

The Challenges of Managing Canada Geese

By Ted Nichols, Wildlife Biologist

Developing hunting regulations for Canada geese—with three distinct populations in New Jersey and their different population trajectories—can be challenging.

Garden State Canada geese include the *Atlantic*, *North Atlantic* and *Resident* populations.

From Where Do They Originate?

Atlantic Population Canada geese nest in the boreal forest and tundra of northern Quebec with the densest populations along the Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay coasts. North Atlantic Population geese nest further east in Newfoundland, Labrador, and Greenland. Collectively, Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese are informally known as *migrant* geese since they breed in the sub-arctic and migrate south to spend winter. Atlantic Population geese winter throughout eastern North America, but are most concentrated in the mid-Atlantic (including New Jersey) and Delmarva. North Atlantic Population geese have a strong coastal affinity, wintering from Prince Edward Island to North Carolina with the core wintering area from Long Island and north. Resident Population geese breed in southern Canada and throughout the US and generally make no or relatively short migrations in winter.

All three populations of geese readily mix in fall and winter; Resident Population geese are also present in the states during spring and summer. Resident Population geese have adapted readily to our human-dominated landscape and are generally the goose population responsible for damage complaints regarding fecal droppings and poor water quality.

Although geese from these three populations look similar and are considered the same species (*Branta canadensis*) they are different subspecies or races. Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese collectively belong to the races *B. c. interior* and *B. c. canadensis* while Resident Population geese are primarily derived from a mix of mid-latitude race geese including *B. c. maxima* and *B. c. moffitti*. Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese are slightly smaller physically than Resident Population geese although there is considerable overlap in their skeletal size.

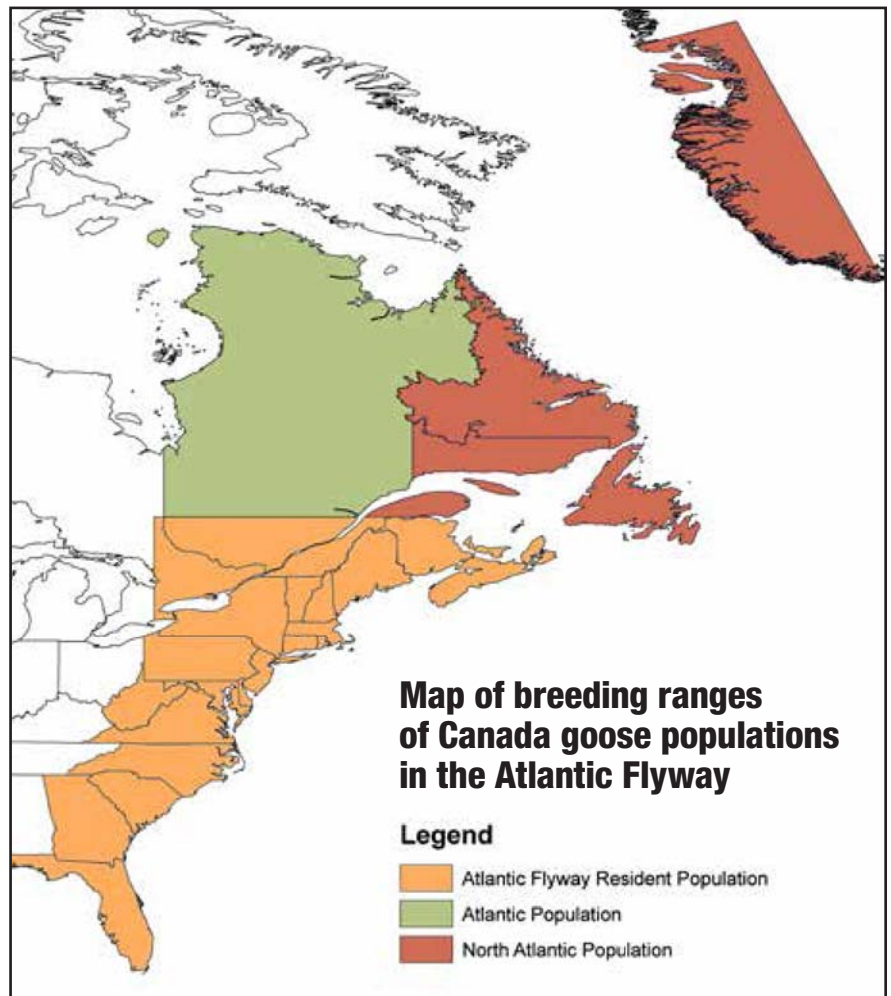
Geese are animals that are tremendously philopatric, or faithful, to their breeding areas. Banding data suggest that geese generally remain in the same breeding population through their lives. Contrary to popular belief, Atlantic Population and/or North Atlantic Population geese do not stop migrating or switch to live the leisurely life of Resident Population geese. Atlantic Population and/or North Atlantic Population geese hatched in the boreal forest or tundra continue to migrate and return there to nest while Resident Population geese stay in mid-latitude areas to nest.

