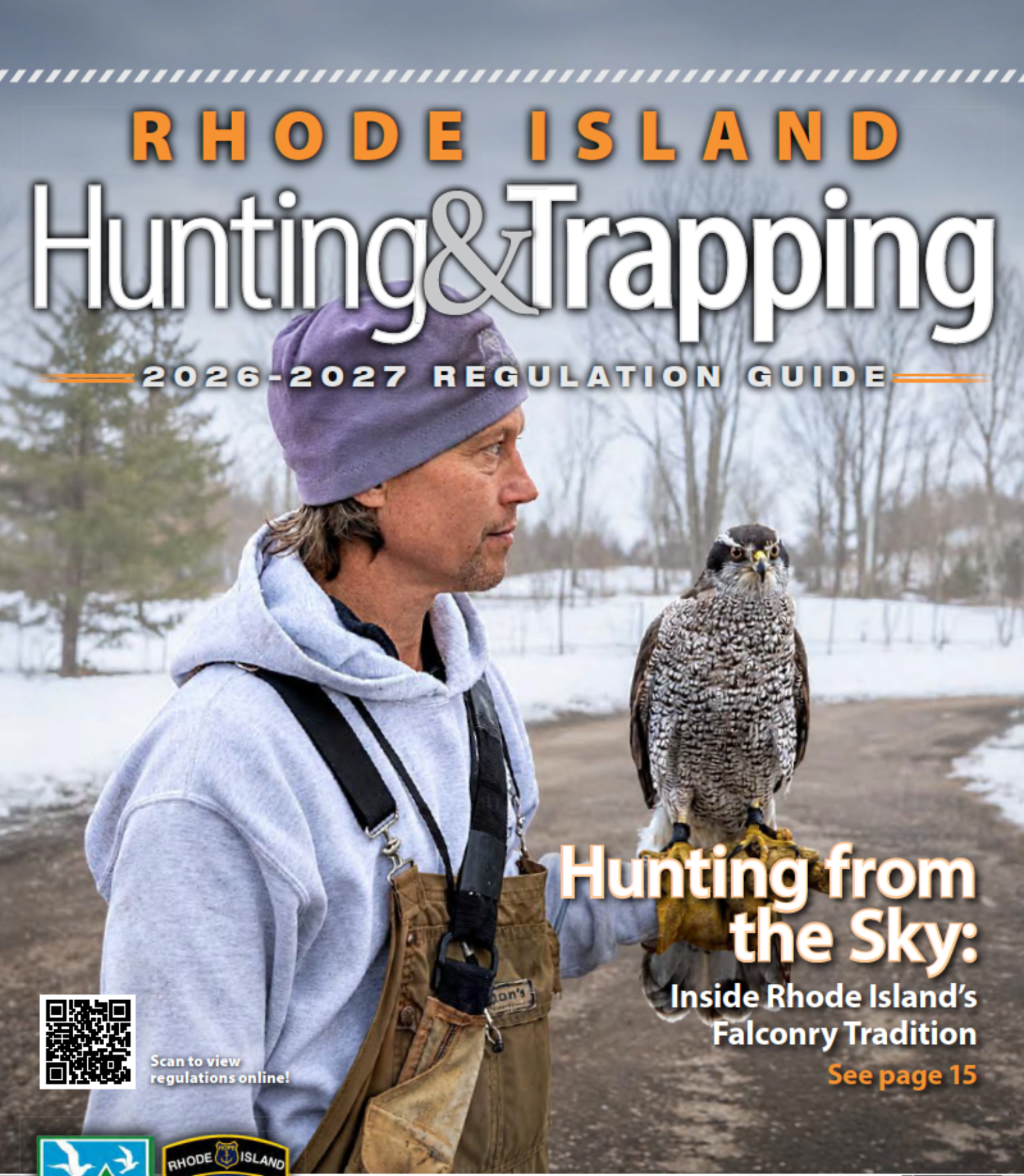
RHODE ISLAND
Hunting&Trapping

2026-2027 REGULATION GUIDE



Hunting from the Sky:
Inside Rhode Island's Falconry Tradition

See page 15

Scan to view regulations online!

Visit our website:
www.dem.ri.gov

State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management • Division of Fish & Wildlife

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RHODE ISLAND Hunting & Trapping

2026-2027 REGULATION GUIDE

State of Rhode Island
Governor
Daniel McKee

RI Department of Environmental Management
Director
Terrence Gray
Deputy Director Natural Resources Bureau
Jason McNamee

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Providence, RI 02908
24hr Violation Line: (401) 222-3070
Dean Hoxsie, Chief

On the Cover:
Jim Gwiazdzinski with a goshawk on their way out to hunt.
Photo by Charlie Nutting


Photo by Cole Lagasse

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Photo by Dan Manning

Welcome Letter



On behalf of Governor Dan McKee, I'm pleased to share the 12th annual ***Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Regulation Guide***. Whether you've spent a lifetime in the field or are preparing for your first season, this guide provides the key information you need to hunt and trap safely, legally, and responsibly in Rhode Island.

Hunting is deeply rooted in Rhode Island's outdoor heritage, supporting family traditions, providing sustainable food, connecting people with nature, and plays a critical role in wildlife conservation. The dedication of hunters supports science-based wildlife management and helps fund conservation programs that benefit habitats, species, and outdoor recreation opportunities statewide.

With the support from the Rhode Island hunting and trapping community, DEM protects and manages wildlife habitat, studies local species, and advances conservation initiatives. This year, our wildlife biologists completed an update to the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), a long-term strategy to protect and conserve threatened or endangered wildlife and their habitats. We're proud of this work and grateful to the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program for making it possible.

Rhode Island also continues to improve opportunities for responsible wildlife stewardship. Early last year, the state adopted regulations allowing for the salvage of certain wildlife killed in vehicle collisions. Reporting and permitting requirements help DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife better monitor wildlife populations, reduce waste, and improve roadway safety.

DEM manages more than 60,000 acres of public land, much of it open to hunting and trapping. Through partnerships with municipalities, land trusts, and private organizations, public access is available in every county, so opportunities are always close to home. We value these partnerships and rely on responsible, respectful hunters to help keep these lands open for the future.

This guide, funded via the federal Pittman-Robertson Act from your purchases of firearms and ammunition. Enjoy the beauty of Rhode Island, and thank you for your commitment to conservation, wildlife management, and Rhode Island's outdoor traditions! Best wishes for a safe and successful season.

Terrence Gray, PE
Director

Hunting Abstract

This hunting abstract is a summary of the rules, regulations, seasons and bag limits for the 2026–2027 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 2026–2027 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, 401-789-0281.

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

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About This Guide

This high-quality reference guide is brought to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

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The hunting regulations in this guide are online at:

eRegulations.com

Photo by Mark Lancaster

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. All laws and regulations come from RI General Law Title 20 or Hunting and Trapping Regulations, 250-RICR-60-00-9 unless otherwise cited.

Significant Regulation Changes & Highlights 2026–2027

- **Deer Hunting**
  - » Zones 1 and 2 now have the same archery deer season dates. September 15–January 31, 2027.
  - » Muzzleloader deer season now extends to the day before shotgun season starts. November 7–December 4.
  - » Zones 1 and 2 now have the same shotgun deer season which has been extended. December 5–31.
  - » The antlerless only private land only season during the muzzleloader and shotgun season has been removed.
  - » Zone 3
    - – Archery deer season has been expanded to begin the Monday after Columbus day. October 19–January 31, 2027.
    - – Paraplegic deer season is now the Tuesday-Friday following Columbus day. October 13–16.
    - – Youth season is now after the paraplegic season and before regular season. October 17–18.
    - – Heritage Property is now open during the entire Zone 3 archery deer season
  - » Beavertail State Park allows archery deer hunting on weekends.
- **Hunting Co-ops**
  - » Addition of 115 acres to Town of Bristol Minturn archery deer hunting property.
  - » Canonchet Preserve (TNC) now allows muzzleloaders and shotguns for deer hunting.
  - » Harrington Preserve (TNC) now allows all hunting.
- **Small Game Hunting**
  - » Red/gray fox hunting season has been reduced to Nov. 7–December 31.
  - » Falconry is an allowable method of take for small game, which includes squirrel, woodchuck, rabbit, skunk, opossum.
  - » Coyote shooting hours on private land extended to ½ hour before sunrise until midnight.
- **Trapping**
  - » Bag limit for muskrat is 15.
  - » For the taking of weasels and squirrels, the use of rat or mouse-sized body gripping (i.e., "snap traps") are permitted. Such traps must be set in artificial cubbies.
- **Waterfowl**
  - » There is now an Active Military and Veterans waterfowl season. November 10–11. See on page 23.
  - » For the Canada goose regular season, the daily bag limit includes white-fronted geese.
- **General**
  - » Target shooting is prohibited on Public Management Areas except in designated areas.
  - » The use of drones or other remotely operated unmanned aircraft systems and devices to drive or disturb wildlife or aid in the take and or recovery of wildlife for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.
  - » Organized wildlife killing contests that involve entry fees or monetary prize rewards, where animal carcasses pelts and or meat are not utilized, or that result in wanton waste are prohibited.
  - » Guide regulations have been updated. See page 28.

Definitions

1. **Active Military** - full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101.
2. **Antlerless deer** - deer having no antlers or antlers less than three inches (3") in length.
3. **Archery proficiency testing** - demonstration of skill with archery equipment as prescribed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Valid for two (2) years.
4. **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.
5. **Body-gripping trap** - a device that is designed to capture and kill an animal when two (2) rotating jaws close on either side of the animal's neck or chest.
6. **Box trap** - any trigger operated device intended to restrain an animal by confinement in box or cage.
7. **Client** - a person who receives services from a guide.
8. **Conibear-type trap** - "conibear" model traps and similar body-gripping traps and devices.
9. **Daily bag limit** - the maximum number of game of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one (1) person in any one (1) day during the open season.
10. **Deer hunting activity** - any activity in which a hunter is actively pursuing deer while carrying a firearm or archery device on the hunter's person. Tracking a wounded or un-recovered deer with a dog pursuant to § 9.7 of this Part herein is not considered deer hunting activity.
11. **Field possession limit** - the maximum number of game of a single species or combination of species permitted to be possessed by one (1) 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 where no daily bag limit is indicated.
12. **Foothold** - a trap equivalent to a leg-hold trap, as described in R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-16-8, including those foothold traps with padded or offset jaws.
13. **Guide** - a person paid a fee, or in-kind compensation, in exchange for transport, directly aiding, assisting, advising, showing the way to, or directing another person in the hunting of wildlife in the state of Rhode Island.
14. **Junior hunter** - any person twelve (12) to fourteen (14) years of age who possesses a hunter safety education certificate. Junior hunters may only hunt in the immediate company of an adult, twenty-one (21) years of age or older, who possesses a current Rhode Island hunting license.
15. **Paraplegic** - an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs.
16. **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.
17. **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.
18. **Possession limit** - the maximum number of game of a single species or combination of species permitted to be possessed by one (1) person at one (1) time.
19. **Tidal waters** - waters of the State extending from mean high water to the seaward limit of three (3) miles.
20. **Veteran** - a person who served on active duty with the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard, for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Reservists or members of the National Guard called to federal active duty (for other than training) or disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or while in training status also qualify as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101.

License & Permits License year: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027	Fee (online)	Fee (at vendor)
Resident Hunting License (must be 15 years old)[1]	$24.00	$26.00
Resident Combination License (Hunting & Fishing)	$43.00	$45.00
Resident Junior Hunting License (12–14 years old)[2]	$14.00	$16.00
Permanent Resident Combination License (over 65 or disabled)	No Fee[3]	No Fee
Resident Trapping License	$20.00	$22.00
Non-Resident Hunting License (must be 15 years old)[1]	$65.00	$68.00
Non-Resident Tourist Hunting License (3-day)	$20.00	$23.00
Non-Resident Junior Hunting License (12–14 years old)[2]	$40.00	$43.00
Non-Resident Trapping License (if reciprocal privileges allowed)	$75.00	$78.00
Active Military Personnel Hunting License	$24.00	$26.00
Resident All Outdoors Deer Package Permit[4]	$84.00	$87.00
Resident Deer Permit[5]	$14.00	$14.50
Non-Resident Deer Permit[5]	$27.50	$28.50
Resident Turkey Permit	$9.00	$9.50
Non-Resident Turkey Permit	$23.00	$24.00
RI Game Bird Permit	$18.50	$19.00[6]
State Waterfowl Stamp	$9.00	$9.50[6]
Migratory Bird (HIP) Permit	No Fee	No Fee

1 All hunters under the age of 18 **using firearms** must be under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or qualified adult. That adult DOES NOT need to be a licensed hunter in all cases. See more details on page 14.
2 Junior hunters must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license.
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 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.
5 Deer permits are antler, weapon, and zone specific.
6 Non-Residents pay a $1.00 Enhanced access fee ($19.50 Game Bird Permit and $10.00 State Waterfowl Stamp).

Licenses & Permits

No person shall hunt, trap, pursue, take or kill any wild bird or animal in the state without first having obtained a Rhode Island hunting or trapping license. 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. 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. Licenses may be suspended or revoked because of violations of hunting rules and regulations.

The possession of a valid Rhode Island hunting license, or combination hunting and fishing license, shall serve as a permit to hunt state management areas, as well as on some TNC, and state co-op hunting areas, except when special permits are required for deer, waterfowl, or turkey hunting on state lands. These permits 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 online at **rio.ri.gov**, at the DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licenses at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-3576, and from some 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/.

License Suspension

Any person who is convicted of violating any provision of R.I. Gen. Laws Title 20 or any Rule or Regulation may have license(s) to fish, hunt, and or trap, suspended by order of the Director, or his/her designee.

Hunting Licenses and Permits	Deer	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game (Coyote[1], Fox, Squirrel, Rabbit, and Raccoon)	Mourning Doves, Crows[3], Woodcock, Snipe and Rails	Waterfowl
Hunting License	•	•	•	•	•	•
Deer Permit[2]	•					
Turkey Permit[2]		•				
Game Bird Permit			•			
HIP Permit					•	•
Federal Duck Stamp						•
State Duck Stamp						•

1 Deer permit required during deer seasons and turkey permit required during turkey season.
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Prohibited Activities

- No loaded rifles or shotguns in or on vehicles.
- The sale of game, except as provided.
- No shooting at, hunting, or pursuing game along, upon, or across a public highway.
- 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.
- No hunting in state parks, with the exception of undeveloped state parks as denoted in the regulations.
- No more than five (5) persons to hunt in unison.
- No hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- The use of drones or other remotely operated unmanned aircraft systems and devices to drive or disturb wildlife or aid in the take and or recovery of wildlife for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.
- Spotlighting for wild animals and birds is prohibited (statewide and islands) from September 15 through the last day of February.
- Shooting at any animal at anytime while such animal is on a telephone or electric line, pole, or tower or any communication device.
- Taking of birds by any method other than shotgun, bow and arrow, or falconry without permit.
- Organized wildlife killing contests that involve entry fees or monetary prize rewards, where animal carcasses pelts and or meat are not utilized, or that result in wanton waste are prohibited.
- Feeding and baiting wildlife in the state of Rhode Island is not permitted at any time for any purposes except as defined.



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.
- The use or possession of laser sights that project a beam or night-vision equipment while hunting is prohibited.
- No lead shot larger than No. 2 at any time.
- 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.
- Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited. Archery hunting within 200 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited.

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

All users of State Management Areas, designated undeveloped State Parks and Co-op units 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. All hunters and users must wear **500 square** inches during all portions of shotgun deer seasons. Orange must be worn above the waist and be visible in all directions. Examples: a hat covers 200 square inches. A combination of hat and vest covering 500 square inches. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet the requirement. Fluorescent orange is not required in areas limited to archery-only hunting by regulation.

Exceptions:

- Raccoon hunters when hunting at night; crow hunters while hunting over decoys; spring turkey hunters; first segment dove hunters; waterfowl hunters while hunting from a boat or a blind, when done in conjunction with decoys; and archery deer hunters during archery season outside of the muzzleloader and shotgun deer seasons.
- Once in an elevated stand, archery deer hunters are exempt from the orange requirement during the muzzleloader season.
- Hunters using pop-up blinds during the firearms deer season must display 200 square inches of fluorescent orange on the outside of the blind, visible from all directions. Hunters in the blind must also wear orange in accordance with the rules for the season.

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Deer Hunting Seasons

Season	Dates
Archery (Zones 1 and 2)	September 12–13 **(Youth only)** September 15–January 31, 2027
Archery: Patience & Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 17–18 **(Youth only)** October 19–January 31, 2027
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 15, 16, 19–23, 26–30 **(Check local ordinance)**
Muzzleloader (Zones 1 and 2)	October 31–November 1 **(Youth only)** November 7–December 4
Shotgun (Zones 1 and 2)	December 5–31
Archery, Muzzleloader, Shotgun (Zone 4)	November 2–6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30 December 1, 3, 4, 7–11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22 January 4–8, 11–15, 19–22, 25–29, 2027 February 1–5, 8–12, 2027
Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience & Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 13–16

2026–2027 Season Bag Limits	
Statewide (all zones & methods combined)	2 Antlered Deer, (Zone 3: no more than 1 Antlered Deer)
Zone 1	3 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 2	2 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 3	2 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 4	Unlimited Antlerless Deer

* Antlerless limits are per zone and hunters may harvest each limit within each zone in a hunting year cumulative across all weapons/seasons.

NOTICE:
See above for changes in deer season dates.

RI Deer Management:

Deer management zones (see map on page 16 and 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.

Note: All deer wounded, but not recovered, must be reported to DEM within 24 hours.

