ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 145th MEETING

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON, IL

19 FEBRUARY 2010
(Approval at the 146th meeting, May 14, 2010)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Dan Gooch, Dr. Mike Retzer, Ms. Susanne Masi, Dr. John Taft, Mr. John Clemetsen, Mr. Glen Kruse, and Mr. John Rogner.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Marilyn Campbell

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Bob Themer (The Daily Journal, Kankakee); Dr. Jeffery Walk (The Nature Conservancy); Mr. Don McFall and Mr. Joe Kath (Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Office of Resource Conservation); Mr. Randy Heidorn (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission); Ms. Tracy Evans (Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Office of Realty and Environmental Planning); and, Ms. Anne Mankowski (Endangered Species Protection Board).

145-1 Call to Order, Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Chairman Gooch called the 145th meeting of the ESPB to order at 10:04 A.M. and called the roll call of Board Members. He then noted that there was a quorum and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

145-2 Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Gooch asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None were noted and Mr. Clemetsen moved to approve the agenda, Dr. Taft seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

145-3 Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chairman Gooch asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes of the 144th meeting. Ms. Mankowski noted changes to wording in the status review criteria for the golden mouse, marsh rice rat, and eastern woodrat – replacing reference to the ESTAC reviewing the status of the species with reference to the Board reviewing the status of the species. Ms. Masi moved to approve the amended minutes as final, Dr. Retzer seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

145-4 ESPB Staff Report

Ms. Mankowski, Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, gave her report (Attachment A).

145-5 IDNR Staff Report

Mr. Don McFall, Chief of the Division of Natural Heritage, gave his report (Attachment B).

145-6 INPC Staff Report

Mr. Heidorn, Assistant Director of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, gave his report, (Attachment C).

145-7 ESPB Budget

Ms. Mankowski reported that the Board has been without a budget since 2002. The current IDNR-funded contract with the Illinois Natural History Survey that only covers the personnel services expenses to employ the Board's Director has been renewed for FY10. The IDNR also initiated a second contract for Ms. Mankowski's position that allows her to be compensated for some work in excess of the 100% time service covered on her primary contract (in the first year of her contract, Ms. Mankowski worked 386 uncompensated hours, or 19%, beyond the required 40 hours/week). At its 143rd meeting, the Board approved a FY11 Budget request that was subsequently sent to DNR Director Marc Miller. That request was for $329,800 to reinstate the full staffing and performance of the Board by funding three staff (including operating expenses), reestablishing the Board's research program that currently relies solely on an annual allocation of $25,000 from the Wildlife Preservation Fund, and reimbursing member expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. In December of 2009, IDNR ORC Director Dr. Herkert instructed Ms. Mankowski to submit a revised budget request that only addressed personnel services and expenses for an Executive Director and reimbursement of Board member expenses. The revised budget request of $118,900 was submitted to IDNR and was subsequently included in the IDNR budget request submitted to the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

145-8 ESBP Member Appointments

Ms. Mankowski updated the Board on the status of member appointments. Appointments to all state Boards and Commissions are administered via the Appointments.Illinois.gov website. Mr. Glen Kruse was appointed to the Board on December 23, 2009. Mr. Kruse's appointment replaced Dr. Chris Phillips. Dr. James Herkert resigned from the Board in November, 2009 to avoid any potential conflict with his appointment as the Director of IDNR's Office of Resource Conservation, which began in December, 2009. The IDNR Director is a non-voting Board member, and Marc Miller recently appointed IDNR Assistant Director John Rogner as his designee on the Board. Ms. Mankowski reviewed that Ms. Masi, Chairman Gooch, Vice-chair Campbell, and Dr. Retzer had all received follow-up paperwork from the Governor's office for their reappointments and that Dr. Joyce Hofmann had received the same for her appointment.

Ms. Mankowski explained that the Board needed to make recommendation for a new member to fill the vacancy created by Dr. Herkert's resignation, noted that Board had named a nominating committee for that purpose at its 144th meeting, and asked if there was a recommendation from that committee. Mr. Clemetsen and Dr. Retzer explained that the committee had agreed upon Dr. Jeffery Walk, the Director of Science at the Nature Conservancy. Chairman Gooch asked for a motion and Mr. Clemetsen moved to approve the recommendation of Dr. Walk, Dr. Taft seconded, and it was approved unanimously. Ms. Mankowski then reviewed the process by which the Board forwards its recommendations; Ms. Mankowski will forward the Board's recommendation to DNR Director Miller and ask for his support and for conveyance of such to the Governor's Office. All appointments to all state Boards and Commissions are administered

via the Appointments.Illinois.gov website and the Board's process for recommending individuals is in addition to the web-based process.

145-9 ESPB Executive Committee

Chairman Gooch reviewed that the Board needed to consider appointing a new Secretary to replace the position vacated by Dr. Phillips' resignation from the Board. The Secretary is supposed to be record keeper, but when the Board has staff that responsibility falls to staff; other duties include serving as hearing officer at public hearings, and voting with other Executive Committee members on any emergency matters off-cycle from meetings. Chairman Gooch asked if there were any volunteers and Mr. Clemetsen replied that he would be willing to serve in that capacity. Dr. Taft moved to approve Mr. Clemetsen as the Secretary, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

145-10 ESPB Research Program – (FY08 and FY09 projects, FY10 cycle – status review)

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that the purpose of the Board's research program is to answer questions regarding the listing, recovery, and conservation, as it relates to those aspects, of Illinois' endangered and threatened species. She explained that she engaged in fair amount of correspondence related to follow-up from the FY10 RFP, follow-up on FY08 and FY09 contracts, and general inquiries about the Board's research program and then reviewed the status of existing research projects (Attachment D). She then explained that, due to concerns about budget shortfalls, the IDNR was not able to release the FY10 allocation to the Board, so the Board will not be contracting any of FY10 projects it had recommended for funding at its 144th meeting, held November 13, 2009.

145-9 Species Updates

Items 1-13 reported by Board staff, Ms. Mankowski

1. The Plant ESTAC is still working to verify information about voucher specimens for ***Penstemon brevisepalus*** **(short-sepaled beard tongue)** in order to possibly make a delisting recommendation to the Board. The ESTAC was not able to verify information about voucher specimens in time for the February meeting. Listing recommendation discussion will be deferred until the May meeting.

2. The **Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*)** recovery team continues work on a draft recovery plan for the species. Ms. Mankowski has been working with the team to provide advice about the ORC Recovery Planning Process and information necessary for the Board to review proposed status review triggers. The draft will be circulated for review as per the ORC Recovery Planning Process and Dr. Dreslik may also plan to make presentation of the draft document and the team's proposed status review triggers to the Board at that time.

Regarding issues for this species that were left unresolved from the 143rd meeting, Ms. Mankowski received correspondence from the Ms. Elizabeth Pitrolo, US Army Corps of Engineers in response to ESPB letter (dated October 13, 2009) supporting Dr. Dreslik's proposed Saddle Dam III project specifications at Carlyle Lake**.** Ms. Pitrolo's letter sought to emphasize

the USACE's record of, and intent to continue, coordinating and cooperating with the IDNR and other partners for the conservation of the Eastern Massasauga. Based on a meeting with IDNR held October 19, 2009, IDNR OREP confirmed that they would advise the City of Carlyle that they will need to consider the EMR and other E&T species in their current bike path planning grant and, IDNR will review its grants programs to ensure that grants are subjected to the IDNR Comprehensive Environmental Review Process (CERP), as appropriate. Unresolved issues from that meeting include IDNR requesting confirmation from USACE about the final decision for project treatment of Saddle Dam III; IDNR sending a letter to the USACE acknowledging that the IDNR appreciates the successes that have been achieved via the "Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus c. catenatus*) Management Plan, Carlyle Lake, Illinois. 2001" and would like to formalize the relationship between the IDNR/USACE/USFWS in the form of a Cooperative Agreement (that will either directly, or by reference, stipulate responsibilities and management actions) and request a meeting. The notice of availability of the draft "Illinois Recovery Plan for EMR" has been postponed, because the document has not been completed.

3. The Board and IDNR continue working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the development of the USFWS-led research project Reestablishing a Viable Population of **Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrepene ornata*)** on the Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge – Ed Britton and Jeramie Strickland (USFWS). Shortly after the 144th meeting (November 13, 2009) and at the request of Mr. Britton (USFWS), Ms. Mankowski, with assistance from ESTAC members, developed and provided recommendations for the IDNR to consider in issuing an endangered species permit to Mr. Britton for 2010. Joe Kath (IDNR) advised Ms. Mankowski that he would adopt all recommendations forwarded by the Board and IDNR. Those recommendations were:

1) Radio-telemetry work at Thomson can continue with permit. Annual activities should be reported as required by DNR endangered species permit.
2) Mark and recapture at Thomson can continue with permit. Annual activities should be reported as required by DNR endangered species permit.
3) The two already translocated adults can be left at Lost Mound. They should continue to be tracked, with permit, and reports of activities should be submitted in the annual report required by DNR Endangered Species permit.
4) The four hatchlings currently at Niabi Zoo can continue to be reared there, with permits. They can be experimentally released at Lost Mound and tracked (continually) for a period of two years, after which time they should be returned to Thomson Prairie, again all with permit. Reports of activities should be submitted in the annual report required by DNR Endangered Species permit.
5) Specification should be made in the permit that approved "Rescuing" of turtles on roads requires that animals are moved to suitable habitat, preferably immediately adjacent to the location of encounter, but no more than one kilometer away from the location where they are encountered. Reports of activities should be submitted in the annual report required by DNR endangered species permit.

Additionally, Mr. Britton was provided a summary from Dr. Phillips' of the recommendation he made during discussion at the 144th meeting regarding assessment of population viability as part of the project. Those recommendations follow:

> "This is a summary of my comments that were delivered orally at the 144th Meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. They were summarized by Chris Phillips from a transcription of the meeting tape recording provided by Anne Mankowski.
>
> The overriding principle in any translocation is: First, do no harm. In keeping with this, the following questions/comments are pertinent.
>
> 1) Enough demographic data are available for *T. ornata* populations in NW Illinois and NE Iowa to allow one to model the probability of viability of the translocated population at Lost Mound for 10, 20, 30, 50, and 100 years into the future under various scenarios of release numbers and sex ratios. i.e., how do you know how many turtles, in what sex ratios*, over how many years, you will need to release at Lost Mound for the translocation to result in a viable population?
>
> * Even though you won't be able to determine sex of headstarted turtles using external morphology, you can estimate sex ratio by manipulating incubation temperatures.
>
> 2) The same demographic data should be used to model the impact of various levels of harvest of *T. ornata* at the proposed donor sites. i.e., How will various levels of harvest at the donor sites affect the viability of the turtle populations at those sites? More importantly, it is assumed that the donor populations are viable. These donor sites may not be viable even in the absence of harvest. This is the first thing that needs to be modeled.
>
> 3) The habitat at Lost Mound should be compared *quantitatively* to the donor sites to make sure there is enough suitable habitat at Lost Mound to support the number of turtles you need to achieve long-term viability (which will be determined from the modeling in #2). i.e. how do you know Lost Mound has *any* suitable *T. ornata* habitat? If quantitative plant data at Lost Mound are available, compare them to the habitat data at the donor populations by collecting similar plant diversity data (assuming the donor sites are viable).
>
> Once you have demonstrated you have donor populations that can sustain the amount of harvest you need to achieve a viable population at Lost Mound, and you have demonstrated there is enough suitable habitat at Lost Mound to sustain that number of turtles, you can move forward with the translocation.
>
> The last thing I would recommend is to estimate predation rates at the

potential donor sites because one of the assumptions of this project is that predation rates at the donor sites are so high that simply putting half of the hatchlings back at the donor site will improve survivorship."

4. The Bird ESTAC was not able to convene to review the **peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)** 2009 breeding season data and re-run the population viability assessment model in order to prepare any recommendations regarding listing status for the Board to consider. Ms. Mankowski will try to convene the ESTAC to conduct the review prior to the May 14, 2010 Board meeting.

5. Ms. Mankowski accepted request to attend and moderate a discussion group at the February 4, 2010 IDNR and Chicago Wilderness' Wildlife Task Force one-day workshop on the state of knowledge and management of the **Blanding's Turtle *(Emydoidea blandingii)*** in northeast Illinois. The goals of the meeting were to assess the current status of local Blanding's Turtle populations and determine the ongoing habitat and species management activities, needs, and agency/organizational capacity, especially in the Chicago Wilderness Region. Outcomes of this meeting will assist the IDNR with the formation of a Blanding's Turtle working group and preparation of a Statewide Recovery Plan for this species, which could also include the formation of a Blanding's Turtle partnership in "Chicago Wilderness."

6. Ms. Mankowski attended an IDNR meeting led by Joe Kath to review USFWS recommended White Nose Syndrome management guidelines and discuss consideration of closing IDNR owned/managed caves. The possibility of cave closures is still under review by IDNR. Ms. Mankowski coordinated with 9 other states (IA, IN, KY, MI, MO, MN, OH, WI, WV) to discuss listing status considerations for currently unlisted bat species due to potential threat from the advance of White Nose Syndrome. While two states are undecided at this time, most (7 of 9) are not considering listing at this time for reasons including that the state does not have endangered species legislation (2), the state does not allow listing out of "fear" or "anticipation" of decline and WNS has not been documented in the state or shown to be reducing bat numbers in the state (5). Although not cited as a reason for not listing, some states noted that because they deal with so many nuisance bat incidents (in dwellings), they are sensitive that listing may cause significant regulatory and enforcement issues; for example, Illinois licensed nuisance wildlife control permittees handled nearly 7,000 bats in 2008. All states are instituting conservation measures including, consideration of the *December 2009 USFWS WNS Structured Decision Making Initiative and WNS Management Implementation Guidelines*, developing agency WNS guidance documents, possibly closing state-owned or managed caves, and conducting outreach to include general education, asking other cave owners to close their caves, promoting decontamination recommendations, and/or asking cave users to cease activities. Several species of bats found in Illinois are cave users and have been affected by WNS in the US (see below).

Illinois Bats re: White Nose Syndrome

Scientific,	Common	Status	Hibernator/ Cave User	IL Winter Cave Use	WNS impacts in US to date?
1Myotis austroriparius	southeastern bat	SE	Yes	Yes	Yes
2Myotis grisescens	gray bat	SE, FE	Yes	Yes	?
3Myotis lucifugus	little brown bat		Yes	Yes	Yes
4Myotis spetentrionalis	northern bat		Yes	Yes	Yes
5Myotis sodalis	Indiana bat	SE, FE	Yes	Yes	Yes

6Lasiurus borealis	eastern red bat		No	No	no info
7Lasiurus cinereus	hoary bat		No	No	no info
8Lasionycteris noctivagans	silver-haired bat		Yes	Yes	no info
9Pipistrellus subflavus	eastern pipistrelle		Yes	Yes	Yes
10Eptesicus fuscus	big brown bat		Yes	Yes	Yes
11Nycticeius humeralis	evening bat		No	No	no info
12Corynorhinus rafinesquii	Rafinesque's big-eared bat	SE	Yes	Yes	?

