Regulations in red are new this year.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED: alcoholic beverages, camping, geocaching, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, dumping, fires, metal detecting, swimming, picknicking and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles known as drones.

Wildlife management area (WMA) regulation violations carry penalties of not less than $50 nor more than $1,500. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

For special WMA permits that allow for activities otherwise prohibited on WMAs, write to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit (or other authorization) for violation or due cause.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver’s side rear window a Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit (for the waterbodies listed below), or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license with your Conservation ID number clearly displayed. For privacy, all other personal information may be blacked out. The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is $15, available from license agents or at Fish and Wildlife’s Internet sales site. For more information see: NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Persons 70 years and older do not need a boat ramp maintenance permit or a license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

1. Round Valley 5. Mad Horse Creek
Angler Access 6. Union Lake
2. Assunpink 7. Menantico Ponds
3. Dennis Creek 8. Prospertown Lake
4. Tuckahoe

Dog Training, Exercising and Hunting

A person may exercise or train dogs only in designated dog training areas from May 1 to Aug. 31, inclusive, and only on the following select WMAs:

1. Assunpink 8. Millville
2. Black River 9. Pequest
3. Clinton 10. Salem River
4. Colliers Mills 11. Stafford Forge
5. Glassboro 12. Tuckahoe
6. Hainesville 13. Whitingham
7. Manasquan 14. Winslow

All dogs must be properly licensed. Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30.

Any person releasing partridge or pheasant for dog training must have a game bird receipt in their possession. Additional regulations involving the use of pigeons, the use of firearms, frozen game birds, the use of call-back pens and the release of fox, raccoon, rabbit and hare apply. NEW! For a link to maps showing the dog training areas on these select WMAs, go to www.NJFishandWildlife.com/dogtrain.htm. For more information call (609) 984-0547.

Field Trials

A permit to conduct a field trial on a wildlife management area may be obtained by contacting Fish and Wildlife at (609) 259-2132.

Higbee Beach

Higbee Beach WMA is closed to hunting from Sept. 1 until 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2019.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and only available online at www.NJWildlifeLicense.com. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding group permits, call (609) 259-2132.

Hunting Regulations

Firearm hunting on wildlife management areas on the day prior to the opening of the regular small game season for pheasants and quail is allowed.

The quail season is closed statewide with the exception of the Peaslee and Greenwood WMAs. See Quail Season Closed, page 56.

It is legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber rimfire short cartridges for hunting raccoon and opossum and for dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat on WMAs.

For coyote and fox hunting: the use of .177 and .22 caliber rimfire or .177 through .25 caliber centerfire rifle ammo is allowed on WMAs. See Coyote/Fox ammo chart on page 54 for additional restrictions.

The use of air guns to hunt rabbit and squirrel is allowed on WMAs. See Air Guns page 27, and Squirrel, Regular Season on page 56.

Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, may not be used to hunt woodchucks on WMAs.

Motor Vehicles and Other Forms of Conveyance

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on any state WMA. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

All motor boats must be properly registered and have all the required safety equipment. (See Outboard Motors, below.)

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off road vehicles, ATVs, trail bikes, or snowmobiles is prohibited on all WMAs unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife. For mountain bike and paddleboard regulations, visit our website.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake where an outboard motor, not exceeding 9.9 hp, may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

All titled boats must also be registered. Any boat mechanically propelled, regardless of length, must be registered. All boats greater than 12 feet, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered. A boat license and New Jersey boat safety certificate are required to operate a power vessel on non-tidal waters of New Jersey. A boat license is not required for non-powered vessels.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife management areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities. Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife-approved activities.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, .177 and .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to regulations posted at the training area.

The following types of ranges are available on designated WMAs statewide:

• Shotgun Range: for use with clay birds and the patterning of fine shot;
• Archery Range: approved backstops at select ranges, no broadheads allowed;
• Muzzleloading Rifle and Shotgun Slug Range: for sighting in with shotgun slugs or buckshot, .177 or .22 caliber rimfire rifles and muzzleloaders; no other firearms allowed. See page 71 for a list of ranges and requirements. Centerfire .30 caliber rifles are permitted at the Millville range only.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or Drones

The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone is prohibited on WMAs. A UAV is computer-controlled for nearly their entire flight either autonomously or by remote control by a pilot and has the capacity for autonomous flight and navigation. See Drones, page 26, for additional regulations.

