

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 152nd MEETING

MIDWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON, IL

18 NOVEMBER 2011

(Approved at the 153<sup>rd</sup> meeting, February 17, 2012)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-chair Glen Kruse, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Ms. Susanne Masi, Dr. Jim Herkert (for Mr. John Rogner), Dr. John Taft, Dr. Jeff Walk.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Dan Gooch, Secretary John Clemetsen, Ms. Laurel Ross

BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES: One.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Joe Kath (Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Resource Conservation); Ms. Tracy Evans, Ms. Kathi Davis, Ms. Olivia Campbell (Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning); Mr. Randy Heidorn (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission); and, Ms. Anne Mankowski (Endangered Species Protection Board).

152-1 Call to Order Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Vice-chair Kruse called the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ESPB to order at 10:01 A.M. and asked Ms. Mankowski to call roll. He then noted that there was a quorum and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

152-2 Adoption of Agenda

Vice-chair Kruse asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None were noted and Dr. Walk **moved** to adopt the agenda, Dr. Taft seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

152-3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Vice-chair Kruse asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the 151<sup>st</sup> meeting. Dr. Hofmann noted typographic corrections under item 151-3 where the 150<sup>th</sup> and not the 151<sup>st</sup> meeting was cited and under item 151-12 for a correction from "IDSPB" should be changed to "IESPB" in the species update report submitted by Ms. Masi. Dr. Walk **moved** to approve the minutes as amended, Dr. Hofmann seconded the motion and it was **approved** unanimously.

152-4 ESPB Staff Report

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

152-5 IDNR Staff Report

Joe Kath, from the IDNR Division of Natural Heritage, gave a report (Attachment B).

Following Mr. Kath's presentation, Dr. Herkert also gave a report. He noted that Steve Pallo had recently retired from the position of ORC Fisheries Division Chief and that Debbie Bruce would be filling in as Fisheries Division Acting Chief. The position that Ms. Bruce vacated, Private Lands and Watershed Division Chief would be filled by Shawn Wilcockson, also in an acting capacity. Dr. Herkert also noted the retirement of Joel Cross from the position of Watershed

Protection Section Manager and that Ann Holtrop would be filling-in as Acting Section Manager.

152-6 INPC Staff Report

Randy Heidorn, from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, gave a report (Attachment C).

152-7 2011 Ethics Training for Appointees to State Boards and Commissions

Ms. Mankowski noted that Board members and staff had completed the required training.

152-8 ESPB Budget

Ms. Mankowski advised the Board that since the Board's August meeting, the IDNR directed all units to reduce FY2013 budget requests by 10% from FY2012 approved spend plans. Ms. Mankowski developed a revised ESPB FY2013 budget request that was approved by Chairman Gooch. She noted that because the Board is only in its second year of having a budget, there is very limited ability to reduce operational costs and a 10% reduction was not achieved; the revised FY2013 represents a 5% reduction from FY2012 approved spend plan and a nearly 9% reduction from the ESPB FY2013 budget request approved by the Board at the August 12, 2011 meeting.

Following Ms. Mankowski's report, Dr. Herkert provided an IDNR budget update. He reported that in the current FY2012 budget year, the IDNR is dealing with a \$6 million shortfall and projections for FY2013 suggest as much as a \$20 million shortfall. He added that the agency is working hard to develop strategies to deal with the current and projected budget situation.

152-9 Board Appointments

Ms. Mankowski reported that letters of support from the Board and IDNR Director Miller for reappointment of Ms. Masi and Dr. Taft and for appointment of Dr. Brooks Burr have been sent Governor Quinn. She added that the Board has not received notification of any action by the Governor's Office.

152-10 ESPB Research and Strategic Funding Program

Ms. Mankowski gave a report (Attachment D).

152-11 Possible ESPB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Manual and TAC Establishment for next List Revision Cycle

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that the Board needed to establish technical advisory committees (TAC) for the next list review that will end in 2014. She reported that in follow-up from discussion at the August 2011 Board meeting and after consultation with Chair Gooch, she made the following recommendations:

- 1) TAC function will be solely to assist the Board with the list revision ending in 2014. If the Board or its staff believe outside expertise/advice is needed for other Board activities, Board staff will solicit such expertise on an as needed basis and from appropriate experts that may, or may not, be TAC members.
- 2) Board members provide to Ms. Mankowski by December 9, 2011 recommendations for TAC members. Recommendations should include name, affiliation, contact information, and explanation of what expertise the individual will contribute to the TAC.
- 3) Ms. Mankowski will work with the Board's executive committee to query potential TAC members and bring to the February 2012 meeting a list of members for each TAC for approval by the Board.

The Board reviewed some of the criteria for TAC composition and agreed to the process outlined by Ms. Mankowski.

#### 152-12 Species Updates

Items 1 – 8 were reported by Ms. Mankowski. Item 9 was reported by Ms. Masi. Items 10-23 were submitted by Joe Kath (IDNR) and are presented as received.

(Items 1 – 8 were reported by Anne Mankowski, ESPB)

**1. Species listings and status changes that have already received preliminary approval by the Board – keeping this entry in Species Updates as an earmark.** A public hearing and consideration of comments received is required prior to the Board making a final approval of a listing recommendation for a state-listed species. As discussed at the 147<sup>th</sup> meeting, due to the administrative burden associated with conducting a public hearing and making amendments to Ad Rules, the Board agreed to wait until after it had an opportunity to review the IDNR's forthcoming *Peregrine Falcon Post-delisting Management and Monitoring Plan* (see #2) and re-evaluate that species before scheduling public hearings and how to proceed with any proposed interim list changes. Species status changes for which the Board has already made preliminary approval include:

*Penstemon brevisepalus* (**Short-sepaled Beard Tongue**) – proposed to be de-listed.

*Mentzelia oligosperma* (**Stickleaf**) – proposed as endangered.

*Utricularia subulata* (**Zigzag Bladderwort**) – proposed as endangered.

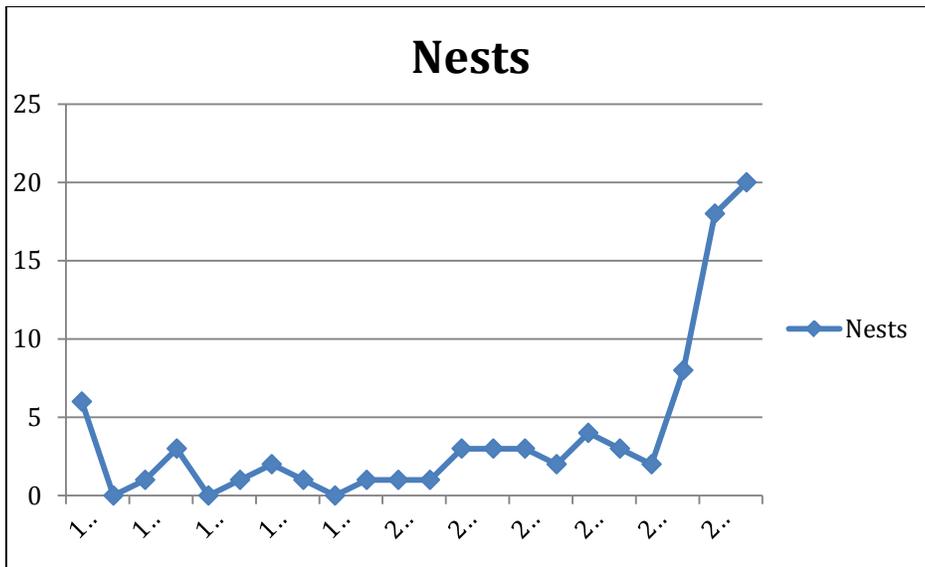
Additionally, in 2009 the Board de-listed *Isotria medeoloides* (**small whorled pogonia**). Based on a review of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and Ad Rule for the list of Illinois endangered and threatened flora, it appears the Board does not actually have the authority to remove a federal species from the Illinois list. Board staff recommends the species is re-listed as Illinois endangered when the Board proceeds with other plant list changes. This action does not require a public hearing by the Board.

2. As outlined in several 2009 and 2010 Board meetings minutes, the Board and IDNR are working together to develop and coordinate materials necessary to re-evaluate the listing status of the **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*). At the request of the Board, the IDNR is preparing a *Post de-listing management and monitoring plan for the peregrine falcon*. The Board agreed that it would await finalization and Board approval of the plan prior to reconsidering the listing status of the peregrine falcon. As of this writing, the IDNR has not completed a draft of the plan.

