

# Small Game Hunting

## REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

**A CURRENT AND** valid hunting license (Bow and Arrow, Firearm or All-Around Sportsman) is required to pursue any small game species. See page 20 for *General Hunting Regulations*. **The season for ruffed grouse is closed statewide.** The use of dogs, unless specifically stated otherwise, is permitted to pursue any small game species, except wild turkey. Hunting for those species shown on page 51

is prohibited during the statewide Six-day Firearm (deer) Season and on the Wednesday of the Permit Shotgun (deer) Season that immediately follows the Six-day Firearm Season. For exceptions, see *Coyote and Fox* and *Semi-wild and Commercial Preserve Hunting* sections below. **Sunday hunting is prohibited;** see *Raccoon and Opossum*, page 49 plus *Semi-wild and Commercial Shooting Preserves* for exceptions.

**Season Dates and Bag Limits:** The *Small Game Hunting Seasons* table on page 51 lists dates, hunting

hours and daily bag limits for all small game species open for hunting.

**General Small Game Hunting Methods:** Properly licensed hunters may hunt small game with shotguns or bow and arrow and limited hunting with small caliber rifles; see air gun and coyote/fox regulations. See also *General Hunting Regulations*, page 20.

**Shotgun:** Unless specifically stated otherwise, shotguns for small game hunting may be single or double barrel, rifled or smoothbore and not larger than 10-gauge or smaller than .410 caliber and capable of holding no more than three shells.

**Shot:** Unless specifically stated otherwise, shot size for small game hunting may be no larger than #4 fine shot.

**Bow and Arrow:** All bows must meet the requirements specified in *General Hunting Regulations*, page 20. **For taking game birds in flight, arrows equipped with an edged head are prohibited. Flu flu arrows are required for taking game birds in flight.**

**Air gun:** Air guns may be used for taking cottontail rabbit, hare and gray squirrel using ammunition not smaller than .177 caliber or larger than .22 caliber. Air gun BBs are not legal for hunting. See also *Air*

### Five-step Guide to Using the Coyote/Fox Regulation Chart

1. Which column(s) include the **date** you want to hunt?
2. What **weapon type** will be used?
3. Follow across the row of *Permit Requirements* for **weapon/shot size/hunting hours** to determine if a permit is required.
4. For **non-permit seasons** (*Bow Only* and *General* seasons), follow regulations in the column that includes your hunt date.
5. For **Special Permit Season**, follow regulations in column matching hunting hours.

## Coyote / Fox Seasons

An Apprentice License is not valid for taking coyotes or fox at any time.

