

Invite Quail onto Your (Restored) Land

Are you interested in restoring critical habitats for quail on your property?



Wild quail with necklace radio transmitter and antenna.

P. C. Carr/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

By Patrick C. Carr, Supervising Wildlife Biologist | Andrew Burnett, Principal Wildlife Biologist | Jim Sloan, Assistant Wildlife Biologist



Wild quail released into an early successional managed habitat.

P. C. Carr/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Bob-WHITE! The distinctive whistle cuts through the early morning fog along a brushy field edge. This habitat was created as part of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Northern Bobwhite Action Plan (<http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/quailplan.pdf>) to restore New Jersey's bobwhite quail population.

Ideal quail habitat includes a mixture of grasslands, shrubs and forest borders, also known as early successional young forest habitat. Restoring old, mature habitat and enhancing existing bobwhite habitat requires intensive management to create the openings that quail rely on for nesting, resting and foraging.

Fish and Wildlife has designated portions of Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties lying west of State Highway 55 as a Focal Region for bobwhite and other young forest wildlife species. Habitat management practices, including rotational strip disking, field buffering, prescribed burning, edge feathering, native warm season grass and forb planting and hydro-axing, began in 2013. The goal is to provide sufficient habitat to sustain a quail covey for their entire life cycle throughout the year.

Concurrently Fish and Wildlife is an active partner with New Jersey Audubon and Tall Timbers Research Station in the National Bobwhite Quail Initiative (<http://bringbackbobwhites.org>) to restore wild bobwhite quail to the Pinelands Region. In this cooperative project lead by NJ Audubon, 80 wild quail captured on private land in Georgia, which were tested and determined to be disease-free, were released in April 2015 on property owned by cooperator Pine Island Cranberry Corporation in Burlington County. Each quail was fitted with a necklace radio transmitter so that graduate students from the University of Delaware can monitor the birds' movements, habitat use, nesting success and survival.

These are the first of 240 wild birds to be released at the site over the next three years. The release site is a blend of landscapes on the 17,000-acre property managed under a forestry stewardship plan to create the young forests which quail require for survival. The goal is to establish a self-sustaining population of wild bobwhite quail in the heart of New Jersey's Pinelands. Aside from the important research opportunity that this project provides for Bobwhite Quail management and population recovery in the Mid-Atlantic region, the project is unique in that it will address the role of forest stewardship and management in the creation and enhancement of habitat for a broad suite of species.

Projects such as these, in conjunction with other research efforts such as predator surveys, will help Fish and Wildlife assess what is the greatest threat to quail survival and will help determine if restoring this native game bird to New Jersey's remaining open space is a possibility.

Are you interested in restoring critical early successional habitats for quail on your property? Division of Fish and Wildlife biologists are available to provide habitat recommendations (<http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/bobwhitebasics.pdf>) for private landowners throughout southwestern New Jersey. This **free** service involves no contracts. Landowners interested in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their property should contact our Bureau of Wildlife Management's Habitat Specialist Jimmy Sloan at (609) 748-2058. For information about the New Jersey Audubon Pinelands Project go to bobwhite.njaudubon.org.

Attention Private Landowners

**Free:
Your Upland
Habitat
Evaluation**



Do you want your land to attract a greater diversity of wildlife species?

Are you interested in wildlife stewardship?

You can make a difference!

In an effort to restore critical early successional habitats for quail and other species, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife staff is available to provide

habitat recommendations for private landowners throughout southwestern New Jersey. This service is free and involves no contracts.

Contact us for more information:

Jimmy Sloan
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Nacote Creek Research Station
PO Box 418
Port Republic NJ 08241-0418
(609) 748-2058

GET INVOLVED!

Join us for the 25th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 15, 2016
Island Beach State Park

NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with our co-sponsors: New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, would like to thank the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 24th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in 2015:

- Costa Del Mar, Inc.
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Coastline Surf System
- Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs
- J.T. Brooks
- Automatic Tire Deflators
- Jenkinson's Aquarium
- Legal Limits Company
- Manns Bait Company
- O Mustad & Son, Inc.
- On The Water Magazine
- Silver Horde
- Sportsman's Center
- Stanley Jigs, Inc.

