

R H O D E I S L A N D

# Hunting & Trapping

2020-2021 REGULATION GUIDE



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State of Rhode Island  
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# RHODE ISLAND Hunting & Trapping

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Photo by Lowel Turner

## Table of Contents

<b>2</b> ..... Director's Welcome	<b>18</b> ..... Migratory Bird Hunting
<b>3</b> ..... General Information	<b>22</b> ..... Late Season Canada Goose Map
<b>6</b> ..... Legal Shooting Hours	<b>23</b> ..... Goose Hunting
<b>7</b> ..... Hunting Seasons Summary	<b>24</b> ..... Article: R3, Mentoring and Me
<b>8</b> ..... Checking, Tagging and Reporting	<b>25</b> ..... State Land Spotlight: Nicholas Farm Management Area
<b>10</b> ..... Special Hunting Seasons	<b>26</b> ..... Article: Online Mapping
<b>12</b> ..... Deer Hunting	<b>28</b> ..... Turkey Hunting
<b>15</b> ..... Article: Expanding Hunting Opportunities at RI National Wildlife Refuges	<b>29</b> ..... Article: Wildlife Outreach Program
<b>16</b> ..... State Lands	<b>30</b> ..... Small Game Hunting
<b>17</b> ..... Deer Management Zone Map	<b>31</b> ..... Trapping
	<b>32</b> ..... Online Licensing



Photo by Sarah Petrarca

## Welcome Letter



On behalf of Governor Gina Raimondo, I am excited to release the seventh annual **Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Regulation Guide** for Rhode Islanders and visitors who enjoy wildlife and the great outdoors. We hope its information about the ins and outs of harvesting game animals will help novice and seasoned hunters alike.

Rhode Island is home to a myriad of natural habitats. From coastal shrublands to forestland to grasslands that sway in the breeze, opportunities for hunting and trapping abound. Investing in land and wildlife conservation remains an important focus of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Through contributions from Rhode Island hunters, we've protected nearly 600 acres in the last seven years to enhance opportunities for

hunting and trapping, bringing the total purchased to date with your support to more than 16,000 acres. This adds significantly to the 55,000 acres already managed by our Division of Fish and Wildlife. Among the new public lands open to hunting is the 43-acre Warren property that has been incorporated into the state's Burlingame Management Area.

Hunting has a long tradition in Rhode Island, supporting family customs, connecting people with nature, and attracting tourism to the state. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, consumer spending on hunting expands the state economy by \$18 million annually. Spending on wildlife watching contributes another \$200 million. With our new electronic registration system, residents and non-resident customers are now able to purchase hunting licenses, permits, and tags and report their harvests online. Visit <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish> to learn more!

I hope this guide, funded through your contributions to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act), enhances your hunting experiences, while encouraging you to be respectful of the environment and fellow hunters. Enjoy the excitement of the outdoors in beautiful Rhode Island and the tranquility and connection to nature that hunting brings. And thank you for being part of conservation efforts that will provide benefits for generations to come!

Janet Coit  
Director

### Hunting Abstract

This hunting abstract is a summary of the rules, regulations, seasons and bag limits for the 2020-2021 Rhode Island hunting and trapping seasons. For more detailed information, see the General Laws of Rhode Island, obtainable at most public libraries. A complete copy of the Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the 2020-2021 Season can be viewed online at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/documents/regulations/index.php#hunting-fishing>

Copies are also available by contacting the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

### Report Game Violations

RIDEM Environmental Police Officers have broad responsibilities associated with the statewide enforcement of various state environmental laws and regulations, including those associated with hunting, freshwater fishing, and marine fisheries. Officers are always present and on guard to protect these valuable natural resources for all of our citizens.

You can assist them by reporting wildlife violations to the 24 hour hotline at DEM.

**Turn In Poachers! – 401-222-3070  
– 24 Hours/7 days week**



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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### Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey,  
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This guide is also  
available online at  
**eRegulations.com**

## Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that the Freshwater, Marine, and Wildlife resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.

## Significant Regulation Changes & Highlights 2020-2021

1. Scaup has been split into two seasons.
  - » October 9 - 12, November 25 - 29, December 5 - January 4, 2021 with a daily bag limit of 1.
  - » January 5 - 24, 2021 with a daily bag limit of 2.
2. The season for brant has been extended to fifty (50) days.
3. The fisher season limit has been reduced to two (2).
4. A season and daily bag limit have been established for red squirrel.
5. Licensing, game bird importation, and other criteria applicable to shooting preserves and hunting clubs have been revised and clarified.
6. The fall archery turkey season has been extended to October 31.
7. Successful completion of a bow hunter education course is required for anyone using archery equipment to hunt any species for which archery is a permitted method of take.
8. Seasons and bag limits have been established for green frog, bullfrog, and snapping turtles. Harvesting snapping turtles for commercial purposes is prohibited.
9. Non-toxic shot is required per Federal regulation for all dove, duck (including coot and

merganser), and goose hunting in Field 1 at South Shore Management Area.

## Definitions

**Antlerless deer** - deer having no antlers or antlers less than three (3) inches in length.

**Archery Proficiency testing** - the measurable demonstration of skills with archery equipment using a set of standards as determined by the hunter education program.

**Bearded turkey** - a wild turkey that carries a visible beard, i.e., a tuft of stiff filament-like feathers projecting outward and downward from the center of the chest.

**Conibear-type trap** - "conibear" model traps and similar body-gripping traps and devices.

**Daily bag limit** - the maximum number of game of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season.

**Driving deer/cooperative drive** - to pursue, drive, chase, or otherwise frighten or cause a deer to move in a direction toward a person or persons known to be waiting for deer.

**Field possession limit** - the maximum number of game of a single species or combination of species permitted to be possessed by one person while in the field, in one's vehicle, boat, trailer or other means of transportation when traveling between the field and one's personal abode. This shall be equal to the daily bag or season limit.

**Junior Hunter** - any person 12-14 years of age who possesses a hunter safety education certificate. Junior hunters may only hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older who possesses a current RI hunting license.

**Personal abode** - one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or



dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

**Possess or Possession** - to exercise dominion or control over any wild animal commencing at the time at which a decision is made not to return the wild animal to the immediate vicinity from which it was taken and lasting up until its ultimate disposition. The decision to possess or return the animal must be made at the first practical opportunity.

**Season bag limit** - the maximum number of game of a single species permitted to be taken by one person over the duration of the open season.

**Tidal Waters** - waters of the State extending from mean high water to the seaward limit of three (3) miles.

## Chief's Message:

Welcome to the hunting and fishing abstract for the State of Rhode Island. You will find all the necessary information within this and a list of resources, locations and programs that are offered. Rhode Island, while small, has a great deal to offer for outdoor enthusiasts. Whitetail deer, waterfowl, small game and upland game hunting, along with a tremendous trout stocking program for our freshwater bodies of water. Saltwater anglers can fish the many miles of shoreline, take a charter boat or use recreational boating to access some of the best fishing on the east coast.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife offer hunter education courses, operate a state-of-the-art shooting range at the Great Swamp and provide many other programs for you to learn from and explore. All of the pro-

gramming is provided to ensure that those hunting and fishing in our state, do so in an ethical manner with the greatest regard for the outdoor environment and the wildlife inhabitants. Fish and Wildlife have a highly educated and dedicated staff that work to provide wildlife habitat, game management and trout and salmon stocking programs to benefit the outdoorsmen.

The Environmental Police work together with all divisions of the department, to provide resource protection through conservation law enforcement. Our officers are highly educated and trained to provide a diverse and thorough background in natural resources. Officers are responsible for all state lands, private lands for hunting and fishing oversight, as well as the marine environment. Hunting, fishing and boating safety and enforcement are the primary functions of the division.

Officers are provided with a tremendous assortment of tools to insure the protection of our natural resources for future generations.

In these unprecedented times, the outdoors provides a much-needed relief for all. Protecting the beauty of Rhode Island is the responsibility of all that endeavor outside, explore the woods and waters of our state and enjoy the assortment of wildlife that we offer. As Chief, I welcome you to Rhode Island and ask that everyone do their part to protect the natural resources of this small but incredibly diverse state. Go out and explore, enjoy and take in all that Rhode Island has to offer.

Sincerely,

**Dean Hoxsie, Chief**  
RI Environmental Police  
(401-222-3070)

# General INFORMATION

License & Permits	Fee (online)	Fee (at vendor)
<b>Resident Hunting License</b> (must be 15 years old) <sup>1</sup>	\$18.00	\$20.00
<b>Resident Combination License</b> (Hunting & Fishing)	\$33.00	\$35.00
<b>Resident Junior Hunting License</b> (12-14 years old) <sup>1</sup>	\$18.00	\$20.00
<b>Permanent Resident Combination License</b> (over 65 or disabled)	No fee <sup>3</sup>	No Fee
<b>Resident Trapping License</b>	\$10.00	\$12.00
<b>Resident Fur Buyer License</b>	\$10.00	\$12.00
<b>Non-Resident Hunting License</b> (must be 15 years old) <sup>1</sup>	\$45.00	\$48.00
<b>Non-Resident Tourist Hunting License</b> (3-day)	\$16.00	\$19.00
<b>Non-Resident Junior Hunting License</b> (12-14 years old) <sup>1</sup>	\$45.00	\$48.00
<b>Non-Resident Trapping License</b> (if reciprocal privileges allowed)	\$30.00	\$33.00
<b>Non-Resident Fur Buyer License</b>	\$30.00	\$33.00
<b>Active Military Personnel Hunting License</b>	\$18.00	\$20.00
<b>Resident All Outdoors Package Permit</b> <sup>5</sup>	\$75.00	\$78.00
<b>Resident Deer Permit</b> <sup>2</sup>	\$12.50	\$13.00
<b>Non-Resident Deer Permit</b> <sup>2</sup>	\$25.50	\$26.50
<b>Resident Turkey Permit</b>	\$7.50	\$8.00
<b>Non-Resident Turkey Permit</b>	\$20.00	\$21.00
<b>RI Game Bird Permit</b>	\$15.50	\$16.00 <sup>4</sup>
<b>State Waterfowl Stamp</b>	\$7.50	\$8.00 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Migratory Bird (H.I.P) Permit</b>	No fee	No Fee

- 1 Junior hunters must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license.
- 2 Deer permits are season, sex and zone specific.
- 3 Any resident 65 years or older or with a permanent disability may obtain a free permanent license through the online system, at any license vendor, or at the DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing.
- 4 Non-Residents pay a \$1.00 Enhanced access fee (\$16.50 Gamebird Permit and \$8.50 State Waterfowl Stamp).
- 5 The All Outdoors Deer Permit Package consists of two (2) antlered deer permits and five (5) antlerless deer permits that may be used in any combination during the open deer seasons in Zones 1 and 2 in accordance with the zone bag limits.

## Licenses & Permits

No person shall hunt, pursue, take or kill any wild bird or animal in the state without first having obtained a Rhode Island hunting license (RIGL 20-13-1). Hunters must have a signed paper copy of their license and permits in possession, on their person, at all times and shall present it for inspection on demand by any authorized person. Failure to present a license shall make a person liable to the same penalties as if he or she was hunting without a license (RIGL 20-2-9). Licensed hunters and trappers are subject to inspection of any boat, vehicle, game bag, blind, stand, or other paraphernalia used in conjunction with licensed activity (RIGL

20-2-32). Licenses may be suspended or revoked because of violations of hunting rules and regulations (RIGL 20-2-13).

The possession of a valid Rhode Island hunting, or combination hunting and fishing license, shall serve as a permit to hunt State Management Areas (RIGL 20-18-2 and 20-18-3), except when check stations are in operation or when special permits are required for deer, waterfowl, or turkey hunting on state lands.

This permit shall be valid only from the first day of season to the last day in February. The carrying of firearms on state management areas at any other time is prohibited.

Hunting Licenses are available from online at [www.dem.ri.gov/hunt-fish](http://www.dem.ri.gov/hunt-fish), DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licenses at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-3576; most city and town clerks; and most sporting goods stores. Reprints of lost or damaged licenses are free through the online system. Purchases made at a full service vendor carry an Enhanced Access Fee (EAF) to offset the cost of administering the licensing system. The enhanced access fees are as follows:

- **Resident:** \$2 per license and \$0.50 per permit
- **Non-Resident:** \$3 per license and \$1.00 per permit
- No EAF for Recreational Saltwater Fishing or No Cost Licenses and permits.

## Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All migratory bird hunters are required to obtain a HIP certification and answer a short survey. HIP permits are available free of charge through the online system, at license vendors, DEM Providence headquarters and the DEM Great Swamp Field Office. The HIP program provides state agencies and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agencies with better data that improves their ability to manage our nation's migratory bird resources.

## Hunter Safety Course Requirements & Licensing

Persons applying for a hunting license or archery permit for the first time or not having been a member of the armed forces must complete a course in safe hunting or archery practices and have been issued a Hunter Education Certificate to obtain a license. License applicants must present a valid hunter safety certificate from Rhode Island or other state, or possess a previous hunting license from RI or other state, or present proof of current or honorably discharged military status. Applicants for an archery deer permit or fall archery turkey permit must provide proof of successful completion of an Archery Safety Education course. A list of hunter safety classes, dates, and locations is available from the Hunter Safety Office: (401) 539-0019 or on the web: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/huntereducation>.

An online hunter education course is available at <https://www.hunter-ed.com/rhodeisland/> and an online bow hunter education course is available at <https://www.bowhunter-ed.com/rhodeisland/>.

## Prohibited Activities

- No loaded rifles or shotguns in or on vehicles (RIGL 20-13-8).
- No shooting at, hunting, or pursuing game along, upon, or across a public highway (RIGL 20-13-9).

Hunting Licenses and Permits	Deer	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game (Coyote*, Fox, Squirrel, Rabbit, and Raccoon)	Morning Doves, Crows, Woodcock, Snipe and Rails	Waterfowl
<b>Hunting License</b>	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Deer Permit</b>	•					
<b>Turkey Permit</b>		•				
<b>Game Bird Permit</b>			•			
<b>HIP Permit</b>					•	•
<b>Federal Duck Stamp</b>						•
<b>State Duck Stamp</b>						•

\* Deer permit needed during archery deer season

- It is a violation of law, punishable by a fine and imprisonment, to fire “into” land for which one does not have landowner permission.
- No hunting on posted land without landowner permission or state parks, with the exception of undeveloped state parks as denoted in the regulations, removing or defacing posters thereon, or doing willful damage to property (RIGL 11-44-4,5).
- No more than five (5) persons to hunt in unison (RIGL 20-13-11).
- Target or trap shooting on state lands is only allowed on provided ranges (RIGL 32-2-4).
- No hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs (RIGL 20-13-10).
- Spotlighting for wild animals and birds is prohibited (statewide and islands) from September 15 through the last day of February (RIHR 9.7.2.F).
- Shooting at any animal at anytime while such animal is on a telephone or electric line, pole, or tower or any communication device (RIHR 9.17.H).
- The importation, exportation, possession, liberation, or sale of any mute swan and/or eggs thereof, or live pen-reared or hybrid wild turkey and/or eggs thereof (RIHR 9.17.B).
- Importing of live birds or animals without permit (RIGL 20-17-9).
- Taking of birds by any method other than shotgun, bow and arrow, or falconry without permit (RIGL 20-14-7).
- The sale of game, except as provided (RIGL 20-13-14).
- Feeding and baiting wildlife in the state of Rhode Island is not permitted at any time for any purposes except as defined (RIHR 9.17.J).

