

Professional biologists and the public have long been concerned that chemical pollutants can be harmful to wildlife. They would like to know the hazard of a particular contaminant and what animal is most suitable to monitor that hazard. Our information tells you what chemicals have been found in coastal animals, what these animals look like, where they live along the coast, what they eat, and how easy they are to find. This kind of information is a handy guide to professional biologists who deal with pollution, and to citizens interested in the health of various animals. It can help decide how much of a chemical is unhealthy for one of these animals they are studying or managing. You can find this information on the Internet at:

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/rattner/bioeco/preamble.htm>

The animals for which we have presently summarized information include:

American oystercatcher

Bald eagle

Black-crowned night-heron

Black duck

Black skimmer

Brown pelican

Clapper rail

Common tern

Diamondback terrapin

Double-crested cormorant

Great blue heron

Greater scaup

Gull-billed tern

Herring gull

Laughing gull

Mink

Muskrat

Mute swan

Osprey

Ruddy duck

Snapping turtle

Snowy egret

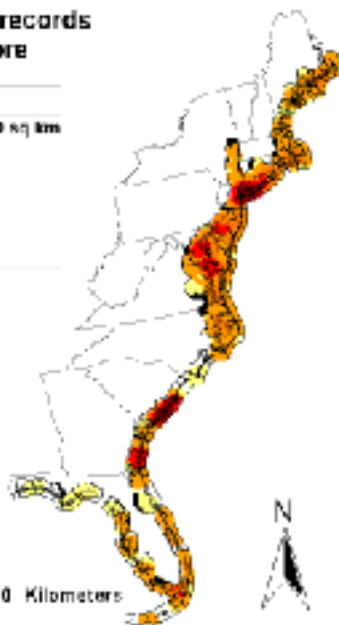
Tree swallow

Tricolored heron

Willet



Density of CEE-TV records within 30 km of shore

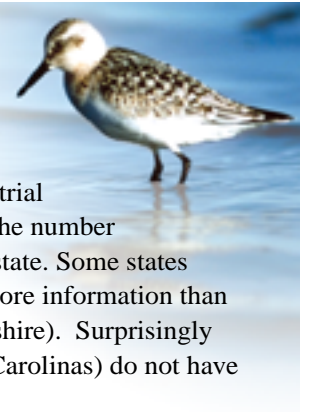


We are using this and other information to develop maps that help us decide what knowledge is still needed for biologists to do a better job of protecting wildlife.

The name of this new database is Contaminant Exposure and Effects-Terrestrial Vertebrates (CEE-TV). This map shows the number of reports we now have for each Atlantic state. Some states like Florida with a lot of shoreline have more information than states with only a little coast (New Hampshire). Surprisingly several states with a lot of shoreline (the Carolinas) do not have much information.

CEE-TV will be available to professional biologists and the public by the year 2000. Our partners in this project include many scientists from federal and state governments, conservation groups, and universities. For additional information about CEE-TV look at:

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/bestpros.htm>



These projects are part of the BEST program. BEST (Biomonitoring of Environmental Status and Trends) monitors the effect of chemicals on animals of special interest to the Department of the Interior by collecting new data and using existing information at local, regional and national scales. We will be continuously summarizing chemical effects on birds, mammals, turtles, snakes, and frogs along the Atlantic coast of the United States and adding them to our internet sites.