

New Jersey's Aging Forests

By Andrew Burnett, Principal Biologist

Forests cover 42 percent of New Jersey, but only about 5 percent of our forest is considered young. Populations of at least 89 bird, mammal and reptile species have fallen significantly over the past century due to the ongoing decline in young forest acreage.

Characterized by few or no mature trees, young forest habitat (10–20 years of age) includes a diverse mix of shrubs and/or tree seedlings and saplings, along with openings where grasses and wildflowers grow. This important habitat type is dwindling throughout the northeastern United States, representing only 10 percent of the Mid-Atlantic's land area. Forests cover 42 percent of New Jersey, but only about 5 percent of our forest is considered young.

Populations of at least 89 bird, mammal and reptile species have fallen significantly over the past century due to the ongoing decline in

young forest acreage. Current conservation plans call for the creation of 600,000 acres of young forest in New Jersey annually to restore populations of American woodcock and ruffed grouse and to safeguard populations of songbirds such as the golden-winged warbler, eastern towhee, brown thrasher and prairie warbler.

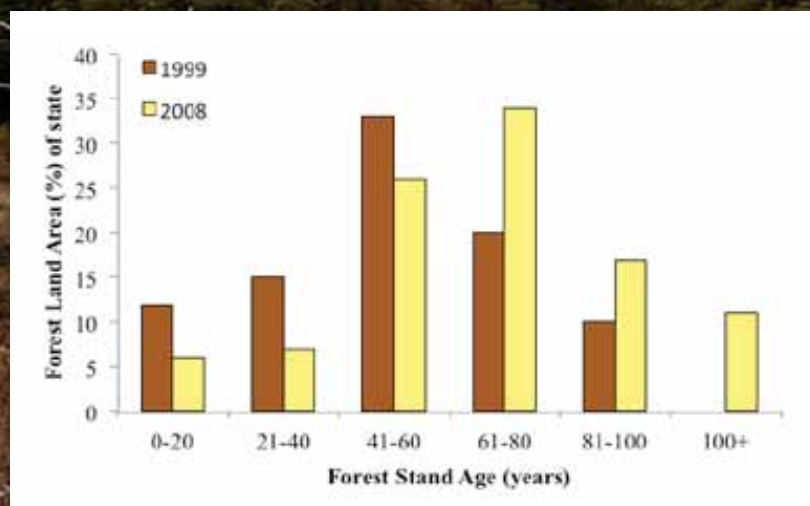
Species often considered forest dwellers also depend on young forests. The abundant insects and berries produced in young forest habitat help newly fledged birds grow and to fuel up for a successful autumn migration. Black bears gorge themselves on berries to build up fat reserves before

winter hibernation. Snakes hunt for quarry that are themselves drawn to patches of young forest to find meals of their own.

Support young-forest projects on public and private lands—projects that often provide revenue, jobs and sustainable, locally produced timber products as well as more and better opportunities for outdoor recreation such as birding and wildlife viewing.

Learn more about young forests at <http://www.youngforest.org> and more about New Jersey's forests at http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/rb/rb_nrs59.pdf.

Area of forest land (percentage) by stand-age class in New Jersey, 1999 and 2008.





Above: For a baseline reference image, this field at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge was photographed in June of 2013.

Large photo: Success! By comparison, this image was taken in the same general area as the photo above, showing a later successional stage, or progression, of vegetation types and diversity. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts this work to improve scrub-shrub habitat for early successional-associated wildlife species such as bobwhite, cottontail rabbit, field sparrow and prairie warbler.

34th Annual Ocean County Decoy & Gunning Show

September 24 & 25, 2016

Saturday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday: 7:00 AM–4:00 PM

TUCKERTON, NJ

ADMISSION: FREE

Rain or Shine

VISIT BOTH TUCKERTON LOCATIONS:

Tip Seaman County Park,

Lakeside Drive & Route 9

Tuckerton Seaport, Route 9



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New & Antique Decoys

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Duck Boats • Hunting Guide Services

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Decoy Carving • Decorative Carving

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Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation

For More Information Call : 609-971-3085

Web: www.OceanCountyParks.org

Email : GGeorgieff@co.ocean.nj.us

Mail : Wel Is Mil Is County Park

905 Wel Is Mil Is Rd

Waretown, NJ 08758

Fax: 609-971-9540



Wildlife Violator Acknowledges Responsibility for His Actions

My name is Martin Kaszycki and in October 2012, I illegally killed a male, American black bear adjacent to my hunting and fishing shop in New Jersey to display as a trophy. This bear was an older, non-nuisance, bear and weighed more than 450 pounds. I shot the bear from an elevated tree stand, with a bow and arrow, out of hunting season, in an area closed to hunting, after setting out bear bait within 300 feet of my stand, knowing this was all in violation of New Jersey state laws. I then drove the bear across state lines multiple times and provided false information on official state forms by stating that the bear had been killed in New York. When New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJDFW) Conservation Officers confronted me about the bear, I told them I had killed the bear in New York. Realizing I was under investigation, I staged a fake kill site in New York to support my story. NJDFW collected evidence and started a joint investigation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

In November 2014, I entered a plea in federal court to two counts of violating the Lacey Act. The Lacey Act prohibits the interstate transport of wildlife taken or possessed in violation of any state law or regulation, as well as the making or submitting of a false record for wildlife that has been or is intended to be transported in interstate commerce. I also agreed to an obstruction enhancement at sentencing for engaging in acts to cover up the fact that I had illegally killed this bear in New Jersey.

I faced a maximum penalty of up to one year in federal prison and a \$100,000 fine. As part of my plea agreement, I will pay a fine of \$5,000 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lacey Act Reward Fund, forfeit the skull and hide of the bear, submit this letter to the NJDFW Hunting and Trapping Digest for public outreach, pay \$1,250 to the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge for the care of American black bears in New Jersey, and undergo a three year period of federal probation, during which time, I will lose my hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges in all 50 states.

I apologize for my conduct and accept responsibility for it. When we as hunters violate state and federal wildlife laws, we dishonor our code of hunting ethics, gain an unfair advantage over wildlife, and threaten the sustainability of important species and the ecosystems that support them.

I would encourage anyone who has information about illegal hunting, trapping, or fishing in New Jersey, to notify NJDFW at 1-877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337).

Sincerely,



Martin Kaszycki



Regulations in *red* are new this year.

NEW FOR 2016: The black bear hunting season now consists of two separate segments, A and B. Segment A is October 10–15, 2016. Segment B is December 5–10, 2016. The bag limit is one bear per hunter during Segment A, and each hunter is allowed to purchase two permits, each for a *different* zone. If no bear is taken during Segment A, the permit(s) is still valid for hunting in Segment B. If a hunter harvests a bear during Segment A, that permit is no longer valid, though the hunter may purchase a replacement permit for that zone where the harvest was made to use during Segment B, if available when permit sales re-open on November 1.

Following commencement of the black bear season, the Fish and Wildlife Director may announce closure of the *entire* season or extension of *Segment B of the season* based upon data obtained and reviewed by Fish and Wildlife. A season closure, if announced, will become effective 24 hours from the daily legal closing time of the day on which the decision is made. *The dates of a Segment B season extension, if announced, will be Wednesday, December 14 through Saturday, December 17, 2016.* Hunting regulations for the Segment B season extension will be the same as those during the regular part of Segment B. Only those permit holders with a valid permit(s) for Segment B who did *not* harvest a bear during the regular part of Segment B may hunt during the Segment B extension. The notification number for season closure or extension is the permit hotline number, (609) 292-9192. Season closure or extension notification will also be announced by news release, radio and Fish and Wildlife's website NJFishandWildlife.com.

Don't Wait to Buy Bear Permits!

The lottery for bear permits has been eliminated. All hunters (especially hunters who plan to hunt only in Segment B) are **strongly encouraged to purchase their permit(s) during the September–October sales period** rather than wait until permit sales re-open on November 1 since bear permits **may sell out** in some zones before the Segment A hunting period ends.

Black Bear Hunting Season

Hunting Hours: Legal hunting hours for black bears shall be ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

2016 Black Bear Season Hunting Dates

Hunting Segment	Legal Sporting Arms	Dates
A	Archery	Mon., Oct. 10–Sat., Oct. 15, 2016
A	Archery / Muzzleloader	Thurs., Oct. 13–Sat., Oct. 15, 2016
B	Shotgun / Muzzleloader	Mon., Dec. 5–Sat., Dec. 10, 2016
B Extension (if authorized)	Shotgun / Muzzleloader	Wed., Dec. 14–Sat., Dec. 17, 2016

Bag Limit: One bear of either sex and any age may be harvested per permit, but only one bear may be harvested per segment, regardless of the number of permits the hunter holds. A total of two bears may be harvested per hunter—one bear in segment A and one bear in segment B, with valid permits. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take or continue to hunt for more than the number of black bear permitted.

Special permit requirement: All black bear hunters must have a current and valid *archery* or firearm or all-around sportsman hunting license and a special Black Bear Hunting Permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. See *Black Bear Management Zones* page 52; see also *Black Bear Hunting Permits*, page 12. Hunters are limited to purchasing two black bear hunting permits, one each for two different zones. If no bear is taken during Segment A, the permit(s) is still valid for hunting in Segment B. If a hunter harvests a bear during Segment A, that permit is no longer valid. However, the hunter may purchase an additional permit for that zone where the harvest was made, if available when permit sales reopen in November to hunt during Segment B in December.

Youth Bear Hunters: Youth hunters with a valid hunting license must also possess a black bear hunting permit. Youth hunters aged 10 through 13 on or before October 9, 2016 must be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult (21 years of age or older) while bear hunting. The adult must also possess a black bear hunting permit. Direct supervision means the youth hunter and the supervising adult are together at the same location. The youth hunter may not hunt independently of the adult.

Essential Black Bear Bowhunting Strategies

Improve your black bear hunting success while showing respect for the wild game you pursue. Be prepared to make a quick, clean harvest.

- All hunters must **take only high percentage shots**.
- Keep all shots **within 20 yards**.
- Bear must either be standing **broadside or slightly quartering away** for a good shot.
- The **front leg must be extended** in order to open up access to the vital zone.
- The length of hair and thickness of fat on a bear's belly make it more difficult to determine the vital zone location than on a deer.

See *Black Bear Hunting Tips — Including NEW Bowhunter Info!* on page 53. Other important black bear hunting FAQs are answered on our website at http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/bearseason_faqs.htm.



Firearms, Bows and Ammunition Legal for Bear Hunting

Shotgun (Segment B only): not smaller than 20 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge with rifled slugs and capable of holding not more than three rounds. Lead, lead alloy or copper rifled slug or sabot slug. Buckshot is prohibited.

Muzzleloader Rifle (last three days of Segment A and Segment B only): must be single-barrel, single shot rifles not less than .44 caliber. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions are allowed. Double barrel muzzleloaders prohibited. Persons hunting with a muzzleloader rifle must also possess a current and valid rifle hunting permit.

