



**CONSERVE WILDLIFE**  
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

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**Famed Artist James Fiorentino Brings Traveling Wildlife Art  
Exhibition to Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville**

*Free reception on Nov. 4 will feature artist and CWF field biologists*

**Bernardsville, NJ** - At 15, famed artist James Fiorentino became the youngest artist to be featured in the National Baseball Hall of Fame with paintings of baseball legends like Reggie Jackson, Cal Ripken Jr. and Ted Williams; his sports art has since graced national magazines and landed him in interviews with ABC World News Tonight and countless other news studios. Now 39, Fiorentino is pursuing another lifelong passion with a three-year traveling wildlife art exhibition in New Jersey and New York.

Fiorentino - in partnership with the nonprofit Conserve Wildlife Foundation – is holding an opening reception for *Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition*, this Friday, November 4 at 6 p.m. at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville. Fiorentino will be at the event along with two Conserve Wildlife Foundation field biologists who work to protect the wildlife species featured in the show, and a live screech owl.

Former Governor Thomas Kean and CWF Executive Director David Wheeler wrote the foreword and introduction, respectively, for the art exhibition hardcover book accompanying the exhibition. “Renowned as one of the best sports artists in the country, Jim’s works hang in major museums,” says Governor Kean, who met the artist while serving as president of Drew University—Fiorentino was a student there in the 1990s,

when his sports figures started receiving national attention. He was featured on ABC World News and in *The New York Times*. “In recent years he has turned to wildlife. Jim has created an amazing body of work... Many of the creatures he paints are endangered, and Jim celebrates their uniqueness and beauty.”

Fiorentino's realistic watercolor paintings depict some of the state's most endangered and vulnerable species. They will be on display at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery until January 14, 2017.

“Mr. Fiorentino's incredibly evocative artwork inspires viewers by putting a spotlight on these charismatic yet often overlooked wildlife species,” says Conserve Wildlife Foundation New Jersey Executive Director and wildlife author David Wheeler. “His watercolor paintings truly bring wildlife to life. His art helps to educate and engage viewers about the precipitous declines that many of these species have suffered and helps us bring attention to the very tangible steps that people can take to save and strengthen these wildlife populations.”

Sales of the original paintings, limited edition digital prints, the exhibition book, and wildlife merchandise will benefit Conserve Wildlife Foundation.

CWF field biologists Stephanie Feigin and Kelly Triece will also be present to discuss their work protecting the very species featured in Fiorentino's artwork.

As a Wildlife Ecologist for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation, Stephanie Feigin serves as one of New Jersey's leading shorebird and bat ecologists. With many of New Jersey's bats suffering tragic declines, Stephanie utilizes habitat enhancement, mist-netting and tracking, White Nose Syndrome research, passive acoustic and banding surveys, population monitoring, and the nation's only wild “Bat Cam.” She also conserves and researches at-risk shorebirds along the entire Atlantic Flyway, from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic - with New Jersey's Delaware Bay as the centerpiece. Stephanie's work includes restoration of the coastal habitat destroyed by Hurricane Sandy, migratory shorebird tracking projects, shorebird banding, resighting and survey projects, and volunteer coordination.

Kelly Triece is a Biologist with Conserve Wildlife Foundation, and works in partnership with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service. She protects and restores degraded wetlands for threatened species such as the Bog turtle, which has seen its national population cut in half over the past few decades. She also works with private landowners to create and monitor young forest habitat for the Golden-winged warbler, a forest species that has plummeted in New Jersey. Kelly leads the Amphibian Crossing Project, which works with teams of volunteers to protect at-risk amphibians on their migration routes to vernal pools. Finally, she pursues other conservation, enhancement and restoration projects for diverse habitats ranging from grasslands to freshwater wetlands.

Fiorentino started painting animals when he was 10, and he later became a trustee for the Raptor Trust in Millington, N.J. “We rehabilitate 4,000 wild birds a year and release

about half that number,” says Fiorentino. “These wild birds have had a tremendous influence on me. I enjoy getting close to birds of prey, and it brought me back to nature art.” Before going back to his studio to paint the details, Fiorentino sketches the animals up close, sometimes holding them, taking in their details.

His two young sons enjoy being in nature, the oldest son joining his father to draw wildlife, especially butterflies—proving that humans, too, benefit from having wildlife in their midst. “I am awed by what we see in our own backyard: the (endangered) Eastern box turtle, great horned owl, pileated woodpeckers, foxes, hawks and butterflies,” says Fiorentino. “It’s an amazing backyard ecosystem.”

*Rare Wildlife Revealed: The James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition* is sponsored by Omni Distribution, LLC, Flying Fish Brewing Company, Merrill G. & Erita Hastings Foundation, Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery, and Somerset Patriots.

For more information on James Fiorentino, please visit [www.JamesFiorentino.com](http://www.JamesFiorentino.com), [www.JamesFiorentinoNatureArt.com](http://www.JamesFiorentinoNatureArt.com)  
To learn more about CWF, please visit [www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org](http://www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org).

High resolution images of the original artwork are available upon request.

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**Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey** has worked to protect rare wildlife in New Jersey and beyond for over two decades. CWF biologists and educators utilize field science, habitat restoration, environmental education, public engagement, and volunteer stewardship to ensure our most vulnerable wildlife species can continue to call New Jersey home. Our dedicated and innovative scientists have helped many species recover and thrive again in our densely populated state.

CWF's wildlife webcams, Story Maps, live webcasts, and e-books help bring wildlife directly to the screens of tens of thousands of people, while our public events and volunteer projects give people of all generations the opportunity to experience the wonders of wildlife up close. Our educators utilize art and essay contests, educational field trips, summer camps, afterschool programs, technology initiatives, classroom presentations, and wildlife-based curriculum and lesson plans that meet the latest educational standards in helping kids grow in STEAM - or Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.