

Inside Region 3

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Inventory of Caves at Big Oaks NWR Leads to Discovery of 3 Species New to Science

A biological inventory of caves on Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge in southern Indiana has yielded three species new to science. Julian J. Lewis, Ph.D., a cave biologist working under contract for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discovered the three invertebrate species during an extensive 12-month inventory of invertebrates and vertebrates in 31 caves on the refuge.

Twelve wells were also sampled for subterranean aquatic organisms. The final report of the contractor's results will be available in May 2002 including future study and management recommendations and further information on the undescribed invertebrate species.

Big Oaks NWR is a 50,000 acre refuge located on the former Jefferson Proving Grounds. The Service manages habitat for 120 species of breeding birds, the federally-endangered Indiana bat and 41 species of fish. The refuge's 6,000 acres of grasslands supports one of the largest known populations of Henslow's sparrow, a once common grassland bird whose population has plummeted by more than 90 percent during the past 30 years. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has also identified 46 rare species of plants on the refuge. *Stephen Miller, Big Oaks NWR*



Great Color on the Big River

--Photo by Scott Flaherty

The riverboat "Jonathan Paddlford" travels south along a colorful stretch of the Mississippi River just north of the Service's "Great Lakes-Big Rivers" Regional Office at Fort Snelling, Minn. The Ojibway Indians of northern Minnesota called the river "Messipi" or "Big River."

Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership

Whooping Cranes Depart Necedah NWR on Historic Migration to Florida

A small flock of eight young whooping cranes led by three ultralight aircraft lifted off from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin near dawn Oct. 17, 2001, today in an effort to restore migrating whooping cranes to eastern North America. The cranes will be taught a new 1,200 mile migration route to wintering grounds at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

The reintroduction is part of an ongoing recovery effort for the highly imperiled species, which was on the verge of extinction in the 1940s and even today numbers

only about 260 birds in the wild.

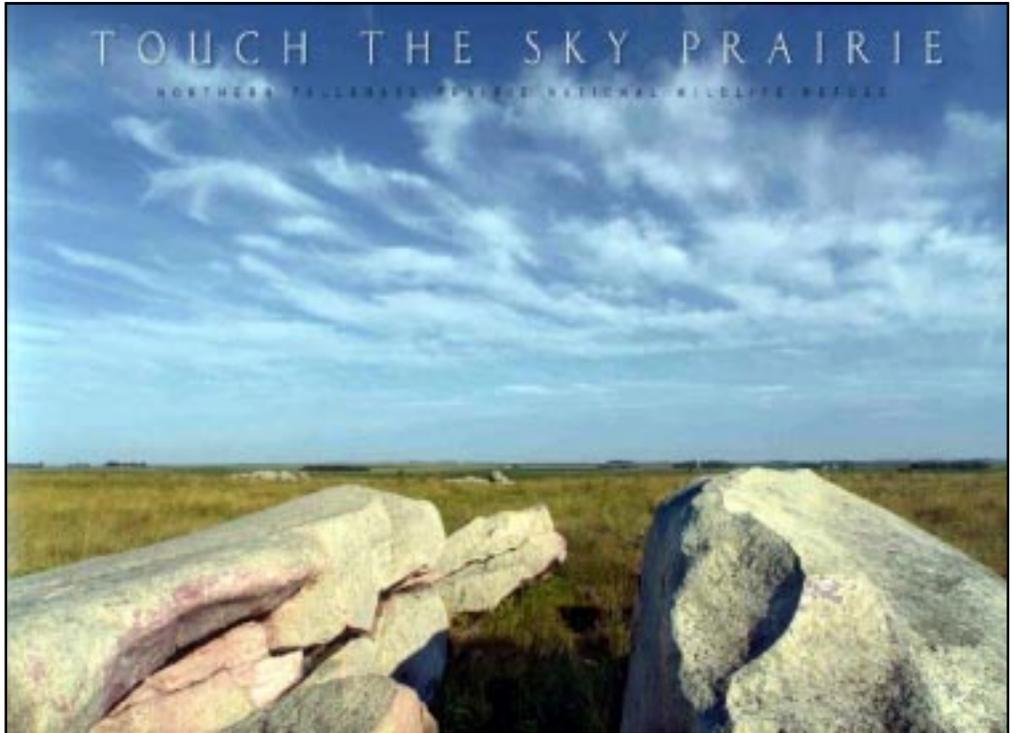
In 1998, a coalition of state and federal governments and the private sector formed the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership to coordinate and fund last year's sandhill crane study and this year's whooping crane study. Over 35 private landowners have volunteered their property as stopover sites for the cranes and migration team. A temporary pen keeps the cranes safe from predators between each morning's flight. The migration is expected to take from five to seven weeks. *(Joan Guilfoyle, External Affairs)*