Season	Bow Only Season	General Season (Bow or Shotgun)	Special Permit Season (Bow, Shotgun, Muzzleloading or Modern Rifle)	
<b>Dates</b>	Oct. 3–Nov. 6 (except Sundays)	Nov. 7–March 15 (except Sundays and Dec. 7–12, 16)	Jan. 1–Mar. 15 (except Sundays*)	
<b>Permit Requirements</b>	None	None	<b>Permit required when:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using shotgun <b>shot sizes larger than #4 fine through #3 buck</b></li> <li>• <b>Nighttime</b> hunting</li> <li>• Using a <b>muzzleloading rifle</b> aside from when deer hunting</li> <li>• Using a <b>modern rifle</b> (centerfire and rimfire rifles)</li> </ul>	
<b>Hours</b>	½ hour <b>before</b> sunrise to ½ hour <b>after</b> sunset	½ hour <b>before</b> sunrise to ½ hour <b>after</b> sunset, except 8 a.m. start on Nov. 7	½ hour <b>before</b> sunrise to ½ hour <b>after</b> sunset	½ hour <b>after</b> sunset to ½ hour <b>before</b> sunrise*
<b>Weapon Type and Projectiles Permitted</b>	<b>Bow:</b> long, recurve, compound or crossbow ( <i>See Bow and Arrow Regulations</i> , pg. 26)	<b>Bow:</b> long, recurve, compound or crossbow ( <i>See Bow and Arrow Regulations</i> , pg. 26)	<b>Bow:</b> long, recurve, compound or crossbow ( <i>See Bow and Arrow Regulations</i> , pg. 26)	
	All Firearms Prohibited	<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel. Not smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells. <b>Shot Size:</b> no larger than #4 fine.	<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel. Not smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells. <b>Shot Size:</b> no smaller than BB or larger than #3 Buck. Pellets must be lead or a tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid.	<b>Shotgun:</b> single or double barrel. Not smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells. <b>Shot Size:</b> no smaller than #4 fine shot or larger than T.
		All Rifles Prohibited	<b>Muzzleloading rifle:</b> single-shot, single barrel no less than .44 caliber. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted, loaded only with a single projectile, either round ball or conical bullet. Electronic ignitions prohibited.	* Hunting must cease at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday evenings
			<b>Centerfire rifles:</b> from .17 to maximum of .25 caliber with soft point or hollow point bullets and maximum of 80 grains.	
			<b>Rimfire rifles:</b> from .17 to maximum of .22 caliber with soft point or hollow point bullets and maximum of 50 grains.	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern rifle magazine does not need to be pinned (plugged), but it may not be loaded with more than 3 cartridges.</li> </ul>	
<b>Manner</b>	Call, stalk or stand	Call, hound, stalk or stand	Call or stand	
<b>Method</b>	Ground, elevated or other structure	Ground, elevated or other structure	Ground, elevated or other structure	
<b>Bait</b>	Not closer than 300 ft. when hunter elevated or in other structure	Not closer than 300 ft when hunter elevated or in other structure	Use prohibited	
<b>Predator Call</b>	Allowed (manual/electronic)	Allowed (manual/electronic)	Required (manual/electronic)	
<b>Decoys</b>	Allowed (no live decoys)	Allowed (no live decoys)	Allowed (no live decoys)	
<b>Dogs</b>	Use prohibited	Allowed (except Dec. 7–12, 16)	Use prohibited	
<b>Hunter Orange</b>	Optional	Required (if using a firearm)	Optional	
<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	

Guns under *Firearms and Missiles*, page 21.

**Muzzleloading Rifles:** For limited small game rifle hunting, see below for *Coyote and Fox—Special Permit Season*, *Squirrel—Muzzleloading Rifle Season* and *Woodchuck* for restrictions.

**Wildlife Damage:** Property owners or their agents, and occupants of dwellings that are suffering damage from coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel or woodchuck may control them by lawful means at any time subject to local ordinances.

## Coyote and Fox, General and Special Permit Seasons

See chart on page 48 for the bow only, general and special permit season regulations for coyote and fox.

### The Special Permit Season Allows Hunters to:

1. Hunt at night with 10-12 gauge shotgun and shot size #4 fine to "T".
2. Use 10-20 gauge shotgun using shot size "BB" to #3 Buckshot during daylight.
3. Use a muzzleloading or small caliber rifle during daylight.
4. Hunt without the hunter orange requirement.
5. Use of dogs is prohibited when hunting under Special Permit provisions.

### Purchasing a Special Coyote/Fox Permit:

- A \$2 permit is required.
- Permits are available at any license agent, or via [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com)
- A license must be purchased prior to, or in conjunction with, the purchase of a special season coyote/fox permit.

### Harvest Reporting:

- All **coyote** and **GRAY fox** harvests must be reported by 8 p.m. on the day of harvest. **RED fox** harvests do **NOT** need to be reported.
- Use deer management zone (DMZ) boundaries to report harvest location.

### Two Options for Reporting:

1. Call 1-855-1HUNT NJ (1-855-448-6865); OR
2. Report at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) via mobile device or computer

### ADDITIONAL Harvest of Coyote/Fox Allowed

In addition to regulations specified in the page 48 table, hunters have the following opportunities:

- **Turkey Season** — Properly licensed turkey hunters may legally harvest **coyotes**, but **NOT fox**, if encountered incidental to legal turkey hunting. Turkey hunters shall not actively pursue coyotes or have coyote calls or decoys in possession.
- **Firearm Deer Seasons** — Properly licensed deer hunters may legally harvest coyotes or fox incidental to legal deer hunting during the **Six-day Firearm, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun** seasons only if the coyote or fox is encountered before the hunter has taken the *season* bag limit of deer. After the *daily* bag limit of deer has been taken, the hunter must cease hunting immediately. Incidental hunting of coyote or fox while deer hunting may resume the following day (provided the season remains open and the *season* bag limit of deer has not been reached).
  - » **Only applicable projectiles used for deer hunting** may be used to take coyote and fox incidental to deer hunting in the seasons outlined.