Waterfowl Blinds

No permanent waterfowl blinds, including pit blinds, shall be constructed, hunted from or used in any manner on any of the following WMAs:

1. Assunpink 8. Whittingham
2. Black River 9. Beaver Swamp
3. Colliers Mills 10. Sedge Island
4. Hainesville 11. Salem River
5. Tuckahoe 12. Prospertown
6. Manahawkin 13. Paulinskill
7. Stafford Forge

Any blind used in these WMAs must be portable and shall be completely removed at the day’s end. Blinds remaining in WMAs are subject to confiscation and disposal by Fish and Wildlife.
Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Ranges

- All WMA regulations apply.
- Ranges are open 8 a.m. to sunset.
- At least one member of the shooting party must have a current, valid New Jersey hunting license in possession.

- Shotgun range: fine shot only. No buckshot or rifled slugs.
- Archery range: target tips only. No broadheads allowed on any WMA range, regardless of the target used.

- Muzzleloading rifle range: muzzleloading firearms, shotguns (rifled slug, buckshot), modern rimfire rifles (.177, .22 caliber) and air guns in calibers legal for hunting are allowed.
- No handguns or centerfire rifles permitted.

NOTICE: Range Renovations, Closures — Tentative Schedule Sept.–Dec. 2019 for northern ranges; March–July 2020 for central ranges. Muzzleloader ranges scheduled for renovation include Makepeace, Millville, Clinton, Flarbrook, Colliers Mills and Stafford Forge WMAs. Portions of these ranges may be open occasionally during the process. Shotgun ranges are open but cannot accommodate air guns, shotgun slugs, buckshot or rifles of any type. Plan ahead for sighting in and practice prior to the hunting seasons! The renovations—including covered shooting stations, new benches and berm enhancements—are based on NRA guidelines. Check our website for schedule updates and closures: NJFishandWildlife.com/ranges.htm.

Northern Region
Hunterdon County
Clinton WMA
Route 173W, Clinton
- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- All target frames must measure a minimum 30 inches from base to bottom of the paper target held in the frame. Frames must be placed only on top of a target mound located at the 25, 50 and 100 yard lines. This minimum target height requirement eliminates the risk of ricochet to ensure all projectiles are collected in the berm behind the 100 yard target.
- Spinner type targets for .177 and .22 caliber firearms MUST be placed directly at the base of the 25 yard berm to direct all bullets into the berm. These targets are not to be used at other yardage or target mound placements.

Sussex County
Flarbrook WMA
Route 615, Layton
- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (75 yards)

Warren County
Pequest WMA
Pequest Rd., Oxford
- Archery

Central Region
Monmouth County
Assunpink WMA
Issjaysown-Hightstown Rd., Upper Freehold Twp.
- Archery
- Shotgun range is restricted to the use of non-toxic shot; no lead shot is allowed.
- Turkey Swamp Park
  Georgia Rd., Freehold Twp.
  - Archery (Special regulations apply; call 732-842-4000.)

Ocean County
Colliers Mills WMA
Off Colliers Mills and Hawkins Rds., Jackson Twp.
- Archery
- Shotgun range is closed.
- Stafford Forge WMA
  Off Route 539, south of Warren Grove, Little Egg Harbor Twp.

Southern Region
Atlantic County
Makepeace Lake WMA
Elmwood-Weymouth Rd., Weymouth
- Shotgun, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- Target requirements: bottom of paper target in a frame must be at least 30 inches above the ground. Only place target frame on top of a mound at the 25, 50 or 100 yard lines. This minimum target height eliminates risk of ricochets, ensuring all projectiles are collected in the berm behind the 100-yard target.
- Spinner type targets for .177 and .22 caliber firearms MUST be placed directly at the base of the 25 yard berm to direct all bullets into the berm. Do not use these targets at other yardage or target mound placements.

Gloucester County
Winslow WMA
Pinny Hollow Rd., Monroe Twp.
- Archery
- Shotgun and muzzleloader ranges are closed.

Cape May County
Tuckahoe WMA
Off Tuckahoe Rd. (Rt. 631), Tuckahoe
- Archery
- Shotgun range is closed.

Cumberland County
Millville WMA
Ackley Rd. (Rt. 718), Millville
- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards), Centerfire to .30 caliber rifle
I agree to conduct myself safely, responsibly and lawfully, respecting the landowner, property, and others using it. I accept the responsibilities which are part of the activities which I pursue. I agree to comply with the instructions of the landowner while on this property.

I understand that the laws of New Jersey absolve the landowner from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, and certain other activities, except in the case of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn of hazards.

Signed (visitor) ____________________________________________

Date _____/_____/_____

This card provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife

Outdoor Recreation on Private Property is a Privilege — NOT A RIGHT
**Youth Division**

New Jersey's Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program has a Youth Division! The Outstanding Deer Program is designed to showcase the fine quality deer produced in the Garden State and recognize the hunters who harvested them with a bow, crossbow, shotgun or muzzleloading rifle.

Joining the program's regular Open Division is a Youth Division for hunters ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories and a reduction in the Weight categories by 10 or 20 pounds for doe and buck, respectively. (See table below for minimum entry requirements.)

