Message from the Governor

Hunting in New York – Opportunities Abound

Among the many opportunities to enjoy New York’s great outdoors, hunting season remains one of the most cherished times of the year for many residents and visiting non-residents alike. With millions of acres of publicly owned state land and abundant wildlife resources, the possibilities for enjoyable days afield are endless.

A cornerstone of our new outdoor adventure initiative is to recruit, retain and reactivate New Yorkers to participate in the many healthy outdoor activities this state has to offer. Our unparalleled natural resources provide ample opportunities not only for hunting, but hiking, camping, fishing, nature observation and many other activities as well. Outdoor adventures await you in all seasons and I urge you to introduce or reintroduce someone to all that we have to offer.

As we continue to support improved access to the outdoors and apply habitat improvements to the lands we manage to benefit our wildlife, it only gets better. On our Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) for example we have taken an aggressive approach to managing these lands to benefit many popular game species. Over the past year alone we have complete 22 Habitat Management Plans on WMAs across the state. These plans will guide our efforts to ensure they continue to provide high quality habitat for wildlife to thrive in. As a result, work on the ground to improve about 1,000 acres for young forest dependent wildlife is already underway or beginning soon. This is in addition to the thousands of acres managed annually to maintain important wetlands, grasslands and mature forests.

The 2016 hunting seasons remained among the lowest on record for hunting accidents, but tragically not without preventable incidents. I urge all hunters to always keep safety foremost on their minds and make use of hunter orange or pink to remain visible to other hunters. Our strong network of volunteer hunter education instructors have a remarkable track record of instilling safe and ethical practices in our hunters. Each and every hunter needs to carry those practices forward.

The 2017-18 Hunting and Trapping Guide has a wealth of information about wildlife and wildlife management in New York. Within these pages you will find all of the information needed to understand the rules and regulations governing hunting and trapping as well as updates and articles to help you enjoy your time outdoors. DEC staff go to great lengths each year to provide you with the information you will need to stay informed, safe and legal.

I wish you all a safe and successful season as you carry on the great fall tradition of gathering with family and friends to enjoy time afield in pursuit of the abundant game species that New York has to offer.

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
Features

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American Black Duck
After more than 30 years of a 1-bird daily bag limit for black ducks, duck hunters will have an opportunity for a 2-black duck daily bag limit in 2017. See pages 50-51 for details.

Bobcat Hunting & Trapping
Hunters and trappers pursuing bobcats in the “Harvest Expansion Area” (HEA; Wildlife Management Units 3R, 3S, 4A, 4F, 4O, 5R, 6R, 6S, 7S, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X, and 9Y) are no longer required to obtain a special permit, complete a hunting/trapping log, or submit the skull/jaw of bobcats they harvest. Please note that hunters and trappers pursuing bobcats in the HEA must still have a hunting or trapping license and must have harvested bobcats pelt-sealed by DEC staff.

Reminder for Fisher Trapping Season
Last year, following completion of the New York State Fisher Management Plan, regulations were adopted to: (1) reduce the fisher (and marten) trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone; (2) establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York; and (3) require a free special permit for all fisher trapping. For more information on how to obtain a free, special permit for fisher trapping, see page 52.

Diamondback Terrapin
DEC has adopted a regulation permanently closing the diamondback terrapin season, effective June 4, 2018. The final diamondback terrapin season will be open from August 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018, with licenses expiring June 4, 2018.

PENDING Legislation Regarding Use of Rifles
At the time of press, legislation was pending that would affect the use of rifles in Broome, Genesee, Orleans, Schenectady and Seneca counties. Please check DEC’s website for the latest regulation changes before heading afield this fall. Go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/35010.html
### Important Numbers

#### DEC Regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Stony Brook University</th>
<th>Wildlife</th>
<th>Law Enforcement</th>
<th>Sportsman Ed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>50 Circle Rd. Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409</td>
<td>(631) 444-0310</td>
<td>(631) 444-0250</td>
<td>(631) 444-0255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Hunters Pt. Plaza 47-40 21st St. Long Island City, NY 11101-5407</td>
<td>(718) 482-4922</td>
<td>(718) 482-4885</td>
<td>(631) 444-0255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561</td>
<td>(845) 256-3098</td>
<td>(845) 256-3013</td>
<td>(845) 256-3063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1130 North Westcott Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306-2014</td>
<td>(518) 357-2355</td>
<td>(518) 357-2047</td>
<td>(518) 357-2355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>65561 State Hwy 10, Suite 1 Stamford, NY 12167-9503</td>
<td>(607) 652-7367</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1115 Route 86, PO Box 296 Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296</td>
<td>(518) 897-1291</td>
<td>(518) 897-1326</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601-3787</td>
<td>(315) 785-2263</td>
<td>(315) 785-2231</td>
<td>(315) 785-2533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>225 North Main St. Herkimer NY 13350</td>
<td>(315) 866-6330</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810-9728</td>
<td>(607) 776-2165</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>270 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203-2999</td>
<td>(716) 851-7010</td>
<td>(716) 851-7050</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>182 East Union St., Suite 3 Allegany, NY 14706</td>
<td>(716) 372-0645</td>
<td>(716) 372-0645</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Important Numbers

- NYC Watershed Hunting Permits: 1-800-575-5263
- Deer Management Hotline: 1-866-472-4332
- Report Game Take via DECALS: 1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778)
- Lifetime License Information: (518) 402-8843
- Sportsman Education: 1-888-HUNT ED2
- Reporting Banded Waterfowl: www.reportband.gov
- Information on NY SAFE Act: 1-855-LAW-GUNS
- Law Enforcement (ECOs): 1-877-457-5680
As you prepare for the upcoming seasons, I’d ask that you take a moment to reflect on your role as conservationists in ensuring a bright future for our wildlife resources. Through the purchase of your sporting license you contribute directly to the sound and scientific wildlife management programs delivered by DEC’s professional biologists and technicians. Each and every time you buy hunting gear you further contribute to Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Funds (WSFR) which are dedicated to the conservation and management of game and non-game species throughout our state. These monies support purchase of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Sportsman’s Education programming, and enhancement of wildlife populations. The economic value of your contributions to wildlife management cannot be overstated, but what you do while afield plays an equally important role.

Every time you chose to take an animal or chose not to, you are making a wildlife management decision. Whether it is helping to balance the deer herd with available habitat by filling a deer management permit or choosing to pass on a young buck so it can be observed and enjoyed by others, you are a part of the management equation. And each time you report your harvest of deer, bear, turkey, or selected furbearing animals, you provide essential information to biologists for continued sound management of the wildlife we all so much enjoy. Reporting harvest is the law, but the information you provide is invaluable as the basis of good conservation.

When you venture out onto DEC’s public forests, fields and wetlands this fall in pursuit of game you will notice improved access on many of our WMAs as well as the beginning phases of young forest wildlife habitat improvements. We are excited to deliver on our commitment to providing more accessible features and higher quality habitat for wildlife, now and for the future. There is more to come.

Good luck in the approaching season. I wish you an enjoyable, safe and productive time afield as you spend your time in our great outdoors.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Message from the Commissioner

Sportsmen and women, Conservation’s Frontline

Dear Hunter, Trapper and Conservationist:,

With the fall now upon us, I know that you are anticipating your time afield with friends and family as much as I am. Whether it is pursuing a big buck in the deep woods or introducing a grand-daughter to small game hunting for the first time, New York’s magnificent natural resources are a perfect backdrop for the experiences and memories to be made this hunting season.

As you prepare for the upcoming seasons, I’d ask that you take a moment to reflect on your role as conservationists in ensuring a bright future for our wildlife resources. Through the purchase of your sporting license you contribute directly to the sound and scientific wildlife management programs delivered by DEC’s professional biologists and technicians. Each and every time you buy hunting gear you further contribute to Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Funds (WSFR) which are dedicated to the conservation and management of game and non-game species throughout our state. These monies support purchase of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Sportsman’s Education programming, and enhancement of wildlife populations. The economic value of your contributions to wildlife management cannot be overstated, but what you do while afield plays an equally important role.

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Good luck in the approaching season. I wish you an enjoyable, safe and productive time afield as you spend your time in our great outdoors.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

NEW – Report your Game Harvests via Mobile App!

DEC’s official mobile app, NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife by Pocket Ranger, has added an exciting new feature. With the integration of a new e-license and game harvest reporting tool, hunters now have a quick, user friendly way to:

- Gain instant, mobile access to an electronic version of sporting licenses and privileges,
- Report the harvests of deer, bear & turkey on your smartphone immediately while afield, even when out of cellular range,
- Use smart-filtering technology for easy access to county, town & WMU information, and
- View current and past harvest reports.

The NY Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife App can be downloaded from the Apple App store or Google Play store, or by going to the DEC website http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html. To access these exciting new features, simply click on the e-License/Report Harvest icon within the app.

Questions? Call the DEC Hotline at 866-472-4332.

Report Your Game Harvest

DEC now offers three ways to report:

- Online through the DEC website http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html
- By phone 866-426-3778
- Immediately while afield using our NEW mobile app (see info at left).

It’s not just the law, it’s good wildlife management!
Crossbow Hunting Qualifications and Safety Information

Crossbows may be used by any person age 14 or older to hunt deer, bear, unprotected wildlife and most small game species except waterfowl and other migratory game birds. Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

Hunters who plan to hunt with a crossbow must have in their possession while afield either their completed Hunter Education Certificate of Qualification card dated on or after April 1, 2014 OR the completed Crossbow Certificate of Qualification located below.

Crossbow safety information

- Before shooting your crossbow, read and thoroughly understand your crossbow owner’s manual.
- Make sure your fingers are well AWAY (below rail) from the path of the bow string and cables.
- Never dry-fire a crossbow (cock and fire without an arrow placed on the rail).
- Make sure the crossbow limbs are free of obstructions before shooting.
- Never carry a cocked crossbow with an arrow in it while walking.
- If hunting from a tree stand, always cock (but do not load) the crossbow on the ground before climbing into the stand.
- Once seated and secured in the tree stand, pull up your unloaded crossbow with a haul line.
- Do not place an arrow on the crossbow until you are safely secured in your stand.
- Never use a cocking device to uncock a crossbow.
- To uncock a crossbow, shoot an arrow tipped with a field point into the soft ground or a target.
- Always identify your target and the area beyond it before shooting.
- To prevent wounding game, practice often and do not take shots at game that are beyond your effective range, generally less than 30–40 yards, similar to a modern compound bow.
- To better understand how an arrow functions and the skill required for hunting with an arrow, DEC recommends all crossbow hunters take a bowhunter education course.

Practice safely, practice often, and learn the capabilities and limitations of the crossbow and the arrow it shoots.

Suggested references to review
NYSDEC Crossbow Hunting Qualifications: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98061.html

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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Crossbow Certificate of Qualification

I certify that I have read and understand the safety recommendations, license requirements and legal specifications for crossbow use in New York.

__________________________
Print Name

__________________________
Signature

__________________________
DEC ID# (this is your back-tag number) Date

Fill in, cut out, and carry afield with your hunting license while hunting with a crossbow.
For information about places to hunt in New York, go to [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html).

**Private Lands**
Always ASK the landowner for permission to hunt on private land. If it were your land, how would you want a visitor to act?
- Be courteous — ASK permission well in advance.
- ASK what is permitted. What species can be hunted? Are tree stands allowed?
- ASK if friends can join you.
- Exercise safety—always!
- Thank the landowner.

Many landowners use “ASK permission” stickers (see page 16) on their signs which show the landowners’ willingness to allow access to their lands. Stickers are available for free from your local regional wildlife office (see page 6) or from DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754. For more information on hunting on private lands, visit our website: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html).

**FWMA cooperative areas**
Through cooperative agreements under New York’s Fish and Wildlife Management Act (FWMA), Cooperative Hunting Areas provide access and management services to privately owned lands in order to increase public hunting opportunities. When using these areas, remember that you are a guest on private property. Littering and other abuses will only result in closure of many excellent hunting areas.

**A word about liability**
Whether or not the land is posted, New York State General Obligations Law protects landowners from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, trapping and fishing on their property. Because of this protection, recreational liability lawsuits against rural landowners are uncommon. This protection does not apply in cases of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against dangers.

**State Lands**
For information on hunting and trapping opportunities and rules governing the use of state land, contact the regional office for the county where you would like to hunt or trap (see page 6). Wildlife staff can provide information on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Cooperative Hunting Areas. Forestry staff and NYS Forest Rangers can provide details on state forest lands and the forest preserve. In some instances, written permission or permits are required to use state areas. These are available from DEC regional offices during normal business hours.

**Motorized access to state lands**
DEC has designated routes on state forests, wildlife management areas, and in the forest preserve for motor vehicle use by people with a qualifying mobility disability. The list of these opportunities, along with information on how to obtain a statewide permit for this purpose, is available by writing to the Regional Land Manager at DEC regional offices (see page 6) or at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html).

**Wildlife management areas**
The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages about 187,000 acres of wildlife management areas. These areas are located throughout the state and contain a variety of different types of habitat and wildlife. They are managed primarily for wildlife and wildlife-related public use.

WMAs have specific use regulations in addition to the general use regulations for state land. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are permitted, except as specifically restricted by posted notice.

On wildlife management areas, it is unlawful to:
- Camp without written permission
- Travel off-road by use of motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, trail bikes, snowmobiles or any other motorized vehicle, except as specifically allowed by a permit or posted notice
- Remove, cut or willfully damage or destroy living vegetation of any kind
- Construct or place a permanent structure, blind, stand or platform (including placement of nails or other hardware into trees)
- Leave any personal property when leaving the area, including leaving tree stands overnight.
- Enter property posted with No Trespassing signs, except with written permission from DEC

**Lands and forests**
The Division of Lands and Forests manages nearly 4,000,000 acres of land, located in almost every county of the state. From the remote locations of the Adirondack and Catskill mountains to the rolling hills of the western parts of the state and the forested areas on Long Island, a wide range of hunting and trapping opportunities await the outdoor recreationist.

**Forest preserve**
Hunting and trapping are permitted in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. State-owned lands located within these preserves are designated “Forever Wild.” All state land rules and camping requirements apply to the preserves, as well as additional rules specific to certain areas. Contact the regional DEC office (see page 6) or nearest NYS Forest Ranger for further information.

**Conservation easements**
Conservation easements are tracts of privately owned property on which the State of New York has acquired certain public rights, which are outlined in the easement document as well as in a Recreation Management Plan jointly developed by the state and the landowner. Public hunting and trapping is allowed on many conservation
Access to Hunting Areas

State Parks

Many State Parks offer waterfowl, small game and big game hunting. For more information, contact the appropriate DEC regional office or visit the State Parks website (http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/). Call each state park to find out specific hunting and access regulations. For a listing of State Parks that allow deer hunting, visit the DEC website: http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html

Other Areas to Hunt

- **Whitney Point Reservoir Recreation Area (federal):** Located on State Route 26 several miles north of the Village of Whitney Point in Broome and Cortland counties. Offers big and small game hunting opportunities. No special hunting permits are needed.
- **Moose River Plains Wild Forest (state):** Located in Hamilton County. Hunting and trapping opportunities in a 64,500-acre wilderness setting. Register at the gates. Over 100 drive-in primitive camping sites. Extensive seasonal road network.
- **Finger Lakes National Forest (federal):** Located east of Seneca Lake in Schuyler and Seneca counties. Small and big game hunting opportunities. No special hunting permits are needed.
- **Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca County. Offers big game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting on a controlled basis during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Permits are required. When deer management permit use is allowed, WMU 8J permits are valid. For current information on seasons, permits, maps and regulations, write:
  - Refuge Manager
  - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
  - 3395 Route 5/20 East
  - Seneca Falls, NY 13148
  - Telephone (315) 568-5987
- **Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located east of Lockport in Genesee and Orleans counties. Offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Detailed information available from:
  - Refuge Manager
  - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
  - 1101 Casey Road
  - Basom, NY 14013
  - Telephone (585) 948-5445
- **Long Island:** For a brochure on areas to hunt and for access permits, write to
  - Hunting Opportunities, NYS DEC
  - SUNY Stony Brook
  - 50 Circle Rd.
  - Stony Brook, NY 11790-3404
- **Fort Drum Military Installation (federal):** Wildlife Management Unit 6H, located in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Over half of the 107,000-acre installation is open to the public for hunting and trapping. See the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program website for more information: www.FortDrum.iSportsman.net (search for “wildlife”) or call (315) 772-9636.
- **New York City Watershed Lands:** The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows trapping, as well as deer, bear, turkey, and small game hunting on specially designated city water supply lands. Hunters and trappers must possess the appropriate, valid New York State sporting license and a valid access permit to hunt or trap on designated hunting and trapping areas on city water supply lands. For more information, including maps, go to http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/hunting_and_trapping.shtml.