### Other Important Notes:

- Coyote and fox hunting are allowed on WMAs including all legal sporting arms listed in the table on page 28.
- **Baiting** for coyote/fox is prohibited while hunting elevated in a standing tree or in a structure of any kind within 300 feet of a baited area.

## Rabbit and Hare

The rabbit and hare hunting season will begin the last Saturday in September. The early opening date allows for hunting opportunity when rabbit populations are at their peak. Air guns may be used for taking cottontail rabbit and hare using ammunition not smaller than .177 caliber or larger than .22 caliber. See also *Air Guns* under *Firearms and Missiles*, page 21 and *General Small Game Hunting Methods*, page 48.

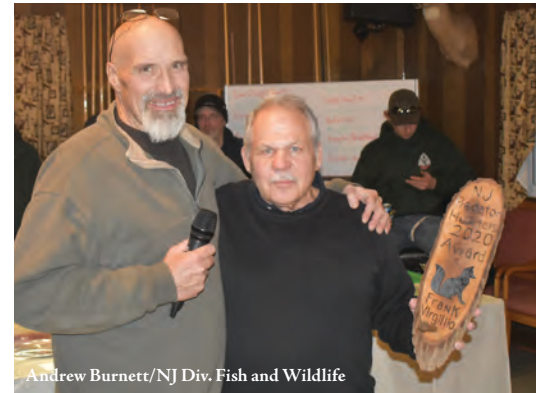
See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 51 for season dates and bag limits.

## Raccoon and Opossum

See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 51 for season dates and bag limits.

**Hours:** Hunting may not begin until one hour after sunset on the opening day of the season. On all other days open during the season, the hours of hunting are one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. Persons may hunt raccoon and opossum on Sunday mornings only between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and one hour before sunrise during the prescribed season.

**Hunting methods:** Portable lights are permitted. Fluorescent orange is encouraged but not required on outer clothing while hunting raccoon and opossum. A current and valid Rifle Permit is required when possessing a .22 caliber rifle while hunting raccoon and opossum. Only .22 caliber shorts are permitted. Apprentice License holder are not permitted to use rifles, obtain rifle permits or hunt at night.



Andrew Burnett/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Frank Virgilio receives an award at the N.J. Predator Hunters Convention from President Ted Borz.

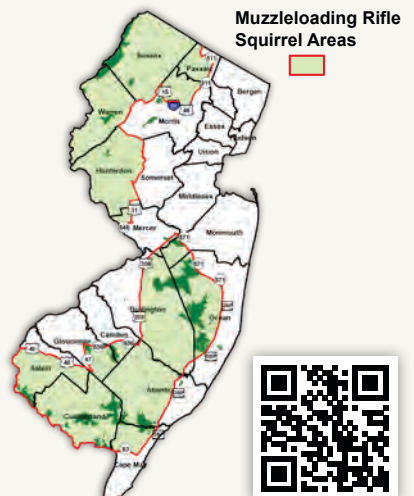
**Dog Training:** Dogs may be trained during the month of September and from March 2 to May 1, inclusive. The training hours are one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

## Squirrel, Regular Season

Air guns may be used for taking squirrel using ammunition not smaller than .177 caliber or larger than .22 caliber. See also *Air Guns* under *Firearms and Missiles*, page 21 and *General Small Game Hunting Methods*, page 48. See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 51.

## Squirrel Muzzleloading Rifle Season Zones

For a complete description of the squirrel hunting areas, scan this QR code with your mobile device or go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/squirrelzones.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/squirrelzones.htm).



## Firearm Ammunition Legal for Hunting Coyote and Fox in New Jersey

Scan this QR code or visit us at [NJFishandWildlife.com/coyote-fox\\_ammunition.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/coyote-fox_ammunition.htm) for a reference chart useful for coyote-fox hunting during seasons that overlap other game species.



