

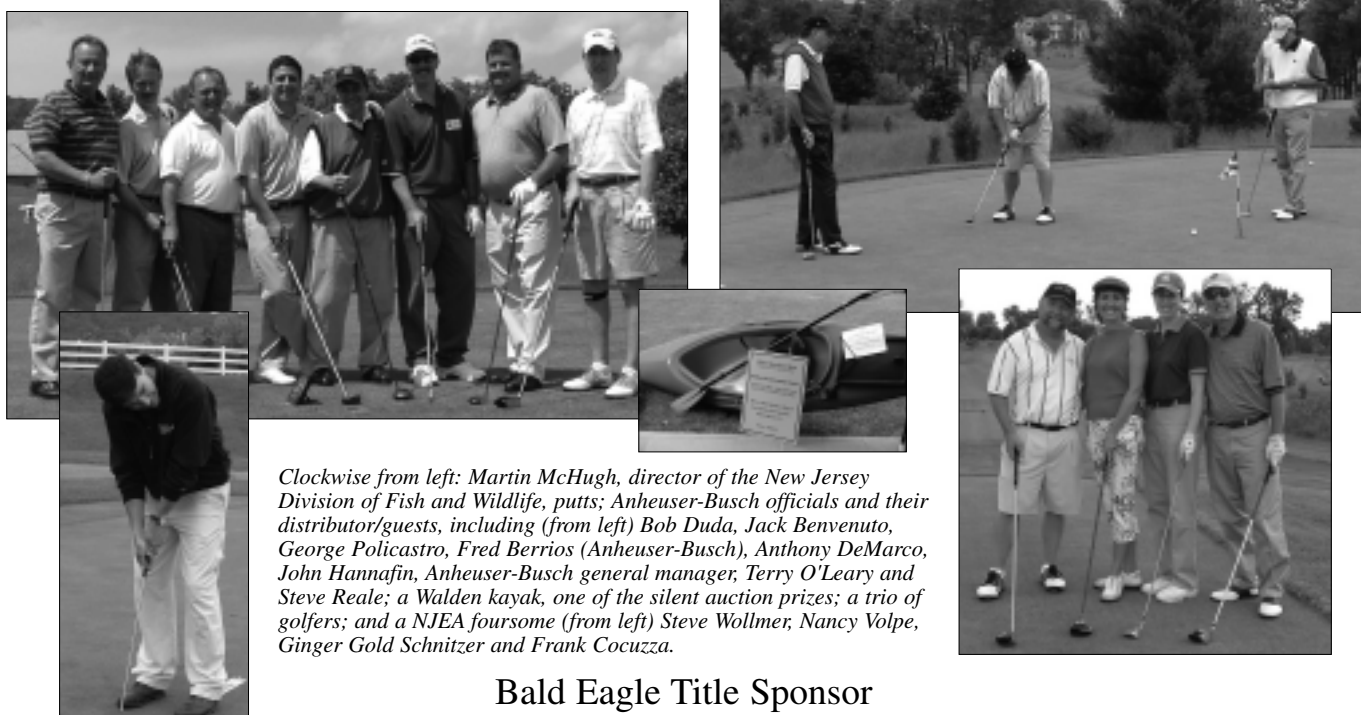
Conserve Wildlife Foundation News

2004 Conserve Wildlife Foundation Golf Classic

The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ held its fifth annual golf tournament on June 1 at Stanton Ridge Golf and Country Club in Hunterdon County. More than 100 golfers gathered to help CWF raise \$58,000 to support rare wildlife conservation.

After a challenging day on the links, golfers had an opportunity to bid on a variety of silent-auction prizes that included wildlife photography, signed works of art, a Walden kayak and a trip for two to San Francisco. They also were in the running for the top raffle prize: two round-trip tickets on Continental Airlines and a stay at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego, Calif.

Our thanks to all our sponsors, players and volunteers who helped make this year's event such a great success!



Clockwise from left: Martin McHugh, director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, puts; Anheuser-Busch officials and their distributor/guests, including (from left) Bob Duda, Jack Benvenuto, George Policastro, Fred Berrios (Anheuser-Busch), Anthony DeMarco, John Hannafin, Anheuser-Busch general manager, Terry O'Leary and Steve Reale; a Walden kayak, one of the silent auction prizes; a trio of golfers; and a NJEA foursome (from left) Steve Wollmer, Nancy Volpe, Ginger Gold Schnitzer and Frank Cocuzza.

Bald Eagle Title Sponsor Anheuser-Busch

"Brewing Solutions for a Better Environment"

"Anheuser-Busch has a long-standing tradition of giving back to the communities in which we do business," said John Hannafin, general manager of Anheuser-Busch's Northeast Region. "We have been a proud sponsor of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey's Golf Classic for four years and have helped raise more than \$200,000 for projects that improve the environment of our great state. It is important to us to be a good neighbor, and we're happy our efforts this year will help conserve the nesting habitat of the bald eagle."