For the Antler Category, Youth Division deer may be unofficially scored by our trained volunteers who need not be an official measurer. All Open Division deer must be scored by an official measurer. Visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm for the list of official measurers (see page bottom for Entering the Outstanding Deer Program; then bottom of next page), program background, rules, score/entry forms and more.

Youth Division hunters must be prepared to submit a digital, high resolution, respectful photo of hunter and deer after their entry has been confirmed. (Day of harvest field photos must be Photographed or cropped to conceal any blood or the body cavity.) A family photo is encouraged! Only Youth Division hunters (not Open Division hunters who may email us or call Cindy, below) may arrange for a measuring appointment by calling John Messeroll of the state Federation of Sportsmen’s Club at (732) 735-1672. Don’t wait for the deadline to approach before having your deer scored.

Applications are due Nov. 1 — NO EXCEPTIONS.

First place Youth Division hunters in each category may display a mounted deer at the Garden State Deer Classic (see page 72), whether as a European skull mount or a taxidermy mount. All other Youth Division entrants’ photos will be digitally displayed at the event.

**Open Division**

Open Division hunters will be invited to display their deer mount, as always, at the Deer Classic.

The Outstanding Deer Program follows the measuring standards developed by the Boone and Crockett Club. This scoring system gives credit to antler length, spread, number of points, mass and symmetry. Legally harvested deer must have been taken under the Boone and Crockett-defined rules of fair chase. Deer taken from enclosed hunting lands are not eligible.

Note: It is best to have the rack measured before it is mounted. Don’t wait! In the Weight categories, the program recognizes exceptional body size as determined by the field-pressed weight, all vitals removed. Minimum eligible weights are listed in the chart. Bucks must be weighed on a certified scale (no truck scales**) with the weighmaster’s signature on a letterhead receipt or on a weighmaster, with the weighmaster’s signature on a letterhead receipt or on a weight-must be weighed on a certified scale† (no truck scale**). A truck scale is not acceptable as the increments are too large."

Open Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Score/Weight</th>
<th>DMZ</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Nathan Van Wingerden</td>
<td>124 7/8</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Shaelin Summers</td>
<td>119 4/8</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Branchville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Alexandria Margelis</td>
<td>115 1/8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Justin Tier</td>
<td>125 2/8</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Andrew Cape</td>
<td>124 7/8</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Caney’s Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Michael J. Beach</td>
<td>205 Pounds</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mount Arlington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Keith Malespina</td>
<td>214 Pounds</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>John Skika</td>
<td>201 Pounds</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Monmouth Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Corwin Myers</td>
<td>161 5/8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Stockton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Nick Hill</td>
<td>149 4/8</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Alloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Steve Fontana</td>
<td>147 3/8</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Hamburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Dave Hullitt, Jr</td>
<td>149 3/8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Millville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Justin Stafford</td>
<td>138 2/8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Swedesboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>James Ziola</td>
<td>135 6/8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Parlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Anthony Tardibuono</td>
<td>147 7/8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rutherford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sharrin Sullivan</td>
<td>147 4/8</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Tinton Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>David W. Hunter</td>
<td>145 6/8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Malaque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Doug Zirkle</td>
<td>158 7/8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Bridgeton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Robert Little</td>
<td>145 3/8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Newfoundland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>David J. Hemple</td>
<td>143 6/8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Bridgeton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Joe Lista</td>
<td>167 3/8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Englishtown</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Bill Hadzimichals</td>
<td>151 7/8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>North Brinswick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Vincent J. Schable</td>
<td>149 3/8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jason DePalazzo</td>
<td>163 6/8</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Hainsport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Patrick Stiles</td>
<td>134 2/8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Belford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Keith Malespina</td>
<td>140 7/8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Doug Zirkle</td>
<td>158 7/8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Bridgeton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>David J. Hemple</td>
<td>143 6/8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Bridgeton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kevin Kinney</td>
<td>180 0/8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Shawn Doyle</td>
<td>152 0/8</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Mansasquan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Stan Bieranowski</td>
<td>145 7/8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Levittown, PA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For deer harvested during the 2017–18 hunting seasons.

**Minimum Requirements**

Youth - Typical Archery

- Deer must be weighed on a certified scale† (no truck scale**). A truck scale is not acceptable as the increments are too large.

**Youth - Typical Crossbow**

- Deer ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories.

**Non-typical Crossbow**

- Deer ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories.

**Non-typical Archery**

- Deer ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories.

**Youth - Typical Shotgun**

- Deer ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories.

**Non-typical Shotgun**

- Deer ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories.

