



GREENWICH LAND TRUST

Notes from the Field: Bato Preserve

“Inland Wetland” is a perfect description of Greenwich Land Trust’s two--acre Bato Preserve on Riversville Road. Less than a mile from the New York state border, it is 10 miles inland from Long Island Sound and 100% wet.

The Bato Preserve was donated to Greenwich Land Trust in 1978 and has seen little change in the past 40 years. The year-round availability of shallow water supports a dense stand of red maples with rings of green moss adorning the base of each tree. It contains an abundance of sedge, skunk cabbage, and wetland wildflowers dotting the mounds and tussocks throughout the property.

Along the edge of the property, a stand of musclewood trees, *Carpinus carolinia*, are easily distinguished by the smooth furrowed wood that makes each branch look like a muscular limb. This property is also known to contain a variety of bird species including waterfowl like Canada geese and mallard ducks, songbirds, and turkeys. It is also known to contain deer and a variety of amphibians and reptiles.



Native shrubs like swamp rose and winterberry holly provide food for migrating birds.



About 90% of this property is a swampy floodplain forest dominated by hummocks of sedge and skunk cabbage with young red maple and ironwood saplings throughout.

Native shrubs such as swamp rose and winterberry holly provide food for migrating birds in the fall and early winter.

The property directly connects to a large tract of protected open space, totaling more than 320 acres, owned by the National Audubon Society, Greenwich Riding Trails Association and other Greenwich Land Trust Preserves, making it a valuable addition to protected habitat in this area of Greenwich.

