

**BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**April 2024**

**NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT  
GRANT NO. W-68-R**

**STUDY PLAN I. WHITE-TAILED DEER**

Jodi Powers, Principal Wildlife Biologist  
Megan Mills, Assistant Biologist (Northern Region)  
Megan McCafferty, Assistant Biologist (Southern Region)  
Brian Schumm, Assistant Biologist (Deer Outreach)

**Objective 1 – To determine the composition, size, distribution, productivity, and other aspects of the annual deer harvest mortality by deer management zone, unit, county, municipality, land ownership, date, and season.**

The Deer Project Team finished reviewing/correcting the deer harvest data and has organized the data for future analysis and comparison to historic data.

The Deer Project Team has prepared the analyzed deer harvest data for distribution and presentation to the Fish and Game Council in the May meeting.

The Deer Project Team continues to analyze the data.

**Objective 2 – To coordinate a statewide Suburban Deer Management Program for management in areas of high human density where standard hunting practices are not feasible.**

J. Powers and M. Mills met with High Bridge, Hunterdon County to answer questions about the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Community-Based Deer Management Grant.

J. Powers spoke with a resident from Allendale, Bergen County about their ongoing deer issues.

J. Powers spoke to an attorney who represents several Bergen County municipalities regarding their deer issues and the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Community-Based Deer Management Grant.

**Objective 3 - To participate in business meetings and monitoring programs of the Northeast Deer Technical Committee, and other related meetings and conferences.**

B. Schumm attended the NJ Wildlife Society Spring Meeting.

**Objective 4 - To conduct one white-tailed deer research study.**

Nothing to report.

**Objective 5 – To disseminate accurate and appropriate information on white-tailed deer and habitat management to sportsmen, public, local, and state agencies, and other organizations.**

The Deer Project Team continues to review material and season dates for the 2024-25 Hunting and Trapping Digest.

The Deer Project Team completed the format of the Deer Hunter Survey which includes general hunting questions and questions regarding potential regulation changes.

The Deer Hunter Survey opened to the public and the Team is collecting responses and great data.

The Deer Project Team is reviewing all deer related links on the Fish and Wildlife website to be reorganized in a more efficient way to distribute information effectively to the public.

M. McCafferty presented at the Atlantic, Gloucester, and Camden County Sportsman Federation Chapter meetings, discussing the 2025 Game Code Considerations and the preliminary harvest numbers.

M. Mills presented at the Union, Morris, Bergen, Warren, and Monmouth County Sportsman Federation Chapter meetings, discussing the 2025 Game Code Considerations and the preliminary harvest numbers.

B. Schumm presented at the Burlington and Sussex County Sportsman Federation Chapter meetings, discussing the 2025 Game Code Considerations and the preliminary harvest numbers.

**Objective 6 – Develop, maintain, and make adaptive changes to a white-tailed deer Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Plan.**

Nothing to Report.

**Extension Activities**

The Deer Project Team has received reports for injured or sick deer from the public and continues to work with USDA Animal Control and OWHF to decide best course of action for these deer.

M. McCafferty and M. Mills continue open communication with Special Areas as we review considerations for the 2025 Game Code and review the harvest history within the Special Area Deer Management Zones. M. Mills discussed the potential of Great Swamp (Special Area Zone 38) with the Morris County Federation of Sportsman Chapter to get hunter feedback. Hunters at the meeting had positive feedback about the potential change.

**Other Activities**

The Deer Project team completed deer density surveys via spotlight counts in several locations in the state including Pequest and Peaslee WMAs and Hopewell Twp. Mercer County.

The Deer Project team is reviewing data collected from the density surveys via spotlight counts from Pequest WMA and Peaslee WMA.

J. Powers attended an internal Game Code Meeting to discuss other game code changes under consideration and the recodification of the Game Code.

M. McCafferty presented to the Southern Conservation Police Officers regarding the preliminary harvest numbers as well as law concerns found during the season and after analysis.

J. Powers, B. Schumm, and J. Carlucci are working together to develop signage as part of the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Community-Based Deer Management Grant.

