

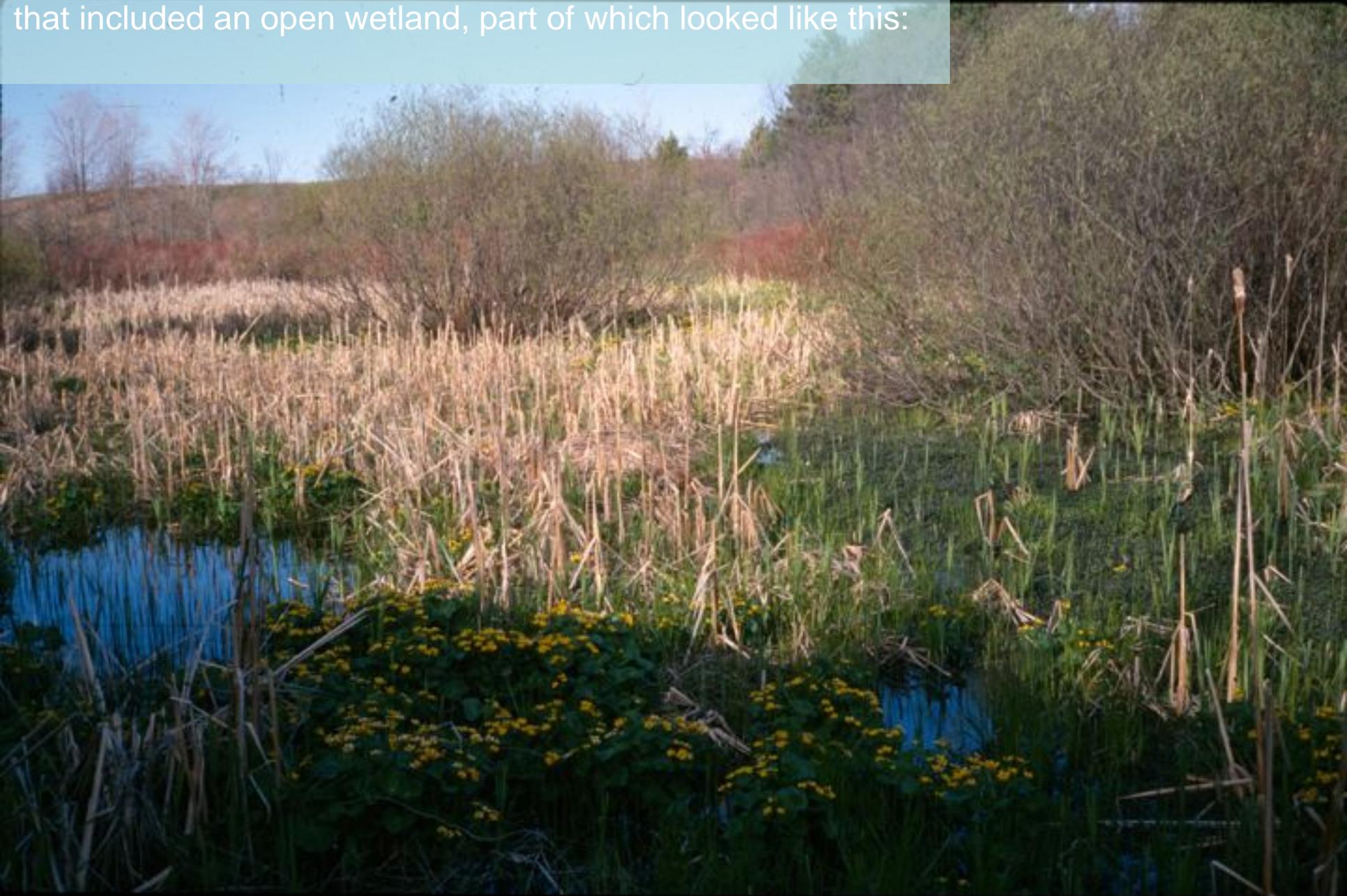
# Charter Sanctuary

A group of approximately 15 people are standing in a field of tall, green grass. They are mostly seen from the back, looking towards a line of trees in the distance. The people are dressed in casual summer attire like polo shirts, blouses, and hats. The field is lush and green, with some taller stalks in the foreground. In the background, there's a line of trees and a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