First Tract of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge Dedicated

The first fee title tract of land to become part of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge was dedicated September 22, near Luverne, Minn. Approximately 80 people attended the dedication which was organized by the Brandenburg Foundation.

The ceremony also celebrated the removal of cattle from the site, and included folk music, a bonfire and a Native American ceremony. Jim Brandenburg announced the name of the tract, located about seven miles northwest of Luverne, as "Touch The Sky Prairie," part of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The renowned photographer also created a poster for the refuge, donating several to the Windom Wetland Management District.

Steve Kallin of the Windom Wetland Management District spoke about the National Wildlife Refuge System and future goals for the prairie refuge. Kallin stressed the importance of partnerships with the local community and Brandenburg Foundation.



--Photo by Jim Brandenburg

Renowned nature photographer Jim Brandenburg created this poster commemorating the "Touch The Sky Prairie," part of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR.

Native Americans Clark Zephier and Danny Sea Boy, a Dakota Sioux medicine man, led a ceremony to bless the land, inviting many of the assembled visitors to participate.

It was an outstanding evening. The weather was perfect, sunset spectacular, and all who attended were delighted about the project. *Todd Hauge, Windom Wetland Management District*

Fall Surveys of Lake Superior Ruffe Populations Completed

Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) completed its fall 2001 survey of Ruffe populations on four Lake Superior estuaries October 9. The estuaries of four Lake Superior tributaries—Amnicon, Iron, and Flag Rivers in Wisconsin, and the Ontonagon River in Michigan—were sampled with seines and trawls once each during spring, summer, and fall.

Compared to the 2000 fall survey, ruffe catch rates are up 19 percent in the Amnicon River; up 96 percent in the Iron River; down 96 percent in the Flag River; and up 91 percent in the Ontonagon River.

Generally, fall ruffe catches are representative of the overwintering population, but timing of the fall survey is very important. As the water cools,

ruffe collect in the bottom of natural and dredged channels near the mouth of the tributaries. When the temperature declines (somewhere between 8-12C), ruffe migrate out of the tributary into Lake Superior.

This fall movement also occurs in the Lake Huron population near Alpena, Mich. Based on the abundance of the spring and summer surveys, it is likely that ruffe in the Flag River had already migrated into Lake Superior prior to the start of the fall survey. Ruffe populations in the three Wisconsin tributaries fluctuate seasonally and yearly, which is common with populations at or near carrying capacity. The Ontonagon River population has not reached carrying capacity and is still increasing. With the completion of the fall surveys, the mean densi-

ties for each species collected can be computed for 2001.

The Ruffe Population Investigations Study began in 1995 as a long term study to monitor the relative abundance of the nuisance fish, and native fishes. The objective is to observe any changes in these fish communities in the presence of Eurasian ruffe. Catch rates for each species are computed for each seasonal survey in each tributary and then converted to densities.

Due to seasonal variation, the three seasonal densities for each species are averaged to determine a mean density by species for the given tributary. The mean densities are then graphed over time to identify trends. *Gary Czypinski, Ashland Fishery Resources Office*

Service Reviewing Options For New Refuge at Savanna Army Depot Proposed Lost Mounds NWR Would Encompass 9,111 Acres Near Savanna, Illinois

The Service is reviewing public comments on a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed establishment of a new national wildlife refuge on portions of the 13,062-acre former Savanna Army Depot located along the Mississippi River near Savanna, Ill. Written comments on the Draft EA were accepted through Oct. 31, 2001.

