

Virtual Monarch and Meadow Month Lesson: What's that in the Meadow?

In this lesson, participants will learn about plants and animals that make up New Jersey's meadows and explore the diets of these animals by creating food chains and a food web.

Get to know some common plants and animals found in our meadows!

It is important for meadows to have early, mid, and late-flowering plants so that pollinators have food all throughout spring, summer, and fall. It is also essential to have many kinds of plants because they create various food sources for birds when the flowers go to seed. Depending on the size of a bird's beak, they can utilize different-sized seeds as a food source. Insects are important for pollination and they are a food source for birds, mammals, and even other insects like the Carolina mantis. Mammals are important for seed dispersal and are also a food source for birds of prey like the great-horned owl.

All these plants and animals that make up the beautiful and diverse meadows of New Jersey are connected to each other in some way. Explore the species below, investigate some possible food chains, and create a food web.

Plants & Seeds

Canada goldenrod
Solidago canadensis



Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



Purple coneflower
Echinacea purpurea



Common milkweed
Asclepias syriaca



Common sunflower
Helianthus annuus

Invertebrates

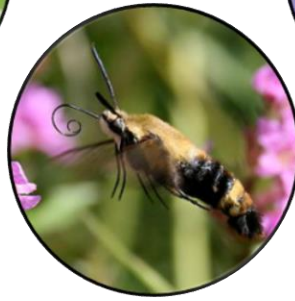
Differential grasshopper
Melanoplus differentialis



Eastern tiger swallowtail
Papilio glaucus



Carolina mantis
Stagmomantis carolina



Hummingbird moth
Hemaris diffinis



Yellow garden spider
Argiope aurantia

Mammals

White-tailed deer
Odocoileus virginianus



Red fox
Vulpes vulpes



Eastern cottontail
Sylvilagus floridanus



Eastern chipmunk
Tamias striatus



White-footed mouse
Peromyscus leucopus

Birds

Great-horned owl
Bubo virginianus



Northern harrier
Circus hudsonius



American kestrel
Falco sparverius



Northern cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis



Red-winged blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus