

Bear Hunting

REGULATIONS

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

THE BLACK BEAR hunting season consists of two separate segments, A and B. Segment A is October 14–19, 2019. The season bag limit is one bear per permit, but only one bear may be taken per segment, regardless of the number of permits the hunter holds. In total, a hunter with valid permits may harvest up to two bears, one in each segment.

State Lands

All state lands, including all state forests, parks, recreation areas, historic sites, natural areas and wildlife management areas, were closed to hunting of black bears as of August 30, 2018 and will remain closed for the 2019–2020 season.

Black Bear Hunting Permits

A total of 11,000 black bear hunting permits, allocated by bear management zone, will be available to properly licensed hunters and farmer hunters. These permits are valid for the entire black bear hunting season, including Segment A in October

Don't Wait to Buy Bear Permits!

There is no lottery for bear permits. 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.

and Segment B in December. A hunter may not possess more than two unfilled permits at any time during the entire season; these permits must be for 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A, the permit(s) is still valid for hunting in Segment B. If a hunter harvests a bear during Segment A, that permit is no longer valid, though the hunter may purchase a replacement permit for that same zone to use during Segment B, if available when permit sales re-open on Nov. 1. Hunters who purchase only one permit prior to the end of Segment A, and **do not harvest a bear** during Segment A, may

continue to use that permit during Segment B, plus may purchase a second permit after Nov. 1 for a different zone.

Hunters who purchase two permits prior to the end of Segment A and **do not fill either permit during Segment A** may NOT purchase a third permit when permit sales reopen in November.

Permit sales are broken into two periods: 10 a.m. on Sept. 9–Oct. 19 and again beginning at 10 a.m. on Nov. 1 until the end of the season or until permit quotas are reached. Hunters are strongly urged to purchase permits during the early sales period. Permits can be purchased at licenses agents or online.

For permit application process, changes, status check and to claim your permit, see details on page 11.

2019 Black Bear Hunting Permit Quota

Black Bear Management Zone	# of Permits
1	2,000
2	3,000
3	3,000
4	2,000
5	1,000

Following commencement of the black bear season, the Fish and Wildlife Director may announce

Essential Black Bear Bowhunting Strategies



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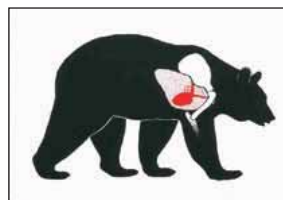
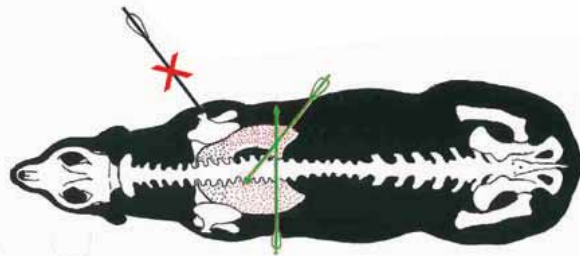
Improve your black bear hunting success while showing respect for the wild game you pursue. Be prepared to make a quick, clean harvest.

- Hunters **must** ONLY take **high-percentage** shots.
- Keep all shots **within 20 yards**.
- Shoot **only** when a bear is standing **on all fours**, broadside or slightly quartering away.
- The front leg **must be extended forward** to create access to the vital area.
- Black bear's long hair and thick belly fat make it more difficult than with a deer to determine the location of the vital zone.

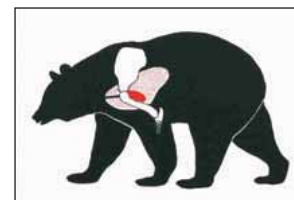
See *Black Bear Hunting Tips — Including Bowhunter Info!* on page 53. Other important black bear hunting FAQs are answered on our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/bearseason_faq.htm.

Black Bear Shot Placement Guide

The quartering-away position offers the best lethal approach. Further behind the shoulder is the best aiming spot. Avoid a shot that will hit the paunch area.



Gun or Bow



Wait for this near front leg to move forward like the image shown at left.

Images from IBEP

Remember these shot placement images and make wise decisions for a successful harvest!

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 18 through Saturday, December 21, 2019. 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.

Black Bear Hunting Season

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

2019 Black Bear Season Hunting Dates

Hunting Segment	Legal Sporting Arms	Dates
A	Archery	Mon., Oct. 14– Sat., Oct. 19, 2019
A	Archery / Muzzleloader	Thurs., Oct. 17– Sat., Oct. 19, 2019
B	Shotgun / Muzzleloader	Mon., Dec. 9– Sat., Dec. 14, 2019
B Extension (if authorized)	Shotgun / Muzzleloader	Wed., Dec. 18– Sat., Dec. 21, 2019

Apprentice License holders are not eligible to hunt black bear. The skills necessary to hunt black bear are not commensurate with an introductory hunting experience as the apprentice license program is intended to provide.

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 50.

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 13, 2019 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.

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 (only during the last three days of Segment A plus all of Segment B): 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 27. During the last three days of Segment A, bowhunters in tree stands 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.

Black Bear Lottery

See callout box on page 11 to change your lottery application or to check your permit application status online!

- ♦ 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

All state lands, including all state forests, parks, recreation areas, historic sites, natural areas and wildlife management areas, were closed to hunting of black bears as of August 30, 2018 and will be remain closed for the 2019–2020 season.

