

# CWD

## Chronic Wasting Disease



### What is CWD?

- ♦ Belongs to a family of neurological diseases called *transmissible spongiform encephalopathies* which include scrapie in sheep, mad cow disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in humans. *There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans;* however the CDC advises against consuming any animal that appears ill.
- ♦ All members of the *Cervid* family (white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose) are known to be susceptible.
- ♦ Caused by a misfolded protein called a prion which could be found in all deer bodily fluids.
- ♦ There is no cure. CWD is always fatal and there is no live test for deer.

### Where Is CWD Found?

- ♦ First discovered in captive mule deer in Colorado, in 1967.
- ♦ Now in captive or wild deer in 25 states and Canadian provinces.
- ♦ Detected in wild deer in: New York State and West Virginia (2005), Virginia (2010), Maryland (2011), Michigan (2015), in Pennsylvania both in captive deer (2012) and in wild deer (2013) plus in captive deer in Texas (2015).

### How New Jersey Is Responding

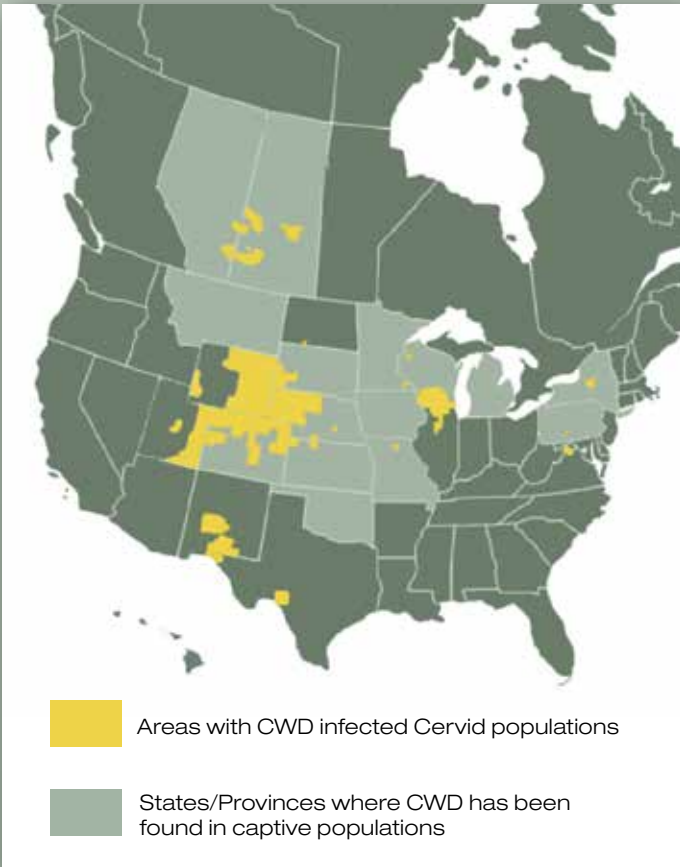
- ♦ Tested for CWD in symptomatic captive cervids and wild deer, and hunter-harvested wild deer since 1997. To date over 5,600 wild deer have been tested with no CWD-positive results.
- ♦ Banned the importation of cervids, recently expanded to include reindeer.
- ♦ Issued an advisory for New Jersey hunters bringing home venison from CWD-endemic states making it illegal to import into New Jersey a harvested deer carcass or deer parts from any state with CWD in wild deer unless strictly following that state's CWD protocol.
- ♦ Improved captive cervid regulations, including a proposed Herd Certification Program.
- ♦ Created the CWD Response Plan with protocols for detection of CWD to be activated when CWD is within 20 miles of the New Jersey border and within the state wild deer and captive cervids.

# Attention!

## Urine-Based Deer Lures Advisory

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends the use of synthetic, non-urine-based scents or lures for deer hunting. The infectious prions which cause Chronic Wasting Disease can be spread through urine-based lures. Studies have shown the prions can survive for years in contaminated soils and the environment. Urine-based scents and lures are not treated to kill the prions as heat or chemical treatments would also reduce the desired scent characteristics. Hunters using urine-based scents should place them in areas out of contact with deer, the ground or vegetation.

## ▶▶ Chronic Wasting Disease in North America



See [NJFishandWildlife.com/cwdinfo.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/cwdinfo.htm) for more information on CWD in New Jersey and the New Jersey CWD Response Plan.