# Small Game Hunting

## REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

### Squirrel, Muzzleloading Rifle Season

Persons holding a current and valid firearm license and rifle permit may hunt for squirrels from sunrise to ½ hour after sunset with a muzzleloading rifle (.36 caliber or smaller loaded with a single projectile) during the periods Sept. 26–Nov. 6 and Jan. 2–Feb. 20. See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 51.

Hunting for squirrel in the manner described above is restricted to the areas described.

### Pheasant

See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 51 for season dates and bag limits. See exceptions page 52 for semi-wild and commercial preserve hunting.

**Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas:** Anyone aged 16 and over (except 16 year olds whose Youth License remains valid until Dec. 31 in the year they reach 16 years of age) hunting or possessing pheasant or quail on the following designated wildlife management areas shall have in possession a current and valid Pheasant and Quail Stamp (Youth Hunting licenses include pheasant and quail stamp): Assunpink,

Berkshire Valley, Millville (Bevan), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Dix, Flatbrook, Glassboro, Greenwood (including Howardsville), Heislerville, Tuckahoe (MacNamara), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Rockport, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Whittingham and Winslow. A current and valid Pheasant and Quail Stamp is also required at the Delaware River National Recreation Area.

### Pheasant and Quail Stocking

Wearing a hunter orange hat is required for all firearm small game hunters on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant or quail.

Fish and Wildlife anticipates pheasant and quail releases to follow the table below. The table is a proposed schedule. To see the most up to date stocking schedule changes or other necessary adjustments, visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/smggame\\_info.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/smggame_info.htm).

Pheasants are stocked after dark, the evening before the date listed on the chart.

Maps showing the specific field locations for every stocked wildlife management area are now available here: [NJFishandWildlife.com/pheasmaps.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/pheasmaps.htm).

*Continued on page 52.*

### Stocking Maps

Scan this QR code or follow the link for maps of the pheasant and quail stocked fields for each stocked WMA. Go to [NJFishandWildlife.com/pheasmaps.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/pheasmaps.htm).



### Areas Open to Quail Hunting

**The statewide quail hunting season is closed except at Peaslee WMA and Greenwood Forest WMA where Fish and Wildlife will provide hunters and falconers the opportunity to hunt for quail.**

No person may release quail for dog training purposes on the following WMAs: Buckshutem, Dix, Egg Island, Fortescue, Millville (Bevans), Nantuxent, New Sweden and Stafford Forge.

See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 51 for season dates and bag limits. Exception: This statewide closure does not apply to certain semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves that were permitted to stock quail during the 2009–10 season.

### Pheasant Stocking Schedule 2020

(Birds stocked the evening prior to the hunting dates listed.)

		Sat	Tues	Thurs	Sat	Tues	Thurs	Sat	Tues	Thurs	Sat	Sat	Tues	Thurs	Tues	Thurs	Season
		11/7	11/10	11/12	11/14	11/17	11/19	11/21	11/24	11/26	11/28	12/19	12/22	12/24	12/29	12/31	Total
Northern Region	Berkshire Valley	80	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
	Black River	290	170	170	260	170	170	170	170	260	170	170	170	170	170	170	2,850
	Clinton	340	200	200	300	200	200	200	200	300	200	200	200	200	200	200	3,340
	Delaware Water Gap* N.R.A.	530	320	320	480	320	320	320	320	480	320	320	320	320	320	320	5,330
	Flatbrook	350	210	210	310	210	210	210	210	310	210	210	210	210	210	210	3,490
	Pequest	290	170	170	260	170	170	170	170	260	170	170	170	170	170	170	2,850
	Walpack	80	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
Central Region	Whittingham	280	170	170	250	170	170	170	170	250	170	170	170	170	170	170	2,820
	Assunpink	540	320	320	480	320	320	320	320	480	320	320	320	320	320	320	5,340
	Colliers Mills	330	200	200	300	200	200	200	200	300	200	200	200	200	200	200	3,330
	Greenwood-Howardsville Section	80	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
	Manahawkin	80	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
	Manasquan	190	110	110	170	110	110	110	110	170	110	110	110	110	110	110	1,850
	Medford	140	80	80	130	80	80	80	80	130	80	80	80	80	80	80	1,360
Southern Region	Stafford Forge	260	160	160	230	160	160	160	160	230	160	160	160	160	160	160	2,640
	Fort Dix	60	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	70	60	60	0	0	0	0	350
	Dix	210	130	130	190	130	130	130	130	190	130	130	130	130	130	130	2,150
	Glassboro	170	100	100	150	100	100	100	100	150	100	100	100	100	100	100	1,670
	Heislerville	80	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
	Mad Horse	150	90	90	140	90	90	90	90	140	90	90	90	90	90	90	1,510
	Millville	570	340	340	520	340	340	340	340	520	340	340	340	340	340	340	5,690
Statewide Totals	Nantuxent	190	110	110	170	110	110	110	110	170	110	110	110	110	110	110	1,850
	Port Republic	80	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	70	50	50	50	50	50	50	820
	Tuckahoe	180	110	110	160	110	110	110	110	160	110	110	110	110	110	110	1,820
	Winslow	230	140	140	210	140	140	140	140	210	140	140	140	140	140	140	2,330
	<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>3,490</b>	<b>3,490</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>57,490</b>

