

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge  
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September 2014



# Great Swamp

*National Wildlife  
Refuge*

*Mammals*

White footed mouse on Pussy willow  
Blaine J. Rothausen



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is in north-central New Jersey in Morris County. The refuge contains nearly 8,000 acres of hardwood swamp, upland forest, brush, marsh and ponds, and poorly drained pasture habitat. In 1968, the eastern half of the refuge was designated as a Wilderness Area-to be left forever wild.

Although established primarily to conserve habitat for migratory birds, there is an abundance of other wildlife on the refuge, including many mammals. Toward evening, visitors are likely to see whitetail deer feeding in the fields. Raccoon are common but rarely seen during daylight hours. Muskrats may be seen in wet areas at dawn and dusk especially during the spring.



Fawn



Opossum

The following list was prepared in cooperation with the Biology Department at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Scientific names generally follow Hall, *The Mammals of North America, Second Edition*.

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#### **Opossum**

(*Didelphis virginiana*)

Common along streams and marshes near woodland areas.

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#### **Masked Shrew**

(*Sorex cinereus*)

Found in poorly drained fields.

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#### **Smoky Shrew**

(*Sorex fumeus*)

Inhabits most fields and most wooded areas.

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#### **Short-Tailed Shrew**

(*Blarina brevicauda*)

Common in wooded and swampy areas.

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#### **Starnose Mole**

(*Condylura cristata*)

Abundant in vicinity of swamps and brooks.

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#### **Big Brown Bat**

(*Eptesicus fuscus*)

Common around the refuge. Roost in hollow trees, under tree bark or in man-made structures.

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#### **Little Brown Bat**

(*Myotis lucifugus*)

Once among the most common bat on the refuge, White-nose Syndrome has heavily decreased their population. Eats up to 1/3 of its body weight in insects each night.

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#### **Indiana Bat**

(*Myotis sodalis*)

This federally endangered, tree-roosting species population is in severe decline due to White-nose Syndrome.

Bats are summer residents of the refuge, migrating from caves and abandoned mines where they hibernate in winter.



Gray Squirrel

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**Tricolor Bat**

(*Perimyotis subflavus*)

This tree-roosting species is the smallest bat regularly occurring on the refuge.

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**Northern long-eared Bat**

(*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Fairly common; prefers to forage in forest interiors.

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**Red Bat**

(*Lasiurus borealis*)

This solitary creature is occasionally seen during the day flying along wooded streams, and is one of the few bats that regularly gives birth to twins.

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**Eastern small-footed Bat**

(*Myotis leibii*)

Roosting in rock crevices, caves and buildings, this species sometimes passes through the refuge during migration.

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**Hoary Bat**

(*Lasiurus cinereus*)

Hunts alone, main food source is moths, prefers woodlands, mainly coniferous forests

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**Silver-haired Bat**

(*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)

Not often observed on the refuge. Solitary, tree roosting bat that migrates further south for the winter.

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**Black Bear**

(*Ursus americanus*)

Occasionally observed on the refuge. Prefers forested wetland habitats. Feeds on beach nuts, acorns, fruits, insects and some mammals.

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**Raccoon**

(*Procyon lotor*)

Very numerous over the entire refuge.

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**Long-tailed Weasel**

(*Mustela frenata*)

A common but infrequently seen inhabitant of upland areas.

**Raccoon**



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**Fisher**

(*Martes pennanti*)

A medium-sized forest-dwelling predator in the weasel family. Re-establishing in New Jersey. Rare.

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**Mink**

(*Mustela vison*)

Fairly common in wet areas but rarely seen.

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**River Otter**

(*Lutra canadensis*)

Present in moderate numbers. Found in waterways and refuge impoundments. Feeds mainly on fish and crayfish.

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**Striped Skunk**

(*Mephitis mephitis*)

Present but seldom seen.

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**Red Fox**

(*Vulpes vulpes*)

Common throughout the refuge.

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**Gray Fox**

(*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

Found in brushy woodlands. Rare.

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**Woodchuck**

(*Marmota monax*)

Occasionally seen near their burrows in dry upland fields and woodlands.

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**Eastern Chipmunk**

(*Tamias striatus*)

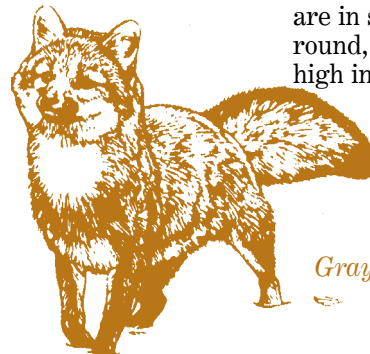
Commonly found in upland woods.

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**Gray Squirrel**

(*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Very common in upland hardwoods. When hollow trees are in short supply, look for their round, leaf nests constructed high in the tops of trees.



Gray Fox



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**Red Squirrel**

(*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

May be seen in evergreen trees or surrounding hardwoods.

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**Southern Flying Squirrel**

(*Glaucomys volans*)

Fairly common, but seldom seen during the day.

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**Beaver**

(*Castor Canadensis*)

Uncommon, but may be observed in or near the refuge's brooks.

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**White-footed Mouse**

(*Peromyscus leucopus*)

Abundant in woodland areas.

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**Southern Red-backed Vole**

(*Clethrionomys gapperi*)

A ground-dwelling vole found in damp and cool forests.

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**Meadow Vole**

(*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)

Common in fields and grassy areas.

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**Woodland Vole**

(*Microtus pinetorum*)

Primarily found in deciduous woodlands.

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**Muskrat**

(*Ondatra zibethicus*)

Populations are cyclic. Look for their mound-shaped houses in swamps and marshes.

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**House Mouse**

(*Mus musculus*)

Present in fields and buildings.

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**Meadow Jumping Mouse**

(*Zapus hudsonius*)

Occasionally seen in fields. May be mistaken for frogs when seen jumping through the grass.

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**Woodland Jumping Mouse**

(*Napaeozapus insignis*)

Found in wet and heavily wooded areas.

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**Eastern Cottontail**

(*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

Found in brushy upland areas.

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**White-tailed Deer**

(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Common throughout the refuge. Viewing opportunities best in early morning and early evening.

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**Coyote**

(*Canis latrans*)

Coyotes were first observed on the refuge in the early 1990s. They are rarely seen, but sometimes in the evening a series of high-pitched yaps may be heard.

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**Bobcat**

(*Lynx rufus*)

Rarely observed on the refuge.



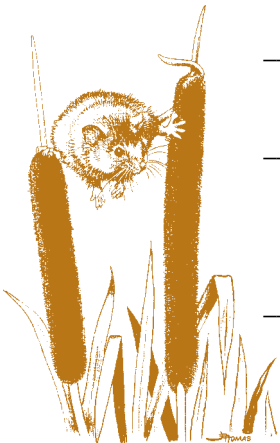
Beaver

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Great Swamp is one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represent the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages National Fish Hatcheries, and provides Federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.



House Mouse