If established, the area would be renamed Lost Mounds National Wildlife Refuge, become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and provide habitat for many species of migratory birds and resident wildlife. The proposal area includes over 5,000 acres of forested backwaters with sloughs, lakes and flowing side-channels that provide habitat for many fish, shellfish, wildlife and plants. An additional 4,000 acres of sand prairie/savanna habitat would sustain unique plant communities and 47 species listed as threatened or endangered by the state



of Illinois.

The 9,111-acre proposed refuge is also being reviewed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Army has identified four prehistoric archeological sites and 43 historic sites on the area. The Service requested public comment on any archeological sites, buildings and structures, historic places, cemeteries and traditional-use sites that could influence decisions about management of the proposed refuge.

Copies of the Draft EA are available at the Savanna District headquarters of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Phone: 815/

273-2732) The document is also available on the Internet at:

<http://midwest.fws.gov/planning/>. Written comments on the Draft EA were accepted through Oct. 31. Three alternatives are presented in the Draft EA, including a "No Action" alternative.

The Service's preferred alternative would establish the 9,111 acre Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge and allow for limited public access. Placing limits on public access will give refuge staff the opportunity to manage threatened and endangered species and critical migratory bird habitat while still providing the public with safe, wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities.

The Draft EA also contains an Interim Comprehensive Conservation Plan that will outline how the refuge will be managed until detailed plans can be completed in the next several years. *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs.*

415-Acre Wetlands Project Completed Near Pecatonica, Ill.

The Rock Island Field Office Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in partnership with the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, Ducks Unlimited, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources restored and enhanced wetland, wet and mesic prairie, and riparian forest on a 415-acre tract near Pecatonica, Ill.

The \$265,000 project returned 260 acres of cropland to natural habitat and enhanced existing habitats by restoring hydrology and facilitating water level control. In all, 65.5 acres of wetland, 170 acres of grassland, and 145 acres of forest were restored or enhanced.

The project reestablished the diverse mix of emergent and forested wetlands and prairie on the floodplain of the Pecatonica River in northern Illinois.

The project provides habitat for a variety of migratory birds and resident wildlife while offering improved recreational access and wildlife observation opportunities for visitors. *Rick Nelson, Rock Island Field Office*

Service's Partners Program Cements Partnership With Illinois' Ducks Unlimited

The Service and Ducks Unlimited (DU) recently formalized their partnership for restoring and enhancing wetlands in the Mississippi River and Southern Illinois focus areas. Both organizations recently signed a formal agreement that will assist local coordinators of the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in the Lower Rock, Mississippi, Kaskaskia, and Cache River basins in habitat restoration activities by providing additional funding and field support from Ducks Unlimited.

As part of the agreement, the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and Ducks Unlimited will each contribute \$30,000 to the partnership. In addition, Ducks Unlimited is providing field and administrative assistance to facilitate cooperator contacts, project

plans, and project cost-share reimbursement.

The partnership will expand the existing Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in the focus areas not just with leveraged funding, but with human resources to identify and recruit cooperators as well as to plan and implement projects.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts have already provided valuable assistance in referring potential projects and providing technical assistance.

Site visits to 12 prospective cooperators in the Lower Rock River Watershed have already been completed for projects to be implemented under the agreement. *Rick Nelson, Rock Island Field Office*

Bay Mills Indian Community Pipe Carrier Blesses Whooping Cranes

In a historic and solemn ceremony at Necedah NWR, Dwight "Bucko" Teeple, Pipe Carrier for the Bay Mills Indian Community in Michigan, stood on the shores of the wetland harboring the experimental flock of eight endangered whooping cranes at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin. Using the traditional ceremonial pipe and burning of sacred tobacco the cranes were spiritually blessed for their migration flight scheduled for early October.