### Quail Stocking Schedule 2020

(Birds stocked the evening prior to the hunting dates listed.)

Statewide	Sat	Tues	Thurs	Sat	Tues	Thurs	Sat	Tues	Thurs	Sat	Sat	Tues	Thurs	Tues	Thurs	Season
	11/7	11/10	11/12	11/14	11/17	11/19	11/21	11/24	11/26	11/28	12/19	12/22	12/24	12/29	12/31	Total
Greenwood	600	280	260	400	280	400	400	280	600	260	260	400	400	280	400	5,500
Peaslee	600	280	260	400	280	400	400	280	600	260	260	400	400	280	400	5,500

For maps showing the areas to be stocked with pheasants during the small game season, visit [NJFishandWildlife.com/smggame\\_info.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/smggame_info.htm).

\* Number stocked subject to change based on pre-season farming practices and field conditions. Check for updates at the DFW website link, above.



### 2020–21 Small Game Hunting Seasons

Species (alphabetical)	Inclusive Dates	Hunting Hours	Daily Limits	Notes
Bobwhite (quail)	Closed statewide; except at Peaslee & Greenwood WMA (see Notes) At Peaslee & Greenwood WMAs ONLY: Nov. 7–Dec. 5; Dec. 14, 15, 17–31 to Jan. 31 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	4	8 a.m. start on Nov. 7 Quail may be hunted ONLY at Peaslee and Greenwood Forest WMAs. Pheasant and Quail Stamp required. Season closed in remainder of the state. (See exceptions under <i>Semi-Wild and Commercial Preserve Hunting</i> , page 52.)
Coyote* and Fox*, General	<b>Bow and Arrow only:</b> Oct. 3–Nov. 6 <b>Firearm or Bow and Arrow:</b> Nov. 7–Dec. 5; Dec. 14, 15 & 17–31 to Mar. 15 (except Sundays)	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 7 Deer hunters may harvest coyote and fox during all open deer seasons with restrictions as specified under Small Game Hunting, <i>Coyote and Fox</i> , page 48. Rifle Permit required in possession when hunting with rifle (allowed only incidental to deer hunting).
Coyote* and Fox*, Special Permit Season	<b>Firearm or Bow and Arrow:</b> Jan. 1–Mar. 15 (except Sundays) (permit required)	Permit holders may hunt day and night with certain restrictions; see Notes at right. <b>Sunday hunting for coyote/fox is not legal. All such hunting must end at 11:59 p.m. Saturday night and may resume at 12:01 a.m. Monday morning.</b>	No limit	For complete details, and for when a permit is required, see Small Game Hunting, <i>Coyote and Fox</i> , page 49. Calling and standing hunting only. Predator calling device must be in possession. See <i>Coyote/Fox Season</i> table, page 48, for firearm and ammo restrictions. Rifle Permit required in possession when hunting with any legal rifle, allowed only during daytime hunting hours. During night hunting (½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise), only 10–20 gauge shotguns are permitted. See pellet restrictions in table on page 48. <b>Coyote/fox Permit required.</b>
Crow** (Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)	Aug. 10–Dec. 5** and Dec. 14–Mar. 20 (See Notes.)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 7 Maximum shot size is #4
Grouse, Ruffed	Closed statewide No exceptions	Season closed	0	Ruffed grouse may not be harvested anywhere in the state. See page 56.
Opossum, Raccoon	Oct. 1–Mar. 1 (except Sunday evenings)	1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise	No limit	<b>Rifle Permit required when hunting with rifle.</b> 7:41 p.m. start on Oct. 1. Closed Dec. 7–12 & 16.