DEC Public Campgrounds

Camping is sometimes available during the big game season. Reservations for DEC campgrounds can be made by calling 1-800-456-CAMP or online at reserveamerica.com.

Licensed Guides

For information on licensed professional guides in New York, contact NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, NY 12233-2560 or phone (518) 402-8838.

Native American Tribal Lands

Some tribal governments have made provisions for limited public hunting, trapping and fishing access, while others do not permit non-tribal members to hunt, trap or fish on their land. Check with the governing tribal office to determine the requirements for hunting, trapping and fishing within the reservation boundaries. A special permit is required.

Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs) is restricted on most state land.

easements, but due to the individual nature of each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a given easement property are strongly encouraged to contact a local DEC office (see page 6) for details on how to properly access the property and the hunting and trapping regulations unique to the easement.

State forest (reforestation land)

Outside the Adirondacks and Catskills, reforestation areas are the most common type of state lands. Many recreational activities can be pursued on reforestation areas, including hunting and trapping. Reforestation areas are marked with signs saying “State Forest.”

In some instances, permits are required to camp overnight on undeveloped state forest lands. Unless specifically prohibited, groups of less than 10 people may camp on state forest lands (other than developed campgrounds and wildlife management areas) for three consecutive nights without a permit. To camp for four consecutive nights or more, a permit must be obtained. Groups of 10 or more people need a permit to camp on such lands for one night. Further information may be obtained from DEC regional offices for the county you want to camp in or from local NYS Forest Rangers (see page 6).

Remember, it is unlawful to:

- Cut or injure trees (including construction of permanent tree stands, construction of natural blinds, clearing of shooting lanes around portable stands, placement of nails or other hardware into trees, or use of live trees as targets while sighting-in firearms).
- Store personal property. Tree stands or hunting blinds that do not injure a tree, and are properly marked or tagged with the owner’s name and address or valid hunting license number, may be placed during the appropriate hunting season, but must be removed within 30 days of the end of the season.
- Erect, use or maintain a building or structure.
- Deposit or leave any litter or rubbish.
- Operate a motor vehicle, including an all-terrain vehicle, off maintained roads except seasonal road network.
- Erect, use or maintain a building or grounds used for educational purposes (see Penal Law Section 265.01-a).
Mandatory Hunter Education

A hunter education course is required for persons who cannot provide proof that they have ever possessed a hunting license. You must be at least 11 years of age to take this class. The general course is a minimum seven hours in length. Once the course is complete, the individual must have the education certificate added to their sportsman profile. This can be done anywhere licenses are sold or by calling 1-866-933-2257. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries.

Mandatory Bowhunter Education

Hunters wishing to bowhunt for big game must present either:
1. Proof that he or she successfully completed an approved bowhunter education course; (Note: Approved courses are International Bowhunter Education Program courses or an equivalent course. If in doubt, call toll free — 1-888-HUNT-ED2) OR
2. Proof that he or she previously held a NYS bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; if proof is from prior to 1980, he/she must take an additional 7-hour minimum bowhunter education course.

Mandatory Crossbow Requirement

Hunters wishing to use a crossbow must complete qualifications in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. See page 9 for details.

Residency

To qualify for a resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home (regardless of where temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person’s residence.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in New York and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

Continued on page 14
General License Information

### Licenses, Privileges and Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)</strong></td>
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<td>$4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privileges:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 12–13: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season or the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” 21 years or older and designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex tag for use in the regular season, instead of a Regular season buck tag.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 14–15: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season and the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or “youth mentor” 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.

**Qualifications:**

- Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 14+)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privileges:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt deer and bear with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the January special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). Hunt deer and bear with a crossbow (see page 9).</td>
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**Qualifications:**

- Current year NYS hunting license.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privileges:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application for up to two antlerless deer tags issued through a random computer selection process. Tags are valid for hunting antlerless deer only (both antlers less than 3” long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit. See DMP information on pages 28–29. Application deadline is October 1 annually.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifications:**

- Must hold a current year NYS hunting license to apply and pay a non-refundable $10 application fee. Fee is waived for hunters 12–15 years of age and holders of Lifetime (Sportsman) Licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkey Permit (Ages 12+)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privileges:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt turkey during fall and spring turkey seasons (see page 45). To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifications:**

- Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime license (formerly Lifetime Sportman).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Age or Special Qualifier</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trapping</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privileges:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set traps for species during their appropriate seasons (see page 54 for detailed information).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifications:**

- Trapper Education Certificate or previous trapping license. See page 37 for additional information on the mentoring program for trappers under 12 years of age.

1 Military Disabled: Permanent status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is “permanent” and rated at a 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once permanent eligibility is determined, it will stay in your customer profile. Annual Status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter ANNUALLY from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs stating the disability is service connected and rated at 40% or more. The letter must be dated in the current year. The first purchase of either a hunting, fishing or trapping license within a calendar year will cost $5. Subsequent purchases of these license types within the same calendar year will be free for qualifying customers.

2 Patriot: Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate hunting or trapping education and are active members of the NYS National Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

3 Native American: Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poo-spautuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations whole or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

### Lifetime Sporting Licenses

The following Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents only and may be purchased at all license-issuing outlets throughout New York State. Applicants must prove NYS residency for one year prior to application (proofs are the same as annual licenses with the exception of the one-year requirement).

For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License sales, contact our License Sales Unit, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, call 518-402-8843, or visit our website www.dec.ny.gov. Lifetime License Holders should expect to receive their annual carcass tags in the mail by no later than Sept. 1 annually. License Issuing Agents will replace licenses and tags free of charge until Nov. 1 annually. After Nov. 1, there will be a charge up to $15. If you have a lifetime license card, you will only have to replace carcass tags at a fee of $10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lifetime License (Sportsman)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(combined hunting and fishing licenses, includes turkey permits):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 0–4</td>
<td>$380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 5–11</td>
<td>$535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 12–69</td>
<td>$765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a person age 70 or older</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Lifetime Licenses/Privileges</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting License</td>
<td>$535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing License (age 0–69)</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing License (age 70 and older)</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapping License</td>
<td>$395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowhunting</td>
<td>$235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzleloading</td>
<td>$235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lifetime Licenses and Tags for Young Hunters

Young hunters who hold a lifetime hunting license and wish to receive their tags must first take the appropriate hunter safety training course. A copy of the certificate(s) must be sent to the DEC License Sales Unit (see address above) before their tags can be fulfilled. Young hunters should take the appropriate training course well in advance of the season to allow adequate time for their tags to be mailed. Tags cannot be obtained from a license-issuing agent.

When purchasing a lifetime license for a child, the purchaser must bring proof of the child’s age (e.g., birth certificate or passport) and a copy of the parent’s proof of residency.

### Remember to Report Your Game Harvest


It’s the law!

See page 17.
Minimum Hunting Age
Minors under the age of 12 may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wildlife.

License Year
Licenses and permits are valid from September 1 through August 31.

License Responsibilities
• A license or tag is not transferable and may be used only by the person to whom issued (except for Deer Management Permits—see pages 28–29).
• It is illegal to possess another person’s license while hunting.
• A license to hunt, trap or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
• You can legally purchase and possess only one hunting license per year.
• Your license must be carried on your person when hunting or trapping.
• It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
• Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after receipt. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible.
• Do NOT heat laminate your license. High temperatures will destroy the license and tags and turn them black. If destroyed, there is a fee for replacement.

Back Tags
Must be visibly displayed on the middle of your back while hunting, except in the Northern Zone and Catskill Park.

Hunting License Exceptions
All residents must have a valid hunting license in their possession except:
• Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees and members of their immediate families do not need a hunting license when hunting small game on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating.

Lost Licenses
A current year lost license may be replaced at any license-issuing outlet at a cost of $5 for a license panel. Big game carcass tag sets or turkey carcass tag sets may be replaced at a cost of $10. There is no charge to replace a lost backtag.

Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags
Resident and Non-Resident hunter licenses
• Hunting or Junior Hunting (ages 14–15 only): You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and a Regular Season Bear Tag.
• Muzzleloading privilege:* You will receive a Bow/Muzzle Season Either Sex Tag.
• Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege:* You will receive a Bow/Muzzle Season Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may also use this tag during the regular season.

Residents and non-residents must purchase a hunting license to be eligible for bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges. If you purchase both bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges, you will receive one Bow/Muzzle Either Sex Deer Tag and one Bow/Muzzle Antlerless Deer Tag. Both tags may be used in either season, with the appropriate implement.

Special Licenses for Hunters with Disabilities
Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit
This permit allows qualified hunters to shoot a firearm from a motorized vehicle (including an off-road vehicle) that has the motor turned off and that is completely off the highway right-of-way.

To qualify for a Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit, a person must be physically unable to move about except with the use of a mechanized aid such as a wheelchair.

Modified Longbow Authorization
This authorization allows qualified people to hunt big or small game with a legal bow that is equipped with a device to hold it in a drawn and cocked position. It does not allow for the use of a crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Longbow Authorization, a person must be permanently physically unable to draw and hold a legal bow.

Modified Crossbow Permit
This permit allows qualified people to hunt big or small game during bowhunting season with a crossbow that has been specifically modified with a device that only allows it to be discharged (fired) by means of a breath tube. This permit does not allow the use of an unmodified crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit, a person must be permanently physically unable to hold or draw a legal bow or to fire a legal bow that has been modified to hold and release the string.

If a person can pull the trigger on a gun, he or she will not qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit.

For more information on these permits, write the NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752, email speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov or call (518) 402-8985. The application process takes time; write or call well before you intend to hunt.
The New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC) is sportsmen working for sportsmen. The NYSCC is the oldest statewide conservation organization in New York, started in 1933 by sportsmen/conservationists to help secure and manage our natural resources for future generations, and to protect the rights of sportsmen and sportswomen to hunt, fish, trap, and own firearms. The NYSCC represents over 300,000 sportsmen and women from county federations, sportsmen’s clubs, and various other organizations across New York. Sportsmen’s interests in conservation and outdoor activities in New York State are coordinated through the NYSCC. NYSCC was the lead organization in the successful change of EnCon Law to allow 14–15 year olds to hunt big game with a rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader, allow 12–13 year olds to hunt small game with a mentor and create a trapper mentor program for youth under 12. The NYSCC sponsors a nationwide Sportsmen’s and Conservation Club Liability Insurance Program that offers extremely competitive rates for NYSCC member clubs and shooting preserves. The plan is administered through the United Insurance Agency, Inc.

For information about the Club Liability Insurance Program contact John Long, Jr. or Colleen Jackson at 1-800-728-4522.

For info, membership, or to donate to the NYSCC, contact 315-894-3302, or email nyscc@nyscc.com. Visit our website: www.nyscc.com

New York State Conservation Council, Inc.
A non-profit organization tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3)

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For info, membership, or to donate to the NYS CC, contact 315-894-3302, or email nyscc@nyscc.com. Visit our website: www.nyscc.com

Name
Address
City ___________________________________________ State ________ Zip ________

Enclose check or money order payable to NYS CC or Charge $ __________ to my (circle one) Visa or MasterCard
Account # __________________________ Exp. Date __________
Signature _______________________________________

Check one: Guardian $25 ___ Defender $60 ___ Life $250 ___ Send application to NYS CC, 8 East Main Street, Ilion NY 13357.
General Hunting Regulations

The following are general hunting regulations. Specific regulations for various game species are in the Small Game, Big Game and Trapping sections of this booklet.

Definitions

Air gun—a firearm that uses spring or compressed air (not gunpowder) to propel a single projectile that is .17 caliber or larger and produces a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second. You may use a smooth or rifled bore.

Bow—includes long (stick), compound, or recurve bow.

Crossbow—consists of a bow, a string, and either compound or recurve limbs with minimum width of 17 inches (tip of limbs, uncocked), mounted on a stock. The stock shall have a trigger with a working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds. Optical sights are allowed on crossbows.

Firearm—all guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and BB and pellet guns.

Handgun—is any pistol or revolver intended to be aimed and fired with one hand and having a barrel length not exceeding 16 inches. Possession of handguns in New York State requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

To hunt—means to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap, snare or net wildlife and game—and all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife—or to place or use any net or other device commonly used to take wildlife.

To trap—means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities.

Manner of Taking

It is illegal to take or hunt wildlife:

• While in or on a motor vehicle (except by special permit—see page 14)
• With the aid of a vehicle’s lights
• On or from any public road
• With any firearm equipped with a silencer
• With any firearm which continues to fire as long as the trigger is held back (an automatic firearm)
• With any semi-automatic firearm with a capacity to hold more than 6 rounds, except:
  1. Firearms using .22 or .17 caliber rimfire ammunition, or
  2. Firearms altered to reduce their capacity to no more than 6 shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined, or
  3. Autoloading pistols with a barrel length of less than eight inches

• With a spear
• With a bow equipped with any mechanical device which is attached to the bow (other than the bowstring) for drawing, holding or releasing the bowstring except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Longbow Authorization (compound bows are legal)
• With a spear gun or modified crossbow except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Crossbow Permit
• With an arrow with an explosive head or shaft.
• With any device designed or intended to deliver drugs to an animal
• With a crossbow if you are under 14 years old

Baiting—It is illegal to hunt with the aid of bait or over any baited area when hunting big game, upland game birds, turkey or waterfowl.

Muzzleloading firearm—is a firearm loaded through the muzzle, shooting a single projectile and having a minimum bore of .44 inch. Scopes or fiber-optic sights may be used at any time. You must possess a New York State pistol permit to hunt with a muzzleloading pistol.

Public highway—means any road maintained by a state, county or town. A private road is one maintained by a person or corporation.

Rifle—is a firearm with a barrel length of 16 inches or more with rifling in the barrel that uses metallic cartridges.

Shotgun—is a firearm with a barrel length of 18 inches or more that uses shells that are non-metallic except for the base.

Possession of Firearms and Crossbows

During the open season for deer, it is illegal to:

• Possess shotgun shells loaded with slug or ball, unless holding a valid license (including carcass tags) or permit to take deer or bear, or
• Possess a rifle larger than a .22-caliber rimfire in areas where rifles are banned for taking deer (Centerfire rifles less than .22-caliber and muzzleloading rifles are legal)

In Westchester County and on Long Island, it is illegal to use any rifle for hunting or to carry one afield. In Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties, it is illegal to use a crossbow to hunt wildlife.

In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 rimfire or a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot afield if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting. Possession of handguns in New York requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

Transportation of Firearms

A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle or crossbow in or on a motor vehicle unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is unloaded or taken down. While legally hunting migratory game birds, a loaded firearm may be possessed in a motorboat not under power OR in a motorboat under power only while retrieving dead/crippled birds.

A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when the cap is off the nipple, the primer is removed, the primer powder is removed from the flintlock pan, or the battery is removed from an electric-fired muzzleloader.

A crossbow is considered unloaded when the arrow/bolt is removed and the crossbow is uncocked.

Fish—Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

Spotlighting

You may use lights to observe wildlife under the following conditions:

• You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear)
• While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm, bow, or crossbow unless:
  » the implement is taken down, or
  » the implement is securely fastened in a case, or
  » the implement is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
  » the implement is a handgun

For information on hunting furbearers at night, see page 53.

