

**Illinois
Endangered
Species
Protection
Board**

BIENNIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2022

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

Members:

Dr. Angelo Capparella

Dr. Janice Coons

Dr. Jeremie Fant

Dr. Joyce Hofmann

Bruce Ross-Shannon

Randall Schietzelt

Dr. Tih-Fen Ting

Dr. Philip Willink

one vacancy

Chris Young, designee of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Colleen Callahan

Staff:

None

PREFACE

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, originally enacted in August 1972 and revised in July 1986 and January 2000, requires that the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board prepare and make available a report of its accomplishments biennially. An initial report was prepared and made available for the period July 1986 - June 1988. Biennial reports were not prepared for the biennia that ended in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000. A report prepared and made available by Board members covered the period July 2000 – June 2002 and included highlights from the previously unreported biennia. In July 2002, the Board’s budget was reduced and then eliminated due to funding shortages in the State of Illinois and, as a result, Board staff was laid off. Until November 2008, the Board functioned with only part-time or no staff. In spring 2009, the Board’s newly hired full-time staff person, an Executive Director, completed a report for the period July 2006 – June 2008 that included highlights for the periods July 2002 – June 2004 and July 2004 - June 2006. The Executive Director subsequently prepared reports for the biennia ending in 2010, 2012, and 2014. In September 2015 the Board was informed that its funding had again been eliminated, resulting in the loss of staff. The Board Chair, with assistance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, prepared a report for the period July 2014 – June 2016. The Chair and Board member Dr. Tracy Evans produced and submitted a report for the biennium ending in 2018 and the Chair, with input from other Board members, produced the report for the biennium ending in 2020. The last seven biennial reports are posted on the Board’s website (www2.illinois.gov/dnr/ESPB). The current report, prepared by the Board Chair and approved at the Board’s 194th meeting on May 20, 2022, covers the biennium July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022.

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (Board/ESPB) was created by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act in 1972. The publication “The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act at Forty: A Review of the Act’s Provisions and the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species” presents a history of the Board up to 2012 and is available on the Board’s website (www2.illinois.gov/dnr/ESPB).

Statute requires that the Board biennially prepare and make available a report of its accomplishments. This report, prepared by the Board Chair, with the assistance of the other Board members, covers activities during two fiscal years – July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

STATUTORY MANDATES AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING TO THE ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

That the Endangered Species Protection Board exist (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Board maintain and update the List of Illinois Endangered and Threatened Species (Illinois List/List) as warranted and no less often than every five years (520 ILCS 10/7);

That the Board hold a public hearing when making revisions to the Illinois List (520 ILCS 10/7);

That the Board advise the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Department/IDNR) on methods of assistance, protection, conservation, and management of endangered and threatened species and their habitats, and on related matters (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Board hold meetings no less often than quarterly (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Board produce a report of accomplishments, biennially (520 ILCS 10/6);

That the Department seek the advice of the Board as it plans and implements a program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species (520 ILCS 10/11);

That the Department shall consult with and gain written approval from the Board when promulgating rules for the issuance and maintenance of endangered and threatened species permits (520 ILCS 10/4); and

That the Department seek the advice of the Board and provide written response to any Board comments regarding the issuance and terms of authorization for incidental taking of endangered and threatened species (17 Ill. Adm. Code 1080.40 (a)(7)).

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor, with the Director of the IDNR (or the Director's designee) serving as a nonvoting member. By statute at least six of the appointed Board members must be "recognized as naturalists by training, avocation, or vocation" and the membership must include at least two zoologists, one botanist, and two ecologists. Board members are appointed for a term of three years and continue to serve until replaced. All Board members complete online Open Meetings Act training. They receive no compensation other than actual travel expenses.

Dr. Tih-Fen Ting of the University of Illinois, Springfield was appointed to the Board in November 2020, filling a vacancy that had existed during the previous biennium. The death of Dr. Tracy Evans in March 2021, however, created a new vacancy on the Board. Appendix 1 contains the Board resolution honoring Dr. Evans that was approved unanimously at the 190th meeting in May 2021. During the 2020 - 2022 biennium Board members donated more than **725** hours of their time to the State.

The Board functions with three elected Executive Officers: Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary. Following an election at the 183rd meeting in August 2019 Dr. Joyce Hofmann served as Chair, Dr. Janice Coons as Vice-Chair, and Dr. Tracy Evans as Secretary. At the 190th Board meeting in May 2021 Dr. Philip Willink was elected to fill the remainder of the term of the late Dr. Evans.

