

2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational & Economic Survey Results

Summary

Firearm license sales in 2013 (68,914) increased 3.2% (n = 2132) compared to 2012 sales but remain at their lowest point in the last 100 years. Resident firearm hunters (93.2% of license buyers) live in every county of the state, and 78.8% of non-resident firearm hunters reside in the adjacent states of Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania. Although firearm hunters are nearly all male, the percentage of female hunters is increasing (2.9% in 2013 compared to 2.4 % in 2011). The mean age of 2013 licensed firearm hunters is 51.3 years compared to 46.8 years in 2011. Mail questionnaires were sent to 3,831 firearm hunters licensed during the 2013 calendar year (5.6% of all known firearm license holders) requesting harvest, recreational and economic information for the 2013-14 hunting season. The survey was also available online to all licensed firearm hunters that provided an email address (32,173 or 46.8% of firearm license holders). A total 2,653 responses were received for a 3.9% response rate. Survey results estimated 36,051 firearm hunters actively pursued the 14 small game species during the 2013-14 seasons. Active firearm hunters harvested an estimated 67,026 northern bobwhite, 47,813 chukar and 1,010 Hungarian partridge, 26,927 crows, 725 ruffed grouse, 250,828 pheasants, 2,737 woodcock, 811 coyotes, 664 gray fox, 2,352 red fox, 66,413 gray squirrels, 77,993 rabbits and hares, 1,968 raccoons, 178 opossums, and 44,869 woodchucks. Survey results estimated 51,505 firearm hunters actively pursued black bear, white-tailed deer and fall wild turkey and estimated harvests at 76, 43,940 and 24 respectively. Firearm hunters expended an estimated \$65.2 million while enjoying 1.8 million recreation-days afield during 2013-14.

This survey was conducted as part of **Job III-B. Hunter and Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey**. This job is included within **Grant Number W-68-R-17, New Jersey Wildlife Research and Management: Project III. Upland Wildlife and Furbearers**.

Remarks

Harvest, recreational and economic data has been collected through mail surveys of 4,500 to 6,500 resident and non-resident, firearm license buyers. The survey has been conducted biennially since fiscal year 2000 (1 July 1999-30 June 2000). The 2013-14 Hunter Harvest Survey mailing database was compiled from a random sample of 2013 firearm hunting license buyers.

Methods

A questionnaire designed to elicit demographic, hunter retention and participation, harvest, effort and economic data was mailed to 5.6 percent of the known firearm hunting population (3,831 resident and non-resident firearm licensees). The survey database was randomly developed from a list of license buyers supplied by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's licensing section. All firearm license buyers that provided an email address (32,173) were provided a link to an online survey. Return data were analyzed separately using MS Excel and combined after determination that differences were not statistically significant.

The total small-game hunter population estimate was based on all survey respondents and is not additive in relation to the 14 game species for which harvest information was requested.

Ring-necked pheasant and northern bobwhite hunters were asked whether they hunted for released, pen-reared birds (on Division stocked wildlife management areas, semi-wild properties, commercial preserves, or individually purchased), or for presumed wild birds on non-stocked public or private

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lands. All efforts expended toward hunting chukar and Hungarian partridge were presumed a result of released, pen-reared. American woodcock and ruffed grouse hunters were asked whether they hunted in the North or South Zone. Canine hunters were asked whether they hunted during the regular small game season or during the special permit season and whether they used a center- or rim-fire rifle during the latter. Rabbit and hare hunters were asked whether they hunted during the early season, during the traditional season or the late season and whether or not they used an air gun. Gray squirrel hunters were asked whether they hunted with a shotgun, air gun or muzzleloading rifle. Woodchuck hunters were asked whether they hunted with a rifle or shotgun. The estimated number of hunters, mean hunter harvest and harvest for these species was based on all respondents who pursued these species, regardless of location or method of harvest.

Deer hunters were asked whether they hunted during the Six-day Firearm, Permit Muzzleloader and/or Permit Shotgun seasons.

Survey analyses were combined where target species were similar, such as canines (eastern coyote, gray fox and red fox) and rabbits or hares.

Discussion

Firearm License Sales

New Jersey firearm license sales reached its historical apex in 1930 when 199,234 licenses were issued. Following the Depression-era low of 80,484 (1933), sales increased to its post-World War II peak of 190,418 (1971). Eligible National Guard personnel have been entitled to free licenses, permits and stamps since 1994. Disabled Veterans have been similarly entitled since 2000. Youth hunters in the 10 through 15-year old age class have received a firearm license upon completion of a hunter safety course since 2000. Youth licenses are valid through the calendar year in which the holder reaches the age of 16 years. The Jr./Sr. Firearm License was discontinued in 2000 and replaced by the Senior Firearm License (2000). A summary of New Jersey firearm hunting license sales for the last ten years is provided in Table 1. Firearm license sales have declined 9.9% during the period 2004-2013, inclusive.

Table 1. New Jersey hunting licenses sales by category and calendar year (2004 – 2013).

Year	All Around Sportsman	Resident Firearm	Youth Firearm	Sr. Hunting	Total Resident Licenses	Non-Res. Small Game	Non-Resident Hunting	Total Firearm Licenses
2004	15,437	50,188		6,538	72,163	965	3,330	76,458
2005	14,997	48,594		6,635	70,226	944	3,359	74,529
2006	15,470	47,340		7,198	70,008	943	3,592	74,543
2007	15,688	43,232		7,441	66,361	730	3,576	70,667
2008	15,226	43,593		7,578	66,397	857	3,563	70,817
2009	15,730	42,616	1,903	7,854	68,103	838	3,651	72,592
2010	16,280	41,503		8,022	65,805	832	3,838	70,475
2011	16,418	39,225	1,653	8,145	65,441	878	3,652	69,971
2012	16,540	37,345		8,315	62,200	910	3,672	66,782
2013	16,805	37,232	1,467	8,684	64,188	1,099	3,627	68,914

License Sampling

Six types of firearm licenses are issued in New Jersey (Resident Firearm [RF], All-Around Sportsmen [AA], Senior Resident Firearm [SF], Non-Resident Firearm [NF], Non-Resident Two-

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day Small Game [NRSNG] and Youth Firearm [YF]). License issuance (2013) from all firearm licenses totaled 68,914. The object was to obtain information from approximately 2 percent of the firearm hunter population. Of the 3,831 survey forms mailed, only 95 (2.5 percent) were returned as undeliverable compared to 112 (2.8 percent) of the 4,052 surveys mailed in 2012. Non-delivery was greatly reduced through the computerization of the Division's license sale process (Point-of-Sale, POS) that was fully implemented in 2007. POS eliminated issues of handwriting legibility and insufficient address. The mailing database was available more readily, thereby saving Division personnel time and effort, and likely reduced the number of surveys returned due to recipient mobility. Of the 3,736 questionnaires delivered, 867 (23.2%) were completed and returned within the acceptable period. Nearly half (46.8%) of firearm license buyers provided an email address. Of the 32,173 emails containing a link to the online survey, only 17 were returned as undeliverable and 1,611 surveys (5.0%) were completed and returned within the acceptable period. An additional 179 2013 firearm hunters that didn't provide an email address also responded via the online survey, and some mail recipients responded both via mail and online. A total 2,653 useable responses were received (3.9% of all firearm license buyers).

Age of Firearm Hunters

Firearm hunter ages were calculated based on the date of birth provided on their 2013 hunting license. Firearm hunters had a mean of 47.0 years (n = 68,709). Table 2 illustrates recipient age classes. New Jersey's hunters are aging, but are also continuing to hunt longer in life. Recruitment of younger hunters (less than 34 years of age) and retention of existing hunters will present future challenges to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Table 2. Age class of New Jersey firearm license hunters, by license type (2013)

Age Class	AA	RF	SF	NF	NR2D	YF	Total	% Total
< 16	0	0	0	0	0	1,466	1,466	2.1%
16 to 19	423	2,053	0	93	44	0	2,613	3.8%
20 to 24	634	3,279	0	134	69	0	4,116	6.0%
25 to 29	926	3,048	0	206	81	0	4,261	6.2%
30 to 34	1,207	2,740	0	267	86	0	4,300	6.3%
35 to 39	1,492	2,691	0	276	90	0	4,549	6.6%
40 to 44	2,251	3,829	0	377	80	0	6,537	9.5%
45 to 49	2,707	4,917	0	456	102	0	8,182	11.9%
50 to 54	2,734	5,691	0	489	101	0	9,015	13.1%
55 to 59	2,255	4,852	0	448	74	0	7,629	11.1%
60 to 64	1,663	3,517	0	338	61	0	5,579	8.1%
≥ 65	529	617	8,685	544	87	0	10,462	15.2%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	16,821	37,234	8,685	3,628	875	1,466	68,709	100.0%
Mean	45.9	43.0	72.0	48.7	43.5	12.7	47.0	

Residence

New Jersey residents constitute the majority of firearm license buyers (64,016 or 91.8%). Firearm hunter numbers by county ranged from 673 (Hudson) to 5,951 (Ocean). More firearm hunters reside in the state's southern region (36.4%) than its central (34.3%) or northern (29.0%) regions¹.

¹ Northern region includes counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren; Central region includes counties of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset and Union; Southern region includes counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem.

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Hunters from 45 other US states, one district, one territory and at least three foreign nations purchased a 2013 New Jersey hunting license. The number of hunters from adjacent states of Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania totaled 3,535 (75.9% of the non-resident firearm hunters). Over one-half of non-resident firearm hunters (2,575 or 55.3%) came from Pennsylvania in 2013. The information is provided in Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 3. New Jersey resident firearm hunters, by license type and county (2013)

County	AA	RF	SF	NF	NRS	YF	Total	% Total
Atlantic	737	2,278	500	3	0	98	3,616	5.6%
Bergen	579	1,495	372	5	0	37	2,488	3.9%
Burlington	1,533	2,857	631	4	0	113	5,138	8.0%
Camden	657	1,682	358	1	0	55	2,753	4.3%
Cape May	240	1,208	232	3	0	51	1,734	2.7%
Cumberland	879	2,472	500	4	1	94	3,950	6.2%
Essex	246	668	205	0	1	12	1,132	1.8%
Gloucester	1,023	2,383	412	2	0	120	3,940	6.1%
Hudson	126	441	103	1	3	3	682	1.1%
Hunterdon	943	1,746	493	4	0	49	3,235	5.1%
Mercer	591	1,141	362	1	0	27	2,122	3.3%
Middlesex	969	1,888	515	4	0	49	3,425	5.3%
Monmouth	1,054	2,293	526	3	0	66	3,942	6.1%
Morris	1,204	1,986	512	1	0	73	3,776	5.9%
Ocean	1,306	3,638	862	3	0	145	5,954	9.3%
Passaic	827	1,308	322	0	0	43	2,500	3.9%
Salem	512	1,407	250	0	1	66	2,236	3.5%
Somerset	537	1,014	280	1	0	28	1,860	2.9%
Sussex	1,568	2,535	597	3	0	110	4,813	7.5%
Union	320	906	226	1	0	10	1,472	2.3%
Warren	953	1,819	424	4	0	54	3,254	5.1%
Total	16,804	37,165	8,682	47	6	1,312	64,016	100.0%
% Total	26.2%	58.1%	13.6%	0.1%	---	2.0%		

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Table 4. New Jersey firearm hunters, by state (2013)

State	AA	RF	SF	NF	NRSG	YF	Total	% Total
Alabama	0	0	0	5	1	0	6	---
Alaska	0	2	0	4	0	0	4	---
Arizona	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	---
Arkansas	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	---
California	1	1	0	13	6	0	21	---
Colorado	0	0	0	5	4	0	9	---
Connecticut	0	1	0	51	37	1	90	0.1%
Delaware	3	4	0	285	33	6	331	0.5%
DC	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	---
Florida	0	2	0	106	17	1	126	0.2%
Georgia	0	0	0	14	6	1	21	---
Hawaii	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	---
Idaho	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	---
Illinois	1	0	0	6	8	0	15	---
Indiana	0	0	0	4	3	0	7	---
Iowa	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	---
Kansas	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	---
Kentucky	0	0	0	5	5	0	10	---
Louisiana	0	1	0	0	4	0	5	---
Maine	0	1	0	47	13	3	64	0.1%
Maryland	0	5	0	105	59	7	176	0.3%
Massachusetts	0	1	0	52	11	0	64	0.1%
Michigan	0	2	0	3	4	0	9	---
Minnesota	0	1	0	2	8	0	11	---
Mississippi	0	1	0	2	1	0	4	---
Missouri	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	---
Montana	0	0	0	4	2	0	6	---
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Nevada	0	1	0	3	0	0	4	---
New Hampshire	0	2	0	49	4	3	58	0.1%
New Jersey	16,804	37,165	8,682	47	6	1,312	64,016	91.8%
New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
New York	2	10	0	534	92	16	654	0.9%
North Carolina	0	4	0	34	18	1	57	0.1%
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Ohio	0	1	0	12	7	0	20	---
Oklahoma	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	---
Oregon	0	0	0	4	1	0	5	---
Pennsylvania	6	18	3	2,073	424	108	2,632	3.8%
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	---
Rhode Island	0	0	0	13	0	1	14	---
South Carolina	0	1	0	16	19	0	36	---
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	---
Tennessee	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	---
Texas	0	2	0	7	3	0	12	---
Utah	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	---
Vermont	0	0	0	42	7	3	52	0.1%
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Virginia	3	4	0	44	51	3	105	0.1%
Washington	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	---
West Virginia	0	0	0	4	2	0	6	---
Wisconsin	0	1	0	2	3	0	6	---
Wyoming	0	1	0	2	2	0	5	---
Unknown (US)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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Table 4. New Jersey firearm hunters, by state (2013), continued

State	AA	RF	SF	NF	NRSG	YF	Total	% Total
Canada	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	---
Germany	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	---
Namibia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	---
Unknown (foreign)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	---
Total	16,821	37,234	8,685	3,628	875	1,466	68,709	100.0%
	24.5%	54.2%	12.6%	5.3%	1.3%	2.1%	100.0%	

Gender

Prior surveys have shown hunting to be a male dominated activity. According to the 2004 survey, 1.4% of firearm hunters were female. Women currently constitute 2.9% of firearm hunters (Table 5). Past outreach programs such as Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) may have encouraged participation by females.

Table 5. Gender of New Jersey firearm hunters, by license type (2013)

Gender	AA	RF	SF	NF	NRSG	YF	Total	% Total
Male	16,526	35,920	8,616	3,571	854	1,216	66,703	97.1%
Female	295	1,314	69	57	21	250	2,006	2.9%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	16,821	37,234	8,685	3,628	875	1,466	68,709	100.0%
% Female	1.8%	3.5%	0.8%	1.6%	2.4%	17.1%	2.9%	

Hunting Club Membership

Survey recipients were asked if they belonged to a variety of New Jersey sporting clubs in the current survey (Table 6). An estimated 41,438 firearm hunters belonged to at least one hunting related organization in 2013 compared to 24,274 sportsmen in 2003 (small game hunters only in 2003).

Table 6. Hunt club affiliation of New Jersey firearm hunters

Club / Organization	Number of respondents	% of total respondents	Estimated members
Ruffed Grouse Society	14	0.5	219
Pheasants Forever	18	0.7	281
Rabbit hunting club	42	1.6	656
Quality Deer Management Association	56	2.1	875
National Wild Turkey Federation	85	3.2	1,328
Semi-wild hunt club	214	8.1	3,343
United Bowhunters of New Jersey	229	8.6	3,577
NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs	562	21.2	8,778
Deer hunting club	879	33.1	13,729
Total	1,600	60.3	41,438

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Hunting Activity and Recreation days

Survey recipients were asked if they pursued any of the 3 big game or 14 small game species of interest. An estimated 61,639 firearm hunters were active during 2013-14 (89.7%) and targeted big game (81.6%) more than small game species (45.3%). An estimated 51,505 firearm hunters pursued black bear, white-tailed deer and wild turkey during 2013-14. An estimated 36,051 hunters pursued small game during the 2013-14 season compared to 22,559 firearm hunters active during the 2011-12 seasons.

Survey recipients were asked to provide the total number of days spent hunting any species for which a hunting season was authorized during 2013-14 (other than waterfowl). Statewide, opening dates and season lengths varied by species. Black bear had the shortest season (6 days) and woodchuck had the longest season (296 days). Sunday hunting is prohibited except on semi-wild properties and commercial shooting preserves for northern bobwhite, pheasants and partridge (124 and 245 days, respectively). Just over one-third of respondents (34.0%) were active for 15 days or less while 30.3% were active for 16-30 days and 27.0% were active for more than 30 days. Mean time afield was 29.0 days \pm 0.5 per hunter. A summary of hunting activity is presented in Table 7. Survey results estimated that hunting generated 1.793 million days of recreation for 61,639 sportsmen during the 2013-14 seasons.

Table 7. Recreation days realized by small game hunters in New Jersey during 2013-14

Number of days hunted	Number of respondents	Percent response	Estimated number of hunters	Cumulative hunters	Percent cumulative hunters
0	7	0.3%	163	163	0.3%
1 to 5	246	9.3%	5,715	5,878	9.5%
6 to 10	364	13.7%	8,457	14,335	23.3%
11 to 15	285	10.7%	6,622	20,957	34.0%
16 to 20	274	10.3%	6,366	27,323	44.3%
21 to 25	246	9.3%	5,715	33,038	53.6%
26 to 30	283	10.7%	6,575	39,613	64.3%
31 to 35	87	3.3%	2,021	41,634	67.5%
36 to 40	159	6.0%	3,694	45,328	73.5%
41 to 45	72	2.7%	1,673	47,001	76.3%
46 to 50	94	3.5%	2,184	49,185	79.8%
51+	304	11.5%	7,063	56,248	91.3%
No response	232	8.7%	5,390	61,639	100.0%
Total	2,653	100.0%	61,639		

New Regulations for 2013-14

Air guns were legalized for hunting rabbits, hares and squirrels in 2013 as they possess sufficient power to take small game species plus are quieter and lighter than some shotguns, making them an ideal tool for smaller-framed hunters. Restrictions included caliber (.177 to .22) and muzzle velocity (not less than 600 fps). Noise Reduction Systems (NRS) are often included with air guns but are illegal for use in New Jersey. A rifle permit is not required to hunt with an air gun. A small percentage of the 652 rabbit and squirrel hunting respondents (18%) took advantage of the new regulation. Total usage was estimated to be 3,030 sportsmen.

Center-fire rifles (.25 caliber or less with soft or hollow point bullets not exceeding 80 grains) and rim-fire rifles (.22 caliber or less with soft or hollow point bullets not exceeding 50 grains) were legalized during the Special Permit Coyote/Fox Season to maximize hunter effectiveness and to

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allow weapons most capable of humanely killing animals without posing an unacceptable risk to the general public. A rifle permit is required to hunt with either rifle type. The majority of the 228 canine hunting respondents (67%) took advantage of the new regulation. Total usage was estimated to be 353 sportsmen.

Changes in Hunter Education Curriculum

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program is considering changes to the current curriculum. The survey requested deer hunters utilizing a muzzleloading rifle to provide information on the type of firing mechanism their weapon(s) employed. Of the 1,608 responses, 84.5% of deer hunters owned/used an in-line firing mechanism followed by percussion systems (32.4%), flintlock systems (5.3%) or other firing systems (1.6%).

Deer Hunting Methods

Driving is a common but not universal practice for hunting deer, particularly in the densely forested areas of southern New Jersey. Conflicts often arise between club hunters driving deer and single hunters utilizing a stand or blind. The survey included four opinion questions related to the practice of driving deer and asked recipients whether they supported or not supported each option presented. Driving on private lands was supported by 69% of survey respondents (n = 1,828) while driving on public lands was supported by only 49% of survey respondents (n = 1,295). Only 36% of survey respondents (n = 962) supported restricting the practice of driving to certain dates or seasons on public land, but 47% of survey respondents (n = 1,243) supported prohibiting the practice of driving on the opening day of the Six-Day Firearm deer season on all or some state-owned lands.

2013-14 Harvest

Active small game hunters were asked whether they specifically pursued each of the various small game species available, the number of days spent hunting, the primary county in which they hunted and the number of each species harvested. A summary of the estimated harvest is presented in Table 8.

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife purchased 11,800 northern bobwhite for the 2013-14 hunting season (80 released pre-season at each of 10 Wildlife Management Areas [WMA] and 5,500 released in-season at each of 2 WMA). The Division's Rockport Pheasant Farm released approximately 56,230 pheasants for release on 23 WMA. These actions provided recreational sport hunting opportunities for the 11,908 sportsmen that purchased a 2013 Pheasant and Quail Stamp, and the 1,467 known Youth Firearm hunters issued a free stamp. The higher than expected harvest estimates of these species on WMA may be a function of the survey (low sample size, hunter bias), natural reproduction of holdover birds, or independent releases by individual hunters.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated there were $2,000 \pm 37\%$ active woodcock hunters who expended $11,000 \pm 48\%$ days afield and harvested $7,400 \pm 71\%$ woodcock ($3.7 \pm 80\%$ birds/hunter) in New Jersey during 2013-14 (Cooper and Rau 2014). Additional information on New Jersey's woodcock resource can be found in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Report **Job III-A. Migratory Upland Game Bird Surveys**. This job is included within **Grant Number W-68-R-17, New Jersey Wildlife Research and Management: Project III. Upland Wildlife and Furbearers**.

All successful coyote hunters were required by law to report their harvest to a Division Regional Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours. The reported hunter harvest was 80 (bow and arrow – 17; shotgun – 52; muzzleloading rifle – 7; center- or rim-fire rifle - 4). Additional information on the New Jersey's coyote resource can be found in *Attachment 2 (2013-14 NJ Trapper Harvest*,

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Recreational and Economic Survey) and in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Report **Job III-F. Upland Species Ecology Appendix 3: Coyote Reports.**

Additional information on the New Jersey's opossum and raccoon resources can be found in *Attachment 2 (2013-14 NJ Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey).*

Semi-wild and Commercial Shooting Preserves

A semi-wild shooting preserve is defined as an area of land, 50 acres or more, with the boundary clearly defined and posted along all boundary line at intervals of not more than 200 feet with signs containing the following wording: **Semi-Wild Shooting Preserve – Licensed Under N.J.S.A. 23:3-29** along with the name and address of the licensee. As of 15 August 2014, stocking and harvest reports from 119 operations were returned to the Division's Permit Section. Stocking reports received from these 119 properties (25,073 acres) totaled 46,944 pheasants, 8,805 chukar partridge and 1,779 bobwhite. Reported harvests totaled 24,730 pheasants (52.7%), 4,168 chukar partridge (47.3%) and 554 bobwhite (31.1%) during 2013-14.

A commercial shooting preserve is defined as an area of land, 50 acres or more, with the boundary clearly defined and posted along all boundary line at intervals of not more than 200 feet with signs containing the following wording: **Commercial Shooting Preserve – Licensed Under N.J.S.A. 23:3-29** along with the name, address and the license number. As of 15 August 2014, stocking and harvest reports from 23 operations were returned to the Division's Permit Section. Stocking reports received from these 23 operations (15,016 acres) totaled 72,449 pheasants, 26,529 chukar partridge, 945 Hungarian partridge, 15,476 bobwhite, and 12,796 mallards. Reported harvests totaled 35,003 pheasants (43.8%), 14,136 chukar partridge (53.3%), 419 Hungarian partridge (44.3%), 7,847 bobwhite (50.7%), and 7,254 mallards (56.7%).

Table 8. Estimated 2013-14 harvest by species in New Jersey, based on survey results

Big Game Species	Season length (days)	Estimated number of hunters	Mean hunter harvest	SE	Estimated harvest (low)	Estimated harvest (high)
Black bear	6	1,302	0.1	0.0	59	92
White-tailed deer, Six-day	6	47,986	0.3	0.0	12,261	13,370
White-tailed deer, Permit Muzzleloader	10-66	11,980	0.5	0.0	5,662	6,328
White-tailed deer, Permit Shotgun	1-54	12,002	0.8	0.1	8,444	9,736
White-tail deer total*	1-66	50,863	0.9	0.0	42,044	45,837
Wild turkey, Fall either-sex	7	102	0.2	0.0	20	29
<i>Big Game Hunter Totals</i>		<i>51,505</i>				<i>44,040</i>

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Table 8. Estimated 2013-14 harvest by species in New Jersey, based on survey results (continued)

Small Game Species	Season length (days)	Estimated number of hunters	Mean hunter harvest	SE	Estimated harvest (low)	Estimated Harvest (high)
Bobwhite quail, Division stocked	65	197	10.9	1.4	1,861	2,430
Bobwhite quail, semi-wild stocked	147	1,217	10.0	1.7	10,023	14,274
Bobwhite quail, commercial preserve	245	1,217	14.0	2.1	14,431	19,651
Bobwhite quail, hunter stocked	65	492	13.0	3.0	4,914	7,880
Bobwhite quail, wild (public land)	0	596	3.2	1.1	1,287	2,558
Bobwhite quail, wild (private land)	0	311	10.9	3.8	2,207	4,586
Bobwhite total*	65-245	4,662	14.4	1.5	60,137	73,914
Chukar partridge	147-245	4,817	9.9	0.9	43,603	52,022
Hungarian partridge	147-245	363	2.8	0.9	694	1,326
Crow	120	3,496	7.7	0.8	23,964	29,890
Ruffed grouse, North Zone	50	1,321	0.3	0.2	218	627
Ruffed grouse, South Zone	32	544	0.6	0.2	183	438
Ruffed grouse total*	32-50	1,761	0.4	0.1	480	971
Pheasant, Division stocked	79	3,688	8.2	0.5	28,513	31,943
Pheasant, semi-wild stocked	147	6,397	13.5	0.9	80,788	92,232
Pheasant, commercial preserve	245	5,102	9.8	0.8	45,650	54,089
Pheasant, hunter stocked	79	2,124	8.0	1.0	14,854	19,030
Pheasant, wild (public land)	79	1,010	2.4	0.8	1,681	3,257
Pheasant, wild (private land)	79	881	3.5	0.9	2,320	3,888
Pheasant total*	79-245	20,253	12.4	0.5	239,821	261,835
Woodcock, North Zone	31	455	3.3	1.0	1,023	1,936
Woodcock, South Zone	31	445	2.6	0.5	943	1,404
Woodcock total	49	879	3.1	0.6	2,211	3,263
Eastern coyote, Small game	110	5,672	0.1	0.1	537	1,076
Eastern coyote, Permit	64	540	0.0	0.0	1	8
Gray fox, Small game	110	2,253	0.3	0.1	413	816
Gray fox, Permit	64	238	0.2	0.1	30	70
Red fox, Small game	110	3,263	0.7	0.1	1,813	2,605
Red fox, Permit	64	314	0.5	0.1	109	177
Canine total*	110	9,971	0.6	0.1	4,965	6,741
Gray squirrel – shotgun or air gun	115	10,230	6.3	0.4	59,970	68,816
Gray squirrel – ML rifle only	74	596	3.6	0.9	1,622	2,658
Squirrel total*	115	10,593	6.3	0.4	61,938	70,888
Rabbits and hares, Early season only	36	3,315	3.2	0.4	9,378	11,929
Rabbits and hares, Traditional season	79	10,230	5.4	0.4	51,295	59,167
Rabbits and hares, Extended only	5	3,729	3.7	0.5	11,871	15,443
Rabbit and hare total*	120	11,577	6.7	1.2	63,957	92,029
Opossum	167	207	0.9	0.3	124	232
Raccoon	167	492	4.0	0.7	1,606	2,331

2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results

Table 8. Estimated 2013-14 harvest by species in New Jersey, based on survey results (continued)

Small Game Species	Season length (days)	Estimated number of hunters	Mean hunter harvest	SE	Estimated harvest (low)	Estimated Harvest (high)
Woodchuck – rifle or shotgun	181	3,833	11.1	1.2	37,988	47,464
Woodchuck – shotgun only	115	622	4.1	1.2	1,845	3,305
Woodchuck total*	296	3,988	11.3	1.2	40,113	49,625
<i>Small Game Hunter Totals</i>		<i>36,051</i>				<i>594,762</i>
Grand Total*		61,639				638,803

* Total figures for all respondents who pursued species regardless of location or season structure. Categorical breakdowns are not additive in relation to the total figure provided. The total hunter population was based on all survey respondents and is not additive in relation to each separate species.