Archery Equipment: (Segment A only) Bows used for bear hunting (long, recurve, compound or crossbow) must have a minimum draw pull weight of 35 pounds at the archers draw length (long and recurve bow) or peak weight (compound bow), or 75 pounds minimum draw weight for a crossbow. Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4 inch.

Additional Black Bear Hunting Regulations

- ♦ Firearm black bear hunters must wear a hat of solid fluorescent hunter orange or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while bear hunting and all bear hunters must follow the fluorescent orange requirements pertaining to hunting from a ground blind as specified under *Hunter Orange*, page 25. **During the last three days of Segment A, bowhunters in treestands should consider wearing hunter orange.**
- ♦ It shall be illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black bears.
- ♦ No person shall attempt to take or kill a black bear or have in their possession or control any firearm, bow or other weapon of any kind, while elevated in a standing tree or in a structure of any kind within 300 feet of a baited area. On national wildlife refuges and at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait is prohibited. Hunters should also check with the landowner or administrative agency before placing bait on any hunting area.
- ♦ Allowable hunting methods: stand hunting, still-hunting or drive hunting.
- ♦ Hunters using or possessing any shotgun slug in the field during the bear seasons must have a shotgun with adjustable open iron or peep sights or a scope affixed to the shotgun.
- ♦ Telescopic sights of any magnification (scope power) are permitted for bear hunting on all firearms (including muzzleloading rifles) and also on crossbows.
- ♦ Shotgun shells containing single spherical projectiles referred to as pumpkin balls are prohibited.
- ♦ While bear hunting with a shotgun, it is illegal to have in possession any ammunition not authorized for bear hunting.

- ♦ Only one muzzleloader rifle may be in possession while bear hunting.
- ♦ All firearms must be cased and unloaded while being transported in vehicles.
- ♦ It is illegal to take or attempt to take a bear in a den structure.

Black Bear Hunting on State Lands

- ♦ Baiting is **prohibited** within 450 feet of campsites and picnic areas in all state parks and forests to coincide with the bear management policy for these areas. Learn these locations **BEFORE** you hunt.
- ♦ Hunting is prohibited in the Cedar Swamp Natural Area at High Point State Park due to sensitive wetland habitat that could be impacted by going off trail in this area.
- ♦ ATV use is prohibited in state parks, forests and wildlife management areas. However, hunters might be permitted to use ATVs to retrieve a bear but only with approval from, and on a pathway approved by, the park superintendent or designee (for state parks and forests) or from Fish and Wildlife's regional Law Enforcement office (for assistance on wildlife management areas).

2015 Black Bear Harvest by Zone and County

BMZ	2015 Harvest
1	166
2	155
3	131
4	56
5	2
Total	510

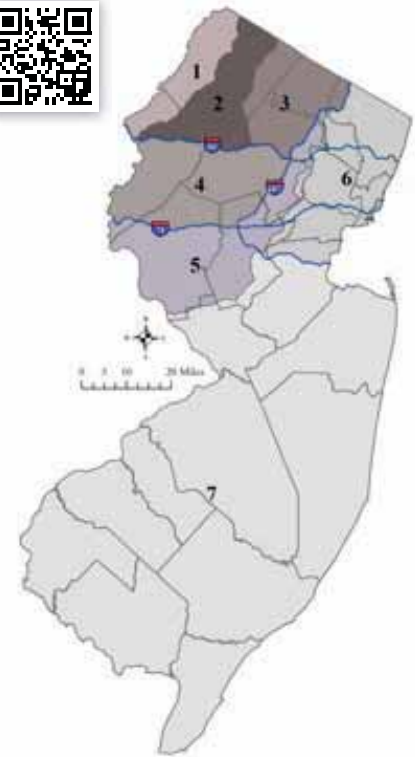
County	2015 Harvest
Sussex	312
Warren	94
Morris	58
Passaic	35
Hunterdon	9
Bergen	2
Total	510

No bears were harvested in the portions of Mercer and Somerset counties open to bear hunting in 2015.

Black Bear Management Zones

Map for general reference only.

For a complete description of the Black Bear Management Zones, scan this QR code or see Fish and Wildlife's bear management zone webpage at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/bearzonemap.htm.



After Harvesting a Bear—Mandatory Bear Check Requirement

Properly licensed hunters who harvest a black bear shall immediately complete and affix to the bear hide the "Black Bear Transportation Tag" from their Black Bear Hunting Permit. Information included on the black bear transportation tag shall include: the hunter's name, address, Conservation ID number; date and time of kill; nearest road, county and municipality of kill; and the sex of the black bear. When field dressing a black bear, leave the sex organs intact and attached to the body. **A harvested black bear may be quartered and brought out of the field in sections, provided all parts are brought to the check station at the same time.**

Successful hunters must take the black bear to a designated check station on the day of the kill by 9 p.m. during Segment A or by 7 p.m. during Segment B. Hunters shall surrender the black bear transportation tag and will be issued a legal possession seal.

Any legally killed black bear recovered too late to be brought to a designated black bear check station by the check station closing time on the date of the

kill must be reported immediately by telephone to the Northern Region Office, Bureau of Law Enforcement (908) 735-8240. On the telephone message recording device, hunters must leave their name, address and a telephone number where they can be reached. The harvested black bear must be brought to a designated black bear check station on the next weekday to be registered and to receive a legal possession seal. **To protect the meat from spoilage, the hunter may bring only the head and hide to the check station the next day. Note: within 48 hours after a bear is checked, a hunter may be required to produce the meat of the bear or produce records relating to the location of the meat, such as a butcher shop, upon request of a conservation officer.** After check stations have closed on Saturday during the regular season segments or Saturday during a season extension (if announced), hunters reporting a bear harvest via the Law Enforcement recorder will be contacted by a Fish and Wildlife biologist on Sunday to legally check the bear and to collect biological data.

Mandatory Black Bear Check Stations

In the event of a season extension, check station information will be announced via the permit hotline (609) 292-9192, news release, and on Fish and Wildlife's website NJFishandWildlife.com.

Hours

Segment A: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Segment B: noon to 7 p.m.

Hunterdon County

- ♦ Clinton Wildlife Management Area* (Segment A only) 141 Van Syckels Rd, Hampton

Warren County

- ♦ Pequest Wildlife Management Area 605 Pequest Road, Oxford

Morris County

- ♦ Black River Wildlife Management Area* 275 North Road, Chester
- ♦ Green Pond Golf Course 765 Green Pond Rd, Rt. 513, Rockaway

Sussex County

- ♦ Flatbrook Roy WMA Rt. 615 (Walpack Rd.), Sandyston
- ♦ Whittingham WMA 148 Fredon-Springdale Rd., Newton

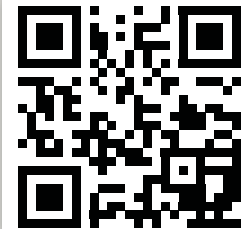
* Operating Opening Day and Saturday only

Black Bear Game Care

As when cooking any raw meat, care must be taken to prevent exposure to disease when consuming wild game. Black bear are known to carry *Trichinella*, a parasite commonly associated with pork. States nationwide report incidents of bears infected with *Trichinella* and New Jersey is no different. A *Trichinella* infection (Trichinellosis) is a risk only if the meat is cooked improperly. To ensure bear meat is safe to eat, be sure it's cooked to an internal temperature of 170 degrees for at least 15 seconds.

Toxoplasmosis, most commonly associated with cats, is another parasitic disease that may be transmitted to humans if meat is not handled properly. To eliminate any health risks associated with Toxoplasmosis make sure no one who may be pregnant handle raw bear meat and always cook the meat thoroughly as you would for *Trichinella*. If you follow these simple guidelines you can enjoy your bear meat without any concern for exposure to *Trichinella* or Toxoplasmosis. **Note: Black bear management zones are different than deer management zones. Choose carefully when purchasing a black bear permit. For the 2016 season, only zones 1-5 are open for hunting.** 🐾

Black Bear Hunting Tips — Including NEW Bowhunting Info!



Scan this code for tips on hunting New Jersey's black bear or visit NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/beartips.htm.

Do you hunt, fish, hike, bird, trap, boat, ride or shoot on a WMA? Tell us more!

Wildlife Management Area User Survey—

Users of New Jersey's 121 wildlife management areas may be asked to participate in a brief on-site survey by Division of Fish and Wildlife volunteers and Stockton University students. This year-long effort is to determine the public's visitation frequency, varied recreational activities, attitudes and perception about our WMAs.



Proper Meat Handling

It is critical to remove the hide and cool the bear immediately after checking the bear. Cooling a bear with ice from inside the body cavity is inadequate to prevent the meat from spoiling. If the hide remains on overnight, the meat may be unsuitable for consumption.

Small Game Hunting

REGULATIONS

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

A CURRENT AND valid hunting license (Bow and Arrow, Firearm or All-Around Sportsman) is required to pursue any small game species. See page 24 for *General Hunting Regulations*. The use of dogs, unless specifically stated otherwise, is permitted to pursue any small game species, except wild turkey. Hunting for those species shown on page 57 is prohibited during the statewide Six-day Firearm (deer) Season and on the Wednesday of the Permit Shotgun (deer) Season that immediately follows the Six-day Firearm Season. For exceptions, see *Coyote and Fox* and *Semi-wild and Commercial Preserve Hunting* sections below. **Sunday hunting is prohibited**; see *Raccoon and Opossum*, page 55 plus *Semi-wild and Commercial Shooting Preserves* for exceptions.

Season Dates and Bag Limits: The *Small Game Hunting Seasons* table on page 57 lists dates, hunting hours and daily bag limits for all small game species open for hunting.

General Small Game Hunting Methods: Properly licensed hunters may hunt small game with shotguns or bow and arrow and limited hunting with small caliber rifles; see air gun and coyote/fox regulations. See also *General Hunting Regulations*, page 24.

Shotgun: Unless specifically stated otherwise, shotguns for small game hunting may be single or double barrel, rifled or smoothbore and not larger than 10-gauge or smaller than .410 caliber and capable of holding no more than three shells.

Shot: Unless specifically stated otherwise, shot size for small game hunting may be no larger than #4 fine shot.

Bow and Arrow: All bows must meet the requirements specified in *General Hunting Regulations*, page 24. **For taking game birds in flight, arrows equipped with an edged head are prohibited. Flu flu arrows are required for taking game birds in flight.**

Air gun: Air guns may be used for taking cottontail rabbit, hare and gray squirrel using ammunition not smaller than .177 caliber or larger than .22 caliber. Air gun BBs are not legal for hunting. See also *Air Guns* under *Firearms and Missiles*, page 25.

Muzzleloading Rifles: For limited small game rifle hunting, see below for *Coyote and Fox*—*Special Permit Season, Squirrel*—*Muzzleloading Rifle Season* and *Woodchuck* for restrictions.

Wildlife Damage: Property owners or their agents, and occupants of dwellings that are suffering damage from coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel or woodchuck may control them by lawful means at any time subject to local ordinances.