A presentation for the Leelanau Conservancy  
Conservation Easement Landowners 8/2012

In the fall of 1992, we sold our home on Grand Traverse Bay in order to purchase a large piece of land where we could establish a sanctuary for migrating and nesting birds.

In February of the next year, we closed on a 47-acre property that included an open wetland, part of which looked like this:



Not long after we purchased the property, we placed the first conservation easement on the Property in order to protect in perpetuity a place that would be managed for migratory and nesting songbirds.

Today, the entire 47 acres is protected with conservation easements.

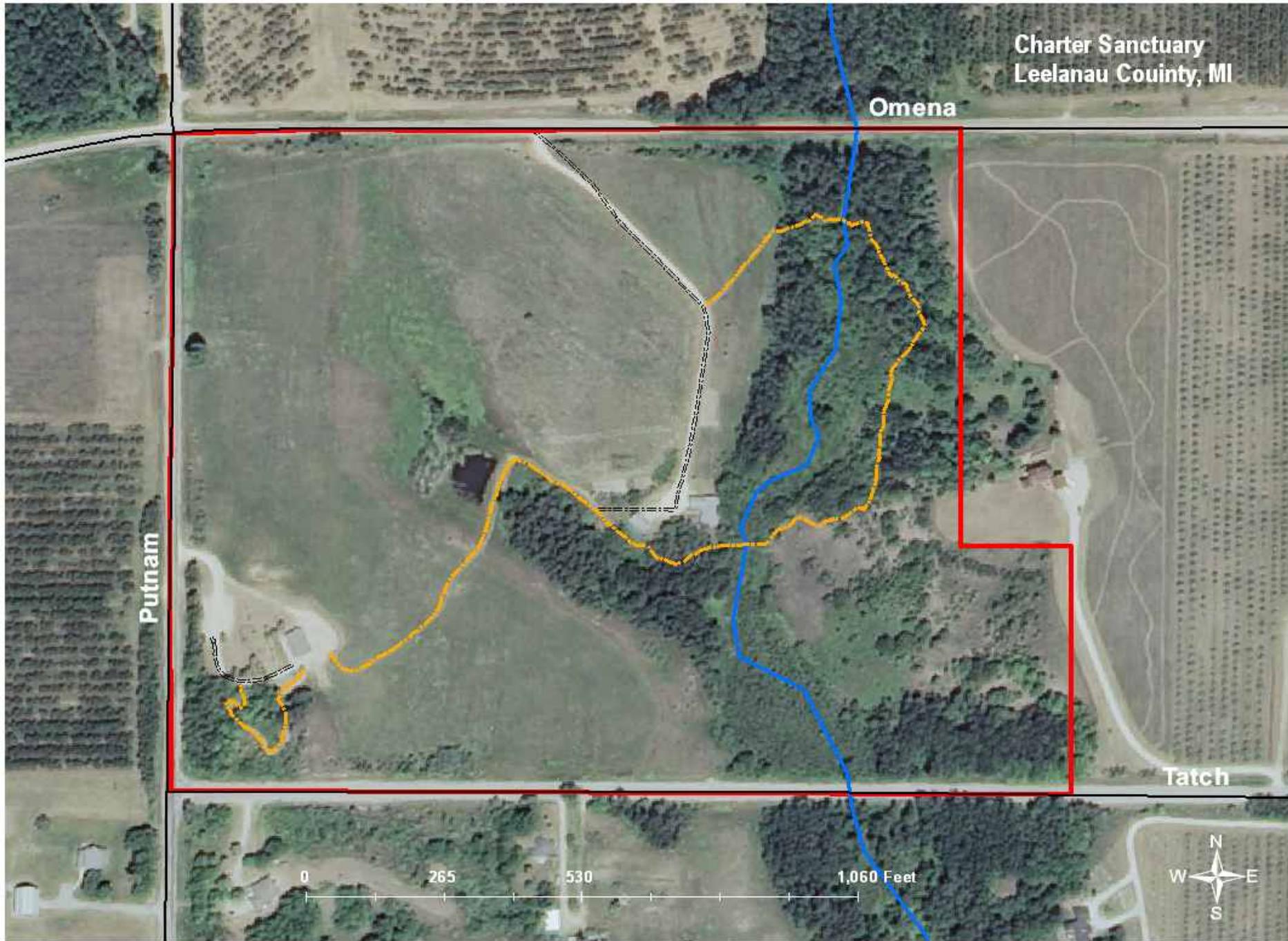
Charter Sanctuary  
Leelanau County, MI

Omena

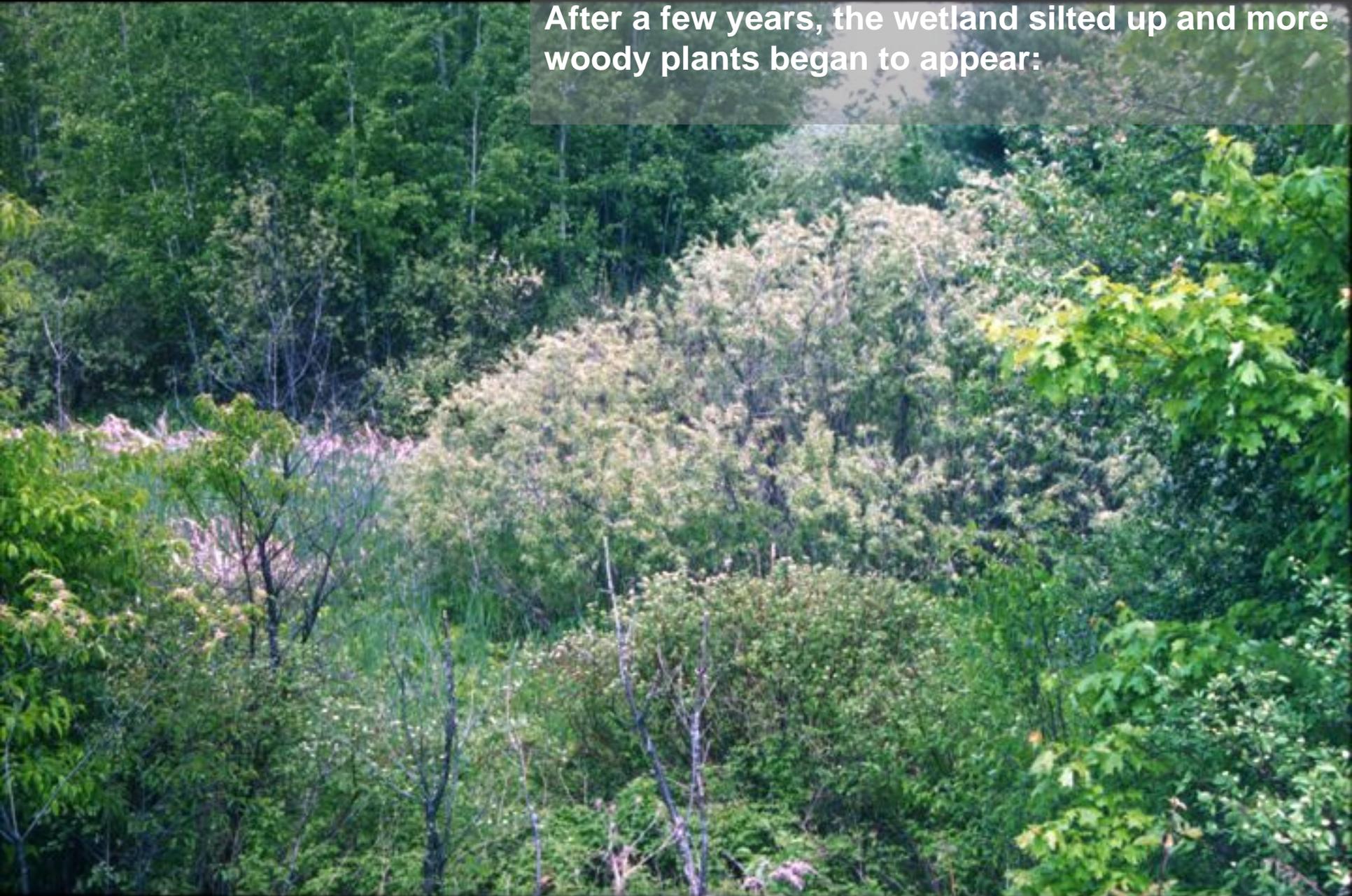
Putnam

Tatch

0 265 530 1,060 Feet



After a few years, the wetland silted up and more woody plants began to appear:



Today it looks like this....



We have been asked whether we would like to open the wetland back up, allowing for cattail nesting species like Sora and Virginia rail, birds that lost breeding habitat, to return.

We won't be doing that any time soon, as we have added another pond, where this year, for the first time, Soras nested again.

Perhaps Virginia rails will come back, too.