**Outstanding Deer Program Minimum Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antler Category</th>
<th>Open Division Minimum</th>
<th>Youth Division Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typical Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-typical Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weight Category**

- Buck: Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader
  - 200 lbs. 180 lbs.
- Doe: Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader
  - 135 lbs. 125 lbs.

**See entry form. Visit our website (https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/scale_list.pdf) for a partial list of certified scales or contact your county weights and measures office. Be sure to locate a scale before the hunting season begins!**

**A truck scale is not acceptable as the increments are too large.**
What Is CWD?

• Belongs to a family of neurological diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies which include scrapie in sheep, mad cow disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in humans. There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans; however the CDC advises against consuming any animal that appears ill.

• All members of the Cervid family (white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, reindeer) are known to be susceptible.

• Caused by a misfolded protein called a prion which could be found in all deer bodily fluids.

• There is no cure. CWD is always fatal and there is no live test for deer.

Where Is CWD Found?

• First discovered in captive mule deer in Colorado, in 1967.

• Now in captive or wild deer in 26 states and four Canadian provinces.


How New Jersey Is Responding

• Tested for CWD in symptomatic captive cervids and wild deer, and hunter-harvested wild deer since 1997. To date over 8,030 wild deer have been tested with no CWD-positive results.

• Banned the importation of cervids, recently expanded to include reindeer.

• Issued an advisory for New Jersey hunters bringing home venison from CWD-endemic states making it illegal to import into New Jersey a harvested deer carcass or deer parts from any state with CWD in wild deer unless strictly following that state’s CWD protocol.

• Improved captive cervid regulations, including a proposed Herd Certification Program.

• Created the CWD Response Plan with protocols for detection of CWD to be activated when CWD is within 20 miles of the New Jersey border and within the state wild deer and captive cervids.
Chronic Wasting Disease in North America

Urine-Based Deer Lures Advisory
The DEP’s Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends the use of synthetic, non-urine-based scents or lures for deer hunting. The infectious prions which cause Chronic Wasting Disease can be spread through urine-based lures. Studies have shown the prions can survive for years in contaminated soils and the environment. Urine-based scents and lures are not treated to kill the prions as heat or chemical treatments would also reduce the desired scent characteristics. Hunters using urine-based scents should place them in areas out of contact with deer, the ground or vegetation.

If you care about:
- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

Then get involved:
- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
- Meet others who share similar sporting interests
- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions,

Membership:
- $40 Includes monthly e-newsletter and $1 million excess liability insurance covering your sporting activities throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- $25 Monthly e-newsletter only

See NJFishandWildlife.com/cwdinfo.htm for more information on CWD in New Jersey and the New Jersey CWD Response Plan.
Visit cwd-info.org for more comprehensive CWD information.
What Has Happened to Eastern Mallards and How Does This Affect Atlantic Flyway Duck Seasons?

By Ted Nichols, Wildlife Biologist

April 1994. A young New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife waterfowl biologist, soaked in sweat, climbs out of his kayak and tallies up the waterfowl observed on the randomly-located, 1 square-kilometer survey plot that is partially situated on a tidal freshwater marsh in Gloucester County. The tally: 23 Canada geese, four pairs of wood ducks and six pairs of mallards.

April 2019. Twenty-five years later, the same waterfowl biologist, now mostly gray-haired and 10 pounds heavier, climbs out of the same kayak, at the same survey plot, to tally the findings after completing the 2019 survey. The results: similar numbers of Canada geese and wood ducks, but only half the number of mallard pairs when compared with the 1994 survey.

I am that biologist.

A lot has changed over those years. The Internet now dominates daily activities, nearly everyone has a cell phone and the Philadelphia Eagles have (finally!) won a Super Bowl. During those 25 years in New Jersey, the resident Canada goose population grew in the 1990s, peaked in 2000 and then subsided. The wood duck population has remained stable. However, over that same time, I have witnessed a slow, chronic decline of mallards in New Jersey and the proof is in the numbers.

Mallards have declined about 40 percent since the 1990s (Figure 1, red line) in the Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Survey which is a ground-based survey conducted each spring from New Hampshire to Virginia. A closer examination of the data reveals that the decline is not unique to New Jersey but occurring across nearly all Atlantic Flyway states and across all landscape types—rural, suburban, urban. Similarly, mallard harvest in the U.S. Atlantic Flyway has declined 40 percent since the late 1990s despite that the number of hunters has remained stable plus the duck season length and mallard bag limit has remained unchanged. Two independent surveys yield the same grim story about eastern mallards.
While mallards in the eastern U.S. have declined, mallards breeding in eastern Canada and Maine have remained stable (Figure 1, green line), fluctuating around a mean of just over a half million birds. If the U.S. population of mallards were declining while the population in Canada were simultaneously increasing, it would be easy to postulate that the breeding population was just shifting northward. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Given that mallards in the U.S. portion of the breeding range were historically more numerous, they have more “weight” when considering the overall population trend of all mallards in eastern North America. The total population of eastern mallards has declined about 25 percent, with a rate of decline of -1.4 percent per year.