The private ceremony was uninterrupted except for the crane calls from across the lake and occasional sounds of waterfowl flying overhead. As the smoke rose it seemed to cut a path in the fog and mist which hung over the water. As the ceremony ended, a beam of sunshine broke through the early morning mist and caressed the cranes and their wetland habitat. Prayers support activities and a safe journey in the weeks



Dwight "Bucko" Teeple prepares his pipe for the blessing of the cranes.

ahead as the cranes prepare to be led by ultra-light aircraft from their home and training site in Wisconsin to their winter home at the

Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

This ceremony marked the initial participation of the Native American community in the partnership effort to restore endangered whooping crane. Many tribes have crane clans and crane clan members are known for their leadership and called the echo-makers. Crane clan representatives are respected for their oratory skills and ability to speak for other members of the tribe.

Active Tribal participation in the crane restoration effort provides a spiritual and traditional value which has not existed before and exhibits the best in cooperative partnership adding a new dimension to the Native American Partnership related to crane recovery activities. It is the first in several opportunities to incorporate tribal values into the crane recovery activities. *John Leonard, External Affairs*

Service Joins Partners to Purchase and Restore 400-Acre Waterfowl Production Area Service to Manage 596-Acre Site as Centennial WPA

The Service is joining with other partners to purchase a new 596-acre waterfowl production area in Big Stone County, Minnesota. The key feature is a 400 acre drained marsh that will be restored. The area, to be called the Centennial Waterfowl Production Area, will be restored in time for the refuge system's centennial in March, 2003.

Key partners include U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Big Stone County Highway Department, Ducks Unlimited, and the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District. The Department



of Agriculture is acquiring a 30-year Wetland Reserve Program easement on the property. The Fish and Wildlife Service is purchasing the remaining property interest and will own the land to be managed as a waterfowl production area. The partners are sharing Land acquisition costs and habitat restoration costs. USDA is paying 75 percent of acquisition and restoration costs. The Service is paying 25 percent of the acquisition costs. The Service and its partners are paying 25 percent of the habitat restoration costs.

Steve Delehanty, Morris WMD

Minnesota Valley NWR Volunteers Clean Up 280 Acre Tract in Chaska Unit

Volunteers joined refuge staff Sept. 29 to clean up 280 acres recently acquired for the Chaska Unit of Minnesota Valley NWR. In celebration of National Public Lands Day, more than 25 volunteers spent the day removing trash from the unit.

In addition to 30 bags of trash, some notable items found included a snowmobile engine, a stolen ATV, a trailer, five tires, a washing machine and a dryer. The volunteers also found two camps, one of which included a small shack. The camps will be cleaned up later by refuge staff.

With the acquisition of this property, the 600 acre Chaska Unit is nearly complete. The Refuge will now be able to manage water levels on the 68-acre Chaska Lake. The Refuge also plans to restore floodplain forest on several former agricultural fields. *Tom Kerr, Minnesota Valley NWR*

Service Works With Indiana Development Task Force to Develop Habitat Conservation Plan For Indiana Bats

HCP Will Minimize Impact of Interstate/Airport Road Construction on Endangered Bats

An Indiana task force seeking to develop a series of road improvements in and around the Indianapolis Airport is consulting with the Service to develop a habitat conservation plan (HCP) to minimize the incidental take of federally endangered Indiana bats during road construction. The HCP was developed in consultation with the Service's Bloomington Field Office and was created in conjunction with an incidental take permit application submitted by the task force.

The interagency task force is composed of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, the Indianapolis Department of Public Works, Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development, Federal Highway Administration, Indiana Department of Transportation and the Hendricks County Board of County Commissioners. It proposes to construct a new interchange on Interstate 70 (I-70) and associated highway improvements in the vicinity of Six Points Road in Hendricks and Marion Counties, Indiana.

Additional development will occur in the area in association with the road construction, including expansion and im-

provements at the Indianapolis International Airport and commercial and industrial development within the privately owned AmeriPlex area south of I-70. It has been determined that the proposed actions will result in incidental take of the Indiana bat. The Task Force has submitted an application for an incidental take permit under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act.

