### PRIMARY WATERFOWL SEASONS

**NORTH ZONE**
- Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots: Oct. 10 - Oct. 22
- Canada geese (Regular Season): Nov. 14 - Nov. 28
- Brant: Nov. 14 - Nov. 28
- Youth Waterfowl Days: Oct. 3 and Oct. 31

**SOUTH ZONE**
- Brant: Nov. 14 - Nov. 28
- Canada geese (Regular Season): Nov. 14 - Nov. 28
- Youth Waterfowl Days: Oct. 10 and Nov. 7

**COASTAL ZONE**
- Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots: Oct. 31 - Nov. 3
- Brant: Nov. 26 - Dec. 5
- Canada geese (Regular Season): Nov. 26 - Jan. 30
- Youth Waterfowl Days: Nov. 7 and Feb. 13

### STATEWIDE SEASONS

- **Canada geese (September Season):**
  - Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
- **Light geese:**
  - Regular Season: Oct. 17 - Feb. 15
  - Conservation Order: Feb. 16 - Apr. 9
- **Sora rail, Clapper rail, Virginia rail, Moorhen (Common gallinule):**
  - Sept. 1 - Nov. 7
- **Common snipe:**
  - Aug. 10 - Dec. 5
  - Dec. 14 - Mar. 19
- **Crows:**
  - Mon., Thur., Fri., Sat. Only

### OTHER SEASONS

- **Woodcock:**
  - North Zone: Oct. 17 - Nov. 21
  - South Zone: Nov. 7 - Nov. 28
- **Sea ducks (Special Sea Duck Area Only):**
  - Dec. 19 - Jan. 1
- **Canada geese: Special Winter Season Zones:**
  - Jan. 26 - Feb. 15

### REPORT HUNTING VIOLATIONS

24 HR DEP HOTLINE 877-WARNDEP (927-6337)
OPERATION GAME THIEF 855-OGT-TIPS

### NEW JERSEY 2015-2016 MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS

**MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE 2015-2016 SEASON**

- The brant bag limit was reduced to 1 bird and the brant season will be closed during part of the duck season in all zones.
- The Regular Canada Goose season in the Coastal Zone has been extended and the bag limit increased to 5 birds.
- The canvasback bag limit was increased to 2 birds.
- New Jersey has a regulation prohibiting wanton waste of most game species, including migratory birds. See restriction d. on page 3.

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

- **Crows:**
  - License: None
  - Certification Stamp: None
  - HIP Certification: X
  - NJ Stamp Certification: X
  - Federal Stamp: X

**WATERFOWL STAMP** - A NJ Waterfowl Stamp Certification and Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) are required for all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older and must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp. New Jersey Stamp Certifications are available from license agents and from the “Licenses and Permits” page on the Division’s web site. Federal stamps are available from some US Post Offices and online at www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm

**HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)**

All hunters must obtain a HIP certification before hunting ducks, geese, brant, coot, woodcock, rails, snipe, or gallinules. Migratory bird hunters can get their HIP certification one of three ways:

1. **Online at http://njfishandwildlife.com/licenses.htm**
2. **From a license agent.**
3. **By calling the toll-free NJ telephone sales line at 888-277-277.**

All 3 methods allow hunters to go hunting immediately after registering. Online and license agent HIP certifications will cost $2.00 while telephone HIP certifications will include a shipping/handling fee and cost $5.13. Internet HIP certifications can be printed on a home computer. Telephone HIP certifications will be received in about 1 week; however, hunters can begin hunting immediately by recording their HIP certification number. HIP certification should be carried in the hunter’s license holder. HIP certificates are valid from Sept. 1 to April 30 each year. Information collected for HIP is confidential and used by the USFS for conducting migratory bird harvest surveys.

www.njfishandwildlife.com
SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The following is a synopsis of Federal Regulations that pertain to the hunting of migratory game birds. More information can be found at: http://njfishandwildlife.com/factsheets/pdf or by calling the US Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Office at 908-787-1321.

No persons shall take migratory game birds:
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Baiting means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, that if salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.
- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, or unless the shotgun does not exceed three shells. Exceptions: In New York, any shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells are permitted during the September Canada goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased. Exception: crippled birds may be shot from craft under power in the Special Sea Duck Area.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this prohibition to use a gander or other live bird to take migratory waterfowl on a slaughtering area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. Exceptions: In New Jersey, hunters can use electronic calls during: crow season, September Canada goose season, and the Light Goose Conservation Order.
- By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;

Tagging requirement
No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, transporting, or storage (including temporary storage) or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Species identification requirement
No person shall transport within the United States any migratory bird game, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, the head or one complete wing of each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

HUNTING HOURS - See page 83 of Fish and Wildlife Digest for sunrise/sunset table.
- Ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, moorhens, snipe—1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
- Woodcock—sunrise to sunset.
- Crows—1/2 hour before to 1/2 hour after sunset.