7. Joe Kath, IDNR, was co-author, and distributed copy, of a recent publication in the Journal of Wildlife Management (74(1):166–173; 2010; DOI: 10.2193/2008-306) entitled, *Digital Photography Improves Consistency and Accuracy of Bat Counts in Hibernacula* that included consideration of the **Indiana bat**. An abstract for the paper follows: The size and distribution of measurement errors associated with major techniques for estimating numbers of hibernating bats are unstudied, although this is the principle method of enumerating several endangered bat species. However, decisions concerning the listing status of a species under the Endangered Species Act require consistent and accurate estimation of population size and trends. Recent advances in digital photography have improved the ability to produce a quantitative record of the numbers of bats in hibernacula. We surveyed clusters of Indiana bats in a hibernaculum and compared results from counts of digital photographs of clusters to results from 4 variations of visual estimation. We counted bats in photographs using Geographic Information System digitization over the photograph. Total counts from 2 sets of photographs varied by, 1.5%. Nonphotographic estimation techniques varied from 76% to 142% of counts from photographs for clusters for which estimation (rather than counting) was used. Where feasible, photography can improve status and trend information for species of concern, permitting more timely and specific management actions.

8. Dr. Jeff Walk and Bill Kleiman at the Nature Conservancy and Vern LaGesse of Friends of the Sangamon Valley are developing recovery documents for projects involving the **Franklin's Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*)** and **Eryngium Stem Borer (*Papaipema eryngii*).** Ms. Mankowski is assisting them in those efforts and has also been coordinating with the IDNR about complaints from Mr. LaGesse about possible take of Franklin's Ground Squirrels in Springfield, Illinois. Mr. LaGesse and his colleagues are proposing a possible translocation project to move animals from properties where development is taking place to protected habitats.

9. Board staff, with assistance from ESTACs, reviewed and provided comment on 3 incidental take authorization conservation plans during the last quarter: ITA Conservation Plan for Social Security Administration Building, Sangamon County (**Franklin's ground squirrel**); ITA Conservation Plan for IL 174 over Nippersink Creek, McHenry County (**Slippershell**); ITA Conservation Plan for Scott County Rural Water District Water Main Extensions, Scott County (**Illinois Chorus Frog**).

10. Ms. Mankowski provided review and comment, relative to the Board's policy on the translocation of endangered and threatened animal species, of a proposal by Trent Thomas, IDNR, for the translocation of **redspotted sunfish *(Lepomis miniatus)***. Ms. Mankowski requested from Mr. Thomas expanded explanation and presentation of evidence to support the proposal. Upon re-submittal, Ms. Mankowski may ask the Fish ESTAC to also review and comment.

11. The USFWS recently held an annual **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid** meeting to review 2009 field season data, protection status of sites, genetic issues, and fungal associations at extant populations and proposed introduction sites. Ms. Mankowski has been added to their mailing list.

12. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will reopen on January 14, 2010, the public comment period for the proposal to treat the **shovelnose sturgeon** as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (Act) due to its similarity of appearance to the endangered **pallid sturgeon**. The Service is also reopening the comment period regarding the proposed special rule that will prohibit the harvest of any shovelnose sturgeon or shovelnose–pallid sturgeon hybrids, and their roe associated with or related to a commercial fishing activity.

The Service is proposing to treat the shovelnose sturgeon as a threatened species under the "Similarity of Appearances" (SOA) provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The shovelnose sturgeon and the endangered pallid sturgeon are difficult to differentiate and inhabit overlapping portions of the Missouri and Mississippi River basins. Protection of the shovelnose sturgeon will help conserve and protect the endangered pallid sturgeon.

The proposed special rule would apply only to activities that relate to the harvest of shovelnose sturgeon and shovelnose-pallid sturgeon hybrids for commercial fishing purposes and is not expected to impact commercial fishing targeting non-sturgeon species, recreational or other non-commercial fishing activities. The special rule would not prohibit the legal commercial harvest of shovelnose sturgeon outside the range where the shovelnose and pallid sturgeons commonly overlap.

13. A news release in December 2009 described that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was offering a minimum reward of $2,500 for information leading to the conviction of the person who shot a **whooping crane** in Indiana. Shot sometime in late November in Vermillion County, the rare bird was found by an International Crane Foundation staff member Dec. 1. A leg band identified it as the mother of "Wild-1," the only whooping crane chick successfully hatched in 2006 and migrated from captivity. Officials said the crane and its mate were among 19 whooping cranes migrating from their summer grounds in Wisconsin to their wintering grounds in Florida. They were not part of the flock Operation Migration is leading to Florida with ultralight planes that passed through The Pantagraph area recently. Only about 500 whooping cranes are left in the world.

The USFWS announced in 2008 two changes it planned to implement over years that affect Illinois. First, they plan to develop a monitoring strategy that includes stronger links to Illinois partners, and second, starting in the fall of 2008 the ultralight-led annual migration of juvenile whooping cranes changed routes to now follow a route directly south through the entire center of Illinois, rather than cut off the NE corner of Illinois, en route to Indiana. They anticipate this will result in many more whooping cranes using habitat in Illinois, at least during the spring and fall migrations each year.

The Eastern Migratory Population of whooping cranes is currently fewer than 100 birds, with 20-30 birds added to the population each year. As this population grows and our monitoring/partner network expands, they hope to learn more about land use in each state. In order to protect the cranes "wildness" and prevent habituation to humans, they ask that information more specific than county level not be released to the public.

Mr. Kath, IDNR Natural Heritage, reported on items #14 – 19 (text presented as submitted)

14. **Alligator Snapping Turtle**: Helicopter telemetry performed in early February along Clear Creek in Union and Alexander Counties. Of the 30 animals released, we know of at 6-7 that have been predated upon by river otters. This flight confirmed 14 "on-air" signals and the animals remained primarily along the Clear Creek corridor bordering Union County Conservation Area. The ultimate goal as established by the AST Recovery Team is to return in April of May and retrieve at least six (6) live animals. A helicopter flight will be performed immediately before on the ground work ensues to help accurately pin-point locations of animals. Retrieval of six (6) live animals will allow the recovery project to move forward and begin the limited release of animals at strategic sites in southern Illinois. A late summer/early fall 2010 trip to Louisiana is planned in order to trap more live animals as part of our internal breeding program – in cooperation with the St. Louis Zoo and the Glen Oak Zoo in Peoria, Illinois.

15. **Bats and White-Nose Syndrome(WNS):** WNS was recently detected and confirmed in far eastern Tennessee in 2010, as it continues to move westward across the United States. IDNR performed surveys of select hibernacula in early January, 2010 in conjunction with the US Forest Service – Shawnee Staff. WNS was not visibly detected during this survey. A total of 150 fungal tape samples were collected from a random set of animals and will be analyzed by both the University of Illinois and Western Illinois University for WNS. Populations of hibernating Indiana and Southeastern bats appeared unchanged from previous years. WNS has a mortality rate of 95% or greater and there are no known cures. IDNR currently is working with all states within Region 3 of the USFWS to put together a region wide plan to address WNS once it reaches Illinois. Unfortunately, the scientific community continues to tell us that it is not a matter of "if" it will arrive – but "when". We anticipate we have no more than 2 more years before it manifests itself in Illinois. On a side note, the IDNR Division of Natural Heritage will help host the 2nd Annual Midwestern Bat Working Group meeting to be held in early May at Indiana State University's Center for North American Bat Research and Conservation.

16. **Eastern massasauga rattlesnake**: Save the date of 10 March 2010 (10AM-2PM) to be at Lincoln Park Zoo, where the USFWS/IDNR/LPZ oo will hold the annual training/refresher for eastern massasauga rattlesnake surveys in NE Illinois. The workshop will summarize results of surveys in the past four years, demonstrate and discuss established survey protocols (including navigating data forms, and how to safely capture and handle live EMR's). Lincoln Park Zoo will have a live snake available for the demonstrations. We will also update attendees on the efforts to salvage massasaugas at NE Illinois for a captive breeding program. Please share with any staff or co-workers who might be willing to participate in surveys this spring (primarily April-May).

Past survey or workshop participants do not need to attend, but may do so if they wish to have a "refresher." We will also attempt to begin assembling crews to be available on "standby" if weather conditions are conducive to field surveys, so if you plan on attending please bring your calendars. Those who cannot attend, but wish to assist surveys should provide dates in April and May when they would be available. The workshop will be held in the auditorium in the Judy Keller Education Building (located under the carousel just to the left of the main entrance to the Zoo, off of the Cannon Drive Parking lot). There will be a short lunch break for brown-bag, or to make the short walk to the zoo's food court. Please RSVP to me and Diane Mulkerin (DMulkerin@lpzoo.org) no later than close of business, Monday March 1, 2009.

17. **Blanding's Turtle:** The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Chicago Wilderness' Wildlife Task Force held a one day workshop on the state of our knowledge and management of the Blanding's Turtle in northeast Illinois. The goals of the meeting were to assess the current status of local Blanding's Turtle populations and determine the ongoing habitat and species management activities, needs, and agency/organizational capacity, especially in the Chicago Wilderness Region. Outcomes of this meeting will hopefully assist the Illinois Department of Natural Resources with the formation of a Blanding's Turtle working group and preparation of a Statewide Recovery Plan for this species, which could also include the formation of a Blanding's Turtle partnership in "Chicago Wilderness." The Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo hosted the workshop on February 4, 2010.
The following items were discussed:
ITEM 1 - Status of existing habitat and Blanding's Turtle populations
ITEM 2 – Populations monitoring/research
ITEM 3 – Threats to turtle populations
ITEM 4 – Action plans
ITEM 5 – Head starting young turtles

18. **Clubshell & N.Riffleshell Reintro/Augment in Illinois**: This is a joint USFWS Section 6 project with the State of Ohio. Current updates are provided below:

A. Ohio update: Initially received ~50 adults for captive propagation from the Allegheny River. Infested fish and glochidia released into Big Darby Creek at Battelle Darby Creek Metropark in June 2006.
-2007: Adult n. riffleshell pilot project – adults used in propagation were put PIT tagged and put into metropark. All but 2 were found alive in 2008
-2008: ~1,800 adults were translocated from the Allegheny River to the metropark. All were PIT tagged and released at 9 sites (now only 8 as 2 sites have merged). An unexpected large rain event occurred the same day following the release.
-2009 monitoring: Tag reader recovered between 80% and 34% at the 8 sites (ave. 49% among sites). Found only one dead riffleshell (in a midden). Some riffleshell probably were blown out of their release sites due to the large rain even following release.
-2010 – monitoring will continue. In subsequent years, quantitative work will be conducted to determine if successful reintroduction has occurred.

B. Illinois update : Preliminary evaluations are complete. Ready to receive animals in 2010. Illinois will conduct pilot translocation of 50 adults per site in the Vermilion River. The number of sites for pilot project to be determined, possibly 3 sites. If pilot is successful, additional translocations with larger number of adults in 2011. The USFWS Ohio Office will work directly with IL and PA folks to work out logistics of mussel collection from PA and transfer to IL.

19. **Incidental Take Update**: As of this meeting, there are five (5) active ITA's with at least six to eight (6-8) (primarily IDOT related) expected this quarter of 2010. Please contact Joe Kath with any questions you may have regarding specific projects. Thank you.

145-12 ESPB Approval of Status Review and Recovery Outlines for Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Osprey, Henslow's Sparrow

These status review outlines were reviewed by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board at its 137th meeting held February 22, 2008, but there is no record in the minutes for that meeting that action was taken for approval. In the interest of housekeeping, Ms. Mankowski proposed that the Board formally approve the outlines, noting that reference to the ESTAC reviewing the status of the species had been replaced with reference to the Board reviewing the status of the species (Attachment E). Mr. Clemetsen moved to approve the outlines as presented, Mr. Kruse seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

145-13 Next Meeting Information

The 146th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board will be at 10:00 A.M. on May 14, 2010 at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie visitor's center.

145-14 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

There were no comments.

145-15 Other Business

Chairman Gooch read a resolution commending the service of Dr. Jim Herkert as a Board member and asked for a motion to approve. Dr. Taft so-moved, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Chairman Gooch read a resolution commending the service of Dr. Chris Phillips as a Board member and asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Clemetsen so moved, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Copies of the resolutions are appended in Attachment F.

145-15 Adjournment

Chairman Gooch asked if there was any other business, and noting none, called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kruse moved to adjourn, Mr. Clemetsen seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M.

Attachment A

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board staff report
for the 145th Meeting, February 19, 2010
Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board currently only has one staff, its Director. All activities were conducted by Ms. Mankowski, unless otherwise noted. Because the Board has reduced staff and had been without any fulltime staff from 2002-2007 and then without any staff from 2007-2008, Ms. Mankowski has not been able to complete all required work in the course of a 40-hour work week. Since the last staff report, Ms Mankowski has donated the following "volunteer hours" toward ESPB duties: November = 35.75; December = 51.25; January = 55.50.

1. ESBP Member Appointments
Ms. Mankowski continued with follow-up at IDNR about ESPB appointments and reappointments. Appointments to all state Boards and Commissions are administered via the Appointments.Illinois.gov website.

2. ESPB Budget
Based on Board action at the 143rd meeting, Ms. Mankowski developed an ESPB FY11 budget proposal to submit to the IDNR. She also assisted Don McFall in developing contract materials for the secondary contract with the INHS (to allow service in excess of 100% time) covering her duties on the Board. In December of 2009, IDNR ORC Director Dr. Herkert instructed Ms. Mankowski to submit a revised budget request that only addressed personnel services and expenses for an Executive Director and reimbursement of Board member expenses. Ms. Mankowski provided that budget request and confirmed with IDNR fiscal that it was subsequently included in the IDNR budget request submitted to the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

3. ESPB Research Program
Due to concerns about budget shortfalls, the IDNR was not able to release the FY10 allocation to the Board, so the Board will not be contracting any FY10 projects. Ms. Mankowski engaged in a fair amount of correspondence related to follow-up from the FY10 RFP, follow-up on FY08 and FY09 contracts, and general inquiries about the Board's research program.

4. IDNR ORC Endangered and Threatened Species Task Force
ORC Director Dr. Herkert has reinstituted this task force, after a five year hiatus, naming Don McFall (Natural Heritage) and Anne Mankowski (ESPB) as co-chairs. Dr. Herkert suggested initial tasks that include: reviewing and revising as necessary, guidance for recovery planning; developing an E&T animal translocation policy for the IDNR; and, identifying additional issues; and developing recommendations on Office level coordination of E&T issues.

5. Illinois DNR Natural Areas Evaluation Committee
Ms. Mankowski represented the ESPB at the 54th NAEC meeting held January 5, 2010. The agenda included addition of one Category 1 high-quality mesic floodplain forest, discussion for consideration of proposed Woodland Standards, new and improved nomination and evaluation forms, and discussion of how class III groundwater delineations are captured in IDNR Impact Analysis Section reviews.

6. Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team
Ms. Mankowski represented ESPB at the 10th IFWAT meeting held February 10, 2009. The agenda included a status report from the sub-committee for the T-55 Conservation Opportunity Area Project and discussion to establish a Conservation Success Stories sub-committee, and updates of SWG project funding for FY '09 & '10, the IL River Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP), and Green Cities Campaign Implementation Work.

7. ESPB Policy Manual and Strategic Plan
Ms. Mankowski prepared draft revisions of the ESPB Policy Manual and Strategic Plan documents.

8. Other ESPB Publications
Ms. Mankowski began drafting two documents: *Illinois Endangered and Threatened Species: Status and Distribution 2009 Changes* and *Thirty Years of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species*.