In conjunction with its application for an incidental take permit, the Task Force developed an HCP to ensure that any incidental taking that might occur will be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable, and will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of this species in the wild.

The Task Force designed the HCP in consultation with the Service to ensure that the project area and adjoining areas used by Indiana bats will continue to support suitable habitat for the species, while allowing for incidental take of Indiana bats that may occur as the result of the proposed activities.

Measures in the HCP designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts

of the proposed action on Indiana bats include:

- 1) Seasonal Tree Cutting Restrictions - No trees will be cleared between April 15 and September 15, the dates during which Indiana bats may occupy maternity roosts in the project area;
- 2) Permanent Protection of a 151 ha of Existing Indiana Bat Habitat - 71 ha of existing bat habitat that is owned by the Indianapolis Airport Authority within the HCP Boundary and 80 ha of existing bat habitat outside the HCP boundary will be protected in perpetuity;
- 3) Mitigation Plantings - 140 ha of hardwood seedlings will be planted and protected in perpetuity;
- 4) Monitoring and Research Program - The response of the Indiana bat population to the proposed construction and mitigation activities will be monitored for 15 years and mitigation plantings will be monitored for 5 years;
- 5) Public Outreach/Educational Program - The applicants will work with the Service to develop and implement an outreach program to educate the public regarding the Indiana bat. *Lori Pruitt, Bloomington Field Office*

Windom WMD Conducts First Prescribed Burns on 169 Acres

The Windom Wetland Management District (WMD) conducted its first fall burns since being established in 1990. Four fall burns totaling 169.6 acres were completed in September on Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) in Jackson County.

The prescribed fires on the Boot Lake and Skunk Lake WPAs were intended to stress the cool season brome grass and to provide a clean field for a more effective herbicide treatment of the brome prior to seeding. The Timber Lake burn reduced the invasion of woody vegetation into the seeded native prairie and wetland basin. However, the burn was extinguished due to the high fuel moisture and lack of wind needed to accomplish our intended goal. *Todd Hauge, Windom WMD*

Missouri Study Yields Valuable Information on the Indiana Bat

A Service-funded study of a bat detection device and mist net survey techniques is providing important information on how bat detection systems can detect endangered Indiana bats and promote their recovery.

The Service's Columbia Field Office funded the study conducted by Dr. Lynn Robbins of Southwest Missouri State University. Dr. Robbins compared the performance of ANABAT, a bat detection device, against mist net survey techniques at sites in northern Missouri.

During the study, Dr. Robbins discovered the largest concentration of Indiana bats on their breeding grounds in North America. Three maternity colonies were located, with a minimum of 450 bats in one area.

Dr. Robbins also assisted with ANABAT surveys for the Holman Concrete Project in St. Genevieve County, Mo., where he discovered Missouri's first Indiana bat maternity colony south of the Missouri River. *Charles Scott, Columbia Field Office*

Innovative Web Site Will Streamline Consultations in Missouri

The Missouri Ecological Services Field Office and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) are jointly developing a web site to provide information on fish and wildlife resources that will streamline and revolutionize pre-development consultation in Missouri.

The primary source of information will come from Missouri's Heritage database. No site-specific species/community identification information will be listed on the site. General location/identification will only be provided when a known "hit" occurs and the inquirer contacts MDC or the Service. Other useful information on the web site may include agencies' mission and responsibilities statements, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps or a link to the NWI web site, resource guide sheets, best management practices, list of contacts at state and federal level, spawning restriction information, links to other public lands, statements included on Heritage reports, and Service statements for habitat requirements, blank clearance letters for projects involving minor impacts to resources and other web sites within the MDC, FWS, and other resource agencies.

The ability to provide this level of early planning web-based information to all users will substantially reduce staff time for routine screenings thus providing more time to work on significant conservation actions.

This innovative website will be valuable to developers, the public, resource managers and educators. The new website is expected to be operation in late 2002. *Charles Scott, Columbia Field Office*



A young girl displays her creative "blue goose" mobile.

