

# Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

1999 No. 4

## Letter from the Superintendent

Greetings.

As I am writing this, the Ranger III is unloading the last crew from the East End of the park. Mott Island shut down today. Windigo shuts down next week and the park closes to visitation in November. Winter is approaching and the beautiful leaf fall in the breezes today will soon turn to snow flurries. I am reminded that this has been a year of accomplishment for the park and the association. We have approved a new General Management Plan (GMP), constructed some new docks, repaired a lot of trail, welcomed a host of visitors to the park, successfully completed the first season of the newly refurbished Ranger III, and dedicated a wonderful new visitor center at Windigo. It hasn't been all successes, as we also had a fuel spill, some employee and visitor injuries, and the GMP is being challenged in court. The association published some new books, has a really exciting one coming soon, and is working hard for you and the park.

Watch for upcoming announcements of the exciting events planned for the annual meeting at Rock Harbor this coming year. Put the weekend of July 22 and 23 on your calendar and join us in your park.

*Doug Barnard  
Superintendent*

## WOLF MOOSE SUMMER UPDATE

1999 was a good year for Isle Royale's wolves with their numbers increasing from 14 in 1998 to 25 by March of '99. The island's wolves continue to live in three territorial packs. All three packs produced pups in the summer of '98, with pups from two packs surviving through winter. Initial observations from this past summer show that both the Middle and East wolf packs produced pups again this summer, but exact numbers are unknown at this point.

Meanwhile the moose herd recovered only minimally in 1999, up to 750 from 700 in 1998. Because of the low moose numbers, vegetation has recovered somewhat. This summer's calves should find more forage to see them through the winter. The wolf population will have to continue working hard to capture moose, their main winter food source.

Again this year, the annual winter study from early January through early March of 2000 will bring in specific information on how the wolf and moose populations have changed over the year. Look for information from that report in the April Wolf's Eye.



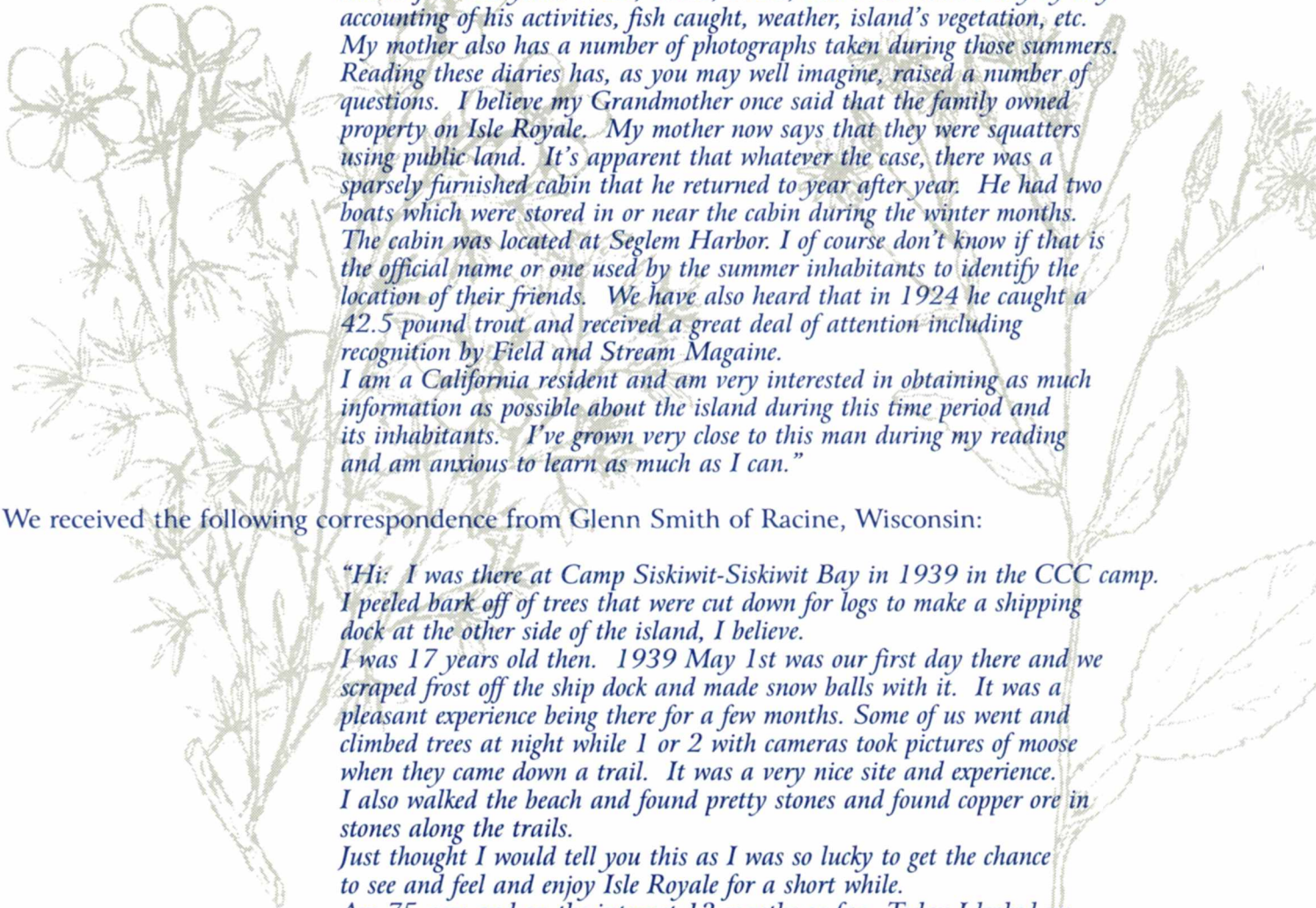
# NEW AND OLD MEET ON THE WEB AT WWW.IRNHA.ORG

