

Hunter College of the City University of New York
Department of Geography
Geography of New York State

Exercise 15 – Extra Credit
Wildlife Management

Due no later than the date of the final exam.

*The purpose of this exercise is to identify areas within your counties where the federal, state, and local agencies had set aside land to preserve unique habitat or to protect endangered species. Read about the **New York Natural Heritage Program** at <http://www.nynhp.org>.*

Visit the following sites. Follow the links to your counties. If there is no hot link, do one of the following: Do a search on the DEC site OR do an Internet search under the area's name and county OR 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 by county

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

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

www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeLocatorMaps/NewYork.html - federal national wildlife refuges

www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/bba/bbaMaps.cfm?order=2&year=2000&comp=1 – 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 pages.)

ASSIGNMENT:

A. Visit the wildlife management areas or refuges in your three counties (see links above) and **select just one area** from the three counties.

A1. Describe the natural environment being protected.

A2. List the animals and birds found within its boundaries.

A3. Describe the importance of the area for the protected species.

A4. Include, if available, a map or diagram of the wildlife management area or wildlife refuge.

B. From the *Breeding Bird Atlas 2000-2005* map comparison (see link above) select any two species of bird.

B1. Describe their principle habitat preference: mountains, saltwater, freshwater lakes, southern portion of the state, etc.

B2. Indicate if the two species selected are found in any of your three counties 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") and www.birds.cornell.edu (click on "Living History" after selecting a species) explain any environmental impact that may have led to increases or decreases in their numbers or range of habitation.