



# *WHAT ABOUT WILDLIFE?*

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***New Jersey Wildlife –***  
They were here before humans . . .

**Hadrosaurus foulkii - New Jersey State Dinosaur**



*... and especially before Europeans*



White-tailed deer



Philip Carteret, from a 19th-century coloured engraving. The Granger Collection, New York

# Perils to New Jersey Wildlife (and worldwide)

- “**Natural causes**” - Disease and predation (predators and microbes)
- **Human-caused** – direct and indirect
  - Birds - bird populations are down by two thirds
  - Bees, Butterflies, Bats, and other pollinators
    - Per the **Xerces Society**, “more than one quarter (28%) of all North American bumble bees are facing some degree of extinction risk.”
  - Deer - motor vehicle and agriculture conflicts
  - Geese – aviation and open space conflicts
  - Skunks, possums, raccoons, foxes, etc.
  - Increased road kill due to development

# ***Perils to New Jersey Wildlife***

*(continued)*

- **\*Habitat loss!\***
- Toxins in the air, water, and soil
- Increased human populations mean more development and travel – roads, planes, boats, etc.
- **Climate change** - Audubon science finds that two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction from climate change.
- **Human ignorance, indifference, and greed**



# ***Perils to New Jersey Wildlife***

*(continued)*

- **Exploitation and even cruelty**



# ***What to Do???***

- In the case of sick or injured wildlife, ***Do Not approach*** -
- Contact your local ***Animal Control Officer*** or,
- In the case of cruelty, contact your local ***police department*** for the ***Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO)***.
- Contact a ***wildlife rehabilitator*** who specializes in the particular species.

# Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers

- Licensed NJ wildlife “*rehabbers*” are listed on the NJDEP website:  
[https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab\\_list.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab_list.pdf)
- Some notable ones:
  - *Mercer County Wildlife Center* - Titusville
  - *The Raptor Trust* (deals with all birds) - Millington
  - *St. Francis Wildlife Sanctuary* - Princeton Junction



# ***What Else Can You Do??***

- We can all do things *personally* and *societally*:
- Landscape with wildlife in mind
- Avoid pesticides
- Support wildlife rehabilitators and other animal-friendly organizations
- Elect animal-friendly political leaders
- Teach your children to respect all life forms.

## *. . . and at NJDOT:*

- We have special opportunities and responsibilities
- Infrastructure places special burdens on the environment and therefore affects wildlife habitat
- Wildlife crossings – NJDOT was a pioneer with Rt. 78 overpasses
- **Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ)**  
<https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/chanj.htm>

*... and remember to ...*

- *Always think, and ask:*

***What about wildlife??***



# Resources

- Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)  
<https://aldf.org/>
- Animal Protection League of New Jersey (APLNJ)  
<https://aplNJ.org/>
- Animal Welfare Institute <https://awionline.org/>
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)  
<https://www.humanesociety.org/>
- National Audubon Society  
<https://www.audubon.org/>
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
<https://www.nrdc.org/>

# Resources

*(continued)*

- New Jersey Audubon <https://njudubon.org/>
- New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection
  - Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ)  
<https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/chanj.htm>
  - Division of Fish and Wildlife  
<https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/wildlife.htm>
- The Raptor Trust <https://theraptortrust.org/>
- Wildlife Center Friends  
<http://www.wildlifecenterfriends.org/co-existing-with-wildlife>
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation  
<https://www.xerces.org/>



# List of photos and illustrations

- Slide 1: Bobcat - Photo by Tyler Christensen, <https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/chanj.htm>
- Slide 2: Dinosaurs – *Hadrosaurus foulkii*, *New Jersey State Dinosaur* – geocaching.com
- Slide 3: (a) White-tailed deer – NJDEP CHANJ Program  
(b) Philip Carteret arriving at the colony of New Jersey in 1665 to serve as its governor, from a 19th-century coloured engraving. The Granger Collection, New York – Britannica.com

# photos and illustrations

*(continued)*

- Slide 6: (a) 2018 NJ Bear Hunt image – <http://njtoday.net/2018/12/12/carnage-mounts-during-murphys-bear-hunt-ban/> (b) Raccoon in leg hold trap - <https://www.thedodo.com/foothold-traps-new-jersey-raccoons-2079200589.html#>
- Slide 11: (a) Fawn - Photo: Courtesy New Jersey Fish and Wildlife, WRNJ Radio (b) Raccoon <http://www.wildlifecenterfriends.org/co-existing-with-wildlife> (c) Eastern chipmunk - Photo by Gillies Gonthier, courtesy of Wikimedia commons <http://www.expataussieinnj.com/new-jersey-wildlife-seven-furry-friends-from-the-backyard/>