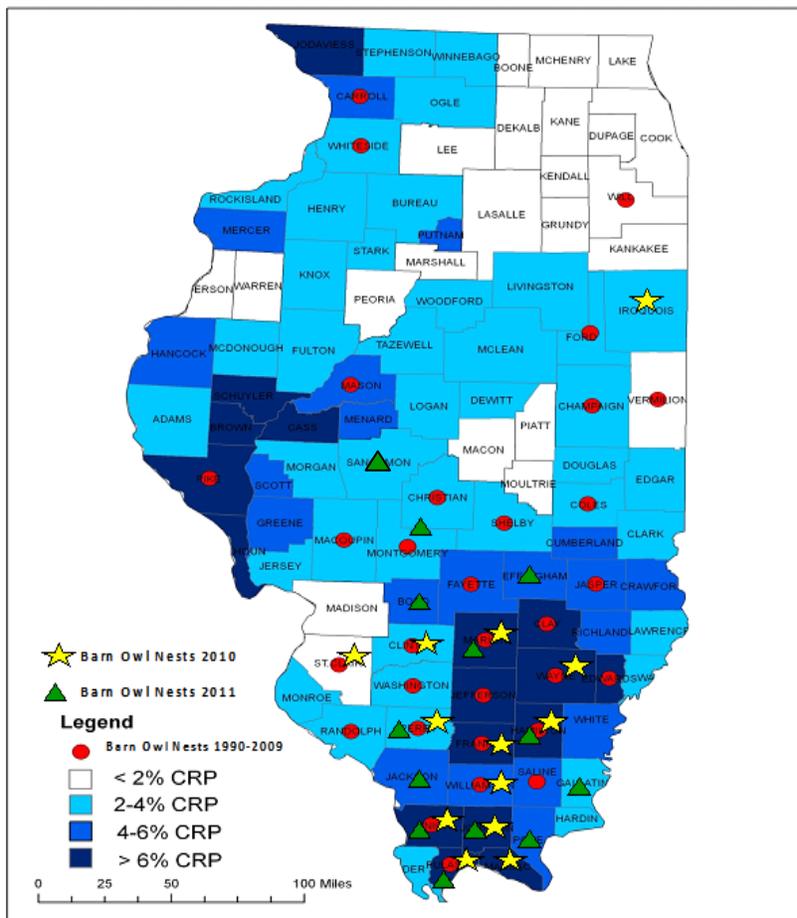
3. Ms. Mankowski, with the rest of the Illinois Barn Owl recovery team (Terry Esker and Maggie Cole [IDNR], Dr. Jeff Walk [TNC], and Mark Alessi [UIUC INHS]), continues project management of an IDNR State Wildlife Grant for the recovery of the **Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*) in Illinois (T-35-P-1). She completed and submitted to IDNR Federal Aid staff and the USFWS a final report for the SWG project. The Barn Owl SWG project was one of only two Illinois projects included in a recent Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies report entitled *State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program: 10 Years of Success*.

#### Nest Box Placement and Nesting Occurrence Summary

During 2010, the recovery team placed 42 new nest boxes, including 20 pole-mounted models (bringing to 19 the number of counties with boxes), and monitored 50 existing boxes for activity. During 2011, 32 new boxes were placed (bringing to 22 the number of counties with boxes) and monitored at least 75 existing boxes. The increased nesting opportunities resulting from the nest box placements appear to be working for the barn owl: For the period of 1990-2009, there were 38 barn owl nesting records from 31 counties, with the one-year high being 8 active nests in 2009, while in 2010 the recovery team documented 18 nesting records in 13 counties, and data through September 2011 documents 20 active nesting records (14 in nest boxes – 6 of which were pole-mounted models) in at least 12 counties (see below).



Barn owl nest element occurrence records in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biotics 4 database from 1990 – September 2011.



4. Ms. Mankowski continued project management for development of an Illinois Recovery Plan for **Blanding’s Turtle** (*Emydoidea blandingii*). Ms. Mankowski and IDNR Wildlife Resources Plan Regional Administrator, Dan Ludwig, are co-chairs of the recovery planning team they have established to assist with preparation of the plan; other team members include Dr. Rich King (Northern Illinois University),

Mike Redmer (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Gary Glowacki (Lake County Forest Preserve District), Dr. Mike Dreslik (UIUC INHS), Dr. Lisa Faust (Lincoln Park Zoo), and Bill Zeigler (Chicago Zoological Society). Dr. King is on contract to serve as the primary author of the plan. The production of the recovery plan will follow the IDNR ORC recovery planning process with opportunity for review by partners and stakeholders and a final plan being approved by the IDNR and ESPB. During the last quarter, Ms. Mankowski and Dr. Ludwig met with several stakeholders to discuss the planning process and held a first conference call meeting of the recovery planning team.

## 7. Species under Federal Listing consideration and information requests from USFWS.

Ms. Mankowski prepared the following summary of species in Illinois that are under Federal consideration as a part of recent USFWS settlements and the resulting listing work plan. To learn more about the listing work plan and the Service’s Endangered Species program, visit online at: [http://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving\\_ESA/listing\\_workplan.html](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/listing_workplan.html) .

Species under USFWS Region 3 review/consideration for potential listing and for which USFWS considers Illinois to be in the range and notes on Illinois status and distribution (Mankowski 11/11)					
Scientific Name	Common Name	Informal taxonomy	Action (CH=critical habitat)	Approximate Federal Timeline (FFY ends Sept. 30)	Note on IL status and distribution
Vermivora chrysoptera	Golden-winged Warbler	Bird	90-day finding	90-day finding closed August 1, 2011	Not listed in Illinois. From 1966 – 2010 (breeding individuals, no specific location given) 1979 -1; 1991–1; 1995–1 (USGS BBS). For the period of 1986 – 1991 there was only one confirmed breeder from southern Cook Co. (Kleen et al, 2004).
Calopogon oklahomensis	Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid	Plant	12-month finding	By end of FFY11 (not warranted finding published 10/4/11)	Illinois Endangered
Anguilla rostrata	American Eel	Catadromous eel	12-month finding	By end of FFY12????	Not listed in Illinois. Records from INHS indicate IL River occurrences in 1899, 1931, 1960, 1970; Jordan Creek in 1976; Kaskaskia River 1960; Mississippi River 1966, 1971; Rock River 1960, 1998; Sangamon River 1961; Wabash River 1967, 1970.
Villosa fabalis	Rayed Bean	Freshwater Mussels	Final listing w/out CH	By end of FFY12.	Formerly IL E, removed from the list in 2004 because it was deemed extirpated.
Epioblasma triquetra	Snuffbox	Freshwater Mussels	Final listing w/out CH	By end of FFY12.	Illinois Endangered
Plethobasus cyphus	Sheepnose	Freshwater Mussels	Final listing w/out CH	By end of FFY12.	Illinois Endangered
Cumberlandia monodonta	Spectaclecase	Freshwater Mussels	Final listing w/out CH	By end of FFY12.	Illinois Endangered
Myotis leibii	Eastern small-footed bat	Mammal	Not-warranted 12-month finding or proposed listing/CH rule	By end of FFY13	Not listed in Illinois
Myotis septentrionalis	Northern long-eared bat	Mammal	Not-warranted 12-month finding or proposed listing/CH rule	By end of FFY13	Not listed in Illinois
Papaipema eryngii	Rattlesnake-master borer moth	Moth	12-month finding	By end of FFY13	Illinois Endangered

Sistrurus catenatus	Eastern Massasauga	Reptiles	Proposed listing /CH rule or not warranted determination.	By end of FFY15	Illinois Endangered
Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica	Rabbitsfoot	Freshwater Mussels	Proposed listing /CH rule or not warranted determination.	By end of FFY16	Illinois Endangered
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis	Eastern Hellbender	Amphibians	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after the Multi-District Litigation (MDL) settlement agreement. (Probably after 2016).	Illinois Endangered
Pteronotropis hubbsi	Bluehead Shiner	Freshwater and Anadromous Fishes	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Formerly IL E, removed from the list in 2004 because it was deemed extirpated.
Crystallaria asprella	Crystal Darter	Freshwater and Anadromous Fishes	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Never listed in IL; INHS database shows an 1877 Mississippi River record in Hancock Co, a 1901 MR record in Whiteside Co, and a 2009 MR record in Rock Island Co.
Alosa alabamae	Alabama Shad	Freshwater and Anadromous Fishes	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Never listed in IL (would have been considered extirpated); INHS database shows a 1962 Mississippi River record in Monroe Co
Clonophis kirtlandii	Kirtland's Snake	Reptiles	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Illinois Threatened
Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis	Eastern Black Rail	Birds	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Illinois Endangered
Amblyscirtes linda	Linda's Roadside-skipper	Butterflies and Skippers	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Never listed in IL (would have been considered extirpated); Bouseman et al, 2006, cite a published 1896 occurrence from Jackson Co (now in Field Museum collection). No records in INHS collection.
Pleurobema rubrum	Pyramid Pigtoe	Freshwater Mussels	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Formerly IL E, removed from the list in 2004 because it was deemed extirpated.
Simpsonia ambigua	Salamander Mussel	Freshwater Mussels	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Illinois Endangered
Obovaria subrotunda	Round Hickorynut	Freshwater Mussels	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Formerly IL E, removed from the list in 2004 because it was deemed extirpated.
Toxolasma lividus	Purple Lilliput	Freshwater Mussels	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Illinois Endangered
Fusconaia subrotunda	Longsolid	Freshwater Mussels	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Never listed in IL; INHS database shows 12 Wabash River records from 1985 - 2010
Phaeophyscia leana	Lea's Bog Lichen	Lichens	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Illinois Threatened
Schoenoplectus hallii	Hall's Bulrush	Flowering Plants	12-month finding	Part of 404 SE aquatic species - 12-month finding work after MDL work plan.	Illinois Threatened
Myotis lucifugus	little brown bat	Mammal	Proactive info request.	Comments closed Aug 29, 2011.	Not listed in Illinois.
Eptesicus fuscus	big brown bat	Mammal	Proactive info request.	Comments closed Aug 29, 2011.	Not listed in Illinois.