Our goal is 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, maxi ball type, or sabots. Powder is limited to manufacturers' specifications. Telescopic sights are permitted. Possession of modern shotgun shells while hunting with a muzzleloader 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.
- 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.

Dogs

Upon shooting a deer, a hunter with a current valid hunting license and deer permit may use one (1) dog or engage a second party to use one (1) dog to recover a wounded and lost or un-recovered deer within seventy-two (72) hours of shooting the deer provided that they comply with the following restrictions.

1. There shall be no firearms or archery devices carried by the hunter, dog handler, or any individual present at the time of tracking.
2. The dog shall be maintained under physical control of the dog handler at all times by the means of a lead no longer than fifty (50) feet that shall be attached to the collar or harness of the dog.

3. The hunter shall be present at all times.
4. All parties involved in recovering a deer with a dog shall wear 500 square inches of fluorescent orange.
5. If it is determined that the deer is still alive all parties will back away immediately and the dog will be taken out of the area. Once the dog is removed from the hunting area, the hunter may return with a legal weapon.

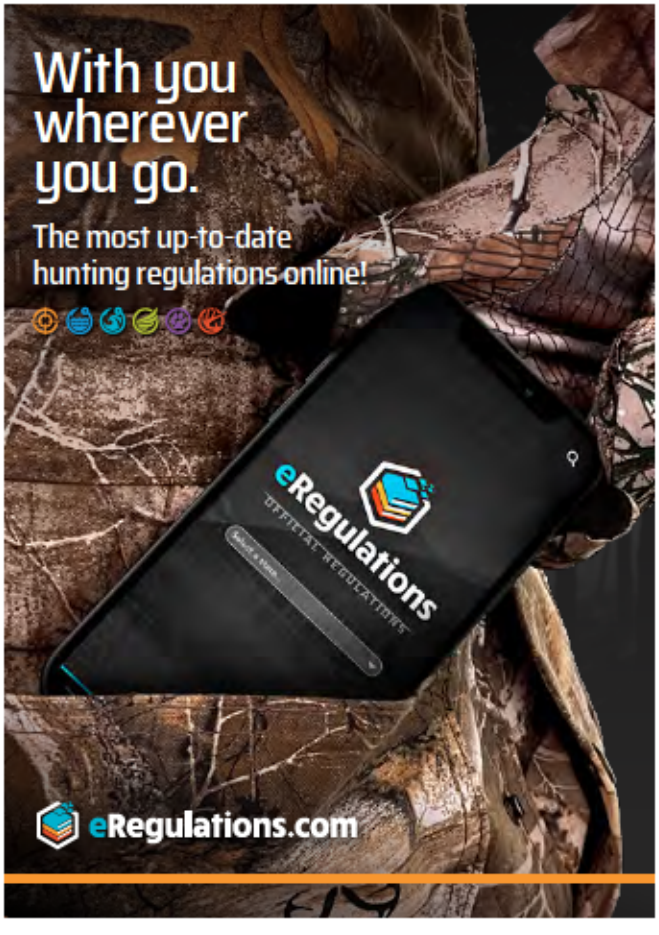
Adaptive Aids
Special archery adaptive aids for use with vertical held bows may be used by all hunters without a special permit.

Decoys
Deer decoys may be used on private lands and state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (excludes State Parks, Public Reservations, Cooperative properties and Federal properties) during the archery only deer seasons while archery hunting only. This excludes youth muzzleloader and shotguns seasons. 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.

Tree Stands
- Tree stands may not be set on State-owned property prior to August 15 and must be removed prior to March 31 annually.
- All tree stands set on public land or cooperative hunting units must be legibly marked with the hunters Customer ID number or Sportsman's Equipment ID number (both can be found on **rio.ri.gov**).

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.
- The use of electronic calls.
- 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.
- Hunting deer 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 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.

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 (RI General Law 32-6-5)

(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, except for during the special hunting season (see page 14). Proficiency testing is required for all archery deer hunters on Prudence and Patience Islands. Proficiency cards must be carried while hunting. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website **rio.ri.gov** 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. Proficiency testing is required of all archery hunters that are hunting deer on Block Island. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website **rio.ri.gov** or be reported to an Environmental Police Officer.

Cooperative and Special Hunting Areas

See map and table on pages 16–19.

Block Island State Land (Black Rock / Rodman Hollow)

Deer hunting is allowed by special permit only, selected by lottery. Applications are found on **rio.ri.gov** to hunt Black Rock/Rodman Hollow, and must be submitted by September 15th, 2026.

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

Four National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in the state are open for hunting on designated units with season and weapon restrictions. Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting brochure valid for the current season while hunting at Block Island, Ninigret, and John H. Chafee NWRs. Trustom Pond NWR is by lottery permit only. Archery proficiency certification is required to hunt at Block Island, John H. Chafee, and Trustom Pond NWRs. All State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply. For detailed information, regulations, locations and dates please visit, www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret [fws.gov] or contact the USFWS at 401-364-9124.

To enter the Trustom Pond NWR lottery please visit https://rhodeislandpermits.recaccess.com/ by September 15.

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 tree stands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes, bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing tree stands are permitted.
- Tree stands may not be installed on TNC property prior to August 15th and must be removed by March 31st.

Beavertail (Jamestown)

Archery hunting only for deer from November 1, 2026 to January 31, 2027. 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.

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.DFWHunterEducation@dem.ri.gov and if space allows, it may be used in next year's edition.



Photo by Hendricks Dormer

How to Tag and Report Your Deer

All deer must be tagged and reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife

TAG IT:

Once you harvest a deer, you must notch your tag (day, hour and month of harvest) before moving the deer for photos, field dressing or to leave the woods. 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. The notched tag must remain affixed to the deer at all times until the deer has been prepared for taxidermy or consumption.


Photo by Zoie Standen

REPORT IT:

You must report your deer harvest within 24 hours. You can report it online or over the phone. Use your smart phone or desktop computer to report your harvest at **https://rio.ri.gov/**. 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.

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.


Photo by Evan Murray

Deer Check Stations

All deer taken during the first two days **(Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 7 & 8)** of the Muzzleloader Deer Season, and the first two days **(Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 5 & 6)** of Shotgun 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. **Hunters bringing their deer to a check station DO NOT need to report their harvest online prior to going to the check station.**

Operating Hours

November 7 & 8: 8:00 A.M. until **8:00 P.M.**
December 5 & 6: 8:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.

Check Stations

- **Buck Hill Management Area:** 704 Buck Hill Rd, Pascoag, (41.97484, -71.77922)
- **Smithfield Sportsman Club:** 14 Walter Carey Rd, Smithfield, (41.8786, -71.5346)
- **Arcadia Management Area:** Rt. 165, Ten Rod Road, at Wood River, Exeter, (41.57305, -71.72163)
- **Carolina Management Area:** Pine Hill Road, Richmond, (41.46618, -71.68860)
- **Great Swamp Management Area:** 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, (41.47374, -71.57533)
- **Tiverton Rod and Gun Club:** 1529 Fish Rd, Tiverton, (41.62681, -71.18825)
- **Durfee Hill Management Area:** CLOSED Permanently

Deer check stations are a vital tool used by the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to monitor and manage the state's deer population. These stations allow biologists to gather important information—like a deer's age, weight, antler size, and tissue samples for Chronic Wasting Disease testing—that can't be collected through online or phone harvest reports.

This data is essential for understanding the health and size of the deer herd and helps ensure responsible wildlife management across the state.

Reminder: If you harvest a deer during the first weekend of muzzleloader or shotgun season, you are required by regulation to bring it to a check station. Deer checked in person do not need to be reported online.


Photo by Jessie Kenyon

Check Station Map

Scan to view Deer Check Station Map

Wild Turkey

Season	Dates	Season Limit
Fall Archery	October 1–31	1 either sex bird
Youth[1]	April 19–25, 2027	2 bearded birds[2]
Paraplegic[1]	April 24–25, 2027	
Spring	April 29–May 23, 2027	

[1] See page 14 for more information on Youth & Paraplegic Hunt Opportunities.
[2] No more than one (1) turkey may be taken on state lands during the spring season. Each turkey harvested requires an individual permit.

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, Youth, and Paraplegic seasons only.
- Shooting hours are one half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 1:00PM for Spring, Youth and Paraplegic seasons.
- **Authorized firearms and archery equipment:** methods of take are limited to,
  - **Shotguns**: No larger than ten (10) gauges with shot sizes no larger than four (4).
  - **Archery equipment:**
    - 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.
    - 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.
    - Crossbows must be set at not less than one hundred twenty-five (125) pounds minimum draw weight. The trigger unit must have a working safety. 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 broadhead tipped arrows by a color difference.
- Hunters must carry a turkey-calling device (non-electric) while hunting.
- 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 year's hunt.

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.**
- Hunters may take two (2) turkeys on the same day or one (1) each on separate days provided they purchase two (2) spring turkey permits and at least one (1) turkey is taken on private land.
- 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.

Prohibited

- The use of any unauthorized firearm, live decoy(s), dog(s), baiting, cooperative drive(s).
- 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.

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 turkey's (gobbler's) 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).

How to Tag and Report Your Turkey

All turkeys must be tagged and reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife

TAG IT:

Once you harvest a turkey, you must notch your tag (day, hour and month of harvest) before moving the turkey for photos or to leave the woods. 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.

REPORT IT:

You must report your turkey harvest within 24 hours. You can report it online or over the phone. Use your smart phone or desktop computer to report your harvest at **https://rio.ri.gov/**. 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. Monday-Friday to report your harvest.

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)

When you are finished reporting your turkey 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 turkey until prepared for taxidermy or consumption.



Photo by Amanda Cantrell



Wild Turkey Banding Program

The Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife is continuing their turkey banding program to gather scientific information on the state's turkey population. Please report any encounters with banded turkeys, including harvesting, finding a dead banded turkey, or observing a live one. You can report online in our Survey 123 form at https://arcg.is/XTHjW0, or by calling (401) 789-0281. When reporting, include the band number, date and location of encounter, and age/sex if known. For harvested turkeys, remember to report through the Rhode Island Outdoors system as well.

Contact Lizzi Bonczek, Upland Game Bird Biologist at elizabeth.bonczek.ctr@dem.ri.gov with questions.

Youth Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Youth Deer Archery	Zones 1 & 2	September 12–13
	Zone 3	October 17–18
Youth Deer Muzzleloader	Zones 1 & 2	November 31–December 1
Youth Waterfowl	Statewide	October 24–25
Youth Pheasant	Great Swamp WMA, South Kingstown Durfee Hill WMA, Glocester Eight Rod Farm WMA, Tiverton	October 10–12
Youth Turkey	Statewide	April 19–25, 2027

- All youth hunting seasons are open to hunters ages 12–17.
- All youth hunters ages 12–14 must be in possession of a **resident or non-resident Junior hunting license** in order to hunt in RI.
- All youth hunters ages 15–17 must possess **a resident or non-resident hunting license**. Licenses can be purchased after the completion of a Hunter Safety course.
- All youth hunters ages 12–14 must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license.
- All hunters 15–17 using firearms must be under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or qualified adult. That adult DOES NOT need to be a licensed hunter, except for youth waterfowl hunting.
- 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 pertain to youth hunters.

Youth Deer Hunting: Dates vary depending on Season and Zone. All other regulations and permit requirements apply. Please see page 8 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 (12–17) must have a current HIP Permit and RI Hunting License. The adult must also possess a current HIP Permit, state and federal duck stamp, and RI Hunting License.

Youth Pheasant Hunting: Youth pheasant season will be open during October 10–12. Pheasants will be stocked at Great Swamp, Durfee Hill, and Eight Rod Farm Wildlife Management Areas.

Youth Turkey Hunting: Youth hunters may take up to two (2) bearded turkeys during the spring season, provided they purchase a spring turkey permit for each bird. 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.

Hunter Education & Mentored Opportunities: The Division of Fish and Wildlife is committed to providing opportunities that support the development of safe, responsible, and ethical hunters while helping participants build knowledge, skills, and confidence in the outdoors. Programs and events may include skills training, mentored hunting experiences, and other outreach activities for participants of varying ages and experience levels. Program offerings vary annually. For current program offerings, registration information, and updates, visit RIDEM Hunter Education and Outreach Programs.

National Archery in Schools Program (NASP): The Division of Fish and Wildlife also supports the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), which introduces students to archery through participating schools and organizations. Program availability varies by school and location. For more information about the Hunter Education Program or NASP, call 401-539-0019 or email DEM.DFWHunterEducation@dem.ri.gov.

Special Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters	Zone 3	October 13–16
Paraplegic Hunter Turkey Season	Statewide	April 24–25, 2027
Active Military and Veteran Waterfowl Season	Statewide	November 10–11

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 **rio.ri.gov**.
- Disabled hunters may use shotgun or muzzleloader with ammunition and caliber restrictions consistent with regular deer season (see page 8).

Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Season

- Active military and veteran hunters may take ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada geese, light geese, and brant following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons. The scaup bag limit will be two (2).
- Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting.
- All active military and veteran waterfowl hunters must have a State Harvest Information (HIP) permit, Rhode Island State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp in addition to a current Rhode Island hunting license.

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.

Falconry

By Sarah Riley, Chief Implementation Aide and State Falconry Administrator

Falconry demands far more than acquiring a bird and venturing into the woods for a casual outing. Though it is not a widely known or commonly practiced hunting sport, a dedicated community of falconers in Rhode Island continues to preserve this ancient tradition.



Photo by Charlie Nutting

Falconry is defined as the taking of wild quarry with a trained raptor. While this definition is concise, the commitment and discipline required to participate in the practice are anything but simple.

It is a year-round pursuit, with a seemingly endless list of tasks and responsibilities. During hunting season—the pinnacle of the falconry calendar—falconers spend long hours outdoors in all conditions, from sweltering hot September days to sub-zero temperatures in February. Days in the field often involve pushing through waist-high briars, navigating dense woodlots, tracking and retrieving a hunting bird, and occasionally falling into swamps hidden beneath winter snow. Despite the challenges, a successful day ends with a falconer walking out of the woods with their bird on the fist and, if skill and luck align, game in the bag.

Obtaining a falconry license is a lengthy and rigorous process that often takes several years to complete. Prospective apprentices must first secure a qualified mentor willing to supervise their training. Because experienced falconers are not always available—or able—to take on apprentices, finding a mentor is often one of the most significant challenges for those seeking to enter the sport.

Once a mentor or sponsor has been secured, the prospective falconer must pass the state falconry examination, obtain and construct the required equipment and facilities, and undergo an inspection by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, before submitting a final application.

New falconers begin at the Apprentice level. During this stage, they develop and refine their skills under the guidance of a mentor who has practiced falconry for at least three years at the General Class level. Apprentices are permitted to work with one wild-caught red-tailed hawk per season for a minimum of two seasons, and potentially longer if their mentor determines that additional training is necessary.

Once a mentor determines that an apprentice has developed the necessary proficiency, the apprentice must complete a field trial demonstrating proper equipment use, safe and effective handling of their bird, field control, and the ability to successfully take game with the hawk. Only after completing this evaluation can they advance to the level of General Class falconer. Once the General Class license is achieved, falconers may work with a variety of other raptor species.

Falconers may apply for Master Class status only after at least five years of active practice as a General Class falconer. Advancement requires another field trial demonstrating their skills above that which are required of a General Class falconer, specifically working with multiple types of raptors. In falconry terminology, these groups include "longwings" (falcons), "broadwings" (soaring hawks such as buteos), and "shortwings" (forest hawks such as accipiters). Each group of raptors differs significantly in its natural history, training methods, housing requirements, and hunting applications. A Master Falconer has devoted years to developing the knowledge and expertise required to work successfully with each of these specialized birds.

