

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Blue Herons

Re: Blue Herons

Author: : SonofZ3

Date: : 2009/8/23 19:13:59

URL:

You seem to misunderstand the predator/prey dynamic in a key way. Predator populations are never very high relative to prey populations, and when prey species decline, predator populations respond VERY quickly with starvation, or predators seeking new ranges. If you're seeing a lot of predatory animals, its because there happens to be a great deal of prey in that area. The comment about hawks- most of our PA hawks survive off of non-game species, and of course you see more hawks certain times, of the year, its called MIGRATION. Do you have any evidence at all that game bird or rabbit populations are declining, or any evidence that it has anything at all to do with bird of prey populations?

Herons belong in our ecosystem. If there are a lot of herons that indicates an abundance of prey species, and suprisingly enough there is a lot more than trout in our streams for herons to eat. Seeing a heron on a trout stream doesn't mean it's eating trout. Herons are opportunistic, and dace, chubs, suckers, frogs, mice etc. are all fair game. Be happy we have healthy enough ecosystems to support our predatory birds.

Maybe you're right though, maybe we should "manage (read:kill)" predators off so there is more game. How well has that worked for the deer herd in PA? Oh yeah, we had one of the mostly grossly unbalanced deer herds in the nation that was quickly eating itself into starvation and destroying our understory. Sure glad we killed off all of its natural predators. The conservation you speak of is exactly what most of the nation's game laws were 50 or 60 years ago, why promote backsliding?