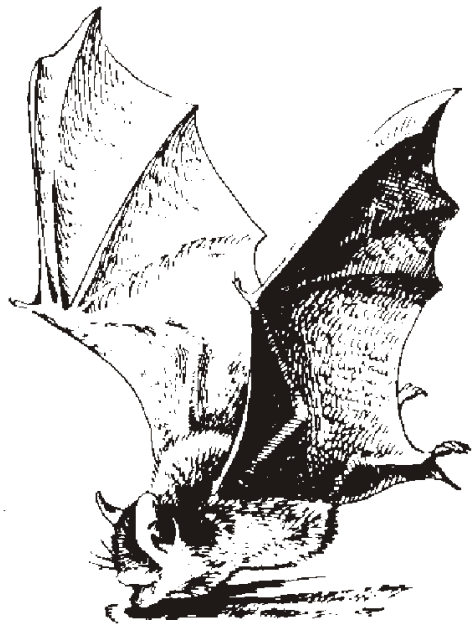
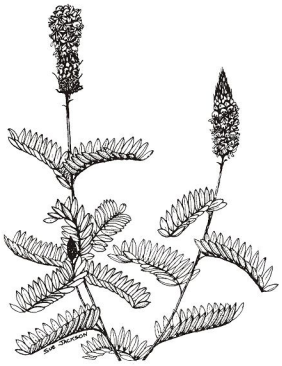
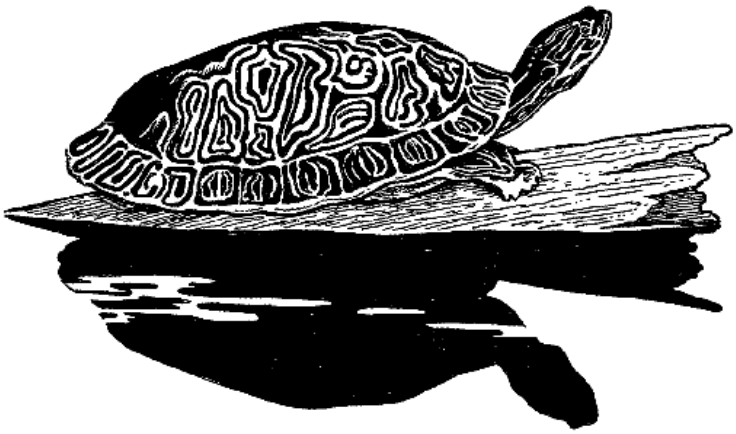


Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board





BIENNIAL REPORT

JULY 2006-JUNE 2008

(With addenda covering biennia July 2002 to June 2006)

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD AS OF JUNE 30, 2008

Members:
R. Dan Gooch, Chairman
Dr. John E. Ebinger, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Chris A. Phillips, Secretary
Marilyn F. Campbell
John A. Clemetsen
Dr. James R. Herkert
Susanne Masi
Dr. Tom Nelson
Dr. Mike Retzer

Staff:
None

ENDANGERED SPECIES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES (ESTACs) AS OF JUNE 30, 2008

PLANTS:
Dr. John E. Ebinger, Chair
Susanne Masi
William McClain
Randy Nÿboer
Dr. Loy R. Phillippe
Dr. Ken Robertson
John Schwegman
Beth Shimp
Dr. John Taft

INVERTEBRATE ANIMALS:
Dr. Tim Cashatt
Kevin Cummings
Dr. Chris Dietrich
Dr. Chris Taylor
Dr. Steven Taylor, Chair
Jeremy Tiemann
Dr. Paul Tinerella
James Wiker

FISHES:
Dr. Brooks Burr
Dr. Mike Retzer, Chair
Bob Rung
Trent Thomas
Jeremy Tiemann
Dan Sallee

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:
Scott Ballard
Dr. Ron Brandon
Dr. Mike Dreslik
Dr. Merideth Mahoney
Dr. Chris Phillips, Chair
Mike Redmer

BIRDS:
Marilyn Campbell
Dr. James R. Herkert, Chair
Dr. Jeff Hoover
Vern Kleen
Brad Semel
Dr. Douglas Stotz
Dr. Jeff Walk
Dr. Mike Ward
Dr. Dan Wenny

MAMMALS:
Chris Anchor
Bob Bluett
Dean Corgiat
Dr. George Feldhamer
Dr. Ed Heske
Dr. Joyce Hofmann
Joe Kath
Dr. Tom Nelson, Chair

On the cover, clockwise from upper left: Illinois Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*), Illinois Threatened; Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Illinois and Federally Endangered; Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), Illinois Endangered, Federally Threatened; River Cooter (*Pseudemys concinna*), Illinois Endangered; and, Leafy Prairie Clover (*Dalea foliosa*), Illinois and Federally Endangered.

PREFACE

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, originally enacted in August of 1972 and revised in July of 1986 and January of 2000, requires that the Endangered Species Protection Board prepare and make available a report of its accomplishments biennially. The first report was prepared and made available for the period of July 1986 to June 1988. Biennial reports were not prepared for the biennia ending in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000. A second report was prepared and made available for the period of July 2000 – June 2002 and included a recap of highlights of the previously omitted biennia. In July 2002, the Board's budget was reduced due to funding shortages within the state and as a result, Board staff were laid off.

During the entire period from 2002 - 2008, the unpaid volunteer Board had only part-time or no staff and, as was the case when the last biennial report was written, the Board continues to have no budget due to funding shortages within the state. This current report was prepared by the Director the Board was able to contract beginning in November 2008, with funding provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The primary records available for review in writing this synopsis were meeting minutes. For this reason, data on staff activities and Board activities not related to Board meetings may be incomplete. This current report presents details for the subject biennium of July 2006 – June 2008 and includes recapping highlights for the omitted biennia ending in 2004 and 2006.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), Illinois Endangered

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

BIENNIAL REPORT

JULY 2006 – JUNE 2008
(With addenda covering biennia July 2002 to June 2006)

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ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION IN ILLINOIS

Historical Background

Introduction

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act was passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 1972. Shortly before the Act was to become effective on January 1, 1973, it became apparent that additional time was needed to prepare for its administration. Consequently, implementation was delayed until April 30, 1973, through an Executive Order signed by Governor Ogilvie, to allow time for appointment of members to the Endangered Species Protection Board and development of fiscal and operating procedures for administration of the Act. Despite the delay, this protective legislation for endangered species in Illinois predates the federal Endangered Species Act, which was passed by Congress in 1973. The timing of the Illinois legislation is an indication that our state was in the forefront of those concerned by the continued loss of species from our landscape.

The Endangered Species Protection Board

Though its provisions were limited, the original Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act did establish the Endangered Species Protection Board, giving it authority to list animal species as endangered, and making it illegal to possess or sell endangered animals or their products. At first, the Board spent much of its time regulating circuses, zoos, and animal products such as alligator shoes and leopard skin coats. Indeed, because much of the interest in species decline was focused on the harvest of exotic furbearers, the Act originally required that three of the nine-member, Governor-appointed Board be representatives of the fur industry. The remaining six members were to be naturalists. More recently, 1986 amendments to the Act specified that the six naturalist positions on the Board are to include two zoologists, two ecologists, and one botanist, while the background and interests of the remaining three members is no longer specified. The redefined composition of the Board is a reflection of the changing emphasis of endangered species programs, and ensures a high degree of professionalism within the Board.

Another indication of the professional nature of the Board is its interaction with six Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs). These are unofficial bodies, composed of Illinois scientists who are experts on various taxonomic groups of plants and animals. The ESTACs advise the Board on the status of Illinois species, assisting in review and revision of the lists of threatened and endangered species, as well as providing recommendations for areas or species requiring additional research or data collection.

The Board, though originally required to convene only once a year, today meets quarterly, as is now mandated by law. These meetings are open to the public and generally held in public buildings around the state.

