

## Around the Preserve

### Migratory Bird Surveys

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve was one of seven Wisconsin sites selected for migratory bird surveys this past spring as part of a Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program grant. All seven sites have been nominated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The IBA Program identifies sites that provide critical habitat for birds and strives to maintain those sites through voluntary, collaborative approaches. IBA Coordinator Yoyi Steele organized the surveys in order to provide data about the use of the Preserve by passerine migrants. These data are necessary to determine whether the site meets the criteria to qualify as an IBA. The IBA Technical Committee will review these data at their October meeting.

Two teams of volunteers combed the Preserve weekly from April 26 to May 23, counting all the birds they found. These volunteer counters recorded 120 bird species, some 90 of which were migrants.

Although a late migration and a lack of a large “fall out” kept numbers down in the Preserve, observers found a diverse set of warblers and other neotropical migrants. They identified 25 species of warblers, 18 of which were found four or more times. The most common warblers, Palm (maximum of 34) and Yellow-rumped (maximum of 51), peaked on May 19. Rarer warblers included 3 Cerulean, 3 Orange-crowned, and 2 Canada Warblers. Thrush numbers continued to be low with only Wood Thrush (which has nested in the past) seen on more than 3 days. Counters found other unusual birds including 1 White-eyed Vireo, 2 Rusty Blackbirds, and 1 Orchard Oriole (2 days).

Thank you to all the skilled volunteers who donated over 51 team hours (70 total volunteer hours) of their valuable spring mornings to conducting these surveys: Kim Benton, Craig Brabant, John Feith, Roma Lenehan, Andy Paulios, Tom Prestby, Kristin Repyak, and April Sansom.

## Announcements

### Tent Colony Woods Project

This winter Rebecca Kagle, who supervised the Muir Woods restoration, will begin restoration of the Tent Colony Woods along the north shore of Lake Mendota. The Tent Colony Woods Restoration will be funded by the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Gifts donated by the Class of 1955.

Initially, a grid system, similar to one developed for use in Muir Woods, will be set up to divide the woods into identifiable areas. Once some of the grid work is in place, removal of invasive plants can begin and plans can be developed. Planting will begin in spring 2007.

## Announcements (continued)

### New Staff at the Preserve

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve recently hired a Restoration Specialist, Lars C. Higdon. A second year graduate student in Restoration Ecology, he has had experience restoring prairies, savannas, woodlands, and wetlands, mostly in the Kettle Moraine area. He received his undergraduate degree in Natural Resources Management at the UW-Stevens Point in 2004.

Initially he will continue the work in Muir Woods while planning and implementing projects along the Lakeshore Path. His emphasis will be on the removal of invasive species and adding shoreline plantings. He is particularly interested in training volunteers for restoration work. Eventually, he will also be involved with the Tent Colony Woods project.

The Preserve is extremely fortunate to have such a talented and enthusiastic addition to its staff.

### New Preserve Bird Checklist

New short (seasonal) and long (by month) Preserve bird checklists are available on the Friends' Web Site ([waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve](http://waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve)) or from Roma Lenehan (3317 Lake Mendota Drive/Madison, WI 53705 – please send a stamped self-addressed envelope). The new checklist includes 257 species, 12 of which are accidental. One change is that the Red-headed Woodpeckers have become scarcer. Several new birds have been added, including Snowy Egret and Townsend's Solitaire. Finally, the species order has changed, reflecting recent taxonomic changes.

### Burdock Tragedy



Goldfinch Killed in Burdock at Frautschi Point (GD)

Burdock burs catch and kill small birds and bats. In addition to this beautiful Goldfinch, people have found a Small Brown Bat and a Red Bat caught in burdock in the Preserve. In order to protect bats, hummingbirds, and other small birds, prevent burdock from producing burs and spreading. Burdock, a non-native biennial, can be removed by digging in its first year. Once its roots get big (they can be eaten), it may have to be cut several times because its long tap root is difficult to remove. Protect our animals – don't let burdock seed in your yard or park! Know and remove first year plants.