

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Inside Region 3**

*August 2011*

**Minneapolis / St. Paul  
Urban Bird Treaty**



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# what's inside

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*On the Cover:*

*A member of the Green Team, a group of teenagers employed by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to do bird habitat restoration work, shows off her Canada Goose she received from the Service's Urban Bird Treaty event last Thursday. USFWS photo.*

## Milestones

The Mississippi River Flyway is an important stopover for hundreds of thousands of migrating birds. The protection of these birds is a critical component of our conservation mission in the Midwest. This summer we have reached an important milestone to that end. A few weeks ago, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Audubon Minnesota, marked the implementation of Minneapolis and Saint Paul's Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds. Under the Urban Bird Treaty program, the Service provides funding to help the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul restore native habitat, manage invasive species, and develop educational materials to support conservation of birds that spend a portion of their life cycle in this metropolitan area.

The treaty journey has been a remarkable one, the culmination of which marks a conservation keynote here in the Midwest. In addition, it is to our good fortune that along the way, we've gained some key allies with Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman. These



Tom Melius, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional Director for the Midwest Region, opened the Conserving the Future Conference in Madison, WI to a crowd of 1,000 wildlife conservation professionals, non-profit organizations, and private and state partners. Melius highlighted the natural resources found within the 54 national wildlife refuges and 12 wetland management districts within the region's eight states. USFWS photo.

newly established relationships will spring board us forward on to the critical conservation tasks ahead.

Another milestone that I was pleased to be a part of was the Conserving the Future Conference in Madison, Wis., where I gave the welcome address to more than 1,000 wildlife conservation professionals, non-profit organizations, and private and state partners. All were treated to a host of inspiring speakers and events that were dedicated to conserving the future of wildlife refuges and preparing the next generation. It was a

wonderful opportunity to share ideas and get connected. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you who contributed your time and effort into making the conference the success that it was. I encourage all of you to view video and read follow ups of the conference at: <http://americaswildlife.org/multimedia/>.

Last month, I, along with Secretary Salazar, Director Dan Ashe and Congressman John Dingell announced yet another milestone in the Midwest. We announced land acquisitions of the Blanchett and Holloway tracts intended to enhance the first international Wildlife Refuge in North America, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Secretary Salazar, Congressman Dingell and Director Ashe praised partnerships as key to achieving the conservation goals set forth in President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Stay safe as we continue to reach milestones throughout this busy summer.

--Tom Melius  
Midwest Regional Director,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius, FWS Director Dan Ashe and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar walk along Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge's Humberg Marsh as they mark advances in the conservation partnerships of the refuge. USFWS photo by Tina Shaw.

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# Minneapolis and Saint Paul Declare July 14 “City Bird Day” in Honor of Urban Bird Treaty

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Audubon Minnesota, celebrated this July the Twin Cities implementation of the Service’s Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds.

The partners celebrated both the Urban Bird Treaty and the Mayors’ Proclamation of July 14 as “City Bird Day” at Minneapolis’ BF Nelson Park set along the beautiful Mississippi River.

Under the Urban Bird Treaty program, the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul will conduct habitat restoration (focusing on native plants), invasive species management, and develop educational materials to support conservation of birds that spend a portion of their life cycle in this metropolitan area.

“Minneapolis and Saint Paul sit at a geographic crossroads for a variety of migratory, resident and breeding birds that use the diversity of forest, marsh, grassland, and riverine habitats provided by the Mississippi River,” said John Christian, Assistant Regional Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs. “The cities are a natural fit for the Urban Bird Treaty program, and the efforts put forth by the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Saint Paul, and Audubon Minnesota will bring to light the importance of protecting birds in our neighborhoods, parks and backyards.”

The Service will provide a \$70,000 grant to the Urban Bird Treaty partnership, which will be used for on-the-ground, bird-friendly efforts by the partners over the next two years. Outdoor



Above: John Christian and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak discuss the tasks ahead. USFWS photo.

wildlife watching activities like bird watching generate more than \$600 million in economic benefit in Minnesota per year. Birding is an outdoor activity that continues to grow in popularity and can be enjoyed by people of all ages in all geographic areas.

“Our proximity to the mighty Mississippi River is why Minneapolis is here in the first place, and it brings some important characteristics to the Minneapolis experience, such as the diversity of birds that live here and migrate through,” said Mayor R.T. Rybak. “Heron, owls, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, ospreys and songbirds are part of the character of our city -- part of our quality of life, both for people living in and visiting Minneapolis -- and they require healthy habitats to survive.”