Gosling Survival

Geese from the different populations face very different circumstances in their life histories given the geographic location of their breeding areas. For Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese, young production can vary dramatically from year to year, largely dependent on the timing of snowmelt as well as the frequency and duration of late spring (June) snowstorms in their northern clime.

During years when snowmelt is late, migrant geese may completely forego nesting. Resident Population geese, on the other hand, consistently produce a

Banding data suggest that Canada geese generally remain in the same breeding population through the duration of their lives. Contrary to popular belief, migrant geese do not stop migrating or switch to live the leisurely life of resident geese. Migrant Canada geese hatched on the tundra continue to migrate and return there to nest while resident geese stay in mid-latitude areas to nest.



large number of young since they breed in relatively stable mid-latitude climates. In addition, Resident Population goslings face relatively few predators when compared to their sub-arctic breeding cousins that routinely face arctic fox. These fox populations vary considerably, largely dependent on cyclic abundance of small mammals, particularly lemmings. When lemming populations crash, foxes must switch to alternate prey, and during these years, can have a significant impact on gosling production. Survival rates of adult geese can be vary greatly as well.

Population Pressures

Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese must face the rigors of migration during both fall and spring. In addition, sport hunting can have a significant impact on survival rates of long-lived birds such as Canada geese, and as such, must be strictly regulated. Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese can be subjected to significant hunting pressure as they pass through two countries and several states that may have hunting seasons with

staggered opening dates. In addition, Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese also face considerable hunting pressure from native, subsistence hunters in Canada when the geese return to breeding areas in the spring. Resident Population geese, on the other hand, spend much of their time in parks, golf courses and corporate campuses where they are relatively inaccessible to hunters. These differences in young production and survival are the key components that govern the status of these three populations of Canada geese.

Looks Can Be Deceiving

Because Canada geese from different populations look similar physically and cannot be distinguished from one another in a hunting situation or even in hand, harvest regulations can be constrained by the population with the *lowest* ability to withstand hunting pressure when multiple populations of Canada geese are mixed together. This is the case in New Jersey during fall and winter when Atlantic Population geese are mixed with Resident Population geese throughout the state.

This period when Canada goose populations are admixed corresponds with the *regular* season, that is, the traditional goose hunting season from November through January—the preferred hunting period for the majority of waterfowlers. In most geographic areas of North America, including New Jersey, one or more populations of sub-arctic nesting migrant Canada geese can become the limiting factor when setting season length and bag limits for these birds in that geographic area. Figure 1 shows the locations of Atlantic Population band recoveries in New Jersey. Although 644 band recoveries over the course of 30 years may not seem like much, it is important to remember that each individual band recovery represents many hundreds of harvested Atlantic Population geese.

Harvest By Design

To manage and provide opportunity to hunt Resident Population geese but avoid harvest of North Atlantic Population or Atlantic Population geese, special seasons are designed to harvest Resident Population geese when and where possible. For example, September seasons occur before the onset of migration thereby directing all harvest pressure at Resident Population geese, the reason why special regulations including liberal bag limits, unplugged shotguns