## Discharge and Firearm Restrictions

- It is unlawful to carry a loaded firearm or archery equipment outside legal shooting hours. Provided the hunter is stationary, his / her firearm or archery equipment may be loaded within fifteen (15) minutes prior to legal shooting hours (RIHR 9.17.L).
- The use or possession of laser sights that project a beam or night-vision equipment while hunting is prohibited (RIHR 9.7.2.G).
- No lead shot larger than No. 2 at any time (RIGL 20-13-13).
- No rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire at any time; however, from Apr. 1 to Sept. 30, (both dates inclusive), centerfire rifles no larger than .229 caliber may be used during daylight hours (RIGL 20-13-13).
- Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited (RIGL 20-13-7, RIGL 20-15-1).
- Archery hunting, within 200 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited (RIGL 20-15-1).

## Important Laws & Regulations Pertaining to Wildlife

The Lacey Act of 1900, the first federal game law, regulates interstate and international commerce in wildlife. The term “wildlife”, for the purposes of the act, means any wild animal, wild bird, amphibian, reptile, mollusk, or crustacean, or their dead bodies, parts, eggs, or offspring, but does not include migratory birds for which protection is afforded under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Briefly, action can be taken against anyone who transports, ships, or sells wildlife in interstate or foreign commerce contrary to state or foreign laws, or transports any package not properly labeled or tagged.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is an international agreement that was signed in 1918 for the protection of migratory bird populations. Migratory birds are protected by the federal government with provisions allowing state regulation. All birds, their parts, nests, and eggs are protected, except as provided by open hunting seasons.

## Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Solid fluorescent hunter orange must be worn above the waist and be visible in all directions. Examples are: a hat that covers 200 square inches or a combination of hat and vest covering 500 square inches. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet this requirement.

- 200sq. in. by small game hunters during the small game season, fall turkey hunters while traveling, and muzzleloader deer hunters during the muzzleloader deer season.
- 200sq. in. by archers when traveling to/from elevated stands during the muzzleloader season. Once in an elevated stand, archery deer hunters are exempt from the orange requirement during the muzzleloader season.
- 500sq. in. by all hunters (including archers) and all users of management areas and undeveloped state parks during all portions of shotgun deer seasons.
- Hunters using pop-up blinds during the firearms deer season must display 200 square inches of fluorescent orange visible on the outside of the blind from all directions. Hunters must also wear orange in accordance with the rules for the specific seasons while in the blind.
- Exemptions: Raccoon hunters when hunting at night, crow hunters while hunting over decoys, spring turkey hunters, first segment dove hunters, and waterfowl hunters while hunting from a boat or a blind, over water or field, when done in conjunction with decoys. Fluorescent orange is not required in areas limited to archery-only hunting by regulation.
- All other users of State Management Areas and designated undeveloped State Parks, including but not limited to: hikers, bikers, and horseback riders are required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange from the second Saturday in September to the last day of February and the third Saturday in April to the last day in May.



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**Email [lowlandswhitetails@yahoo.com](mailto:lowlandswhitetails@yahoo.com)**

# Shooting Hours & SUNRISE/SUNSET

## Legal Shooting Hours

Season	Hours
<b>Small Game</b>	Sunrise until Sunset (7:00 AM on opening day)
<b>Deer Hunting</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
<b>Coyote</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
<b>Raccoon</b>	6:00 PM October 1 until 11:59 PM of the last day of February
<b>Waterfowl</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
<b>Canada Goose, September season only</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until 1:00PM
<b>Fall Turkey</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
<b>Dove (1<sup>st</sup> segment)</b>	Noon until Sunset
<b>Dove (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> segment)</b>	Sunrise until Sunset
<b>Woodcock, Snipe &amp; Rails</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
<b>Crow</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset

## Sunrise / Sunset Table at Providence, RI

Darker brown indicates Daylight Savings Time

Day	September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
01	6:11	7:18	6:43	6:26	6:18	4:39	6:54	4:15	7:13	4:25	6:57	5:01	6:20	5:36	6:28	7:11	5:41	7:44
02	6:13	7:16	6:44	6:24	6:19	4:38	6:55	4:15	7:13	4:26	6:56	5:02	6:18	5:37	6:26	7:12	5:40	7:45
03	6:14	7:14	6:45	6:23	6:21	4:36	6:56	4:15	7:13	4:27	6:55	5:03	6:16	5:38	6:24	7:13	5:39	7:46
04	6:15	7:13	6:46	6:21	6:22	4:35	6:57	4:14	7:13	4:28	6:54	5:05	6:15	5:39	6:23	7:14	5:37	7:47
05	6:16	7:11	6:47	6:19	6:23	4:34	6:58	4:14	7:13	4:29	6:53	5:06	6:13	5:41	6:21	7:15	5:36	7:48
06	6:17	7:09	6:48	6:17	6:24	4:33	6:59	4:14	7:13	4:30	6:52	5:07	6:12	5:42	6:19	7:16	5:35	7:49
07	6:18	7:08	6:49	6:16	6:25	4:32	6:59	4:14	7:12	4:31	6:51	5:09	6:10	5:43	6:18	7:18	5:34	7:50
08	6:19	7:06	6:50	6:14	6:27	4:31	7:00	4:14	7:12	4:32	6:49	5:10	6:08	5:44	6:16	7:19	5:32	7:51
09	6:20	7:04	6:51	6:13	6:28	4:30	7:01	4:14	7:12	4:33	6:48	5:11	6:07	5:45	6:14	7:20	5:31	7:53
10	6:21	7:02	6:52	6:11	6:29	4:29	7:02	4:14	7:12	4:34	6:47	5:12	6:05	5:46	6:13	7:21	5:30	7:54
11	6:22	7:01	6:54	6:09	6:30	4:28	7:03	4:14	7:12	4:35	6:46	5:14	6:03	5:47	6:11	7:22	5:29	7:55
12	6:23	6:59	6:55	6:08	6:32	4:27	7:04	4:15	7:11	4:36	6:44	5:15	6:02	5:49	6:09	7:23	5:28	7:56
13	6:24	6:57	6:56	6:06	6:33	4:26	7:04	4:15	7:11	4:37	6:43	5:16	6:00	5:50	6:08	7:24	5:27	7:57
14	6:25	6:55	6:57	6:04	6:34	4:25	7:05	4:15	7:10	4:39	6:42	5:17	6:58	6:51	6:06	7:25	5:26	7:58
15	6:26	6:54	6:58	6:03	6:35	4:24	7:06	4:15	7:10	4:40	6:40	5:19	6:57	6:52	6:05	7:26	5:25	7:59
16	6:27	6:52	6:59	6:01	6:36	4:23	7:07	4:16	7:10	4:41	6:39	5:20	6:55	6:53	6:03	7:27	5:24	8:00
17	6:28	6:50	7:00	6:00	6:38	4:22	7:07	4:16	7:09	4:42	6:38	5:21	6:53	6:54	6:01	7:29	5:23	8:01
18	6:29	6:48	7:01	5:58	6:39	4:22	7:08	4:16	7:08	4:43	6:36	5:22	6:51	6:55	6:00	7:30	5:22	8:02
19	6:30	6:47	7:03	5:57	6:40	4:21	7:08	4:17	7:08	4:44	6:35	5:24	6:50	6:57	5:58	7:31	5:21	8:03
20	6:31	6:45	7:04	5:55	6:41	4:20	7:09	4:17	7:07	4:46	6:33	5:25	6:48	6:58	5:57	7:32	5:20	8:04
21	6:32	6:43	7:05	5:54	6:42	4:20	7:10	4:18	7:07	4:47	6:32	5:26	6:46	6:59	5:55	7:33	5:20	8:05
22	6:33	6:41	7:06	5:52	6:44	4:19	7:10	4:18	7:06	4:48	6:30	5:27	6:45	7:00	5:54	7:34	5:19	8:05
23	6:34	6:40	7:07	5:51	6:45	4:18	7:10	4:19	7:05	4:49	6:29	5:29	6:43	7:01	5:52	7:35	5:18	8:06
24	6:35	6:38	7:08	5:49	6:46	4:18	7:11	4:19	7:04	4:51	6:27	5:30	6:41	7:02	5:51	7:36	5:17	8:07
25	6:36	6:36	7:10	5:48	6:47	4:17	7:11	4:20	7:04	4:52	6:26	5:31	6:39	7:03	5:49	7:37	5:17	8:08
26	6:37	6:35	7:11	5:47	6:48	4:17	7:12	4:21	7:03	4:53	6:24	5:32	6:38	7:04	5:48	7:38	5:16	8:09
27	6:38	6:33	7:12	5:45	6:49	4:16	7:12	4:21	7:02	4:54	6:23	5:33	6:36	7:05	5:47	7:40	5:15	8:10
28	6:39	6:31	7:13	5:44	6:50	4:16	7:12	4:22	7:01	4:56	6:21	5:35	6:34	7:07	5:45	7:41	5:15	8:11
29	6:40	6:29	7:14	5:43	6:51	4:16	7:12	4:23	7:00	4:57			6:33	7:08	5:44	7:42	5:14	8:12
30	6:42	6:28	7:16	5:41	6:53	4:15	7:12	4:24	6:59	4:58			6:31	7:09	5:43	7:43	5:14	8:12
31			7:17	5:40			7:13	4:24	6:58	5:00			6:29	7:10			5:13	8:13

# Hunting SEASONS SUMMARY

For further information regarding specific bag, possession, and season limits please visit the pages noted in the table below.

## Deer Hunting (see page 12 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Archery (includes Crossbow)	September 12 - 13 (Youth only, Zone 1) September 26 - 27 (Youth only, Zone 2) September 15 - January 31, 2021 (Zone 1) October 1 - January 31, 2021 (Zone 2)
Archery: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 24 - 25 (Youth only) November 1 - January 31, 2021
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 13-16, 19-23, 26-30
Muzzleloader	October 24 - 25 (Youth only Zones 1, 2) November 7 - 29 (Zones 1, 2) December 26 - January 2, 2021 (Zones 1, 2 Private land only, antlerless deer only)
Shotgun	December 5 - 20 (Zone 1) December 5 - 13 (Zone 2) December 26 - January 2, 2021 (Zones 1, 2 - Private land only, antlerless deer only)
Archery, Muzzleloader & Shotgun: Block Island (Zone 4)	November 2, 4-6, 9-13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30 December 1, 3, 4, 7-11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21-24 January 4, 5, 7, 8, 11-15, 19-22, 25-29, 2021 February 1-5, 8-12, 16-19, 22-26, 2021
Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 27 - 30

## Migratory Gamebird Hunting\* (page 18 for bag/possession limit information)

Season	Dates
Crow	August 14 - October 4 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only), October 17 - December 7, December 18 - April 3, 2021 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)
King/Clapper Rail and Sora/Virginia Rail	September 1 - November 9
Snipe	September 1 - November 9
Mourning Dove	September 12 - October 11, October 17 - November 29, December 12 - 27
Woodcock	October 17 - November 30
Canada Goose (Early Season)	September 1 - 30
Canada Goose (Regular Season)	November 21 - 29, December 5 - January 24, 2021
Canada Goose (Late Season)	January 30 - February 13, 2021
Snow Goose (including blue goose)	October 10 - January 24, 2021
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots**	October 9 - 12, November 25 - 29, December 5 - January 24, 2021
Sea Ducks	November 26 - January 24, 2021
Brant	December 6 - January 24, 2021
Youth Waterfowl	October 24 - 25

## Wild Turkey Hunting (see page 28 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Fall Archery	October 1 - 31
Youth & Paraplegic	April 24 - 25, 2021
Spring	April 29 - May 23, 2021

## Small Game Hunting (see page 30 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Coyote - State Land	September 15 - February 28, 2021 April 29 - May 23, 2021
Coyote - Private Land	No Closed Season
Raccoon	October 1 - February 28, 2021
Youth Pheasant	October 10 - 11
Pheasant	October 17 - February 28, 2021
Cottontail Rabbit	October 17 - February 28, 2021
Gray and Red Squirrel	October 17 - February 28, 2021
Bobwhite Quail	October 17 - February 28, 2021
Red, Gray Fox	October 17 - February 28, 2021
Ruffed Grouse	CLOSED

\*Season dates are subject to regulatory changes occurring at the time of printing. Please refer to the complete Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the 2020-2021 season.

\*\*See new scaup regulations on page 18.

# Checking, TAGGING & REPORTING

## State Operated Check Stations

The state operated check stations provide biologists with information on hunter success and gives them a chance to inspect and sample harvested game.

- **Arcadia Management Area:** Rt. 165, Ten Rod Road, at Wood River, Exeter, Phone: 401-539-7117.
- **Carolina Management Area:** Pine Hill Road, Richmond, Phone: 401-364-3483.
- **Durfee Hill Management Area:** Reynolds Road (Rte 94), Gloucester, Phone: 401-568-6753
- **Great Swamp Management Area:** 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, Phone: 401-789-1636

## Check-In for Small Game Hunters

- Small game hunters are required to check in and out of state operated check stations and present harvest for inspection if hunting at Great Swamp, Arcadia, Durfee Hill and Carolina Management Areas during the first three weekends of Small Game Season on the following dates.
- **Operating Hours:** October 17 - 18, October 24 - 25 and October 31 - November 1; open 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

## Deer Check Stations

- All deer taken during the first four days (Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday) of the Muzzleloader Deer Season, including deer taken with archery equipment, must be physically checked at a state operated biological check station; except those deer taken on Patience, Prudence and Block Island, which must be reported using the online licensing system.
- **Operating Hours:** November 7 - 10; open 8:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. daily.

## How to Tag and Report Your Wild Turkey

DEM launched the online hunting and fishing licensing system in 2018. In addition to using this system to purchase licenses, permits and tags electronically, you will also use this system to report your harvests. The following shows you how to properly tag and report your wild turkey harvest!

### 1. BAG IT!

Congratulations on your successful harvest!

### 2. TAG IT!

Your tag must be notched (day, month and hour of harvest) before moving the bird for photos or to leave the woods!



Photo by Dylan Ferreira



- The notched tag and turkey must remain in your possession when removing the turkey from the field.
- If you must leave the field prior to removing the turkey (to return gear to your vehicle or dwelling); the notched tag must be attached to and remain with the carcass.

### 3. REPORT IT!

Use your QR reader on your smartphone to scan your permit, or go to:

**[www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish)**



- Measure the beard and spurs:
  - » Beard less than 6" and spurs less than 0.5" = Jake
  - » Beard longer than 6" and spurs longer than 0.5" = Tom
  - » No beard or spurs = Hen (fall archery season only!)
- You must report your harvest by **midnight** on the **day of the harvest**.
- If you do not have internet or cellular data access to report your turkey harvest, you may call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. M-F to report your harvest.
- Write your harvest report confirmation number on your tag and keep the tag with your turkey until prepared for taxidermy or consumption.