Stealing Traps or Trapped Animals: It is illegal to take, carry away or unlawfully remove or steal a trap belonging to another person that is set along, by or in public or private property, ditch, stream, pond or water in this state and which has been set for the purpose of catching any of the furbearing animals species for which a legal season is established. It is also illegal to remove, alive or dead, any animal from the trap of another person.

Coyote and Fox, General and Special Permit Seasons

See chart below for both general and special permit season regulations for coyote and fox. **NOTE:** All

successful coyote hunters must report any coyote harvested to a Fish and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours. Callers must identify themselves by name, CID# and daytime phone number.

In addition to the general coyote and fox seasons described in the chart below, properly licensed turkey hunters may legally harvest coyotes if encountered incidental to legal turkey hunting. Turkey hunters shall not actively pursue coyotes or have coyote calls or decoys in possession. Also, properly licensed persons hunting deer during the Six-day Firearm, Permit Muzzleloader or Permit Shotgun deer seasons may kill coyote or fox if the coyote or fox is encountered before the hunter has taken the season bag limit of deer. However, after the hunter has taken a daily bag limit of deer, they must cease hunting immediately. Incidental hunting of coyote or fox while deer hunting may resume the following day (provided the season remains open and the season bag limit of deer has not been reached.) Only applicable projectiles approved for deer hunting may be used to take coyote and fox incidental to deer hunting during the deer seasons described above. See *Firearms, Bow and Ammunition* chart, page 32.

Baiting for coyote/fox is prohibited while hunting elevated in a standing tree or in a structure of any kind within 300 feet of a baited area.

Further, in addition to the general Coyote and Fox seasons plus the incidental harvest of coyote or fox while deer hunting, a Special Permit Coyote and Fox Season runs concurrent with the regular small game coyote and fox season. A Fish and Wildlife-issued permit is required to hunt coyote or fox under the provisions (see below) of the Special

Coyote / Fox Season

Dates	Bow Only: Sept. 10–Nov. 11 in DMZs open for early fall bow deer hunting; otherwise Oct. 1–Nov. 11	Firearm or Bow: Nov. 12–March 15	Special Permit Season: Jan. 1 – March 15 (Permit required with shot larger than #4 fine thru #3 Buck sizes and/or nighttime hunting and/or using a muzzleloading rifle other than incidental to deer hunting and/or using a modern rifle)	
Hours	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, except 8 a.m. start on Nov. 12	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise
Weapon Type and Projectiles Permitted	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow See <i>General Small Game Hunting Methods</i> above. Shotgun and Shot Size: See <i>General Small Game Hunting Methods</i> , above.	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow See <i>General Small Game Hunting Methods</i> , above.	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow See <i>General Small Game Hunting Methods</i> , above. Shotgun: single or double barrel. Not smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells. Shot: Not smaller than BB or larger than #3 Buck. Pellets must be lead or a tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid.	Shotgun: single or double barrel. Not smaller than 12 gauge or larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells. Shot: sizes not smaller than #4 fine shot or larger than T
		Muzzleloading rifle: single-shot, single barrel no less than .44 caliber. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted, loaded only with a single projectile, either round ball or conical bullet. Electronic ignitions prohibited. Centerfire rifles: From .17 to maximum of .25 caliber with soft point or hollow point bullets and maximum of 80 grains. Rimfire rifles: From .17 to maximum of .22 caliber with soft point or hollow point bullets and maximum of 50 grains. A modern rifle magazine need not be pinned (plugged), but may be loaded with no more than three cartridges.		
Notes	Hunter orange not required. Use of dogs prohibited. Daily bag: unlimited coyote or fox	Hunter orange required when using firearm. Muzzleloading rifle may be used only incidental to deer hunting. Use of dogs permitted except not during Dec. 7–12 and Dec. 16. Daily bag: unlimited coyote or fox	While hunting under the provisions of the Special Permit: Hunter orange is not required (but is recommended while traveling to/from hunting areas.) Hunting methods are restricted to calling and stand hunting. A predator-calling device (manual or electronic) must be in possession. Use of dogs is prohibited. Use of bait is prohibited. Portable lights are allowed. Sunday hunting is not legal. Daily bag: unlimited coyote or fox	

Permit Coyote and Fox Season; as follows:

A permit to hunt coyote or fox is required 1.) to hunt at night and/or 2.) to use shot sizes larger than #4 fine and up to size #3 Buck, and/or 3.) to use a rifle for coyote or fox other than incidental to deer hunting. Sunday hunting is not legal.

Coyote/Fox permits: \$2, available at any license agent or via Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site (www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) beginning December 1. A 2017 hunting license must be purchased prior to or in conjunction with the purchase of a Special Season Coyote and Fox Permit.

Northern Bobwhite (Quail)

Northern bobwhite quail are native to the southern half of New Jersey. In recent years, quail populations have declined throughout their range including New Jersey.

Quail Season Closed

In an effort to reverse the decline of quail in New Jersey, the statewide quail hunting season is closed except at Peaslee WMA and Greenwood Forest WMA where Fish and Wildlife will provide hunters and falconers the opportunity to hunt for quail.

See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57 for season dates and bag limits. Exception: This statewide closure does not apply to certain semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves that were permitted to stock quail during the 2009–10 season.

Pheasant

See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57 for season dates and bag limits. See exceptions below for semi-wild and commercial preserve hunting.

Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas: Anyone aged 16 and over (except 16 year olds whose Youth License remains valid until Dec. 31 in the year they reach 16 years of age) hunting or possessing pheasant or quail on the following designated wildlife management areas shall have in possession a current and valid Pheasant and Quail Stamp (Youth Hunting licenses include pheasant and quail stamp): Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Millville (Bevan), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Dix, Flatbrook, Glassboro, Greenwood (including Howardsville), Heislerville, Tuckahoe (MacNamara), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic,

Rockport, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Whittingham and Winslow. A current and valid Pheasant and Quail Stamp is also required at the Delaware River National Recreation Area.

Pheasant and Quail Stocking

Wearing a hunter orange **hat** is required for all firearm small game hunters on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant or quail.

Fish and Wildlife anticipates pheasant and quail releases to be as follows:

- ♦ Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Dix, Flatbrook, Glassboro, Millville (Bevan), Nantuxent, Pequest, Port Republic, Tuckahoe (MacNamara), Walpack and Whittingham WMAs will be **stocked with pheasant** for the following dates:
Nov. 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29
Dec. 1, 3, 17, 20, 22, 24, 29
- ♦ Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Heislerville, Howardsville, Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan, Medford, Stafford Forge and Winslow WMAs will be **stocked with pheasant** for the following dates:
Nov. 12, 19, 24, 26, 29
Dec. 1, 3, 17, 20, 22, 24, 29
- ♦ Greenwood Forest and Peaslee WMAs will be **stocked with quail** for the following dates:
Nov. 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29
Dec. 1, 3, 17, 20, 22, 24, 29

New maps showing the specific field locations for every stocked wildlife management area are now available here: NJFishandWildlife.com/pheasmaps.htm.

Fish and Wildlife reminds sportsmen and sportswomen that the stocking schedule is tentative until approved by the Fish and Game Council in early October. The schedule is subject to pheasant production and may change due to emergency weather conditions. For changes to the stocking schedule due to inclement weather or other necessary adjustments, visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/smgame_info.htm.

Rabbit and Hare

The rabbit and hare hunting season will begin the last Saturday in September. The early opening date allows for hunting opportunity when rabbit populations are at their peak. Air guns may be used for taking cottontail rabbit and hare using ammunition not smaller than .177 caliber or larger than .22 caliber. See also *Air Guns* under *Firearms and Missiles*, page 25 and *General Small Game Hunting Methods*, page 54.

See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57 for season dates and bag limits.

Raccoon and Opossum

See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57 for season dates and bag limits.

Hours: Hunting may not begin until one hour after sunset on the opening day of the season. On all other days open during the season, the hours of hunting are one hour after sunset to one hour

before sunrise. Sunday hunting for raccoon and opossum is permitted **only** between the hours of midnight (the end of Saturday) and one hour before sunrise (Sunday).

Hunting methods: Portable lights are permitted. Fluorescent orange is encouraged but not required on outer clothing while hunting raccoon and opossum. A current and valid rifle permit is required when possessing a .22 caliber rifle while hunting raccoon and opossum. Only .22 caliber shorts are permitted.

Dog Training: Dogs may be trained during the month of September and from March 2 to May 1, inclusive. The training hours are one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

Ruffed Grouse

The state's two ruffed grouse hunting zones are delineated by Rt. 70. North of Rt. 70 the season will begin October 15. South of Rt. 70 the season will begin Nov. 12 to reduce harvest mortality of the remaining populations in the southern zone. The ruffed grouse zones are identical to those for woodcock and will provide for consistent regulations for these species that are often hunted simultaneously. See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57 for season dates and bag limits.

MOUNTAIN TRAIL WHITETAILS

Mountain Trail Whitetails Preserve offers the best trophy deer hunting in New Jersey!

Over the last several years we have noticed heavy deer traffic outside of the preserve, and now maintain several baited stand sites outside of the preserve. We are offering hunters the opportunity to hunt these sites for only \$250 a day.

Call Tim Mathews
for more information:
(908) 310-0369

Stocking Maps

Scan this QR code or follow the link for maps of the pheasant and quail stocked fields for each stocked WMA. Go to NJFishandWildlife.com/pheasmaps.htm.



Semi-Wild and Commercial Preserve Hunting

Hunting for pheasant, quail and partridge is allowed from Nov. 12 to March 15 on semi-wild and from Sept. 1 through May 1 on commercial shooting preserves (which also allows mallards) that are properly licensed for the taking of such species. These game birds may be hunted on Sunday only on semi-wild or commercial shooting preserve lands.

Youth hunters (in possession of a valid Youth Hunting License and accompanied by a licensed, non-shooting adult) will be permitted to hunt pheasant, quail and partridge on licensed semi-wild preserves on Saturday, Nov. 5—the Youth Upland Bird Hunting Day.

All game taken on semi-wild or commercial preserves must be properly tagged before being transported off the licensed property.

A person may legally hunt on semi-wild or commercial preserves for game birds during deer seasons, but no shot larger than #4 fine may be used. There are no daily bag or seasonal limits for pheasant, quail, partridge or mallards taken on commercial preserves. There are no daily bag limits for pheasant, quail or partridge taken on semi-wild properties. Seasonal harvests on semi-wild properties may not exceed the number of birds to be stocked as indicated on the semi-wild permit application.

Squirrel, Regular Season

Air guns may be used for taking squirrel using ammunition not smaller than .177 caliber or larger than .22 caliber. See also *Air Guns* under *Firearms and Missiles*, page 25 and *General Small Game Hunting Methods*, page 54. See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57.