Did you know that your association is on the worldwide web? As you have heard in the news, the internet is becoming the way for people to gather information, buy products, and communicate with one another. Not to be left out of that expanding world, IRNHA started our own web page two years ago. We recently updated our web address to [www.irnha.org](http://www.irnha.org) to make us easier to find.

Today many people are finding out about IRNHA and Isle Royale through our web page. Every day we receive messages from people around the country and the world. We are hearing from school children who are doing research, from potential park visitors who are looking for trip-planning materials, from readers who are interested in purchasing books from us, and from Isle Royale enthusiasts who want to become NHA members. Sometimes people find us through our web page and establish or renew an important relationship with Isle Royale.

I want to share with you a couple of special stories of people who have found or refound us through the internet.

Kay Vandergrift found us on the internet and this initial correspondence began a relationship that has resulted in a fruitful exchange of information and the preservation of a piece of Isle Royale history:



*"From the year 1917 through 1932 my Great Grandfather, Elling Andreas Seglem, spent his summers on Isle Royale fishing. We have recently found diaries from the years 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1932 with a day by day accounting of his activities, fish caught, weather, island's vegetation, etc. My mother also has a number of photographs taken during those summers. Reading these diaries has, as you may well imagine, raised a number of questions. I believe my Grandmother once said that the family owned property on Isle Royale. My mother now says that they were squatters using public land. It's apparent that whatever the case, there was a sparsely furnished cabin that he returned to year after year. He had two boats which were stored in or near the cabin during the winter months. The cabin was located at Seglem Harbor. I of course don't know if that is the official name or one used by the summer inhabitants to identify the location of their friends. We have also heard that in 1924 he caught a 42.5 pound trout and received a great deal of attention including recognition by Field and Stream Magazine. I am a California resident and am very interested in obtaining as much information as possible about the island during this time period and its inhabitants. I've grown very close to this man during my reading and am anxious to learn as much as I can."*

We received the following correspondence from Glenn Smith of Racine, Wisconsin:

*"Hi: I was there at Camp Siskiwit-Siskiwit Bay in 1939 in the CCC camp. I peeled bark off of trees that were cut down for logs to make a shipping dock at the other side of the island, I believe. I was 17 years old then. 1939 May 1st was our first day there and we scraped frost off the ship dock and made snow balls with it. It was a pleasant experience being there for a few months. Some of us went and climbed trees at night while 1 or 2 with cameras took pictures of moose when they came down a trail. It was a very nice site and experience. I also walked the beach and found pretty stones and found copper ore in stones along the trails. Just thought I would tell you this as I was so lucky to get the chance to see and feel and enjoy Isle Royale for a short while. Am 75 now and on the internet 13 months so far. Today I looked up Isle Royale and here I am. Thanks for having an internet address."*

So to anyone who believes that the internet is cold and impersonal, I offer the above examples of how this wonderful new technology can serve to preserve history and bring people together. If you have access to the internet, check out your association website. If you don't presently have access, I recommend you check with your local public library; most have internet access for use by their patrons. See you online!

## 1999 RESEARCH REPORT: *Breeding Birds*

Isle Royale National Park established a formal breeding bird survey in 1994 to integrate island population data with other studies being conducted in the region. The program has continued from 1995 to 1999 with the objective of determining and monitoring the size and composition of the migrant community on Isle Royale.

1999 counts were conducted from June 10 to June 26 on eight park trails. A total of 60 species (1610 individuals) were

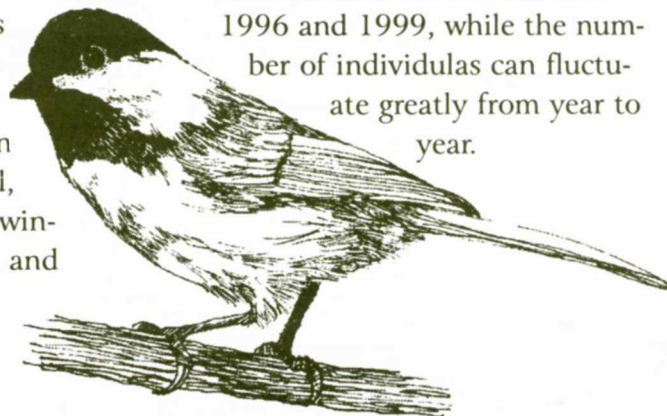
recorded. The number of species is average for the last four years, but the number of individuals has increased substantially from 1028 in 1998 to 1610 in 1999.

