



New Jersey Audubon Celebrates Nomination for Pinelands Commission *Kelly Mooij receives nomination from NJ Governor Phil Murphy*

BERNARDSVILLE, N.J. January 18, 2019 - Today Governor Murphy nominated Kelly Mooij for appointment to the Pinelands Commission. If confirmed to the 15-member commission, she will be tasked with ensuring one of our state's greatest natural resources, home to unique plant and wildlife species, is protected.

"The Governor selected an excellent candidate for nomination to the Pinelands Commission," **said Eric Stiles, President and CEO of New Jersey Audubon.** "She is hard-working, passionate, and her education and experience make her supremely qualified for this position. Kelly understands the immense value of the Pinelands and, if approved by the Senate, will be a strong advocate for its continued protection."

New Jersey Audubon played a pivotal role in supporting the conservation of this critical region at the state and federal level. As the first National Reserve in the country, the Pinelands was protected through a bi-partisan initiative that recognized the value of the land, the drinking water, the plants and wildlife as well as the need for continued responsible growth within the 1.1 million acre region. The Pinelands Commission plays a critical role in protecting and preserving nearly 1/4 of the state's land. This region also guards one of the most significant aquifers in the United States containing 17 trillion gallons of fresh water.

"I'm honored to have been nominated by the Governor for this important role." **Said Kelly Mooij** "All decisions that impact this critical resource must be informed by the best available science and governed strictly by adherence to the laws that are in place."

Kelly Mooij is an attorney specializing in environmental law and has worked at New Jersey Audubon for the past decade to protect and preserve habitat and wildlife.

About New Jersey Audubon

New Jersey Audubon is a privately supported, not-for profit, statewide membership organization. Founded in 1897, and one of the oldest independent Audubon societies, New Jersey Audubon fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic among New Jersey's citizens; protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals, and plants, especially endangered and threatened species; and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats. For more information, visit www.njaudubon.org.

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