

Hunter College - CUNY
Department of Geography
Nature of New York State

Optional Exercise 16: Wildlife Management

Check One: For grading For extra credit

Due no later than the date of the Final Exam.

PURPOSE: This exercise identifies areas within your counties where the federal, state, and local agencies had set aside land to preserve unique habitat or to protect endangered species.

INTRODUCTION:

Read about the **New York Natural Heritage Program** at <http://www.nynhp.org> .
Visit the following sites. Consult your county maps.

Follow the links to your counties. If there is no hot link, do one of the following:

- Do a search on the DEC site.
- Do an Internet search under the area's name and county.
- Go to the county's web page and search for the area's name.

www.dec.ny.gov/23.html - plants, animals and aquatic life of NYS

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7768.html - wildlife management areas by DEC region

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8297.html - state wildlife management areas (WMA) by county;
links include WMA site maps

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96031.html> - state managed lands by DEC region (use the upper left pull-down list)

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7809.html - Long Island Region - protected areas

www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeLocatorMaps/NewYork.html - federal National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in NYS

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/55450.html - watchable wildlife sites

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7312.html> - *NYS Second Breeding Bird Atlas 2005*

www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/extapps/bba/bbaMaps.cfm?order=2&year=2000&comp=1 The **NYS Breeding Bird Atlas** comparison of 2000 and 2005 maps. (**NOTE: before the maps appear, you will need to click on the bird's name on two different pop-up pages.**)

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/263.html> - mammals of NYS

ASSIGNMENT: This assignment has 2 parts. Label your answers by Part and Number.

PART I. This part is county-based.

A. Visit the wildlife management areas or refuges in each of your three counties which represent different regions of the state (see links above) and **select just one area** from each county.

A1. List the names of the areas, the counties in which they are located and the major theme of each area.

A2. For each area selected, describe in detail the natural environment being protected.

A3. List the animals and birds (and in some cases special plants or insects) found within its boundaries.

A4. Describe the importance of the area for the protected species.

A5. Include a map or diagram of the wildlife management area or wildlife refuge.

MORE>>>>

PART II. This is species-based, not county based.

- B.** From the *Breeding Bird Atlas 2000-2005* map comparison (see link above) select any two species of bird. (The 2005 edition is the latest available.)
- B1.** Describe their principle habitat preference: mountains, saltwater, fresh water lakes, southern portion of the state, etc.
- B2.** Indicate the areas of the state where the two species you selected are found during the nesting season.
- B3.** Indicate if there has been any change in their statewide population distribution between the two survey periods.
- B4.** Using the bird fact sheets at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/271.html (scroll down to “Bird Species” at bottom of page) and at www.birds.cornell.edu (enter a bird species name in the “*All About Birds*” SEARCH box then click on “Living History” after the species appears), explain any environmental impact that may have led to increases or decreases in their numbers or range of habitation due to human interference or climate change.
- C.** From <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html> view the list of **endangered-threatened-concerned species**. Select one NYS species and briefly describe its situation.
- D.** From <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html> view the **nuisance species** list. Select one NYS species and describe the nuisance aspect and what is being done to deal with or alleviate the situation.

©AFG 0118