

April 9, 2021



Turkey Season is Here!

[Wild turkey](#) hunting season opened on April 3 with one week dedicated to youth hunting. The statewide season runs April 10 – May 8. Hopes are high that it will be another impressive harvest season, as the turkey population remains robust.

Last month, the agency published a [gobbling chronology report](#) summarizing the findings of a four-year study that tracked wild turkey gobbling activity across the state. The data confirmed high levels of gobbling activity in April and May, likely leading to high levels of hunter satisfaction.

Hunters are limited to two turkeys for the season, only one of which may be taken during the youth season. As you prepare for your hunt, please remember our [Home from the Hunt](#) safety tips and to report your turkey harvest on a [Big Game Harvest Report Card](#).

[Buy a License](#)



Hatchery Supported Waters Now Open

Approximately 900 miles of [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters](#) are now open in western N.C. until Feb. 28, 2022. Staff will continue to stock the waters with nearly 787,000 [trout](#) through August — 96% of which will average 10 inches in length, with the other 4% exceeding 14 inches in length. Anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limit or bait restriction. Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are open to public fishing, however many of those miles are privately owned. Please respect the property where you fish. Read our guidelines [here](#).

[Stocking Schedule](#)



Striped Bass Harvest on the Lower Roanoke River Opens Saturday

The striped bass harvest season in the [Roanoke River Management Area](#) opens Saturday and will run:

- April 10–16 in the lower river zone (downstream of the U.S. Highway 258 bridge at Scotland Neck to the mouth at Albemarle Sound).
- April 24–30 in the upper river zone (upstream of the U.S. Highway 258 bridge at Scotland Neck to the base of Roanoke Rapids Dam)

Fishing reports from the Roanoke, Tar, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers will be posted weekly on the agency's [Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports webpage](#), providing data from springtime electrofishing sampling and creel survey updates for striped bass, American shad and hickory shad.

[Read more](#)



Springtime in the Wild

Increased songbird chatter and swirling pollen mean spring is here. As critters emerge from their winter habitats and forage for food, please remember to leave wildlife alone. Wild parents often go exploring, leaving their young behind for both short and long periods of time. Fight the urge to handle, remove or feed young animals that you think are orphaned. Instead, call the [NC Wildlife Helpline](#) at 866-318-2401. A wildlife biologist will help to assess the situation and determine next steps.

A Cub's Story



Wildlife Enforcement Officer Performs Lifesaving Mission

Last month, Master Officer David Ritzheimer assisted in the rescue of a kayaker who had turned his vessel over on Falls Reservoir and had been underwater for several minutes. Ritzheimer and a deputy from the Stanly County Sheriff's Office took turns performing CPR for multiple minutes before the kayaker was revived and able to breath on his own. The kayaker was then taken to the hospital for treatment.

An act of heroism like this makes being a wildlife enforcement officer rewarding and unique. If you have a passion for the outdoors and want to serve your community like Officer Ritzheimer, a career in our law enforcement division may be right for you.

[Become a Wildlife Officer](#)



AREA CLOSED BIRD NESTING AREA

DR. JAMES F. PARNELL
WATERBIRD SANCTUARY SYSTEM

NO ENTRY • NO DOGS
APRIL 1 - AUGUST 31

WATERBIRDS, THEIR NESTS AND EGGS ARE PROTECTED BY STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS
DISTURBANCE CAUSES LOSS OF EGGS AND YOUNG

ACCESS PERMITTED
SEPTEMBER 1 - MARCH 31



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC
Report Violations - Call Toll Free - 1-800-662-7137

Shorebirds and Colonial Waterbirds Are Nesting

Keep an eye out for bird nests found directly on the sandy beaches or islands along the sound this April through August. Nests are difficult to see since eggs and chicks blend in with the sand. Wildlife Commission biologists and cooperators have marked known areas with posts and signage, but some areas may not be marked. Extra caution is appreciated!

[More About Waterbirds](#)



We Make Great Neighbors

The Wildlife Commission has recently partnered with the Nextdoor social platform, which gives us the ability to reach more N.C. residents than ever before. We'll have the ability to target information by region, county and even neighborhood. We look forward to using Nextdoor in exciting new ways, such as region-specific, wildlife-related alerts including prescribed burns on game lands and bear interactions, to statewide information such as hunting and fishing season dates and regulations.

[Join Nextdoor](#)



Click to subscribe to the *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine YouTube channel.

WINC on YouTube

Wildlife in North Carolina's new YouTube channel will complement magazine articles with additional video footage. Featured content will include "Wild & Tasty" recipes, on-the-scene coverage, interviews, how-to demonstrations, promotional information and more.

[Watch Now](#)



Reminders

New Guidance on Zebra Mussels: The Wildlife Commission continues to monitor the [zebra mussel](#) situation in N.C., as the invasive species was found in aquatic moss balls sold throughout the country and the state. If you've purchased moss balls since Feb. 1, please review our new [informational video](#) and [updated alert](#) about the 3 Ds. **DESTROY. DISPOSE. DISINFECT.**

[Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee Seeking Members](#): Nominations for [expert and at-large seats](#). Individuals should [apply](#) by April 30.

Nominate an Individual or Organization for the [Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award](#): Nominations for both the individual and organization categories are being accepted through May 1. View nomination procedures [here](#).

Tax Deadline Extended May 17: Donate a portion or all of your refund to the [Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund](#). Simply check line 30 on your state income tax form or tell you tax preparer you'd like to donate. If you're e-filing, check the box to donate when prompted.

Already filed? Give year-round to the [N.C. Wildlife Diversity Endowment Fund](#) or register for a Wildlife Conservation [license plate](#).

[NC Bird Atlas](#) **Surveying has Begun:** Follow the program as it takes flight on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Wildlife Recreation Guide

Curious about what you can hunt, fish and trap this time of year? Check out our [Regulations Digest](#) online.

In-Season:

[Inland Fishing](#)

[Wild Turkey](#)

- Statewide, April 10 – May 8

Your license is just a click away!

[Buy a License](#)

Upcoming Classes, Workshops & Programs:

Virtual and in-person opportunities are available!

[Beyond BOW](#), Fly-Fishing Basics for Women, April 17

[ForestHer NC](#), Protecting Your Woods Webinar Series #2: Non-timber income and agritourism, May 13

Ongoing classes:

[John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center](#), Fayetteville

[Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education](#), Pisgah Forest

[Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education](#), Corolla



Species Spotlight // Feral Swine

[Feral swine](#) are non-native invaders, capable of severe impacts on native wildlife and plants. They tend to be covered in stiff, bristly hair and can be white, black, brown or red in color. Feral swine can be up to 6 feet long, 40 inches tall and between 150 – 220 pounds. Although shy and elusive, they can thrive in urban, suburban and rural areas across N.C.

Feral swine forage by digging up soil. This rooting behavior causes at least \$1.5 billion in damage annually to stream banks, crops, landscaping, etc. across the U.S. Due to this behavior and the diseases they can transmit, they are deemed highly destructive and should be removed wherever they occur. Trapping of entire groups with corral-style traps followed by targeted removal of any remaining pigs is the best method of control. Read more about feral swine [here](#).

To address the harmful impacts of feral swine to wildlife and natural resources, the Wildlife Commission is part of the [NC Feral Swine Task Force](#), a partnership with the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services and N.C. Cooperative Extension. The Task Force works closely with landowners to measure damages caused by feral swine and establish a collaborative, effective strategy to remove them from the landscape. Check out the task force's [website](#) to learn about managing and reporting feral swine.

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