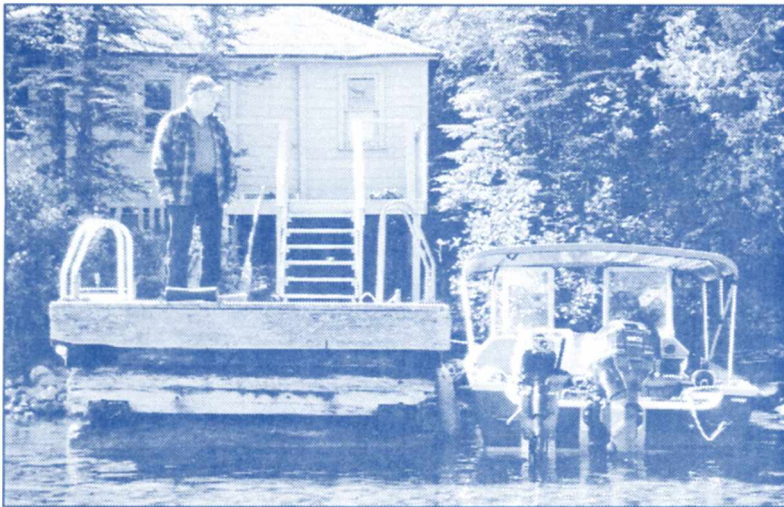


Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2005 No. 1



*Bob and
his boat
on the dock
at the Wolbrink
camp on
Tobin Harbor.*

Bob Linn Remembered

Bob Linn, former Chief Scientist for the National Park Service and founding member of the Isle Royale Natural History Association, died at his home on October 10, following a long struggle with cancer. He was 78.

Bob was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1926. After serving with the U.S. Army in WWII, he enrolled at Kent State University. It was during that time that he discovered his beloved Isle Royale while on a camping trip with the Explorer Scouts. He received his Bachelor's degree in biology, his Masters' degree in plant ecology at Kent State, and his PhD in plant ecology from Duke University, doing his field work surveying plant ecosystems on Isle Royale.

After his studies, Bob joined the National Park Service, becoming Park Naturalist at Isle Royale. In the mid-1950s, he participated in the first winter research sessions of the world-renowned and ongoing Wolf/Moose Studies, working closely with the study's founder, Durward Allen. He was a co-founder of the IRNHA, and was responsible for starting the IRNHA publications program.

...continued on page 3

2004 Isle Royale Breeding Bird Survey

Isle Royale National Park established a formal breeding bird survey in 1994, annually determining the size and composition of songbird communities on Isle Royale, in response to concerns about declining numbers of species migrating from Mexico and Central and South America.

In 2004, point counts were conducted from June 17th to the 30th, using eight park trails as transects. A total of 56 species and 1090 individuals were recorded. The number of species is only slightly below the

...continued on page 2



Redstart on Isle Royale

Volunteer Opportunities at Keweenaw National Historical Park

Volunteer opportunities have increased at Keweenaw National Historical Park thanks to a \$4000 grant from outdoor equipment manufacturer and retailer REI. The goal of the National Parks Volunteerism Enhancement Program is to assist parks in their efforts to provide high-quality volunteer experiences that, in turn, strengthen the connection between volunteers and their National Parks.

KNHP is in the initial stages of establishing its volunteer program. Funds from the grant will be used to recruit volunteers and provide training and materials for volunteer projects. Projects for 2005 will include preparation and cataloging of historical artifacts and archival materials, historical research, assistance with staffing the park's information desk, preparation and presentation of historic walking tours of Calumet, and assessment and documentation of historical structures. For information on volunteering at KNHP, contact Dan Johnson at 906-337-1104, ext. 132.



Keweenaw
NATIONAL
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Breeding Birds...

...continued from front page

eight-year average of 57 for Isle Royale, while the number of individuals is well below the eight-year average of 1394. The majority of individuals are neotropical migrants, comprising an average of 49% of the annual breeding songbirds on Isle Royale. Continental migrants account for an average of 37%, and resident species account for an average of 14%.