BOARD STAFF

Since September 2015 the Board has had no staff due to the elimination of its funding by the Governor's Office. Board members have been performing tasks necessary to comply with the Board's legal mandates. Department personnel have provided valuable assistance to the Board, especially Office of Resource Conservation Director Chris Young. Kristi Sorenson has provided administrative services and Victoria Arterberry has maintained the Board's website during the biennium. Without Board staff, however, it has not been possible to meet some of the Board's responsibilities as fully as in earlier times or to conduct discretionary activities that would further the protection and conservation of Illinois' endangered and threatened species.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

As mandated, the Board convened eight regularly scheduled quarterly meetings during the biennium. In addition, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 186th meeting originally scheduled for May 15, 2020 was held in August 2020. Because the 186th meeting had been delayed, the 187th meeting was postponed from August until October 2020. Meetings were conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and a quorum was present for all meetings. The 186th through 193rd meetings were held remotely via Zoom because of the pandemic. Agendas and minutes for all Board meetings during the biennium are posted on the Board's website. Recordings of the Zoom meetings are also archived.

Meeting Dates and Locations July 2020 – June 2022

186	8/28/2020	Zoom
187	10/9/2020	Zoom
188	11/13/2020	Zoom
189	2/5/2021	Zoom
190	5/21/2021	Zoom
191	8/20/2021	Zoom
192	11/12/2021	Zoom
193	2/11/2022	Zoom
194	5/20/2022	IDNR Building, Springfield, IL

BIENNIAL REPORT

A biennial report for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020 was prepared by Chair Hofmann, with input from other Board members, and approved by the Board at its 187th meeting in October 2020. The report was posted on the Board’s website and sent to the State Library, the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget, and the General Assembly Legislative Research Unit. The present report covering the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022, prepared by Chair Hofmann, was approved by the Board at the 194th meeting on May 20, 2022.

ILLINOIS LIST OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

The next review and revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species is scheduled for completion in 2025.

During the 2020 review and revision of the Illinois List the Board acted on petitions that had been submitted to add a species to the List, change the status of a listed species (endangered to threatened or threatened to endangered), and remove a species from the List. The petitions provided a transparent and uniform process by which individuals could propose changes to the List. The three petition forms were revised during the 2020 - 2022 biennium, partly based on comments received from petitioners. In addition, a cover sheet was created to accompany each petition form that is submitted to the Board. The cover sheet includes an executive summary of the petition and will be posted on the Board’s website.

As an initial step for the next list revision the Board began approving members of the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) that meet to review the status of listed species. At the 194th meeting on May 20, 2022 the Board approved members of the Aquatic Invertebrate, Fish, Amphibian/Reptile, Avian, and Mammal ESTACs. These members are listed in Appendix 2.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no need for a public hearing during the 2020 – 2022 biennium. It is anticipated that

a public hearing on proposed changes to the Illinois List will be held during 2024 as part of the 2025 revision of the Illinois List.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE BIENNIUM

Chair Hofmann remotely attended the 236th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission on September 15, 2020; the 237th meeting on January 26, 2021; the 238th meeting on May 11, 2021 and the 240th meeting on January 25, 2022. She also attended the Commission's 241st meeting at Starved Rock State Park on May 10, 2022. A report on Board activities was prepared for all Commission meetings during the biennium.

Board member Schietzelt remotely attended meetings of the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee on December 14, 2021 and March 1, 2022.

The Board's website was updated and includes information on the 2020 review and revision of the Illinois List.

Board members completed mandatory Illinois Ethics and Sexual Harassment Prevention training during 2020 and 2021.

As required by statute, the Department continued to submit draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) to the Board for its advice. Since the Board had no staff to review these draft ITAs on a regular basis, individual Board members provided the Department with comments on some of these documents.

Appendix 1

Resolution Honoring Dr. Tracy Evans, Approved at the 190th Meeting

A Resolution Honoring the Contributions of Dr. Tracy R. Evans

Whereas the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board lost a valued member and colleague with the death of Dr. Tracy R. Evans on March 16, 2021, and

Whereas Dr. Evans faithfully served the Board and its mission to safeguard Illinois' most vulnerable plant and animal life since May 19, 2017, and

Whereas her contributions to the fields of conservation, education, research, and advocacy extend beyond the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, and

Whereas Dr. Evans shared her love for the outdoors with the public by serving as a site interpreter for the Cache River State Natural Area, and protected the public interest by conducting environmental reviews for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and

Whereas she also served as a Research Assistant at the Illinois State Museum and participated on the Department's Natural Areas Evaluation Committee, and

Whereas Dr. Evans inspired others with her decision to pursue a Ph.D. after her retirement from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and

Whereas Dr. Evans' friendship, kindness, energy, and counsel enriched all those fortunate enough to know and work with her, be it

Resolved that the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

Extends its deepest condolences to the family, including her husband Andrzej, sons Kyle and Collin, her siblings, and grandchildren, and

Recognizes with admiration and appreciation the contributions of Dr. Tracy R. Evans over the course of her career and especially her service to the Board.

