

### Highlights of Important Changes in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations

New Jersey sportsmen and women can look forward to another fabulous year of hunting and trapping. The Fish and Game Council, in response to your requests and after consultation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, annually adopts regulatory changes which enhance hunting opportunity and further our wildlife management efforts. The following are highlights of the regulatory revisions and calendar changes.

#### 2006 – 2007 Deer Seasons

Deer Management Zone boundary description only correction for Zone 5. See **Zone Descriptions page 39** for specific boundary information.

#### Winter Bow Season

At press time, proposed regulation amendments are in the final adoption process. These changes, *if adopted by the Fish and Game Council for inclusion in the 2006-2007 Game Code, will affect the January 2007 Winter Bow Season.* Prior to hunting the Winter Bow Season on or after January 1, 2007, visit our Web site at [www.NJfishandwildlife.com](http://www.NJfishandwildlife.com) to confirm if these regulation changes were approved into regulation.

Beginning in 2007, new hunting licenses will contain a separate transportation tag for winter bow antlerless and antlered deer. Buck stubs will be eliminated for antlered deer during all seasons on the 2007 license. When checking in an antlered buck with the Winter

Bow Season antlered transportation tag, no supplemental tag will be issued. Supplemental tags will be issued only for antlerless deer.

Note that when an antlered deer is taken during the January or February 2007 segment of the *Permit Shotgun* or *Permit Muzzleloader* seasons, the buck stub from the 2006 license should be used along with the permit transportation tag. In other words, the procedure for these seasons **does not change.**

For specific information on deer season dates, bag limits and other regulations according to zone, see the *Deer Regulations Sets* p. 46 and *Deer Hunting Regulations* p. 29. 🍂

## The Perfect Deer Feed!

Deer love sweet potatoes!

PLUS...  
most sweet potatoes are too large and heavy for a squirrel to remove.



Sweet potatoes, a locally available feed source that is economical, nutritious and very popular with deer.  
**Buy direct from the farmer!**



For more information, and local sources of New Jersey sweet potato farmers offering deer feed, contact:  
The New Jersey Sweet Potato Industry Commission at: 609-292-8854 (ask for Bill Walker)

A DIRECT HIT...

## SOUTH JERSEY SHOOTING CLUB INC.

Join Now  
(609) 704-9500



Target Ranges  
Field Archery

Winslow NJ

[www.sjerseyshootingclub.com](http://www.sjerseyshootingclub.com)

# Coyote Management: An Integrated Approach

By Tony McBride, Principal Biologist

"Division of Fish and Wildlife, may I help you?"

"Yes, I'd like to report a wolf-like animal that just walked through my yard."

"It was probably a coyote, where do you live?"

"We have coyotes in New Jersey?"

"Yes, they occur in all 21 counties."

"I didn't know that, when will you come out to trap it?"

"We will respond if the animal has caused damage or is acting aggr..."

"But there are children in this neighborhood!"

population is increasing. However, reports of coyote damage have remained fairly stable in recent years. Although coyotes are fairly common, they do not cause a great deal of physical damage. Most calls fielded by WSS staff involve questions or fears about what a coyote *might* do.

Coyotes are typically secretive animals not often seen or heard. Yet there are times during the year when they are more visible and more vocal. Although usually nocturnal, coyotes can be seen any time of day, especially during the breeding season from late January into early March. Vocalizations, consisting of howls, yips and barks, also increase at this time.

In 2002, coyotes in Denville, Morris County became very vocal during the breeding season and were frequently spotted in suburban areas during the day. Coyotes were also sighted near a school playground at this time, which concerned many residents. As a deterrent, WSS staff used a predator caller to lure in a group of coyotes from a wooded area adjacent to the

school, then hazed them with pyrotechnics. Fish and Wildlife then followed up with an educational presentation about coyotes to over 200 concerned Denville residents.

In late winter of 2005, Lower Township in Cape May County was the site of a fatal coyote attack on a poodle. Coyotes became very visible and vocal at this time, and WSS staff fielded several complaints. Fish and Wildlife worked in the area attempting to call in and shoot the marauding animals, but were unsuccessful. WSS personnel again conducted an information session for concerned

residents from the area. Fatal attacks on dogs are not reported very often in New Jersey. Cats are more often victims of coyote attacks, especially free-ranging and feral cats.