2018 Black Bear Harvest by Zone and County

2018 Harvest			
BMZ	Hunting Segment A	Hunting Segment B	Total
1	34	21	55
2	70	31	101
3	27	22	49
4	9	11	20
5	0	0	0
Total	140	85	225

2018 Harvest			
County	Hunting Segment A	Hunting Segment B	Total
Sussex	78	46	124
Warren	31	21	52
Morris	16	6	22
Passaic	13	10	23
Hunterdon	2	2	4
Bergen	0	0	0
Total	140	85	225

No bears were harvested in the portions of Mercer and Somerset counties open to bear hunting in 2018.

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 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 police 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.

Warren County

- ♦ **Pequest Wildlife Management Area**
605 Pequest Road, Oxford

Morris County

- ♦ **Black River Wildlife Management Area***
(Segment A only)
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 during Segment A only.

** Operating all week during Segment A plus operating only on Opening Day and Saturday during Segment B.

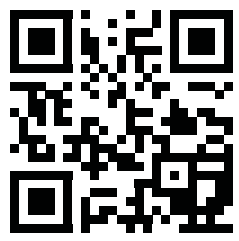
Black Bear Game Care

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 from deer management zones. Choose carefully when purchasing a black bear permit. For the 2019 season, only zones 1-5 are open for hunting.

Black Bear Hunting Tips – Including Bowhunting Info!



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

Note:

See callout box on page 11 to change your lottery application or to check your permit application status online!

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.

How Far Can Your Firearm Shoot?

12 gauge maximum distances for shot sizes:

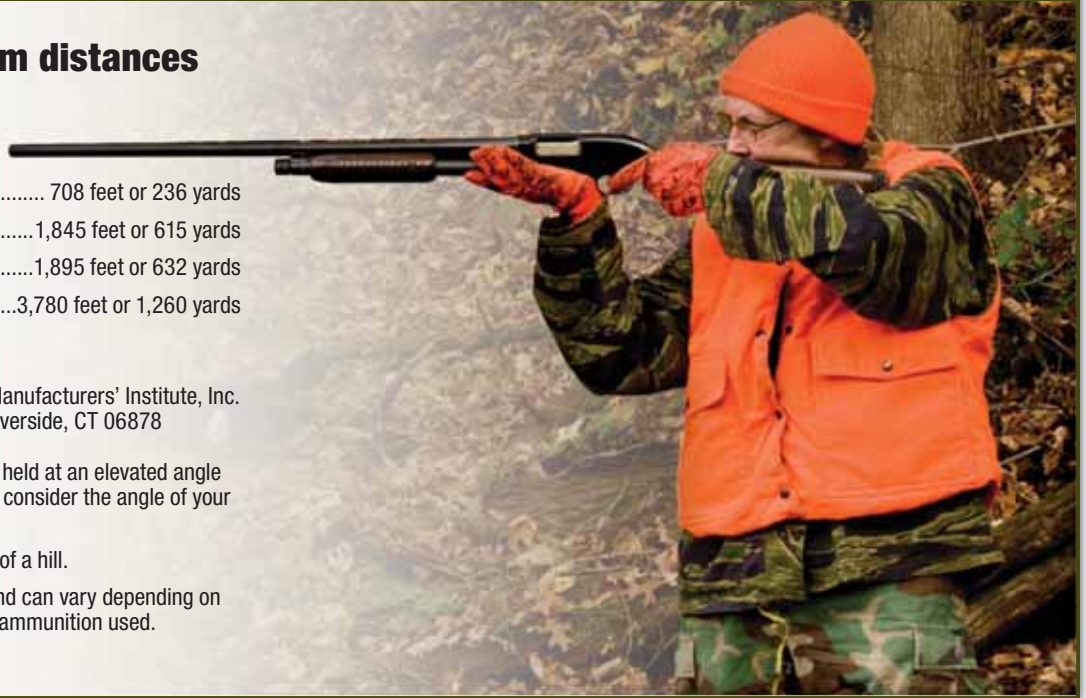
No. 6	708 feet or 236 yards
No. 0	1,845 feet or 615 yards
No. 00	1,895 feet or 632 yards
Slug, 1 oz	3,780 feet or 1,260 yards

Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Inc.
Safety Series, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, CT 06878

* 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.



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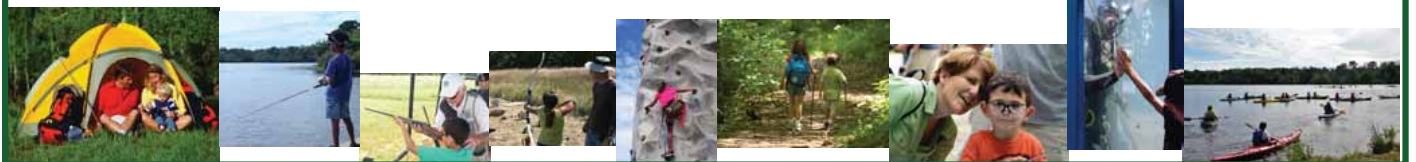
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Small Game Hunting

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 26 for *General Hunting Regulations*. **The season for ruffed grouse is closed statewide.** 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 56 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 26.

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 26. **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 27.

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.