Pheasant & Partridge	Nov. 7–Dec. 5; Dec. 14, 15 & 17–31 to Feb. 15 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Partridge — 7 Pheasant — 2	8 a.m. start on Nov. 7 Pheasant and Quail Stamp required on designated areas (see <i>Small Game Hunting</i> page 50).
Rabbit, Hare & Jackrabbit	Sept. 26–Dec. 5; Dec. 14, 15 & 17–31 to Feb. 20 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Cottontail — 4 Hare — 1 Jackrabbit — 1	8 a.m. start on Nov. 7. Air guns are legal to harvest rabbits, hare and jackrabbit. See <i>Rabbit and Hare</i> , page 49.
Squirrel, Gray	Sept. 26–Dec. 5; Dec. 14, 15 & 17–31 to Feb. 20 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	8 a.m. start on Nov. 7. Air guns are legal to harvest squirrel. See <i>Squirrel, Regular Season</i> page 49.
Squirrel, Gray: Muzzleloading Rifle (.36 caliber or smaller)	Sept. 26–Nov. 6 and Jan. 2–Feb. 20 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	<b>Rifle permit required.</b> Designated areas only (see <i>Squirrel, ML Rifle Season</i> page 50).
Turkey (Fall, Either-Sex)	(Period N) Oct. 24, 26–31	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.	1 Turkey (either sex) per permit	Permit required. All Turkey Hunting Areas statewide are now open to fall hunting. See page 53.
Turkey (Spring Gobbler)	(Periods A to E) April 26–May 28, 2021	½ hour before sunrise to noon; starting May 17, hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	1 Male Turkey per permit	Permit required. See turkey hunting regulation, page 53.
Turkey (Spring Gobbler, Youth)	(Period Y) April 24–May 28, 2021	½ hour before sunrise to noon; starting May 17, hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	1 Male Turkey per permit	Permit required. See turkey hunting regulation, page 53.
Woodchuck: Bow, Rifle or Shotgun	Mar. 2–Sept. 30, 2020 (except Sun.) Mar. 1–Sept. 29, 2021 (except Sun.)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	<b>Rifle Permit required when hunting with rifle.</b> Rifle hunting prohibited on state property (see <i>General Hunting Regulations</i> , page 20 and <i>Woodchuck</i> , page 52).
Woodchuck: Bow or Shotgun	Sept. 26–Dec. 5; Dec. 14, 15 & 17–31 to Feb. 15 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	No limit	8 a.m. start on Nov. 7
Woodcock**	<b>North of Rt. 70:</b> Oct. 17–31; Nov. 3–28 (except Sundays) <b>South of Rt. 70:</b> Nov. 7–Dec. 1; Dec. 17–Jan. 2, 2021 (except Sundays)	Sunrise to sunset	3 daily; 6 possession	<b>HIP number required (see page 59).</b> 8 a.m. start on Nov. 7
Youth Turkey Day	April 24, 2021	½ hour before sunrise to noon	1 Male Wild Turkey	<b>Permit required.</b>
Youth Upland Bird Days	Oct. 31 & Nov. 2–6	8 a.m. to sunset	Partridge — 7 Pheasant — 2 Quail — 4	Selected WMAs and licensed semi-wilds (see page 18).

\* All harvested coyotes and GRAY fox must be reported using the electronic license system by 8 pm. on the day of harvest. See page 49 for details.

\*\* The starting time to hunt migratory birds on Nov. 7 only on those WMAs designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp Areas shall be 8 a.m. See list of areas, page 50.

## REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

Continued from page 50.

### Semi-Wild and Commercial Preserve Hunting

Hunting for pheasant, quail and partridge is allowed from Nov. 7 to March 15 on semi-wild and from Sept. 1 through May 1 on commercial shooting preserves (which also allows mallards) that are properly licensed for the taking of such species. These game birds may be hunted on Sunday only on semi-wild or commercial shooting preserve lands.

