

# Small Game/Fall & Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

## REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

### Turkey Hunting and Spring Gobbler Permit Information

Beginning with the Spring 2020 Turkey Hunting Season, mandatory checking of turkeys will be electronic only. See page 60 for details.

#### Turkey Hunting Permits, General

This hunting *Digest* contains information for both the 2019 Fall Turkey Season and 2020 Spring Turkey Season. Turkey hunting is by permit only. NOTE: For the permit application process, lottery notes, changes, status check and directions on how to claim your permits, see details on pages 11–12. See page 1 for fees.

#### Turkey Permits, 2019 Fall Season

The fall turkey permit lottery has been eliminated. A turkey hunting permit is still required and may be purchased at license agents or online at Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com).

Fall turkey permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 9, 2019. Permits will be available until the permit quota is reached or the season ends.

#### Turkey Permits, 2020 Spring Season

Spring turkey permits are allocated by lottery. Hunters who apply in the lottery have a much greater chance of receiving their desired area and

period choices than hunters who wait for over-the-counter sales of leftover permits.

- ♦ Application Period January 25–February 22.
- ♦ Award notifications and permit pickup begins March 2. Permits must be claimed by 11:59 pm on March 23.
- ♦ All permits awarded in the lottery will be available to claim until 11:59 p.m. on March 23. Unclaimed awarded permits will be redistributed in the over-the-counter sale. Application fee(s) will not be refunded for unclaimed permits.
- ♦ Over-the-county sale of leftover permits: 10 a.m. MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020 until permits sell out or the season ends, whichever occurs first.

### Spring 2020 Gobbler Season Permits

Hunters are limited to filing only one application which allows for up to two permits, one in the first lottery and one in the second lottery. See pages 11–12 for instructions.

#### First Lottery

- ♦ Selects applicants from the Spring Season First Lottery.
- ♦ See page 59 for dates of the five turkey hunting period segments.
- ♦ The Youth Turkey Hunting Program guarantees that all applicants aged 10 to 15 (16 for those still eligible to hunt using their Youth License) will receive their first choice permit request in the first lottery for the spring season designated as Period Y. Youth permits are not counted in the

permit season quotas. Period Y Permits are also available during the over-the-counter sales period.

- ♦ Hunters possessing a Permit to Shoot From a Standing Vehicle are guaranteed one first lottery permit only for the Spring Season. Any additional permit purchased is taken from the available permit quota and is not guaranteed. Individuals possessing a Permit to Shoot from a Standing Vehicle must apply and/or purchase their permits via their home computer or go to a web-based license agent. Verifone® agents cannot handle these requests.

#### Second Lottery

- ♦ Assigns unissued first lottery permits (leftover) to applicants who applied for a permit in the second lottery.
- ♦ Youth permit requests for the second lottery are not guaranteed. A youth's second permit (or more) is valid only for the one designated hunting period A, B, C, D or E.

**Consider your requests carefully!** If you request the same turkey hunting area and period in both the first and second spring lotteries you could receive two permits for the identical area and period combination. Permits will not be exchanged if you receive the permits requested on your application. If you are awarded two permits in the lottery you must claim them both at the same time. You will not be able to claim only one.

**IMPORTANT:** Hunters who are awarded two permits in the lottery must claim (purchase) both at the same time. Hunters cannot claim only one awarded permit.

Continued from page 56.

### 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. 28–Nov. 8 and Jan. 4–Feb. 22. See *Small Game Hunting Seasons* chart, page 57.

