

Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife

State Report

FY 2010

Indiana



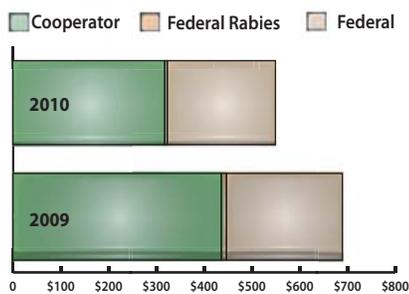
Contact Information:

Judy Loven, Indiana
Wildlife Services State Director
901 W. State Street
W. Lafayette, IN 47907-2089
Phone: (765) 494-6229
FAX: (765) 494-9475
Wildlife Conflicts Information Hotline:
U.S.: 1-765-496-3968
Wildlife Conflicts Information Hotline:
www.wildlifehotline.info
E-mail: Judy.S.Loven@aphis.usda.gov
www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage

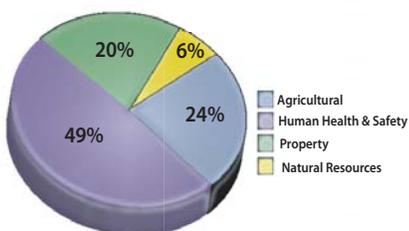
Major Cooperators

- Indiana Departments of Natural Resources and of Health
- Purdue University
- Indianapolis Pest Bird Task Force
- Indiana Dairy Producers
- Indianapolis International Airport
- Ft. Wayne International Airport
- Evansville Regional Airport
- South Bend Regional Airport
- Indiana Air National Guard

Total Funding (Thousands)



Resources Protected % of Total Funds



USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in Indiana

Every day residents, industries, organizations and agencies call on Wildlife Services (WS) in Indiana for help in protecting agriculture, human health and safety, natural resources, and property from damage or threats posed by wildlife. WS' professional wildlife biologists respond to these requests with effective, selective, and humane strategies to resolve conflicts.

WS works to protect property and reduce human health and safety risks at airports, schools, and businesses. The program also protects people, pets, and livestock from wildlife-borne diseases, guards natural resources from wildlife depredation, and educates the public about wildlife and wildlife damage management. Specific projects conducted by WS in Indiana include protecting endangered least terns from predation, monitoring for a variety of wildlife related diseases such as avian influenza in waterfowl and chronic wasting disease in deer, and managing damage caused by coyotes, birds, and other wildlife.

Applying Science & Expertise to Wildlife Challenges

WS offers information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable many people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. Often, this technical assistance can be provided over the phone. WS personnel maintain the Wildlife Conflicts Information website to provide a central resource for science-based, biologically sound information on wildlife damage issues. WS also provides on-site expertise, or direct assistance, to manage complex wildlife problems that cannot be safely resolved by others. To support this effort, WS conducts scientific research across the nation to develop answers to new problems posed by wildlife and to ensure the program benefits from the latest science and technology.

Protecting Agricultural Resources—WS works with livestock and crop producers in Indiana to manage agricultural damage. WS works directly with producers, and provides training and workshops, to incorporate Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) principles into everyday activities on farms and ranches.

Protecting Human Health and Safety at Airports—Civilian and military aviation widely recognizes the increasing threat to public safety from wildlife collisions with aircraft. WS partners with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), and civilian and military aviation communities to address this problem. WS has played a key role in reducing this threat to aircraft and passenger safety. WS personnel use IWDM techniques to effectively reduce and minimize bird strikes at airports throughout Indiana. Strike numbers at one major airport decreased an average of 80 percent since WS involvement began.

Protecting Workplace Health and Safety—An Indiana industry copes with a large population of pigeons roosting/feeding/nesting in its operational areas. Pigeons created hazards through the accumulation of large quantities of droppings on and near critical equipment and in areas used by employees. WS designed and implemented a management plan incorporating IWDM principles to alleviate these problems, which resulted in significant reductions in health and safety concerns.

