

HOOT OWL

A Newsletter for the Kelleys Island Audubon Club

Spring Into a New Season of Events

May is a beautiful month on the island, and we are excited to again offer opportunities for all to explore and learn about the natural world our island supports.

Nest with the Birds on Sunday, May 17 at the Jones Preserve on Long Point. Warblers will migrate from their southern habitats to their northern breeding grounds, using the Lake Erie Islands to rest. Tom and Paula Bartlett will document this migration, banding birds from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors are welcome!

Our monthly meetings will kick off on May 21, when we will welcome Tom Henry. Tom has been the environmental reporter for *The Toledo Blade* since 1993 and is known as the *Voice of Lake Erie*. He won numerous awards for his excellent Great Lakes coverage, including climate change reporting. The evening starts at 6 p.m. with a potluck, followed by a brief meeting.
(Continued on next page.)

President's Message: A Billion Butterflies by 2126

By Pat Hayes

Over the last 32 years, the Kelleys Island Audubon has had a dynamic board of directors. Many have served since the first meeting. All have served the club and its mission. From Nature Camps to Natural Areas, our board has addressed the best paths to take to achieve these goals. This spring, I would like to welcome two new board members, Julie and Rachel, and thank one retiring member. Barb Zeller is stepping down after several years as Vice President. Barb has been instrumental in getting the newsletter published. Her contribution to the board has been extraordinary. Just getting me to write the President's Message is remarkable! Barb and husband, Jim, who will remain on the board, have always been there for Audubon events and have sat for many hours at our booths from Homecoming to Bird Banding. Thank you, Barb.



We are lucky to welcome these board members to our club. The pay for this job is being a voice for the island and its resources. Let's not forget what an impact we have made on Kelleys Island. Hopefully our work to procure park lands and habitats will be remembered.

The satisfaction from well attended events reflects the interest and caring of the islanders for our island.
(Continued on next page.)

Water Birds on Lake Erie Islands

Did you know that the Lake Erie's Island marshes, wetlands and rocky shorelines provide a vital habitat for a variety of water birds? In addition to the ever-present Great Blue Heron, which sounds like a prehistoric creature when it takes flight and squawks a warning, other common birds include the Canada Goose, Bald Eagle, Great Egret and Double-Crested Cormorant. Cormorants are often seen diving for food. Although they have an undeserved reputation for negatively impacting fish populations, they feed mostly on gobies, an invasive lake species.



New to the scene is the American White Pelican. This species breeds and nests on low rocky outcroppings off the north shore of North Bass Island. If you have access to a boat, head north to see the hundreds of White Pelicans that can be found there in season. If you do not have a boat, flocks of birds can be seen soaring above Kelleys along the lakeshore.

(President's Message, Cont)

Our board is responsible for all this. Consider this an open invitation to attend our meetings and lectures. You'll get to hang out with a diverse group where you'll learn a little and share a little. Then, explore our natural areas. Find the rare Lakeside Daisy in the spring. Discover the nesting eagles. Look for evidence of our beavers. Head out to see Tom and Paula Bartlett band birds on Long Point at the Jones Preserve as the warblers will be moving through in May.

Before I go, I want you to watch our prairie preserves each season. Monarchs and milkweeds are your rewards. Every year these pollinator areas are a new reason to be thankful. Chris Ashley and Jackie Taylor are largely responsible for this wonderful addition to Kelleys Island. Many club members have donated money and time to this project. I thank you and the entire island community.

The question is how many Bald Eagles are nesting on the island? Winter, spring summer or fall: look for Eagles and count them all!

Adventures for Island Kids

Looking for a summer experience your child will never forget? The Kelleys Island Field Station will again offer summer Nature Camps for kids ages 4-12. Dates and registration are on the school's [website](#). This year's experiences bring learning to life through immersive programs led by some of the region's most trusted environmental experts, including educators from the Toledo Zoo, Erie Metroparks and the Ohio Division of Wildlife



KIAC is proud to be a sponsor of Nature Camp 2026.

(Spring, Cont) Bring dish to pass, own table service and beverage. His program starts at 7 pm. You can come for all or just the program. This all happens at the Community Room at the Kelleys Island School.

On, June 18, our program will be a guided hike led by Pat Hayes at the East Quarry. For this meeting, we will meet at the KI school at 7 p.m. with no potluck. The hike will explore the birds, plants and hidden lake history at the East Quarry and is a perfect hike for families.

2026 Kelleys Island Audubon Club Annual Membership Form



- Northern Saw-whet Owl** \$25.00 Annual Membership (Individual or Family) \$ _____
- Monarch Butterfly**- \$100.00 Annual Business Membership \$ _____
- Lakeside Daisy** \$500.00 Lifetime Membership \$ _____

Membership fees are not sufficient to cover the KIAC educational programs or the support we provide to island nature activities including the Bartlett Bird Banding Stations, the KI Schools Nature Camp and Science Saturdays, the “Pape Natural History Collection” at the KI library, as well as support for “Back to the Wild” and other organizations. Please consider an additional donation in support of these efforts:

Additional Donation to KIAC Programming/Partners \$ _____
(In memory/honor of _____)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Membership + Donation) \$ _____

Mail to Kelleys Island Audubon Club, PO Box 42, Kelleys Island, OH 43438
Please make checks payable to Kelleys Island Audubon Club

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club is a 501 (c)3 organization (Fed ID# 34-1906455). 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, June Campbell – Secretary, Jean Kuyoth – Treasurer,
Chris Ashley, Virginia Coyne, Lori Hayes, Rachel O’Connor, Tom Pieratt, Julie Schuler, Jim Zeller

Find us online at: Kelleysislandnature.org

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*
June Campbell | *Secretary*
Jean Kuyoth | *Treasurer*
Chris Ashley
Virginia Coyne
Lori Hayes
Rachel O'Connor
Tom Pieratt
Julie Schuler
Jim Zeller

2026 EVENTS & MEETINGS

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

MAY 17:	Nest with the Birds
MAY 30-AUG 29:	Science Saturdays (visit the school's website details)
JUNE & JULY	Kids Nature Camp (see inside for details)
AUG 9:	Homecoming Booth
SEPT 6:	Glacial Glimpses
SEPT 13:	Feathers & Foliage (6 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
Mid OCT-Mid NOV:	Songbird & Owl Banding
NOV 6-8:	Owl Fest

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Potluck at 6 p.m. followed by meeting and nature program at 7 p.m.
Meetings are held at the KI School or at the Community Park on Addison St. (weather permitting)

MAY 21 JUNE 18 JULY 16 AUG 20 SEPT 17