“The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is dedicated to creating, preserving and protecting our natural areas and wildlife as well as educating residents and visitors about the natural environment that makes Minneapolis

beautiful and unique,” said John Erwin, President of the Minneapolis Board of Park and Recreation. “The Park Board’s involvement in the Urban Bird Treaty offers us a chance to highlight the diverse migratory birds that are such a treasure to our city.”

“Since taking office, my administration has been committed to investing in education and advancing our environmental efforts,” Mayor Chris Coleman said. “This grant is a great way for us to do both. Through this program, not only will we create a haven for migrating birds but a new way for children to learn about our environment.”

Minneapolis and Saint Paul are seated within an important stopover area along the Mississippi Flyway, a route that supports millions of migrating ducks, shorebirds, waterbirds, and hundreds of species of songbirds during spring and fall migrations.

“Minneapolis – Saint Paul and its varied habitats of woods, waters, wetlands and prairies, supports over 300 species of birds – an outstanding number for an urban area,” said Mark Peterson, Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota. “The Urban Bird Treaty recognizes this outstanding wildlife diversity surrounding us, and the efforts of the residents of the Twin Cities to protect and improve it. It speaks to the quality of life we enjoy here,” he added.

--Ashley Spratt, *External Affairs*

# Professional Waterfowl Guide Jeff Foiles Pleads Guilty to Federal Waterfowl Hunting Violations

Working together with state wildlife enforcement agents in Illinois and Iowa, and internationally with counterparts in Canada, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents close an illegal duck hunting case. The Department of Justice announced that professional guide, Jeffrey B. Foiles, pleaded guilty June 23, in federal court in Springfield, Ill., to wildlife charges arising from the illegal sale of guided waterfowl hunts.

Foiles, 54, of Pleasant Hill, Ill., pleaded guilty to an information charging him with one misdemeanor count of unlawful sale of wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act, as well as one misdemeanor count of unlawfully taking migratory game birds in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. At the same time, the company that operates Foiles' hunting club, the Fallin' Skies Strait Meat Duck Club LLC, located in Pike County, Ill., pleaded guilty to an information charging it with one felony count of unlawful sale of wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act and one felony count of making false writings in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Service.

The Lacey Act is a federal law that

makes it illegal to knowingly transport or sell wildlife taken in violation of federal law or regulation. The act defines the sale of wildlife to include the sale of guiding services for the illegal taking of wildlife.

"The case had more to do with greed than hunting," notes Service Resident Agent in Charge for Illinois and Missouri Timothy J. Santel. "When you look at the totality of the crimes, the case was more about commercializing wildlife for private gain than the art of hunting," said Santel.

According to the plea agreements filed, between 2003 and 2007, Foiles sold and guided waterfowl hunts at the club for the purpose of illegally hunting ducks and geese in excess of hunters' individual daily bag limits. Guided hunters paid \$250 per day for hunts at the club. Foiles and others at the club also falsified hunting records in order to conceal the excesses.

The maximum penalty for a felony violation of the Lacey Act or the federal false writing statute includes

up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

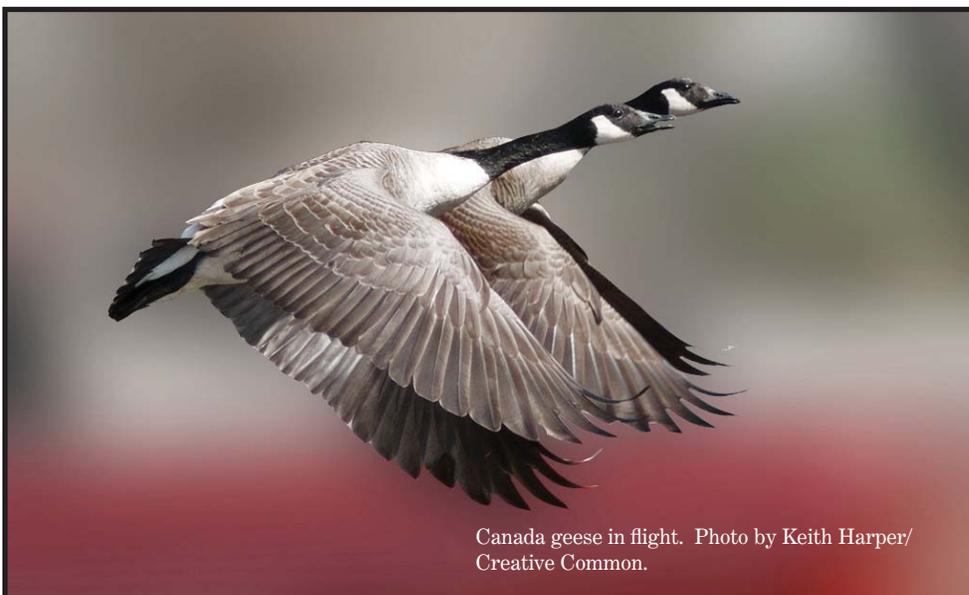
According to the plea agreements filed, the government and the defendants have jointly asked the court to sentence Foiles to 13 months in prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release during which time he may not hunt or guide hunters, and to pay a \$100,000 fine for which Fallin' Skies Strait Meat Duck Club LLC agreed to serve as guarantor. Further, Foiles agreed to one additional year, following completion of his term of supervised release, during which he will not hunt or guide.