Coyotes occasionally attack and consume livestock and poultry. Several times each year reports are received of coyote attacks on sheep. Coyotes typically kill sheep by biting down on the animal's throat and windpipe and then hanging on until the sheep suffocates. Coyotes are efficient sheep killers and a farmer rarely knows his sheep were attacked at night until the carcasses are discovered the following morning. In fact, the farmer's dogs will often sleep through the incident.

Coyote attacks on livestock typically peak during two times of the year. Spring is the first peak when coyotes are busy providing food for their young. At this time, sheep are especially attractive to coyotes as a food source because they are easy to kill and provide plentiful food for the growing pups. The second rise in livestock attacks occurs in the fall when parent coyotes are teaching their pups how to hunt. Skills learned dragging down sheep in the fall by the young coyotes are used in the spring to take deer fawns.

Coyote attacks on humans are rare in the northeast. The only recorded coyote attack on a human in New Jersey occurred in September 1999. A Boonton Township, Morris County woman was walking several dogs when a coyote attacked the dogs. The woman fell during the struggle and broke her leg. The coyote then approached her and bit her on the arm and did not run away until an onlooker beat the coyote with a stick.

Coyote nuisance and damage situations are managed using an integrated approach. This means that several methods are employed to achieve the maximum effect and reduce the likelihood of continued problems. These control measures include offering the complainant technical advice on which preventative measures can be taken to make a property less hospitable to coyotes. Technical advice includes how to install or fortify fencing to prevent access by coyotes and how to use sound deterrent devices or motion lights to scare coyotes. The WSS also uses either trapping or calling and shooting



Patrick Cairn, NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Eastern coyotes differ from their western counterparts with a larger average size and various color phases, including blonde and black. This black female is from Worthington State Forest, Warren County.

This conversation is typical of many calls received on coyotes and coyote damage by the Wildlife Services Section (WSS) of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The WSS fields thousands of calls every year concerning many wildlife species which come into contact with people. On average, the WSS receives about 100 coyote-related calls annually, with the majority of calls from concerned people seeing a coyote for the first time.

The latest statewide coyote population estimate from Fish and Wildlife's Furbearer Research Project is 3,000 animals and the

# TAKE A KID HUNTING



The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is home to this blonde male coyote. It is theorized that past interbreeding between gray wolves and coyotes may be responsible for the larger size and color variations in our eastern coyote.

when necessary to offer relief from individual problem animals.

Several preventive measures can be taken to reduce coyote-human interactions and the likelihood of continued problems with nuisance coyotes. Since coyotes are opportunistic feeders, removing potential food sources such as garbage and birdfeed will keep coyotes looking elsewhere for sustenance. Pets should not be fed outdoors.

Homeowners are also advised to keep their yards well manicured. Coyotes feed primarily on small mammals such as rabbits, mice and voles. Backyard debris or wood piles, as well as weedy and shrubby areas, can harbor these prey animals that attract coyotes.

Coyotes can be discouraged with motion lights outside homes. Leaving radios on at night also deters them. Sheep owners are advised to keep a well-maintained, electrified fence to prevent coyotes from entering the enclosure. Devices are available with lights and sirens that cycle periodically during the night and can be placed in sheep pastures to deter coyotes.

For situations where coyotes are actively returning to a farm to kill sheep, or are behaving aggressively towards people, the WSS will respond to the scene and use a predator call to attract the marauding animals. Depending on the situation, approaching coyotes are either shot with a firearm or hazed with pyrotechnics to frighten them from the area and discourage their return. Farmers may also destroy coyotes when they are found attacking sheep or causing other damage.

As the population increases, coyote sightings will become more common. Sightings alone should not cause alarm but are a signal to take the preventive measures described here. Significant damage and nuisance coyote problems should be reported to the Wildlife Services Section at (908) 735-8793. 🐾

## Youth Upland Bird Hunt Day Saturday, November 4, 2006

Youth hunters with a valid youth license, under the direct supervision of a New Jersey-licensed, non-hunting adult 21 years or older, will be permitted to hunt on licensed semi-wild preserves. Youths can hunt for pheasants, quail, and/or chukars on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006 from 8 a.m. to sunset. This is a great opportunity for hunters belonging to semi-wild preserves to introduce youth hunters to upland bird hunting without competition from adult hunters.



Charles Fenwick, 13, took this 21 pound turkey with a 10-inch beard on the youth turkey hunt day.

## Youth Turkey Hunt Day April 14, 2007

Youth hunters with a valid youth license who have obtained a turkey permit may begin their spring turkey season on the special youth turkey hunting day, April 14, 2007. Youth must be under the direct supervision of an adult 21 years or older who possesses a valid New Jersey hunting license.



