

**Illinois
Endangered
Species
Protection
Board**

BIENNIAL REPORT

JULY 2016 - JUNE 2018

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD AS OF JUNE 30, 2018

Members:

Dr. Angelo Capparella

Dr. Janice Coons

Dr. Tracy Evans

Dr. Jeremie Fant

Dr. Joyce Hofmann

Bruce Ross-Shannon

Randall Schietzelt

Dr. Philip Willink

One member vacancy

Chris Young, designee of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Wayne Rosenthal

Staff:

None

PREFACE

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, originally enacted in August 1972 and revised in July 1986 and January 2000, requires that the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board prepare and make available a report of its accomplishments biennially. An initial report was prepared and made available for the period July 1986 - June 1988. Biennial reports were not prepared for the biennia ending in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000. A report prepared and made available by volunteer Board members covered the period July 2000 – June 2002 and included highlights of the previously unreported biennia. In July 2002, the Board’s budget was reduced and subsequently eliminated due to funding shortages within the State of Illinois and, as a result, Board staff was laid off. Until November 2008, the Board functioned with only part-time staff or no staff. In spring 2009, the Board’s new full-time staff person, an Executive Director, completed a report for the period July 2006 – June 2008 that included highlights for the biennia ending in 2004 and 2006. The Executive Director subsequently prepared reports for the periods July 2008 - June 2010, July 2010 – June 2012, and July 2012 – June 2014. In September 2015 the Board was informed that its funding had again been eliminated, resulting in the loss of staff. The Board Chair, with assistance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, prepared a report for the period July 2014 – June 2016. These last five reports are posted on the Board’s website (www.dnr.illinois.gov/ESPB). The current report, prepared by volunteer Board members, covers the biennium July 2016 – June 2018.

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (Board/ESPB) was created by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act in 1972. The publication “The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act at Forty: A Review of the Act’s Provisions and the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species” presents history of the Board and is available on the Board’s website (www.dnr.illinois.gov/ESPB).

Statute requires that the Board biennially prepare and make available a report of its accomplishments. This report, prepared by volunteer Board members in the absence of staff, covers the Board’s activities during two fiscal years – from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.

CURRENT STATUTORY MANDATES AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING TO THE ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

That the Endangered Species Protection Board exist (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Board maintain and update the List of Illinois Endangered and Threatened Species (Illinois List/List) as warranted and no less often than every 5 years (520 ILCS 10/7);

That the Board hold a public hearing when making revisions to the Illinois List (520 ILCS 10/7);

That the Board advise the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Department/IDNR) on methods of assistance, protection, conservation and management of endangered and threatened species and their habitats, and on related matters (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Board hold meetings no less often than quarterly (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Board produce a report of accomplishments, biennially (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Department seek the advice of the Board as it plans and implements a program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species (520 ILCS 10/11);

That the Department shall consult with and gain written approval from the Board when promulgating rules for the issuance and maintenance of endangered and threatened species permits (520 ILCS 10/4); and

That the Department seek the advice of the Board and provide written response to any Board comments regarding the issuance and terms of authorization for incidental taking of endangered and threatened species (17 Ill. Adm. Code 1080.40 (a)(7)).

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor, with the Director of the IDNR (or the Director's designee) serving as a nonvoting member. By statute at least six of the appointed Board members must be "recognized as naturalists by training, avocation, or vocation" and the membership must include at least two zoologists, one botanist, and two ecologists. Board members are appointed for a term of three years and continue to serve until replaced. All Board members complete online Open Meetings Act training. They receive no compensation other than actual travel expenses. In addition to the individuals currently serving on the Board, Mr. Vernon LaVia and Dr. Jeff Walk were members for part of the July 2016 – June 2018 biennium. During the biennium Board members donated more than 1250 hours of their time to the State.

The Board functions with three elected Executive Officers: Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary. At the 172nd meeting in November 2016, Joyce Hofmann was elected Chair, Janice Coons Vice-Chair, and Bruce Ross-Shannon Secretary.