Squirrel, Muzzleloading Rifle Season

Persons holding a current and valid firearm license and rifle permit may hunt for squirrels from sunrise to ½ hour after sunset with a muzzleloading rifle (.36 caliber or smaller loaded with a single projectile) during the periods Sept. 24–Nov. 11, 2016 and Jan. 7–Feb. 20, 2017. See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57.

Hunting for squirrel in the manner described above is restricted to the areas described.

Woodchuck

All persons in possession of a rifle (including a muzzleloading rifle) while hunting woodchuck must have a current and valid rifle permit in addition to the current hunting license. Rifle hunting (of any kind) for woodchuck is prohibited on state wildlife management areas, state parks, state forests or state recreation areas. Farmers and their agents may use shot not larger than #4 buckshot to control woodchuck causing damage. Hours of hunting are sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. See chart above for woodchuck hunting details. ♫

Woodchuck Season

Dates	Weapon Type Permitted	Gauge, Caliber or Weight	Projectile(s)
March 1 to Sept. 28, 2016 March 1 to Sept. 27, 2017	Center-fire rifle	.25 caliber or less	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight.
		Larger than .25 caliber	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight not exceeding 80 grains in weight.
	Rim-fire rifle	.25 caliber or less	Hollow point or soft point of any weight not exceeding 50 grains in weight.
	Muzzleloading rifle: single-shot, single barrel. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted.	No restriction	Must be loaded with a single projectile, either round ball or conical bullet.
Sept. 24–Dec. 3 and Dec. 12, 13, 15–31, 2016 Jan. 2–Feb. 20, 2017	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow	35 pounds pull at archers draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow); 75 pounds pull for crossbow	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of ¾"
	Shotgun: single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore	Not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells	Shot – sizes not larger than #4 fine shot
	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow	35 pounds pull at archers draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow); 75 pounds pull for crossbow	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of ¾"
	Shotgun: single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore	Not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells	Shot – sizes not larger than #4 fine shot

Squirrel Muzzleloading Rifle Season Zones

For a complete description of the squirrel hunting areas, scan this QR code with your mobile device or go to www.NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/squirrelzones.htm.



Muzzleloading Rifle Squirrel Areas



Upland Project Updates

For a review of Fish and Wildlife's Upland Project Updates, scan this QR code or visit www.NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/upland_updates.htm.



First live-captured fisher in New Jersey.

Joe Garris/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

2016–17 Small Game Hunting Seasons

Species (alphabetical)	Inclusive Dates	Hunting Hours	Daily Limits	Notes
Bobwhite (quail)	Closed statewide; except at Peaslee & Greenwood WMA (see Notes) At Peaslee & Greenwood WMAs ONLY: Nov. 12–Dec. 3; Dec. 12, 13, 15–31, 2016 and Jan. 2–31, 2017	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	4	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12 Quail may be hunted ONLY at Peaslee and Greenwood Forest WMAs. Pheasant and Quail Stamp required. Season closed in remainder of the state. (See exceptions under <i>Northern Bobwhite</i> , page 55.)
Coyote* and Fox, General All coyote must be reported within 24 hrs.	Bow and Arrow only: Sept. 10–Nov. 11 in DMZ Regulation Sets 4–8 Oct. 1–Nov. 11 in DMZ Regulation Sets 0–3 Firearm or Bow and Arrow: Nov. 12–Mar. 15	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12 Deer hunters may harvest coyote and fox during all open deer seasons with restrictions as specified under Small Game Hunting, <i>Coyote and Fox</i> , page 54. Rifle permit required in possession when hunting with rifle (allowed only incidental to deer hunting).
Coyote* and Fox, Special Permit Season All coyote must be reported within 24 hrs.	Firearm or Bow and Arrow: Jan. 2–Mar. 15, 2017 (permit required)	Permit holders may hunt day and night with certain restrictions; see Notes at right. Sunday hunting for coyote/fox is not legal. All such hunting must end at 11:59 p.m. Saturday night and may resume at 12:01 a.m. Monday morning.	No limit	For complete details, and for when a permit is required, see Small Game Hunting, <i>Coyote and Fox</i> , page 54. Calling and standing hunting only. Predator calling device must be in possession. See <i>Coyote/Fox Season</i> table, page 54, for firearm and ammo restrictions. Rifle permit required in possession when hunting with any legal rifle, allowed only during daytime hunting hours. During night hunting (½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise), only 10 or 12 gauge shotguns are permitted. See pellet restrictions in table on page 54. Coyote/fox permit required.
Crow** (Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)	Aug. 8–Dec. 3** and Dec. 12, 2016–Mar. 17, 2017 (See Notes .)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12 Maximum shot size is #4
Grouse, Ruffed**	North of Rt. 70: Oct. 15–Dec. 3; Dec. 12, 13, 15–31 South of Rt. 70: Nov. 12–Dec. 3; Dec. 12, 13, 15–31	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	2	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12
Opossum & Raccoon	Oct. 1 to Mar. 1	1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise	No limit	Rifle permit required when hunting with rifle. 7:41 p.m. start on Oct. 1. Closed Dec. 5–10 and Dec. 14.
Pheasant & Partridge	Nov. 12–Dec. 3; Dec. 12, 13, 15–31, 2016; Jan. 2–Feb. 20, 2017	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Partridge — 7 Pheasant — 2	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12 Pheasant and Quail Stamp required on designated areas (see <i>Small Game Hunting</i> page 55).
Rabbit, Hare & Jackrabbit**	Sept. 24–Dec. 3; Dec. 12, 13, 15–31, 2016; Jan. 2–Feb. 25, 2017	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Cottontail — 4 Hare — 1 Jackrabbit — 1	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12. Air guns are legal to harvest rabbits, hare and jackrabbit. See <i>General Small Game Hunting Methods</i> .
Squirrel, Gray**	Sept. 24–Dec. 3; Dec. 12, 13, 15–31, 2016; Jan. 2–Feb. 20, 2017	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12. Air guns are legal to harvest squirrel. See <i>General Small Game Hunting Methods</i> page 54.
Squirrel, Gray: Muzzleloading Rifle (.36 caliber or smaller)	Sept. 24–Nov. 11, 2016 and Jan. 7–Feb. 20, 2017	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	Rifle permit required. Designated areas only (see <i>Small Game Hunting</i> page 56).
Turkey (Fall, Either-Sex)	(Period N) Oct. 29–Nov. 5, 2016	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.	1 Turkey (either sex) per permit	Permit required. All Turkey Hunting Areas statewide are now open to fall hunting.
Turkey (Spring Gobbler)	(Periods A to E) April 24–May 26, 2017	½ hour before sunrise to noon; starting May 15, hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	1 Male Turkey per permit	Permit required.
Turkey (Spring Gobbler, Youth)	(Period Y) April 22–May 26, 2017	½ hour before sunrise to noon; starting May 15, hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	1 Male Turkey per permit	Permit required.
Woodchuck: Bow, Rifle or Shotgun	Mar. 1–Sept. 28, 2016 Mar. 1–Sept. 27, 2017	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	Rifle permit required when hunting with rifle. Rifle hunting prohibited on state property (see <i>General Hunting Regulations</i> , page 24 and <i>Small Game Regulations</i> page 54).
Woodchuck:** Bow or Shotgun	Sept. 28–Dec. 3; Dec. 12, 13, 15–31, 2016; Jan. 2–Feb. 20, 2017	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 12
Woodcock**	See <i>Migratory Bird Regulations</i> ** on page 65	Sunrise to sunset	3 daily; 6 possession	HIP number required (see page 65). 8 a.m. start on Nov. 12
Youth Turkey Day	April 22, 2017	½ hour before sunrise to noon	1 Male Wild Turkey	Permit required.
Youth Upland Bird Day	Nov. 5, 2016	8 a.m. to sunset	Pheasant — 2 Quail — 4	Selected WMAs and licensed semi-wilds (see page 23).

* All harvested coyotes must be reported to a regional Division Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours. Callers must identify themselves by name, CID# and daytime phone number.

** The starting time to hunt migratory birds on Nov. 12 only on those WMAs designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas shall be 8 a.m. See list of areas, page 55.

Fall & Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

REGULATIONS

Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Turkey Hunting Regulations

- ♦ **Bag Limit:** During the fall season, turkeys of either sex may be taken. During the spring season, only male turkey may be taken; bearded hens may not be taken in the spring. During both seasons, the bag limit is one turkey per permit, *but* only one bird may be taken in a given day, regardless of the number of permits a hunter holds.
- ♦ The fall lottery for turkey permits has been eliminated. A permit is still required (see page 12) and may be purchased at license agents or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.
- ♦ Artificial decoys may be used while turkey hunting, except the use of electronically-operated decoys is prohibited. Dogs may be used for turkey hunting **only** during the fall season. All hunters are required to possess a calling device while turkey hunting. The use of a hand-held decoy or a turkey tail-on-a-stick as camouflage to sneak up on a turkey is prohibited. **Stalking a turkey is illegal.**
- ♦ Hunting methods during the spring gobbler season are restricted to calling or stand hunting.
- ♦ The maximum group size while turkey hunting is five hunters.
- ♦ Hunters may not attempt to chase or drive turkeys for the purpose of putting them in range of other hunters. However, during the fall season only, hunters may rush a flock of turkeys to cause the flock to scatter.
- ♦ No shot larger than #4 fine shot or smaller than #7½ fine shot may be used for turkey hunting.
- ♦ Hunters may not use shotguns larger than 10-gauge or smaller than 20-gauge for turkey hunting. Shotguns must be plugged to be capable of holding no more than three shells.
- ♦ Fluorescent hunter orange is not required to hunt turkeys.
- ♦ Properly licensed hunters may use archery tackle to hunt turkeys. Bows used for turkey hunting (long, recurve, compound or crossbow) must have a minimum draw pull weight of 35 pounds at the archer's draw length (long and recurve bow), or peak weight (compound bow), or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow). Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4 inch.
- ♦ While turkey hunting, a weapon may not be in possession within 300 feet of any baited area.

Mandatory Turkey Check Requirement

All harvested turkeys must be tagged **immediately** with a completed transportation tag. A turkey must be taken by the person who killed it, on the day killed, to the nearest turkey check station where personnel will issue a legal possession tag. See page 60 for a list of official turkey check stations to locate one closest to your hunting area.

NOTE: During Youth Turkey Hunting Day, hunting periods A, B, C and the first three Saturdays of hunting period E, the turkey must be taken to the nearest check station by 3 p.m. During hunting

period D and the last Saturday of hunting period E, the turkey must be taken to the nearest check station by 9 p.m. During the Fall Turkey Season, the turkey must be taken to the nearest check station by 7 p.m. In the event a turkey is killed too late to register at a check station, call the nearest Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Office (see page 39) and leave a message including your name, phone number, CID number and the Turkey Hunting Area where the bird was taken. The bird must be checked the next day. If it was butchered, bring all remaining parts (beard, head, legs, etc.) to the check station.

