



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Endangered Species Program in New Jersey

Conserving Species and Their Habitats

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
New Jersey Field Office
4 E. Jimmie Leeds Rd. Suite 4
Galloway, NJ 08205

P: (609) 646-9310
F: (609) 646-0352
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice>

September 2017



Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) chick
Cape May County, New Jersey

Gene Nieminen / USFWS

Why Conserve Endangered Species?

Everyone wants to breathe clean air, drink clean water and eat safe and nutritious food. All of these basic necessities stem from healthy ecosystems, populated with a diversity of plants and animals – like trees to clean the air, mussels to filter water, and insects to pollinate our crops. New Jersey is home to a wide variety of ecosystems inhabited by diverse native plant and animal species. Some species you encounter every day, others you may never see. Yet, each of them plays a unique role in maintaining a healthy environment for us all.

Many of these plants and animals benefit people in subtle and even unexpected ways: as sources of chemicals that may lead to the development of new medicines; as natural controls of insect and other pest populations; by cleaning contaminated landscapes through the removal of toxins from soil and water; and even by capturing and storing carbon from our atmosphere to help slow climate change. Healthy wildlife populations also provide many recreational and economic benefits. For example, in 2011 an estimated 1.9 million people spent nearly \$1 billion watching wildlife in New Jersey, supporting jobs and contributing to the economy.

Federally Listed Endangered Species in New Jersey

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
Dwarf Wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)
American Chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*)

Federally Listed Threatened Species in New Jersey

Bog Turtle (*Clemmys [Glyptemys] muhlenbergii*)
Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)
Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*)
Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*)
Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*)
Knieskern's Beaked-rush (*Rhynchospora knieskernii*)
Sensitive Joint-vetch (*Aeschynomene virginica*)
Seabeach Amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*)



Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)

Gene Nieminen / USFWS

The Endangered Species Act: A Brief Overview

In 1973, the U.S. Congress passed the Endangered Species Act - the first Act by any Nation that was solely dedicated to the preservation of threatened and endangered species. In this Act, Congress declared that native plants and animals “are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.”

How Does the Endangered Species Act Work in New Jersey?

The Endangered Species Act works through local actions to preserve and protect New Jersey’s native plants and wildlife. Biologists in the New Jersey Field Office perform a variety of tasks every day, dedicated to conserving threatened and endangered plants and animals as well as their habitats. For example, wildlife biologists monitor the status of listed species’ populations, and they develop and implement threat-mitigation programs that address environmental changes that may compromise a population’s health.

Many of the strategies the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employs have wide-ranging benefits that sometimes eliminate the need for placing new species on the list in the first place. By collaborating and coordinating with other government agencies, public works projects can be developed and implemented with minimal or no impact to vulnerable species. The Service is also able to offer technical assistance to the private sector to ensure that development plans that may affect listed species are both ecologically sound and compliant with the Act. The New Jersey Field Office also plays an important role as the point-of-contact and central information resource for listed species, guidance on Service programs and policies, as well as outreach and volunteer programs.



Gene Nieminen / USFWS

Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*)



Gary Peoples / USFWS

Bog Turtle (*Clemmys [Glyptemys] muhlenbergii*)



Annette Scherer / USFWS

Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)



Gene Nieminen / USFWS

Adult Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

New Jersey Highlights

Though one of the nation’s most densely populated states, New Jersey is home to 14 federally listed species. It is the only state to host Knieskern’s beaked-rush, a wetland sedge, whose habitat is confined to just five counties. New Jersey is one of only a few northeastern states to host North America’s smallest turtle, the bog turtle. The Garden State is also the global stronghold for swamp pink, supporting over 60 percent of the remaining populations of this stunning pink “starburst” flower.

Development and the Endangered Species Act in New Jersey

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies to consult with the Service on all federally funded or permitted projects where listed species may be adversely affected. Private individuals applying for Federal permits may also participate in this process. These requirements to protect listed species in New Jersey have not come at the expense of economic development. For example, from 2008 to 2015, the Service performed over 88,000 consultations on proposed development plans and other Federal actions. These consultations resulted in many projects incorporating environmentally sensitive standards with *none* of these projects being stopped or fundamentally altered.

By working with the Service, New Jersey’s economic development and infrastructure endeavors need not be impeded to realize a healthy and sustainable environment where all species can thrive – *including our own*.



Gene Nieminen / USFWS

Seabeach Amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*)