

Regulations in **red** are new this year.



Coyote, Fox Seasons 2021–22

Sunday Hunting Prohibited. See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 24.

Regular Season (Hunting license required; no permit needed.)

Season	Weapon	Bag Limit/Reporting
Oct. 2–Nov 5, 2021 ½ hr. before sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	Bow Only 35 lbs. pull/peak wt. or crossbow (75 lbs. pull wt.) using well-sharpened broadheads (min. 3/4" width).	No daily or seasonal bag limit
Nov. 6–Mar. 15, 2022 ½ hr. before sunrise–½ hr. after sunset (except 8 a.m. start on Nov. 6)	Bow (see details above) or Shotgun 10-20 ga. using shot size up to #4 fine shot.	Harvest Reporting of Coyote is REQUIRED by 8 p.m. following harvest. Reporting of Gray Fox is also requested.

Hunter Orange*: Required when shotgun hunting.

Method: On the ground, elevated, or in man-made structure

Manner: Running with hounds, stalking or stand and call.

Predator call: Manual or electronic; use optional

Dogs: Allowed (except Dec. 6–11 & 15)

Decoys: Allowed (No live decoys)

Bait: Min. 300' when in tree stand/ground blind. Baiting not allowed on National Wildlife Refuges

* A SOLID Hunter Orange hat (no camouflage/logos) is required as part of the 200 sq. inch hunter orange requirement when hunting small game with a firearm on any pheasant/quail stocked WMA (see page 55).

Special Permit Season - Daytime and limited shotgun-only night hours (Hunting License AND \$2 Permit Required)

Season	Weapon	Bag Limit/Reporting
Jan. 1–Mar. 15, 2022 (Day) ½ hr. before sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	Bow (see Bow Only , above) or Shotgun 10-20 ga. using BB to #3 buckshot ONLY. or Rifle (Rifle Permit Required). ML rifle or single-barrel smoothbore , .44 cal. minimum. Centerfire rifle (.17-.25 cal.) using hollow or soft point bullets (max. 80 grain). Rimfire (.17-.22 cal.) using hollow or soft point bullets (max. 50 grain).	No daily or seasonal limit Harvest Reporting of Coyote is REQUIRED by 8 p.m. following harvest. Reporting of Gray Fox is also requested.
Jan. 1–Mar. 15, 2022 (Night) Hunting with aid of light allowed. ½ hr. after sunset–½ hr. before sunrise	Shotgun Only 10-12 ga. using shot size #4 fine to 'T' ONLY.	

Hunter Orange*: Optional under Special Permit Provisions

Method: On the ground, elevated, or in man-made structure

Manner: Standing and calling only

Predator call: Must possess manual or electronic call

Dogs: Prohibited

Decoys: Allowed (No live decoys)

Bait: Use Prohibited while hunting with a Special Permit.

* A SOLID Hunter Orange hat (no camouflage/logos) is required as part of the 200 sq. inch hunter orange requirement when hunting small game with a firearm on any pheasant/quail stocked WMA (see page 55).

Firearms, Bows and Ammo for Small Game Hunting

Hunters may NOT possess both a firearm and bow & arrow while hunting any game bird or animal. See **General Hunting Regulations**, page 24.

