



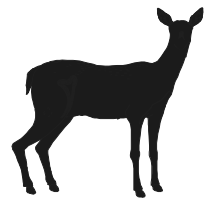
NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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Regulations Governing the Management of New Jersey Wildlife



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The opportunity to interact with wildlife in New Jersey is ever present. Some opportunities are actively sought such as hunting deer or watching birds. Other interactions are unwanted, such as a groundhog invading your garden. Many people are unaware of the regulations governing wildlife species inhabiting New Jersey as well as the agencies responsible for managing and protecting them.

This factsheet provides information on the missions of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS), as well as the types of wildlife each agency is responsible for managing. Definitions of endangered, threatened, migratory, non-game, and game wildlife are provided in addition to specific examples of wildlife and their legal status.

Agency Missions

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife: The mission of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is to protect and manage the State's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational, and economic values for all New Jerseyans. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for protecting and managing all wildlife species (game, non-game, state listed threatened, and endangered) that reside primarily within the borders of New Jersey. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife also jointly manages migratory species and federally listed threatened and endangered

species with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sole legal authority for migratory species and federally listed threatened and endangered species.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service: The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for protecting and managing migratory species, federally listed threatened and endangered species, certain marine mammals, and freshwater and anadromous fish (fish that spend most of their life in saltwater but migrate up freshwater streams to reproduce).

The United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services: The mission of the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services is to provide Federal leadership in managing problems associated with wildlife. Wildlife Services' biologists, upon invitation from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or other groups, provide assistance to individuals, communities, corporations, airports, and other Federal and State agencies in alleviating wildlife damage to property, agriculture, natural resources, and human health and safety. In New Jersey, Wildlife Services' major work areas are alleviation of Canada goose-related damage, protection of public safety at airports by assessing and managing wildlife hazards, and provision of information and recommendations regarding gulls, vultures, and other birds.



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Definitions

Migratory Species: Any wildlife species that spends a portion of its life in more than one state or country. Examples of migratory bird species include Canada geese, warblers, sea ducks, and woodcocks. Examples of migratory mammals include humpback whales, caribou, and select bat species.

Game Species: Any wildlife species for which a legal hunting or trapping season has been established. Examples include deer, turkey, fox, Canada geese, and mallard ducks.

Non-game Species: Any wildlife species that has not been classified as threatened or endangered and for which a legal hunting or trapping season has not been established. Examples include songbirds, turtles, and snakes.

Endangered Species: There are federally listed and state listed endangered species. *A federally listed endangered species* is any animal or plant that is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. *A state listed endangered species* includes all federally listed endangered species that reside within New Jersey, as well as any plant or animal species specific to New Jersey whose prospects for survival are in immediate danger because of a loss or change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, disease or contamination. An example of a federally listed endangered species found in New Jersey is an Indiana bat. A bobcat is an example of a New Jersey state listed endangered species.

Threatened Species: There are federally listed and state listed threatened species. *A federally listed threatened species* is any animal or plant that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. *A state listed threatened species* includes all federally listed threatened species that reside in New Jersey, as well as any plant and animal species specific to New Jersey that may become endangered if conditions surrounding them begin or continue to deteriorate. An example of a federally listed threatened species found in New Jersey is a bald eagle (non-breeding). An osprey is an example of a New Jersey state listed threatened species.

Regulations Governing Select New Jersey Wildlife

Wildlife Causing Damage: The New Jersey policy on relocation of wildlife, enforced by the New Jersey Division

of Fish and Wildlife, sets standards for the release of all species within the state. These standards consider biological and social issues that affect site selection where animals are released. Generally, the relocation of wildlife causing damage can only be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Under ideal circumstances, animals should be released as close to the site of capture as possible. This decreases negative impacts on the relocated animal and increases the animal's chance for survival. It also prevents relocating the problem to someone else's property. However, release at the site of capture is not always practical. Permission of the property owner must be obtained prior to the release of captured wildlife at another location. Additional species-specific guidelines can be found in the *Policy On Relocation of Wildlife*, available through the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Contact information for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is listed at the end of this factsheet.