In the future turkey hunters will be able to report their deer via the Electronic License System. Once this is active, complete instructions will be available on Fish and Wildlife's website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com and printed in the next hunting Digest. Subscribe to our email lists at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm to be notified of Fish and Wildlife updates and events, including any changes to the harvest reporting system.

Turkey Season Dates and Hunting Hours

The 2016 fall turkey season will consist of one seven day hunting segment, N, (excluding Sunday) from Saturday, Oct. 29 through Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016. Fall hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

Hunting hours for the spring season are one-half hour before sunrise until noon daily, except hunting hours for the **last two weeks** of the spring turkey season (including all of period D and the **last Saturday** of period E) are changed to one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. These expanded hunting hours during the last two weeks of the season allow opportunities for working and youth hunters.

Coyotes may be harvested incidentally while turkey hunting. See page 54.

Spring Turkey Hunting Supplement Information

Printing a separate Spring Turkey Hunting Supplement booklet has been discontinued. All regulation and permit information are contained in this Digest. See page 14 for information on applying for spring turkey hunting permits.

Turkey Hunting Seminars

The latest turkey hunting techniques are presented at several turkey hunting seminars sponsored by Fish and Wildlife or wildlife conservation organizations. These seminars focus on how to set up, calling techniques and key safety information for turkey hunters. New turkey hunters are especially encouraged to join us at a seminar. Check your newspaper and our website for the seminars scheduled during March or April. 🦃

2017 Spring Gobbler Hunting Season Dates

Hunting Period	Dates
Youth Turkey Hunting Day (10–16 years of age)	Sat., April 22 If no turkey is harvested on this youth hunt day, Period Y permits may be used in the designated zone for balance of season until a bird is harvested
Hunting Period Y	
Hunting Period A	Mon., April 24–Fri., April 28
Hunting Period B	Mon., May 1–Fri., May 5
Hunting Period C	Mon., May 8–Fri., May 12
Hunting Period D	Mon., May 15–Fri., May 19; Mon., May 22–Fri., May 26
Hunting Period E	All Saturdays, April 29, May 6, May 13 and May 20

Youth Turkey Hunt Day

April 22, 2017 (See page 23)

If no turkey is harvested on this youth hunt day, Period Y permits may be used by the youth hunter in the designated zone for the balance of the season until a bird is harvested (see page 23).

All youth turkey hunters 10 to 16 years of age must possess a valid **spring turkey hunting permit** in addition to their **youth** hunting license.

Youth hunters must be accompanied by a properly licensed, non-hunting adult age 21 or older who may not shoot on this youth day.

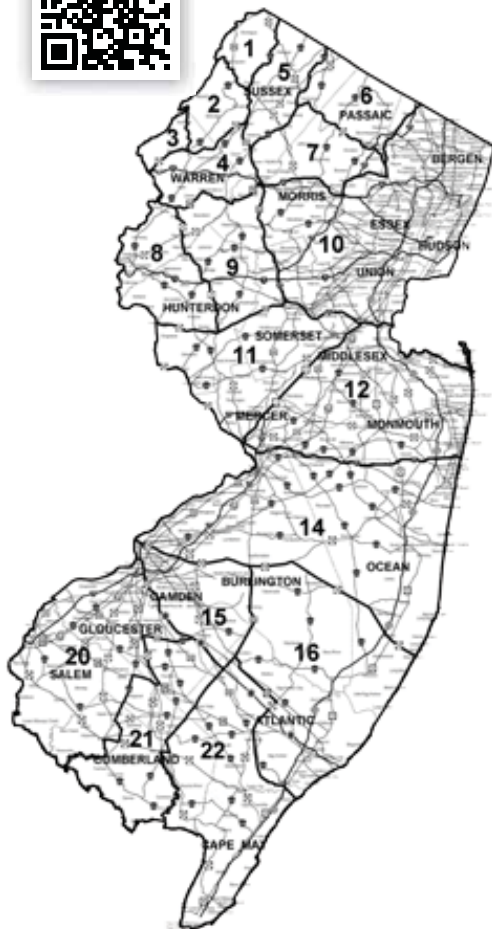
This season is considered an **extension** of the regular season permit held by the youth.

If youth hunter harvests a turkey on this youth hunting day, the "Y" Period permit is no longer valid for future hunting.

Non-hunting adults accompanying youth turkey hunters need only have in possession a valid hunting license. Turkey hunting is by permit only. Spring and fall turkey hunting is by permit only. See *Turkey Hunting Permits, General*, page 12. For farmers, see *Farmer Turkey Permits*, page 28.

Turkey Hunting Areas

Map for general reference only. For a complete description of the Turkey Hunting Area boundaries, scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit our website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/turkeyareas.htm.



Stalking is Illegal

Use of a hand-held decoy or a turkey tail-on-a-stick as camouflage to sneak up on a turkey is prohibited. In New Jersey, stalking of wild turkeys is illegal, both for ethical reasons and for personal safety.



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Fall & Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

FALL / SPRING TURKEY CHECK STATIONS

Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Turkey Check Stations

ATLANTIC

Butterhof's Farm & Home Supply,
5715 White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor City (609) 965-1198
Ted's Taxidermy, 713 Rt. 40, Buena (856) 697-8585

BURLINGTON

Mighty Joe's Texaco, 1231 Rt. 206 S., Shamong . . (609) 268-0303
Pine Barrens Stove and Sport Shop,
Rt. 72, Chatsworth (609) 726-1550
Sportsman's Center, Rt. 130, Bordentown . . . (609) 298-5300

CAMDEN

Atco Sports Center, 177 Atco Ave., Atco (856) 767-9446
Banger's Sport Shop,
840 Piney Hollow Rd., Winslow (609) 561-1717

CAPE MAY

Belle Plain Supply,
346 Handisville Ave., Belle Plain (609) 861-2345
Fletcher's Corner,
212 South Rt. 47, Cape May C.H. (609) 465-4949

CUMBERLAND

Beaver Dam Boat Rentals,
514 Old Beaver Dam Rd, Newport (856) 447-3633
Blackwater Sports Center,
2228 Delsea Dr., Vineland (856) 691-1571

GLOUCESTER

Sportsman's Outpost,
Fries Mill Rd., Williamstown (856) 881-3244
The Bottle Barn, 65 West Broad St., Gibbstown . . (856) 423-3608

HUNTERDON

Boan's Marine, 1296 Rt. 179, Lambertville . . . (609) 397-3311
The Corner Store, Rt. 12 and Rt. 519, Baptistown. . (908) 996-7648
Carousel Deli And Bakery,
Rt. 179 and Wertsville Rd., Ringoes (908) 788-5180
Jugtown Mountain Campsites,
1074 Rt. 173 East, Asbury (908) 735-5995

MIDDLESEX

Sayreville Sportsmen,
52 Washington Ave., Sayreville (732) 238-2060

MONMOUTH

Ken's Taxidermy, 389 Rt. 79, Morganville (908) 670-9497
Clarksburg Inn, 465 Stagecoach Rd., Clarksburg . . (609) 259-2558
Cream Ridge Sports Shop,
445 Rt. 539, Cream Ridge (609) 758-0616
L&H Woods and Water, 2045 Rt. 35, Wall. (732) 282-1812

MORRIS

Mount Hope Deli, 662 Mount Hope Ave., Wharton . . (973) 328-7259

OCEAN

Tips Hardware, 218 Main Street, West Creek . . (609) 296-3192

PASSAIC

Tackle and Field, 81 Ringwood Ave., Wanaque . . (973) 835-2966
Greenwood Lake Sports Center,
1745 Greenwood Lake Turnpike, Hewitt (973) 728-1000

SALEM

Salem Boat Exchange,
1163 South Broadway, Pennsville (856) 935-2515
Sam's Super Service, 290 Rt. 40, Elmer (856) 358-3488

SOMERSET

Puskas Dairy Farm,
170 South Middlebush Rd. Somerset (732) 690-0380

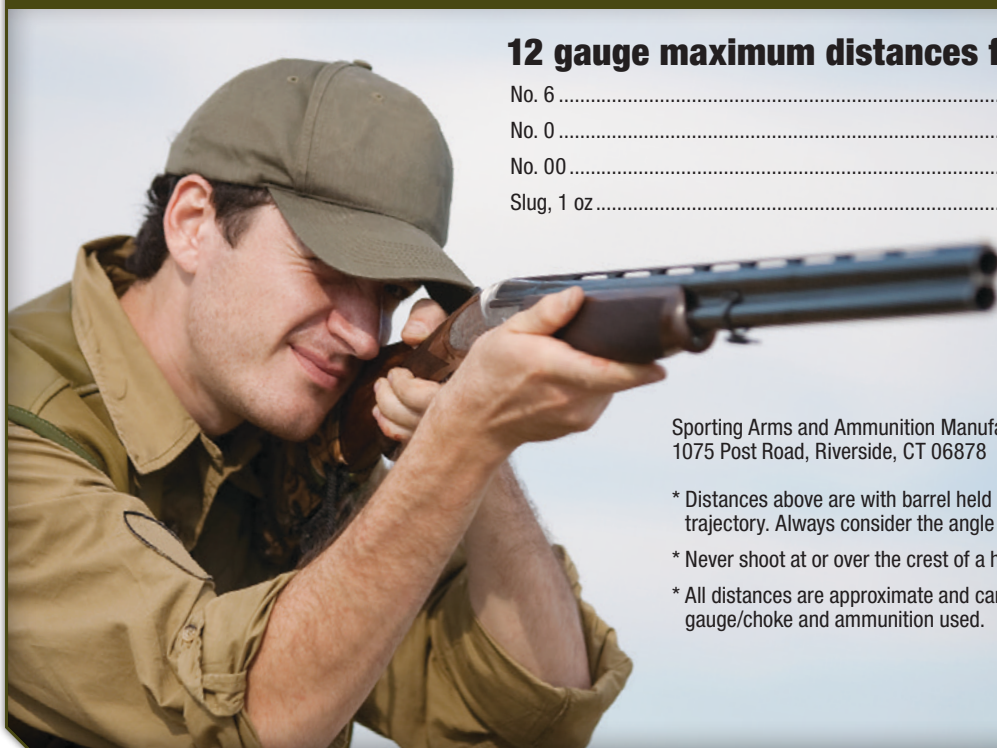
SUSSEX

Garden State Bow & Reel,
2760A Rt. 23N, Stockholm (973) 697-3727
Hainesville General Store,
283 Rt. 206 South Hainesville (973) 948-4280
Mountain Mike's Sport Shop,
7 Old Rudetown Rd., McAfee (973) 827-6527
Mountain View Country Store,
300 Rt. 519, Wantage (973) 875-6000
Simon-Peter Bait And Tackle,
Rt. 206 And Brighton Rd., Newton (973) 786-5313
Swartswood Deli,
911 Newton-Swartswood Rd., Stillwater (973) 383-5470

WARREN

Alpine Meats, Rt. 94 N., Blairstown (908) 362-8568
Hi-Way Sport Shop,
Box 253, Rt. 31 North, Washington (908) 689-6208
Smitty's Liquor & Deli, 89 Rt. 46, Delaware . . . (908) 475-5933
The Owl's Nest, 97 Rt. 519, Warren Glen (908) 995-7903

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- * Distances above are with barrel held at an elevated angle for maximum trajectory. Always consider the angle of your barrel when shooting.
- * Never shoot at or over the crest of a hill.
- * All distances are approximate and can vary depending on the shotgun's gauge/choke and ammunition used.