ASK Permission

"ASK Permission" stickers, a brochure explaining the program, Landowner Permission forms, and information about fish and wildlife conservation are available free from DEC regional wildlife offices or by writing:

NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

OR ONLINE at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8371.html

Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows

It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow:
• So that the load or arrow/bolt passes over any part of a public highway
• Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of any school, playground, or an occupied factory or church
• Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of a dwelling, farm building or structure in occupation or use unless you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner’s consent

You may hunt waterfowl over water within 500 feet of a dwelling or public structure as long as neither are within 500 feet in the direction you are shooting.

Protected and Unprotected Wildlife

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine, red squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon and monk parakeet. Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow, crossbow or firearm.

Game species may be taken only during their open seasons and as summarized in this guide. Persons taking wildlife on licensed shooting preserves must comply with regulations governing those shooting preserves.

Reporting Your Game Harvest

• Deer, Bear, and Turkey harvests must be reported within seven days.
• Remember to save the bear’s skull so DEC can collect a tooth to age the bear.
• You can report your harvest by telephone, online or through our NEW mobile app (see page 8). Reporting online or through the mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

Phone: 1-866-426-3778
Web: http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html
NEW Mobile App: See page 8 for details

Information You Will Need When Reporting

• Carcass Tag or Reporting Panel:
  • CORRECT TAG TYPE
  • CUSTOMER ID #
  • 12 DIGIT DOC #

• For Spring Turkey:
  » Spur length (none, less than ½", ½" or longer)
  » Beard length (less than 3", 3" but less than 7½", 7½" or longer.
  » Estimated weight

• For Fall Turkey:
  » Remember to save a leg. We may request it to determine age and sex.
Big Game Hunting

Please read General Hunting Regulations first. See page 16.

Maps Showing Season Dates
- Legal Implements: see page 24
- Deer: see page 25
- Bear: see page 39

Hunting Hours
Big game hunting hours are sunrise to sunset (see page 77). Sunday hunting is allowed in all areas of New York. For hunting on Wildlife Management Areas or in state parks, confirm regulations for the area before hunting.

Legally Antlered Deer
A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is three inches or longer. Special regulations apply in the Antler Restriction areas. See page 24 for details.

Defining “Early” and “Late” Seasons for Deer and Bear
When you see the term “early” muzzleloader or bowhunting season, it means before the regular season for that particular zone. “Late” means after the regular season for that zone.

Manner of Taking
Big game may be taken with centerfire rifles, shotguns, handguns, muzzleloading firearms, bows, and crossbows during appropriate seasons and in areas designated (see maps, pages 24 and 25). You may use decoys, calls and attractant scents to hunt big game. It is unlawful to:

- Take big game while the deer or bear is in water.
- Possess a firearm of any description when bowhunting or accompanying a person bowhunting during special bowhunting seasons.
- Possess a firearm other than a muzzleloading firearm when hunting deer or bear or when accompanying a person hunting deer or bear during a special muzzleloading season.
- Make, set or use salt licks or other attractants, whether block, liquid or powder that contains ANY amount of salt, upon lands inhabited by deer or bear at any time of year.

In addition to the general hunting regulations for manner of take listed on page 16, it is unlawful to hunt big game with:
- Dogs or aircraft of any kind, including drones.
- The aid of a pre-established bait pile.
- A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam toward the target. (use of illuminated reticle scopes, red dot scopes, or illuminated sight pins is allowed, provided no light is projected toward the target).
- An autoloading firearm with a capacity of more than 6 shells (one which requires that the trigger be pulled separately for each shot), except an autoloading pistol with a barrel length of less than 8 inches.
- A firearm using rimfire ammunition.
- A shotgun of less than 20 gauge or any shotshell loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile. (rifleing in the barrel or choke is allowed).
- A bow with a draw weight of 35 lbs or less.
- Arrows with barbed broadheads; arrowheads less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than 2 sharp cutting edges.
- Double-barreled muzzleloaders or percussion cap revolvers during the special muzzleloading seasons.
- An air gun or air bow.

Central NY Opportunities
See http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82382.html for information on the Deer Management Focus Area in Tompkins County. Expanded antlerless bag limits and a January antlerless season in this area provide additional opportunities for hunters and help to reduce deer-related conflicts.

Long Island Opportunities
All hunting on state-managed land requires a DEC permit. The archery deer season runs from October through January. There is a January muzzleloading season during which shotguns and muzzleloading firearms can be used. Firearms users must obtain a Landowner’s Endorsement to hunt during this season, and may also need a Town Permit. For more information on LI hunting opportunities visit our website, http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8373.html.

Prohibited Sale of Deer or Bear Meat
It is unlawful to sell deer or bear meat. Other than meat, the parts (e.g., hides, skulls, claws, antlers, and taxidermy mounts or rugs) from legally taken and reported deer and bear may be sold. Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy) is attached.

Tagging, Transporting and Reporting
Deer and bear are in legal possession only when tagged with the appropriate portion of the hunting license, deer management permit or other license provided for that purpose.

Tagging
After killing a deer or bear:
1. Ensure that you select the proper tag for the harvested deer or bear.
2. Immediately fill in all information and sign the carcass tag with ink that won’t erase.
3. Immediately cut or mark the month and date of kill on the tag reverse.
4. Write the date of kill on the Report Panel. This will help you when reporting a harvest.
5. Attach the tag to the carcass upon arrival at your camp, home or vehicle. You do not need to attach the tag while it is being dragged or physically carried from the place of kill to a camp or point where transportation is available.
6. Report your harvest, online or by phone, within 7 days as required by law.

After you have used your last deer tag, you may help others hunt deer. You may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, and you must have your hunting license with you.

Transporting
Deer and bear may be transported either inside or outside the vehicle.
- A deer carcass with head and deer carcass tag attached may be transported with the taker in attendance.
- If someone other than the taker is transporting the deer or bear, the taker must attach an additional tag to the carcass and include the names and addresses of both the taker and the transporter. The tag may be handwritten in ink or typed on any paper.
- All portions of deer or bear meat being transported by the taker shall be individually tagged and the tags shall include the name, address, big game DOC #, the date that the

Would You Like to Receive Information About Hunting and Trapping in New York?
You are invited to join DEC’s e-mail service for information on hunting and trapping in New York State. Subscribers to this e-mail list will periodically receive information from DEC about wildlife biology, management, research, regulations and hunting.

To subscribe, visit our website at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/subscriber/new and elect to receive updates on any of the listed topics.

Join today and become a more informed hunter.

Continued on page 20
portions were cut, and the signature of the taker. Packaged or boxed portions of venison need only one tag and must be labeled "venison" on the outside of the box. If someone other than the taker is transporting the portions, an additional tag signed by the taker with the names and addresses of the consignee and taker are required for each portion.

- Non-resident hunters: If your home state prohibits the importation of whole deer carcasses from New York, you will need to follow the above guidelines for transportation of individual or packaged portions of deer meat while in New York State.
- A deer carcass minus the head may be transported as above, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. The deer carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass, and a tag supplied by the taker must also be attached showing the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.
- Heads of male deer may be transported to a taxidermist only if a tag supplied by the taker is attached bearing the taker’s signature, address, big game DOC #, number of points on each antler and the name and address of the taxidermist.
- The head of a doe with antlers that are 3 inches or more can be removed for mounting. Follow the same procedure that you would use for a buck you are having mounted (see above).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Legal</th>
<th>Illegal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Blade</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Blade</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blades pivot forward (no longer barbed)  
Blades do not pivot (remain barbed)

Muzzleloader Hunting
Muzzleloading firearms may be used during the muzzleloader and regular seasons, and during the January Firearms season on Long Island.
- Hunters must possess a current muzzleloader privilege to participate during the muzzleloader seasons.
- The muzzleloader privilege is not needed for hunters to use a muzzleloading firearm during regular seasons.
- Muzzleloaders may not be used in WMUs 3S, 4J, 8C, and may only be used in 1C during the Special Firearms season in January.
- Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons, except in WMUs 1C and 3S.
- Hunters participating in the muzzleloader season shall not have in their possession, or be accompanied by a person who has in his or her possession, a bow or firearm other than a legal muzzleloading firearm or crossbow.

Bowhunting
Bowhunting opportunities include both the bowhunting and regular seasons:
- Hunters must possess a current bowhunting or junior bowhunting privilege to participate during the bowhunting seasons.
- The bowhunting privilege is not required to hunt with a bow during regular seasons, but hunters must possess proof of eligibility (either a valid bowhunter education certificate or prior bowhunting license).
- Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons except by junior bowhunters or in WMUs 1C and 3S.
- In WMUs 4J and 8C, only bows may be used to take deer during the regular and bowhunting seasons.
- Suffolk (WMU 1C) and Westchester (WMU 3S) counties have separate regular seasons restricted to bows for taking deer.

Crossbow Use
Crossbow opportunities include portions of bow seasons in addition to muzzleloader and regular seasons:
- Crossbows may be used to take deer or bear during muzzleloader seasons and a portion of the early bow seasons (see maps on pages 25 and 39) by hunters with a valid hunting or
During the fall, it can often be difficult to distinguish adult does and fawn deer, particularly if seen alone. In recent years, about 30% of the total antlerless deer harvest has been fawns (5–7 months old), split roughly as 13% doe fawns and 17% buck fawns. Though fawns provide excellent table fare, some hunters prefer to target adult deer. Taking adult female deer contributes to management objectives, and passing buck fawns may allow some of them to be available later as antlered bucks. By learning the differences between antlerless deer, hunters can make more informed harvest choices.

**Hunting Tips**

- Button bucks often travel alone, but adult does rarely do. Wait until several antlerless deer are present before making a harvest decision.
- It is easier to identify sex and age when animals are standing still or moving slowly.
- Harvest antlerless deer early in the season when differences between fawns and adult does are most noticeable.

**Barbed Broadheads**

Barbed broadheads are illegal for hunting big game. A barbed broadhead is one in which the angle formed between the trailing or rear edge of any blade and the shaft is less than 90 degrees. A notch at the base of the blade extending no more than two millimeters from the shaft shall not be considered a barb. Broadheads with mechanical blades are legal if the blades DO NOT form a barb or hook when the arrow is pulled from the flesh of a deer or bear. (See graphic on page 20.)
STOP CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE IN ITS TRACKS

CWD is a threat to New York’s wild deer and moose, and captive deer, elk, and reindeer.

Like “mad cow” disease, Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease in humans, and scrapie in sheep, CWD is a disease called a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. It is caused by an infectious protein called a prion and attacks the brain and nervous system. Infected deer can look healthy for months to years before dying.

In New York, CWD was discovered in captive and wild deer in Oneida County in 2005. No new cases of CWD have been found in New York State. CWD is now found in 24 states and two Canadian provinces.

CWD is highly transmissible and always fatal. There is no cure, vaccine, or resistance to CWD. A deer can be infected from contact with other deer, deer parts including saliva and urine, or contaminated soil and plants.

CWD does not go away. CWD prions last in the environment for decades. They bind to soil and can be taken up by plants that deer eat, which then infect the animals. Once CWD is established in an area, eliminating the disease is virtually impossible.

Year Round

Is Venison from a CWD-Positive Deer Safe to Eat?
The CDC recommends that no one consume CWD-positive animals. There are no known cases of human CWD, but more research is needed in this area. All tissues can have prions, including meat. Contaminated carcass and meat must be disposed of properly to ensure the landscape is not contaminated. DEC will assist with disposal. For a list of regional offices, go to: http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/50230.html

Report Sick or Abnormal Deer to DEC
Report any deer that is emaciated (ribs and hip bones showing), aggressive, walking in circles, or is easily approached to the wildlife biologist in DEC regional office near you.

Do Not Feed Wild Deer
Feeding deer is illegal year round. Deer can become sick or die from being artificially fed because their stomach is not used to unnatural food. Concentrating deer around food sources can also spread diseases like CWD.
Hunting in New York

Take Precautions When Handling Deer
Wear rubber or latex gloves when field dressing or processing deer. Remove internal organs using knives or utensils that are dedicated for hunting. If you use lead ammunition, bury the organs to make sure scavengers, like bald eagles, do not accidentally ingest lead fragments. Trim generously around the wound channel. Bag remaining carcass waste for the landfill.

Avoid Natural Deer Urine Products
Prions are shed in the bodily fluids (saliva, feces, urine) of infected deer before they appear sick. Prions bind to soil and plants where they remain infectious for years. There is no product safety testing for urine products. Choose synthetic alternatives.

Know the Regulations
Check your destination state before your hunt to find out if CWD has been found in that area. Know the regulations for that state and New York. If your harvested animal is tested in that state and found to be CWD-positive, report your test results to the DEC right away. DEC can help you with safe disposal of the animal and recommend disinfection methods.

Hunting Outside New York

Can I Import My Deer Taken in Another State?
Yes, but deer must be deboned before bringing them into New York State to remove “high-risk” parts (brain, spinal cord) that could potentially spread CWD.

Meat, hide and cape, antlers, cleaned skull cap with antlers attached, finished taxidermy mounts, tanned hides, and cleaned upper canine teeth are permitted. If you bring a whole intact carcass from a prohibited state or Canada, you will be ticketed and your entire animal (including trophy heads) will be confiscated and destroyed.

NYSDEC’s CWD Strategy

Educate
Know the risks for CWD introduction. You don’t want to contaminate your favorite hunting spot or put the NYS deer herd at risk!

Regulate
Regulations are necessary to stop high-risk activities that could introduce CWD to New York State. If CWD is brought to NYS, it will be nearly impossible to eradicate.

Test
If CWD is detected in New York, the best opportunity to stop the disease is to catch it early. Since 2002, thousands of samples are tested annually, over 44,000 so far.
Complete descriptions of all wildlife management units are available on DEC’s website www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html

**Northern-Southern Zone Line**

A line commencing at a point at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of that river to the Village of Pulaski, thence southerly along Route 11 to its intersection with Route 49 in the Village of Central Square, thence easterly along Route 49 to its junction with Route 365 in the City of Rome, thence easterly along Route 365 to its junction with Route 28 in the Village of Tren-
ton, thence easterly along Route 28 to its junc-
tion with Route 29 in the Village of Middleville, thence easterly along Route 29 to its junction with Route 4, thence northerly along Route 4 to its junction with Route 22, thence northerly and westerly along Route 22 to the eastern shore of South Bay on Lake Champlain in the Village of Whitehall, thence northerly along the eastern shore of South Bay to the New York-Vermont boundary.

**Closed Areas**

The following closed areas are specific portions of the state where the taking of deer and bear is prohibited by the Environmental Conservation Law. This section does not include areas covered by town laws, local ordinances or posting by landowners.

**Albany County**

Area around Alcove Reservoir: bounded by Albany County Rt. 111 from Rt. 143 to Albany-Greene County line to Albany County Rt. 411 to Rt. 143 to point of beginning. Closed except to landowners and lessees of lands in the area actually occupying and cultivating such lands.

**Erie County**

Area around Buffalo: bounded by Tonawanda Creek from East Branch Niagara River to Rt. 78 to Greiner Rd. to Rt. 268 to Rt. 5 to Ransom Rd. to Rt. 33 to Rt. 78 to Rt. 20 to Rt. 20A to Lake Erie.

**Herkimer County**

Area along Big Moose Lake: bounded by Judson Rd. from Herkimer-Hamilton County line to Higby Rd. to Big Moose Rd. to Martin Rd. and along it to its eastern end and then to the lake shore and back (starting westerly) along the shore to Herkimer-Hamilton County line and along it to Judson Rd.

**Herkimer and Hamilton Counties**

Area bounded by Rt. 28 from Old Forge to Inlet and by South Shore Rd. from Inlet to Old Forge.

**Nassau County**

All of Nassau County.

**New York City**

All of the city.

**Legal Implements for the Regular Deer Season, Early and Regular Bear Season**

This map shows where various hunting implements may be used in the state. Boundary descriptions and closed areas are found below. (Some closed areas are too small to show on the map.)

- **Bow, Crossbow*, Muzzleloader, Handgun, Shotgun, Rifle**
- **Bow Only**
- **Closed — No Big Game Hunting**

* See page 9

**Antler Restriction Program**

A mandatory antler point restriction exists in WMUs 3A, 3C, 3H, 3J, 3K, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W in Southeastern New York (see deer hunting season maps). This program will continue as DEC encourages hunters elsewhere to practice voluntary restraint. Over time, as more and more hunters in the broader region opt to pass on young bucks voluntarily, it may be appropriate to lift the restrictions.

**Antler Identification**

**Antler Point Restriction**
- At least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1” long
- Applies to all public and private land and all seasons
- Hunters aged 12-16 are exempt and may take any buck with antlers 3” or longer

**Antlerless Deer**
- Adult does, doe fawns, buck fawns (button bucks), adult bucks without antlers, or with antlers less than 3” long
- May be taken with appropriate antlerless-only or either-sex tags

---

3 tines must be at least 1” long

brow tine (point)
**REGULAR & BOWHUNTING DEER SEASONS**

**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

### 2017

#### NORTHERN ZONE
- Early Bowhunting—All WMUs  Sept. 27 - Oct. 20
- Regular: Oct. 11 - Oct. 20
- Late Bowhunting—Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H, Dec. 4 - Dec. 10

#### SOUTHERN ZONE
- Early Bowhunting—Crossbow—Oct. 1 - Nov. 17
- Regular (opens Saturday) Nov. 4 - Nov. 17
- Late Bowhunting—Crossbow—Dec. 11 - Dec. 19

#### WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S)
- Regular—Bowhunting Only Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C)
- Regular—Bowhunting Only Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2018

#### Antler Point Restrictions
- During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.
- No Deer Hunting

---

**MUZZLELOADING DEER SEASONS**

**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

### 2017

#### Northern Zone
- Deer of Either Sex Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
- Deer of Either Sex Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
- Antlered Only Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
- Deer of Either Sex Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
- Antlered Only Oct. 14 - Oct. 20

#### Southern Zone
- Deer of Either Sex Dec. 11 - Dec. 19

#### Antler Point Restrictions
- During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.
- No Muzzleloading Season

---

**Youth Firearms Season**

**Season Dates:**
- Oct. 7 - 9, 2017
- Area Open: Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs
- Eligible Hunters: Youth 14-15 years of age
- Bag Limit: One deer (antlered or antlerless)
- Tags: Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless-only); Bow/Muzz tags not valid

**Crossbows**
- May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.
- May not be used to hunt deer:
  - during the Youth Firearms Season;
  - anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

---

**MUZZLELOADING DEER SEASONS**

**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

### 2017

#### Northern Zone
- Deer of Either Sex Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
- Deer of Either Sex Dec. 4 - Dec. 10
- Antlered Only Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
- Deer of Either Sex Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
- Antlered Only Oct. 14 - Oct. 20

#### Southern Zone
- Deer of Either Sex Dec. 11 - Dec. 19

#### Antler Point Restrictions
- During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.
- No Muzzleloading Season

---

**Crossbows**
- May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons.
- May not be used to hunt deer any time in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.
Deer Tag Descriptions

For all season dates, see page 25. See page 14 for privilege information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Name</th>
<th>Tag Can Be Used In</th>
<th>Tag Is Valid For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Season Deer Tag</strong></td>
<td>Regular Season</td>
<td><strong>Antlered Only</strong>&lt;br&gt;Except: May be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer as follows:&lt;br&gt;- In Westchester County (WMU 3S)&lt;br&gt;- In Suffolk County (WMU 1C)&lt;br&gt;- In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C)&lt;br&gt;- In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege)&lt;br&gt;- By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only you may hunt with this tag.</td>
<td>• Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;• Southern Zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong></td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong></td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required)</strong></td>
<td>• Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;• Southern Zone&lt;br&gt;...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required)</strong></td>
<td>• Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;...&lt;br&gt;...&lt;br&gt;...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Deer Season</strong></td>
<td>Antlered or Antlerless Deer Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County) Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special bowhunting seasons and during the regular season. Except: May be used for antlered deer only during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs (see map page 25).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag</strong></td>
<td>Bowhunting Season (privilege required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only you may hunt with this tag.</td>
<td>• Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;• Southern Zone&lt;br&gt;...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)</strong></td>
<td>• Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;...&lt;br&gt;...&lt;br&gt;...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong></td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong></td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.</strong></td>
<td>Antlerless Deer Only Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County) Except: May not be used during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs that are Antlered Deer Only areas (see map page 25).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag</strong></td>
<td>Bowhunting Season (privilege required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only you may hunt with this tag.</td>
<td>• Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;• Southern Zone&lt;br&gt;...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)</strong></td>
<td>• Northern Zone&lt;br&gt;...&lt;br&gt;...&lt;br&gt;...</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong></td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong></td>
<td>Regular (bowhunting only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.</strong></td>
<td>Deer Management Permit Deer Tag</td>
<td>Any Open Deer Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deer Management Permit Deer Tag</strong></td>
<td>Valid ONLY for the WMU specified and printed on the DMP Deer Tag (Deer Management Permit) See page 29. This is the only tag that can be transferred to another hunter (see page 31 for How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deer Hunting

Moose In New York

Moose are protected in New York and cannot be hunted. DEC and its research partners are currently conducting a multi-year research project to obtain information on the status of New York State’s moose population, health of the moose, and the factors that influence moose survival and reproductive rate. The goal of the moose study is to gather data that will be used to create a moose management plan for New York State. See www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964.html#Research for more information.

Report your Moose Sightings

If you have seen a moose, DEC wants to know about it. Your observations help DEC track moose distribution in New York. To report a moose sighting, go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964.html#Sightings.

Meat Unfit for Consumption

If a deer, bear or turkey is found to be unfit for human consumption, a special permit may be issued that allows the hunter to take another deer, turkey, or bear, provided the season is still open. The entire animal, including the antlers, must be forfeited to get a permit. A permit will not be issued if meat is unfit due to hunter neglect. Call a wildlife or law enforcement office listed on page 6.
Deer Hunting

Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

Hunters possessing a DMP may take one antlerless deer per permit in addition to any deer that may be taken with a regular hunting license or bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges.

- DMPs may not be used for legally antlered deer (at least one antler 3” or longer).
- DMPs may only be used in the WMU for which they are issued.
- Hunters may transfer or receive up to 2 DMPs from other hunters (see page 31).
- Refer to chart on page 26 for information on when DMPs may be used.

Applying for a deer management permit (DMP)

- DMP Application Deadline: Close of business on October 1, 2017
- You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone, mail or online beginning on August 1, 2017.
- DMPs are available to all hunters age 14 years or older who purchase or possess a regular hunting license (12 years old for Junior Bowhunting license holders).
- There is a $10 non-refundable application fee for all applicants, except for holders of Lifetime Sportsman licenses purchased prior to 9/30/2009, and Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters.
- You may apply for up to two DMPs. Both must be applied for at the same time. Application can be for DMPs in the same WMU or different WMUs.
- Disabled veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 40% or greater (who are residents of New York) will receive preference on DMPs. Annually, you must bring a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, dated in the current year, with your case number and your disability percentage. If you are claiming permanent disabled status, the letter must clearly state that the service-related disability is permanent.
- Landowners: If you own 50 or more contiguous acres of land within the WMU you will be hunting in, you will receive preference on DMP selection. Annually, you must bring your tax map identification number and SWIS code (found on your tax bill) with you when you apply. Be sure to tell the license-issuing agent PRIOR to applying that you are a landowner. Lessees do not qualify as landowners. A spouse of a landowner may receive landowner preference, but both husband and wife may not apply as a landowner for the same parcel of land. Corporate ownership: only one person may be designated by a corporation as the landowner each year no matter how many 50-acre parcels are owned. The corporation must submit an original letter or certified copy of a resolution, dated in the current year, designating the individual and must include the tax map ID and SWIS code information.
- Group ownership: regardless of how many co-owners, only one person may apply per 50+ acre parcel. Additional 50+ acre parcels in the same WMU require separate tax IDs.
- Preference points:
  » Preference points are won and lost on first permit selection only.
  » If you do not receive a DMP in your first choice WMU, you will receive a preference point for the following year.
  » If you were rejected for a first permit in 2016 and have a preference point for the 2017 hunting season, this information is stored in DECALS and will be available to all license-issuing agents.
  » Preference points do not guarantee selection. Any preference points contained in your file are automatically applied to your first-choice WMU selection. If you do NOT receive your first choice, the points are applied to your second choice but will remain in your file for the following year, regardless of your second choice selection results.

DMP selection order

During the instant issuance, an applicant’s chances of selection are determined by an applicant’s category. The categories, in priority order, are as follows.

1. Landowners (50 or more acres of land within a WMU) and Disabled Veterans (40% or more service-related disability). All applicants in this category will receive their first-choice DMP
2. NYS Residents and Non-residents with 3 Preference Points
3. NYS Residents with 1–2 Preference Points
4. NYS Residents without Preference Points
5. Non-residents with 1–2 Preference Points
6. Non-residents without Preference Points

Additional opportunities for DMPs

Bonus DMPs: If you fill a DMP in bowhunting-only WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J and 8C, you can apply...
for a bonus permit for another antlerless deer. Bonus permits may only be obtained from regional wildlife staff at predetermined locations. For complete information, visit our website or call a DEC regional wildlife office as follows:

- **WMU 1C**: 1-631-444-0310
- **WMU 3S**: 1-845-256-3098
- **WMU 4J**: 1-518-357-2154
- **WMU 8C**: 1-585-226-5380

**Leftover DMPs**: If there are still permits remaining after the initial DMP instant-issuance period closes on October 1 and the back-end correction selections have occurred, the remaining DMPs may be available on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning on or around November 1. These DMPs are only available in person at license-issuing agents. Leftover DMPs will not be available by phone or by mail. The Wildlife Management Units with permits available will be announced by news release and on our website (www.dec.ny.gov). If you already applied for a Deer Management Permit during the initial application period, there is no additional application fee. If you are applying for the first time this hunting season, you will have to pay a $10 application fee. Fee is waived for Resident and Non-resident Junior Hunters and Junior Bow-hunters, and for Lifetime Sportsman licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2009. You will be allowed up to two DMPs during the first-come/first-served application period in addition to any you may have received during the initial application period.

**Deer Management Assistance Program**

The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enables wildlife biologists to help landowners and resource managers implement site-specific deer management on their lands. In doing so, DEC issues a special permit for use only during the open deer hunting seasons and a determined number of antlerless deer tags to landowners or resource managers whose property is in need of site-specific deer management efforts. Hunters are expected to report their harvest. For more information on the program, refer to http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/33973.html.

**DMAP Tags**

The DEC Office in Sherburne, Chenango County, will have DMAP tags available for use only on Beaver Meadow State Forest in Chenango County this hunting season for interested hunters with a valid license. Tags are valid only for antlerless deer and will be loaned out on a weekly basis, determined by lottery drawing, depending on demand. Hunters may apply in person at the Sherburne Lands and Forests office. Find the application on the DEC website, http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/66900.html, contact Info.R7@dec.ny.gov or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the DEC Lands and Forests office in Sherburne requesting an application: NYS DEC, Division of Lands and Forests, 2715 State Hwy 80, Sherburne, NY 13460. A limited number of DMAP tags will be available for the Delaware County portion of The Treaty Line State Forest including Steam Mill, Arctic, China, Barbour Brook, Pine Hill, Michigan Hill and Beach Hill State Forest parcels. Tags must be picked up in person at the Stamford DEC Office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call ahead at 607-652-7367 or 607-652-7365.

**Boning Out Deer**

Some hunters who take a deer in remote areas may wish to bone out the deer and pack out the meat. This is lawful but you must retain the carcass tag with the boned out meat.
How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag

Hunter Art Fern wants to transfer his DMP tag to hunter Pete Moss.

Step 1. Art Fern signs the bottom of his DMP tag.

Step 2. Art Fern gives the DMP tag to Pete Moss.

Step 3. Pete Moss records the DOC# of the DMP tag on his reporting panel, completing the transfer.

Step 4. If Pete Moss takes an antlerless deer with the transferred DMP, he is required to report the deer by calling the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or by reporting online at www.dec.ny.gov using the transferred DMP DOC# and his own date of birth.

Hunters are allowed to receive only two transferred DMPs per year.

DMPs can be transferred from the receiving hunter back to the original hunter or to another. The other hunter must record the DOC# on his/her reporting panel, as in Step 3 above, to complete the transfer.

Remember: Hunting licenses are not transferable. Only DMP carcass tags can be used by another hunter. A hunter must be in physical possession of a DMP when taking antlerless deer pursuant to a DMP. It cannot be “shared” by a group afield.

Note: To report a deer taken on a transferred DMP, the hunter who took the deer must call the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or report online at www.dec.ny.gov using the transferred DMP carcass tag DOC# and his/her own date of birth, along with other required information (see page 17).

It is NOT legal to buy, sell, or offer to sell a DMP!

Become a Sportsman Education Instructor!

Teach the Values and Traditions of Hunting and Trapping


Instructors needed for:
- Hunter Education
- Bowhunter Education
- Trapper Education
- Waterfowl Hunter Education

APPLY TODAY!

1-888-HUNT-ED2 (1-888-486-8332)  www.dec.ny.gov/otdoor/9189.html
Buck Hunting in NY

Your choices affect your experience!

Buck hunting has been changing in New York, with more hunters opting to voluntarily pass up shots at young, small-antlered bucks in favor of letting them grow to be older, larger bucks.

Invest Now For a Bigger Return Later

When you and your hunting companions choose to pass up shots on young bucks, there is a great chance those bucks will be available the following year, providing substantially more meat and larger antlers. Older bucks also create more rubs, scrapes and vocalizations during the rut and can enhance your hunting experience.

Focus on the Whole Herd and the Habitat

Doe harvest is important statewide and is particularly critical in areas where deer populations are above the target levels, such as in northern portions of central and western New York. In these areas, and wherever antlerless permits are available, choosing to take a doe instead of a young buck will help bring deer densities into better balance with both the habitat and public desires. Additionally, creating young forest on lands you own or manage will enhance the natural forage and cover for deer, which in turn, will increase deer body and antler size and boost deer productivity and survival.

Let Young Bucks Go and watch them GROW

YOUR CHOICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Make it a Community Affair

Cooperating with your neighbors and hunting partners to reduce harvest of young bucks, meet your antlerless harvest goals, and improve habitat conditions can magnify your impact and increase the rate at which you see changes in the woods and in the deer you take. Deer hunting cooperatives have been growing in New York, and they start with a conversation about deer among friends and neighbors.

Have Realistic Expectations

While many hunters want the opportunity to take a bigger bucks, the bucks frequently shown in magazines, on TV shows, and plastered on hunting-related products are rare in the wild. To help hunters better understand what buck populations look like in New York and have realistic expectations of what they might encounter afield, in 2015 and 2016 we collected additional antler measurements from 2,176 bucks across the state. As we gather more data, we’ll be able to provide these summaries at geographic scales that more closely reflect local populations. But the picture is already clear; when hunters choose to let yearling bucks go, they do grow – with antlers nearly doubling in size from 1.5 to 2.5 years of age.
What Do New York Hunters Think and Do?

How Often Would You Pass Small-Antlered Bucks if Most Other Hunters Did Too?

- Always
- Very Often
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Unsure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buck Hunting Rules</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to Take a Buck</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to Take a Big Buck</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Ranks Most Important to Hunters?

Opportunity to Take:

- #1 At least 1 deer
- #2 Any buck I choose
- #3 A large antlered buck
- #4 More than 1 buck

Learn the Differences between Young and Older Bucks

These bucks from Washington County, NY demonstrate typical body size and antler differences between yearlings and 2.5 and 3.5 year old bucks. Looking at the number of antler points often isn’t enough to tell you the age of a buck; 5-10% of yearling bucks (1.5 years old) have 8-point racks. Taking the time to get a good look at the whole body will help greatly in evaluating age. Photos courtesy of QDMA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yearling Buck (1.5 years old)</th>
<th>Older Buck</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body Size</td>
<td>similar to adult doe</td>
<td>larger than adult doe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legs</td>
<td>appear long and skinny</td>
<td>appear more stocky due to deeper chest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscles</td>
<td>often not clearly defined</td>
<td>well defined in shoulders and thighs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Shape</td>
<td>slender, belly tucks up</td>
<td>belly flat or even sagging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antlers</td>
<td>thin, spread narrower than ear tips</td>
<td>Thicker, spread almost as wide as ear tips on 2.5-year-old buck; wider if older</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eurasian Boar Eradication

Hunting or Trapping Eurasian Boars is Illegal in New York State

Eurasian boars are a destructive invasive species that damage habitat and crops, and threaten native wildlife and domestic livestock. DEC is working with the USDA to eradicate these animals from the state’s landscape. To ensure maximum effectiveness of Eurasian boar eradication efforts, the Eurasian Boar Law and Regulation have resulted in the following changes in New York:

• It is illegal to hunt, trap or take free-ranging Eurasian boars.
• It is illegal to import, breed or release Eurasian boars.
• It is illegal to disturb, destroy, open, obstruct or interfere with any DEC/USDA Eurasian boar trap.
• It is illegal to release or remove any Eurasian boar caught in a DEC/USDA trap.
• As of September 1, 2015, it is illegal to possess, sell, distribute, trade or transport Eurasian boars.