To learn more about Anheuser-Busch's environmental efforts, visit www.abenvironment.com.

A special thanks to all of our sponsors, and raffle and silent-auction donors:

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Conserve Wildlife Foundation News

Message from Linda Tesouro, Executive Director

Birders Pledge for Wildlife Conservation

In the New Jersey Audubon Society's 21st annual World Series of Birding last May, the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ sponsored a team of five dedicated birders. Participants in the 24-hour statewide event raise funds to support the environmental organization of their choice. Department of Environmental Protection employee Matthew Klewin led a team of World Series of Birding veterans, including Margaret



Pat Shapella, CWF Contributions Manager and Matthew Klewin, World Series of Birding team leader.

Atack-Klewin, Joe Delesandro, Jr., Buster Raff and Angi Walters. Concentrating on southern New Jersey's abundant bird habitat, our dynamic team identified 153 bird species. They were pleased to present the foundation with nearly \$1,000 in contributions.

Thanks to Our Partners in Protection!

As the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ grows, we continue to make new friends and new Partners in Protection for wildlife. We welcome the following new members of Corporations for Conservation of Wildlife: Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Wessel Fragrances, Innovative Folding Carton Company and Schering-Plough. We also want to thank the Muschett Foundation for its renewed support of \$10,000, and the Environmental Endowment for New Jersey, whose grant of \$2,000 helps us fund the Shorebird Steward Project. Our appreciation also goes to the employees of Reckitt Benckiser, who raised \$730 during the company's annual Earth Day celebration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these generous New Jersey companies and foundations that care about protecting our endangered wildlife. For more information on how your company can join Corporations for Conservation of Wildlife, please call (609) 292-1276 or visit www.conservewildlifenj.org

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
CONSERVE
Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program

Wildlife

Fall 2004
www.njfishandwildlife.com

New Jersey: Cornucopia of Sensitive Dragonflies and Damselflies

Dragonflies and damselflies, the gossamer-winged denizens of streams and ponds collectively known as Odonata, are excellent indicators of water quality. New Jersey boasts 180 species, nearly the same number found in Virginia, which is five times larger than the Garden State.

In the northwest, Sussex County alone has 134 known species – more than any other area of similar size in North America. "Due to the state's diverse biogeography, we're blessed with a long list of species, and a number of them are rare," said Allen Barlow, an aquatic biologist who works with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP).

Since 2000, the ENSP has been surveying the state's waterways for Odonata, as well as freshwater mussels. "They are excellent water-quality indicators because their larvae, which spend a year or more in the water, are often intolerant of environmental disturbances, such as fertilizer and pesticide runoff, sewage and organic wastes and silt from erosion," said Jeanette Bowers-Altman, senior ENSP zoologist.

The surveys are part of the Integrated Biological Aquatic Assessment, funded by the DEP's Division of Watershed Management. The assessment is a first-ever DEP review of New Jersey's aquatic resources. Concluding this year, the five-year statewide study will:

- Overlap data collected routinely at DEP aquatic invertebrate monitoring sites and improve knowledge of water-quality indicators.
- Strengthen the state's ability to identify streams with high-quality habitats.

- Enhance endangered, threatened and rare species data in the Biotics Database maintained by the ENSP.

The Division of Fish & Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries and the Division of Water Monitoring also are contributing to the aquatic assessment.

An expert panel, organized by the ENSP, also is considering whether any dragonflies or damselflies warrant state listing as either endangered, threatened or species of special concern. The rarest tend to require the cleanest running water. Among the hot spots for rare and diverse Odonata are Sussex County's Walpack Valley and Cumberland County's Maurice River.

The Odonata's brief adult life cycles last approximately six weeks and are focused on reproduction. During that time, you've probably seen dragon-

flies buzzing about; their fore and hind wings differ in shape and size while the fore and hind wings of the smaller damselflies are identical. "But they are truly aquatic insects that spend a year and in some cases, two to three years as aquatic larvae," Barlow said. "Among insects, they are predators at the top of the food chain,

beneficially preying on mosquito larvae and other smaller insects."

That's true of the airborne adults as well. Barlow once was covered by deer flies until a feeding swarm of common baskettail dragonflies converged upon him. "They ate every deer fly in five minutes," he said.

For more information, visit www.njodes.com



The Familiar Bluet (above) and Spatterdock Darner are just two of New Jersey's many dragonfly species.