Visit [cwd-info.org](http://cwd-info.org) for more comprehensive CWD information.



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# A Synthesis of Waterfowl Harvest in New Jersey

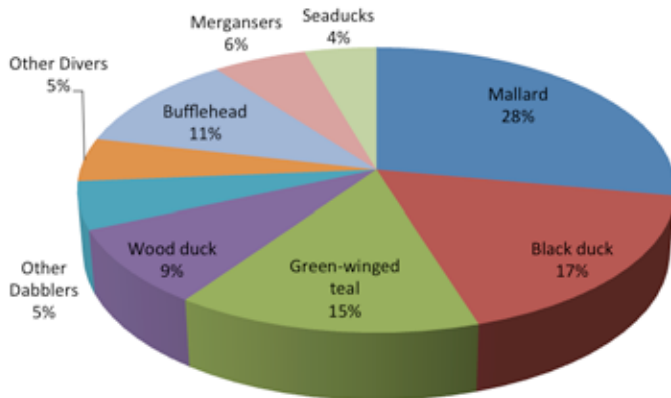
By Ted Nichols, Wildlife Biologist

**Hidden in a blind on the edge of a tidal marsh, a dad whispers to his young son, “Here they come. Get ready. Get ready.... Take ‘em!” The young lad stands to shoot, whiffs on the initial shot but then drops the first duck of his waterfowl career on his second shot. The family’s Labrador retriever winds his way through the decoy lines making a retrieve across a tidal gut, bringing the prize back to the waiting pair. “What kind of duck is that dad?” asks the lad.**

This story has played out for over a hundred years in the Atlantic Flyway. Annually, states and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service use the Harvest Information Program (HIP) to estimate the size and species composition of the waterfowl harvest in the United States. All migratory bird hunters must obtain a HIP certification. A sample of hunters is queried each year to complete harvest diaries to estimate total harvest and hunting activity. A second, smaller sample of HIP-certified hunters participates in the Parts Collection Survey, sending in duck wings and goose tails to obtain the species, age and gender composition of the waterfowl harvest.



**Figure 1. Average annual percent of New Jersey duck harvest by species, 1999-2008.**



**Other dabblers:** Pintail, gadwall, mallard X black duck hybrid, blue-winged teal, wigeon, and shoveler  
**Other divers:** Greater and lesser scaup, ruddy duck, ring-neck, canvasback, redhead and goldeneye  
**Mergansers:** Hooded, common and red-breasted mergansers  
**Seaducks:** Long-tailed duck, eider, and black, surf and white-winged scoters

**Table 1. Average Annual New Jersey Duck Harvest by Species, 1999-2008.**

Species	Harvest
Mallard	18,986
Black duck	11,730
Mallard X black duck hybrid	796
Gadwall	796
Green-winged teal	9,848
Blue-winged teal	92
Wigeon	693
Shoveler	421
Pintail	824
Wood duck	5,917
Redhead	56
Canvasback	66
Lesser scaup	580
Greater scaup	1,713
Ring-necked duck	356
Goldeneye	218
Bufflehead	7,555
Ruddy duck	365
Common merganser	253
Red-breasted merganser	1,133
Hooded merganser	2,565
Long-tailed duck	1,339
Common eider	56
Black scoter	917
White-winged scoter	81
Surf scoter	637
Other species	61
<b>Total ducks</b>	<b>68,052</b>

From these diaries we learned that New Jersey's 10,000 waterfowl hunters spend 73,000 hunter-days pursuing their quarry from September 1 to mid-February each year. Hunters annually harvest about 68,000 ducks, 26,000 Canada geese, 7,000 Atlantic brant and 5,000 snow geese. Based on results of the Parts Collection Survey, 26 duck species comprise the vast majority of the annual

waterfowl harvest (Table 1), but 60 percent of New Jersey's harvest is comprised of only three species—mallard, American black duck, and American green-winged teal (Figure 1). Adding in bufflehead and wood ducks brings the total to 80 percent of New Jersey's harvest. The remaining 20 percent of the annual state's harvest is comprised of 20-plus other waterfowl species.