The court must determine whether or not to accept the plea agreements. If the plea agreements are accepted by the court, the government has agreed to dismiss the pending felony indictment against Foiles.

The sentencing hearing for Foiles is currently set for Sept. 21, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron G. Cudmore. The sentencing hearing for Fallin' Skies Strait Meat Duck Club LLC is scheduled for Oct. 27, before U.S. District Judge Richard Mills.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the government of Canada. The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois and the Justice Department's Environmental Crimes Section.

--Tina Shaw, *External Affairs*



Canada geese in flight. Photo by Keith Harper/  
Creative Common.

# Fixing What's Broken It's what NRDA Does

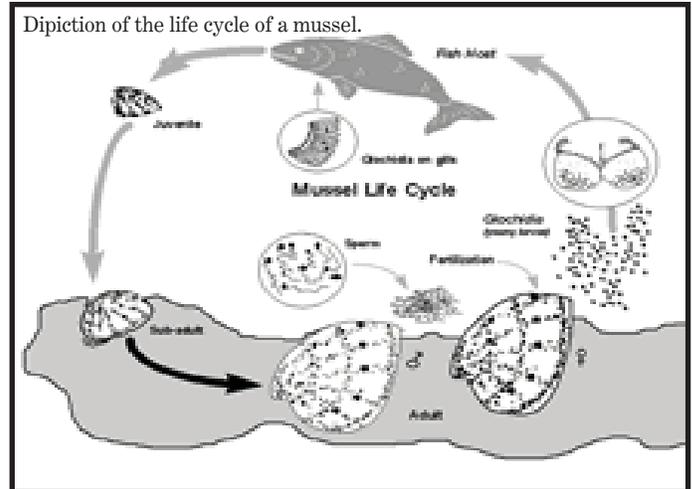
In Bettendorf, Iowa, along the nation's largest river, lie beds of molluscs with improbable names: the butterfly and the pistolgrip, the fawnsfoot and the deertoe, the plain pocketbook and the washboard. Bettendorf is also home to shoreline factories that depend on large volumes of fresh water from the Mississippi River for their industrial processes. Back when more stringent laws were just coming on the books, one of those factories released polychlorinated biphenyls and other hazardous chemicals into the river. Exposure to hazardous substances played havoc with the natural resources of the river. Warnings were sounded about eating the fish, and the natural systems that made this area unique were compromised. Mussels in particular were vulnerable: they cannot move away from the threats they face.

Enter the Natural Resource Trustees led by the Environmental Contaminants Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. As Natural Resource Trustees, these agencies have joint responsibility to evaluate how much injury has occurred to natural resources and to use this information to restore to the public what was lost - in other words, "fix what's broke."

Using provisions of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration laws, Trustees pursued a claim from the party responsible for

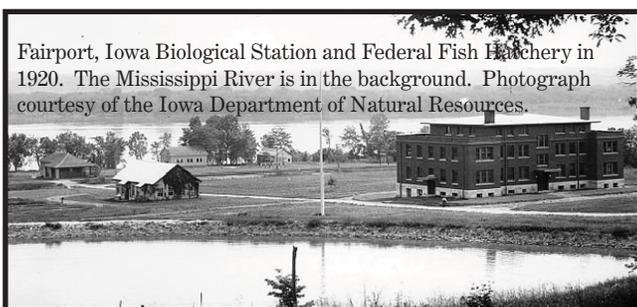
the contamination, securing a settlement which provided funds to launch an aquatic restoration effort. The Trustees then gathered public input and developed a restoration plan to stock mussels, produced at fish hatcheries, into the Mississippi River.

Here's how the Mississippi River augmentation will work. This fall, biologists from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will find and collect adult mussels from area mussel beds after they have naturally spawned. The adult mussels with fertilized eggs will be transported up to the Genoa National Fish Hatchery where they are held until the eggs hatch and the glochidia can be washed out of the adults' brood sacs. The glochidia are then allowed to attach to the gills of specific host fishes. The infested fish will be transported to the Fairport State Fish Hatchery near Bettendorf, where they will be held in cages until the glochidia transform into immature mussels and drop off into trays. The immature mussels will be consolidated in the autumn and held over until next summer to increase their body size and avoid many of the natural causes of early life stage mortality.



species will take up their roles in the ecosystem of the Mississippi River.

