THE LAKELAND TIMES
OUTDOORS
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Fish like a GIRL

Wetlands also threatened by invasive species

By Beckie Gaskill
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

We talk a great deal about aquatic invasive species in lakes and rivers, and also about terrestrial invasive species in our forests, but we should also be thinking about invasive species and wetlands.

Recently I attended a Not MI Species webinar put on by EGLE, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy called, "Fowl Play: Protecting Michigan's Wetland Wonders from Invasives." The concepts can easily be applied to Wisconsin and the Northwoods as well. At this time of year, when waterfowl hunters are heading out in pursuit of their quarry, there is an even bigger chance to move invasive species into those wetland areas that are so ecologically important in the Northwoods.

The presentation from EGLE was give by two Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) wildlife biologists, Jeremiah Heise and Zach Cooley. Heise, whose territory includes the western side of Saginaw Bay started with the invasive species that are present there, and ones that are just taking hold. He showed a photo of the flooded fields around Saginaw Bay that are used as habitat during the waterfowl season. I have not been to the Saginaw Bay Area in decades, and learning more about the issues present there in the way of invasive species was interesting, but also related to some of the same struggles we have here in Wisconsin.

European Frogbit, Heise said, is what he called his newest "pain in the marsh." It looks like miniature Lilly pads and, because it is a floating invasive species, can ride on the water, essentially, invading new areas wherever the water, current or flood waters might take it. Cooley, too, said it was becoming a bigger problem. Treating it proved to be more difficult than treating phragmites, for instance.

Both biologists spoke about chemical treatments as their treatment options on their managed lands. Cooley said, with Frogbit, it required the treatment to remain in contact with the leaves of the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPHS

Sheryl Mastaglio was the most recent resident to see this deer with its head stuck in a Halloween Trick-or-Treat bucket.

The Oneida County Sheriff's Department confirmed the bucket found in the Northwoods recently was the bucket that had been on the deer's head for approximately a week. The deer had freed itself after several failed attempts by residents to rescue it.

Deer looking for 'treat' finally free of 'trick'

By Beckie Gaskill
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Several Northwoods residents have seen a deer with a Halloween bucket stuck to its face, as we reported last week. The most recent picture we received was from Sheryl Mastaglio, as shown above. We made contact with Mastaglio, who told us the deer had somehow removed the bucket from its face.

On Sept. 24, the Oneida County Sheriff's Department posted to their Facebook page a photo of the bucket believed to be the one that had trapped the deer for approximately a week. The strap of the bucket was broken and there was deer hair around the rim. After many failed attempts by area residents, the deer seemed to have freed itself from a bad situation.

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Study shows Wisconsin is key area for monarchs

Work being done within state to create habitat

By Beckie Gaskill
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

According to the most recent Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Network Newsletter, Wisconsin has the fifth highest number of monarchs in North America at the time right before they begin their migration in the fall. The eastern monarch breeds in Wisconsin and 15 other states before the final generation migrates to Mexico. Migration runs from late summer into fall.

The study, entitled, "Mapping the premigration distribution of eastern Monarch butterflies using community science data," was published in July of 2021. It stated that effective conservation of monarchs necessitated understanding the distribution of the species during different life stages. The overwintering distribution of monarchs is well known, but the premigration distribution is more limited and hinges on estimating the natal origins of those monarchs.

The study used data from citizens from the time before monarch started their fall migration, meaning the data came before any migration mortality.

Migration, the researchers in the study said, has many advantages but also poses some risks. A 1988 study found migratory species, as compared to more sedentary species, had much higher annual population fluctuations. Part of the reason for that, the study

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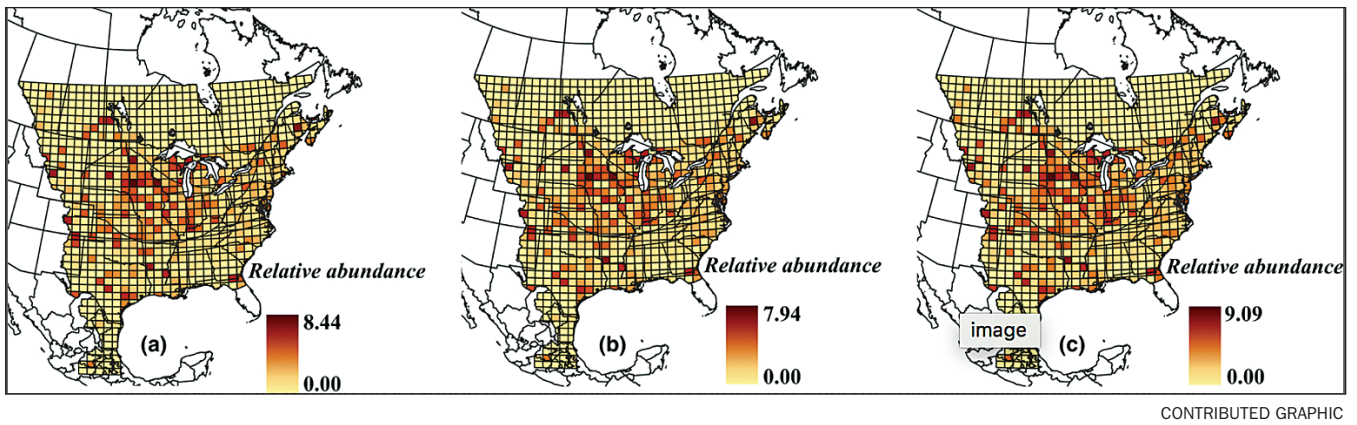

CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

Premigration distribution of adult Monarch butterflies across North America based on the second scenario for addressing cells with no observation (i.e., abundance is assumed to equal the minimum abundance in all cells located in the corresponding breeding region as defined by Flockhart et al., 2017). (a) Relative abundances based on the mean number of Monarchs predicted per pixel, as a proportion of the total of all mean values across all pixels. (b) Relative abundances based on the minimum number of Monarchs predicted per pixel from the lower limits of the CI for each pixel, as a proportion of the total of all minimum values across all pixels. (c) Relative abundances based on the maximum number of Monarchs predicted per pixel from the upper limits of the CI for each pixel, as a proportion of the total of all maximum values across all pixels.