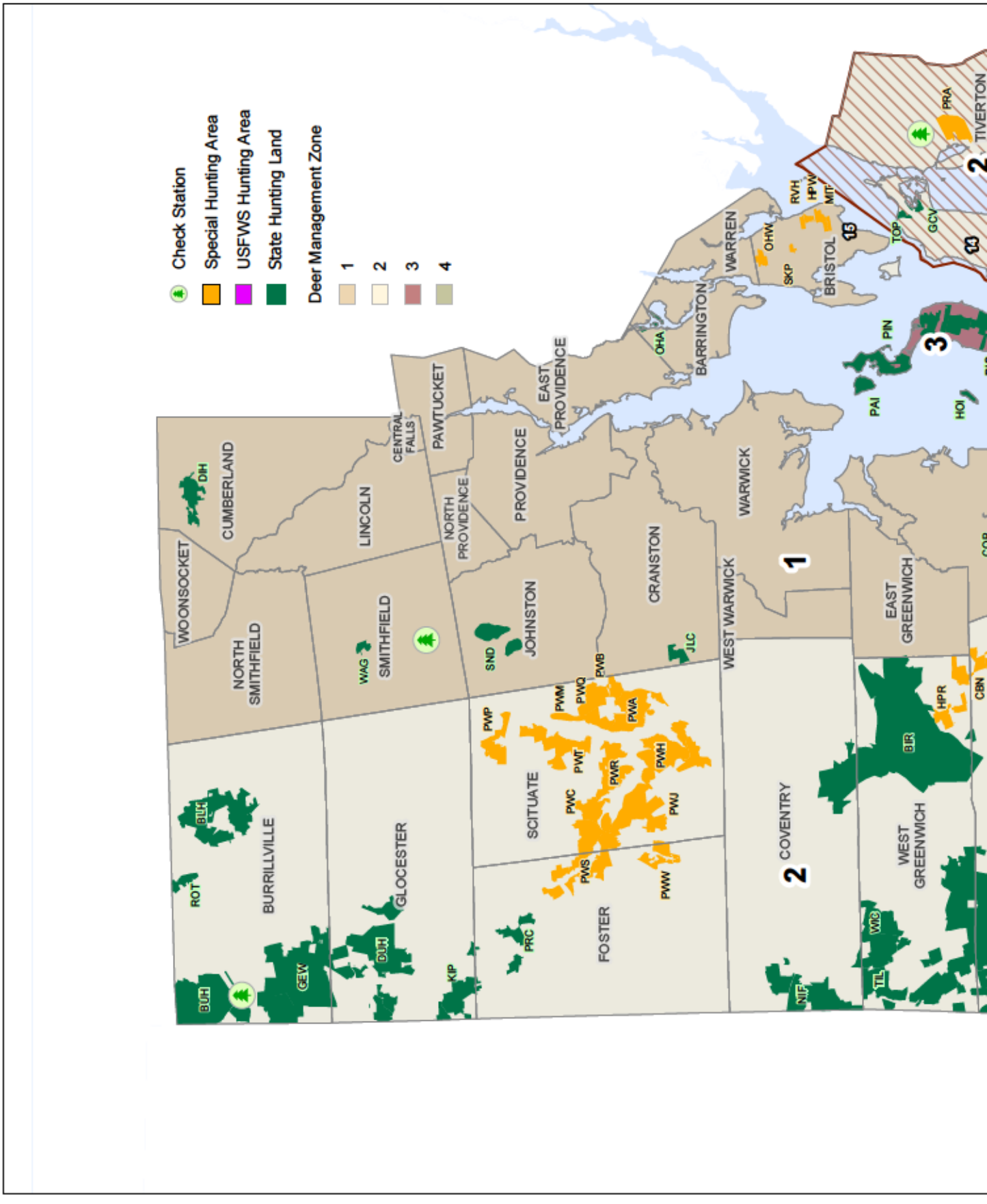
Across the United States, the most commonly used raptor in falconry is the red-tailed hawk. Their adaptability, size, and hunting style make them excellent falconry birds. In Rhode Island, they are most often used to hunt rabbits and squirrels, both of which have suitable habitat in the state. Smaller falcons such as the American kestrel and the merlin are frequently used to hunt invasive passerine species, specifically house sparrows and European starlings, which may be taken year-round. Larger falcons, such as peregrine falcons, are often flown on ducks, taking advantage of their remarkable speed and aerial agility. Accipitrine or "forest" hawks—including Cooper's hawks and goshawks—excel in wooded environments. The goshawk, in particular, is highly revered for its ability to pursue both mammals and birds, including rabbits, squirrels, doves, and ducks. However, their specialized evolutionary adaptations also make them challenging to maintain and train in captivity, requiring the experience and skill of a seasoned falconer.

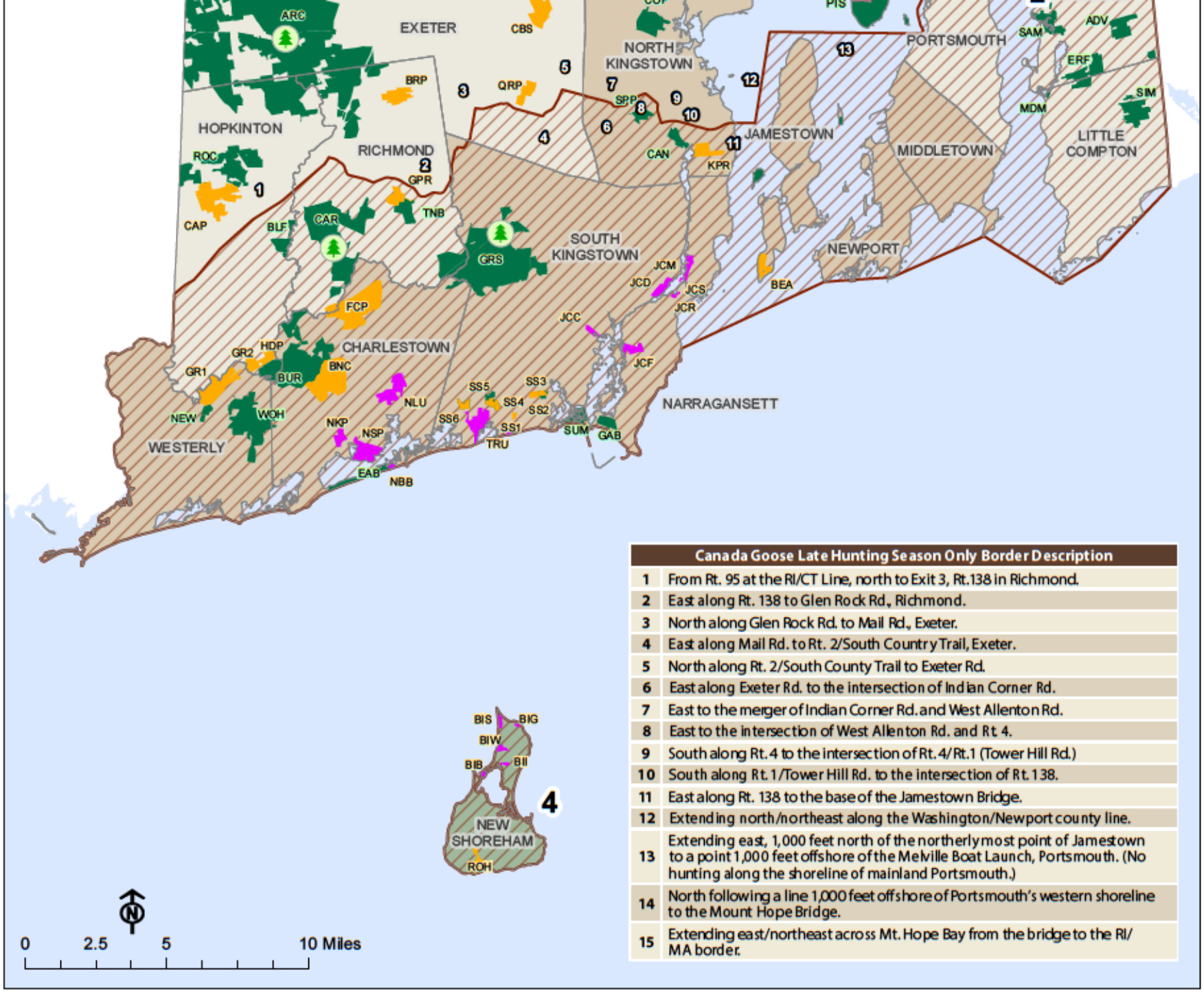
One of the most common questions falconers receive is: what do the raptors gain from this relationship, and why do they remain with their human partners? The answer lies in trust, respect, and a reliable food source. Raptors are generally solitary animals, and working with them requires patience and a deep understanding of how they perceive and interact with their environment. With a strong hunting bond between falconer and bird, trained raptors receive a dependable source of food and protection from many of the threats they face in the wild, including starvation, predation, vehicle strikes, window collisions, domestic animal attacks, and disease.

While hunting birds share their prey with their falconers during the active season, they also benefit from a lengthy off-season. During this time, they are provided daily food, safe housing, and the conditions necessary for a healthy molt—the biologically demanding annual process by which they drop and regrow their feathers.

The long hours of preparation, training, research, maintenance, and fieldwork are responsibilities falconers willingly accept as stewards of their hunting partners. Although falconry differs significantly from other forms of hunting, it remains a deeply respected tradition among its practitioners. Rhode Island's falconers represent a small but dedicated community, proud to uphold this historic practice and grateful for the continued support of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management in preserving the heritage of traditional hunting.

State Lands MAP





Canada Goose Late Hunting Season Only 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 County Trail to Exeter Rd.
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.

Public Lands AND HUNTING AREAS

Code	Property		Town	Type	Acres	Deer	Deer Mng Zone	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game	Migratory Birds	Waterfowl	Trapping	Permit Required	Archery Proficiency Card Required	Notes
ADV	Adamsville		Tiverton	WMA	300	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
ARC	Arcadia		Hopkinton, Exeter, Richmond, West Greenwich	WMA	14,692	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			1
BRP	Beaver River Preserve TNC		Richmond	Co-op	271	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
BEA	Beavertail		Jamestown	SP	169	O	1	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	2
BIR	Big River		West Greenwich, Coventry, Exeter	WMA	8,496	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BLF	Black Farm		Hopkinton	WMA	312	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			1
BLH	Black Hut		Burrillville	WMA	1,864	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BIB	Block Island National Wildlife Refuge	Beane Point Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	22	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BIG		Grove Point Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	10	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BIS		Sandy Point	New Shoreham	USFWS	42	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BII		Skippers Island Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	17	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BIW		Wash Pond Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	38	O	4	X	X	X	X	✓		✓	✓	3
OHW	Town of Bristol	Hopeworth	Bristol	Co-op	41	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
HPW		Mintum	Bristol	Co-op	150	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
MIT		Skaters Pond	Bristol	Co-op	26	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
SKP		100 Acre Woods	Bristol	Co-op	104	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
BUH	Buck Hill		Burrillville	WMA	3,192	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BUR	Burlingame		Charlestown, Hopkinton	WMA	1,779	✓	1, 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BNC	Burlingame North Camp		Charlestown	SP	884	✓	1	✓	X	X	X	X	✓			2
CAN	Camp Nokewa		North Kingstown	WMA	145	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
CAP	Canonchet Preserve TNC		Hopkinton	Co-op	710	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X				
CAR	Carolina		Richmond	WMA	2,151	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
COP	Cocumscussoc Park		North Kingstown	SP	420	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓			
CBN	Cuttyhunk Brook Preserve	North TNC	Exeter, West Greenwich	Co-op	361	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X				
CBS		South TNC	Exeter, West Greenwich	Co-op	428	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
DIH	Diamond Hill		Cumberland	PR	408	✓	1	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓			
DUH	Durfee Hill		Glocester	WMA	2,466	✓	2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓	✓			
–	Dutch Island		Jamestown	WMA	102	**Closed to All Public Access**										
EAB	East Beach		Charlestown	SP	214	O	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			9
ERF	Eight Rod Farm		Tiverton, Little Compton	WMA	446	✓	2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓	✓			
FCP	Francis Carter Preserve TNC		Charlestown, Richmond	Co-op	1,089	O	1, 2	X	X	X	X	X				
GAB	Galilee Bird Sanctuary		Narragansett	WMA	135	O	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GEW	George Washington		Burrillville, Glocester	WMA	3,503	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GOI	Gould Island		Jamestown	WMA	38	**Temporarily Closed to All Access/Hunting Due to Remediation**										
GPR	Grass Pond Reserve TNC		Richmond	Co-op	174	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X				
GRS	Great Swamp		Richmond, South Kingstown	WMA	3,615	✓	1, 2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GR1	Grills Preserve I		Westerly	Co-op	514	#	1	✓	X	X	X	X				
GR2	Grills Preserve II		Hopkinton	Co-op	163	#	2	✓	X	X	X	X				
GCV	Gull Cove *NEW*		Portsmouth	WMA	86	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
HPR	Harrington Preserve TNC		West Greenwich	Co-op	178	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
–	Hillsdale		Richmond	WMA	1,825	**Closed to All Hunting**										
HOI	Hope Island		Portsmouth	WMA	72	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
HDP	How Davey Preserve TNC		Hopkinton	Co-op	71	#	2	X	X	X	X	X				
JLC	J. L. Curran		Cranston	SP	296	@	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			4
JCC	John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge	Congdon Cove	South Kingstown	USFWS	50	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCF		Foddering Farm	Narragansett	USFWS	130	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCM		Middlebridge	Narragansett	USFWS	100	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCS		Sedge Island	Narragansett	USFWS	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		✓		3
JCR		Starr Drive	Narragansett	USFWS	31	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCD		Stedman	South Kingstown	USFWS	134	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
KIP	Killingly Pond		Foster, Glocester	WMA	767	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
KPR	King Preserve TNC		North Kingstown	Co-op	161	O	1	X	X	X	X	X				
MDM	Mary Donavan Marsh		Little Compton	WMA	15	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NEW	Newton Swamp		Westerly	WMA	84	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NIF	Nicholas Farm		Coventry	WMA	1,632	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			1

Code	Property		Town	Type	Acres	Deer	Deer Mng Zone	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game	Migratory Birds	Waterfowl	Trapping	Permit Required	Archery Proficiency Card Required	Notes
NBB	Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge	Barrier Beach Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	32	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	X		✓		3
NKP		Kettle Pond Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	114	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	X		✓		3
NLU		Lewis Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	332	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	X		✓		3
NSP		Salt Pond Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	348	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	X		✓		3
OHA	One Hundred Acre Cove		Barrington	WMA	47	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			2
PAI	Patience Island		Portsmouth	WMA	203	O	3	X	X	O	X	X	✓		✓	2, 5, 8
PRA	Pocassett Ridge Conservation Area TNC		Tiverton	Co-op	488	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
PRC	Ponagansett River Corridor		Foster, Glocester	WMA	540	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
PWA	Providence Water Supply	Ashland	Scituate	Co-op	942	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWB		Betty Pond	Scituate	Co-op	173	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWC		Cork Brook	Scituate	Co-op	346	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWJ		Joslin Farm	Scituate	Co-op	1,188	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWP		Peeptoad	Scituate	Co-op	186	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWQ		Quonopaug	Scituate	Co-op	457	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWR		Riverview	Scituate	Co-op	731	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWS		Swamp Brook	Scituate, Foster	Co-op	482	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWT		Trimtown	Scituate	Co-op	985	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWH		Tunk Hill	Scituate	Co-op	1,065	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWM		Waterman	Scituate	Co-op	412	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWW		Westconnaug	Scituate	Co-op	678	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PIN	Prudence Island North		Portsmouth	WMA	698	O*	3	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓		✓	2, 5, 8
PIS	Prudence Island South		Portsmouth	WMA	1489	O*	3	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓		✓	2, 5, 8
QRP	Queens River Preserve TNC		Exeter	Co-op	187	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
RIV	Rhode Island Veterans Home		Bristol	Co-op	50	O	1	X	X	X	X	X				
ROC	Rockville		Hopkinton	WMA	1110	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
ROH	Rodman Hollow		New Shoreham	WMA	119	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
ROT	Round Top		Burrillville	WMA	182	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
–	Sachuest		Middletown	USFWS	242	**Closed to All Hunting**										
SAM	Sapowet Marsh		Tiverton	WMA	310	O	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			7
SSP	Silver Spring		North Kingstown	WMA	125	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
SIM	Simmons Mill		Little Compton	WMA	433	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
SND	Snake Den		Johnston	SP	480	O	1	X	X	X	X	X				
SS1	South Shore Wildlife Management Area	Area #1	South Kingstown	USFWS	21	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		✓		2
SS2		Area #2	South Kingstown	Co-op	40	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		✓		2
SS3		Area #3	South Kingstown	WMA	29	O	1	✓	X	X	✓	✓		✓		2
SS4		Area #4	South Kingstown	WMA	25	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		✓		2
SS5		Area #5	South Kingstown	WMA	54	#	1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		✓		2
SS6		Area #6	South Kingstown	WMA	64	✓	1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		✓		2
SUM	Succotash Marsh		South Kingstown	WMA	162	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
TNB	Taney Brook		Richmond	WMA	243	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
TIL	Tillinghast		West Greenwich	WMA	1,566	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
TOP	Town Pond		Portsmouth	WMA	54	X	2	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓			
TRU	Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge		South Kingstown	USFWS	358	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	X		✓	✓	3
WAG	Washington Grove		Smithfield	WMA	86	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
WIC	Wickaboxet		West Greenwich	WMA	669	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
WOH	Woody Hill		Westerly	WMA	735	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Legend	
✓	All legal methods for that species as defined in regulations/required
#	Archery or Muzzleloader
@	Archery or Shotgun
O	Archery Only
◊*	Youth pheasant hunt
◊	Pheasants stocked
X	Closed to hunting/not applicable
*	See notes
Small Game	Rabbit, Squirrel, Coyote, Raccoon and Fox
Migratory Birds	Doves, Crows, Woodcock, Snipe and Rails (not waterfowl)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Co-op	Cooperative hunting property
PR	Public Reservation
SP	State Park

Notes	
1	Dog training area/field trials by permit
2	See regulations for additional information
3	See USFWS brochure for additional regulations. fws.gov/refuge/trustom-pond/visit-us/activities/hunting fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/visit-us/activities/hunting
4	Closed to dove hunting.
5	Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters. Taking of deer is limited to paraplegic and double amputee hunters.
6	Permit through Providence Water Supply.
7	Old Main Road Babot Unit safety zones and private land off Sapowet Avenue closed to hunting.
8	Paraplegics may use shotguns.
9	Open for hunting from October 1st through the last day in February, except that, archery deer hunting is open during the archery deer season.

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 http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/. Regulations are designed and enforced to promote conservation of the state's natural resources for their future enjoyment and to ensure human safety in the outdoors. 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 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, except by written permit (250-RICR-100-00-9).
- 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 (250-RICR-100-00-7).
- Horseback riding is prohibited in the Great Swamp Management Area during small game and shotgun deer season (250-RICR-100-00-9).
- Groups consisting of 10 or more persons must obtain a special use permit available from the DEM Management Area Stewardship Committee, (401) 539-2356, https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/initiatives/special-use-and-event-policyprocess.
- Target or trap shooting on state lands is only allowed on provided ranges (RIGL 32-2-4).

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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 for hunting from October 1st through the last day in February, except that, deer hunting is open for archery September 15th through the end of archery deer season. No firearm deer hunting allowed.
- 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 Management Area Stewardship Committee , 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 open January 1–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. Small game hunting is allowed on Prudence Island except on the Heritage Property during the open archery deer season. 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.

The special deer season for disabled hunters is limited to paraplegic and double amputee deer hunters by special permit only. Permits are 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 and 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.

