



NEW JERSEY 2004-05 MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS



*(See 2004-05 New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest
for Additional Hunting Regulations)*

MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE 2004-05 SEASON

- Nontoxic shot will be required for rail, snipe and moorhen hunting AT ALL TIMES.** This regulation will take effect upon adoption of the 2004-05 Game Code. Check the Division's web site or watch for a news release for the date this regulation takes effect. Rail, snipe and moorhen hunters are urged to use nontoxic shot at all times with the onset of the season.
- The brant season is closed during part of the duck season in all zones. **Note that brant is closed Jan. 19-29, 2005 in the COASTAL ZONE.**
- The pintail season is closed during part of the duck season in all zones. Check the table on page 5 for the pintail season in each zone.
- The canvasback season is closed during part of the duck season in all zones. Check the table on page 5 for the canvasback season in each zone.

STATE REGULATIONS

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

Restrictions:

(a) Should any open season on migratory game birds, including waterfowl, be set by Federal regulation which would include the date of November 13, 2004, the starting time on such date will be 8:00 A.M. to coincide with the opening of the small game season on that date. However, this shall not preclude the hunting of migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on the tidal marshes of the State as regularly prescribed throughout the season by Federal regulations.

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

- In or on the shores of the Shark River in Monmouth County.
- In that portion of the Manasquan River from the ocean inlet upstream to Route 70 bridge.
- On Herring Island and that portion of Barnegat Bay lying between northern and southern tips of Herring Island easterly to adjacent shoreline of Mantoloking Boro, Ocean County.
- On Parker Creek and Oceanport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, southwest or upstream of the Conrail R.R. bridge.

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

(d) Permanent blinds may not be constructed on some State Wildlife Management Areas. See page 58 of the 2004-05 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest.

(e) Hunting with firearms is prohibited on November 12, 2004 on those State Wildlife Management Areas designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp areas except in tidal marsh open to an ongoing waterfowl season. See page 6 of the 2004-05 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for these areas.

(f) **Nontoxic shot will be required for rail, snipe and moorhen hunting AT ALL TIMES.** This regulation will take effect upon adoption of the 2004-05 Game Code. Check the Division's web site or watch for a news release for the date this regulation takes effect. Rail, snipe and moorhen hunters are urged to use nontoxic shot at all times with the onset of the season. Nontoxic shot includes those types of shot federally approved for waterfowl hunting (see pg. 3).

**REPORT BANDED BIRDS—1-800-327-BAND OR AT
www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/**

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

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

RESTRICTION—No person shall take migratory game birds:

- By the aid of baiting (placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering salt, grain or other feed that could lure birds to an area), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of all the bait. However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits taking migratory game birds over lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice. Violators convicted of hunting over bait may be fined up to \$15,000 and individuals convicted of placing bait in an area may be fined up to \$100,000.
- With a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substances.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY CLOSURE—For all migratory game birds, the Secretary of the Interior shall close the season within 48 hours upon recommendations of the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

- Edwin B. Forsythe NWR—609-652-1665
- Supawna Meadows NWR—856-935-1487
- Wallkill River NWR—973-702-7266
- Cape May NWR—609-463-0994

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

HUNTING ZONES

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

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



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

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

Woodcock Zones:

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

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

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

Special Winter Canada Goose Season Hunting Areas



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

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

Open Season (Both dates inclusive)		Bag and Possession Limits
Sea ducks (oldsquaw, white-winged, surf, black scoters and common eider)	SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREA Sept. 18-Jan. 18	7 daily; 14 possession (No more than 4 of which may be scoters)
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (See Notes and Exceptions section, page 6)	NORTH ZONE Sept. 25 SOUTH ZONE Oct. 2 COASTAL ZONE Oct. 23	Ducks: 6; with duck limits on Pg. 6 Pintails: 1 Canvasbacks: 1 Brant: 2 Snow geese: 15 Canada geese: 8 North Zone 3 South Zone 3 Coastal Zone
Ducks (Except pintails and canvasbacks)	NORTH ZONE Oct. 9-Oct. 30 Nov. 16-Jan. 1	6 daily; 12 possession (See duck limits on page 6 for further restrictions)
Coot	SOUTH ZONE Oct. 16-Nov. 27 Dec. 14-Jan. 8	15 daily; 30 possession
Mergansers	COASTAL ZONE Nov. 11-Nov. 13 Nov. 25-Jan. 29	See merganser bag limits on page 6.
Pintails	NORTH ZONE Nov. 16-Nov. 27 Dec. 11-Jan. 1 SOUTH ZONE Oct. 16-Oct. 23 Dec. 14-Jan. 8 COASTAL ZONE Nov. 11-Nov. 13 Dec. 2-Jan. 1	1 daily; 2 possession
Canvasbacks	NORTH ZONE Nov. 29-Jan. 1 SOUTH ZONE Nov. 20-Nov. 27 Dec. 14-Jan. 8 COASTAL ZONE Dec. 27-Jan. 29	1 daily; 2 possession
Brant	NORTH ZONE Oct. 9-Oct. 30 Nov. 27-Jan. 1 SOUTH ZONE Oct. 16-Nov. 27 Dec. 25-Jan. 8 COASTAL ZONE Nov. 11-Nov. 13 Nov. 25-Jan. 18	2 daily; 4 possession
Canada goose September Season	STATEWIDE Sept. 1-30	8 daily; 16 possession
Canada goose Regular Season	NORTH ZONE Nov. 13-Nov. 27 Dec. 17-Jan. 22 SOUTH ZONE Nov. 20-Dec. 1 Dec. 14-Jan. 22 COASTAL ZONE Nov. 25-Dec. 4 Dec. 13-Jan. 22	3 daily; 6 possession
Canada goose Special Winter Season	SPECIAL WINTER CANADA GOOSE HUNTING AREA Jan. 24-Feb. 15	5 daily; 10 possession
Snow goose (Blue goose)	NORTHZONE Nov. 6-Mar. 10 SOUTH ZONE Oct. 16-Oct. 23 Nov. 15-Mar. 10 COASTAL ZONE Oct. 9-Feb. 10	15 daily; No possession limit
Sora rail Virginia rail	STATEWIDE Sept. 1-Nov. 8	25 daily or in possession singly or in aggregate
Common gallinule (Moorhen) Clapper rail	STATEWIDE Sept. 1-Nov. 8	10 daily each; 20 possession of each species
Common snipe	STATEWIDE Sept. 18-Jan. 1	8 daily; 16 possession
Woodcock	WOODCOCK NORTH ZONE Oct. 21-Nov. 13 WOODCOCK SOUTH ZONE Nov. 13-Nov. 27 Dec. 24-Jan. 1	3 daily; 6 possession