BOARD STAFF

Since September 2015 the Board has had no staff due to the elimination of its funding by the Governor's Office. Board members have been performing tasks necessary to comply with the Board's legal mandates. Department personnel have provided assistance to the Board, especially Office of Resource Conservation Director Chris Young. Ms. Marni English of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission has been updating the Board's website and Ms. Jeannie Barnes of the Illinois Natural History Survey has provided the Board's Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) with records from the Illinois Natural Heritage Database. Without Board staff, however, it has not been possible to meet some of the Board's responsibilities as fully as in previous years or to conduct discretionary activities that would further the protection and conservation of Illinois' endangered and threatened species.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

As required, the Board convened eight regularly scheduled quarterly meetings during the biennium. Meetings were conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). A quorum was present for all but one of these meetings (the 171st). Board meetings had previously been held at various locations throughout Illinois, but all meetings during the biennium took place at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Visitor Center in Wilmington. This has been a central location for Board members and has reduced travel costs. Agendas and minutes for all Board meetings are posted on the Board's website.

Quarterly Meeting Dates and Locations July 2016 – June 2018

171	08/12/2016	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois
172	11/18/2016	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois
173	02/17/2017	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois
174	05/19/2017	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois
175	08/11/2017	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois
176	11/17/2017	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois
177	02/23/2018	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois
178	05/18/2018	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois

BIENNIAL REPORT

A Biennial Report for July 2014 – June 2016 was prepared by Board Chair Hofmann, with assistance from Department staff, and approved by the Board at its 173rd meeting in February 2017. The report was posted on the Board's website and sent to the State Library, Governor's Office of Management and Budget, and General Assembly Legislative Research Unit. The present report covering the period July 2016 – June 2018, prepared by the Chair Hofmann and Board member Evans, was approved at the Board's 178th meeting in May 2018.

ILLINOIS LIST OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

The Board established Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) composed of experts in specific taxonomic groups (mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, fish, invertebrates, and plants) to assist with the review and revision of the Illinois List. The ESTACs function is to review records from the Department's Illinois Natural Heritage Database and other scientific data to assess the current status of listed species and make recommendations to the Board for any changes. The committees may also recommend placing additional species on the Illinois List. All ESTAC members completed OMA training and committee meetings comply with the Act. All of the zoological ESTACs met during the 2016 - 2018 biennium and have submitted several petitions to the Board recommending changes to the List. The Botanical ESTAC held the first of three regional meetings in May 2018 to review plants of central and western Illinois and will meet again to review northern and southern Illinois plant species. All meetings have been held at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign due to its central location within the state.

Members of the Avian ESTAC (approved at the Board's 170th meeting) are Dr. Eric Bollinger (Eastern Illinois University), Dr. Angelo Capparella (Illinois State University), Dr. James Herkert (Illinois Audubon Society), Dr. Jeffrey Hoover (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. James Mountjoy (Knox College), Mr. Brad Semel (IDNR), Dr. Wendy Schelsky (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. Douglas Stotz (Field Museum of Natural History), Dr. Jeffrey Walk (The Nature Conservancy), and Dr. Michael Ward (University of Illinois). The committee met on September 20, 2016.

Members of the Amphibian/Reptile ESTAC (approved at the 172nd meeting) are Dr. Sarah Baker (Illinois Natural History Survey), Mr. Scott Ballard (IDNR), Dr. John Crawford (Lewis and Clark College), Dr. Michael Dreslik (Illinois Natural History Survey), Mr. Gary Glowacki (Lake County Forest Preserve District), Dr. Richard King (Northern Illinois University), Mr. Michael Redmer (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Dr. Alison Sacerdote-Velat (University of Illinois), and Mr. Eric Smith (IDNR). The committee met on March 1, 2017.

Members of the Fish ESTAC (approved at the 172nd meeting) are Dr. John Chick (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. Robert Colombo (Eastern Illinois University), Dr. James Lamer (Western Illinois University), Mr. Steven Pescitelli (IDNR), Dr. Christopher Taylor (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. David Thomas (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission), Mr. Trent Thomas (IDNR), Mr. Jeremy Tiemann (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. Matthew Whiles (Southern Illinois University), and Dr. Philip Willink (ESPB). The committee met on April 12, 2017.