Firearm Ammunition Legal for Hunting Coyote and Fox in New Jersey

Scan this QR code or visit us at NJFishandWildlife.com/coyote-fox_ammunition.htm for a reference chart useful for coyote-fox hunting during seasons that overlap other game species.



Coyote / Fox Season

Dates	Bow Only Season: Sept. 28–Nov. 8 (except Sundays)	General Season Firearm or Bow: Nov. 9–Mar. 14 (except Sundays and Dec. 9–14, 18)	Special Permit Season: Jan. 1 – March 14 (except Sundays*) (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. 9	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Weapon Type and Projectiles Permitted	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow See <i>General Small Game Hunting Methods</i> , column two 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 larger than #4 fine. Rifles Prohibited during the general season, including centerfire, rimfire and muzzleloading types.	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. 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	Manner: Call, stalk or stand Method: Ground, elevated or other structure Bait: 300 ft when hunter elevated or in other structure Predator Call: Allowed (manual/electronic) Decoys: Allowed (no live decoys) Dogs: Use prohibited Hunter Orange: Optional Daily Bag: Unlimited	Manner: Call, hound, stalk or stand Method: Ground, elevated or other structure Bait: not closer than 300 ft when hunter elevated or in other structure Predator Call: Allowed (manual/electronic) Decoys: Allowed (no live decoys) Dogs: Allowed (except Dec. 9–14, 18) Hunter Orange: Required Daily Bag: Unlimited	Note: Apprentice license holders prohibited from using any rifle and from nighttime hunting during the Special Permit Season. Manner: Call or stand Method: Ground, elevated or other structure Bait: Use prohibited Predator Call: Required (manual/electronic) Decoys: Allowed (no live decoys) Dogs: Use prohibited Hunter Orange: Optional Daily Bag: Unlimited

½ hour **after** sunset to ½ hour **before** sunrise*

Shotgun: single or double barrel. Not smaller than 20 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

* Hunting must cease at 11:59 p.m. Saturday evening.

Small Game Hunting

REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

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,

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.

No person may release quail for dog training purposes on the following WMAs: Buckshutem, Dix, Egg Island, Fortescue, Millville (Bevans), Nantuxent, New Sweden and Stafford Forge.

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.

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 NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/squirrelzones.htm.



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 follow as shown in the table on page 55. However, the stocking schedule is not finalized until approved by the Fish and Game Council in October when it will be published on our website at the link below. Also, the schedule is subject to pheasant production issues and may change due to rain or emergency weather conditions. For these unplanned stocking schedule changes or other necessary adjustments, visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/smgame_info.htm.

Pheasants are stocked after dark, precluding interaction between Fish and Wildlife personnel and hunters or the chance of prematurely harvesting a pheasant before the season opens.

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

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.



Quail, Northern Bobwhite

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.

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 27 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. Persons may hunt raccoon and opossum on Sunday mornings only between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and one hour before sunrise during the prescribed season.

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.

Apprentice License holder are not permitted to use rifles, obtain rifle permits or hunt at night.

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

Ruffed grouse rely on young forest habitat which currently comprise only 5% of state forest lands. This lack of habitat has caused grouse populations to decline below the level necessary to support a hunting season. In an effort to reduce the decline, the grouse hunting season is closed statewide. No exceptions.

Semi-Wild and Commercial Preserve Hunting

Hunting for pheasant, quail and partridge is allowed from Nov. 9 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. 2—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 27 and *General Small Game Hunting Methods*, page 54. See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57.

Continued on page 58.

