Important events in Wisconsin migratory bird conservation, 1800 - 2000

National laws are indicated in red

1800s - early 1900s:
- Age of overexploitation of birds and other wildlife, loss of habitat.
- 1800s: Formation of conservation groups such as the Wisconsin Audubon Society and local Walton Leagues.
- 1917: Wisconsin Conservation Department is organized.
- 1927: Wisconsin maintains 184 game refuges on 450,000 acres and waterfowl refuges on 116,000 acres. Many of these are seasonally closed to hunting.
- 1928 - 1930s: Concerned hunters and conservationists lead the charge to restore, protect and manage Marican Marsh for waterfowl and other wildlife.

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- 1929: Federal Endangered Species Act passed, Wisconsin inventories and bonding, International Crane Foundation is established to restore whooping cranes and conserve cranes around the world.

1930s:
- 1933: Aldo Leopold publishes Game Management, which initiates the new field of wildlife management across the country and recognizes the need for adequate habitat.
- 1937: Wisconsin Conservation Department is organized.
- 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.
- 1950s: Wisconsin becomes the first state to ban the pesticide DDT, which negatively affects raptors and other birds. Senator Gaylord Nelson launches Earth Day.

1950s:
- 1954: Wisconsin’s successful wild turkey reintroduction effort commences.
- 1958: Wisconsin’s Natural Heritage Inventory launches to track Wisconsin species data and information.

1960s:
- 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.
- 1967: Steel shot is required for all waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin.
- 1969: Partners in Flight draws attention to neotropical migrant conservation and a theme of “keep common birds common.”

1970s:
- 1973: Federal Endangered Species Act passed, U.S. and Canada inventories and bonding, International Crane Foundation is established to restore whooping cranes and conserve cranes around the world.
- 1974: Wisconsin’s successful wild turkey reintroduction effort commences.
- 1978: $3 state waterfowl stamp is implemented to generate funding for waterfowl and wetland conservation.
- 1979: Wisconsin reintroduces peregrine falcons and trumpeter swans.

1980s:
- 1980s: The DNR and National Wildlife Disease Center improve wildlife health monitoring and response.
- 1985: Wisconsin’s Natural Heritage Inventory launches to track Wisconsin species data and information.

1990s:
- 1994: Endangered Resources license plates generate a valuable funding source for non-game species conservation.
- 1995: Wisconsin initiates the first Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, a five-year inventory of all breeding birds in the state.