9. ESPB Staff Coordination with IDNR and INPC
Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP,Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:
- Provided comments to the IDNR on 3 Incidental Take Authorization Conservation Plans.
- Provided follow-up to IDNR and USFWS regarding ESPB recommendations for IDNR E&T possession permit provisions for ornate box turtle work planned for locations in northwestern Illinois.
- Provided comments to IDNR about a status review of a conservation agreement between the USFWS and the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky, entitled *Copperbelly Water Snake (Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta) Conservation Agreement and Strategy, November 1996*.
- Provided guidance to IDNR Streams staff for developing a translocation proposal red-spotted sunfish.
- Coordinated with IDNR about complaints from Mr. Vern LaGesse to ESPB and IDNR about potential take of Franklin's Ground Squirrels in Springfield, Illinois. Investigation is ongoing.
- Working with IDNR in the development of recovery documents for the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba* – IL endangered) as part of a SWG project.
- Working with INPC and IDNR staff in the development of recovery documents for the Orange Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris* – IL endangered).
- Attended an IDNR meeting led by Joe Kath to review USFWS recommended White Nose Syndrome management guidelines and discuss consideration of closing IDNR owned/managed caves. The possibility of cave closures is still under consideration.
- Participated in a Natural Heritage/INPC stewardship effort tracking meeting. The Division is attempting to assess "acres treated" as a quarterly measure of stewardship effort.
- Participated in a Natural Heritage/INPC/ESPB monthly program meeting.
- Participated in twice monthly ORC staff meetings that provide update on information from IDNR executive staff meetings and coordination of cross-discipline ORC activities. Submitted ESPB CY10 annual plan of work to ORC for IDNR Executive Staff.
- Fielded and referred 27 permit, data, and consultation calls and emails to respective programs at DNR; Endangered Species Program ORC; Natural Heritage Database ORC; Impact Assessment Section OREP.
- Provided review and comment on draft versions of two Outdoor Illinois articles.
- Directly responded to 52 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.
- Conducted 3 media interviews – Medill News Media (Northwestern University), Kankakee Daily Journal, and Peoria Star Journal.

10. ESPB Staff Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski is working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners in developing a Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens* – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains.
- Ms. Mankowski is working with Dr. Jeff Walk at the Nature Conservancy in the preparation of recovery documents for projects involving the Franklin's Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii* – IL threatened) and Eryngium Stem Borer (*Papaipema eryngii* – IL endangered).
- Ms. Mankowski assisted the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in conducting a status assessment for Bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*) by providing information from the ESPB status review for the species.
- Ms. Mankowski coordinated with 9 other states to discuss listing status considerations for bats due to potential threat from the advance of White Nose Syndrome. (See species updates)
- Ms. Mankowski provided to Dr. Deanna Glosser, Illinois Natural Areas Update, response to questionnaire about opportunities and constraints for developing and implementing an INAI Sustainable Natural Areas Plan.

11. Staff Field Work

Ms. Mankowski assisted Natural Heritage Biologist, Mark Phipps with a 50-acre prescribed burn at Beaver Dam State Park in Macoupin County.

12. Attended one day of the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

13. Other General Administration and Clerical Work

- Prepared and routed Board member and staff travel vouchers.
- Regularly distributed information to Board and ESTAC members via internet and hardcopy mailings.
- Prepared and distributed to Board members draft minutes from the 144th meeting.
- Made updates to the ESPB webpage on the IDNR website.
- Responded to 52 requests for information and/or ESPB reference materials.
- All aspects of preparation for the February 18, 2010 ESPB strategic planning meeting and February 19, 2010 145 ESPB meeting.

Attachment B

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board
February 19, 2010

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory update

During the winter when the regional ecologists are not in the field they are evaluating maps and aerial photography to develop a list of new potential natural areas to evaluate in the coming field season. The 2009 field season generated a total of 67 sites that will be nominated as INAI sites. The process of quality assurance and control (QA/QC) on both the field data and the digital data is still ongoing. This QA/QC process will ensure that the proposed sites are up to INAI standards. Nomination packets for many of these sites should be forthcoming soon. Nomination packets for qualifying sites will be sent to the appropriate Natural Heritage Biologist for consensus and formal nomination.

Re-evaluations of existing INAI sites, which was started last year, will continue this field season.

Natural Areas Evaluation Committee

The 53rd Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meeting was held November 3rd, 2009 and the 54th NAEC meeting was held January 5th, 2010. Actions taken at the two meetings resulted in the addition of two Category I sites to the INAI and one Category I site being removed from the INAI due to logging. Additionally, three new Category VI sites were added for high mussel diversity while two existing sites had Category VI added as a feature for the presence of high mussel diversity. A discussion about adding a woodland class to the INAI natural community classification system was held at the 54th meeting as a result of proposed standards provided by Dr. John Taft of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Land acquisition

One tract of land totaling 197 acres was acquired using the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund since the last INPC meeting. The new acquisition is an addition to the 1100 acre Copperhead Hollow State Wildlife Area in Jersey County. Copperhead Hollow is a large block of upland forest near Pere Marquette State Park. It provides habitat for declining forest dependent wildlife. NAAF was combined with DNR Habitat Fund money and contributions from the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Kinder Morgan energy company to acquire the tract.

Wildlife Preservation Fund

Applications are being accepted for the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program. Packets for Fiscal Year 2011 include a program explanation, instructions for completing the application form and an application form. The application packet can be found on the Department of Natural Resources website at http://dnr.state.il.us/grants/index.htm. The Wildlife Preservation Fund generates about $220,000 per year in donations. The deadline for accepting applications is **April 1st**.

To: **Board Members**

From: Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, Randy Heidorn

Date: February 17, 2010

Subject: INPC Report for the 204th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

I. Inventory and Monitoring:

A. John Nelson:
1. Submitted Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) nomination forms to recognize new stream segments in Winnebago and Boone counties as Category VI sites – for high diversity mussel fauna, and to recognize the lower Kishwaukee River as a Category II site for presence of the black sandshell mussel.
2. Submitted Element of Occurrence Records (EOR) to document the presence of the black sandshell mussel (state-threatened), in stream segments along the Sugar River, Kishwaukee River, and South Branch of the Kishwaukee River.
3. Submitted an EOR to document the presence of a new population of sullivantia (S*ullivantia sullivantii)* (state-threatened plant) near Apple River Canyon.
4. Participated in the search for new populations of state-listed plant species on the Wiley tract along the Apple River Canyon with Randy Nyboer, Cindi Jablonski, and Ed Anderson.

B. Kim Roman assisted with field data collection for one potential INAI site in the Kankakee Sands.

C. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Conducted two Midwinter Bald Eagle Surveys along the Mississippi River (Pools 18-20).
2. Participated in the Keokuk, Iowa Christmas Bird Count censusing birds within the Cedar Glen Nature Preserve (NP) and associated macrosite (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission [INPC] sites) and natural areas in west-central Hancock County.
3. Visited a privately owned site along the La Moine River in Schuyler County to evaluate its potential as a high quality natural area.
4. Worked with Bill McClain (Illinois Department of Natural Resources [IDNR] retired) to provide data and field assistance for a project involving an inventory of rare plants, chiefly stickleaf (*Mentzelia oligosperma*) in Pike County.

D. Tom Lerczak:
1. Completed a red-headed woodpecker survey at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP.
2. Surveyed Cooper Park Wetlands Land and Water Reserve (LWR) for decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*).
3. Continued a survey of dog activity and evaluation of the dog policy (i.e., leashed dogs allowed on trails) at Carpenter Park NP.
4. Notified district INAI update regional ecologist about a potential natural area in Marshall County and followed up on the status of a potential natural area (Boyle Woods in Cass County) that was brought to the attention of the district INAI update regional ecologist.

E. Debbie Newman rediscovered two populations of shortleaf pine (*Pinus resinosa*) at Salt Lick Point LWR noted in the original INAI.

F. Bob Edgin:
1. Conducted visits to potential new INAI sites identified during the INAI update process.
2. Developed INAI nominations for Horn Prairie Grove LWR as a Category I site for the presence of .025 acres of grade B seep and Ankenbrand Forest and for Wabash County for presence of 28 acres of grade B mesic floodplain forest.
3. Recommended deletion of Grandville Woods from the INAI and the Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL) program because of extensive logging.
4. Conducted vegetation sampling at Karcher's Post Oak Woods NP to monitor changes in forest structure following four prescribed burns in a 10-year period.

G. Judy Faulkner Dempsey toured equestrian camps near natural areas on the eastern side of Shawnee National Forest to determine use and number of potential horses/camper units compared to previous years.

II. Protection Program:

A. The 204th INPC meeting was held at the IDNR Headquarters Building in Springfield on January 26, 2010.
   1. The following sites were given approval as LWRs:
      a. An addition to Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, Kankakee County, 3.3 acres, high quality sand savanna, private;
      b. An addition to Upper Sangamon River LWR, Piatt County (151 acres), upland next to the Sangamon River, slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*), IDNR.
   2. The following sites were given preliminary approval for dedication as an Illinois NP:
      a. Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie, Lake County (112 acres), federally listed plant species, homeowner's association;
      b. Freundschaft Weise buffer addition to Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP, McHenry County (36.4 acres), buffer to high quality fen, private;
      c. Yonder Prairie, McHenry County (40.3 acres), high quality wet prairie, Land Conservancy of McHenry County.
   3. The following sites were given final approval for dedication as an Illinois NP:
      a. Grainger Woods, Lake County (169.4 acres) owned by the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD). The site supports dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest and northern flatwoods, shining bur sedge (*Carex intumescens*), bent-seeded hop sedge (*Carex tuckermanii*), Wood's stiff sedge (*Carex woodii*) forked aster (*Aster furcatus*), dog violet (*Viola conspersa*), marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), shadbush (*Amelenchier interior*), brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*) and dwarf raspberry (*Rubus pubescens*).
      b. Buffer addition to Lyons Prairie and Woods NP, Lake Co. (125 acres) owned by LCFPD. The proposed addition includes dry-mesic upland forest, graminoid fen and wet prairie.

B. Wapello LWR in Jo Daviess County is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. The site contains the only known platform mound remaining within the Apple River Valley. The site is unique in that it contains a settlement history of a mixing of peoples during the Terminal Late Woodland and Mississippian cultures

C. John Nelson met with representatives of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Blackhawk Area Council to discuss possible registration of lands near Apple River Canyon. This land protection effort is a Natural Land Institute (NLI) initiative involving the IDNR, INPC, and the BSA.

D. Steven Byers gave a presentation and helped arrange a two-day site visit by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Refuge personnel to the proposed Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge study area.

E. Mary Kay Solecki participated in a retreat with Land Trust Alliance staff and Land Conservation Foundation volunteers to assess organizational strengths and needs of the Foundation.

F. Bob Edgin developed registration proposals, management plans and registration documents for Chauncey Marsh LWR and Flag Pond LWR and a buffer addition to Beadles Barrens NP.

G. Judy Faulkner Dempsey
   1. Met with landowner at Stonewood Farm, (INAI #1733) to propose the land as a LWR and wrote the LWR proposal.
   2. Made several landowner contact phone calls to set up a meeting with the landowner of Britton Springs. The area has the second largest population of dusky salamanders in Illinois.

H. Mitchell Lovgren worked on addition proposals for two state owned properties: Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP and Sparks Pond LWR.

III. Land Acquisition:

A. Debbie Newman worked on coordinating landowner contacts and providing facts to non-governmental organizations interested in the acquisition of three INAI sites totaling 510 acres in Monroe County.

B. Judy Faulkner Dempsey has assisted with negotiating the acquisition of half of Lovet's Pond adjacent to Lovet's Pond NP over the past three years. The acquisition has been finalized.

IV. Defense Program:

A. At the 204th meeting of the INPC:

1. The INPC denied a request for a 30-foot access easement across Tomlin Timber NP by an adjacent landowner. Instead, the INPC agreed to codify the existing 20- foot farm lane in an easement. This is recognition of an use that predated the dedication of the NP.
2. The INPC agreed to proceed to the public input stage of the Federal Highway Administration's *de minimus* finding process for a proposed, reconstruction of a bridge on a road that divides Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.

B. Jenny Skufca responded to seven reviews for the IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 11 reviews for the IDNR's consultation program.

C. Steven Byers represented the INPC at an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) public meeting regarding the Route 47 road widening project. Purpose was to establish ramifications of the proposed Algonquin Road bypass to the proposed HUM Railroad Prairie NP.

D. Angella Moorehouse assisted in consultation with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and IDOT regarding plans to rehabilitate parking areas and walkways near the Black Hawk Lodge to ensure that there would be no negative hydrological impacts to the nearby Black Hawk Forest NP.

E. Mitchell Lovgren recorded GPS coordinates, conducted ground-truthing on measurements and photo documented a farm lane running through Tomlin Timber NP in relation to access and usage issues.

F. Threats to sites within INPC programs:

1. **Lake in the Hills Fen NP, McHenry County – John Nelson**
   a. Issue: On March 25, 2009, a wildfire occurred at Lake in the Hills (LITH) Fen.
   b. Threat: The LITH-Algonquin Fire Protection District responded by entering the NP with brush trucks that got stuck in hydric soils. A Bobcat skidsteer was called on-site to extract vehicles, and it also got stuck.
   c. Status: Ongoing. A Wildland Fire Training course has been set for April 9-11, 2010, to be hosted at the LITH-Algonquin Fire Protection District headquarters.
2. **Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – John Nelson, Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: Routing of water from Gifford Lake and "finger lakes" located adjacent to Bluff Spring Fen is currently under consideration by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). Options include surface conveyance of water from Gifford Lake or conveyance of the water via a pipe.
   b. Threat: INPC groundwater consultants Randy Locke and Jim Miner, Illinois State Geological Survey, have both recommended the piping alternative.
   c. Status: Ongoing. A conference call took place on October 22, 2009, to discuss the results of a groundwater model re-calibration performed by Natural Resources Technology, a consultant to Bluff City Materials, Inc. The stormwater piping project is on hold pending permits and approval by the FPDCC.
3. **Gladstone Fen NP, McHenry County – John Nelson**
   a. Issue: Proposed residential subdivision on land adjacent to the NP.
   b. Threat: Close proximity to the NP could have impacts to the groundwater resource that sustains the high quality fen wetland and sedge meadow at Gladstone Fen NP. The development property is 58 acres and is currently zoned for seven home parcels. The subdivision plan calls for 13 home sites with a conservation area adjoining the NP.
   c. Status: Ongoing. On December 17, 2009, INPC staff attended a meeting with IDNR Consultation staff (Kathi Davis), representatives of the Village of Bull Valley, developer, consultants and legal counsel. Conservation design, stormwater, and protection/restoration of 15 acres adjacent to the NP were the main topics discussed.
4. **Flora Prairie NP, Boone County – John Nelson**
   a. Issue: The Flora Township Road Commissioner cleared and removed portions of relict prairie vegetation from within the Flora Prairie NP on April 29, 2009. Work was performed along the road right-of-way (ROW). According to the Boone County Conservation District, the NP boundary extends to the center of road and precludes the authority of the township to conduct earth moving activities.
   b. Threat: Direct impacts to dry dolomite prairie that cannot be restored.

c. Status: Resolved. The Boone County State's Attorney determined that while the Township did cause damage to the NP, it was within its authority as the work was within the legally established road ROW.