Gould Island: Temporarily closed to all access and hunting due to remediation.

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.

State Land Spotlight: BLACK FARM WMA







Photo by Kim Justham

Located between I-95 and Switch Road in Richmond, the Black Farm Management Area is a "hidden" gem in South County. With pine-dominated uplands and a diversity of wetland habitats, this management area provides ample hunting, trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The 264-acre Black Farm was acquired by RIDFW in 1990 from the Black family, using US Fish and Wildlife Service funds acquired through the Pittman-Robertson Act (Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act). The property originally included the Black homestead when purchased; however, the homestead and a parcel of land were sold by the state to a private party in 1994. The remaining parcel of 246 acres now constitutes the Black Farm Management Area.

The management area lies along the west bank of the Wood River, running from Switch Road south to just north of Woodville Bridge. The westernmost section is on a ridge of hardwood forest dropping 50 to 75 feet in elevation from the parking lot at Woodville Alton Road, east to the bank of the Wood River. The trailhead leads to a trail that runs down the ridge, across Canonchet Brook, past Plain Pond and eventually to the Wood River and its adjoining wetlands. The trail passes through mixed hardwood forests of maple, ash and oak trees and through a small ravine, where Canonchet Brook flows. This is an active little stream with habitats for small fish, including wild brook trout, in rocky pools and undercut banks. The shoreline of the brook is densely overgrown with shrubs and trees, and a narrow swamp floodplain borders the stream, making the corridor ideal habitat for furbearers, including raccoon, mink and otter. The trail then continues past Plain Pond, a shallow waterbody with clear waters and a sandy bottom. Continuing east, the trail meanders through mixed age pine stands forming a large pine barren that stretches to the north along an abandoned railroad spur line that ran from Hope Valley into the village of Woodville. East of the rail spur trail are several meadows that overlook the Wood River. The wetlands bordering the river at this point are some of the most diverse and valuable in the entire state, with various cover types, that range from open waters and shallow marsh to shrub swamps, small islands, and tussocks. These habitats are particularly attractive to waterfowl, including wood ducks, teal, mallards, American black ducks and Canada geese, and a variety of herons, egrets and other water birds. The river itself is a coldwater fishery that supports wild brook trout!

Salvage Permit for Vehicle-Killed Wildlife

The DFW now allows the public to collect certain wildlife species killed in vehicle collisions. Recently passed legislation sponsored by Chairman of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee David Bennett and Senate Majority Whip David Tikoian gives DEM more flexibility to address wildlife vehicle collisions, enabling the public to salvage deer or other wildlife with a permit. This approach makes use of an underutilized resource and eases the burden on state staff removing carcasses. A permit is required within 24-hours of collecting wildlife struck by a vehicle. To receive a permit, the public must report the species, estimated age and sex, a photo, and location. Eligible species include white tailed deer, turkeys, beavers, coyotes, fishers, red and gray foxes, muskrats, pheasants, squirrels, rabbits, and raccoons. Fisher and foxes have additional requirements found in the regulations on the reporting webpage. Reports can be submitted via the form at www.dem.ri.gov/wildlife-salvage-permit or by leaving a message at 401-789-0281 with the required information.

Before salvaging roadkill, the public should prioritize safety and follow traffic laws. The animal may be field dressed before it's removed, but parts cannot be left behind, which is a violation of state law and risks attracting other wildlife. The permit allows the possession of one animal killed only by vehicular collision — each individual animal requires its own unique permit.

The new legislation expands reporting requirements to include most wildlife collisions that cause significant vehicle damage, not just deer. This ensures that all vehicle collisions involving wildlife are reported to DEM. Reporting helps DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) track populations and improve highway safety. Road-killed animals may not be tagged with hunting tags, and injured animals cannot be killed for salvage, though law enforcement may euthanize and allow salvage.

Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Restrictions
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*	October 24–25	Same as regular season, listed below	Open to youth hunters age 12–17 accompanied by a licensed adult 21 years of age or older*; may take ducks, sea ducks, geese, and brant.
Active Military and Veteran Waterfowl	November 10–11	Same as regular season, listed below	Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting. All active military and veteran waterfowl hunters must have a State Harvest Information (HIP) permit, Rhode Island State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp in addition to a current Rhode Island hunting license.
Canada Goose Early Season	September 1–30	15	Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for September season only.
Canada Goose Regular Season**	November 21–29 and December 5–January 24, 2027	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 26 for more information.
Canada Goose Late Season	January 30–February 13, 2027	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 found on page 16 and 17 and also available on the Department of Environmental Management's website.
Snow Goose (Including Blue Goose)	October 14–January 24, 2027	25	No possession limit
Brant	December 26–January 24, 2027	1	-
Ducks	October 9–12, November 25–29, December 5–January 24, 2027	6	The daily bag limit shall contain no more than: Mallard ..... 4 (2 hens) Black Duck ..... 2 Canvasback ..... 2 Pintail ..... 3 Redhead ..... 2 Wood Duck ..... 3 Scaup ..... see below Sea Ducks ..... see below Other Duck Species 6
Scaup	October 9–12, November 25–29, December 5–January 4, 2027	1	The daily bag limit of scaup is part of the duck daily bag limit of 6.
	January 5–24, 2027	2	
Sea Ducks	Same as ducks	4	The daily bag limit is 4, singly or in aggregate, but not to exceed 3 Scoter, 3 Eider **(1 hen)**, or 3 Long-tailed Ducks. The daily bag limit of sea ducks (4) is part of the duck daily bag limit of 6.
Mergansers	Same As Ducks	5	-
Coots	Same As Ducks	15	-
Swans	No Season	-	-
Harlequin Duck	Closed	**Caution:** 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 these species.	

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

* See page 14 for more information on Youth and Disabled Hunter Opportunities. ** Daily bag limit includes white-fronted geese.

Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Bag Limits
Crow	August 14–October 4 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only) October 17–December 7 (inclusive) December 18–April 3, 2027 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)	Unlimited
King/Clapper Rail	September 1–November 9	1
Sora/Virginia Rail	September 1–November 9	3
Snipe	September 1–November 9	5
Mourning Dove	September 1–30 October 17–December 15	15
Woodcock	October 17–November 30	3

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

2026–2027 Waterfowl Highlights:

1. For the Canada goose regular season, the daily bag limit includes white-fronted geese.
2. The snow goose season was reduced in order to create an Active Military and Veteran Waterfowl season.
3. No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without any visible means to retrieve and without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in their daily bag limit.

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 **rio.ri.gov**. Those wishing to obtain a RI waterfowl stamp ($9.00) in person 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.

Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Season:

Active Military means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101.

Veteran means a person who served on active duty with the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard, for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Reservists or members of the National Guard called to federal active duty (for other than training) or disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or while in training status also qualify as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101.

Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl season is November 10-11.

- May take ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada geese, light geese, and brant following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons. The scaup bag limit is 2.
- Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting.
- Must have HIP permit, RI state waterfowl stamp, and Federal Duck stamp in addition to current RI hunting license.

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 at **rio.ri.gov**, and at hunting license vendors, DEM headquarters in Providence, and participating town clerks statewide.

For more information, call 401-789-0281 or email dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov. A HIP certification must be included on your license document to hunt migratory birds.

RI Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

Since 1938, Duck Stamp programs have played an important role in supporting wetland conservation and wildlife habitat protection across the United States. The RI Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest continues that tradition by encouraging students to explore conservation through art, science, and wildlife education. Hosted annually by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife, the contest invites Rhode Island students in grades K-12 to submit original artwork featuring eligible North American waterfowl species. Entries are evaluated on artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, and suitability for reproduction as a stamp, with the winning design selected for the Rhode Island Duck Stamp. Additional contest details, including deadlines and submission information, are announced annually by DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Individuals interested in receiving updates on contest timelines, submission information, and eligibility requirements may contact DEM. DFWHunterEducation@dem.ri.gov.

Non-Toxic Shot Requirements

No shot other than non-toxic may be used to hunt, pursue, or attempt to take waterfowl, rails, or snipe within the State of Rhode Island including any jurisdictional tidal water extending from mean high water out seaward to three miles. Non-toxic shot includes steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, and tungsten-nickel-iron-shot or any other shot as approved by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Tin shot is prohibited. All shot larger than BB is prohibited; including duplex loads containing shot larger than BB.

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, fish-hook, 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 has ceased.

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 2026–2027 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 2026–2027 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 skybusting (shooting too soon and preventing birds from decoying) and crippling losses.

- 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 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

Area can be viewed online **here**, by viewing the "Hunting - Restricted Waterfowl Area" layer in the Outdoor Recreation Layers.

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 from the shoreline or from a watercraft within five hundred (500) feet of occupied buildings.

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 and recovered birds 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.

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.

Proper Harvest Care

Most wild animals in Rhode Island are healthy. However, diseases and viruses can be present with any wildlife species as well as associated parasites (e.g., ticks). Some wildlife diseases can be transmitted to humans, pets, domestic and other wild animals. The DFW monitors for diseases in multiple species, such as Chronic Wasting Disease and Epizootic Hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in deer, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease 2 (RHDV2) and Tularemia in rabbits, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in waterfowl and a variety of other diseases in game and non-game animals.

If you do harvest an animal that is or seems sick, contact DFW (401-789-0281 or dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov). The DFW strongly advises hunters to adhere to the following procedures when handling harvested game:

- 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.
- 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



Photo by Ray Strong

- 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 domestic animals or pets.
- Double bag carcass parts, tying both bags shut.
- Place bags in a container that children, domestic animals, and wildlife cannot access.
- Tick-borne diseases pose a hazard to both hunters and their dogs. Use tick repellents and always conduct tick checks after returning from the field.

"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.

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South Shore Management Area (SSMA) Goose Hunting Cooperative

Permits

- Required for all goose hunters during the regular Canada goose season (November 21–29, December 5–January 24, 2027).
- Must be obtained from the online licensing system at **rio.ri.gov** 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, 2027). See SSMA packet for more information.

Harvest Reporting

- Goose and other waterfowl harvest reporting is no longer required for South Shore Management Area.

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, 2027.

Additional Hunting Restrictions at SSMA

Dove hunting is allowed in Areas 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 Areas 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 and **Turkey** hunting is allowed as follows, but discharge of firearms and archery equipment are only allowed within the wooded section of the Areas; however, deer and turkey may be in the field when harvested.

- Deer hunting during the archery season is allowed only in Areas 3, 5, and 6 including during the regular Canada goose season when the field reservation system is occurring.
- Deer hunting during the muzzleloader season is allowed in Areas 5 and 6, except during the regular Canada Goose season when the blind reservation system is occurring.
- Turkey hunting is allowed in Areas 3, 5, and 6 during the spring and fall turkey season.

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 Area 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 RI Hunting Regulations or call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281.

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Attention Migratory Bird Hunters

REMINDER: Report ALL bird bands ONLINE!—www.reportband.gov

Since June 2017, band reports have no longer been accepted over the phone through the 1-800 number, and callers are now encouraged to use the designated online reporting system or other approved reporting methods instead.

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!

Small Game Hunting

Species	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Coyote – State Land	September 15–February 28, 2027 April 29–May 23, 2027	unlimited
Coyote, Woodchuck – Private Land	No closed season	unlimited
Youth Pheasant*	October 10–12	2
Raccoon	October 1 – February 28, 2027	unlimited
Cottontail Rabbit	October 1 – February 28, 2027	3
Gray and Red Squirrel	September 12–February 28, 2027	5, singly or in aggregate
Pheasant	October 17–February 28, 2027	2
Bobwhite Quail		3
Woodchuck – State Land		unlimited
Red, Gray Fox	November 7–December 31	unlimited
Ruffed Grouse	CLOSED	

* See page 14 for more information on Youth Hunt Opportunities

Method of take for small game hunting is limited to: rimfire rifle not larger than .22 caliber (except coyote, see in coyote hunting section below), shotgun, bow and arrow, muzzleloader, crossbow, air rifle, and falconry as specified below:

1. Hunters may use shotgun with shot not larger than No. 2.
2. A muzzleloader, not to exceed .40 caliber, may be used to hunt small mammals during the established season for these species.
3. Air rifles are permitted to hunt the following small mammals: gray squirrel, red squirrel, woodchuck, and cottontail rabbit provided that the air rifles are a minimum of .177 caliber and not larger than .30, and produce a minimum of seven hundred fifty (750) FPS velocity with pellets seven and one half (7.5) grain or larger.
4. Hunters may use archery equipment meeting the minimum draw weight required for deer hunting with arrows tipped with field points, small game blunts, or judo points. Hunters using broadhead arrows during the archery deer season must possess a valid archery deer tag.
5. Hunters may use crossbow to take small game mammals; however, no birds may be taken with a crossbow.
6. Hunters using archery equipment including crossbow to take small game must have taken and successfully completed a bow hunter education course.
7. Hunters are permitted to use raptors to take the following small game mammals: gray squirrel, red squirrel, woodchuck, cottontail rabbit, skunk, and opossum.

Pheasant and Quail Hunting

A Game Bird 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). No physical tag required. Pheasants are stocked prior to opening day, then twice weekly, at most locations, until December. Birds are stocked once per week in December based on weather and available stock. Pheasant stocking does not occur in January and February. Stocked management areas are: Arcadia, Black Hut, Big River, Buck Hill, Carolina, Durfee Hill, Eight Rod Farm, Great Swamp, Nicholas Farm, Sapowet Marsh, and Simmons Mill Pond. For up to date stocking information see the department's Pheasant page at **dem.ri.gov/pheasant**.

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, 2027. Only male pheasants (roosters) may be taken from Block Island with a daily bag limit of 2 per day.

No person shall take pheasant on Block Island while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel shot, or other legally approved non-toxic shot.

Additional Regulations

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

Reptiles & Amphibians

A current Rhode Island hunting, fishing, or trapping license is required to take green frogs, bullfrogs and snapping turtles. 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.

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, 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. 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.

For any non-lethal method of take, trapped animals must either be released alive into the waters from which they were taken, or immediately humanely dispatched at the site of capture with an active, and valid hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

Coyote Hunting

Coyotes season on state lands is from September 15 until the last day in February, and during the open spring turkey hunting season, April 29–May 23, 2027. There is no closed season for coyote hunting on private 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 is allowed on private property for the purposes of hunting coyotes but is prohibited on state lands.

The legal shooting hours for coyote on state land is 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Shooting hours for coyotes on private lands is 1/2 hour before sunrise until midnight.

Hunters attempting to take coyotes after dark must possess a predator call. No person shall take or attempt to take coyotes by use of a light from a motor vehicle. Legal methods of take for coyote hunting includes any means allowed during any concurrent hunting season and, shotgun (no shot larger than No. 2), rimfire rifle not larger than .22 caliber and bow and arrow, including crossbow. However, on private lands from April 1 to September 30, (both dates inclusive), centerfire rifles not larger than .229 caliber may be use.

The bag limit for coyote is unlimited and electronic calls may be used.

Hunting Guide Permit

No person shall engage in the act of guiding without first obtaining a guide permit from the DEM.

Guiding is defined as any person paid a fee, or in-kind compensation, in exchange for transport, directly aiding, assisting, advising, showing the way to, or directing another person in the hunting of wildlife in the state of Rhode Island.



Eligibility:

- To obtain a guide permit, guides must apply to DEM. The form can be found at https://dem.ri.gov/online-services/applications-forms. The following information must be submitted with a completed application form:
  - » Proof of being 21 years of age or older.
  - » A copy of a current Rhode Island hunting license.
  - » Proof of having completed a hunter education course as required by the guided party(s).
  - » A copy of a valid CPR and First Aid certification.

Testing requirements:

- Required for guiding deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- All initial applicants applying for a guide permit must take an in person written examination administered by the DEM. A person must attain a passing grade of 80 percent.
- A person who fails the written examination may retake the examination one additional time after sixty (60) days but not again for one (1) year if failing to pass the test the second time.

Additional information required when using a vessel to carry passengers:

- A current copy of the operator's United States Coast Guard license to carry passengers for hire.
- A current copy of the vessel's "Certificate of Documentation" certifying that the vessel is documented "Coastwise", or if the vessel is under five (5) net tons, a copy of the vessel's State registration.
- Proof that the operator and crew are currently enrolled in a random drug testing program that complies with the Federal Government's 46 C.F.R. § 16.101 et seq. "Drug Testing Program" Regulations.

Reporting:

- All persons possessing a guide permit are required to complete and submit harvest reports, found here at https://arcg.is/1eD0rL2, by no later than the last day in March annually. In each year(s) when no guided hunts occurred, one report stating such must be submitted.

Scan QR Code for Harvest Reports

Valid dates:

- Guide permits shall be valid March 1st through midnight of the last day of February.

Renewals:

- Permits must be renewed annually and are only valid after receipt of a completed renewal application. Permits that are not renewed after a period of 5 years shall be considered inactive. Applicants who have allowed their permit to become inactive must reapply for a new permit.

Applications for guide permits may be denied when:

- The applicant has been convicted of a hunting, trapping or fishing violation or currently has a disposition filed before a state, federal or municipal court or administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction anywhere in the United States or Canada within three (3) years preceding the application date.
- The applicant fails to provide all required information on the application and all additional information required above or to provide truthful information.

Revocation criteria:

- The applicant or permittee has been convicted of a hunting, trapping or fishing violation (state or federal).
- The applicant or permittee failed to provide all required information on the application or to provide truthful information.
- The failure of the permittee to ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with all federal and state license, permit, stamp, and equipment requirements.
- The failure of the permittee to ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with daily bag limits and possession limits outlined in these regulations.
- A guided client violates laws under R.I. Gen. Laws § Title 20, or regulations in this part, and the violation is not immediately reported to a DEM environmental police officer by the guide.
- An applicant fails to submit their annual reports with an active guiding permit (including non-guiding years) prior to applying for a renewal.