Pipistrellus subflavus	tri-colored bat (eastern pipistrelle)	Mammal	Proactive info request.	Comments closed Aug 29, 2011.	Not listed in Illinois.
Myotis austroriparius	southeastern myotis	Mammal	Proactive info request.	Comments closed Aug 29, 2011.	Illinois Endangered

In addition, in the last year, Ms. Mankowski, working with the Board's Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees and Tara Kieninger, IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, provided data and information to the USFWS in response to information requests for 26 species including:

*Discus macclintocki* (Iowa Pleistocene Snail, IL E, Fed E)  
*Lampsilis higginsii* (Higgins eye, IL E, Fed E)  
*Epioblasma triquetra* (Snuffbox, IL E, proposed for Fed E)  
*Cumberlandia monodonta* (Spectaclecase, IL E, under a Fed status assessment)  
*Plethobasus cyphus* (Sheepnose, IL E, proposed for Fed E)  
*Villosa fabalis* (Rayed Bean, not listed in IL - extirpated from IL, proposed for Fed E)  
*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica* (Rabbitsfoot Mussel, IL E, proposed for Fed E)  
*Pleurobema clava* (Clubshell, not listed in IL - extirpated from IL prior to federal listing, Fed E)  
*Epioblasma rangiana* (Northern Riffleshell, IL E following USFWS-led reintroduction into IL, Fed E)  
*Leptodea leptodon* (Scaleshell, not listed in IL – extirpated from IL prior to federal listing, Fed E)  
*Vermivora chrysoptera* (Golden-winged Warbler, not listed in IL and no breeding records in IL since one in 1991, proposed for Fed E or T)  
*Myotis septentrionalis* (Northern Long-eared bat, not listed in IL, proposed for Fed E or T)  
*Myotis leibii* (Eastern Small-footed bat, not listed in IL, proposed for Fed E or T)  
*Eptesicus fuscus* (Big Brown bat, not listed in IL, Fed advanced information request)  
*Myotis lucifugus* (Little Brown bat, not listed in IL, Fed advanced information request)  
*Pipistrellus subflavus* (Tri-colored/Eastern Pipistrelle, not listed in IL, Fed advanced information request)  
*Myotis austroriparius*; (Southeastern Myotis, IL E, Fed advanced information request)  
*Myotis sodalis* (Indiana Bat, IL E, Fed E)  
*Myotis grisescens* (Gray Bat, IL E, Fed E)  
*Calopogon oklahomensis* (Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid, IL E, proposed for Fed E or T)  
*Boltonia decurrens* (Decurrent False Aster, IL T, Fed T)  
*Apios priceana* (Price's Potato-bean, not listed in IL - removed from IL list in the 1999 revision, Fed T)  
*Cirsium pitcheri* (Pitcher's thistle, IL T, Fed T)  
*Dalea foliosa* (Leafy Prairie-clover, IL E, Fed E)  
*Cirsium pitcheri* (Pitcher's thistle, IL T, Fed T)  
*Trifolium stoloniferum* (Running Buffalo Clover, not listed in IL - not known to be extant in IL, Fed E)

8. Board staff reviewed and provided comment on one draft incidental take authorizations during the last quarter:

- Dresden Island Hydroelectric Project, Grundy County (**Greater Redhorse, *Moxostoma valenciennesi*; River Redhorse, *Moxostoma carinatum*; and, Pallid Shiner, *Mybopsis amnis***).

(Item 9 was reported by Ms. Masi)

9. Ms. Masi reviewed that the Plants of Concern Program monitored *Agalinus skinneriana* (**Pale False Foxglove**), *Juniperus communis* (**Ground Juniper**), *Juniperus horizontalis* (**Trailing Juniper**), and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (**Bearberry**) at Illinois Beach State Park by special permission of Brad Semel although the park was closed to the public. She also reported that the *Utricularia subulata* (**Zigzag Bladderwort**), which is currently proposed for listing, was seen again this year, the third year in a row. Plant of Concern staff traveled to Springfield to present a summary of the program to IDNR, INPC, and ESPB staff and Ms. Masi also made a presentation at the Natural Areas Conference in Florida.

(Items 10 – 23 were reported by Joe Kath, IDNR, and are presented as submitted)

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Species Update Report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board  
at the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting, November 18, 2011**

**10. White Nose Syndrome (WNS): New research shows fungus IS the causal agent for disease**

For reasons that are not clear, white nose syndrome (WNS), the disease rampaging its way through the bats of North America, is caused by a fungus, scientists have confirmed. Researchers from a number of US institutions infected healthy bats with the fungus (*Geomyces destructans*), and found they did develop the disease. The team also showed that the fungus can pass from one bat to another.

*G. destructans* is usually found on the animals' snouts, where it causes a characteristic white coloration and, more significantly, lesions in the skin. Although the fungus has been suspected as the disease's primary cause, researchers have not been able to prove it definitively. Animals sometimes contract fungal diseases when their immune systems have been compromised, perhaps by a different infection, and this has been seen as a possibility for WNS as well. In the wild, bats appear to transmit the fungus when they "swarm" in vast groups outside the caves where they will hibernate, literally rubbing shoulders and everything else with their fellows, who may be from a different species or a different cave. It is generally believed that WNS came to the US this way from Europe, where bats appear to be immune.

The advance of WNS across North America in some ways parallels the spread of chytridiomycosis, the frequently lethal fungal disease affecting amphibians. As with chytrid, some species of bat appear immune, or at least resistant. In North America, these include the gray bat and the spectacular Virginia big-eared bat. Scientists want to understand why they are immune when others such as the little brown bat succumb; and, as is being investigated with chytrid, to see whether this natural immunity can be turned into a defense for vulnerable species. Given the high mortality rate and speed at which WNS has spread, the disease has the potential to decimate North American bat populations and cause species extinctions similar to those documented for amphibians affected by chytridiomycosis.

Therefore, recapping what is known of white nose syndrome (WNS):

- WNS is associated with a fungus known as (*Geomyces destructans*) - and the new research confirms it as the cause!;
- Species known to be vulnerable to WNS include: tri-colored (pipistrelle), little brown, big brown, northern long-eared, small-footed, and Indiana bats;
- There is no known risk to human health.

**11. Illinois WNS Planning and Coordination meeting held on Oct. 24, 2011 in Effingham, Illinois**

Technical discussions on the development of a formal WNS Response Plan for the State of Illinois, as well as upcoming survey and monitoring efforts for this winter and beyond, were the topic of discussion at a recent meeting in Effingham, Illinois on 10/24/2011. Invited to attend were personnel from the: US Forest Service (Shawnee), US Fish & Wildlife Service (Illinois Field Offices), US Fish & Wildlife Service (Region 3 WNS Coordinator – Bloomington, Indiana Field Office), Illinois Natural History Survey, Western Illinois University, Ball State University (Indiana), and Lincoln Park Zoo. This meeting was very productive in that a total of 17 critical Illinois hibernacula were ranked based upon species abundance and diversity and then a formal inventory/sampling schedule for the Winter of 2011/2012 was established – most sampling will be performed January through March, 2012. This is a coordinated effort between all parties listed above and is part of a larger grant funded through Federal Section 6 (E&T) and SWIG dollars. Overall, this will be a minimum three (3) year endeavor where biologists will implement a monitoring program to detect *Geomyces destructans*, the fungus responsible for fatal white-nose syndrome in cave-hibernating bats. The team of experts includes two mammalogists, a mycologist, a

microbial ecologist, a wildlife veterinary epidemiologist and a cave biologist, all at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The team will use molecular and culture-based approaches to evaluate dead and live-caught bats and cave and mine substrates for the presence of *G. destructans* and describe the microbial communities of sampled animals and caves. Overall, this study will provide crucial data on the occurrence and distribution of *G. destructans* and the microbial ecosystems in which it must compete to become established. Anticipated outcomes and benefits of this study can be summarized as:

- **Detection and surveillance** – Management and conservation practices aimed at protecting bat species will be driven by the early detection, allowing proactive management by alerting IDNR and USFWS immediately upon detection of *G. destructans*.
- **Managing T&E species** – this study facilitates critical monitoring for a major threat to important state-listed T&E species.
- **Cave ecosystem health** – this study contains broader implications for the health of cave ecosystems, which are, in part, dependent upon bats as an energy source.
- **Invasive species ecology** –by examining WNS as a biological invasion, this study will evaluate establishment of the fungus in the context of the overall native microbial community. We want to understand the ecosystem in which the species occurs – does the invasion of *G. destructans* alter the microbial community, both in caves and on the bodies of bats, and do some components of the native flora provide basic resistance to it? We will consider temporal changes in microbial communities as the invasion front enters Illinois.
- **Participation in national crises response** – this study plays an important role by demonstrating that Illinois is shouldering its share of responsibility for dealing with the multi-state WNS crisis.
- **Addresses multiple components of Wildlife Action Plan** – this study has clear and direct applicability to at least four of the eight elements in Illinois’ Wildlife Action Plan.