**Red-hot Questions Need Answers**

These circumstances lead to two burning questions:
1. Since mallards are used to set duck hunting seasons, where does this decline lead us?
2. What is happening to eastern mallards?

Let’s answer the first question. Annual duck hunting regulations are based on biological population assessments using the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) process developed cooperatively by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and states agencies. Adaptive Harvest Management is an objective, science-based, regulation-setting process. For over 20 years, duck seasons in each flyway have been based on the status of the mallard population most abundant within each flyway. Mallards have been used since they are the most common species with the most survey and banding data.

Adaptive Harvest Management strives to provide maximum harvest opportunity into the future by weighing current mallard population levels and harvest while projecting future mallard population changes. As the mallard population grows, there is more harvest opportunity; if mallards decline, harvest opportunity declines as well. While eastern mallards have declined over the past 20 years, the majority of the other 20+ duck species that call the Atlantic Flyway home, have had stable populations. Consequently, eastern mallards are no longer reasonable surrogates for setting overall duck seasons in the Atlantic Flyway.

Since 2011, the Atlantic Flyway has been developing a new harvest strategy for ducks referred to as “Multi-Stock Adaptive Harvest Management” that is being implemented this year. Multi-Stock Adaptive Harvest Management considers the collective population status of American green-winged teal, wood ducks, ring-necked ducks and common goldeneyes when rendering a decision for annual regulations. These four species comprise 60 percent of the Atlantic Flyway duck harvest, represent a wide-range of species’ life histories and have expansive breeding and wintering populations distributed across the Atlantic Flyway. Multi-Stock Adaptive Harvest Management modeling considers the allowable annual harvest based on productivity and the carrying capacity of the flyway habitat for each species. For setting duck hunting regulations in the Atlantic Flyway, the switch from eastern mallard Adaptive Harvest Management to Multi-Stock Adaptive Harvest Management is a fundamental science and policy change.

Mallards will not be part of Multi-Stock Adaptive Harvest Management but will have their own harvest strategy similar to the way canvasback or pintail seasons are set. Given the decline in eastern mallard abundance, beginning in 2019, all Atlantic Flyway states will see a bag limit reduction to two mallards with no more than one hen.

**Why Are Eastern Mallards Declining?**

The short answer is, we do not know. There are numerous theories. Wildlife populations are primarily driven by annual survival of adults and reproduction. A long-term mallard decline suggests that one or both parameters are lagging. It is troubling that mallard banding data suggests survival rates over the past 20 years have not changed appreciably from the early 1990s when the population was stable. Further, the annual number of young birds produced, as measured in harvest surveys, also has not changed. The fact that mallards are declining, while estimates of survival and young production seem reasonable, suggests there could be a bias in one or both of the data streams.

In wildlife science, population changes are rarely driven by one issue but frequently by multiple factors, some of which may act together. Some biologists speculate that the recommended decline of winter feeding by the public (e.g., in parks), a widespread practice prior to the 1990s, may have had a subtle effect on survival or production.

Another element is that eastern mallards have a significant component of “game-farm” mallard genetics, documented with new genetic techniques, perhaps leaving these birds less fit for survival in the wild. The actual mechanism on how this “reduced fitness theory” might function is lacking.

Historically, mallards were breeding ducks of the prairies and did not occur as breeding ducks in the east until they moved here during the 1960s. These populations were bolstered by the game farm mallard releases. In the wildlife literature, there are many examples of new species “invading” or being purposefully introduced into new geographic areas. Often these new species initially thrive and grow, then decline to a lower equilibrium population. Examples include cattle egrets coming to North America from Africa in the 1950s and the reintroduction of wild turkeys in the east. Could mallards be suffering this same fate?

Although mallards have declined, they remain one of the most abundant ducks in the Atlantic Flyway. Notwithstanding, Atlantic Flyway biologists are working with federal, academic and non-government partners conducting research to identify, and hopefully resolve, factors that are limiting “greenheads” in the east. Still, I can’t help but wonder—what will New Jersey’s annual waterfowl survey show us 25 years from now?
Non-lead Ammo — Give it a Shot

By Nathan Figley, State Administrator, Hunter Education

Hunters are always searching to find the next-best-thing, whether it be learning a new technique, increasing efficiency or adding another option to their tool bag. Since steel shot was first introduced in the late 1980s for waterfowl hunting, advancements in technology have increased the effectiveness of non-lead ammunition. Fast-forward 30 years and hunters can readily find a multitude of non-lead shot options for all hunting situations, comparable in price to premium lead ammunition.