Although DEC’s eradication efforts have been very successful to date, we must remain vigilant. Anyone who sees a Eurasian boar should report it to DEC as soon as possible.

Q. If I see a Eurasian boar while I am deer hunting, can I shoot it?
A. No, it is illegal to hunt or trap free-ranging Eurasian boars in New York. Report any animal that you think might be a Eurasian boar to the nearest DEC regional wildlife office (see page 6) or e-mail us (wildlife@dec.ny.gov). Try to get a picture of the animal and include it with your report. Include a description of the animal, how many you saw and the exact location (county, town, distance and direction from an intersection, nearest landmark, etc.).

Q. Can I hunt Eurasian boars at a fenced hunting preserve in New York?
A. No, as of September 1, 2015, it is illegal for anyone to possess live Eurasian boar in NY. Fenced hunting preserves, also called canned hunts or enclosed shooting facilities, cannot have Eurasian boar and cannot offer Eurasian boar hunts.

Q. I own a farm and some wild pigs are destroying my crops. I think they might be Eurasian boars. Can I shoot them?
A. Maybe. If they are domestic pigs that likely escaped from a nearby farm, do not shoot them and try to find the owner. If they are Eurasian boars, there are provisions in the regulation that would allow you to shoot these animals if they are damaging property you own or occupy. Contact a DEC Regional Office to determine if a permit is needed to shoot nuisance or destructive Eurasian boars on your property.
## Future Big Game Season Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Zone</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Bear</strong> (some WMUs, see page 39)</td>
<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the early muzzleloading season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Bear</strong></td>
<td>The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Early Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>7 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer</strong></td>
<td>44 consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday after Columbus Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt – Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Zone</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Bear</strong> (some WMUs, see page 39)</td>
<td>16 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Early Bowhunting—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>23 days beginning the third Saturday of November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt – Deer and Bear</strong></td>
<td>Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westchester County</strong></td>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer and Bear (bowhunting only)</strong></td>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk County</strong></td>
<td><strong>Regular—Deer (bowhunting only)</strong></td>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(WMU 1C)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Firearms Season—Deer</strong></td>
<td>The first Monday following the first Saturday in January, through January 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Once again, DEC is providing a special youth deer season over the three-day Columbus Day weekend. Junior hunters (ages 14–15) will be eligible to take one deer of either sex with a firearm during this season and may use a Deer Management Permit, Deer Management Assistance Program tag, or a regular season tag. Junior hunters may not use a crossbow to take a deer during this hunt. Rules of the Junior Hunter Mentoring Program (page 37) also apply.

DEC also offers special opportunities for junior hunters (ages 12–15) for waterfowl, wild turkey, and pheasants.

For all youth hunts, junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult hunter. Both the junior and adult hunters are required to have a hunting license for the youth deer season, a hunting license and a turkey permit for the turkey hunt, and a hunting license and current HIP registration for the waterfowl hunt. Adults are not allowed to possess a firearm, crossbow or bow or to harvest an animal while accompanying a junior hunter during the special seasons.

Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

### Youth Hunts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Pheasant Hunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern and Eastern New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Waterfowl Hunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterfowl Hunting Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Champlain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Wild Turkey Hunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Junior Hunter Mentoring Program

12 and 13-year-old junior bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Bowhunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older and designated in writing by the junior hunter’s parent or legal guardian (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of experience in hunting deer or bear by longbow AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.

14 and 15-year-old junior hunting license holders can hunt deer and bear with a gun if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in Hunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.
- The Junior Hunter must stay on the ground and cannot use an elevated (tree) stand.

14 and 15-year-old junior bowhunters and first-time 16 and 17-year-old big game hunters must:
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years or older designated in writing (use form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- Both junior hunter and adult accompanist must wear hunter orange: Shirt or jacket with 250 sq. inches of solid/patterned orange (the pattern must be at least 50% orange) OR a hat with at least 50% orange visible in all directions.

Trapping Mentoring Program

Trappers under 12 years of age:
- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper who has at least 3 years of trapping experience
- May assist the licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license
- The licensed trapper may be a parent or legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below)
- If trapping on your own and you are under 12 years, you will need to successfully complete New York’s Trapper Education Program.
- To continue trapping once you are 12 years, you need to take the class.

Junior Hunter Mentoring Program

12 and 13-year-old junior bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Bowhunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older and designated in writing by the junior hunter’s parent or legal guardian (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of experience in hunting deer or bear by longbow AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.

14 and 15-year-old junior hunting license holders can hunt deer and bear with a gun if they meet the following requirements:
- Have completed a course in Hunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a “youth mentor” who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.
- The Junior Hunter must stay on the ground and cannot use an elevated (tree) stand.

14 and 15-year-old junior bowhunters and first-time 16 and 17-year-old big game hunters must:
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years or older designated in writing (use form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- Both junior hunter and adult accompanist must wear hunter orange: Shirt or jacket with 250 sq. inches of solid/patterned orange (the pattern must be at least 50% orange) OR a hat with at least 50% orange visible in all directions.

Trapping Mentoring Program

Trappers under 12 years of age:
- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper who has at least 3 years of trapping experience
- May assist the licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license
- The licensed trapper may be a parent or legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below)
- If trapping on your own and you are under 12 years, you will need to successfully complete New York’s Trapper Education Program.
- To continue trapping once you are 12 years, you need to take the class.

Share Your Hunting and Trapping Photos With Us!

Help us celebrate the successes of young and first-time hunters and trappers by submitting photographs to DEC’s Hunting and Trapping Photo Gallery. Instructions for submitting photographs are included on the photo gallery webpage.

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/54055.html

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Mentored Youth Hunter and Trapper Permission Form

Use this form to designate a licensed adult hunter or trapper to accompany young hunters or trappers.

I, ____________________________ am the parent/legal guardian

(Print name of parent or legal guardian above.) (Please circle one.)

of ____________________________, and I hereby give permission for him or her

(Print name of young hunter/trapper above.)

to be accompanied by ____________________________, whom I acknowledge meets

(Print name of adult hunter/trapper above.)

the legal age, experience, and licensing requirements to function as a mentor during hunting and trapping seasons.

Signature: ____________________________

(Parent or legal guardian sign above.)

Date ____________________________ Telephone Number ____________________________

(Print today’s date above.) (Print phone number above.)

Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.

Ashton Blanton, Age 13, with dog Little, Youth Waterfowl Hunt, Fall 2016 Cattaraugus County
It’s Easy to get the Lead Out!

Follow these “Best Practices” to Minimize the Exposure of Wildlife to Lead

Lead-based ammunition has been in use for good reason since firearms were first developed. The characteristics of lead, (heavy, dense, moldable and expandable on impact) make it well suited as a projectile. Because of the high speed that bullets travel from modern center-fire rifles, lead-based bullets expand rapidly upon impact, and fragment to varying degrees related to design features. While effective in taking game, these small fragments can harm or kill wildlife that consume carcasses or parts left behind in the field. Lead bullets and slugs from muzzle-loading firearms and shotguns fragment less due to a lower muzzle velocity, but still leave behind traces of lead. To date, there are no reported human illnesses related to the consumption of wild game shot with lead ammunition. Nevertheless, lead is still a known neurotoxin. Hunters should consider potential exposure risks from the consumption of lead fragments and make educated decisions to limit the chances of lead exposure.

Alternatives to lead bullets (typically copper) are designed to expand well on impact and retain their weight far better. As a result, performance is excellent and concerns about lead are eliminated. Consider these “best practices” to minimize the risk of harming wildlife that may feed on lead-contaminated carcasses.

- Choose non-lead bullets and shot as an alternative. Excellent performance, increased availability and cost equivalent to premium lead-based ammunition make non-lead alternatives worth a closer look.
- Remove carcasses and gut piles from the field. Small game animals can be easily removed from the field and skinned/prepared for the table at home. Although slightly more difficult, furbearing mammal hunters can also expend a little more effort to remove whole carcasses from the field.
- Deer and bear present a challenge to complete carcass/gut pile removal due to their size, but where transportation is available nearby, consider removing the entire carcass for field dressing where disposal in the waste stream can be accomplished.
- “Gut Piles” from deer and bear dressed in the field can be secured in a heavy plastic bag or tarp and removed for disposal. Where this is not possible a gut pile can be buried to reduce visual attraction by scavengers to this potential source of lead poisoning.
- If you trap or maintain a trail camera for wildlife observation, don’t use lead bullet-killed carcasses or scraps as a bait or wildlife attractant. Use alternative baits or lures for these purposes.

These simple practices to minimize the exposure of wildlife to lead can be used by hunters taking game during an open season or by landowners removing an animal causing property damage. The extra effort required may seem unwarranted at the time, but knowing that you may have spared the preventable death of an animal you did not intend to kill makes the effort worthy of strong consideration. As hunters and conservationists, simple steps to protect the wildlife that enriches our lives is indeed a best practice. It’s easy to get the lead out!

For more information, visit the DEC website: http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48420.html.
Bear Hunting
- Resident and non-resident hunters may take one bear per year.
- In the Southern Zone, hunters may not shoot a cub or a bear that should be known to be a cub, shoot any bear from a group of bears, or shoot or take a bear from its den.
- Hunters may use and carry up to 1.5 fluid ounces of a liquid scent or lure, though such scent or lure may not be placed in a manner that it may be consumed as bait.
- Hunting bear with the aid of bait is prohibited.

Bear Age and Weight Data
Hunters who harvest bears in New York are asked to submit a premolar tooth or part of the lower jaw of the bear for DEC to determine the bear’s age and to record the dressed weight of the bear (see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45598.html for more information). A collection packet including instructions and a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to each hunter that reports taking a bear. There are many cooperating taxidermists in New York that can extract the requested premolar teeth, weigh bears, and submit the data to DEC on your behalf, so check with your taxidermist. Generally, taxidermists do not use teeth or the lower jaw when preparing mounts or rugs. All successful hunters are still required to report their bear harvest online or via the automated phone system.

Black Bear Seasons
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Youth Firearms Season
Season Dates
Oct. 7-9, 2017
Areas Open
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs
Eligible Hunters
Youth 14-15 years of age

Bowhunting Only WMUs
No Bear Hunting

Crossbows
- May be used to hunt bear during the early bear seasons, muzzleloader seasons, and the regular firearms seasons
- May not be used to hunt bear anytime in WMUs 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C

*See map on page 24 for information on legal implements during the early and regular bear seasons.

New York State Bear Management Cooperator Program
The Bureau of Wildlife is requesting the assistance of successful black bear hunters in New York State.

Hunters who harvest a bear in New York are required to report their harvest through the DECALS telephone system at 1-866-426-3778 (1-866-GAMERPT) or use the new online Harvest Reporting System at www.dec.ny.gov. Successful bear hunters will be sent a tooth collection packet with premolar removal and submission instructions. Hunters may be contacted by a DEC wildlife biologist to examine your bear and extract a premolar tooth for aging.

Report your bear and return a bear tooth to receive a commemorative 2017 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2018. Cooperators will receive patches and letters indicating the age of their bear in early fall 2018.

Attention Bear Hunters and Taxidermists
Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy of bear carcass tag) is attached. A new law now also requires taxidermists to keep records of all bear gallbladders and bile received or sold.

Know of Any Active Bear Dens?
DEC wants to know about occupied dens. Please call the nearest wildlife office. See page 6.

“Living with New York Black Bears”
(Great Outdoors Multimedia 2007).
Take an inside look at the mysterious world of black bears and learn some secrets to sharing the landscape with bears. This video will explore the history of black bears, the challenges that face New York black bear biologists, and how landowners can responsibly and safely share their neighborhood with bears.

Available for viewing or loan from your local library or local DEC regional wildlife office.

iSeeMammals
Help researchers study NY bears!
Collect data about presence and absence from your observations + hikes + trail cams
iseemammals.org
Small game includes upland and migratory game birds, small game mammals, certain fur-bearers, and reptiles and amphibians.

Please read general hunting regulations first. See page 16.

General Regulations

• You may not use a rifle or handgun to hunt pheasant or migratory game birds. See page 44 for more information on turkeys.

• See pages 47–51 for additional information on migratory game birds.

• Air guns (see page 16) may be used to hunt squirrels, rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, and fur-bearers that may be hunted (e.g., raccoons and coyotes) and unprotected species (see page 17). Air guns may not be used to hunt waterfowl, pheasant, wild turkey, or big game.

• Crossbows may not be used to take waterfowl or other migratory game birds. Crossbows may not be possessed afield in the Northern Zone when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog. Crossbows may be used to take any other small game or upland game birds during their respective open seasons except in Westchester and Suffolk counties.

• In Wildlife Management Unit 2A, hunting is permitted by falconry only.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Frogs—“Frogs” are defined as eastern spade-foot toad, eastern American toad, Fowler’s toad, northern cricket frog, northern gray treefrog, northern spring peeper, western chorus frog, bullfrog, green frog, mink frog, wood frog, northern leopard frog, and pickerel frog.

A fishing or hunting license is required to take frogs with a spear, club, hook, or by hand. A hunting license is required to take frogs with a gun, bow or crossbow.

Snakes, Lizards, and Salamanders—You may not harvest, take, or possess any native snakes, lizards, or salamanders at any time.

Turtles—The only turtle species for which there is an open hunting season are the snapping turtle and the diamondback terrapin. You may not harvest, take, or possess any other turtle species at any time.

Snapping turtles—A hunting license is required to take snapping turtles. The only legal implement for taking snapping turtles is a gun, bow or crossbow.

If you choose to eat snapping turtles, you should carefully trim all fat and discard fat, liver and eggs prior to cooking to reduce exposure to contaminants. For information on these health advisories, call 1-800-458-1158 or visit the website http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/.

Diamondback terrapin—A valid diamondback terrapin license is required to take diamondback terrapin. Application for, and purchase of, a diamondback terrapin license must be made by mail or in person at NYSDEC, SUNY Stony Brook, 50 Circle Road, Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409.

Diamondback terrapin may only be taken using dip nets, hand capture, seine nets, and traps. The traps must be capable of capturing diamondback terrapin alive, and the trap must be marked with a tag bearing the name and address of the licensee and must be checked daily.

Possession of a diamondback terrapin on the waters or shores of New York State during the closed season is prohibited. Diamondback terrapin legally taken during the open season may be sold throughout the year only if they were killed and processed for consumption prior to May 5.

DEC is Looking for “Citizen Scientists” to Help Monitor Wildlife Populations

There are several surveys where hunters can record their wildlife observations while afield. Visit the DEC website to learn more about opportunities to help us track deer, turkeys, grouse, and more!

• Bowhunter Sighting Log
• Grouse and Woodcock Hunting Log
• Grouse Drumming Survey
• Summer Turkey Sighting Survey
• Winter Turkey Flock Survey
• Cottontail Survey
• Furbearer Observations

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html

What’s lurking in your firewood?

If you choose to eat snapping turtles, you should carefully trim all fat and discard fat, liver and eggs prior to cooking to reduce exposure to contaminants. For information on these health advisories, call 1-800-458-1158 or visit the website http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/.

Diamondback terrapin—A valid diamondback terrapin license is required to take diamondback terrapin. Application for, and purchase of, a diamondback terrapin license must be made by mail or in person at NYSDEC, SUNY Stony Brook, 50 Circle Road, Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409.

