

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2000 No. 4

Isle Royale Superintendent Doug Barnard Passes Away

Isle Royale National Park Superintendent passed away on October 24, at age 58, after a long battle with cancer.

Doug began his 35-year career with the NPS as a seasonal ranger at the Windigo Ranger Station in 1964. In 1966 he was selected for a permanent position with the NPS, attended the Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon National Park, and was assigned to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada. While there he was a leader in the modernization of the service's law enforcement program. He had later assignments at Apostle Island National Lakeshore as the Chief Park Ranger, and was a District Ranger at Big Bend National Park and Yellowstone. He served as Chief Park Ranger at Grand Teton National Park prior to taking the top job at Isle Royale in 1993.

Doug was a leader in developing innovative programs in search and rescue, law enforcement, resource management, park planning, and other programs vital to successful accomplishment of the NPS mission. He received numerous awards throughout his career for his contributions and dedicated service including the Department of the Interior's Superior Service Award and Meritorious Service Award.

Doug was a member and dedicated friend of the Isle Royale Natural History Association. He was a strong supporter of the park's Artist-in-Residence Program and was a driving force behind last summer's millennium celebration and our latest publication, The Island Within.

In his last Wolf's Eye letter Doug wrote, "The park will continue to evolve and change. Hopefully that feeling of immersing yourself in the natural world will stay. I miss the old timers, and I guess I am getting to be one myself. I love this park. It is truly a special land apart from the everyday world. I am extremely honored to return here and help protect and mold it for the future generations to come."

Doug is survived by his wife Sylvia, and two children, Jenny and David.



Other Losses

Linda Witkowski, Superintendent of the Midwest Support Office of the National Park Service, passed away November 4 in Omaha, Nebraska. Linda is known to many of us as the Assistant Superintendent of Isle Royale, a position she held from 1992 to 1998. She also served as Acting Superintendent of Keweenaw National Historical Park in 1997. Prior to coming to Isle Royale, Linda served as Administrative Officer at Apostle Islands. Linda is survived by her husband, Gary, two sons, and two granddaughters.

Werner "Eppie" Jutila passed away on November 1 in Hancock, Michigan. Isle Royale visitors will remember Eppie as the first mate on the Ranger III for many years. He retired in 1989 after 36 years with the National Park Service.

We have just learned that George Fry, Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park from 1959 through 1961, passed away last April. His wife, Helen Fry, of Gottenburg, Tennessee, recently made a contribution to IRNHA in memory of her late husband.

We continue our series of reminiscences of Isle Royale collected this past summer for our Millennium Celebration with this excerpt from a letter we received in June.

From Bill Paine:

...My mother, father and two older brothers came over to Rock Harbor on the Ranger II in July of 1959 for a week or two of camping. We brought a 20-foot wood and canvas canoe borrowed from a scout troop. I was about ten. I hiked the trail with my parents to Daisy Farm Campground while my brothers paddled our gear and possessions to the camp following the north shore of Rock Harbor. We enjoyed some day hikes from our base camp at Daisy Farm to take advantage of the views from the ridges.

As a boy, I found great pleasure in exploring all the creeks with salamanders and the insects in the meadows. I even collected some of the incredible Greenstones and saved them in a small vile. Swimming was brief, as the water was very cold. The fishermen in camp caught some spectacular Lake Trout. The Lamprey was a concern but I had no idea how much it would contribute to the problems for the Mackinaw and the people who depended on the fisheries for their existence. Later that week, we would meet one of those kind resident fishermen.

One of our outings took us exploring Moskey Bay at the far west end of Rock Harbor and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse with the whole family via canoe. We were drawn to examine them and had our lunch along the protected beach.

Before we had finished lunch the weather changed and a strong wind came up upon the water and made a return to camp impossible or at least prohibitively dangerous. It was then that we met one of the Isle Royale fishermen. I believe that the man who offered us safe passage was Mr. Edisen. My father asked for help and Mr. Edisen took the lot of us in his gas boat, including our canoe straddling the gunnals, back to Daisy Farm campground. The memory of this warm smile and willingness to help out will always remain.

I live near Seattle, Washington now and spend some of my year on the salt-water sounds and straights of the Pacific Northwest. We have our lighthouses, fishermen and our changes in the

weather. I will always have a special place in my heart for the Northshore, Lake Superior and Isle Royale, and for the man who so willingly helped a summer family get out of a jam with little thought of his own safety or inconvenience. Thank you, Mr. Edisen.

CORRECTION

In Bob Hakala's article in the last issue of *Wolf's Eye*, he referred to Park Superintendent Charles Shelvin. We incorrectly printed that name as Charles Swain. We apologize to Mr. Hakala for our error.

Breeding Bird Survey 2000

Based on a report by Jack Oelfke, IRNP Branch Chief of Natural Resource Management, and Alexander Egan, IRNP Biological Technician

Isle Royale National Park established a formal breeding bird survey in 1994 as a means of integrating island population data with other studies conducted within the region. Isle Royale's survey was initiated with two objectives: to determine the size and composition of the neotropical migrant community, and to attempt to associate any observable population trends with changes in the vegetation of the island. The impetus for establishing a survey was due to concern for declines in neotropical species. However, other species, such as continental migrants and residents, are included in data analysis.