2019–20 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. 9–Dec. 7; Dec. 16, 17 & 19–31, to Jan. 31 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	4	8 a.m. start on Nov. 9 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>Semi-Wild and Commercial Preserve Hunting</i>, page 56.)
Coyote* and Fox*, General All coyote must be reported within 24 hrs.	Bow and Arrow only: Sept. 28–Nov. 8 Firearm or Bow and Arrow: Nov. 9–Dec. 7; Dec. 16, 17 & 19–31, to Mar. 14 (except Sundays)	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 9 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. 1–Mar. 14 (except Sundays) (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 55. 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 10–20 gauge shotguns are permitted. See pellet restrictions in table on page 54. Coyote/fox Permit required.
Crow** (Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)	Aug. 12–Dec. 7** and Dec. 16, 2019–Mar. 21, 2020 (See Notes .)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 9 Maximum shot size is #4
Grouse, Ruffed	Closed statewide No exceptions	Season closed	0	Ruffed grouse may not be harvested anywhere in the state. See page 56.
Opossum, Raccoon	Oct. 1–Mar. 1 (except Sunday evenings)	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. 9–14 and 18
Pheasant & Partridge	Nov. 9–Dec. 7; Dec. 16, 17 & 19–Feb. 17 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Partridge — 7 Pheasant — 2	8 a.m. start on Nov. 9 Pheasant and Quail Stamp required on designated areas (see <i>Small Game Hunting</i> page 55).
Rabbit, Hare & Jackrabbit	Sept. 28–Dec. 7; Dec. 16, 17, 19–31 to Feb. 22 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Cottontail — 4 Hare — 1 Jackrabbit — 1	8 a.m. start on Nov. 9. Air guns are legal to harvest rabbits, hare and jackrabbit. See <i>Rabbit and Hare</i> , page 56.
Squirrel, Gray	Sept. 28–Dec. 7; Dec. 16, 17 & 19–31 to Feb. 22 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	8 a.m. start on Nov. 9. Air guns are legal to harvest squirrel. See <i>Squirrel, Regular Season</i> page 56.
Squirrel, Gray: Muzzleloading Rifle (.36 caliber or smaller)	Sept. 28–Nov. 8 and Jan. 4–Feb. 22 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	Rifle permit required. Designated areas only (see <i>Squirrel, ML Rifle Season</i> page 58).
Turkey (Fall, Either-Sex)	(Period N) Oct. 26 & Oct. 28–Nov. 2, 2019	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 20–May 22, 2020	½ hour before sunrise to noon; starting May 11, hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	1 Male Turkey per permit	Permit required. See turkey hunting regulation, page 58.
Turkey (Spring Gobbler, Youth)	(Period Y) April 18–May 22, 2020	½ hour before sunrise to noon; starting May 11, hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	1 Male Turkey per permit	Permit required. See turkey hunting regulation, page 58.
Woodchuck: Bow, Rifle or Shotgun	Mar. 1–Sept. 25, 2019 (except Sun.) Mar. 2–Sept. 30, 2020 (except Sun.)	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 26 and <i>Woodchuck</i> , page 58).
Woodchuck: Bow or Shotgun	Sept. 28–Dec. 7; Dec. 16, 17 & 19–31 to Feb. 17 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 9
Woodcock**	North of Rt. 70: Oct. 19–Nov. 2; Nov. 5–30 (except Sundays) South of Rt. 70: Nov. 9–30 & Dec. 12–31 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to sunset	3 daily; 6 possession	HIP number required (see page 65). 8 a.m. start on Nov. 9
Youth Turkey Day	April 18, 2020	½ hour before sunrise to noon	1 Male Wild Turkey	Permit required.
Youth Upland Bird Days	Nov. 2 & 4–8	8 a.m. to sunset	Pheasant — 2 Quail — 4	Selected WMAs and licensed semi-wilds (see page 25).

* All harvested coyotes and GRAY fox must be reported using the electronic license system within 24 hours. See page 55 for details.

** The starting time to hunt migratory birds on Nov. 9 only on those WMAs designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas shall be 8 a.m. See list of areas, page 55.

Small Game/Fall & Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

Turkey Hunting and Spring Gobbler Permit Information

Beginning with the Spring 2020 Turkey Hunting Season, mandatory checking of turkeys will be electronic only. See page 60 for details.

Turkey Hunting Permits, General

This hunting *Digest* contains information for both the 2019 Fall Turkey Season and 2020 Spring Turkey Season. Turkey hunting is by permit only. NOTE: For the permit application process, lottery notes, changes, status check and directions on how to claim your permits, see details on pages 11–12. See page 1 for fees.

Turkey Permits, 2019 Fall Season

The fall turkey permit lottery has been eliminated. A turkey hunting permit is still required and may be purchased at license agents or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.

Fall turkey permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 9, 2019. Permits will be available until the permit quota is reached or the season ends.

Turkey Permits, 2020 Spring Season

Spring turkey permits are allocated by lottery. Hunters who apply in the lottery have a much greater chance of receiving their desired area and

period choices than hunters who wait for over-the-counter sales of leftover permits.

- ♦ Application Period January 25–February 22.
- ♦ Award notifications and permit pickup begins March 2. Permits must be claimed by 11:59 pm on March 23.
- ♦ All permits awarded in the lottery will be available to claim until 11:59 p.m. on March 23. Unclaimed awarded permits will be redistributed in the over-the-counter sale. Application fee(s) will not be refunded for unclaimed permits.
- ♦ Over-the-county sale of leftover permits: 10 a.m. MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020 until permits sell out or the season ends, whichever occurs first.

Spring 2020 Gobbler Season Permits

Hunters are limited to filing only one application which allows for up to two permits, one in the first lottery and one in the second lottery. See pages 11–12 for instructions.

First Lottery

- ♦ Selects applicants from the Spring Season First Lottery.
- ♦ See page 59 for dates of the five turkey hunting period segments.
- ♦ The Youth Turkey Hunting Program guarantees that all applicants aged 10 to 15 (16 for those still eligible to hunt using their Youth License) will receive their first choice permit request in the first lottery for the spring season designated as Period Y. Youth permits are not counted in the

permit season quotas. Period Y Permits are also available during the over-the-counter sales period.

- ♦ Hunters possessing a Permit to Shoot From a Standing Vehicle are guaranteed one first lottery permit only for the Spring Season. Any additional permit purchased is taken from the available permit quota and is not guaranteed. Individuals possessing a Permit to Shoot from a Standing Vehicle must apply and/or purchase their permits via their home computer or go to a web-based license agent. Verifone® agents cannot handle these requests.

Second Lottery

- ♦ Assigns unissued first lottery permits (leftover) to applicants who applied for a permit in the second lottery.
- ♦ Youth permit requests for the second lottery are not guaranteed. A youth's second permit (or more) is valid only for the one designated hunting period A, B, C, D or E.

Consider your requests carefully! If you request the same turkey hunting area and period in both the first and second spring lotteries you could receive two permits for the identical area and period combination. Permits will not be exchanged if you receive the permits requested on your application. If you are awarded two permits in the lottery you must claim them both at the same time. You will not be able to claim only one.

