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#### Red fox

Vulpes vulpes

- The red fox is very adaptable and can live in areas with heavy human disturbance.
- As omnivores, they have a diet that includes plants and animals.
- Adult foxes often sleep in burrows which they dig or from animals that may have previously started them
  like that of a woodchuck.



## Eastern box turtle

Terrapene carolina carolina

- Male eastern box turtles are identified by their red eyes.
- Box turtles have very small home ranges of 250 square yards or less and if removed or relocated, may die trying to find their way home.
- Box turtles are cold-blooded and can hibernate from late October until April by burrowing into loose soil, vegetative debris, exposed muddy stream bottoms, and/or loose sand.



## **Blue-spotted salamander**

Ambystoma laterale

- Blue spotted salamanders are referred to as "mole salamanders" because they mostly live underground.
- They have a very limited habitat range in NJ, found only in the Passaic River basin and some remote areas of Warren and Sussex Counties.
- Like many other amphibians, these salamanders breed in vernal pools (water-filled depressions with no inlet or outlet streams) because they have no fish in them that would eat the salamander's eggs and larvae.



#### Five-lined skink

Eumeces fasciatus

- One of only 3 species of lizards native to NJ, the fivelined skink is found throughout the state in rocky forests where they clamber around boulders, hide in leaf litter, and sometimes climb trees.
- They change color quite drastically as they age: when young, they have the bright lines and a striking blue tail, but their colors fade to grey when they mature.
- Adult male and female skinks look very similar, but during breeding season, the males have red-orange colors on their heads.



#### White-tailed deer

Odocoileus virginianus

- An extremely common sight in NJ, white-tailed deer are known for their agility: they can run 30mph and leap 10ft in the air.
- The majority of fawns are born in the last week of May and the first two weeks of June.
- Fawns learn how to navigate to winter sites by traveling with their mothers during their first year, and they later return to the same site year after year.



## Red bat

Lasiurus borealis

- Most common of the eastern "tree bat" species, red bats roost alone in the open canopy of deciduous and coniferous trees, shrubs, and vines, dangling by one foot to blend in.
- Many red bats migrate south to warmer locations for the winter making their long-distance journey in large groups, often along the same Atlantic corridors as migratory songbirds.
- Like other bats in our region, red bats are insectivorous, eating moths, beetles, ants, leafhoppers, and flies.



### Spring azure

Celastrina ladon

- The spring azure is a very small butterfly, only about 1 inch wide.
- The male is bright blue, while the female is a darker blue with prominent black markings on her wings.
- There are 3 different forms that fly at the same time during the spring: "violacea", "lucia", and "marginata", each with different markings.



## **Checkered white butterfly**

Pontia protodice

- The checkered white butterfly is unfortunately, officially classified as a threatened species.
- These butterflies live mainly in open areas such as old fields, vacant lots, power line right-of-ways, and along forest edges.
- Their host plants are various species of mustard plants (*Cruciferae*) and peppergrasses (*Lepidium*), while adults will nectar on a variety of species such as red clover, ironweed, dogbane, Canada thistle, and asters.



# Virginia opossum

Didelphis virginiana

- The opossum is the only marsupial in North America; marsupials are mammals that carry their babies in a pouch on their abdomen.
- These animals are wonderful tick control! They eat hundreds in a single day.
- They are solitary, except when raising young or mating, and they tend to wander somewhat aimlessly in loose "territories".



