Report hunting violations—Operation Game Thief: 1-800-222-0456

Visit our Division Website at: www.njfishandwildlife.com

Notes and Exceptions

Sea Duck Limits—Daily bag limit in the special sea duck area and during the sea duck season in all zones, no more than 8 of which may be scoters. Otherwise, the special sea duck area and during the regular duck season, sea ducks are included in the daily bag limit of 6 (8) ducks.

Pintail Regulations

The bag limit for pintails is 1 bird per day during that portion of the duck season open for pintails in each zone. The season for pintails is closed at all other times. Pintail hunting is prohibited on November 7-8, 2003.

Canvasback Regulations

The bag limit for canvasbacks is 1 bird per day during that portion of the duck season open for canvasbacks in each zone. The season for canvasbacks is closed at all other times.

Duck Bag Limits

1. Ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, moorhens, snipe—Hunting hours are from sunrise to 1 hour before sunset, except as noted. Hunting hours are 6:30 AM and sunset on or before November 8, 2003. See page 68 of the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for sunset/sunrise times.

2. Woodcock—Except during the Woodcock South Zone hunting season.

Merganser Bag Limits

1. Mergansers—Hunting hours are from sunrise to 1 hour before sunset, except as noted. Hunting hours are 6:30 AM and sunset on or before November 8, 2003. See page 68 of the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for sunset/sunrise times.

3. Crows—Hunting hours are from sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

WHAT DO I NEED TO HUNT MIGRATORY BIRDS IN NEW JERSEY?

1. To hunt crows you need a New Jersey hunting license—See 2003-04 NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest for hunting license requirements and fees.

2. To hunt woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules you need a New Jersey hunting license and Harvest Information Program (HIP) number.

3. To hunt ducks, geese, or/and brant you need a New Jersey hunting license, HIP number, Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp. Both Federal and State stamps are required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older and must be signed across the face in ink. Federal stamps are available at US Post Offices. State stamps are available from agents who sell hunting licenses, in sports stores, and at the park's entrance.

3. To hunt ducks, geese, or/and brant you need a New Jersey hunting license, HIP number, Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp. Both Federal and State stamps are required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older and must be signed across the face in ink. Federal stamps are available at US Post Offices. State stamps are available from agents who sell hunting licenses, in sports stores, and at the park's entrance.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)

Hunters must obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number before hunting ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules in New Jersey by calling 1-800-WETLAND or by registering through the Division’s website at www.njfishandwildlife.com/hipprog.htm. The HIP number is valid from September 1, 2003 until March 10, 2004. If you hunt migratory birds in another state, you will need to get a HIP number in that state following that state’s HIP procedures. Information collected in HIP is confidential and is used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting migratory bird harvest surveys. As in the past, the USFWS will mail harvest survey information to a small, random sample of HIP registrants. Call 1-888-764-7343 if you have problems getting your HIP number.

STATE REGULATIONS

State laws and regulations may be more stringent but not more lenient than those prescribed in the federal code (Title 58).

Restrictions:
(a) No open season on migratory game birds, including waterfowl, be set by Federal regulation which would include the date of November 8, 2003, the starting time on such date will be 8:00 A.M. to coincide with the opening of the small game season on that date. However, this shall not preclude the hunting of migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on the tidal marshes of the State as regularly prescribed throughout the season by Federal regulations.
(b) There shall be no open season for hunting any game birds or animals including migratory waterfowl:
— In or on the shores of the Shark River in Monmouth County.
— In that portion of the Manasquan River from the ocean inlet upstream to Route 70 bridge.
— On Herring Island and that portion of Barnegat Bay lying between northern and southern tips of Herring Island easterly to adjacent shoreline of Mantoloking Boro, Ocean County.
— On Parker Creek and Oceansport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, south-west or upstream of the Conical R.R. bridge.
(c) Waterfowl hunting on Delaware River is governed by State boundaries and restricted to respective state seasons.
(d) Permanent blinds may not be constructed on some State Wildlife Management Areas. See page 59 of the 2003-04 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest.
(e) Hunting with firearms is prohibited on November 7, 2003 on those State Wildlife Management Areas Designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp areas except in tidal marsh open to an ongoing waterfowl season. See page 6 of the 2003-04 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for these areas.