#### 12. Bald eagle release at Starved Rock State Park on November 12, 2011

A Bald Eagle release (2 juveniles) is scheduled for November 12th at Starved Rock State Park from 11 am – 1 pm. The release will occur on Plum Island with the public viewing the release from the shoreline across the river. In addition to the release, educational birds will be present and volunteers will give educational programs. Marc Miller, Director of the IDNR, will be the keynote speaker at the event. The two (2) eagles will be away from the public in a protected area and then quietly loaded onto a ferry to go over to the island. These animals came from a Batavia nest in Kane County that was recently destroyed during a storm event. Organizers have completely prohibited media and public access to the Eagles. Questions or concerns may be directed to: Dawn Keller, Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation at [www.flintcreekwildlife.org](http://www.flintcreekwildlife.org) or via telephone at (847)842-8000 x200.

#### 13. USFWS makes formal decision on protection of the Northern leopard frog

On October 5, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the northern leopard frog does not warrant protection as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Interested parties can view the news release announcing this action on our Midwest Region web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/>. The announcement is the result of an evaluation of the status of the northern leopard frogs in its 19-state western range and throughout the species’ entire range, which covers 19 states including Wisconsin. The Service then evaluated the status of the entire species. While the species has experienced reductions in its historical range, particularly in the western United States and western Canada, the species is still considered to be widespread and relatively common in the eastern United States and eastern Canada. Threats at the species level do not indicate that the northern leopard frog is in danger of extinction, or likely to become so within the foreseeable future, throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Listing is not warranted at this time.

#### 14. IDNR/INHS Northern Riffleshell and Clubshell Recovery Effort Update

A mollusk symposium for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (4-7 Dec 2011 in Des Moines, IA) will discuss Illinois' riffleshell/clubshell recovery project. The abstract for this discussion appears below.

*NORTHERN RIFFLESHELL REINTRODUCTION IN ILLINOIS: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM 2010*

Jeremy S. Tiemann, Robert E. Szafoni, Joseph Kath, and Kevin S. Cummings

The recovery plan for the federally-endangered northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma rangiana*), approved by USFWS in 1994, listed an objective of establishing viable populations of the species in ten separate river drainages throughout its range. The recovery plan stated that population augmentations and reintroductions would be needed to achieve this objective, and listed the Vermilion River (Wabash River drainage) in Illinois as a potential location for reintroduction. Beginning in 2005, Illinois partnered with the USFWS and state agencies in Ohio and Pennsylvania and began planning the reintroduction of *E. rangiana* into the Vermilion River. In September 2010, 136 individuals were translocated into the Vermilion River watershed from the Alleghany River in Pennsylvania. This presentation will summarize the results of the 2011 field activities.

**15. 90-Day finding on petition to list the American eel as Federally Threatened under the ESA**

The substantial 90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) as Threatened [Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0067] was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, September 29, 2011. The public information request period will close on November 28, 2011. Based on the Services's review, the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing of the American eel may be warranted. To ensure that this status review is comprehensive, the USFWS opened a 60-day information request period and are currently asking for scientific and commercial data and other information regarding the American eel. Based on the status review, the USFWS will issue a 12-month finding on the petition, which will address whether the petitioned action is warranted, as provided in the Act.

The historical and current distribution of the American eel within its extensive continental range is well documented along the United States and Canadian Atlantic coast, the Saint Lawrence River, and Lake Ontario. The distribution is less well documented in the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi watershed, and Caribbean Islands, and least understood in Central and South America. New information indicates that the continued existence of the American eel may be threatened other natural or manmade factors such as changing ocean conditions in the Sargasso Sea that impact glass eel recruitment rates. As stated, the information request period for the Service's *Federal Register* notice closes on November 28, 2011, at which time the USFWS will consider the information received in the 12-month finding.

**16. Status of Golden Mouse in Illinois**

A final report for portions Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration *Project W-135-R* was received by the Department in early September, 2011. The study has implications for status of the golden mouse. It also provides information about gray fox, which has been an item of discussion at the last couple of mammal ESTAC meetings. One of the primary tasks of this project was: **BASED ON STATE DELISTING CRITERIA, DETERMINE WHETHER THE GOLDEN MOUSE SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL FROM THREATENED STATUS IN ILLINOIS.** The final report suggests the golden mouse could be delisted in Illinois using the six (6) delisting criteria for the State of Illinois. The most interesting findings to note: 1) There is no historical evidence that golden mice were ever widespread in Illinois. Given forest management practices the past 50 years on Shawnee National Forest density and distribution of the species may be greater than ever, although recent management trends toward reduced cutting and burning of forested sites may negatively impact golden mice and eventually reverse the trend; 2) The golden mouse is a prime example of a small species with a relatively extensive geographic range. The extent of the geographic range of golden mice is well above the average for most North American mammals, especially for a small rodent; 3) Recent work suggests that golden mice adapt well to additional habitat types that they are not generally associated with, including areas with reduced

understory ; 4)The percentage of sites sampled in Illinois (within appropriate habitat) that contain golden mice is not different (or more) than the percentage sampled in the core of the distribution that contain golden mice; and 5)The average number of individual golden mice trapped per unit effort on all occupied sites within Illinois is no different (or more) than that within the core of the range of golden mice.

*Overall:* Based on the delisting criteria for the State of Illinois, it appears that golden mice can be delisted with no harm to the species in the state. The only caveat to this conclusion is if genetic studies currently underway at SIUC indicate unique alleles occur in the Illinois population compared to the core of the geographic range.

#### **17. New observations: Kirtland's snakes at Sugar Grove Nature Center in McLean County**

During mid September, 2011, two (2) confirmed sightings of the State threatened Kirtland's snake were documented at the Sugar Grove Nature Center just southeast of Bloomington, Illinois. Both sightings occurred during the same week. One of the animals was captured and photographed. Copy of E-mail documentation is provided below:

*\*Here is the information regarding the Kirtland's found yesterday by a visitor. One of our volunteers, John Tobias, was here photographing hummingbirds and took photos of the snake (dorsal, ventral, and from cloaca to tip of tail.*

*\*Data: 9/20/2011; 4:15 p.m.; temp 78, sunny - Length: Approx 15 inches*

*\*Location: Imagination Grove in shaded area near group of tree stumps and logs approximately 30 feet north after crossing the footbridge over the creek. After photos were taken it was released in the same location and went under a log. No crayfish burrows or holes observed in the general vicinity. Flag placed in ground at location.*

*\*Found by: Scott Marshall, 1315 Bancroft Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704*

#### **18. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces recovery of the Lake Erie water snake**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recently announced the recovery of the Lake Erie water snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*) and subsequent removal of the species from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. The FWS also made public a post-delisting monitoring plan for the water snake subspecies. The Lake Erie water snake was first listed as threatened in 1999 after a decline due to eradication by humans, as well as habitat loss and degradation. When initially listed, the subspecies' population had dropped to only 1,500 adults. Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for the snake included designation of 300 acres of inland habitat and 11 miles of shoreline for breeding grounds. Ironically, the introduction of an invasive species into the water snake's habitat also assisted in their recovery. The Eurasian round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) was introduced into Lake Erie in the mid 1990s and became a new food source for the Lake Erie water snake. There were an inventoried 11,980 snakes as of 2009, well above the minimum population level of 5,555 adult snakes required by the 2003 recovery plan. Monitoring will occur for 5 years following this delisting. **The Lake Erie water snake is just the 23rd species to be removed from the list due to recovery.**

#### **19. Alligator Snapping Turtle (AST) Recovery – New abstract from ISAS**

The following paper was recently published in the Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science: (2011) Volume 104, #1&2, pp. 63-70

##### *SURVEY FOR MACROCHELYS TEMMINCKII IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR RECOVERY ACTIONS*

Robert D. Bluett, Daniel A. Woolard, John G. Palis, and Joseph A. Kath

Moll's (1988) report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board recommended attempts to locate viable populations of alligator snapping turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*) before considering management actions. We surveyed 18 sites in southern Illinois and captured 2,671 turtles, none of which were *M. temminckii*. No verifiable records were obtained from our solicitation of observations in two regulatory publications of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Our findings are supported by other chelonian studies and a lack of documented records of *M. temminckii* in Illinois during the past Quarter century. We conclude recovery of this species is unlikely in Illinois without direct management such as translocation or release of captive-raised individuals.

The alligator snapping turtle was listed as a state endangered species in Illinois during 1994. Given that recovery is the ultimate goal of listing (520 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/11), the most salient question is not whether *M. temminckii* exists in Illinois, but whether it exists in sufficient numbers to fuel a natural recovery. Our findings answer the latter question, especially when considered in the context of other studies. The nearest known viable populations occur in extreme southeastern Missouri (Shipman and Riedle 2008). Therefore, recovery is unlikely in Illinois without supplementing populations as proposed by Kath (2005). Similar programs have been implemented by state agencies in Tennessee (Alan Peterson, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, personal communication) and Oklahoma (Riedle et al. 2008b).

## **20. Illinois Cave Amphipod – census update**

The 2011 census of the Illinois cave amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*) in southwestern Illinois was provided to the Department in mid August, 2011. The purpose of this project was to monitor the status of the endangered ICA as mandated by the Federal recovery Plan to be done on an annual basis. The last censuses were conducted in 2007 and 2003. In 2011, the researcher (Lewis and Associates, LLC – Indiana) visited established census transects in each of the following groundwater basins: 1) Frog Spring, 2) Annbriar, 3) Pautler Cave, 4) Illinois Caverns, 5) Fogelpole Cave, 6) Krueger/Dry Run Cave, 7) Luhr Spring, and 8) Dual Spring. Overall recommendations were that annual quantitative monitoring (census of all sites) continue in 2012. Highest priority caves were: Fogelpole Cave and soil conservation practices around Wednesday and Reverse Stream caves.

From Keith Shank – Consultation Project Manager with IDNR/OREP: “With regards to a recent Monroe County Wind Farm proposal, over a large sink-hole area: I spoke at length with Dr. Frank Wilhelm of the University of Idaho (formerly at SIUC), one of the foremost researchers into the natural history of the Illinois Cave Amphipod and other cave species. He affirmed that acoustic stimulation of the Cave Amphipod by wind turbine operations is a cause for grave concern, with the potential to directly interfere with Amphipod food detection and feeding, and perhaps to stimulate evasion responses to the point of exhaustion and death. (Nobody has tested their ability to acclimate to such stimuli.) The potential to indirectly adversely alter habitat conditions through resonant vibrations also exists. However, specific research would be needed to confirm Amphipod responses to this type of stimulation.”

## **21. Late October, 2011: USFWS announces two (2) RFP opportunities for WNS and RLA grants**

1) RFP for Non-Traditional Section 6 Grants - An RFP for Section 6 grants for HCP Planning Assistance, Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA), and HCP Land Acquisition grants is open on Grants.gov. Please note that States will have until January 27, 2012, to submit proposals to the Regional Office (AES/TE, Attn: L. Mandell) or directly to Grants.gov. These grants are for the States - with match requirements. For additional information about this RFP, click on this link: <http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2011/10/26/Section-6-Grants-What-are-They-and-What-can-They-Do>

2) White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) Funding Opportunity - An RFP is out for grants related to WNS research. It is posted on Grants.gov as well as the FWS White-Nose site (<http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/>). Proposals are due by December 4, 2011, and must be submitted via Grants.gov. Proposals for the WNS funding may be submitted by Federal and State personnel, NGOs, universities, and private researchers - no match requirement.

\*Questions on Section 6 - call Lisa Mandell, 612-713-5343

\*Questions on WNS Grants - call Rich Geboy, 812-334-4261 x1210

## **22. USFWS Region 3 Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Wind Energy Development in the Midwest (MSHCP) – update on NCTC meeting held in mid September, 2011**

The USFWS and the Wind Industry have recently selected the independent contractor to write the Final HCP – they are: SAIC/ Science Applications International Corporation out of California.

In addition to the species currently appearing on the DRAFT list (those species to be included in the Final HCP), the following species are also being considered for inclusion: Ozark big-eared bat (Missouri), Copperbelly water snake (Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio), Ozark hellbender (Missouri), Scioto madtom (Missouri), Niangua darter (Missouri), Neosho madtom (Missouri), snuffbox (Ohio but occurs in most states), Karner Blue (most states), Mitchell's satyr (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio), Hines emerald dragonfly (Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin), Illinois cave amphipod (Illinois), and Hunderfords crawling beetle (Michigan). The Bald eagle and golden eagle are being considered although they are not Listed. The only other species that I am aware of that was mentioned for coverage is the *Spragues pipit* which is a candidate. The Service has stated that candidates do not need to be included at this time and it is industries risk if they become listed during the term of the permit. There is no date for when the FINAL HCP species list will be made available.

### 23. Incidental Take (ITA) Update - As of 01 November 2011

\*3 ITA packages – officially submitted to IDNR and Final ITAs due on the following dates:

-Lowell Eells Property/Vermilion County (Various mussel species): Still needs mussel survey done on site per conference call with USACOE and USFWS on 07/26/2011.

-Walnut Ridge Wind Farm/Bureau County (Ornate Box Turtle) – public comments received and responses received from applicant/consultant on 11/02/11.

-Hickory Hills Road/Wayne County (Little Spectaclecase Mussel) – officially withdrawn by IDOT on 09/27/11

\*As of 01 November, three (3) new letters sent to Applicants asking them to formally apply for an ITA:

-IL 46 over Peters Creek – Hardin County

-Fox River bridge replacement/METRA – Kane County

- Willow Saunders Road/Massasauga - Cook County

### 152-14      Next Meeting Information (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, February 17, 2012)

The 2012 meeting schedule follows. All meetings begin at 10:00 AM and will be at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

February 17, 2012

May 11, 2012

August 10, 2012

November 9, 2012

### 152-15      Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Ms. Davis reported that Dr. Benson would present a talk about barn owl recovery at the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary in Springfield on the third Thursday in December.

### 152-16      Other Business

There was none.

### 152-17      Adjournment

Dr. Walk **moved** to adjourn, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and the Board **approved** it unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board staff report  
for the 152nd Meeting, November 18, 2011**  
Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board currently only has one staff, its Director; all activities were conducted by the ESPB Director unless otherwise noted. Ms. Mankowski has not been able to complete all required work in the course of a 37.5-hour work week. Since the last staff report, Ms Mankowski has donated the following overtime hours toward ESPB and IDNR duties: August = 7.5; September = 27.0; October = 34.75.

### **1. ESPB Webpage**

Working with IDNR web support staff Ann Otten, Ms. Mankowski continues updating the ESPB webpage on the IDNR website in response to user requests and inquiries for information. Ms. Otten is very helpful and dedicates a fair amount of time to assisting with management of the ESPB webpage. The Board's webpage serves as the primary resource for ESPB and IDNR administered endangered and threatened species programs and many updates have been to provide users easier access to forms and program staff contact information. The ESPB webpage enjoys a great deal of user activity, demonstrating a significant public interest in endangered and threatened species – during a recent 21-day period, the ESPB webpage was visited by a total of 1,093 unique visitors, with a one-day high of 86 unique visitors, a daily average of 52 unique visitors and a weekday average of 58 unique visitors.

### **2. ESPB Budget**

Ms. Mankowski continues working with IDNR on multiple budget assignments related to FY2012 and FY2013 budgets.

Since the Board's August meeting, the IDNR directed all units to reduce FY2013 budget requests by 10% from FY2012 approved spend plans. Ms. Mankowski developed a revised ESPB FY2013 budget request that was approved by Chairman Gooch and will present it to the Board for approval at 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Because the Board is only in its second year of having a budget, there is very limited ability to reduce operational costs and a 10% reduction was not achieved; the revised FY2013 represents a 5% reduction from FY2012 approved spend plan and a nearly 9% reduction from the ESPB FY2013 budget request approved by the Board at the August 12, 2011 meeting.

### **3. ESPB Research/Strategic Projects Program**

Ms. Mankowski continues administration of IDNR research projects and assisting IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, Tara Kieninger, in working with partner organizations on an ongoing project to conduct surveys to update endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records (EOR) that are greater than 10 years old. The Board's FY2012 WPF allocation of \$25,000 is being dedicated to the animal endangered and threatened species EOR update project.

### **4. ESPB 2012 Biennial Report and 40 Years of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act Publication**

As per Board discussion at the ESPB 150th meeting held May 13, 2011, Ms. Mankowski is working on information for 40-year review of accomplishments and challenges relative to provisions and requirements of the Endangered Species Protection Act. Depending on the length and complexity of the document it will either be incorporated into the ESPB 2012 Biennial Report or produced as a stand-alone document.

### **5. Preparation of Materials for List Review and Revision ending in 2014**

Ms. Mankowski is using work described in item #4 above to update and improve the ESPB files on species status and distribution and the history of species listings as part of the initial preparation of materials for the next List review.

## **6. Meetings, Presentations, and other Publications**

Ms. Mankowski participates in IDNR ORC twice-monthly and Natural Heritage monthly administrative meetings.

Ms. Mankowski participated in the 57<sup>th</sup> Natural Areas Evaluation Committee meeting held August 30, 2011 at IDNR headquarters. The ESPB is a voting member of the NAEC. The meeting included approval of 6 new Category I (high-quality community) sites, 2 new Category III (IL Nature Preserves and Land and Water Reserves) sites, 2 new Category VI (unusual concentration of flora and fauna) sites, a reclassification of community type at an existing site, and 2 agenda items were tabled to allow for submission of additional supporting information and review.