**Questions: Call the Division of Fish and Wildlife (401) 789-0281 or email [dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov](mailto:dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov).**

# How to Tag Your Deer and Report Your Harvest

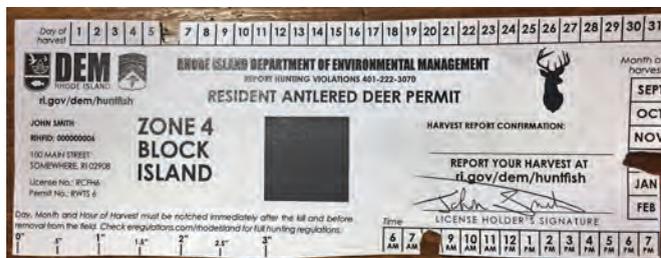
The online licensing system has brought changes to tagging and reporting your deer harvest that all hunters should be aware of. Before you leave the house or license vendor, sign your hunting license and deer tags! Now you will not need a pen until you report your harvest online or over the phone! Before heading afield, grab a zip tie or string along with a durable plastic bag and put your license and tags inside the bag to protect them from the elements!

## 1. BAG IT!

Congratulations on your successful deer harvest!

## 2. TAG IT!

Your tag must be notched (day, hour and month of harvest) before moving the deer for photos, field dressing or to leave the woods.



Per Rhode Island Law, the notched tag must be affixed to and remain with the carcass. Use care to securely affix the tag so that the tag will not be lost when removing the deer from the woods or transporting to a check station, butcher or your home.

**HELPFUL TIP:** It is recommended to place your tag in a durable, clear plastic bag (Ziploc bag) to make sure your tag will not rip, tear, or become illegible from water, blood or dirt. Consider rolling up the bag with the tag inside, and placing it inside the deer's ear and tie the ear shut with a piece of string or zip tie. Reminder: The notched tag must remain affixed to the deer at all times until the deer has been prepared for taxidermy or consumption.



## 3. Report It!

Use your QR reader on your smartphone to scan your permit, or go to:

[www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish)

- You must report your deer harvest within 24 hours. If you do not have internet or cellular data access to report your deer harvest, you may call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday to report your harvest.
- Once on the harvest reporting site, you will be asked a few questions to determine the age and sex of the animal, the location and method of harvest and information about your time afield.
- When you are finished reporting your deer online or over the phone, you will be given a harvest report confirmation number. This number confirms that you have reported your harvest. Write the number on your tag and keep the tag affixed to the deer until prepared for taxidermy or consumption.

**REMINDER: Physical checking of deer required November 7 -10 at a biological check station!**

- All deer taken during the period Nov. 7 - 10 must be physically checked, except those taken on Patience, Prudence and Block Islands.



Above: Deer tag securely fastened inside ear with zip-tie.

Below: Deer tag protected in plastic bag and securely fastened to leg with electrical tape.



# Youth & Disabled HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

## Youth Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Youth Deer Archery	Zone 1	September 12 - 13
	Zone 2	September 26 - 27
	Zone 3	October 24 - 25
Youth Deer Muzzleloader	Zones 1 & 2	October 24 - 25
Youth Waterfowl	Statewide	October 24 - 25
Youth Pheasant	Great Swamp WMA, South Kingstown Durfee Hill WMA, Glocester Eight Rod Farm WMA, Tiverton	October 10 - 11
Youth Turkey	Statewide	April 24 - 25, 2021

- All youth hunters ages 12 to 14 must be in possession of a resident or non-resident junior hunting license in order to hunt in RI. Youth hunters age 15 must possess a resident or non-resident hunting license. Licenses can be purchased after the completion of a Hunter Safety course.
- Youth hunters age 12 - 14 must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license. Hunters age 15 do not have to hunt in the immediate company of a licensed adult EXCEPT when waterfowl hunting during the youth waterfowl hunt when all youth hunters ages 12 - 15 must hunt in the immediate company of a licensed adult.
- An adult may accompany no more than two youth hunters at any one time. Adults are prohibited from hunting or carrying archery equipment/firearms during the youth-only hunting days.

- All other hunting permit requirements and hunting regulations per season remain.
- For more information on hunting, contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 401-789-0281 or by emailing DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov.
- For more information about youth hunting opportunities or our Hunter Education program, call 401-539-0019 or email Scott.Travers@dem.ri.gov.

**Youth Deer Hunting:** Dates vary depending on Season and Zone. All other regulations and permit requirements apply. Please see page 12 for more deer hunting information.

**Youth Waterfowl Hunting:** Youth hunters may take ducks, sea ducks and geese following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons. All youth hunters (12 - 15) and those adults accompanying youth hunters must have a current HIP Permit and RI hunting license.

The accompanying adult must also possess a current RI State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp.

**Youth Waterfowl Training and Mentored Hunt:** For the 6th consecutive year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is partnering with Ducks Unlimited to offer a youth waterfowl training day (September date TBA) and mentored hunt opportunity on youth waterfowl weekend for those youths that attend the training. Space is limited for the training and mentored hunt. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Kilburn at jennifer.kilburn@dem.ri.gov.

**Youth Pheasant Hunting:** Youth Pheasant Hunt to be held on October 10 - 11 at Great Swamp, Durfee Hill and Eight Rod Farm Wildlife Management Areas. For more information please email Scott.Travers@dem.ri.gov or call 401-539-0019.

**Youth Turkey Hunting:** Youth hunters may take two (2) bearded turkeys during the spring season, provided they purchase at least one (1) spring turkey permit. No more than one (1) bearded turkey may be taken on state lands during the spring season. All stipulations, permit requirements, and pertinent regulations apply. Accompanying adult may assist the youth hunter in calling the bird. No preregistration is required. For more information please contact our hunter education office by emailing Scott.Travers@dem.ri.gov or by calling 401-539-0019.



Photo by Sarah Petrarca



Photo by Sarah Petrarca

## Disabled Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters	Zone 3	October 27 - 30
Paraplegic Hunter Turkey Season	Statewide	April 24 - 25, 2021

### Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)

**Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters:** The taking of deer will be limited to paraplegic and double amputee hunters only.

- A special hunting permit must be obtained through the RI DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing Division, 235 Promenade St. Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-3576 by each applicant prior to the hunt. None will be issued on the island. An application signed by a physician for a first-time hunter, or a photocopy of a previous paraplegic/double amputee hunting license, is required.
- None of the hunter's assistants will be allowed to hunt or carry loaded firearms at any time. No license is required of the assistants.
- All deer taken must be checked using the online harvest reporting system [www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish).

- All deer wounded, but not recovered, must be reported to DEM within 24 hours.
- Disabled hunters may use a shotgun or muzzleloader.
- Ammunition is limited to a single lead or alloy projectile, rifled slug or sabot rounds in 10, 12, 16, or 20 gauge only. Buckshot is prohibited. Hunters may use muzzleloading firearms on Prudence Island.

**Paraplegic Hunter Turkey Season:** Spring turkey permit required. Hunting in this season is limited to paraplegic hunters only as evidenced by possession of a permanent disability hunting license. Bag limit is two (2) provided no more than one (1) is taken on state land.

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## Deer Hunting Seasons

Season	Dates
<b>Archery (includes Crossbow)</b>	September 12 - 13 ( <b>Youth only, Zone 1</b> )* September 26 - 27 ( <b>Youth only, Zone 2</b> )* September 15 - January 31, 2021 ( <b>Zone 1</b> ) October 1 - January 31, 2021 ( <b>Zone 2</b> )
<b>Archery: Patience &amp; Prudence Islands (Zone 3)</b>	October 24 - 25 ( <b>Youth only</b> )* November 1 - January 31, 2021
<b>Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)</b>	October 13 - 16, 19-23, 26-30 ( <b>Check local ordinance</b> )
<b>Muzzleloader</b>	October 24 - 25 ( <b>Youth only Zones 1, 2</b> )* November 7 - 29 ( <b>Zones 1, 2</b> ) December 26 - January 2, 2021 ( <b>Zones 1, 2 Private land only, antlerless deer only</b> )
<b>Shotgun</b>	December 5 - 20 ( <b>Zone 1</b> ) December 5 - 13 ( <b>Zone 2</b> ) December 26 - January 2, 2021 ( <b>Zones 1, 2 - Private land only, antlerless deer only</b> )
<b>Archery, Muzzleloader, Shotgun (Zone 4)</b>	November 2, 4-6, 9-13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30 December 1, 3, 4, 7-11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21-24 January 4, 5, 7, 8, 11-15, 19-22, 25-29, 2021 February 1 - 5, 8-12, 16-19, 22-26, 2021
<b>Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience &amp; Prudence Islands (Zone 3)</b>	October 27 - 30

### 2020-21 Season Bag Limits

<b>Statewide (all zones &amp; methods combined)</b>	2 Antlered Deer, (Zone 3: no more than 1 Antlered Deer)
<b>Zone 1</b>	3 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 2</b>	2 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 3</b>	2 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 4</b>	Unlimited Antlerless Deer

\* See page 10 for more information on Youth & Disabled Hunter Opportunities

## RI Deer Management Strategy:

Deer management zones (see map on page 17) have been established for harvesting deer in accordance with specific management goals for RI. The need to reduce auto strikes and address nuisance deer complaints are important deer management issues in addition to DEM's goal to preserve and maintain quality deer hunting for sportsmen.

### With this strategy we hope to:

- Provide a deer management program that maintains a healthy deer population that is sustainable and ecologically appropriate.
- Maintain quality deer hunting opportunities recognizing the strong tradition of hunting in Rhode Island and the important role hunting plays in wildlife conservation.

## Deer Hunting Methods

Please note: Only one firearm or bow may be possessed in the field per individual hunter while hunting deer. Check local ordinances for further restrictions in specific towns.

### Shotgun

- No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot or attempt to shoot any deer with a shotgun capable of holding more than five shells, unless it is plugged with one-piece filler, which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- Ammunition permitted for shotgun deer season is limited to a single lead or alloy projectile, including rifled slugs or sabot round. Buckshot is prohibited at all times.
- Shotguns of 10, 12, 16, or 20-gauge are allowed.
- Muzzleloaders will be permitted during the shotgun season provided hunters possess a current shotgun deer permit and comply with muzzleloader restrictions. Hunters taking a deer must tag the deer with the shotgun deer tag immediately after taking. All shotgun deer season fluorescent orange requirements will be enforced.

### Muzzleloader

- Firearms for muzzleloader deer season are limited to .45 caliber or larger using percussion caplock, flintlock, and in-line ignition systems using percussion caps, rifle, or shotshell primers. Only single barrel or double barrel firearms that must be loaded from the muzzle are permitted.
- Ammunition for muzzleloader deer season is limited to a single projectile, including round ball, or maxi ball type projectiles. Sabot rounds for muzzleloader firearms are permitted. Powder is limited to manufacturers' specifications. Telescopic sights are permitted. Possession of modern shotgun shotshells while hunting is prohibited.
- A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when the percussion cap, primer or pan powder is removed.

### Archery

- Archers may use a long bow, re-curve bow, compound bow or crossbow for hunting deer.
- Long bow, re-curve bow and compound bow must be set at not less than forty (40) pounds for archers using fixed blade broadheads, and a minimum of fifty (50) pounds for archers using mechanical broadheads.
- Only broadhead tipped arrows with at least two (2) metal cutting edges are allowed. All broadheads must be seven eighths (7/8) of an inch or greater at the widest point including mechanical broadheads measured in the "open" position.
- Crossbows must be set at not less than one hundred twenty five (125) pounds minimum draw weight. Expandable broadheads are permitted.
- One (1) field point arrow may be carried in the quiver for the safe discharge of the crossbow; the field point arrow must be made distinguishable from the crossbow arrow by a color difference.
- All archery deer hunters must have taken and successfully completed bow hunter education classes or hold a prior year archery deer permit in order to obtain a current year archery deer permit.
- Licensed deer hunters may carry one (1) blunt or judo tipped arrow to hunt the open portion of the small game season during the archery deer season.
- Licensed archery deer hunters using a crossbow may carry one (1) blunt or judo tipped arrow to hunt small game mammals during the open portion of the small game season during the archery deer season; no birds may be taken with a crossbow and this arrow must be made distinguishable from broadhead tipped arrows and the discharge arrow.

## Adaptive Aids

Special archery adaptive aids for use with vertical held bows may be used by all hunters without a special permit.

## Decoys

Deer decoys may be used on private lands in Zone 1 between September 15 and October 31, and in Zone 2 between October 1 and October 31 while archery hunting only. However, deer decoys may be used throughout the extent of the open archery season on private lands in towns where hunting with a firearm is prohibited but use of archery equipment is permitted. When transporting deer decoys for the purpose of hunting, persons must wear 500 square inches of fluorescent orange visible from all sides as is currently required for shotgun deer hunting.

## Prohibited Deer Hunting Activities

- The use or possession of deer scents/lures that contain natural cervid (including deer, moose, elk) urine, gland oil, feces, tissue, blood or any other bodily fluids while taking, attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife.
- The use of electronic calls.
- The placement or installation of tree stands on state land and co-op properties prior to August 15th and failure to remove the tree stands by February 15th.
- The construction and use of permanent tree stands, or the use of nails, spikes, bolts, or climbing devices, which may damage trees on state or co-op properties; and on private property without the permission of the landowner.
- Hunting, pursuing or molesting deer in tidal waters or while deer are swimming in any waters of the state.

- Feeding or baiting: the act of using, placing, giving, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering any material, or any act to maintain the availability of such material that attracts deer to feed on such material.
- Driving deer by parties of over five (5) people.

## Written Permission

Annual written landowner permission is required for deer hunting on private land (RIGL 20-15-1) during the deer season. It is not required that deer permits (tags) be signed by the landowner, provided the hunter has other written permission in possession. Deer permits (tags) must be carried while hunting. Annual written permission must be shown to any authorized person upon demand, and must be presented when checking a deer. A valid hunting license constitutes written permission on state owned/managed land and applicable hunting cooperative properties for which a permit is not required.

## Landowner Rights & Liability

Written landowner permission is required to hunt deer on private property. Hunters are urged to gain a landowner's permission prior to hunting for all other hunting activities as well. To maintain good landowner - hunter relations, always treat the landowner's private property with respect, and know and respect the property boundaries. It is also unlawful to shoot upon the land of another without their permission. Hunting on private land is a privilege not to be taken lightly.

To encourage landowners to make their lands available for recreational purposes, RI General Law (32-6-3) limits the liability of persons making private land available for recreational activities, including hunting and fishing.

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# Deer HUNTING

**Liability of Landowner:** an owner of land who either directly or indirectly invites or permits without charge any person to use that property for recreational purposes does **not** thereby:

- Extend any assurance that the premises are safe for any purpose;
- Confer upon that person the legal status of an invitee or licensee to whom a duty of care is owed; nor
- Assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to any person or property caused by an act of omission of that person.

## Limitations

(a) Nothing in the law limits in any way any liability which, but for this chapter, otherwise exists:

(1) For the willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity after discovering the user's peril; or

(2) For any injury suffered in any case where the owner of land charges the person or persons who enter or go on the land for the recreational use thereof, except that in the case of land leased to the state or a subdivision thereof, any consideration received by the owner for that lease shall not be deemed a "charge" within the meaning of this section.

(b) When the Coastal Resources Management Council designates a right-of-way as part of its designation process as specified in § 46-23-6(5), or when the Coastal Resource Management Council stipulates public access as a condition of granting a permit, the landowner automatically will have "limited liability" as defined in this chapter, except as specifically recognized by or provided in this section.

