

# Small Game/Fall & Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

## REGULATIONS

### Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 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.
- ♦ The fall lottery for turkey permits has been eliminated. A permit is still required (see page 14) and may be purchased at license agents or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com).
- ♦ 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 illegal.**
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ 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.

### Mandatory Turkey Check Requirement

All harvested turkeys must be tagged **immediately** with a completed transportation tag. A turkey must be taken by the person who killed it, on the day killed, to the nearest turkey check station where personnel will issue a legal possession tag. See page 60 for a list of official turkey check stations to locate one closest to your hunting area.

**NOTE:** During Youth Turkey Hunting Day, hunting periods A, B, C and the first three Saturdays of hunting period E, the turkey must be taken to the nearest check station by 3 p.m. During hunting period D and the last Saturday of hunting period E, the turkey must be taken to the nearest check station by 9 p.m. During the Fall Turkey Season, the turkey must be taken to the nearest check station by 7 p.m. In the event a turkey is killed too late to register at a check station, call the nearest Fish and Wildlife

Law Enforcement Office (see page 41) and leave a message including your name, phone number, CID number and the Turkey Hunting Area where the bird was taken. The bird must be checked the next day. If it was butchered, bring all remaining parts (beard, head, legs, etc.) to the check station.

In the future turkey hunters will be able to report their turkeys via the Electronic License System. Once this is active, complete instructions will be available on Fish and Wildlife's website at [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com) and printed in the next hunting Digest. Subscribe to our email lists at [NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm) to be notified of Fish and Wildlife updates and events, including any changes to the harvest reporting system.

### Turkey Season Dates and Hunting Hours

The 2017 fall turkey season will consist of one seven day hunting segment, N, (excluding Sunday) from Saturday, Oct. 28 through Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017. 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.

### 2018 Spring Gobbler Hunting Season Dates

Hunting Period	Dates
<b>Youth Turkey Hunting Day</b> (10–16 years of age) Hunting Period Y	Sat., April 21 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 A	Mon., April 23–Fri., April 27
Hunting Period B	Mon., April 30–Fri., May 4
Hunting Period C	Mon., May 7–Fri., May 11
Hunting Period D	Mon., May 14–Fri., May 18; Mon., May 21–Fri., May 25
Hunting Period E	All Saturdays, April 28, May 5, May 12 and May 19

### 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](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/turkeyareas.htm).



### Spring Turkey Hunting Supplement and Permit Information

Printing a separate [Spring Turkey Hunting Supplement booklet](#) has been discontinued. All regulation and permit information are contained in this *Digest*. See page 14 for information on applying for spring turkey hunting permits.

### 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. 🐾

### Youth Turkey Hunt Day

**April 21, 2018** (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 12. 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

## FALL / SPRING TURKEY CHECK STATIONS

### Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Turkey Check Stations

#### ATLANTIC

Butterhof's Farm & Home Supply,  
5715 White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor City . . . . . (609) 965-1198  
Ted's Taxidermy, 713 Rt. 40, Buena . . . . . (856) 697-8585

#### BURLINGTON

Mighty Joe's Texaco, 1231 Rt. 206 S., Shamong . . (609) 268-0303  
Sportsman's Center, Rt. 130, Bordentown . . . . (609) 298-5300

#### CAMDEN

Atco Sports Center, 177 Atco Ave., Atco . . . . . (856) 767-9446

#### CAPE MAY

Belle Plain Supply,  
346 Handisville Ave., Belle Plain . . . . . (609) 861-2345

#### CUMBERLAND

Beaver Dam Boat Rentals,  
514 Old Beaver Dam Rd, Newport . . . . . (856) 447-3633  
Blackwater Sports Center,  
2228 Delsea Dr., Vineland . . . . . (856) 691-1571

#### GLOUCESTER

Sportsman's Outpost,  
Fries Mill Rd., Williamstown . . . . . (856) 881-3244  
The Bottle Barn, 65 West Broad St., Gibbstown . . (856) 423-3608

#### HUNTERDON

Boan's Marine, 1296 Rt. 179, Lambertville . . . (609) 397-3311  
The Corner Store, Rt. 12 and Rt. 519, Baptistown . . (908) 996-7648

Carousel Deli And Bakery,  
Rt. 179 and Wertsville Rd., Ringoes . . . . . (908) 788-5180  
Jugtown Mountain Campsites,  
1074 Rt. 173 East, Asbury . . . . . (908) 735-5995

#### MIDDLESEX

Sayreville Sportsmen,  
52 Washington Ave., Sayreville . . . . . (732) 238-2060

#### MONMOUTH

Ken's Taxidermy, 389 Rt. 79, Morganville . . . . . (908) 670-9497  
Cream Ridge Sports Shop,  
445 Rt. 539, Cream Ridge . . . . . (609) 758-0616  
L&H Woods and Water, 2045 Rt. 35, Wall . . . . . (732) 282-1812

#### MORRIS

Mount Hope Deli, 662 Mount Hope Ave., Wharton . . (973) 328-7259

#### OCEAN

Tips Hardware, 218 Main Street, West Creek . . (609) 296-3192

#### PASSAIC

Tackle and Field, 81 Ringwood Ave., Wanaque . . (973) 835-2966  
Greenwood Lake Sports Center,  
1745 Greenwood Lake Turnpike, Hewitt . . . . . (973) 728-1000

#### SALEM

Salem Boat Exchange,  
1163 South Broadway, Pennsville . . . . . (856) 935-2515  
Sam's Super Service, 290 Rt. 40, Elmer . . . . . (856) 358-3488

#### SOMERSET

Puskas Dairy Farm,  
170 South Middlebush Rd. Somerset . . . . . (732) 690-0380

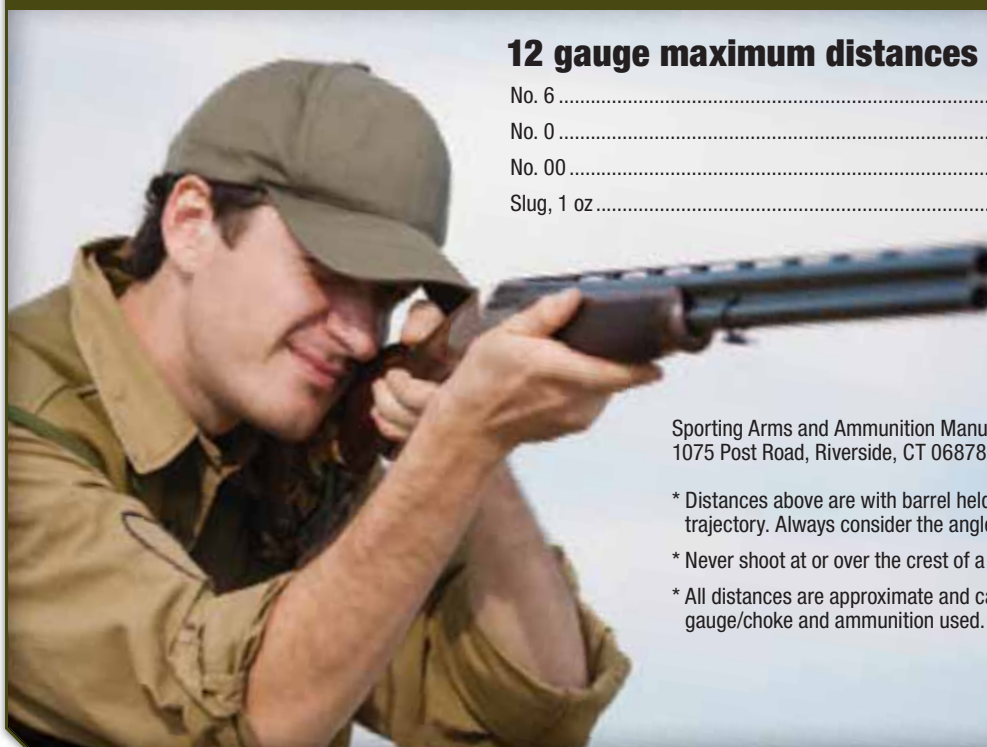
#### SUSSEX

Garden State Bow & Reel,  
2760A Rt. 23N, Stockholm . . . . . (973) 697-3727  
Hainesville General Store,  
283 Rt. 206 South Hainesville . . . . . (973) 948-4280  
Mountain Mike's Sport Shop,  
7 Old Rudetown Rd., McAfee . . . . . (973) 827-6527  
Mountain View Country Store,  
300 Rt. 519, Wantage . . . . . (973) 875-6000  
Simon-Peter Bait And Tackle,  
Rt. 206 And Brighton Rd., Newton . . . . . (973) 786-5313  
Swartswood Deli,  
911 Newton-Swartswood Rd., Stillwater . . . . . (973) 383-5470

#### WARREN

Alpine Meats, Rt. 94 N., Blairstown . . . . . (908) 362-8568  
Hi-Way Sport Shop,  
Box 253, Rt. 31 North, Washington . . . . . (908) 689-6208  
Smitty's Liquor & Deli, 89 Rt. 46, Delaware . . . (908) 475-5933  
The Owl's Nest, 97 Rt. 519, Warren Glen . . . . . (908) 995-7903

## 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.



# Public Turkey Hunting Land

IN NEW JERSEY

## 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
- 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
- Penn State Forest
- Port Republic WMA
- Stafford Forge WMA
- Swan Bay WMA
- Warren Grove Recreation Area
- Wharton State Forest

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 20

- Abbotts Meadow WMA
- Cohansey 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

- Buckshutem WMA
- Cedar Lake WMA

- Cedarville Pond WMA
- Cohansey 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



**LOWLANDS WHITETAILS HUNTING RANCH**

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