The increase in numbers has been strongly noticed in the five most common species on the island—the ovenbird, white-throated sparrow, winter wren, red-eyed vireo, and Nashville warbler.

Fluctuation in yearly numbers has been

recorded elsewhere in the region, as well as in Isle Royale's years of breeding bird studies.

Overall, the number of species has remained similar between 1996 and 1999, while the number of individuals can fluctuate greatly from year to year.



## *Save those dates!*

IRNHA Annual Membership Meetings 2000 will be events worth attending and we hope to have record numbers of you there. On Thursday evening July 20 we will meet in the Calumet area, where in addition to the business meeting, we will be having entertainment, a reception, and a book signing with several of the artists who are represented in our new artists in residence book *The Island Within Us*.

That weekend of July 21-23 will be a very special one on the island. A number of events are being scheduled to celebrate the summer of 2000. Tentative plans call for a variety of historical programs and performances. IRNHA is planning to host another reception and book-signing for our artists in residence on Saturday evening, and on Sunday afternoon July 23 we will hold our second business meeting in Rock Harbor. In keeping with the spirit of historical programs, we hope to have some of our long-time IRNHA members on hand to share their reminiscences of the island and NHA. A reception or meal will follow. The membership committee of Chuck Boyle, Doug Welker, and Steve Merritt are planning the membership meetings. Please feel free to contact them with your suggestions either directly or through the IRNHA office.

## **NEW LIFE MEMBERS FOR 1999**

The following IRNHA members became life members in 1999.

James and Barbara Kackley,  
Barrington Hills, IL  
Sandra Katz, Champion, PA  
James G. Mertens,  
Misawaka, IN  
James and Laura Nelson,  
Wauwaktosa, WI  
Rolf and Carolyn Peterson,  
Houghton, MI  
Robert Rudd, Traverse City, MI

*Thanks so much to all of you!*

## **SHARE YOUR ISLE ROYALE STORIES**

*Do you have a special Isle Royale memory or a news item that might be of interest to your fellow IRNHA members? If so, we encourage you to submit it for possible inclusion in the Wolf's Eye. Although we can't promise to include everything we get, we will try to use as much as we can. Submit entries of no more than one page to WE Editor by mail or e-mail at the addresses given on page 4.*

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## NEW FOR CHRISTMAS '99

A moose for your Christmas tree...  
A double CD of Great Lakes songs...  
a book on birding in the Upper Peninsula...  
or a history of prehistoric copper mining on Lake Superior. These are just some of the new items available for holiday giving from IRNHA. You've probably already received your holiday catalogue in the mail, and it is available, too, on the internet at [www.irnha.org](http://www.irnha.org). You'll find unusual and affordable gifts for nature and history buffs of all ages, and when you buy gifts from IRNHA you support the interpretive and research programs of Isle Royale National Park!

## GRANTS RECEIVED FOR ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE BOOK

We are happy to report that IRNHA has received two grants for the publication of our Artists in Residence book, now officially entitled *The Island Within Us: Isle Royale Artists in Residence*. The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs has awarded us a grant of \$14,000 which will be paid out over the next year and will be used to cover a variety of production expenses. The majority of MCACA grants are awarded for performance or arts education programs, so we feel especially pleased to have been awarded a grant for a project outside the usual realm of awards.

Another grant of \$1,000 from the National Parks Company, has already been received. These funds will go to help meet costs of duplicating the many full color images which will be included in the book. The Parks Company awarded eight \$1,000 grants to National Parks around the country. Other recipients include Rocky Mt., Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Big Bend and Virgin Islands National Parks, and the Sequoia Fund.



## Isle Royale Natural History Association

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IRNHA is a non-profit membership organization that assists Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historic Park by publishing and selling educational materials to park visitors.

Gifts, bequests, memorials and memberships are U.S. tax deductible.

### Membership Categories

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Individual .....      | \$15    |
| Household .....       | \$25    |
| Supporting .....      | \$50    |
| Sustaining .....      | \$100   |
| Life Membership . . . | \$500*  |
| Corporate Sponsor . . | \$1,000 |
| Corporate Patron. . . | \$5,000 |

\*Life memberships may be paid in 5 annual installments.

### Board of Directors

Gary Pethe, President, Charles Boyle, David Duchamp, John Dunn, Nancy Leonard, Christine Manninen, Steve Merritt, Doug Welker, Charles Zamzov.

### Staff

Jill Burkland, Executive Director & Wolf's Eye Editor; Lauren Rastello, Mail Order and Membership Specialist.