Ms. Mankowski attended a September 15, 2011 meeting of the Chicago Wilderness Wildlife Task Force and presented information about the planning process and status of work towards developing an *Illinois Recovery Plan for the Blanding's Turtle (Emydoidea blandingii)*.

Ms. Mankowski attended the 209<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission held September 20, 2011 in Richmond, Illinois and presented a report of ESPB activities.

Ms. Mankowski attended the 2011 USFWS Region 3 Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinators' meeting from October 3 – 6 in South Haven, Michigan. The meeting brings together endangered and threatened species staff from the USFWS and the eight states within the region. Agenda items included annual reports from each program and discussions about evaluating species endangerment, planning for and evaluating the potential for vulnerability of species and habitats to the effects of climate change, updates to USFWS/State Cooperative Agreements, annual budgets, and potential funding and grant opportunities.

Planned – Ms. Mankowski attended the November 15, 2011 meeting for planning related to Project Passenger Pigeon at the Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago. Project information - 2014 marks the centenary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. Numbering in the billions in 1800, the last bird died on September 1, 1914; driven to extinction by human activity. Project Passenger Pigeon is an international effort to commemorate this anniversary and use it not only as an opportunity to familiarize people with this remarkable species, but also to raise awareness of current issues related to human-caused extinction, explore connections between humans and the natural world, and inspire people to become more involved in building a sustainable relationship with other species.

Planned – Ms. Mankowski attended the November 16, 2011 meeting of Illinois Wildlife Action Team held at IDNR headquarters. The Board is a member of the team.

## **7. 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 Strategic Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

- Coordinated with IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, Tara Kieninger, in developing contracts and proposals for projects intended to update historic endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records in the database.
- Provided assistance to IDNR Office of Legal Counsel in reviewing information related to various endangered and threatened species issues.
- Provided recommendations to IDNR regarding issues related to authorizations for incidental taking of endangered and threatened species and permits for possession of specimens or products of endangered or threatened species.
- Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1) and submitted a final report to the USFWS.

- Continued project management for the development of a Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) recovery plan.
- Provided assistance to IDNR Fisheries Division for including endangered and threatened species public access information in the *IDNR's Fishing Guide* publication.
- Provided assistance to IDNR ORC in compiling and reviewing endangered and threatened species information for a Rock Island County project under review by several agencies.
- On six occasions, provided to IDNR ORC and OREP and several other agency staff information about the endangered and threatened species translocation approval coordination process between IDNR and ESPB that is supposed to precede issuance of an IDNR Endangered and Threatened Species Possession Permit for projects involving translocation.
- Provided review and comments to IDNR Office of Strategic Services on a draft article about *Thismia americana* for IDNR's *Outdoor* Illinois magazine.
- Provided to INPC staff information regarding endangered and threatened species location and habitat information relative to threats at an Illinois Nature Preserve.
- Provided review, comments, and questions to IDNR on one draft incidental take authorization: Dresden Island Hydroelectric Project, Grundy County involving the Greater Redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*), River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*), and Pallid Shiner (*Mybopsis amnis*).
- Fielded and referred 18 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 86 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.

## **8. Coordination with other Agencies**

- Ms. Mankowski provided information about the listing process for endangered and threatened species and species status and reference information to Illinois Natural History Survey staff working on contract to update the list of fish species in greatest need of conservation for the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.
- Ms. Mankowski attended the 2011 USFWS Region 3 Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinators' meeting from October 3 – 6 in South Haven, Michigan (see #6, above).
- Ms. Mankowski attended a meeting with IDNR and USFWS regarding development of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan involving the Hines Emerald Dragonfly and Blanding's Turtle in northern Illinois.
- Ms. Mankowski chaired the 2011 Natural Areas Association awards committee, consisting of individuals from Alaska, Colorado, Florida, and Tennessee. The committee reviewed nominations and made recommendation to the Natural Areas Association Board for recipients of the George B. Fell Award, which recognizes lifetime achievement in natural area conservation, and the Carl N. Becker Award, which recognizes significant achievement in the area of natural areas stewardship.

## **9. Field Work**

- Assisted Randy Nyboer and Connie Carroll of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory update project with a site survey in IDNR Region 4.
- Conducted a site visit to confirm and obtain information for a barn owl nesting occurrence in the Springfield area.

## **10. Other General Administration and Clerical Work**

- Completed required procurement communication reporting to the Procurement Policy Board website for two inquiries from vendors about ESBP funded research opportunities.
- Prepared and routed Board member and staff travel vouchers.
- Regularly distributed information to Board and ESTAC members via email and hardcopy mailings.
- Provides to IDNR ORC, ESPB weekly report for possible inclusion in the weekly IDNR report to the Governor's Office and ESPB bi-weekly highlights for inclusion in IDNR executive staff meeting minutes.
- All aspects of preparation for the November 18, 2011 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- Made updates to the ESPB webpage on the IDNR website.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board  
at the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting, November 18, 2011**

**Natural Heritage database**

The Heritage database staff had a productive month in October, mapping and/or doing data entry of 131 E and T occurrences, both new and updates.

**Wildlife Action Plan - Invasive Species Campaign**

DNRs Office of Resource Conservation took steps to implement the Invasive Species campaign of the Wildlife Action Plan by naming Jody Shimp as the campaign lead and by amending a SWG grant to the Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area to expand work on their very effective River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area into full statewide implementation of the Invasive Species Campaign.

**Illinois Natural Areas Inventory**

Five regional ecologists were in the field again this summer updating the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. A second effort, reassessing the condition of existing Category I (high quality natural community) natural areas, also continued.

The 57<sup>th</sup> Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meeting was held August 30. Nine new sites were added to the INAI including high quality examples of glacial drift hill prairie, loess hill prairie and river segments with high mussel diversity. Anne Mankowski represents the ESPB on the NAEC.

**To:** Endangered Species Protection Board Members  
**From:** Randy Heidorn, Debbie Reider, Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca  
**Date:** November 17, 2011  
**Subject:** Report for November 18, 2011 Meeting of Endangered Species Protection Board

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) met on September 20, 2011 at the Lost Valley Visitors Center in Richmond.

**I. Protection Programs:**

At the 209<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INPC, the following lands were protected:

- A. Land and Water Reserve (LWR) Program
  1. McFarland Hill Land and Water Reserve, Pike County. McFarland Hill represents a rare example of a virtually intact 14<sup>th</sup> century Mississippian Tradition nucleated village. This site is 95 acres in size and is privately owned.
  2. Addition to North Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve, Logan County. Registration of this addition supports the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) through the Invasive Species Campaign, Forest Campaign, and Land and Water Stewardship Campaign. This addition is 15.83 acres in size and is privately owned.
- B. Nature Preserve (NP) Program
  1. Preliminary approval:
    - a. Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee County. The proposed addition is part of the Leesville Savanna Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site (#1006) and will help complete the preserve design. This addition is 77 acres in size and is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).
    - b. McLean Woods and Wetlands, Lake County. The proposed nature preserve includes grade C/D dry-mesic forest and grade C/D freshwater marsh with extensive natural community reconstructions. The site also supports populations of state-endangered and state-threatened species. This site is 532 acres in size and is owned by the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD).
    - c. Addition and buffer addition to Barber Fen Nature Preserve, McHenry County. The proposed addition includes grade B/C sedge meadow, grade B/C graminoid fen, grade C mesic forest, grade C wet-mesic floodplain forest, high-quality low-gradient small stream and pond aquatic communities, and old field and pastureland cultural communities. The total acreage proposed for dedication is 71.3 acres and is owned by the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD).
    - d. Buffer addition to Bystricky Prairie Nature Preserve, McHenry County. The proposed buffer addition encompasses nearly all the Slough Creek Sedge Meadow INAI site (#0715) and includes grade C/D sedge meadow, grade C/D wet-mesic prairie, and grade C/D low-gradient small stream. This buffer addition is 122.3 acres in size and is owned by the MCCD.
    - e. Addition and buffer addition to Lind Forest Nature Preserve, McHenry County. The proposed addition includes grade B mesic forest, grade C mesic savanna, grade B seep, high-gradient small stream, and a cultural community consisting of pastureland. The total acreage proposed for dedication is 39.13 acres and is owned by the MCCD.
    - f. Slough Creek Fen, McHenry County. The proposed nature preserve includes grade B calcareous floating mat, grade B shrub fen, grade C mesic savanna, grade C/D sedge meadow, a grade C/D low-gradient small stream, and a cultural community (pastureland) awaiting community reconstruction. This site is 40.5 acres in size and is owned by the MCCD.
    - g. Hartman Spring, Pulaski County. Hartman Spring is significant because it contains high-quality habitat for a state-endangered amphibian, as well as exceptional features of a spring and spring run. This site is 40 acres in size and is owned by the Illinois Audubon Society.
  2. Final approval:

- a. Addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Cook County. The addition will satisfy the action steps to restore and manage high-quality prairie and wetland communities. This addition is 0.14 acres in size and is owned by the IDNR.
- b. White Rock Nature Preserve, Monroe County. The site consists of five acres of grade A loess hill prairie, and two acres of grade B limestone glade intermingled with 299 acres of grade C mature second growth dry-mesic, mesic, and dry upland forest. This site is 306.5 acres in size and is owned by Clifftop NFP and Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation District.