Ammunition manufacturers have developed a variety of non-lead shot for turkey, small game and waterfowl from metals such as bismuth, tungsten, zinc, tin, steel and several alloys of these metals. Big game hunters can expect to find bullets made of copper, copper alloy or bismuth-tin alloy, all of which expand rapidly and leave large wound channels for a quick, clean kill. Most of these metals are harder and denser than lead. These properties increase down-range accuracy, bullet penetration and promote a consistent shot pattern. An unseen benefit of using these non-lead ammunition types is reducing the risk of exposing non-target animals to lead fragments that may be inadvertently ingested when left in gut piles.

The next time you head to the range, pick-up a few boxes of non-lead ammo and give it a try. Practice shooting at different distances, with various choke types until the best match is found for your firearm. Prior to shooting this ammunition, hunters should verify that their firearm and choke tube are rated for these shot types. After seeing the results on the range, you will be convinced to load up with non-lead ammo this hunting season.

For more information, visit www.Hunting-WithNonLead.org

Your Dollars Support Wildlife Conservation

The Wildlife Restoration Program funds up to 75 percent of conservation project costs, with state fish and wildlife agencies typically matching the remaining 25 percent through hunting and fishing license revenues. Since the program’s inception, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has received over $100 million in Pittman-Robertson funds, matching it with approximately $33 million in license revenues and other sources.

Your Dollars Make a Difference!

How it Works:

1. Hunters and target shooters purchase guns and ammunition.
2. Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on guns and ammunition.
3. Revenue from these excise taxes is distributed to state wildlife agencies.
4. State wildlife agencies use these funds to purchase land for wildlife habitat and to manage wildlife populations.
5. Results: Millions of acres of important habitat have been set aside to help ensure the future the diversity and healthy abundance of wildlife populations.
The target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

Shooting & Hunting:
Help Prevent Wildfires.

- Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.

- Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.

- Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.

- Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.

- Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.

- Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.

- Report any wildfire you see to authorities.

- Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

NSSF.ORG
Join us for the 29th Annual Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 17, 2020
Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with our co-sponsors—New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association—congratulate John Kolacy of Flanders, NJ who took the grand prize and NJ Governor’s Cup by catching a 37 1/2” striped bass. Mr. Kolacy received two-rod and reel combinations and a plaque and will have his name engraved on the Governor’s Cup.

Also, congratulations to Toms River High School South for winning first place in the High School Team Category with a 26 1/4”-inch bluefish. Toms River High School South had their name engraved on the new High School Team Cup and received a 1st place plaque.

All participants who mailed their registration were entered into an early entry raffle for a rod and reel combo.

Prizes are awarded in different species and age categories. For more information and to register, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm.

A special thanks to our 2019 donors:
- Betty and Nick’s Bait and Tackle
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Grumpy’s Bait and Tackle
- Jersey Coast Surfcasters
- Legal Limits
- World Jeep

A special thanks to our 2019 High School Team Category donors:
- The Fisherman
- The Reel Seat
- Shark River Surf Anglers

Mark your calendars for the 29th Annual Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament to be held on May 17, 2020.

Continue the Tradition

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

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey’s best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion.

Call (856) 629-0552
Leave your name and address to receive an application.
Or complete the application form at: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/hunted/hntedinstr.pdf.

Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!
1-855-OGT-TIPS
24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

Call OGT to report:
- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

It’s Free. It’s Confidential. You May Be Eligible for a Reward.

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs.
Designed to encourage sportmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.
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Eastern Standard AND Eastern Daylight Savings Times • U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC 20392-5420

Times listed are ACTUAL times with Daylight Savings Time already shown.
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 NJDEP special areas zone hunting season information page 44 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 permit for a zone in which they have no place to hunt. Updates since last year are noted below in red.

