



# t r i l l i u m

Spring 2009 Volume 8 Issue 1 Newsletter for the La Porte County Conservation Trust, Inc.



This White-breasted Nuthatch was photographed in Galena Township. 16 White-breasted nuthatches were seen during the bird count.

## **Christmas Bird Count Uses LPCCT Preserves**

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is always a good excuse to get outside during the winter time. This year marked the 23rd annual Northeast LaPorte County Christmas Bird Count. Both of the Conservation Trust's nature preserves are located in the 15 mile diameter circle which comprises the Northeast LaPorte County count area. This year Jim Simon and Mary Heath visited Ridgway Wetland during the count. Ridgway Wetland is a 60 acre preserve that is on the eastern edge of LaPorte. Their participation in the count and a photo of Ridgway Wetland were featured in the January 5 issue of the LaPorte Herald-Argus.

The count tallied 51 species with 3315 individual birds. This was a good count for woodpecker species; species seen included Red-bellied woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Only the Red-headed Woodpecker was not present. Other interesting species recorded are Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Northern Harrier and Common Goldeneye. A total of 15 people participated in the bird count.

The Conservation Trust is proud to be part of the Land Trust movement, which is preserving bird habitat all over the United States. Habitat for birds is shrinking, especially habitat for grassland birds and shore birds that required mudflats.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To protect the natural diversity and scenic values of LaPorte County by

- preserving environmentally significant lands and scenic areas
- enabling the voluntary protection of environmentally valuable land
- fostering appreciation for and understanding of the natural environment

# Hike at Pinhook Bog Scheduled for June 6,7

The LPCCT has arranged for two ranger led hikes in Pinhook Bog to take place on June 6 and June 7 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. The maximum number of people for each day is 15.

Pinhook Bog, part of the National Lakeshore, is perhaps the best example of a true bog in Indiana. Only park ranger led hikes are allowed in Pinhook Bog.

It is recommended that hikers wear a good hat for protection from the sun. Insect repellent is also recommended.

Hikers will meet in the paved parking lot located on Wozniak Road about 1/2 mile south of 125 North.

Contact Elizabeth McCloskey at 219-324-4904 or [tmconservation@csinet.net](mailto:tmconservation@csinet.net) to reserve your spot.



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## Moraine-Forest Project Update

Exciting news for our Moraine-Forest preservation project effort! Back in March, this collaborative effort of Shirley Heinze Land Trust (SHLT), Save The Dunes Conservation Fund (STDCF) and, of course, the LPCCT, received a commitment for funds totally \$22,500. Grant monies for this effort alone, from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation amounted to \$7500 and \$5000, respectively. The commitment from LPCCT is \$1000. SHLT has served as the lead agency in securing this funding.

These monies will be used to identify and characterize Moraine-Forest tracts in La Porte and Porter counties that are of both higher and lower quality, according to several accepted criteria. Buffers and corridors that have ecological and scenic value, and generally meet Greenways/Blueways criteria, will also be identified. ArcView GIS software will be a primary tool utilized to acquire this database.

Few residents of either La Porte or Porter counties likely realize that this Moraine-Forest is Indiana's longest semi-contiguous belt of forest remaining north of the mid-Wabash Valley. And this is why the northern portion of both of these counties compose one of only two Forest Legacy Areas existing north of Indianapolis. The Moraine-Forest primarily straddles the Valparaiso Moraine—hence its name. An in-depth article on the significance of the Moraine-Forest and the important efforts underway to save it will be published in a future issue of this newsletter.

—Robert J. Boklund, Vice President , LPCCT

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