

Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan

Michigan's variety of wildlife is a big part of our state's history, identity and appeal. These animals enhance our quality of life, and protecting their habitats also provides cleaner water, air and land for us. Uncommon animals can be critical indicators of the health of Michigan's natural areas. Some animals are cherished Michigan icons, like the Kirtland's warbler – the rarest migratory songbird in North America – the loon with its haunting call, or the ancient lake sturgeon.

Thoughtful wildlife and habitat conservation also supports Michigan's multibillion-dollar natural resources economy, giving us places to hike, bike, boat, fish and hunt, or simply enjoy wildlife and the quiet and peace of nature. Wildlife elevates the beauty of our state's woods and water. Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan is a partner-developed, strategic framework for cooperatively achieving that conservation.

Today's priorities, tomorrow's wildlife

Conservation partners across the state worked together to identify priorities and goals for a 10-year period (2015-2025). They first selected water and land habitats on which to focus, and then identified priority species within those habitats, needed actions, and links to other Michigan wildlife conservation and restoration plans.

Key habitat types/focus areas and priority wildlife include:

Rivers and streams

Warmwater streams and their headwaters, big rivers, the St. Clair-Detroit River system

Priority wildlife include lake sturgeon, snuffbox and riverine clubtail dragonfly.

Lakes

Inland lakes that support populations of our rare, native cisco (members of the whitefish family) species and shoreline areas

Priority wildlife include starhead topminnow, cisco and Blanchard's cricket frog.

Great Lakes

Habitat for Great Lakes cisco, an ecologically and economically important group of fishes, as well as dunes and other Great Lakes shoreline habitat

Priority wildlife include kiyi, piping plover and common tern.

Wetlands

A variety of wetland types found near the Great Lakes and Michigan's inland lakes, rivers and streams

Priority wildlife include black tern, cerulean warbler, copperbelly watersnake and poweshiek skipperling.



Piping Plover



Lake Sturgeon



Great Lakes
Cisco



Copperbelly
Watersnake

Key habitat types/focus areas and priority wildlife *continued*

Grasslands

Large grasslands, prairies and savannas

Priority wildlife include Karner blue butterfly, rusty-patched bumble bee, eastern box turtle and Henslow's sparrow.

Forests

Young forests, generally less than 20 years old, and sandy pine forests in northern Michigan

Priority wildlife include Kirtland's warbler, golden-winged warbler and eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

Emerging diseases

New diseases can have significant effects on wildlife populations, especially species that already are considered rare

Priority wildlife include northern long-eared bat and little brown bat.



Actions needed

Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan calls for conservation partners to work together to:

- Manage habitat and invasive species to make places healthier for wildlife and people.
- Conduct research and surveys to improve how we conserve wildlife and its habitats.
- Teach people about wildlife.
- Protect natural places for wildlife and people.

Working together, we can keep these unique animals around and thriving for future generations. And when we make places better for rare wildlife, we make places better for all of Michigan's wildlife and citizens.

Visit Michigan.gov/WildlifeActionPlan for more information