# Sora in the Charter Sanctuary wetland



**The property included upland, which looked like this when we bought it:**



Autumn Olive moved in....



**We removed the Autumn Olive  
And Knapweed moved in....**



We treated the entire field with herbicide and drilled in little bluestem (right), planted wet meadow forbs (center) and drilled big bluestem (slightly visible on left) -- today it looks like this:



We maintain the prairie by burning. Each section is burned every three to four years, one section at a time to allow for a refuge for creatures (insects, reptiles, amphibians) that use the prairie.



The native plants have attracted an abundance of insects, beneficial to birds, frogs and other creatures.....

Viceroy on Boneset



## 12 Spotted Skimmer



Dead trees were left standing for cavity nesting birds like pileated woodpeckers



Nest boxes were added for bluebirds and other cavity nesters.

More than 60 species of birds have nested on Charter Sanctuary and many additional species have used it during migration.

In a 6 hour period over the Labor Day weekend, 55 species were identified here.

Our marvelous migrants, like the beautiful bay-breasted warbler, are losing ground, but we can help these wonderful creatures recover by simply incorporating native plantings in our personal landscapes. Only native plants host the insect abundance they require, especially during nesting season.



**We use the Frank Zuern nest box design for eastern bluebirds because it prevents loss due to heat stress. Tree swallows love this style.**



Some species, like the bay-breasted warbler, use Charter Sanctuary only during migration.



Other species, like green herons, come throughout the season to forage.



Many others, like common yellowthroat, eastern kingbird, Baltimore oriole and yellow warbler nest on the Sanctuary every year.

This is a yellowthroat



This is a Kingbird on  
alternate leaved  
dogwood



This is a Baltimore Oriole



This is a yellow warbler



# How to Contact Saving Birds...

To visit Saving Birds Thru Habitat, follow M-22 along Grand Traverse Bay through Suttons Bay. Just over a mile north of Leelanau Sands Casino, turn left on Putnam Road. Drive two miles to the Saving Birds Thru Habitat sign on the right, immediately past Tatch Road.

## Saving Birds Thru Habitat

5020 N. Putnam Road  
P.O. Box 288  
Omena, MI 49674  
(231) 271-3738

Email us at [info@savingbirds.org](mailto:info@savingbirds.org)

Or email our Executive Director,  
[Kay Charter](mailto:Kay Charter) at [bobolink3@prodigy.net](mailto:bobolink3@prodigy.net)