Jon Carlucci/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

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Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion.

A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call (856) 629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

Or visit our website: NJFishandWildlife.com



Tony McBride/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

It was a first deer harvest for both McBride siblings, Steven, 15 and Lydia, 14. This was Lydia's first hunting experience of any kind; Steven had spent a bit more time in the field. Both deer were taken with a crossbow last October at White Lake Wildlife Management Area in Warren County. Their father, Tony McBride, said that he can't describe how great it felt to sit next to each of them as they took their first deer, watching their reactions, whispering advice, trying to keep them calm! It was very exciting and rewarding.

Day	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
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02	7:22	4:44	7:08	5:18	6:31	5:52	5:41	6:25	4:57	6:56	4:31	7:23	4:34	7:32	4:58	7:12	5:28	6:29	5:57	5:39	6:30	4:55	7:04	4:33
03	7:22	4:45	7:07	5:19	6:29	5:53	5:39	6:26	4:56	6:57	4:31	7:24	4:34	7:32	4:59	7:11	5:29	6:27	5:58	5:37	6:31	4:54	7:05	4:33
04	7:22	4:46	7:06	5:21	6:27	5:54	5:38	6:27	4:55	6:58	4:30	7:25	4:35	7:32	5:00	7:09	5:30	6:25	5:59	5:36	6:32	4:52	7:06	4:33
05	7:22	4:47	7:05	5:22	6:26	5:56	5:36	6:28	4:53	6:59	4:30	7:25	4:36	7:32	5:01	7:08	5:31	6:24	6:00	5:34	6:34	4:51	7:07	4:33
06	7:22	4:48	7:04	5:23	6:24	5:57	5:34	6:29	4:52	7:00	4:30	7:26	4:36	7:31	5:02	7:07	5:32	6:22	6:01	5:33	6:35	4:50	7:07	4:33
07	7:22	4:49	7:02	5:24	6:23	5:58	5:33	6:30	4:51	7:01	4:30	7:27	4:37	7:31	5:03	7:06	5:33	6:20	6:02	5:31	6:36	4:49	7:08	4:33
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31	7:09	5:16			5:44	6:23			4:32	7:22			4:56	7:14	5:26	6:32			6:28	4:57			7:22	4:43

Eastern Standard Time • U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC 20392-5420
 Add one hour for daylight savings time when in effect (second Sunday in March and reverts back the first Sunday in November).

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NEW JERSEY HAS more than 750,000 acres of public land available to the deer hunter. This list is arranged by deer management zone for public land open to deer hunting. Generally, only areas with 100 acres or more of upland habitat are listed. State parks and forests that allow hunting may have some sections which are closed to hunting. Some areas allow deer hunting only during certain seasons, require an access fee or have other special regulations. Refer to the *Digest* section *Special Areas Hunting Season Information* page 50 or contact the appropriate authority for details. See page 85 for hunting opportunities on national wildlife refuges in New Jersey.

Remember: Hunters must have permission to hunt agricultural land even if the land is not posted. Hunters should obtain permission before hunting any private property. Hunters are advised not to purchase a deer permit for a zone in which they have no place to hunt. Updates since last year are noted below in **red**.

