

# Cape May

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D)  
Senator Robert Menendez (D)  
Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2nd)

### Contact

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### Purpose

The refuge was established to protect migratory birds along New Jersey's coast. It is a flagship project under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico to address declines in waterfowl populations.

### Public Use Notes

- Wildlife observation trails with extraordinary opportunities for bird watching
- Hunting for white-tailed deer and migratory game birds
- Seasonal access to one of the state's few remaining undeveloped beaches
- Among the nation's top 10 spots for migratory bird observation in the fall

### Management Activities

- An approved comprehensive conservation plan in September 2002 to guide future habitat management activities and public use opportunities
- Managing for threatened piping plovers along the Atlantic Flyway
- Controlling exotic animals and invasive plants on refuge lands
- New public use opportunities at the Two Mile Beach Unit established in 2002

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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### Highlights

Established with a 90-acre purchase from The Nature Conservancy, the growing refuge is one in a series of protected areas from Delaware Bay to Egg Harbor.

The only stop on the 6,000-mile spring migration for 80 percent of red knots and ruddy turnstones occurs on some refuge lands.

During fall migration, the refuge provides a major feeding and resting ground for woodcock and raptors.

The refuge serves as wintering habitat for a large percentage of the Atlantic Flyway's black duck population.

Cape May National Wildlife Refuge is one of 17 Ramsar designated wetlands in the United States.



*Red knot feeding*

USFWS

### Issues

Apparent red knot and horseshoe crab population declines; medical and commercial crab harvest competes with crab eggs as a food source for red knot and other migrating birds.

Development threatens the area's ecological integrity.

Seasonal closure of Two Mile Beach Unit beaches during piping plover nesting

Extensive illegal use of all-terrain vehicles on refuge property degrades habitat and requires increased law enforcement efforts.