## Local Ordinances

Some towns restrict hunting or the discharge of firearms and, therefore, it is important to check town ordinances before hunting. Local municipalities may not prevent hunting on State-owned land. Towns closed to Sunday hunting on private lands include Portsmouth, Little Compton, Middletown, and Barrington. Some towns require written permission of the landowner, and/or local police department. For local and Sunday hunting regulations, check with the town police department or town clerk.

## Patience and Prudence Islands

The only legal method of deer hunting on Prudence and Patience Islands is by archery, including crossbows. Proficiency testing is required for all archery deer hunters on Prudence and Patience Islands. Archery deer hunting is permitted at the Heritage Property from December 1 - 15 only. Proficiency cards must be carried while hunting. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website [www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish) or be reported to an Environmental Police Officer as prescribed. The antlered deer (buck) bag limit is one (1).

## Block Island (New Shoreham)

Written permission from a landowner must be obtained before hunting on private land and presented to and countersigned by the Block Island Chief of Police. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website [www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish) or be reported to an Environmental Police Officer.

## Photo Submissions

Want to share your story or photo of a successful hunt in next year's magazine? If so, we want to know everything: time of day, location, target species, weight, length and any other animal specific data you wish to provide. We would love to share your success with everyone! That is, if you want to give up your secrets!

Send your photo of deer, turkey, pheasant, etc. to [DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov](mailto:DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov) and if space allows, it may be used in next year's edition.

## Cooperative and Special Hunting Areas

### Block Island State Land (Black Rock / Rodman Hollow)

Deer hunting is allowed by special permit only, selected by lottery. Applications (available at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/managementservices/licenses/hunting-licenses.php>) to hunt state lands must be postmarked by October 15, 2020.

### Block Island, Ninigret, and John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuges

Block Island, Ninigret, and John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuges are open for hunting on designated units with some season and weapon restrictions. Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting brochure valid for the current season. Block Island NWR: white-tailed deer and waterfowl hunting opportunities are available. All Block Island hunting restrictions, State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply. John H. Chafee NWR: white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl hunting opportunities are available. Ninigret NWR: white-tailed deer and wild turkey hunting opportunities are available. All State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply at John H. Chafee and Ninigret NWRs. For information, regulations, locations and dates, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/visit/hunting.html> or contact the USFWS at 401-364-9124.

### Northwest Cooperative Hunting Area (Glocester)

Permit required and may be obtained through the online hunting license system [www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish). One permit will be issued for all methods of deer hunting.

### The Nature Conservancy Deer Hunting Co-Op

- **Deer hunting only**, the hunting and/or take of other species of wildlife is prohibited
- **No Special Permits Required**, a valid hunting license constitutes as written permission.
- No vehicles of any kind are allowed on the property, except in designated parking areas.
- The construction or use of permanent treestands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes, bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing tree stands are permitted.
- Treestands may not be installed on TNC property prior to August 15th and must be removed by February 15th annually.

**Archery:** Francis Carter Preserve, Charlestown; Queens River Preserve, Exeter; Canochet Preserve in Hopkinton; King Preserve, North Kingstown; Cuttyhunk Brook Preserve South (area south of Stony Ln), Exeter; Pocasset Ridge Conservation Area, Tiverton.

**Archery or muzzleloader:** How-Davey Preserve, Hopkinton.

**Archery, muzzleloader, or shotgun:** Cuttyhunk Brook Preserve North (area north of Stony Ln), Exeter; Grass Pond Preserve (TNC property only), Richmond.

### Beavertail (Jamestown)

Archery only (11/1/20-1/31/21) no weekends prior to 12/31. Proficiency certification is required and cards must be carried while hunting. Permits must be returned by February 15 regardless of activity or success, to be eligible for next year's hunt. Permits are available at the Jamestown Police Department. Ten (10) hunters are allowed per day on a first-come first-served basis. Limit of 5 slots per week reserved no more than twenty (20) days in advance.

### Grills Preserve I (Westerly) and Grills Preserve II (Hopkinton)

Hunting for deer and wild turkey only. No special permit is required. A valid hunting license constitutes written permission.

Deer hunting is permitted only during the archery and muzzleloader portions of the deer season.

Turkey hunting is permitted in accordance with rules for the established turkey seasons.

# Expanding Hunting Opportunities

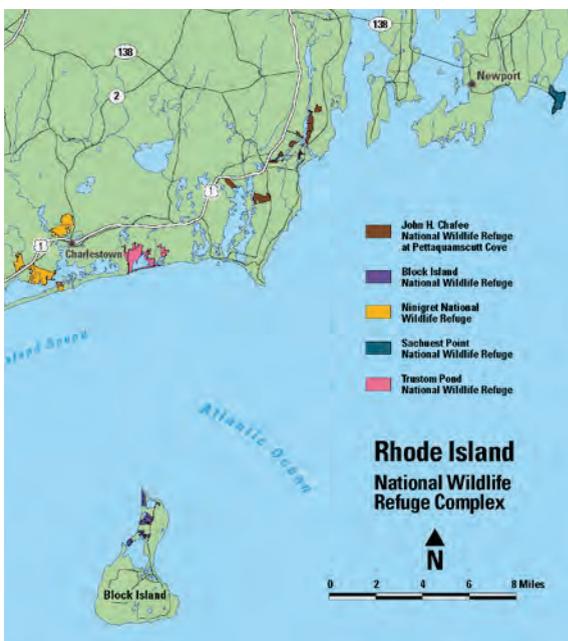
## AT RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

By U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

There are five National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in Rhode Island: Block Island NWR, John H. Chafee NWR, Ninigret NWR, Sachuest Point NWR, and Trustum Pond NWR. National wildlife refuges exist primarily to safeguard wildlife populations through habitat preservation. The word “refuge” includes the idea of providing a haven of safety for wildlife, and as such, hunting might seem an inconsistent use of the National Wildlife Refuge System. However, habitat that normally supports healthy wildlife populations produces harvestable surpluses that are a renewable resource.

Hunting is a healthy, traditional recreational use of renewable natural resources deeply rooted in America’s heritage, and it can be an important wildlife management tool. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, other laws, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s policy permit hunting (along with fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation) on a national wildlife refuge when it is compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established and acquired.

As practiced on refuges, hunting does not pose a threat to the wildlife populations — and in some instances it is necessary for sound wildlife management. For example, deer populations will often grow too large for the refuge habitat to support. If some deer are not harvested, they destroy habitat for themselves and other animals and die from starvation or disease. The harvesting of wildlife on refuges is carefully regulated to ensure equilibrium between population levels and wildlife habitat. The decision to permit hunting on national wildlife refuges is made on a case-by-case basis. Considerations include biological soundness, economic feasibility, effects on other refuge programs and public demand.



Three of the five National Wildlife Refuges are open for hunting on designated units with some season and weapon restrictions. Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting brochure valid for the current season.

- Block Island NWR: white-tailed deer and waterfowl hunting opportunities are available. All Block Island hunting restrictions, State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply.
- John H. Chafee NWR: white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl hunting opportunities are available. All State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply.
- Ninigret NWR: white-tailed deer and wild turkey hunting opportunities are available. All State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply.

For information, regulations, locations and dates, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/visit/hunting.html> or contact the USFWS at 401-364-9124.

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## State Lands

There are over 55,000 acres of land designated as state management areas in Rhode Island. Maps of management areas are available from the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife at the Great Swamp Field Office or online at: [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov). Regulations are designed and enforced to allow all outdoor enthusiasts to safely enjoy these land holdings. Hunting and trapping is allowed during the open seasons. In order to effectively manage and safeguard these open areas for people, wildlife, and habitat, the following regulations are to be followed:

- Except for fishing, hunting, launching, and/or mooring of boats, all management areas are closed ½ hour after sunset to 5:00 a.m., except by written permit (RIGL 32-2-4).
- Camping is prohibited on all areas with the exception of portions designated at Arcadia and George Washington Management Areas. Contact the Division of Forest Environment for camping information (401) 539-2356.
- The use of motorcycles is prohibited except in designated portions of Arcadia Management Area.
- The use of ATVs is prohibited statewide.
- The blocking of any gate, road, or access in State Management Areas is prohibited and subject to fines (RIGL 8-8.2-2).
- Horseback riding is prohibited in the Great Swamp Management Area during small game and shotgun deer season (RIGL 32-2-4).
- Groups consisting of 10 or more persons must obtain a special use permit available from the Division of Forest Environment, (401) 539-2356.
- Sapowet Marsh Management Area is open to deer hunting using archery equipment only.

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## Undeveloped State Parks and Other Public Reservations

Hunting is permitted in the following:

- Galilee Bird Sanctuary is open to hunting. Deer hunting is limited to archery equipment only.
- Cocumcussoc and Washington Grove
- Burlingame State Park North Camp is open to deer and turkey hunting only
- Snake Den is open to archery deer hunting only.
- Ninigret Conservation Area/East Beach is open to small game hunting and archery deer hunting only.
- J.L. Curran is open to shotgun and archery hunting only, within the posted designated areas; this area is closed to mourning dove hunting.

## Dogs on Management Areas

No dogs shall be trained, run, exercised or be permitted to run at large on state management areas from March 15 - August 15, inclusive, without written permission of the State Lands Management Council, except in specified dog training areas (below). Walking of dogs on a leash of not more than twenty-five (25) feet in length shall be permitted on roads and trails only. All dogs being utilized in hunting or training activities must wear a collar bearing the name and address of the owner and the handler must hold in possession a valid dog license or tag but it does not need to be on the dog.

## Special Dog Training Areas

Dog training is allowed in designated areas located within Arcadia Management Area (Midway Trail) in Exeter, Nicholas Farm Management Area (north of Trestle Trail) in Coventry, and Black Farm Management Area in Hopkinton from January 1 to September 30, from sunrise to sunset. The use of live birds is by special permit only. A hunting license is required when training dogs on wild game on state management areas, except when participating in state sanctioned field trials.

## Bay Islands

### Prudence Island

Written permission of the landowner, countersigned by the Portsmouth police chief, must be obtained to hunt private property on Prudence Island. South Prudence is closed to small game hunting. The small game season on Prudence Island is November 1 - 30, except on North Prudence, where the small game season is January 1 - 31, 2021; North Prudence is located north of the State gate, at the northern terminus of Neck Farm Road. Raccoon open hunting season for Prudence Island is the first day of January through the last day of February with written permission of the landowner. Bow hunters with a valid archery deer permit may take raccoon on Prudence Island during legal deer hunting hours beginning on the first day of November and ending on the last day of January.

Waterfowl hunting is permitted no more than 10 feet above mean high water on Prudence Island, except during the early waterfowl season, as established by federal regulation, and during November 1 - 30. Special deer season for disabled hunters limited to paraplegic and double amputee deer hunters only by special permit available at the RI DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing (401-222-3576).

### Other Restrictions

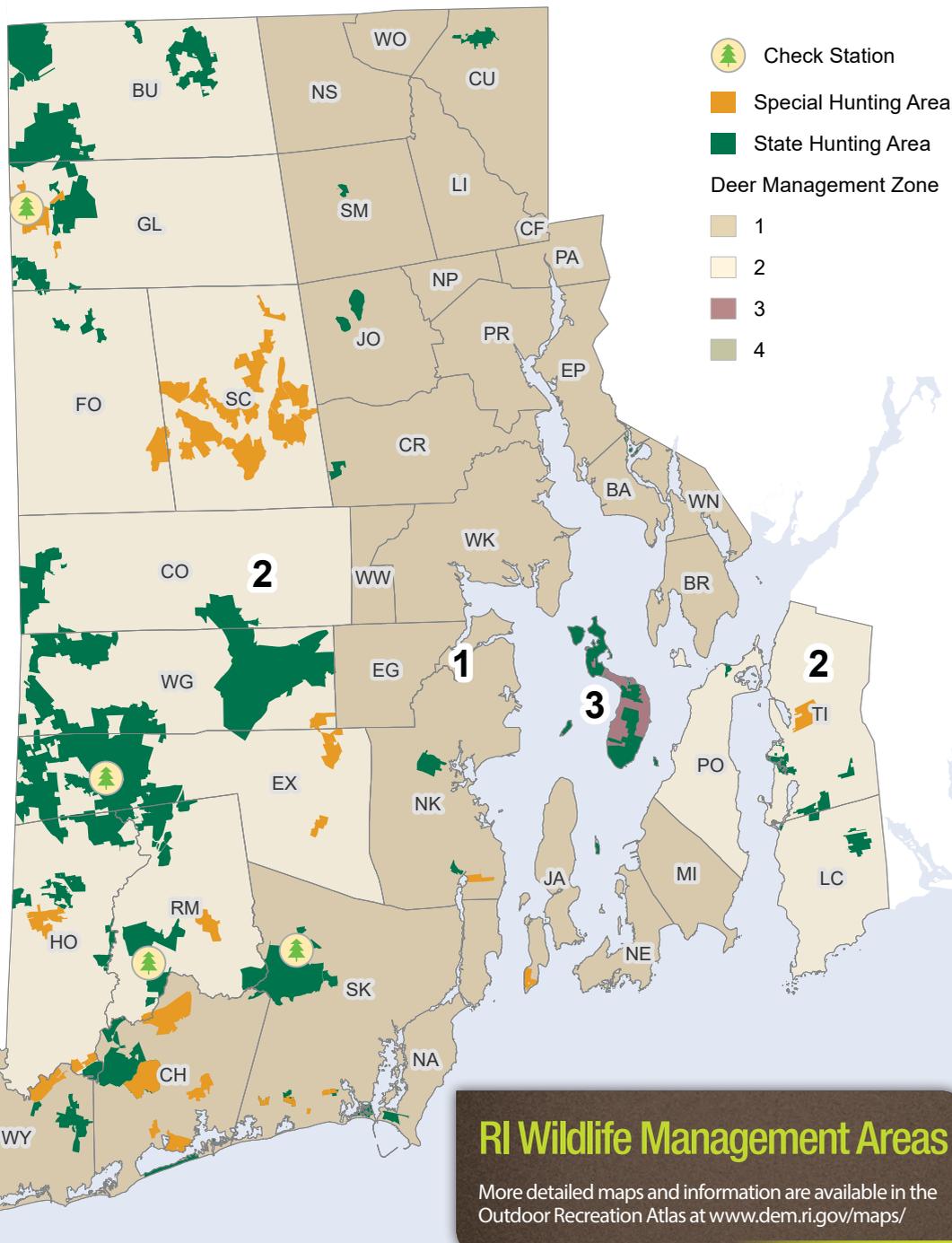
**Dutch Island:** Closed to hunting and all other access.

**East and West Island:** No Trespassing April 1 - August 15, for nesting birds.

**Dyer Island, Gould Island, Hope Island:** No Trespassing April 1 - August 15, for nesting birds. All domestic animals prohibited except hunting dogs during small game, migratory upland game bird and waterfowl seasons.

**Patience Island:** Closed to small game and upland game bird hunting, except for coyote. All domestic animals prohibited except hunting dogs during the waterfowl season.