# TAKE A KID HUNTING Pheasant Hunt:

## November 4, 2006

The 2006 Take a Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt will allow properly licensed hunters with a valid youth license to hunt on one of nine stocked Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) on Saturday morning, Nov. 4, 2006. In a cooperative effort between the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, volunteer hunting mentors with trained bird dogs will guide youth hunters on a pheasant hunt. This experience will increase the young hunters' opportunity for harvesting a pheasant in a setting which encourages responsible and safe hunting practices.

All guided hunt participants must pre-register and be accompanied to the check-in by a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians are welcomed and encouraged to follow the hunters through the fields. All pre-registered hunters will receive an information packet. One session will be offered, starting at 7 a.m.

Only 50 youth hunters will be allowed on each WMA during each session. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of slots available, a random drawing will be held to select participants. To register, please send the application below to:

Take a Kid Hunting, NJ Div. of Fish & Wildlife, Northern Region Hunter Education, 26 Rt. 173 W, Hampton, NJ 08827. All entries must be postmarked by Oct. 20, 2006. Information will be mailed around Oct. 25, 2006.

### Selected Wildlife Management Areas for the Youth Pheasant Hunt:

WMA	Guided Morning	Open After 1 pm	Open All Day
Whittingham	X	X	
Black River	X	X	
Flatbrook			X
Clinton	X	X	
Assunpink	X	X	
Colliers Mills	X	X	
Glassboro			X
Millville	X	X	
Peaslee	X	X	

**Guided:** Pre-registration required.

**Open—Afternoon:** Any youth hunter with a valid youth hunting license under the direct supervision of a licensed, non-shooting adult (aged 21 or older), will be permitted to hunt on the listed Wildlife Management Areas on Nov. 4, 2006 from 1 p.m. until sunset. No registration required.

**Open—all day:** Any youth hunter with a valid youth hunting license under the direct supervision of a New Jersey-licensed, non-shooting adult (aged 21 or older), will be permitted to hunt on the listed Wildlife Management Areas on Nov. 4, 2006 from 8 a.m. until sunset. No registration required.

### Youth Hunter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Hunting License # \_\_\_\_\_

1. Select WMA (Check only 1):

- Assunpink   
  Black River   
  Clinton   
  Colliers Mills  
 Millville   
  Peaslee   
  Whittingham

2. Have you attended the Take A Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt before?

- NO   
  YES-2005

3. With what gauge shotgun will you be hunting?

- 12   
  16   
  20   
  28   
  .410 caliber

4. If you have a trained hunting dog and would like to participate as a mentor, enter your name and daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Breed of dog: \_\_\_\_\_



Pack out  
what you  
pack in!

**NO LITTERING!**  
*Respect our natural  
 resources and  
 all landowners, whether  
 public or private.  
 The hunter image  
 depends on you; a little  
 litter can make  
 a huge difference.*

# Youth Deer Hunting Days

Youth Bow Hunt, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006  
Youth Firearm Hunt, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006

Youth hunters with a valid youth hunting license corresponding to the season hunted may hunt statewide for one deer on each of the above dates. The youth hunter **MUST** be under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid New Jersey firearm or bow and arrow license corresponding to the season hunted. For the purpose of this section, direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit and not hunting independently. The adult **CANNOT** hunt or possess a firearm or bow. The adult may grunt call or rattle for the youth. In addition to the youth, the adult accompanying the youth should wear the required hunter orange during the youth firearm deer hunt.

During the Youth Firearm Deer Hunt, youths may hunt with either a shotgun or muzzleloader for one deer of either sex. If the youth is hunting with a muzzleloader, both the youth and the adult must have a valid rifle permit. Neither the Earn-A-Buck requirement nor Antler Point Restrictions will apply on these days for the youth hunter. These hunts are extensions of the Fall Bow and Six-day Firearm seasons, so no special season deer permit is required.

The youth hunter must tag his/her deer with a homemade transportation tag. The tag must include the youth hunting license number, sex of deer, number of antler points, date, zone, county and township from which the deer was taken, and must say "Taken during the Fall Bow (or Six-day Firearm) Season Youth Hunt." The youth hunter will not be given a supplemental tag when the deer is checked.

The bag limit for each youth hunt day is only **ONE** deer of either sex. Youth hunters may still harvest two antlered deer during the Six-day Firearm Season and one antlered deer during the Fall Bow Season. Take this great opportunity to introduce youth hunters to deer hunting!



