



Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)



Please DO NOT FEED foxes!

Village of Bald Head Island ordinance prohibits feeding or harassing foxes. Violations will result in a fine of up to **\$500**.

How You Can Help

Please **DO NOT** attempt to feed, taunt, or touch foxes. A red fox that has been fed by people loses its natural fear of humans, and is more likely to approach people and golf carts for food. By feeding foxes, you are not only breaking the law and endangering yourself, you are putting those who follow behind you at risk!

Residents and visitors can prevent unwanted interactions by keeping a safe distance from foxes. If foxes are fed they become dependent on humans for food, which could result in aggressive behavior towards humans. Feeding foxes and other wildlife on Bald Head Island is **unkind** and **unnecessary**! Sensitivity to island wildlife will ensure that foxes and people can safely coexist. If you suspect that a fox is being harassed or witness an aggressive animal, please contact the BHI-Conservancy (457-0089) or the BHI-Police (457-5252) to report these incidences.

For additional information, please contact:
BALD HEAD ISLAND CONSERVANCY
7000 Federal Road
Post Office Box 3109
Bald Head Island, NC 28461
Telephone: (910) 457-0089
Fax: (910) 457-9824
On the Web: www.bhic.org
Email: email@bhic.org



Safety

Please keep in mind these important fox safety tips when visiting Bald Head Island:

1. Do NOT feed the red foxes or any other wildlife; violators will be fined.
2. Observe foxes from a safe distance; never get closer than 20 feet to a fox; if it approaches you, back away.
3. Do not allow your children or pets to approach foxes.
4. Do not approach fox dens.
5. Foxes can carry rabies and distemper—another reason not to approach foxes.
6. Please remember that while the red fox is beautiful and may seem harmless it is a **wild** and **unpredictable** animal.

Natural History

The red fox is not a native species in North Carolina. During the colonial days, Europeans introduced the red fox for sport hunting and it has since flourished.

Red foxes occupy a variety of habitats on the island, and are frequently found along the edges of the maritime forest, both on Bald Head and Middle Islands. They also inhabit secondary dunes along the beaches where they often find and eat loggerhead sea turtle eggs. Foxes can often be observed along Federal Road in the maritime forest.