B. Schumm began analyzing demographics of deer regulation survey respondents.

J. Powers attended an internal meeting to discuss a captive deer herd and its permits.

### **STUDY PLAN III. UPLAND WILDLIFE AND FURBEARERS**

Ted Nichols, Supervising Biologist  
James Sloan, Senior Biologist  
Joseph R. Garris, Wildlife Technician I  
Peter Stark, Biologist Trainee  
Alexandrea Nickel, Seasonal Technician  
Shelby Gravatt, Seasonal Technician  
Richard Strittmatter, Seasonal Technician

**Objective 1 – Conduct annual or periodic monitoring programs of the upland game and furbearer resource, their users, and the habitats on which they depend.**

#### ***Coyote Harvest***

To date, a total of 563 coyote harvests have been reported during the 2023-24 hunting and trapping seasons, either through the Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS), regional offices, or via the 2023-24 Trapper Harvest Survey.

A total of 74 coyote harvests were reported for the segment. Of this total, 72 were harvested by cable restraint and 2 were destroyed while causing damage to livestock. One additional coyote mortality from vehicle strike was also recorded.

Coyotes during the reporting segment were harvested from the following counties: Cumberland (10), Gloucester (3), Hunterdon (8), Middlesex (1), Monmouth (3), Ocean (1), Passaic (1), Sussex (40), and Warren (8).

Coyote trapping and hunting seasons ended on March 15. However, the project will continue monitoring reports of coyote harvest and mortality for the next several months, as coyotes are permitted to be taken incidental to spring turkey hunting.

### ***Beaver and River Otter***

Project staff successfully operated six locations on February 24 for the mandatory beaver and river otter check stations. The total statewide harvest of beavers during the 2023-24 beaver/otter permit season (Dec. 26-Feb. 9) was 773, a record high harvest. (The previous record was in 2017 when 764 beavers were harvested).

A total of 40 river otters were taken during the 2023-24 season. Otter carcasses were collected at check stations on February 24. Project staff then collected morphometric measurements and extracted 1 canine tooth from each carcass for aging. Teeth were sent to Matson's Lab in Montana for cementum annuli analysis.

### ***Fisher***

Staff successfully retrieved all 150 trail cameras within the study area during the first week in April. Over 180,000 videos (representing approx. 1.6 TB) were recorded during the study period, capturing footage of a wide range of mammals and birds. Preliminary analysis has shown detections of fishers in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties. Review and classification of footage is ongoing and will continue for several months.

Live traps were retrieved at the end of March. Telemetry monitoring efforts continue.

### ***Trapper Harvest Survey***

The 2023-24 Trapper Harvest Survey was mailed to all licensed trappers in mid-March. To date, around 35% (480/1371) of the mailed surveys have been returned. Thirteen surveys were returned as undeliverable. Surveys will be accepted until Friday, April 19.

### ***Hunter Harvest Survey***

P. Stark coordinated with L. Clark and L. DiPiano (I&E) to plan for the distribution of the 2024 New Jersey Hunter Harvest Survey. This online survey, conducted every other year, seeks to gain information from firearm and archery hunters on species pursued during the 2023-24 season, time spent afield, and the dollar amount spent on gear, clothing, and other expenditures. L. Clark obtained a stratified random sample of hunters from the ASPIRA licensing system of resident and non-resident hunters who purchased a firearms or bow license during the 2023-24 season. A sample pool of 10,327 hunters were chosen (out of a total of 70,776 hunters who had both purchased a license and had provided an email address). The survey was sent to all 10,327 hunters on March 19. To date, 1,783 responses have been received (17% response rate).

### ***Northern Bobwhite***

No report.

### ***American Woodcock***

J.Sloan attended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s training on data entry for this upcoming American Woodcock Singing-ground Survey on April 4<sup>th</sup> . This year data will be entered through “Naturecounts” in cooperation with Bird Canada to streamline the process for participating parties.

Bureau of Wildlife Management personnel are conducting 7 American Woodcock Singing-ground surveys in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Morris, and Salem counties. The survey will be completed in the next reporting period.

### ***Ruffed Grouse***

J. Garris checked access to ruffed grouse routes in Sussex and Warren counties. The Old Mine Rd from Millbrook south to Worthington State Park has been gated/closed by Delaware Water Gap National Recreation so that ruffed grouse route will not be run this spring. One ruffed grouse route has been completed of 11 total that will be run this spring. No grouse were heard drumming on the route that was already run.

### ***Wild Turkey***

#### **Wild Turkey Research Project Update-**

#### South Study Area

Out of the original 25 telemetry equipped hens, 23 are accounted for and alive while 2 are confirmed deceased. Of the 23, 8 are currently incubating.