--Georgia Parham,  
External Affairs, Mike Coffey, Rock  
Island (IL) Field Office, and Annette  
Trowbridge, Twin Cities Field Office



Fairport, Iowa Biological Station and Federal Fish Hatchery in 1920. The Mississippi River is in the background. Photograph courtesy of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

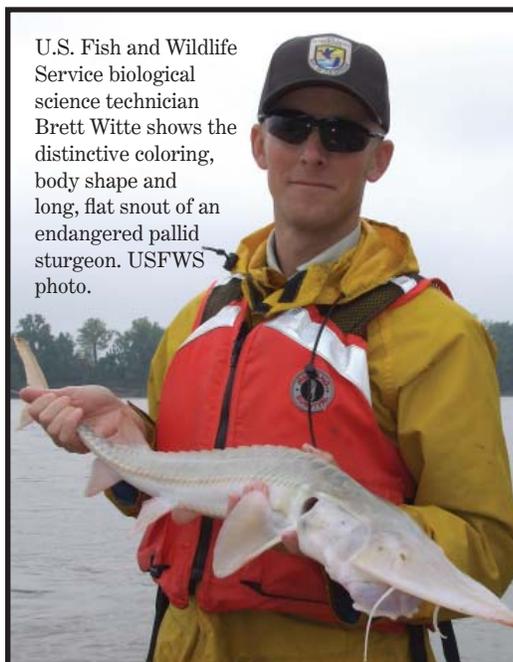
By the summer of 2013, year-old mussels will be placed out in the river. And once again, deertoe, butterfly, black sandshell, fawnsfoot and other little-seen but vitally important mussel

# Missouri: Climate Concerns Add to Challenges Facing Sturgeon Recovery Efforts

Above-average fluctuations in rainfall, snowmelt and runoff in the lower Missouri River are complicating U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to recover endangered pallid sturgeon, one of the continent's largest freshwater fish. Unusually low water levels in 2004 and 2006 have been followed by record high levels since 2007, say scientists. The Service is working with the U.S. Geological Survey through the National Climate Change Wildlife Science Center and Science Support Partnership Program to anticipate how a range of such changes may impact pallid sturgeon recovery efforts throughout the region, encompassing Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota.

"Essentially we are trying to build a more comprehensive picture of how the fish may react [to changes in water level and temperature that might be associated with a changing climate]," said Mark Wildhaber, USGS research ecologist.

For centuries, rivers in the West and Midwest teemed with these great fish, which can weigh as much as 60 pounds, and have distinctive long, flat snouts. Then engineers dammed and straightened the Missouri, eliminating tree snags where sturgeon would feed, hide and spawn. Overharvesting by commercial roe fishermen further stressed the species, listed as endangered in 1990. Scientists have only recently begun to factor climate change into the recovery equation. Wildhaber is working with researchers from the University of Missouri and Iowa State University to build complex computer models that examine the potential impacts of varying precipitation, water flow and water



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biological science technician Brett Witte shows the distinctive coloring, body shape and long, flat snout of an endangered pallid sturgeon. USFWS photo.

temperature on the watershed, river hydraulics and fish populations.

For sturgeon, some potential changes are double-edged swords. Higher water temperatures, for example, would raise fish metabolism, spurring growth and reproduction — as long as adequate food is available. If food is scarce, however, fish growth and reproduction would likely slow in warmer water.

High water flow can likewise help or hinder sturgeon recovery. In spring, high flow benefits the fish, triggering migration and conditioning spawning sites. But in summer, high flow washes fry downstream, reducing survival and recruitment into the adult population. Service biologists are trying to rebuild the pallid sturgeon population through captive breeding. Since 2002, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery has produced more than 27,000 pallid sturgeon and stocked them in the lower Missouri.

The Service and USGS tag all hatchery-raised fish and monitor their survival. But so far, pallid sturgeon populations aren't bouncing back. "The million-dollar question is why do we come across hundreds of shovelnose sturgeon [a sister species] and only a single pallid when we are out on the river sampling?" said Tracy Hill, project leader of the Service's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Columbia, Mo.

The pallid's feeding habits could be partly accountable. While shovelnose sturgeon feed primarily on silt plankton and small invertebrates, pallid sturgeon depend on larger organisms, such as other fish, for food. Changes to river habitat and water flow have reduced the availability of those organisms, a situation that could be exacerbated by a changing climate.

