



Snow geese

# Bombay Hook

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D)  
Senator Thomas R. Carper (D)  
Rep. Michael N. Castle (R)

### Contact

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### Purpose

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge was established as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife ... for use as an inviolate sanctuary or any other management purpose for migratory birds ... and for its particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

### Public Use Notes

- Visitor contact area
- Wildlife viewing opportunities
- Bird walks
- Friends group sales outlet
- Auto tour route
- Five trails, interpretive walks, three observation towers
- Historic Allee House
- Wetland and forest studies
- Fully accessible trail and observation deck with scope
- Environmental education programs
- Spring and fall wildlife festivals
- Hunting (deer and waterfowl, including snow goose)

### Management Activities

- Water level impoundment manipulation
- Moist soil units
- Cooperative farming/cropland management
- Prescribed burning
- Forest fragmentation prevention
- Invasive plant control
- Bird population surveys
- Artificial nest structures
- Bird banding
- Law enforcement protection of habitat for bald eagles, peregrine falcons, shorebirds and other migratory bird species

### Highlights

During the fall migration, more than 100,000 snow geese migrate through Bombay Hook, along with several thousand Canada geese and an average of 25,000 ducks.

Bombay Hook is a major staging area for tens of thousands of shorebirds and horseshoe crabs in the spring.

The refuge has one active bald eagle nest and migrating peregrine falcons.

Eighty percent of the refuge is tidal salt marsh.

The refuge has one of the largest expanses of unaltered tidal salt marsh in the mid-Atlantic region.

The refuge is a nationally recognized birding spot that attracts birders from across the country and is designated as a Globally Important Bird Area.

### Issues

The impact of mosquito control by state agencies on the refuge.

Snow goose population expansion impacts habitat on other refuge wildlife.

Maintain awareness of potential contaminant situations, including oil spills in Delaware Bay.

Marsh loss, including erosion at Kelly Island.

Invasive plants and animals degrade the habitat.

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

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