



**CONSERVE WILDLIFE**  
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

# Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest

## 2025 Official Rules and Entry Kit

All New Jersey fifth-grade students are invited to enter the Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest by writing a creative essay and creating an original art piece advocating for an endangered or threatened animal species from New Jersey.

One winner will be selected from each New Jersey county. Each winner will see their art featured in a beautiful calendar; have their art exhibited at venues across New Jersey; celebrate with an awards ceremony; and enjoy a trip to Sedge Island, a unique environmental center that is open by invitation only.



Blue-spotted Salamander by Vedika Krishna  
2024 Winner from Mercer County



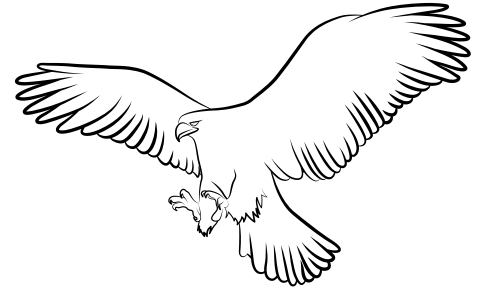
Golden-winged Warbler by Lily Ryan  
2024 Winner from Sussex County

Contest is FREE to enter and open to ALL fifth graders in New Jersey! Please review the contest kit carefully to be sure your submission is considered. **Entries due 2/20/ 2025.**

# 2025 Species on the Edge Art and Essay Contest Rules

Each student must choose one of the endangered or threatened wildlife species that lives in New Jersey. They will create artwork with this animal as the subject and write a creative essay following one of the prompts provided.

**All entries due February 20, 2025.**



## Choosing a Species

Students will choose one species to focus on through their essay and art. The species chosen **MUST** be on the list of threatened or endangered species in New Jersey. A list of threatened and endangered New Jersey species can be found in this packet and at...

**<https://conservewildlifenj.org/species-guide/>**

## Art Requirements

- Art **MUST** be 11 x 17 inches. Do not include a border.
- All art pieces must be original. **DO NOT** copy published photographs or illustrations.
- Accepted mediums include paint, colored pencils, markers, collage, pen & ink, and crayons. Other mediums may be used as long as they do not rub off or run.
- Digital art/ computer-generated artwork is not accepted. **DO NOT USE** photography, chalk, pastels, or oil pastels.
- **DO NOT** matte, frame, or laminate art.
- **DO NOT** use any lettering on the artwork.
- If you would like your art returned to you, please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope with your entry. Art will **NOT** be returned if this envelope is not included with postage **PAID**.

# Essay Requirements

- Essay must follow ONE of these prompts...
  - How are the needs of this animal's family similar to your own?
  - Pretend you are an individual of your chosen species. What do you want people to know about you? Why do you need protection? What can people do to help save you and your species?
  - Some endangered species in New Jersey have been brought back from the brink of extinction by wildlife biologists. Tell us your animal's success story.
- Essays should be approximately one page long, typed in 12 point Times New Roman font. Please contact us if typing your essay is not possible.
- Essays should be printed and included in the entry packet. Please save an electronic version of your essay- you may be asked to submit an electronic version.
- Essays will be checked for plagiarism and for the use of AI (GPT).

## Entry Submission

Entries must include one essay, one piece of artwork, and one entry form. Entries may be submitted digitally (information below). Physical entries must be mailed to...

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey  
attn: Species on the Edge  
2 Preservation Place  
Princeton, NJ 08540

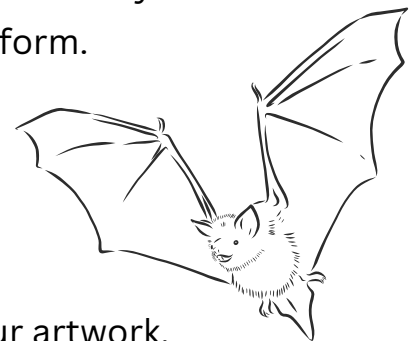
### Digital Submissions:

- Please use our online entry form: <https://tinyurl.com/2025SOTEentryform>
- Upload your essay and a photo of your artwork through the form.
- Save your artwork- if you win we will ask you to mail it in.

### Mailed Submissions:

- Complete and print the entry form included in this packet.
- Tape or adhere your entry form and essay to the back of your artwork.
- Mail your completed entry to the address listed above.