Diamondback terrapin may only be taken using dip nets, hand capture, seine nets, and traps. The traps must be capable of capturing diamondback terrapin alive, and the trap must be marked with a tag bearing the name and address of the licensee and must be checked daily.

Possession of a diamondback terrapin on the waters or shores of New York State during the closed season is prohibited. Diamondback terrapin legally taken during the open season may be sold throughout the year only if they were killed and processed for consumption prior to May 5.
Falconry Seasons

To hunt small game species with trained raptors, you must possess a Falconry License and a hunting license. Licensed falconers may take small game from October 1 through March 31 in any area of the state open to hunting these species EXCEPT:

- Waterfowl may be taken only during the regular firearm hunting season or during a specific period outside of the firearms seasons as specified by DEC.
- Common crow may only be taken during the open firearms season.
- A licensed falconer may take both male and female pheasants anywhere in the state when hunting under a Falconry License.

For more information on falconry, contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752 or call 518-402-8985.

Possession and Release of Game Birds

It is illegal to possess or release migratory game birds and upland game birds without the proper license(s) from DEC. Before you take possession of any captive-reared or wild game birds, contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752 or call 518-402-8985 or e-mail speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov.

Use of Hunting Dogs

Dogs may be used to hunt small game, except:

- You may not use dogs to hunt wild turkey in the spring.
- In the Northern Zone, if you are hunting with a dog, or accompanied by a dog, you may not possess a rifle larger than .22-caliber rimfire or possess a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot unless you are coyote hunting with a dog. In the Northern Zone, crossbows may not be possessed afield when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanying by a dog.

Training

You may train dogs on raccoon, fox, coyote, and bobcat from July 1 through April 15. You may train dogs on other small game only from August 15 through April 15. You may train dogs at any time on lands you own, lease, or have written permission to use, if you are not training on wild game. You may only use blank ammunition when training dogs, except during an open season.

Control

Hunting dogs should remain under control of the hunter or trainer, especially on lands inhabited by deer. Do not allow your dogs to pursue game on any posted land without the landowner’s permission. Do not shoot dogs; report stray dogs to a local Environmental Conservation Officer or your local animal control officer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Game Hunting Seasons</th>
<th>Frogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Season</strong></td>
<td>June 15–Sept. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Area</strong></td>
<td>All wildlife management units except that (1) leopard frogs shall not be taken in Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1C, or 2A; and (2) northern cricket frogs and eastern spadefoot toads shall not be taken in any area of the state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size Limit</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Bag</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Season Bag</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hunting Hours</strong></td>
<td>Any time of the day or night, except that no person shall use a gun to take frogs when hunting at night (sunset to sunrise).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Snapping Turtles</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Season</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size Limit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Bag</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Season Bag</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hunting Hours</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Diamondback Terrapin</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Season</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size Limit</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Bag</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Season Bag</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hunting Hours</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Small Game Hunting

Attention

The New England cottontail was a candidate for the federal Endangered Species Act, but as a result of ongoing conservation activities, it was determined that this was not necessary. It’s important that we continue to collect information on this species and conduct conservation activities and you can help! If you hunt or own property in WMUs 3F, 3G, 3N, 3S, 4C, 4K, 4L, 4Z, 4U, 4T, or 4Y and would like to assist with survey efforts or habitat management, please call 518-402-8870 or email wildlife@dec.ny.gov.

Cottontail Rabbit Hunting
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Oct. 1–Mar. 18: 6
  - Oct. 1–Feb. 28: 6
  - Nov. 1–Feb. 28: 6

Varying Hare Rabbit Hunting
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Oct. 1–Mar. 18: 6
  - Jan. 1–Jan. 31: 6
  - Dec. 11–Feb. 28: 2
  - Closed

Gray, Black & Fox Squirrel Hunting
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Sept. 1–Feb. 28: 6
  - Nov. 1–Feb. 28: 6

Red Squirrels are unprotected and may be hunted at any time without limit.
## Small Game Hunting

### Pheasant Hunting
**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

- **Cocks only**
- **Cocks & hens**
- **Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet**

#### 2017/2018 Regular Season Dates 2017 Youth Hunt Dates Bag Limits Daily Season
- Oct. 1–Feb. 28 Sept. 23–Sept. 24 2 —
- Nov. 1–Dec. 31 Oct. 28–Oct. 29 2 4** 30
- Nov. 1–Dec. 31 Oct. 28–Oct. 29 2 4** 30

* Youth Hunt  
** Regular Season  
† No youth hunt in WMU 2A

### Bobwhite Quail Hunting
**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**  
  - Oct. 1–Feb. 28 4 10
  - Nov. 1–Dec. 31 6 40
  - Closed

### Attention
If you would like to raise and release pheasants to increase pheasant hunting opportunities, please e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type "pheasants" in the subject line or call (607) 278-2768. For a list of hunting areas where pheasants are released, contact a DEC regional wildlife office (on page 6) or visit our website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9349.html

### Youth Pheasant Hunt
Junior hunters (ages 12–15) must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. Only the junior hunter may carry a firearm.

### Ruffed Grouse Hunting
**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**  
  - Sept. 20–Feb. 28 4
  - Oct. 1–Feb. 28 4
  - Closed

### Attention
- **Grouse Hunters**
  - You may not shoot woodcock unless you have registered in the Harvest Information Program. To register, go to www.NY-HIP.com or call 1-888-427-5447. (See woodcock season dates, page 49.)

### Attention
- **Grouse Hunters**
  - You may not shoot woodcock unless you have registered in the Harvest Information Program. To register, go to www.NY-HIP.com or call 1-888-427-5447. (See woodcock season dates, page 49.)

### Attention
DEC is seeking grouse hunters to participate in a survey to help monitor ruffed grouse populations. For more information, please e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “grouse log” in the subject line, call (518) 402-8883, or visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9351.html
**General Information**
- You may buy only one turkey permit per year.
- If you have filled your bag limit, you may call turkeys for another hunter, but you may not carry a bow, crossbow, or firearm. You may call turkeys to aid another hunter only if you are licensed to hunt wild turkey in New York and have a valid turkey permit.
- If you have taken a turkey that is unfit for consumption, authorized DEC staff may issue a special permit to take another. You will have to surrender the carcass. Call your wildlife or law enforcement office (see page 6).

**Manner of Taking**
- You must carry your hunting license and turkey permit while you hunt.
- You may hunt with a bow or crossbow; however, crossbows may not be used to take wild turkeys in Westchester or Suffolk counties.
- You may hunt with a shotgun or handgun only when using shot no larger than #2 and no smaller than #8.
- You may not take a turkey with a rifle or air gun, or with a handgun firing a bullet.
- You may use a muzzleloading shotgun.
- You may not hunt with a dog during the spring season. You may hunt with a dog during the fall season.
- You may not use bait to hunt turkey.
- You may not use an electronic calling or amplifying device to locate or hunt turkeys during the open season.
- You may use decoys.
- A scope of any type is allowed.

**Tagging and Possession**
- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, sign the back, and attach it to the carcass.
- The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
- You may give your turkey to another person.
- You must attach a tag with the following information to the turkey carcass:
  - Your name
  - Your address
  - Your hunting license number
  - Turkey permit carcass tag number
  - The recipient’s name
  - The recipient’s address
- You must report your harvest within 7 days via phone (1-866-GAMERPT) or online (www.dec.ny.gov).

---

**Turkey Hunters Needed for Grouse Survey**
DEC is seeking spring turkey hunters to participate in a survey to help monitor grouse populations.

For more information:
- E-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “Grouse Drumming Survey” in the subject line, or
- Call 518-402-8883, or
- Visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for “drumming survey.”

---

**Reward**
Protect wild turkeys against illegal hunting. Their future depends on you!

The National Wild Turkey Federation is offering a $200 reward to anyone giving information and testimony leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally hunting or killing a wild turkey in the State of New York.

1-844-DEC-ECOS
Fall Turkey Season
• You may take a bird of either sex.
• There is one carcass tag for the fall season and it may be used in any fall turkey hunting zone. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.
• If you take a turkey, save one of its legs. You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report your harvest. The legs are used for age and sex information.

Spring Turkey Season
• In the spring, you may take two bearded birds. You may only take one bird per day.
• Fill out the carcass tag and attach it to the bird.
• You do not need to save and send in turkey legs in the spring. You do need to take careful spur, beard, and weight measurements for harvest reporting.
  1. Spur measurements: Spurs should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it emerges from the scaly part of the leg. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch. Do not measure to the forward edge of the leg, only to the base of the spur.
  2. Beard measurements: Beards should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin. Put the end of your ruler against the base of the beard and extend the beard along the body of the ruler. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch.
  3. Record the weight of the turkey to the nearest pound.

Spring Turkey Season (no map)

Spring Youth Hunt
Season Dates
April 21–22, 2018
Area Open
Same as regular spring season plus Suffolk County (WMU 1C)
Eligible Hunters
Youth 12–15 years of age
Bag Limit
One bearded turkey

Season Dates 2017
- Oct. 1–Oct. 14
- Oct. 21–Nov. 3
- Nov. 18–Dec. 1

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Or mail this coupon to: Conservationist, PO BOX 1500, LATHAM, NY 12110
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**Spring Youth Hunt**

Eligible hunters are 12–15 years of age and hold a Junior Hunting License and a Turkey Permit.

All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, as required by law for a Junior Hunting License (see pages 36 and 37).

The accompanying adult must have a current hunting license and Turkey Permit. He/she may assist the youth hunter (including calling), but may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, or kill or attempt to kill a wild turkey during the youth hunt. Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

The bag limit for the youth hunt is one bearded bird. This bird becomes part of the youth’s regular season bag limit of two bearded birds. A second bird may be taken beginning May 1.

All other wild turkey hunting regulations remain in effect.

---

**Turkey Hunting Tips**

**Successful turkey hunters sit and call.**

Don’t wear red, white, blue or black.

Most turkey hunting injuries happen when one hunter stalks another hunter. **DON’T TRY TO STALK TURKEY!**

Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is a human (calls, footsteps).

---

**If you see another hunter:**
- Don’t move, or wave or nod.
- Don’t make turkey or animal sounds.
- Do speak up clearly, saying “STOP.”

**If you see a turkey:**
Be 100% sure of your target and beyond. Avoid using a turkey “reaper fan” to prevent another hunter from mistaking you for a gobbler.

---

Did you know in 2016, DEC Forest Rangers:

...Fought 185 wildfires that burned a total of 4,191 acres

...Conducted 13 prescribed fires that improved 352 acres of public lands for wildlife and wildfire reduction

...Conducted 356 search and rescue missions to find, rescue or recover 504 people.

www.dec.ny.gov
518-408-5850
Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Migratory game bird hunting regulations are set by the federal government. Due to a change in the federal regulation setting process, migratory game bird seasons are now finalized by mid-June or early July. Final season dates and bag limits are now available in time to be published in the annual hunting guide; pocket references for migratory game bird seasons are also available from regional DEC offices upon request.

License Requirements

To hunt any migratory game bird in New York, you need a hunting license unless you qualify to hunt without a license.

To hunt any migratory game bird in New York except crows, you must register in New York’s Harvest Information Program (HIP). This applies to all hunters, including junior hunters and people who qualify to hunt without a license. To register, go to: www.NY-HIP.com or call 1-888-427-5447. HIP registration is valid from July 1 through June 30 annually (not the same as your hunting license!).

Duck Stamp

If you are 16 years or older and you hunt waterfowl, then you also need a federal migratory game bird hunting stamp ("duck stamp"). The stamp is not needed to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock, snipe or crows. You may buy a duck stamp at most post offices and many sporting goods stores. They may also be ordered on-line (www.duckstamp.com) or by phone (1-800-852-4897). The stamp must be signed in ink across the face to be valid for hunting.

Consumption of Wild Waterfowl

Every year, tens of thousands of people consume wild waterfowl harvested in New York. There are many ways to cook and enjoy waterfowl, but it’s important to remember that some birds may pick up chemical contaminants from the environment. Mergansers are fish-eating birds that tend to be the most heavily contaminated waterfowl and should not be eaten. For all other wild waterfowl, the New York State Department of Health recommends that you remove the skin and fat before cooking, and eat no more than two meals containing waterfowl per month.

Waterfowl Hunting in Populated Areas

Some excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities occur in shoreline areas of New York that are becoming more populated and developed. Waterfowl hunters have special privileges in New York, but please consider the possible concerns that nearby homeowners may have about noise, safety or invasion of privacy before you go afield. Avoiding such conflicts will help ensure that waterfowl hunting remains an accepted tradition in fast-developing shoreline areas. For more information, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9351.html.

Non-toxic shot requirement

Non-toxic shot is required for hunting any migratory game bird, except woodcock, everywhere in New York State. Possession of shells loaded with shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is strictly prohibited when hunting waterfowl, snipe, rails or gallinules.

Duck hunting blinds

NYS Navigation Law Section 33-b requires that duck blinds placed in the waters of lakes within New York State be prominently marked with the owner’s full name and address. All duck blinds placed in lakes must be removed no later than March 15 annually.

Prohibitions on methods of take

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, crossbow, swivel gun, shotgun larger that 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

Special Snow Goose Harvest Program

Waterfowl hunters in New York will have a special opportunity to harvest snow geese in most areas of the state from January 16 through April 15, 2018. This additional opportunity is offered because of concerns about impacts that snow geese are having on natural ecosystems. For more information, including harvest regulations for 2017–18, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/Outdoor/50514.html.

Definitions

Migratory game birds are wild ducks, geese, brant, coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock and snipe. Migratory waterfowl are wild ducks, geese, brant and coot.

License requirements

All migratory game bird hunters must carry a valid New York State hunting license, except for persons not required to have a hunting license. All migratory game bird hunters in New York must also register annually with New York’s Harvest Information Program (HIP) and carry proof of compliance whenever going afield. To register, call toll-free 1-888-4ASKHIP (1-888-427-5447) or visit the website: www.NY-HIP.com. You will be given a confirmation number that you can record on the back of your hunting license as proof of participation in HIP. HIP registration is valid from July 1–June 30 annually.

Migratory bird hunting stamp

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his/her person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("duck stamp") signed in ink across the face. Stamps do not have to be attached to your license. Duck stamps are not required to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock or snipe. Duck stamps are not required of minors 12 to 15 years of age hunting migratory waterfowl in New York State.

Federal duck stamps are sold at most post offices and many sporting goods stores and cost $25.00 each. They may also be ordered by calling 1-800-852-4897 or visiting the website www.duckstamp.com. There is a shipping and handling fee for phone or Internet orders.

Hunting hours

Woodcock may be taken from sunrise to sunset. All other migratory game birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all hunting zones. Canada geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during the September seasons, except on Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, when hunting hours end at sunset. Snow geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during January 15–April 15 whenever all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed.

General Regulations

Following is a summary of state and federal rules that apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of all migratory game birds in New York. For more complete information, consult the specific federal (50 CFR Part 20) and state (6 NYCRR Part 2.30) regulations. You can link to both of these from: www.dec.ny.gov/Outdoor/28175.htm.

Prohibitions on methods of take

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, crossbow, swivel gun, shotgun larger that 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
Migratory Game Birds

• With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese during September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.
• From a sink box (a low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
• From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may, with a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, take any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
• From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased. Motorboats and sailboats under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power except in the Special Sea Duck Area described in the Hunting Seasons Table.
• By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

- Using recorded migratory bird calls or sounds or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls. This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese in September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement) or on or over any baited area.
- Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation. Migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown or grains found scattered solely as a result of the normal agricultural planting or harvesting.

Wanton waste/possession of live birds
No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in his/her actual custody. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be killed immediately and included in the daily bag limit.

Field possession limit
No more than one daily bag or aggregate daily bag limit of migratory game birds may be possessed or transported, tagged or untagged, at or between the place of taking and:
• His or her automobile or principal means of land transportation
• His or her personal abode or temporary place of lodging

- Migratory bird preservation facility
- Post office or common-carrier facility

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird and then transport the bird from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported.

