

Summer Assignment - Roadkill Long-Term Monitoring Project

One of the long-term projects that we work on in the freshman academy is monitoring roadkill. We do this in order to draw conclusions about what types of animals live in New Jersey, if there are any hotspots where roadkill happens and if there are any patterns to the time of year that the roadkill occurs.

Read through the following articles:

- [“Roadkill Literally ‘Drives’ Some Species to Extinction”](#)
- [“‘Animals under wheels’: Wildlife roadkill data collection by citizen scientists as a part of their nature recording activities”](#)

Your assignment this summer (as well as throughout the school year) will be to record the roadkill that you see.

I have included some guides to help you with identification. You will want to look at size, color, and any other distinguishing features that may help with your id. **DO NOT put yourself or anyone else in your family in danger to ‘get a closer look’.** Do the best you can to identify them from the car, or if walking, from the side of the road. **Do not touch the roadkill.** Keep in mind that a **MINIMUM** of 5 species PER month is required. You **SHOULD** find **MUCH** more than that.

The most effective way to keep track of roadkill is to either keep a note page on your phone dedicated to the roadkill you see or keep a small notebook in the car. **You will need to transfer these notes onto a spreadsheet (excel or google sheets) before school begins.**

PLEASE NOTE: You will need to record:

- Type of animal, date, time of day, and location (it is good to try to find an exact, or close to, an exact location -- for the final project, you will be making a map)
- Habitat on each side of the road (forest, meadow, urban, farmland, water, etc.)
- Speed limit
- Any additional information you might want to include such as the weather, the type of road, etc.

Here is a little snapshot of what your spreadsheet should look like:

Roadkill						
Date	Animal	Location	Time	Habitat on either side of road	Speed limit	Additional Notes

Additional Resources:

- [On-line roadkill identification guide:](#) Although this guide is specific to British Columbia and we do not have many of the animals seen in this guide- it is worth a look because it gives you some ideas on what to look for when trying to identify roadkill.

- [Roadkill Game](#)- this guide has an idea for a game while traveling but the reason I am including this page is because it has some good pictures that are common to this area.