STATE REGULATIONS

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

NONTOXIC SHOT REGULATIONS—In New Jersey, no person may take ducks, geese, brant, coots, rails, snipe, or moorhens while possessing shot other than approved nontoxic shot. Approved nontoxic shot includes steel, tungsten-tin, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-iron-nickel-tin, tungsten-iron-tin-bismuth, tungsten-nickel-iron, bismuth-tin, copper-clad iron, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-tin-iron, and tungsten-tin-bismuth shot types. Shot size may not exceed Size T (0.200 inch) for waterfowl. See http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/currentbirdissues/nontoxic.htm for more information. For crows and woodcock, shot size may not exceed Size #4 and lead shot is permitted.

Restrictions:
- BANDED BIRDS: BIRD HUNTING IS NOT PERMITTED ON SUNDAYS IN N.J.
- B. The starting time to hunt waterfowl on the opening day of the pheasant season (Nov. 7, 2015) is 8 a.m. on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant and quail except the tidewater marshes.
- C. In the portion of the Manasquan River from the ocean inlet upstream to Route 70.
- D. On Herring Island and that portion of Barnegat Bay lying between northern and southern tips of Herring Island easterly to adjacent shoreline of Mantoloking Borough, Ocean County.
- E. On Parker Creek and Oceanport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, southwest or upstream of the Conrail R.&I. bridge.
- F. On the non-tidal portions of Cox Hall Creek WMA.
- G. The limit for any person for any portion (defined as the breast meat) of migratory birds (excepting crows) to 8. Edible portions do not include meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones; or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from any migratory waterfowl.
- H. The limit for any person for any portion (defined as the breast meat) of migratory birds (excepting crows) to 8. Edible portions do not include meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones; or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from any migratory waterfowl.
- I. Waterfowl hunting on Delaware River is governed by State boundaries and restricted to respective state seasons.
- J. Permitless birds may not be hunted on the following state waterfowl zones: Waterfowl zones:

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl Zones:
- Applies to regular ducks, crows, mergansers, regular season Canada goose, brant, regular season light geese and Youth Waterfowl Days.
- Coastal Zone: That portion of the State seaward of a line beginning at the New York State line in Hanlan Bay and extending west along the New York State line to the Delaware Bay at Cape May; thence south along the Delaware State line to the Delaware State line in Delaware Bay.
- North Zone: That portion of the State west of the Coastal Zone and north of a line extending west from the Cape May State Park to the Delaware Bay at Cape May; thence north to the turnpike at U.S. 106, north to U.S. 106 to U.S. 1 at Trenton, west on U.S. 1 to the Pennsylvania State line in the Delaware River.
- South Zone: Portion of the State not within the North Zone or the Coastal Zone.

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

SPECIAL WINTER CANADA GOOSE SEASON HUNTING AREAS

The two hatched areas are open to hunting.
- For the north, it is that portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State line to the State line at Exit 18; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 266 in Bedminster (Exit 18); then south along Route 266 to Route 266 at Point Pleasant Borough; then south along Route 440 to Route 440 at the Atlantic Ocean; then north along the Delaware State line to the Delaware River; then east along the New York State line to the New York State line at Route 94 to Route 94 at Page’s Neck; then north along Route 94 to Route 70 at Route 70; then west along Route 70 to Route 70; then south along Route 206 to Route 206; then west along Route 365 to Route 365; then west along Route 365 to Route 322; then west along Route 322 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 55; then south along Route 533 to Route 533 (Rutland Rd.); then south along Route 533 to Route 533; then east along Route 469; then south from Route 469 to Route 670; then east along Route 670 to Route 47; then north along Route 47 to Route 549; then east along Route 549 to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 49; then south along Route 206 to Route 206; then north along Route 266 to Route 266; then south along Route 266 to Route 266; then north along Route 206 to Route 206.
- For the south, it is that portion of New Jersey within a continuous line that runs west from the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom along Route 72 to Route 70; then west along Route 70 to Route 206; then south along Route 206 to Route 365; then west along Route 365 to Route 322; then west along Route 322 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 55; then south along Route 333 to Route 333; then east along Route 469; then north along Route 469 to Route 670; then east along Route 670 to Route 47; then north along Route 47 to Route 549; then east along Route 549 to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 49; then south along Route 533 to Route 533 (Rutland Rd.); then south along Rutland Rd. to Route 533; then east along Route 533 to Route 469; then north along Route 469 to Route 670; then east along Route 670 to Route 47; then north along Route 47 to Route 549; then east along Route 549 to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 49; then south along Route 206 to Route 206; then north along Route 266 to Route 266 (Sea Isle City Blvd.); then east along Route 266 to the Atlantic Ocean; then north to the beginning point.