Possession, tagging, shipment and importation
The possession limit is the maximum number of migratory game birds that any person may possess in total in his/her automobile or principal means of land transportation, personal abode, or in his/her name at any migratory bird preservation facility, post office or common-carryer facility. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all waterfowl species except snow geese.

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than personal abode) or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, storage (including temporary storage) or taxidermy services, unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:
- Hunter’s name, address and signature
- Total number of birds involved, by species
- Dates such birds were killed

For more information on regulations pertaining to possession, tagging, shipment and importation of legally killed migratory game birds, consult the specific federal and state regulations cited above.

Caution/dual violation
More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas (WMAs) open to public hunting. Violation of New York State migratory bird hunting regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

What is a “Migratory Game Bird”?
Under state and federal laws and regulations, all of the following are considered migratory game birds in New York:
• All wild ducks, mergansers, geese, and brant (“waterfowl”)
• All coot, rails, and gallinules (moorhens)
• Woodcock and snipe

Crows are not considered migratory game birds under federal regulations, but most of New York’s migratory game bird hunting regulations apply to crows. You should assume they are the same except where differences are noted.

Mourning doves are considered migratory game birds under federal regulations, but they are not defined as such under New York State law so no hunting season has been established for this species.
# Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

## Woodcock, Crow, Snipe, Rail and Gallinule

### Hunting Season Dates, Bag Limits, and Regulations for 2017–2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulations</th>
<th>Woodcock</th>
<th>Crow</th>
<th>Snipe</th>
<th>Virginia &amp; Sora Rails</th>
<th>Gallinules</th>
<th>Clapper &amp; King Rails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upstate New York</strong>(^1,(^2)</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Nov. 9</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Island</strong>(^2)</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bag Limit</strong></td>
<td>3/day 9 in possession</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>8/day 24 in possession</td>
<td>8/day 24 in possession</td>
<td>8/day 24 in possession</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shooting Hours</strong></td>
<td>Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Toxic Shot</strong></td>
<td>NOT Required</td>
<td>NOT Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIP Registration</strong></td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>NOT Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>Hunting on Fri., Sat., Sun. &amp; Mon. ONLY; Rifles and electronically amplified bird calls or sounds permitted</td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Upstate New York includes all of New York State north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary
2 Long Island includes all of WMUs 1A and 1C (Nassau and Suffolk counties)
3 Hunting season closed in New York City for all species listed in table; New York City includes all of WMU 2A (Bronx, Kings, Queens, New York, and Richmond counties)

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Leg Band Reporting

Please report band recoveries online at (WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV) or by sending your information to: Bird Banding Lab, 12100 Beach Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708. The call center supporting the 1-800 toll-free phone number was discontinued in June 2017. Reporting banded birds helps in their management. Thanks for your support!
2017-2018 Waterfowl Seasons

2017-2018 Canada Goose Seasons

For written descriptions of Goose Hunting Areas and Waterfowl Hunting Zones, see page 72.
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

a Youth Days are additional days for Junior Hunters only. Young hunters, 12 to 15 years of age, possessing a junior hunting license may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers, Canada geese, and brant on 2 special days in each zone. Daily bag limits for ducks are the maximum allowed during the regular duck season, and 3 per day for Canada geese. Young hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, but the adult may not shoot any birds unless the respective regular season is open.

b Crippled sea ducks may be taken under power in the Special Sea Duck area, only. The Special Sea Duck Area is defined as the coastal waters of New York State lying in Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Great Peconic Bay and associated bays eastward from a line running between Miamogue Point in the Town of Riverhead to Red Cedar Point in the Town of Southampton, and any ocean waters of New York State lying south of Long Island.

c Snow goose seasons include both the regular hunting season and the Conservation Order that runs from January 16 - April 15 in all zones (except Long Island).

### Bag Limits

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take or possess in the field during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ducks*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coot</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Geese</td>
<td>See map</td>
<td>See map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Geese**</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks) and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 2 scap, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks or 2 hooded mergansers. For all other duck species found in New York, the daily limit is no more than 6.

** Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross’ geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

### Changes in American Black Duck Hunting Regulations for 2017

After more than 30 years of 1-bird daily bag limits for black ducks, duck hunters in the U.S. will have an opportunity for a 2-black duck daily bag limit in 2017. The change was justified based on a decline in both the number of duck hunters and the harvest of black ducks since the 1980s, and improved biological information on the status of black ducks. Improved survey techniques and banding efforts allowed for the development of a population model and International Black Duck Harvest Strategy. Annual monitoring programs and appropriate regulation changes will be used to ensure that black duck harvest is sustainable over the long term. More information on the change and a list of frequently asked questions can be found on the DEC website at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/abduregchange.pdf.

### Attention Boaters!

New regulations are now in effect for all DEC boat launch facilities. Before you launch your boat or leave a site, you are required to:

- Clean all visible plant and animal material from your boat, trailer and associated equipment.
- Drain your boat’s bilge, livewell, baitwell, and other water-holding compartments.
Following completion of the New York State Fisher Management Plan, regulations were adopted to:

- Reduce the fisher (and marten) trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone (yellow area on the map).
- Establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York (blue area on the map).
- Require a free special permit for all fisher trapping. The special permit will enable DEC to collect important data for managing fisher harvests.

Permmit conditions:

- To trap fisher anywhere in the state or marten in Adirondack WMUs, obtain a Special Free Fisher Permit or combination Fisher/Marten Permit (yellow area on map) from DEC regional Bureau of Wildlife offices as outlined in the table below.
- Submit the skull or lower jaw of all harvested fishers and the entire carcass of all harvested martens at the time of pelt sealing.
- Complete and submit a trapping activity log, even if you did not trap, within 10 days after the close of the season.

To Obtain a Free Fisher or Fisher/Marten Permit:

Only one fisher or fisher/marten permit is needed to trap these species anywhere in New York where the season is open.

Contact your regional wildlife office (see table below), or apply by e-mail. You must provide the following information:

- Name
- Species (fisher or fisher/marten)
- Mailing address
- DEC ID # (from your trapping license or backtag)
- Phone number and/or e-mail address

Apply by e-mail to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov, type “Fisher/Marten Permit” in the subject line.

Apply in person or by phone to any office listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEC Region</th>
<th>Fisher/Marten</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>21 S Putt Corners Rd, New Paltz, NY 12561</td>
<td>845-256-3088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1130 N Westcott Rd, Schenectady, NY 12306</td>
<td>518-357-2158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J</td>
<td>232 Golf Course Rd, Warrensburg, NY 12885</td>
<td>518-623-1240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>317 Washington St, Watertown, NY 13601</td>
<td>315-785-2534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1285 Fisher Ave, Cortland, NY 13045</td>
<td>607-753-3095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>7291 Coon Rd, Bath, NY 14810</td>
<td>607-622-8271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>182 E Union St, Suite 3, Allegany, NY 14706</td>
<td>716-372-0645</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or apply by email to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type “Fisher/Marten Permit” in the subject line.

Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

DEC wants to learn more about the occurrence of various furbearers throughout New York such as bobcat, otter, fisher, and weasel. Your observations help biologists understand the distribution and abundance of these elusive or inconspicuous mammals.

You can report your observations online, and can even include photos!

Go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov

Thanks for your help!
To hunt furbearers, you must possess a Resident or Non-resident Hunting license. A trapping license does not allow you to hunt furbearers. Furbearers may be hunted with a bow, crossbow or firearm as described below.

- You may hunt red and gray fox, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, mink, weasel and opossum.
- If you take a bobcat, it must be tagged and sealed.
- You may use a call, including an electronic call.
- Mink may only be hunted in the Southern Zone with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber during their open trapping season. Mink may not be hunted with a firearm in the Northern Zone.
- Muskrat may only be hunted on Lake Champlain during the open trapping season with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber.
- You may not hunt from any motor vehicle, including an ATV or snowmobile.
- Except as noted above, you may hunt furbearers using any handgun, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, bow, crossbow or air gun.

### Possession and Use of Rifles for Hunting Furbearers

1. Is any deer season open in the location you wish to hunt (including archery, muzzleloading, regular, late and Focus Area)?
   a. If NO, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers.
   b. If YES, can deer be hunted with rifles in that location during the regular season?
      i. If YES, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers during any open deer season.
      ii. If NO, you may only possess afield rimfire rifles .22-caliber or smaller, or centerfire rifles LESS THAN .22 caliber (.204, .17, etc.) during any open deer season. Once all deer seasons are closed, the restriction ends, except:

2. You may NEVER possess a rifle afield in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.

3. In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire or .22-caliber or larger centerfire rifles at any time if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

### Weasel, Opossum, Skunk, Raccoon and Fox Hunting

- **Long Island**: Nov. 1–Feb. 25
- **All other areas of New York**: Oct. 25–Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.

### Coyote Hunting

- **Statewide except Long Island and New York City**: Oct. 1–March 25
- There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.

### Bobcat Hunting

**Hunting Hours**: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.

Bobcat pelts must be sealed.

### Hunting Furbearers at Night

- Spotlights, night vision, thermal and laser devices are permitted for furbearer hunting. They may be attached to the firearm. All laws pertaining to the use of a spotlight apply.
- Hunters should consult with local government officials for any laws that may prohibit the discharge of firearms at night.

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*Free special permit no longer required in this area. You must still have a valid hunting license.*
Furbearer Trapping

Definition of Trapping
To trap means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. You do not need a hunting license to shoot a trapped animal.

Other Definitions
- **Public Highway**: The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
- **Carcass**: The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
- **Suspension**: This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
- **Restraint trap**: A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps (“foothold traps”), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
- **Foot encapsulating trap**: A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.
- **Cage or box trap**: A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.

Legal Traps
- **You must put your name and address or your DEC customer ID number on your traps**
- **Foothold traps larger than 4” set on land must have a pan tension device and be covered when set.**
- **Teeth are not allowed on foothold traps.**
- **On land, foothold traps must be 5¾” or smaller (inside jaw spread).** For information on how to correctly measure traps, see page 57.
- **During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼” are allowed if set under water.**
- **When the beaver or otter season is closed, foothold traps set in water may not be larger than 5¾”.**
- **A foothold trap larger than 7¼” is never legal to use.**
- **Body-gripping traps more than 7½” may never be used on land.**
- **Body-gripping traps more than 7½” may only be used in water during an open beaver or otter season.**
- **Snares may not be used for trapping.**
- **Box or cage traps are legal for all species.**
- **You may not use a cage trap that is designed to take more than one muskrat at a setting.**

Trapping Methods

Checking traps
- **In the Southern Zone**: You must check traps once in each 24-hour period.
- **In the Northern Zone**, follow these rules:
  - **WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J and 6N**: Visited once in each 48-hour period
  - **WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H and 6K**:
    - Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat: Visited once in each 48-hour period
    - Body-gripping traps set on land: Visited once in each 48-hour period
    - Restraining traps: Visited once in each 24-hour period

Use of carcasses as bait
Any carcass, as defined above, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include but not be limited to brush, branches, leaves, soil, snow, water, or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials, and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

Land trapping
- **You may not set a trap in such a manner that it causes a captured animal to be fully suspended in the air.**
- **In the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and/or marten seasons are closed.**

Water trapping
- **You may set a trap in a permanent body of water only when the mink, muskrat, otter, or beaver season is open.**
- **You may not disturb a muskrat house or den.**
- **You may not set a trap on or within 5 feet of a muskrat house.**

Land or water trapping
- **You may use any legal method to kill a trapped animal. You do not need a hunting license to use a firearm to kill a legally trapped animal.**
- **You may not set or stake a trap prior to 7:00 AM on opening day.**
- **You are not allowed to set a trap within 100 feet of a house, school, playground or church unless you have permission from the owner of the land where the trap is set.**
- **You may not set a trap on a public road.** You are allowed to set a trap in a culvert or ditch unless the property is posted or the landowner does not allow trapping.

Trapping near beaver dams and lodges
- **You may not disturb a beaver lodge or beaver dam.**
- **You may not set a trap on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den or house, measured at ice or water level, except under the following conditions:**
  - during an open otter season, traps of any legal size may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, but not on or within 15 feet of a beaver den or house;
  - during an open or closed otter season, any of the following traps may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den, or house:
    - body-gripping trap that measures less than 5.5 inches;
    - foot-encapsulating trap

Trappers, furbearer hunters, and members of the public who assist with DEC furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch! You can receive a patch if you:
- voluntarily turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, bobcat, marten, otter, or weasel; report a violation involving a furbearer species that results in a conviction; provide data in response to a DEC request or to assist with a DEC study; or promote trapping or furbearer hunting in NY. Carcasses are used for staff training, biological data, trapper education, and outreach programs. Contact your regional furbearer biologist (see page 52) for more information about getting a patch.
Furbearer Trapping

- foothold trap that measures 4¾ inches or less;
- cage or box trap.

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

Pelt Sealing

Otter, bobcat, fisher and marten must have a plastic seal attached to the pelt or unskinned animal before:
- It is sold or ownership is transferred to another person, or
- It is mounted or tanned, or
- It leaves New York State, or
- Ten days have passed since the close of the season where the fur was taken

The plastic pelt seals can be removed when the pelt is processed for taxidermy, tanning or manufacturing.

How to get your pelts sealed: a two-step process

- Step 1: Fill out your furbearer possession tag.
  - A possession tag must be filled out for each animal you take.
  - Possession tags must be filled out immediately after you reach your motor vehicle, camp or home, whichever comes first.
  - Possession tags must stay with the animal or pelt at all times, but they do not need to be attached to the pelt.
  - Furbearer possession tags can be obtained from your regional wildlife office (see page 6) or at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html
- Step 2: Get your pelt sealed (see below).
  - A completed furbearer possession tag must be submitted to obtain a plastic pelt seal.
  - You can give your pelts to another person (other than a taxidermist) so he or she can get the pelts sealed or get them skinned.
  - You must give that person your trapping license or a copy of your license and your completed possession tags while he or she has your pelts.
  - Only authorized DEC representatives can attach the plastic pelt seals to otter, bobcat, fisher or marten.
  - Call a regional wildlife office (see page 6) to make arrangements to get your otter, bobcat, fisher, or marten sealed. Seals for these species cannot be sent through the mail.
  - Prior to having a marten sealed, you must submit the entire carcass. Prior to having a fisher sealed, you must submit the skull or lower jaw.
  - If the plastic pelt seal is broken or damaged, contact your regional wildlife office for a replacement seal.

All other species may be bought, sold, and transported without restriction.
- Furbearers may be bought or sold either skinned or unskinned.
- People who buy fur do not need a fur buyer’s license in New York.

Rights of Trappers

- No one may disturb a trap lawfully set by another person.
- No one may remove a lawfully trapped animal from another person’s trap.
- No one may harass a trapper while he or she is trapping.

License Responsibilities

- A license is not transferable and can be used only by the person to whom issued.
- A license to trap does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.

Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers

If the trapping or hunting season is open for the species in a WMU, you may keep a dead fur found on roads within that WMU. The requirements for possessing road-killed furbearers are the same as for trapping and hunting. For example, if you find a road-killed bobcat in an area with an open bobcat season, you can possess it if you have a hunting or trapping license, but you must fill out a furbearer possession tag and have the pelt sealed.

Incidental and Accidental Captures of Trapped Animals

There are no provisions in the Environmental Conservation Law allowing trappers to possess animals that are taken outside of the open trapping season.

You must attempt to release any animals that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or if the area is not open for trapping that species.

If the animal is injured to the extent you believe it will not survive, humanely dispatch it. If you are not sure, contact a DEC regional wildlife office for assistance.

When you find an unintentionally captured animal dead in the trap, or when you must dispatch an unintentionally captured animal due to a serious injury, you may remove it and lay it in the vicinity of the trap. There are no legal provisions for you to keep it, and you may not possess it even to take it back to your vehicle without permission from DEC.

DEC seeks information on all accidentally taken bobcat, otter, fisher and marten as well as other species of unusual nature. If the animal is dead, a DEC biologist will want to collect the carcass. Using the location and carcass data, biologists will be able to track the status of these species and study the age and reproductive data from the individual. The pelts from these carcasses will also be utilized in our trapper education classes.

