



# Illinois ENDANGERED & THREATENED SPECIES

## Conservation Efforts - Illinois

Around 1850, with the development of Illinois railroads, populations of wildlife in general began to dwindle as swamps were drained, timber was cut, and prairie soil was plowed and planted.

- 1853** - The 19th Illinois General Assembly passed the first real game law
- 1858** - The Natural History Society of Illinois (parent organization of the present Illinois Natural History Survey) was organized at Illinois State Normal University
- 1871** - The Illinois General Assembly passed the first act for the preservation of fish that forbids the obstruction of streams by dams, nets, seines, or wires that interfere with the free passage of fish
- 1885** - First "Game Wardens" hired to enforce state's natural resource laws
- 1924** - Noris Doxey/Clarke McNary laws allowed for wildlife protection programs and hiring of foresters to work with private landowners and the enhancement of tree nurseries
- 1925** - The Illinois Department of Conservation was created
- 1929** - American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) reintroduction began
- 1933** - White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) repopulation efforts began
- 1959** - Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) reintroduction began
- 1963** - The Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act passes to provide protection to unique and pristine habitats.
- 1972** - Illinois Endangered Species Protection Action passed
- 1976** - Illinois began the nation's first Natural Area Inventory to document remaining natural communities and rare species habitats
- 1993** - The first Conservation Congress was held to allow interested parties to be formal participants in the department's decision-making process and help provide solutions to common problems
- 1994** - North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) reintroduction began
- 1995** - Effective July 1, 1995, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) was created
- 2005** - Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan & Strategy debuts