

Confirmed and Potential Species Occurrences in Boone County

This narrative accompanies two other documents – A laminated map of Boone County, Illinois (approximately 2 feet by 3 feet in size) with an aerial photo base that has been divided into quadrants of nearly equal size; and a data table that lists species of rare and/or declining flora and fauna (species in greatest need of conservation or species of concern) that have documented occurrences in Boone County, Illinois. The map is used to demonstrate where these occurrences are located – via the grid system. The BCCD has also extrapolated this data in that it suggests additional “Potential Grid Units” where these species are likely to also exist.

The BCCD has an increasingly thorough account of the floral and faunal resources on BCCD lands. The BCCD makes particular note of the State Endangered and Threatened species we’ve encountered, as well as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (Species of Concern) as defined by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. The BCCD has encountered the noted species through a variety of means including: floristic quality assessments, stream and wetland sampling/surveying, upland surveying, avifauna surveys, and incidental encounters. The scope of our current knowledge is indicated in the provided table.

The table lists individual species by genus and species, as well as common names. Each species’ conservation status is indicated as State Endangered (SE), State Threatened (ST), or Species of Concern (SOC). The confirmed occurrences of each species are indicated as grid numbers for the appropriate locations. For example, Blanding’s Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) have been confirmed in grid units K9&10, L9&10, and Q3&4.

The BCCD has used its knowledge of the habitat requirements of critical species to extrapolate their existence elsewhere in Boone County. BCCD staff utilized aerial photography and soils maps to explore habitats on the Boone County grid map from grid units A1 through Y13. Inferences on vegetative cover, hydrology, habitat type and potential vegetative composition were made to identify potential, suitable habitat for critical species known to be present in Boone County. These potential habitats are labeled appropriately in the table as Potential Grid Units. One should note that these extrapolations were not made based upon on-site observation, but by the processes mentioned previously. The BCCD stresses the need conduct additional data collection and assessments in Boone County.