5. **Stone Bridge Reserve LWR, Winnebago County – John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: The landowner of the LWR, Roscoe Township, installed an underground electric line through the LWR.
   b. Threat: This is an unauthorized use that caused damage to the natural area, including potential damage to a state-listed species.
   c. Status: Ongoing. A letter from the INPC was submitted on January 4, 2010, to Roscoe Township requiring them to submit a procedural agreement to consult with the INPC and easement holders (NLI and IDNR) before any future work is done in the LWR, a restoration plan for the damaged areas, and a timeline for completing the restoration. Roscoe Township's Attorney contacted the INPC and indicated the Township was willing to work with INPC and NLI staff to restore the site and ensure that similar activities did not occur in the future. A formal response is expected by March 15, 2010.
6. **Boone Creek Fen NP, McHenry County – John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: Concern that the landowner of the Dolly Kuetemeyer Woodlands buffer addition was using the NP buffer as a yard extension by planting turf grass and mowing regularly.
   b. Threat: This is an unauthorized use and violates the dedication document.
   c. Status: Resolved. The INPC submitted a letter to Mr. Kuetemeyer regarding the encroachment on September 24, 2009. A response was received October 5, 2009, denying that the buffer addition was being used inappropriately. On November 23, 2009, INPC staff met with the landowner to discuss proper management and use. Mr. Kuetemeyer has agreed to hire a consultant to plan and implement restoration activities.
7. **Ryan Wetland and Sand Prairie LWR, Lee County – John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: Wind turbine array, known as the Big Sky Project, will surround the LWR.
   b. Threat: Concern about noise, vibration, and shadow flicker causing faunal species to be displaced or avoid entirely the LWR.
   c. Status: Ongoing. The LWR was an INAI at the time of IDNR's consultation termination. Therefore no action on behalf of the Commission and under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (INAPA) was requested. Shadow flicker analysis was later requested, but not provided.
8. **Hybernia NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
   a. Issue: A permit application submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fill wetlands to facilitate construction of three residential units adjacent to Hybernia NP.
   b. Threat: Direct and indirect impacts to Hybernia NP.
   c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff attended meeting convened by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The USFWS established that permit review by the Corps would trigger a Section 7 consultation. INPC staff are awaiting Corps public notice regarding permit application.
9. **Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh NP, Cook County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: Flooding in 2009 inundated residential and commercial developments located adjacent to the NP.
   b. Threat: Proposals to reduce incidence/severity of future flooding call for establishment of a berm west, north, and east of the NP, as well as a surface drainage north to Wolf Lake. These construction activities threaten hydrology of the NP.
   c. Status: New. The INPC/IDNR are working through IDNR consultation to gather more information and evaluate viable options for reducing flooding.
10. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
    a. Issue: IDOT intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction, which includes construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
    b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass, which threatens long-term viability of a federally-threatened orchid.

c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff facilitated an orchid count, and a site visit with staff of IDOT to look at construction limitations and identify mitigation measures to ensure healthy orchid population. INPC staff attended an IDOT public meeting to provide additional input.

11. **Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers**
    a. Issue: Lead shot deposited in the NP from activities which occurred at an adjacent, now defunct, sportsman's club.
    b. Threat: Toxic material in the NP.
    c. Status: New. INPC staff is supporting the landowner, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, in working with the IEPA to determine least disruptive resolution.
12. **Palatine Prairie NP, Cook County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
    a. Issue: A private firm (Golf Nation) erected a structure (with netting) in 2007 to support a golf driving range. The ground wires that support the structure intrude into the NP.
    b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the NP. The NP owner, Palatine Park District, wanted the infrastructure removed.
    c. Status: Resolved. Golf Nation has removed the infrastructure from the NP to the landowner's satisfaction.
13. **Goose Lake Prairie NP, Grundy County - Kim Roman**
    a. Issue: Vehicular ruts were found along the ComEd right-of-way within/adjacent to the NP.
    b. Threat: Severe soil disturbance is likely to affect the high quality wet prairie communities and disrupt IDNR's access with respect to managing the site.
    c. Status: Resolved. ComEd is funding a contractor to be supervised by the INPC to repair the ruts and to control reed canary grass.
14. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County - Kim Roman, Randy Heidorn, Jenny Skufca**
    a. Issue: During a site visit, evidence of a timber theft was observed.
    b. Threat: At least 88 white oaks had been stolen from TNC property.
    c. Status: New. This criminal case is being investigated by IDNR's law enforcement and legal counsel.
15. **Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR, LaSalle County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
    a. Issue: Shadow flicker modeling revealed that two wind turbines proposed within the Otter Creek Wind Farm would cause 47 minutes of flicker per day for 138 days of the year.
    b. Threat: Concern that shadow flicker will displace species.
    c. Status: Resolved. A letter was submitted by INPC to the LaSalle County Department of Environmental Services and Land Use to express our concern and to assert that this adverse modification to the LWR could be a violation of the INAPA. Minutes before the hearing, Iberdrola Renewables (wind farm developer) dropped the two turbines from the proposal.
16. **Sibley Grove NP, Ford County – Mary Kay Solecki, Jenny Skufca**
    a. Issue: One wind turbine within the Ford Ridge Wind Project is proposed to be within one-half mile of the NP.
    b. Threat: Concern about shadow flicker falling on the NP causing faunal species to be displaced or avoid the NP.
    c. Status: Resolved. A letter was submitted by INPC to the Ford County Zoning Office on November 2, 2009, requesting that no flicker be permitted on the NP. BP Wind Energy North America ran their computer shadow flicker models again to confirm that no flicker would reach the NP.
17. **Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR, Randolph County – Debbie Newman**
    a. Issue: Unknown persons have ridden ATVs all over the site below the hill prairie.
    b. Threat: ATV damage throughout the site. In addition, a couple of INPC boundary signs have been pulled out and tossed into the LWR.
    c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC is working with the landowner's tenant farmer and Prairie du Rocher Police to eliminate the activity.
18. **Salt Lick Point LWR, Monroe County – Debbie Newman**
    a. Issue: An individual bulldozed approximately one-fourth of an acre area across the LWR line.
    b. Threat: Encroachment in the LWR.

c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff and IDNR Conservation Police Officer are working with the neighbor to remedy the situation and prevent future incursions.

19. **DesPain Wetlands LWR, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman**
    a. Issue: Neighbor to the LWR had a survey done and posted boundaries on the LWR, claiming an additional 30-50 feet for his property.
    b. Threat: Boundary intrusion; no damage to the LWR.
    c. Status: Ongoing. INPC is working to bring the surveyors together.
20. **Stemler Cave NP, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman**
    a. Issue 1: Maintenance of a powerline that goes across the top of the NP sinkhole.
    b. Threat 1: Maintenance is causing some vegetation issues, including destructive cutting and spread of non-native invasives.
    c. Status 1: New. INPC staff met with the landowner and Monroe County Electric to discuss alternatives.
    d. Issue 2: Concern regarding collapse of Stemler Road into the NP as the sinkhole is in an active enlargement phase.
    e. Threat 2: As the road deteriorates, County officials will be required to do work causing direct impact to the NP.
    f. Status 2: Ongoing. INPC staff is planning to meet with Highway Department officials.

V. Stewardship Program:

A. The administrative rules (17 Ill. Admin. Code 1565) for the new Illinois Prescribed Burning Act (525 ILCS 37) were approved and went into effect on November 1, 2009. Randy Heidorn took the lead in drafting these rules in cooperation with the IDNR's Fire Task Force which he co-chairs with Tom Wilson from the IDNR. The rule set out the procedures and standards for prescribed burn plans, conducting prescribed burns, and becoming a certified prescribed burn manager. Compliance with these standards will result in setting the liability standard for prescribed burning to negligence per the Act.

B. Stewardship Planning:
    1. Kelly Neal reviewed 21 management schedules, 12 unscheduled management activities, and management related CERP at 12 INPC sites.
    2. Staff prepared numerous prescribed burn plans and updated management plans for sites.
    3. Steven Byers coordinated with Friends of the Forest Preserve to present a full proposal ($875,000) to Sustain Our Great Lakes/ USEPA grant for stewardship at eight Chicago Lake Plain sites. Partners included Field Museum, Commonwealth Edison, Shirley Heinze Land Trust, IDNR, INPC, FPDCC, Calumet Memorial Park District, TNC, and Northeastern Illinois University.
    4. Kim Roman and Bryan Eubanks met with the Village of Romeoville to discuss the maintenance/upgrading of existing sewer facilities in O'Hara Woods NP and limitations of access and construction layout within the NP.
    5. Kim Roman met with the Village of Matteson to determine the best placement of a trail connection to Old Plank Road Prairie NP (which was an allowable use at the time of dedication).
    6. Angella Moorehouse:
        a. Worked with Interstate Resource Conservation and Development, Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), IDNR, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Augustana College, Western Illinois University, Quad Cities Natural Area Guardians, as well as staff from agencies and organizations in Iowa to assist in the application of a U.S. Department of Agriculture Hazardous Fuel Mitigation Grant to reduce heavy fuel loads and control exotics within urban forest natural areas in the Quad Cities area. If the grant is awarded, the project will involve stewardship at Black Hawk Forest NP and Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP.
        b. Assisted with the completion of an Invasive Species Report for natural areas in Rock Island County funded by a grant obtained by the Rock Island SWCD. The report included an assessment of exotics within two NPs: Black Hawk Forest NP and Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP, and two natural areas: Milan Bottoms/Mississippi River-Andalusia Slough and Indian Bluff Hill Prairie.
    7. Debbie Newman:

a. Conducted Monroe and Randolph counties bluff corridor helicopter survey and mapping for bush honeysuckle populations. Also simultaneously conducted a brief aerial review of hill prairies.
b. Provided information to a new exotics stewardship group in Washington County focusing on INAI and INPC sites.
c. Coordinated the IEPA and IDNR's request to sample for lead at several Monroe County INPC sites.

C. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 Grant, the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF), and the INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparation of grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction and sign posting, and prescribed burn site preparation and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson): Kinnikinnick Creek NP; eight NP sites in the Boone Creek Watershed.
2. Area 2 (Byers): Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh NP.
3. Area 3 (Roman, Eubanks): Long Run Seep NP; Sweet Fern Savanna LWR; Iroquois Sands LWR.
4. Area 5 (Lerczak): Culp Conservancy Woods LWR and Walden West LWR.; Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR; Marshall Hill Prairies LWR; Wier Hill Prairie NP; Ridgetop Hill Prairie NP; Illinois River Sand Areas LWR; Chinquapin Bluffs LWR; Witter's Bobtown Hill Prairie NP; Hopewell Hill Prairies NP; Oak Bluff Savanna NP; and Crevecoeur NP.
5. Area 7 (Newman): 11 sites.
6. Area 8 (Edgin): Edward V. Price Woods LWR; Emma Vance Woods NP; Culley Barrens LWR and P & E Refuge LWR.
7. Area 9 (Dempsey): Degognia Canyon LWR; Ren-Dill Shale Glade NP; Faulkner-Franke Pioneer Railroad Prairie NP

D. Land management conducted by staff:
1. John Nelson:
   a. Installed customized entrance signs at four NPs.
   b. Assisted Andy Bacon (NLI) in organizing a multi-agency stewardship project at Wilson Prairie NP.
2. Tom Lerczak completed GPS mapping at new sites for the Hill Prairie SWG: Crevecoeur NP, Hopewell Hill Prairies NP, Oak Bluff Savanna NP, and Witter's Bobtown Hill Prairie NP.
   Debbie Newman began coordinating extensive tire and dump clean up with volunteers, contractors, and the IEPA in a burn unit at Salt Lick Point LWR.
3. INPC staff conducted prescribed burns at several sites including:
   a. Area 1: four NPs.
   b. Area 3: Old Plank Road Prairie NP.
   c. Area 5: Mitchell's Grove NP and Beaver Dam State Park.
   d. Area 6: Baber Woods NP and Allerton Park.
   e. Area 7: DesPain Wetlands LWR.
4. Additional invasive species, restoration and other management projects were conducted at several sites including:
   a. Area 1: three NPs.
   b. Area 2: Wolf Road Prairie NP; Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP; Bluff Spring Fen NP and Raceway Woods.
   c. Area 3: Superior Street Prairie LWR; Goose Lake Prairie NP; Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR; Iroquois Sands LWR; Long Run Seep NP; Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR; Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP; Sweet Fern Savanna LWR; Carl N. Becker Savanna NP and Wolf Road Prairie NP.
   d. Area 5: Walden West LWR; Merwin Savanna NP; Mackinaw River LWR; Tomlin Timber NP; Revis Hill Prairie NP; Bluff Springs Sand Pond NHL; Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP; Charles

"Chinee" Colvin Sand Prairie LWR; Illinois River Sands Areas LWR and Bob Spanski's Walden Too LWR.

e. Area 6: Monticello's Sangamon River LWR; Loda Cemetery Prairie NP; Jasmine Hollow LWR and Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP
f. Area 7: Salt Lick Point LWR; Fults Hill Prairie NP.
g. Area 8: Red Hills Woods NP; Horn Prairie Grove LWR; 12-Mile Prairie INAI site and Beall Woods NP.

II. INPC Operations:

A. Jenny Skufca continued coordination and development of the photo exhibit with the Illinois State Museum and the 500th protected site event planning with the Environmental Law and Policy Center.
B. Randy Heidorn was drafted by the IDNR to serve as Logistics Section Chief in an incident management team established to plan and manage the multi-state and agency effort to control Asian carp in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The planning effort for Operation Silver Shield consumed considerable time in November with the actual event that included over 500 personnel, taking place during the first week of December. Several INPC staff persons participated in the actual event.

III. Training, Presentations, and Meetings Attended:

A. Midwest Environmental Education Conference in Champaign: Jenny Skufca presented two sessions related to Illinois' protection of high quality natural areas and effective environmental education.
B. Conservation Congress: Deborah Stone coordinated in her role as Deputy Director for the IDNR. Debbie Reider, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca provided additional support.
C. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference:
    1. Bryan Eubanks presented his thesis work on marsh rice rats.
    2. Angella Moorehouse gave a presentation entitled "Status of Pioneer Cemetery Prairie Natural Areas in Illinois and Their Management Challenges" and assisted as a volunteer at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.
    3. Randy Heidorn prepared a paper on the new Illinois Prescribed Fire Act which was presented by Bob Szafoni from IDNR, when Mr. Heidorn was unable to present due to a conflict caused by his role in Operation Silver Screen.
D. Steven Byers:
    1. Chicago Wilderness (CW): Served as co-chair of the Natural Resources Management Team with Jeff Mengler of the USFWS and represented INPC on CW Coordinating Group, and CW Steering Committee.
    2. Friends of the Forest Preserve (project partners): Hosted a meeting with and conducted site visits to review options and opportunities to submit a grant for restoration and management of Chicago Lake Plain sites.
    3. USFWS orchid recovery team: Presented information to the about the INPC and recent efforts to protect two sites with the federally threatened prairie white fringed orchid.
E. Angella Moorehouse:
    1. Bald Eagle Appreciation Days: Assisted IDNR staff at the Keokuk, Iowa event.
    2. Wildland Fire Training (S130/190, L180): Assisted with at Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island in cooperation with the Quad Cities Prescribed Fire Coalition, Quad Cities Natural Area Guardians, Rock Island County SWCD and the IDNR.
    3. Forest Stewardship Conference at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve: Gave two presentations on forest invasive species management for the in Rock Island County, sponsored by the Rock Island County SWCD.
    4. Southwest Illinois Master Naturalists: Taught a class on Introduction to Prairies.
F. Bob Edgin: Illinois Audubon magazine: Wrote an article entitled "Karcher's Post Oak Woods NP – the First 10 Years."
G. Judy Faulkner Dempsey: Green Earth, Inc., a local land trust was honored at a celebration for 35 years of success protecting natural areas in Carbondale.
H. Randy Heidorn: Illinois Prescribed Fire Council: Gave a presentation on the certification of prescribed burn managers in Illinois and was re-elected treasurer of the Council.