# Deer Management Zone MAP



RI Deer Management Zones Bag Limits	
<b>Statewide (all zones &amp; methods combined)</b>	2 Antlered Deer, (Zone 3: no more than 1 Antlered Deer)
<b>Zone 1</b>	3 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 2</b>	2 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 3</b>	2 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 4</b>	Unlimited Antlerless Deer

# Migratory Bird HUNTING

## Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Restrictions
<b>Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*</b>	October 24 - 25	Same as regular season, listed below	Open to youth hunters age 12-15 accompanied by a licensed adult, 21 years of age or older and may take ducks, sea ducks and geese
<b>Canada Goose Early Season</b>	September 1 - 30	15	Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for September season only
<b>Canada Goose Regular Season</b>	November 21 - 29 and December 5 - January 24, 2021	2	Special permits are required for the South Shore Management Area and may be obtained through the online licensing system or the DFW. Field reservations are required. See page 23 for more information.
<b>Canada Goose Late Season</b>	January 30 - February 13, 2021	5	Limited to Providence, Bristol and Kent counties and portions of Washington County as described in RIHR §9.11(B)(3)(d). A map depicting the area open to hunting is available on the Department of Environmental Management's website.
<b>Snow Goose (Including Blue Goose)</b>	October 10 - January 24, 2021	25	No possession limit
<b>Brant</b>	December 6 - January 24, 2021	2	-
<b>Sea Ducks**</b>	November 26 - January 24, 2021	5	The daily bag limit is 5, singly or in aggregate, but not to exceed 4 Scoter, 4 Eider, or 4 Long-tailed Ducks.
<b>Ducks</b>	October 9 - 12 November 25 - 29 December 5 - January 24, 2021	6	The daily bag limit shall contain no more than: Mallard ..... 2 (1 hen) Black Duck ..... 2 Canvasback ..... 2 Pintail ..... 1 Redhead ..... 2 Wood Duck ..... 3 Scaup ..... see below Other Duck Species ..... 6
<b>Scaup</b>	October 9 - 12, November 25 - 29, December 5 - January 4, 2021 January 5 - 24, 2021	1 2	The daily bag limit of scaup is part of the duck daily bag limit of 6
<b>Coots</b>	Same As Ducks	15	-
<b>Mergansers</b>	Same As Ducks	5	Hooded merganser ..... 2
<b>Swans</b>	No Season	-	-
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	Closed	<b>Caution:</b> Harlequin ducks are found in sea duck hunting areas along rocky coastal shores, specifically in the vicinity of Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Middletown and Beavertail Pt., Jamestown. The female Harlequin duck is similar in appearance to female bufflehead, goldeneye, or scoter, and can be mistaken for the latter species.	

**The possession limit shall contain no more than three (3) times the daily bag limit listed above.**

\* See page 10 for more information on Youth and Disabled Hunter Opportunities.

\*\* Except for the periods November 26 - 29, 2020 and December 5, 2020 - January 24, 2021, sea ducks may be taken only in the Special Sea Duck Hunting Areas. These areas are seaward of the first upstream bridge, which includes Washington Bridge-Seekonk River; Mt. Hope Bridge-Mt. Hope Bay; and Sakonnet Bridge-Sakonnet River. Sea ducks taken in areas outside of Special Sea Duck Hunting Areas during the periods November 26 - 29, 2020 and December 5, 2020 - January 24, 2021 will be considered as part of the regular daily six (6) bird bag limit. Sea ducks may not be taken during the first segment, as well as the first day of the second segment of the regular duck season October 9 - 12 and November 25, 2020.

## Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Bag Limits
<b>Crow</b>	August 14 - October 4 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only) October 17 - December 7 (inclusive) December 18 - April 3, 2021 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)	Unlimited
<b>King/Clapper Rail</b>	September 1 - November 9	1
<b>Sora/Virginia Rail</b>	September 1 - November 9	3
<b>Snipe</b>	September 1 - November 9	5
<b>Mourning Dove</b>	September 12 - October 11 October 17 - November 29 December 12 - 27	15
<b>Woodcock</b>	October 17 - November 30	3

**The possession limit shall contain no more than three (3) times the daily bag limit listed above.**

## 2020-21 Waterfowl Highlights:

1. Scaup has been split into two seasons:
  - » October 9 - 12, November 25 - 29, December 5 - January 4, 2021 with a daily bag limit of 1.
  - » January 5 - 24, 2021 with a daily bag limit of 2.
2. Brant season has been extended to fifty (50) days.
3. Pintail daily bag limit remains one (1) bird per day.
4. Permit and reservations are required to hunt geese at the South Shore Management Area during the regular season. Permits will be issued online and at the DFW Great Swamp Field office (see page 23 for details).
5. All migratory bird hunters must possess a Rhode Island Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit, available through the online licensing system.
6. All waterfowl hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older must possess a RI State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp.
7. Discharge of a firearm within five hundred (500) feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
8. Cripples may be pursued, shot and retrieved from a boat under power in tidal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge; crippled birds must be immediately killed.
9. All regulations pertaining to migratory bird hunting also pertain to falconry hunting (special permit required, contact the DFW for more details).
10. Non-toxic shot is required per Federal regulation for all dove, duck and goose hunting in Field 1 at South Shore Management Area.

## Migratory Bird Hunting And Conservation Stamp

The law requires that each waterfowl hunter sixteen (16) years of age and over must carry on his or her person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("Federal Duck Stamp") signed in ink across the face. Waterfowl hunters must also possess a RI State Waterfowl Stamp, signed in ink across the face, or a State Waterfowl Stamp Certification obtained

through the web-based online licensing system <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish>. Those wishing to obtain a RI waterfowl stamp (\$7.50) may do so at the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Swamp Field Headquarters: 277 Great Neck Rd, West Kingston, RI 02892, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A limited number of "hunter" edition stamps will be printed and available for purchase.

## Harvest Information Permit - HIP

All migratory bird hunters are required by Federal Law to obtain a RI Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit, obtainable through the online licensing system [www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish), at hunting license vendors and participating town clerks statewide. For more information, call 401-789-0281. A HIP certification must be included on your license document to hunt migratory birds.

## About The Artist

Inell Chase has been making art since she could hold a pencil, when she turned six she proudly declared that she was ready for "real" art supplies and not a day has gone by that she hasn't drawn or painted something. Nellie was adopted as a small child and had serious health challenges, art has always been her means of expressing herself and finding comfort. The stamp competition presented her with a set of new challenges as an artist, that her design was chosen has been a wonderful affirmation of her efforts and her talent. It is her goal to become a graphic designer and illustrator, this is the beginning of that dream.



## Non-Toxic Shot Requirements

No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot or attempt to take waterfowl, rails, or snipe within the State of Rhode Island, including associated jurisdictional tidal waters which extend from mean high water to the seaward limit of three miles, while

possessing shells loaded with any shot other than non-toxic shot (e.g., steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, and tungsten-nickel-iron-shot) and other shot as approved by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). All shot larger than BB is prohibited; including duplex loads containing shot larger than BB. Tin shot is prohibited.

## Hunting Restrictions

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- 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.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of 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 take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefore has ceased.
- 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 records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat 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

## Contribute to the RI Waterfowl Programs

You can contribute to the RI waterfowl programs by investing in a limited edition stamp set for your home or office. Order forms for collector and signed governor edition 2020 Rhode Island Waterfowl Stamps may be obtained by contacting the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife at 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892, 401-789-0281. The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife thanks waterfowl stamp and print collectors for your past support in funding our Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation Programs, and hope you contribute by adding RI's 2020-2021 stamp to your collection

If you are concerned about the future of waterfowling, the best way to support adequate waterfowl populations is to:

- Purchase federal and RI waterfowl stamps
- Join and participate in private conservation organizations
- Educate and train youth hunters and introduce them to waterfowling
- Learn to identify ducks and proper shooting distances to eliminate sky busting and crippling losses.

# Migratory Bird HUNTING

enticement), or on/over a baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

- **Dual Violation:** Violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

## Closed Areas

**Providence, East Providence, Pawtucket** – That portion of the Seekonk River north of the railroad bridge to a line across the Seekonk River running between the intersection of Gulf Road and River Drive (Providence side) to the southerly abutment of the railroad bridge at the outlet of Omega Pond (East Providence side), shall be closed to waterfowl hunting. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting on the Seekonk River is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

**Warwick** – Brush Neck Cove, so-called, in its entirety. Mill Cove, so-called, in its entirety, including the beachfront. Buttonwoods Cove, so-called, in its entirety.

**North Kingstown** – Mill Cove, Wickford, so called, in its entirety. Fishing Cove, Wickford, area west of a line to be determined bisecting Cornelius Island. All discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge in an easterly direction from the above line. The Division of Fish and Wildlife will establish the line of demarcation.

**Charlestown** – Watchaug Pond and Poquiant Brook, or hunting within 100 yards upland of the shore or bank of same.

**Tiverton** – That unnamed estuary in Tiverton, north of Seapowet Avenue and east of Jack's Island, bounded on the west, south, and east shore

by the Audubon Society of RI's Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, and as posted by Audubon Society of RI and Department of Environmental Management signs. The affected area includes the inlet of this estuary and marshland on the north side of this outlet.

**Middletown** – Sachuest Point (NWR) shoreline below mean high water to mean low water surrounding the National Wildlife Refuge property is closed to all hunting; No hunting along shoreline.

**Lincoln/Central Falls** – Pursuant to RIGL 11-47-49.1, discharge of a firearm within the Blackstone Valley Flood Plains or Marshes, also known as "Valley Marshes" is prohibited.

## Additional Restrictions

**Barrington** – The Barrington River between Central Bridge at Massasoit Avenue and Barrington Bridge #123 at County Road is closed to hunting, except for that section on the river east of Puritan Avenue (41.745873° N, -71.309876° W) and west of the point southwest of Seabrook Court (41.744189° N, -71.306622° W). Hunting shall be restricted to the water areas below the vegetation line. Discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

**Bristol** – Walker Island - discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open waters (seaward).

**East Providence** – Check local ordinances for restrictions. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

**Warwick** – Rock Island and its adjacent groin extending northward off Narragansett Parkway. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

**Cranston** – Washouset Point (Pawtuxet Cove) north to Fields Point including Stillhouse Cove, the discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge towards open water (seaward). No hunting within five hundred (500) feet of occupied buildings (RIGL 20-13-7) from the shoreline or from a watercraft.

**Little Compton** – All waterfowl hunters must have the following to hunt the Simmons Mill Pond only in the Simmons Mill Management Area: (a) waterfowl decoys; (b) retrieving breed of hunting dog, and/or a boat without motor, or canoe without motor.

**North Kingstown** – Waterfowl hunting on Belleville Pond is restricted to the northwest segment of the large pond as designated by DEM signs. The discharge of firearms is restricted toward open waters. Waterfowl hunting is permitted after November 15 by town ordinance. Firearms must remain cased until individual reaches hunting area (blind or boat).

**Check local ordinances for shooting or hunting restrictions.**

## Wanton Waste

All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

## Tagging

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature
2. The hunter's address
3. The total number of birds involved, by species
4. The dates such birds were killed

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another unless such birds are properly tagged.

## Possession Of Live Birds

Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

## Dressing

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

## Shipment

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species contained in the package.

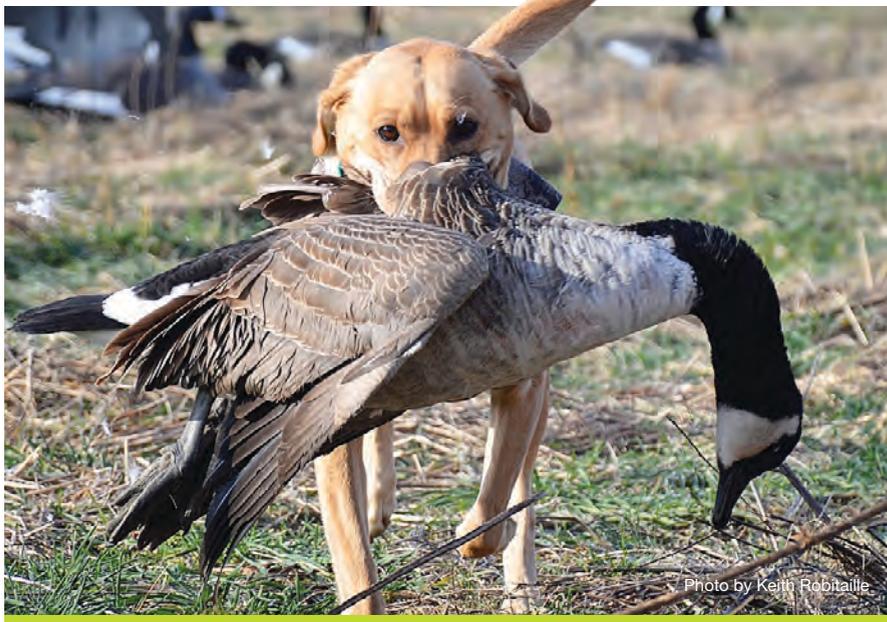


Photo by Keith Robitaille

## Importation

For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in 20.63), drawn, and head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

## Reference

Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

## Hunting On National Wildlife Refuges

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agent, 401-364-9124.

## Avian Disease

Since the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in North America in 2015, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental

Management has participated in a nationwide surveillance effort of wild birds. To date, there have been no positive detections of HPAI in wild birds in Rhode Island. The Department and cooperators have scaled back HPAI surveillance efforts and appreciates the past support of hunters in providing specimens for sampling. Despite scaled back surveillance efforts, the Department encourages hunters to remain vigilant and report unusual or suspected mortality events.

Due to the presence of HPAI in North America, the DFW strongly advises hunters to adhere to the following procedures when handling wild birds to avoid possible exposure to themselves, pets or domestic poultry:

- Do not handle or butcher game animals that are obviously sick or are found dead.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wear rubber gloves or cover hands with plastic when cleaning game.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds after handling game.
- Carry disinfecting wipes or an alcohol-based gel into the field with you for immediate use after handling game.
- Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10% solution of chlorine bleach.
- Cook game meat thoroughly—reaching an internal temperature of 165° F.

"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability." If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240.

- Clean birds in an area that poultry and pet birds cannot access. There should be a solid barrier between your game cleaning area and where birds are housed.
- Keep a separate pair of shoes to be worn only in the game cleaning area. Clean and disinfect all footwear when coming in and out of the cleaning area.
- Use dedicated tools for cleaning game, do not mix tools that you use around poultry or pet birds.
- Double bag offal and feathers, tying both bags shut.
- Place bags in a container that poultry, pet birds, children, or other pets cannot access.

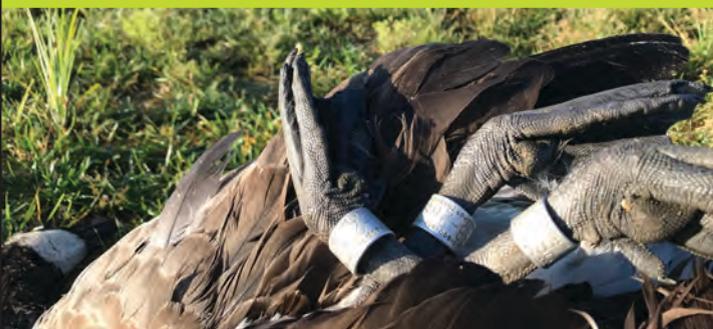
# Attention Migratory Bird Hunters

Reminder: Report ALL bird bands ONLINE!

[www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)

Since June 2017, band reports are no longer taken over the phone via the 1-800 number.

Band reports may also be mailed to: USGS Bird Banding Lab  
12100 Beach Forest Rd, Laurel, MD 20708



**Your band reports are important for migratory bird conservation!**

# Late Season CANADA GOOSE MAP

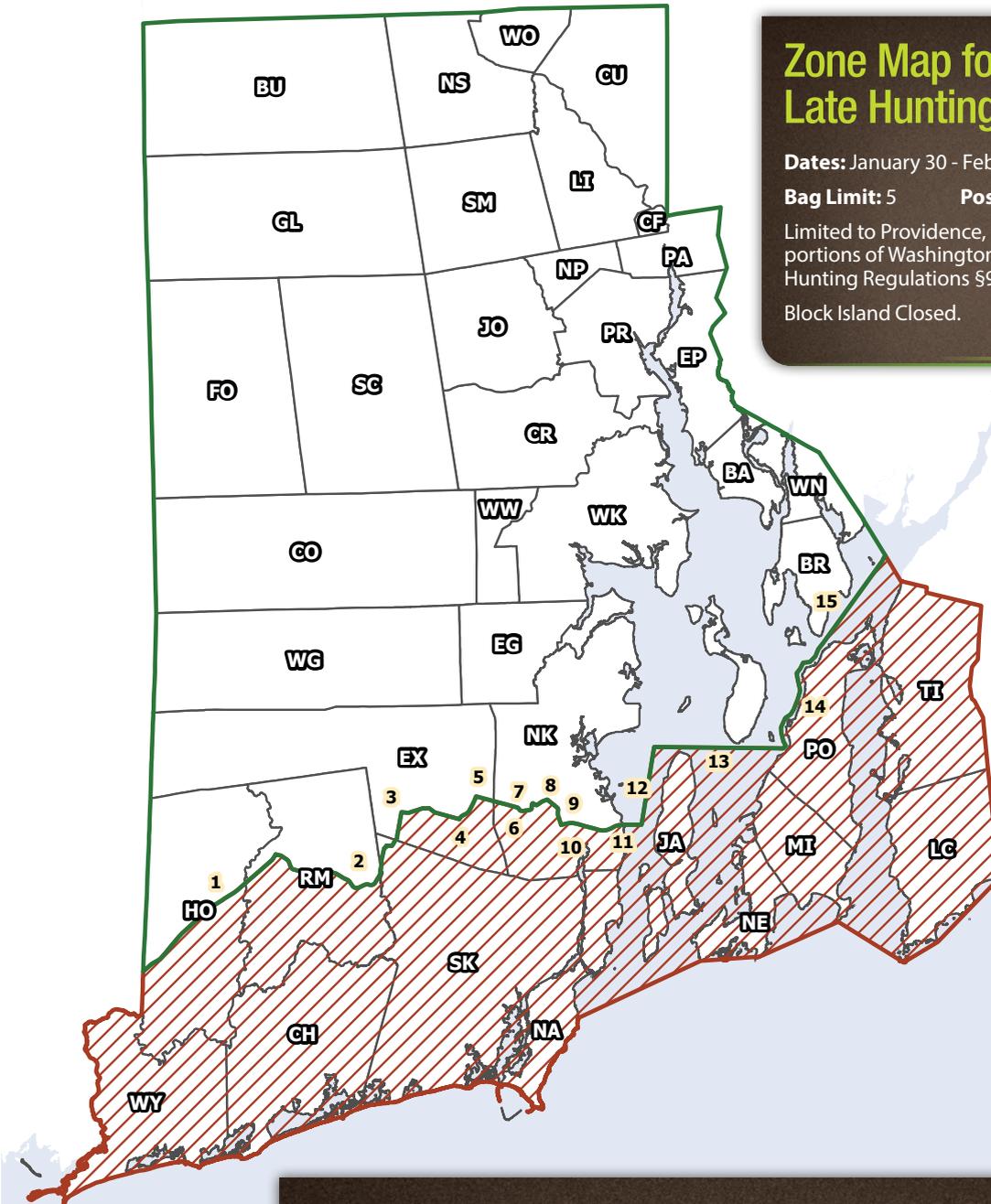
## Zone Map for Canada Goose Late Hunting Season Only

**Dates:** January 30 - February 13, 2021

**Bag Limit:** 5      **Possession Limit:** 15

Limited to Providence, Bristol and Kent counties and portions of Washington County as described in RI Hunting Regulations §9.11 (B)(3)(d).

Block Island Closed.



-  Closed
-  Open



## Border Description

1. From Rt. 95 at the RI/CT Line, north to Exit 3, Rt.138 in Richmond.
2. East along Rt. 138 to Glen Rock Rd., Richmond.
3. North along Glen Rock Rd. to Mail Rd., Exeter.
4. East along Mail Rd. to Rt. 2/South Country Trail, Exeter.
5. North along Rt. 2/South Country Trail to Exeter Md.
6. East along Exeter Rd. to the intersection of Indian Corner Rd.
7. East to the merger of Indian Corner Rd. and West Allenton Rd.
8. East to the intersection of West Allenton Rd. and Rt. 4.
9. South along Rt. 4 to the intersection of Rt. 4/Rt.1 (Tower Hill Rd.)
10. South along Rt. 1/Tower Hill Rd. to the intersection of Rt. 138.
11. East along Rt. 138 to the base of the Jamestown Bridge.
12. Extending north/northeast along the Washington/Newport county line.
13. Extending east, 1,000 feet north of the northerly most point of Jamestown to a point 1,000 feet offshore of the Melville Boat Launch, Portsmouth. (No hunting along the shoreline of mainland Portsmouth!)
14. North following a line 1,000 feet offshore of Portsmouth's western shoreline to the Mount Hope Bridge.
15. Extending east/northeast across Mt. Hope Bay from the bridge to the RI/ MA border.

## South Shore Management Area Goose Hunting Cooperative

### Permits

- Required for all goose hunters during the regular Canada goose season (November 21 - 29, December 5 - January 24, 2021).
- Must be obtained from the online licensing system [www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish) or from the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Great Swamp Field Headquarters, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston.
- License document with SSMA permit certification must be carried while goose hunting at the SSMA and must be shown to any DEM Environmental Police Officer or Division of Fish and Wildlife employee upon request.

### Field Reservations

- Required for Canada goose hunting during the regular goose season (November 21 - 29, December 5 - January 24, 2021).

### Additional SSMA Goose Hunting Regulations

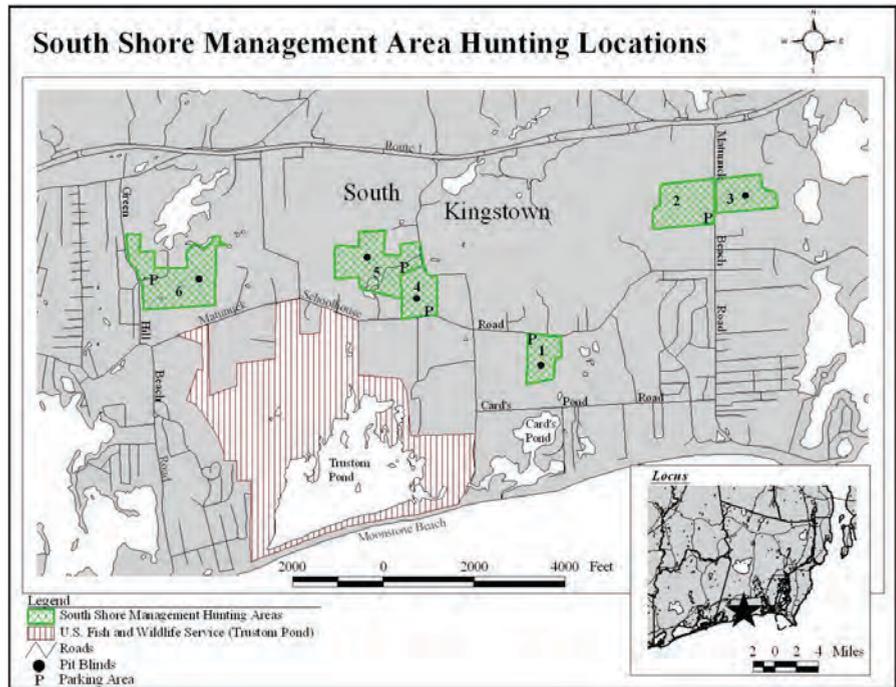
- See information packet provided with the goose hunting permit or online (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/waterfowlab-ssma.pdf>) for additional rules and regulations for goose hunting in the SSMA.
- SSMA is CLOSED during the late goose season: January 30 - February 13, 2021.

### Harvest Reporting

- All regular season Canada goose hunters are required to report their harvest through the online licensing system. Those without internet access may submit their written log to the Division of Fish and Wildlife using the hunting activity and harvest record included with their SSMA permit. Failure to do so may result in a loss of hunting privileges for the 2021-22 season.

### Prohibited

- Littering
- Fires
- Destruction of fencing, equipment, farm property, or standing crops
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages
- Shooting within five hundred (500) feet of an occupied building; shooting near or otherwise disturbing person working in the area
- Urinating or defecating in pit blinds



### Additional Hunting Restrictions at SSMA

**Dove hunting** is allowed in fields 1, 3, 5 and 6 except during the regular goose season. Doves may be taken by permitted goose hunters while goose hunting when the field reservation system is in place during the open Dove season. Possession of lead shot for taking doves while goose hunting is prohibited.

**Upland game hunting** is allowed only in fields 5 and 6 during the upland game season except during the regular Canada goose seasons. All upland game hunting is prohibited during regular goose season, including Youth Waterfowl Weekend.

**Deer hunting during the archery season** is allowed ONLY in the wooded portions of field 3, 5 and 6 throughout the archery season, including during the regular Canada goose season when the field reservation system is in place.

**Deer hunting during the muzzleloader season** is allowed ONLY in the wooded portions of field 5 and 6, EXCEPT during the regular Canada goose season.

**Deer hunting during the shotgun season** is allowed ONLY in field 6 and its wooded portions EXCEPT during the regular Canada goose season.

**Turkey hunting** is allowed in the wooded portions of Fields 3, 5, and 6 during the spring and fall turkey seasons.

**Waterfowl hunting** is allowed outside of the regular Canada goose season but within legal waterfowl seasons and without special hunting permits, reservation, or decoy restrictions, once crops are harvested. The taking of ducks during legal duck seasons is permitted while goose hunting.

Non-toxic shot is required per Federal regulation for all dove, duck (including coot and merganser), and goose hunting in Field 1 at South Shore Management Area.

Violations of any SSMA regulations, state management area regulations, and/or any state or federal hunting laws will result in loss of hunting privileges on the SSMA for a period of one year, beginning from the date of the violation.

For additional information, see the 2020-2021 RI Hunting Regulations or call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281.



# R3, Mentoring, and Me

By Scott Travers, Hunter Education Coordinator, RI DFW

Participation in hunting has declined over the last 10 years. Most of us have noticed this in the field and I am sure those of us reading this article know someone who used to hunt but no longer does. In addressing the reasons behind why we are experiencing a decrease in hunting participation most, if not all states, have adopted the “R3 model” looking at the causes for this and what we might be able to do to change the trend.

R3 stands for Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation. This model takes the position that people fall into one of three different groups, those who have never hunted before, those who currently hunt, and those who have hunted in the past but currently do not.

Prior to the decrease in participation state governments and other organizations weren't concerned with these concepts. Hunting was a popular activity, either for sustenance or as a way of life, and the focus was more towards regulating the activity and ensuring the safety of those in the field.

The history of “hunter education”, which started in New York State in the 1920's, was to provide basic information, primarily about firearm safety and safety in the field, left most of the real world “how to” to the new hunter's father, uncle, older brother, etc. However, in today's world people are getting further and further away from nature. We are increasingly drawn to technology and connectivity. If you can't post, click, share, link to, or view it on-line then it just isn't relative to a large portion of society today. As we get older it seems the level

of technology available and the integration of it in our day to day lives is accelerating at such a pace that it is hard to keep up. Examples of this are endless. Technology and specifically the cell phone have created the virtual world where people are spending their time, not in the field.

Those who are interested in learning how to hunt no longer have a father, uncle, older brother, or other person to mentor them. Those who still hunt face increasing challenges to hunting including any number of activities and obligations that compete for time. Those who used to hunt simply no longer have the time, are older and have less mobility, or have succumbed to the challenges that those of us who still hunt face today.

States are now designing programs tailored to reach people in each of these groups. In Rhode Island we are increasing the number of our “secondary education” programs. These programs are non-certification based. They are designed to provide information to participants to help expand their knowledge base, be safer, and be more successful in the field.

For example, the field training program takes both new and experienced hunters and well as those who are considering taking a hunter education certification course on a guided stalk through a wooded area where various hunting scenarios are presented. This gives participants the opportunity to gain insight from hunter education instructors and program volunteers in various aspects of hunting including firearms safety, range estimation, land navigation, shoot / don't shoot scenarios, etc. Other programs include the turkey hunting workshop, deer hunting workshop, small game mentored hunt, etc.

While these programs help hunters from all the R3 groups, they cannot address all the issues that face those who want to hunt, those who still hunt, and those who no longer hunt. One way to address the issues facing all three groups is through mentoring. Those of us who still hunt have the knowledge and skills to be successful in the field. Why not consider sharing all that experience with someone who wants to learn?

Mentoring someone might be as simple as reaching out to a friend who used to hunt. That person may have all the experience they need to be successful but simply need a hand getting out into the field, carrying gear, or just another person to go with to motivate them to get back into it again. That other hunter may even be able to help you be more successful by sharing their experiences with you.

New hunters are easy to find. If you belong to a rod and gun club you can find them almost

everywhere. Think about your family and friends. Have any of them asked you about hunting? It's always great to mentor someone you are close to because you both already have a personal relationship. In hunter education we would say that is the Sportsman Stage in hunter development, when a hunter is focused more on sharing his/her personal knowledge and focused on the success of other hunters. It is a wonderful thing being there to help another hunter take his/her first animal. It's like being successful the first time yourself all over again. I consider it an honor to have helped people take their first animals. It's something that people will remember for the rest of their lives and I was able to be part of that. I find great satisfaction in helping others grow and to accomplish their goals, especially in the outdoors. Very often I am heading out not for myself, but for someone else that I am mentoring. That keeps me going into the field.

Every year many new hunters reach out to the Hunter Education Office looking for mentors to help them get started. Maybe you might consider being part of that. The commitment level is up to you. You don't have to become a full-fledged hunter education instructor to help new hunters out. Perhaps you have a story or two that you want to share about something you learned or something that you figured out on your own that helped you be successful. You should share them. You could be a guest speaker during the next hunter ed class at your rod and gun club. It would only take a few minutes of your day to inspire a whole room of new hunters.

Remember, if we don't pass on the experience and knowledge we have acquired then all those hard learned lessons need to be relearned by other people the same way we did. Why not help the next generation of hunters and make it a little easier for them?

While the staff at the Hunter Education Office and the many volunteer instructors and assistant instructors who bring the program to life do an amazing job there simply aren't enough of us to mentor everyone who reaches out to us. Non-governmental organizations like the Rhode Island Federated Sportsmen's Club, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, as well as many others, help to unify, teach, and mentor new hunters as well. This season please consider reaching out to a former hunter, someone you know who may be interested in hunting, or even to an organization that promotes safe, ethical, and responsible hunting to see how you might be able to get involved, and help keep our sport relevant in today's world.



