

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2001 No. 3

Anurans Population Report

The populations of anurans (frogs and toads) have been noticeably declining throughout worldwide habitats in recent years, initiating a cause for concern. Frog and toad populations may well serve as indicators of general environmental quality. They are both aquatic and terrestrial species, partially breathing through their skin, which in turn makes them susceptible to environmental degradation. In the occurrence of a decline, concerns must certainly be raised, not only dealing with the populations themselves, but also taking into consideration the habitats in which they exist. Frogs and toads are especially vulnerable to human exploitation of their habitat, as they depend on wetlands, which are often destroyed by development. Fluctuations in frog and toad populations are therefore a possible indicator of the changing environmental quality of an area and the well being of its ecosystem.

The last known inventory of Isle Royale's frogs and toads was conducted in 1963-64 and revealed six species of anurans present on the island. The species found were the American toad, spring peeper, boreal chorus frog, green frog, mink frog, and the wood frog. The current survey of Isle Royale's frogs and toads has served as a comparison of

recent population information with presence/absence data from 1963-64. These records will be helpful in providing a means of determining current population figures and tracing population trends over the years.

In 2000, frog and toad surveys at ISRO were conducted in the early spring, late spring and summer on four transects. The



survey is based upon the calls given by the male frogs and toads during their various mating seasons. In order to include the breeding seasons of all species surveyed, three different runs of each transect were conducted throughout the spring and summer.

All six anuran species presently known to inhabit Isle Royale were heard in the 2000 survey.

The chorus frog was more prevalent in the 2000 spring run than both the 1998 and 1999 runs, occurring at 23 of the survey points (compared to 2 points previously). The wood frog was similarly recorded at more points in 2000 than in previous seasons. The wood frog had not been heard in the 1999 season during this run, but it was recorded during the 1998 survey to the same intensity.

The spring peeper once again dominated the spring run as well as the June run. Though the percentage of sites at which the spring peeper was found in 2000 is the same number as in the 1999 spring run, the intensity in which they were calling was higher in the 2000 season. The high abundance of spring peepers matches abundance data for

marshes in the Great Lakes region.

The green frog was the most common species heard and documented on the July run, found at 45% of the survey sites. This percentage is up from the previous survey season by 7.5%.

American Toads made a significant return in the 2000 survey season, advancing from a site percentage of 5% to a 37.5% site percentage during the spring run of the 2000 survey. The June run was also higher for the percent of sites occupied by American toads. However, none were heard calling within any of the four transects during the summer run. Though they were not heard calling, a total of 110 toads were seen on three transects throughout the course of the July survey.

Due to the scattered occurrences of the mink frog over the survey seasons, this species was not included in the correlation. However, there were several occasions where Park Service employees observed calling of mink frogs during the daylight hours several weeks following the last survey date.

As data continues to be added to this survey, it will become possible to interpret the factors that control anuran populations on ISRO. At this point, several trends seem apparent, such as the relation of rainfall to frog population. The data gathered between 1996 and 2000 seem to indicate that frog and toad populations are not in steady decline on ISRO, but fluctuating in response to environmental factors. However, we lack a great deal of knowledge as to which environmental factors are most important to the well being of Isle Royale's frog and toad populations. Barring atmospheric pollutants, ISRO's anuran population could be viewed as a control group to compare with the mainland populations, as watershed pollution and habitat encroachment are at a minimum on Isle Royale.

Report by Shannon Milanowski,
Alexander Egan, Jack Oelfke
Isle Royale National Park

Thanks!

...to IRNHA member Karl Gretzinger from Harbor Springs, MI for responding to our request for a computer printer. His gift of a laser printer is much appreciated.

...to Pasty.com of Calumet, MI for supplying IRNHA with a free website. Pasty.com received a grant through which they are able to offer free websites to non-profit organizations in the community. This is a wonderful cost savings for us.

MEMORIES OF ISLE ROYALE

Charles Stanley, nephew of Libbie Manthey, sent us these excerpts from his aunt's diary. Libbie and her husband Frederick, who was a carpenter, lived on Isle Royale from 1904 until 1939.

1904- We were married March 30, 1904. We went to Isle Royale - stayed until September 18 and went back to Minneapolis.

1908- We left for Duluth April 25th - took America for Island - were caught in a terrible snow storm - layed there all day. Next day left for Island - arrived at our place April 28.

1909- May 28th left for Duluth, shopped 2 days - then sailed on Easton for Island in a big sea.

1925- Frederick glassed in Mrs. Smith's porch August 31st. Changed Beard's kitchen August 28th- worked 9 days - left Island Oct. 5th.