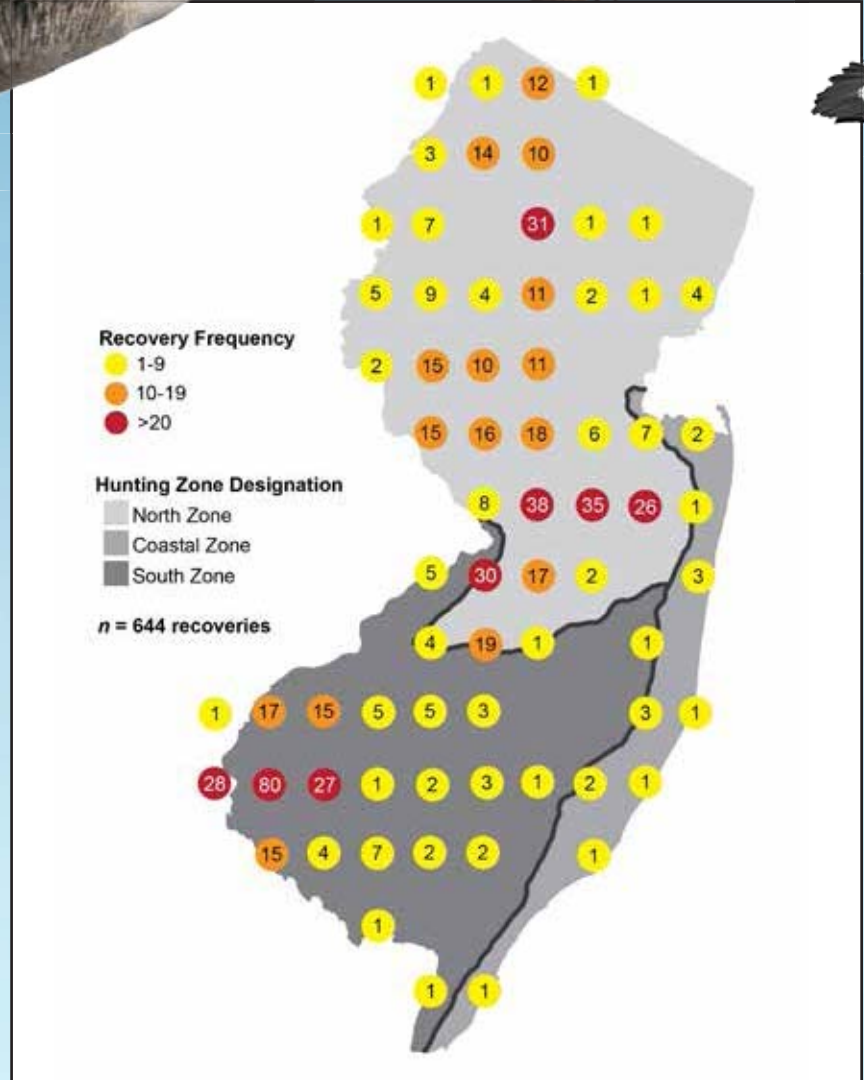


Figure 1. Leg band recoveries of Atlantic Population Canada geese in New Jersey by 10-minute block, 1981–2011. Atlantic Population geese are banded on the breeding grounds of northern Quebec.





and extended shooting hours are permitted. In New Jersey, special winter seasons, also with liberal bag limits, are held in areas of the state that have relatively low populations of Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese during late winter.

Hunters harvest about 40,000 Canada geese annually in New Jersey. Band recovery data suggest that nearly all September season harvest—and about 80 percent of special winter season Canada goose harvest—is comprised of Resident Population geese. During the regular season in New Jersey, about two thirds of the Canada goose harvest is comprised of Resident Population geese, with the remaining one third made up by North Atlantic Population and Atlantic Population geese.

Balancing Act

Most people agree that Resident Population geese are overabundant through most of their range, including New Jersey, and that their population needs to be reduced. Atlantic Population geese, however, have been more abundant in the past, and their migratory flights in October, along with changing leaves, apple cider and crisp nights, are among the most treasured of autumn pleasures.

Despite the overabundance of Resident Population geese, wildlife biologists have the responsibility to maintain populations of Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese for sport hunters in the United States and Canada, for subsistence Inuit and Cree hunters in the Canadian arctic and for wildlife viewers in both countries. Maintaining the historic biodiversity of these continental migrant Canada goose populations is also important. Since the *regular* season occurs when all three populations are mixed, it is this regular season—including the number of hunting days, bag limit and framework dates (earliest and latest dates when these seasons may occur)—that is most often adjusted by wildlife managers to ensure that migrant Atlantic Population and North Atlantic Population geese remain healthy.



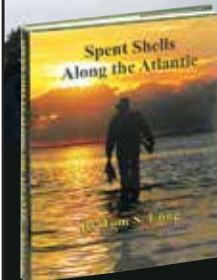
Top Tips for Hunting Canada Geese



Atlantic Population Canada geese are leg-banded annually during the molt on their breeding grounds in northern Quebec. This group of adults and their goslings were captured and banded on the tundra of Nunavik near the Inuit village of Kangirsuk.