Photo by Keith Robitaille

# State Land Spotlight: NICHOLAS FARM WMA

By Tanner Steeves, Wildlife Biologist, RI DEM



Rhode Island DEM's Management Areas provide hunting and fishing opportunities to the public, and protect wildlife habitat and important natural communities. In 1969 a 146-acre parcel in Coventry, Rhode Island containing Carbuncle Pond was purchased to establish Nicholas Farm Wildlife Management Area. With subsequent acquisitions in the 1980s and 1990s, including the historic Cy Place Farm, the area now totals 1,550 acres. These purchases were accomplished in part with funding from the Federal Aid to Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program. Nicholas Farm is adjacent to Pachaug State Forest in Sterling, CT and contributes to a large network of conservation land

throughout the borderlands held by RIDEM and other conservation organizations.

Nicholas Farm is dominated by coniferous forest and oak forest, along with a variety of other habitats including pitch pine woodland, and grasslands. The 31-acre Carbuncle Pond is located to the north and provides ample fishing opportunity during all seasons, featuring a boat ramp and fixed dock. Along the western border, patches of young forest have been created through forest management to provide habitat for wildlife that rely on these dense thickets. Several coldwater streams flow through the area, including the Mossup River, Roaring Brook, and Bucks Horn Brook. A recent project

initiated in 2017 was undertaken to restore a large tract of pitch pine-scrub oak barrens through tree thinning and prescribed fire at the Nicholas Unit. The Trestle Trail bike path, operated by RIDEM Parks and Recreation, bisects Nicholas Farm connecting Lewis Farm Road to Route 14A in Sterling.

Nicholas Farm is accessible from Plainfield Pike (Route 14) and from Nicholas Road where gated access roads and unimproved trails wind throughout the property. Nicholas Farm is open to all forms of regulated hunting and trapping, and is located within Deer Management Zone 2. White-tailed deer, turkey, and fisher are considered relatively abundant here. Two areas of open fields, the Place Farm Unit and the Nicholas Unit, are stocked with ring-necked pheasant throughout the small game season. Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration funds made available through the Pittman-Robertson Act and Dingell-Johnson Act, along with matching funds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, are used to maintain and enhance this Management Area. With the recent boundary expansion here and other recent acquisitions at Tillinghast Pond and Durfee Hill Management Area, RIDEM continues to increase its portfolio of open space to help support wildlife conservation and provide hunting opportunities to the public. Get outside and enjoy Nicholas Farm Management Area!

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# Online Mapping

MAPS YOU CAN USE AT HOME AND ON YOUR SMART PHONE TO HELP YOU ENJOY OUR STATE LANDS!

By Paul Jordan, Supervising GIS Specialist RIDEM

Looking for a new place to hunt or fish? Want to know where's the closest check station, or which Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) are being stocked with pheasants? You can find all that and more in Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management's (RI DEM) Outdoor Recreation Atlas (<https://bit.ly/3emoIoY>). Our newest interactive map leverages nearly 30 years of GIS (geographic information system) data collection throughout the state on properties owned or managed mainly by RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife for outdoor activities like hunting and fishing. The map includes boundaries to all WMA's and State Parks (developed and undeveloped), hiking trails, bikeways, boat ramps, check stations and much more. All this information can be viewed easily from a desktop or mobile device.

Following the link above, you'll see an initial screen like Figure 1. The view will vary slightly with the device (mobile device or desktop) you use to access the map. If you are unfamiliar with the map you can view or download a printable page like Figure 2 describing the tools available to help you find your way about. You can turn layers (information displayed on the map) on or off to see where they are in the state, view recent aerial photography or topographic maps, measure distances and even print out your own customized map to take along with you into the field.

Here are some quick tips for hunters:

- To see where you are in relation to property boundaries, use a mobile device to zoom to your approximate location by clicking "my location." This will zoom to your approximate location and can assure you that you

remain on state property and prevent you from trespassing or deer hunting on private property without permission.

- To be sure you are the sufficient distance from dwellings while hunting use the measurement tool (small ruler toward the bottom of the page). Click the measurement

tool, then in the pop-up window select the middle option (line distance) and set your units, default is in "feet (US)." Select your starting point (ie., an occupied dwelling) by clicking it one time, then double-click on the place you planned on hunting. If you want to restart your line, just click "Clear."

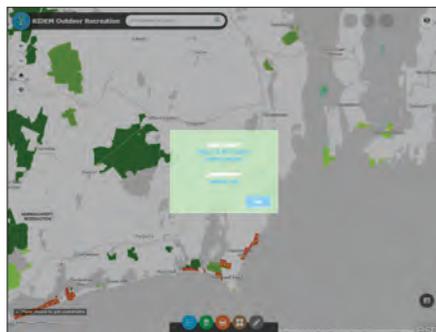


Figure 1

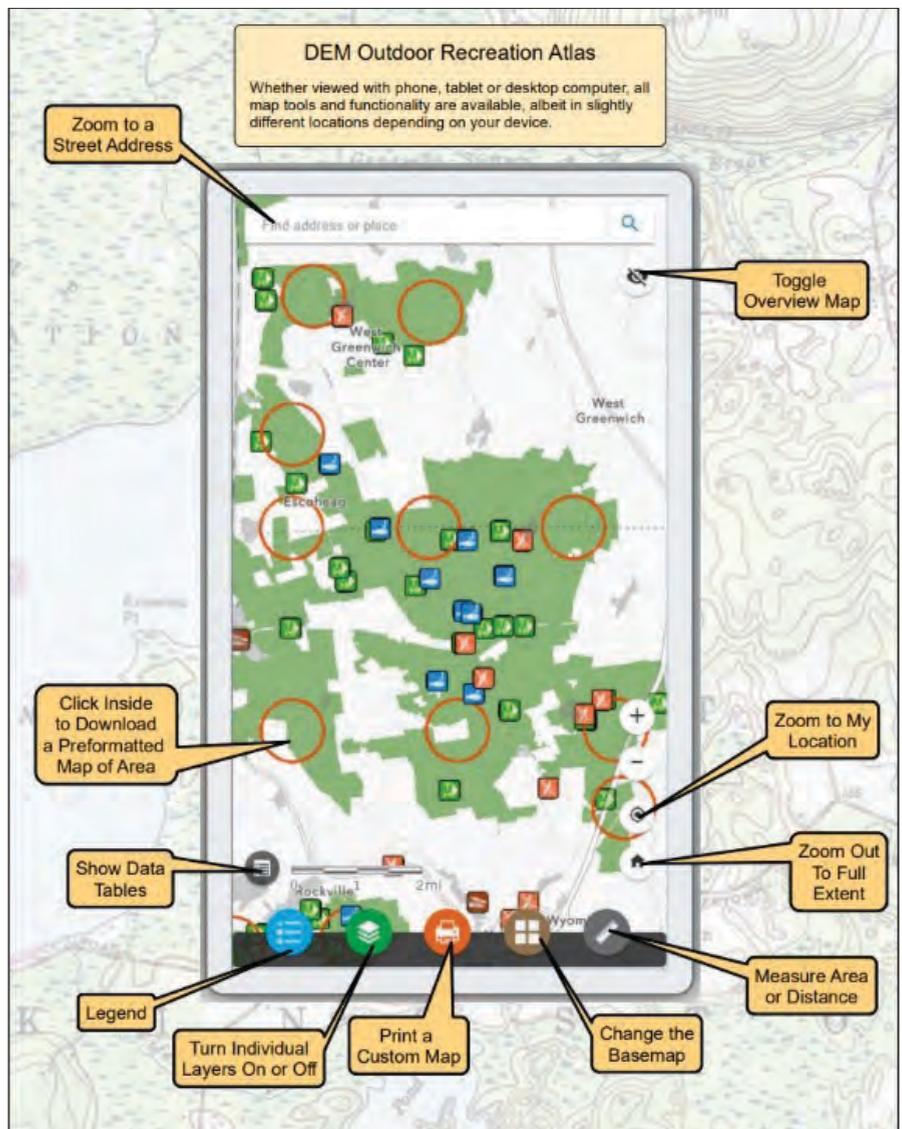


Figure 2

- To determine contact information for license vendors open Layer List (looks like a stack of papers). Click the drop down arrow on the side of “DEM\_Outdoor\_Recreation” to show more options and select the box to turn on the “Fishing/Hunting - License Vendor” layer. Click on any vendor location (red star) for the name, address and phone number (Figure 3).
- If you are trying to determine what deer management zone you or your hunting location is in, use the “Hunting – Deer Management Zone” layer.
- Use the “Hunting – Late Season Goose” layer to make sure you are not goose hunting in a closed area during the late canada goose season.

We think you'll like our new map as it has a variety of uses for hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. We highly encourage you to check it out as it has more to offer than you might think! The more you use it the more you will become familiar with it and be able to use all the tools it has to offer. If you have questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401)-789-0281 or email Paul Jordan at paul.jordan@dem.ri.gov.



Figure 3

## Don't Dig Yourself into Trouble!

**CALL DIG SAFE® BEFORE YOU DIG.**

**IT'S SMART, IT'S FREE, IT'S THE LAW.**



### The Perfect Excavation:

- Pre-mark the location of intended excavation using white stakes, paint or flags.
- In MA, ME, NH and RI, notify Dig Safe® at least 72 hours in advance.\*
- In Vermont, notify Dig Safe® at least 48 hours in advance.\*
- Notify non-member facility owners.
- Maintain the marks placed by underground facility owners.
- Use caution and dig by hand when working within 18" of a marked facility.
- If a line is damaged, do not backfill. Notify the affected utility company immediately if the facility, its protective coating, or a tracer wire is damaged.
- Call 911 if damage to pipeline results in a gas release.
- Know your state's excavation requirements.
- Go to [digsafe.com](http://digsafe.com) for educational material and current laws.

\* NOT INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.



# Turkey HUNTING

## Wild Turkey

Season	Dates	Season Limit
Fall Archery	October 1 - 31	1 either sex bird
Youth & Paralegic*	April 24 - 25, 2021	2 bearded birds <sup>1</sup>
Spring	April 29 - May 23, 2021	2 bearded birds <sup>1</sup>

\* See page 10 for more information on Youth & Paralegic Hunt Opportunities

<sup>1</sup> No more than one (1) turkey may be taken on state lands during the spring season. See Permits and Tagging for more information.

## General Rules and Regulations

- The hunting of wild turkey is permitted statewide. Check local ordinances for firearm discharge restrictions. Firearms are permitted for turkey hunting during the Spring and Youth & Paralegic seasons only.
- Hunting and shooting hours for the spring seasons, **including Youth/Paralegic**, end at 1:00 PM. All spring turkey hunters must leave the woods by 1:00 PM.
- Limited to: shotguns, gauges 10, 12, 16, and 20 only, with shot sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7 magnum turkey loads only; and archery equipment. Long bow, re-curve bow and compound bow must be set at not less than forty (40) pounds for archers using fixed blade broadheads, and a minimum of fifty (50) pounds for archers using mechanical broadheads. Only broadhead tipped arrows with at least two (2) metal cutting edges are allowed. All broadheads must be seven eighths (7/8) of an inch or greater at the widest point including mechanical broadheads measured in the “open” position.
- Hunters must carry a turkey-calling device (non-electric) while hunting. Calling is the only legal method for hunting wild turkeys in the spring.
- The use of decoys while hunting is allowed.
- Each year, after the end of the spring turkey season, online surveys are issued to Rhode Island turkey permit holders who have a valid email address within the online licensing system. The completion of this survey is vital to the turkey management program in Rhode Island and assists DEM biologists in maintaining a successful wild turkey season for our hunters. The Division requests your cooperation in filling out the survey, regardless of success or participation in that years hunt.

### Prohibited

- The use of any unauthorized firearm, live decoy(s), dog(s), baiting, cooperative drive(s).
- The use of crossbows for turkey hunting.
- Electric calling devices, or any other devices, to capture or ensnare turkeys.
- The shooting of turkeys while roosting.
- Stalking or attempting to sneak up on a turkey to get a shot.
- The hunting, killing, taking, or attempting to take or possess, any wild turkey by any individual unless they possess a permit to do so. However, a person having a valid Rhode Island hunting license may call turkeys for individuals with a valid turkey permit.
- Possession of more than one firearm or archery implement while turkey hunting.
- Possession of a firearm while hunting for wild turkey during the fall archery season.

### Permits and Tagging

- A hunter may purchase, possess and use one (1) all lands turkey permit and one (1) private land only turkey permit for the taking of one (1) bearded turkey on each permit during the spring seasons.

- A hunter may purchase, possess and use one (1) fall either sex archery permit, valid on both public and private property.
- A person killing a wild turkey must immediately notch the month, day, hour of kill and type of property taken on (private or public). The carcass and notched tag must remain in the possession of the hunter after the kill and while removing the carcass from the field. Should the hunter leave the carcass prior to removal from the field, the notched tag must be attached to and remain with the carcass. After removal from the field, the notched tag must be attached to and remain with the carcass until prepared for consumption or taxidermy.

### Reporting Your Harvest

The killing of a wild turkey must be reported to DEM using the online harvest reporting website [www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish) by 11:59 p.m. on the date of the kill. The notched tag with harvest report confirmation number must remain attached to the carcass until prepared for consumption or taxidermy.

Please see page 8 for more details on tagging and checking wild turkeys.

## Safe Turkey Hunting Is No Accident!

When compared to other sports activities (baseball, basketball and swimming--injuries per hundred thousand participants) hunting is a relatively safe activity. These comparisons should not cause any hunter to take accident-free hunting for granted. Each and every hunter must make safety the top priority of the hunt.

Very few hunting experiences compare with the exhilaration of turkey hunting. A chance to spend a day afield in the turkey woods, enjoying not only the hunt but also the splendor of the outdoors in spring makes this experience worthwhile to sportsmen and sportswomen. This is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Be sure that your turkey hunting experience is an enjoyable one by observing these key ingredients for a safe hunt:

## Turkey Hunting Safety

- NEVER crowd another hunter working a bird and avoid high-pressure areas.
- “Mistaken for game” accounts for 87% of all turkey hunting accidents-Be sure of your target and what’s beyond.
- Use proper setup techniques — Sit against a wide tree to shield head, neck and back. A tree is an effective blind as it breaks your outline.
- Never wear the colors red, white or blue while turkey hunting. These colors mimic the colors of a male turkeys (gobbler) head and can draw fire. Be totally camouflaged.
- Never stalk turkey sounds or turkeys — it’s unsafe and illegal. Never use the sounds of a turkey to warn approaching hunters.
- Avoid using gobbling calls — which draw more hunters than game.

## How to Tell the Sex & Age of a Turkey

Determination of the sex and age of a wild turkey is vital to the hunter, since only bearded wild turkeys are “legal birds” in the spring season. Proper identification of your target before shooting protects vulnerable hen turkeys from accidental shooting during the spring nesting season. The composition of the harvest provides biologists with information about the flock and is important for making conservation and management decisions.

Hunters are reminded they should use a variety of characteristics to identify a legal bird, including behavior (strutting, gobbling) and color (black body coloration, bright red, white and blue head color).

