



Nicholas Diamandas, Sr.

After weeks of pre-season planning and preparation with his dad, Nicholas Diamandas (left), 11, took this New Jersey black bear in Jefferson Township, Morris County. Nick, Sr. (right) is proud and excited for his son's success, and sees how their shared love of hunting has brought them closer together forming memories that will last a lifetime.

2005 Black Bear Hunting Season Proves to be a Successful Management Tool

Just as in 2003, the first day of the 2005 bear hunting season greeted hunters with subfreezing temperatures and a blanket of snow over most of the region. This time hunters realized the cold temperatures and snow cover were not a hindrance but rather an opportunity to capitalize on favorable sighting and tracking conditions.

The hunt, held Dec. 5-10, 2005, resulted in a harvest of 298 bears by 5,450 black bear hunters. Both the harvest total and the 7% hunter-success rate were on target with projections from Fish & Wildlife's biologists. Further, it proved to be a safe hunt, in part because every bear hunter had successfully completed a mandatory black bear hunting seminar.

Bears were harvested in five of the seven New Jersey counties open to black bear hunting (see Table 1).

Table 1. New Jersey 2005 Black Bear Harvest By County

County	Total Harvest	Percentage of Harvest	Area, mi ²	Bears Harvested per square mile
Sussex	196	66 %	537	0.36
Warren	43	14 %	363	0.12
Passaic	32	11%	126	0.25
Morris	26	9%	429	0.06
Bergen	1	0.3 %	35	0.03
Hunterdon	0	0	219	0
Somerset	0	0	74	0
Total	298		1558	Average 0.19 per sq. mi.

By Patrick Carr, Supervising Biologist
& Kelcey Burguess, Principal Biologist

An average of 0.19 bears per square mile were harvested within the area open to hunting. This is well below the pre-hunting season density of about 2.5 bears per square mile, calculated from Fish and Wildlife's black bear population research. Hunters reported bear harvests in 30 of the 105 municipalities open to black bear hunting. Sandyston Township, Sussex County tallied the most with 36 bears taken.

Approximately 90 percent of hunters used a shotgun to harvest their bear, and the majority of bears were taken on private or state land (see Table 2).

Table 2. New Jersey 2005 Black Bear Hunting Season Harvest by Land Ownership

Land Type	Number of Bears	% of Total Harvest
Private Property	115	39%
State Land	120	40%
Federal Land	44	15%
County or Municipal Land	19	6%

Black Bear Management Zones (BMZ) were designated in 2005. These zones were created in order to determine hunter density, success and impact within certain regions of black bear habitat. Management zones allow Fish and Wildlife biologists to regulate hunting pressure on our black bear population by establishing permit quotas for each zone.

Table 3. New Jersey 2005 Black Bears Harvested by Zone

BMZ	Number of Bears	% of Total Harvest
Zone 1	121	41%
Zone 2	68	23%
Zone 3	101	34%
Zone 4	8	3%

The bear harvest sex ratio (174 females to 124 males) and the age distribution (43% juvenile/ 57% adult) matched those of bears captured during research and control activities. Fish & Wildlife's bear population analysis before the hunt, combined with information collected at mandatory bear check stations, confirms that the current black bear population can support regulated hunting without endangering the species' viability in New Jersey. The biological data on bears and demographic data on hunter success will help refine future management actions.

Since 1980, Fish & Wildlife has used an integrated approach to manage black bear. Today, this strategy includes:

- Researching and monitoring the bear population
- Educating New Jersey residents to reduce human/bear conflicts
- Responding to complaints about nuisance bears to protect public safety and property
- Using other appropriate control measures, including regulated hunting

With careful management, a healthy black bear population can continue to thrive and coexist with New Jersey residents while providing recreational opportunities such as wildlife watching and photography.

For additional details on the results of New Jersey's 2005 bear hunting season, visit www.NJfishandWildlife.com.