## II. INPC Operations:

- A. The Governor appointed Dennis Clark of Winfield, Illinois to replace Dr. Ron Flemal, whose term had expired on June 20, 2011.
- B. The INPC Task Force is working on building a constituency, and it is planning an annual meeting to be held in the spring of 2012. The goal is to increase the funding for stewardship and develop a stewardship plan incorporating best practices in order to protect the land in a more efficient way. Easement monitoring strategies will also be developed.

## III. Inventory and Monitoring:

- A. Randy Heidorn (voting INPC representative), Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, Bob Edgin and Ray Geroff participated in the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meetings. Field staff reviewed proposals that were presented to the NAEC.
- B. Kim Roman:
  1. Coordinated and assisted with a permitted ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornate*) survey (using trained dogs) in the Kankakee Sands.
  2. Assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with the count of a federally listed plant species at Hildy Prairie NP.
- C. Ray Geroff assisted streams biologists from the Illinois Natural History Survey in mussel sampling of several streams near Peoria.
- D. Mary Kay Solecki:
  1. Participated in searches for a state-endangered reptile.
  2. Monitored the state-threatened fibrous-rooted sedge (*Carex communis*) at Orchid Hill Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL).
  3. Conducted a floristic and natural values inventory of the Dolan tract adjacent to Warbler Woods NP and discovered a new population of the state-threatened fibrous-rooted sedge at the tract.
  4. Monitored the state-endangered Sangamon phlox (*Phlox pilosa*) at Smith House NHL, Alexander's Dell NHL and nearby areas.
- E. Debbie Newman conducted an annual survey of the state-endangered crested coralroot orchids (*Hexalectris spicata*) at four NPs, LWRs, and NHLs.
- F. Hannah Kalk surveyed the state-endangered crested coralroot orchids at two sites in the southwestern Illinois bluff corridor.
- G. Bob Edgin:
  1. Assisted with a survey for a state-endangered reptile at Carlyle Lake.
  2. Assisted with prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citre*) nest box monitoring at Flag Pond LWR.
- H. Bob Edgin and Stefanie Ervin:
  1. Conducted royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) monitoring at eight sites in Lawrence and Jasper counties.
  2. Conducted eastern ribbon snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) and copperbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*) surveys at Chauncey Marsh NP and LWR and Carroll T. Cox Forest NHL.
  3. Conducted grass-leaved lily (*Stenanthium gramineum*) monitoring at one site.
- I. Stefanie Ervin assisted the IDNR/INPC staff with:
  1. Mussel surveys along the Little Wabash River.
  2. Barn owl (*Tyto alba*) surveys and nest box installation.
  3. Herpetology surveys at Red Hills State Park and Crawford County Conservation Area.

## IV. Defense Program:

- A. Jenny Skufca:
  1. Responded to two reviews for IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 12 reviews for IDNR's consultation program.
  2. Participated in conference calls with IDNR's District Heritage Biologist (DHB) Brad Semel and document review with the Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) related to the Work Plan for Closure of the Industrial Canal, Pumping Lagoon, and Collection Basin at the Johns Manville Site in Waukegan adjacent to the southern boundary of Illinois Beach NP.

3. Worked with IEPA and IDNR's Contaminant Assessment Section staff to review the Focused Site Investigation Report related to the crude oil pipeline break and subsequent clean-up at Romeoville Prairie NP.
  4. Worked with IDNR Office of Land Management and Office of Legal Counsel staff to prompt the removal of a web citation advertising an unauthorized and potentially dangerous activity (kayaking) at Piney Creek Ravine NP.
- B. Tom Lerczak monitored and documented installation of new power line poles and maintenance activities at Meredosia Hill Prairie NP along road rights of way adjacent to NP boundaries.
- C. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Reviewed a permit for expansion of a sand and gravel mine and possible impacts on the nearby Embarras River LWR.
- D. Threats to Sites within INPC programs:
1. **Volo Bog NP, Lake County – John Nelson**
    - a. Issue: A volunteer noticed a foul odor emanating from a specific area on the south side of the NP.
    - b. Threat: Potential contamination suspected from a blow-out of a deteriorated drain tile.
    - c. Status: Resolved. The IEPA investigated and determined that the odor was the result of anaerobic decomposition occurring at an offsite pond with water discharging to the site from an old drain tile. Ensuring that the drain tile output will not impact the site will now be considered a management priority.
  2. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
    - a. Issue: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction. Plans include 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 (*Phalaris arundinacea*), which threatens long-term viability of a federally-threatened plant.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC hosted a meeting between IDOT and the Long Grove Park District regarding the ultimate disposition of this privately-owned NP should the site be acquired by IDOT. The Long Grove Park District will accept the subject property, provided sufficient funds are made available for immediate and long-term stewardship of the site.
  3. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: Adjacent landowner, Knollwood Golf Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP owned by LCFPD.
    - b. Threat: Direct and indirect impact to aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at Knollwood Club. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determined that wetlands are “jurisdictional.”
    - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Office of Legal Counsel has referred this matter to the Office of the Attorney General.
  4. **Elm Road Woods NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: A large sports complex that will require extensive earth-moving is being built upstream and adjacent to the NP owned by the LCFPD.
    - b. Threat: The site is vulnerable to changes in surface hydrology and sedimentation associated with the project.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Consultation staff, INPC staff, and LCFPD staff provided specific recommendations to eliminate/minimize threat. Construction recently began on the large sports complex and LCFPD staff is monitoring the project for compliance with recommendations for erosion/sediment control following initial reports of sediment entering the NP.
  5. **Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: An unknown amount of lead shot has been deposited in the NP by years of trap/skeet shooting at the nearby Aurora Sportsman's Club.
    - b. Threat: Lead shot poses a threat to humans and the environment.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working with the NP landowner, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, to minimize impact to the NP. Limited information is available due to pending litigation.
  6. **Paintbrush Prairie NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
    - a. Issue: A development has been proposed for land located south and east of the NP.
    - b. Threat: The development poses a threat through alteration of surface and possibly groundwater flow. Other concerns include excessive lighting and inappropriate restoration (introduction of weed seeds, non-local varieties of seeds) planned for the balance of the site.
    - c. Status: New. The project has been reviewed and approved by the USACE with recommendations from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), IDNR Consultation, and INPC that will, if implemented, reduce the threat posed by this project.

7. **Spring Lake NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
  - a. Issue: A development has been proposed for land located immediately adjacent to (separated only by Bateman Road) and upstream from the NP.
  - b. Threat: This project will alter the amount, rate, and quality of surface water entering the NP. The proximity of a septic field to the groundwater and stream is a problem.
  - c. Status: New. INPC staff recommended that this project not be approved because of the identified threats. The consultant, representing the developer, has responded to the concerns raised by the INPC. IDNR Consultation staff is in the process of determining whether to close consultation.
8. **Truitt-Hoff NP, DuPage County – Steven Byers**
  - a. Issue: The City of West Chicago Community Development/Zoning Review is currently considering a variance that would allow for construction of a 132-foot-tall lighted tower within a close and unobstructed view of the prairie. The NP is co-owned by the City of West Chicago and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). The FPDDC has requested that this variance be denied.
  - b. Threat: The lighted tower represents a source of light pollution, threat to wildlife, and will impair the aesthetics of the site.
  - c. Status: New. INPC staff corresponded with the City of West Chicago requesting that the variance to construct the tower be denied. The INPC also provided input to the storm water detention plan, recommending a “wet basin” using native prairie/wetland plants to provide water quality benefits and serve as a better buffer to the prairie.
9. **Sagawau Canyon NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
  - a. Issue: A culvert located under Illinois Route 171 may be replaced by IDOT.
  - b. Threat: The immediate threat posed by replacing the culvert is increased sedimentation/erosion from the work site moving downstream into the NP. In the long term, replacement of the current culvert with a larger culvert could alter the amount and rate of runoff from the upstream watershed into the canyon (the outstanding feature of this NP).
  - c. Status: New. INPC staff will coordinate with the IDOT project manager.
10. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR.
  - b. Threat: Direct impact to the LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police have completed their investigation. TNC, as landowner, has filed a lawsuit. IDNR Office of Legal Counsel has referred this matter to the Office of the Attorney General.
11. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: The landowner discovered a grading encroachment within the LWR.
  - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and a large graded area leading to the neighbor’s property.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. The McDonough County State’s Attorney’s Office has informed the INPC that the settlement has been accepted by the responsible party. Written documentation has not yet been provided to the landowner.
12. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide had been used within the NP associated with power line vegetative maintenance.
  - b. Threat: Direct impact to flora in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high- quality portion of seep/sedge meadow of the NP.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Office of Legal Counsel has referred this matter to the Illinois Attorney General.
13. **Fall Creek Gorge LWR, Adams County – Angella Moorehouse**
  - a. Issue: Unauthorized and potentially dangerous use of the IDNR-owned LWR.
  - b. Threat: Although officially closed (gate over road), the area encompassing the gorge and significant features of the LWR are accessible from a county highway which cuts through the LWR. Visitors to the site have cut the fence, dammed up the stream, and installed a swing to use at the newly created “swimming hole.” There is evidence of drug use (needles, meth-making supplies) on the LWR.
  - c. Status: New. The IDNR District Wildlife Biologist met with the local Conservation Police Officer on August 24, 2011 to discuss matters related to the unauthorized uses. INPC staff will follow up with IDNR staff.
14. **Carpenter Park NP, Sangamon County – Tom Lerczak, Jenny Skufca**