Attachment D

Report on the ESPB research program to address the status, conservation, and/or recovery of Illinois endangered or threatened species

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director
for the 145th Meeting, February 19, 2010

The Board administers a research program to answer questions regarding the listing, recovery, and conservation as it relates to those aspects, of Illinois' endangered and threatened species. Since the Board has been without a budget since 2002, it has during that time relied solely on a $25,000 annual allocation from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to administer the program. Due to concerns about budget shortfalls, the IDNR was not able to release the FY10 allocation to the Board, so the Board will not be contracting any FY10 projects. Ms. Mankowski engaged in fair amount of correspondence related to follow-up from the FY10 RFP, follow-up on FY08 and FY09 contracts, and general inquiries about the Board's research program.

1) FY08 and FY09 Projects

FY08 Projects

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Status
RC08E02W	Establishing population trends of *Hyla avivoca* in southern Illinois by duplicating the 1995 Redmer, Brown and Brandon survey	John Palis	$ 3,402.00	Done
RC08E01W	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	Three Rivers Environmental Assessments	$ 18,423.00	Due 10/31/09
RC08E03W	Status survey update for listed herptiles for Kidd Lake Marsh, Fults Hill Prairie N.P., and other newly dedicated lands in Monroe County	Robert Weck	$ 4,852.20	Done
RC08E04W	Genetic variation in *Astragalus crassicarpus* var. *trichocalyx* in Illinois	SIU at Edwardsville, Dept. of Biological Sciences	$ 2,999.70	Done
RC08E05W	Spatial Ecology and Over-Winter Survival of Neonate Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) at Carlyle Lake	INRS INHS UIUC	$ 13,191.00	Due 06/30/10
RC08E06W	Conservation genetics of the state endangered spotted turtle, *Clemmys guttata*	INRS INHS UIUC	$ 5,000.00	Due 12/31/09
RC08E07W	Status, Distribution and Resource Requirements of the Longnose Dace in Illinois	INRS INHS UIUC	$ 6,450.00	Done
RC08E08W	Status Survey of *Mentzelia oligosperma* (Stickleaf)	Michael Jones	$ 4,986.00	Done
RC08E09W	Population Size and Genetics of the Blanding's Turtle at Goose Lake State Natural Area, Grundy County, Illinois	INRS INHS UIUC	$ 8,318.00	Due 12/31/09
RC08E10W	Status Report for Native Populations of Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)	Michael Jones	$ 9,632.00	Due 06/30/10
RC07E02W	Reproductive Success of Sandhill Cranes in Northeastern Illinois	Dr. David Thomas, PI; Dr. Michael Ward , INRS INHS UIUC, INHS	$ 5,730.00	Done

FY09 Projects

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Status
RC09E01W	Habitat Use, Nest Success, and Natal Philopatry of Loggerhead Shrike in Northwest Illinois.	Wenny and Elbert (INRS INHS UIUC)	$ 6,053	Due 05/01/10
RC09E02W	Conservation Genetics of Jefferson Salamanders in Illinois: Implications for Conservation and Recovery	Kuhns (INRS INHS UIUC)	$5,995	Due 03/30/10
RC09E03W	Status assessment survey for springtails (Collembola) in Illinois caves.	Soto-Adames and Taylor (INRS INHS UIUC)	$4,663	Due 03/31/10

RC09E04W	Rarely Seen Illinois Native Plant Species; Their Status and Distribution.	Phillippe and Ebinger (INRS INHS UIUC)	$6,419	~~Due 12/31/09~~ No cost extension until 06/30/10
RC09E05W	Status of three freshwater snail species in the lower Ohio River basin in Illinois.	Tiemann and Cummings (INRS INHS UIUC)	$3,993	Due 06/30/10

2) Brief Summaries for Recently Received Project Reports

Conservation genetics of the state endangered spotted turtle, *Clemmys guttata*, by Whitney Banning, INHS UIUC, (RC08E06W). This report is due, draft just received and not reviewed yet.

Population Size and Genetics of the Blanding's Turtle at Goose Lake State Natural Area, Grundy County, Illinois, by Dr. Mike Dreslik, INHS UIUC, (RC08E09W). This report is due, but has not yet been received.

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, by Three Rivers Environmental Assessments, (RC08E01W). This report is due, draft just received and not reviewed yet.

3) ESPB Research Program Budget

The current balance is $7.68.

Attachment E

STATUS REVIEW & RECOVERY OUTLINE for GRASSLAND RAPTORS

NORTHERN HARRIER – *Circus cyaneus* SHORT-EARED OWL – *Asio flammeus*

Prepared by Dr. Jeffery Walk, Illinois Nature Conservancy

Reviewed by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board at its 137th meeting held February 22, 2008, but there is no record in the minutes of that meeting that action was taken for approval. In the interest of housekeeping, Board Director, Anne Mankowski, proposed review of changes made to replace reference to the ESTAC reviewing the status of the species with reference to the Board reviewing the status of the species and recommended approval by the Board at its 145th meeting to be held February 19, 2010.

Approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, at its 145th meeting, February 19, 2010.

Current Status

The Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl are both listed as **ENDANGERED** in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage database includes probable or confirmed nesting records of Northern Harriers from 6 locations in 6 counties (and evidence of possible nesting from two additional sites in 2 counties) from 1997-2006. For the same period, the database contains confirmed nesting records for Short-eared Owls from only 2 locations in 2 counties (Figure 1). These two species are ecologically similar, both nesting and roosting on the ground in grasslands and marshes, both consuming mid-sized prey (most commonly microtine rodents), and both often occurring in close proximity to one another. Agonistic interactions, such as kleptoparasitism, are common between the two birds (MacWhirter and Bildstein 1996, Wiggins et al. 2006).

Short-eared Owls are an erratic nesting species within Illinois. After 1973, no nesting attempts were known until nesting was documented in five counties in 1990. Nesting Short-eared Owls have been found in about half of the years since 1990 (Herkert & Nyboer). Northern Harriers appear to nest more regularly in Illinois. Southern Illinois is at the southern limits of the breeding range of these grassland raptors (MacWhirter and Bildstein 1996, Wiggins et al. 2006). Northern Harriers and, particularly, Short-eared Owls are inconspicuous while nesting, with evidence of breeding becoming somewhat easier to obtain if nests survive to fledging, as young birds become mobile and more visible. Though both species are very rare as nesting birds in Illinois, more breeding attempts certainly are not discovered, not documented, or not reported.

During migration and winter, grassland raptors are much more common in Illinois. Both species form communal roosts in grassland areas than can number 20 or more individuals (Walk 1998). Though roosting areas are highly localized and data are sparse, grasslands in southern Illinois and southwestern Indiana appear to be of continental importance for wintering Short-eared Owls (Figure 2; National Audubon Society 2005).

Both grassland raptors are Birds of Conservation Concern in USFWS Region 3 (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2002), and Partners in Flight considers the Short-eared owl as a WatchList Species of Continental Importance (Rich et al 2004).

Historical Status

Northern Harriers are presumed to have nested in prairies and marshes throughout the state (Ridgway 1889), but there is little indication of its abundance. Less is known about the Short-eared Owl's historic status in Illinois, though Cory (1909) thought it nested in Cook County and Ford (1956) remarked on sporadic nesting in Illinois. Nesting Short-eared Owls were probably largely confined to the northern half of the state (Herkert and Nyboer).

Proposed Status Review Criteria for the Grassland Raptors

The proposed status review criteria represent measures of distribution and abundance to

prompt the Endangered Species Protection Board to review the status of the species and consider a change in status. Status review criteria do not prompt an 'automatic' change in status, and the Endangered Species Protection Board may review the status or status review criteria of the species at any time.

Evaluate Change in Status to Threatened - Within past 5 years, there are records of *probable* or *confirmed* nesting in the Natural Heritage database from 10 or more Illinois counties, and the average annual population is 25 or more *probable* or *confirmed* nesting pairs.

Evaluate Change in Status to Not Listed as Threatened or Endangered - Within past 5 years, there are records of *probable* or *confirmed* nesting in the Natural Heritage database from 10 or more Illinois counties, AND the average annual population is 50 or more *probable* or *confirmed* nesting pairs.

Probable and *confirmed* nesting are defined by Breeding Bird Atlas convention, according to the following forms of evidence:

Probable Nesting

· Multiple displaying or territorial birds of a species detected at a site one day. This code is the lowest level of evidence that a species is probably nesting at a site. Five displaying individuals is an appropriate level of abundance for a listed species. Most species can be upgraded to the next criteria with a later visit.

· Displaying/territorial male present at same location on at least two occasions 7 or more days apart. This behavior presumes a permanent territory.

· Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat during the breeding season. This evidence makes it is fairly certain that a mated pair of birds has been observed.

· Permanent territory presumed through defense of breeding territory by fighting or chasing individuals of same species. Because territoriality involves the defense of a fixed area, it is useful to map locations of individuals to determine if they are defending the same general area when surveying the block a week or more later.

· Courtship behavior or copulation between a male and female. Courtship behavior includes transfer of food between a pair of birds.

· A bird is observed visiting the same likely nest site repeatedly, but provides insufficient behavior for upgrading to *Confirmed*.

· Agitated behavior or anxiety calls from adults usually indicate a nest site or young in the vicinity. This does not include agitation induced by predators, or using taped calls.

Confirmed Nesting

· Physiological evidence of breeding based on bird in the hand. This evidence is used primarily by bird banders and includes such evidences as a highly vascularized swollen incubation (brood) patch or an egg in the oviduct.

· Bird seen carrying nesting material such as sticks, grass, etc.

· Nest building seen at the actual nest site.

· Distraction displays, defense of unknown nest or young, or injury feigning. Northern Harriers may dive at observers near the nest site. When an adult performs a distraction display, it puts its own life in danger, distinguishing this evidence from agitated behavior.

· Used nest or eggshells found. Unless carefully identified, use this only for unmistakable eggshells and nests. If identification is unsure, do not consider it.

· Occupied nest indicated by adult entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating an occupied nest, where the contents of the nest and incubating or brooding adult cannot be seen. *To minimize the risk of abandonment or predation, intentionally visiting the nest of a Northern Harrier or Short-eared Owl should be avoided until at least after the next criteria is met (indicating incubation is complete), or after activity near a suspected nest has ceased, suggesting a nest failure.*

· Adult bird carrying food for young or feeding recently fledged young. Use this evidence with caution. Some adults carry food a long distance or may be engaged in courtship feeding. Look for repeated carrying of food in the same direction, or to the same location.

· Recently fledged young or downy young. This includes dependent young only. Be cautious that juveniles may range widely soon after fledging. One of the better features to look for is the length of the tail feathers. If shorter than the adults, the young probably originated locally.

· Nest with eggs or eggshells on ground. Nest and eggs must be accurately identified. Be careful not to disturb the vicinity of the nest.

· Nest with young seen or heard. Take care not to cause premature flushing of nestlings from nest.

Reasons for Decline

Destruction of grassland and marsh habitat is the primary reason for the status of both grassland raptors as Endangered in Illinois. Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls appear to be area sensitive in Illinois, with the majority of nest records from grasslands larger than 250 acres (Herkert and Nyboer, Herkert et al. 1999, Walk and Warner 1999). Populations of Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls vary significantly in response to abundance of small mammals, the birds' most typical prey. Mowing or haying during the nesting season destroys nests, and nests are vulnerable to abundant mammalian nest predators, such as raccoon, opossums, and skunks. Encroaching and nearby woody vegetation diminishes habitat quality, by limiting the open space innately attractive to both species, and by harboring predators. Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks are known to prey on adult Short-eared Owls. Though both grassland raptor species readily utilize grasslands of various compositions, from native prairies to plantings of introduced cool-season grasses, structure is important. Northern Harriers select tall, dense vegetation for nesting and winter roosting; Short-eared Owls select cover with somewhat lower height and density for nesting and winter roosting (Herkert et al. 1999, Walk 1998).

Recovery Actions

Action 1: Restore and Maintain Large, Open Grassland/Wetland Areas – Grassland

habitat suitable for Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owls can be established within 1-3 years in appropriate landscapes (Kershner 2001). Grasslands larger than 250 acres, and areas with a concentration of more than 30% grassland/marsh cover, are the most likely to be occupied by nesting grassland raptors. The effective size of grassland/marsh areas can be increased by removing fragmenting features (e.g., hedge rows) and maintaining shrubs (versus mature trees) along small riparian corridors. Incentives and agriculture conservation programs that target restoration and maintenance of large grasslands in focus areas are approaches likely to yield significant benefits to the statewide populations of both species.

Action 2: Enhance the Composition of Large, Open Grassland/Marsh Areas – Invasive species (e.g., tall fescue, goldenrod, reed canary grass) and management practices that create monocultures and uniform structure throughout a grassland/marsh patch reduce habitat quality for Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, and most other species. Grasslands with floral diversity, managed to provide a variety of structures and successional stages, are more likely to attract nesting Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, and other wildlife, and to support larger and more reliable populations of microtine rodents and other prey.

Action 3: Identify and Monitor Sites with Possible Nesting Grassland Raptors to Document Confirmed Nesting – Because grassland raptors are rare in Illinois, occur at low densities, and have secretive nesting behaviors in relatively remote areas, confirming the presence of nesting birds can be difficult. The Short-eared Owl's crepuscular and nocturnal habits make locating their nesting areas even more challenging. Areas with a history of nesting grassland raptors, locations where grassland raptors have been reported in appropriate habitat during the nesting season, and sites with good habitat (large patch size, appropriate structure) should be prioritized for more intensive monitoring.

The incidental reports of grassland raptors by recreational birdwatchers, readily gleaned from the listserv "IBET" (Illinois Birders Exchange Thoughts, www.ilbirds.yahoo.com) and the seasonal "Field Notes" of *The Meadowlark* (a quarterly journal of the Illinois Ornithological

Society), are useful for identifying locations with possible nesting of grassland raptors. Similarly, citizen-scientists can be enlisted to carry out additional monitoring at these selected sites, visiting areas repeatedly during the nesting season to obtain additional evidence.

Recovery Timing and Estimated Costs

Action 1: Restore and Maintain Large, Open Grassland/Marsh Areas – Costs to restore and maintain large, open grassland areas will vary tremendously, depending upon location and starting conditions. The option with the greatest initial costs would be acquisition of property (average cost of $4,000/acre) and establishing grassland where none currently occurred (cost of roughly $100/acre). This approach to establishing a 250-acre grassland would be about $1,025,000, and require 2-5 years. At other locations, such as on conservation areas, suitable nesting areas could be restored and maintained through the modification, redirection, or continuation of ongoing management, at little or no additional cost.

Action 2: Enhance the Composition of Large, Open Grassland/Wetland Areas - Costs to enhance the composition of large, open grassland areas will vary tremendously, depending upon starting conditions. At one extreme, where undesirable plants are dominant and remnant plants and less-mobile animals are not significant concerns, existing vegetation could be destroyed and more desirable vegetation established, at a cost typically less than $150/acre, and requiring 2-5 years. At other locations, such as on conservation areas, grassland and wetland composition can be enhanced and maintained through the modification, redirection, or continuation of ongoing management practices, at little or no additional cost.