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Law Enforcement

PHOTO GALLERY



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1. Deputy Conservation Officer Harley Simons and his gun and ammo detection dog Shelly, a three year old Field Spaniel. Deputy Simons and Shelly also assist local police in criminal investigations.
2. L to R Lt. Donald Cole and Conservation Officers Joseph Kuechler and Frank Panico recently received Teamwork/Achievement Award from the New Jersey Public Service Recognition Awards Program. The award was the result of a Taxidermy Investigation, the evidence seized is displayed in the photograph.
3. The responsibilities of NJ Conservation Officers include protections of many non game species. Conservation Officer Doug Ely captured this injured Golden Eagle on the Tuckahoe WMA. The eagle was taken to a state certified rehabilitator and released two months later in the area of capture.

Continue the Tradition

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

Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors and teach utilizing this exciting home study format. 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 Web site:
www.NJFishandWildlife.com



Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Program

A different kind of trout fishing experience awaits anglers later this year when Fish and Wildlife begins stocking bigger trout in the fall and winter. Brook, brown and rainbow trout measuring 14 to 16 inches will be stocked instead of the traditional 9- to 10-inch rainbows. These fall and winter stocked trout are two-year-old, rather than one-year-old fish. The extra year of growth, with its real gain in size, is guaranteed to test the angler's skill - and their tackle!

Fish and Wildlife anticipates approximately 20,000 larger trout, plus over 1,000 broodstock rainbow trout (18 to 20 inches) will be available for the two-week fall stocking program with about 5,000 trout planned for the winter stocking. With these lunkers swimming about, anglers should think twice before putting away their fishing gear after the summer.

All stocking dates are announced on the Trout Hotline, (609) 633-6765, and on Fish & Wildlife's Web site at www.NJfishandWildlife.com/trtstk06.htm.

Fall Trout-Stocked Rivers and Lakes

Fall stocking will occur in the weeks beginning Oct. 10 and Oct. 17, 2006. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish & Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

Atlantic County: Hammonton Lake
Bergen County: Ramapo River, Wanaque River
Burlington County: Crystal Lake, Sylvan Lake
Camden County: Oak Pond
Cumberland County: Giampetro Park Pond, Mary Elmer Lake, Maurice River
Essex County: Verona Park Pond
Gloucester County: Grenloch Lake, Greenwich Lake, Iona Lake, Swedesboro Lake
Hunterdon County: Musconetcong River, S/Br. Raritan River
Mercer County: Colonial Lake, Rosedale Lake
Middlesex County: Farrington Lake, Roosevelt Park Pond
Monmouth County: Manasquan River
Morris County: Black River, Musconetcong River, N/Br. Raritan River, Rockaway River
Ocean County: N/Br. & S/Br. Metedeconk River, Toms River
Passaic County: Wanaque River
Salem County: Schadlers Sand Wash Pond
Somerset County: N/Br. & S/Br. Raritan River
Sussex County: Big Flat Brook, Paulinskill River, Pequest River, Wallkill River
Warren County: Musconetcong River, Paulinskill River, Pequest River, Pohatcong Creek



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Winter Trout-Stocked Lakes

Stocking dates are Nov. 20 – 22, 2006. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish & Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

Atlantic County: Birch Grove Park Pond
Bergen County: Mill Pond
Camden County: Haddon Lake, Rowands Pond
Cumberland County: Shaws Mill Pond
Essex County: Verona Park Pond
Gloucester County: Mullica Hill Pond
Hudson County: Woodcliff Lake
Hunterdon County: Amwell Lake
Middlesex County: Hook's Creek Lake,
Monmouth County: Spring Lake, Topenemus Lake
Morris County: Mt. Hope Pond, Speedwell Lake
Ocean County: Lake Shenandoah
Passaic County: Barbours Pond, Shepherd Lake
Salem County: Riverview Beach Pond
Sussex County: Lake Aeroflex, Lake Ocquittunk, Little Swartswood Lake, Silver Lake
Union County: Lower Echo Lake
Warren County: Furnace Lake

