

# Wildlife Services

Protecting People  
Protecting Agriculture  
Protecting Wildlife

## State Report

FY 2010

# New Jersey



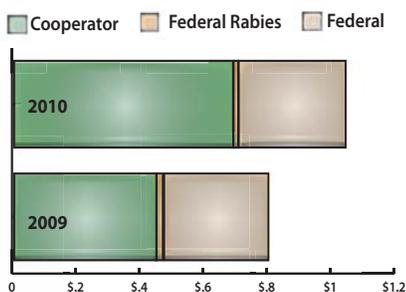
### Contact Information:

Wendy Anderson, New Jersey  
Wildlife Services State Director  
140-C Locust Grove Road  
Pittstown, NJ 08867  
Phone: (908) 735-5654  
FAX: (908) 735-0821  
Toll-Free Number: 1-866-4USDAWS  
(1-866-487-3297)  
wendy.anderson@aphis.usda.gov  
www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\_damage

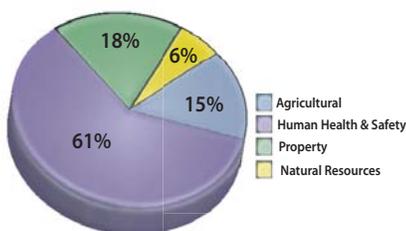
### Major Cooperators

- New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
- New Jersey Departments of Agriculture and Health and Senior Services
- Federal Aviation Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Port Authority of NY and NJ
- South Jersey Transportation Authority
- New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
- Rutgers University
- East Stroudsburg University
- County and Municipal Governments

### Total Funding (Millions)



### Resources Protected % of Total Funds



### USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in New Jersey

Every day, residents, industries, organizations, municipalities and agencies call on New Jersey Wildlife Services (WS) for assistance in protecting agriculture, human health and safety, natural resources, and property from damage or threats posed by wildlife. WS' professional wildlife biologists and specialists are trained to manage wildlife conflicts with effective, selective, and humane strategies. New Jersey's diverse ecological mix of urban and suburban settings and agricultural, forested, and coastal environments provides varied wildlife habitats amongst the nation's highest human population density. Diverse wildlife habitat amidst dense human population creates varied and numerous opportunities for wildlife-human conflicts. WS is service-oriented and focuses program delivery to optimize the values of wildlife, while reducing its impact on agriculture, natural resources, property, and human health and safety.

Specific projects conducted by WS in New Jersey include protecting rare and threatened birds from predation, protecting restored wetlands from goose damage, sampling and monitoring for wildlife-borne disease; managing agricultural and property damage caused by waterfowl, blackbirds, and other wildlife, and reducing safety hazards at airports.

### Applying Science & Expertise to Wildlife Challenges

WS offers information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable many people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. Often, this technical assistance can be provided over the phone. WS also provides on-site expertise, or direct assistance, to manage complex wildlife problems that cannot be safely resolved by others. To support this effort, WS conducts scientific research across the nation to develop answers to new problems posed by human-wildlife conflicts and to ensure WS services benefit from the latest science and technology.

**Protecting Agricultural Resources from Bird Damage**—Bird damage in New Jersey includes resident Canada goose damage to pastures, berries, grains, vegetables, and sod, black vulture damage to livestock, and blackbird and starling damage at dairies and feedlots. WS assists farmers in acquiring permits and provides guidance on the use and effectiveness of harassment, farming practice adaptations, and habitat modifications.

**Protecting Human Health and Safety at Airports**—Wildlife/aircraft strikes cause more than \$615 million in damage to U.S. civil aviation annually. Globally, wildlife strikes have killed more than 219 people and destroyed over 200 aircraft since 1988. In New Jersey, many wildlife species are increasing in abundance and distribution and pose unacceptable safety hazards. WS has worked with New Jersey airports to provide a safe operating environment since 1989, with the goal of minimizing hazards wildlife to aviation while balancing natural resources protection. In FY 2010, WS assisted at least 12 certificated and general aviation airports and military installations throughout the state by conducting wildlife hazard management training, providing on-airport wildlife management consultations, developing wildlife hazard assessments and management plans, reviewing design plans for proposed development near airports, and implementing management programs to protect public and aviation safety. Additionally, WS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) scientists develop innovative methods to minimize wildlife use of airports and to detect wildlife that will aid in avoiding strikes with aircraft. WS biologists in New Jersey then implement the new management techniques to reduce wildlife hazards at airports.

**Protecting Human Health and Safety from Canada Geese**—New Jersey supports the greatest density of resident Canada geese on the East Coast, estimated at 76,190 birds. WS receives more requests for assistance related to Canada goose damage than for any other wildlife species. WS works with local governments, organizations, and landowners to design and implement Canada goose damage management programs that balance the conservation of this wildlife species with responsibilities for protecting agriculture, property, natural resources and human health and safety. Each year, WS assists more



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

than 400 New Jersey residents with goose-related problems through technical advice and consultations, seminars and forums to provide scientific information, assistance in obtaining the proper Federal and State permits, nest and egg treatments to limit reproduction, habitat modification, harassment and behavior modification programs, and local population management.