In July 2002, the Board's budget was reduced due to funding shortages within the state. As a result, Board staff were laid off. The Board was without professional staff since Dr. James R. Herkert left the position of Listing Coordinator in 2001, after 10 years of service, to take a position with The Nature Conservancy. In the late fall of 2003, the DNR provided funding for part-time professional staffing with the establishment of a contractual position for a Program Manager, filled by Mr. Randy Nÿboer who served in that position until the fall of 2007. Ms. Tammie McKay, a part-time Executive Assistant for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission that was

shared with the Board for several years resigned in the fall of 2003. Ms. Janet Boyer, a longtime staff secretary for the Board, left the part-time position in 2006 for a full-time position in another branch of Illinois government

Iowa Pleistocene Snail (*Discus macclintocki*), Illinois and Federally Endangered

Endangered Species Board Members Since the Board's Inception:

Dr. William Beecher	1973 – 1974	
Dr. Lester Fisher	1973 – 1974	(Chair 1973 - 1974)
Daniel Navid	1973 – 1975	
Robert Herbin	1973 – 1976	
Dr. John Warnock	1973 – 1976	
James Phelps	1973 – 1978	
Richard Wagner	1973 – 1981	
Dr. Willard Klimstra	1973 – 1987	(Vice Chair 1978 - 1987)
Joseph Poppie	1973 – 1991	(Chair 1977 - 1991)
Dr. Richard Andrews	1976 – 1978	
Ann Broman Fisher	1976 – 1993	
Ray Pawley	1976 – 1993	
Dr. William Southern	1976 – 1993	(Secretary 1978 - 1993)
Dr. William Schwab	1978 – 1982	
Curtis Mason	1978 – 1988	
Dr. Johanna Clausen	1979 – 1987	
Irwin Ware	1982 – 1985	
Dr. Larry Jahn	1982 – 2001	(Vice Chair 1993 - 1996, Chair 1996 - 2001)
Jon Ellis	1985 – 1996	(Vice Chair 1987 - 1991, Chair 1991 - 1996)
Dr. Alan Woolf	1988 – 1996	
Darlene Fisk	1988 – 2002	
Dr. John Ebinger	1988 – 2008	(Vice Chair 2001 - 2008)
Judy Dolan Mendelson	1988 – 2005	
Dr. Ed Moll	1993 – 1999	
Dr. Scott Robinson	1993 – 1999	
R. Dan Gooch	1993 -	(Vice Chair 1996 - 2001, Chair 2001 - present)
Mike Beebe	1996 – 1999	
John Clemetsen	1996 -	(Secretary 2001 - 2006)
Dr. Richard Anderson	2002 – 2004	
Marilyn Campbell	2002 –	
Dr. James R. Herkert	2002 –	
Susanne Masi	2002 –	
Dr. Chris Phillips	2002 –	(Secretary 2006 - present)
Dr. Tom Nelson	2005 –	
Dr. Mike Retzer	2005 –	

Endangered Species Board Staff History:

Carl Becker, Endangered Species Coordinator	1978 - 1980
Mike Sweet, Endangered Species Coordinator	1981 - 1985
Sue Lauzon, Program Coordinator/Executive Director	1985 - 2002
Glen Kruse, Project Manager	1986 - 1990
Sherrie Elzinga, Office Coordinator	1986 - 1991
Dr. Jim Herkert, Listing Coordinator	1991 - 2001
Janet Boyer, Part-time Secretary	1994 - 2006
Tammie McKay, Part-time Administrative Assistant	2002 - 2003
Randy Nÿboer, Contract Part-time Program Manager	2003 - 2007

Interactions with the Department of Conservation/Natural Resources

Initially, though the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act authorized the Board to hire necessary staff, the Board instead utilized a staff liaison within the Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC), who was responsible for all non-game and endangered species matters for DOC. The Board hired its first Program Coordinator in 1978, and until 1986 relied on this one staff member to administer its entire program.

As the state's endangered species program expanded, its focus shifted to native Illinois species, and the Board's staff conducted or assisted in species surveys and research, environmental assessments, management recommendations, interagency agreements, and public education. By the time the Board expanded its staff to include a Project Manager in 1986, the DOC had also expanded its functions to include a Division of Natural Heritage responsible for non-game wildlife, endangered species, natural areas, and nature preserves. While the Natural Heritage Division conducted many endangered species projects and management activities, DOC still lacked a specific endangered species program, and continued to rely on the Board and its staff for a number of endangered species matters.

In 1995 the DOC was reorganized and expanded into the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A Division of Natural Heritage was retained, but the consultation program for projects affecting endangered and threatened species and natural areas was moved into a new Division of Natural Resource Review and Coordination. The new Division was headed by Dr. Deanna Glosser. The position she vacated, Endangered Species Program Manager, was filled by Glen Kruse. Mr. Kruse remains active in that position, in addition to serving as the Chief of the Natural Heritage Division, and is supported in the Endangered Species Program by Joe Kath, Endangered Species Project Manager. There have been additional program changes and realignments within the DNR since 1995 and throughout those changes, the Board has appreciated the continued cooperation and assistance of the DNR and its employees.

Evolution of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act

Illinois has come a long way in its ability to protect our endangered resources since the passage of the Endangered Species Protection Act in 1972. From the early recognition of the need to determine which species were in trouble, we have progressed in our ability to actually provide protection for those species.

The original version of the Act protected animals but not plants, and only established one category of rarity: that of "Endangered". In 1977, amendments to the Act added a

"Threatened" category and included plants as well as animals, but still left the Act lacking in many respects. There were no prohibitions regarding threatened animals as there were for those classified as endangered, and plants were protected in no way at all – they were simply enumerated as threatened or endangered.

More comprehensive revisions to the Endangered Species Protection Act were passed in 1985 and went into effect in 1986, giving much clearer protections for endangered species and their habitats than we had previously seen. Indeed, Illinois was among the first states to attempt to protect endangered species' habitats through legislation.

The 1986 amendments provided equal protection for threatened animals as those mandated for endangered animal species. The term "animal" was specifically defined to include both vertebrate and invertebrate animal species. Some protection was added for listed plants, prohibiting certain actions which involved the taking, transporting, or selling of those species. For the first time, a regularly scheduled review and revision of the Illinois Lists of Endangered and Threatened Species was required (every 5 years), ensuring that those lists are kept up-to-date with the actual status of those species in the wild.

A significant amendment from 1986 stresses the commitment of agencies of state and local government in Illinois to the protection of endangered species. This policy of supporting the purposes of the Act is accomplished by evaluating, through a process of consultation with the DNR, whether actions authorized, funded, or carried out by those agencies "are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Illinois listed endangered and threatened species or are likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of the designated essential habitat of such species…."

In 2000, the Act was further amended, resulting in the current Act (copy appended), by the addition of provisions for authorization by the DNR of incidental taking of Illinois listed endangered and threatened species under prescribed terms and conditions. The amendment stipulates that the taking must be incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity and requires that applicants submit a conservation plan to the DNR. The Illinois Administrative Rule that outlines the implementation of incidental taking authorization by the DNR requires that the Board review conservation plans and that the DNR consult with the Board prior to issuing authorization.

Why Do We Protect Endangered and Threatened Species?

Those who work with endangered species often hear questions and comments such as "Why do we spend our money to protect these plants and animals?" or "Who cares about most of these species? They aren't good for anything." or "So what if a fish disappears from the Mississippi River? Most people will never see one anyway."

There are many good reasons to protect all species of plants and animals. Special attention is given to those that have become very rare in order to prevent their complete elimination from our environment. The reasons we put forth a large effort to protect these species range from practical to spiritual and from utilitarian to aesthetic. Each person interested in the preservation of plants and animals has his or her own reasons, but some of the more widely expressed motivations include:

1) Any species of plant or animal may someday provide a product or service that is valuable to humans. We cannot predict what food, fibers, chemicals, or other products can be obtained from "wild" plants and animals in the future. The loss of species may eliminate potential human benefits.

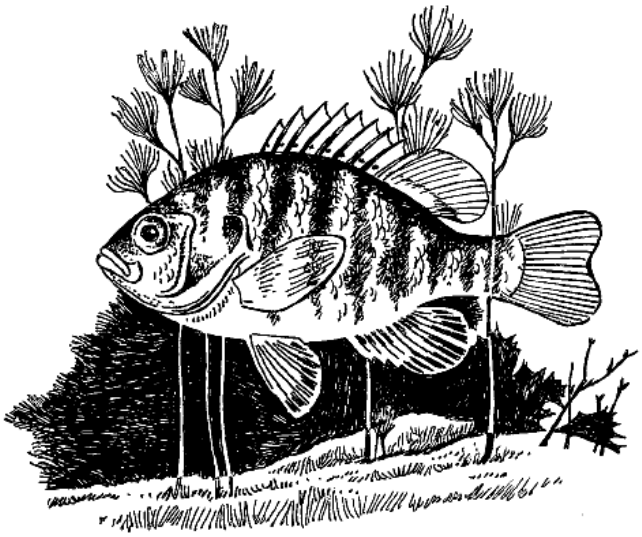
2) Plants or animals can serve as early indicators of environmental problems that are potentially dangerous to humans. The variable sensitivity of different species to contaminants allows them to act as environmental monitors, alerting us to the fact that something is wrong in our world.

3) Every plant or animal species contributes to the stability of the ecosystem of which it is a part. This ecological concept is often compared to a house of cards. A house with many components is much more difficult to disrupt than one having a few basic elements. There is also a complex network of relationships among the parts. No plant or animal exists independently of all others. The loss of ANY species has effects on the other species that have evolved along with it.

4) Each species is the result of untold ages of evolution and has a right to continue to exist. Many people feel that it is morally wrong for humans to be the cause of the extinction of a species or to allow a species to disappear if human intervention could save it.

5) The loss of any plant or animal species diminishes the natural beauty of the earth. The existence and interaction of diverse life forms brings pleasure to those who take time to observe the species around them.

Whatever your reasons, we know you will agree that the protection of endangered and threatened species in Illinois is an important and necessary task in the future. The loss of species may eliminate benefits.