- a. Issue: Vandals painted graffiti on the sandstone outcrop and various other natural and unnatural features of the NP.
  - b. Threat: Introduction of material to the NP.
  - c. Status: Resolved. Responsible parties were identified. INPC staff will continue to work closely with staff of landowner, Springfield Park District, to repair the damage and deter future occurrences.
15. **Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Champaign County – Mary Kay Solecki**
- a. Issue: A wind turbine proposed by the University of Illinois on adjacent property will potentially cast shadow flicker on the NP.
  - b. Threat: Shadow flicker and noise have the potential to disrupt communities within the NP.
  - c. Status: Resolved. The wind turbine proposal was canceled.
16. **Stemler Cave NP, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
- a. Issue: Inaccessibility and vegetative management concerns related to a power line located across the top of the NP sinkhole and cave entrance.
  - b. Threat: Vegetative management could adversely impact the NP and present a safety hazard for the electric cooperative.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. Monroe County Electric Cooperative has obtained the necessary easements to move the power line and poles along the road and out of the NP. The Cooperative is amending the easement for the NP landowners to exclude any areas within the NP boundaries.

**V. Stewardship Program:**

- A. Bob Edgin and Stefanie Ervin assisted with the planting of 300 royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) at Chauncey Marsh LWR and three locations at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, continuing implementation of royal catchfly recovery in the Prairie Ridge Conservation Opportunity Area.
- B. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowners Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), an IEPA 319 Grant, the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF), Chicago Wilderness Grants and 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, sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews.
- C. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns<sup>1</sup>. Sites where this kind of work occurred and additional management related activities include:
  - 1. Area 1 (Nelson, Heinrichs): Boone Creek Fen NP (burn), Harlem Hills NP (burn), Illinois Beach (burn), and Chain of Lakes State Park (burn), Gladstone Fen NP, Freeport Prairie NP, Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP, Moraine Hills State Park, Apple River Canyon LWR, and Pistakee Bog NP.
  - 2. Area 2 (Byers): Trout Park NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, the proposed Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie NP, and Glacial Park NP.
  - 3. Area 3 (Roman): Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR, Grant Creek Prairie NP, Bonnie’s Prairie NP, Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, Hooper Branch Savanna NP, Superior Street Prairie LWR, Hildy Prairie NP, Old Plank Road Prairie NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, Long Run Seep NP, Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR, Plank Road Prairie NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, Long Run Seep NP, Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR, Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP, Iroquois Sands LWR, and Goose Lake Prairie NP.
  - 4. Area 4 (Moorehouse, Geroff): nine sites enrolled in INPC programs.
  - 5. Area 5 (Lerczak): Mt. Palatine Cemetery Prairie NP (burn), Sparks Pond LWR (burn) and Manito Prairie NP (burn).
  - 6. Area 6 (Solecki): Baber Woods NP, Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Conkeytown NHL, Horseshoe Bottom NP, Larimore’s Salt Fork of the Vermilion River LWR, Luke Woods NHL, Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP, Fairchild Cemetery Prairie/Savanna NP.
  - 7. Area 7 (Newman, Kalk): DesPain Wetlands LWR, Piney Creek Ravine NP, Stemler Cave Woods NP, Julius J. Knobloch Woods NP, Salt Lick Point LWR, and Posen Woods NP.

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: References to “(burn)” are for spring burns conducted after the deadline to turn in report information for the May 2011 staff report.

8. Area 8 (Edgin, Ervin): Beadles Barrens NP, Beall Woods NP, Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, Emma Vance Woods NP, Lost Creek Marsh NP and LWR, Wade Heiser Woods NHL, Dry Fork Woods NHL, Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR, P & E Refuge LWR, Allison Gravel Prairie NHL, Green Prairie NHL, Forbes State Park, Chauncey Marsh LWR, Illinois Audubon Society property in Marion County.

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

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director  
for the 152<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, November 18, 2011

An important effort of the Endangered Species Protection Board is to gather information that will improve our knowledge of various species in Illinois and help lead toward listing decisions for those species. As per the ESPB Policy Manual, “The Board may conduct, sponsor, or administer research in an effort to gather information, which will improve knowledge of various species in Illinois and help lead toward listing decisions for those species. Board philosophy on the conduct of research is that none will be supported or endorsed unless it clearly provides information pertinent to listing, or generates information important to management strategies that can enhance protection or lead to recovery. The Board will not support/endorse any research that poses threat to listed species.”

The Board does not currently have adequate funding in its budget to support research or strategic projects to address the status, conservation, and/or recovery of endangered and threatened species, but receives \$25,000 annually from the IDNR Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to use toward these objectives.

FY2011 Funding

Four research projects were contracted using FY2011 funding (see below). Since the August 2011 Board meeting, no cost extensions were amended to two contracts; both due to problems encountered with conducting the genetic analysis. Because these are now two-year projects, a first year report is required and has been received for the enigmatic cavesnail project. A brief summary from that report is presented below.

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Start Date	End Date
RC11E04W	Investigating the role of genetic diversity and pollination biology as potential causes for reproductive failure in <i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i> (wooly milkweed).	Jeremie Fant and David Zaya / CBG and UIC	\$7,632	01/03/2011	02/28/2012
RC11E02W	Gene Flow among Populations of the Four-Toed Salamander, <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> . Since it was amended to a multiyear project, will require a first year report.	Abigail J. Maley / INHS/UIUC	\$5,000	03/01/2011	12/31/2011 Amended to 12/31/2012
RC11E01W	Evaluation of Distribution, Movements, and Habitat Use of River Redhorse ( <i>Moxostoma carinatum</i> ) and Greater Redhorse ( <i>Moxostoma valenciennisi</i> ) in the Upper Illinois River Basin.	David H. Wahl / INHS/UIUC	\$8,500	04/01/2011	03/31/2012
RC11E03W	Baseline monitoring and molecular characterization of the state endangered Enigmatic Cavesnail, <i>Fontigens antroecetes</i> (Hubricht 1940) Since it was amended to a multiyear project, will require a first year report.	Steven J. Taylor, Marlis Douglas, Jeremy Tiemann, and Robert Weck / INHS/UIUC and individual	\$2,878	01/03/2011	10/15/2011 Amended to 12/31/2012

Interim – Year-one report on “Baseline monitoring and molecular characterization of the state endangered Enigmatic Cavesnail, *Fontigens antroecetes* (Hubricht 1940)” Taylor, et al.

*Fontigens antroecetes* (Hubricht 1940), the Enigmatic Cavesnail is a minute (shell 2.5---4.5 mm tall) troglobiontic aquatic snail (Gastropoda: Mesogastropoda: Hydrobiidae). In Missouri it has been reported from several caves in Perry County (where it co---occurs with other species of *Fontigens* and another cave hydrobiid, *Amnicola stygia* Hubricht 1971), a single cave in St. Louis County (Hershler *et al.* 1990, Peck and Lewis 1978), and it may also occur in Cape Girardeau County (Wu *et al.* 1997). The type locality for *F. antroecetes* is in Illinois (Stemler Cave, St. Clair County) (Hubricht 1940). The Illinois population has been confirmed as extant by Lewis et

al. (2003) and Taylor (unpublished, in 2004). Recently, this snail was listed as State Endangered by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB). Like most endangered cave invertebrates, the first thing that we learn in attempting to recover the species is that we know virtually nothing about it. This is the case for *Fontigens antroecetes* – we know only have information on the distribution and morphology of the species. Population size, microhabitat preferences, reproductive rates, or connectivity among populations (likelihood of gene exchange) are unknown.

Given the above facts, we felt it was important to obtain baseline data on the Illinois population of *F. antroecetes*, including abundance, evaluation of microhabitat preferences, and characterization of genetic diversity:

**Results** Ten different caves were evaluated in the present study. In the six Illinois caves, *F. antroecetes* was detected only at Stemler Cave. In Missouri, four caves were sampled, with hydrobiid snails recovered from all of these caves. Species level identification of this material awaits molecular studies, as multiple *Fontigens* species are possible from these localities.

#### FY2012 Funding

The Board's FY2012 Wildlife Preservation Fund allocation is being used to partner with the IDNR Natural Heritage Database program to continue an ongoing project to contract with state universities to conduct surveys to update endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records that are greater than 10 years old.