Additional Requirements:

Guides must ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with all federal and state license, permit, stamp and equipment requirements.

Guides must ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with the daily bag limits and possession limits.

When guiding waterfowl hunts with multiple clients, guides must ensure harvested birds are maintained in the hunter's custody or are immediately separated and/or tagged so that each bird (or group of birds) is clearly attributable to the individual hunter (client) who harvested it.

Reminder

- Clients are not allowed to harvest animals under their guides bag limit or tags.
- Each person must harvest his/her own bag limits.
- A guide can gift his birds to his client if he harvested them himself, but not in the field. They have to be correctly annotated on tags and the gifted birds cannot place the hunter over the aggregate bag limit depending on what day of the season the hunt takes place.

Trapping

Species	Dates	Season Bag Limit	Pelt Tagging
Gray Fox, Red Fox, Mink, Opossum, Rabbit, Squirrel, Raccoon, Skunk, Weasel	November 1–January 31, 2027	Unlimited	no
Muskrat		15	
Coyote – Private	no closed season	Unlimited	no
Coyote – State Land	November 1–February 28, 2027		
Beaver – Private*	November 1–March 14, 2027	Resident: 40 Non-resident: 20	yes
Beaver – State Land*	December 1–February 28, 2027		
Fisher*	December 1–24	1	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

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. 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.
- For the taking of weasels and squirrels, the use of rat or mouse-sized body gripping (i.e., "snap traps") are permitted. Such traps must be set in artificial cubbies.
- Traps may not be set, staked, or placed prior to sunrise on opening day.
- All traps must be labeled with the trapper's current RI trapping license number attached by a metal tag or embedded or cut into the trap.
- Written landowner permission is required to trap on private land.
- All traps must be checked at least once in every 24-hour period.
- 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 & Wildlife by calling 401-789-0281 or by emailing DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov, in addition to their current R.I. trapping license, obtained through the online licensing system: **rio.ri.gov**.

Prohibitions

- The use of poisons or snares.
- The use of steel-jawed leghold traps.
- 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.
- 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, unless with a current R.I. trapping license and during the open season for that species or as provided for under a current RI Scientific Collectors Permit, Salvage Permit (250-RICR-60-00-14) 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 SUBMISSIONS


Photo by Becky Raymond


Photo by Emma Roeben


Photo by Pat Brown

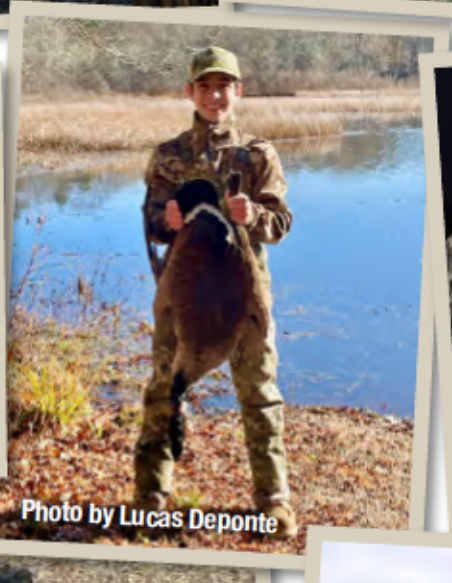

Photo by Lucas Deponte


Photo by Thomas Brown


Photo by Ryan Mikhail


Photo by Jared McNabb

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

Deer Hunting (see page 8 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Archery (Zones 1 and 2)	September 12–13 **(Youth only)** September 15–January 31, 2027
Archery: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 17–18 **(Youth only)** October 19–January 31, 2027
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 15, 16, 19–23, 26–30
Muzzleloader (Zones 1 and 2)	October 31–November 1 **(Youth only)** November 7–December 4
Shotgun (Zones 1 and 2)	December 5–31
Archery, Muzzleloader & Shotgun: Block Island (Zone 4)	November 2–6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30 December 1, 3, 4, 7–11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22 January 4–8, 11–15, 19–22, 25–29, 2027 February 1–5, 8–12, 2027
Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 13–16

Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (page 22 for bag/possession limit information)

Season	Dates
Crow	August 14–October 4 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only), October 17–December 7, December 18–April 3, 2027 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)
King/Clapper Rail and Sora/Virginia Rail	September 1–November 9
Snipe	September 1–November 9
Mourning Dove	September 1–30, October 17–December 15
Woodcock	October 17–November 30
Canada Goose (Early Season)	September 1–30
Canada Goose (Regular Season)	November 21–29, December 5–January 24, 2027
Canada Goose (Late Season)	January 30–February 13 , 2027
Snow Goose (including blue goose)	October 14–January 24, 2027
Ducks, Sea Ducks, Mergansers and Coots**	October 9–12, November 25–29, December 5–January 24, 2027
Brant	December 26–January 24, 2027
Youth Waterfowl	October 24–25
Active Military and Veteran	November 10–11

Wild Turkey Hunting (see page 12 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Fall Archery	October 1–31
Youth	April 19–25, 2027
Paraplegic	April 24–25, 2027
Spring	April 29–May 23, 2027

Small Game Hunting (see page 27 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Coyote – State Land	September 15–February 28, 2027 April 29–May 23, 2027
Coyote, Woodchuck – Private Land	No Closed Season
Youth Pheasant	October 10–12
Raccoon	October 1–February 28, 2027
Cottontail Rabbit	October 1–February 28, 2027
Gray and Red Squirrel	September 12–February 28, 2027
Pheasant, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck – State Land	October 17–February 28, 2027
Red, Gray Fox	November 7–December 31
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 2026–2027 season.**

****See scaup, sea duck and merganser regulations on page 22.**

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Shooting Hours & SUNRISE/SUNSET

Legal Shooting Hours

Season	Hours
Small Game & Pheasant	Sunrise until Sunset
Deer	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
Coyote	State land is ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset. Private land is ½ hour before sunrise until midnight.
Raccoon	6:00 PM October 1 until 11:59 PM of the last day of February
Waterfowl	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Canada Goose, September season only	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
Spring Turkey	½ hour before Sunrise until 1:00PM
Fall Turkey	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Dove	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Woodcock, Snipe & Rails	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Crow	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset

Sunrise / Sunset Table at Providence, RI

Darker cells indicates Daylight Savings Time

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

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Prohibited Activities

- No loaded rifles or shotguns in or on vehicles.
- The sale of game, except as provided.
- No shooting at, hunting, or pursuing game along, upon, or across a public highway.
- 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.
- No hunting in state parks, with the exception of undeveloped state parks as denoted in the regulations.
- No more than five (5) persons to hunt in unison.
- No hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- The use of drones or other remotely operated unmanned aircraft systems and devices to drive or disturb wildlife or aid in the take and or recovery of wildlife for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.
- Spotlighting for wild animals and birds is prohibited (statewide and islands) from September 15 through the last day of February.
- Shooting at any animal at anytime while such animal is on a telephone or electric line, pole, or tower or any communication device.
- Taking of birds by any method other than shotgun, bow and arrow, or falconry without permit.
- Organized wildlife killing contests that involve entry fees or monetary prize rewards, where animal carcasses pelts and or meat are not utilized, or that result in wanton waste are prohibited.
- Feeding and baiting wildlife in the state of Rhode Island is not permitted at any time for any purposes except as defined.



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.
- The use or possession of laser sights that project a beam or night-vision equipment while hunting is prohibited.
- No lead shot larger than No. 2 at any time.
- 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.
- Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited. Archery hunting within 200 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited.

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

All users of State Management Areas, designated undeveloped State Parks and Co-op units 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. All hunters and users must wear **500 square** inches during all portions of shotgun deer seasons. Orange must be worn above the waist and be visible in all directions. Examples: a hat covers 200 square inches. A combination of hat and vest covering 500 square inches. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet the requirement. Fluorescent orange is not required in areas limited to archery-only hunting by regulation.

Exceptions:

- Raccoon hunters when hunting at night; crow hunters while hunting over decoys; spring turkey hunters; first segment dove hunters; waterfowl hunters while hunting from a boat or a blind, when done in conjunction with decoys; and archery deer hunters during archery season outside of the muzzleloader and shotgun deer seasons.
- Once in an elevated stand, archery deer hunters are exempt from the orange requirement during the muzzleloader season.
- Hunters using pop-up blinds during the firearms deer season must display 200 square inches of fluorescent orange on the outside of the blind, visible from all directions. Hunters in the blind must also wear orange in accordance with the rules for the season.

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Deer Hunting Seasons

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Archery (Zones 1 and 2)	September 12–13 **(Youth only)** September 15–January 31, 2027
Archery: Patience & Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 17–18 **(Youth only)** October 19–January 31, 2027
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 15, 16, 19–23, 26–30 **(Check local ordinance)**
Muzzleloader (Zones 1 and 2)	October 31–November 1 **(Youth only)** November 7–December 4
Shotgun (Zones 1 and 2)	December 5–31
Archery, Muzzleloader, Shotgun (Zone 4)	November 2–6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30 December 1, 3, 4, 7–11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22 January 4–8, 11–15, 19–22, 25–29, 2027 February 1–5, 8–12, 2027
Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience & Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 13–16

2026–2027 Season Bag Limits	
Statewide (all zones & methods combined)	2 Antlered Deer, (Zone 3: no more than 1 Antlered Deer)
Zone 1	3 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 2	2 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 3	2 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 4	Unlimited Antlerless Deer

* Antlerless limits are per zone and hunters may harvest each limit within each zone in a hunting year cumulative across all weapons/seasons.

NOTICE:
See above for changes in deer season dates.

RI Deer Management:

Deer management zones (see map on page 16 and 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.

Note: All deer wounded, but not recovered, must be reported to DEM within 24 hours.

Our goal is 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, maxi ball type, or sabots. Powder is limited to manufacturers' specifications. Telescopic sights are permitted. Possession of modern shotgun shells while hunting with a muzzleloader 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.
- 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.

Dogs

Upon shooting a deer, a hunter with a current valid hunting license and deer permit may use one (1) dog or engage a second party to use one (1) dog to recover a wounded and lost or un-recovered deer within seventy-two (72) hours of shooting the deer provided that they comply with the following restrictions.

1. There shall be no firearms or archery devices carried by the hunter, dog handler, or any individual present at the time of tracking.
2. The dog shall be maintained under physical control of the dog handler at all times by the means of a lead no longer than fifty (50) feet that shall be attached to the collar or harness of the dog.

3. The hunter shall be present at all times.
4. All parties involved in recovering a deer with a dog shall wear 500 square inches of fluorescent orange.
5. If it is determined that the deer is still alive all parties will back away immediately and the dog will be taken out of the area. Once the dog is removed from the hunting area, the hunter may return with a legal weapon.

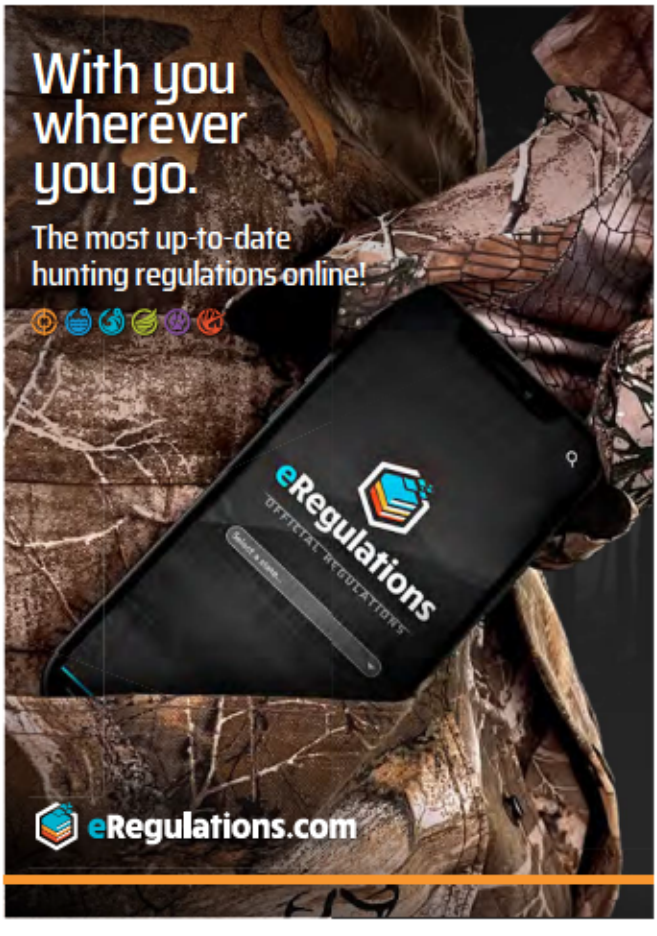
Adaptive Aids
Special archery adaptive aids for use with vertical held bows may be used by all hunters without a special permit.

Decoys
Deer decoys may be used on private lands and state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (excludes State Parks, Public Reservations, Cooperative properties and Federal properties) during the archery only deer seasons while archery hunting only. This excludes youth muzzleloader and shotguns seasons. 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.

Tree Stands
- Tree stands may not be set on State-owned property prior to August 15 and must be removed prior to March 31 annually.
- All tree stands set on public land or cooperative hunting units must be legibly marked with the hunters Customer ID number or Sportsman's Equipment ID number (both can be found on **rio.ri.gov**).

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.
- The use of electronic calls.
- 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.
- Hunting deer 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 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.

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 (RI General Law 32-6-5)

(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, except for during the special hunting season (see page 14). Proficiency testing is required for all archery deer hunters on Prudence and Patience Islands. Proficiency cards must be carried while hunting. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website **rio.ri.gov** 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. Proficiency testing is required of all archery hunters that are hunting deer on Block Island. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website **rio.ri.gov** or be reported to an Environmental Police Officer.

Cooperative and Special Hunting Areas

See map and table on pages 16–19.

Block Island State Land (Black Rock / Rodman Hollow)

Deer hunting is allowed by special permit only, selected by lottery. Applications are found on **rio.ri.gov** to hunt Black Rock/Rodman Hollow, and must be submitted by September 15th, 2026.

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

Four National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in the state are open for hunting on designated units with season and weapon restrictions. Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting brochure valid for the current season while hunting at Block Island, Ninigret, and John H. Chafee NWRs. Trustom Pond NWR is by lottery permit only. Archery proficiency certification is required to hunt at Block Island, John H. Chafee, and Trustom Pond NWRs. All State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply. For detailed information, regulations, locations and dates please visit, www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret [fws.gov] or contact the USFWS at 401-364-9124.

To enter the Trustom Pond NWR lottery please visit https://rhodeislandpermits.recaccess.com/ by September 15.

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 tree stands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes, bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing tree stands are permitted.
- Tree stands may not be installed on TNC property prior to August 15th and must be removed by March 31st.

Beavertail (Jamestown)

Archery hunting only for deer from November 1, 2026 to January 31, 2027. 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.

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.DFWHunterEducation@dem.ri.gov and if space allows, it may be used in next year's edition.



Photo by Hendricks Dormer

How to Tag and Report Your Deer

All deer must be tagged and reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife

TAG IT:

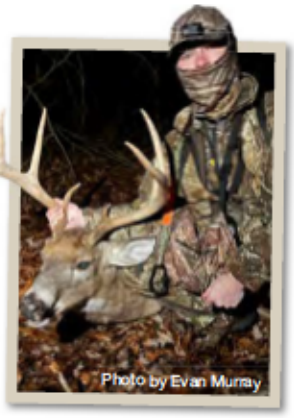
Once you harvest a deer, you must notch your tag (day, hour and month of harvest) before moving the deer for photos, field dressing or to leave the woods. The notched tag must be affixed to and remain with the carcass. Use care to securely affix the tag so that the tag will not be lost when removing the deer from the woods or transporting to a check station, butcher or your home. The notched tag must remain affixed to the deer at all times until the deer has been prepared for taxidermy or consumption.


Photo by Zoie Standish

REPORT IT:

You must report your deer harvest within 24 hours. You can report it online or over the phone. Use your smart phone or desktop computer to report your harvest at **https://rio.ri.gov/**. 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.

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.


Photo by Evan Murray

Deer Check Stations

All deer taken during the first two days **(Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 7 & 8)** of the Muzzleloader Deer Season, and the first two days **(Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 5 & 6)** of Shotgun 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. **Hunters bringing their deer to a check station DO NOT need to report their harvest online prior to going to the check station.**

Operating Hours

November 7 & 8: 8:00 A.M. until **8:00 P.M.**
December 5 & 6: 8:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.

Check Stations

- **Buck Hill Management Area:** 704 Buck Hill Rd, Pascoag, (41.97484, -71.77922)
- **Smithfield Sportsman Club:** 14 Walter Carey Rd, Smithfield, (41.8786, -71.5346)
- **Arcadia Management Area:** Rt. 165, Ten Rod Road, at Wood River, Exeter, (41.57305, -71.72163)
- **Carolina Management Area:** Pine Hill Road, Richmond, (41.46618, -71.68860)
- **Great Swamp Management Area:** 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, (41.47374, -71.57533)
- **Tiverton Rod and Gun Club:** 1529 Fish Rd, Tiverton, (41.62681, -71.18825)
- **Durfee Hill Management Area:** CLOSED Permanently

Deer check stations are a vital tool used by the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to monitor and manage the state's deer population. These stations allow biologists to gather important information—like a deer's age, weight, antler size, and tissue samples for Chronic Wasting Disease testing—that can't be collected through online or phone harvest reports.

This data is essential for understanding the health and size of the deer herd and helps ensure responsible wildlife management across the state.