Get on the Lists

The Hunting and Trapping e-mail lists that is. This free service will provide you with the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. And there are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources. The more, visit Fish and Wildlife's Web site at: www.njfishandwildlife.com/lstsub.htm

Migratory Game Bird Monitoring Programs

Prepared by: Ted Nichols,
Waterfowl Ecology and Management Program

“How many are there?” is perhaps one of the most asked and most important questions in wildlife conservation. Migratory game bird populations are challenging to monitor due to their mass movements. However, making informed decisions based on knowledge of the status and trends of a species, its geographical distribution, and annual breeding effort, are critical to responsible management.

Hunting of migratory game birds occurs under the auspices of a harvestable surplus. A harvestable surplus infers that a portion of the population exists in excess of the number of birds required to keep a particular population near a desired level. Harvest statistics including the number of hunters, harvest, and hunting effort is also needed to complete a management program.

There are numerous migratory bird monitoring programs across North America, which are conducted by a myriad of organizations and individuals. In most cases, these monitoring programs are conducted and/or coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Canadian Wildlife Service, as well as State and Provincial wildlife agencies including the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Although there are too many monitoring programs in place to address them all with this article, key monitoring efforts are outlined below.

Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey

Each spring, survey biologists estimate the numbers and species of waterfowl as well as habitat conditions in principal breeding areas in Canada, the north central US, and Alaska. Major waterfowl habitats include the prairies, boreal forest, parklands (transition area of prairie-boreal forest), and tundra. The majority of the survey effort is conducted using aerial surveys. Portions of some transects are also covered with ground surveys which are used to correct for birds not observed by aerial survey crews. The core area of this survey has been conducted annually for over 50 years and is the most extensive, long-term wildlife survey in the world.

Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Survey

Beginning in 1989, biologists in the eastern US and Canada developed a survey to measure population trends for eastern waterfowl. All Atlantic Flyway states from New Hampshire to Virginia participate in this ground survey by recording waterfowl observed in one square kilometer plots during April and early May. Plots are stratified by major physiographic zones since waterfowl breeding densities vary by zone. Plots are allocated across states based on the proportion of each state in a particular zone. Plots have been randomly located within each zone to allow extrapolation of waterfowl population estimates to the landscape scale. In New Jersey, 250 plots are surveyed annually during this survey.

Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey

Population estimates of several species of ducks, geese, and swans which nest in remote arctic wilderness and outside of existing survey areas are not adequately counted in spring and summer breeding surveys. Abundance indices for these species are more readily obtained from aerial surveys on wintering grounds. Several key species in the Atlantic Flyway including Atlantic brant, tundra swans, and American black ducks are indexed using the Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey (MWS). Although there are ongoing efforts to use more recent breeding survey indices for black ducks, the MWS still plays a major role in black duck management. New Jersey plays a critical role in the Atlantic Flyway MWS since about 65% of Atlantic brant and 35% of black ducks are counted here.

Bird Banding

Various agencies band over 300,000 migratory game birds annually. Banding provides data on survival, harvest rates and locations and migration routes. The calculation of harvest rates, or the proportion of the annual banded sample that is taken during the hunting season, is one of the most important uses of banding data. The DFW annually bands about 3,000 waterfowl with the help of its volunteer Wildlife Conservation Corps and numerous federal, state, county, and non-government cooperators.

Harvest Information Program

The migratory bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) is a joint monitoring program of state wildlife agencies and the USFWS. The goal of HIP is to measure harvest and hunter activity for all migratory game birds including ducks, coots, geese, wood-

cock, rails, snipe, and gallinules through hunter surveys. Results of hunters' reports are then used to develop reliable estimates of the total harvest of all migratory birds throughout the country. Some HIP registrants are also selected to submit wings and/or tail feathers of harvested migratory birds to the USFWS. In the Atlantic Flyway, about 30,000 migratory bird parts are examined annually to estimate the species, age, and sex composition of the harvest. The proportion of juveniles to adults in the harvest of a given species is important for quantifying a species' breeding output over time.