Bantam Sunfish (*Lepomis symmetricus*), Illinois Threatened

REPORT OF THE BIENNIUM: JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2008

BOARD MEETINGS

During the biennium, meetings were called eight times. Due to several vacancies on the Board, there was some difficulty in obtaining a quorum at scheduled meetings. Consequently, at meetings without a quorum present, no votes were taken or official business acted upon at these meetings; instead, informational material was distributed or discussed to keep Board members informed of staff activities or issues to be dealt with at a later date. Meeting numbers were still assigned to those meetings where a quorum was not present; officially the Board held its 131st through its 138th meetings during the biennium.

REVISIONS OF THE ILLINOIS LISTS OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

On July 1, 1986, amendments to the Endangered Species Protection Act, which were passed in 1985, went into effect. Among these was a provision requiring that the Endangered Species Protection Board review and revise the Illinois Lists of Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animals at least every five years. The first of these lists in Illinois was adopted in 1978 for animals and 1980 for plants and since that time, invertebrate animal species were also added. A full review of the lists was undertaken during the July 1st, 1986 through June 30th, 1988 biennium. This included both a review of species that were already listed as threatened or endangered, and evaluation of additional species to determine if they should be added to the Illinois lists as threatened or endangered. Following required public hearings, the Board, at its May 20th, 1988 meeting adopted changes to the plant and animal lists. They became law on March 14, 1989. Subsequent five-year re-listings were initiated in 1993, 1997, and 2002 and from those efforts the plant revisions became official on January 18, 1994, December 3, 1998, and September 1, 2004, respectively, and the animal revisions, January 18, 1994, April 26, 1999, and September 1, 2004, respectively. Occasional re-listing was done in the interim for specific species. Full discussion of re-listings for the biennia July 2002 to June 2006 is presented in the section below on the subject.

No five-year review period elapsed during the subject biennium, therefore during that period no complete list review was made. However, at each official meeting a report was made on various species under endangerment, threat or potential threat to determine if any interim changes should be made. During the subject biennium, there were none.

The next five-year review period ends in 2009 and the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees initiated list reviews in 2007 and began reporting recommendations to the Board in May 2008.

RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

An important effort of the Endangered Species Protection Board is to gather information that will improve our knowledge of various species in Illinois and help lead toward listing decisions for those species. When the Board has funding, it allocates a portion of its budget toward research projects and the Board is also annually awarded funding from the Wildlife Preservation Fund (WPF) to contract research projects. The WPF is funded by Illinois taxpayers through contributions from their State income tax return and provides a means to address the survival of Illinois' native plants and animals. Additionally, when the Board has had staff, those staff have also administered, conducted and/or participated in research projects. Since the Board was unfunded during the subject

biennium, only the annual WPF research money was used to fund the following projects:

Funded Research Projects

Status Survey for the Stickleaf (*Mentzelia oligosperma*) in southwest Illinois, by Mike Jones. The Board provided $4,986 for this one-year study.

Status Report for Native Populations of Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*), including tree ring analysis, by Mike Jones. The Board allotted $9,632 for this two-year study.

Establishing population trends of *Hyla avivoca* (bird-voiced treefrog) in Southern Illinois by Duplicating 1995 Redmer, Brown, and Brandon Survey, by John Palis. This one-year study was awarded $3,402 by the Board.

Status Survey Update for Listed Herptiles for Kidd Lake Marsh, Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, and Other Newly Dedicated Lands in Monroe County, by Robert Weck. The Board provided $4,620.00 for this one-year study.

Genetic variation in *Astragalus crassicarpus* var. *trichocalyx* in Illinois, by Betsy Essleman. The Board provided $2,999.70 for this one-year study.

Spatial Ecology and Over-Winter Survival of Neonate Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) at Carlyle Lake, by Sarah Baker. This is a two-year study with a total cost of $13,191.

Conservation genetics of the state endangered spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), by Whitney Banning. This one-year study was allotted $5,000 by the Board.

Status and Distribution of the Longnose Dace in Illinois, by Jeremy Tiemann. This study will look at populations in northwestern Illinois and Lake Michigan and will include isotope analysis. The Board provided $6,500 for this two-year study.

Viability of the Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) in the Lower Des Plaines River Valley, a two-year study, by Mike Dreslik. The Board provided $8,138 for this two-year study.

Research Projects Administered by the Board

There were no research projects administered by the Board during the subject biennium.

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES

Much of the other work of the Board during the biennium falls under the Board's mandate to advise the DNR on methods of conserving threatened and endangered species. Some of those activities were as follows:

Staff contributed several articles and assisted in the production of a special issue of the DNR publication *Outdoor Illinois* that focused on endangered species. The issue was dedicated to the memory of Carl Becker, who passed away in April, 2006. Carl was the first Executive Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board and over several decades, served in multiple positions within the DNR and in the private sector, to champion the overall conservation of Illinois' Natural Heritage.

Board members and staff participated in the annual evaluation process for the State Wildlife Grant. The State Wildlife Grant often involves funding for endangered species projects.

The Board and staff were invited to participate in the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team, which functions to implement the objectives identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.

The Board issued a letter to the Illinois legislative delegation stating support for

additional funding for staffing and environmental cleanup for Lost Mound and the Savanna Army Depot.

The Board sponsored the production of an endangered species poster developed by the DNR Education Division.

The Board passed a resolution recognizing Dr. John Ebinger for the long and dedicated service he provided during over 20 years as a Board member.

The Board passed a resolution recognizing Ms. Janet Boyer for 12 years of exemplary service as an employee of Board.

The Board and staff reviewed incidental take requests for project proposals including a production facility in Mounds, Pulaski County, involving the spotted dusky salamander (*Desmognathus conanti*); a retail store construction in Carlyle involving the Eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*); a bridge replacement project in New Haven involving the fat pocketbook mussel (*Potamilus capax*); and, two conservation plans involving the Blanding's turtle.

The Avian Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (Avian ESTAC) developed Draft Recovery Outlines for the Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), Osprey (*Pandio halieatus*), and Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Due to state budget shortfalls, the Board had only contractual part-time professional and part-time secretarial and administrative assistant staff during much of this biennium. As a result of these staffing challenges, few staff activities are highlighted for these biennia.

The Board's staff, housed within the DNR, oversees the Board's budget, prepares agendas and materials for Board meetings, represents the Board at meetings, events, hearings, etc., and works closely with the DNR's field and program staff, as well as the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on all matters relating to endangered species in Illinois. Board staff reviews proposed state and federal legislation associated with endangered species. It also coordinates and works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding endangered species, as well as other state and federal agencies.

It should be noted that a great proportion of staff time is spent in several routine activities including gathering, organizing, and reviewing existing data on each of the listed and otherwise rare species within the state, communicating with the many other agencies and organizations that deal in endangered species or habitat management, doing strategic and regular management plans, writing operational reports, and dealing with everyday office and organizational issues.

Field Activities

Staff participated in the nationwide annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count, by surveying routes along the Mississippi River from Lock & Dam 13 to Lock & Dam 16. About 600 bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were counted on these routes in 2007.

Board staff worked with Illinois Natural History Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff on a loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) habitat preference research project at Lost Mound.

Interactions with Other Agencies

Board staff participated in evaluations and reviews of DNR Natural Areas Evaluation Committee and Wildlife Preservation Fund projects.

Staff attended Nature Preserves Commission and DNR, Natural Heritage Division meetings and provided an update of Board activities. Board staff participated in the DNR Endangered Species Task Group and Rare Plant Task Force. Staff also worked with Division of Natural Heritage staff to

begin developing endangered species recovery planning guidelines for the Office of Resource Conservation.

Staff spent considerable time providing technical assistance to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Army, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the conservation and management of natural areas and state-listed species at the Savanna Army Depot and the Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Savanna, Illinois.

Invited Activities
Staff was invited to give a presentation about endangered and threatened species in hill prairies at the Hill Prairie Conference held at Principia College.

Staff was asked to give a presentation about the Lost Mound-Hanover Bluff-Mississippi Palisades Conservation Opportunity Area to local, state, and federal legislators, business leaders and the public involved at Lost Mound. Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) are areas of the state designated by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan because they contain habitat areas that have concentrations of Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The Lost Mound portion of the COA has 110 Species in Greatest Need of Conservation, including 68 species of birds and 12 species of insects.

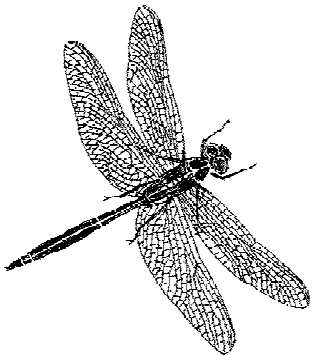
Staff provided support at the DNR displays at the Illinois State Fair.

Staff was invited by the Illinois Nature Conservancy Central Tallgrass Prairie Eco-regional Planning Team to participate in the development of regional conservation targets, which included many endangered and threatened species.