Commercial roe fishing is also still a threat. Shovelnose caviar is more sought after, but pallid sturgeon have also been harvested for their eggs. The Service's recent listing of shovelnose sturgeon as threatened may help protect both species. The listing permits law enforcement actions in portions of the Missouri and Mississippi River basins where pallid and shovelnose sturgeon coexist.

Recovery scientists meanwhile are trying to plan for an uncertain future. "There isn't one answer," Wildhaber said. But he and his colleagues think computer modeling offers them their best shot at adapting wildlife management practices to changing climate conditions.

--Ashley Spratt, *External Affairs*

# Draft NiSource HCP, EIS Hit the Streets for Public Comment

After more than three years under development, the draft NiSource Habitat Conservation Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement are available for public comment. NiSource's draft HCP encompasses the company's activities in 14 states in the eastern United States, including Indiana and Ohio in Region 3, and covers dozens of federally listed, candidate or proposed species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's draft EIS evaluates NiSource's Habitat Conservation Plan and application for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. NiSource Inc. is primarily a natural gas transmission, distribution and storage company, and is seeking an incidental take permit for operating and maintaining its network of pipelines in 14 northeastern, Midwest and southeastern states.

The Endangered Species Act requires an approved Habitat Conservation Plan before an incidental take permit is granted. HCPs are agreements between a landowner and the Service, allowing landowners to undertake otherwise lawful activities on their property that may result in the incidental death, injury or harassment of a listed species; the landowner agrees to conservation measures designed to minimize and mitigate the impact of

those actions. In its draft EIS, the Service evaluated the possible environmental impacts of implementing NiSource's Habitat Conservation Plan and the potential effects of granting an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. Among the alternatives evaluated by the Service are issuing a permit for 50 years, as requested by NiSource; a "no-action" alternative, under which NiSource would continue to work with the Service on a case-by-case basis for all its activities; and issuing a permit for 10 years.

NiSource's draft HCP covers the company's activities that may result in take of endangered or threatened

endangered, threatened or candidate species. NiSource's draft HCP includes measures to avoid or reduce impacts on those species resulting from business activities, as well as mitigation practices such as protecting existing habitat, creating new habitat for protected species, and identifying research to better understand endangered species.

The Service is accepting comments on the draft EIS through October 11.

*--Georgia Parham  
External Affairs*



Above: The Indiana bat is one of ten endangered and threatened species that would be included in the NiSource habitat conservation plan and incidental take permit. USFWS photo by Andy King.

species along its pipeline network. The plan addresses conservation needs for 10 federally endangered, threatened or proposed species for which take might occur, along with measures to avoid take of an additional 33 federally

# The Return of Namé “King of Fish” to the Red River Basin

Thousands of years ago the Red River Basin in northwest Minnesota, like many tributaries of the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes region, teemed with namé (Anishinabe [Ojibwe] for “king of fish”) – known by most as the lake sturgeon, a prehistoric freshwater fish that can grow to nine feet and weigh up to 300 pounds.

Early Native American tribes from across northwest Minnesota, the Dakotas, and portions of Canada revered the lake sturgeon as both a cultural symbol and essential staple in a sacred way of life.

“This fishery was a source of life and livelihood for the Anishinabe, who paid homage to the sturgeon through the practice of taking only what they needed to survive, and carry them through harsh winters; sustainability in its earliest form,” said Joe Hunter, operator of the Sustainable Sturgeon Culture hatchery on the Rainy River First Nations Reservation in Ontario.

The Sustainable Sturgeon Culture hatchery propagates lake sturgeon from the Rainy River, where harvest remains an important practice for sustenance. The hatchery supplies fertilized lake sturgeon eggs to conservation agents like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for their lake sturgeon recovery and stocking efforts in waters across the Red River Basin where lake sturgeon once thrived.

Fisheries Supervisor Aaron Woldt says lake sturgeon recovery is approached from multiple recovery angles. Woldt says short-term recovery efforts aim to augment lake sturgeon populations through stocking and removal of dams to allow for fish passage, but maintaining lake sturgeon populations that are able to reproduce on their own and sustain their population is the long-term goal.

instigators in the decline of the lake sturgeon, the building of dams catalyzed the near extinction of the species by the mid to late 1900s.

“Lake sturgeon had a broad native range through the Red River Basin, Upper Mississippi River Basin, Great Lakes and extending into Canada. But the building of dams cut off their access to spawning habitats,” he said.



Above: Young helpers stock lake sturgeon at White Earth Lake. Sturgeon were raised to fingerling size by Genoa National Fish Hatchery. USFWS photo by Scott Yess.

