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About Our Cover

While leading a class looking at plant succession on the shore of Lake Michigan one fall afternoon, Bob Remedi came across a dense population of ladybugs (four species identified: *Cycloneda munda*, *Harmonia axyridis*, *Hippodamia convergens*, *Hippodamia* spp.) about 3 meters above the water line. While I assumed this dense population was the result of a food or mineral cache deposited on shore, I found that "washups" such as this have been documented in the literature and are believed to be caused by storms or on-shore winds, and often kill the ladybugs which are then found floating dead in the water. However, we encountered most of the critters alive, thus encouraging an interesting conversation about the cause of this phenomenon. Although commonly called ladybirds or ladybugs, these insects are actually beetles in the family Coccinellidae. Most of these beetles are predatory and many species (including *Harmonia axyridis*, the Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle) have been introduced into the United States for the biological control of aphids and other pests. This photograph was taken with a Canon 50D and a Canon 100mm f2.8L macro lens, handheld at f8, 1/250 sec and ISO 2500. Bob Remedi is an Associate Professor of Biology at College of Lake County and a doctoral student in Adult and Higher Education at Northern Illinois University.

Contents