Reminder: If you harvest a deer during the first weekend of muzzleloader or shotgun season, you are required by regulation to bring it to a check station. Deer checked in person do not need to be reported online.


Photo by Jessie Kenyon

Check Station Map

Scan to view Deer Check Station Map

Wild Turkey

Season	Dates	Season Limit
Fall Archery	October 1–31	1 either sex bird
Youth[1]	April 19–25, 2027	2 bearded birds[2]
Paraplegic[1]	April 24–25, 2027	
Spring	April 29–May 23, 2027	

[1] See page 14 for more information on Youth & Paraplegic Hunt Opportunities.
[2] No more than one (1) turkey may be taken on state lands during the spring season. Each turkey harvested requires an individual permit.

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, Youth, and Paraplegic seasons only.
- Shooting hours are one half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 1:00PM for Spring, Youth and Paraplegic seasons.
- **Authorized firearms and archery equipment:** methods of take are limited to,
  - **Shotguns**: No larger than ten (10) gauges with shot sizes no larger than four (4).
  - **Archery equipment:**
    - 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.
    - 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.
    - Crossbows must be set at not less than one hundred twenty-five (125) pounds minimum draw weight. The trigger unit must have a working safety. 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 broadhead tipped arrows by a color difference.
- Hunters must carry a turkey-calling device (non-electric) while hunting.
- 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 year's hunt.

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.**
- Hunters may take two (2) turkeys on the same day or one (1) each on separate days provided they purchase two (2) spring turkey permits and at least one (1) turkey is taken on private land.
- 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.

Prohibited

- The use of any unauthorized firearm, live decoy(s), dog(s), baiting, cooperative drive(s).
- 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.

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 turkey's (gobbler's) 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).

How to Tag and Report Your Turkey

All turkeys must be tagged and reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife



Photo by Amanda Cantrell

TAG IT:

Once you harvest a turkey, you must notch your tag (day, hour and month of harvest) before moving the turkey for photos or to leave the woods. 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.

REPORT IT:

You must report your turkey harvest within 24 hours. You can report it online or over the phone. Use your smart phone or desktop computer to report your harvest at **https://rio.ri.gov/**. 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. Monday-Friday to report your harvest.

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)

When you are finished reporting your turkey 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 turkey until prepared for taxidermy or consumption.



Wild Turkey Banding Program

The Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife is continuing their turkey banding program to gather scientific information on the state's turkey population. Please report any encounters with banded turkeys, including harvesting, finding a dead banded turkey, or observing a live one. You can report online in our Survey 123 form at https://arcg.is/XTHjW0, or by calling (401) 789-0281. When reporting, include the band number, date and location of encounter, and age/sex if known. For harvested turkeys, remember to report through the Rhode Island Outdoors system as well.

Contact Lizzi Bonczek, Upland Game Bird Biologist at elizabeth.bonczek.ctr@dem.ri.gov with questions.

Youth Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Youth Deer Archery	Zones 1 & 2	September 12–13
	Zone 3	October 17–18
Youth Deer Muzzleloader	Zones 1 & 2	November 31–December 1
Youth Waterfowl	Statewide	October 24–25
Youth Pheasant	Great Swamp WMA, South Kingstown Durfee Hill WMA, Glocester Eight Rod Farm WMA, Tiverton	October 10–12
Youth Turkey	Statewide	April 19–25, 2027

- All youth hunting seasons are open to hunters ages 12–17.
- All youth hunters ages 12–14 must be in possession of a **resident or non-resident Junior hunting license** in order to hunt in RI.
- All youth hunters ages 15–17 must possess **a resident or non-resident hunting license**. Licenses can be purchased after the completion of a Hunter Safety course.
- All youth hunters ages 12–14 must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license.
- All hunters 15–17 using firearms must be under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or qualified adult. That adult DOES NOT need to be a licensed hunter, except for youth waterfowl hunting.
- 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 pertain to youth hunters.

Youth Deer Hunting: Dates vary depending on Season and Zone. All other regulations and permit requirements apply. Please see page 8 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 (12–17) must have a current HIP Permit and RI Hunting License. The adult must also possess a current HIP Permit, state and federal duck stamp, and RI Hunting License.

Youth Pheasant Hunting: Youth pheasant season will be open during October 10–12. Pheasants will be stocked at Great Swamp, Durfee Hill, and Eight Rod Farm Wildlife Management Areas.

Youth Turkey Hunting: Youth hunters may take up to two (2) bearded turkeys during the spring season, provided they purchase a spring turkey permit for each bird. 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.

Hunter Education & Mentored Opportunities: The Division of Fish and Wildlife is committed to providing opportunities that support the development of safe, responsible, and ethical hunters while helping participants build knowledge, skills, and confidence in the outdoors. Programs and events may include skills training, mentored hunting experiences, and other outreach activities for participants of varying ages and experience levels. Program offerings vary annually. For current program offerings, registration information, and updates, visit RIDEM Hunter Education and Outreach Programs.

National Archery in Schools Program (NASP): The Division of Fish and Wildlife also supports the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), which introduces students to archery through participating schools and organizations. Program availability varies by school and location. For more information about the Hunter Education Program or NASP, call 401-539-0019 or email DEM.DFWHunterEducation@dem.ri.gov.

Special Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters	Zone 3	October 13–16
Paraplegic Hunter Turkey Season	Statewide	April 24–25, 2027
Active Military and Veteran Waterfowl Season	Statewide	November 10–11

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 **rio.ri.gov**.
- Disabled hunters may use shotgun or muzzleloader with ammunition and caliber restrictions consistent with regular deer season (see page 8).

Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Season

- Active military and veteran hunters may take ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada geese, light geese, and brant following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons. The scaup bag limit will be two (2).
- Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting.
- All active military and veteran waterfowl hunters must have a State Harvest Information (HIP) permit, Rhode Island State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp in addition to a current Rhode Island hunting license.

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.

Falconry

By Sarah Riley, Chief Implementation Aide and State Falconry Administrator

Falconry demands far more than acquiring a bird and venturing into the woods for a casual outing. Though it is not a widely known or commonly practiced hunting sport, a dedicated community of falconers in Rhode Island continues to preserve this ancient tradition.



Photo by Charlie Nutting

Falconry is defined as the taking of wild quarry with a trained raptor. While this definition is concise, the commitment and discipline required to participate in the practice are anything but simple.

It is a year-round pursuit, with a seemingly endless list of tasks and responsibilities. During hunting season—the pinnacle of the falconry calendar—falconers spend long hours outdoors in all conditions, from sweltering hot September days to sub-zero temperatures in February. Days in the field often involve pushing through waist-high briars, navigating dense woodlots, tracking and retrieving a hunting bird, and occasionally falling into swamps hidden beneath winter snow. Despite the challenges, a successful day ends with a falconer walking out of the woods with their bird on the fist and, if skill and luck align, game in the bag.

Obtaining a falconry license is a lengthy and rigorous process that often takes several years to complete. Prospective apprentices must first secure a qualified mentor willing to supervise their training. Because experienced falconers are not always available—or able—to take on apprentices, finding a mentor is often one of the most significant challenges for those seeking to enter the sport.

Once a mentor or sponsor has been secured, the prospective falconer must pass the state falconry examination, obtain and construct the required equipment and facilities, and undergo an inspection by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, before submitting a final application.

New falconers begin at the Apprentice level. During this stage, they develop and refine their skills under the guidance of a mentor who has practiced falconry for at least three years at the General Class level. Apprentices are permitted to work with one wild-caught red-tailed hawk per season for a minimum of two seasons, and potentially longer if their mentor determines that additional training is necessary.

Once a mentor determines that an apprentice has developed the necessary proficiency, the apprentice must complete a field trial demonstrating proper equipment use, safe and effective handling of their bird, field control, and the ability to successfully take game with the hawk. Only after completing this evaluation can they advance to the level of General Class falconer. Once the General Class license is achieved, falconers may work with a variety of other raptor species.

Falconers may apply for Master Class status only after at least five years of active practice as a General Class falconer. Advancement requires another field trial demonstrating their skills above that which are required of a General Class falconer, specifically working with multiple types of raptors. In falconry terminology, these groups include "longwings" (falcons), "broadwings" (soaring hawks such as buteos), and "shortwings" (forest hawks such as accipiters). Each group of raptors differs significantly in its natural history, training methods, housing requirements, and hunting applications. A Master Falconer has devoted years to developing the knowledge and expertise required to work successfully with each of these specialized birds.

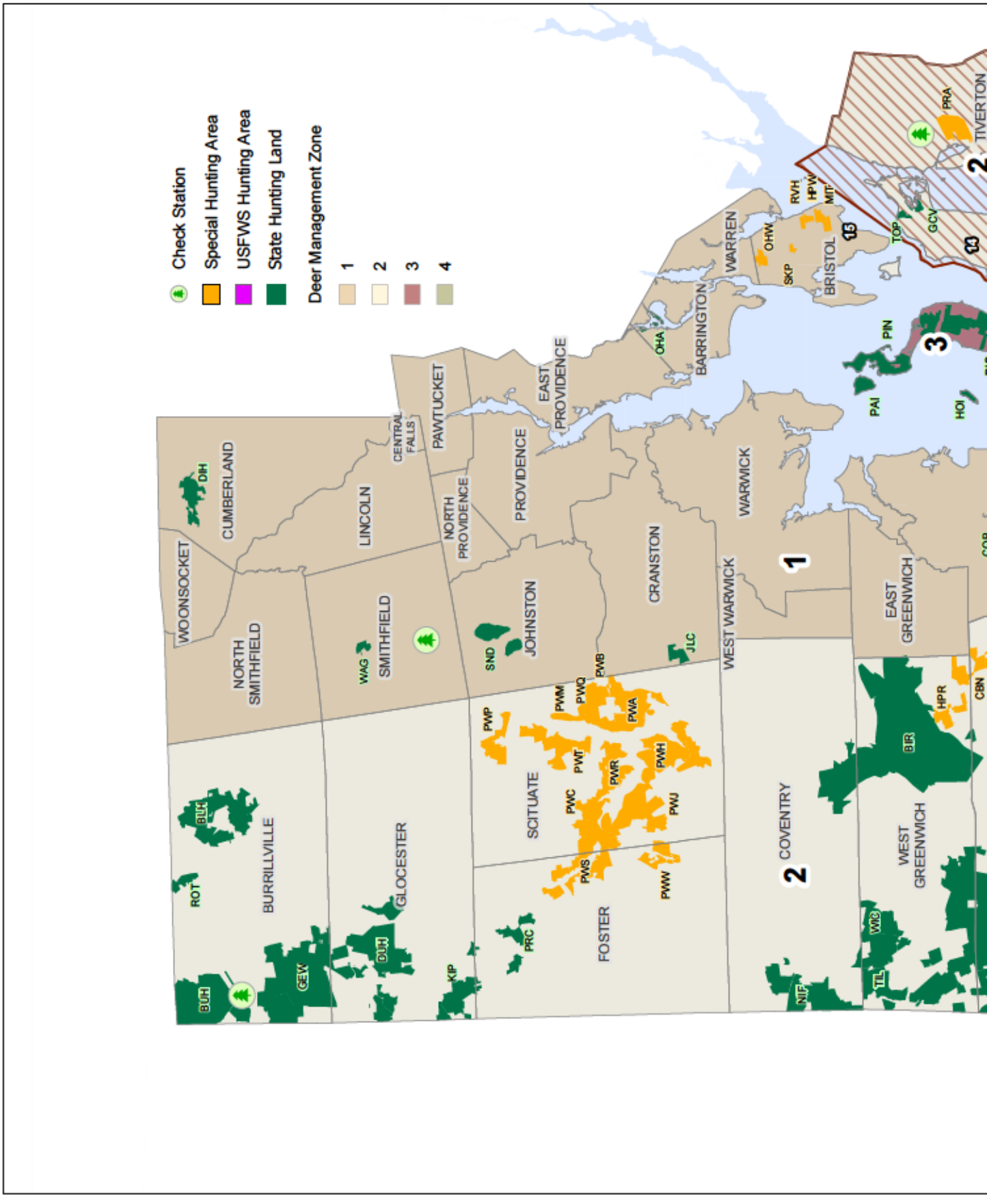
Across the United States, the most commonly used raptor in falconry is the red-tailed hawk. Their adaptability, size, and hunting style make them excellent falconry birds. In Rhode Island, they are most often used to hunt rabbits and squirrels, both of which have suitable habitat in the state. Smaller falcons such as the American kestrel and the merlin are frequently used to hunt invasive passerine species, specifically house sparrows and European starlings, which may be taken year-round. Larger falcons, such as peregrine falcons, are often flown on ducks, taking advantage of their remarkable speed and aerial agility. Accipitrine or "forest" hawks—including Cooper's hawks and goshawks—excel in wooded environments. The goshawk, in particular, is highly revered for its ability to pursue both mammals and birds, including rabbits, squirrels, doves, and ducks. However, their specialized evolutionary adaptations also make them challenging to maintain and train in captivity, requiring the experience and skill of a seasoned falconer.

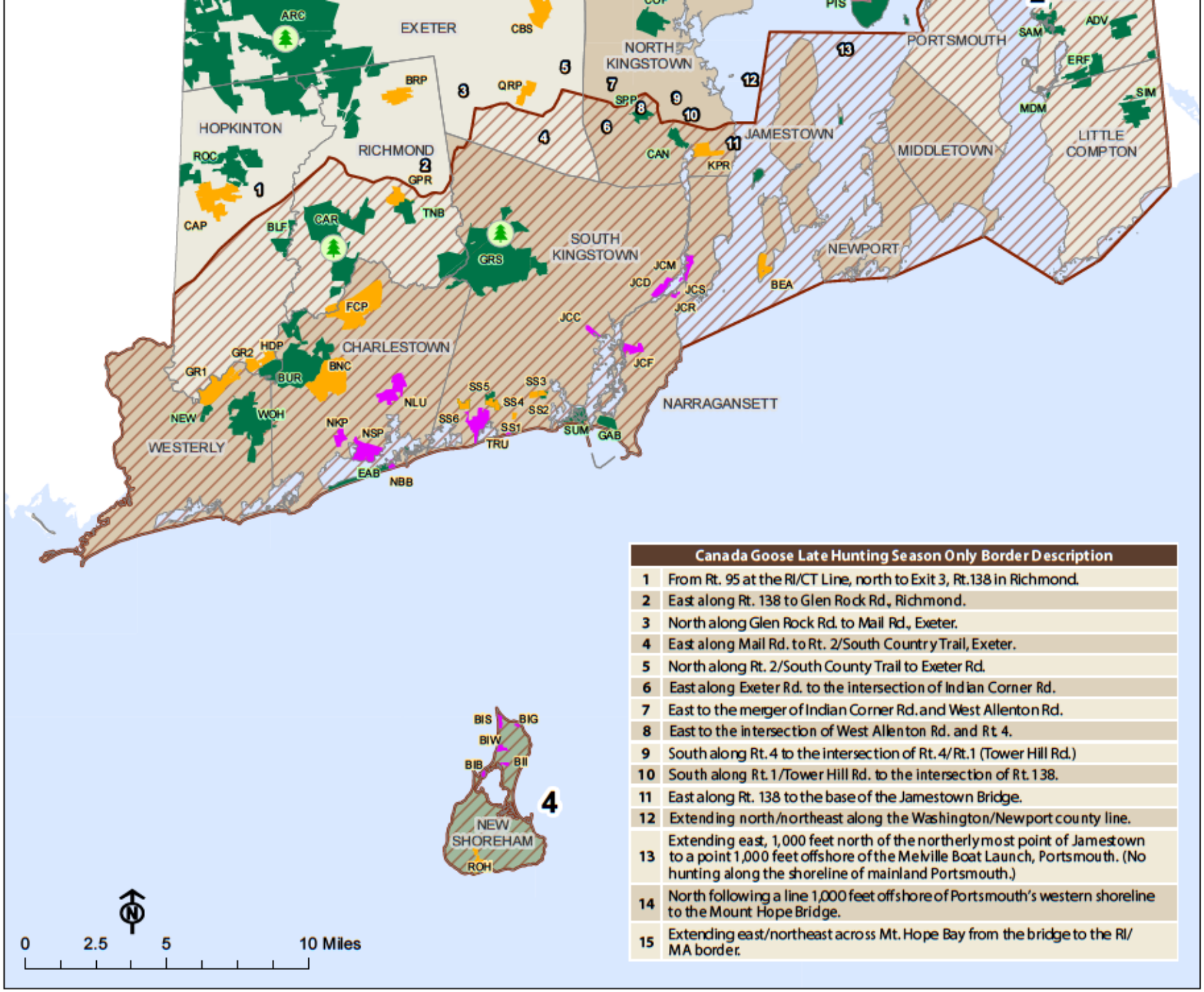
One of the most common questions falconers receive is: what do the raptors gain from this relationship, and why do they remain with their human partners? The answer lies in trust, respect, and a reliable food source. Raptors are generally solitary animals, and working with them requires patience and a deep understanding of how they perceive and interact with their environment. With a strong hunting bond between falconer and bird, trained raptors receive a dependable source of food and protection from many of the threats they face in the wild, including starvation, predation, vehicle strikes, window collisions, domestic animal attacks, and disease.

While hunting birds share their prey with their falconers during the active season, they also benefit from a lengthy off-season. During this time, they are provided daily food, safe housing, and the conditions necessary for a healthy molt—the biologically demanding annual process by which they drop and regrow their feathers.

The long hours of preparation, training, research, maintenance, and fieldwork are responsibilities falconers willingly accept as stewards of their hunting partners. Although falconry differs significantly from other forms of hunting, it remains a deeply respected tradition among its practitioners. Rhode Island's falconers represent a small but dedicated community, proud to uphold this historic practice and grateful for the continued support of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management in preserving the heritage of traditional hunting.