Board staff was asked to lead a field trip highlighting endangered and threatened plants at the George B. Fell Nature Preserve for the Illinois Native Plant Society annual meeting.

Public Interactions
It was not discernable from the minutes if Board staff directly participated in public interactions during this biennium.

Other Staff Activities
It was not discernable from the minutes if Board staff engaged in other activities during this biennium.



Hines Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*), Illinois and Federally Endangered

REPORT ON PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED BIENNIA: JULY 2002 TO JUNE 2006
(Highlights of Biennia ending in 2004 and 2006)

BOARD MEETINGS

July 2002 – June 2004
Meetings were called eight times during this biennium. Due to several vacancies on the Board, there was some difficulty in obtaining a quorum at scheduled meetings. Consequently, the Board held several meetings of available members where no votes were taken or official business acted upon; instead, informational material was distributed or discussed to keep Board members informed of staff activities or issues to be dealt with at a later date. Meeting numbers were still assigned to those meetings where a quorum was not present; officially the Board held its 115th through its 122nd meetings during the biennium.

July 2004 – June 2006
During this biennium, meetings were called eight times. As for the previous biennium, due to several vacancies on the Board, there was some difficulty in obtaining a quorum at scheduled meetings. Consequently, the Board also held several meetings of available members where no votes were taken or official business acted upon; instead, informational material was distributed or discussed to keep Board members informed of staff activities or issues to be dealt with at a later date. Even though a quorum was not present at some meetings, official meeting numbers were still designated, so the Board held its 123rd through its 130th meetings during this biennium.

REVISIONS OF THE ILLINOIS LISTS OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

July 2002 – June 2004
The Board conducted the majority of a required five-year revision of the Illinois Lists of Endangered and Threatened Species during this biennium. In November 2003, the Board preliminarily approved changes to the lists and a public hearing was held on January 23, 2004. On February 20, 2004, the Board considered comments received from the hearing and voted to grant final approval to the new lists. They were then adopted by Administrative Rule following submission to the DNR, which then submitted them to the Secretary of State for publication in the Illinois Register, and review by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. These steps took place over several months and crossed into the next biennium. The first notice for the Administrative Rules changes to the lists including recommended changes from the Board, were published in the Illinois Register May 7, 2004, with the 45-day comment period ending June 21, 2004. The lists became official during the next biennium (see below).

July 2004 – June 2006
The new Illinois Lists of Endangered and Threatened Species resulting from the review begun during the previous biennium (see above) became official effective September 1, 2004. Changes made to the lists resulted in a total of 483 species listed as endangered (356 species, including 93 species of animals and 263 species of plants) or threatened (127 species, including 51 species of animals and 76 species of plants) under the Illinois Endangered Species Act. The changes made in the 2004 re-listing are listed below.

Summary of 2004 Changes to the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species

ADDED AS ENDANGERED

PLANTS

Astragalus distortus (bent milk vetch)
Baptisia tinctoria (yellow wild indigo)
Botrychium campestre (prairie moonwort)
Calopogon oklahomensis (Oklahoma grass pink orchid)
Carex cumulata (sedge)
Carex diandra (sedge)
Carex formosa (sedge)
Chamaelirium luteum (fairy wand)
Deschampsia flexuosa (hairgrass)
Nemophilia triloba (baby blue-eyes)
Penstemon tubaeflorus (tube beardstongue)
Rhexia mariana (dull meadow beauty)
Sanicula smallii (southern sanicula)
Scirpus microcarpus (small-fruited bulrush)
Scleria muhlenbergii (Muhlenberg's nut rush)
Scleria pauciflora (Carolina whipgrass)
Vaccinium stamineum (deerberry)

MAMMALS

Canis lupus (gray/timber wolf)

INVERTEBRATES

Fontigens antroecetes (Hydrobiid cave snail)

ADDED AS THREATENED

PLANTS

Carex atlantica (sedge)
Carex bromoides (sedge)
Carya aquatica (water hickory)
Dodecatheon frenchii (French's shooting star)
Huperzia porophila (cliff clubmoss)
Hymenopappus scabiosaeus (old plainsman)
Menyanthes trifoliate (buckbean)
Sedum telephioides (American orpine)
Talinum parviflorum (small flower-of-an-hour)

FISH

Erimystax x-punctatus (gravel chub)
Fundulus dispar (starhead topminnow)

AMPHIBIANS

Gastrophryne carolinensis (eastern narrowmouth toad)

REPTILES

Tropidoclonion lineatum (lined snake)

BIRDS

Dendroica cerulea (cerulean warbler)

MAMMALS

Spermophilus franklinii (Franklin's ground squirrel)

REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED

PLANTS

Betula populifolia (gray birch)
Gaultheria procumbens (wintergreen)
Lysimachia fraseri (Fraser's loosestrife)
Pycanthemum torrei (mountain mint)
Scirpus verecundus (bashful bulrush)
Silphium trifoliatum (rosinweed)
Spiranthes romanzoffiana (hooded ladies' tresses)
Thalia dealbata (powdery thalia)

REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED (continued)

Viola viarum (plains violet)
Waldsteinia fragarioides (barren strawberry)

FISH

Platygobio gracilis (flathead chub)
Pternotropis hubbsi (bluehead shiner)

INVERTEBRATES

Obovaria subrotunda (round hickorynut)
Pleurobema rubrum (pyramid pigtoe)
Villosa fabalis (rayed bean)
Crangonyx antennatus (Appalachian valley cave amphipod)

REMOVED FROM THREATENED

PLANTS

Aristolochia serpentaria var. *hastate* (Virginia snakeroot)
Cirsium hilli (Hill's thistle)
Erythronium mesochoreaum (prairie trout-lily)
Eupatorium incarnatum (thoroughwort)
Galium labradoricum (bog bedstraw)
Lactuca hirsuta (wild lettuce)
Thuja occidentalis (white cedar)
Veratrum woodii (false hellebore)

BIRDS

Certhia americana (brown creeper)
Podilymbus podiceps (pied-billed grebe)
Buteo lineatus (red-shouldered hawk)

MAMMALS

Lontra canadensis (river otter)

INVERTEBRATE

Gammarus bousfieldi (Bousfield's amphipod)

STATUS CHANGED FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED

PLANTS

Amelanchier interior (shadbush)
Carex aurea (golden sedge)
Elymus trachycaulus (bearded wheat grass)
Phaeophyscia leana (Lea's bog lichen)
Platanthera flava var. *herbiola* (tubercled orchid)
Rubus setosus (bristly blackberry)
Rudbeckia missouriensis (Missouri orange coneflower)
Sisyrinchium atlanticum (eastern blue-eyed grass)
Trifolium reflexum (buffalo clover)
Utricularia intermedia (flat-leaved bladderwort)

FISH

Etheostoma exile (Iowa darter)

REPTILES

Thamnophis sauritus (eastern ribbonsnake)

BIRDS

Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's sparrow)
Falco peregrinus (peregrine falcon)

INVERTEBRATES

Villosa lienosa (little spectaclecase)

STATUS CHANGED FROM THREATENED TO ENDANGERED

PLANTS

Trientalis borealis (star-flower)

REPTILES

Elaphe guttata emoryi (great plains ratsnake)

OFFICIAL NAME CHANGED

PLANTS

Alnus rugosa (speckled alder) to *A.incana*
Arenaria patula (slender sandwort) to *Minuartia patula*
Bidens beckii (water marigold) to *Megalodonta beckii*
Botrychium matricariaefolium (daisyleaf grape fern) to *B. matricariifolium*
Carex heliophila (sedge) to *C. inops*
Ceanothus ovatus(redroot) to *C. herbaceous*
Cypripedium calceolus var. *parviflorum* (small yellow lady's slipper) to *C. parvioflorum* var. *makasin*
Hackelia americana (stickseed) to *H. deflexa* var. *americana*
Hymenoxys acaulis (lakeside daisy) to *Tetraneuris herbacea*
Juncus alpinus (Richardson's rush) to *J. alpinoarticulatus*
Lycopodium inundatum (bog clubmoss) to *Lycopodiella inundata*
Microseris cuspidata (prairie dandelion) to *Nothocalais cuspidata*
Panicum boreale (northern panic grass) to *Dichanthelium boreale*
Panicum columbianum (hemlock panic grass) to *Dichanthelium portoricense*
Panicum joorii (panic grass) to *Dichanthelium joorii*
Panicum ravenelii (panic grass) to *Dichanthelium ravenelii*
Panicum yadkinense (panic grass) to *Dichanthelium yadkinense*
Puccinellia pallida (pole manna-grass) to *Torreyochloapallida*
Quercus nuttallii (Nuttall's oak) to *Q. texana*
Rubus setosus (bristly blackberry) to *R. schneideri*
Sagittaria longirostra (arrowhead) to *S. australis*
Sambucus pubens (red-berried elder) to *S. racemosa* subsp. *pubens*

OFFICIAL NAME CHANGED (continued)