1926- to Island June 7th. Water very

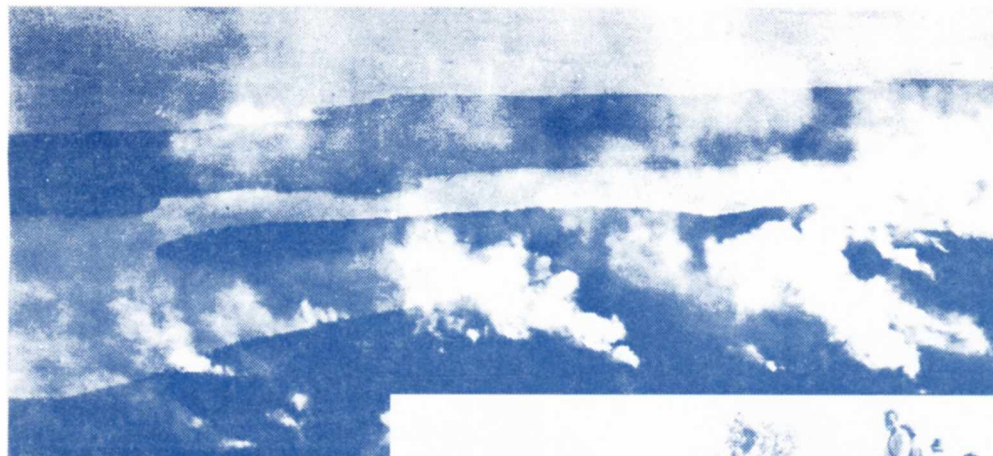
low. Finished Smith's house, kitchen, bath and bedrooms.

1927- Frederick stayed all winter - built on bedroom and enlarged kitchen.

1936- In July we had a fire 3 miles back from our place - burned 1 1/4 acres. In June we put a new Kermath in VIRGINIA. July 13th Mrs. Nichols came to live in our log cabin. Mr. Nichols was with the National Park Service. Fire started Friday the 24th and nearly burned the Island - took thousands of acres. 1800 boys to fight fire. The 4th of October I had a dinner for the National Park Service—Mrs. Nichols, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Dort, Mr. Pequit and Mr. Wolbrink.

1938- Myrtle Johnson had her son March 17th. We have to move as the National Park Service has taken over our place. We vacate August 21, 1939.

1939- Sailed from Duluth July 1st - had a wonderful trip - arrived here safely July 2nd. Summer was very quiet - had regatta in August. We got our boats ready and sailed for home September 11th. Got to Washington Harbor that afternoon. Stayed with Mrs. Sivertson all nite - left Tuesday morning for Grand Portage - had a nice day- arrived there at 12:30 noon - stayed at Mrs. Thompson's resort until Wednesday noon - Sailed at 1 pm for Grand Marais - 40 miles - got there at 5 PM - had a nice trip. Stayed there because of a big sea and fog until Friday morning. Had a boy, Arnie, run my boat to Two Harbors - 87 miles - arrived there at 5:30 - and then a storm threw our boat on the rocks - had a bad time for a few hours but got off safely and stayed in harbor until Saturday morning. At 10 AM we started for French River to leave the VIRGINIA and 2 row boats. Started for Duluth and had as bad a seas as we could possibly have, but we made it.



1936 aerial photo of the fire, and pictures of the men who fought it.



MEMORIALS

D. Robert Hakala passed away in a Juneau, AK, hospital on April 18, 2001. He was a long-time NHA member and served on the Board of Directors in the 1980s. Bob worked for the National Park Service as a Ranger on Isle Royale from 1950 to 1955. After several positions with the Park Service, he transferred to the Forest Service in 1962 and worked for them in Alaska until his retirement in 1977.

He is survived by his wife Jean, children Ron, Jannie, and Mary and six grandchildren. Some of Bob's memories of Isle Royale can be found in last summer's issue of The Wolf's Eye.

