

**BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**MAY 2025**

**James Oxley, Chief**

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

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

Jodi Powers, Supervising Wildlife Biologist

Megan Mills, Senior Biologist (Northern Region)

Megan McCafferty, Senior Biologist (Southern Region)

Brian Schumm, Senior 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, and ownership, date, and season.**

The 2024-25 deer harvest data has been analyzed. All charts, tables and graphs have been updated. Harvest data was uploaded to the agency website.

**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.**

No Report

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

J. Powers answered several surveys launched by states within the Northeast. Surveys included use of drones, venison donation programs, and feral pigs.

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

The Deer Team continues to prepare and plan for a future research project dependent on federal grant approval..

**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.**

M. McCafferty and M. Mills continued editing and reviewing deer season charts and special area dates for the 2025-26 Digest.

M. McCafferty attended the Cumberland County chapter of the Sportsman Federation and the Salem County Club to present the results of the 2024-25 Harvest as well as the results for each specific county.

M. Mills attended NJ Federation of Sportsman chapter meetings for Bergen County, Warren County and a joint Hunterdon-Somerset County to present the results of the 2024-25 statewide harvest as well as the results for each specific county and general updates for the deer project.

The Deer Team corresponded with the following entities regarding deer management: Closter, Bergen County and a presentation has been scheduled.

A presentation for all Bergen County mayors has been scheduled.

B. Schumm and M. Mills gave a deer management presentation to Ocean Twp. Monmouth County.

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

The Deer Team and Dr. Patrick Connelly, OWHF, have entered into a partnership with Cornell University in regard to CWD surveillance and monitoring. Best sampling practices will be determined. A meeting in June has been scheduled to determine specifics.

#### **Extension Activities**

The Deer Project Team has received reports for injured deer, sick deer, and fawns from the public and continues to provide guidance and to work with the pathology team and USDA Animal Control if needed and to decide the best course of action for these deer.

M. McCafferty and M. Mills continue open communication with Special Areas as the 2025-26 digest is being reviewed and the 2024-25 hunting season has concluded.

NJFW again received an appropriation of \$160,000 from the state general fund. This allocation must be used to advance deer management in suburban communities. Deer Project launched a grant application similar to the grant in 2024. The closing period for communities to apply was May 9, 2025. Applications will be evaluated next month.

J. Powers, Chief Oxley and AD Meistrell spoke to a contractor from NJCF regarding deer and deer management.

M. McCafferty represented the agency at the Sportsmen's Jamboree.

#### **Other Activities**

The Deer Project Team is continuing to review data collected from the density surveys via spotlight counts from Pequest WMA.

The Deer Project Team attended a two-day Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization of Animals course in Connecticut presented by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Academy.

The Deer Project attended the Bureau of Wildlife Management staff meeting where J. Powers gave an update on the project's activities and an overview of the Safe Capture Training.

The Deer Project team has completed the process to hire a new seasonal employee to fill a vacant position on the team.

Deer Project Staff attended a meeting with BWM staff to plan a mast survey.

J. Powers attended several internal meetings to discuss both legal and illegal captive cervid herds. Response plans and policies are being written. CWD prevention is the main focus.

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

James Sloan, Senior Biologist  
Joseph R. Garris, Wildlife Technician I  
Tim Ruth, Biologist Trainee  
Peter Stark, Senior Biologist  
Alexandrea Nickel, Seasonal Technician  
Shelby Gravatt, Seasonal Technician  
Richard Strittmatter, Seasonal Technician  
Jodi Bauer, Seasonal Technician  
Michael Ferraro, Seasonal Technician  
Michelle McGill, 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.**

##### *Northern Bobwhite*

No report

##### *Ruffed Grouse*

Garris conducted ruffed grouse drumming routes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties. A total of 11 separate ruffed grouse drumming routes were conducted from April 15 to the current date. Each of the 11 routes is scheduled to be run twice, each time on different days, one time from stop 1 to the end and then one time from the last stop to the beginning. Each route is run beginning

½ hour before sunrise and each route generally takes about 2 ½ hours to complete. The route consists of consecutive stops ½ mile apart with a 4-minute listening period at each stop. Nineteen of the 22 routes were completed to date. Ruffed grouse were heard drumming on 5 of the routes with a total of 8 individual grouse heard.

Two ruffed grouse drumming routes have been completed during this reporting period.

### *Wild Turkey*

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

##### North Study Area

Current number of hen turkeys on air: 27

10 hens started incubating during this reporting period. 2 hens have had successful nests.

##### South Study Area

Current number of hen turkeys on air: 42

26 hens started incubating during this reporting period. 3 hens have had successful nests. 7 nests have been abandoned.

All disease samples were submitted to the University of Pennsylvania for testing. Results should be received prior to the close of the fiscal year.