--Photo by Jim Hudgins

Refuge Centennial Message Delivered in Michigan

"Flying" blue geese helped deliver the message of the National Wildlife Refuge System's Centennial to more than 450 visitors recently at the Potter Park Zoo's Conservation Day in Lansing, Mich. Children of all ages decorated cut-outs of the National Wildlife Refuge System's "blue goose" as they learned more about the upcoming centennial and the conservation efforts of the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service. Staff of Service's Michigan Private Lands Office and East Lansing Field Office participated with representatives from 10 other organizations in the day-long conservation event. The blue goose mobiles were developed by staff of the Michigan Private Lands Office, who hope to make them available throughout Region 3 later this year. *Jim Hudgins, Michigan Private Lands Office*

Service Coordination With Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Study Enters New Era

The Service has taken a holistic approach to navigation planning with the Army Corps of Engineers in the Upper Mississippi River ecosystem, stating throughout the planning process that the ecosystem requires consideration for maintenance and restoration equal to that of the navigation system. An independent review by members of the National Research Council validated many of the Service's concerns.

As a result of this and related events, the Corps' is re-scoping this major river navigation study. The new study, initiated in August 2001, will

"seek to improve the effectiveness of the navigation system in a manner that achieves environmental sustainability for the navigation system and the resource that it directly impacts. Further, the study will be comprehensive and holistic as it considers the multiple purpose uses of this system."

The Rock Island Field Office has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers on proposed improvements to the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers navigation system since 1992. *Rick Nelson, Rock Island Field Office*

Service Restorations Help Complete “Living Laboratory”

Hamden Slough Refuge Helps Return Former Cropland to Prairie, Wetlands

In September 2001, the Lake Park/ Audubon Elementary School Wetland Education Demonstration Site was completed on 60 acres of former cropland adjacent to the school in Audubon, Minn. The area was restored to a 13 acre wetland, 13 acres of native prairie with wildflowers, oak savanna shelter belts, wild-life shrub and tree plantings, and blue bird boxes.

Many local, state, and federal agencies, conservation clubs, local individuals, as well as students were partners in planning, funding, and restoration of the site.

Partners invested \$15,600 in labor, materials, and funds. The school students designed a water control structure. The students will use a Water Management Plan designed by Hamden Slough NWR, and use their own math and biological observations for water manipulation.

Stoplogs for the water control structure were delivered to the school by refuge personnel in September; and are painted in the school colors: red, black, and gray, and are emblazoned with the school logo - a pirate. Refuge personnel assisted with the design of the restora-

tion and the “sweat equity” of obtaining permits, an engineering design, and community consensus for a water control structure on a State Protected Wetland inside of city limits.

Numerous discussions were held with State personnel, city council members, teachers, and school board members who were worried about many facets of wetland restorations in an urban area. Refuge personnel also provided the seed and equipment for the 13-acre native prairie restoration. *Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

Fall Sampling of Upper Mississippi River Refuge Pools Show Decline in Invertabrates, Increases in Aquatic Plants

Each fall, biologists at the Upper Mississippi River NW&FR take to the river to sample invertebrates. This year, refuge staff sampled Pools 5, 5a, 7, 8, 9 and 13 and Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources conducted other pool samplings.

Using a Ponar dredge sampler, the muck was washed away with the river water to reveal the invertebrates. Focus critters were fingernail clams, mayflies and midges. Species of concern are always the exotics such as the zebra mussels.

Substrate samples have shown a decline in aquatic invertebrates between the mid- 1990s and 200. The exception has been zebra mussels which have been on the increase until this year.

The general decline in critters has been countered by increases in acres of aquatic plants (wild celery, sago pondweed and arrowhead.) The tubers from these plants provide food for migrating waterfowl. This switch from animal to vegetable food sources probably benefits waterfowl in terms of ‘carbo-loading’ for their migration. The shift has been most pronounced in Pools 7, 8, 9 and 13 of the refuge.