	Weapon Specifications	Species	License, Permit, Stamp Required
Air gun	.177 to .22 caliber Having a non-ignited compressed gas expulsion with a minimum muzzle velocity of 600 fps Using wadcutter, domed or pointed or hollow point pellets ONLY Spherical BBs NOT permitted	Rabbit, squirrel, hare, jackrabbit, opossum, raccoon Dispatching trapped furbearers other than muskrat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Firearm Hunting License or meet Farmer License Exemption. Valid Trapping License when required.
Modern Rifle - Centerfire	.25 caliber or smaller Using max. 80 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, daylight hrs. only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Firearm Hunting License (excluding Apprentice Licenses) or meet Farmer License Exemption. Valid Rifle Permit. Special Coyote/Fox Permit required to hunt coyote and fox with this weapon.
	.25 caliber or smaller Using hollow point, soft point bullets or expanding lead core bullets (any grain weight) Larger than .25 caliber Using max. 80 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Woodchuck Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all state WMAs, state parks, forests and recreation areas	
Modern rifle - Rimfire	.22 caliber or smaller Using max. 50 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, daylight hrs. only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Firearm Hunting License (excluding Apprentice Licenses) or meet Farmer License Exemption. Valid Trapping License when required. Valid Rifle Permit. Special Coyote/Fox Permit required to hunt coyote and fox with this weapon.
	Any caliber Using max. 50 grain hollow or soft point bullets	Woodchuck Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all state WMAs, state parks, forests and recreation areas	
	.22 caliber Using .22 short ammo	Opossum, raccoon Dispatching trapped furbearers except muskrat.	
Muzzleloading rifle	.36 caliber or smaller Single-barrel, single-shot rifle firing a single projectile	Gray Squirrel (See Squirrel ML Rifle Season Zones call-out box on p. 60)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Firearm Hunting License (excluding Apprentice Licenses) or meet Farmer License Exemption. Valid Rifle Permit. Special Coyote/Fox Permit required to hunt coyote and fox with this weapon.
	.44 caliber or larger Single-barrel, single-shot rifle or smoothbore firing a single (round ball or conical) projectile	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, daylight hrs. only)	
	Any caliber single-barrel, single-shot rifle firing a single (round ball or conical) projectile	Woodchuck Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all state WMAs, state parks, forests and recreation areas	
Shotgun (including smoothbore muzzleloaders)	Not larger than 10 gauge Using shot size not larger than #4 fine	All small game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Firearm Hunting License or meet Farmer License Exemption. Pheasant & Quail Stamp on select WMAs.* HIP Certificate (required for woodcock).
	10-20 gauge Using shot size not smaller than ""BB"" or larger than #3 Buck Pellets must be lead or a tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid	Coyote, Fox (Special Permit Season, daylight hrs. only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Firearm Hunting License (excluding Apprentice Licenses) or meet Farmer License Exemption. Valid Rifle Permit to hunt with any type of muzzleloader. Special Coyote/Fox Permit required to hunt coyote and fox with shot size larger than #4 fine and when shotgun nighttime hunting for coyote or fox.
	10 or 12 gauge Using shot size not smaller than #4 fine or larger than "T"	Coyote/Fox (Special Permit Season, nighttime hrs. only)	

* See **Pheasant and Quail Stocking Schedules**, page 55

Firearms Specifically Prohibited:

- Any firearm capable of firing more than 3 rounds without reloading when hunting any species listed above (shotgun capable of holding more than three shells must be plugged; modern rifles may not be loaded with more than 3 rounds).
- Any firearm having an electronic ignition system. Any firearm equipped with a silencer or noise suppressor.
- "Smart rifles and guns" equipped with any target tracking system; electronically-controlled, electronically-assisted, or computer-linked trigger; or ballistics computer.

	Weapon Specifications	Species	License, Permit, Stamp Required
Bow & Arrow	Minimum 35 lbs. draw weight (longbow, recurve) or 35 lbs. peak weight (compound) or 75 lbs. draw weight (crossbow)		
	Using arrow/bolt with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard fletching Well-sharpened metal edge head (min. width 3/4") 	Coyote, fox, hare, rabbit, squirrel, woodchuck and non-flying game birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Archery Hunting License or meet Farmer License Exemption Pheasant & Quail Stamp on Stocked WMAs when hunting for these species
	Using arrow/bolt with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flu-flu fletching Blunt, field or judo point 	Game birds in flight	

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Small Game Mammal Seasons 2021–22

No Sunday hunting except for opossum and raccoon; see below. See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 24.

A SOLID hunter orange hat (no camouflage/logos) is required as part of the 200 sq. inch hunter orange requirement when hunting small game with a firearm on any pheasant/quail stocked WMA (see page 55).

Season	Weapon Type	Bag Limits	Manner & Method
Gray Squirrel — Muzzleloading			
Sept. 25–Nov. 5, 2021; Jan. 1–Feb. 26, 2022 Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	Muzzleloading Rifle Not larger than .36 caliber (Designated zones only - see map, page 60.)	Daily bag limit of 5 No season limit.	Hunter Orange: Required. Rifle Permit: Required. Dogs: Allowed. Sunday Hunting: Prohibited. Restricted: To designated areas only (see map page 60).
Gray Squirrel, Hare, Jackrabbit, Rabbit			
Sept. 25, 2021–Feb. 26, 2022 8 a.m. start on Nov. 6, 2021 Closed Dec. 6–11 & 15, 2021 Sunrise–½ hr after sunset	Air Gun, Bow, or Shotgun	5 squirrel, 1 hare or jackrabbit, and 4 cottontail. No season limit.	Hunter Orange: Required when hunting with firearm. Dogs: Allowed. Sunday Hunting: Prohibited.
Opossum and Raccoon (Night Hunting)			
Oct. 1, 2021–Mar. 1, 2022; 7:41 p.m. start Oct. 1, 2021 Closed Dec. 6–11 & 15, 2021 1 hr. after sunset–1 hr. before sunrise	Air Gun, .22 cal. rifle, or Shotgun	No daily or seasonal bag limits	Hunter Orange: Encouraged, but not required. Dogs: Allowed. Sunday Hunting: 12:01 a.m. to 1 hr. before sunrise only. Portable Lights: Allowed.
Woodchuck			
Mar. 1, 2021–Feb. 26, 2022 8 a.m. start Nov. 6, 2021 Closed Dec. 6–11 & 15, 2021 Mar. 1, 2022–Feb. 25, 2023 8 a.m. start Nov. 12, 2022 Closed Dec. 5–9 & 14, 2022 Sunrise–½ hr. after sunset	Bow or Shotgun	No daily or seasonal bag limits	Hunter Orange: Encouraged with shotgun, but not required. Dogs: Allowed. Sunday Hunting: Prohibited
Mar. 1–Sept. 29, 2021 Mar. 1–Sept. 28, 2022 Sunrise–½ hr. before sunset	Modern or Muzzleloading Rifle (Valid Rifle Permit required)	No daily or seasonal bag limits.	Hunter Orange: Encouraged, but not required. Dogs: Allowed. Sunday Hunting: Prohibited Rifle use for woodchuck prohibited on all State WMAs, Parks and Forests & Recreation Areas.

Small Game Hunting

What You Need

HUNTING LICENSES

A valid Bow & Arrow or Firearm Hunting License is required for all hunters, except farmers and family members hunting the property they live on. See *Licenses* table on page 8 for license types, requirements and information on how to obtain.

- ♦ Adult licenses are valid through December 31. Youth licenses are valid through December 31 in the year the youth turns 16.
- ♦ The license must be visibly displayed on outer clothing while hunting and cannot be covered by a pack or harness. Farmers must visibly display applicable permit(s).
- ♦ A Rifle Permit when hunting with any type of rifle, modern or black powder.
- ♦ A Coyote/Fox Special Permit Season Permit to hunt these species at specific times and under certain circumstances. (See pages 57-58.)

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

Small game animals and upland game birds may be taken during the open seasons by licensed hunters with shotgun or bow & arrow. See *Firearms, Bows & Ammo for Small Game* table, page 57.

- ♦ Air guns may also be used to harvest gray squirrel, hare and rabbit.
- ♦ Certain types of rifles may also be used at certain times or locations to harvest coyote, fox, gray squirrel, opossum, raccoon and woodchuck, and may not be loaded with more than 3 rounds.
- ♦ Shotguns may not be larger than 10 gauge using shot size not larger than #4 fine shot and not capable of firing more than three rounds without reloading.

PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS

There are a variety of public lands on which to hunt – municipal, county, state and federal. It is the hunter's responsibility for contacting the applicable landowner to clarify areas open for hunting prior to arriving on-site.

Most wildlife management areas, and select state parks, forests, and recreation areas are open to licensed hunters without requiring written permission. Some areas within specific properties may be closed.

A list of state WMAs with regulations and a link to PDF maps can be found at NJFishandWildlife.com/wmland.htm.

A list of state park and forest lands open for hunting with links to hunting maps can be found at https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/sps_hunting_maps.html. Hunters may be required to obtain a special permit for some species on certain properties.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. There are five national wildlife refuges in New Jersey. Hunting

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 for a reference chart useful for coyote-fox hunting during seasons that overlap other game species.



opportunities may be limited to select wildlife species and may vary by refuge. Links to refuges in our state can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=NJ>. Click on the refuge you are interested in to see specific regulations and requirements.

Commercial shooting preserves provide hunters interested in pursuing game birds with another option. Depending on their specific license, hunters may pursue species such as mallards, partridge (chukar and/or Hungarian), pheasant and quail on a fee basis.

SMALL GAME SUNDAY HUNTING

Small game hunting on Sunday is **prohibited**, *except*:

- ♦ On properly licensed semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves, and only for those species covered by their license.
- ♦ When opossum or raccoon hunting on Sunday mornings only between midnight and 1 hour before sunrise.

WANTON WASTE

It is unlawful for any hunter that kills or wounds any gray squirrel, hare, or rabbit, chukar or Hungarian partridge, pheasant, quail or woodcock to not make a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and take it into possession. See *Wanton Waste of Game*, page 27.

Upland Game

See *Small Game Mammal Seasons* table on page 59 and *Upland Game Bird Hunting Seasons* table on page 54 for season dates, hunting hours, bag limits and hunting methods. See below for species with a closed season or canine predator hunting during the special permit season.

