

# The Bird Flu:

## What You Need to Know

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish and Wildlife

The highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus has never been found in New Jersey or North America, but your help is needed for tracking this virus. If you find sick or dead birds, do not handle them.

Report dead birds to the USDA – Wildlife Services at (866) 4-USDA-WS

## Background

Reports of H5N1-infected birds in Asia, Europe and Africa have increased since this strain was first confirmed. It is found mainly in poultry and wild birds, but may occur in some mammals. Despite a significant surveillance effort in domestic and wild birds, to date the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus has not been found in North America.

### What surveillance efforts are being done to detect Bird Flu?

Federal and state agricultural and wildlife agencies are conducting continent-wide surveillance for high pathogenic H5N1 virus. Tens of thousands of wild bird samples are tested each year. In 2009, more than 44,000 wild birds were tested nationwide and in New Jersey, cooperators sampled 1,625 birds of 28 species.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is working in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Wildlife Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study to monitor wild birds. Emphasis in wild bird surveillance will be on wetland migratory birds, particularly waterfowl. Waterfowl hunters play a key role in surveillance. Hunters may be approached by various wildlife agency staff at key hunting sites with a request to take samples from harvested birds. Most samples are taken via swabs from the cloaca and mouth of harvested birds. Bird mortality events suggestive of avian influenza will also be investigated.

### Information For Hunters

Although the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus is mainly a poultry disease, wild birds appear to play some role in its spread. Currently there is little evidence that hunting dogs can contract the virus. The risk to hunters appears low, but much is still unknown about this virus. Hunters can take reasonable steps to minimize their chance of contracting any potential bird virus.



### Precautions for Handling Harvested Wild Birds

- ✓ Do not handle or consume game animals that are obviously sick or found dead.
- ✓ Wear rubber gloves when cleaning birds.
- ✓ Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning birds.
- ✓ Keep your hands away from your face and mouth when cleaning birds.
- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after handling birds.
- ✓ Disinfect your work area and knives with a 10% bleach solution.
- ✓ Cook birds completely. The juices should be clear with no pink meat. Use a meat thermometer to ensure the internal meat temperature has reached a minimum of 165° F.

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Regulations in **red** are new this year.  
Purple text indicates an important note.

- A trapping license is required and a Trapper Education course must be passed. See page 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.
- A trap identification number issued by Fish and Wildlife may be used in lieu of a name/address tag. A photocopy of your current and valid trapping license plus a daytime telephone number will be required. Contact the Bureau of Wildlife Management at (609) 292-6685 for more information.
- No traps or trap stakes are to be set prior to times indicated in this section.
- 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.
- **Any person (including a farmer) who traps a coyote must notify a Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office within 24 hours.**
- Licensed trappers at least 18 years of age and in possession of a valid rifle permit may carry a .22 caliber rifle and use only .22 caliber short rimfire cartridges to kill legally trapped animals other than muskrat. 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 [WildlifeLicense.com/NJ](http://WildlifeLicense.com/NJ). Applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply.

Zone maps, boundary descriptions and permit quotas are available on our Web site 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.

Beaver trappers may indicate on their application if they wish to be considered for a site-specific beaver permit within your chosen zone. Site-specific permits are issued for properties where confirmed beaver damage or nuisance problems exist. A separate, random lottery will determine site-specific

permit holders; however, applicants who did not receive a zone-wide beaver permit will have first opportunity for a site-specific permit.

### Other beaver/otter rules and regulations:

- Holders of a beaver trapping zone permit may use a maximum of five traps daily.
- Holders of a site-specific permit may use an additional five traps daily only at the location specified on the permit.
- Holders of a river otter trapping permit may use a maximum of three traps daily.
- All beaver and otter trap tags must be clearly visible above the water or ice.
- **A Fish and Wildlife-issued Beaver Transportation Tag or Otter Transportation Tag must be affixed to the beaver or otter carcass immediately upon removal from the trap.**
- 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 may result in a denial of future trapping permits.**
- 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. 19, 2011. Pelts may also be registered at Space Farms, Sussex County, in conjunction with the New Jersey Trappers Association's January fur auction (if held). Successful trappers who cannot attend the scheduled dates should contact either Joseph Garris at (908) 735-7040 or Andrew Burnett at (609) 748-2058 prior to February 12 to make alternate arrangements.

### Fisher

Fishers are returning, naturally and through re-introduction effort in New York and Pennsylvania, to most of their historic range in the northeastern United States. Fishers have been documented in several northern New Jersey counties and as far south as Cape May County.

The Fish and Game Council defines fisher as a furbearer to clarify its status; however there is no open trapping season at this time; possession is not permitted. If you find a live fisher on your trapline, do not disturb the animal or the set but immediately notify Fish and Wildlife by calling 1-877-WARNDEP (927-6337). A Fish and Wildlife technician will provide further instructions. For a

dead fisher on your trapline, call 1-877-WARNDEP; a Fish and Wildlife technician will make arrangements to pick up the animal. Biological samples will be taken from all fisher carcasses then analyzed for age and reproductive status. The data collected will be instrumental to determine when an open season may be established in the future.

### Traps, Body Gripping Restraining Type (Snares)

- 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 natural baits consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with body gripping restraining snares must be covered or concealed from view except when placed at least 30 feet from any trap set.

### Body gripping restraining snares set for mink, muskrat and nutria 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 and 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.

### Body gripping restraining snares set for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon, skunk and weasel shall be subject to the following requirements:

- All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable of crucible wire measuring from 5/64 to 1/8 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel;
- 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, Conibear or Killer-type

No Conibear 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.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.  
**Purple** text indicates an important note.

It is illegal to use, set or possess a Conibear or killer-type trap having a jaw spread greater than 6 inches without a permit for beaver or river otter. A Conibear 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 steel-jawed leghold traps anywhere in New Jersey.

### Coyote, Red and Gray Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum and Weasel Trapping

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

**Season Dates:**  
 Nov. 15–Mar. 15 except  
 Jan. 1–Mar. 15 on WMAs

**Bag Limits:**  
 No daily bag limit for any of these species.

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

No open fisher season.  
 Call (877) 927-6337 to report any fisher capture.

- The following wildlife management areas (WMAs) are closed to trapping until Jan. 1: Assunpink, 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.
- North Zone: 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: Those portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties lying south of the aforementioned line.
- Holders of both a Special Beaver Permit and a Special Site-Specific Beaver Permit may use five additional traps daily on the property listed in the Special Site-Specific Permit.

### Zone Permit Beaver and River Otter Trapping

Mandatory pelt registration:  
 February 19, 2011

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

**Season Dates:**  
 Dec. 26–Feb. 9 except  
 Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on WMAs

**Number of Traps Allowed:**  
 Beaver—5 per zone per day  
 Otter—3 per day

**Bag Limits:**  
 Beaver—10 per site-specific permit,  
 8 beaver per special 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

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.

# Bobwhite Action Plan Developed to Stem Game Bird's Decline

By Paul Castelli, Research Scientist II, Bureau of Wildlife Management

► Long-term surveys of bobwhite numbers in New Jersey document what farmers and other landowners already knew: bobwhite numbers have steadily declined for over 40 years and they have disappeared in many areas of the state. The U.S. Geological Survey's North American Breeding Bird Survey showed that during the late 1960s, the average number of bobwhite heard calling in New Jersey south of Route 33 was approximately 35 per survey route, yet has averaged less than one bird per route during recent years (Figure 1). Radio telemetry studies of bobwhite recently conducted in conjunction with the University of Delaware found that bobwhite reproduction is adequate, with 14.2 eggs per nest and an estimated 45 percent hatch rate for nests (Collins et al. 2009). However, the estimated annual adult mortality rate of the radioed bobwhite was an astonishing 94.7 percent, much too high for the population to sustain. Avian predators dominated mortality causes; however, house cat mortalities were noteworthy. Mortality due to hunting was low (Lohr et al. 2010). The already high rate of adult mortality was even higher during the winter of 2009–2010 due to record snowfall.

Biologists know that bobwhite population models identify winter mortality as a critical portion of annual survival (Sandercock et al. 2008). Reducing hunting mortality is one step biologists can take to lower mortality relatively quickly. Habitat loss and fragmentation are known to be the ultimate causes of the bobwhite's decline, making the restoration of suitable habitat the primary means by which we can recover the bobwhite population. To address all these issues, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has prepared a plan for the recovery of New Jersey's bobwhite population. The full plan can be found on Fish and Wildlife's Web site at [NJFishandWildlife.com/bobwhite\\_plan10.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/bobwhite_plan10.htm). The Action Plan is summarized below.



## ► NEW JERSEY NORTHERN BOBWHITE ACTION PLAN

### Goals and Actions

- » **GOAL I:** Restore the bobwhite population in the New Jersey wild bobwhite zone to the average density found in 1980.
- » **GOAL II:** Identify and engage stakeholders in development and implementation of this action plan.
- » **GOAL III:** Identify, connect, improve and increase habitat areas suitable for bobwhite.
- » **GOAL IV:** Maintain and improve population surveys and associated databases necessary to assess the population status of bobwhite.
- » **GOAL V:** Conduct research to improve our understanding of bobwhite, their population dynamics and their relationships with habitat, the environment and harvest levels.
- » **GOAL VI:** Provide for human use consistent with the New Jersey Northern Bobwhite Action Plan.

### The Hunt Plan

A New Jersey Northern Bobwhite Hunt Plan was produced as part of Goal VI of the Action Plan. The hunt plan goal is to provide sport hunting opportunity for bobwhite consistent with action plan goals and appropriate for the bird's annual population level.

Guidelines used to develop the hunt plan include maintaining desired population levels, maximizing hunting opportunity, as appropriate, keeping regulations simple and learning how harvest regulations affect the population. Bobwhite harvest regulation packages that give consideration for recovery from low population levels and for taking advantage of additional harvest opportunity at high populations are proposed.

The average number of bobwhite heard on the Breeding Bird Survey routes will be used to determine the appropriate harvest regulation. At present, the 0.6 bobwhite per route heard during last year's survey demonstrates that New Jersey's population of this game bird is too low to support a hunting season. Therefore, the next Game Code proposes to close the hunting season for wild bobwhite beginning in the fall of 2011. Once the three-year average Breeding Bird Survey count exceeds 2.5 bobwhite per route, a limited hunting season will resume.

### Stocking

Over a century of bobwhite stocking failed to increase wild bobwhite populations or re-establish wild populations. This is not unexpected as habitats have a certain carrying capacity and therefore can only sustain a finite number of birds. Additionally, pen-raised bobwhite are generally unsuited for survival in the wild (Roseberry et al. 1987, Perez et al. 2002). Releasing pen-raised bobwhite for put-and-take hunting has several potential negative consequences.

Pen-raised bobwhite released into the habitats of wild bobwhite could result in increased mortality of native bobwhite from both harvest and predation. Usually, hunter numbers, effort and harvest decline as bobwhite abundance declines. Stocking eliminates this phenomenon as hunters can always expect to encounter bobwhite, leading to sustained hunting pressure on wild bobwhite residing in stocked areas. Researchers found that wild bobwhite were attracted to the calling of recently released pen-raised bobwhite and within one hour were usually found within 50 yards of the released birds (DeVos and Speake 1995). Eggert et al. (2006) found that stocking pen-raised bobwhite affected behavior, lowered survival and increased the hunter susceptibility of wild birds. Hunters have no way to ensure that only stocked birds are harvested. In addition, artificially high numbers of bobwhite may attract non-human predators thus leading to higher predation of wild birds.

Pen-raised bobwhite that breed with wild birds may lower the genetic quality of the population (DeVos and Speake 1995). Evans et al. (2006) found that genetic quality was reduced in wild x pen-raised bobwhite crosses. Released bobwhite that survive until (or are released during) the breeding season compromise efforts to measure population indices for wild populations. Released bobwhite are also a potential avenue for disease transmission to wild birds (Landers et al. 1991).

The New Jersey Northern Bobwhite Action Plan calls for stocking to be restricted in order to protect wild bobwhite populations from the negative effects of stocking. The hunting season length and bag limit for all stocked, pen-raised bobwhite will be the same as for wild bobwhite, except for semi-wild and commercial preserves that were properly licensed prior to or during the 2009-2010 season. Stocking of pen-raised bobwhite on Fish and Wildlife's wildlife management areas (WMAs) within the wild bobwhite zone will be restricted to Greenwood and Peaslee WMAs and supplemented with chukar partridge and/or pheasant stocking. Private bobwhite stocking is strongly discouraged. Stocking of pen-raised bobwhite will not be permitted from May 2 through August 31. Hunters on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserve lands will be encouraged to stock ring-necked pheasants or chukar partridge in place of pen-raised bobwhite.

**Citations for the complete plan:**

Collins, B. M., C. K. Williams, and P. M. Castelli. 2009. Reproduction and microhabitat selection in a sharply declining northern bobwhite population. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 121(4):688-695.

DeVos, Jr., T. and D.W. Speake. 1995. Effects of releasing pen-raised northern bobwhite on survival rates of wild populations of northern bobwhite. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 23(2):267-273.

Evans, K.O., M.D. Smith, L.W. Burger, Jr., R.J. Chambers, A.E. Houston, and R. Carlisle. 2006. Release of pen-reared bobwhites: potential consequences to the genetic integrity of resident wild populations. Pages 121-133 in *Gamebird 2006*. S.B. Cederbaum, B.C. Faircloth, T.M. Terhune, J.J. Thompson, and J.P. Carroll, eds. 2009. University of Georgia. Athens, GA. 541p.

Eggert, D.A., B.S. Mueller, L. Robinette and S.D. Wellendorf. 2006. Comparison of survival, productivity, movements and habitat use of pre-season released quail on wild northern bobwhites on Groton Plantation, South Carolina. Pages 396-408 in *Gamebird 2006*. S.B. Cederbaum, B.C. Faircloth, T.M. Terhune, J.J. Thompson and J.P. Carroll, eds. 2009. University of Georgia. Athens, GA. 541p.

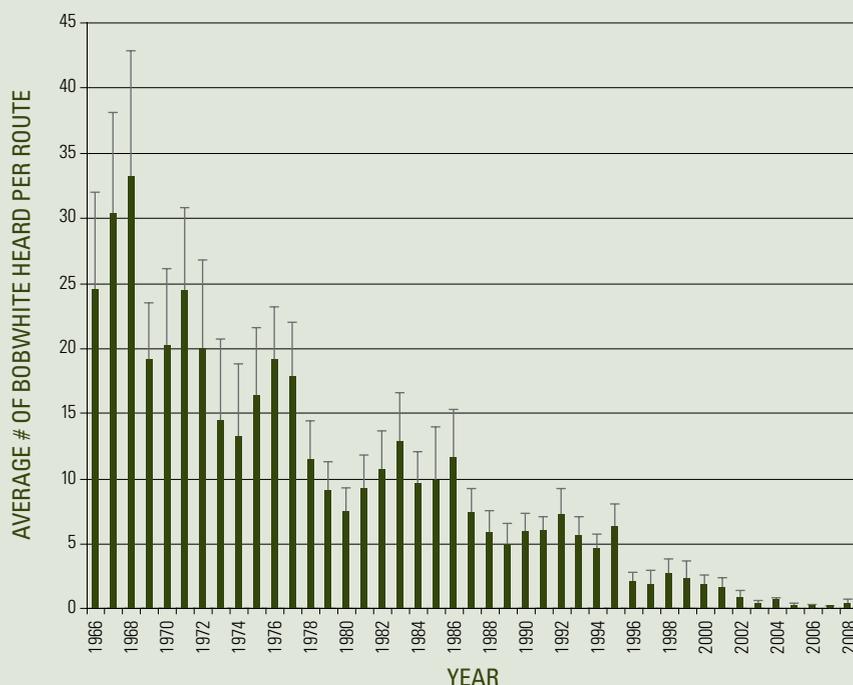
Landers, J.L., L.P. Simoneaux, and D.C. Sisson, eds. 1991. The effects of released, pen-raised bobwhites on wild bird populations: Workshop Proceedings. Tall Timbers, Inc. Tallahassee, FL. 36p.

Lohr, M., Collins, B.M., Williams, C. K., and P. M. Castelli. 2010. Life on the Edge: Northern Bobwhite Ecology at the Northern Periphery of Their Range. *Journal of Wildlife Management* In press.

Perez, R.E., D.E. Wilson, and K.D. Gruen. 2002. Survival and flight characteristics of captive-reared and wild northern bobwhite in southern Texas. *Northern Bobwhite Quail Symposium Proceedings* 5:81-85.

Roseberry, J.L., D.L. Ellsworth, and K.A. Blake. 1987. Comparative post-release behavior and survival of wild, semi-wild, and game farm bobwhite. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 15:449-455.

► Figure 1. Average number of bobwhite heard in New Jersey statewide during USGS North American Breeding Bird Surveys, 1966–2008.



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# Migratory Bird

## REGULATIONS

**THE COMPLETE MIGRATORY** bird regulations will be published in the *New Jersey 2010–11 Migratory Bird Regulations* booklet available in September at license agents, Fish and Wildlife offices and on the Fish and Wildlife Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com. Migratory bird season dates published in the Migratory Bird Regulations booklet supersede those printed in this *Digest* if there are discrepancies.

### Migratory Bird Seasons

Season	Area	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
September Canada Goose*	Statewide	Sept. 1–30	15
Rail and moorhen	Statewide	Sept. 1 – Nov. 8	<b>Sora &amp; Virginia rail:</b> 25 total or aggregate; <b>moorhen and clapper rail:</b> 10
Sea Duck	Special Sea Duck Area	Sept. 23 – Jan. 25, 2011	7, except no more than 4 scoters
Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 17 – Jan. 1, 2011	8
Crow (Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)	Statewide	Aug. 9 – Dec. 4 & Dec. 13 – Mar. 19	No limit
Woodcock	North Zone	Oct. 14 – Nov. 6	3
	South Zone	Nov. 6–27 & Dec. 31–Jan. 1, 2011	
Mourning Dove	Statewide	Closed	No Season
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	North Zone	Oct. 2	As for regular season for all species
	South Zone	Nov. 5–6	
	Coastal Zone	Oct. 30	

\* See special regulations only for September Canada goose hunting, page 75.

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## 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 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp are required for waterfowl hunters 16 years and older and must be signed in ink. New Jersey Stamp Certifications (the state stamp itself no longer exists) are available from license agents and from the Licenses and Permits button on Fish and Wildlife's Web site. Federal stamps are available from some U.S. post offices and online at <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm>.

### Information For Migratory Bird Hunters

#### Important Reminder in Obtaining HIP Certification

Hunters, including youths, must purchase a Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification before hunting ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, rails, snipe, coot or moorhens (gallinules) in New Jersey and must always hunt with proof in possession in the license holder. HIP certifications are valid from Sept. 1, 2010 to March 10, 2011.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use this confidential information only to conduct migratory bird harvest surveys. Only a small, random group will be surveyed.

Hunters may purchase an HIP certification via three sales outlets:

#### 1. License Agents

HIP certification may be purchased at any license agent for a \$2 fee. Hunters will have their HIP certification printed on their license.

#### 2. Internet Sales Site

Hunters may purchase an HIP certification for a \$2 fee on Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site ([WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/](http://WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/)) then self-print the HIP certifications.

#### 3. Telephone Sales Site

Hunters may purchase their HIP certifications using Fish and Wildlife's telephone sales process (888) 277-2015. Hunters will receive a transaction number; record this number for immediate proof of completing an HIP certification. The actual HIP certification will be mailed to the hunter. Note: purchases made via telephone will incur an additional shipping and handling fee of \$5.13.

## Attention Waterfowl Hunters:

### Special Regulations Permitted During September Canada Goose Season

At the recommendation of the Atlantic Flyway Council, the US Fish and Wildlife Service approved the use of special regulations to help curb the growth of resident population Canada geese. These special regulations are optional.

1. Electronic calls are permitted.
2. Unplugged guns are permitted. Magazine and chamber may hold up to seven shells.
3. Hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. This allows hunting one half hour later than past years.

**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 reinstall 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.



## 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!

Thirty 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 children, 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. 3, 2010
- **Location:** Tip Seaman Park, Tuckerton, NJ
- **Time:** 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Please **register in advance** so we can plan accordingly. Call George Larson at (732) 859-6752 or write him at [widgeon1123@yahoo.com](mailto:widgeon1123@yahoo.com).

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

### 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 or have a certificate mailed to them 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. ♪

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### Attention Waterfowl Hunters: Important Change Regarding New Jersey State Waterfowl Stamp

Beginning in 2009, the physical artwork for the New Jersey waterfowl or duck stamp was discontinued. However, waterfowl hunters 16 years and older are still required to comply with the law and purchase a state waterfowl stamp certification through New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's licensing system prior to hunting. State stamp certifications are available from license agents or from Fish and Wildlife's online license page at <http://www.WildlifeLicense.com/nj/>. When the stamp certification is purchased at the same time as a license, proof of purchase will print on the license. Those who purchase a stamp certification at a time other than when the hunting license was purchased will receive a separate, printed stamp certificate. Stamp certifications can also be purchased online and then self-printed. The price of the stamp certification remains \$5 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents.



In New Jersey, the physical artwork stamp was discontinued to save administrative costs allowing more funds to be dedicated to purchasing waterfowl habitat for conservation and hunting. Artwork and paper stamps have been discontinued in nearly half of the states that require duck stamps.

### The New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Program: Did you know?

The New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Program has been a success story for waterfowl and their habitat. Since its inception in 1984, the Stamp Program has raised over \$2.9 million leading to the purchase of 16,184 acres, from Sussex to Cape May, nearly all of which is open to waterfowl hunting. The Stamp Program has also funded habitat improvement projects and research activities related to habitat carrying capacity research studies in New Jersey.

Monies in the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Account are specifically and legally earmarked "...only for funding acquisition, protection, maintenance, improvement and enhancement of waterfowl habitat and associated wetlands...and access sites for public use of waterfowl habitat areas." New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Account monies cannot be used by the general state treasury or even for administrative costs within the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The Waterfowl Advisory Committee oversees the New Jersey Duck Stamp Program. This nine-member volunteer committee was established by the Waterfowl Stamp Act of 1984.

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# Research and Management of Resident Canada Geese

By: Ted Nichols, Principal Biologist and Paul M. Castelli, Research Scientist II, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and Katherine Guarena, Graduate Student, University of Delaware.

On a mild summer morning, a wildlife photographer paddles into the headwaters of a New Jersey lake hopeful for a chance at some memorable shots. As she rounds a bend in the creek, a Canada goose brood resting on a mossy hummock provides for an exceptional photo that she will use to adorn her den. Meanwhile, across town, a zealous linebacker tackles a high school football fullback during a grueling practice session. The fullback stands and looks with disgust at his now green-stained, white jersey and uses his fingers to flick away the goose feces that are wedged in his helmet's facemask. Love them or hate them, resident Canada geese have expanded their population in recent decades resulting in mixed impacts on humans who share the land with these stately birds.

The opportunity to observe, study and hunt resident Canada geese has been a positive aspect of their increase; however, nuisance and damage problems have developed. Understanding the population dynamics of resident Canada geese is critical to properly manage this species. To accomplish this, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife researchers and other collaborators are designing a comprehensive population model that will incorporate information on productivity, annual survival, movement, harvest, population control and other demographic factors. The ultimate use of such a population model is to understand how the various factors affect the resident Canada goose population, especially which factors are most important in limiting population growth. A comprehensive resident Canada goose population model will allow waterfowl managers to select actions most likely to meet management objectives and also predict both the outcome and the timeframe needed for any proposed action.

