

Edwin B. Forsythe

National Wildlife Refuge

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
Senator Robert Menendez (D)
Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd)
Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3rd)
Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-4th)

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Purpose

The refuge was established to protect habitat for migratory birds and other species that rely on New Jersey's coastal wetlands.

Public Use Notes

- An eight-mile wildlife auto tour route
- Freshwater and salt water fishing, clamming and crabbing
- Hunting for white-tailed deer and waterfowl
- Wildlife viewing platforms
- Visitor contact facilities
- Several wildlife viewing trails

Management Activities

- Managing water levels in six large impoundments to meet the seasonal feeding needs of shorebirds and waterfowl
- Monitoring piping plover and managing visitor access on barrier beaches during the nesting season
- Controlling exotic animals and invasive plants on refuge lands

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Piping plover

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Highlights

The wetlands of the refuge are recognized as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. There are only 21 such sites in the United States.

The refuge is designated a Regional Site of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

The refuge is part of the NOAA Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The refuge is part of the EPA Barnegat Bay Estuary Program area.

A portion of the refuge is within the Pinelands International Biosphere Reserve.

The refuge is promoted as one of the country's top 10 birding sites.

The refuge has about 6,600 acres of wilderness area that protects barrier beaches and salt marshes.

The refuge offers quality breeding habitat for peregrine falcon, federally listed threatened piping plover and many state-listed endangered species.

The refuge was named for Congressman Edwin B. Forsythe when the Brigantine (est. 1939) and Barnegat (est. 1967) refuges were combined in 1984.

Issues

Controlling illegal vehicle use on the refuge

Removing dilapidated buildings so additional refuge areas can be opened for wildlife-dependent recreation

Maintaining the integrity of the dikes needed to manage refuge impoundments for migratory birds