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

### 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

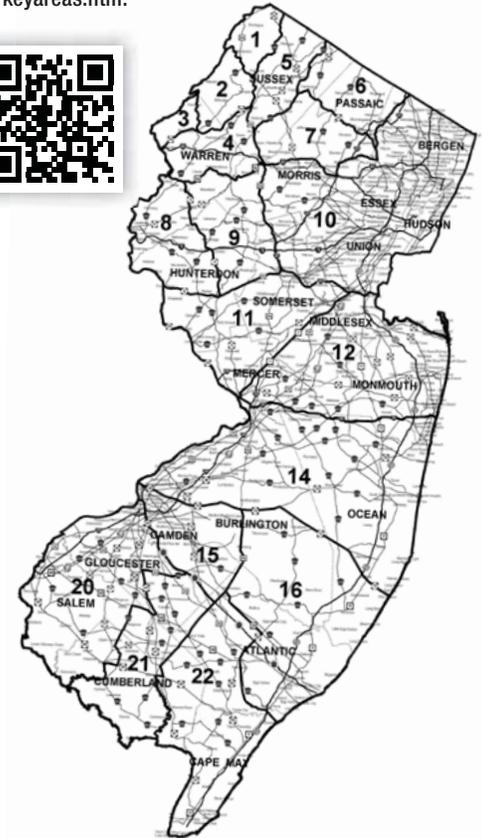
Dates	Weapon Type Permitted	Gauge, Caliber or Weight	Projectile(s)
March 1 to Sept. 25, 2019	Center-fire rifle	.25 caliber or less	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight.
		Larger than .25 caliber	Hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets of any weight not 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.
March 2 to Sept. 30, 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
Sept. 28–Dec. 7 and Dec. 16, 17, 19–31, 2019	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"
Jan. 1–Feb. 17, 2020	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

### 2020 Spring Gobbler Hunting Season Dates

Hunting Period	Dates
<b>Youth Turkey Hunting Day</b> (10–16 years of age)	Sat., April 18 If no turkey is harvested on this youth hunt day, Period Y permits may be used in the designated zone for balance of season until a bird is harvested
<b>Hunting Period Y</b>	
<b>Hunting Period A</b>	Mon., April 20–Fri., April 24
<b>Hunting Period B</b>	Mon., April 27–Fri., May 1
<b>Hunting Period C</b>	Mon., May 4–Fri., May 8
<b>Hunting Period D</b>	Mon., May 11–Fri., May 15; Mon., May 18–Fri., May 22
<b>Hunting Period E</b>	All Saturdays, April 25, May 2, May 9, and May 16

### Turkey Hunting Areas

Map for general reference only. For a complete description of the Turkey Hunting Area boundaries, scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/turkeyareas.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/turkeyareas.htm).



### Turkey Season Dates and Hunting Hours

The 2019 fall turkey season will consist of one seven day hunting segment, N, (excluding Sunday) from Saturday, Oct. 26 through Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019. Fall hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

Hunting hours for the spring season are one-half hour before sunrise until noon daily, except hunting hours for the **last two weeks** of the spring turkey season (including all of period D and the **last Saturday** of period E) are changed to one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. These expanded hunting hours during the last two weeks of the season allow opportunities for working and youth hunters.

Coyotes may be harvested incidentally while turkey hunting. See page 55.

- ♦ No shot larger than #4 fine shot or smaller than #7½ fine shot may be used for turkey hunting.
- ♦ Hunters may not use shotguns larger than 10-gauge or smaller than 20-gauge for turkey hunting. Shotguns must be plugged to be capable of holding no more than three shells.
- ♦ Fluorescent hunter orange is not required to hunt turkeys.
- ♦ Properly licensed hunters may use archery tackle to hunt turkeys. Bows used for turkey hunting (long, recurve, compound or crossbow) must have a minimum draw pull weight of 35 pounds at the archer's draw length (long and recurve bow), or peak weight (compound bow), or 75 pounds minimum draw weight (crossbow). Arrows must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal broadhead with a minimum width of 3/4 inch.
- ♦ While turkey hunting, a weapon may not be in possession within 300 feet of any baited area.

### Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 Turkey Hunting Regulations

- ♦ **Bag Limit:** During the fall season, turkeys of either sex may be taken. During the spring season, only male turkey may be taken; bearded hens may not be taken in the spring. During both seasons, the bag limit is one turkey per permit, *but* only one bird may be taken in a given day, regardless of the number of permits a hunter holds.
- ♦ Artificial decoys may be used while turkey hunting, except the use of electronically-operated decoys is prohibited. Dogs may be used for turkey hunting **only** during the fall season. All hunters are required to possess a calling device while turkey hunting. The use of a hand-held decoy or a turkey tail-on-a-stick as camouflage to sneak up on a turkey is prohibited. **Stalking a turkey is not legal. Electronic calls are not legal.**
- ♦ Hunting methods during the spring gobbler season are restricted to calling or stand hunting.
- ♦ The maximum group size while turkey hunting is five hunters.
- ♦ Hunters may not attempt to chase or drive turkeys for the purpose of putting them in range of other hunters. However, during the fall season only, hunters may rush a flock of turkeys to cause the flock to scatter.