The Service and Minnesota DNR assist tribal partners in stocking efforts in the Red Lakes and across the Red River Basin. Eggs from Joe Hunter’s Sustainable Sturgeon Culture Fish Hatchery are transported to the Service’s Genoa National Fish Hatchery, where they are hatched and raised to fingerling size, or between 5-7 inches, in length. They are then released back into suitable habitat, like the Blackduck River, which connects to the Red Lakes in northwest Minnesota, or in waters of the White Earth Reservation. All of the fingerlings from Genoa are marked with coded-wire tags to monitor and track the

movements and survivability of each year class.

“Our hope is to use the Red Lakes as a nursery area, and provide suitable habitat for young lake sturgeon to thrive and then populate the rest of the Red River Basin,” said Brown, fishery biologist with the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. “This could potentially mean up to 185 miles of upstream tributaries and 70 miles of the Red Lake River.”

“Our main focus is on restoring populations that were depleted,” said Scott Yess, Service biologist in LaCrosse, Wis. Yess and staff from the LaCrosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office focus their lake sturgeon recovery efforts in the Red River Basin in Minnesota as well as the Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin.

Tom Groshens, fishery biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources explains that while overfishing and pollution were key

*Continued on next page.*

# The Return of Namé “King of Fish” to the Red River Basin

*Continued.*

To supplement stocking efforts throughout the Red River Basin, the Service, state natural resources agencies and tribes also collaborate on public and tribal lands to modify dams in the Red River Basin that prevent lake sturgeon and other fish from passing through.

“Lake sturgeon like to spawn on rocky substrate which is often found in the rivers. With all of the dams we have dotted across the landscape in the Midwest, lake sturgeon are up against fragmented habitat – they are essentially separated from their lake habitat and their river spawning habitat,” Scott Yess said. “The Service’s Fish Passage Program allows us to work with our partners to reconnect that lake and stream habitat.”

“If you think of a low head dam you know that you have an instant drop and the fish can’t navigate upstream because of that drop,” said Yess. “Dam modification basically alters the dam

face by putting rocks and boulders immediately downstream of the dam, in turn creating a gently sloping rock-riffle run, allowing fish to pass through.”

Fish passage projects like this aim to restore the connectivity of the river, allowing lake sturgeon to access the habitat they need to spawn, and ultimately reproduce on their own.

Aaron Woldt emphasizes that the goal for lake sturgeon restoration in the Red River Basin is to facilitate the development of self-sustaining populations of lake sturgeon, and



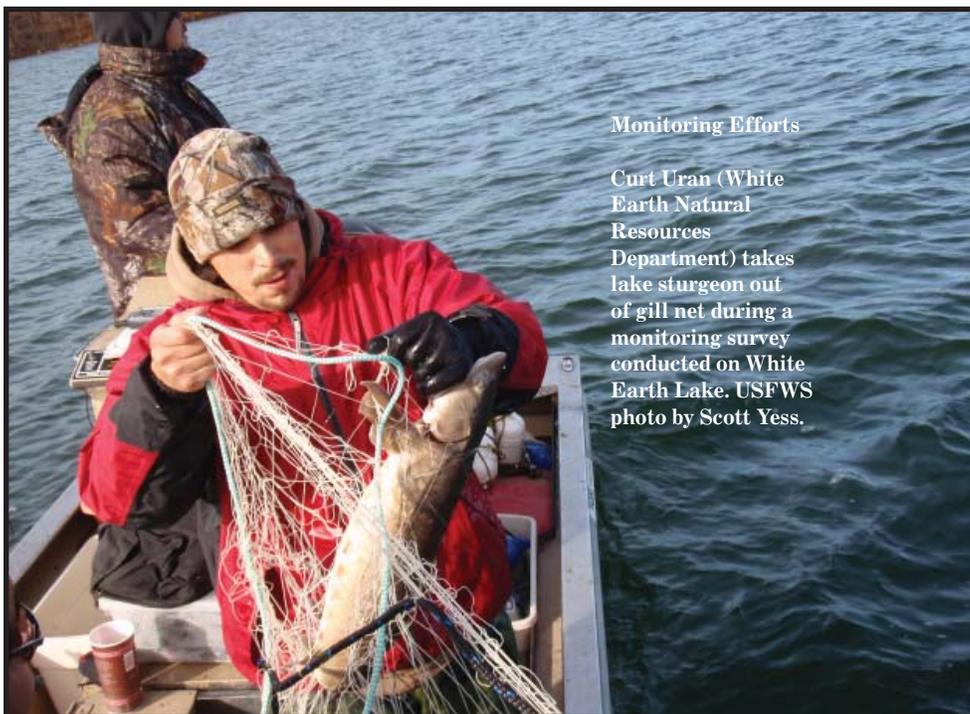
Scott Yess returns spawned lake sturgeon to the Rainy River.  
Photo by Jerald Roberts (White Earth Natural Resources Dept.).

provide the tools necessary to restore connectivity to their habitat and boost their populations where they once thrived.

