



Photo: Frode Jacobson/USDA

Cerulean warblers bring a vibrant energy to Illinois' woodlands with their splendid splashes of color and buzzy vocal crescendos. However, loss of quality forest habitat has caused dramatic declines in this species. Conservation action is urgently needed to keep this bird's song filling Illinois' forests.

# Illinois & the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

*Illinois' oak forests, prairies, rivers and lakes support a diverse array of wildlife. More than half of residents participate in outdoor recreation each year, generating \$25.8 billion in consumer spending annually and creating 200,000 jobs. However, threats including habitat loss, water pollution, and invasive species are threatening Illinois' wildlife and outdoor traditions. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will dedicate funding to help at-risk species before they become endangered—creating jobs and helping wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.*

## By the numbers:

**419 species**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has identified 419 species that need conservation assistance, including the cerulean warbler, Illinois chorus frog, hellbender, and Franklin's ground squirrel.

**\$24.5 million**

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would give IDNR \$24.5 million every year to help the 419 species in need through conservation actions including habitat restoration, education, species reintroductions, research, and more.

**\$1.7 million**

The current source of federal funding in Illinois for proactive, locally-led wildlife conservation—state and tribal wildlife grants—is inadequate to help the species at risk.

# Recovering America's Wildlife Act

America is in the midst of an unprecedented wildlife crisis. Once abundant populations of fish and wildlife are now facing steep declines because of habitat loss, disease, and other threats. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act would dedicate \$1.4 billion annually to state and tribal-led wildlife conservation — helping prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in the first place. Learn more at [www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife)

## Illinois Conservation in Action

Easily distinguished by its bright yellow chin and throat, the Blanding's turtle is a gentle native of the Great Lakes region. Sadly, this charming turtle has declined substantially in the Midwest due to the loss and fragmentation of wetland habitat. Vehicles also pose a deadly threat to adults moving between wetlands and females searching for nesting sites. The Blanding's turtle is listed as endangered in Illinois, but Recovering America's Wildlife Act could help save the species. Funding from the Act would support critical conservation action, including preserving and restoring wetland habitat, captive breeding, and monitoring to determine the full extent of their distribution in Illinois.

### Blanding's Turtle



Photo: Jillian Josimovich/Purdue University-Ft. Wayne

### Monarch Butterfly



Photo: Tom Koerner/USFWS

The monarch butterfly's long distance, multi-generational migration is a wonder of the natural world. Unfortunately, habitat loss in the Midwest and on their wintering grounds in Mexico has provided a one-two punch. Eastern monarchs have declined by 80 percent in only two decades, and they are being considered for endangered species listing. But Illinois doesn't need to wait for federal action. Funding from the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would help Illinois rebuild dwindling monarch populations by planting native plants, including milkweed, to restore habitat. Not only would this help prevent the need for federal listing, it would help other declining pollinators, benefitting Illinois' farmers and the economy.

## Other Illinois Species of Greatest Conservation Need



Swallow-tailed Kite



Illinois Chorus Frog



Lake Sturgeon



Red-headed Woodpecker

Photos (from left to right): Grayson Smith/USFWS, Steve Maslowski/USFWS; Stanley Trauth CC BY-SA 2.5; USFWS; Jim Hudgins/USFWS



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