The Modern-Day Waterfowl-Hunter's Classic *Spent Shells Along The Atlantic*

by Tom S. Long



Hardbound
with dust cover
\$55⁰⁰ plus \$7⁹⁵S/H

Leather Autographed
Limited Edition
\$125⁰⁰

Send checks to: Roger Sparks Publishing
276 County Line Rd. • Runnells, IA 50237
order online at: SpentShellsAlongTheAtlantic.com

QUAIL Hunt in the Field Trial Capital of the World
Oct 1–Mar 15

1/2 Day | Full Day | Multi-Day
Famous Sweet Home Alabama
3-Day Quail Tournaments
Unlimited Birds (no overage charges)
No Cleaning Fees

GREAT SOUTHERN OUTDOORS
Wildlife Plantation
Union Springs, AL | 334.738.5066
Support@GreatSouthernOutdoors.com
GreatSouthernOutdoors.com

DEER
Oct 25–Feb 10
8 pt. or larger, 2 does,
2 hogs per 3 days

TURKEY
Mar 15–Apr 30
2 mature gobblers per 3 days

Home of the Alabama World Champion Bowhunter Tournament
Dec 1 - 10!

BOW/GUN
2-Day, 3-Day & Multi-Day Hunts

Habitat Management on Public Lands in Southwestern New Jersey

By **Andrew Burnett**, Principal Biologist and
Jimmy Sloan, Habitat Specialist, Bureau of Wildlife Management

Habitat management work has already begun on quail management units on both public and private lands.

The goal of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Northern Bobwhite Action Plan is to restore New Jersey's bobwhite population to the 1980 statewide average density (7.4 birds heard per route) observed on the U.S. Geological Survey's North American Breeding Bird Survey. The Action Plan (approved December 2009) contains several actions to accomplish this goal including: to identify, increase, improve and connect habitat areas suitable for bobwhite. Fish and Wildlife staff from the bureaus of Land Management, Wildlife Management and our Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) have developed a management plan designed to increase by 50 percent within five years the quality of habitat necessary for bobwhite and a multitude of other early successional species in southwestern New Jersey while having no negative effects on threatened or endangered species.

Portions of Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties lying west of State Highway 55 have been designated as our Focal Region for bobwhite and other early successional wildlife species based on the predictive habitat model developed in 2008 by Gretchen Fowles (ENSP). The Focal Region covers a total 557,251 acres, nearly half of which is considered potentially suitable quail habitat and is characterized by extensive agricultural areas, relatively low human density and contains approximately 87,000 acres of preserved open space.

Enhancing existing bobwhite habitat requires intensive management which can more realistically be delivered on smaller Focal Areas within Focal Landscapes. Therefore, the Fish and Wildlife plan established three smaller Focal Landscapes based on the amount of public lands, interconnectedness or proximity to potential private cooperators and natural physical land features.



Quail Management Ideas for Your Land



Work began in *Focal Landscape 1* (roughly that part of Cumberland County lying between the Cohansey and Maurice Rivers south of Sherman Avenue) during 2013 by identifying 75 *quail management units* where actual on-the-ground habitat management will occur. Each quail management unit is approximately 100 acres in size and contains pre-existing early successional habitat patches. Most of these units are located on properties owned and managed by Fish and Wildlife (41), but quail management units on private land (34) were identified to provide connectivity in the focal area.

Habitat management work has already begun on quail management units, within each Focal Area, on both public and private lands. The five year goal is for each unit to be able to sustain a quail covey for their entire life cycle by providing cover for nesting, brood rearing, loafing and escape as well as food.

Habitat management practices will include rotational strip disking, creating field buffers, prescribed burning, edge feathering, native warm season grass, forbs and hedgerow planting and hydro-axing. A structured monitoring plan will help to guide our efforts throughout this process and will allow us to determine if we are meeting our management goals.

Land management practices for bobwhite should benefit a variety of grassland suite species that also rely on early- to mid-successional habitats. Of the 156 terrestrial species listed or proposed for listing as *endangered*, *threatened*, or of *special concern* by

the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, at least 44 species (28 percent) rely on early- or mid-successional habitats and are found within the Focal Region (nine mammal, 23 bird, four reptile and eight invertebrate species). Bobcat, American kestrel, bobolink, eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, horned lark, savannah sparrow, vesper sparrow, wood thrush,

yellow-breasted chat, bog turtle and the frosted elfin butterfly are just a few of the other species that are expected to benefit from Fish and Wildlife's bobwhite management efforts.