Emergency Closure: For all migratory game birds, the Secretary of the Interior shall close the season within 48 hours upon recommendations of the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

REPORT BANDED BIRDS—1-800-327-BAND OR AT www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/

MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS (See 2003-04 New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest for Additional Hunting and Trapping Regulations)

MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE 2003-04 SEASON

—The pintail season is closed during part of the duck season in all zones. Check the table on page 5 for the pintail season in each zone.
—The canvasback season is closed during part of the duck season in all zones. Check the table on page 5 for the canvasback season in each zone.
—Migratory bird hunters must obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number before hunting ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules in New Jersey by calling 1-800-WETLAND or by registering on the Division’s website at: www.njfishandwildlife.com/hipprog.htm. See HIP Program on page 6 for more information.
SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to State regulations, the following Federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting, and storing of migratory game birds. NOTICE—The material below is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal regulations, which may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. For more information, call the US Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Office at 973-645-5910.

DESTRUCTION—No person shall take migratory game birds:

—By the aid of baiting (placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering salt, grain or other feed that could lure birds to an area), or on or over any bated area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been bated. Hunters should be aware that a bated area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of all the bait. However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits taking migratory game birds over lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice. Violators convicted of hunting over bait may be fined up to $15,000 and individuals convicted of placing bait in an area may be fined up to $100,000.

—With a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substances.

—With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.

—From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording a hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).

—With or from the aid of any other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance, another person as a stationary motor-driven land conveyance, a “paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.

—From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therem has ceased.

—By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

—Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.

—By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS—Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

DAILY BAG LIMIT—No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit. No person shall have in possession or use in hunting waterfowl and coot or any other shore, island or emergent vegetation. In this area, hunters must limit their hunting to open water areas at least one mile from any land or emergent vegetation in any direction.

TAGGING—No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one’s home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

NONTOXIC SHOT REGULATIONS

1. Nontoxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting in New Jersey. Nontoxic shot includes steel, bismuth, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix and tungsten-nickel-iron (HEVI-SHOT), and tungsten-nickel-tin (TINT) shot types. Shot size may not exceed Size T (0.200 inch).

2. No person shall have in possession or use in hunting waterfowl and coot or any snipe, rail or gallinules after the regular season for hunting waterfowl commences any shotgun shell containing lead shot or lead pellets or have in possession or use any shotgun containing lead shot on all lands and waters within the State of New Jersey. Lead shot is permitted for the hunting of rail and moorhen Sept. 1-Oct. 10, 2003.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGEES—Some National Wildlife Refuges have portions of their property open for migratory bird hunting. Specific regulations may apply at each refuge. For details contact:

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR—609-652-1665
Supawna Meadows NWR—856-935-1487
Wattkell River NWR—973-702-7266
Cape May National Wildlife Refuge—609-884-1570

DUAL VIOLATION—Violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl Zones (Applies to regular ducks, pintails, canvasbacks, coots, mergansers, regular season Canada geese, brant and snow geese).

North Zone—That portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway (GSP); then south on the GSP to its intersection with Route 70; then west on Route 70 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then north on the Turnpike to its intersection with Route 1, Trenton; then west on Route 1 to its intersection with the Pennsylvania State boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania boundary in the Delaware River to its intersection with the New York State boundary.

South Zone—That portion of New Jersey within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Route 1; then east along Route 1 to its intersection with Route 208; then south along Route 208 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then south along the Turnpike to its intersection with Route 70; then along Route 70 to its intersection with the GSP; then south on the GSP to Cape May City; then south to the Delaware State boundary in Delaware Bay; then north along the Delaware State boundary in the Delaware Bay and Delaware River to the Pennsylvania boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to Route 1, Trenton.

Coastal Zone—That portion of New Jersey east of the GSP that is not within the North or South zones.

Woodcock Zones: North Zone—North of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden. South Zone—South of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

Special Waterfowl Areas:

—Some National Wildlife Refuges have portions of their property open for migratory bird hunting. Specific regulations may apply at each refuge. For details contact:

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HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl Zones (Applies to regular ducks, pintails, canvasbacks, coots, mergansers, regular season Canada geese, brant and snow geese).

North Zone—That portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 1, Trenton; then west on Route 1 to its intersection with the Pennsylvania State boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania boundary in the Delaware River to its intersection with the New York State boundary.

South Zone—That portion of New Jersey within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Route 1; then east along Route 1 to its intersection with Route 208; then south along Route 208 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then south along the Turnpike to its intersection with Route 70; then east along Route 70 to its intersection with the GSP; then south on the GSP to Cape May City; then south to the Delaware State boundary in Delaware Bay; then north along the Delaware State boundary in the Delaware Bay and Delaware River to the Pennsylvania boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to Route 1, Trenton.

Coastal Zone—That portion of New Jersey east of the GSP that is not within the North or South zones.

Woodcock Zones: North Zone—North of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden. South Zone—South of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

Special Waterfowl Areas:

—That portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 1, Trenton; then west on Route 1 to its intersection with the Pennsylvania State boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania boundary in the Delaware River to its intersection with the New York State boundary.