

Muscatatuck

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2026–2027



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 Civil Rights, <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/

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 2026—2027

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, 2027

Signature (permits are not transferable)

Prohibited Activities

By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.

- We prohibit the use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices such as game cameras
- Tree stands, platforms, & portable blinds must be removed daily
- Use of lights to located 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

Muscatatuck@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD (9453)

August 2026



Signs and Boundaries

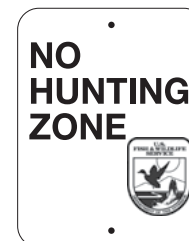
Please respect the following signs:



- No vehicles:
All Traffic
prohibited



- Closed Area:



Do not enter
for any reason.

Activity	Bag Limit	Hunting Dates	Special Regulations
Snipe	8	Sep. 1 2026 - Dec. 16, 2027	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
Woodcock	3	Oct. 15, 2026 - Nov. 28, 2026	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
Ducks, Coots, Mergansers	See state hunting regulations for bag limits	Nov. 7-8, 2026 Nov. 28, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
Geese	See state hunting regulations for bag limits	Sept. 1-13, 2026 Nov. 7-11, 2026 Nov. 21, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
Mourning Dove	15	Sept. 1 - Oct. 18, 2026 Nov 1, 2026 - Nov. 29, 2026 Dec. 19-31, 2026	Unit B Only State Regulations apply
Youth and Veterans Hunt	See state hunting regulations for bag limits	Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 2026	Unit B Only State Regulations apply

Activity	Bag Limit	Hunting Dates	Special Regulations
Archery Deer	1 deer per day 1 buck or 1 doe	Oct 1, 2026 – Jan 3, 2027	Can not use military/refuge license
Muzzleloader Deer	1 deer per day 1 buck or 1 doe	Dec. 5 - 20, 2026	Cannot use military/refuge license.
Deer Youth	1 deer per day 1 buck or 1 doe	Sep. 26 - 27, 2026	Draw only May use military/refuge license
Spring Turkey	1 bearded or male turkey	Apr. 22 - May 10, 2027	Draw only first six days (Ends at 1 p.m. each day) Non-toxic shot only
Youth Turkey	1 bearded or male turkey	Apr, 18 - 19, 2027	Draw only (Ends at 1 p.m. each day) Non-toxic shot only
Red and Gray Fox	None	Oct. 15, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
Striped Skunk	None	Oct. 15, 2026 – Mar. 15 2027	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
Raccoon & Opossum	None	Nov. 8, 2026 – Jan. 31, 2027	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
Coyote	None	See Refuge deer hunt dates	Coyote hunting by permitted deer hunters only.
Gray and Fox Squirrel	5	Aug. 15, 2026 – Jan. 31, 2027	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
Rabbit	5	Nov. 1, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed
Quail	8	Nov. 1, 2026 – Jan. 10, 2027	Non-toxic shot only in shotguns. Rim fire rifles allowed