Hunter Expenditures

Survey recipients were asked to estimate their 2013-14 expenditures for items such as food, clothing, gasoline and equipment (but excluding license, permit and stamp fees). The majority of respondents (52.3%) expended \$500 or less (mean = \$216). A summary of sportsmen expenditures is presented in Table 9. Survey results estimate that hunting related activities provided over \$65.2 million to the State's economy during 2013-14. In addition, the NJDFW received \$4.827 million from sales of firearm licenses, pheasant/quail stamps and species specific permits (bear, coyote, deer, turkey).

Table 9. Estimated expenditures (US\$) by licensed New Jersey firearm hunters, 2013-14

Range (US\$)	# Respondents	% Response	Average Hunter Expenditure (US\$)	Est. Number of Hunters	Total Est. Expenditure (US\$)
0	230	8.7%	---	5,344	---
1-100	283	10.7%	\$ 72	6,575	\$ 473,410
101-200	282	10.6%	\$ 181	6,552	\$ 1,185,894
201-300	247	9.3%	\$ 286	5,739	\$ 1,641,275
301-400	121	4.6%	\$ 383	2,811	\$ 1,076,719
401-500	224	8.4%	\$ 494	5,204	\$ 2,570,948
501-1,000	327	12.3%	\$ 854	7,597	\$ 6,488,196
1,001-5,000	339	12.8%	\$ 2,144	7,876	\$ 16,886,623
> 5,001	24	0.9%	\$ 37,183	558	\$ 20,733,566
No response	577	21.7%	Unknown	13,406	
Total	2,653	100.0%	\$ 1,058	61,639	\$ 65,214,570

2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results

2013-14 Hunting season dates, bag limits and regulations

Species	Inclusive Dates	Hunting Hours	Daily Limits	Notes
Black bear	Dec. 9-14, 2013	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	1 (season)	Permit required.
Deer, Six-day	Dec. 9-14, 2013	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	2 antlered	
Deer, Permit Muzzleloader	Nov. 25, 2013 – Feb. 8, 2014	½ hour before sunrise to ½ after sunset	1 to unlimited antlerless 1 antlered w/ buck stub	Permit required. Antlerless only: Nov. 25-27, 29 and Dec. 4-6, 9-14 in some zones
Deer, Permit Shotgun	Nov. 25, 2013 – Feb. 8, 2014	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	1 to unlimited antlerless 1 antlered w/ buck stub	Permit required. Antlerless only: Nov. 25-27, 29 and Dec. 4-6, 9-14 in some zones
Fall Turkey, either-sex	Oct. 26 – Nov. 2, 2013	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	1 either sex per permit	Permit required and open only in THA 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 20-22
Bobwhite quail	Closed statewide: except at Peaslee & Greenwood WMA (See Notes) At Peaslee & Greenwood WMAs Only: Nov. 9-Dec. 7; Dec. 16, 17, 19-31, 2013; and Jan. 1-31, 2014	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	4	8:00 AM start on Nov. 9. Quail may be hunted ONLY at Peaslee and Greenwood Forest WMAs. Pheasant and Quail Stamp required. Season closed in remainder of the state.
Coyote* and Fox, General All coyote must be reported within 24 hrs.	Bow and Arrow only: Sep. 14 to Nov. 8, 2013 in DMZ Regulation Sets 4-8. Sept. 28 to Nov. 8 in DMZ Regulation Sets 0-3. Firearm or Bow and Arrow: Nov. 9, 2013-March 15, 2014.	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8:00 AM start on Nov. 9. Open Dec. 9-14 and Dec. 18 with restrictions as specified under Small Game Hunting. Rifle permit required in possession when hunting with muzzleloading rifle (allowed only incidental to deer hunting).
Coyote* and Fox, Special Permit Season All coyote must be reported within 24 hrs.	Firearm or Bow and Arrow: Jan. 1 to March 15, 2014 (permit required).	Permit holders may hunt day and night with certain restrictions, see <i>Notes</i> at right.	No limit	Calling and standing hunting only. Predator calling device must be in possession. Rifle permit required if hunting with a rifle. Between the hours of ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, only 10 or 12 gauge shotguns with BB to #4 Buck size shot may be used. Coyote/Fox permit required.
Crow (Mon., Thurs., Fri., & Sat. only)	Aug. 12 to Dec. 7, 2013 & Dec. 16, 2013 to Mar. 15, 2014. **	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	Closed Dec. 9-14, 2013. Max. shot size is #4 fine

2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results

Species	Inclusive Dates	Hunting Hours	Daily Limits	Notes
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 28 to Dec. 7** and Dec. 16, 17, 19-31, 2013 and Jan. 1 to Feb. 17, 2014	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	8:00 AM start on Nov. 9
Gray squirrel, muzzleloader	Sept. 28 to Nov. 8, 2013 and Jan. 4 to Feb. 17, 2014	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	Rifle permit required. .36 caliber or smaller Open in designated areas only.
Opossum & Raccoon	Oct. 1, 2013 to Mar. 1, 2014	1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise	No limit	Rifle permit required if hunting with rifle. 7:41 PM start on Oct. 1 Closed Dec. 9-14 and Dec. 18, 2013.
Pheasant & Partridge	Nov. 9 to Dec. 7 and Dec. 16, 17, 19-31, 2013 and Jan. 1 to Feb. 17, 2014	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Chukar – 7 Hungarian - 7 Pheasant - 2	8:00 AM start on Nov. 9. A Pheasant and Quail Stamp is required on designated areas for hunters over age 16.
Rabbit, Hare and Jackrabbit	Sept. 28 to Dec. 7** and Dec. 16, 17, 19-31, 2013 and Jan. 1 to Feb. 17, 2014	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Cottontail – 4 Hare – 1 Jackrabbit - 1	8:00 AM start on Nov. 9
Ruffed Grouse	North of Rt. 70: Oct. 19 to Dec. 7** and Dec. 16, 17, 19-31, 2013 South of Rt. 70: Nov. 9 to Dec. 7** and Dec. 16, 17, 19-31, 2013	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	2	8:00 AM start on Nov. 9
Woodchuck - Bow, Rifle or Shotgun	Mar. 1 to Sept. 25, 2013 Mar. 1 to Oct. 1, 2014	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	Rifle permit required if hunting with rifle. Rifle hunting prohibited on State properties (see Small Game Regulations page XX).
Woodchuck – Bow or Shotgun	Sept. 28 to Dec. 7** and Dec. 16, 17, 19-31, 2013 and Jan. 1 to Feb. 17, 2014	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8:00 AM start on Nov. 9
Woodcock	North of Rt. 70: Oct. 19 to Nov. 23, 2013 South of Rt. 70: Nov. 9-30 and Dec. 19, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2014	Sunrise to sunset	3 daily; 6 possession.	HIP number required. 8:00 AM start on Nov. 9

* All harvested coyote must be reported to a regional Division Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours. Callers must identify themselves by name and daytime telephone number.

** No firearm hunting is permitted on November 8, 2013 on those WMAs designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas.



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

2013-14 NJ FIREARM HUNTER SURVEY

Dear Fellow Hunter:

Enclosed please find a copy of the 2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Questionnaire. This survey contains questions about your hunting activities in New Jersey this past season for both Big Game and Small Game species. Kindly take a moment now to complete this survey and return it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope provided. *Or you may opt to complete the survey electronically* by visiting the Division website www.njfishandwildlife.com but please submit only one (1) survey report (i.e., either on-line or paper, but not both). Either way, the information you provide is anonymous.

The information we receive in this survey will be used in evaluating, planning and improving hunting seasons in New Jersey and for determining harvest levels and trends for several species. Your reply is important to us even if you **did not** hunt or even if you **were not successful harvesting any game this year**.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and for promptly returning it in the envelope provided or online. Summary results from the 2011-12 survey are provided on the back of this letter.

Sincerely,

David M. Golden, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife Management
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY

1. Please provide your CID number at the top right corner on Page 1 of the survey.
2. Please answer all applicable questions. Answer this questionnaire even if you did not hunt or if you hunted but did not harvest any game during the past season.
3. Estimate the number of days hunted or game killed if you don't recall the exact number. Please list specific numbers where they're asked for in days; please **don't** write in "week" or "month".
4. Please report **only** the game taken by **you**, not the entire hunting party. For example, if you were hunting with a friend who shot two pheasants while you shot only one, you would report 1 pheasant.
5. Record your answers in the space provided after each question.
6. After completing the questionnaire, return the survey in the self-addressed envelope provided.

Survey results will be posted on the Division's website (<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com>) during Summer 2014.

2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results
2011-12 NJ Firearm Hunter Survey Results

Species	Estimated number of hunters	Average days afield per hunter	Estimated total days of recreation	Average harvest per hunter	Estimated total harvest
Bobwhite quail	3,054	9.6	29,175	21.3	64,981
Chukar partridge	2,069	5.4	11,086	10.6	21,948
Crows	1,527	6.3	9,670	23.4	35,780
Grouse	1,281	5.9	7,524	0.7	837
Pheasant	16,451	11.1	182,425	14.3	234,748
Woodcock	1,576	4.8	7,599	2.9	4,630
Coyote	2,660	6.2	16,384	0.1	387
Gray fox	1,231	6.5	7,977	0.0	0
Red fox	1,970	6.5	12,886	0.8	1,527
Rabbit	5,911	4.3	25,218	7.5	44,451
Opossum	49	10.0	493	10.5	517
Raccoon	148	22.7	3,349	10.8	1,588
Squirrel	4,531	7.5	34,011	7.5	34,011
Woodchuck	1,182	15.6	18,464	13.9	16,447
Total	22,559	12.7	286,694		461,907

-
- Firearm license sales in 2011 totaled 69,971 - their lowest point since 1912. Firearm license sales peaked in 1971 (190,964). Sales for 2011 are 63% below that for 1971.
 - 80.3 percent of non-resident firearm hunters reside in the neighboring states of Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania.
 - The mean age of licensed firearm hunters is 46.8 years of age.
 - Women constitute 2.4% of small game hunters.
 - Small game hunters spent in excess of \$9.3 million (excluding license, permit and stamp fees) pursuing their sport during the 2011-12 seasons.
-

Attachment 1: 2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results

2013-14 New Jersey Firearm Hunter Harvest Survey

CID #: - -

1. Are you a member of any of the following? (check all that apply)
- _____ A. New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs _____ F. NJ Chapter Pheasants Forever
- _____ B. United Bowhunters of New Jersey _____ G. A deer hunting club
- _____ C. NJ Chapter Quality Deer Management Association _____ H. A rabbit hunting club
- _____ D. NJ Chapter National Wildlife Turkey Federation _____ I. A semi-wild hunting club
- _____ E. NJ Chapter Ruffed Grouse Society

2. Between July 1, 2013 and Mar. 15, 2014, did you hunt big or small game in NJ? (Yes / No)?

If you answered NO to Question #2, please STOP HERE and return the survey. Otherwise, please continue.

3. How many total days did you spend hunting in NJ during this time? _____ Total days.
4. How much would you estimate you spent while upland game hunting in NJ during this time on food, clothing, gasoline, equipment, etc. (but excluding license, permit & stamp fees)? \$ Total spent.

Please provide harvest information as requested for each species you pursued on the following table. Some species have multiple questions, so please take your time completing this portion of the survey. If you harvested any of the listed species while pursuing some other species (such as killing a pheasant while rabbit hunting), enter ‘No’ in Column A, leave Column B blank and complete Columns C and D. Otherwise, please provide answers for all columns. **If you hunted with one or more partners, please report only your harvest results.**

Big Game Species	A. Did you hunt for this species? (Yes or No)	B. Number of days hunted	C. Number killed	D. Primary Zone hunted
5. Black bear (permit required) (e.g., Dec. 9-14)				
6. White-tailed deer – Six Day Firearm (e.g., Dec. 9-14 statewide)				
7. White-tailed deer – Permit Muzzleloader (e.g., Nov. 25 – Feb. 8, maximum 61 days)				
8. White-tailed deer – Permit Shotgun (e.g., Nov. 25 – Feb. 8, maximum 43 days)				
9. Wild turkey – Fall, Either-Sex (permit required) (e.g., Period N: Oct. 26 – Nov. 2)				

Attachment 1: 2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results

The Division is considering changes in the Hunter Education Firearm Course. If you hunted deer with a muzzleloading rifle (Q7), what type of firing mechanism does your rifle have? If you have or use more than one type, please check all that apply.

	A. In-line	B. Percussion	C. Flintlock	D. Other
10. Type(s) of muzzleloading rifle used or owned				

Driving is a common practice for deer hunting, particularly in densely forested areas. Please indicate whether or not you support this practice by checking the appropriate box for Q11-14.

	Support	Not Support
11. Driving deer on private land		
12. Driving deer on public land		
13. Driving should be restricted to certain dates/seasons on public land		
14. Driving deer should be prohibited completely on certain public lands		

Small Game Species	A. Did you hunt specifically for species? (Yes or No)	B. Number of days hunted	C. Number killed	D. Primary County hunted
15. Bobwhite quail – Division stocked on <i>Public</i> lands (e.g., Greenwood or Peaslee WMA only)				
16. Bobwhite quail – Hunting Club stocked (e.g., on licensed, SEMI-WILD property only)				
17. Bobwhite quail – Commercially stocked (e.g., on licensed, COMMERCIAL preserve only)				
18. Bobwhite quail – Privately stocked (e.g., purchased and released for the gun by YOU)				
19. Bobwhite quail - wild birds on <i>Public</i> lands only (e.g., not stocked by Div. Fish & Wildlife)				
Small Game Species (continued)	A. Did you hunt specifically for species? (Yes or No)	B. Number of days hunted	C. Number killed	D. Primary County hunted
20. Bobwhite quail, wild birds on PRIVATE lands only (e.g., not Semi-wild, Commercial or self-stocked)				
21. Chukar partridge				
22. Hungarian partridge				
23. Crow				
24. Grouse – NORTH of Rt. 70 (e.g., Oct. 19 – Dec. 31)				
25. Grouse – SOUTH of Rt. 70 (e.g., Nov. 9 – Dec. 31)				

Attachment 1: 2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results

26. Pheasant – Division stocked on <i>Public</i> lands (e.g., any of the 23 WMA where Stamp required)				
27. Pheasant – Hunting Club stocked (e.g., on licensed, SEMI-WILD property only)				
28. Pheasant – Commercially stocked (e.g., on licensed, COMMERCIAL preserve only)				
29. Pheasant – Privately stocked (e.g., purchased and released for the gun by YOU)				
30. Pheasant - wild birds on <i>Public</i> lands only (e.g., not stocked by Div. Fish & Wildlife)				
31. Pheasant - wild birds on PRIVATE lands only (e.g., not Semi-wild, Commercial or self-stocked)				
32. Woodcock (North Zone <i>only</i>) (e.g., Oct. 19 – Nov. 23)				
33. Woodcock (South Zone <i>only</i>) (e.g., Nov. 9-30 and Dec. 19 – Jan. 1)				
34. Coyote – Regular (small game) season (e.g., Nov. 9 – Mar. 15, daylight hours only)				
35. Coyote – Special Permit Season (e.g., Jan. 1 – Mar. 15, daylight or nighttime hours)				
36. Fox, gray – Regular (small game) season (e.g., Nov. 9 – Mar. 15, daylight hours only)				
37. Fox, gray – Special Permit Season (e.g., Jan. 1 – Mar. 15, daylight or nighttime hours)				
38. Fox, red – Regular (small game) season (e.g., Nov. 9 – Mar. 15, daylight hours only)				
39. Fox, red – Special Permit Season (e.g., Jan. 1 – Mar. 15, daylight or nighttime hours)				
40. Gray squirrel – Regular small game season (e.g., Sept. 28 – Feb. 17)				
41. Gray squirrel – Muzzleloader rifle season only (e.g., Sept. 28 – Nov. 8 and Jan. 4 – Feb. 17)				
42. Hares / rabbits – Early season (e.g., Sept. 28 – Nov. 7)				
43. Hares / rabbits – Traditional season (e.g., Nov. 9 – Feb. 17)				
44. Hares / rabbits – Late season (e.g., Feb. 18 – 22)				
45. Opossum – (e.g., Oct. 1 – Mar. 1)				
46. Raccoon – (e.g., Oct. 1 – Mar. 1)				
47. Woodchuck – rifle / shotgun / bow (e.g., Jul. 1 – Sept. 25 and Mar. 1-15)				
48. Woodchuck – shotgun / bow (e.g., Sept. 28 – Feb. 17)				

Attachment 1: 2013-14 NJ Firearm Hunter Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey Results

Several new regulations were adopted by the Fish and Game Council for the 2013-14 season. If you hunted squirrels, rabbits, coyotes or foxes during the past season, please help the Division assess their impact by answering ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to the following:

	Yes or No
49. If you hunted coyote/fox during Special Permit Season (Q35, Q37, Q39), did you use a center-fire or rim-fire rifle?	
50. If you hunted squirrels during the Regular Small Game Season (Q40), did you use an air gun?	
51. If you hunted rabbits/hares during 2013-14 (Q42-44), did you use an air gun?	

The survey is now **complete**. Kindly return the survey in the self-addressed envelope provided. Thank you!
Survey results will be posted on the Division website www.njfishandwildlife.com during Summer 2014.