# Wildlife Outreach Program

By Mary Gannon, Wildlife Outreach Coordinator, RI DEM

*Steel gray clouds race across the January sky, and the wind whips sea foam up into the air from where the icy waves pound the rocky coast. Harlequin, eider, and an enormous raft of black and surf scoter ride the treacherous surf with ease. The ducks dive beneath the waves in search of aquatic plants and shellfish, completely unperturbed by the wind and cold.*

*The sun sets, and the gray, bare trees cast long shadows over the ground. The stillness of the dim, March evening is suddenly punctuated with the shrill calls of spring peepers and subtler clucks of wood frogs. A four-toed salamander creeps underneath a log, and a toad hops across the dirt path. Coyotes sing together in the distance, adding their voices to the spring chorus.*

*April dusk falls. A tiny, rapidly twittering silhouette rockets across the soft blues and purples of the evening sky. It descends, uttering a more syncopated twitter, and then, silence. From all directions, the shrubs and young trees begin to emit strange sounds. "Peent!...Peent!" After a moment of these cryptic announcements, the timberdoodle once again begins his joyful sky dance.*

*Morning sunlight lances through fresh leaves, still supple and fuzzy in the May warmth. The woods are alive with birdsong. "Sweet-sweet-sweet, I'm so sweet!...Tea-kettle-tea-kettle-tea-kettle!...Tea-cher, tea-CHER, TEA-CHER!" How many singers are there? Occasionally, bright-feathered gems flit through the foliage, busy with the tasks of spring.*

*The warmth of the July day lingers as the sun sets. Moths and mosquitoes float on the humid air, and a heron glides across the sky to its nighttime roost. With quiet squeaks, the little hunters emerge, fluttering from the old rooftop one by one. The bats turn somersaults and change direction on a dime overhead, in search of dinner.*

You don't have to go far or watch a nature documentary to experience any of these tranquil scenes. All you have to do is attend one of our family-friendly Wildlife Outreach Programs! In the age of smartphones, viral videos, and social media influencers, scenes like these are often forgotten or completely unknown to the public. The goal of the Wildlife Outreach Program is to connect Rhode Islanders of all ages to our state's wildlife and spread awareness of the conservation work being done right here in RI. Much of the wildlife conservation work conducted by RI DFW, and corresponding outreach, is funded through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program. The WSFR Program generates conservation funding through hunting and trapping license receipts, and a federal excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. Thank you to all of our hunters and trappers for responsibly supporting wildlife management and conservation here in Rhode Island!

The Wildlife Outreach Program started in 2017, with one newly-hired staff member (yours truly) and a handful of natural artifacts, in a cabin office at the Great Swamp Field Headquarters. I began by visiting classrooms, and then branched out to present public programs at libraries, senior centers, farmers markets, and eventually at State Parks and Management Areas. Some of my favorite programs to date have been our annual, all-season outdoor programs, such as Come Birding with Me, Vernal Pool Night, Sky Dance Night, and Summer Bat Night. I highly encourage hunters to attend these field programs, as it's so rewarding to learn about the conservation work being done with your support. You'll also deepen your knowledge of RI's wildlife species, which will only further enrich your time spent in your tree stand, blind, or on the trail!

The program has grown in leaps and bounds since then. The cabin office now has a collection of educational tools and artifacts to use for our classroom programs. Our kids' magazine, *Wild Rhode Island Explorer* is consistently gaining new subscribers and being circulated across the state in schools and libraries. RI DFW now has a strong Instagram following, in addition to our Facebook page. In 2019, RI DFW hired Gabrielle DeMeillon to assist with both the Wildlife Outreach and Volunteer Programs. Together, we've been able to develop the Rhody Critter Kit program, which provides educators the opportunity to borrow five Rhode Island wildlife-themed curriculum kits to use in their classrooms for free. Three of the kits focus on some of our most requested topics: birds, bats, and reptiles/amphibians. Two additional kits focus on habitat management in RI and the role of hunting and trapping in modern wildlife conservation and management. All kits include information about WSFR-funded work in RI, in order to raise awareness of this incredible program that has benefited our state's wildlife for over 80 years. We plan to launch the kits in the 2020-2021 academic school year.

Recently, we've been producing fun, educational videos on RI wildlife conservation. Visit the RIDEM's YouTube channel to check out Gabby's Creature Crafts series for kids, our virtual field trips with biologists, and informative (and occasionally humorous) conservation-themed shorts. Unfortunately, our 2020 activities were heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have been using this time to do some behind-the-scenes work on program and outreach resource development. Stay tuned! We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm and support in response to our outreach programs, and look forward to what the future holds.

To stay up to date on upcoming programs, visit [www.dem.ri.gov/wildlifeoutreach](http://www.dem.ri.gov/wildlifeoutreach).



# Small Game HUNTING

## Small Game Hunting

Species	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
<b>Coyote - State Land</b>	September 15 - February 28, 2021 April 29 - May 23, 2021	unlimited
<b>Coyote - Private Land</b>	No closed season	unlimited
<b>Raccoon</b>	October 1 - February 28, 2021	unlimited
<b>Youth Pheasant*</b>	October 10 - 11	2
<b>Pheasant</b>	October 17 - February 28, 2021	2
<b>Cottontail Rabbit</b>	October 17 - February 28, 2021	3
<b>Gray and Red Squirrel</b>	October 17 - February 28, 2021	5, singly or in aggregate
<b>Bobwhite Quail</b>	October 17 - February 28, 2021	3
<b>Red, Gray Fox</b>	October 17 - February 28, 2021	unlimited
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>	CLOSED	

\* See page 10 for more information on Youth Hunt Opportunities

### Management Area Check Stations

Small game hunters are required to check in and out of the state operated check stations at Great Swamp, Arcadia, Durfee Hill, and Carolina Management Areas on the following dates: October 17 - 18, October 24 - 25 and October 31 - November 1. Check station hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the first four days of deer muzzleloader season (Nov 7 - 10) when check stations will be open until 6:00PM. Hunters may be asked to produce harvested game for inspection.

### Pheasant and Quail Hunting

A Gamebird Permit is Required to hunt ring-neck pheasant and bobwhite quail. The daily limit for pheasant is two (2) either sex birds and the daily bag limit for quail is three (3). Pheasants are stocked prior to opening day, then weekly through the end of December. Pheasant stocking does not occur in January and February. Stocked management areas are: Arcadia, Black Hut, Big River, Buck Hill, Carolina, Durfee Hill, Great Swamp, Nicholas Farm, Sapowet Marsh, Simmons Mill Pond and Eight Rod Farm.

### Block Island Pheasant Hunting

Pheasant hunting is open on Block Island, with written landowner permission, on November 18 and 25, December 2 and 16 and January 6, 2021. Only male pheasants (roosters) may be taken from Block Island, daily bag limit 2 per day.

### Additional Regulations

The small game hunting season will remain OPEN during the December shotgun deer season. This allows small game hunting on state management areas during the shotgun deer season.

Muzzle-loading rifles, no greater than .40 caliber with round ball and patch, may be used for hunting small game mammals during established seasons.

Night hunting of raccoons with shot larger than No. 4 or rifles larger than .22 cal. rimfire long-rifle is prohibited.

Archery hunters with a valid deer archery hunting permit may take raccoon during legal deer hunting hours beginning on the first day of October and ending on the last day of January.

### Air Rifles

Air rifles are permitted to hunt the following small mammals: squirrels, woodchucks, and cottontail rabbits, provided that the air guns are a minimum of .177 caliber and not larger than .22; a minimum of 750 fps velocity with pellets 7.5 grains or larger.

## Reptiles & Amphibians

A current Rhode Island Hunting License is required to take snapping turtles. A current Rhode Island Hunting or Fishing License is required to take green frogs and bullfrogs. The possession, removal from the wild, or killing, for any purpose, of any other native reptile or amphibian (including their nests and eggs) is prohibited except by special permit (RIHR 9.15.B).

The snapping turtle season is closed May 15 - July 15. The season bag limit is six (6) turtles, and at any time shall be limited to turtles with a minimum carapace length of thirteen (13) inches. Take is allowed by turtle trap, hand, hand-held dip net, snagging, jugging, and bow and arrow. Traps must include a tag with name and address of trapper and be set in a manner that allows all turtles within access to the surface to breathe air (RIHR 9.15.C). Take for the purpose of sale or any other purpose other than personal consumption is prohibited.

The green frog and bullfrog season is closed June 1 - July 31. The daily bag limit is 20 frogs (both species combined). Take is allowed by hand, hand-held dip net, spearing, hook and line, and bow and arrow.

## Coyote Hunting

The hunting season for coyotes on state lands shall be from September 15 until the last day in February, inclusive, and during the open spring turkey hunting season, April 29 - May 23, 2021. The hunting season for coyotes on Prudence Island shall be: on state land during archery season with a valid archery permit, during the small game season on private land, November 1 - 30 and on North Prudence during the small game season, January 1 - 31, 2021. There is no closed season for coyote hunting on private lands.

During the spring turkey season, coyote hunters must possess a valid turkey hunting permit while hunting on state lands.

Coyote hunters on state lands must wear a minimum of 200 square inches of fluorescent orange during the small game hunting season. During the shotgun deer season, 500 square inches is required.

The placement or use of carcasses or meat parts thereof is allowed on private property for the purposes of hunting coyotes. The placement or use of carcasses or meat parts thereof is prohibited for purposes of hunting coyotes on state lands.

Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.

Legal methods of take for coyote hunting include shotgun (no lead shot larger than No. 2) and rimfire rifle not larger than .22 caliber at any time, bow and arrow and crossbow; however, on private lands from April 1 to September 30 (both dates inclusive), centerfire rifles not larger than .229 caliber may be used (RIGL 20-13-13) and by any means allowed during any concurrent hunting season. When coyote hunting during deer season, the hunter must be in possession of a valid deer permit.

## Trapping

Species	Dates	Season Bag Limit	Pelt Tagging
Mink, Muskrat, Skunk, Raccoon, Opossum, Weasel, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Rabbit	November 1 - January 31, 2021	none	no
Coyote- Private	no closed season	none	no
Coyote- State Land	November 1 - January 31, 2021		
Beaver- Private*	November 1 - March 14, 2021	20	yes
Beaver- State Land*	December 1 - February 28, 2021		
Fisher*	December 1 - 24	2	yes

\* Special permit required in addition to RI trapping license, which may be obtained at Fish and Wildlife's Great Swamp Field Headquarters (401) 789-0281 or email DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov

**2020-2021 Regulations Changes** – The fisher season bag limit has been reduced to two (2).

### General Regulations

- No person shall set, maintain, or tend any trap without first obtaining a trapping license from the Department of Environmental Management. A resident of this state may set traps on property which they own and on which they are domiciled without obtaining a trapping license (RIGL 20-16-7). All season restrictions, bag limits, tagging requirements, and other trapping laws and regulations apply.
- Every holder of a trapping license shall make a report of the number and species of all furbearing animals taken by him or her on forms provided by the department within thirty (30) days of the end of the trapping season and before the expiration of the holder's license. No renewal of a trapping license shall be granted unless the report has been made (RIGL 20-16-12).
- Traps may not be set, staked, or placed prior to sunrise on opening day.
- All traps must have at a minimum the trapper's current RI trapping license number attached by a metal tag or embedded or cut into the trap (RIGL 20-16-7).
- Written landowner permission is required to trap on private land (RIGL 20-16-9).
- All traps must be checked at least once in every 24-hour period (RIGL 20-16-9).
- There is no open season on bobcat or river otter.

### Types of Traps Permitted

Furbearers for which there is an open season may be taken in: box (a.k.a. "cage") traps, body-grip (a.k.a. "conibear") traps, or species specific traps, with the following restrictions:

#### Body-grip traps

**Private land:** Body-grip (a.k.a. smooth wire or "conibear") type traps up to six and one half (6.5) inch jaw spread (i.e. "110, 120, 160" or equivalent) are permitted on land or in water on private land. Body-grip type traps greater than six and one half (6.5) inch but not exceeding eight (8) inch jaw spread ("220") may only be set if completely submerged in water or set no less than six (6) feet above the surface of the ground. Body-grip traps greater than eight (8) inch but not exceeding ten (10) inch jaw spread ("330") may only be set completely submerged in water.

**State land:** Body-grip traps up to six and one half (6.5) inch jaw spread are only permitted in water sets (i.e. all or a portion of the trap in water) or if placed six (6) feet above the ground. Body-grip traps with a jaw spread greater than six and one half (6.5) inches but not exceeding ten (10) inches ("220-330") may only be set if completely submerged in water.

#### Box traps

The use of box traps is permitted on private and state lands.

#### Species specific traps

The use of species specific traps is permitted on private and state land. A species specific trap is characterized by all of the following: triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; access opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; triggering mechanism can only be activated by a pulling force; has a swivel mounted anchoring system.

#### Permit to trap state lands

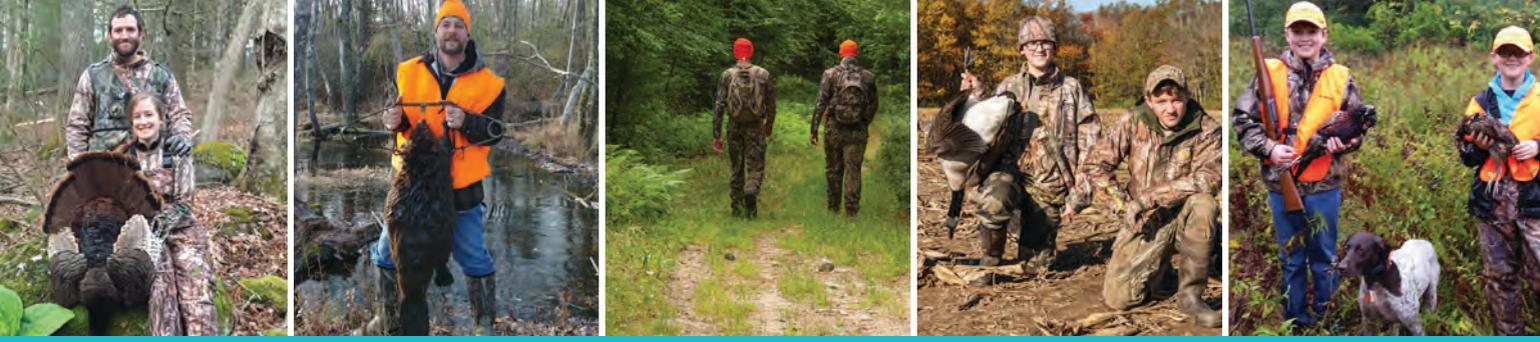
All trappers harvesting furbearers from state management areas must first obtain a Permit to Trap State Lands (no fee), issued by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in addition to their current R.I. Trapping License. obtained through the online licensing system: [www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish).

#### Prohibitions

- The use of poisons or snares (RIGL 20-16-6).
- The use of steel-jawed leghold traps (RIGL 20-16-8).
- No person shall disturb, tend, or possess a trap of another, or take an animal from the traps of another unless specifically authorized to do so (RIGL 20-16-11).
- The setting of traps within ten feet of a beaver lodge or bank den or within eight feet of a muskrat lodge unless authorized by special permit.
- The taking or possession of a road-killed furbearer (RIGL 20-16-1), unless with a current RI trapping license and during the open season for that species or as provided for under a current RI Scientific Collectors Permit (RIGL 20-1-18) or otherwise permitted by the Division.
- The relocation of beaver.
- The use of deadfalls, pitfalls, fish hooks, treble hooks, or other similarly sharpened instruments to catch, capture, or injure furbearers is prohibited.



Photo by David Pouliot



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