Zone Public Land Open to Deer Hunting

- 1 • Bear Swamp WMA
 - Flatbrook—Roy WMA
 - Hainesville WMA
 - Stokes State Forest
- 2 • Kittatinny Valley State Park
 - Paulinskill WMA
 - Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
 - Wawayanda State Park
- 3 • Abram Hewitt State Forest
 - Hamburg Mountain WMA
 - Long Pond Ironworks State Park
 - Newark Watershed (see *Special Areas*)
 - Norvin Green State Forest
 - Ramapo Mountain State Forest
 - Ringwood State Park
 - Wawayanda State Park
- 4 • Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
 - Flatbrook—Roy WMA
 - Stokes State Forest
 - Walpack WMA
 - Worthington State Forest
- 5 • Beaver Brook WMA
 - Columbia WMA
 - Honey Run WMA
 - Jenny Jump State Forest
 - Paulinskill WMA
 - Swartswood State Park
 - Trout Brook WMA
 - White Lake WMA
 - Whittingham WMA
- 6 • Allamuchy Mountain State Park
 - Berkshire Valley WMA
 - Fanny State Park
 - Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
 - Newark Watershed (see *Special Areas*)
 - Rockaway River WMA
 - Sparta Mountain WMA
 - Weldon Brook WMA
 - Wildcat Ridge WMA
- 7 • Buckhorn Creek WMA
 - Clinton WMA
 - Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Union Forge Preserve, Tower Hill Reserve (see *Special Areas*)
 - Musconetcong River WMA
 - Spruce Run Recreation Area
- 8 • Allamuchy Mountain State Park
 - Black River WMA
 - Hacklebarney State Park
 - Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Cold Brook Preserve, Teetertown Ravine Nature Preserve, Point Mountain Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
 - Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA
 - Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
 - Musconetcong River WMA
 - Pequest WMA
 - Rockport WMA
 - South Branch WMA
 - Voorhees State Park
- 9 • Black River WMA
 - Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 10 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Musconetcong Gorge, the Drag Strip Property, Hoffman Park, Schick Reserve, South Branch Reservation, Uplands Reserve (see *Special Areas*)
 - Musconetcong River WMA
- 11 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Lockatong Nature Preserve, the Case Farm, Wescott Nature Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
 - Lockatong WMA
- 12 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept.—Cushetunk Mountain Park, Sourland Mountain Nature Preserve, Deer Path Park, South Branch Reservation (see *Special Areas*)
 - Mercer County Parks—Pole Farm Section
 - Round Valley Recreation Area
 - South Branch WMA
- 13 • Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 14 • Assunpink WMA (Robbinsville Twp section only)
 - Pigeon Swamp State Park
 - Six Mile Run Reservoir State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 15 • Assunpink WMA
 - Monmouth County Park System—Charleston Springs Golf Course, Perrineville Lake Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 16 • Turkey Swamp WMA
 - Monmouth County Park System—Bear Swamp Tract of Manasquan Reservoir, Howell Park Golf Course, Turkey Swamp Park, Yellowbrook Tract of Manasquan River Linear Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 17 • Colliers Mills WMA
 - Monmouth County Park System—Clayton Park, Crosswicks Creek Park (see *Special Areas*)
 - Pleasant Run WMA
 - Prospertown Lake WMA
- 18 • Colliers Mills WMA
 - Manchester WMA
 - Whiting WMA
- 19 • Medford WMA
 - Wharton State Forest
- 21 • Double Trouble State Park
 - Forked River Mountain WMA
 - Greenwood Forest WMA
 - Lebanon State Forest
- 22 • Bass River State Forest
- 23 • Wharton State Forest
- 24 • Bass River State Forest
 - Penn State Forest
 - Stafford Forge WMA
 - Swan Bay WMA
 - Warren Grove Recreation Area
 - Wharton State Forest
- 25 • Cedar Lake WMA
 - Great Egg Harbor River WMA
 - Penbryn Pond WMA
 - Wharton State Forest
 - White Oak Branch WMA
- 26 • Great Egg Harbor River WMA
 - Hammoncton Creek WMA
 - Makepeace Lake WMA
 - Port Republic WMA
- 27 • Salem River WMA
 - Thundergut Pond WMA
- 28 • Buckshutem WMA
 - Elmer Lake WMA
 - Parvin State Park
 - Union Lake WMA
- 29 • Bayside PSE&G Tract (see *Special Areas*)
 - Cohanseny WMA
 - Gum Tree Corner WMA
 - Mad Horse Creek WMA
 - Maskells Mill Pond WMA
 - Stowe Creek State Park
- 30 • Bear Swamp Natural Area (closed Jan. 15–Aug. 1)
 - Dix WMA
 - Egg Island WMA
 - Fortescue WMA
 - Nantuxent WMA
 - New Sweden WMA
- 31 • Millville WMA
 - Buckshutem WMA
- 34 • Beaver Swamp WMA
 - Belleplain State Forest
 - Cape May Wetlands WMA
 - Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
 - Dennis Creek WMA
 - Heislerville WMA
 - Higbee Beach WMA
 - Tuckahoe WMA
 - Lizard Tail Swamp Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
- 35 • D.O.D. Ponds
 - Harrisonville Lake WMA
- 36 • Morris County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 37 • Fort Dix Military Reservation (see *Special Areas*)
- 38 • Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 39 • No public deer hunting land
- 41 • Alexauken Creek WMA
 - Mercer County Parks—Baldpate (Kuser) Mountain
 - Mercer County Parks—Howell Living History Farm
- 42 • Port Republic WMA
 - Tuckahoe WMA
- 43 • Millville (Bevan) WMA
- 45 • Menantico Ponds WMA
 - Peaslee WMA
- 46 • Gibson Creek WMA
 - Great Egg Harbor River WMA
 - Tuckahoe WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)
 - Maple Lake WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)
 - Peaslee WMA
- 47 • Peaslee WMA
- 48 • Rancocas State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 49 • No public deer hunting land
- 50 • Cheesequake State Park
 - Monmouth County Park System—Hartshorne Woods Park, Tatum Park, Thompson Park, Big Brook Park, Huber Woods, the Ramanessin Section of Holmdel Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 51 • Allaire State Park
 - Manasquan River WMA
 - Manahawkin WMA
 - Monmouth County Park System—Shark River Park, Rt. 33 Tract and Shark River Park—East of Remsen Mill Rd. (see *Special Areas*)
- 53 • Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station (see *Special Areas*)
- 54 • No public deer hunting land
- 55 • Glassboro WMA
- 56 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 57 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 58 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge—north of Rt. 72 (see *Special Areas*)
- 61 • Atlantic County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 63 • Abbots Meadow WMA
 - Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 64 • Monmouth Battlefield State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 65 • Winslow WMA
 - White Oak Branch WMA
- 66 • Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center (see *Special Areas*)
- 67 • High Point State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 68 • Franklin Parker Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
- 70 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, north of the Mullica River and south of Rt. 72 (see *Special Areas*)