IMPORTANT: Hunters who are awarded two permits in the lottery must claim (purchase) both at the same time. Hunters cannot claim only one awarded permit.

Continued from page 56.

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. 28–Nov. 8 and Jan. 4–Feb. 22. 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

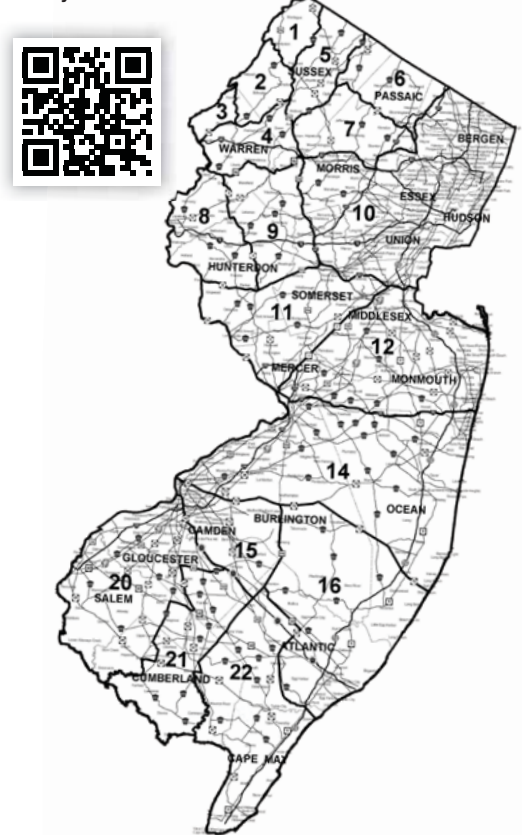
Dates	Weapon Type Permitted	Gauge, Caliber or Weight	Projectile(s)
March 1 to Sept. 25, 2019	Center-fire rifle	.25 caliber or less	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight.
		Larger than .25 caliber	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight not 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.
March 2 to Sept. 30, 2020	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
Sept. 28–Dec. 7 and Dec. 16, 17, 19–31, 2019	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"
Jan. 1–Feb. 17, 2020	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

2020 Spring Gobbler Hunting Season Dates

Hunting Period	Dates
Youth Turkey Hunting Day (10–16 years of age)	Sat., April 18 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 20–Fri., April 24
Hunting Period B	Mon., April 27–Fri., May 1
Hunting Period C	Mon., May 4–Fri., May 8
Hunting Period D	Mon., May 11–Fri., May 15; Mon., May 18–Fri., May 22
Hunting Period E	All Saturdays, April 25, May 2, May 9, and May 16

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 NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/turkeyareas.htm.



Turkey Season Dates and Hunting Hours

The 2019 fall turkey season will consist of one seven day hunting segment, N, (excluding Sunday) from Saturday, Oct. 26 through Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019. 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 55.

- ♦ 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.

Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 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.
- ♦ 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 not legal. Electronic calls are not legal.**
- ♦ 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.

Youth Turkey Hunt Day

April 18, 2020 (See page 25)

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 25).

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. Spring and fall turkey hunting are by permit only. See *Turkey Hunting Permits, General*, page 58. For farmers, see *Farmer Turkey Permits*, page 30.

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.

Fall & Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

Mandatory Turkey Check (Fall Season) and Harvest Report (Spring Season) Requirement

After the close of the Fall 2019 Turkey Season, physical turkey check stations will no longer be used. Beginning with the Spring 2020 Turkey Season, all hunters will be required to report a harvested turkey on the day killed using the Automated Harvest Report System.

Fall 2019 Mandatory Turkey Check:

All turkeys harvested in the Fall 2019 Season must immediately be tagged with a transportation tag. The turkey must be taken by the hunter who killed it, on the day killed, to the nearest turkey check station where personnel will issue a legal possession tag. See https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/turkey_checkstations.pdf for a list of official fall turkey check stations. During the fall 2019 Turkey Season, the turkey must be brought to the nearest check station by 7 p.m.

Spring 2020 Mandatory Harvest Reporting:

Upon retrieval, the turkey is considered to be in your possession. The hunter must:

1. Immediately fill out the Transportation Tag that is part of your permit with the exception of the Confirmation Number, the number automatically assigned when the turkey is reported which replaces the Tyvek possession seal. Hunters are required to tag their turkey upon harvest and before transporting the turkey. Attach the turkey Transportation Tag to the turkey. The tag must include the hunter's CID, date and THA of harvest.
2. Record the sex and age of your turkey and take measurements of the beard and longer spur, if applicable. Measure **BEFORE** starting the harvest report process to have your answers ready. See sexing, aging and measuring wild turkeys at https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/turkey_reporting.htm. Use the ½ inch ruler provided on your turkey Transportation Tag to determine if the longest spur is less than, equal to, or greater than ½ inch. Measure the spur from the very base where it meets the leg scales to the very tip. Use a ruler or tape measure, or a dollar bill (which is 6 inches in length) to determine if the beard is less than, equal to, or greater than 6 inches in length. Measure the beard from the skin at its base to the end of the longest filament.