Urban Human Health and Safety Issues—Large flocks of pigeons, starlings, crows, and Canada geese in urbanized areas pose problems for many cities. Accumulations of droppings, unsanitary conditions, property damage, and aggressive bird attacks present public health and safety hazards and public relations challenges. WS provides an ongoing IWDM program for major metropolitan areas to discourage large overwintering European starling flocks from roosting in the central downtown areas. Starling flocks of up to 300,000 birds have been using city areas during the winter months. Their droppings have caused damage to buildings, monuments, sidewalks, and caused public health/sanitation concerns. Since WS involvement, flock activity in downtown areas has been significantly reduced,



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

resulting in improved sanitation in public areas and decreased cleanup and maintenance costs. WS frequently assists city managers, officials, and citizen groups to evaluate bird problems and to develop and implement management plans to reduce pest bird problems in an acceptable manner.

Protecting Endangered Wildlife—Predators negatively impacted the nesting success of least terns at an Indiana utility company. WS provided technical assistance on predator management and facilitated the issuance of Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) permits to allow the removal of predatory ring-billed and herring gulls. Five additional species were recently discovered to feed on, interfere with, or trample least tern nests. WS continues to work with the least tern working group to develop innovative solutions to predation issues.

Indiana WS developed a Regional Response Plan for the outbreak of white-nose syndrome in bats. Little is known about the disease and its long-term effect on common as well as endangered bat populations. The plan identifies agencies, organizations and groups involved in managing bats in the mid-west and outlines information and coordination protocols. This is the first step toward a management plan that would minimize the impact of this disease on native bat populations.

Addressing Property Damage Caused by Resident Canada Geese—WS assists business owners who experience severe Canada goose problems, which result in thousands of dollars in damage and loss by destroying landscaping, creating unsanitary conditions and attacking customers and employees. WS develops goose management plans, facilitates acquisition of permits, conducts management programs and provides information on management alternatives.

Protecting Multiple Resources from Bird Damage—Protecting agriculture and food safety through bird damage management is a major consideration for WS in Indiana. Starlings consume, and contaminate feed at many dairies in Indiana. Large flocks of starlings and other birds results in significant cost increases for feed and antibiotics to reduce the prevalence of salmonella and other diseases transmitted through bird droppings. Increased production costs are reflected in higher costs for producers and eventually the consumers. Many health professionals and the American public have grown concerned about the use of antibiotics in production of meat and milk products. By reducing sources of salmonella and other bacterial contamination, WS bird management activities have reduced the feed lost to birds and lowered the need for antibiotic treatment in dairy cows.

Looking to the Future

In Indiana, public safety is a concern for wildlife managers, particularly at airports. Most Indiana airports do not have the expertise or resources to manage wildlife hazards on their own. Additional attention must be given to this very specialized work.

A second issue, related to public safety and economic loss, involves wildlife-related diseases. The appearance of West Nile virus in Indiana and concerns about avian influenza elevated the public recognition about vulnerability to wildlife-borne diseases. Chronic wasting disease in Illinois deer and bovine tuberculosis in Michigan deer also increased awareness of the potential economic impact of wildlife-related diseases, including pseudorabies, brucellosis, and exotic newcastle disease, on Indiana's livestock.

WS has taken the lead in monitoring wild bird populations for avian influenza and provides assistance with zoonotic disease monitoring programs in Indiana.

The State also needs to manage the westward spread of rabies from the eastern United States. Indiana WS is participating in a proactive rabies surveillance program to prevent the westward spread of raccoon rabies and, hopefully, to eliminate rabies from the United States.

Indiana Wildlife Services Funding

In addition to receiving Federally allocated funds, WS also receives funding from producers, private individuals, businesses, and other Federal, State, and local government agencies. In most cases, cooperators need help resolving wildlife damage problems and/or they participate in the IWDM activities.

Top 5 Major Assistance Activities:

- Providing wildlife damage/zoonotic disease monitoring, management, consulting and instructional services
- Protecting civil and military aviation from wildlife strikes
- Operating the Wildlife Conflicts Information Web site
- Protecting agricultural, and dairy products from contamination by birds and other wildlife
- Protecting workers from wildlife hazards and disease

Top 5 WS Research Projects of Interest to Indiana:

- Improving urban bird damage management methods
- Managing plant community composition to reduce the attractiveness of airfields to hazardous wildlife.
- Monitoring wild furbearers for rabies
- Monitoring waterfowl for avian influenza
- Monitoring feral swine for classical swine fever