Remember, you must contact the Regional Wildlife Office or an ECO as soon as possible to report the catch. You will receive instructions on what to do and information to provide.

Buying and Selling Fur

- Species requiring a pelt seal cannot be bought or sold or given to another person unless they have the plastic pelt seal attached.

Furbearer Trapping

**Fisher & Marten Trapping**
To trap fisher or marten you must obtain a free trapping permit from a Regional Bureau of Wildlife Office, see page 52 for details.

- **Species & Bag Limits**
  - Fisher and Marten
  - Season limit of 6 martens.
  - There are no bag limits for fisher.
  - Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
  - Fisher and Marten
  - Fisher only. There are no bag limits.

- **Season Dates 2017**
  - Oct. 25 – Nov. 30
  - Nov. 1 – Nov. 7
  - Dec. 15 – Feb. 15

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Oct. 25 – Apr. 15
  - Nov. 25 – Mar. 5

- **Closed**
  - Nov. 25 – Feb. 15
  - Nov. 10 – Apr. 7

- **Bag Limits**
  - Season limit of 6 martens.
  - There are no bag limits for fisher.

In the Northern Zone (see page 24) body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

**Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping**

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Oct. 25 – Feb. 15
  - Nov. 25 – Feb. 15, except closed for coyote

- **Bag Limits**
  - There are no bag limits for these species.

**Mink & Muskrat Trapping**

- **Season Dates 2017**
  - Oct. 25 – Dec. 10
  - Nov. 1 – Dec. 10

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Oct. 25 – Apr. 15
  - Nov. 25 – Mar. 5

- **Closed**
  - Nov. 25 – Feb. 15
  - Nov. 10 – Apr. 7
  - Dec. 15 – Feb. 25

- **Bag Limits**
  - There are no bag limits for these species.

**Bobcat Trapping**

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Oct. 15 – Jan. 31

- **Bag Limits**
  - Bobcat pelts must be sealed.

- **New**
  - Free special permit no longer required in this area. You must still have a valid trapping license.

**River Otter Trapping**

- **Season Dates 2017/2018**
  - Nov. 1 – Apr. 7
  - Nov. 10 – Feb. 28

- **Bag Limits**
  - There are no bag limits.

If you take an otter you must:
- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.
How to Measure a Trap

How to measure a body-gripping trap:
Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame does not change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the MAXIMUM distance as shown in the top picture.

How to measure a foothold trap:
Measure the inside distance between the jaws excluding the gripping surface as shown. If the jaws have inside laminations, the measurement is the inside distance between the laminations. If the trap has double jaws, measure the inside distance between the outer jaws.

Trigger Regulations for Beaver Trappers
This regulation applies if you:
• Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season
• Use a body-gripping trap larger than 8½ inches (these are “330” size traps)

1. Body-gripping trap with off-set parallel trigger:
2. Example of non-legal vs. legal trigger brackets:
   Non-legal: V-notch, four-way trigger
   Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger

The trigger must be 6½” or less.

Recommended tension: 8 to 12 oz.

Trigger wires must be joined together.

NOTE:
1. You can bait these traps in any manner. However, the trap must have all of the features noted above.
2. There is no exception for traps set under ice; traps set under ice, whether baited or not, must have all of the design features noted above.
3. There is no tension requirement. However, DEC research showed that 8 to 12 oz. of tension works best for protecting otter and catching beaver.
Regulations for Body-Gripping Traps Set on Land
Body-gripping traps set on land shall not be within 100 feet of a public trail except on Wildlife Management Areas.

A body-gripping trap measuring less than 5½ inches may be set in any manner with or without the use of bait. Body-gripping traps measuring 5½ inches to 6 inches, set without the use of bait, must be set so that no part of the trap is 8 inches or more above the ground. Body-gripping traps measuring more than 6 inches to 7 1/2 inches may never be set in this manner. **NOTE:** During a closed season for fisher and/or marten in the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Body-gripping traps 5½ inches to 7½ inches set with the use of bait, lure, or other attractants may only be used as follows:

- Four or more feet off the ground

- In a container of the following design:
  - Trap recessed minimum of 18 inches
  - Opening height and width 10 inches or less

- In a container of the following design:
  - Only one entrance, facing the ground
  - Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground
  - Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks).

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Eight-inch minimum spring notches
- Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches
The 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety

1. Watch that muzzle! Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.

2. Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun. It might be loaded, even if you think it isn’t.

3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt. Make sure you have an adequate backstop—don’t shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.

4. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot. This is the best way to prevent an accidental discharge.

5. Check your barrel and ammunition. Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.

6. Unload firearms when not in use. Leave actions open, and carry firearms in cases and unloaded to and from the shooting area.

7. Point a firearm only at something you intend to shoot. Avoid all horseplay with a gun.

8. Don’t run, jump, or climb with a loaded firearm. Unload a firearm before you climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch. Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.

9. Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely. Store each in a secured location beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

10. Do not consume alcoholic beverages before or during shooting. Also avoid mind- or behavior-altering medicines or drugs.
Q: How do I report poaching or other suspected violations of fish & wildlife laws?
A: Call the DEC Police “Report Poachers and Polluters” Hotline as soon as possible at 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267). You may file a complaint anonymously or keep your name confidential.

Q. What basic steps should I follow when an ECO approaches me while I am afield hunting?
A: Most importantly, keep any firearms on “SAFE” and pointed in a safe direction. Do not try to unload them, which can lead to accidents.

Q. Without permission, how far must I be from a house to discharge an implement?
A: You must be a minimum of 150 feet to discharge a bow, 250 feet for crossbow and 500 feet for firearms including muzzleloaders. Local laws or ordinances on firearm discharges may also apply.

Please contact your local Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) for answers to your specific questions (see pages 62–63).

Q: Can I borrow a tag from a friend or family to use on a deer, bear or turkey that I shot?
A: No, it is not legal to possess or use tags of another, except properly consigned deer management permits (DMPs) or landowner DMAPs. Instructions on DMPs can be found in this guide.

Q: Can I hunt small game with a rifle in counties where deer hunting with a rifle is prohibited?
A: Yes, but if the deer season is open, you cannot use a rifle larger than .22 caliber. You may never possess a rifle afield for hunting on Long Island or in Westchester County.

Q: If the trapping season is open, does that mean I can hunt for that species?
A: No. While hunting, the hunting rules apply; while trapping, the trapping rules apply. Seasons and other rules vary between hunting and trapping.

Q: I found a live coyote in a trap, what should I do?
A: Unless you own the trap or have permission, it is illegal to release, dispatch or steal a trapped furbearer or tamper with legally set traps.

Q: After reporting my deer, transporting and cutting it up, what do I do with the carcass tag?
A: The tag stays with the carcass and is not needed after the deer is prepared for consumption. Your actions reflect on all sportsmen, so properly dispose of the entrails, carcass and hide.

Q: How can I transport a crossbow in a motor vehicle?
A: A crossbow must be decocked to be legally possessed in or on a motor vehicle. Simply removing the bolt does not meet the requirement. When using artificial lights on lands inhabited by deer, a crossbow must be taken down, securely fastened in a case or locked in the trunk.

Q: May I hunt small game with an air gun?
A: You may use an air gun to hunt any species that may legally be taken with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle, provided the air gun is no smaller than .17 caliber and produces a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second.

Q: May I take a child younger than 12 with me while hunting? What about a spouse?
A: Yes, a person of any age may accompany a hunter afield to observe as long as they do not assist in the taking of wildlife, such as calling animals or actively participating in a deer drive. If unsure, consult an ECO.

Q: I own a camp and property in New York, can I purchase a resident hunting license?
A: Residency is a fixed, permanent and principal home to which a person always intends to return. Simply owning land or paying taxes does not make one a resident. More information on residency is found in the front of this guide.

Q: Can our hunting party “share” Deer Management Permits (DMPs) on a “deer drive”?
A: Only the person with the properly consigned DMP tag may take an antlerless deer, regardless of how many have the tag consigned to them. See the DMP consignment rules for more info.

Q: Can I target shoot on DEC lands?
A: Many DEC state lands, including State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) have specific rules – call ahead. You may not damage live trees and must remove all litter.

Q: Can a felon hunt with a muzzleloader or crossbow?
A: There are circumstances that may permit this. Please contact your local ECO as it greatly depends on details specific to each individual.

Q: Can I carry a handgun while bowhunting deer/bear during the special bowhunting seasons?
A: No. Many species have specific legal shooting hours. For deer and bear, it is from legal sunrise to sunset, NOT just when it’s light enough. The sunrise/sunset chart is at the back of this guide.

Q: Can I shoot a deer at first light on opening day of deer season?
A: No. Many species have specific legal shooting hours. For deer and bear, it is from legal sunrise to sunset, NOT just when it’s light enough. The sunrise/sunset chart is at the back of this guide.

Q: May I transport an entire deer carcass into NY from Pennsylvania?
A: No. Chronic Wasting Disease regulations ban importation of whole carcasses and certain parts. More info is in the CWD pages of this guidebook.
ECO Mike Terrell was staking out a baited tree stand on archery season opening day when a gunshot rang out. A brief foot pursuit led to the bow-toting suspect, who illegally shot this buck over bait with the pictured .22-caliber scoped pistol.

ECO Myles Schillinger responded to call of a buck with antlers tangled in a rope on a tree. A second buck was found dead nearby, apparently from being gored in a fight with this buck. The aggressive buck was cut free and quickly bound away.

ECOs Chris Lattimer and Maxwell Nicols responded to a call of a deer shot at night with a rifle and located this buck head. They quickly identified a suspect who admitted to shooting the buck with a .25-caliber pellet gun and without a hunting license.

ECO Joshua Sulkey responded to a call for shots fired in a residential neighborhood and located a dead bear near a trash strewn yard. The homeowner was charged for discharging a firearm within 500’ of a residence and for illegally taking a bear.

ECO Robert Higgins was investigating a baited tree stand when two gunshots rang out. Tracks in the snow led him to the suspect, who was gutting the deer. The suspect eventually admitted to illegally taking two bucks over bait and using the buck tag from a friend.

ECO Robert Peinkofer responded at 1 AM to a poaching complaint. Deer Search, Inc. volunteers (pictured) helped locate this evidence. Investigation led to the arrests of two suspects that shot the buck at night with a crossbow in closed hunt area.
Environmental Conservation Officers

Report All Poachers and Polluters

1-844-DEC-ECOS (844-332-3267)

Approximately 250 field ECOs patrol the entire state. Their job includes enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and state environmental quality laws. ECOs rely on the eyes and ears of our dedicated members of the sporting community to report suspected violations. Poachers and other violators are stealing from you, your children and our environment.

As soon as possible, call the hotline to report suspected violations. Dispatchers will assist you in filing a complaint. You may ask to have your name kept confidential or file anonymously. File complaints online at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.html.

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The sooner you call and the more detailed information you provide, the more likely the violator will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, when, where and how” of the event.

Keep your distance. Do not approach or confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.

Who did it? Provide names, age, sex, height, weight, clothing or vehicle descriptions, etc.

What occurred? What exactly is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking deer using bait, over limit, shooting from roadway, trespass, using tags of another, after hours, non-resident buying resident license.

When did it occur? Dates and times. Is it still in progress, ongoing or yet to happen?

Where did it occur? Provide exact street addresses, town/country, GPS locations or other ways the officer can locate the scene, suspects and evidence.

How did it occur? What methods or circumstances were used in the violation?

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

New York State is a member of IWVC, which is an agreement between states to share information regarding hunting, fishing and trapping convictions. The IWVC gives members the capability to honor each other’s license revocations. Essentially, a violator convicted in one state may be barred from hunting, fishing or trapping in all member states, at the discretion of each state. By early 2015, 44 states were members, with 40 in the process of membership. Call NYSDEC Law Enforcement at (518) 402-8816 or visit http://wildlifecrimestoppers.org/report-a-poacher-2/.
Conservation Easements

Public hunting and trapping is allowed on the conservation easements shown on these maps, but because rules and regulations are different for each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a particular easement property are strongly encouraged to contact the local DEC office (see page 6) before planning a trip.

For more information on Conservation Easements, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html
Regional Maps

2017–18 Habitat & Access Stamp

Under Governor Andrew Cuomo’s New York is Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, DEC is embarking on a Young Forest initiative on Wildlife Management Areas to increase on-the-ground wildlife habitat management in order to foster healthy populations of many wildlife species that use young forests (trees aged 0–10 years) during all or part of their life cycle. Some of these species include ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, New England cottontail, and American woodcock, along with many songbirds that have experienced population declines, such as the golden-winged warbler and whip-poor-will.

We hope that you will continue to support DEC’s Young Forest initiative by buying future Habitat and Access Stamps, and by using the newly created young forest habitat on our WMAs. You can keep track of our progress on DEC’s website at http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html.
Regional Maps

Did you know in 2016, DEC Forest Rangers:

...Patrolled 20,355 miles of trails by foot, snowshoe or skis.

...Inspected 10,893 occupied state land campsites.

...Snowmobile patrolled 4,733 miles of trails and checked 4,502 snowmobiles for safety compliance.

...Made 1,230 arrests for violations of state land use regulations.

www.dec.ny.gov
518-408-5850
Waterfowl Hunting Zone Descriptions

NY State Goose Hunting Areas

See road boundaries at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28510.html

1. The Lake Champlain Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).

2. The Northeast Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).

3. The West Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 7A, 7H, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8H, 8J, 8R and 8S. The West Central Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 6K lying west of a continuous line extending along the north shore of the Salmon River from US Route 11 to Interstate Route 81, then south along Route 81 to Route 49; those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying west of Route 81; and that part of WMU 8G lying north and east of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along Route 98 to Route 20.

4. The East Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 4A, 4F, 6P, 6R, 6S, 7M and 7P. The East Central Goose Hunting Area also includes those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying south of Route 31 and east of Route 81.

5. The Hudson Valley Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3F, 3J, 3M, 4B, 4C, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4Y, 4Z, 5R; that part of WMU 5S lying south of a continuous line extending east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Washington County Route 153, then east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary; and that part of WMU 3G lying in Dutchess County.

6. The South Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3A, 3C, 3H, 3K, 3N, 3P, 3R, 4G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, 7R, 7S, 8M, 8N, 8P, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9A, 9C, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X and 9Y. The South Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 8G lying south and west of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to State Route 20; that part of WMU 3G lying in Putnam County; and that part of WMU 3S lying north of Route I-95.

7. The Western Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk counties lying west of a line extending from the New York-Connecticut boundary due south to the northernmost end of the Sunken Meadow State Parkway, south along the Sunken Meadow State Parkway, the Sagtikos State Parkway, and the Robert Moses State Parkway to its southernmost end, then due south to international waters.

8. The Central Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting areas, as defined above and below.

9. The Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoke Avenue in the Town of Riverhead, south on Roanoke Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25, west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue, south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue), south on CR 104 to CR 31 (Old Riverhead Road), south on CR 31 to Oak Street, south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane, then west on Stevens Lane, then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89), then due south to international waters.

Waterfowl Hunting Zones

Western Zone – That area west of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81 and then south along Interstate Route 81 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary.

Northeastern Zone – That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Lake Champlain Zone – That area east and north of a continuous line extending along Route 11 from the New York-Canada boundary south to Route 9B, south along Route 9B to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Route 22 south of Keeseville, south along Route 22 to the west shore of South Bay along and around the shoreline of South Bay to Route 22 on the east shore of South Bay, southeast along Route 22 to Route 4, northeast along Route 4 to the New York-Vermont boundary.

Southeastern Zone – That area east of Interstate Route 81 that is south of a continuous line extending from Interstate Route 81 east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, and northwest of Interstate Route 95 in Westchester County.

Long Island Zone – That area consisting of Nassau and Suffolk counties and their tidal waters, and that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95. (See map below.)
When Hunting for Wildlife, All Shooting Hours are Sunrise to Sunset, Except:

- Unprotected wildlife—any hour
- Furbearers, i.e. coyote, raccoon, fox, bobcat—any hour
- For most migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, snipe, rails—½ hour before sunrise to sunset
- Spring turkey—½ hour before sunrise to noon