Scirpus cespitosus (tufted bulrush) to *Trichophorum cespitosum*
Scirpus hallii (Hall's bulrush) to *Schoenoplectus hallii*
Scirpus paludosus (alkali bulrush) to *Bolboschoenus maritimus*
Scirpus purshianus (weak bulrush) to *Schoenoplectus purshianus*
Scirpus smithii (Smith's bulrush) to *Schoenoplectus smithii*
Sparganium chlorocarpum (green-fruited burreed) to *S. emersum*
Sullivantia renifolia (sullivantia) to *S. sullivantii*
Thelypteris phegopteris (long beech fern) to *Phegopteris connectilis*
Viola incognita (hairy white violet) to *V. blanda*
Zigadenus glauca (white camass) to *Z. elegans*

BIRDS

Tyto alba (common barn-owl) to barn owl

AMPHIBIANS

Desmonagthus fuscus (dusky salamander) to *D. conanti* (spotted dusky salamander)

REPTILES

Macroclemy stemminckii (alligator snapping turtle) to *Macrochely stemminckii*

INVERTEBRATES

Orconectes placidus (crayfish) to bigclaw crayfish
Orconectes lancifer (oxbow crayfish) to shrimp crayfish

SYNONYMS ADDED

PLANTS

Cladrastis lutea (yellowwood) – list *Cladrastis kentukea*
Eleocharis olivacea (spikerush) – list *Eleocharis flavescens*var. *olivacea*
Eleocharis pauciflora (few-flowered spikerush) – list *Eleocharis quinqueflora*
Zigadenus elegans (white camass) – list *Zigadenus venenosus* var. *gramineus*

RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

As described above, since the Board was unfunded during these biennia, as well, the Board's annual research allocation from the WPF was the sole source used to fund the following projects:

Funded Research Projects

July 2002 – June 2004.

Status and Ecology of the Lost Mound Population of *Opuntia fragilis* (fragile prickly pear) and the Effects of Fungal Infections on the Species by Dr. Eric Ribbens and Barbara Anderson from Western Illinois University. The Lost Mound population was found to be quite large although no sexual reproduction was occurring in the population and a small portion of plants had the black spot fungus, which appeared to be a saprophytic species of *Alternaria*. The study found that many of the cladodes (branch pads) were removed by wildlife and as many as 68 species of

insects use this plant. Growth of individual plants was monitored and genetic analysis of plant material was conducted by a researcher in Arizona to determine if *Opuntia fragilis* was hybridizing with *Opuntia macrorhiza*. This was a two-year project with a total cost of $12,000 ($6,000 each for FY03 and FY04).

Reproductive Biology of *Calamogrostis insperata* (Bluejoint grass) by David Gibson, Southern Illinois University. This study included collection and greenhouse rearing of plants under various moisture treatments and management alterations of canopy and shading conditions of study habitat sites. The Board allotted a total of $16,000 ($8,000 each for FY03 and FY04) for this two-year project.

Status Survey of Canada Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides)* by Michael Jones. The Board provided $4,430 for this one-year study.

Status Survey of the Fairy Wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*) by Michael Jones. This one-year study was allotted $3,840 by the Board.

Potential Factors Responsible for the Long-Term Declines of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Illinois by Dr. David Enstrom and Mike Ward, Illinois Natural History Survey. The Board provided $4,088 for this one-year study that looked at the species' reproductive success and site fidelity and included bird banding. In 2002, the size of the adult population was estimated at 260 individuals, which showed a 19% decline since the work began in 1999. The study concluded that although productivity of the species is high in Illinois, the lack of migration back to Illinois following the bird's first migration out is the primary reason for the decline of the species.

Status and Ecology of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) in Illinois by Dr. Dan Wenny, Illinois Natural History Survey. This two-year study was allotted a total of $11,156 ($9,000 in FY03 and $2,156 in FY04) by the Board. The only population of Swainson's hawk in Illinois was studied to compare similarities to western populations, reproductive success, and threats to the population, mainly by development of its remaining habitat in northeastern Illinois. The study also included the use of satellite transmitters, funded by the American Bird Conservancy, to track birds during migration. This population is small, with only four nesting pairs. The study found little genetic difference between the Illinois population and that of the main population found in the western U.S. Expanding development from both the northern suburbs of Chicago and Rockford are diminishing hopes of this hawk from expanding here.

The Board agreed to provide funding for supplies (pit tags and a pit tag reader) in addition to previously granted FY01 funding for a project involving capturing and marking timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) at Valmeyer Prairie. For a number of reasons, work on this project was not successfully completed in the previous year and this follow-up request was to complete and expand the scope of the original work.

July 2004 – June 2006
Status assessment of the Illinois mud turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens spooneri*) in Illinois by Anne Readel and Dr. Chris Phillips, Illinois Natural History Survey. This was a one-year study with a cost of $6,658.

Reproductive success of sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis*) in northeastern Illinois by David L. Thomas, Illinois Natural History Survey. This one-year study was allotted $5,730 by the Board.

Survey of Breeding Colonial Wading Birds of Conservation Concern in the Lower Wabash River Drainage in Illinois with Special Emphasis on the Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), by Jeff Stewart. The Board provided $18,423 for this two-year study.

Research Projects Administered by the Board

July 2002 – June 2004
It was not discernable from the minutes if the Board directly administered research projects during this biennium.

July 2004 – June 2006
It was not discernable from the minutes if the Board directly administered research projects during this biennium.

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES

July 2002 – June 2004
The Board engaged in strategic planning for FY03 and FY04. The strategic plan, including associated budget estimates, was submitted to the DNR. It was noted that several of these goals would be challenging without staff, but the Board agreed that it would do its best to meet the goals that are required by statute with or without staff.

Goals and objectives for FY03 identified from the ESPB Strategic Planning process included:

- To meet the listing objectives due in calendar year 2004. Because of the list revision deadline, the Board's main goals for FY03 are to establish the ESTACs and set up meetings of those committees. The ESTACs will review hundreds of species, including listed species, watch list species and species of concern, come to a consensus and submit a synopsis to the Board for consideration.
- To work on the list revision in calendar years 2002 and 2003; involving approximately seven ESTAC meetings and travel expenses for committee members.
- To complete at least one Biennial report. These reports are required by statute and are in arrears.
- To schedule and conduct four quarterly meetings and to budget for Board travel to these meetings.
- To complete the new *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution*, *Volume 2 – Animals* book.
- Extensive clerical work including making contact with the ESTACs, coordinating meetings, locating and organizing materials to send out to the committees to review for the list revision, unpacking, sorting out and organizing files, office reports and other documents and publications.
- It was noted that the Board would not be able to effectively do a number of things without professional staff or funding. These included: Creating and revising educational materials such as the fact sheets; sending out press releases and responding to questions from the press, other agencies, and the public; and, keeping up with endangered species issues around the country by maintaining contact with other states and federal agencies.

Goals and objectives for FY04 identified from the ESPB Strategic Planning process included:

- To schedule and conduct four quarterly meetings and to budget for Board travel to these meetings.
- To budget for and set up public hearings for the list revision.
- To schedule and budget for three additional ESTAC meetings.
- To complete a draft of the new list of endangered and threatened species of Illinois by having the required public hearing and then making a decision on the final list.
- To budget for the printing of the new 2004 Checklist of Endangered & Threatened Plants and Animals of Illinois.
- To fill the backlog of Biennial Reports which have not been completed.
- To regain funding to fully staff the Board.

The Board published the *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status & Distribution, Volume 1 – Plants* book, and began work on the *Endangered and*

Threatened Species of Illinois: Status & Distribution, Volume 2 – Animals book.

The Board published the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board Biennial Report July 2000 – June 2002 (With addenda covering biennia July 1990 to June 2000)*.

The Board passed a resolution recognizing and commending the life-long accomplishments in the conservation of Illinois' natural heritage by Carl N. Becker.

The Board passed a resolution recognizing Ms. Sue Lauzon for her contributions and commitment to the Board during her years of service as a staff member.

The Board passed resolutions commending Mrs. Darlene Fiske and Dr. Scott Robinson for their contributions and commitment to the Board during their years of service as Board members.

The Board passed a resolution commending Rogers Elementary School for Support of the Endangered Species Program and Donation to the Illinois Conservation Foundation. At the time of this resolution, the school had raised over $10,000 over seven or eight consecutive years to help with recovery efforts for various species including the Indiana bat, river otter, red-shouldered hawk, and freshwater mussels.

The Board sent former DNR Director Brent Manning a letter of commendation for the work he did to support Illinois' endangered species during his 13 years as Director of the Illinois DNR. Mr. Manning left the DNR to accept an appointment to head the Department of Game and Fish in Wyoming.

The Board sent a letter of commendation to nine-year old Henry Cilley for his efforts in spearheading a drive to protect the Blanding's turtle at Exner Marsh Nature Preserve. Henry circulated a petition and got over 1,000 signatures of people opposing a development proposed for an area inhabited by the turtle near the preserve. Henry then presented the petition to the Village Board and his efforts received worldwide attention. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Audubon Society sent similar commendations to Mr. Cilley.

