

Restoration of a portion of the Pecatonica River has led to improved water quality, conditions suitable for cool water fish, and improved habitat for grassland birds and rare species like smooth-sheath sedge, Blanchard's cricket frog, and Blanding's turtle.

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

The action plan was developed from a landscape-scale perspective rather than a single- or even multi-species approach. The organization of the final action plan and the conservation actions identified both reflect this broad view. Three issues were common to all vertebrate groups: habitat loss, invasive species, and pollution. Threats to invertebrates revolve around a general lack of knowledge about their basic biology.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas

Restoring the Pecatonica River to Natural Conditions

Restoration of cool water stream habitat and floodplain is a conservation action identified in Wisconsin's wildlife action plan. Years of erosion from uphill farming led to excess sediment in the Pecatonica River that degraded water quality, harmed native fish, and smothered habitat for rare and endangered wildlife. A project to restore a portion of the East Branch of the

river has removed 37,000 cubic yards of accumulated soil. The stream bank was reconnected with its floodplain, a sedge meadow protected, and a shallow pond excavated. The benefits include improved water quality, conditions suitable for cool water fish, and improved habitat for grassland birds and rare species like smooth-sheath sedge, Blanchard's cricket frog, and Blanding's turtle. Focusing conservation efforts at the landscape level provides benefits for many priority wildlife, helping to conserve them for future generations.



Blanchard's cricket frog/Rori Paloski, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



River restoration/Robert Hansis, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Eastern pipistrelle bat/David Redell, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People
Conserving Wisconsin's Bats

The wildlife action plan identifies lack of basic information as one of the greatest threats to conservation of bats in Wisconsin. Bats play a vital role in the environment – they can eat as many as 600 to 1,200 insects per hour, including mosquitoes and crop pests. Unfortunately, bats are at risk due to their low reproductive rate and the limited number of breeding and hibernation sites available. Wisconsin's Bat Management Plan coordinates projects to increase knowledge of bats, including training citizens to collect long-term bat data. This cost-effective approach to gathering information will allow us to conserve Wisconsin's bats before they become more rare and more costly to protect, benefiting wildlife and people.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Conserving Migratory Bird Sites in the Western Great Lakes

Wisconsin provides feeding, breeding, and migration habitat for over 280 native bird species, a third of which are species of greatest conservation need

in the wildlife action plan. The decline of migratory birds over the past 40 years has largely been due to the rapid loss of rest areas used during migrations between breeding and wintering areas. Conserving rest habitat is critical to the birds' health and survival, especially in the Great Lakes region. The area supports millions of migrating birds, linking breeding grounds as far north as Greenland to wintering grounds as far south as Argentina. A collaborative project between many federal,

state, tribal, local, university, and other conservation partners strives to permanently conserve and manage important migratory bird sites around Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. This collaboration will conserve these birds and vital natural areas for future generations.

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Willow flycatcher/Thomas Schultz