Zone Public Land Open to Deer Hunting

1  • Bear Swamp WMA
2  • Battsburg—Rutland Farm Park
3  • Bear Mountain
4  • Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
5  • Flatbrook—Rutland Farm Park
6  • Stavengren State Forest
7  • Berlin State Forest
8  • Bear Swamp WMA
9  • Bordentown State Forest
10 • Bruckner’s Tract State Park
11 • 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)
13 • Mercer County Parks—Pole Farm Section
14 • Round Valley Recreation Area
15 • South Branch WMA
16 • Morris County Park System (see Special Areas)
17 • Appinwood WMA (Robbinsville Township section only)
18 • Pigeon Swamp State Park
19 • Six Mile Meadow State Park (see Special Areas)
20 • Butterfly Bogs WMA
21 • Turkey Swamp WMA
22 • Monmouth County Park System—Bear Swamp Tract of Manasquan Reservoir, Howell Park Golf Course, Turkey Swamp Park, Yellowbrook Tract of Manasquan River (see Special Areas)
23 • Colliers Mills WMA
24 • Monmouth County Park System—Clayton Park, Crosswicks Creek Park (see Special Areas)
25 • Pleasant Run WMA
26 • Prospertown Lake WMA
27 • Colliers Mills WMA
28 • Manor State Forest
29 • Double Trouble State Park
30 • Forked River Mountain WMA
31 • White Oak Branch WMA
32 • Lebanon State Forest
33 • Bass River State Forest
34 • Wharton State Forest
35 • Bass River State Forest
36 • Penn State Forest
37 • Stafford Forge WMA
38 • Swan Bay WMA
39 • Warren Grove Recreation Area
40 • Wharton State Forest
41 • White Oak Branch WMA
42 • Upper Great Egg Harbor Greenway
43 • Great Egg Harbor River WMA
44 • Penbyrn Pond WMA
45 • Wharton State Forest
46 • White Oak Branch WMA
47 • Holmdel Park Golf Course (see Special Areas)
48 • Rockaway River WMA
49 • Wayside State Park
50 • Sparta Mountain WMA
51 • Weldon Brook WMA
52 • Wildcat Ridge WMA
53 • Bell Howell Park Golf Course
54 • Rockaway River WMA
55 • Bear Swamp WMA
56 • Pinelands State Forest
57 • Bayside PSEG & Tract (see Special Areas)
58 • Cohansy River WMA
59 • Gum Tree Creek WMA
60 • Mad Horse Creek WMA
61 • Maskells Mill Pond WMA
62 • Stone Creek State Park
63 • Bear Swamp Natural Area (closed Jan. 15–Aug. 1)
64 • Dix WMA
65 • Egg Island WMA
66 • Fortescue WMA
67 • Nantuxent WMA
68 • New Sweden WMA
69 • Millville WMA
70 • Buckshutem WMA
71 • Reaviar Swamp WMA
72 • Bellespin State Forest
73 • Cape May Coastal Wetlands WMA
74 • Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
75 • Dennis Creek WMA
76 • Heiseltown WMA
77 • Higbee Beach WMA
78 • Tuckahoe WMA
79 • Lizard Tail Swamp Preserve (see Special Areas)
80 • D.D. O.P. Dunes
81 • Harrisonville Lake WMA
82 • Morris County Park System (see Special Areas)
83 • Fort Dix Military Reservation (see Special Areas)
84 • Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (see Special Areas)
85 • Old Fishing Ponds
86 • No public deer hunting land
87 • Alexauken Creek WMA
88 • Hunterdon County Parks—Ridgewood (Kuser) Mountain
89 • Mercer County Parks—Howell Living History Farm
90 • Port Republic WMA
91 • Tuckahoe WMA
92 • Millville (Bevan) WMA
93 • Menantico Ponds WMA
94 • Gibson Creek WMA
95 • Great Egg Harbor River WMA
96 • Tuckahoe WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)
97 • Maple Lake WMA (Lenape Farms Tract)
98 • Peaslee WMA
99 • Peaslee WMA
100 • Bancroft State Park (see Special Areas)
101 • No public deer hunting land
102 • cheesetake State Park
103 • Monmouth County Park System—Hartswood Homes Park, Tatum Park, Thompson Park, Big Brook Park, Huber Woods, the Ramanessin Section of Holmdel Park (see Special Areas)
104 • Allaire State Park
105 • Monasquan River WMA
106 • Manahawkin WMA
107 • Monmouth County Park System—Shark River Park, Rte. 33 Tract and Shark River Park—East of Remsen Mill Rd. (see Special Areas)
108 • Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station (see Special Areas)
109 • No public deer hunting land
110 • Glassboro Water Tower
111 • Edwin B. Forrythe National Wildlife Refuge (see Special Areas)
112 • Edwin B. Forrythe National Wildlife Refuge (see Special Areas)
113 • Edwin B. Forrythe National Wildlife Refuge (see Special Areas)
114 • Atlantic County Park System (see Special Areas)
115 • Abbotts Meadow WMA
116 • Delaware Aviation Technical Center (see Special Areas)
117 • High Point State Park (see Special Areas)
118 • Franklin Parker Preserve (see Special Areas)
119 • Edwin B. Forrythe National Wildlife Refuge (see Special Areas)

Maps Available

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

- **Wildlife Management Area Maps**
  - Free download. Maps and information on lands administered by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Both topographic and road maps available. NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaland.htm
  - Photocopies also available of individual WMA maps on USGS base. Free. Specify which WMA.
  - NJ Fish and Wildlife "WMA Map Request MC 501-04, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (609) 984-0547.