“We have found that substrates supporting hearty aquatic plant growth generally do not support high numbers of



--Photo by Cindy Samples

Eric Nelson, biologist at the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, examines a sample for the presence of invertabrates.

substrate-dwelling invertebrates, such as fingernail clams, burrowing mayflies, midges and aquatic worms,” said Refuge Biologist Eric Nelson. “Those same aquatic plants do, however, harbor many other invertebrates within the water column which are important foods for breeding waterfowl and most fish species on the Upper Mississippi River.

Refuge biologists have been doing sampling since the early 1990s to help acquire trend data. The data helps answer questions that arise when determining habitat projects and success of projects such as the Environmental Management Program projects. *Cindy Samples, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge*



Lake Erie watersnakes.

--Photo by Andrew Seymour

Telemetry Study to Locate Hibernating Lake Erie Watersnakes

The Service and Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife are joining to fund a three-year, \$150,000 telemetry study to locate and examine unknown hibernation sites of the federally-threatened Lake Erie water snake on islands in the western basin of Lake Erie.

The Lake Erie water snake (LEWS), was designated a threatened species in September 1999. The non-poisonous snake is found only on the Ohio and Canadian islands in the western basin of Lake Erie and is threatened by development of its summer and hibernation habitats. Though harmless, the snakes can become quite large and may seem intimidating.

The four islands targeted in the study, Kelleys, North Bass, Middle Bass, and South Bass (also referred to as Put-In-Bay), house the majority of the snake's U.S. population. Both Kelleys and South Bass are major summer vacation spots for a large number of tourists. Portions of Middle Bass Island were recently purchased by the state, which plans to create a new state park there. The large number of tourists visiting the islands poses a potential threat to the snakes, which are known to frequent docks, boats, and



--Photo by Andrew Seymour

Megan Sullivan (standing left) of the Reynoldsburg Field Office staffed an Lake Erie watersnake information booth during Historic Weekend on South Bass Island, Ohio, September 8. Kristin Stanford (seated) graduate student at Northern Illinois University and primary researcher for the telemetry study, also provided information about the snakes and helped answer questions from the public during the weekend.

swimming areas. A private landowner on Kelleys Island plans to construct several homes on one of the few undeveloped parcels of land on the island. This area has been identified as a hibernation site

for the snake. Service biologists are working with the landowner to create a plan that will both allow development and provide an overall benefit to the snake.

Results of the LEWS telemetry study will help the Service protect the snake from impacts due to development. The study will provide information needed to recommend a time-frame in which construction can occur without impacting the snake. We can also use this information to provide further protection for hibernation sites. Outreach activities benefit the snake by making island visitors aware that the snake is a protected species, by keeping residents updated on the telemetry study and Service activities on the islands, and by maintaining a friendly presence on the islands.

Partners in the telemetry study and outreach efforts include the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife, Northern Illinois University, Ohio State University-Stone Laboratory, Lake Erie Islands Historical Society, and many members of the island communities that post snake signs and allow access to their property to track the snakes. *Megan Sullivan, Reynoldsburg Field Of-*

Service Joins Great Lakes Partners to Collect Coaster Brook Trout Eggs From Isle Royale National Park

Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, supports the only known populations of wild self-sustaining coaster brook trout in U.S. waters of the Great Lakes. Service fishery biologists, with field assistance from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Isle Royale National Park, and the University of Minnesota, recently travelled to the waters off Isle Royale as part of its continuing development of the Tobin Harbor strain coaster brook trout brood stock.

Crews departed for Isle Royale in early October and returned to the mainland October 21. About 65 individual brook trout were captured in Tobin Harbor using fyke nets and boat electro-fishing.

Eggs and milt were collected from a dozen pairs of coaster brook trout. The size of females from which eggs were collected ranged from 16.9 to 19.7 inches. Fertilized eggs were transported from Isle Royale to the isolation facility at Genoa NFH. The collection provided a third year class of wild gametes and will assist Service efforts to develop a coaster brook trout brood stock for restoration efforts in Lake Superior. Rearing and development of the brood stock takes place



--USFWS Photo

Fishery Biologist Henry Quinlan of the Ashland Fishery Resources Office displays a colorful "coaster" brook trout pulled from the waters off Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior.

at Iron River and Genoa National Fish Hatcheries.

