Kiviat (Hudsonia) and MacDonald (Raritan Headwaters) offer a detailed,
well-organized description of the Greater Meadowlands ecosystem in New
Jersey. Given the proximity of the Meadowlands to densely urbanized
Newark, Jersey City, and Manhattan, readers may be surprised to learn
how many native species and functional habitats the area still
supports. The book begins with the geology and environmental history
of the region before detailing the plant communities of the marshes,
aquatic habitats, uplands, and forested wetlands of the area. Once
this scene is set, the authors describe the typical species
communities by taxonomic group: mammals, birds, amphibians and
reptiles, fishes, and invertebrates. Throughout, the authors explain
how stressors such as climate change, invasive species, human
disturbance, and pollution have already impacted the ecosystem and
what changes are expected in the future. Conservation, restoration,
and management priorities are listed at the end of each chapter and
form the core of the "Conclusion" chapter. A comprehensive "References
Cited" section and species lists in the appendixes provide readers
with ample further information. Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.

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