Action 3: Identify and Monitor Sites with Possible Nesting Grassland Raptors to Document Confirmed Nesting – Identification of possible grassland raptor nesting areas, coordination of a citizen-scientist monitoring effort, and compilation of results would entail minor administrative costs, less than 10 person-days/year. Possible grassland raptor nesting areas without volunteer coverage could be satisfactorily monitored with a minimum of 3 visits (half-

day visits, or 1.5 person days), plus travel. Monitoring efforts should be on-going, with sites with recent confirmed grassland raptor nesting surveyed annually, and sites with possible grassland raptor nesting surveyed on a 2- or 3-year cycle.

References

Cory, C. B. 1909. The birds of Illinois and Wisconsin. Field Museum of Natural History Publication 131. Zoological Series IX. Chicago, IL. 764 pp.

Ford, E. R. 1956. Birds of the Chicago region. Chicago Academy of Science special publication 12.

Herkert, J. R., and R. Nyboer. (In prep.) Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois.
Herkert, J. R., S. A. Simpson, R. L. Westemeier, T. L. Esker, and J. W. Walk. 1999. Response of northern harriers and short-eared owls to grassland management in Illinois. Journal of Wildlife Management 63: 517-523.

Kershner, E. L. 2001. Conservation of grassland birds in an agricultural landscape: the importance of habitat availability and demography. Ph.D. dissertation. University of Illinois. Urbana, IL.

MacWhirter, R. B., and K. L. Bildstein. 1996. Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). *In* The Birds of North America, No. 210 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Rich, T. D., C. J. Beardmore, H. Berlanga, P. J. Blancher, M. S. W. Bradstreet, G. S. Butcher, D. W. Demarest, E. H. Dunn, W. C. Hunter, E. E. Inigo-Elias, J. A. Kennedy, A. M. Martell, A. O. Panjabi, D. N. Pashley, K. V. Rosenberg, C. M. Rustay, J. S. Wendt, T. C. Will. 2004. Partners in Flight North American landbird conservation plan. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Ithaca, NY.

Ridgway, R. 1889. The ornithology of Illinois. Volume 1. Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History, Bloomington. 520 pp.

Walk, J. W. 1998. Winter roost sites of northern harriers and short-eared owls on Illinois grasslands. Journal of Raptor Research 32: 116-119.

Walk, J. W., and R. E. Warner. 1999. Effects of habitat area on the occurrence of grassland birds in Illinois. American Midland Naturalist 141:339-344.

Wiggins, D.A., D.W. Holt and S.M. Leasure. 2006. Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Ithaca, NY. http://bna.birds.cornell.edu. Accessed 17 Jan 2007.

National Audubon Society. 2005. Christmas Bird Count. Historical Results tool. http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/. Accessed 17 Jan 2007.

Nat Heritage database.

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 2002. Birds of conservation concern. USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management. Arlington, VA.

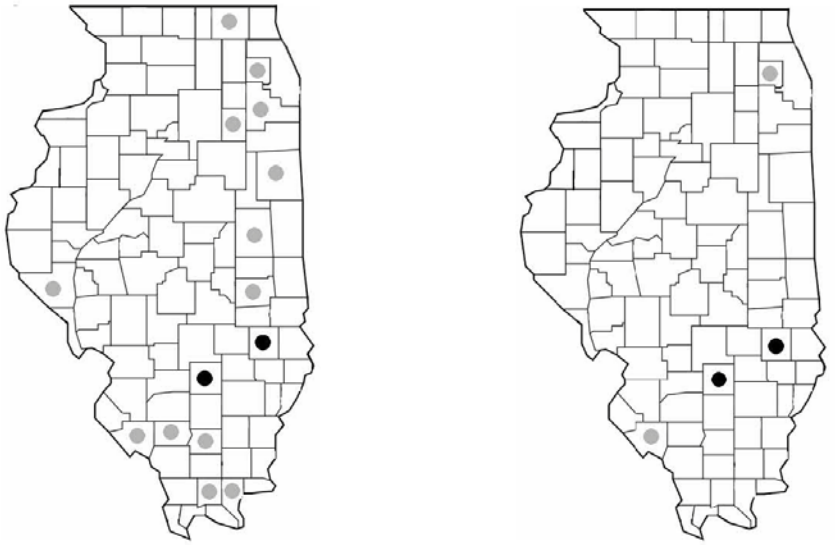

Figure 1. Counties with nesting records of Northern Harriers (left) and Short-eared Owls (right) in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Database (black circles; *1997-2006 data from T. Kienenger, manager*) and in Nyboer et al. 2006 (gray circles).

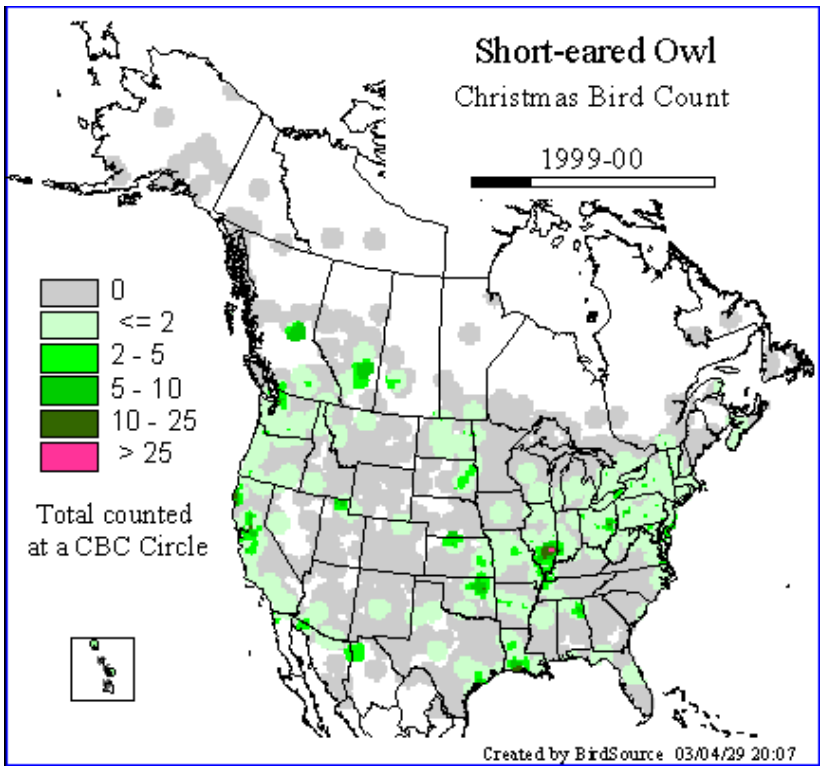

Figure 2. Abundance of short-eared owls in North America, as estimated by Christmas Bird Count data for the winter of 1999-2000.

STATUS REVIEW & RECOVERY OUTLINE

for the OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Prepared by Dr. Jeffery Walk, Illinois Nature Conservancy

Reviewed by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board at its 137th meeting held February 22, 2008, but there is no record in the minutes of that meeting that action was taken for approval. In the interest of housekeeping, Board Director, Anne Mankowski, proposed review of changes made to replace reference to the ESTAC reviewing the status of the species with reference to the Board reviewing the status of the species and recommended approval by the Board at its 145th meeting to be held February 19, 2010.

Approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, at its 145th meeting, February 19, 2010.

Current Status

Osprey are a rare nesting species within the state and are listed as **ENDANGERED** in Illinois. From 1999-2005, 5 active nest sites were reported to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Biotics 4 Database (T. Kienenger, pers. comm.). Unreported nests apparently exist: 3 active nests and 5 locations with adults were reported in the 2004 breeding season (Kleen 2005). Considering reports in the Biotics 4 database, and The Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds (Volumes 9-14), 8 nest sites in 5 counties were active at least one year from 1999-2005 (Figure 1). Osprey are uncommon spring and fall migrants along rivers, lakes and reservoirs throughout Illinois (Bohlen 1989).

Osprey are not and have not been listed as federally threatened or endangered. Robust populations, estimated at 16,000-19,000 nesting pairs in the contiguous 48 states in 2001, represent a 25% increase from the estimated 1994 population (Poole at al. 2001). The North American Breeding Bird Survey recorded a trend of +6.3% per year from 1966-2004 (Sauer et al.

2005).

Historical Status

Throughout the past 100 years or longer, osprey have been a rare or uncommon nesting species within Illinois (Bohlen 1989). There was a well-documented decline in the continental abundance of ospreys in mid-20th century that has been directly linked to exposure to DDT/DDE (Weimeyer et al. 1975, 1978, 1988, Spitzer et al. 1978).

Proposed Status Review Criteria for the Grassland Raptors

The proposed status review criteria represent measures of distribution and abundance to prompt the Endangered Species Protection Board to review the status of the species and consider a change in status. Status review criteria do not prompt an 'automatic' change in status, and the Endangered Species Protection Board may review the status or status review criteria of the species at any time.

Evaluate Change in Status to Threatened - Over the past 10 years, there are records of an average or 10 or more nests per year in the Natural Heritage database.

Evaluate Removal from the List of Threatened or Endangered Species - Over the past 10 years, there are records of an average or 25 or more nests per year in the Natural Heritage database.

Reasons for Decline

The osprey's well-documented decline in abundance during the mid-20th century has been directly linked to exposure to DDT/DDE, which caused egg shell thinning, leading to reproductive failure (Weimeyer et al. 1975, 1978, 1988, Spitzer et al. 1978). Following reduced

use and banning of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, populations have recovered dramatically since 1970.

Osprey, especially fledglings at nests near highways, are vulnerable to collisions with automobiles. Some birds are electrocuted when they land or attempt to nest on crossarm utility poles with transformers, which offer prominent perches near water. Osprey are generally tolerant of human activity, including boat traffic near nests (Poole et al. 2002), though response to jet skis warrants more study.

Recovery Actions

The primary tool for increasing osprey populations in Illinois, as elsewhere in the Midwest and Great Lakes regions (Poole et al. 2002), will be providing nesting platforms. Though osprey accept a variety of platform designs, a robust model developed in Kentucky (Kentucky Environmental Education Projects, Inc.) is recommended for Illinois (Figures 2, 3). An osprey population dependent upon nesting platforms requires a long-term commitment from managers to maintain the platforms. However, nesting platforms support roughly twice the production of young osprey as natural nests (Poole et al. 2002), due to their durability, predator-discouraging placement and design. Nesting platforms may be usurped by earlier-nesting birds (e.g., bald eagles, Canada geese, great blue herons, great horned owls), precluding use by osprey (Ewins et al. 1995). Hacking (releasing juveniles in suitable unoccupied habitat) has been successfully used for osprey (Poole 1989), and is currently underway or was recently completed in Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio.

Action 1: Provide Nesting Platforms at Suitable Locations. Osprey exhibit high nest site fidelity, and nesting platforms should be provided or maintained at or near sites occupied within the past10 years (Figure 1). Given that >80% of osprey return to nest within 50 km of where they were fledged (Poole et al. 2002), rivers and impoundments near existing nests should be targeted for installation of nesting platforms.

Though osprey are known to be tolerant of human activity, nesting platforms should be placed where disturbance will be less, and where osprey will not be a nuisance. Nesting

platforms should be as near as possible to foraging areas. All nesting platforms should be safe from ground predators: equipped with predator guards, placed on islands, or in standing water >40 cm deep. Platforms should offer an open approach for birds arriving at and leaving the nest. Sites taller than surrounding vegetation and structures are generally preferred (see Figure 4). Spacing of nest platforms depends on local foraging habitat (water, especially shallow areas <2 m where fish are most accessible to osprey) and prey abundance. Osprey may commute 10 km or more from foraging areas to nests, but also may nest as close as 100 m to other pairs when prey is abundant (Poole et al. 2002). It is appropriate to place a nesting platform in or near any river or large impoundment (>40 ha) statewide.

Action 2: Monitor Osprey Nesting Efforts and Maintain Platforms. Though the KEEP, Inc., Osprey nesting platform design is robust, platforms and supporting poles are subject to deterioration and other damage, and will require periodic maintenance or replacement. Monitoring the occupancy and productivity of osprey nest platforms in Illinois will inform future status reviews of the species.

Recovery Timing and Estimated Costs

Action 1: Provide Nesting Platforms at Suitable Locations. The costs of constructing, installing, and maintaining an osprey nesting platform are modest (typically under $200), and may be willingly adopted by a variety of agencies and conservation or education groups. Public utility companies often have a ready supply of used or surplus poles, the equipment to place poles and platforms, and may be willing to donate poles and equipment usage as a community service.

Expected Response

Recent and current hacking efforts in neighboring states (Iowa, Indiana, Missouri) and large populations in Wisconsin and at Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley in western Kentucky (i.e., juvenile birds may be dispersing into Illinois in search of nest sites) suggest that the Illinois

Osprey population may expand rapidly. Also, osprey readily adopt nesting platforms: within one year of construction, 95% are used by osprey in Wisconsin (Gieck 1991) and western Kentucky (E. Ray, pers. comm.). Suggesting a slower rate of increase is that >80% of osprey returning to nest within 50 km of where they fledged (Poole et al. 2002). With current low population size, colonization of suitable nesting habitat throughout Illinois may require several years. Nonetheless, population growth, warranting a review in status is realistic within 10 years.

Osprey have the potential to become a local nuisance. Osprey can damage infrastructure by building nests on utility poles and towers. Generally, biologists have successfully alleviated problem osprey nests by offering a taller nearby alternate nest site (Olendorff et al. 1981, Austin-Smith and Rhodenizer 1983). Osprey consume fish, including game species. Though some studies show no dietary preference (Flook and Forbes 1983), others have shown osprey disproportionately take bullheads (Idaho; Van Daele and Van Daele 1982) and sunfish. In Florida, bass (*Micropterus salmoides* and *Morone saxtilis*) were taken in proportion to abundance. Two studies have estimated that a pair of adult osprey and three nestlings require 1,048 g of fish/day (Van Daele and Van Daele 1982) and 1,250 g of fish/day (Poole 1984).

References

Austin-Smith, P. J., G. Rhodenizer. 1983. Ospreys relocate nests from power poles to substitute sites. Can. Field-Nat. 97: 315–319.

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. Bird of Illinois. Indiana University Press.

Flook, D. R., L. S. Forbes. 1983. Ospreys and water management at Creston, British Columbia. Pp. 281–286 in Biology and management of Bald Eagles and Ospreys (D. M. Bird, ed.). Harpell Press, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec.

Gieck, C. M.. 1991. Artificial nesting structures for Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and American Kestrels. Pp. 215–221 in Proceedings of the Midwest raptor management symposium and workshop (B. G. Pendleton, ed.). Natl. Wildl. Fed., Sci. Tech. Ser. 15.

Kleen, V. 2005. Field notes: 2004 breeding season. Meadowlark 14: 24-40.

Olendorff, R. R., A. D. Miller, R. N. Lehman. 1981. Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines—the state of the art in 1982. Raptor Res. Found., Raptor Res. Rep. no. 4.

Poole, A. F. 1984. Reproductive limitations in coastal Ospreys: an ecological and evolutionary perspective. Unpubl. Ph.D. diss. Boston Univ., Boston, MA.

Poole, A. F., R. O. Bierregaard, and M. S. Martell. 2002. Osprey (Pandion haliaetus). In The Birds of North America, No. 683 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). Philadelphia, PA.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, and J. Fallon. 2005. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966-2004. Version 2005.2. USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

Spitzer, P. R., R. W. Risebrough, W. Walker, II, R. Hernandez, A. Poole. 1978. Productivity of Ospreys in Connecticut-Long Island increases as DDE residues decline. Science 202: 333– 335.