Threats to these populations are likely to occur in either migration or wintering habitats, rather than on Isle Royale, because 99% of the park's land base is protected from development, and issues of predation elsewhere (mostly due to raccoons expanding their range) are not applicable. The numbers of individuals per species that are observed yearly during the survey appear to be either stable or increasing, with exceptions discussed below. Species of possible concern:

Certain species that use Isle Royale for breeding have been noted regionally or locally as possible concern species. Included in this group are the Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, and Swainson's Thrush, all of which are neotropical migrants. The Chipping Sparrow, a continental migrant, may also be a species of concern based on ISRO data.

During the 20th century, the Black-throated Blue Warbler had declined in general throughout Michigan. On ISRO, between 1996 and 2004, the decline has been only slight.

The Chestnut-sided Warbler has shown a notable decline on ISRO between 1996 and 2004. Across Michigan, Minnesota, and Ontario populations had a decline between 1980 and 2002, while in Wisconsin the trend was a significant increase.

The American Redstart has also shown a strong decline on ISRO since 1996. In all states bordering Lake Superior, and in Ontario, the Redstart has shown either non-significant or significant increases on breeding bird surveys between 1980 and 2002. As with most other wood-warblers, the American Redstart is considered to be a species of concern due to deforestation of tropical winter habitats.

The Swainson's Thrush showed a steady

2004 Isle Royale Visitor Numbers Mirror Weather Conditions



Visitors en route to Isle Royale

The number of people visiting Isle Royale in 2004 was down approximately 3% from 2003. 13,850 people made the trip to the island last year compared to 14,250 in 2003. But the month-by-month visitation numbers show lots of ups and downs. May 2004 was down almost 16% from May 2003, June was down less than 1%, and July was up by 6%. August saw another steep decline, down 14% from August 2003, but September was up an impressive 18%! All in all, numbers reflect a cool, rainy summer and a beautiful September!

Visitation at the NPS Headquarters Visitor Center in Houghton remained steady with about 3500 visitors both years. The average stay for Isle Royale visitors was three days in 2004, compared to 3.2 days in 2003. NPS statistics from past 35 years show island visitation fluctuating between 11,500 and 18,500, with the highest visitation in the mid-90s and the lowest in the mid-80s.

No visitation numbers are available for Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Populations of Breeding Birds on Isle Royale, 1996 - 2004

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5	11	8	15	3	5	12	6	8
Chestnut-sided Warbler	79	65	31	55	46	41	50	45	31
American Redstart	47	20	42	41	30	27	24	21	16
Swainson's Thrush	17	19	11	12	9	9	9	9	12
Chipping Sparrow	22	21	19	21	15	9	17	9	4

decline in the seven years between 1994 and 2000. Between 2000 and 2003 the population held steady at 9 individuals per year, with a rebound to 12 individuals in 2004. Regionally, populations have shown a non-significant decrease in Ontario, and a non-significant increase in Minnesota between 1980 and 2002

The Chipping Sparrow has shown the strongest negative trend of any species on ISRO surveys between 1996 and 2004. There has been a very steady decline in this species, from 22 individuals detected in 1996 to only four detected in 2004. Populations regionally had done well between 1980 and 2002, with a significant increase in Wisconsin, non-significant increases in Michigan and Minnesota, and a non-significant decrease in Ontario.

Summarized from a report by Alexander Egan, Biological Technician, Isle Royale National Park

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Martin Bieli
Joanne & Cliff Hannula
Tom & Cindy Holden
Mrs Hamilton Houchin
Bruce & Katherine Weber

* denotes additional donation made in 2004

Isle Royale Natural History Association

Year in Review 2004

2004 was another busy year for IRNHA. Some highlights include:

- An Isle Royale Program Series with programs in 6 cities in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.
- Our first ever member Service Trip on Isle Royale. Six participants camped and removed invasive plants at Daisy Farm and Rock Harbor.
- Beginning a Membership Volunteer Program on Isle Royale. Thirteen members worked as volunteers in Rock Harbor and Windigo visitor centers.
- Our Annual Meeting in Rock Harbor with an historic home tour, three great programs, and a waterfront picnic.
- Participation in the first Copper Country Homecoming in Houghton with an exhibit of Isle Royale and Keweenaw historical information.
- Reception of a grant from MeadWestvaco Papers Group for publication and distribution of *Wolf Tracks and Moose Scat: A Visit to Isle Royale*.
- Publication and distribution of the brochure "Aquatic Invaders: Stop the Spread & Spread the Word," funded with a grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund.
- Production and mailing of a full color brochure for the IRNHA endowment at the Keweenaw Community Foundation.
- Opening of an IRNHA retail sales outlet in the Quincy Mine Hoist building in Hancock.

Bob Linn Remembered *...continued from front page*

In 1963, Bob reluctantly left his beloved Isle Royale to work in Washington, D.C. for the NPS where he attained the position of Chief Scientist for Research. He ended his NPS career in the late 1970s by returning to the Keweenaw and helping create a Cooperative Parks Studies unit at Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

After his retirement in 1980, Bob co-founded the George Wright Society, an international professional association dedicated to the protection, preservation and management of cultural and natural parks and reserves. All Bob's work for the GWS--24 years of full time labor--was done entirely on a volunteer basis.

Bob was a life member of IRNHA and served several terms on the Board of Directors. He was the editor of the "Wolf's Eye" for many years and oversaw production of many IRNHA publications--from early plant and animal checklists through publication of *Superior Wilderness* in 1997. He enjoyed trips to Isle Royale every year for 58 years in a row, including this past summer, and was a regular at the annual meetings in Rock Harbor.

He is survived by two sons, Christopher and Bruce Linn, their wives and children, and his former wife, Holly Linn.

IRNHA will dedicate its upcoming Isle Royale Field Guide to Bob. Contributions in his memory, unless otherwise designated, will help with printing expenses for this publication.

Board Members Needed

IRNHA is seeking members to serve on our Board of Directors. If you are a member and are interested in becoming more involved, consider running for our Board of Directors. Board members serve three year terms during which they are expected to attend three meetings each year. Members are also expected to serve on committees, to participate in fundraising, and to support IRNHA financially as they are able. These are volunteer positions; board members receive no compensation.

Over the next few years IRNHA will be working on a variety of fund raising activities including a planned-giving program, an endowment campaign, and grant funding for special projects. Persons with fund-raising experience, or accounting experience, and individuals with knowledge and interest in Keweenaw National Park are especially encouraged to apply.

To run in the upcoming election, please send a short biographical sketch indicating educational background and current employment as a 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. Nominations should be mailed no later than April 15 to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI 49931, or submitted by e-mail to jburland@irnha.org.

Ballots will be distributed to all current members in June.

2004 Aid to Park

Cash Contribution	
Greenstone Newspaper	\$3,307
Ingot Newspaper	\$2,675
Free Park Brochures	\$3,291
Artist in Residence Program	\$215
Interpretation Materials	\$1,500
Superintendent's Account	\$1,100
Total Cash Contribution	\$12,088
In-Kind Contributions	
Staff Assistance at	
Visitor Centers	\$10,125
Program Series	\$815
Total In-Kind Contributions	\$10,940
Total Aid to the Park	\$23,028

Statement of Income and Expense for Years Ended September 30:

Income	2004	2003
Sales Income	\$96,798	\$95,908
Member Dues	\$27,153	\$25,320
Donations/Grants	\$24,803	\$17,268
Programs	\$1,135	\$0
Interest/ Misc. Income	\$1,247	\$500
Shipping &		
Handling Income	\$3,370	\$3,711
Total Income	\$154,506	\$142,707

Expense		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$55,687	\$52,378
Operating Expense	\$82,623	\$94,879
Total Expense	\$138,310	\$147,257
Net Annual Income	\$16,196	-\$4,550
Aid to the Park	\$11,362	\$20,145
Net Increase/Decrease	\$4,834	-\$24,695

