

STATE OF NEW JERSEY EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on December 14, 1973, the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act of 1973 was passed to establish protection for endangered and nongame wildlife in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the legislation, the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection's Fish & Wildlife program established the Endangered and Nongame Species Program to carry out the work necessary to restore and maintain these species; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered and Nongame Species Program's mission is to actively conserve New Jersey's biological diversity by maintaining and enhancing endangered, threatened and nongame wildlife populations within healthy, functioning ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, action by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and its professional staff has resulted in the successful restoration of species, including the bald eagle, Peregrine falcon, Cooper's hawk, Osprey and cliff swallow; the identification and prioritization of critical wildlife habitats; the establishment of the Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey project; the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan that identifies conservation threats and actions; and the Endangered Species List; and

WHEREAS, NJDEP has enabled conservation of critical wildlife habitats through its Green Acres program and certain land use regulations that consider threatened and endangered wildlife habitat and movement of wildlife; and

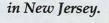
WHEREAS, these accomplishments would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of NJDEP, its Fish & Wildlife staff, conservation partners and volunteers, and the implementation of professional scientific programs of research, management and active conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

## **DECEMBER 14, 2023**

AS

## NEW JERSEY ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES ACT RECOGNITION DAY





GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirteenth day of December in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred fortyeighth year of the Independence of the United States.