**Partnering to Investigate Wildlife Disease Issues**—Wildlife diseases are increasingly being transmitted to people, pets, and livestock in the U.S. and around the world. The WS program in New Jersey plays a crucial role in wildlife disease surveillance, prevention, and eradication. WS' wildlife disease sampling efforts include various avian, swine, and tick diseases.

WS participates in the national surveillance for highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild migratory birds and coordinates a multi-agency partnership among Federal, State, and private agencies to collect samples from shorebirds, waterfowl, and the environment in general. Over 1400 avian influenza samples were collected by WS in New Jersey during the 2009 biological year (April 2009-March 2010).

WS has also partnered with State agencies to conduct population and disease surveillance of New Jersey's feral swine since 2008. WS has captured and tested 13 feral swine, and tested an additional 14 from hunter harvests, for classical swine fever, pseudorabies, and swine brucellosis; all yielding negative results for the presence of disease.

In FY 2010, WS began collaborating with East Stroudsburg University (ESU) on tick diseases and has submitted over 1000 ticks from throughout the state for screening of pathogens. Also in FY 2010, WS began working with NWRC on collecting plague and tularemia samples from management projects in an effort to increase the size and capabilities of the archive. WS also collaborates with NWRC and ESU on investigating salmonella and E. coli transmission by European starlings at dairy farms.

**Conserving Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Birds**—New Jersey's 150-mile-long coastline has potential as valuable habitat for threatened and endangered (T&E) shorebirds. Wildlife competition, predation, and suburban shore community development can be detrimental. WS protects the State-endangered piping plover, least tern, and black skimmer on four Federal coastal properties. It coordinates interagency meetings on predation management in order to increase involvement, operational support and enhanced communications for T&E programs. Participation of private organizations with State and Federal agencies will improve programs to ensure continuation of these rare species in New Jersey.

WS biologists at the Atlantic City International Airport conduct T&E species monitoring surveys to identify the number and location of nesting upland sandpipers (State-endangered) and grasshopper sparrows (State-threatened). The data are used in airport operation decisions and bird hazard management activities, which contributes to species conservation by reduced bird/aircraft strikes involving rare birds.

**Protecting Rare Habitats from Depredation**—WS conducts management to reduce Canada goose damage on restored wetlands in the New Jersey Meadowlands complex and on a rare native wild rice ecosystem on the Maurice River. Integrated goose damage management programs are implemented through partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, and citizens.

**Protecting Property**—WS New Jersey provides recommendations to those experiencing wildlife damage to property and assists in obtaining Federal permits to reduce property damage associated with migratory birds, especially Canada geese, gulls, and vultures. WS biologists demonstrate and implement the use of specialized equipment, including pyrotechnics, night-vision equipment, remote-controlled vehicles, laser devices, and effigies to detect and harass birds away from damage sites.

**Protecting Property from Vulture Damage**—Bird surveys indicate increasing populations of both turkey vultures and black vultures in New Jersey. Vultures congregate in large roosts, often hundreds of birds, frequently located in residential areas. New Jersey citizens report damage from accumulation of feces to decks, rooftops, vehicles, and other property, and tearing or consuming of asphalt shingles and rubber roofing material, upholstery, and window caulking. WS offers technical advice, assists with the Federal permit process, and implements harassment measures to disperse roosts and local management projects to reinforce harassment programs and reduce damage for the long-term.

### Looking to the Future

WS provides New Jersey with safe, effective, and humane assistance for a diverse and expanding range of wildlife conflicts, but some people continue to experience wildlife damage problems. Assessing wildlife conflicts and implementing appropriate management requires expertise and resources beyond the reach of many citizens. New Jersey's large population of resident Canada geese will pose increased challenges as will the increasing populations of deer, gulls, and vultures. WS will continue to expand its program areas in New Jersey to provide those requesting assistance with wildlife damage issues the most effective and cost efficient resources available.

### New Jersey Wildlife Services Funding

In addition to receiving Federally-allocated funds, WS receives funding from agricultural producers, airports, private individuals, businesses, and other Federal, State, and local government agencies. In most cases, these cooperators request assistance from WS to resolve wildlife damage problems or they play a role in wildlife damage management.

#### Top 5 Major Assistance Activities:

- Protecting property and public health from damage associated with Canada geese
- Protecting civil and military aviation from wildlife strikes
- Protecting agriculture from damage caused by birds
- Protecting rare, threatened, and endangered birds and habitats from predation
- Monitoring and surveillance of wildlife diseases

#### Top 3 WS Research Projects of Interest to New Jersey:

- Defining and reducing wildlife hazards to aviation
- Evaluating waterfowl as disease, parasite, and noxious weed reservoirs
- Managing wildlife transmission of diseases