A key component in the development of this model is the annual production of young birds into the population, generally termed "recruitment" by biologists. Arctic-breeding, migrant Canada geese are subjected to harsh and unforgiving spring breeding season conditions. In contrast, resident geese experience relatively tranquil spring breeding conditions, allowing them ample time to produce and rear their young. Human development of urban and suburban areas throughout the state has provided both an increase in the quality and quantity of breeding habitat for resident geese, and a refuge from hunting pressures and predators. The expansion of corporate parks and recreational areas with manicured open lawns and artificial water sources has created an ideal habitat for the nesting and brood rearing of resident geese. This development has also decreased the amount of land suitable for hunter harvest, limiting the major mortality factor of these birds. Consequently, resident geese, on average, are more productive, recruit more birds into the population each year, and survive at a higher rate than their migratory counterparts.

The recruitment portion of the comprehensive population model under development will incorporate historic data collected in New Jersey during the 1980s and 1990s as well as data collected during the 2009 and 2010 breeding seasons. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has collaborated with the University of Delaware to conduct the most recent years study on productivity and recruitment of resident Canada geese. Researchers locate and monitor nests throughout the state to determine how many offspring are produced, and how variables such as predators and weather conditions affect nesting success. In addition, researchers perform a mark-recapture study of goslings from hatch until fledge to determine the survival of these birds during their most vulnerable life stage. Recruitment data from these studies will play a major role in completion of the resident Canada goose population model.

Photo: Marissa Gnoinski/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife



Photo: Trevor Watts/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

## Canada Goose Control Information

Although a valuable wildlife resource, resident population Canada geese still cause considerable damage. Because resident population geese are migratory birds, primary management authority lies with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with secondary involvement at the state level. In 2007 the Service released a final rule on managing resident population Canada geese in the United States through three primary components including depredation orders, expanded hunting methods and other control methods.

Many states, including New Jersey have implemented the majority of the components allowed under Service regulations as part of an Integrated Damage Management Program (IDMP). This IDMP includes expanded Canada goose hunting opportunities such as extended hours plus the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls during September seasons as well as enabling several of the various federal depredation orders. The depredation order most useful New Jersey's citizens is the federal Nest and Egg Depredation Order.

Landowner's experiencing problems may obtain a free permit for removing or treating goose nests and eggs on their property between March 1 and June 30. Landowners must register for authorization to conduct this work at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx> prior to destroying nests or eggs. Considerable flexibility is allowed regarding whom and on which types of properties the work may be done; check the *Frequently Asked Questions* tab on the Web site for further information. Detailed information on treating nests and eggs is found on the registration Web site by clicking the *Management of Canada Goose Nesting* tab.

New Jersey has also authorized the use of more specialized federal depredation orders for resident population Canada geese which includes airports, agricultural interests, and locations affecting public health or safety. Additional information on these specialized depredation orders is at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com). Click on *Canada Goose Control Information*.

Non-lethal control also plays an important role in any integrated damage management program for Canada geese. Non-lethal alternatives—including habitat modification, harassment techniques (i.e., scare devices, dogs, pyrotechnics) and implementing "no feeding" policies—can be used at any time. A synopsis of non-lethal techniques is found at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/state\\_office/newjersey\\_info.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/state_office/newjersey_info.shtml) or by calling the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Wildlife Services (USDA-W.S.) at (866) 4-USDA-W.S.

The Service also allows the continued use of depredation permits, a more aggressive control (i.e., capture/removal, shooting) of geese in damage situations. In addition, depredation permits enable the management of Canada geese during seasons of the year when other populations (i.e., migrants) of Canada geese are present. Depredation permit applicants must first demonstrate that non-lethal methods were previously attempted and will continue to be used along with the requested lethal methods. For Service permit applications, go to <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13>. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture -Wildlife Services can assistance with the permitting process by calling (866) 4-USDA-W.S.

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