#### North Study Area

Out of the original 26 telemetry equipped hens, 12 are accounted for and alive while 3 are confirmed deceased, 5 are unconfirmed deceased, and 5 are currently missing. Of the 12, 2 are currently incubating. 1 of the deceased birds was predated while incubating.

Spring breeding season and the topography of Sussex County have made it complicated to track certain birds. A flight is scheduled during the next reporting period to locate missing birds. Earliest incubation occurred on April 3, 2024.

**Objective 2 – To participate in business meetings and monitoring programs of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC), Northeast Fur Resources Technical Committee (NEFRTC), Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee (NEUGBTC), and Short-leaf Pine Initiative (SPI).**

#### ***National Bobwhite and Grassland Initiative (NBGI)***

No report.

#### ***Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee (NEUGBTC)***

No report.

#### ***National Wild Turkey Federation Technical Committee***

*No report.*

#### ***Trapping Matters Workshop***

P. Stark, R. Ferraro, and A. Damminger attended a Trapping Matters Workshop on April 10 in Hadley, Massachusetts, hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Topics covered in this professional development workshop included communication skills, traps and trapping techniques, and Best Management Practices for trapping and furbearer management.

**Objective 4 – To provide technical guidance to landowners interested in providing wildlife habitat on their lands.**

No report.

**Objective 5 – To disseminate accurate and appropriate information on upland game and furbearer programs to sportsmen, public, state, and local agencies, and other organizations.**

J.Sloan attended an internal game code meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

J.Sloan participated in an interview with Tom P. from Rack and Fin Radio on April 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the upcoming Spring Gobbler Season.

P. Stark attended the annual New Jersey Mosquito Control Association convention in Atlantic City, NJ on March 22 and gave a presentation on approaches to beaver management. The talk was well-received, and numerous follow-up questions were answered.

P. Stark and J. Garris attended the annual New Jersey Trapper's Association fur collection and sale at Space Farms on March 23-24. A total of 413 muskrat pelts were aged and sexed.

P. Stark coordinated with D. Rizzio (I&E) to make several changes to the main Trapping page on the NJFW website.

Staff answered numerous questions and provided input to identify various species of wildlife and scat from pictures/videos/audio and conversations with constituents.

**Other**

No report.

**WATERFOWL - STUDY PLAN IV**

Ted Nichols, Supervising Biologist  
Austin Damminger, Assistant Biologist

**Objective 1 – Migratory game bird monitoring programs**

### ***Breeding Waterfowl Survey***

All maps and materials for the Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Survey were prepared and distributed. This survey is completed annually from mid-April to mid-May by counting waterfowl in one square kilometer plots stratified through the 5 physiographic strata of the state. A total of 92 plots are randomly located within these strata. Field surveys began on April 12 on inland plots and will be completed by May 5. Salt marsh plots will be completed between late April and May 12. All Atlantic Flyway states from New Hampshire to Virginia have participated in this survey since 1989. Results of this survey are used in conjunction with other waterfowl population data to set waterfowl hunting season regulations in the Atlantic Flyway. This survey is also used to document changes in the abundance and distribution of the primary breeding waterfowl species in the Atlantic Flyway.

### **Objective 2 – To participate in programs of the Atlantic Flyway Council and Joint Ventures**

#### ***North American Wetlands Conservation Act ACJV Committee***

T. Nichols served on the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) North American Wetlands Conservation Act Review Committee. Nichols reviewed and ranked 7 NAWCA proposals submitted within the ACJV geographic area and participated in an online committee meeting to submit final ranks to the NAWCA Council. The 7 projects totaled over 25,000 acres, requested \$16.5 million in NAWCA funds while leveraging \$36 million in match funds.

### **Objectives 3 and 4 – Research studies**

#### ***Sea Duck Fecundity Study***

Since the fall of 2018, Atlantic Flyway partners implemented a sea duck photo survey to evaluate the utility of digital photographs to estimate annual fecundity of sea ducks. The survey uses plumage characteristic to measure the proportion of juveniles in the fall flight and wintering grounds for scoters (white-winged, black, and surf) and long-tailed ducks. Reliable estimates of fecundity are expected to aid in the development of future population models and inform harvest management decisions for sea ducks.