3. Report your harvest via the Automated Harvest Reporting System (by phone or online as printed on every hunting license and permit). During Youth Turkey Hunting Day, hunting periods A, B, C and the first three Saturdays of hunting period E, the turkey harvest must be reported by 3 p.m. During hunting period D and the last Saturday of hunting period E, the turkey harvest must be reported by 9 p.m. If unable to access the Automated Harvest Reporting System by the designated time, the turkey shall be reported immediately by telephone to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office (see page 41 for Law Enforcement listings). The hunter must continue to attempt accessing the Automated Harvest Report System until they receive a Confirmation Number for that turkey. During the reporting process, you will be asked for the turkey's sex, age (juvenile or adult), beard measurement (equal to or greater than 6 inches, or less than 6 inches), and spur measurement (equal to or greater than ½ inch, or less than ½ inch). Again, please take the measurements BEFORE you begin the reporting process.
4. Record your assigned Confirmation Number on your Transportation Tag. Retain your Confirmation Number as long as the turkey or its parts are in possession.

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. 🦃



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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
- Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
- 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
- Great Egg Harbor River WMA
- Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
- Penn State Forest
- Port Republic WMA
- Stafford Forge WMA
- Swan Bay WMA
- Warren Grove Recreation Area
- Wharton State Forest

TURKEY HUNTING AREA 20

- Abbots Meadow WMA
- Cohansy 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

- Buckshtem WMA
- Cedar Lake WMA
- Cedarville Pond WMA
- Cohansy 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

FROM FIELD TO TABLE
AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.

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Andrew Burnett/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Beaver lodge, Mansfield Township, Burlington County.

Regulations in red are new this year.

General Trapping

- ♦ 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 cable restraint traps prior to 6 a.m. on Jan. 1 on any wildlife management area where pheasants or quail are released.** 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. **ONLY cage and foot-encapsulating traps or traps set for mink, muskrat or nutria may be set on the above WMA between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31.** 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 except traps set for semi-aquatic species in tidal waters only must be checked once per calendar day.
- ♦ 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 report their harvest to the **Division at (609) 306-4545** within 24 hours. Callers must identify themselves by name, CID# and daytime phone number.

- ♦ Licensed trappers may use an air gun (not smaller than .177 caliber nor larger than .22 caliber) or a center- or rim-fire rifle (not larger than .22 caliber) using only .22 caliber short ammunition to dispatch legally trapped animal other than muskrat. Youth trappers (ages 12–13) using any firearm to dispatch must be accompanied by—and under the direct supervision of—a properly licensed adult (at least 21 years of age). A Rifle Permit is required when using center- or rim-fire rifles, but is not required when using an air gun. Firearms may not be loaded with more than three rounds. See page 28 for safety zone information that also applied to trappers. While trapping is legal within a safety zone, one cannot possess a loaded firearm within a safety zone unless having written permission, in possession, from the property owner or lessee.

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 damage control 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.

Beaver and Otter Permits

- ♦ Beaver and otter trapping are allowed by special permit only.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Additional information—including zone maps, boundary and permit quotas descriptions—becomes available Sept. 16 on Fish and Wildlife's website, NJFishandWildlife.com or call (609) 292-1473.
- ♦ For the permit application process, changes, status check and directions on how to claim your permits, see details on pages 11–12.
- ♦ Lottery application period: Oct. 1–31. Applicants may apply only for one beaver trapping permit and/or one otter trapping permit.

- ♦ Successful beaver permit applicants are given first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zone.
- ♦ Award Notification and Permit Pickup begins Nov 7. Permits must be claimed by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Dec 2.
- ♦ All Permits awarded in the lottery will be available to claim until 11:59 p.m. on Dec 2. Unclaimed, awarded permits will be redistributed in the over-the-counter sale. Application fee(s) for unclaimed permits will not be refunded.
- ♦ Over-the-counter sale of leftover and unclaimed permits: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec 11. Leftover permits will be sold at all license agents and at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales at <https://www.NJFishandWildlife.com>. For leftover and unclaimed permit availability, see our website the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 4.

NOTE: See callout box on page 11 to change your lottery application or to check your permit application status online!

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–Feb. 9
- ♦ **Bag Limits:** 8 beaver per permit; 1 otter per season.
- ♦ Recreational permit holders may use up to five traps daily per zone for beaver and up to three traps daily for otter. Damage control beaver permit holders may use up to 10 traps daily per site. Holders of both recreational and damage control beaver permits in the same zone may use a maximum of 10 traps daily. All traps must be checked and tended at least once per every 24 hours unless in tidal waters.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ 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 (tentative) on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020 (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. 14 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 and are widely distributed across the state's northern counties. Fishers have returned naturally—thanks to reintroduction efforts in NY and PA—to their historic range and have been documented in several northern and southern counties.

There is no open season for either bobcat or fisher. Possession is restricted to those animals legally harvested in other U.S. states or Canadian provinces with proper documentation.

Trappers finding a bobcat on their trapline are required to report the occurrence within 24 hours by calling 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337),

but are strongly encouraged to call IMMEDIATELY upon discovery of a bobcat (or fisher) in any trap. If the bobcat is alive, call 1-877-WARN-DEP. A Fish and Wildlife Trapper Response Team technician will go to the site to safely release the bobcat. Data will be collected from the animal and ear tags will be inserted for future identification.

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

- ♦ **Season Dates:** Nov. 15–Mar. 15* (Exception: fisher—no open season. Call 1-877-927-6337 to report any fisher capture.)
- ♦ **Bag Limits:** No daily or seasonal bag limit for any of these species.
- ♦ No trap may set prior to 6 a.m. Nov. 15. All traps must be tended once every 24 hours, preferably in the morning.