**Art will NOT be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is included.**



# 2025 Species on the Edge Contest Entry Form

Print clearly and legibly! Please send this entry form, a copy of your essay and your original artwork to:

**Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey**

attn: Species on the Edge

2 Preservation Place

Princeton, NJ 08540

Student Name:

Grade:

Age:

Gender:

Student Home Address:

School Name and County:

School Address:

Teacher's Name and Email:

Species Chosen for Artwork and Essay:

Art Medium Used:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Home Phone (REQUIRED):

Parent/Guardian Email\* (REQUIRED):

\*Email is our main form of communication. Be sure to check your inbox and spam folder regularly. Print clearly!

My signature certifies that I have read the rules and regulations of this contest and that the art and essay submitted are the work of the above student. I understand that entries will not be returned or acknowledged unless requested, and that the submission becomes property of Conserve Wildlife Foundation upon entry into contest. I give Conserve Wildlife Foundation permission to exhibit, publish, and republish the submission for any purpose, including but not limited to online publication.

**Parent/ Guardian Initial:**

Photo Release

I give Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ permission to use photographs of my child for promotional and/or educational purposes with the understanding that no personal information will be shared.

**Parent/ Guardian Initial:**

**Parent/ Guardian Signature:**

# Threatened and Endangered Species of New Jersey

## Birds

### Endangered

- American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)
- Black skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)
- Golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)
- Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*)
- Least tern (*Sternula antillarum*)
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*)
- Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*)
- Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)
- Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
- Red knot (*Calidris canutus*)
- Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)
- Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
- Sedge wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)
- Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)
- Upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)
- Vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes graminus*)

### Threatened

- American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)
- Barred owl (*Strix varia*)
- Black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
- Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)
- Cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)
- Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)
- Horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)
- Long-eared owl (*Asio otus*)
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- Red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)
- Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)
- Yellow-crowned night heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

# Invertebrates

## Endangered

- American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*)
- Appalachian grizzled skipper (*Pyrgus wyandot*)
- Arogos skipper (*Atrytone arogos arogos*)
- Bronze copper (*Lycaena hyllus*)
- Brook floater (*Alasmidonta varicosa*)
- Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)
- Gray petaltail (*Tachopteryx thoreyi*)
- Green floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*)
- Mitchell's satyr (*Neonympha mitchelli mitchelli*)
- Northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela d. dorsalis*)

## Threatened

- Banner clubtail (*Gomphus apomyius*)
- Brook snaketail (*Ophiogomphus aspersus*)
- Checkered white butterfly (*Pontia protodice*)
- Eastern lampmussel (*Lampsilis radiata*)
- Eastern pondmussel (*Ligumia nasuta*)
- Frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus*)
- Harpoon clubtail (*Gomphus descriptus*)
- Kennedy's emerald (*Somatochlora kennedyi*)
- Robust baskettail (*Epitheca spinosa*)
- Silver-bordered fritillary (*Bolaria selene myrina*)
- Superb jewelwing (*Calopteryx amata*)
- Tidewater mucket (*Leptodea ochracea*)
- Triangle floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*)
- Yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*)

# Amphibians

## Endangered

- Blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)
- Cope's gray treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*)
- Eastern tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum*)

## Threatened

- Eastern mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus montanus*)
- Long-tailed salamander (*Eurycea longicauda longicauda*)
- Pine Barrens treefrog (*Hyla andersonii*)

# Reptiles

## Endangered

- Atlantic hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
- Atlantic leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- Atlantic loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
- Bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*)
- Corn snake (*Elaphe guttata guttata*)
- Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- Queen snake (*Regina septemvittata*)
- Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*)

## Threatened

- Atlantic green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Northern pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus*)
- Wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)

## Fish (endangered only)

- Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*)
- Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)

## Mammals (endangered only)

- Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*)
- Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)
- Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)
- Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
- Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
- North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*)
- Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)

# Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest Prize Spotlight: A Day at Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center



Winners of the Species on the Edge Contest are invited to join us for a special trip to the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center! This historic lodge is owned by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Sedge Island is in the Barnegat Bay, just off the coast of Island Beach State Park and is reachable only by boat. Trips to Sedge will occur in the summer of 2025.



Contest winners will have the unique opportunity to visit Sedge Island for a day of kayaking, clamming, fishing, and more! Sedge Island is not open to the public. This program provides an opportunity to enjoy this incredible gem in the Barnegat Bay where rare wildlife like ospreys abound!

Learn more at...

[dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/sedge-island-natural-resource-education-center/](https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/sedge-island-natural-resource-education-center/)