

Indiana State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Indiana's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Osprey Survey, Photo Courtesy of Indiana DNR

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Osprey Reintroduction**

Once common through out Indiana, osprey have disappeared in recent years—no osprey nests were seen from the late 1970's until 1990. State Wildlife Grants are now helping to reintroduce the osprey to Indiana. Starting in 2003, osprey have been released every year into areas with suitable habitat and nesting platforms built by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Some of these osprey have returned to the same areas during subsequent breeding seasons, demonstrating that this reintroduction program is an effective way to conserve the osprey before they become even more rare and costly to protect.



Goose Pond, Photo Courtesy of Indiana DNR

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Waters and Wildlife **Wetland Acquisition**

Wetlands are an extremely valuable ecosystem for both people and wildlife, providing natural water quality improvement, flood protection, erosion control, and the economic and social benefits of family recreation. State Wildlife Grants, along with several other federal sources of funding, and in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited, are helping conserve a major wetland area in southwestern Indiana through the acquisition of Goose Pond. The site is being actively restored and is already becoming an area of regional importance for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, helping us fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations.



Radio Tracking Box Turtles, Photo Courtesy of Indiana DNR

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Eastern Box Turtles**

Reptile and amphibian health is an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all. State Wildlife Grants have permitted Indiana to hire a herpetologist, a biologist dedicated to the study of reptiles and amphibians. This new position will undertake a study of the eastern box turtle. The conservation of turtles is an international priority because of concerns over the combined impacts of habitat destruction and fragmentation, over collection and other environmental hazards. Information from the study will help us proactively conserve wildlife and vital natural places, benefiting the health of wildlife and people.

Congress has appropriated \$6.4 million in State Wildlife Grants to Indiana since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$3.5 million state and partner dollars.