Maps Available

Maps and information on hunting land is also available from the following sources:

Wildlife Management Area Maps

Free download. Maps and information on lands administered by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Both topographic and road maps available. www.njfishandwildlife.com/wmaland.htm Photocopies also available of individual WMA maps on USGS base. Free. Specify which WMA. NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, WMA Map Request MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (609) 984-0547.

USGS Topographic Maps

Free download. Topo quads available. www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs/pricelst/usgsbase.htm Or write, below, stating exact location including county, township and road. Printed topo quads—\$10 ea. NJ DEP Division of Water Supply and Geoscience Maps and Publications MC 29-01, P. O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402 (609) 292-1185

State Parks and Forests Maps

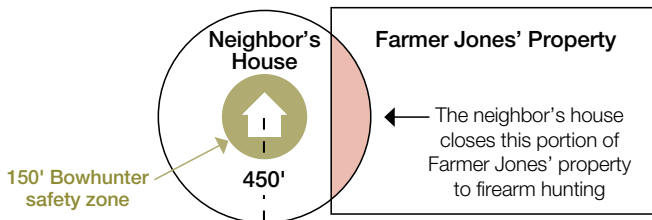
Free download. Find a state park, forest, recreation area or marina by location. www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/parkindex.html. Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Specify which park or forest. Free. NJ DEP, Division of Parks and Forestry MC 501-04, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (800) 843-6420

SAFETY ZONE Awareness: Protecting Your Hunting Privilege

NEW JERSEY HUNTERS enjoy many types of hunting, numerous days afield and generous bag limits. But development and other human encroachment on the forests and fields of the Garden State has changed both wildlife habitat and land suitable for hunting, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for hunters.