Last summer's breeding bird survey was conducted from June 12 to 28. The primary focus are songbirds, including neotropical migrants, continental migrants, and resident species. The objective of monitoring the relative abundance and composition of the songbird community on Isle Royale was accomplished using standardized five-minute point-counts conducted at various locations across the island. Eight park trails were used as survey transects with 130 census points located along them at intervals of approximately 1/4 mile. Transects were established in each "region" of the park (east, west, and central), as well as at one off-shore location: Passage Island.

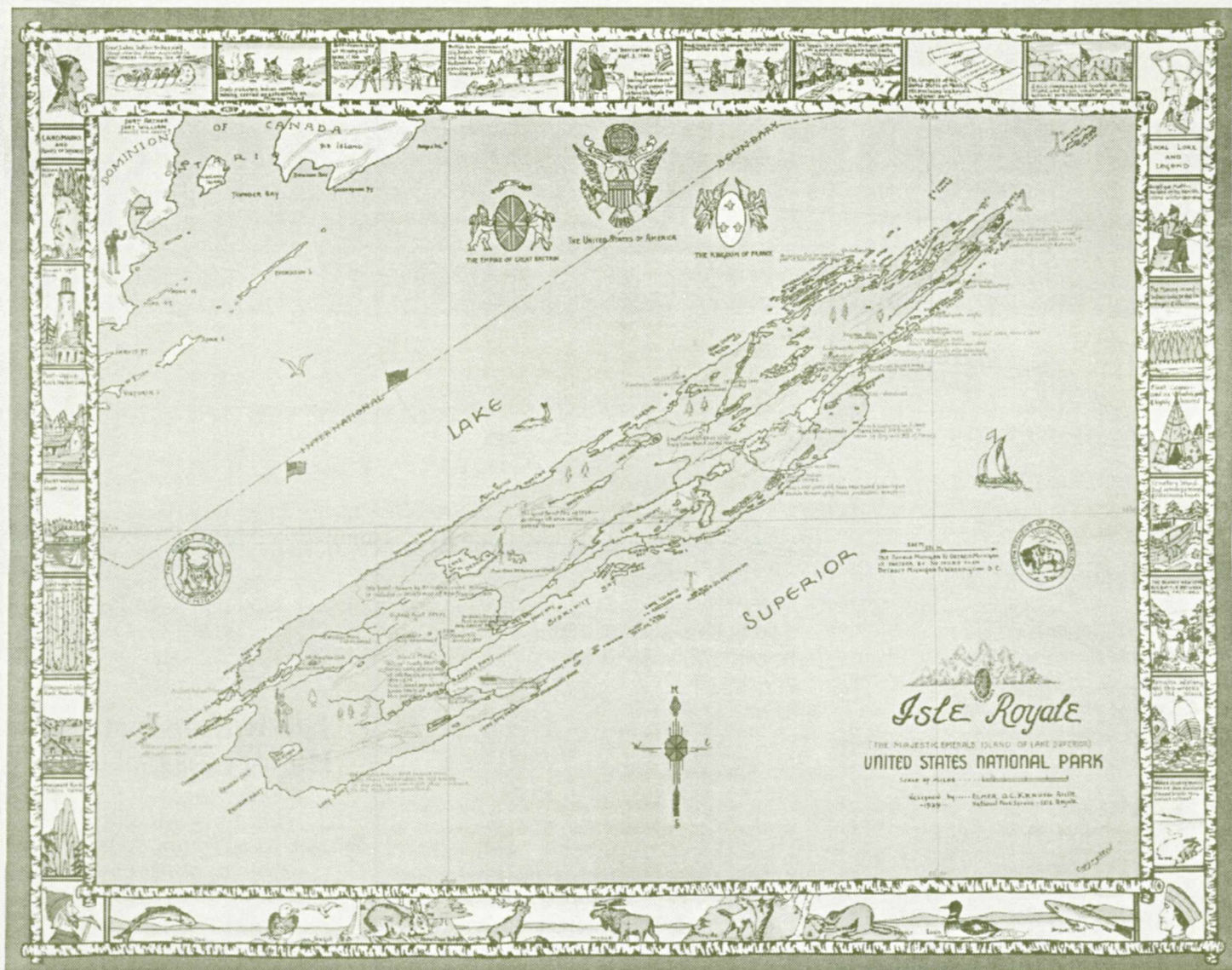
A total of 60 species and 1442 individuals were recorded across the island. Six species accounted for 48% of the total number of individuals recorded during the 5-min. counts. They were the White-throated Sparrow, Ovenbird, Nashville Warbler, Winter Wren, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Red-eyed Vireo. These were also among the most numerous species in the 1996-1999 surveys. Since 1994, 85 focal species have been recorded during the breeding bird surveys.