Secondary objectives of the collection effort were to gather data on population, age, size and structure, capture location,

substrate type at capture sites, and tissue samples for genetic evaluation of the wild and hatchery reared fish.

Henry Quinlan, Ashland Fishery Resources Office

Accomplishment Reports Received

This issue of Inside Region 3 is the first of Fiscal Year 2002. More than 300 reports were filed in September. Approximately 1,370 accomplishment reports were filed during Fiscal Year 2001. The exhaustive list of September reports will not be published in Inside Region 3. However, employees can search the ARS database for all reports by logging in to the ARS website (<http://ars.fws.gov>) and using the Report Manager Utility. The following listing shows reports processed by the ARS between Oct. 1 and Oct. 23, 2001.

1. **New Website for the Morris Wetland Management District**
Wayne Henderson, Morris WMD

2. **Minnesota Valley NWR Plans to Celebrate its 25 Year Anniversary**
Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

3. **Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

4. **FWS Coordination With Corps' Navigation Study Enters New Era**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

5. **Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Cements Partnership With Illinois Ducks Unlimited**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

6. **Chicago Wilderness Native Landscaping Initiative Encourages Native Grasses**
Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

7. **Illinois Steering Committee List Potential Restoration Projects**
Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

8. **Final Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report - Pool 11, Mississippi River**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

9. **Blue Goose**
Jim Hudgins, Michigan PLO

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10. **Alpena FRO Educates Children About Sea Lamprey at Alpena Public Library**
Anjanette Hintz, Alpena FRO
11. **Youth Deer Hunt at Union Slough NWR**
Rod Hansen, Union Slough NWR
12. **Mark Twain NWR Complex Begins Second Year of Involvement With the St. Louis EnvironMentors Project.**
Michael Dixon, Mark Twain NWR-Riverlands
13. **King/Coda Wetland Restoration Completed**
Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO
14. **Fall Survey Completed in Ruffe Population Investigations**
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO
15. **Morris 10th Graders Roll Mallard Nesting Cylinders**
Darrell Haugen, Morris WMD
16. **Bat Study in Missouri Yields Valuable Information on the Indiana Bat**
Charles Scott, Columbia FO
17. **Survey Protocols will Help Protect Mussel Resources in Missouri/Arkansas**
Charles Scott, Columbia FO
18. **Innovative Web Site for Early Planning Assistance for Fish and Wildlife in Missouri**
Charles Scott, Columbia FO
19. **Career Day at Upper Mississippi River NWR**
Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ
20. **Chicago Office Coordinates Workday for Threatened Orchid**
Michael Redmer, Chicago FO
21. **200 Brave Rain to Attend Eight Annual Wildlife Festival at Sherburne NWR**
Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR
22. **Two Rivers Refuge Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week**
Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR
23. **Invasion of Eighth Graders at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge**
Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR
24. **178 Important Shorebird Stopover Sites Identified**
Bob Russell, Migratory Birds & State Pgm
25. **Ruffe Control Committee Examines its Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities**
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO
26. **East Lansing Field Office Hosts Retirement Planning Seminar**
Janet Brewer, East Lansing FO
27. **UW Environmental Ecology Graduate Students Visit Leopold WMD**
Sheldon Myerchin, Leopold WMD
28. **Ashland FRO Assist Iron River NFH**
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO
29. **Case of the Missing Trunk a Blueprint for Kindness**
Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR
30. **Bats of the Americas Help Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week**
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR
31. **Alpena Fishery Resources Office Provides Job Shadowing Experience**
Anjanette Hintz, Alpena FRO
32. **Ecologists Find Federally Endangered Plant in Southern Indiana**
Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO
33. **Refuge Fee Demonstration Program Pays Tribute to NWRs Centennial**
Judy Pharris, Crab Orchard NWR
34. **Green Bay FRO Conducts Lake Trout Spawner Surveys on Lake Michigan**
Charles Bronte, Green Bay FRO

Inside Region 3



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