

HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIES RESTORATION PROGRESS REPORT FOR 1985

Resource Management - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

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This progress report briefly summarizes the efforts of the refuge's Resource Management Staff in species restoration and monitoring for the summer of 1985.

Table 1 shows our efforts in restoring the refuge's herpetofauna.

Table 1.

Species	# collected & released in 1985	Est. Tot.	Young of year
Blk. Racer	18	23	4
R.B. Salamander	196	1,720	-
Painted Turtle	100	239	1
Snapping Turtle	17	397	-
Box Turtle	73	255	-
Milk Snake	11	19	-
Green Snake	0	78	-
Hognose Snake	3	27	-
Green Frog	4	4	0

- Signifies unknown

Est. Tot.- Estimated Total shows the # of individuals known to have been released since the program began plus those born at the refuge.

* Note: The fall monitoring of painted turtles, using funnel traps, had to be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions on each attempt.

Chipmunk Status

This year saw the introduction of Eastern Chipmunks (Tamias striatus) to the refuge.

After a slow start in capturing animals, (with only one capture having been made by mid-June) progress came with our discovery of Bayard Cutting Arboretum on L.I.

Here was a sizeable population from which to obtain animals, hence our efforts began to pay off with the capture of 25 animals in addition to the one caught in Forest Park, Queens. The ratio of females to males is 16 to 10.

We have just completed our fall monitoring (recapture) of the chipmunks here at the refuge and with the exception of one known animal, which died as a result of exposure to rain while in the trap, the others have dispersed themselves throughout the garden areas and seem to have acclimated themselves to the refuge ecosystem. Follow-up monitoring will be made next year to assess population and dispersal status in addition to another season of introduced animals if deemed necessary.

Barn Owl Nest Box Project

In 1984, of the 10 boxes present, 6 were classified as active with 20 young plus 8 eggs all tolled for the nesting season.

This year, 4 additional boxes were installed (3 on Ruler's Bar Hassock and 1 on Elder's Point Marsh). With a total of 14 boxes there were 26 fledgelings and 2 adults banded, with 7 of the 14 boxes showing signs of owl activity.

(Note: The 4 additional boxes were installed late in the nesting season; hence the difference in ratio of boxes in use to boxes available between 1984 and 1985).

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