*The following state wildlife management areas are closed to trapping with cable restraints until 6 a.m. **Jan. 1:** Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Bevans (Millville), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Flatbrook-Roy, Glassboro, Greenwood Forest (incl. Howardsville tract), Heislerville, MacNamara (Tuckahoe), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Winslow and Whittingham. Cage and foot-encapsulating traps may be set on these WMAs beginning 6 a.m. Nov. 15. **Trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**

Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping

- ♦ **Season Dates:** (North Zone) Nov. 15–Mar. 15 in those portions of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties lying north and west beginning at the intersection of U.S. 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.
- ♦ **Season Dates:** (South Zone) Dec. 1–Mar. 15 in those portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties lying south and east of the aforementioned line above.
- ♦ **Bag Limits:** No daily or seasonal bag limits for any of these species.
- ♦ Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day. All traps set for these semi-aquatic species in tidal waters **only** must be checked once per calendar day. Non-tidal water sets must be checked once every 24 hours, preferably in the morning.
- ♦ **Trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**

Beaver and River Otter Trapping Zones

Mandatory pelt registration: Feb. 22 (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

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.

Regulations in red are new this year.

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, 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.
- ♦ A relaxing lock is defined as one that stops tightening when the animal stops pulling against the cable restraint. Cam-locks and spring-assisted locking systems are prohibited.
- ♦ 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.

Traps, Live-capture, Steel-jawed Type

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 except for educational purposes. Foot-encapsulating traps do not fall under this trap category and may be possessed and used.



Andrew Burnett/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

A New Jersey country fur sale.

Be a Conservation-Minded Trapper

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

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



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

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: www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/rprtform.htm. *Data from south Jersey is of particular interest.*
- **Dead on the road**—call 1-877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337) to report the carcass location.



© George Cervera

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

New Jersey Migratory Bird Regulations

Major Changes for the 2019–20 Season

- The mallard bag limit is reduced to 2 mallards with not more than 1 hen.
- The brant season is reduced to 30 days and will only occur during part of the duck season.
- The Regular Canada goose season is reduced to 30 days in the North and South Zones; the bag limit is reduced to 2 birds. The Regular Canada goose season in the Coastal Zone will be concurrent with the duck season with the bag limit reduced to 2 birds.
- The pintail daily bag limit is reduced to 1 bird.

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 www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php.

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	✓	✓	✓	✓

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All hunters, including Apprentice License holders, must obtain an HIP certification **before** hunting ducks, geese, brant, coot, woodcock, rails, snipe or gallinules. Hunters may purchase an HIP certification **from a License Agent or Online at NJ.WildlifeLicense.com**. Both methods allow hunters to go hunting immediately after registering.

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.

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 two ways to report bands:

1. **Online:** reportband.gov
2. **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.

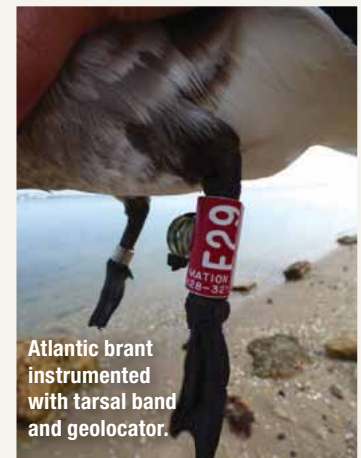
When contacting the BBL, be prepared to provide: band number, date the bird was recovered, exact location of the bird’s recovery as well as nearest town, and method of recovery, e.g., shot or found dead. Hunters may keep the bands.

Did you Harvest a Marked Atlantic Brant?

During winter 2018, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife initiated a multi-year collaborative Atlantic brant migration and breeding ecology study with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Canadian Wildlife Service and University of Missouri.

- If you shoot or find dead a brant with a geolocator or backpack transmitter, contact Ted Nichols at (609) 628-3218 or e-mail ted.nichols@dep.nj.gov to return the device(s). To obtain data from a geolocator, we must have the device in hand. Geolocators are clear, plastic electronics about the size of a "fat nickel," attached to a red and white plastic leg band with a plastic cable lock tie. Hunters who want to retain a geolocator or transmitter as a keepsake will be provided with a replica unit.
- If you see a brant with a colored leg band: Please report the observation to U.S. Bird Banding Lab at REPORTBAND.GOV.
- If a bird with leg band only is shot or found dead: Please report to U.S. Bird Banding Lab at REPORTBAND.GOV.

Your cooperation and interest is appreciated. For more information on this study, see <https://njfishandwildlife.com/news/2018/brantstudy18.htm>.



Atlantic brant instrumented with tarsal band and geolocator.

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 10)—to hunt the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days as detailed on page 24.

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

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: 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:

- a. **Migratory bird hunting is not permitted on Sunday in New Jersey.**
- b. No person may take rails or snipe while possessing shot other than non-toxic shot.
- c. The starting time to hunt waterfowl on opening day of pheasant season (Nov. 9, 2019) 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 start time (e.g. 1/2 hr. before sunrise) on private

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, corrosion-inhibited copper shot, and tungsten-tin-bismuth shot types. Shot size may not exceed Size T (0.200 inch) for waterfowl. See 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.