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

Notes and Exceptions

Sea Duck Limit—Daily bag limit in the special sea duck area and during the sea duck season is 7 sea ducks; no more than 4 of which may be scoters. Outside the special sea duck area and during the regular duck season, sea ducks are included in the daily bag limit of six (6) ducks.

Pintail Regulations

The bag limit for pintails is 1 bird per day during that portion of the duck season open for pintails in each zone. The season for pintails is closed at all other times.

Canvasback Regulations

The bag limit for canvasbacks is 1 bird per day during that portion of the duck season open for canvasbacks in each zone. The season for canvasbacks is closed at all other times.

Duck Bag Limits

Daily bag limit is 6 ducks and it may not include more than:

4 mallards (including no more than 2 hens)	
4 scoters	2 redheads
3 scaup	1 pintail (when open)
2 wood ducks	1 canvasback (when open)
	1 black duck

Merganser Bag Limits

(Common, red breasted and hooded)

Daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only one of which may be a hooded merganser. Possession limit is 10, except hooded mergansers which is 2 birds. Merganser limits are in addition to duck limits.

Other Duck Game Species

Gadwall	Wigeon
Green-winged teal	Goldeneye
Blue-winged teal	Ruddy duck
Shoveler	Ring-necked duck
Bufflehead	duck

Crow Regulations

The hunting season for crows is open statewide, with no bag limits, Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays:
Aug. 9-Dec. 4
Dec. 13-Mar. 19

Closed Season: For all swans, harlequin ducks, king rails and mourning doves.

Falconry (Hawking)

Special Season dates and bag limits. Contact NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Open for youths with a hunting license and accompanied by a non-shooting individual at least 21 years of age with a hunting license. Each youth may participate in 1 to 3 days.

BANDED WATERFOWL—Report banded waterfowl by calling 1-800-327-BAND. This phone will be staffed during normal business hours (Mon.-Fri.) during September. After Oct. 1, this phone will be staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week. Alternatively, report bands via the Internet at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/

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

HUNTING HOURS—See Restriction (a), page 1 for exception on November 13, 2004. See page 68 of the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for sunrise/sunset table.

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

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

1. To hunt crows you need a New Jersey hunting license—See 2004-05 NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest for hunting license requirements and fees.
2. To hunt woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules you need a New Jersey hunting license and Harvest Information Program (HIP) number.
3. To hunt ducks, geese and/or brant you need a New Jersey hunting license, HIP number, Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp. Both Federal and State stamps are required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older and must be signed across the face in ink. Federal stamps are available at US Post Offices. State stamps are available from agents who sell hunting licenses.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)

Hunters must obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number **before** hunting ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules in New Jersey by calling **1-800-WETLAND** or by registering through the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com/hipprog.htm. The HIP number and phone call are **FREE** and the automated system is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Have your hunting license number when you call and write your HIP number on the front of your hunting license in the space next to "2004/05 Fall/Winter NJ HIP#". The HIP number is valid from September 1, 2004 until March 10, 2005. If you hunt migratory birds in another state, you will need to get a HIP number in that state following that state's HIP procedures. Information collected in HIP is confidential and is used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting migratory bird harvest surveys. As in the past, the USFWS will mail harvest survey information to a small, random sample of HIP registrants. Call 1-888-764-7343 if you have problems getting your HIP number.

Visit our Division Website at: www.njfishandwildlife.com