2025 Spring Gobbler Season harvest was up 147 birds for a total of 2,468. Please see the breakdown by Turkey Hunting Area below-

<b>2025 Spring Gobbler Harvest</b>			
<b>THA</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Change</b>
1	46	43	+3
2	70	50	+20
3	9	18	-9
4	62	70	-8
5	56	59	-3
6	64	68	-4
7	51	54	-3
8	111	105	+6
9	114	79	+35

10	27	42	-15
11	157	141	+16
12	127	118	+9
14	241	198	+43
15	36	41	-5
16	102	101	+1
20	625	607	+18
21	359	329	+30
22	211	198	+13
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>+147</b>

#### *American Woodcock*

M.K. Lisi along Bureau of Wildlife Management personnel completed 7 American Woodcock Singing-ground surveys in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Morris, and Salem counties. Lisi finalized and submitted the data to the USFWS.

Garris conducted a Woodcock Singing Ground Survey Route in northern Sussex County.

#### *Beaver and River Otter*

No report

#### *Coyote Harvest*

A total of 660 coyotes have been reported as harvested during the 2024-25 hunting and trapping seasons (Sept. 28, 2024 – Mar. 15, 2025, and April 19 - May 23, 2025). This is a combined total of all individual harvest records submitted to the Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS) or to regional state offices. This total also includes coyotes harvested incidental to the spring turkey season. Project staff will continue to record coyote harvest numbers until the end of May.

#### *Gray Fox Harvest*

No report

#### *Gray Fox/Fisher Multistate Conservation Grant*

No report

#### *Trapper Harvest Survey*

The 2024-25 Trapper Harvest Survey was mailed at the close of the 2024-25 Trapping Season on March 15, 2025, to all licensed trappers (n=1445). Based on the results of the survey, 58% of licensed trappers (n=833) were estimated to be active during the 2024-25 season and expended a total of 455,699 trap nights. Trappers spent an average of 32 days afield. The three most harvested species were muskrat, raccoon, and red fox, which together accounted for an estimated 77% of the total harvest. The average catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all species was 6.31. The estimated harvest from the 2024-25 season is presented in the table below.

	# Active trappers	Annual est. harvest	Avg. 5-year harvest	% Change	Avg. 10-year harvest	% Change
	2024-25	2024-25	2020-2025	2020-2025	2015-2025	2015-2025
Beaver <sup>1</sup>	200 permits	597	646	-8%	664	-11%
Bobcat		No season	No season		No season	
Coyote <sup>2</sup>	325	460	329	28%	260	43%
Fisher		No season	No season		No season	
Gray fox <sup>3</sup>	151	231	135	42%	137	41%
Mink	145	687	778	-13%	930	-35%
Muskrat	203	5,210	9,587	-84%	10,018	-92%
Nutria <sup>4</sup>		0	0	0%	0	0%
Opossum	247	1073	625	42%	646	40%
Raccoon	548	6,332	5,146	19%	5,485	13%
Red fox	479	4,086	2,951	28%	3,812	7%
River otter <sup>1</sup>	146 permits	45	45	0%	46	-2%
Skunk	145	308	253	18%	292	5%
Weasel	12	12	5	57%	7	45%

**Table 1.** Comparison of harvest estimates from the New Jersey 2024-25 trapping season compared to 5- and 10-year averages. Actual harvest numbers are shown for beaver, river otter, and coyote.

<sup>1</sup> Actual harvest figures as reported annually at official checking stations.

<sup>2</sup> Reported harvest figures as required by N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11(g).

<sup>3</sup> Voluntary reporting of gray fox harvest is encouraged through the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRs).

<sup>4</sup> There has been no verified occurrence or harvest of nutria in New Jersey since 1980.

**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

*Northeast Fur Resources Technical Committee (NEFRTC)*

No report

**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. Garriss and P. Stark attended the New Jersey Trapper's Association annual fur sale in Wantage Twp on March 23. A total of 143 muskrat pelts were aged and sexed by J. Garriss during the fur intake on March 22.

P. Stark attended the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Trapping Committee meeting on April 24 and gave a furbearer project update.

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

Garriss participated in and passed shotgun and .22 rifle requalification at the Black River firearms range.

## **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS - INVESTIGATION I**

Austin Damminger, Senior Biologist

Mary Kate Lisi, Biologist Trainee

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

#### ***Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Survey***

Division personnel and cooperators completed the New Jersey portion of the annual Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Survey. All Atlantic Flyway states from New Hampshire to Virginia have participated in this survey since 1989. Results of this survey are used to document changes in the abundance and distribution of the primary breeding waterfowl species in the Atlantic Flyway. Survey data are also used in conjunction with other waterfowl population data to set waterfowl hunting seasons.

In New Jersey, this survey was completed by recording waterfowl observed in 92 randomly located, one square kilometer plots, that are located throughout the state. Plots were completed from 14 April to 12 May. Data were submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for compilation. Results will be available in the next monthly segment. Program staff cleaned, repaired, and organized all gear used during surveys.

#### ***American Woodcock Singing-ground Survey***

M.K. Lisi along Bureau of Wildlife Management personnel completed 7 American Woodcock Singing-ground surveys in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Morris, and Salem counties. Lisi finalized and submitted the data to the USFWS.

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

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

#### ***Atlantic Population Canada Goose Research***

A. Damminger continued correspondence with hunters that harvested AP geese wearing GPS collars and coordinated shipping replica collars and creating maps of those bird's movements. Transmitter deployment data was updated in the Atlantic Flyway SharePoint and Ornitela.