Youth hunters (in possession of a valid Youth Hunting License and accompanied by a licensed, non-shooting adult) will be permitted to hunt pheasant, quail and partridge on licensed semi-wild preserves on Saturday, Oct. 31—the Youth Upland Bird Hunting Day.

All game taken on semi-wild or commercial preserves must be properly tagged before being transported off the licensed property.

A person may legally hunt on semi-wild or commercial preserves for game birds during deer seasons, but no shot larger than #4 fine may be used. There are no daily bag or seasonal limits for pheasant, quail, partridge or mallards taken on commercial preserves. There are no daily bag limits for pheasant, quail or partridge taken on semi-wild properties. Seasonal harvests on semi-wild properties may not exceed the number of birds to be stocked as indicated on the semi-wild permit application.

### Woodchuck

All persons in possession of a rifle (including a muzzleloading rifle) while hunting woodchuck must have a current and valid rifle permit in addition to the current hunting license. **Rifle hunting (of any kind) for woodchuck is prohibited on state wildlife management areas, state parks, state forests or state recreation areas.** Farmers and their agents may use shot not larger than #4 buckshot to control woodchuck causing damage. Hours of hunting are sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. See chart above for woodchuck hunting details. 🦫

### Woodchuck Season

Dates	Weapon Type Permitted	Gauge, Caliber or Weight	Projectile(s)
March 2 to Sept. 20, 2020 March 1 to Sept. 29, 2021	Center-fire rifle	.25 caliber or less	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight.
		Larger than .25 caliber	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight not exceeding 80 grains in weight.
	Rim-fire rifle	.25 caliber or less	Hollow point or soft point of any weight not exceeding 50 grains in weight.
	Muzzleloading rifle: single-shot, single barrel. Flintlock, percussion and in-line ignitions permitted.	No restriction	Must be loaded with a single projectile, either round ball or conical bullet.
	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow	35 pounds pull at archers draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow); 75 pounds pull for crossbow	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of ¾"
Sept. 26–Dec. 5 and Dec. 14, 15, 17–31, 2020	Bow: long, recurve, compound or crossbow	35 pounds pull at archers draw length (long and recurve bows) or peak weight (compound bow); 75 pounds pull for crossbow	Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of ¾"
	Shotgun: single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore	Not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells	Shot – sizes not larger than #4 fine shot
Jan. 1–Feb. 15, 2021	Shotgun: single or double barrel, rifled bore or smoothbore	Not larger than 10 gauge, capable of holding no more than 3 shells	Shot – sizes not larger than #4 fine shot

### Ruffed Grouse in New Jersey

#### Ruffed grouse harvests have fallen precipitously over time. The population can no longer support a recreational hunting season.

Fish and Wildlife is developing a predictive model to direct habitat improvements where they will have the greatest benefit. See the latest on grouse in New Jersey by following the links below.



#### Grouse Season Closure:

[https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/news/2019/grouse\\_closed.htm](https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/news/2019/grouse_closed.htm)

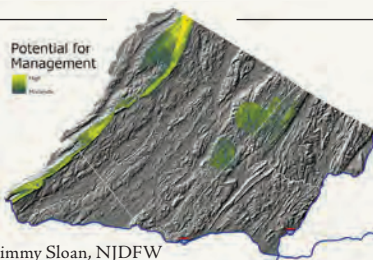


#### Ruffed Grouse Ecology

by Joseph R. Garris, Upland Game and Furbearer Research Project at [https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/artgrouse\\_tame.htm](https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/artgrouse_tame.htm)

### Ruffed Grouse Season Closed

Ruffed grouse rely on young forest habitat which currently comprise only 5% of state forest lands. This lack of habitat has caused grouse populations to decline below the level necessary to support a hunting season. In an effort to reduce the decline, the grouse hunting season is closed statewide. No exceptions.



Jimmy Sloan, NJDFW

#### New Jersey's Grouse Priority Areas Siting Tool

by James Sloan, Senior Biologist, Upland Game and Furbearer Research Project: [https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/artgrouse\\_g-past.htm](https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/artgrouse_g-past.htm)

Caption removed from Ecology image to fit layout.