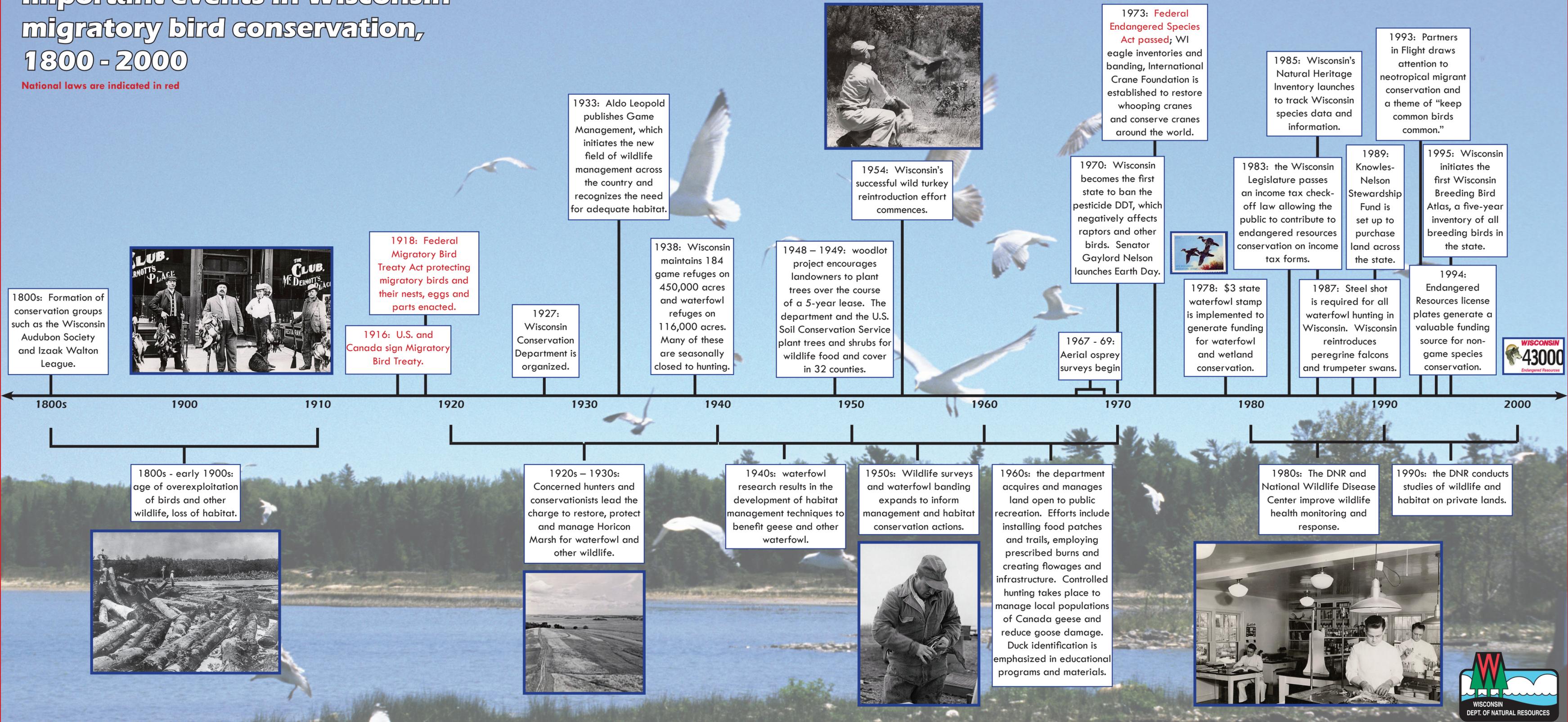


Important events in Wisconsin migratory bird conservation, 1800 - 2000

National laws are indicated in red



1800s: Formation of conservation groups such as the Wisconsin Audubon Society and Izaak Walton League.



1916: U.S. and Canada sign Migratory Bird Treaty.

1918: Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act protecting migratory birds and their nests, eggs and parts enacted.

1927: Wisconsin Conservation Department is organized.

1933: Aldo Leopold publishes Game Management, which initiates the new field of wildlife management across the country and recognizes the need for adequate habitat.

1938: Wisconsin maintains 184 game refuges on 450,000 acres and waterfowl refuges on 116,000 acres. Many of these are seasonally closed to hunting.

1948 - 1949: woodlot project encourages landowners to plant trees over the course of a 5-year lease. The department and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service plant trees and shrubs for wildlife food and cover in 32 counties.



1954: Wisconsin's successful wild turkey reintroduction effort commences.

1967 - 69: Aerial osprey surveys begin

1970: Wisconsin becomes the first state to ban the pesticide DDT, which negatively affects raptors and other birds. Senator Gaylord Nelson launches Earth Day.

1973: Federal Endangered Species Act passed; WI eagle inventories and banding, International Crane Foundation is established to restore whooping cranes and conserve cranes around the world.



1978: \$3 state waterfowl stamp is implemented to generate funding for waterfowl and wetland conservation.

1983: the Wisconsin Legislature passes an income tax check-off law allowing the public to contribute to endangered resources conservation on income tax forms.

1987: Steel shot is required for all waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin. Wisconsin reintroduces peregrine falcons and trumpeter swans.

1985: Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory launches to track Wisconsin species data and information.

1989: Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is set up to purchase land across the state.

1993: Partners in Flight draws attention to neotropical migrant conservation and a theme of "keep common birds common."

1995: Wisconsin initiates the first Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, a five-year inventory of all breeding birds in the state.

1994: Endangered Resources license plates generate a valuable funding source for non-game species conservation.



1800s - early 1900s: age of overexploitation of birds and other wildlife, loss of habitat.



1920s - 1930s: Concerned hunters and conservationists lead the charge to restore, protect and manage Horicon Marsh for waterfowl and other wildlife.



1940s: waterfowl research results in the development of habitat management techniques to benefit geese and other waterfowl.

1950s: Wildlife surveys and waterfowl banding expands to inform management and habitat conservation actions.



1960s: the department acquires and manages land open to public recreation. Efforts include installing food patches and trails, employing prescribed burns and creating flowages and infrastructure. Controlled hunting takes place to manage local populations of Canada geese and reduce goose damage. Duck identification is emphasized in educational programs and materials.

1980s: The DNR and National Wildlife Disease Center improve wildlife health monitoring and response.



1990s: the DNR conducts studies of wildlife and habitat on private lands.

