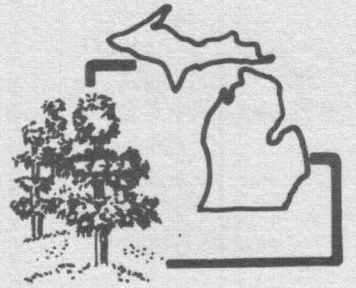


Number 10  
June-July, 1983

# Michigan Natural Area News



Keeping you up to date on natural area and endangered species protection  
in Michigan

## PROTECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Nature Conservancy has again added to its Grass Bay Preserve with the purchase of 45 acres on the site's east side. The \$24,000 acquisition takes in 500 feet of shoreline, the east part of an extensive interdunal wetland, more open dunes, and populations of the Great Lakes endemic plants Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), Lake Huron tansy (*Tanacetum huronense*) and Houghton's goldenrod (*Solidago houghtonii*). Total acreage in the preserve has reached 189 acres.

## LEGISLATION

The non-game check-off bill is again in the Senate Finance Committee, having passed the House May 17. The bill must become law before the summer recess for the check-off to appear on 1983 tax forms, but chances for Senate passage--where the bill died last time around--are not good. The check-off allows citizens to put \$2 or more of their tax refund into a special fund designated for use in non-game wildlife programs (see N.A.N. #1 & #9). Twenty-one states enjoy such a provision to help species which, more and more, are valued for passive recreation by hunters and non-hunters alike. When Wisconsin and Illinois establish similar programs later this year, Michigan could be left as the only state in the midwest region without a non-game check-off.

## RARITY STATUS UPDATES

\* The warblers are back...Kirtland's, of course...at slightly above their ten-year average. Larry Ryel, Head of Surveys, DNR Wildlife Div., reported that the June 8-9 census found 213 singing males, up from 207 in 1982. *Dendroica kirtlandii* has averaged 206 singing males a year since annual censusing began in 1971, ranging from 167 (1974) to 242 (1980). This year's number translates to 426 breeding birds, which is nevertheless far below the decade counts of 432 (1951) and 502 (1961) males.

Sponsored by the Michigan Natural Areas Council