Integrating monitoring programs into management

All the monitoring programs collectively form the basis for the development of comprehensive management programs. Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) of mid-continent mallards is a prime example. The first input into AHM is mallard population size and habitat (measured as the number of ponds) from the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey in a given year. Next, a hunting season framework of season length, bag limits, and dates are used to estimate a harvest rate for the population. AHM then uses a competing set of mathematical models with hypotheses about population dynamics and the effects of harvest on subsequent population size for comparison. After the hunting season, HIP data provides estimates of harvest and hunting activity and harvest estimates are also obtained from the current year's banding data. Then, model weights of mallard population dynamics are updated based on which models did the best job predicting the actual mallard population that was estimated from breeding surveys in the following year. Population models that predicted closer to what was observed the following year are then favored in future years over models that yielded less accurate estimates. ♪



Nearly 30,000 migratory bird parts are examined annually by federal and state wildlife biologists during the Parts Collection Survey or "Wing-Bee" in the Atlantic Flyway. The species, age and sex composition of the migratory bird harvest is derived from this survey. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife staff identify migratory bird parts. Left to right: Ted Nichols, Christina Kiesel and Ben Wurst.



Kent Hardmeyer, Resource Conservationist, NRCP

This Warren County property represents the state's largest warm-season grass restoration effort to date.

Fish and Wildlife Launches New Jersey Habitat Incentive Team

By Andrew Burnett, Principal Wildlife Biologist

The New Jersey Habitat Incentive Team (NJHIT) is a coalition of state, federal, and private organizations working to enhance wildlife habitat on private and public property. NJHIT members include representatives of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (Fish and Wildlife), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), New Jersey Audubon Society, Conservation Resources, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ and the state chapters of Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Ruffed Grouse Society, National Wild Turkey Foundation and Trout Unlimited. These form an impressive alliance of natural resource professionals and sporting conservation groups.

The coalition's goal is to enhance wildlife habitat on privately owned lands through conservation programs funded by the federal Farm Bill. Programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Security Program (CSP) have immense potential to improve habitat for both game and nongame species in New Jersey. Other important conservation programs available to private landowners include the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) and the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP).

In addition to restoring, enhancing and creating fish and wildlife habitat, these conservation programs help reduce soil erosion, safeguard streams and rivers, protect valuable groundwater resources and improve air quality – things benefiting all New Jerseyans.

The NJHIT started with an agreement to place Fish and Wildlife biologists at all six NRCS field offices throughout the state. Two positions were filled at the end of 2005 and the other four will be filled as funding becomes available. The biologists guide interested landowners in obtaining assistance for conservation programs on their land. All programs are voluntary and require some degree of cost-sharing on the part of the landowner. The landowner's share can be either actual expenses or

in-kind services such as labor and equipment provided and used by the landowner to implement the recommended conservation practices.

Landowners can find information about the numerous federal Farm Bill programs at the New Jersey NRCS Web site: www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs. Information on Partners for Fish and Wildlife can be found at www.fws.gov/northeast/partners/. Information on the Landowner Incentive Program can be found at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/lip_prog.htm.

A hunting and fishing club in north Jersey successfully used the resources available through these programs for the benefit of both hunters and wildlife. The club purchased a farm in Warren

County, sold the development rights through the Farmland Preservation Program and used those proceeds to purchase a second farm adjacent to the first. Development rights on the second farm were also sold through the Farmland Preservation Program.

The club then contacted Fish and Wildlife to enroll portions of their properties in various conservation programs (LIP, Partners and WHIP) to restore and enhance existing grasslands. The 10-year management plan includes improvements such as planting warm season grasses on 180 acres, delayed mowing, hedgerow management, thinning red cedar and brush-hogging scrub/shrub areas on 14 acres and controlling invasive plant species.

The total cost of this work is \$408,050 with WHIP, Partners and LIP providing \$232,725 in funding as various aspects of the

plan are completed. The landowner's share of \$175,325 will be provided by in-kind services consisting of labor, equipment, chemical control and accepting a reduced rental rate. Utilizing the various landowner incentive programs allowed this club to make major habitat improvements on its property with little or no out of pocket expenses to the club.

The club's efforts will enhance existing habitat and create new habitat essential for a host of grassland-dependant birds. Some of the notable species that will benefit include the upland sandpiper, vesper sparrow and eastern meadowlark as well as the club's primary game species interest, the ring-necked pheasant.

Landowners interested in learning more about the opportunities available for creating and enhancing wildlife habitat on their land are encouraged to contact a private lands biologist. In northern New Jersey, contact MacKenzie Hall at the NRCS Hackettstown office at (908) 852-2576, ext. 3. In southern New Jersey, contact Ross Shramko at the NRCS Hainesport office at (609) 267-0811, ext. 113. They are eagerly awaiting calls to help landowners enhance habitat and support wildlife conservation. 🍷

A hunting and fishing club used the resources available from this program to purchase, restore and enhance over 200 acres of land benefiting grassland-dependant birds, including the ring-necked pheasant.

Hunter Access

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 or contact the appropriate authority for details. See page 83 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.

Zone Public Land Open to Deer Hunting

- 1 • Bear Swamp WMA
• Flatbrook-Roy WMA
• Hainesville WMA
• Stokes State Forest
- 2 • Kittatinny Valley State Park
• 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
• Wanaque WMA
• Wawayanda State Park
- 4 • Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
• Flatbrook-Roy WMA
• Stokes State Forest
• Walpack WMA
• Worthington State Forest
- 5 • Beaver Brook WMA
• Columbia WMA
• Honey Run WMA
• Jenny Jump State Forest
• Paulinskill WMA
• Swartswood State Park
• Trout Brook WMA
• White Lake WMA
• Whittingham WMA
- 6 • Allamuchy Mountain State Park
• Berkshire Valley WMA
• Fanny State Park
• Morris County Park System - Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Silas Condict Park (see Special Areas)
• Newark Watershed (see Special Areas)
• Rockaway River WMA
• Sparta Mountain WMA
• Weldon Brook WMA
• Wildcat Ridge WMA
- 7 • Clinton WMA
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Union Forge Preserve, Tower Hill Reserve (see Special Areas)
• Musconetcong River WMA
• Spruce Run Recreation Area
• Allamuchy Mountain State Park
- 8 • 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 - Black River Park, Schooley's Mountain Park (see Special Areas)
• Musconetcong River WMA
• Pequest WMA
• South Branch WMA

- 9 • Voorhees State Park
- 10 • Black River WMA
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Musconetcong Gorge, the Drag Strip Property, Hoffman Park, Schick Reserve, South Branch Reservation, Uplands Reserve (see Special Areas)
- 11 • Musconetcong River WMA
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Lockatong Nature Preserve, the Case Farm, Wescott Nature Preserve (see Special Areas)
- 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 • No public deer hunting land
- 14 • Assunpink WMA (Washington 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 (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)
- 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
• White Oak Branch WMA
• Wharton State Forest
- 26 • Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• Wharton State Forest
• Hammoncton Creek WMA
• Makepeace Lake WMA
• Port Republic WMA
• Salem River WMA
• Thundergut Pond WMA
- 28 • Buckshutem WMA
• Elmer Lake WMA
• 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
- 30 • Bear Swamp Natural Area (closed Jan. 15 - Aug. 1)
• Dix WMA
• Egg Island WMA
• Fortescue WMA
• Nantuxent WMA
• New Sweden WMA
- 31 • Millville WMA
• Buckshutem WMA
- 34 • Beaver Swamp WMA
• Belleplain State Forest
• Cape May Wetlands WMA
• Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
• Dennis Creek WMA
• Heislerville WMA
• Higbee Beach WMA
• Tuckahoe WMA
• Lizard Tail Swamp Preserve (see Special Areas)
• D.O.D. Ponds
- 35 • No public deer hunting land
- 36 • Fort Dix Military Reservation (see Special Areas)
- 38 • Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (see Special Areas)
- 39 • No public deer hunting land

- 40 • No public deer hunting land
- 41 • Alexauken Creek WMA
• Mercer County Parks - Baldpate (Kuser) Mountain
• Mercer County Parks - Howell Living History Farm
- 42 • Port Republic WMA
- 43 • Millville (Bevan) WMA
- 45 • Menantico Ponds WMA
• Peaslee WMA
- 46 • Gibson Creek WMA
• Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• Tuckahoe WMA
• Maple Lake WMA
• Peaslee WMA
• Peaslee WMA
- 47 • Peaslee WMA
- 48 • Rancocas State Park (see Special Areas)
- 49 • No public deer hunting land
- 50 • Monmouth County Park System - Hartshorne Woods Park, Tatum Park, Thompson 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 (see Special Areas)
- 59 • Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (see Special Areas)
- 61 • Atlantic County Park System (see Special Areas)
- 63 • Abbotts Meadow WMA
- 64 • Monmouth Battlefield State Park (see Special Areas)
- 65 • Winslow WMA
- 66 • Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center (see Special Areas)
- 67 • High Point State Park (see Special Areas)

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

USGS Topographic Maps

Topo quads - \$10 ea. State exact location including county, township, road or select a WMA
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Maps and Publications
PO Box 438
Trenton, NJ 08625-0438
(609) 777-1038
www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs

State Parks and Forests Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry.
Please specify park or forest. Free.
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
PO Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404
(800) 843-6420

Wildlife Management Area Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Photocopies of individual WMA maps on USGS base available free.
Specify which WMA.
NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife
WMA Map Request
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 984-0547
Download maps from our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com/wmaland.htm or create your own map, at i-MapNJ, see page 81.

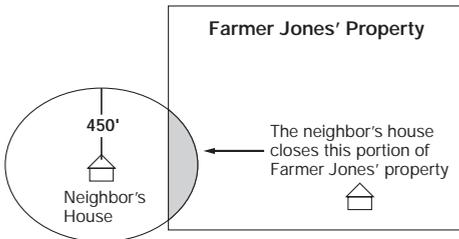
SAFETY ZONE Awareness: Protecting Your Hunting Privilege

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 wildlife habitat and land suitable for hunting, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for modern hunters.



What is a SAFETY ZONE?

- The SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied.
- 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 which can stop a misdirected bullet 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. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
4. Know the law.

Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. You must always be a responsible hunter, aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of hunter education do not disappear at the completion of a course, but 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 now flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. So 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 2006–2007 Hunting Seasons

Hunting on national wildlife refuges is not permitted unless specifically opened as listed below.

Cape May NWR

24 Kimbles Beach Road, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 (609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/northeast/capemay

- Deer—See "Special Areas Hunting Season Information;" see page 52.
- Migratory game birds except crow—on refuge lands north of Rt. 550 or west of Rt. 47

No refuge permit is required. Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information

Great Swamp NWR

241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920-9615 (973) 425-1222; www.fws.gov/northeast/greatswamp

- Deer—See "Special Areas Hunting Season Information;" see page 52.

In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a Refuge permit. There is a \$26 fee for a refuge permit. Special hunting conditions apply.

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

P.O. Box 72, Great Creek Road, Oceanville, New Jersey 08231-0072; (609) 652-1665; www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe

- Deer—See "Special Areas Hunting Season Information;" see page 52.
- Waterfowl • Special Snow Goose Season

A \$10 refuge permit is required for the fall bow season. Hunters wanting to participate in the snow goose hunt must have a reservation. Special hunting conditions apply. Information can be obtained at the refuge, at dispensers, at the headquarters, on the refuge Web site, 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/northeast/nj/spm.htm

- Deer—See "Special Areas Hunting Season Information;" see page 52.
- Waterfowl • September Canada Goose

In addition to required state licenses and permits, deer hunters must obtain a refuge permit. There is a \$20 fee for refuge permits except youths are free. Special hunting conditions apply.

Walkkill River NWR

1547 County Route 565, Sussex, New Jersey 07461-4013 (973) 702-7266; <http://walkkillriver.fws.gov>

- Big game—See "Special Areas Hunting Season Information;" see page 52.
- Migratory Birds except crow • Spring and Fall Turkey (Zone 5)
- September and Special Winter Canada Goose

In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a refuge permit. There is a \$20 fee for a refuge permit except youths are free. Special hunting conditions apply.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a new Web-based tool called i-MapNJ.

If you have access to the Web, here is a way to create maps of your favorite Wildlife Management Areas. i-MapNJ also provides a wealth of other environmental information.

This interactive program is updated regularly so most of the latest information is available.

To access i-MapNJ, go to the DEP's Web site at www.state.nj.us/dep. Click the i-MapNJ button in the left column.

If you do not have access to the Web and are interested in a specific Wildlife Management Area, call (609) 984-0547 to request a map.

Wildlife Management Areas Welcome Recreationists

By Laurie Pettigrew, Principal Biologist

The Wildlife Management Area (WMA) System is administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Land Management. The WMA system currently holds over 300,000 acres where the public can enjoy their favorite outdoor pursuits.

Begun in 1932 with the purchase of the Walpack WMA, the system was initially funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses to provide "Public Shooting and Fishing Grounds." Since the passage of the first Green Acres Bond Act in 1961, most acquisitions today take place through the Green Acres Program. In addition to Green Acres, funding is provided by the Waterfowl Stamp Program, specifically for the purchase and management of waterfowl habitat. To date, the Waterfowl Stamp Program has acquired more than 14,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat for WMAs such as Paulinskill, Upper Barnegat Bay and Salem River just to name a few.

The WMA system provides innumerable recreational opportunities throughout the state. Whether you pursue hunting or fishing, birdwatching, photography, hiking or kayaking, there are wildlife management areas where

you can enjoy your favorite outdoor pastime.

Thousands of migrating warblers, raptors and shorebirds stop to rest and feed at Higbee Beach WMA in spring and fall making it one of the nation's premier bird watching spots. Some of the state's best warm water fishing can be found on WMAs such as Union Lake, Assunpink, and Menantico, where the state record largemouth bass was caught. If you prefer trout fishing, try angling the colder waters of the South Branch at Ken Lockwood Gorge, or the Little Flatbrook at Flatbrook-Roy.

Some recreationists prefer paddling to angling. There are ample put-in and take-out locations on WMA land that borders many of New Jersey's rivers -such as Black River, Musconetcong and Pequest.

There are thriving herds of deer and flocks of turkey on almost every WMA throughout the state. Waterfowl hunting at Heislerville, Sawmill Creek, or Cape May Coastal Wetlands rivals any on the east coast.

Several WMAs were purchased to provide shoreline access for anglers along many of New Jersey's streams, lakes and tidal areas. A number of these have boating access as well, whether it be a cartop launch for a small pond

or lake, or a motor boat ramp for larger waters. Shooting ranges throughout the state provide hunters with places to practice or sight in their gun or bow.

Most WMAs lack marked trails but almost all have numerous unmarked trails that can be navigated with the aid of a good topographic map. In addition, 18 WMAs have been designated as wildlife viewing sites and many have observation platforms at key locations.

The WMA system provides other benefits as well. New Jersey has some of the most diverse and complex ecosystems found in the United States. WMAs help protect these ecosystems and the habitat necessary for healthy wildlife populations. Open space provides environmental and economic benefits too, such as clean water, clean air and increased land values.

To learn more about DEP's Wildlife Management Area System, visit www.NJFishandWildlife.com. In addition to more detailed information about the WMA system, there is a table listing all the WMAs and their acreage along with links to maps of each area. Or create your own map at i-MapNJ; see page 81 for details.