Members of the Aquatic Invertebrate ESTAC (approved at the 173rd meeting) are Mr. Kevin Cummings (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. Edward DeWalt (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. Jochen Gerber (Field Museum of Natural History), Dr. Leon Hinz (IDNR), Dr. James Lamer (Western Illinois University), Dr. Jeffrey Laursen (Eastern Illinois University), Ms. Diane Shasteen (IDNR), Dr. Christopher Taylor (Illinois Natural History Survey), Mr. Jeremy Tiemann (Illinois Natural History Survey), and Dr. Matthew Whiles (Southern Illinois University). The committee met on May 2, 2017.

Members of the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC (approved at the 173rd meeting) are Dr. Tim Cashatt (Illinois State Museum), Dr. Ken Cramer (Monmouth College), Dr. Christopher Dietrich (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. Alexandra Harmon-Threatt (University of Illinois), Dr. Michael Jeffords (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. Ken McCravy (Western Illinois University), Ms. Angella Moorehouse (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission), Dr. Douglas Taron (Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum), and Mr. James Wiker. The committee met on May 15, 2017.

Members of the Mammal ESTAC (approved at the 174th meeting) are Mr. Bob Bluett (IDNR), Dr. Justin Boyles (Southern Illinois University), Dr. Christopher Jacques (Western Illinois University), Mr. Joseph Kath (IDNR), Ms. Jean Mengelkoch (Illinois Natural History Survey), and Dr. Tih-Fen Ting (University of Illinois, Springfield). The committee met on September 21, 2017.

Members of the Botanical ESTAC (approved at the 176th meeting) are Dr. Timothy Bell (Chicago State University), Mr. Christopher Benda (Southern Illinois University/Illinois Natural History Survey), Mr. Paul Marcum (Illinois Natural History Survey), Ms. Susanne Masi (Chicago Botanic Garden), Mr. William McClain (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission), Mr. Randy Nyboer (Illinois Natural History Survey), Ms. Elizabeth Shimp (U.S. Forest Service), Dr. Greg Sypreas (Illinois Natural History Survey), Dr. John Taft (Illinois Natural History Survey), Mr. Eric Ulaszek (Illinois

Natural History Survey), and Mr. John Wilker (IDNR). The committee met on May 25, 2018.

At its 174th meeting in May 2017 the Board gave preliminary approval to a petition to change the status of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) from endangered to threatened.

At its 175th meeting in August 2017 the Board gave preliminary approval to petitions for the following changes to the Illinois List:

- change the status of the Crystal Darter (*Crystallaria asprella*) from threatened to endangered

- change the status of the Cisco (*Coregonus artedi*) from threatened to endangered

- change the status of the Spike (*Elliptio dilatata*) from threatened to endangered

- remove the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) from the List

- remove the Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*) from the List

- remove the Slippershell Mussel (*Alasmidonta viridis*) from the List

- remove the Little Spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*) from the List

- add the Monkeyface (*Theliderma matanevra*) to the List as threatened

At its 176th meeting the Board gave preliminary approval to a petition to change the status of the Elfin Skimmer (*Nannothemis bella*) from threatened to endangered.

At its 178th meeting the Board gave preliminary approval to petitions to remove the Iowa Darter (*Etheostoma exile*) and the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) from the List.

At its 178th meeting the Board approved a list of changes in the scientific nomenclature of several listed animal species that need to be incorporated into the revision of the List.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Rusty Patched Bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) as an endangered species in 2017. Because Illinois is part of the range of this species, it was automatically added to the Illinois List without any Board action.

PUBLIC MEETING

There was no need for a public meeting during the biennium. A public meeting will be held during the 2018 – 2020 biennium as part of the process of revising the Illinois List.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE BIENNIUM

The Board is a member of the Department's Natural Areas Evaluation Committee. Board member Evans participated in four committee meetings during the biennium.

Board Chair Hofmann attended the 224th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in Wheaton on September 13, 2016, the Commission's 226th meeting in

Byron on May 9, 2017, and the 229th Commission meeting in Galena on May 8, 2018. Board member Evans attended the Commission's 228th meeting in Springfield on January 23, 2018. A report on Board activities was prepared for all Commission meetings during the biennium.

All Board members completed mandatory Illinois ethics training during 2016 and 2017.

As required by statute, the Department continued to submit draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) to the Board for its advice. Since the Board had no staff to review these draft ITAs, individual Board members provided the Department with comments on some of these documents.