

Open Season (Both dates inclusive)		Bag and Possession Limits
Sea ducks (oldsquaw, white-winged, surf, black scoters and common eider)	SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREA Sept. 18-Jan. 20	7 daily; 14 possession (No more than 4 of which may be scoters)
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day (See Notes and Exceptions section, page 6)	STATEWIDE Sept. 27	Bag limit for Canada geese is 8. Snow geese closed. Bag limits for ducks and brant same as regular open season. Pintail and canvasback bag is 1.
Ducks (Except pintails and canvasbacks)	NORTH ZONE Oct. 11-Nov. 1 Nov. 15-Jan. 1	6 daily; 12 possession (See duck limits on page 6 for further restrictions)
Brant	SOUTH ZONE Oct. 18-Nov. 29 Dec. 16-Jan. 10	3 daily; 6 possession
Coot	COASTAL ZONE Nov. 1-Nov. 11 Nov. 27-Jan. 24	15 daily; 30 possession
Mergansers		See merganser bag limits on page 6.
Pintails	NORTH ZONE Nov. 15-Nov. 29 Dec. 13-Jan. 1 SOUTH ZONE Oct. 18-Oct. 25 Nov. 4-Nov. 29 COASTAL ZONE Nov. 1-Nov. 11 Dec. 11-Jan. 3	1 daily; 2 possession
Canvasbacks	NORTH ZONE Nov. 28-Jan. 1 SOUTH ZONE Nov. 22-Nov. 29 Dec. 16-Jan. 10 COASTAL ZONE Dec. 22-Jan. 24	1 daily; 2 possession
Canada goose September Season	STATEWIDE Sept. 1-30	8 daily; 16 possession
Canada goose Regular Season	NORTH ZONE Nov. 15-Nov. 29 Dec. 19-Jan. 24 SOUTH ZONE Nov. 22-Dec. 3 Dec. 16-Jan. 24 COASTAL ZONE Nov. 27-Dec. 6 Dec. 15-Jan. 24	2 daily; 4 possession
Canada goose Special Winter Season	SPECIAL WINTER CANADA GOOSE HUNTING AREA Jan. 26-Feb. 14	5 daily; 10 possession
Snow goose (Blue goose)	NORTH ZONE Oct. 11-Feb. 12 SOUTH ZONE Oct. 18-Oct. 25 Nov. 15-Mar. 10 COASTAL ZONE Oct. 2-Feb. 3	15 daily; No possession limit
Crows	STATEWIDE Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays Aug. 11-Dec. 6 Dec. 15-Mar. 20	No limits
Sora rail Virginia rail	STATEWIDE Sept. 1-Nov. 8	25 daily or in possession singly or in aggregate
Common gallinule (Moorhen) Clapper rail	STATEWIDE Sept. 1-Nov. 8	10 daily each; 20 possession of each species
Common snipe	STATEWIDE Sept. 19-Jan. 3	8 daily; 16 possession
Woodcock	WOODCOCK NORTH ZONE Oct. 16-Nov. 8 WOODCOCK SOUTH ZONE Nov. 8-Nov. 29 Dec. 26-Dec. 27	3 daily; 6 possession

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

Notes and Exceptions
<p><b>Sea Duck Limit</b>—Daily bag limit in the special sea duck area and during the sea duck season is 7 sea ducks; no more than 4 of which may be scoters. Outside the special sea duck area and during the regular duck season, sea ducks are included in the daily bag limit of six (6) ducks.</p> <p><b>Pintail Regulations</b> The bag limit for pintails is 1 bird per day during that portion of the duck season open for pintails in each zone. The season for pintails is closed at all other times.</p> <p><b>Canvasback Regulations</b> The bag limit for canvasbacks is 1 bird per day during that portion of the duck season open for canvasbacks in each zone. The season for canvasbacks is closed at all other times.</p> <p><b>Duck Bag Limits</b> Daily bag limit is 6 ducks and it may not include more than: 4 mallards (including no more than 2 hens) 4 scoters 3 scaup 2 wood ducks</p> <p><b>Merganser Bag Limits</b> (Common, red breasted and hooded) Daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only one of which may be a hooded merganser. Possession limit is 10, except hooded mergansers which is 2 birds. Merganser limits are in addition to duck limits.</p> <p><b>Other Duck Game Species</b> Gadwall Green-winged teal Blue-winged teal Shoveler Bufflehead Wigeon Goldeneye Ruddy duck Ring-necked duck</p> <p><b>Closed Season:</b> For all swans, harlequin ducks, king rails and mourning doves.</p> <p><b>Falconry (Hawking)</b> Special Season dates and bag limits. Contact NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.</p> <p><b>Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day</b> September 27, 2003: Open for youths with a hunting license and accompanied by a non-shooting individual at least 21 years of age with a hunting license.</p> <p><b>BANDED WATERFOWL</b>—Report banded waterfowl by calling 1-800-327-BAND. This phone will be staffed during normal business hours (Mon.-Fri.) during September. After Oct. 1, this phone will be staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week. Alternatively, report bands via the Internet at <a href="http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/">www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/</a></p>

### MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING IS NOT PERMITTED ON SUNDAYS IN NEW JERSEY.

**HUNTING HOURS**—See Restriction (a), page 1 for exception on November 8, 2003. See page 68 of the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for sunrise/sunset table.

1. Ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, moorhens, snipe—**1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.** For example, if sunrise is 6:30 AM and sunset is 5:00 PM, then hunting hours for these species are 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM on this day.
2. Woodcock—**sunrise to sunset.**
3. Crows—**sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.**

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

1. To hunt crows you need a New Jersey hunting license—See 2003-04 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for hunting license requirements and fees.
2. To hunt woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules you need a New Jersey hunting license and Harvest Information Program (HIP) number.
3. To hunt ducks, geese and/or brant you need a New Jersey hunting license, HIP number, Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp. Both Federal and State stamps are required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older and must be signed across the face in ink. Federal stamps are available at US Post Offices. State stamps are available from agents who sell hunting licenses.

### HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)

Hunters must obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number **before** hunting ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules in New Jersey by calling **1-800-WETLAND** or by registering through the Division's website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com/hipprog.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/hipprog.htm). The HIP number and phone call are **FREE** and the automated system is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Have your hunting license number when you call and write your HIP number on the front of your hunting license in the space next to "2003/04 Fall/Winter NJ HIP#". The HIP number is valid from September 1, 2003 until March 10, 2004. If you hunt migratory birds in another state, you will need to get a HIP number in that state following that state's HIP procedures. Information collected in HIP is confidential and is used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting migratory bird harvest surveys. As in the past, the USFWS will mail harvest survey information to a small, random sample of HIP registrants. Call 1-888-764-7343 if you have problems getting your HIP number.

Visit our Division Website at: [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)



# NEW JERSEY 2003-04 MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS



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

## MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE 2003-04 SEASON

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

## STATE REGULATIONS

State laws and regulations may be more stringent but not more lenient than those prescribed in the federal code (Title 50).

### Restrictions:

(a) Should any open season on migratory game birds, including waterfowl, be set by Federal regulation which would include the date of November 8, 2003, the starting time on such date will be 8:00 A.M. to coincide with the opening of the small game season on that date. However, this shall not preclude the hunting of migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on the tidal marshes of the State as regularly prescribed throughout the season by Federal regulations.

(b) There shall be no open season for hunting any game birds or animals including migratory waterfowl:

—In or on the shores of the Shark River in Monmouth County.

—In that portion of the Manasquan River from the ocean inlet upstream to Route 70 bridge.

—On Herring Island and that portion of Barnegat Bay lying between northern and southern tips of Herring Island easterly to adjacent shoreline of Mantoloking Boro, Ocean County.

—On Parker Creek and Oceanport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, southwest or upstream of the Conrail R.R. bridge.

(c) Waterfowl hunting on Delaware River is governed by State boundaries and restricted to respective state seasons.

(d) Permanent blinds may not be constructed on some State Wildlife Management Areas. See page 58 of the 2003-04 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest.

(e) Hunting with firearms is prohibited on November 7, 2003 on those State Wildlife Management Areas designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp areas except in tidal marsh open to an ongoing waterfowl season. See page 6 of the 2003-04 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for these areas.

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

**REPORT BANDED BIRDS—1-800-327-BAND OR AT  
[www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/)**

## SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

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

**RESTRICTION**—No person shall take migratory game birds:

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

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

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

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

—From or with the aid or use of other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.

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

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

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

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

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

**DAILY BAG LIMIT**—No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

**TAGGING**—No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature.
2. The hunter's address.
3. The total number of birds involved, by species.
4. The dates such birds were killed.

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

**SHIPMENT**—No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

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

### NONTOXIC SHOT REGULATIONS

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

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

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

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR—609-652-1665

Supawna Meadows NWR—856-935-1487

Wallkill River NWR—973-702-7266

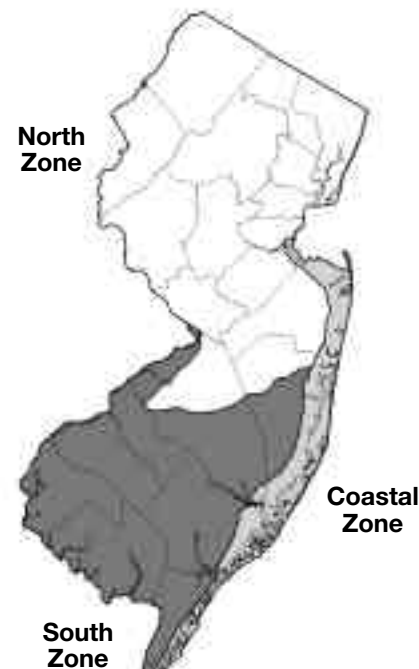
Cape May NWR—609-463-0994

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

### HUNTING ZONES

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

**North Zone**—That portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway (GSP); then south on the GSP to its intersection with Route 70; then west on Route 70 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then north on the Turnpike to its intersection with Route 206; then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 1, Trenton; then west on Route 1 to its intersection with the Pennsylvania State boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania boundary in the Delaware River to its intersection with the New York State boundary.



**South Zone**—That portion of New Jersey within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Route 1; then east along Route 1 to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then south along the Turnpike to its intersection with Route 70; then east along Route 70 to its intersection with the GSP; then south on the GSP to Cape May City; then south to the Delaware State boundary in Delaware Bay; then north along the Delaware State boundary in the Delaware Bay and Delaware River to the Pennsylvania boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to Route 1, Trenton.

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

### Woodcock Zones:

**North Zone**—North of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

**South Zone**—South of Route 70 from Point Pleasant to Camden.

**Special Sea Duck Area:** Defined as any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in addition any tidal waters of any bay which are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island or emergent vegetation. In this area, hunters must limit their hunting to open water areas at least one mile from any land or emergent vegetation in any direction.

## Special Winter Canada Goose Season Hunting Areas



For the north, it is that portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206 in Bedminster (Exit 18); then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 94; then west along Route 94 to the toll bridge in Columbia; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to the beginning point.

For the south, it is that portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs west from the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom along Route 72 to Route 70; then west along Route 70 to Route 206; then south along Route 206 to Route 536; then west along Route 536 to Route 322; then west along Route 322 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 553 (Buck Rd.); then south along Route 553 to Route 40; then east along Route 40 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 552 (Sherman Ave.); then west along Route 552 to Carmel Rd.; then south along Carmel Rd. to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 555; then south along Route 555 to Route 553; then east along Route 553 to Route 649; then north along Route 649 to Route 670; then east along Route 670 to Route 47; then north along Route 47 to Route 548; then east along Route 548 to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 50; then south along Route 50 to Route 9; then south along Route 9 to Route 625 (Sea Isle City Blvd.); then east along Route 625 to the Atlantic Ocean; then north to the beginning point.