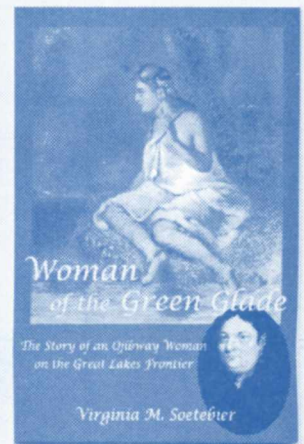
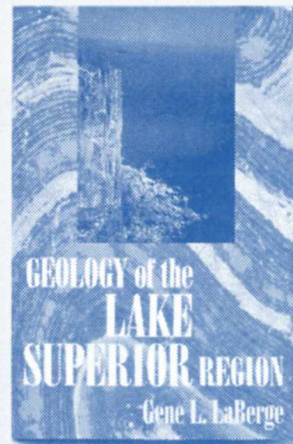
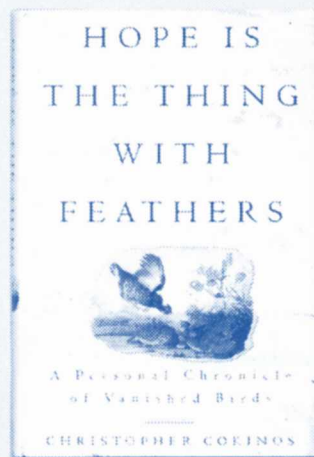
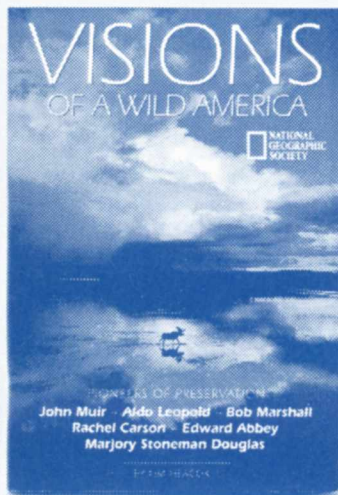
Robert Johnsson died on May 31, 2001 at his home in Frederick, MD. Bob spent his entire career with the National Park Service, beginning as a naturalist and interpreter at Isle Royale in the 1950s. He met his wife Fanny Miller on the island and they married in 1959. Bob left Isle Royale for Rock Creek Nature Center in Washington DC in 1960, then to Yellowstone in 1962. From 1968 until his retirement in 1994, he worked as Chief of Exhibit Planning and Design for the NPS Interpretive Design Center in Harpers Ferry.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, Mark and Eric, a daughter in-law, and two grandchildren.

Continuing our series of reminiscences of Isle Royale collected this past summer for our Millennium Celebration.

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE:

New for Summer 2001



Visions of a Wild America: Pioneers of Preservation by Kim Heacox \$15.00

The words and stories of this country's great conservationists John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall, Rachel Carson, Edward Abbey, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas complemented by over 100 beautiful full color photographs that capture our nation's preserved places. 200 pages.

Hope is the Thing with Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds by Christopher Cokinos \$24.95

The powerful and beautifully written story of the last days of six American bird species. A window into American history at a time when flocks of Passenger Pigeons blocked the sun and Carolina Parakeets colored the sky. In the words of Rick Bass, "stories such as these will help renew our resolve to do all we can to prevent the further squandering of endangered species and the wild landscapes that have birthed them." 360 pages. Hardcover.

Geology of the Lake Superior Region

by Gene LaBerge \$20.00

Written in clear, jargon-free prose, this book covers just about everything you might want to know about one of the most interesting geological areas in North America: Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Full of examples, photographs, maps and diagrams. 310 pages.

Woman of the Green Glade: The Story of an Ojibway Woman on the Great Lakes Frontier

by Virginia Soetebier \$14.95

The story of Ozhaguscodaywayquay, daughter of an Ojibway chief who lived in northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the late 18th Century. The wife of fur trader John Johnston, she helped operate one of the Great Lakes major trading posts in Sault Ste. Marie. Ozhaguscodaywayquay became one of the major sources of Ojibway culture for her son-in-law Henry Rowe Schoolcraft. 130 pages.



Isle Royale National Park T-Shirt \$18.95

Heavyweight, 100% cotton shirt in natural color depicting 8 images of Isle Royale flora and fauna – Wolf, Moose, Loon, Brook Trout, Wood Lily, Thimbleberry, Moccasin Flower and Balsam Fir. Available in Adult M, L, XL, and XXL.

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE:

New for Summer 2001



Legend of the Loon by Kathy Jo Wargin, illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen \$17.95

A legend about a deep love that stays forever in the sound of the loon that calls across the northern lakes. This is the story of a magical grandmother and her cherished relationship with her grandchildren. Illustrated by one of Isle Royale's Artists in Residence. Hardcover.