Balance Sheets for 9/30

Assets	2004	2003
Current Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$31,240	\$25,192
Receivables	\$1,538	\$1,526
Inventory	\$123,020	\$130,894
Total Current Assets	\$155,798	\$157,612
Fixed Assets		
(Equipment)	\$1,535	\$2,568
Total Assets	\$157,333	\$160,180

Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$13,905	\$10,102
Grants Payable	\$10,221	\$13,190
Tax Liabilities	-\$547	\$332
Bank Loan	\$7,353	\$14,739
Total Current Liabilities	\$30,932	\$38,363
Equity	\$126,401	\$121,817
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$157,333	\$160,180

Isle Royale Natural History Association
 800 E. Lakeshore Drive
 Houghton, MI 49931-1895
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Houghton, Michigan
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Two IRNHA Members' Trips Offered for 2005!

July 26 - August 3 • 2nd Annual IRNHA Members' Service Trip on Isle Royale.

Travel to the island on the Ranger III with other IRNHA members for a week of camping, relaxing, and working on a park project. Or come early and attend the IRNHA annual membership meeting and events the weekend of July 23 - 24.

This year's project will be restoration of an historic cabin in Chippewa Harbor. We may do some plant work as well, pulling invasive species in the Chippewa Harbor area. Although there will be time for hiking, you needn't be a backpacker since all supplies will be transported to our group campsites. Wonderful meals--not your usual freeze-dried fare--will be prepared by our trip chef. Food, supplies, and travel costs included for \$500. Only two spots are left, so register soon. Call 800-678-6925 or e-mail irnha@irnha.org for your reservation.

A second trip is being offered in early September. This will be a week-long, island-long guided backpacking trip. Our trek will cover the classic and beautiful Greenstone Ridge Trail from Rock Harbor to Windigo. This hike will involve 6 days of rigorous backpacking with one day in transit from Windigo and one free day in Rock Harbor. The trip is open to those in good physical condition with previous backpacking experience. This trip is limited to three participants in addition to your guide. A \$1000 fee covers transportation to and from the island and from Windigo to Rock Harbor, NPS user fees, all camp meals, and dinner in the lodge on the last night. Specific dates to be announced soon. Call 800-678-6925 for more information and registration.

Upcoming Events

IRNHA Board of Directors Meeting,
Saturday, March 19, Noon - 5:00 p.m.
 IRNHA Offices, Hancock, Michigan

Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, July 24 at Rock Harbor

Details available after 6/1 on irnha.org,
 and in the next issue of *Wolf's Eye*

Members Service Trip to IRNP
Tuesday, July 26 - Wednesday, August 3
 See article above.

Voyageur Group from Metro Parks
Friday, August 5 - Saturday, August 13
 Group will be on Isle Royale presenting
 voyageur programs on the Ranger III and
 in the Rock Harbor Auditorium.

IRNHA Members' Backpacking Trip
Early September—See article above.

Memorial Contributions

IRNHA has recently recently received
 contributions in memory of:

☞ Hugh Beattie, who was
 Superintendent of Isle Royale
 National Park from 1969 to 1975
 and the first superintendent at
 Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.
 He was active in the National Park
 coalition where he continued to
 work towards the preservation of
 the parks for all of us to enjoy, now
 and forever. Hugh passed away on
 November 23, 2004.

☞ Bob Linn (See article on page one.)



Isle Royale Natural History Association

800 E. Lakeshore Drive
 Houghton, MI 49931
 Tel: 906-482-7860 or 800-678-6925
 e-mail: irnha@irnha.org
 website: www.irnha.org

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

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

Membership Categories

Individual	\$25
Household	\$30
Supporting	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$500
Life Membership ..	\$1,000*

*Life memberships may be paid
 in 5 annual installments.

Board of Directors

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 Joan Chadde, Marilyn Cooper, Don Durfee,
 Mark Gleason, Bob Guiliani, Nelda Liebig,
 Tom Wiselogle

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 & *Wolf's Eye Editor*,
 Lauren Rastello, *Mail Order*;
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Accounting & Computing Coordinator