Public Turkey Hunting Land in New Jersey

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 1

- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Flatbrook-Roy WMA
- Hainesville WMA
- Stokes State Forest

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 2

- Bear Swamp WMA
- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Flatbrook-Roy WMA
- Paulinskill WMA
- Stokes State Forest
- Swartswood State Park
- Trout Brook WMA
- Walpack WMA
- White Lake WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 3

- Columbia WMA (partial)
- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Worthington State Forest

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 4

- Allamuchy Mountain State Park
- Beaver Brook WMA
- Columbia WMA (partial)
- Honey Run WMA
- Jenny Jump State Forest

- Stephens State Park
- Whittingham WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 5

- Kittatinny Valley State Park
- Paulinskill WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 6

- Abram Hewitt State Forest
- Hamburg Mountain WMA
- Long Pond Ironworks State Park
- Norvin Green State Forest
- Ramapo Mountain State Forest
- Ringwood State Park
- Wawayanda State Park

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 7

- Berkshire Valley WMA
- Farny State Park
- Rockaway River WMA
- Sparta Mountain WMA
- Weldon Brook WMA
- Wildcat Ridge WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 8

- Buckhorn Creek WMA
- Clinton WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Pohatcong Creek WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 9

- Black River WMA
- Hacklebarney State Park
- Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Rockport WMA
- South Branch WMA
- Voorhees State Park

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 10

- Black River WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 11

- Alexauken Creek WMA
- Lockatong WMA
- Six Mile Run Reservoir State Park (bow only)

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 12

- Assunpink WMA
- Turkey Swamp WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 14

- Brendan T. Byrne State Forest
- Colliers Mills WMA
- Double Trouble State Park
- Forked River Mountain WMA
- Greenwood Forest WMA
- Manahawkin WMA
- Manasquan WMA
- Manchester WMA

- Medford WMA
- Pleasant Run WMA
- Whiting WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 15

- Wharton State Forest

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 16

- Bass River State Forest
- Hammonton Creek WMA
- Penn State Forest
- Port Republic WMA
- Stafford Forge WMA
- Swan Bay WMA
- Warren Grove Recreation Area
- Wharton State Forest

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 20

- Abbotts Meadow WMA
- Cohansey River WMA
- DOD Ponds WMA
- Elmer Lake WMA
- Gum Tree Corner WMA
- Harrisonville Lake WMA
- Mad Horse Creek WMA
- Maskells Mill Pond WMA
- Salem River WMA
- Thundergut Pond WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 21

- Buckshutem WMA
- Cedar Lake WMA

- Cedarville Pond WMA
- Cohansey River WMA
- Dix WMA
- Egg Island WMA
- Fortescue WMA
- Glassboro WMA
- Nantuxent WMA
- New Sweden WMA
- Millville WMA
- Parvin State Park
- Union Lake WMA
- White Oak Branch WMA
- Winslow WMA

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 22

- Beaver Swamp WMA
- Belleplain State Forest
- Cape May Wetlands WMA
- Dennis Creek WMA
- Gibson Creek WMA
- Great Egg Harbor WMA
- Heislerville WMA
- Higbee Beach WMA
- Makepeace Lake WMA
- Maple Lake WMA
- Menantico Ponds WMA
- Peaslee WMA
- Tuckahoe WMA



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BRAND CAMO

Regulations in red are new this year.

- ♦ A trapping license is required and a Trapper Education course must be passed. See pages 1 and 8 for license information.
- ♦ All traps set or used must bear a legible tag of durable material with the name and address of the person setting, using and maintaining the traps. Trap tags with a previous Fish and Wildlife-issued trap identification number or the trapper's Conservation Identification Number (CID#) may be used in lieu of name and address to mark each trap.
- ♦ No traps or trap stakes are to be set prior to 6:00 a.m. on the first day of any open trapping season indicated in this section.
- ♦ **No trapper may set a trap on any state wildlife management area where pheasant or quail are released prior to 6:00 a.m. on January 1. Areas include Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Bevans (Millville), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Flatbrook-Roy, Glassboro, Greenwood Forest (incl. Howardsville), Heislerville, MacNamara (Tuckahoe), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Winslow and Whittingham WMAs. Trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**
- ♦ All traps must be checked and tended at least once every 24 hours, preferably in the morning.
- ♦ No trap shall be permitted to remain set on any property at the close of the trapping season.
- ♦ No person shall steal or attempt to take traps of another, or remove a trapped animal without permission of the trap owner.
- ♦ **There is a mandatory reporting requirement for trappers who incidentally capture a bobcat to call (877) WARN-DEP before releasing the**

bobcat. A Fish and Wildlife Trapper Response Team technician will go to the site for data collection and the safe release of the bobcat.

- ♦ Any person (including a farmer) who traps a coyote must report their harvest to a Regional Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours of take, and provide their name, CID# and daytime telephone number.
- ♦ Licensed trappers may use the following firearms to dispatch legally trapped animals other than muskrat: 1) an air gun not smaller than .177 caliber nor larger than .22 caliber; or 2) a .22 caliber rifle using only .22 caliber short ammunition when in possession of a valid rifle permit. Firearms may not be loaded with more than three rounds.

Beaver and River Otter

Beaver may be taken only by properly licensed trappers in possession of a special beaver trapping permit valid for an entire management zone, or a special site-specific beaver permit valid as designated on the permit. River otter may only be taken by properly licensed trappers in possession of a special river otter trapping permit valid for an entire management zone. Application can be made at license agents or via Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. Applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply.

Zone maps, boundary descriptions and permit quotas are available on our website or call (609) 292-1473. Applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply. The application period is October 1–31. **Applicants may apply for only one beaver trapping permit and/or one otter trapping permit.** If the number of applications exceeds the permit quota, a random lottery drawing will be held to determine permit holders. Successful

beaver permit applicants will be given first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zone.

Fish and Wildlife's Director may issue Beaver Damage Control Permits to owners or lessees of any land to control beaver damage. Damage Control Permits issued during the open beaver trapping season may be awarded to applicants that did not receive a zone wide permit during the open lottery and who reside near the damage site. All beaver harvested on Damage Control Permits issued during the open season must be registered at an official beaver/otter check station. Beaver taken on Damage Control Permits issued outside of the open beaver trapping season may not be possessed or sold by the damage permit holder.

Other beaver/otter rules and regulations:

- ♦ **Season Dates:** Dec. 26, 2016–Feb. 9, 2017
- ♦ **Bag Limits:** 8 beaver per permit; 1 otter per season.
- ♦ Holders of a river otter trapping permit may use a maximum of three traps daily.
- ♦ **Trappers may only possess one Special River Otter Trapping Permit per season.**
- ♦ All beaver and otter trap tags must be clearly visible above the water or ice.
- ♦ **Holders of both a Special Beaver Permit and a Beaver Damage Control Permit may use five additional traps daily on the property listed in the Damage Control Permit.**
- ♦ A Fish and Wildlife-issued Beaver Transportation Tag or Otter Transportation Tag must be affixed to the beaver or otter carcass **immediately upon taking possession of the animal.**
- ♦ All otters harvested incidentally by beaver trappers (i.e., trappers possessing a beaver permit but not an otter permit) must be fully surrendered to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The entire carcass, including the pelt, must be surrendered.
- ♦ All successful trappers (or their agents) must present their beaver and/or otter pelts at a designated check station for examination where pelt tags will be affixed. **All otter carcasses must be surrendered when pelts are registered, as required by the Game Code. Failure to submit your carcass will result in the issuance of a citation by the Bureau of Law Enforcement.**
- ♦ Trappers are requested to properly flesh and stretch all pelts for examination. Additional information on check stations will be provided to all permit holders.
- ♦ Fish and Wildlife will staff check-in stations at the Assunpink, Clinton, Flatbrook, Tuckahoe and Winslow WMAs and the Newfoundland Fire Company on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 (9 a.m.–noon). Successful trappers who cannot attend the scheduled dates should contact either Joseph Garris at (908) 735-7040 or Andrew Burnett at (609) 748-2047 prior to Feb. 18 to make alternate arrangements.
- ♦ Permit holders will be notified via email, telephone or U.S. mail in the event the beaver and otter trapping season is extended for any reason, and notified of any change in the pelt registration date.



Bobcat and Fisher

Bobcats are classified as endangered in New Jersey; they are distributed widely across the northern part of the state. Fishers are returning, naturally and through reintroduction efforts in New York and Pennsylvania, to most of their historic range in the northeastern United States. Fishers have been documented in several northern and southern New Jersey counties.

There is no open trapping season for either bobcat or fisher. It is now mandatory for trappers and farmers to report any incidental bobcat capture within 24 hours of discovery by calling 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337). Possession of New Jersey bobcats or fishers is prohibited but those legally harvested in other U.S. states or Canadian provinces may be possessed if properly documented. **Call the same number for a dead bobcat or fisher on your trapline;** a Fish and Wildlife technician will arrange to pick up the animal. Biological samples will be taken from all bobcat and fisher carcasses. The data collected will be instrumental to understand the status of the species populations.

Coyote, Fox (Red and Gray), Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk and Weasel Trapping

- **Season Dates:** Nov. 15–Mar. 15*. Trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area.

- **Bag Limits:** No daily bag limit for any of these species.
- No open fisher season. Call (877) 927-6337 to report any fisher capture.
- Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping

- **Bag Limits:** No daily bag limit for mink, muskrat or nutria.
- **North Zone Nov. 15–Mar. 15*:** Those portions of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties lying north beginning at the intersection of US Rt. 1 and the Delaware River at Trenton; then north along Rt. 1 to its intersection with I-287; then south along I-287 to its intersection with Rt. 440; then east along Rt. 440 to the NJ-NY state line.
- **South Zone Dec. 1–Mar. 15*:** Those portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties lying south of the aforementioned line.

*The following wildlife management areas (WMAs) are closed to trapping until Jan. 1: Assumpink, Berkshire Valley, Bevans (Millville), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Flatbrook-Roy, Glassboro, Greenwood (incl. Howardsville), Heislerville, MacNamara (Tuckahoe), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River,

Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Winslow and Whittingham. Trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area.

Traps, Body-gripping or Killer-type

No body-gripping or killer-type trap shall be used in non-tidal waters unless completely submerged underwater when the water is at the normal level. In tidal water, such traps must be completely covered at normal high tide.

It is illegal to use, set or maintain a body-gripping or killer-type trap having a jaw spread greater than 6 inches without a permit for beaver or river otter. A body-gripping or killer-type trap with a jaw spread of no more than 10 inches may be used for beaver or river otter. Jaw spread shall be measured between the inner edges of the jaws across the trigger of a set trap.