Girls Who Looked Under Rocks by Jeannine Atkins \$8.95

This book for young adults tells the stories of women who devoted themselves to understanding and protecting nature: Rachel Carson, author of Silent Spring; Jane Goodall, who devoted her life to the study of chimpanzees; Maria Sibylla Merian, who in 1699 sailed from Europe to South America to study and paint insects; Anna Comstock, the first woman professor at Cornell University; Frances Hammerstrom, who left a modeling career to study wildlife on the prairies; and Miriam Rothschild, who grew up in a mansion but let it grow wild with the weeds that butterflies prefer.

John Muir: My Life with Nature by Joseph Cornell \$8.95

The author who is himself an eminent naturalist, presents this young adult "autobiography" of John Muir as if Muir were telling his own tale of adventure and purpose. The story of the most influential conservationist of all times is based on the letters and articles he left behind.

Is This An Agate? by Susan Robinson \$7.95

Finally, a new book that explains the beach stones found along Lake Superior shorelines! This user-friendly book is written for young teens to adults, and is just the right size to be carried in your pocket or back pack. Beautifully illustrated with full-color, realistic paintings of actual pebbles. 24 pages.

ORDERING INFORMATION

10% discount for IRNHA Members • Order at 800-678-6925 or www.irnha.org • We accept Visa, MasterCard & Discover

Purchase Price Shipping
\$0 - \$10.00\$3.00 addl.
\$10.00 - \$15.00 ...\$4.00 addl.

Purchase Price Shipping
\$15.00 - \$30.00\$5.00 addl.
\$30.00 - \$50.00\$6.00 addl.

Purchase Price Shipping
\$50.00 - \$75.00\$7.00 addl.
over \$75.00\$8.00 addl.

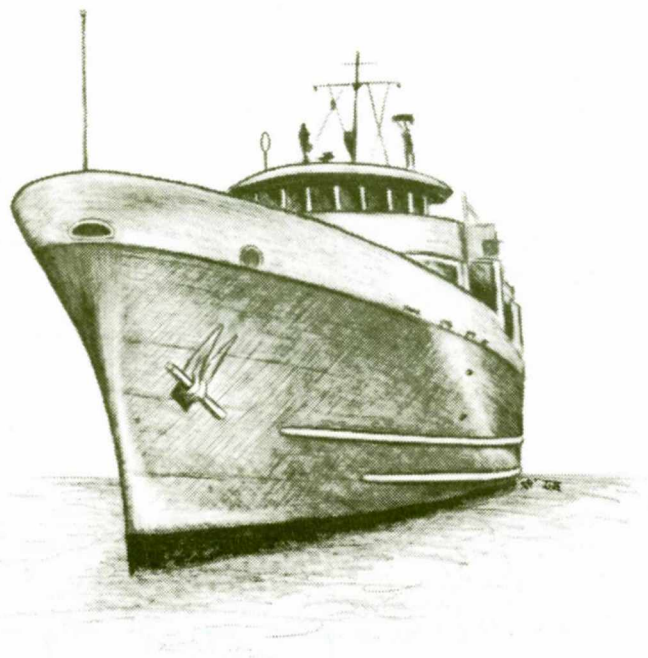
The Isle Royale Institute: What is it?

Some of you may have heard of the Isle Royale Institute; most of you probably haven't. The Institute is brand new and mostly unknown right now, but if its new director, Mark Gleason, has his way, you will be hearing a lot more about it in the next few years.

The Isle Royale Institute is a cooperative venture between Isle Royale National Park and Michigan Technological University in Houghton. It began a few years ago as a way to give Isle Royale visitors information about the research being done in the park. Several MTU professors and other researchers were enlisted by Gleason, then purser on the park vessel, The Ranger III, to give programs on the boat en route to and from the island. Over 200 of these research presentations were given over the last three years, and lots of us traveling on the Ranger III were the recipients of all kinds of fascinating information on everything from Lake Superior levels, to the latest on the island's wolf and moose populations, to Coaster Brook Trout rehabilitation efforts, and Native American mining operations on Isle Royale.

The on board research presentations will continue as part of the Institute's mission to promote public education and research projects on Isle Royale and Lake Superior. In an effort to expand those educational offerings, IRI plans to offer classes and field institutes on Isle Royale. The classes, taught by researchers from Michigan Tech and other universities, will be open to the public and may be initially designed for youth and senior citizens.

The Isle Royale Institute also hopes to be able to offer research residencies, similar to the park's present artist residencies on the island. They are presently exploring possibilities for sites on the island that might be used to house IRI operations.



The Ambassadors are Coming!

Those of you who travel to Isle Royale on passenger boats from Copper Harbor or Grand Marais will notice some new faces on board this summer.