Landowners interested in providing wildlife habitat on their property should contact the Bureau of Wildlife Management's Habitat Specialist Jimmy Sloan at (609) 748-2058.



Typical quail management units, each around 100 acres, identified at Dix Wildlife Management Area.

Jimmy Sloan/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

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

ATV DISCLAIMER

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife reminds sportsmen and sportswomen that the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is prohibited on state lands including wildlife management areas, state parks and state forests. Any person found to be operating an ATV on a wildlife management area will be issued a citation for violating state regulations. Be advised that two violations of wildlife management area regulations will result in the loss of *all* sporting licenses and privileges for a period of **five years**. The responsible use of ATVs must be restricted to private land with landowner permission. Riders should take measures to avoid damage to habitat and wildlife.

A Father's Tradition

This is a story about tradition, about a father longing for a moment alone with his son, without the intrusions of cell phones and video games.

It's about a man who wants his son to learn a skill shunned by most of society yet one which provides this man catharsis when nothing else can. It's also about a boy, fast becoming a man, trying desperately to please his often unreasonable and impatient father. It is a quest without a final destination yet one with glorious checkpoints along the way, even though fraught with obstacles and impediments.

The boy began his quest last year. Joey was unable to pull his bow at 20 pounds; the law requires that he must pull 35 pounds in order to gain his license. Months of strength training. Thousands of wayward arrows. Baby steps. Small victories. Huge disappointments. Slowly gaining ground. Needing to be pushed at times but still willing. Over months of practice, he began to experience a sense of passion. The father woke to the sound of the arrows hitting the target outside as the Hunter Education test approached and this pleased him greatly. The boy was ready. Even at the test itself, the boy looked into his father's eyes with fear and uncertainty and I thought I had made a mistake...until the first three arrows struck the bulls-eye and that hurdle was cleared.

Practice continued daily for months on end. Hundreds of hours watching videos and learning how and when to act when the moment in the woods presented itself. Six summer weekends "lost" to online war games, instead standing in the woods, scouting and building stands with this crazy old man. The boy began to sound like a hunter. Began to speak the language of "rubs" and "scrapes" and the man felt pride and joy with every reference.

When the season finally arrived, the young boy had a hiccup with illness on youth day. I remember being angry with him. Angry! I realized later it wasn't anger; instead, it was the fact that I was disappointed for him and that brought me solace. Another hiccup came with a missed shot a week later and a drop in confidence for a boy struggling with that trait already. Hours spent convincing him that it was natural. His desire dissipated. He was reluctant to return. Then one day he asked if

we could hunt this weekend. Practice shots and renewed confidence. All systems go. Having been in the heat of the moment many times, I worried. No one knows how they will react. No one knows how much they can control those emotions.

Bowhunting is a very different craft than gun hunting. We hunt with both sporting arms so it's not an indictment of the craft. Rather I raise the issue because bowhunting is much more difficult and the margin for error associated with hunting with a bow and arrow is much greater. Deer see 310 degrees. To be able to get one close enough is difficult. To be able to draw undetected (especially when you are not yet strong enough to do it sitting down, like Joey) and then execute the shot...that's an absolute art.

When the buck approached, I worried about the heart rate and heavy breathing...until I realized it was mine, not his. In four minutes that seemed like an eternity, Joey showed the value of persistence and hard work, and performed like the champ that I have always known he is.

His nerves were calm and his aim was remarkably true. I thought the anxiety would shake him until I realized it was mine, not his. When we recovered his buck that sported a rack most hunters would call "spindly" or "genetically deficient," it mattered



The value of patience and persistence along with the love of father and son are memorialized here with Joey Kassar proudly displaying his first archery-harvested deer.

not to either of us. It is a memory, one shared by a father and his son. It is a trophy for our minds and hearts, not our wall. The hug we shared when he leaped into my arms made the tears flow freely and I was worried he would think his dad's crying was weak...until I realized the tears were ours, not just mine. Congratulations, Joe Kassar. I love you more than you will ever know. I am so proud of you and look forward to getting lost in the woods with you for the next 100 years.