Board members reviewed conservation plans associated with several requests for incidental take for endangered species including a proposal for an IL Route 67 expansion at Beardstown involving the Illinois chorus frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*); the Lake Point development in Lake in the Hills, involving the Blanding's turtle; the Marion Reservoir project in Marion involving the Eastern massasauga; the McKinley Bridge from Madison, Illinois to St. Louis, Missouri involving the Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); a bridge replacement over Broulliett's Creek in Edgar County involving the little spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*); a ditch dredging project in Iroquois County involving the ironcolor shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*); two road projects in Clinton County involving the Eastern massasauga; a road project on Carlyle Lake in Clinton County involving the Eastern massasauga; a mussel relocation for a bridge project in northeastern Illinois, a dredging project in Rock Island County involving the Higgins eye mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*); an outfall sewer diffuser in Whiteside County involving two listed mussels; and, a road improvement project in Union and Alexander Counties involving the marsh rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*).

The Board reviewed the functional title and purpose of the Endangered Species Protection Board's Watch List – species that are not necessarily designated legal standing by the Board, but are being watched or tracked by the Board because there is currently insufficient status and distribution data to evaluate their status. The Board made recommendations to change the name to the "Track List" and to coordinate with

DNR database managers to maintain data on these species for use in list revisions.

The Board made revisions to the Endangered Species Protection Board Policy Manual. As per the policy manual, the Board also conducted annual evaluations of its actions as part of developing its annual work plans.

The Board reviewed a proposal by the DNR to reintroduce the Eastern woodrat (*Neotoma floridana*) in Illinois.

The Board reviewed and approved a recovery plan for the Greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) prepared by the DNR. The board was responsible for some of the funding for this plan.

The Board became a member of Chicago Wilderness, a biodiversity council of land managers, educational institutions, research institutions, and other groups in the Chicago area. Other state government organizations that are members include the DNR and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

The Board participated in the development of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan for Illinois (later termed the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan) and will also participate in the review of grant pre-proposals recommended for funding. The Plan fulfills the requirement for each state to have a plan submitted and accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 1, 2005 in order to receive federal funds associated with the program.

<u>July 2004 – June 2006</u>
The Board published the *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status & Distribution, Volume 2 – Animals* book.

The Board participated in the planning and development of the Update of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, which was spearheaded by The Nature Conservancy and initially supported by grants from the Clean Energy Foundation of Chicago and the Wildlife Preservation Fund.

Board Chairman Gooch developed and provided a report on the status and changes of endangered species in the Chicago Wilderness region to the Chicago Wilderness coalition.

Board Chairman Gooch and Vice Chairman Ebinger were invited by the Director of the DNR to participate in a Conservation Funding Initiative Day attended by 40-50 people associated with the DNR to determine ways to obtain more funding for the DNR.

The Board passed resolutions commending Ms. Judy Mendelson and Dr. Rick Anderson for their contributions and commitment to the Board during their years of service as Board Members.

Board member Dr. Phillips participated in meetings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other experts to develop a statewide recovery plan for the Eastern massasauga.

Board member Dr. Phillips and Board staff Mr. Nÿboer reviewed and commented on the recovery plan for the alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) drafted by the DNR.

Board members and staff reviewed two large construction projects forwarded by the Tollway Authority. One project was for the construction of I-355 that involved five listed species; the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), Blanding's turtle, leafy prairie clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), slender sandwort (*Arenaria patula*), and Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The other project was for reconstruction of toll booths along forty miles of I-94 and I-294 in Lake County that involved the Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandi*) and Blanding's turtle.

The Board reviewed requests for incidental take for endangered species including a

proposal for a development in Huntley in McHenry County involving Blanding's turtle and sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), a project at Wonder Lake in McHenry County involving Blanding's turtle, a project in Bull Valley in McHenry County involving sandhill cranes, and a proposal for another development in Lake in the Hills involving Blanding's turtle.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Due to state budget shortfalls, the Board had no professional and only part-time secretarial and administrative assistant staff during much of the biennia described below. As a result of these staffing challenges, few staff activities are highlighted for these biennia.

Additionally, although many staff projects are listed below, it should be noted that a great proportion of staff time is spent in several routine activities including gathering, organizing, and reviewing existing data on each of the listed and otherwise rare species within the state, communicating with the many other agencies and organizations that deal in endangered species or habitat management, doing strategic and regular management plans, writing operational reports, and dealing with everyday office and organizational issues.

Field Activities

July 2002 – June 2004

As part of the nationwide annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count, Board staff surveyed 109 miles along the Mississippi River from Lock & Dam 13 to Lock & Dam 16. Over 900 bald eagles were counted on the route.

Along with the DNR Dive Team, Board staff assisted with a Higgins eye reintroduction into the mussel sanctuary at Lost Mound, which has one of the largest concentrations of Higgins eye in Illinois.

July 2004 – June 2006

Staff participated in the nationwide annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count, by surveying routes along the Mississippi River from Lock & Dam 13 to Lock & Dam 16.

Interactions with Other Agencies

July 2002 – June 2004

Board staff participated in evaluations and reviews of DNR Natural Areas Evaluation Committee and Wildlife Preservation Fund projects.

Staff attended Nature Preserves Commission meetings and provided updates of Board activities.

Board staff participated in the DNR Endangered Species Task Group, which works toward forming a more integrated approach to endangered and threatened species conservation in the Department and better ways to inform the public about endangered species issues.

Staff of the Board attended DNR Natural Heritage Division and Rare Plant Task Force meetings.

Staff of the Board attended a DNR Open House for Legislators and Governor's staff and the Earth Stewardship Day.

Board staff participated on a work team with the U.S. Forest Service to revise the Forest Plan for the Shawnee National Forest. Some of the changes recommended by Forest staff included dropping 80 listed plants and animals from their list of species of forest concern. Following these meetings, Forest staff agreed that the Plan needed to provide adequate protection for those species so they would not be affected by recreation or other uses of the forest.

Staff spent considerable time providing technical assistance in meetings with several groups regarding the impacts of development on natural areas and state-listed species at the Savanna Army Depot in Savanna, Illinois.

Staff participated in an Eastern prairie white-fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) Recovery Team meeting hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

July 2004 – June 2006

Board staff participated in meetings of the DNR Endangered Species Task Group, and in evaluations and reviews on the DNR Natural Areas Evaluation Committee and Wildlife Preservation Fund projects.

Staff participated in the review process for selection of a recipient for the DNR's Todd Fink Memorial Award.

Staff spent considerable time working with DNR staff to document endangered and threatened species at the Savanna Army Depot and reviewing two consultation issues involving the proposed development of a rail yard and the proposed conversion of sand prairie and savanna to an alfalfa field. The rail yard project involved the western hognose snake, regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*), false heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*), James' clammyweed (*Polanisia jamesii*), and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Board staff worked with the rail company to help secure a $7 million federal grant to conserve about 40 acres of land for the protection of these species. Upon consultation with Board and DNR staff, the plans for the alfalfa field project were replaced by plans to use the existing habitat for a prairie seed business. Additionally, Board staff participated in a Net Environmental Benefits Analysis with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of the Army to evaluate clean-up impacts on potential bald eagle populations at the Depot.

Staff assisted DNR Realty staff in evaluating properties in northwestern Illinois where endangered species occur.

Staff provided comments about endangered species impacts for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prescribed fire management plan for the Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Staff also reviewed and commented on additional aspects of the Refuge Plan.

Along with Board members, Board staff reviewed and commented on the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan for Illinois that was developed by the DNR.

Staff attended Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meetings and gave updates on Board activities. Staff also attended meetings of the Illinois Environmental Council.

Along with DNR staff, Board staff attended a multi-agency meeting on the management of Mead's milkweed (*Asclepia meadii*) at the Shawnee National Forest and made prescribed fire and other management recommendations for the populations in the Forest, which are the only known native populations left in Illinois. Staff also reviewed and commented on additional aspects of the Forest Plan.

Board staff attended a Natural Resource Damage Assessment training session held in Springfield and attended by representatives from the U.S. and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources.

Staff participated in a planning effort with The Nature Conservancy for its tallgrass and forest prairie ecoregions in northwestern Illinois. Mr. Nÿboer provided input about natural areas and 61 state and federally listed species that occur in the project area.

Staff participated on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Eastern prairie white-fringed orchid Recovery Team.

Staff initiated contact with the Cook County Forest Preserve District about recommendations to protect the Franklin's ground squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*)

and potentially other listed plant species that may be impacted by a ditching project overseen by the District.