Isle Royale National Park has received an Alternative Transportation Grant from Ford Motor Fund, as part of its "Proud Partner" commitment to the National Park Foundation and National Park Service. This grant, administered by the Student Conservation Association, will place Ford Ambassadors (Interpreters) at

passenger ferry departure points in Grand Portage and Copper Harbor this summer.

The Interpreters will provide information at visitor centers in Grand Portage National Monument and in Copper Harbor and will present a variety of interpretive programs at these locations. In addition, they will ride the Wenonah and Voyageur II to and from Grand Portage and Isle Royale and the Isle Royale Queen III to and from Copper Harbor and Isle Royale. While aboard, they will offer information to visitors, help with plan-

ning trip details, and expedite the process of obtaining camping permits on the island.

General Management Plan Moves Ahead

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit by the Isle Royale Boaters Association seeking to stop implementation of the park's General Management Plan. U.S. District Judge Gordon Quist rejected arguments by the Boater's Association that opposed removal of some docks, restrictions on generator use, and the implementation of quiet no-wake zones on certain bays and coves around the island.

The General Management Plan was adopted in 1999 after an extensive public comment period, but has not been implemented due to the lawsuit. With the suit now settled, the park service is expected move ahead on implementing the plan which calls for removing three docks, relocating one and adding others. When completed there will be docks in 22 locations on Isle Royale, compared to 20 docks presently in use. Boaters docked near campgrounds will be restricted in their use of generators, televisions, stereos, and non-marine radios.

Elections & Committees

IRNHA members have reelected Christine Manninen and Steve Merritt to serve their second three-year terms on our board of directors. Christine is the chair of our publications committee and a member of the marketing committee; Steve serves on our membership committee.

Elected to his first term on the board is Mark Gleason. Mark is known to many of you as the purser on the Ranger III, a position he held for many summers. He is now the Director of the Isle Royale Institute at Michigan Technological University.

We are also pleased to welcome several new non-board members to our committees. Marilyn Cooper, Professor in the Dept of Humanities at Michigan Tech, will be serving on our Publications Committee, and Susan Barnum, Chris Gale and Sandy Wilhoit are new members of our Fundraising Committee. Susan is a Professor of Biology at Miami University, Chris works in fundraising for Michigan Tech and Sandy is a sales representative in Lowell, MI.

Thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve.

Isle Royale Natural History Association
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We Need Your Help

As a member of IRNHA, you have recently received a letter from our board president Dave Duchamp asking for your help with two important projects:

The Isle Royale Artists in Residence Collection Tour. The park's collection of 40 works of art contributed by our artists in residence is on tour around the Upper Midwest. The reviews from our first two sites, Duluth and Hancock, have been excellent and the public relations benefits are immeasurable. We have received a \$2000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs to help pay costs for printing a collection brochure and paying artists' travel expenses and honoraria. According to our grant contract, that \$2000 must be matched by member contributions.

Publications Revolving Fund. It is the mission of IRNHA to educate the public about Isle Royale National Park. We do this primarily by printing publications like The Greenstone newspaper which is distributed free of charge to about 20,000 people annually, and by publishing books about Isle Royale, of which we sell about 5000 annually to park visitors and others readers around the country. Printing and paper costs for our publications have risen substantially over the last few years, and we are using more and more of our reserves each year to pay for our publishing projects. It is our goal to establish a publications fund of \$50,000 which we will use exclusively for printing costs and which will be constantly reimbursed with profits from sales.

We ask that make a contribution to one of these funds this summer. All gifts to IRNHA are tax-deductible and much appreciated!

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Annual summer membership meetings will be held the last week of July 2001—on the mainland on Thursday evening, July 26 and in Rock Harbor on Sunday, July 29. Both events will begin with brief business meetings, followed by programs.

Thursday, July 26, Mainland Events

- Noon: Board Meeting, Keweenaw Natl. Park Offices, Redjacket Rd, Calumet
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting, Keweenaw Park Offices, Calumet; Business Meeting; Guided Tours of newly acquired Keweenaw Natl. Park Buildings and Refreshments

Saturday, July 28

- 10:00 a.m. - Noon Guided nature walk. Meet in front of the RH Visitor Center.
- 8:30 p.m. Program by Artist in Residence Christina Kionka. Rock Harbor Auditorium

Sunday, July 29

- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting, Rock Harbor Auditorium. Business Meeting; Program by Lou Mattson; Slide presentation "Isle Royale: Rocks and Pointy Trees."
- Following the meeting — Picnic at Rock Harbor Lodge.

All events except the picnic dinner are free of charge.



Isle Royale Natural History Association

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website: www.irnha.org

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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