- 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.
 - » In the waters or shoreline of Barnegat Inlet westward from the COLREGS Demarcation Line; to the north end of Broadway in Barnegat Light; then northwest to Red Buoy 14 in the channel (39.763783 N; 074.109283 W); then northeast to the westernmost section of rock jetty at Island Beach State Park.

All migratory bird closure areas are described in detail at NJFishandWildlife.com/migbirdzones.htm

- 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 28) 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.

- 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.

2020 Spring Light Goose Conservation Order – Feb. 17–Apr. 4, 2020

1. Electronic calls are permitted.
2. Shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
3. Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ 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 Internet sales 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 2020 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 2020. 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. 2–30, 2019 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: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ 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.

Youth and Veterans/Active Military Joint Waterfowl Hunting Days



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now allows states to choose special hunting days for veterans and active military personnel to recognize their service to our country. New Jersey will hold these hunting season days concurrent with the special Youth Hunting Days. This allows a unique opportunity for veterans and active military personnel to share a hunting experience with a youth family member, relative or friend or to hunt with fellow veterans and military members.

Active military includes members of Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves, other than active duty for training. Veterans include those who served in the active military, naval or air service and who were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Participants in Veterans/Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days should carry one of the documents which applies to their status to be eligible to participate:

1. Active military identification card
2. Copy of honorable discharge certificate DD-214

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

Migratory Bird Zoned Hunting Seasons, 2019–20

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits ¹
North Zone		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coot	Oct. 12–Oct. 19 Nov. 9–Jan. 9	Ducks: 6 in aggregate from Duck Limits* below; Mergansers ² : 5 Coot: 15
Brant	Nov. 9–Nov. 30 Dec. 28–Jan. 9	2
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 23–Nov. 30 Dec. 27–Jan. 22	2
Youth and Veterans/Military Days	Oct. 5 and Feb. 1	Same limits for ducks, Canada geese, brant and light geese within each zone
South Zone		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coot	Oct. 19–Oct. 26 Nov. 16–Jan. 16	Ducks: 6 in aggregate from Duck Limits* below; Mergansers ² : 5 Coot: 15
Brant	Oct. 19–Oct. 26 Nov. 16–Dec. 12	2
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 23–Nov. 30 Dec. 27–Jan. 22	2
Youth and Veterans/Military Days	Oct. 12 and Feb. 1	Same limits for ducks, Canada geese, brant and light geese within each zone
Coastal Zone		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coot	Nov. 9–Nov. 13 Nov. 28–Jan. 31	Ducks: 6 in aggregate from Duck Limits* below; Mergansers ² : 5 Coot: 15
Brant	Nov. 28–Nov. 30 Dec. 26–Jan. 25	2
Canada Geese (Regular Season) — Singly or in aggregate to include Cackling and White-fronted Goose	Nov. 9–Nov. 13 Nov. 28–Jan. 31	2
Youth and Veterans/Military Days	Nov. 2 and Feb. 8	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. 2–Sept. 30	15
Light Geese - Regular Season ⁴	Oct. 17–Feb. 15	25, singly or in aggregate
Light Geese - Conservation Order ⁴	Feb. 17–Apr. 4	No limit
Rail (Sora, Clapper and Virginia) and Gallinule	Sept. 2–Nov. 21	Sora & Virginia rail: 25 total or aggregate; Gallinule and Clapper rail: 10
Snipe	Sept. 14–Jan. 16	8
Crow	Aug. 12–Dec. 7	No limit
	Dec. 16–Mar. 21 Mon., Thur., Fri., Sat. Only	

Other Migratory Bird Seasons

Migratory Bird Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits ¹
Woodcock - North Zone	Oct. 19–Nov. 2 and Nov. 5–Nov. 30	3
Woodcock - South Zone	Nov. 9–Nov. 30 and Dec. 12–Dec. 31	3
Sea Ducks in Special Sea Duck Zone Only ⁵ (Black, Surf and White-winged Scoter; Long-tailed Duck and Eider only)	Nov. 2–Jan. 10	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

¹***Ducks Limits** – 6 ducks in aggregate and may not include more than:

Black duck - 2	Canvasback - 2	Long-tailed duck - 4	Ring-necked duck - 6	Wigeon - 6
Black-bellied whistling duck - 6	Eider - 4	Mallard - 2 (including no more than 1 hen)	Ruddy duck - 6	Wood duck - 3
Blue-winged teal - 6	Gadwall - 6	Pintail - 1	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 Zone:** 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.

Migratory Bird Zones

All migratory bird zones are described in detail at NJFishandWildlife.com/migbirdzones.htm

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 NJ 109; south on NJ 109 to Cape May County Rt. 633 (Lafayette St.); south on Lafayette St. to Jackson St.; south on Jackson St. to the shoreline at Cape May; west along the shoreline of Cape May beach to COLREGS Demarcation Line 80.503 at Cape May Point; south along COLREGS Demarcation Line 80.503 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 Zone

Waters of the Atlantic Ocean seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines (jetty and inlet mouths). For more detailed information see: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/migbirdzones.htm>.

Woodcock Zones

North Zone—North of Rt. 70.

South Zone—South of Rt. 70.

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. 6, 2019
- **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!



FETCH

Your Tickets

Don’t let the next DU event pass you by. When you attend your local event, you can have a great time while helping us fill the skies with waterfowl. To find an event near you, visit ducks.org/events.