State Lands MAP





Canada Goose Late Hunting Season Only 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 County Trail to Exeter Rd.
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.

Public Lands AND HUNTING AREAS

Code	Property		Town	Type	Acres	Deer	Deer Mng Zone	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game	Migratory Birds	Waterfowl	Trapping	Permit Required	Archery Proficiency Card Required	Notes
ADV	Adamsville		Tiverton	WMA	300	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
ARC	Arcadia		Hopkinton, Exeter, Richmond, West Greenwich	WMA	14,692	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			1
BRP	Beaver River Preserve TNC		Richmond	Co-op	271	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
BEA	Beavertail		Jamestown	SP	169	O	1	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	2
BIR	Big River		West Greenwich, Coventry, Exeter	WMA	8,496	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BLF	Black Farm		Hopkinton	WMA	312	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			1
BLH	Black Hut		Burrillville	WMA	1,864	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BIB	Block Island National Wildlife Refuge	Beane Point Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	22	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BIG		Grove Point Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	10	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BIS		Sandy Point	New Shoreham	USFWS	42	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BII		Skippers Island Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	17	O	4	X	X	X	X	X		✓	✓	3
BIW		Wash Pond Unit	New Shoreham	USFWS	38	O	4	X	X	X	X	✓		✓	✓	3
OHW	Town of Bristol	Hopeworth	Bristol	Co-op	41	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
HPW		Mintum	Bristol	Co-op	150	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
MIT		Skaters Pond	Bristol	Co-op	26	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
SKP		100 Acre Woods	Bristol	Co-op	104	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			✓	
BUH	Buck Hill		Burrillville	WMA	3,192	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BUR	Burlingame		Charlestown, Hopkinton	WMA	1,779	✓	1, 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BNC	Burlingame North Camp		Charlestown	SP	884	✓	1	✓	X	X	X	X	✓			2
CAN	Camp Nokewa		North Kingstown	WMA	145	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
CAP	Canonchet Preserve TNC		Hopkinton	Co-op	710	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X				
CAR	Carolina		Richmond	WMA	2,151	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
COP	Cocumscussoc Park		North Kingstown	SP	420	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓			
CBN	Cuttyhunk Brook Preserve	North TNC	Exeter, West Greenwich	Co-op	361	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X				
CBS		South TNC	Exeter, West Greenwich	Co-op	428	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
DIH	Diamond Hill		Cumberland	PR	408	✓	1	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓			
DUH	Durfee Hill		Glocester	WMA	2,466	✓	2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓	✓			
–	Dutch Island		Jamestown	WMA	102	**Closed to All Public Access**										
EAB	East Beach		Charlestown	SP	214	O	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			9
ERF	Eight Rod Farm		Tiverton, Little Compton	WMA	446	✓	2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓	✓			
FCP	Francis Carter Preserve TNC		Charlestown, Richmond	Co-op	1,089	O	1, 2	X	X	X	X	X				
GAB	Galilee Bird Sanctuary		Narragansett	WMA	135	O	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GEW	George Washington		Burrillville, Glocester	WMA	3,503	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GOI	Gould Island		Jamestown	WMA	38	**Temporarily Closed to All Access/Hunting Due to Remediation**										
GPR	Grass Pond Reserve TNC		Richmond	Co-op	174	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X				
GRS	Great Swamp		Richmond, South Kingstown	WMA	3,615	✓	1, 2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GR1	Grills Preserve I		Westerly	Co-op	514	#	1	✓	X	X	X	X				
GR2	Grills Preserve II		Hopkinton	Co-op	163	#	2	✓	X	X	X	X				
GCV	Gull Cove *NEW*		Portsmouth	WMA	86	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
HPR	Harrington Preserve TNC		West Greenwich	Co-op	178	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
–	Hillsdale		Richmond	WMA	1,825	**Closed to All Hunting**										
HOI	Hope Island		Portsmouth	WMA	72	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
HDP	How Davey Preserve TNC		Hopkinton	Co-op	71	#	2	X	X	X	X	X				
JLC	J. L. Curran		Cranston	SP	296	@	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			4
JCC	John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge	Congdon Cove	South Kingstown	USFWS	50	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCF		Foddering Farm	Narragansett	USFWS	130	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCM		Middlebridge	Narragansett	USFWS	100	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCS		Sedge Island	Narragansett	USFWS	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		✓		3
JCR		Starr Drive	Narragansett	USFWS	31	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
JCD		Stedman	South Kingstown	USFWS	134	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		✓	✓	3
KIP	Killingly Pond		Foster, Glocester	WMA	767	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
KPR	King Preserve TNC		North Kingstown	Co-op	161	O	1	X	X	X	X	X				
MDM	Mary Donavan Marsh		Little Compton	WMA	15	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NEW	Newton Swamp		Westerly	WMA	84	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NIF	Nicholas Farm		Coventry	WMA	1,632	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			1

Code	Property		Town	Type	Acres	Deer	Deer Mng Zone	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game	Migratory Birds	Waterfowl	Trapping	Permit Required	Archery Proficiency Card Required	Notes
NBB	Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge	Barrier Beach Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	32	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	X		✓		3
NKP		Kettle Pond Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	114	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	X		✓		3
NLU		Lewis Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	332	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	X		✓		3
NSP		Salt Pond Unit	Charlestown	USFWS	348	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	X		✓		3
OHA	One Hundred Acre Cove		Barrington	WMA	47	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			2
PAI	Patience Island		Portsmouth	WMA	203	O	3	X	X	O	X	X	✓		✓	2, 5, 8
PRA	Pocassett Ridge Conservation Area TNC		Tiverton	Co-op	488	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
PRC	Ponagansett River Corridor		Foster, Glocester	WMA	540	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
PWA	Providence Water Supply	Ashland	Scituate	Co-op	942	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWB		Betty Pond	Scituate	Co-op	173	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWC		Cork Brook	Scituate	Co-op	346	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWJ		Joslin Farm	Scituate	Co-op	1,188	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWP		Peeptoad	Scituate	Co-op	186	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWQ		Quonopaug	Scituate	Co-op	457	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWR		Riverview	Scituate	Co-op	731	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWS		Swamp Brook	Scituate, Foster	Co-op	482	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWT		Trimtown	Scituate	Co-op	985	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWH		Tunk Hill	Scituate	Co-op	1,065	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWM		Waterman	Scituate	Co-op	412	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PWW		Westconnaug	Scituate	Co-op	678	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			✓	6
PIN	Prudence Island North		Portsmouth	WMA	698	O*	3	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓		✓	2, 5, 8
PIS	Prudence Island South		Portsmouth	WMA	1489	O*	3	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓		✓	2, 5, 8
QRP	Queens River Preserve TNC		Exeter	Co-op	187	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
RIV	Rhode Island Veterans Home		Bristol	Co-op	50	O	1	X	X	X	X	X				
ROC	Rockville		Hopkinton	WMA	1110	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
ROH	Rodman Hollow		New Shoreham	WMA	119	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
ROT	Round Top		Burrillville	WMA	182	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
–	Sachuest		Middletown	USFWS	242	**Closed to All Hunting**										
SAM	Sapowet Marsh		Tiverton	WMA	310	O	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			7
SSP	Silver Spring		North Kingstown	WMA	125	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
SIM	Simmons Mill		Little Compton	WMA	433	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓	✓			
SND	Snake Den		Johnston	SP	480	O	1	X	X	X	X	X				
SS1	South Shore Wildlife Management Area	Area #1	South Kingstown	USFWS	21	X	X	X	X	X	✓			✓		2
SS2		Area #2	South Kingstown	Co-op	40	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		✓		2
SS3		Area #3	South Kingstown	WMA	29	O	1	✓	X	X	✓	✓		✓		2
SS4		Area #4	South Kingstown	WMA	25	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		✓		2
SS5		Area #5	South Kingstown	WMA	54	#	1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		✓		2
SS6		Area #6	South Kingstown	WMA	64	✓	1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		✓		2
SUM	Succotash Marsh		South Kingstown	WMA	162	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
TNB	Taney Brook		Richmond	WMA	243	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
TIL	Tillinghast		West Greenwich	WMA	1,566	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
TOP	Town Pond		Portsmouth	WMA	54	X	2	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓			
TRU	Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge		South Kingstown	USFWS	358	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	X		✓	✓	3
WAG	Washington Grove		Smithfield	WMA	86	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
WIC	Wickaboxet		West Greenwich	WMA	669	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
WOH	Woody Hill		Westerly	WMA	735	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Legend	
✓	All legal methods for that species as defined in regulations/required
#	Archery or Muzzleloader
@	Archery or Shotgun
O	Archery Only
◊*	Youth pheasant hunt
◊	Pheasants stocked
X	Closed to hunting/not applicable
*	See notes
Small Game	Rabbit, Squirrel, Coyote, Raccoon and Fox
Migratory Birds	Doves, Crows, Woodcock, Snipe and Rails (not waterfowl)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Co-op	Cooperative hunting property
PR	Public Reservation
SP	State Park

Notes	
1	Dog training area/field trials by permit
2	See regulations for additional information
3	See USFWS brochure for additional regulations. fws.gov/refuge/trustom-pond/visit-us/activities/hunting fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/visit-us/activities/hunting
4	Closed to dove hunting.
5	Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters. Taking of deer is limited to paraplegic and double amputee hunters.
6	Permit through Providence Water Supply.
7	Old Main Road Babot Unit safety zones and private land off Sapowet Avenue closed to hunting.
8	Paraplegics may use shotguns.
9	Open for hunting from October 1st through the last day in February, except that, archery deer hunting is open during the archery deer season.

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 http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/. Regulations are designed and enforced to promote conservation of the state's natural resources for their future enjoyment and to ensure human safety in the outdoors. 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 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, except by written permit (250-RICR-100-00-9).
- 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 (250-RICR-100-00-7).
- Horseback riding is prohibited in the Great Swamp Management Area during small game and shotgun deer season (250-RICR-100-00-9).
- Groups consisting of 10 or more persons must obtain a special use permit available from the DEM Management Area Stewardship Committee, (401) 539-2356, https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/initiatives/special-use-and-event-policyprocess.
- Target or trap shooting on state lands is only allowed on provided ranges (RIGL 32-2-4).

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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 for hunting from October 1st through the last day in February, except that, deer hunting is open for archery September 15th through the end of archery deer season. No firearm deer hunting allowed.
- 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 Management Area Stewardship Committee , 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 open January 1–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. Small game hunting is allowed on Prudence Island except on the Heritage Property during the open archery deer season. 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.

The special deer season for disabled hunters is limited to paraplegic and double amputee deer hunters by special permit only. Permits are 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 and 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.

Gould Island: Temporarily closed to all access and hunting due to remediation.

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.

State Land Spotlight: BLACK FARM WMA







Photo by Kim Justham

Located between I-95 and Switch Road in Richmond, the Black Farm Management Area is a "hidden" gem in South County. With pine-dominated uplands and a diversity of wetland habitats, this management area provides ample hunting, trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The 264-acre Black Farm was acquired by RIDFW in 1990 from the Black family, using US Fish and Wildlife Service funds acquired through the Pittman-Robertson Act (Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act). The property originally included the Black homestead when purchased; however, the homestead and a parcel of land were sold by the state to a private party in 1994. The remaining parcel of 246 acres now constitutes the Black Farm Management Area.

The management area lies along the west bank of the Wood River, running from Switch Road south to just north of Woodville Bridge. The westernmost section is on a ridge of hardwood forest dropping 50 to 75 feet in elevation from the parking lot at Woodville Alton Road, east to the bank of the Wood River. The trailhead leads to a trail that runs down the ridge, across Canonchet Brook, past Plain Pond and eventually to the Wood River and its adjoining wetlands. The trail passes through mixed hardwood forests of maple, ash and oak trees and through a small ravine, where Canonchet Brook flows. This is an active little stream with habitats for small fish, including wild brook trout, in rocky pools and undercut banks. The shoreline of the brook is densely overgrown with shrubs and trees, and a narrow swamp floodplain borders the stream, making the corridor ideal habitat for furbearers, including raccoon, mink and otter. The trail then continues past Plain Pond, a shallow waterbody with clear waters and a sandy bottom. Continuing east, the trail meanders through mixed age pine stands forming a large pine barren that stretches to the north along an abandoned railroad spur line that ran from Hope Valley into the village of Woodville. East of the rail spur trail are several meadows that overlook the Wood River. The wetlands bordering the river at this point are some of the most diverse and valuable in the entire state, with various cover types, that range from open waters and shallow marsh to shrub swamps, small islands, and tussocks. These habitats are particularly attractive to waterfowl, including wood ducks, teal, mallards, American black ducks and Canada geese, and a variety of herons, egrets and other water birds. The river itself is a coldwater fishery that supports wild brook trout!

Salvage Permit for Vehicle-Killed Wildlife

The DFW now allows the public to collect certain wildlife species killed in vehicle collisions. Recently passed legislation sponsored by Chairman of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee David Bennett and Senate Majority Whip David Tikoian gives DEM more flexibility to address wildlife vehicle collisions, enabling the public to salvage deer or other wildlife with a permit. This approach makes use of an underutilized resource and eases the burden on state staff removing carcasses. A permit is required within 24-hours of collecting wildlife struck by a vehicle. To receive a permit, the public must report the species, estimated age and sex, a photo, and location. Eligible species include white tailed deer, turkeys, beavers, coyotes, fishers, red and gray foxes, muskrats, pheasants, squirrels, rabbits, and raccoons. Fisher and foxes have additional requirements found in the regulations on the reporting webpage. Reports can be submitted via the form at www.dem.ri.gov/wildlife-salvage-permit or by leaving a message at 401-789-0281 with the required information.

Before salvaging roadkill, the public should prioritize safety and follow traffic laws. The animal may be field dressed before it's removed, but parts cannot be left behind, which is a violation of state law and risks attracting other wildlife. The permit allows the possession of one animal killed only by vehicular collision — each individual animal requires its own unique permit.

The new legislation expands reporting requirements to include most wildlife collisions that cause significant vehicle damage, not just deer. This ensures that all vehicle collisions involving wildlife are reported to DEM. Reporting helps DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) track populations and improve highway safety. Road-killed animals may not be tagged with hunting tags, and injured animals cannot be killed for salvage, though law enforcement may euthanize and allow salvage.

Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Restrictions
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*	October 24–25	Same as regular season, listed below	Open to youth hunters age 12–17 accompanied by a licensed adult 21 years of age or older*; may take ducks, sea ducks, geese, and brant.
Active Military and Veteran Waterfowl	November 10–11	Same as regular season, listed below	Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting. All active military and veteran waterfowl hunters must have a State Harvest Information (HIP) permit, Rhode Island State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp in addition to a current Rhode Island hunting license.
Canada Goose Early Season	September 1–30	15	Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for September season only.
Canada Goose Regular Season**	November 21–29 and December 5–January 24, 2027	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 26 for more information.
Canada Goose Late Season	January 30–February 13, 2027	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 found on page 16 and 17 and also available on the Department of Environmental Management's website.
Snow Goose (Including Blue Goose)	October 14–January 24, 2027	25	No possession limit
Brant	December 26–January 24, 2027	1	-
Ducks	October 9–12, November 25–29, December 5–January 24, 2027	6	The daily bag limit shall contain no more than: Mallard ..... 4 (2 hens) Black Duck ..... 2 Canvasback ..... 2 Pintail ..... 3 Redhead ..... 2 Wood Duck ..... 3 Scaup ..... see below Sea Ducks ..... see below Other Duck Species 6
Scaup	October 9–12, November 25–29, December 5–January 4, 2027	1	The daily bag limit of scaup is part of the duck daily bag limit of 6.
	January 5–24, 2027	2	
Sea Ducks	Same as ducks	4	The daily bag limit is 4, singly or in aggregate, but not to exceed 3 Scoter, 3 Eider **(1 hen)**, or 3 Long-tailed Ducks. The daily bag limit of sea ducks (4) is part of the duck daily bag limit of 6.
Mergansers	Same As Ducks	5	-
Coots	Same As Ducks	15	-
Swans	No Season	-	-
Harlequin Duck	Closed	**Caution:** 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 these species.	

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

* See page 14 for more information on Youth and Disabled Hunter Opportunities. ** Daily bag limit includes white-fronted geese.

Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Bag Limits
Crow	August 14–October 4 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only) October 17–December 7 (inclusive) December 18–April 3, 2027 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)	Unlimited
King/Clapper Rail	September 1–November 9	1
Sora/Virginia Rail	September 1–November 9	3
Snipe	September 1–November 9	5
Mourning Dove	September 1–30 October 17–December 15	15
Woodcock	October 17–November 30	3

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

2026–2027 Waterfowl Highlights:

1. For the Canada goose regular season, the daily bag limit includes white-fronted geese.
2. The snow goose season was reduced in order to create an Active Military and Veteran Waterfowl season.
3. No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without any visible means to retrieve and without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in their daily bag limit.

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 **rio.ri.gov**. Those wishing to obtain a RI waterfowl stamp ($9.00) in person 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.

Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Season:

Active Military means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101.

Veteran means a person who served on active duty with the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard, for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Reservists or members of the National Guard called to federal active duty (for other than training) or disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or while in training status also qualify as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101.

Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl season is November 10-11.

- May take ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada geese, light geese, and brant following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons. The scaup bag limit is 2.
- Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting.
- Must have HIP permit, RI state waterfowl stamp, and Federal Duck stamp in addition to current RI hunting license.

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 at **rio.ri.gov**, and at hunting license vendors, DEM headquarters in Providence, and participating town clerks statewide.

For more information, call 401-789-0281 or email dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov. A HIP certification must be included on your license document to hunt migratory birds.