“One of the most important things about this partnership is to keep each other informed on what we’re doing and give advice to each other,” Groshens said. “We’ve made a lot of progress in a number of different aspects in lake sturgeon restoration, and we are seeing in our monitoring efforts that the lake sturgeon is coming back.”

Pat Brown agrees: “With all of these partners working together toward a common goal, I feel that we’ve got a lot better chance of being successful.”

*--Ashley Spratt, External Affairs*



## Monitoring Efforts

Curt Uran (White Earth Natural Resources Department) takes lake sturgeon out of gill net during a monitoring survey conducted on White Earth Lake. USFWS photo by Scott Yess.

# John Hartig: In His Own Words

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Manager, John Hartig has his hands full these days, not only with running the only international refuge in the nation, but also with pen and paper. Hartig has penned a book entitled, "Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers that Caught on Fire," a detailed account on oil pollution on Midwest rivers.

And rivers are something Hartig knows a lot about. He worked for five years as the River Navigator for the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative. He has also worked for the International Joint Commission for 12 years, Wayne State University for two years, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources for four years.

Born in Vancouver, Wash., Hartig's roots are in the Midwest, having grown up in Allen Park, Mich. He joined the Service in 2004, attracted by the conservation mission. "I have spent my entire 30+ year career working on the Great Lakes. As part of my responsibilities as [a] river navigator, I helped develop of conservation vision that called for the establishment of the

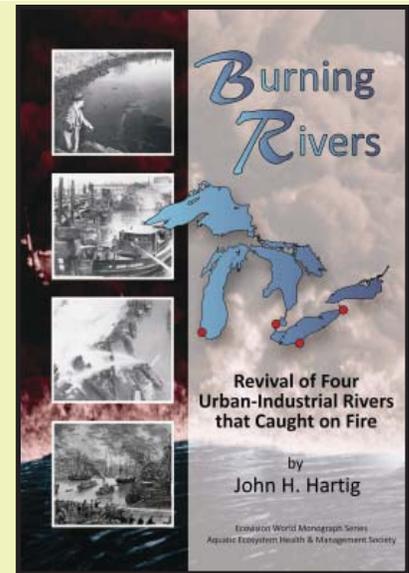


International Wildlife Refuge and gave testimony in Washington on the enabling legislation."

Children are another thing that Hartig knows a lot about. With three daughters of his own, born to he and his wife Patricia, he has a passion for children and teaching them about nature. Throughout my entire career I have had a commitment to education and to speak to school groups every chance I get. I taught at Wayne State University for 10 years." Hartig earned his B.S. and M.S. from Eastern Michigan University and Ph.D. from University of Windsor.

"Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is not only exceptional for its fish, wildlife, and biodiversity, but it is exceptional because it is a major urban area (nearly seven million people in a 45-minute drive) where hunting, fishing, boating, birding, and other outdoor recreational sports are cultural," he says. "This confluence of exceptional fish and wildlife, and nearly seven million people that love the outdoors, provides a unique opportunity to help develop the next generation of conservationists. We place a high priority on children and nature, including World Wetlands Day that attracts over 1,000 high school students, HawkFest that attracts over 5,000 people in one weekend, the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival that attracts over 9,000 people in one weekend, International Migratory Bird Day, and Detroit River Days that attracts nearly one million people, and many more events."

--Valerie Rose Redmond, External Affairs and John Hartig, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge



## In His Own Words

Burning Rivers is the story of four rivers that caught on fire because of oil pollution. Today, each is experiencing a surprising revival that gives hope. If these four rivers can be revived and made into community assets, there is hope for all rivers and all people working to restore rivers.

Burning Rivers was written to help teach the lessons of the past, celebrate the environmental progress, and to help convince people of the urgent need to address the remaining environmental challenges in order to avoid another tipping point.

My publisher is Multi-Science Publishing Company in Essex, England in cooperation with the Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society. I am a member of the Society and the book is part of their EcoVision World Monograph Series. I had this publisher in mind when writing the book, specifically the EcoVision World Monograph Series. My publishing process was very professional. --John Hartig

# Around the Region



## Neosho After the Storm

In the weeks and months following the EF5 tornado that hit Joplin, Mo., staff from the Neosho National Fish Hatchery volunteered to help their neighbors rebuild both their town and their spirits. Many Joplin families lost loved ones, homes and much more in the tornado that wreaked havoc on their beloved town. Neosho National Fish Hatchery, Friends of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery, the Red Cross, and the local chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation held a kids day event for approximately 300 children (and their families) impacted by the tornado. The kids were treated to a day of fishing, food, target shooting, a picnic lunch, and ice cream. USFWS photo.



