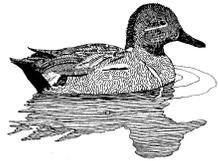
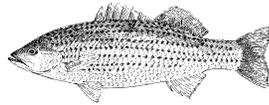


## October

Large numbers of Canada and snow geese arrive. Duck numbers increase as pintail, mallard, and black ducks begin their fall migration. Bur marigolds bloom in freshwater pools. Weakfish, summer flounder, and striped bass in the Delaware Bay migrate south.



## November

Peak of fall waterfowl migration. Common species include Canada geese, snow geese (blue and white phase), gadwall, mallard, black duck, pintail, American widgeon, wood duck, northern shoveler, blue-winged and green-winged teal, ruddy duck, and hooded merganser.



## December

Eagles often seen perched on leafless branches. High populations of wintering birds, especially waterfowl, throughout the month unless a hard freeze pushes them further south.

### NOTE:

Because of the abundance of wetland habitat on the Refuge, mosquitoes, ticks, and biting fly populations are very high from June through September. During these months, the Refuge staff suggests you wear long sleeves and slacks, and bring insect repellent and a head net when you visit.



Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is open to visitors daily, from half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset. Additional information can be obtained by calling (302) 684-8419, or by visiting our website at <http://primehook.fws.gov>. The Refuge is located at 11978 Turtle Pond Road, Milton, Delaware, 19968.



## PRIME HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

### NATURE'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is a breathtaking natural resource and remains Delaware's hidden treasure for wildlife. The Refuge is approximately 10,000 acres on the Western Coast of the Delaware Bay. Often unnoticed, the Refuge is home to thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds, songbirds, plants, insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and a diverse array of habitats. The Refuge is open year round for hiking, photography, and nature observations. Opportunities and experiences are endless at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. This calendar will help guide your visit during any season.



## January

The Red-tailed and marsh hawks are commonly observed. Bald eagles begin rebuilding their nests. Large numbers of snow geese return to the marsh in the early evening. Pintail ducks can be seen in the marshes when the ice begins to break.

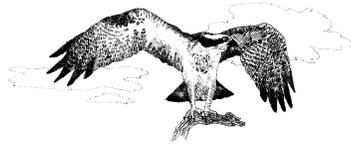
## February

Bald Eagle eggs are laid and incubation begins. Large flocks of ducks and geese remain in the marshes. Yellow perch are spawning at the end of the month. Wood frog chorus is in full voice.



## March

The spring waterfowl migration peaks. Ducks, snow geese, and Canada geese are abundant. Snow geese depart from the refuge at the end of the month. Ospreys arrive to being nesting. Woodchucks and turtles emerge from hibernation. Woodcock courtship flights occur. Alders and red maples begin to flower. Deer ticks emerge. River herring and white perch enter the tidal streams during their spring spawning migrations to freshwater. The Refuge begins a slow draw down of the marshes to stimulate the growth of aquatic vegetation as food for waterfowl in the fall.



## April

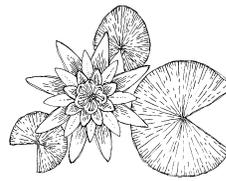
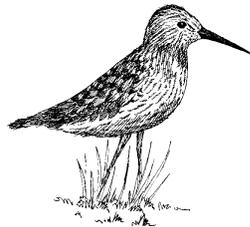
Bald eagle eggs hatch. Ospreys lay their eggs. Early spring songbird migration begins. Tree swallow, hummingbirds, and purple martins return.



Spring peeper chorus and leopard frog chorus is in full voice. Spring wildflowers in bloom. Largemouth bass and black crappie begin spawning in ponds and rivers.

## May

Peak concentrations of shorebirds and songbirds. Horseshoe crabs move onto the Delaware Bay's shore and begin laying eggs. Weakfish become abundant in shallow waters along the beach. Bluegills and pumpkinseed sunfish begin spawning in their freshwater habitats. Bullfrogs and green frogs join the swamp chorus. Warbler migration peaks. Snapping turtles lay eggs. Tulip trees, lady slippers, and spring wildflowers are in full bloom. Duck broods appear. Osprey eggs hatch. First Whitetail deer fawns seen.



## June

Baby eagles leave their nests. Water lilies bloom. Black necked stilts begin nesting in the marshes. Ospreys fledge from nests. Flies become abundant. Shorebirds migration continues to mid-month. Horseshoe crabs spawning ends at mid month.

## July

Many ducks broods are present in the marsh impoundments. The first shorebirds arrive late in the month on their southward migration flight. Large concentrations of wading birds, including herons, egrets, and ibis are present. Antlers of whitetail deer are in velvet. Deer flies are present.



## August

Increased numbers of shorebirds. Green-winged and blue-winged teal begin to arrive. Cardinal flowers, rose mallow, and meadow beauties are in bloom. Deer flies are at their peak. Ground bees emerge to gather on the marsh mallow pollen for honey.



## September

Late migrating shorebirds and songbirds are present. Duck numbers increase. First migratory Canada geese and snow geese arrive. Tickseed sunflower, goldenrod, and Joe-Pye-weed in flower.