- **USGS Topographic Maps**
  - Free download. Topo quads available. www.state.nj.us/dep/hgs/pricelist/usgsbase.htm
  - Or write, stating exact location including county, township and road. Printed topo quads—$10 ea.
  - NJ DEP Division of Water Supply and Geoscience Maps and Publications MC 29-01, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402 (609) 292-1185

- **State Parks and Forests Maps**
  - Free download. Find a state park, forest, recreation area or marina by location. www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/parkindex.html. Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Specify which park or forest. Free. NJ DEP, Division of Parks and Forestry MC 501-04, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (800) 843-6420
SAFETY ZONE Awareness: Protecting Your Hunting Privilege

NEW JERSEY HUNTERS enjoy many types of hunting, numerous days afield and generous bag limits. But development and other human encroachment on the forests and fields of the Garden State has changed both wildlife habitat and land suitable for hunting, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for hunters.

What is a SAFETY ZONE?

• The firearm SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied. For bowhunters, the SAFETY ZONE around buildings is 150 feet but remains 450 feet from a school playground. See Safety Zone, page 28.
• The SAFETY ZONE is the place where you, the hunter, cannot carry a loaded firearm or nocked arrow unless you have written permission in hand.
• The SAFETY ZONE was established by legislation in 1946 as an area to place some physical distance, a buffer, between hunters and homeowners.
• The SAFETY ZONE could be land where there is suitable wildlife habitat for adaptable species, like the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and Canada goose.
• The SAFETY ZONE is not a magic shield and cannot stop a misdirected projectile from entering the area around a home.

What can you do to heighten your SAFETY ZONE awareness?

1. Post SAFETY ZONE signs.
2. Talk with landowners.
3. Scout hunting property annually to be aware of new construction or other changes.
4. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
5. Know the law. Know the land.

Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. Always be a responsible hunter. Always be aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of good conduct learned at your hunter education course are called into practice every time you hunt.

Take special care hunting on “high visibility” property, habitat where our adaptable wildlife species—especially white-tailed deer—are flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. Hunting these Special Areas carries added responsibility for you, as a hunter, to exercise restraint and make superior judgment decisions.

Hunting Opportunities on New Jersey’s National Wildlife Refuges: 2019–20 Hunting Seasons

Hunting on national wildlife refuges is not permitted unless specifically opened as listed below. No Sunday hunting on national wildlife refuges.

Cape May NWR
24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
(609) 463-0994; fws.gov/refuge/cape_may/
• Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 47.
• Migratory game birds except crow—on refuge lands north of Rt. 550 or west of Rt. 47
• Turkey, rabbit and squirrel hunting in select areas only.
No refuge permit is required. Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Great Swamp NWR
32 Pleasant Plains Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
(973) 425-0215 ext. 115; www.fws.gov/refuge/great_swamp/
• Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 48.
In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a Refuge permit for $26 ($13 for holders of a Senior, Golden Age, Access, or Golden Access pass; youths are free with a valid New Jersey youth hunting license).

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
800 Great Creek Rd., Oceanville, NJ 08231-0072;
(609) 652-1665; www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/
• Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 47.
• Waterfowl
• Turkey (spring only) and squirrel hunting in select areas only.
Information can be obtained at the refuge, at dispensers, at the headquarters, on the refuge website, or through the mail. An Annual Refuge Hunting Permit is required to hunt all seasons. Go to https://forsythe.recaccess.com/# to buy a permit. Interactive and hard copy maps and information can be obtained on the refuge website.

Supawna Meadows NWR
c/o Cape May NWR, 24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210, (609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/refuge/supawna_meadows/
• Deer—Bowhunting only, Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 44.
• Waterfowl
Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Wallkill River NWR
1547 County Rt. 565, Sussex, NJ 07461-4013; (973) 702-7266;
www.fws.gov/refuge/wallkill_river/
• Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 48.
• Migratory Birds except crow
• Turkey, spring and fall (Zone 5)
• Black bear—Segment A and Segment B
• Small game—squirrel and rabbit only
Note: the refuge is closed to Sunday hunting.
In addition to required state licenses, hunters must purchase a Refuge hunt permit(s) at https://wallkillriver.recaccess.com (Discounts for Senior, Golden Age, Access, or Golden Access pass and youths with a valid New Jersey youth hunting license).
• Additional hunting opportunities
  » Hunters with Disabling Conditions: A Disabled Hunter Area exists at 119 Owens Station Rd. Sussex, NJ (see refuge hunt map). Hunters must possess a valid NJ Permit to Hunt or Shoot from a Stationary Vehicle in addition to the Disabled Refuge Hunt Permit.
  » Mentored Hunts: The refuge partners with the National Wild Turkey Federation to offer mentored hunts for youth, women and disabled hunters. Registration is required and space is limited. Contact the refuge for dates and details.