### Youth Turkey Hunt Day

**April 18, 2020** (See page 25)

**If no turkey is harvested on this youth hunt day, Period Y permits may be used by the youth hunter in the designated zone for the balance of the season until a bird is harvested (see page 25).**

All youth turkey hunters 10 to 16 years of age must possess a valid **spring turkey hunting permit** in addition to their **youth** hunting license.

Youth hunters must be accompanied by a properly licensed, non-hunting adult age 21 or older who may not shoot on this youth day.

This season is considered an **extension** of the regular season permit held by the youth.

If youth hunter harvests a turkey on this youth hunting day, the "Y" Period permit is no longer valid for future hunting.

Non-hunting adults accompanying youth turkey hunters need only have in possession a valid hunting license. Spring and fall turkey hunting are by permit only. See *Turkey Hunting Permits, General*, page 58. For farmers, see *Farmer Turkey Permits*, page 30.

### Stalking is Illegal

Use of a hand-held decoy or a turkey tail-on-a-stick as camouflage to sneak up on a turkey is prohibited. In New Jersey, stalking of wild turkeys is illegal, both for ethical reasons and for personal safety.

# Fall & Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

## REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

### Mandatory Turkey Check (Fall Season) and Harvest Report (Spring Season) Requirement

After the close of the Fall 2019 Turkey Season, physical turkey check stations will no longer be used. Beginning with the Spring 2020 Turkey Season, all hunters will be required to report a harvested turkey on the day killed using the Automated Harvest Report System.

#### Fall 2019 Mandatory Turkey Check:

All turkeys harvested in the Fall 2019 Season must immediately be tagged with a transportation tag. The turkey must be taken by the hunter who killed it, on the day killed, to the nearest turkey check station where personnel will issue a legal possession tag. See [https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/turkey\\_checkstations.pdf](https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/turkey_checkstations.pdf) for a list of official fall turkey check stations. During the fall 2019 Turkey Season, the turkey must be brought to the nearest check station by 7 p.m.

#### Spring 2020 Mandatory Harvest Reporting:

Upon retrieval, the turkey is considered to be in your possession. The hunter must:

1. Immediately fill out the Transportation Tag that is part of your permit with the exception of the Confirmation Number, the number automatically assigned when the turkey is reported which replaces the Tyvek possession seal. Hunters are required to tag their turkey upon harvest and before transporting the turkey. Attach the turkey Transportation Tag to the turkey. The tag must include the hunter's CID, date and THA of harvest.
2. Record the sex and age of your turkey and take measurements of the beard and longer spur, if applicable. Measure **BEFORE** starting the harvest report process to have your answers ready. See sexing, aging and measuring wild turkeys at [https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/turkey\\_reporting.htm](https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/turkey_reporting.htm). Use the ½ inch ruler provided on your turkey Transportation Tag to determine if the longest spur is less than, equal to, or greater than ½ inch. Measure the spur from the very base where it meets the leg scales to the very tip. Use a ruler or tape measure, or a dollar bill (which is 6 inches in length) to determine if the beard is less than, equal to, or greater than 6 inches in length. Measure the beard from the skin at its base to the end of the longest filament.

3. Report your harvest via the Automated Harvest Reporting System (by phone or online as printed on every hunting license and permit). During Youth Turkey Hunting Day, hunting periods A, B, C and the first three Saturdays of hunting period E, the turkey harvest must be reported by 3 p.m. During hunting period D and the last Saturday of hunting period E, the turkey harvest must be reported by 9 p.m. If unable to access the Automated Harvest Reporting System by the designated time, the turkey shall be reported immediately by telephone to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office (see page 41 for Law Enforcement listings). The hunter must continue to attempt accessing the Automated Harvest Report System until they receive a Confirmation Number for that turkey. During the reporting process, you will be asked for the turkey's sex, age (juvenile or adult), beard measurement (equal to or greater than 6 inches, or less than 6 inches), and spur measurement (equal to or greater than ½ inch, or less than ½ inch). Again, please take the measurements BEFORE you begin the reporting process.
4. Record your assigned Confirmation Number on your Transportation Tag. Retain your Confirmation Number as long as the turkey or its parts are in possession.