Photos by Allen Barlow

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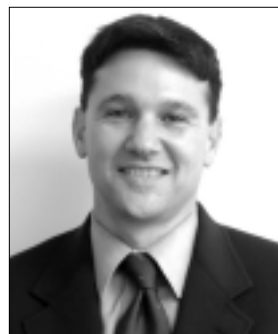
ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM MISSION
"To actively conserve New Jersey's biological diversity by maintaining and enhancing endangered and nongame wildlife populations within healthy functioning ecosystems."



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Special License Plates A Driving Force In Wildlife Conservation

Message from Martin McHugh, Director
Division of Fish and Wildlife



As reality shows go, it's tough to top the one that played out in Jersey City this past spring and summer. A pair of peregrine falcons nesting atop a Hudson Street skyscraper drew a faithful audience of thousands who marveled at the birds' daily activities via a webcam funded by Verizon. During May alone, some 8,500 viewers checked out the live video of the peregrines as they incubated their eggs and then tended to their four fuzzy chicks.

We regularly received e-mail from loyal viewers, some of whom confessed to developing quite an attachment to these amazing birds of prey. For many supporters of the Department of the Environmental Protection's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP), the falcon fledglings evoked a certain sense of parental protectiveness – as though you yourself had brought them into the world. And if you think about it, that's what you've done.

Your generous contributions – through purchases of the Conserve Wildlife license plate, the state income tax checkoff and direct donations to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation – advance the work of the ENSP. During the past 30 years, our biologists have made New Jersey a leader in bringing back from the brink of extinction endangered and threatened species such as bald eagles, ospreys, Pine Barrens tree frogs and, of course, peregrine falcons.

A full 80 percent of the proceeds from Conserve Wildlife license-plate sales directly supports our work. The remaining 20 percent covers the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission's administrative costs.

Currently, the MVC offers more than a dozen specialized license plates that support other worthy causes, so competition for dollars is fierce. In the coming months, we intend to redouble our efforts to raise awareness about the availability of the Conserve Wildlife license plate and how ENSP relies on this funding source to protect New Jersey's rare wildlife.

You can help us succeed.

Share your appreciation of wildlife by purchasing a Conserve Wildlife license plate for friends or loved ones this holiday season. You'll be giving a gift that will ensure future generations experience the wonder and beauty of our wildlife.

Tell everyone that wildlife conservation is a worthy investment by buying a Conserve Wildlife plate for the second car in your household. When you put the plate on your cars, you help more people learn about the cause you truly believe in and inspire them to become our partners in protection.

Purchase the special Conserve Wildlife plate by calling (609) 292-6500 or by visiting www.nj.gov/mvc or a MVC agency near you.

On behalf of everyone at the Endangered and Nongame Species Program, thank you for your generosity; it enables us to provide a brighter future for endangered and nongame wildlife.

Students Bond With Peregrines

Second-graders at the Cornelia F. Bradford School in Jersey City had no idea that, only blocks away, a pair of peregrine falcons were nesting atop 101 Hudson St. But that was before a \$5,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation, arranged through the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, turned the school's 33 second-graders into budding ornithologists this spring.



Second-graders get a close-up look at peregrine falcon chicks held by the CWF's Keara Giannotti and the ENSP's Kathy Clark.

To improve their reading skills, the students began reading about peregrines and other birds of prey, and their teachers – Michelle Longo-Sare, Roberta Kenny and Deborah Richman – developed lesson plans for second- and third-graders that are now available online at either www.conservewildlifenj.org or www.njfishandwildlife.com.

The students' activities included checking a webcam daily to observe the peregrine pair and their four chicks. As they watched the chicks grow, the children recorded their observations in journals and papered the school's bulletin boards with their projects. The grant also funded books on peregrines and more than a dozen pairs of binoculars for the second-graders, as well as a live birds-of-prey program for the entire school.

"These kids have 30 pages of journaling," said Longo-Sare. "This has been a tremendous project."

The highlight of the project occurred in late May when the children were escorted to a conference room at 101 Hudson. Kathy Clark, principal ENSP zoologist, brought down two of the four chicks to show how she banded them. "The smiles and pride the children displayed was as if they gave birth to the falcons," said Joseph Marsella, the school principal.

"I don't know anything about wildlife," said Alli Mobin, a student. "I want to learn about nature, and learning about peregrine falcons is really cool."

Mixed Results For Red Knots On Bay, in Arctic

Because numbers of red knots wintering in Tierra del Fuego this year remained low but stable, the numbers of knots that stopped to refuel along the Delaware Bay in the spring were expected to approximate the count in 2003.

However, the birds continued their record decline on the bay; the peak count in May was 13,000 – 3,000 below last year's extremely low tally. Instead of flying directly from Brazil to the Delaware Bay, the red knots made their way through Florida and other southern states this

spring, suggesting the birds might be responding to years of subpar horseshoe-crab egg laying by changing their migratory patterns.