For the 2023 fall field season, 30 photos were submitted from New Jersey during 30 October – 16 November and uploaded to the Atlantic Flyway SharePoint site. AFCTS Diving Duck Chair Kelsey Sullivan (Maine) coalesced usable photos from participating states across the Flyway and clipped 1,913 individual birds for the survey. Seasonal technician David Weber made species/age/sex classifications on all survey birds which will be including for a flyway-wide productivity estimate for sea ducks.

#### ***Atlantic brant research***

T. Nichols commented on and wrote sections of the second draft of a manuscript, “Temporal variation in survival of Atlantic brant and its relation to hunter harvest”. Lead author is Kevin

Dufour (CWS), with contributions by J. Leafloor, (CWS) and J. Dooley (USFWS). Plans are to submit the manuscript to Journal of Wildlife Management.

### **2024-25 Migratory Bird Season Regulations**

NJFW completed the process of selecting 2024-25 migratory bird hunting season dates and bag limits. During March, program biologists held a meeting with the Migratory Bird Season Selection Committee. A recommendation endorsed by this committee was presented and approved by the Fish and Game Council on April 17. Updated regulations and a waterfowl status report were posted on the NJFW website.

Below are changes from last year and other highlights:

- The Canada goose season length was shortened from 45 to 30 days in the North and South Zones; however, the bag limit remains at 3 birds. In the Coastal Zone, the season length remains at 60 days concurrent with the duck season, and the bag limit remains at 2 Canada geese.
- The brant season remains a restrictive season at 30 days with a 1-bird bag limit.

Each year, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) develops migratory bird hunting framework regulations including season length, bag limits, and earliest and latest season opening dates, after input and consultation with the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils. The Flyway Councils are comprised of representatives from state wildlife agencies that work with the Service to cooperatively manage North America's migratory birds. States must choose their season date selections within the sideboards of these framework regulations.

The Fish and Game Council promulgated New Jersey 2024-25 migratory bird season dates at their April meeting. Proposed season dates were developed by NJFW with input from a 6-member committee of sportsmen. Further, constituents were able to provide comment for a 30-day period on the 2024-25 proposed season dates following their release on March 15. Further, during the fall of 2023, NJFW conducted a comprehensive survey of New Jersey's waterfowl hunters. Results from the hunter survey were used to help guide NJFW and the committee in selecting 2024-25 season dates. A report of waterfowl hunter survey results is available at:

<https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/waterfowl-hunter-survey-2023.pdf>

### **DUCKS**

Population modeling indicated that the liberal alternative of a 60-day season with a 6-bird bag limit was the optimal choice for ducks in Atlantic Flyway states. The daily duck bag limit will be 6 ducks in aggregate and may not include more than: 4 mallards (including no more than 2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 sea ducks in aggregate but not more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders (including not more than 1

hen eider), as well as 1 black-bellied or fulvous whistling duck. The scaup bag limit will remain at 1 bird during the first 40 days, and 2 birds during the last 20 days, of the duck season in each zone. Hunters should remember that sea ducks (black, surf, and white-winged scoters, long-tailed ducks, and eiders) can now only be hunted when the regular duck season is open in each zone and are included with the bag limit of 6 ducks. The bag limit is 6 ducks for all other “regular” duck species. Merganser bag limits will be 5 mergansers (common, red-breasted, and hooded, either singly, or in aggregate) per day and are in addition to regular duck bag limits.

New Jersey has 3 waterfowl zones, and each zone includes either 10 or 11 different Saturdays during the hunting season. [Given New Jersey’s zoning alignment, duck hunters who are willing to travel across zone boundaries can hunt](#) 83 different days, including 15 different Saturdays, during the 60-day duck season.

### **CANADA GEESE**

Canada goose hunting zones in the Atlantic Flyway are established based on the most abundant or most vulnerable population occurring in that zone during the hunting season. The zone designations, including Resident, Atlantic, and North Atlantic, are based on band recovery data. Because Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese are common in New Jersey’s North and South Zones, the "regular" Canada goose season in these zones is based on the status of AP geese. AP Canada geese nest on the Ungava Peninsula of northern Quebec and are New Jersey's primary migrant Canada goose population. After a period of population stability from 2000-2010, AP geese have struggled for over a decade due to poor gosling production resulting from chronically late arctic springs. Although climate data indicate a rapid warming trend through most of the Canadian arctic, particularly during winter and fall, the *spring season* in the eastern Canadian arctic, where AP geese breed, has experienced chronically cold conditions for the past several years (<https://changingclimate.ca/CCCR2019/>).