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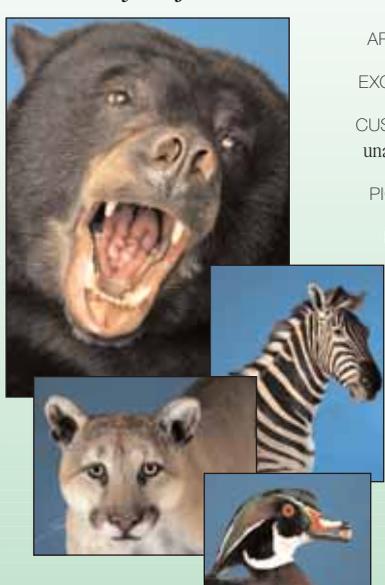
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WMA List

1. Abbotts Meadow
2. Absecon
3. Alexauken Creek
4. Alpha Grasslands
5. Amwell Lake
6. Assunpink
7. Balwin Lake
8. Bear Swamp
9. Beaver Brook
10. Beaver Swamp
11. Belvidere Access
12. Berkshire Valley
13. Black River
14. Buckhorn Creek
15. Buckshutem
16. Budd Lake
17. Butterfly Bogs
18. Cape Island
19. Cape May Coastal Wetlands
20. Capoolong Creek
21. Cedar Lake
22. Cedarville Ponds
23. Clarks Pond
24. Clinton
25. Cohansey River
26. Colliers Mills
27. Columbia
28. Culvers Brook Access
29. Dennis Creek
30. Dix
31. D.O.D. Ponds
32. Egg Island
33. Elmer Lake
34. Featherbed Lane
35. Flatbrook-Roy
36. Forked River Mountain
37. Fortescue
38. Gibson Creek
39. Glassboro
40. Great Bay
41. Great Egg Harbor River
42. Greenwood Forest
43. Gum Tree Corner
44. Hackettstown Hatchery
45. Hainesville
46. Hamburg Mountain
47. Hammonton Creek
48. Harmony Access
49. Harrisonville Lake
50. Heislerville
51. Higbee Beach
52. Holland Church Access
53. Honey Run
54. Hummers Beach Access
55. Imlaystown Lake
56. Ken Lockwood Gorge
57. Kingwood Access
58. Knowlton Access
59. Little Flatbrook Access
60. Lizzard Tail Swamp
61. Lockatong
62. Logan Pond
63. Mad Horse Creek
64. Makepeace Lake
65. Malibu Beach
66. Manahawkin
67. Manasquan River
68. Manchester
69. Mantua Creek
70. Maple Lake
71. Maskells Mill
72. Medford
73. Menantico Ponds
74. Millville
75. Musconetcong River
76. Nantuxent
77. Navesink River
78. New Sweden
79. Oyster Creek Access
80. Paulinskill
81. Peaslee
82. Pemberton Lake
83. Penbryn Lake
84. Pennsauken Access
85. Pequest
86. Pohatcong Creek
87. Point Pleasant Canal Access
88. Pork Island
89. Port Republic
90. Prospertown Lake
91. Raccoon Creek
92. Rainbow Lake
93. Ramseyburg Access
94. Ratzman Access
95. Rockaway River
96. Rockport
97. Rowands Pond
98. Salem River
99. Sawmill Creek
100. Sedge Island
101. South Branch
102. Sparta Mountain
103. Spicers Creek Access
104. Stafford Forge
105. Swan Bay
106. Thundergut Pond
107. Trout Brook
108. Tuckahoe
109. Turkey Swamp
110. Union Lake
111. Upper Barnegat Bay
112. Van Nest
113. Wading River
114. Walpack
115. Wanaque
116. Weldon Brook
117. White Lake
118. White Oak Branch
119. Whiting
120. Whittingham
121. Wildcat Ridge
122. Winslow

New Jersey Wildlife Management Areas