In cooperation with the DNR, Board staff participated in meetings regarding the recovery and reintroduction of several species of glacial lake and stream fishes from northeastern Illinois. The Board heard an update on a previously approved request to transfer individuals of blackchin shiner (*Notropis heterodon*), pugnose shiner (*Notropis anogenus*), blacknose shiner (*Notropis heterolepis*), and Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*) into several ponds at the Prairie Crossing development site, which is nationally known for it's conservation plan. The transfer was very successful and the fish had reproduced possibly hundreds of thousands of individuals. Genetic studies of the pond-reared individuals indicated no genetic differences to individuals found naturally in glacial lakes and streams of the area. The long-term goal of the project was to re-establish these species in habitats they have occupied in the past. A newer related proposal was brought forth by the Brookfield Zoo and requested to move some of the fish from the Prairie Crossing site to ponds at the Zoo, which the Zoo intended to serve as sanctuaries for those species.

Board staff assisted with relocation projects for prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) near Rockford, Illinois and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) at the Savanna Army Depot. In both cases the populations were threatened by unavoidable activities: mining in the case of the *Lespedeza leptostachya* and remedial site cleanup in the case of the *Bouteloua gracilis*.

Staff reviewed and commented on natural resource plans for endangered species at the Rock Island Arsenal, in Rock Island, Illinois.

Invited Activities

July 2002 – June 2004

Staff participated in the formal dedication of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

July 2004 – June 2006

Staff were invited to assist in the planning for the Natural Areas Association Conference held in Chicago in October, 2004. The Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission were sponsors for the conference and also assisted in the planning.

Staff provided support at the DNR displays at the Illinois State Fair.

Staff attended the North American Prairie Conference in Madison, Wisconsin and made a presentation about endangered species and participated in a panel discussion for federal lands that are being converted to conservation lands.

Board staff attended the Woodland Management Workshop and gave a presentation on the effects of invasive species on endangered species in woodland habitats.

Public Interactions

July 2002 – June 2004

Along with Natural Heritage staff, Board staff participated in the 19th Bald Eagle Appreciation Days in Rock Island, Illinois, and the 20th Bald Eagle Days in Keokuk, Iowa.

Staff conducted interviews with media from Bloomington and Chicago regarding various species and the 2004 list review and revisions. Media interviews were also conducted at bald eagle events around the state.

Board staff held the required public hearing on the revision to the Illinois lists of endangered and threatened plants and animals.

July 2004 – June 2006
Along with Natural Heritage staff, Board staff participated in the Bald Eagle Appreciation Days in Rock Island, Illinois. The event included an education day where 1,800 area school children attended and total public attendance for the weekend event was over 20,000 people.

Staff gave presentations about endangered species to schools and groups of the public.

Other Staff Activities
July 2002 – June 2004
Board staff and Board members Dr. John Ebinger and Dr. James R. Herkert spent considerable time working with production and review of the new plant and animal books. The plant book was published during this biennia and the animal book was published in the succeeding biennia.

Following requirements established by the Governor's Office for Boards and Commissions, staff prepared an Ethics Resolution for the Endangered Species Protection Board.

Board staff compiled bald eagle nesting data, which hadn't been updated since 1999. The data compilation indicated that there were approximately 70 nesting pairs in Illinois in 2003 and 100 nesting pairs in 2004.

Board staff and Board members reviewed and commented on incidental take requests for the installation of a boat ramp at Sangchris Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area on the Sangamon/Christian County line involving the Kirtland's snake.

July 2004 – June 2006
Board staff and Board members Dr. John Ebinger and Dr. James R. Herkert spent considerable time working with production and review of the new plant and animal books. The plant book was published during the preceding biennia and the animal book was published during this biennia.

Staff attended the annual meeting of the Natural Areas Association in Lincoln, Nebraska, moderated a session, gave several presentations, and oversaw the auctions for the event.

Staff reviewed and commented on incidental take requests for road work on Illinois Route 3 in southern Illinois involving the marsh rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*); a bridge project in Champaign County involving the wavy-rayed lampmussel (*Lampsilis fasciola*) and purple wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*); a building project near Bridgeview in Cook County involving the Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandi*); a gravel pit near Harvard involving the Blanding's turtle; a dredging project near Cordova involving the butterfly mussel (*Ellipsaria lineolata*) and fish species of the Mississippi River; a bridge replacement over the Salt Fork of the Vermilion River in Vermilion County involving the purple wartyback; shoreline restoration at Powderhorn Lake in Cook County involving the banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous*); a residential development in Wonder Lake in McHenry County involving the Blanding's turtle; a residential subdivision in Bull Valley involving the sandhill crane; and, a development at Lakeside Point involving the Blanding's turtle.

Staff attended the 1st International Franklin's ground squirrel Symposium held at the Brookfield Zoo.

Board staff assisted with the Midwest Birding Symposium held in the Quad Cities in October, 2005.

APPENDIX

(520 ILCS 10/) Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act.

(520 ILCS 10/1) (from Ch. 8, par. 331)
Sec. 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act".
(Source: P. A. 77-2186.)

(520 ILCS 10/2) (from Ch. 8, par. 332)
Sec. 2. As used in this Act the following words have the following meanings:
"Board" means the Endangered Species Protection Board created by this Act.
"Conservation" means to use and the use of all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to this Act are no longer necessary. Such methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, all activities associated with scientific resources management such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition and maintenance, propagation and transplantation.
"Department" means the Department of Natural Resources and "Director" means the Director of that Department.
"Endangered Species" means any species of plant or animal classified as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, P.L. 93-205, and amendments thereto, plus such other species which the Board may list as in danger of extinction in the wild in Illinois due to one or more causes including but not limited to, the destruction, diminution or disturbance of habitat, overexploitation, predation, pollution, disease, or other natural or manmade factors affecting its prospects of survival.
"Threatened Species" means any species of plant or animal classified as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, P.L. 93-205, and amendments thereto, plus such other species which the Board may list as likely to become endangered in the wild in Illinois within the foreseeable future.
"Animal" means those organisms commonly included in the science of zoology and generally distinguished from plants by possession of a nervous system and the ability to move from place to place, including all invertebrates such as sponges and mollusks as well as vertebrates such as fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.
"Animal Product" means the fur, hide, skin, teeth, feathers, tusks, claws, eggs, nests or the body or any portion thereof whether in a green or raw state or as a product manufactured or refined from an animal protected under this Act or under rules issued pursuant to this Act.
"Plant" means any organism not considered to be an animal, and shall include such organisms as algae, fungi, bryophytes, and ferns, as well as flowering plants and conifers.
"Plant Product" means any plant body or part thereof removed from natural habitat, including seeds, fruits, roots, stems, flowers, leaves, or products made from any of these, including extracts or powders.
"Essential Habitat" means the specific ecological conditions required by an endangered or threatened species for its survival and propagation, or physical examples of these conditions.
"Take" means, in reference to animals and animal products, to harm, hunt, shoot, pursue, lure, wound, kill, destroy, harass, gig, spear, ensnare, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to engage in such conduct. "Take" means, in reference to plants and plant products, to collect, pick, cut, dig up, kill, destroy, bury, crush, or harm in any manner.
"Illinois List" means a list of species of animals and plants listed by the Board as endangered or threatened.
"Person" means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, trust, association, private entity, government agency, or their agents, and representatives.
(Source: P.A. 89-445, eff. 2-7-96.)

(520 ILCS 10/3) (from Ch. 8, par. 333)
Sec. 3. It is unlawful for any person:
(1) to possess, take, transport, sell, offer for sale, give or otherwise dispose of any animal or the product thereof of any animal species which occurs on the Illinois List;
(2) to deliver, receive, carry, transport or ship in interstate or foreign commerce plants listed as endangered by the federal government without a permit therefor issued by the Department as provided in Section 4 of this Act;
(3) to take plants on the Illinois List without the express written permission of the landowner; or
(4) to sell or offer for sale plants or plant products of endangered species on the Illinois List.
Source: P.A. 91-357, eff. 7-29-99.)

(520 ILCS 10/4) (from Ch. 8, par. 334)
Sec. 4. Upon receipt of proper application and approval of the same, the Department may issue to any qualified person a permit which allows the taking, possession, transport, purchase, or disposal of specimens or products of an endangered or threatened species of animal or federal endangered plant after the effective date of this Act for justified purposes, that will enhance the survival of the affected species by zoological, botanical or educational or for scientific purposes only. Rules for the issuance and maintenance of permits shall be promulgated by the Department after consultation with and written approval of the Board. The Department shall, upon notice and hearing, revoke the permit of any holder thereof upon finding that the person is not complying with the terms of the permit, the person is knowingly providing incorrect or inadequate information, the activity covered by the permit is placing the species in undue jeopardy, or for other cause.
(Source: P.A. 84-1065.)

(520 ILCS 10/5) (from Ch. 8, par. 335)
Sec. 5. (a) Upon receipt of proper application and approval of same, the Department may issue a limited permit authorizing the possession, purchase or disposition of animals or animal products of an endangered or threatened species, or federal endangered plants to any person which had in its possession prior to the effective date of this Act such an item or which obtained such an item legally out-of-state. Such permit shall specifically name and describe each pertinent item possessed by the permit holder and shall be valid only for possession, purchase or disposition of the items so named. The Department may require proof that acquisition of such items was made before the effective date of this Act. The Department may also issue a limited permit authorizing the possession, purchase or disposition of live animals or such item to any person to whom a holder of a valid permit issued pursuant to this section gives, sells, or otherwise transfers the item named in the permit. Limited permits issued pursuant to this section shall be valid only as long as the item remains in the possession of the person to whom the permit was issued.
(b) The limited permit shall be revoked by the Department if it finds that the holder has received it on the basis of false information, is not complying with its terms, or for other cause.
(Source: P.A. 84-1065.)