Beaver and otter trap tags must be placed above the water line and exposed to view.

Traps, Leg-hold

It is illegal to possess or use any steel-jawed leg-hold type trap (i.e., any coil-spring or longspring trap) anywhere in New Jersey. Foot-encapsulating traps which do not fall under this trap category may be possessed and used.

Beaver and River Otter Trapping Zones

Mandatory pelt registration:
Feb. 25 (9 a.m.–noon)



Del. Water Gap
Nat'l Rec. Area
closed to trapping

Season Dates:

Dec. 26–Feb. 9 except
Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on select WMAs*
(See WMA list this page, above.)

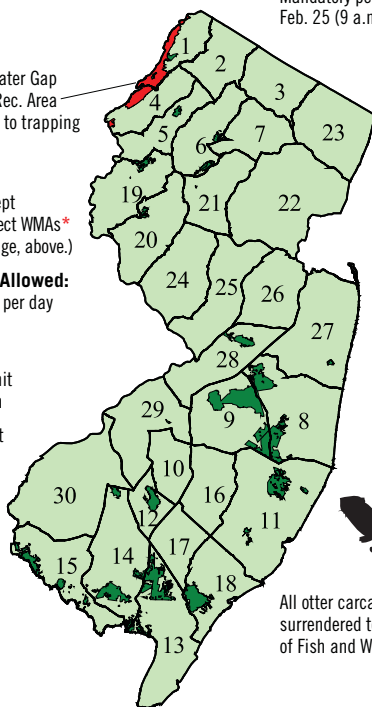
Number of Traps Allowed:

Beaver—5 per zone per day
Otter—3 per day

Bag Limits:

Beaver—8 per permit
Otter—1 per season

Traps may not be set
prior to 6 a.m. on
the respective
opening day.



All otter carcasses must be
surrendered to the Division
of Fish and Wildlife.

Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping Zones



Del. Water Gap
Nat'l Rec. Area
closed to trapping

North Zone:

Nov. 15–Mar. 15

South Zone:

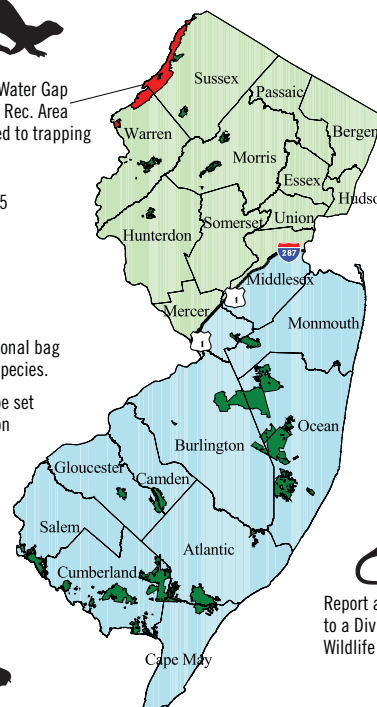
Dec. 1–Mar. 15

WMAs:

Jan. 1–Mar. 15

No daily or seasonal bag
limit for these species.

Traps may not be set
prior to 6 a.m. on
the respective
opening day.



Report any nutria harvest
to a Division of Fish and
Wildlife Office.



Red fox, here trapped on the Trout Brook WMA in Sussex County by Joshua Garris, 16, will lie quietly after clearing a circle of ground when escape from the cable restraint is not possible. The trap design also allows for non-target species to be released unharmed.

Traps, Live-capture Cable Restraints

- No person shall set, use or maintain any type of snare unless they have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof.
- All live capture cable restraints must include a relaxing-type lock, except when submerged underwater or when set for mink, muskrat, nutria or weasel.
- All natural baits consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with live-capture cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view except when placed at least 30 feet from any trap set.

Live-capture cable restraints set for mink, muskrat, nutria and weasel are subject to the following requirements:

- All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64 or 1/16 inches in diameter, equipped with a swivel;
- Mink, muskrat and nutria cable restraints must be set within 50 feet of the mean high water line.
- All such traps must be equipped with a stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding 4 inches; and,
- All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground/walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 7 inches.

Live-capture cable restraints set for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon and skunk shall be subject to the following requirements:

- All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 5/64 to 3/16 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel and a relaxing-type lock;
- All such traps must be equipped with a deer stop located no less than 6 inches from the beginning of the cable and a loop stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding 12 inches; and,
- All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground / walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 24 inches.

The above requirements for cable diameters, loop stops and loop sizes do not apply to body gripping restraining snares that are completely submerged underwater at all times (e.g., when set for beaver or river otter).

Traps, Live-capture Foot Encapsulating

Enclosed or foot encapsulating (also known as enclosed foothold or dog-proof traps) traps are now legal for trapping. These traps have been specifically designed to capture species such as raccoon and opossum (which possess a degree of manual dexterity) while minimizing the capture of non-target animals especially domestic dogs and cats. Enclosed foothold traps are a live-restraint trap which do not result in the death of the captured animal or in the potential for significant injury.

These traps are subject to the following requirements:

- All triggering and restraining mechanisms shall be enclosed by a housing.
- The triggering and restraining mechanism is accessible only by a single opening when the trap is set.
- The access opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter or when measured diagonally.
- The triggering mechanism can be activated only by a pulling force.
- The trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.

Be a Conservation-Minded Trapper

For tips to avoid the accidental capture of bobcat or to prevent injury if one is trapped, scan the QR code, below.



Scan this code for Trapping Tips to Prevent the Accidental Capture of — and Injury to — Bobcat or visit NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/traptips.htm

If an accidental bobcat trapping occurs, it is **mandatory** that you call NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Trapper Response Team at **(877) WARN-DEP (877-927-6337)** so that we may obtain genetic samples.

Have You Seen This Cat?

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs your help by reporting bobcat sightings so we can better understand the size, distribution and genetic structure of our bobcat population.

Contact our agency if you have observed a bobcat:

- **Live and trail cam photos**—Complete a brief sighting report form: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/rprtform.htm>. *Data from south Jersey is of particular interest.*
- **Dead on the road**—call us at (908) 638-4127 to report the carcass location.



It is illegal to possess incidentally trapped or road-killed bobcat from New Jersey.

New Migratory Bird Season Setting Process Begins in 2016

Beginning in 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Flyway Councils present a new schedule for migratory game bird hunting regulations. This more efficient cycle will result in setting season dates and bag limits much earlier in the year. Therefore, printing of the annual *Migratory Bird Regulations* pamphlet is now discontinued. **All migratory bird hunting regulations are contained in this Digest.**

Migratory game bird hunting regulations are developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with input from the Flyway Councils and other constituents by establishing the frameworks, or outside limits, for season lengths, bag limits and areas for hunting. States then select hunting seasons within the federal guidelines. States may choose to be more conservative in their selections than the federal frameworks, but never more liberal.

New Jersey Migratory Bird Regulations

Major Changes for the 2016–17 Season

- ♦ Brant season will be concurrent with duck season in each zone with a bag limit of 1 brant.
- ♦ The Special Sea Duck Area was changed to include only waters of the Atlantic Ocean; further, the season within the Special Sea Duck Area was reduced to 60 days.
- ♦ Federal regulations now allow each state to use their existing definition of youth hunter for participation in Youth Waterfowl Days. Holders of a New Jersey Youth license are eligible to participate on Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, page 22. See also *Youth Licenses*, page 10.
- ♦ New Jersey has a newer regulation prohibiting wanton waste of most game species, including migratory birds. See *Wanton Waste*, page 27.

Hunters: Report Banded Birds

Hunters who recover banded migratory birds are asked to report the band number to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), Washington, D.C. Banding data plays a critical role in migratory bird harvest management. There are three ways to report bands:

1. **Online:** reportband.gov
2. **Call Toll Free:** (800) 327-BAND
3. **Write:** to the address inscribed on the band.

Online reporting provides instant access to the original banding information including the species, sex, location, date and age of the bird at banding. Band reporters will be able to print a certificate of appreciation on their home computer which will include information about the bird which had been banded.

When contacting the BBL, be prepared to provide: band number, date the bird was recovered, exact location of the bird's recovery as well as nearest town, and method of recovery, e.g., shot or found dead. Hunters may keep the bands.

What Do I Need To Hunt Migratory Birds In New Jersey?

Species Hunted	Hunting License	HIP Certification	NJ Stamp Certification	Federal Stamp
Crow	✓			
Woodcock, rail, moorhen, snipe	✓	✓		
Duck, brant, goose	✓	✓	✓	✓

Waterfowl Stamps: Both the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Certification and Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) are required for all waterfowl hunters 16 years and older and must be signed in ink. New Jersey Stamp Certifications are available from license agents and from the Licenses and Permits button on Fish and Wildlife's website. Federal stamps are available from some U.S. post offices and online at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php>.

fee and cost \$5.13. Internet HIP certifications can be printed on a home computer. Telephone HIP certifications will be received in about one week; however, hunters can begin hunting immediately by recording their HIP certification number.

HIP certification should be carried in the hunter's license holder and are valid from Sept. 1 to April 15 the following year. Information collected for HIP is confidential and used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting migratory bird harvest surveys.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Youth hunters must possess a valid Youth Firearms License—OR be less than 16 years of age and qualified to hunt without a license under the farmer license exemption (see page 28)—to hunt the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days as detailed on page 22.

All youth hunters must be under the direct supervision of a licensed, non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older.

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All hunters must obtain an HIP certification **before** hunting ducks, geese, brant, coot, woodcock, rails, snipe or gallinules. Hunters may purchase an HIP certification in three ways:

1. From a License Agent
2. Online at NJ.WildlifeLicense.com
3. By calling the toll-free NJ Telephone Sales Line at (888) 277-2015

All three methods allow hunters to go hunting immediately after registering. Online and license agent HIP certifications cost \$2 while telephone HIP certifications will include a shipping/handling



Summary of Federal Regulations

The following is a synopsis of Federal Regulations that pertain to the hunting of migratory game birds. More information can be found at: http://NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/waterfowl_federal_regs.pdf or by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Office at (908) 787-1321.

No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- ♦ By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. **Baiting** means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. **Baited area** means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.
- ♦ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- ♦ With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. **Exceptions: In New Jersey, shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells are permitted during the September Canada goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.**

- ♦ From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- ♦ From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- ♦ From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased. Exception: crippled birds may be shot from craft under power in the Special Sea Duck Area.
- ♦ By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- ♦ By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. **Exceptions: In New Jersey, hunters can use electronic calls during: crow season, September Canada goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.**
- ♦ By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

Tagging requirement—No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including

temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Custody of birds of another—No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Species identification requirement—No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

New Jersey State Regulations

State laws and regulations may be more stringent but not more lenient than those prescribed in federal regulations (50 CFR Part 20).