What is a SAFETY ZONE?

- ♦ The firearm SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied. For bowhunters, the SAFETY ZONE around buildings is 150 feet **but remains 450 feet from a school playground**. See *Safety Zone*, page 26.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE is the place where you, the hunter, cannot carry a loaded firearm or nocked arrow unless you have written permission in hand.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE was established by legislation in 1946 as an area to place some physical distance, a buffer, between hunters and homeowners.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE could be land where there is suitable wildlife habitat for adaptable species, like the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and Canada goose.
- ♦ The SAFETY ZONE is not a magic shield and cannot stop a misdirected projectile from entering the area around a home.



What can you do to heighten your SAFETY ZONE awareness?

1. Post SAFETY ZONE signs.
2. Talk with landowners.
3. Scout hunting property annually to be aware of new construction or other changes.
4. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
5. Know the law. Know the land.



Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. Always be a responsible hunter. Always be aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of good conduct learned at your hunter education course are called into practice every time you hunt.

Take special care hunting on “high visibility” property, habitat where our adaptable wildlife species—especially white-tailed deer—are flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. Hunting these *Special Areas* carries added responsibility for you, as a hunter, to exercise restraint and make superior judgment decisions. 🐾

Hunting Opportunities on New Jersey's National Wildlife Refuges: 2015–16 Hunting Seasons

Hunting on national wildlife refuges is not permitted unless specifically opened as listed below. *No Sunday hunting on national wildlife refuges.*

Cape May NWR

- 24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 (609) 463-0994; fws.gov/northeast/capemay
- ♦ **Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 50.**
 - ♦ **Migratory game birds except crow—on refuge lands north of Rt. 550 or west of Rt. 47**
 - ♦ **Turkey, rabbit and squirrel hunting in select areas only.**
No refuge permit is required. Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Great Swamp NWR

- 241 Pleasant Plains Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-9615 (973) 425-1222 ext. 155; www.fws.gov/refuge/great_swamp/
- ♦ **Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 50.**
In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a Refuge permit for \$26 (\$13 for holders of a Senior, Golden Age, Access, or Golden Access pass and youths with a valid New Jersey youth hunting license).

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

- 800 Great Creek Rd., Oceanville, NJ 08231-0072; (609) 652-1665; www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/
- ♦ **Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 50.**
 - ♦ **Waterfowl**
Information can be obtained at the refuge, at dispensers, at the headquarters, on the refuge website, or through the mail.

Supawna Meadows NWR

c/o Cape May NWR, 24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210, (609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/supawnameadows/

- ♦ **Deer—Bowhunting only. Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 50.**
- ♦ **Waterfowl**
Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Wallkill River NWR

- 1547 County Rt. 565, Sussex, NJ 07461-4013; (973) 702-7266; www.fws.gov/refuge/Wallkill_River/visit/hunting.html
- ♦ **Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 50.**
 - ♦ **Migratory Birds except crow**
 - ♦ **Spring and Fall Turkey (Zone 5)**
In addition to the required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a refuge permit, either \$30 for for a single game permit or \$75 for a combination, all game permit. Discounts are available for Senior and Access pass holders. Youths remain free. Details on obtaining refuge hunt permits are available at the link above.
 - ♦ **Additional hunting opportunities**
 - » **Hunters with Disabling Conditions:** Special Hunting Permits are available for eligible mobility-impaired persons during the prescribed seasons set by the refuge. For more information and eligibility requirements visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/Wallkill_River/visit/disabledhunt.html or call the office at the number above.
 - » **Mentored Hunts:** The refuge offers mentor-lead hunts for youth and disabled hunters on specified dates during the hunting season. Registration is required and space is limited. Contact the refuge for details. Special hunting conditions apply. 🐾