John Christian (l) and Charlie Wooley (r) congratulate Barb Pardo (c) on her 30-year career milestone. USFWS photo.

## Barb Pardo

It's been more than 30 years since Barb started her U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service career as a Co-op student at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. She continues her work with Joint Venture partnerships and bird habitat conservation programs in the new Regional Office. USFWS photo.



# U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/>

## Proclamation

*WHEREAS: The cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul are located on the Mississippi Flyway – a bird migration route for 40 percent of North America’s waterfowl and shore birds – and at the confluence of two major rivers; and*

*WHEREAS: Every spring and fall hundreds of thousands of birds, including a wonderful diversity of waterfowl, raptors, warblers and neotropical songbirds, pass through Minneapolis on the way to summer breeding or wintering grounds; and*

*WHEREAS: Minneapolis is also home to significant resident populations of bald eagles, peregrine falcons (including a pair at City Hall), ospreys, waterbirds and numerous songbirds; and*

*WHEREAS: For the vast majority of people, birds represent their most frequent contact with wildlife. Birds are a valuable resource, contributing aesthetically, culturally, scientifically, and economically to America’s residents. Birds pollinate plants, disperse seeds, are critical links in the food web, and play significant roles in insect pest control; and*

*WHEREAS: Although Minneapolis is well known for its river, lakes, and natural areas, declining bird issues continue to be a particular concern due in part to habitats degraded or lost; and*

*WHEREAS: Birds in urban areas also face obstacles and hazards such as non-native plants, which compete with the native plants that provide adequate food and shelter; outdoor pet cats; and potential collisions caused by lights, windows and tall buildings; and*

*WHEREAS: The seasonal influx of birds and the rich array of resident and breeding birds are part of our quality of life in Minneapolis, an outstanding connection to wildlife for residents and visitors, and part of our region’s character; and*

*WHEREAS: Through the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Audubon Minnesota and the City of Saint Paul, young people will learn about birds and enhance their job skills while planting native trees and bushes specifically for enhanced bird habitat. Interpretive signs and education will teach Minneapolis residents and visitors about birds and the importance of native plant species to the birds’ survival help protect the birds that and live in and migrate through Minneapolis;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, R.T. RYBAK, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, do hereby proclaim July 14, 2011 as:**

### CITY BIRD DAY IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS



Mayor of Minneapolis



## City of Saint Paul Proclamation

*WHEREAS: The Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul are located on the Mississippi River Flyway – a bird migration route for 40 percent of North America’s waterfowl and shore birds – and at the confluence of two major rivers; and*

*WHEREAS: Every spring and fall hundreds of thousands of birds, including a diversity of waterfowl, raptors, warblers and songbirds, pass through Saint Paul and Minneapolis on the way to the South; and*

*WHEREAS: Saint Paul and Minneapolis are home to significant populations of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, ospreys, waterbirds and songbirds; and*

*WHEREAS: For the vast majority of people, birds represent their most frequent contact with wildlife. Birds are a valuable resource, contributing aesthetically, culturally, scientifically, and economically to America’s residents. Birds pollinate plants, disperse seeds, are critical links in the food web, and play significant roles in insect pest control; and*

*WHEREAS: Birds in urban areas also face obstacles and hazards such as non-native plants, outdoor pet cats; and potential collisions caused by lights, windows and tall buildings; and*

*WHEREAS: Through the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Audubon Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis, young people will learn about birds and enhance their job skills while planting native trees and shrubs specifically for enhanced bird habitat.*

*WHEREAS: Community volunteers will also be engaged in natural resource restoration efforts to improve bird habitat. Interpretive signs along a new bird trail immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River and education throughout the city will teach Saint Paul residents and visitors about birds and the importance of native plant species to the birds’ survival help protect the birds that live in and migrate through Saint Paul; and*

**Now, Therefore, I, Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby proclaim Thursday, July 14, 2011, to be:**

**City Bird Day**

in the City of Saint Paul.

*In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Paul to be affixed this Fourteenth Day of July in the Year Two Thousand Eleven.*



*Christopher B. Coleman*  
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

Thank you for entering your journal reports and photographs in the Fish and Wildlife Journal (aka. ARS) <http://ars.fws.gov>.