The Atlantic Flyway Council uses an Integrated Population Model (IPM) for managing AP geese. The IPM uses banding data to measure survival and harvest rates, survey data to measure population size, and weather data from northern Quebec to predict young production. The IPM synthesizes these data streams to predict population size for the following year. Further, the IPM compares predicted measures of young production and population size to the actual measurements and scales itself to ensure more accurate future model predictions. The IPM predicts 147,500 pairs for the 2024 breeding season whereupon the AP harvest strategy calls for a moderate season of 30 days with a 3-bird bag limit in AP Zones of New England and Mid-Atlantic states. For New Jersey, AP Zones include the North and South Zones. 2024 regulations are more restrictive when compared to last year’s 45-day season.

Because the Coastal Zone has relatively few band recoveries from AP Canada geese, it is designated as a North Atlantic Population (NAP) zone. NAP geese nest in low density throughout the boreal forest of Labrador and Newfoundland and winter primarily along the Atlantic Coast from the Canadian Maritimes to North Carolina. The NAP harvest strategy calls for a 60-day, 2-

bird bag limit in areas including New Jersey, so the Regular Canada goose season in the Coastal Zone will be concurrent with the duck season.

Resident Population (RP) Canada geese are overabundant throughout most of the United States and cause significant damage problems. As a result, additional hunting methods including the use of electronic calls, unplugged shotguns, extended hunting hours, and liberal bag limits are allowed during September hunting seasons. September seasons target RP geese since very few Atlantic Population or migrant geese arrive in New Jersey prior to October. Hunters need to remember that these special regulations only apply to the September Canada goose season (September 2-30, 2024).

### **ATLANTIC BRANT**

The Atlantic Flyway Council uses an Integrated Population Model (IPM) to predict future population size. The brant IPM uses estimates of population size from the Mid-Winter Survey, the annual fall age ratio from field surveys, as well as survival and harvest rates from banding data. The IPM 'smoothes' or stabilizes brant population estimates and the expectation is that brant harvest regulations change less frequently from year to year using the IPM.

The 2024 IPM prediction was 109,000 brant in the Mid-Winter Survey. As a result, the 2024 brant season will remain in a restrictive 30-day season and 1-bird bag limit. Hunters are reminded to carefully check brant season dates while going afield in the Coastal Zone for duck hunting to ensure the brant season is open if they wish to take brant as part of their bag.

### **LIGHT GEESE**

Greater and lesser snow geese as well as Ross's geese are collectively referred to as "light" geese. Light goose populations in the Atlantic Flyway have been above the population objective for 2 decades and biologists remain concerned about the impacts light geese can have on nesting, staging and wintering habitats. Serious damage to agriculture also occurs in migration and wintering areas. Regulation frameworks allow the maximum days permitted under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (107 days) with a liberal bag limit of 25 light geese per day with no possession limit. In addition, states are permitted to implement a Conservation Order (CO). A CO is a special management action, authorized by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, that is needed to control certain wildlife populations when traditional management programs are unsuccessful in preventing overabundance of that population. The CO allows an extended time period outside of traditional hunting seasons as well as additional methods for taking light geese without bag limits. The intent of the CO is to reduce and/or stabilize North American light goose populations that are above population objectives. During the CO, special regulations will be allowed including the use of electronic calls, shotguns capable of holding up to 7 shells, extended shooting hours, and no bag limits. Those wishing to participate in the CO can obtain a 2025 Light Goose Conservation Order permit through NJFW's license page.

### **YOUTH & VETERANS/ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS**

Since 1997, the Service has allowed states to hold Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days on non-school days, when youths have an opportunity to participate, and are closed to the general hunting public. The objective of Youth Days is to introduce young hunters to ethical use and stewardship of waterfowl, encourage youngsters and adults to experience the outdoors together, and to contribute to the long-term conservation of migratory birds. Youth Days are a unique educational opportunity, above and beyond the regular season, that helps ensure high-quality learning experiences for youth interested in hunting. One Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day will be held on the Saturday prior to the duck season opener in each of NJ's three zones.

Beginning in 2019, the Service allowed states to hold special hunting days outside the regular hunting season for Veterans and Active Military personnel to recognize their service to our country. These days allow a unique opportunity for Veterans and Active Military personnel to share hunting experiences together in a less-crowded hunting environment. On Saturday, November 2, a statewide Veterans/Active Military Hunting Day will be held.