Van Daele, L. J., H. A. Van Daele. 1982. Factors affecting the productivity of Ospreys nesting in west-central Idaho. Condor 84: 292–299.

Wiemeyer, S. N., C. M. Bunck, A. J. Krynitsky. 1988. Organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and mercury in Osprey eggs—1970–79—and their relationships to shell thinning and productivity. Arch. Environ. Contam. Toxicol. 17: 767–787.

Wiemeyer, S. N., P. R. Spitzer, W. C. Krantz, T. G. Lamont, E. Cromartie. 1975. Effects of environmental pollutants on Connecticut and Maryland Ospreys. J. Wildl. Manage. 39: 124–139.
Wiemeyer, S. N., D. M. Swineford, P. R. Spitzer, P. D. McLain. 1978. Organochlorine residues

in New Jersey Osprey eggs. Bull. Environ. Contam. Toxicol. 19: 56–63.

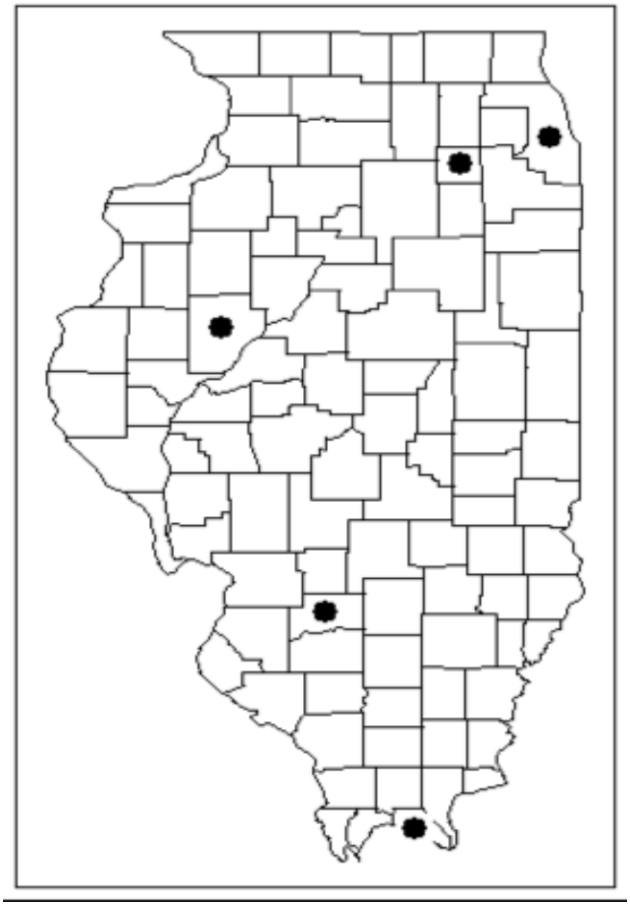

Figure 1. Illinois counties with reported osprey nests, 1999-2005 (from Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources Biotics 4 database and Meadowlark: a Journal of Illinois Birds, Vol. 9-14).

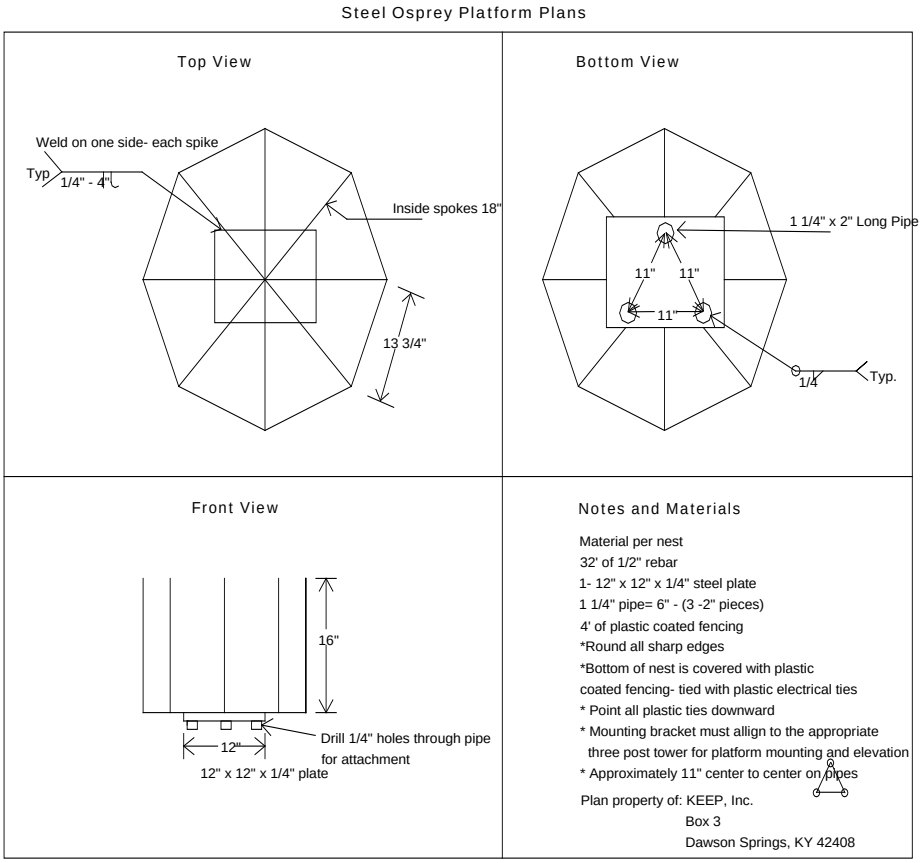

Figure 2. Diagram for a steel osprey nesting platform, courtesy of KEEP, Inc.

Figure 3. An osprey nesting platform. Note the desirable features of (1) robust, durable construction, (2) protection from mammalian predators, (3) elevation above surrounding features and unobstructed access for osprey to arrive and depart from the structure, (4) proximity to foraging areas, and (5) relative security from roadways, utility lines and other potential hazards.

STATUS REVIEW & RECOVERY OUTLINE

HENSLOW'S SPARROW – *AMMODRAMUS HENSLOWII*

Prepared by Dr. Jeffery Walk, Illinois Nature Conservancy

Reviewed by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board at its 137th meeting held February 22, 2008, but there is no record in the minutes of that meeting that action was taken for approval. In the interest of housekeeping, Board Director, Anne Mankowski, proposed review of changes made to replace reference to the ESTAC reviewing the status of the species with reference to the Board reviewing the status of the species and recommended approval by the Board at its 145th meeting to be held February 19, 2010.

Approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, at its 145th meeting, February 19, 2010.

Current Status

The Henslow's Sparrow is presently listed as **THREATENED** in Illinois, and was upgraded from Endangered in Illinois in 2004. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage database includes records from 62 locations in 37 counties for 1997-2006 (Figure 1). Evidence suggests this species' abundance in Illinois has increased in recent years, based on Spring Bird Count data (Figure 2; Ward 2006), and reported nesting season observations in *The Meadowlark* (Kleen 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006). The undisturbed grassland cover of Conservation Reserve Program acres has been an important factor in this improvement (Herkert 1998).

Protected areas with populations known to exceed 50 individuals include:

County	Site

Cook	Plum Creek Forest Preserve
Grundy	Goose Lake Prairie State Park
Jasper	Prairie Ridge State Natural Area
Marion	Prairie Ridge State Natural Area
Perry	Pyramid State Recreation Area
Will	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Partners in Flight lists the Henslow's Sparrow as a Watch List Species with multiple causes for concern across its entire range (Rich et al. 2004). Continent-wide, the North American Breeding Bird Survey estimates a 7.9% per year decline in Henslow's Sparrow abundance from 1966-2005 (Sauer et al. 2005). Illinois is at the heart of the Henslow's Sparrow's breeding range, and is important to the species' global conservation. *Regardless of the species' legal status in Illinois, the Henslow's Sparrow needs to remain a conservation priority for the state so long as its regional status remains precarious.*

Historical Status

The Henslow's Sparrow was noted as "common" or "abundant" in tallgrass prairie by Ridgway (1873) and Nelson (1876), in Richland County and northeastern Illinois, respectively. Henslow's Sparrows probably nested in native prairies throughout the state (Bohlen 1989). Period of lowest abundance in Illinois apparently occurred in the 1980s (Herkert 1998, Sauer et al. 2005, Ward 2006).

Proposed Status Review Criteria for Henslow's Sparrow

The proposed status review criteria represent measures of distribution and abundance to prompt the Endangered Species Protection Board to review the status of the species and consider a change in status. Status review criteria do not prompt an 'automatic' change in status, and the Endangered Species Protection Board may review the status or status review criteria of the

species at any time.

Evaluate Change in Status to Endangered – Within past 5 years, nesting records in the Natural Heritage database from 15 or fewer Illinois counties, and fewer than 5 populations numbering 20 or more breeding pairs within protected habitats.

Evaluate Change in Status to Not Listed as Threatened or Endangered - Within the past 5 years, records in the Natural Heritage database from 40 or more Illinois counties, and 10 or more populations numbering 20 or more breeding pairs within protected habitats.

Criteria for status reviews of Henslow's Sparrows could also be used as a guide for future listing decisions of other grassland songbirds, particularly the Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, and the Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*. Breeding Bird Survey results from Illinois (Sauer et al. 2005) indicated a decline of -8.6% per year for Bobolinks (1966-2005; estimated cumulative decline of 97%), and a decline of -7.0% per year for Grasshopper Sparrows (1966-2005; estimated cumulative decline of 94%).

Reasons for Decline

Loss of grassland habitat, on both the nesting and wintering grounds and largely due to agricultural conversion, is the primary reason for the status of the Henslow's Sparrow. Henslow's Sparrows prefer dense, undisturbed grassland with abundant litter for nesting (Herkert 1994, Walk and Warner 2000). Heavy grazing, haying, mowing, and recent burning can reduce or eliminate suitable conditions for nesting Henslow's Sparrows. Haying and mowing during the nesting season also destroys nests and young birds. Though Henslow's Sparrows are more tolerant of shrubs within grasslands than many other grassland birds, excessive woody encroachment reduces habitat quality, and nest success is lower near shrubby edges (Winter et al. 2000). Henslow's Sparrows are also 'area sensitive,' less frequently occurring, or occurring at lower densities, in smaller than larger habitats (Herkert et al. 1993, Walk and Warner 1999,

Winter and Faaborg 1999).

Recovery Actions

Action 1: Determination of Distribution & Abundance - Additional survey information, or improved reporting to the Natural Heritage database, could show the Henslow's Sparrow meeting the status review criteria for possible removal from the list of Illinois-Threatened species.

Action 2: Identify, Manage, and Protect Key CRP Areas - The loss of existing Conservation Reserve Program grasslands, either to succession into shrub or forest habitat or conversion back to agricultural production, could displace a large proportion of the state's Henslow's Sparrows. Large Conservation Reserve Program grasslands hosting robust Henslow's Sparrow populations should be identified and targeted for habitat improvements/management, and protection beyond the term of Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

Action 3: Improve and Maintain Conservation Areas - Grassland habitat suitability for Henslow's Sparrows on conservation areas should be increased or maintained by expanding the amount and patch-size of grassland habitat, controlling invasive woody vegetation, avoiding mowing and haying during the nesting season, and management regimes that ensure dense, undisturbed nesting habitat is maintained in some areas throughout a management cycle (e.g., burning 1/3 of a large grassland in a 3-year rotation)

Recovery Timing and Estimated Costs

Action 1: Determination of Distribution & Abundance – A modest survey effort in suitable habitats, and increased reporting to the Natural Heritage database, could document a suitable distribution and number of large populations to warrant a status review of the Henslow's Sparrow, based on the proposed criteria. *Regardless of the species' legal status in Illinois, the Henslow's Sparrow must remain a conservation priority for the state so long as its regional*

status remains precarious.

Time to complete this action:	1-2 years
Cost to complete this action:	Less than 50 person-days, including travel

Action 2: Identify, Manage, and Protect Key CRP Areas – Identification of large Conservation Reserve Program grasslands could be achieved within 1 year, with GIS technology and cooperation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Time and costs to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for managing and protecting Conservation Reserve Program grasslands are difficult to predict, depending upon outcomes of the 2007 Farm Bill.

Action 3: Improve and Maintain Conservation Areas – This action could be achieved through the re-direction and/or continuation of on-going management activities, with little additional cost.

References

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press.

Herkert, J. R. 1994. Status and habitat selection of the Henslow's sparrow in Illinois. Wilson Bulletin 106:35-45.

Herkert, J. R. 1998. Population trends of Henslow's sparrows in relation to the Conservation Reserve Program in Illinois, 1975-1995. Journal of Field Ornithology 68:235-244.

Herkert, J. R., R. S. Szafoni, V. M. Kleen, and J. E. Schwegman. 1993. habitat establishment, enhancement, and management for forest and grasslands birds in Illinois. Natural Heritage Technical Publication 1. Illinois Department of Conservation. Springfield, IL.

Kleen, V. M. 2003. Field notes: the 2002 breeding season report. Meadowlark 12:22-40.

Kleen, V. M. 2004. Field notes: 2003 breeding season report. Meadowlark 13:23-40.

Kleen, V. M. 2005. Field notes: 2004 breeding season. Meadowlark 14:24-40.

Kleen, V. M. 2006. Field notes: 2005 breeding season. Meadowlark 15:19-38.

Nelson, E. W. 1876. Birds of north-eastern Illinois. Bulletin of the Essex Institute 8:90-155.

Rich, T. D., C. J. Beardmore, H. Berlanga, P. J. Blancher, M. S. W. Bradstreet, G. S. Butcher, D. W. Demarest, E. H. Dunn, W. C. Hunter, E. E. Inigo-Elias, J. A. Kennedy, A. M. Martell, A. O. Panjabi, D. N. Pashley, K. V. Rosenberg, C. M. Rustay, J. S. Wendt, T. C. Will. 2004. Partners in Flight North American landbird conservation plan. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Ithaca, NY.

Ridgway, R. 1873. The prairie birds of southern Illinois. American Naturalist 7:197-203.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, and J. Fallon. 2005. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2005. Version 6.2.2006. USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Laurel, MD

Walk, J. W., and R. E. Warner. 1999. Effects of habitat area on the occurrence of grassland birds in Illinois. American Midland Naturalist 141:339-344.

Walk, J. W., and R. E. Warner. 2000. Grassland management for the conservation of songbirds in the midwestern U.S.A. Biological Conservation 94:165-172.

Ward, M. P. 2006. Spring Bird Count database. http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/databases/sbc/about.html. Accessed 4 Jan 2007.

Winter, M., and J. Faaborg. 1999. Patterns of area sensitivity in grassland-nesting birds.

Conservation Biology 13:1424-1435.

Winter, M., D. H. Johnson, and J. Faaborg. 2000. Evidence for edge effects on multiple levels in tallgrass prairie. Condor 102:256-266.

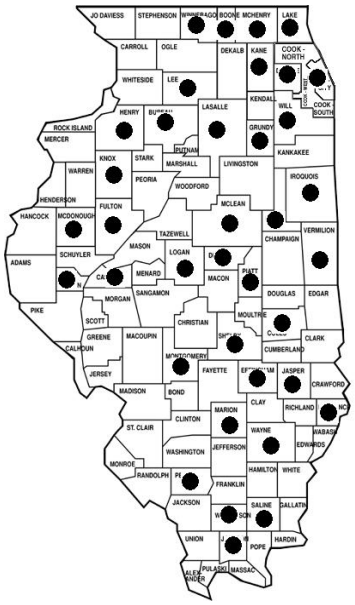

Figure 1. Distribution of the Henslow's Sparrow in Illinois, 1997-2006 (from the Natural Heritage database, T. Kieninger, manager).