According to the New Jersey Permanent Statutes, property owners and occupants of dwellings, or their agents in writing, in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties, or municipalities with populations greater than 2,000 people, are authorized to control squirrels, raccoons, opossums, skunks, weasels, and groundhogs causing property damage. *Control of these species is subject to state law and local ordinances. Contact the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and your local municipality for specific details.* All other wildlife species are protected and permits from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are required for control measures. The following examples are intended to describe the range of legal status for select game and non-game wildlife.

Deer are considered a game species and are managed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Six hunting seasons for deer in New Jersey include fall bow, permit bow, permit muzzleloader, six-day firearm, permit shotgun, and winter bow. To participate in these seasons, hunters over the age of 10 must be properly licensed, complete necessary safety courses, and obtain the required permits. If deer are causing property damage, depredation permits and Community Based Deer Management are among the many options available to resolve deer-related conflicts.

Canada geese are considered a migratory game species and are primarily managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. There are usually three hunting seasons for Canada geese in New Jersey, including September Canada goose, regular Canada goose, and special winter Canada goose. To participate in these seasons, hunters

must be properly licensed, complete necessary safety courses and obtain the required permits including a federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp, and a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number. If Canada geese are causing property damage, property owners or their legal tenants may be eligible to obtain permits to destroy goose eggs, shoot geese, and/or capture and euthanize geese. Applications are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Hadley, Massachusetts) and the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services office (Pittstown, New Jersey). Contact information for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services is listed at the end of this factsheet.

Groundhogs are considered a small game species and are managed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. To hunt groundhogs with a shotgun, hunters over the age of 10 must be properly licensed and complete necessary safety courses. A rifle permit is required for hunting groundhogs with a rifle. Hunting groundhogs with a rifle is not permitted on state owned parks, forests, recreation areas, or wildlife management areas. Groundhogs causing property damage may be controlled at any time, subject to state law and local ordinances, without obtaining a permit. *Contact the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and your local municipality for specific details.* Because groundhogs are considered a rabies vector species, relocation options are limited after live-trapping. If release at the site of capture is not an option the following criteria strictly apply:

Rabies vector species: Examples of rabies vector species include raccoons, skunks, fox, and groundhogs. *(Although bats are also a known rabies vector species, special criteria apply to their management. Please contact the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for specific details).* Adults and their offspring must be relocated in the township of capture (no further than 5 miles from the site of capture for groundhogs and skunks, and 10 miles for raccoons), in suitable habitat, and with the permission of the landowner if on private property. No animals may be released on federal, state, county, or municipal land. If private land is not available, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife may approve release on the nearest state wildlife management area. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Office of Permit Management must be contacted prior to the release of an adult rabies vector species. Contact information for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and the USDA-






APHIS-Wildlife Services is listed at the end of this factsheet.

Turkey and black vultures are non-game migratory species and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. If turkey and/or black vultures are causing property damage, and lethal control is necessary, property owners or their legal tenants must obtain the necessary permits. Applications are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Hadley, Massachusetts) and the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services office (Pittstown, New Jersey). Contact information for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services is listed at the back of this factsheet.

Moles causing property damage may be controlled subject to state law and local ordinances without obtaining a permit. *Contact the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and your local municipality for specific details.*

Summary

New Jersey's wildlife resources provide many positive benefits. However, conflicts between humans and wildlife do occur. There are regulations that dictate what can be done when this happens. This factsheet provides suggestions of how to deal with certain wildlife species when conflicts arise, as well as describe the agencies responsible for wildlife management. For additional information contact:

-  The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, 609-292-2965
-  USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, 908-735-5654
-  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Permits, 413-253-8643
-  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species, 609-646-9310
-  Your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension County Agent. Refer to the blue pages of your local phone book for listings.
-  Grande, J. and G. Slifer. FS887. "Who to Call Regarding Wildlife Damage." Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

References:

New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. 1996. "Policy on the Relocation of Wildlife."

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. 2001. "New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest: A Summary of Rules and Management Information." Vol. 15 No. 1.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. 2001. "New Jersey 2001-2001 Migratory Bird Regulations."

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US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2001. "Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species in New Jersey."

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