

# Muscatatuck

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2025–2026



### Welcome

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1966 along the Vernon Fork of the Muscatatuck River "...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds" The refuge mission is to restore, preserve, and manage a mix of forest, wetland, and grassland habitat for fish, wildlife and people. More than 290 species of birds have been seen at Muscatatuck, and the refuge is recognized as a "Continentially Important" bird area.

### Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

### Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads. ATV and UTVs are prohibited.

### Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

### Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

### Access

Hunters may only access the Refuge from 1 hour before sunrise to one hour after legal sunset.

Hunters may park in designated parking areas or along roadsides so long as no part of the vehicle is in the road. Blocking trails or levees is prohibited.

### Big Game

**Draw Hunts:** Youth Turkey, Spring Turkey (first six days), Youth Deer hunts are by Draw only. Hunters can apply on the Indiana DNR website: [www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/](http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/)

**Stands:** All stands, blinds, or platforms must be removed daily.

**Weapons and Ammo:** Deer can only be hunted with archery equipment and muzzle loader rifles. During youth deer season, hunters may use state approved firearms for public lands. Only non-toxic shot can be used in shotguns on the refuge.

### Migratory Bird/Upland Game and Small Game

- Blinds must be removed daily.
- Dogs may be used and must be under control of the handler at all times.

### To Report Violations

- 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477)
- For emergencies call 911. For non-wildlife related incidents/accidents call the State Police at 1-800-566-6704.
- For other problems/to leave information call the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge office at 812-522-4352

### Muscatatuck Hunting Permit 2025—2026

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Expires July 31, 2026

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Signature (permits are not transferable)

## Prohibited Activities

- Trail cameras are prohibited
- Tree stands, platforms, & portable blinds must be removed daily
- Use of lights to locate game on the refuge is prohibited
- Baiting wildlife is not permitted
- Use or possession of alcohol while hunting is prohibited
- Use or possession of plastic flagging or reflective tacks is prohibited
- Cutting trails or trimming trees is prohibited
- Commercial guiding or participating in a paid commercial hunt is prohibited.
- Taking or harassing any animal other than those authorized to hunt is prohibited

12985 E. U.S. Highway 50  
Seymour, IN 47274

812-522-4352

[www.fws.gov/refuge/muscatatuck](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/muscatatuck)

[Muscatatuck@fws.gov](mailto:Muscatatuck@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1-800-344-WILD

August 2025



## Signs and Boundaries

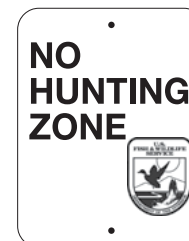
Please respect the following signs:



- No vehicles:  
All Traffic  
prohibited



- Closed Area:  
Do not enter  
for any  
reason.



- No Hunting  
Zone: No  
hunting or  
weapons  
permitted here.

Activity	Bag Limit	Hunting Dates	Special Regulations
<b>Snipe</b>	8	Sep. 1 2025 - Dec. 16, 2026	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
<b>Woodcock</b>	3	Oct. 15, 2025 - Nov. 28, 2025	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
<b>Ducks, Coots, Mergansers</b>	See state hunting regulations for bag limits	Nov. 8-9, 2025 Nov. 29, 2025 - Jan 25, 2026	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
<b>Geese</b>	See state hunting regulations for bag limits	Sept. 1-14, 2025 Nov. 8-12, 2025 Nov. 22, 2025 - Feb. 15, 2026	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
<b>Mourning Dove</b>	15	Sept. 1 - Oct. 19, 2025 Nov 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 20-30, 2025	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
<b>Youth and Veterans Hunt</b>	See state hunting regulations for bag limits	Oct. 25 - 26, 2025	Unit B Only State Regulations apply

Activity	Bag Limit	Hunting Dates	Special Regulations
<b>Archery Deer</b>	1 deer per day 1 buck or 1 doe	Oct 1, 2025 – Jan 4, 2026	Can not use military/refuge license
<b>Muzzleloader Deer</b>	1 deer per day 1 buck or 1 doe	Dec. 6 - 21, 2025	Cannot use military/refuge license.
<b>Deer Youth</b>	1 deer per day 1 buck or 1 doe	Sep. 27 - 28, 2025	Draw only May use military/refuge license
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	1 bearded or male turkey	Apr. 22 - May 10, 2026	Draw only first six days (Ends at 1 p.m. each day) Non-toxic shot only
<b>Youth Turkey</b>	1 bearded or male turkey	Apr, 18 - 19, 2026	Draw only (Ends at 1 p.m. each day) Non-toxic shot only
<b>Red and Gray Fox</b>	None	Oct. 15, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
<b>Striped Skunk</b>	None	Oct. 15, 2025 – Mar. 15 2026	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
<b>Raccoon &amp; Opossum</b>	None	Nov. 8, 2025 – Jan. 31, 2026	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
<b>Coyote</b>	None	See Refuge deer hunt dates	Coyote hunting by permitted deer hunters only.
<b>Gray and Fox Squirrel</b>	5	Aug. 15, 2025 – Jan. 31, 2026	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
<b>Rabbit</b>	5	Nov. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
<b>Quail</b>	8	Nov. 1, 2025 – Jan. 10, 2026	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed