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The waterfowl harvest is spread over many counties. For ducks, Ocean County ranks first with nearly 11,000 birds harvested while about 9,000 ducks are taken in each of the southern counties of Cape May, Cumberland, and Atlantic (Table 2). For Canada geese (Table 2), the central counties of Middlesex, Burlington, Monmouth and Mercer—a core wintering area for Atlantic Population Canada geese which nest in northern Quebec—take the top four county slots. Warren and Hunterdon counties rank high in the north and Salem is the lead county in the south. Although we occasionally get reports of Atlantic brant being harvested at inland locales such as Spruce Run Reservoir, nearly all brant are taken in the Coastal Zone (Table 2). The “regular season” snow goose harvest occurs around the state, but 70 percent of the harvest occurs in Cumberland County (Table 2). New Jersey hunters also take a handful of white-fronted geese annually and occasionally a cackling goose or Ross’s goose.

Because of New Jersey’s wide diversity of waterfowl species and habitats, the state was divided into three waterfowl zones (North, South and Coastal) in 1980. After making a few assumptions about how the harvest is distributed between zones within counties that transcend more than one waterfowl zone (for example, Cape May County is in both the South and Coastal Zones), we find that the Coastal and South Zones each comprise about 37% of the annual duck harvest (Figure 2). This is not surprising given the vast tidal marshes which are preferred duck habitat in these zones. What the North Zone lacks in tidal marshes as duck habitat, it compensates with agricultural fields preferred by

**Table 2. Average Annual New Jersey Waterfowl Harvest by County, 1999–2008.**

County	Ducks	Canada Geese	Atlantic Brant	Snow Geese
Cape May	9,033	471	2,120	154
Cumberland	8,997	812	0	3,707
Atlantic	9,203	1,161	1,977	868
Salem	5,079	1,999	0	469
Gloucester	2,004	1,355	0	8
Camden	349	201	0	0
Burlington	3,397	2,769	31	42
Ocean	10,839	866	2,317	14
Mercer	2,548	2,367	0	11
Monmouth	3,462	2,597	780	54
Middlesex	3,207	3,253	14	14
Somerset	560	1,337	0	0
Hunterdon	1,025	2,065	0	0
NY Metro*	1,070	106	0	0
Morris	538	781	0	0
Warren	3,746	2,336	0	15
Sussex	2,995	1,869	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,052</b>	<b>26,345</b>	<b>7,239</b>	<b>5,356</b>

\*NY Metro includes: Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Union combined

Canada geese. As such, the North Zone comprises 75 percent of the annual Canada goose harvest (Figure 2).

Waterfowl hunting in New Jersey is a diverse recreational activity with opportunity from High Point to Cape May. New Jersey waterfowlers can pursue a plethora of species in a variety of habitats from small beaver ponds to the Atlantic Ocean as well as upland fields for Canada and snow geese.

**Acknowledgment**

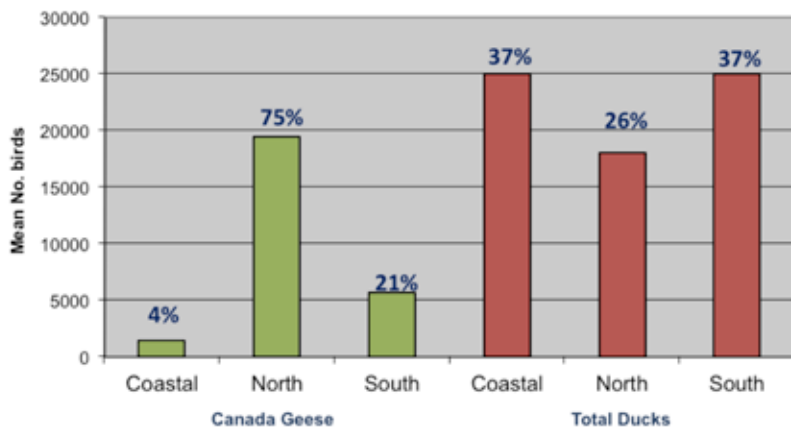
We thank Bob Raftovich, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Harvest Survey Section, for providing summarized HIP data used in this report.

**Bufflehead and Atlantic brant are staple harvest species for Coastal Zone waterfowlers in New Jersey.**



Wayne Martka/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Figure 2. Mean annual Canada goose and total duck harvest in New Jersey by zone, 1999-2008



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