### **2025-26 Migratory Bird Season Regulations**

NJFW completed the process of selecting 2025-26 migratory bird hunting season dates and bag limits. During March, J. Sloan (represented A. Damminger) 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 May 13. 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 remains at 30 days in the North and South Zones; however, the bag limit is reduced to 1 bird. 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.
- The northern pintail bag limit is increased 3 birds.

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 2025-26 migratory bird season dates at their March meeting. Proposed season dates were developed by NJFW with input from a 6-member committee of sportsmen. 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 2025-26 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, 3 pintails, 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 70](#) different days, including 12 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 133,500 pairs for the 2025 breeding season whereupon the AP harvest strategy calls for a moderate season. Due to consistently low productivity the Atlantic Flyway Council voted on a restrictive season of 30 days with a 1-bird bag limit in AP Zones of New England and Mid-Atlantic states. For New Jersey, AP Zones include the North and South Zones. 2025 regulations are more restrictive when compared to last year's 30-day 3-bird bag limit 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 1-30, 2025).

## **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 2025 IPM prediction was 111,000 brant in the Mid-Winter Survey. As a result, the 2025 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 2026 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 8, a statewide Veterans/Active Military Hunting Day will be held.

Finally, on Saturday, January 31, 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.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

All hunters pursuing migratory birds including ducks, geese, brant, coot, woodcock, rails, snipe or gallinules, are reminded to obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification. Migratory bird hunters can get their HIP certification online by visiting NJFW's license sales web site or at any license agent.

The 2025-26 New Jersey migratory bird hunting season dates follow. Migratory bird regulations will be included in the New Jersey Hunting and Trapping Digest that will be available online and at license agents in August.

**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

**Trainings**

**Other**

A. Damminger assisted ENSP on their Migratory Shorebird Aerial Survey as navigator for three flights along the Delaware Bay. The survey focuses on estimating abundance of red knots and ruddy turnstones.

A. Damminger completed the Federal 2025-26 Migratory Bird Season selection documents and sent them to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

A. Damminger participated and completed the Safe Capture – Chemical Immobilization of Animals training.

A. Damminger assisted NJFW's Information & Education R3 program with a mentored women's turkey hunt. Damminger spent an afternoon scouting and two mornings as a mentor.

A. Damminger and M.K. Lisi attended the March Fish and Council meeting. Damminger presented the proposed 2025-26 Migratory Bird Season dates.

A. Damminger and M.K. Lisi attended the Bureau of Wildlife Management Staff Meeting. Damminger presented Mig. Bird Program's 2025 winter trapping accomplishments along with NJFW's contributions to the multiple waterfowl telemetry projects since they started in 2018.

A. Damminger and M.K. Lisi started manipulating the water levels in the six Tuckahoe WMA impoundments. Water levels are being adjusted for shorebird and waterfowl migration and nesting. In addition, one impoundment is being prepped for an aerial seeding in early June.

M.K. Lisi attended DEP's New Hire NJFW's Experience training.

M.K. Lisi attended DEP's New Hire virtual seminar.

M.K. Lisi assisted the Upland Bird Program with tracking telemetered turkeys and nest checks.

### **Black Bear Research Project**

Mike Madonia, Principal Wildlife Biologist

Joe Burke, Wildlife Technician

Emilia Topp, Senior Biologist

Michael Patrick, Wildlife Technician

Peter Stark, Senior Biologist

Kaitlyn Barone, Senior Wildlife Worker

Ryan Ferraro, Assisting Biologist

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 100 bear calls from April 20, 2025 to May 21, 2025; this compares with 198 calls from the same time period in 2024.

The black bear unit received 8 Category I calls, 37 Category II calls and 55 Category III calls for the time period April 20, 2025 to May 21, 2025; this compares to 10 Category I calls, 87 Category II calls and 101 Category III calls for the same time period in 2024.

The black bear unit received a total of 257 bear calls from January 1, 2025 to May 21, 2025; this compares with 358 calls from the same time period in 2024.

The black bear unit received 24 Category I calls, 100 Category II calls and 133 Category III calls for the time period January 1, 2025 to May 21, 2025; this compares to 19 Category I calls, 175 Category II calls and 164 Category III calls for the same time period in 2024.

As of May 21, 2025, the total number of calls received by the Division decreased 28.2% percent from the same time period in 2024. Category I incidents increased 26.3 percent, Category II calls

decreased 42.8 percent and Category III calls decreased 18.9 percent for the same time period in 2024. 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	Mouse	1
Bear	100	Opossum	1
Beaver	6	Osprey	3
Bird	10	Otter	1
Bobcat	4	Rabbit	2
Chipmunk	1	Raccoon	14
Coyote	19	Raven	1
Deer	39	Skunk	4
Duck	7	Snake	2
Eagle	1	Swan	2
Fisher	1	Turkey	8
Fox	58	Turtle	1
Goose	4	Unknown	1
Gull	3	Vulture	4
Hawk	4	Woodchuck	12

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

**Total calls: 315 (\*black bear calls are not included in this project).**