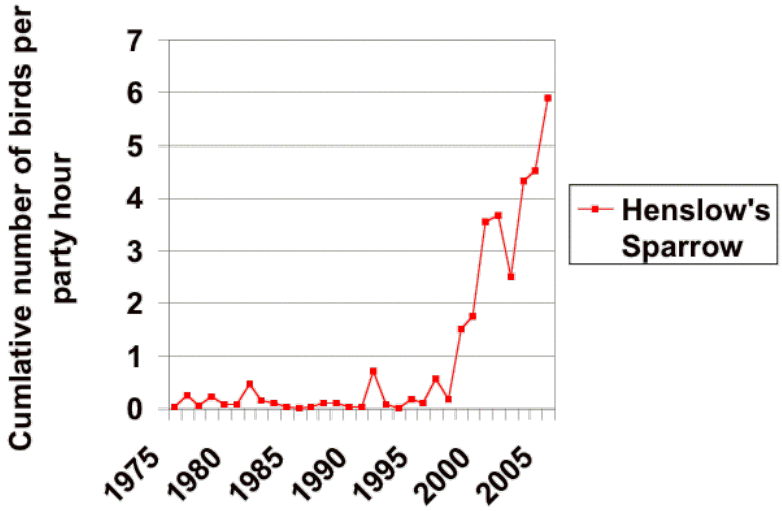

Figure 2. Number of Henslow's Sparrows recorded per party-hour on Illinois Spring Bird

Counts, 1975-2005 (*from Ward 2006*).

Scorecard for HENSLOW'S SPARROW Recovery Proposal

Factor	Scoring Points	Weighting Factor	Total Score
Historic Range in Illinois	1 2 3 **4**	2	8
Historic Occurrence in Recovery Area	1 2 3 **4**	2	8
Species Status	**1** 2 3 4	2	2
Availability of Stock for Reintroduction	1 2 3 4	2	N/A = 8
Genetic Issues Historic Genetic Knowledge Current Genetic Knowledge Genetics of Stock Available for Reintroduction	 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4	 2 2 2	 N/A = 8 N/A = 8 N/A = 8
Major Extirpation Factors	1 2 **3** 4	2	6
Available Habitat Remaining	1 2 **3** 4	2	6
Competition/Interaction with Other Species	1 2 3 **4**	1.5	6
Expansion Potential	1 **2** 3 4	1.5	3
Land Ownership Conflicts	1 2 **3** 4	1.5	4.5
Land Use Conflicts	1 2 **3** 4	1.5	4.5
Complexity of recovery logistics Coordination Scoring Access Scoring Equipment Scoring Site Preparation Scoring	 1 **2** 3 4 1 2 3 **4** 1 2 3 **4** 1 2 3 **4**	 1 1 1 1	 2 4 4 4
Complexity of Monitoring Logistics Monitoring Duration Monitoring Objectives Monitoring Methods Species Mobility Monitoring Access	 **1** 2 3 4 1 2 3 **4** 1 2 3 **4** **1** 2 3 4 1 2 3 **4**	 1 1 1 1 1	 1 4 4 1 4
Species Sensitivity	1 2 **3** 4	1	3
Public Acceptance	1 **2** 3 4	1	2
CUMULATIVE SCORE			113

Scorecard Narrative for
Illinois Endangered and Threatened Species
Recovery Proposals

Historic Range in Illinois: How well documented and common was the species in Illinois from the time of European settlement through the early to mid-1900s?

1 - species likely occurred in Illinois, but documented only by vague reports or questionable records, range limits unknown
2 - species presence well documented in Illinois, species uncommon, range limits somewhat known
3 - species presence well documented in Illinois, species was once common in some areas of preferred habitat, range fairly well defined
4 - species presence well documented in Illinois, species was once common across large portion of state in preferred habitat, range very well documented

Historic Occurrence in Recovery Area: How well documented and common was the species in the proposed recovery area?

1 - species likely occurred in the recovery area, but documented only by vague reports or questionable records, no reports for over 50 years
2 - species presence well documented in the recovery area, but uncommon even in preferred habitat, most recent reports 30-50 years old
3 - species presence well documented in the recovery area and common in preferred habitat, most recent reports 10-30 years old
4 - species presence well documented in the recovery area, common in preferred habitat, most recent reports less than 10 years old

Species Status: What is the state and federal status of the species?

1 - state threatened, no federal status
2 - state endangered, no federal status or federal candidate
3 - state endangered, federal proposed
4 - state endangered, federal listed endangered or threatened

Availability of Stock for Reintroduction: This set of criteria relates primarily to availability of stock (pen-reared, captive or wild) and to a lesser degree to the quality of the stock. It is assumed that all stock used for reintroduction will be certified free of disease.

1 - pen-reared, captive or wild stock seldom available
2 - pen-reared or long-term captive stock available
3 - captive stock available
4 - wild stock readily available and obtainable

Genetic Issues: This set of criteria considers the level of knowledge of the genetic history of the species in Illinois, the current genetic status of the species in Illinois, and the genetic compatibility of stock available for reintroduction with any individuals already present in Illinois

Historic Genetic Knowledge:

1 - no historic genetic information available for Illinois populations or for specimens of the same species from other states
2 - no historic genetic information available for Illinois populations, but historic Illinois specimens with general information of geographic origin available for sampling
3 - no historic genetic information available for Illinois populations, but historic Illinois specimens with well-documented information of geographic origin available for sampling
4 - database of historic genetic information for Illinois readily available

Current Genetic Knowledge:

1 - no current genetic information available and no extant native specimens available for sampling
2 - no current genetic information available; small number of extant native specimens available for sampling or specimens available from another state with no obvious genetic barriers identified
3 - limited current genetic information available; additional extant specimens easily obtained in Illinois for sampling
4 - extensive database of genetic information for specimens from Illinois readily available

Genetics of Stock Available for Reintroduction:

1 - genetics of potential reintroduction stock unknown, difficult to obtain adequate samples from other states or extant Illinois populations for analysis
2 - genetics of potential reintroduction stock unknown, plentiful stock available for sampling
3 - genetics of potential reintroduction stock known, differences from extant Illinois populations present risk of adverse effects on extant Illinois populations
4 - genetics of potential reintroduction stock known, differences from extant Illinois populations have potential for beneficial effects on extant Illinois populations

Major Extirpation Factors: These factors, which may or may not be known, include events which alone or in concert were largely responsible for the rarity or extirpation of the species/

1 - major factors either unknown or still present and uncontrollable
2 - factors somewhat known and significantly reduced or probably controllable
3 - factors largely known and eliminated or largely controllable
4 - factors well known and essentially eliminated

Available Habitat Remaining: Factors include general condition and trend of historic or suitable habitat; presence of critical components (water, foraging habitat, specific topography, etc.), necessary structure, and proper spatial arrangement; presence of historic habitat or suitable areas where present management may allow species to exist; and the likelihood that remaining habitat is in jeopardy of being eliminated or altered.

1 - historic or suitable habitat no longer present in Illinois
2 - historic or suitable habitat limited to small isolated areas which are in jeopardy
3 - historic areas somewhat intact or restoration possible near small areas of historic habitats; habitats not presently in jeopardy
4 - historic habitat is intact or has been restored to historic conditions, and area not likely in jeopardy in the foreseeable future

Competition/Interaction with Other Species: Considered here are impacts of floral and faunal changes

brought about by exotic introductions or expanding populations of native flora and fauna

1 - large, vigorous populations of several exotic or native taxa that directly compete with recovery species
2 - variable populations of competing exotic and native taxa regularly occupy reintroduction area
3 - high potential for competing exotic and native taxa to enter area of reintroduction periodically
4 - no competing exotics or natives in area of proposed reintroduction

Expansion Potential: This involves the ability for species to inhabit areas around release sites, and to experience an increase in population and distribution. Factors include the distance to, and extent and condition of surrounding habitat that can likely sustain the organism.

1 - no suitable habitat nearby
2 - limited area of lower-quality habitat within reasonable dispersal distance
3 - limited area of good-quality habitat nearby
4 - large areas of good habitat nearby

Land Ownership Conflicts: Potential for management of species and habitats is directly related to land ownership;

1 - area under private ownership; landowner opposes reintroduction proposal
2 - private or public-owned release sites where future of area is uncertain
3 - private or public-owned release sites where future of area is relatively secure
4 - private or public-owned release sites managed primarily for natural resource values

Land Use Conflicts: This category is similar to land ownership conflicts, but more specifically considers present use conflicts as opposed to potential use conflicts that can arise under various ownerships.

1 - present land use has eliminated a significant amount of habitat, and currently is not compatible with recovery efforts
2 - present land use has somewhat affected habitat and species, and current use is not likely to be compatible with recovery efforts
3 - present land use has not yet affected habitat, but potential for effect to habitat or species is high because habitat or species is not controlled, and present use is somewhat compatible with recovery efforts
4 - present land use is favorable for species' survival, land use may be controlled, and present use is compatible with recovery efforts

Complexity of Recovery Logistics: Considered here are a combination of various factors, including the amount of coordination required, access to the release site, special equipment needs, and site preparation needs. These factors are scored separately below.

Coordination

1 - much coordination needed with other states, federal agencies, other Illinois agencies or local agencies
2 - moderate coordination needed with several agencies and private individuals
3 - little coordination needed with single agency or private owner

4 - little coordination needed; all project sites owned by IDNR

Access

1 - capture and release sites very remote
2 - capture or release sites somewhat remote
3 - capture or release sites readily accessible
4 - capture and release sites readily accessible

Equipment

1 - much capture, transport, holding and release equipment needed; equipment expensive and presently not on inventory
2 - much special equipment needed; equipment presently on inventory
3 - little species equipment needed; materials on inventory
4 - no special materials needed; any necessary materials are readily available and inexpensive

Site Preparation

1 - release site needs major modification or construction of major release-holding facility
2 - release site needs minor modification or construction of temporary release-holding facility
3 - release site needs no modification and minor, temporary release-holding facility
4 - no site preparation or construction needed

Complexity of Monitoring Logistics: This category relates to the ability to monitor reintroduced individuals successfully. Main factors are duration, objectives and methods of monitoring, mobility of species, and accessibility of area. These factors are considered separately below.

Monitoring Duration:

1 - > 5 years
2 - 3-5 years
3 - 1-2 years
4 - < 1 year

Monitoring Objectives:

1 - daily movements, mortality and habitat selection
2 - weekly movements, mortality and general habitat selection
3 - bi-weekly or monthly movements, mortality, general habitat preferences and home range
4 - general information on movements, home range and longevity

Monitoring Methods:

1 - expensive telemetry equipment, frequent aerial tracking flights and extensive ground tracking
2 - expensive telemetry equipment and some aerial tracking flights and frequent ground tracking
3 - telemetry equipment or visual markers and frequent ground tracking
4 - visual markers and limited ground tracking

Species Mobility:

1 - extensive daily and seasonal movements; species migratory
2 - extensive daily and seasonal movements; species resident
3 - resident species with limited movement
4 - resident species with very limited movement; species is a plant

Monitoring Access:

1 - access difficult; rugged terrain with no roads, poor visibility
2 - access limited; rugged terrain with few roads, limited visibility
3 - access good; moderately rugged terrain with many roads, limited long-range visibility
4 - access very good; relatively open, level or rolling terrain with many roads, good long-range visibility

Species Sensitivity: This category considers how sensitive the species and its habitat are to human intrusion and disturbance; it relates to the species' potential to become more visible to the public

1 - species very sensitive and intolerant of disturbance; habitat sensitive to disturbance
2 - species not secretive, but sensitive to human disturbance; species' habitat somewhat fragile
3 - species is somewhat sensitive; habitat is not fragile
4 - species and habitat are tolerant of human intrusion

Public Acceptance: This category assesses the potential for positive feedback from the public relative to the recovery project; it also considers how accessible the species is to humans.

1 - public opposition to recovery effort anticipated; species not accessible to public because of secretive behavior
2 - public aware of but indifferent to recovery effort; species has little public appeal or offers limited opportunity for public viewing
3 - public aware of species; support for recovery effort limited; species is accessible to public and appeal can be enhanced through outreach
4 - public very aware of species and strongly supports recovery effort; species is highly visible and appealing to public

Resolution

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board
February 19. 2010

Whereas **Dr. James R. Herkert** began his career with the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board as the Listing Coordinator from 1991 until 2001 – some 10 years, then served as a dedicated, loyal, and highly valued Board member from 2002-2009, during which time he served at the Director of Science at the Nature Conservancy in Illinois from 2001-2009, and then moved to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as the Director of the Office of Resource Conservation in 2009; and,

Whereas during his tenure as Listing Coordinator, he coordinated two List revisions (1994 and 1999), authored, co-authored or edited a number of publications on behalf of the Board, including: *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution. Volume 1 - Plants* and *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution. Volume 2 – Animals*; and,

Whereas during his membership on the Board, he co-authored or edited subsequent revisions to those same publications and served as Chair of the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee for Birds and lent thereto his considerable expertise as an Ornithologist and Ecologist (and has, in addition, agreed to continue on with said committee); and,

Whereas during his tenure as the Director of Science, he built/grew the Conservancy's Illinois Science program to include specific strengths in terrestrial and aquatic ecology and conservation planning, chaired the Emiquon Science Advisory Council and helped develop the adaptive management plan for the site, helped to launch the Conservancy's Great Rivers Partnership by serving as the first Program Director for the Upper Mississippi River Program, and participated on organization-wide efforts to develop a "measures" program and evaluate the effectiveness of Conservancy conservation strategies; and,

Whereas during his current tenure as the Director of the Office of Resource Conservation, he expected to continue providing great leadership in conserving our state's rarest animal and plants, prairies and wetlands, forests and streams, for the future generations of Illinois.

Now therefore, The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board resolves to commend Jim Herkert and thank him for exemplary service on the Board on behalf of the people of Illinois. The Board further directs that a copy of this resolution and a certificate of recognition and appreciation be transmitted to Dr. Herkert upon its passage.

Passed and approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board this Nineteenth day of February, Two Thousand and Ten.

Chairman
Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

Resolution

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board
February 19. 2010

Whereas **Dr. Christopher A. Phillips** was appointed to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board in 2002 and served as a dedicated, loyal, and highly valued Board member until 2009 - some 7 years; and,

Whereas he served as the Board's Secretary from 2006-2009; and

Whereas he served as Chair of the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee for Reptiles and Amphibians and lent thereto his considerable expertise as a Zoologist and Ecologist; and,

Whereas he stepped-up to assume duties including keeping record of Board meetings and coordinating the Board's research project program for two years when the Board did not have staff; and,

During his tenure as an Affiliate Associate Professor at the University of Illinois and as the Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles at the Illinois Natural History Survey, he was the primary author of the *Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois* and continues to manage the INHS Herpetology Collection that includes 24,000 catalogued specimens, representing 55 families and over 550 species, and includes specimens from field work reaching back to the mid 1930s;

Now therefore, The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board resolves to commend Chris Phillips and thank him for exemplary service on the Board on behalf of the people of Illinois. The Board further directs that a copy of this resolution and a certificate of recognition and appreciation be transmitted to Dr. Phillips upon its passage.

Passed and approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board this Nineteenth day of February, Two Thousand and Ten.

Chairman
Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board