(520 ILCS 10/5.5)
Sec. 5.5. Incidental taking.
(a) The Department may authorize, under prescribed terms

and conditions, any taking otherwise prohibited by Section 3 if that taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. No taking under this Section shall be authorized by the Department unless the applicant submits to the Department a conservation plan.

(b) The conservation plan shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) a description of the impact that the proposed taking is likely to have on one or more species on the Illinois list;

(2) the steps the applicant or other parties will take to minimize and mitigate that impact and the funding that will be available to implement those steps, including but not limited to bonds, insurance, or escrow;

3) what alternative actions to the taking the applicant considered and the reasons why those alternatives will not be used;

(4) data and information to assure that the proposed taking will not reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the endangered species or threatened species in the wild within the State of Illinois, the biotic community of which the species is a part, or the habitat essential to the species' existence in Illinois;

(5) an implementing agreement that specifically names, and describes the obligations and responsibilities of, all the parties that will be involved in the taking as authorized by the permit; and

(6) any other measures that the Department may require as being necessary or appropriate for purposes of the plan.

(c) After reviewing the application for incidental taking and the conservation plan, the Department may authorize the incidental taking if the Department finds, in a written decision explaining its conclusions, that the taking will meet all of the following requirements:

(1) the taking will not be the purpose of, but will be only incidental to, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity;

(2) the parties to the conservation plan will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact caused by the taking;

3) the parties to the conservation plan will ensure that adequate funding for the conservation plan will be provided;

(4) based on the best available scientific data, the Department has determined that the taking will not reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the of the endangered species or threatened species in the wild within the State of Illinois, the biotic community of which the species is a part, or the habitat essential to the species' existence in Illinois;

(5) any measures required under paragraph (6) of subsection (b) of this Section will be performed; and

(6) the public has received notice of the application and has had the opportunity to comment before the Department made any decision regarding the application.

(d) The Department may require that a party to the conservation plan make additional assurances that the requirements under items (b)(1) through (b)(6) of this Section will be met before authorizing incidental taking.

(e) The Department shall impose on the authorization for incidental taking any terms or conditions that the Department finds necessary to ensure that the requirements under items (b)(1) through (b)(6) of this Section will be met. These terms or conditions may include but are not limited to reporting or monitoring requirements.

(f) If an applicant is party to a Habitat Conservation Plan approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, P.L. 93-205, and amendments thereto, the Department may authorize taking that is incidental to the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Authorization shall be issued only if the provisions of the Habitat Conservation Plan are found to meet the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this Section.

(g) If an applicant has been authorized to take an endangered or threatened species under the terms of a biological opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, P.L. 93-205, and amendments thereto or regulations implementing Section 7 (50 CFR Part 402), the Department may authorize taking that is incidental to the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Authorization shall be issued only if the Department finds that the taking will not reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the endangered species or threatened species in the wild within the State of Illinois, the biotic community of which the species is a part, or the habitat essential to the species' existence in Illinois.
(Source: P.A. 91-556, eff. 1-1-00.)

(520 ILCS 10/6) (from Ch. 8, par. 336)

Sec. 6. There is created the Endangered Species Protection Board whose duties include listing, delisting, or change of listing status of species for the Illinois List, in consultation with and written approval by the Department, in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, on rules for listing species of animals or plants as endangered or threatened and delisting species of animals or plants as endangered or threatened, or changing their status.

The Board shall also advise the Department on methods of assistance, protection, conservation and management of endangered and threatened species and their habitats, and on related matters.

The Board shall be composed of 9 persons appointed by the Governor, and the Director as a non-voting member. Of the 9 appointed members at least 6 shall be persons who are recognized as naturalists by training, avocation or vocation. At least two of these shall be zoologists, at least one a botanist, and at least two ecologists. In making Board appointments, the Governor shall give consideration to recommendations of conservation groups.

Initially, 3 members shall be appointed for terms of 3 years, 3 for 2 years and 3 for 1 year. Thereafter, the terms of all appointive members shall be 3 years. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the position of an appointive member shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired term.

Board meetings shall be called at regular intervals set by the Board, on the request of the Department, or upon written notice signed by at least 5 members of the Board, but in no event less than once quarterly. The place of the meeting shall be determined at the convenience of the Board and the Department. A quorum shall consist of 5 appointed members.

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The Board may without regard to the Personnel Code, employ and fix the compensation of necessary staff.

The Board shall select from its membership a chairman and such other officers as it considers necessary, and may name an Executive Committee to which it may grant specific powers.

The Board shall review and revise the Illinois List as warranted but in no case less frequently than every 5 years. It shall prepare and make available a report of its accomplishments biennially.
(Source: P.A. 84-1065.)

(520 ILCS 10/7) (from Ch. 8, par. 337)

Sec. 7. Any species or subspecies of animal or plant designated as endangered or threatened by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, P.L. 93-205, as amended, shall be automatically listed as an endangered or threatened species under this Act and thereby placed on the Illinois List by the Board without notice or public hearing. The Board may list, as endangered or threatened, species of animals or plants which have reproduced in or otherwise significantly used, as in migration or overwintering, the area which is now the State of Illinois, if there is scientific evidence that the species

qualify as endangered or threatened as these terms are defined in this Act. The Board may delist any non-federally-listed species for which it finds satisfactory scientific evidence that its wild or natural populations are no longer endangered or threatened. Listing, delisting or change of listing status shall be made only after a public hearing.

Notice of such hearing shall be published at least 7 days before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the state and shall be mailed to any person who has, in writing requested such notice from the agency holding the hearing. All persons heard or represented at a hearing and all persons who requested from the responsible agency notice of such hearing, shall be given a written summary of any action taken by the Board or Department relative to the hearing subject.

Upon listing or delisting or change of listing status by the Board, the Director shall file a certified copy of the names of the species so listed, delisted or changed with the Secretary of State as provided in "The Illinois Administrative Procedure Act", approved September 22, 1975, as amended.
(Source: P.A. 84-1065.)

(520 ILCS 10/8) (from Ch. 8, par. 338)

Sec. 8. Any officer or agent authorized by the Department or any police officer of the State or of any unit of local government within the State of Illinois, may execute any warrant to search for and seize any goods, merchandise or animals, plants, or animal or plant products sold or offered for sale in violation of this Act, or any property or item used in connection with a violation of this Act, or to examine premises for determination of actions in violation of this Act. Seized goods, merchandise, animals, plants or their products shall be held pending proceedings in the circuit court. Upon conviction, such seized goods, merchandise or animals, plants, or their products shall be forfeited and, upon forfeiture, either offered to a recognized institution for scientific or educational purposes, or if a suitable depository is not located for such items, they shall be destroyed.
(Source: P.A. 84-1065.)

(520 ILCS 10/9) (from Ch. 8, par. 339)

Sec. 9. Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
(Source: P. A. 77-2830.)

(520 ILCS 10/10) (from Ch. 8, par. 340)

Sec. 10. The Endangered and Threatened Species Program shall be located within the Department of Conservation. All fines collected under this Act shall be paid to the State Treasurer and deposited in the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund.
(Source: P.A. 84-1065.)

(520 ILCS 10/11) (from Ch. 8, par. 341)

Sec. 11. Conservation program; public policy; rules.

(a) The Department, with the advice of the Board, shall actively plan and implement a program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species, by means which should include published data search, research, management, cooperative agreements with other agencies, identification, protection and acquisition of essential habitat, support of beneficial legislation, issuance of grants from appropriated funds, and education of the public.

(b) It is the public policy of all agencies of State and local governments to utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by evaluating through a consultation process with the Department whether actions authorized, funded, or carried out by them are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Illinois listed endangered and threatened species or are likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of the designated essential habitat of such species, which policy shall be enforceable only by writ of mandamus; and where a State or local agency does so consult in furtherance of this public policy, such State or local agency shall be deemed to have complied with its obligations under the "Illinois Endangered Species Act", provided the agency action shall not result in the killing or injuring of any Illinois listed animal species, or provided that authorization for taking a listed species has been issued under Section 4, 5, or 5.5 of this Act. This paragraph (b) shall not apply to any project of a State agency on which a biological opinion has been issued (in accordance with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act) prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1985 stating that the action proposed by said project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any federal listed endangered or threatened species.

(c) The Department shall have the authority to adopt such rules as are reasonable and necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.
(Source: P.A. 91-556, eff. 1-1-00.)

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion, or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/782-1274.

Information is available to the hearing impaired by calling the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Telecommunications Device for the Deaf [TDD] at 217/782-9175.