### Turkey Hunting Seminars

The latest turkey hunting techniques are presented at several turkey hunting seminars sponsored by Fish and Wildlife or wildlife conservation organizations. These seminars focus on how to set up, calling techniques and key safety information for turkey hunters. New turkey hunters are especially encouraged to join us at a seminar. Check your newspaper and our website for the seminars scheduled during March or April. 🦃



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Eastern Wild Turkey

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## Public Turkey Hunting Land in New Jersey

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 1

- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Flatbrook-Roy WMA
- Hainesville WMA
- Stokes State Forest

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 2

- Bear Swamp WMA
- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Flatbrook-Roy WMA
- Paulinskill WMA
- Stokes State Forest
- Swartswood State Park
- Trout Brook WMA
- Walpack WMA
- White Lake WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 3

- Columbia WMA (partial)
- Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area
- Worthington State Forest

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 4

- Allamuchy Mountain State Park
- Beaver Brook WMA
- Columbia WMA (partial)
- Honey Run WMA
- Jenny Jump State Forest

- Stephens State Park
- Whittingham WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 5

- Kittatinny Valley State Park
- Paulinskill WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 6

- Abram Hewitt State Forest
- Hamburg Mountain WMA
- Long Pond Ironworks State Park
- Norvin Green State Forest
- Ramapo Mountain State Forest
- Ringwood State Park
- Wawayanda State Park

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 7

- Berkshire Valley WMA
- Farny State Park
- Rockaway River WMA
- Sparta Mountain WMA
- Weldon Brook WMA
- Wildcat Ridge WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 8

- Buckhorn Creek WMA
- Clinton WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Pohatcong Creek WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 9

- Black River WMA
- Hacklebarney State Park
- Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA
- Musconetcong River WMA
- Pequest WMA
- Rockport WMA
- South Branch WMA
- Voorhees State Park

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 10

- Black River WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 11

- Alexauken Creek WMA
- Lockatong WMA
- Six Mile Run Reservoir State Park (bow only)

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 12

- Assunpink WMA
- Turkey Swamp WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 14

- Brendan T. Byrne State Forest
- Colliers Mills WMA
- Double Trouble State Park
- Forked River Mountain WMA
- Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
- Greenwood Forest WMA
- Manahawkin WMA
- Manasquan WMA

- Manchester WMA
- Medford WMA
- Pleasant Run WMA
- Whiting WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 15

- Wharton State Forest

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 16

- Bass River State Forest
- Hammonton Creek WMA
- Great Egg Harbor River WMA
- Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
- Penn State Forest
- Port Republic WMA
- Stafford Forge WMA
- Swan Bay WMA
- Warren Grove Recreation Area
- Wharton State Forest

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 20

- Abbots Meadow WMA
- Cohansy River WMA
- DOD Ponds WMA
- Elmer Lake WMA
- Gum Tree Corner WMA
- Harrisonville Lake WMA
- Mad Horse Creek WMA
- Maskells Mill Pond WMA
- Salem River WMA
- Thundergut Pond WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 21

- Buckshtem WMA
- Cedar Lake WMA
- Cedarville Pond WMA
- Cohansy River WMA
- Dix WMA
- Egg Island WMA
- Fortescue WMA
- Glassboro WMA
- Nantuxent WMA
- New Sweden WMA
- Millville WMA
- Parvin State Park
- Union Lake WMA
- White Oak Branch WMA
- Winslow WMA

### TURKEY HUNTING AREA 22

- Beaver Swamp WMA
- Belleplain State Forest
- Cape May Wetlands WMA
- Dennis Creek WMA
- Gibson Creek WMA
- Great Egg Harbor WMA
- Heislerville WMA
- Higbee Beach WMA
- Makepeace Lake WMA
- Maple Lake WMA
- Menantico Ponds WMA
- Peaslee WMA
- Tuckahoe WMA

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