This 8-point buck was harvested during the permit shotgun season by Tommy Augustyniak, 16, in Hunterdon County.

## Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Youth hunters with a valid youth hunting license and under the direct supervision of a non-shooting New Jersey-licensed adult hunter (age 21 or older) will be permitted to hunt for waterfowl from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset on the following dates by zone:

**North Zone . . . . . Sept. 30**

**South Zone . . . . . Nov. 10 and 11**

**Coastal Zone. . . . . Oct. 28**

Ecologically, New Jersey's three waterfowl zones are quite different, each with unique patterns of waterfowl migration. The unique date by waterfowl zone allows the youth days to be held during periods of higher waterfowl abundance within each zone thus enhancing the waterfowl hunting experience for youths and their mentors.

Each youth hunter may participate on all three days. See the New Jersey 2006-07 Migratory Bird Regulations for further details including written zone boundary descriptions and species bag limits. Non-toxic shot is required. Federal and state waterfowl stamps are not required on these youth days. Daily bag limits for ducks, Canada geese (South Zone and Coastal Zone), brant, snow geese, coots, moorhens and gallinules will be the same as those allowed during the regular season. In the North Zone, the daily bag limit for Canada geese is 15 birds.



# Better Ways to Bait Deer

Since 1999, when baiting deer became legal for hunting, many hunters have taken advantage of this technique to bring deer within their effective shooting range. Each year, more hunters set out bait to help them harvest deer. Of course, hunters should check with the landowner or administrative agency before placing bait. Here are several guidelines to improve your hunting success this season without harming wildlife.

## Bait in Moderation

Use the smallest amount possible. The key word is *baiting* not *feeding*. The idea of baiting is to use a small treat to attract the deer into your area. Deer do not gain much, if any, nutrition from most bait because the bacteria in their stomachs is geared for specific, low carbohydrate, natural foods which change with the seasons. If part of your bait remains after a few days, you've put out too much.

## Broadcast Bait over a Large Area

Anytime you concentrate wildlife in one small location, you run the risk of spreading disease. Diseases like chronic wasting disease, which has made headlines in other states but has not been found in New Jersey, might be spread through nose-to-nose contact or even by food contaminated from the saliva of an infected animal. To reduce the risk of spreading wildlife diseases, one should disperse the food over a large area rather than use tube-style feeders or piles of bait.

## Keep Bait Dry

Fungi grow on corn and other grains, when wet. A common grain mold, *aspergillus*, found especially in corn, produces aflatoxin, which can be lethal to wildlife. Birds eating infected bait could contract *aspergillosis*, a lung infection, which can kill wild turkey and other birds.

Store bait in a dry location to discourage mold. By using a spin-style or gravity feeder with a cover, bait stays drier reducing the chance of fungal growth.



Broadcast smaller amounts of bait over a larger area to reduce the risk of spreading wildlife diseases. Remember, most deer will approach bait from downwind.

## Cut Firewood in the Winter

Cutting trees in the wintertime, especially when there is snow cover, offers deer the tender tops of the trees normally out of reach. Cuttings from both softwoods such as cedar and pine or hardwoods such as oak and hickory provide native nutritional food, which will attract deer to your property. Be sure to secure the landowner's permission before cutting. Cutting vegetation is prohibited on state land.

## Use Natural Baits

During the early fall much of the deer's diet consists of acorns. Deer will travel great distances to feed on acorns from white oaks, which they prefer over red oaks. During the few weeks when acorns are falling to the ground, large quantities can be collected. This natural bait can be strewn around your tree stand later in the season when most of the natural acorns have been eaten. Deer might avoid a pile of acorns, but when scattered around, deer will return to the site for days. This technique works best when hunting around oak trees.

## Don't Hunt Directly over Bait

Hunting directly over bait can make deer associate a bait site with danger. Once that happens, they are likely to shift their activity patterns to visit bait sites during the night. This can be avoided and hunting success increased by hunting the travel corridors leading to and from the bait. Remember when selecting your stand location that deer most often will approach the bait from downwind.

## Stop Baiting after the Season

There is no reason to bait throughout the year. Once you are done hunting for the season, it's time to remove the bait pile. Feeding corn, which is high in carbohydrates, to yearling deer in the late winter and early spring can cause chronic gastrointestinal disorders. If you want to feed deer on your land, consider planting food plots.

When done properly, baiting deer for hunting can increase hunter success without compromising the health of local deer and other wildlife populations. Consider these suggestions if you choose to bait deer.



Keith Griglak, NJFish and Wildlife