Finally, on Saturday, February 1, a "joint" Youth and Veterans/Military Hunting Day will be held statewide. This day will give Youth and Veteran/Military hunters the opportunity to share a unique hunting experience either independently or together.

Bag limits for these special opportunity days will include ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots, and gallinules and are the same as bag limits allowed in the regular season in each zone although the scaup bag limit on these days which will be 2 scaup per day and count towards the bag limit of 6 ducks.

### **WEBLESS SPECIES**

New Jersey has always been an important migration area for rails and woodcock. Woodcock are abundant during fall migration and some also spend winter in New Jersey. Some of the highest concentrations of sora rails in the US occur in New Jersey's tidal freshwater marshes that are dominated by wild rice. Although not nearly as popular as in the past, New Jersey still has a tradition of "mud hen" or clapper rail hunting in early September along the Atlantic Coast. Ample hunting opportunities and public land access abound for all these species.

### **Objective 5 – To provide technical guidance for enhancement and acquisition of migratory game bird habitats.**

#### **Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee**

No Report.

### **Objective 6 – Outreach**

No Report.

### **Other**

T. Nichols coordinated completion of the Bureau of Wildlife's federal grant narrative and budget for the upcoming 5-year cycle.

The Federal 2024-25 Migratory Bird Season selection documents were completed and sent to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Program biologists participated in a meeting to discuss and recommend changes to the 2025 Game Code.

A. Damminger participated in the Trapping Matters Workshop in Hadley, MA.

### **Black Bear Research Project**

Mike Madonia, Principal Wildlife Biologist  
Joe Burke, Wildlife Technician  
Emilia Topp, Biologist Trainee  
Michael Patrick, Wildlife Technician  
Peter Stark, Biologist Trainee  
Maureen Kinlan, Biologist Trainee  
Ryan Ferraro, Biologist Trainee  
Benjamin Laubach, Senior Wildlife Worker  
Christian Nitko, Senior Wildlife Worker  
Amy DeCheser, Wildlife Technician  
Grace Johnson, Senior Wildlife Worker

### **Bear Control: Lethal and Non-Lethal**

The black bear unit received a total of 117 bear calls from March 20, 2024 to April 21, 2024; this compares with 131 calls from the same time period in 2023.

The black bear unit received 7 Category I calls, 66 Category II calls and 44 Category III calls for the time period March 20, 2024 to April 21, 2024; this compares to 11 Category I calls, 73 Category II calls and 46 Category III calls for the same time period in 2023.

The black bear unit received a total of 157 bear calls from January 1, 2024 to April 21, 2024; this compares with 159 calls from the same time period in 2023.

The black bear unit received 8 Category I calls, 84 Category II calls, and 65 Category III calls for the time period January 1, 2024 to April 21, 2024; this compares to 13 Category I calls, 86 Category II calls and 59 Category III calls for the same time period in 2023.

As of April 21, 2024, the total number of calls received by the Division decreased 1.2 percent from the same time period in 2023. Category I incidents decreased 38.4 percent, Category II calls decreased 2.3 percent and Category III calls increased 10.1 percent for the same time period in 2023. This data does not include all calls made to local police departments.

### **Research**

Project personnel continue to edit and input research data into the bear database.

### **Damage/Nuisance Control**

Project personnel continue to provide technical advice for damage complaint incidents and set traps for Category 1 behavior.

### **Cooperative Research**

Project personnel continue to work on cooperative research projects with East Stroudsburg University.

### **Wildlife Nuisance Complaints/ Technical Guidance (Federal Aid Project)**

#### **BREAKDOWN OF COMPLAINTS BY SPECIES**

Bat	1	Otter	3
Bear	117	Owl	1
Beaver	16	Rabbit	4
Bird	12	Raccoon	18
Bobcat	2	Skunk	4
Coyote	19	Snake	2
Deer	31	Squirrel	11
Duck	3	Swan	5
Fish	1	Turkey	8
Fisher	1	Turtle	2
Flying Squirrel	1	Unknown	4
Fox	58	Vulture	5
Goose	14	Woodchuck	4
Opossum	5		

**235 calls for the Federal Aid Project.**

**Total calls: 352 (\*black bear calls are not included in this project).**