RI Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

Since 1938, Duck Stamp programs have played an important role in supporting wetland conservation and wildlife habitat protection across the United States. The RI Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest continues that tradition by encouraging students to explore conservation through art, science, and wildlife education. Hosted annually by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife, the contest invites Rhode Island students in grades K-12 to submit original artwork featuring eligible North American waterfowl species. Entries are evaluated on artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, and suitability for reproduction as a stamp, with the winning design selected for the Rhode Island Duck Stamp. Additional contest details, including deadlines and submission information, are announced annually by DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Individuals interested in receiving updates on contest timelines, submission information, and eligibility requirements may contact DEM. DFWHunterEducation@dem.ri.gov.

Non-Toxic Shot Requirements

No shot other than non-toxic may be used to hunt, pursue, or attempt to take waterfowl, rails, or snipe within the State of Rhode Island including any jurisdictional tidal water extending from mean high water out seaward to three miles. Non-toxic shot includes steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, and tungsten-nickel-iron-shot or any other shot as approved by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Tin shot is prohibited. All shot larger than BB is prohibited; including duplex loads containing shot larger than BB.

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, fish-hook, 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 has ceased.

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 2026–2027 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 2026–2027 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 skybusting (shooting too soon and preventing birds from decoying) and crippling losses.

- 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 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

Area can be viewed online **here**, by viewing the "Hunting - Restricted Waterfowl Area" layer in the Outdoor Recreation Layers.

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 from the shoreline or from a watercraft within five hundred (500) feet of occupied buildings.

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 and recovered birds 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.

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.

Proper Harvest Care

Most wild animals in Rhode Island are healthy. However, diseases and viruses can be present with any wildlife species as well as associated parasites (e.g., ticks). Some wildlife diseases can be transmitted to humans, pets, domestic and other wild animals. The DFW monitors for diseases in multiple species, such as Chronic Wasting Disease and Epizootic Hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in deer, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease 2 (RHDV2) and Tularemia in rabbits, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in waterfowl and a variety of other diseases in game and non-game animals.

If you do harvest an animal that is or seems sick, contact DFW (401-789-0281 or dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov). The DFW strongly advises hunters to adhere to the following procedures when handling harvested game:

- 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.
- 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



Photo by Ray Strong

- 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 domestic animals or pets.
- Double bag carcass parts, tying both bags shut.
- Place bags in a container that children, domestic animals, and wildlife cannot access.
- Tick-borne diseases pose a hazard to both hunters and their dogs. Use tick repellents and always conduct tick checks after returning from the field.

"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.

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South Shore Management Area (SSMA) Goose Hunting Cooperative

Permits

- Required for all goose hunters during the regular Canada goose season (November 21–29, December 5–January 24, 2027).
- Must be obtained from the online licensing system at **rio.ri.gov** 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, 2027). See SSMA packet for more information.

Harvest Reporting

- Goose and other waterfowl harvest reporting is no longer required for South Shore Management Area.

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, 2027.

Additional Hunting Restrictions at SSMA

Dove hunting is allowed in Areas 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 Areas 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 and **Turkey** hunting is allowed as follows, but discharge of firearms and archery equipment are only allowed within the wooded section of the Areas; however, deer and turkey may be in the field when harvested.

- Deer hunting during the archery season is allowed only in Areas 3, 5, and 6 including during the regular Canada goose season when the field reservation system is occurring.
- Deer hunting during the muzzleloader season is allowed in Areas 5 and 6, except during the regular Canada Goose season when the blind reservation system is occurring.
- Turkey hunting is allowed in Areas 3, 5, and 6 during the spring and fall turkey season.

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 Area 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 RI Hunting Regulations or call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281.

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Attention Migratory Bird Hunters

REMINDER: Report ALL bird bands ONLINE!—www.reportband.gov

Since June 2017, band reports have no longer been accepted over the phone through the 1-800 number, and callers are now encouraged to use the designated online reporting system or other approved reporting methods instead.

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!

Small Game Hunting

Species	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Coyote – State Land	September 15–February 28, 2027 April 29–May 23, 2027	unlimited
Coyote, Woodchuck – Private Land	No closed season	unlimited
Youth Pheasant*	October 10–12	2
Raccoon	October 1 – February 28, 2027	unlimited
Cottontail Rabbit	October 1 – February 28, 2027	3
Gray and Red Squirrel	September 12–February 28, 2027	5, singly or in aggregate
Pheasant	October 17–February 28, 2027	2
Bobwhite Quail		3
Woodchuck – State Land		unlimited
Red, Gray Fox	November 7–December 31	unlimited
Ruffed Grouse	CLOSED	

* See page 14 for more information on Youth Hunt Opportunities

Method of take for small game hunting is limited to: rimfire rifle not larger than .22 caliber (except coyote, see in coyote hunting section below), shotgun, bow and arrow, muzzleloader, crossbow, air rifle, and falconry as specified below:

1. Hunters may use shotgun with shot not larger than No. 2.
2. A muzzleloader, not to exceed .40 caliber, may be used to hunt small mammals during the established season for these species.
3. Air rifles are permitted to hunt the following small mammals: gray squirrel, red squirrel, woodchuck, and cottontail rabbit provided that the air rifles are a minimum of .177 caliber and not larger than .30, and produce a minimum of seven hundred fifty (750) FPS velocity with pellets seven and one half (7.5) grain or larger.
4. Hunters may use archery equipment meeting the minimum draw weight required for deer hunting with arrows tipped with field points, small game blunts, or judo points. Hunters using broadhead arrows during the archery deer season must possess a valid archery deer tag.
5. Hunters may use crossbow to take small game mammals; however, no birds may be taken with a crossbow.
6. Hunters using archery equipment including crossbow to take small game must have taken and successfully completed a bow hunter education course.
7. Hunters are permitted to use raptors to take the following small game mammals: gray squirrel, red squirrel, woodchuck, cottontail rabbit, skunk, and opossum.

Pheasant and Quail Hunting

A Game Bird 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). No physical tag required. Pheasants are stocked prior to opening day, then twice weekly, at most locations, until December. Birds are stocked once per week in December based on weather and available stock. Pheasant stocking does not occur in January and February. Stocked management areas are: Arcadia, Black Hut, Big River, Buck Hill, Carolina, Durfee Hill, Eight Rod Farm, Great Swamp, Nicholas Farm, Sapowet Marsh, and Simmons Mill Pond. For up to date stocking information see the department's Pheasant page at **dem.ri.gov/pheasant**.

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, 2027. Only male pheasants (roosters) may be taken from Block Island with a daily bag limit of 2 per day.

No person shall take pheasant on Block Island while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel shot, or other legally approved non-toxic shot.

Additional Regulations

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

Reptiles & Amphibians

A current Rhode Island hunting, fishing, or trapping license is required to take green frogs, bullfrogs and snapping turtles. 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.

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, 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. 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.

For any non-lethal method of take, trapped animals must either be released alive into the waters from which they were taken, or immediately humanely dispatched at the site of capture with an active, and valid hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

Coyote Hunting

Coyotes season on state lands is from September 15 until the last day in February, and during the open spring turkey hunting season, April 29–May 23, 2027. There is no closed season for coyote hunting on private 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 is allowed on private property for the purposes of hunting coyotes but is prohibited on state lands.

The legal shooting hours for coyote on state land is 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Shooting hours for coyotes on private lands is 1/2 hour before sunrise until midnight.

Hunters attempting to take coyotes after dark must possess a predator call. No person shall take or attempt to take coyotes by use of a light from a motor vehicle. Legal methods of take for coyote hunting includes any means allowed during any concurrent hunting season and, shotgun (no shot larger than No. 2), rimfire rifle not larger than .22 caliber and bow and arrow, including crossbow. However, on private lands from April 1 to September 30, (both dates inclusive), centerfire rifles not larger than .229 caliber may be use.

The bag limit for coyote is unlimited and electronic calls may be used.

Hunting Guide Permit

No person shall engage in the act of guiding without first obtaining a guide permit from the DEM.

Guiding is defined as any person paid a fee, or in-kind compensation, in exchange for transport, directly aiding, assisting, advising, showing the way to, or directing another person in the hunting of wildlife in the state of Rhode Island.



Eligibility:

- To obtain a guide permit, guides must apply to DEM. The form can be found at https://dem.ri.gov/online-services/applications-forms. The following information must be submitted with a completed application form:
  - » Proof of being 21 years of age or older.
  - » A copy of a current Rhode Island hunting license.
  - » Proof of having completed a hunter education course as required by the guided party(s).
  - » A copy of a valid CPR and First Aid certification.

Testing requirements:

- Required for guiding deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- All initial applicants applying for a guide permit must take an in person written examination administered by the DEM. A person must attain a passing grade of 80 percent.
- A person who fails the written examination may retake the examination one additional time after sixty (60) days but not again for one (1) year if failing to pass the test the second time.

Additional information required when using a vessel to carry passengers:

- A current copy of the operator's United States Coast Guard license to carry passengers for hire.
- A current copy of the vessel's "Certificate of Documentation" certifying that the vessel is documented "Coastwise", or if the vessel is under five (5) net tons, a copy of the vessel's State registration.
- Proof that the operator and crew are currently enrolled in a random drug testing program that complies with the Federal Government's 46 C.F.R. § 16.101 et seq. "Drug Testing Program" Regulations.

Reporting:

- All persons possessing a guide permit are required to complete and submit harvest reports, found here at https://arcg.is/1eD0rL2, by no later than the last day in March annually. In each year(s) when no guided hunts occurred, one report stating such must be submitted.

Scan QR Code for Harvest Reports

Valid dates:

- Guide permits shall be valid March 1st through midnight of the last day of February.

Renewals:

- Permits must be renewed annually and are only valid after receipt of a completed renewal application. Permits that are not renewed after a period of 5 years shall be considered inactive. Applicants who have allowed their permit to become inactive must reapply for a new permit.

Applications for guide permits may be denied when:

- The applicant has been convicted of a hunting, trapping or fishing violation or currently has a disposition filed before a state, federal or municipal court or administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction anywhere in the United States or Canada within three (3) years preceding the application date.
- The applicant fails to provide all required information on the application and all additional information required above or to provide truthful information.

Revocation criteria:

- The applicant or permittee has been convicted of a hunting, trapping or fishing violation (state or federal).
- The applicant or permittee failed to provide all required information on the application or to provide truthful information.
- The failure of the permittee to ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with all federal and state license, permit, stamp, and equipment requirements.
- The failure of the permittee to ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with daily bag limits and possession limits outlined in these regulations.
- A guided client violates laws under R.I. Gen. Laws § Title 20, or regulations in this part, and the violation is not immediately reported to a DEM environmental police officer by the guide.
- An applicant fails to submit their annual reports with an active guiding permit (including non-guiding years) prior to applying for a renewal.

Additional Requirements:

Guides must ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with all federal and state license, permit, stamp and equipment requirements.

Guides must ensure that all persons in their hunting party are in compliance with the daily bag limits and possession limits.

When guiding waterfowl hunts with multiple clients, guides must ensure harvested birds are maintained in the hunter's custody or are immediately separated and/or tagged so that each bird (or group of birds) is clearly attributable to the individual hunter (client) who harvested it.

Reminder

- Clients are not allowed to harvest animals under their guides bag limit or tags.
- Each person must harvest his/her own bag limits.
- A guide can gift his birds to his client if he harvested them himself, but not in the field. They have to be correctly annotated on tags and the gifted birds cannot place the hunter over the aggregate bag limit depending on what day of the season the hunt takes place.

Trapping

Species	Dates	Season Bag Limit	Pelt Tagging
Gray Fox, Red Fox, Mink, Opossum, Rabbit, Squirrel, Raccoon, Skunk, Weasel	November 1–January 31, 2027	Unlimited	no
Muskrat		15	
Coyote – Private	no closed season	Unlimited	no
Coyote – State Land	November 1–February 28, 2027		
Beaver – Private*	November 1–March 14, 2027	Resident: 40 Non-resident: 20	yes
Beaver – State Land*	December 1–February 28, 2027		
Fisher*	December 1–24	1	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

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. 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.
- For the taking of weasels and squirrels, the use of rat or mouse-sized body gripping (i.e., "snap traps") are permitted. Such traps must be set in artificial cubbies.
- Traps may not be set, staked, or placed prior to sunrise on opening day.
- All traps must be labeled with the trapper's current RI trapping license number attached by a metal tag or embedded or cut into the trap.
- Written landowner permission is required to trap on private land.
- All traps must be checked at least once in every 24-hour period.
- 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 & Wildlife by calling 401-789-0281 or by emailing DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov, in addition to their current R.I. trapping license, obtained through the online licensing system: **rio.ri.gov**.

Prohibitions

- The use of poisons or snares.
- The use of steel-jawed leghold traps.
- 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.
- 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, unless with a current R.I. trapping license and during the open season for that species or as provided for under a current RI Scientific Collectors Permit, Salvage Permit (250-RICR-60-00-14) 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.

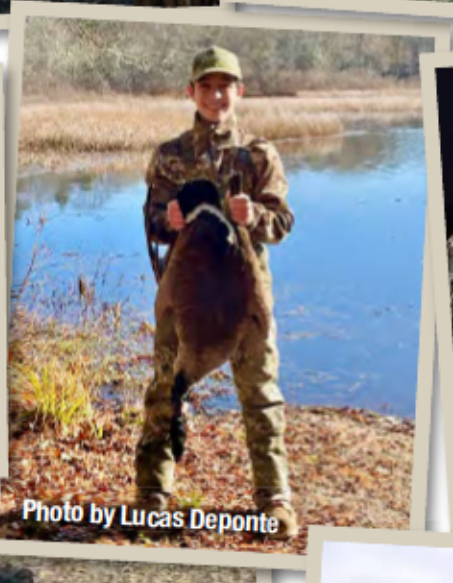


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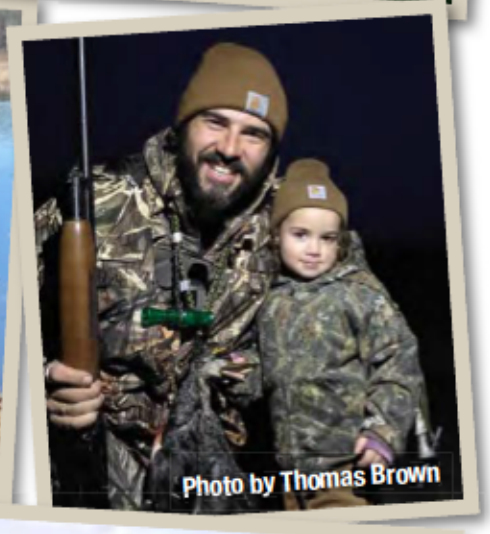

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For further information regarding specific bag, possession, and season limits please visit the pages noted in the table below.

Deer Hunting (see page 8 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Archery (Zones 1 and 2)	September 12–13 **(Youth only)** September 15–January 31, 2027
Archery: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 17–18 **(Youth only)** October 19–January 31, 2027
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 15, 16, 19–23, 26–30
Muzzleloader (Zones 1 and 2)	October 31–November 1 **(Youth only)** November 7–December 4
Shotgun (Zones 1 and 2)	December 5–31
Archery, Muzzleloader & Shotgun: Block Island (Zone 4)	November 2–6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30 December 1, 3, 4, 7–11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22 January 4–8, 11–15, 19–22, 25–29, 2027 February 1–5, 8–12, 2027
Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 13–16

Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (page 22 for bag/possession limit information)

Season	Dates
Crow	August 14–October 4 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only), October 17–December 7, December 18–April 3, 2027 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)
King/Clapper Rail and Sora/Virginia Rail	September 1–November 9
Snipe	September 1–November 9
Mourning Dove	September 1–30, October 17–December 15
Woodcock	October 17–November 30
Canada Goose (Early Season)	September 1–30
Canada Goose (Regular Season)	November 21–29, December 5–January 24, 2027
Canada Goose (Late Season)	January 30–February 13 , 2027
Snow Goose (including blue goose)	October 14–January 24, 2027
Ducks, Sea Ducks, Mergansers and Coots**	October 9–12, November 25–29, December 5–January 24, 2027
Brant	December 26–January 24, 2027
Youth Waterfowl	October 24–25
Active Military and Veteran	November 10–11

Wild Turkey Hunting (see page 12 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Fall Archery	October 1–31
Youth	April 19–25, 2027
Paraplegic	April 24–25, 2027
Spring	April 29–May 23, 2027

Small Game Hunting (see page 27 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Coyote – State Land	September 15–February 28, 2027 April 29–May 23, 2027
Coyote, Woodchuck – Private Land	No Closed Season
Youth Pheasant	October 10–12
Raccoon	October 1–February 28, 2027
Cottontail Rabbit	October 1–February 28, 2027
Gray and Red Squirrel	September 12–February 28, 2027
Pheasant, Bobwhite Quail, Woodchuck – State Land	October 17–February 28, 2027
Red, Gray Fox	November 7–December 31
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 2026–2027 season.**

****See scaup, sea duck and merganser regulations on page 22.**

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Shooting Hours & SUNRISE/SUNSET

Legal Shooting Hours

Season	Hours
Small Game & Pheasant	Sunrise until Sunset
Deer	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
Coyote	State land is ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset. Private land is ½ hour before sunrise until midnight.
Raccoon	6:00 PM October 1 until 11:59 PM of the last day of February
Waterfowl	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Canada Goose, September season only	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
Spring Turkey	½ hour before Sunrise until 1:00PM
Fall Turkey	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Dove	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Woodcock, Snipe & Rails	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Crow	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset

Sunrise / Sunset Table at Providence, RI

Darker cells indicates Daylight Savings Time

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

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