtland's Warbler and other endangered species. From a few hundred individuals in the 1970s, this conservation effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other organizations has helped to increase the population to over 2,000 today.

Birdwatchers flocked to Michigan to catch a glimpse of the rare bird, and environmentalists celebrated the success of the conservation mission. A few were even seen in Northern Ohio during their fall and spring migration from the Caribbean Islands, where they winter.

As the years passed, the Kirtland's Warbler has become a symbol of hope and resilience in the face of adversity. Its survival was a testament to the power of conservation and the importance of protecting our planet's natural treasures.

Kelleys Island Audubon Club Celebrates 30 Years

Continued from cover

Most people familiar with the KIAC associate it with the bird banding studies conducted by Tom and Paula Bartlett. The banding station, located on Cleveland Museum of Natural History property on Long Point, has become a favorite place for local residents and visitors to gather during the spring and fall passerine migration, when warblers, buntings, woodpeckers and various songbirds land on Kelleys Island to rest and eat as they head either north or south to their seasonal homes. Those people lucky enough to be on the island on late fall evenings can also observe Tom and Paula as they band tiny Northern Saw-whet Owls at the Scheele and North Pond Preserves.

Less known, however, is the impact the KIAC has made in the preservation of various natural areas on the island, including the North Pond, the Scheele Preserve, the Huntley-Beatty Preserve and the Ed Curilla Preserve. Working closely with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, President Pat Hayes and the KIAC have helped to identify unique plant species, such as the lakeside daisy, or habitats to facilitate setting aside these important areas to be enjoyed by people and animals alike. With the addition of these natural areas as well as the extensive natural areas owned and maintained by the KI State Park, visitors to the island can spend hours enjoying the beauty of the island and Lake Erie as well as support island businesses and restaurants.

The KIAC meets monthly from May through October on the 3rd Thursday of the month to provide a social gathering for its members. A speaker is featured each month for an educational program. Please consider joining us for our meetings and become a member using the membership form included in this newsletter or on our website.

A 30th Anniversary Celebration is in the planning stages, so check our website or our Facebook page for updates on that event.



A few current KIAC Board Members:
Chris Ashley, Jackie Taylor & Pat Hayes

KIAC thanks the following members who contributed to this edition of *Hoot Owl*: Chris Ashley, Paula & Tom Bartlett, Lori & Pat Hayes, Tom Pieratt, Jackie Taylor, and Barb & Jim Zeller. A special thank you to *Hoot Owl* Editor, Julie Schuler, for her time in formatting the newsletter.

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

REMINDER:

*KIAC is a registered
501 c(3) charity.
Therefore, all gifts
and donations to it
are tax deductible.*

Board Members:

- Pat Hayes | *President*
- Barbara Zeller | *Vice President*
- June Campbell | *Secretary*
- Jean Kuyoth | *Treasurer*
- Chris Ashley
- Virginia Coyne
- Lori Hayes
- Tom Pieratt
- Jackie Taylor
- Jim Zeller

2023 EVENTS & MEETINGS

Subject to change: Check "Bird Kelleys Island" on FB or kelleysislandnature.org for updates.

APRIL & MAY:	Spring Bird Banding (see website for details)
MAY 21:	Nest with the Birds
MAY 27-SEPT 2:	Science Saturdays (see inside for details)
JULY 15:	Island Fest Booth
JUNE & JULY	Kids Nature Camp (see inside for details)
AUG 12:	Homecoming Booth
SEPT. 3:	Glacial Glimpses
SEPT. 17:	Feathers and Foliage
Mid OCT.-Late NOV:	Owl Banding, nightly
NOV. 3-5:	Owl Fest

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Potluck at 6 p.m. followed by meeting and nature program at 7 p.m.

Spring and fall meetings are held at the KI School.

Summer meetings are held in the Pavilion at the Community Park on Addison St. (weather permitting)

MAY 18 JUNE 15 JULY 20 AUG. 17 SEPT. 21 OCT. 19