Four species were present at all eight transects, while 16 species were recorded at only one transect. The highest number of species were recorded along the Mt. Franklin Trail between Three Mile and Lane Cove and along the Ispheming Trail, while the lowest number of species was recorded on Passage Island.

Sixty species were recorded during the 2000 survey, slightly above the 5-year average of 59. The number of individuals in 2000 (1449) is well above the five-year average of 1358.

Since 1996 the Greenstone Ridge Trail at Windigo has shown less diversity of species than the yearly average, possibly a result of the differing, more monotypical forest type (maple/yellow birch) that dominates the west half of the island. The five-year average for diversity values of the other areas surveyed shows both a stable range of variation and a high percentage of diversity. This is an encouraging general sign for the health of the Isle Royale songbird population, yet statistical analysis and comparison of migratory versus resident species could be done in the future to determine possible fluctuations between the two.

Species whose numbers have fluctuated significantly over the last five years are the Black-throated Blue Warbler, the Canada Warbler, the Veery and the Swainson's Thrush.

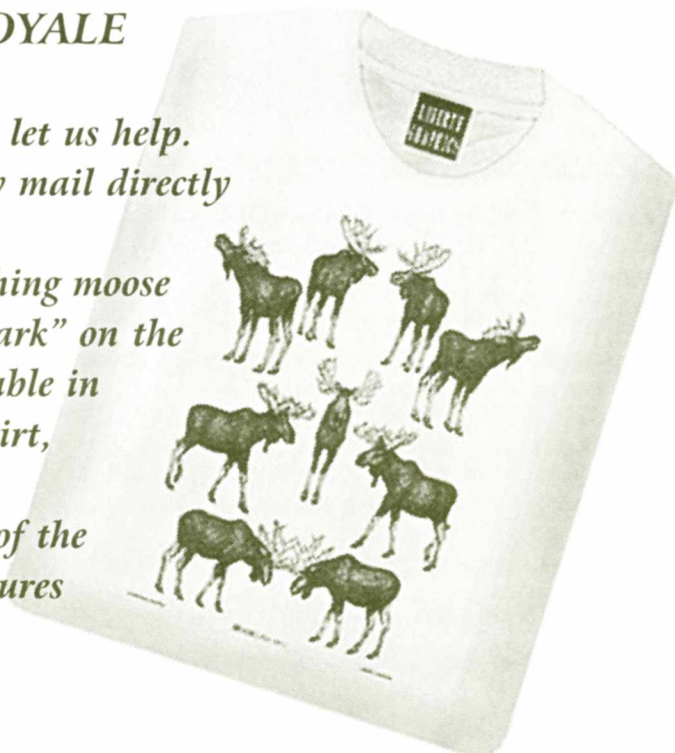


LAST MINUTE GIFTS FROM ISLE ROYALE

If you still have some holiday shopping to do, let us help. We will gift wrap your order and ship it priority mail directly to anyone on your list.

Our latest Isle Royale t-shirt has an eye-catching moose design on the front and "Isle Royale National Park" on the sleeve. It is 100% unbleached cotton and available in adults' and children's sizes. \$18.95 for adult shirt, \$14.95 for children's shirt.

Our latest Isle Royale poster is a replication of the 1939 map by Elmer Kraus in full color. It measures 24" x 30" and is perfect for framing. \$11.95 with mailing tube.



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Houghton, Michigan
Permit No. 45 Wolf's Eye

Save Those Dates

The annual IRNHA membership meetings will be held in two locations again next summer. They are scheduled for Thursday, July 26 in the Houghton/Calumet area and Sunday, July 29 in Rock Harbor. Look for information on special annual meeting programs and events in the next issue of Wolf's Eye.

IRNHA Board Openings

The IRNHA Board of Directors will have three vacancies opening up in August 2001. Two of our current board members, Christine Manninen and Steve Merritt, will complete their first terms and have agreed to run again. Doug Welker will complete his second term, and is not eligible to serve another term at this time. If you are a current member of IRNHA and are interested in serving on the board, we invite you to run for election. Please send a short biographical sketch indicating educational background and current employment as well as a statement indicating why you believe you are qualified to hold a position on the board. Please also include your address and phone number. Board members are expected to attend meetings held twice a year in the Houghton/Calumet area and once on Isle Royale. Members are also asked to serve on committees and attend committee meetings as needed.

The election will be held in May 2001. Nominations must be received no later than March 1. Please send nominations to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI 49931.

New Member Benefit

We value you as a member of IRNHA, and as a way of showing our appreciation we are adding an additional benefit to your membership. In addition to receiving a 10% discount on your purchases, 4 issues of the Wolf's Eye, and our annual product catalogs, this year you will also receive a copy of the 2001 Isle Royale newspaper, "The Greenstone." "The Greenstone" comes out each February and includes lots of interesting articles as well as all the information you need to plan a trip to Isle Royale. It was the second place winner in this year's National Association of Interpreters awards for events and program schedules.

In order to receive your "Greenstone" hot off the press, be sure to renew your membership by January 31.



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.

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