



**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
**Endangered and Nongame Species Program:**  
**Rehabilitator Protocol**

2020



- 1) Upon receipt of a species with endangered, threatened, or special concern status, please ask the person who found the animal to complete and submit a “Rare Wildlife Sighting Report Form”. Please ask them to include a map with the location where the animal was found. The Sighting Report Form, as well as additional instructions, are also available at: <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/rprtform.htm>  
A current list of the species with endangered or threatened status, as well as a link to the species of special concern, is located at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/tandespp.htm>
- 2) You must contact the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) within 24 hours of receiving any endangered and threatened species. **DO NOT CONTACT ANY OFFICE OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED BELOW:**
  - a) In northern New Jersey: Call ENSP’s Trenton office at (609) 292-9400  
(*Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren*)
  - b) In central New Jersey: Call ENSP’s Trenton office at (609) 292-9400  
(*Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean*)
  - c) In southern New Jersey: Call ENSP’s Tuckahoe office at (609) 628-2103  
(*Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem counties*)

\*\*Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm. Each office listed above has either voicemail or an answering machine. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.
- 3) **No one** has authorization to treat an endangered or threatened species unless they have contacted the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) and have received authorization over the telephone, or have prior permission from ENSP staff. Please be sure to get the name of the biologist who has given you authorization to treat it.
- 4) If you receive an endangered or threatened species on a Friday evening or cannot make contact with a biologist from the ENSP:
  - a) Gather necessary data (Sighting Report Form: <http://njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/pdf/rprtform.pdf>).
  - b) Contact the proper office (select from the three listed in #2)
  - c) Since you will be unable to receive authorization by telephone to treat the endangered or threatened species, you are permitted to provide critical care and transport it to a rehabilitator that specializes in that species (see #5). For example, if you are a “mammal rehabilitator” that finds a hawk or an eagle, you are permitted to transport the animal to an “avian rehabilitator” who is approved to treat raptors.
  - d) Transfer all data forms/documentation to the next rehabilitator. This is necessary for that rehabilitator’s records and the animal’s release and also allows the ENSP Program to collect the information .

- e) If you transport an endangered or threatened species, be sure to contact the same Endangered and Nongame Species Program office and inform them of its location and proper contact information.
- 5) If you receive an endangered or threatened bird, reptile, amphibian, or mammal after hours that is in critical condition and needs immediate attention, please contact one of the following rehabilitators:

◆ **for endangered or threatened birds**

- (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552
- (Morris County) The Raptor Trust, Christopher Soucy – (908) 647-2353
- (Ocean County) Toms River Avian Care, Don Bonica – (732) 255-9270
- (Sussex County) Avian Wildlife Center, Giselle Chazotte Smisko – (973) 702-1957
- (Newark, DE) Tri-State Bird Rescue, Lisa Smith – (302) 737-9543

◆ **for endangered or threatened herptiles**

- Timber rattlesnakes (statewide)
  - (Hunterdon County) Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Tracy Leaver – (908) 730-8300
  - (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552
  - If unable to reach personnel at Woodlands or Mercer, please contact the DEP at the telephone numbers above or 1-877-WARN-DEP.
- Pine and corn snakes (are only found in southern regions of the state)
  - (Hunterdon County) Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Tracy Leaver – (908) 730-8300
  - (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552
  - If unable to reach personnel at Woodlands or Mercer, please contact the DEP at the telephone numbers above or 1-877-WARN-DEP.
- Copperheads (are only found in the northern regions of the state, north of and including Hunterdon and Somerset Counties)
  - (Hunterdon County) Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Tracy Leaver – (908) 730-8300
  - (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552
- Turtles
  - (Hunterdon County) Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Tracy Leaver – (908) 730-8300
  - (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552

◆ **for endangered or threatened mammals**

- Allegheny woodrats
  - (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552
- Bobcats
  - (Hunterdon County) Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Tracy Leaver – (908) 730-8300
  - (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552
- Bats
  - (Hunterdon County) New Jersey Bat Sanctuary, Jacqueline Kashmer – (908) 200-1040
  - (Hunterdon County) Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Tracy Leaver - (908) 730-8300
  - (Mercer County) Mercer County Wildlife Center, Diane Nickerson – (609) 303-0552