



Tom Koerner/USFWS

The loggerhead shrike may look innocuous, but this passerine has earned the nickname “butcher bird” for its practice of impaling small prey upon thorns or barbed wire to facilitate tearing off chunks of flesh. Loggerhead shrikes have experienced dramatic population declines in the eastern United States for reasons that are not completely clear, but likely include loss of quality breeding habitat, the use of pesticides, and vehicle collisions.

# Indiana & the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

*Indiana’s fertile till plains, forested rolling hills, and vibrant wetlands support a rich assortment of wildlife. Indiana residents and visitors appreciate the state’s rich natural resources and contribute nearly \$10 billion in added value to the state’s economy through outdoor recreation, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Hoosiers enjoy fishing for native walleye, watching birds, and hunting deer and waterfowl. However, with more than 1/3 of America’s wildlife currently at risk of extinction, Indiana could lose much of its beloved wild features. By providing dedicated funding for state and tribal-led wildlife conservation efforts, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will help wildlife at risk before they need the “emergency room” measures required by the Endangered Species Act.*

## By the numbers:

<b>150 species</b>	The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has identified 150 species that need conservation assistance, including the osprey, spotted turtle, clubshell mussel, and crawfish frog.
<b>\$18 million</b>	The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would give IDNR \$18 million every year to help the 150 species in need through conservation action including habitat restoration, outreach, species reintroductions, research, and more.
<b>\$900 thousand</b>	The current source of federal funding in Indiana for proactive, locally-led wildlife conservation—state and tribal wildlife grants—is inadequate to help the species at risk.

# Recovering America's Wildlife Act

*America is in the midst of an unprecedented wildlife crisis. Once abundant populations of fish and wildlife are now facing steep declines because of habitat loss, disease, and other threats. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act would dedicate \$1.4 billion annually to state and tribal-led wildlife conservation — helping prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in the first place. Learn more at [www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife)*

## Indiana Conservation in Action

During the summer, an Indiana bat will eat as many as 3,000 insects every evening, including many crop pests. Unfortunately, disturbance of the caves Indiana bats depend on led to significant population declines and ultimately required a listing under the Endangered Species Act. The newest threat is white-nose syndrome, a fungus that has caused unprecedented mortality in many bat species, and has now been discovered in 38 caves in Indiana. Now more than ever, Indiana bats need Recovering America's Wildlife Act to fund conservation efforts like protecting the colonies that are as-yet unaffected by white-nose syndrome and researching innovative strategies to stop the disease.

*Indiana Bat*



John MacGregor/Kentucky DFWR

*Blanding's Turtle*



Andrew C./Wikimedia Commons

Easily distinguished by its bright yellow chin and throat, the Blanding's turtle is a gentle native of the Great Lakes region. Sadly, this charming turtle has declined substantially in the Midwest due to the loss and fragmentation of wetland habitat. Vehicles also pose a deadly threat to adults moving between wetlands and females searching for nesting sites. The Blanding's turtle is listed as endangered in Indiana, but Recovering America's Wildlife Act could help save the species. Funding from the Act would support critical conservation action, including preserving and restoring wetland habitat, captive breeding, and monitoring to determine the full extent of their distribution in Indiana.

Photos: USFWS

## Other Indiana Species of Greatest Conservation Need



**Lake Sturgeon**



**Northern Bobwhite**



**Hellbender**



**Black Rail**



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