Bobcat (Closed)

The season for hunting bobcat is closed statewide. If you see a live bobcat or capture an image on your trail camera, please complete and submit a brief sighting report form at NJFishandWildlife.com/ensp/rprtform.htm. If you find one dead on the road, please call (877) 927-6337 to report the carcass location.

Bobwhite Quail (Closed)

The season for hunting wild bobwhite quail is closed statewide. Pen-raised quail may only be hunted at Greenwood Forest and Peaslee WMA and on properly licensed commercial and semi-wild shooting preserves.

No person may release bobwhite quail for dog training purposes on Buckshutem, Dix, Egg Island, Fortescue, Millville (Bevans), Nantuxent or New Sweden WMAs (all in Cumberland County), or on Stafford Forge WMA in Ocean County.

If you encounter a bobwhite or capture an image on your trail camera, please complete and submit a brief sighting report form at NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/gamebird_rprtform.pdf. A report can also be filed with the eBird app.

Ruffed Grouse (Closed)

The season for hunting ruffed grouse is closed statewide. If you encounter a grouse or capture an image on your trail camera, please complete and submit a brief sighting report (see bobwhite quail, above). You may also file a report with the app eBird.

Coyote and Fox Hunting

See *Coyote, Fox Seasons* table on page 59 for dates, hunting methods and permitted weapons. The general hunting season begins when the fall bow deer season opens statewide and runs through March 15. The Special Permit Season overlaps the general coyote and fox season from January 1 through March 15. All harvested coyotes *must* be reported, and Fish and Wildlife would appreciate reports of gray fox as well via that Automated Harvest Report System. Red fox cannot be reported via the AHRS at this time. To report a harvest:

- ♦ By phone, call (855) 448-6865 or by mobile device or computer, go to www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com by 8 p.m. of the harvest date.
- ♦ If unable to access the Automated Harvest Reporting System by the designated time, the coyote shall be reported immediately by telephone to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office listed on pages 18, 80. You must continue to attempt accessing the Automated Harvest Report System until you report that coyote harvest.

Special Permit Coyote and Fox Season

A separate \$2 permit is required and may be purchased at license agents or online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com beginning when the 2022 license year sales start, on December 1st. A valid hunting license is required to purchase a special permit. The special permit season is for stand hunting and calling in predators.

You do not *need* to purchase a special permit to hunt coyote and fox if you are only bowhunting or wish to chase these animals with hounds. However, the special permit does allow the hunter to use weapon types not available to the traditional small game hunter. The special permit allows predator hunters to:

- ♦ Use larger shot sizes ("BB" to #3 Buck) in 10–20 gauge shotguns during daylight.
- ♦ Hunt at night with 10–12 gauge shotgun using #4 fine to "T" shot.
- ♦ Use certain small caliber modern rifles or a muzzleloading rifle during daylight (use requires a valid Rifle Permit).
- ♦ Hunt for canines without wearing Hunter Orange.

When hunting under the provisions of the special permit, you must also have a manual or electronic predator call. **Baiting and using dogs is prohibited under the permit provisions.**

Coyote and Fox, Incidental Harvest by Turkey or Deer Hunters

Turkey hunters may take the opportunity to harvest coyote only (fox harvest is prohibited) during any turkey season; however, the hunter **may not**:

- ♦ Have any type of coyote call in their possession.
- ♦ Have any coyote decoys.

- ♦ Take any action intended to attract a coyote.

Deer hunters may, during any firearm deer season, take the opportunity to harvest coyote or fox with weapons and ammunition normally restricted to hunting deer, **unless**:

- ♦ You are hunting from a tree stand or other structure within 300 feet of a baited area. (Also applies to bowhunters.)
- ♦ You have taken the season bag limit of deer.

Regardless of whether you are hunting canines, deer or turkey – **all coyote harvests must be reported by 8 p.m.** via the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS) either:

- ♦ By phone by calling (855) 448-6865; or
- ♦ Via mobile device or computer at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.

Harvest Reporting Tip: Be prepared to provide the harvest location details which are identical to those for reporting a deer harvest (DMZ, county and township). The required harvest reporting information for coyote and fox may change after this Digest is printed. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

Although not required, please also report any harvest of GRAY fox by 8 p.m. via the ARHS (see above). Red fox cannot be reported at this time.

Squirrel Muzzleloading Rifle Season Areas

For a complete description of the squirrel hunting areas, scan this QR code with your mobile device or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt.