So moved on this day, May 21, 2021 by Dr. Janice Coons

Seconded by Dr. Angelo Capparella, Dr. Jeremie Fant, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon, Mr. Randall Schietzelt, Dr. Tih-Fen Ting, Dr. Philip Willink, Mr. Chris Young

Appendix 2

Members of Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) Approved at the 194th Board Meeting

Members of the Aquatic Invertebrate ESTAC

Dr. Jason Bried (Assistant Research Scientist, Wetland Ecology, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Everett Cashatt (Curator Emeritus, Department of Zoology, Illinois State Museum)
Dr. Edward DeWalt (Aquatic Entomologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Sarah Douglass (Associate Malacologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Marla Garrison (Instructor, Biology Department, McHenry County College)
Dr. Leon Hinz (Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)
Dr. James Lamer (Director, Illinois River Biological Station, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Brian Metzke (Aquatic Ecology Program Manager, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)
Diane Shasteen (Natural Resources Site Manager, IDNR)
Alison Price Stodola (Curator of Malacology, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dusty Swedberg (Scientific Specialist, Astacology, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Jeremy Tiemann (Associate Aquatic Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Tim Vogt (retired Park Scientist, Missouri Department of Natural Resources)

Members of the Fish ESTAC

Dr. John Chick (Principal Aquatic Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Robert Colombo (Professor, Department of Biology, Eastern Illinois University)
Dr. James Lamer (Director, Illinois River Biological Station, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Brian Metzke (Aquatic Ecology Program Manager, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)
Steven Pescitelli (Region 2 Stream Specialist, Division of Fisheries, IDNR)
Dr. Christopher Taylor (Senior Curator of Fishes and Crustaceans, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Trent Thomas (Region 3 Streams Biologist, Division of Fisheries, IDNR)
Jeremy Tiemann (Associate Aquatic Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Philip Willink (ESPB)

Members of the Amphibian/Reptile ESTAC

Dr. Tom Anderson (Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville)
Scott Ballard (Southern Region Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Specialist/Herpetologist,
Division of Natural Resources, IDNR)
Dr. John Crawford (Terrestrial Wildlife Ecologist, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center)
Dr. Michael Dreslik (Assistant Research Scientist, Population Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Gary Glowacki (Wildlife Ecologist, Lake County Forest Preserve District)
Dr. Richard King (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University)
Andrew Kuhns (Associate Scientist, Herpetologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Jessica Mohlmann (Assistant Scientist and Research Coordinator, National Great Rivers Research and
Education Center)
Dr. Alison Sacerdote-Velat (Curator of Herpetology, Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert)

Nature Center)
Eric Smith (Natural Heritage Biologist, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)

Members of the Avian ESTAC

Tara Beveroth (Associate Scientist, Avian Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Eric Bollinger (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University)
Dr. Angelo Capparella (retired Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University; ESPB)
Dr. James Herkert (retired Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society)
Dr. Jeffrey Hoover (Avian Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. James Mountjoy (Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Knox College)
Brad Semel (Northern Region Endangered Species Recovery Specialist, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR),
Dr. Wendy Schelsky (Principal Research Scientist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Douglas Stotz (Senior Conservation Ecologist, Field Museum of Natural History)
Dr. Jeffrey Walk (Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy of Illinois)
Dr. Michael Ward (Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, University of Illinois; Avian Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Geoff Williamson (Secretary, Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, Illinois Ornithological Society; Associate Dean, Armour College of Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology)

Members of the Mammal ESTAC

Chris Anchor (Senior Wildlife Biologist, Forest Preserve District of Cook County)
Dr. Max Allen (Assistant Research Scientist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Bob Bluett (retired Wildlife Diversity Program Manager, Division of Wildlife Resources, IDNR)
Dr. Justin Boyles (Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University)
Tara Hohoff (Associate Mammalogist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Christopher Jacques (Wildlife Disease and Invasive Species Program Manager, Division of Wildlife Resources, IDNR)
Joseph Kath (Endangered Species Program Manager, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)
Jean Mengelkoch (Associate Mammalogist, Illinois Natural History Survey)
Dr. Joy O'Keefe (Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, University of Illinois)
Dr. Tih-Fen Ting (Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Illinois, Springfield; ESPB)