Kim Kassar,
Proud father of Joey

Continue the Tradition

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



Day	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	7:22	4:43	7:09	5:17	6:32	5:51	5:42	6:24	4:58	6:55	4:31	7:23	4:33	7:32	4:57	7:13	5:27	6:30	5:56	5:41	6:29	4:56	7:03	4:34
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
08	7:22	4:50	7:01	5:26	6:21	5:59	5:31	6:31	4:50	7:02	4:29	7:27	4:37	7:31	5:04	7:05	5:34	6:19	6:03	5:29	6:36	4:48	7:09	4:33
09	7:21	4:51	7:00	5:27	6:20	6:00	5:30	6:32	4:49	7:03	4:29	7:28	4:38	7:30	5:05	7:03	5:35	6:17	6:04	5:28	6:38	4:47	7:10	4:33
10	7:21	4:52	6:59	5:28	6:18	6:01	5:28	6:33	4:48	7:04	4:29	7:28	4:39	7:30	5:06	7:02	5:35	6:15	6:05	5:26	6:39	4:46	7:11	4:33
11	7:21	4:53	6:58	5:29	6:16	6:02	5:27	6:34	4:47	7:05	4:29	7:29	4:40	7:29	5:07	7:01	5:36	6:14	6:06	5:25	6:41	4:45	7:12	4:33
12	7:21	4:54	6:57	5:30	6:15	6:03	5:25	6:35	4:46	7:06	4:29	7:29	4:40	7:29	5:08	7:00	5:37	6:12	6:07	5:23	6:42	4:44	7:12	4:33
13	7:21	4:55	6:56	5:32	6:13	6:04	5:23	6:36	4:45	7:06	4:29	7:30	4:41	7:28	5:09	6:58	5:38	6:10	6:08	5:22	6:43	4:44	7:13	4:34
14	7:20	4:56	6:54	5:33	6:12	6:05	5:22	6:37	4:44	7:07	4:29	7:30	4:42	7:28	5:10	6:57	5:39	6:09	6:09	5:20	6:44	4:43	7:14	4:34
15	7:20	4:57	6:53	5:34	6:10	6:06	5:20	6:38	4:43	7:08	4:29	7:30	4:42	7:27	5:11	6:56	5:40	6:07	6:10	5:19	6:45	4:42	7:15	4:34
16	7:19	4:58	6:52	5:35	6:08	6:07	5:19	6:39	4:42	7:09	4:29	7:31	4:43	7:27	5:12	6:54	5:41	6:06	6:11	5:17	6:46	4:41	7:15	4:34
17	7:19	4:59	6:50	5:36	6:07	6:08	5:17	6:40	4:41	7:10	4:29	7:31	4:44	7:26	5:12	6:53	5:42	6:04	6:12	5:16	6:47	4:40	7:16	4:35
18	7:19	5:00	6:49	5:37	6:05	6:09	5:16	6:41	4:40	7:11	4:29	7:31	4:45	7:25	5:13	6:51	5:43	6:02	6:13	5:14	6:49	4:40	7:17	4:35
19	7:18	5:02	6:48	5:39	6:04	6:10	5:14	6:42	4:39	7:12	4:29	7:32	4:46	7:25	5:14	6:50	5:44	6:01	6:14	5:13	6:50	4:39	7:17	4:36
20	7:18	5:03	6:46	5:40	6:02	6:11	5:13	6:43	4:39	7:13	4:30	7:32	4:47	7:24	5:15	6:48	5:45	5:59	6:15	5:11	6:51	4:38	7:18	4:36
21	7:17	5:04	6:45	5:41	6:00	6:13	5:12	6:44	4:38	7:14	4:30	7:32	4:47	7:23	5:16	6:47	5:46	5:57	6:17	5:10	6:52	4:38	7:18	4:37
22	7:16	5:05	6:44	5:42	5:59	6:14	5:10	6:45	4:37	7:15	4:30	7:32	4:48	7:22	5:17	6:46	5:47	5:56	6:18	5:09	6:53	4:37	7:19	4:37
23	7:16	5:06	6:42	5:43	5:57	6:15	5:09	6:46	4:36	7:16	4:30	7:32	4:49	7:21	5:18	6:44	5:48	5:54	6:19	5:07	6:54	4:37	7:19	4:38
24	7:15	5:07	6:41	5:44	5:55	6:16	5:07	6:47	4:36	7:16	4:31	7:33	4:50	7:21	5:19	6:43	5:49	5:52	6:20	5:06	6:55	4:36	7:20	4:38
25	7:14	5:09	6:39	5:46	5:54	6:17	5:06	6:48	4:35	7:17	4:31	7:33	4:51	7:20	5:20	6:41	5:50	5:51	6:21	5:05	6:56	4:36	7:20	4:39
26	7:14	5:10	6:38	5:47	5:52	6:18	5:05	6:49	4:35	7:18	4:31	7:33	4:52	7:19	5:21	6:39	5:51	5:49	6:22	5:03	6:57	4:35	7:20	4:40
27	7:13	5:11	6:36	5:48	5:50	6:19	5:03	6:50	4:34	7:19	4:32	7:33	4:53	7:18	5:22	6:38	5:52	5:47	6:23	5:02	6:59	4:35	7:21	4:40
28	7:12	5:12	6:35	5:49	5:49	6:20	5:02	6:52	4:33	7:20	4:32	7:33	4:54	7:17	5:23	6:36	5:53	5:46	6:24	5:01	7:00	4:35	7:21	4:41
29	7:11	5:13	6:34	5:50	5:47	6:21	5:01	6:53	4:33	7:21	4:32	7:33	4:54	7:16	5:24	6:35	5:54	5:44	6:26	4:59	7:01	4:34	7:21	4:42
30	7:10	5:15			5:46	6:22	4:59	6:54	4:32	7:21	4:33	7:32	4:55	7:15	5:25	6:33	5:55	5:42	6:27	4:58	7:02	4:34	7:21	4:42
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).

The Perfect Deer Feed!

Deer love sweet potatoes!



PLUS...
 most sweet potatoes are too large and heavy for a squirrel to remove.

Sweet potatoes, a locally available feed source that is economical, nutritious and very popular with deer. **Buy direct from the farmer!**



For more information, and local sources of New Jersey sweet potato farmers offering deer feed, contact:
The New Jersey Sweet Potato Industry Commission at: 609-292-8854 (ask for Bill Walker)

NORTH JERSEY'S PREMIER ARCHERY PRO-SHOP



Saddle Brook, NJ




Custom Equipment
 Indoor Range • Sales & Service
 Adult Leagues • Kids Leagues
 Lessons • Parties • Licenses

Targeteers is a family owned and operated business which was established in 1957. We take great pride in our work and in our store. We work to keep a clean and neat showroom with 100's of bows and an expansive selection of accessories. Targeteers Sporting Goods has grown into one of the most respectable Archery Pro Shops in the North East Region. We are dedicated to provide all of our customers with courteous service.

(201) 843-7788 • www.TargeteersArchery.com • 101 Route 46 West, Saddle Brook, NJ

PUBLIC DEER HUNTING LAND IN NEW JERSEY

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 89 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
 - Farny 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*)
- 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
- 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*)
- Cohansey 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
- Beaver Swamp WMA
- 34 • 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
- Mercer County Parks—Pole Farm Section
- 42 • Port Republic 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 • Cheesapeake 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 • Abbotts 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

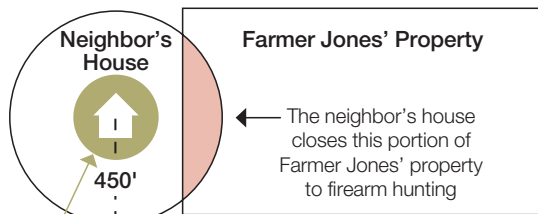
Free download. Find a state park, forest, recreation area or marina by location. www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/parkindex.html. Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Specify which park or forest. Free. NJ DEP, Division of Parks and Forestry MC 501-04, 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.

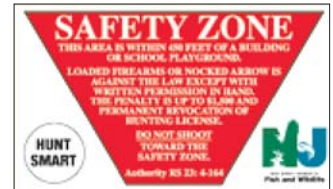
What is a SAFETY ZONE?

- ♦ 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 27.
- ♦ 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: 2014–15 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. 158; 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)**
 - ♦ **September Canada Goose**
- Note: the refuge is closed to bear hunting.**

In addition to the required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a refuge permit which is available by following the above link and scrolling down to *Deer Hunting*. There is a \$30 fee for a refuge permit except youths are free; discounts available for those with federal Senior or Access Passes. Special hunting conditions apply. 🐾