Restrictions:

- Migratory bird hunting is not permitted on Sunday in New Jersey.**
- No person may take rails or snipe while possessing shot other than non-toxic shot.
- The starting time to hunt waterfowl on opening day of pheasant season (Nov. 12, 2016) is 8 a.m. on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant and quail except the tidal waters or marshes of those WMAs. See page 55 for pheasant and quail stocked WMAs. The starting time to hunt waterfowl on opening day of the pheasant season conforms to the regular

Nontoxic Shot Regulations

In New Jersey, no person may take ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, snipe or moorhens while possessing shot other than approved non-toxic shot which includes: steel, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-iron-nickel-tin, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-polymer, bismuth-tin, copper-clad iron, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-tin-iron and tungsten-tin-bismuth shot types. Shot size may not exceed Size T (0.200 inch) for waterfowl. See <http://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php> for more information. For crows and woodcock, shot size may not exceed Size #4 and although lead shot is permitted, hunters are encouraged to use non-toxic shot.

Hunting Hours

See page 81 for sunrise/sunset table.

- Duck, goose, brant, coot, rail, moorhen, snipe—**1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.** For example, if sunrise is 6:30 a.m. and sunset is 5:00 p.m., hunting hours for these species are 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Woodcock—**sunrise to sunset.**
- Crow—**sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.**
- September Canada Goose and the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order—**1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.**

Waterfowl Blinds

No permanent waterfowl blinds, including pit blinds, shall be constructed, hunted from or used in any manner on these WMAs:

1. Assunpink
2. Black River
3. Colliers Mills
4. Hainesville
5. Tuckahoe
6. Manahawkin
7. Stafford Forge
8. Whittingham
9. Beaver Swamp
10. Sedge Island
11. Salem River
12. Prospertown
13. Paulinskill

Any blind used on these WMAs must be portable and completely removed by day's end. Blinds remaining on WMAs are subject to confiscation and disposal by Fish and Wildlife.

start time (e.g. 1/2 hr. before sunrise) on private land, tidal marshes, WMAs not stocked with pheasant and quail, and the tidal marsh portions of pheasant and quail stocked WMAs.

- d. 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 Oceanport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, southwest or upstream of the Conrail R.R. bridge.
 - » On the **non-tidal portions** of Cox Hall Creek WMA in Cape May County.
- e. It is unlawful for any person to leave the edible portions (defined as the breast meat) of migratory birds (excepting crows) to waste. Edible portions (see illustration, page 26) do not include meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones; or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased carcasses. Further, it is unlawful for a person to dump or abandon a wildlife carcass or parts along or upon a public right-of-way or highway, or on public or private property, including a waterway or stream, without the permission of the owner or tenant.
- f. Waterfowl hunting on Delaware River is governed by state boundaries and restricted to respective state seasons.
- g. Permanent blinds may not be constructed on some state wildlife management areas.
- h. Arrows with flu-flu type fletching are required for taking *flying* game birds. Arrows with edged heads are prohibited for taking *flying* game birds.

2017 Spring Light Goose Conservation Order — Feb. 16–Apr. 8, 2017

1. Electronic calls are permitted.
2. Shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
3. Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
4. A valid hunting license, federal and state duck stamps, HIP certification and NJ Light Goose Conservation Order (CO) Permit (\$2) are required.
5. The NJ Light Goose CO Permit is available **ONLY** from the Division's web site or by mailing: Light Goose Permit, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. A request for mailed permits must include:
 - a) Photocopy of 2017 Hunting or All-around Sportsman license that clearly shows the Conservation ID Number and DOB
 - b) Check or money order for \$2 payable to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
 - c) Self-addressed, stamped envelope
 - d) Daytime telephone number

The light goose permit will not be available until January 2017. As part of the permit process, hunters will be required to report their activity and harvest as requested on the permit. Check the Division's web site in late winter for more details.

Falconry—Special season dates and bag limits apply. Contact NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at (908) 735-8793.

Attention Waterfowl Hunters

Special Regulations Permitted During September Canada Goose Season, Sept. 1–30, 2016 Only

Special regulations designed to help curb the growth of resident population Canada geese.

1. Electronic calls are permitted.
2. Shotguns capable of holding no more than seven shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
3. Hunting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Remember: these special regulations apply only to the September Canada goose season. Hunters who choose to use an unplugged gun during the September Canada goose season must remember to re-install the magazine plug before pursuing other game species.

During all other waterfowl seasons, including duck, brant, regular and winter Canada goose, and snow goose, standard regulations apply. Standard regulations include: electronic calls prohibited, shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shot shells and hunting hours end at sunset.



Migratory Bird Zoned Hunting Seasons

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits ¹
North Zone		
Ducks, Brant, Mergansers and Coot	Oct. 8–Oct. 15 Nov. 5–Jan. 5	Ducks: 6 in aggregate from Duck Limits* below; Mergansers²: 5 Coot: 15 Brant: 1
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 12–Nov. 26 Dec. 10–Jan. 21	3
Youth Waterfowl Days	Oct. 1 and Feb. 4	Same limits for ducks, Canada geese, brant and light geese within each zone
South Zone		
Ducks, Brant, Mergansers and Coot	Oct. 22–Oct. 29 Nov. 12–Jan. 12	Ducks: 6 in aggregate from Duck Limits* below; Mergansers²: 5 Coot: 15 Brant: 1
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 12–Nov. 26 Dec. 10–Jan. 21	3
Youth Waterfowl Days	Oct. 15 and Feb. 4	Same limits for ducks, Canada geese, brant and light geese within each zone
Coastal Zone		
Ducks, Brant, Mergansers and Coot	Nov. 10–Nov. 12 Nov. 24–Jan. 28	Ducks: 6 in aggregate from Duck Limits* below; Mergansers²: 5 Coot: 15 Brant: 1
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 10–Nov. 12 Nov. 24–Feb. 15	5
Youth Waterfowl Days	Nov. 5 and Feb. 11	Same limits for ducks, Canada geese, brant and light geese within each zone

Migratory Bird Statewide Hunting Seasons

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits ¹
Canada Geese (September Season ³)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	15
Light Geese - Regular Season ⁴	Oct. 17–Feb. 15	25, singly or in aggregate
Light Geese - Conservation Order ⁴	Feb. 16–Apr. 8	No limit
Rail (Sora, Clapper and Virginia) and Moorhen (Common gallinule)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Sora & Virginia rail: 25 total or aggregate; Moorhen and Clapper rail: 10
Common Snipe	Sept. 16–Dec. 31	8
Crow	Aug. 8 - Dec. 3	No limit
	Dec. 12 - Mar. 17	
	Mon., Thur., Fri., Sat. Only	

Other Migratory Bird Seasons

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits ¹
Woodcock - North Zone is north of Rt. 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden	Oct. 15 - Nov. 19	3
Woodcock - South Zone: south of Rt. 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden	Nov. 12–Dec. 3 and Dec. 17–Dec. 30	3
Sea Ducks in Special Sea Duck Area Only ⁵ (Black, Surf and White-winged Scoter; Long-tailed Duck and Eider only)	Nov. 5–Jan. 13	5, but no more than 4 scoters in aggregate, 4 long-tailed ducks or 4 eiders
Sea Ducks Outside Special Sea Duck Area	Same as ducks by zone	Count toward the bag limit of 6 ducks
Canada Geese (Special Winter Season Zones) - Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Jan. 23–Feb. 15	5
Swans, harlequin duck, king rail and mourning dove	Closed	No Season

***Ducks Limits** – 6 ducks in aggregate and may not include more than:

Black duck - 1	Canvasback - 2	Long-tailed duck - 4	Ring-necked duck - 6	Wigeon - 6
Black-bellied whistling duck - 6	Eider - 4	Mallard - 4 (including no more than 2 hens)	Ruddy duck - 6	Wood duck - 3
Blue-winged teal - 6	Gadwall - 6	Pintail - 2	Scaup - 2	
Bufflehead - 6	Goldeneye - 6	Redhead - 2	Scoter - 4	
	Green-winged teal - 6		Shoveler - 6	

¹ **Possession Limits:** three times the daily limit for all species during each of the corresponding seasons. Exceptions: light geese and crows have no possession limit.

² **Mergansers** including common, red breasted and hooded, in aggregate of which only 2 may be hooded. Merganser limits are in addition to duck limits. See **Duck Limits**, above.

³ See special regulations only for **September Canada goose** hunting, page 67.

⁴ Light geese include greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese

⁵ **Special Sea Duck Area:** All New Jersey coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further described in 33 CFR 80 Districts 1 and 5.

Waterfowl Zones

Applies to hunting duck, coot, merganser, regular season Canada goose, brant, regular season light goose and Youth Waterfowl Days.

Coastal Zone: That portion of the State seaward of a line beginning at the New York State line in Raritan Bay and extending west along the New York State line to NJ 440 at Perth Amboy; west on NJ 440 to the Garden State Parkway; south on the Garden State Parkway to the shoreline at Cape May and continuing to the Delaware State line in Delaware Bay.

North Zone: That portion of the State west of the Coastal Zone and north of a line extending west from the Garden State Parkway on NJ 70 to the NJ Turnpike, north on the turnpike to U.S. 206, north on U.S. 206 to U.S. 1 at Trenton, west on U.S. 1 to the Pennsylvania State line in the Delaware River.

South Zone: Portion of the State not within the North Zone or the Coastal Zone.



Special Sea Duck Area

The area defined as all New Jersey coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further described in 33 CFR 80 Districts 1 and 5.

Woodcock Zones

North Zone—North of Rt. 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

South Zone—South of Rt. 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

Special Winter Canada Goose Season Hunting Areas

The two hatched areas are open to hunting. Scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/migbirdzones.htm for detailed Special Winter Canada Goose Season hunting areas and all migratory bird hunting zone boundaries.



New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic

Every year, experienced waterfowlers throughout New Jersey join together dedicating their time and energy to present the **New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic**—an all day, free seminar covering “everything you ever wanted to know” about the traditions of waterfowl hunting in New Jersey. This year is no exception!



Forty years ago, the clinic began as an opportunity to introduce young people to the world of waterfowl hunting. However, with the growing interest among men and women, as well as youths, the event has been transformed into an opportunity for anyone 10 and up to spend a fun and interesting day learning about waterfowling!

Our full-day clinic covers waterfowling from A to Z, and includes bird identification, decoys, calling, guns and ammo, boats, safety, laws and ethics, do's and don'ts, clothing and camo, and even a demonstration by working retrievers! The value of the day is priceless! It's a unique chance to ask any question you've ever had about the sport—to be answered by the most experienced waterfowlers in New Jersey. Our instructors have a combined 300 years of experience!

- **Free breakfast and lunch to all attending!**
- **Date:** Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016
- **Location:** Tip Seaman Park, Tuckerton, NJ
- **Time:** 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Please **register in advance** by calling Marty Kristiansen at (732) 977-5648 so we can plan accordingly.

We hope you'll join us this year and share our enthusiasm for all that is waterfowling!

Sportsmen's CENTER

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