Unfortunately, said Larry Niles, chief of the Department of Environmental Protection's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP), "There's no evidence that is a winning strategy." Nonetheless, although fewer birds reached the Delaware Bay, a higher percentage than in the last two years – 70 percent – were able to gain sufficient weight there to reach their Arctic breeding grounds in June in good condition. Researchers found six active nests during an ENSP-led expedition to the mouth of the Hudson Bay. That's a 100 percent increase over last year, but still below the 13 nests found four years ago.

Despite the increased number of nests, however, later-than-usual cold, wet weather that persisted after the researchers left in early July suggests the birds ultimately failed to breed.

Still, Niles remains cautiously hopeful: "I'm optimistic because the numbers of horseshoe crab eggs are definitely on the upswing and, with current state regulations banning the May harvest of horseshoe crabs, within the next five to 10 years, the quantity of eggs should recover to where they were 10 years ago.

"But no one has any experience with the kind of migratory-stopover collapse with which we are dealing," Niles said. "The evidence is pretty strong that, because human activity affected their migratory system, they're not coming to the Delaware Bay as they once did. And because of that, they're probably not reaching the Arctic to breed. That could take years to rectify."



Mark Peck of the Royal Ontario Museum adds a white band to a red knot briefly captured on its nest on Southampton Island this June. It was originally banded on the Delaware Bay in 2001.

Student Artwork Wildlife Calendar Is Now Available

Winning entries in the second annual Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ "Species on the Edge ~ Art and Essay Contest" for fifth-graders in New Jersey are now featured in a handsome calendar.

This year's contest drew more than 1,300 entries from more than 100 schools throughout the state. The entries ranged from the enormous humpback whale to the tiny Pine Barrens tree frog. Other animals profiled by the winning fifth graders include owls, eagles, shorebirds, bats, woodpeckers, turtles, butterflies, snakes and salamanders. The 19 winning county entries appear on a 16-month calendar which runs through December 2005.

The winners were honored at a May awards ceremony at Drumthwacket, New Jersey's official governor's residence in Princeton. John Watson, assistant commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, and Martin McHugh, director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, served as hosts. The contest sponsors include the New Jersey Education Association, Conectiv, Volvo Cars of North America, ShopRite Supermarkets and Benjamin Moore and Company.

Purchases of the calendar will benefit rare wildlife conservation in New Jersey. To order your calendar, send a check for \$8.95 each for one to 10 calendars or \$6.95 each for 11 or more, payable and addressed to: the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400. Attention: Calendar.



Watchable Wildlife

This fall, check out the following prime wildlife viewing sites listed in the *New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide*.

GREAT BAY BOULEVARD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

This four-mile-long peninsula separates Great Bay and Little Egg Harbor. From spring through fall, stop along the road (except for the one-way bridges) to scan salt marshes and mudflats for various shorebirds, oystercatchers, black skimmers and osprey. Brant can be seen in the fall and winter, and American black ducks, northern harriers, gulls and terns are there any time.

Directions: From U.S. Route 9 in Tuckerton, turn southeast at Great Bay Boulevard and drive through Ocean County's South Green Street Park to the wildlife management area.

Information: DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife, (609) 259-2132.

HIGBEE BEACH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

With millions of migrating songbirds and 50,000 migrating raptors, this 1.5-mile stretch of beach and adjacent uplands, wetlands, fields and coastal dune forest are a world-class birding paradise.

Directions: From the end of the Garden State Parkway, take state Route 109 west. Turn left at state Route 9. At first traffic light, turn left at Seashore Road (county Route 626.) Turn right at New England Road and follow either for one mile to the Hidden Valley Ranch parking area or for two miles to the end of the road and two beach-access parking areas.

Information: DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife, (609) 628-2436.

October

First week:

■ Wood turtles return to streams for breeding and hibernation.

Fourth week:

■ Snow geese begin arriving.

November

Third week:

■ Peak of snow geese migration at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

December

First week:

■ Harbor and gray seals begin appearing on New Jersey barrier islands and in estuaries, and can be seen through April.

Second week:

■ Wintering raptors, such as northern harriers, Cooper's hawks and short-eared owls, are present throughout the state.

Fourth week:

■ Breeding bald eagle pairs begin courtship rituals and nest rebuilding.

January

First week:

■ Eastern tiger salamanders begin breeding in their breeding ponds.

Second week:

■ Wintering and resident bald eagles are active, particularly along the Delaware River above the Delaware Water Gap, and along Delaware Bay tributaries, particularly the Maurice and Cohanse rivers. The state's annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey is conducted during the second weekend.