

Michigan State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

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



Osprey, Photo Courtesy of Michigan DNR

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

Once found throughout Michigan, osprey are one of several top avian predators that declined as a result of DDT and other pesticide use after World War II. While the population has begun to rebound, osprey are still found mostly in the northern part of the state. In order to accelerate statewide restoration, an osprey reintroduction project in southern Michigan was initiated in 1998 and expanded in 2000, when State Wildlife Grants made funding available to build two new nesting sites, which are currently receiving birds. Since its inception, the project has spawned excellent partnerships and citizen volunteers who work with osprey releases have started their own organization, Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan, and continue to provide hundreds of hours of volunteer effort to osprey restoration.



Finches, Photo Courtesy of Michigan DNR

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Which Birds Live in Michigan?**

Knowledge is the key to successful, cost-effective wildlife management. The State Wildlife Grants Program is helping Michigan succeed in conserving wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations by funding research on which and how many birds live where in the state. The project, undertaken with multiple partners, will be complete in 2008 but the data is already proving to be enormously helpful in determining which species are most in need of help and which species are faring better than expected. These State Wildlife Grant funds are providing the information to make the most cost-effective and smart decisions to conserve Michigan's wildlife and vital natural areas, which in turn enhance our own quality of life.



Algonac State Park, Photo Courtesy of Michigan DNR

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Algonac State Park**

Algonac State Park in southeastern Michigan contains two of the rarest natural ecosystems in the state. Historically, wildfires were an integral part this area, which is home to multiple endangered and threatened species. State Wildlife Grants are helping to conserve Algonac State Park by funding prescribed burns, which restore the natural balance of the prairie while protecting human communities from wildfires. State Wildlife Grants also allow park rangers to control invasive plant species. This is a cost effective way to conserve Michigan's native wildlife and the natural places that are important to many of our family traditions.

Congress has appropriated \$10.5 million in State Wildlife Grants to Michigan since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$4.4 million state and partner dollars.