



New York Field Office

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Endangered Species



Congressional District #28

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In drafting the Endangered Species Act (ESA) over a quarter century ago, Congress set an ambitious goal: to reverse the alarming trend of human-caused extinctions that threatened certain species, and the ecosystems in which we all live.

In New York State, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is actively engaged in carrying out provisions of the Act at two offices: the New York Field Office, centrally located in Cortland, New York; and the Long Island Field Office, located close to where issues arise with Long Island's four listed species, in Islip, Long Island.

The Service's endangered species responsibilities include:

- Listing, reclassifying, and delisting species under the ESA;
- Providing information and biological opinions on the effects of Federal Agencies' activities on listed species;
- Enforcing species protection under the Act;
- Overseeing species recovery activities, including providing for the protection of important habitat; and
- Providing assistance to States and others to assist with their endangered species conservation efforts.

American Peregrine Falcon- An Endangered Species Success Story

The peregrine falcon was delisted in 1999. In 2003, the Service issued its monitoring plan for the species. A team of Service employees from each of the Service's regions, plus a National Coordinator from our Pacific Northwest region wrote the monitoring plan. Although other species have recovered, and been delisted and monitored, this is the first monitoring plan to be written for such a wide-ranging species (nesting in 40 States).



Peregrine Falcon

The Monitoring Team chose to monitor Peregrines five times at three-year intervals, beginning in 2003 and ending in 2015 (*i.e.*, sampling will occur in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2015). Five monitoring periods meet the requirement of ESA (to monitor "...for not less than five years..."); the three-year interval spreads the monitoring over 13 years, reflecting our concern for the long-term rather than short-term future of the Peregrine. In New York, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has the lead for monitoring peregrine falcons. In

District 28, we are aware of peregrine falcons nesting in the City of Rochester and on Goat Island in the Niagara River.

Bald Eagle



Bald Eagle

Although range-wide the bald eagle has made an amazing recovery, in New York State, we are still concerned about the continued encroachment on and alternation of bald eagle nesting and roosting habitat (typically adjacent to large bodies of water, including rivers and lakes) which remains the biggest single threat to this species in our State. Landscape protection efforts on the part of the State, conservation organizations and the Federal government are not keeping up with logging operations, commercial and residential construction, and increasing demands for public use of waterways and adjacent riparian zones, for recreation, including boating, canoeing, kayaking.

Wind Power

The Service recognizes that wind-generated electrical energy is renewable, produces no emissions, and is generally environmentally clean technology and that the Secretary of the Interior strongly endorses the development of wind energy. However, we are uncertain about the potential impacts to our trust species including migratory birds and Federally listed species such as the bald eagle and Indiana bat. The Service has developed interim guidelines to assist applicants with project siting, construction, and monitoring to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife from wind power projects. More information can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/r9dhcbfa/windenergy.htm>. Our office is currently reviewing at least 15 potential wind power projects in New York State.



Indiana bat

Partnerships

Partnerships play a vital role in the conservation and recovery of Federally-listed species. The New York Field Office is an active partner with multiple Federal and State agencies, non-governmental organizations, local municipalities, colleges and universities, and private citizens. Among a variety of partnership efforts in District 28, the Service is actively engaged in the Great Lakes Ecoteam, including the newly forming endangered species committee of this Ecoteam.