

Deer Cooperator Permit



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Deer Cooperator Permit

Two types of Deer Cooperator Permits:

- Deer Cooperator Permit
 - Standard Permit is valid February 1 through March 31
 - Public Safety Provision valid year-round for sites such as airports and driver training facilities
 - Permit may be used on any lands with an approved operational plan
 - Limited antler provision
- Agricultural Deer Cooperator Permit
 - Permit is valid February 1 through March 31
 - Permit is site specific and may only be used on agricultural lands actively farmed for commercial crops experiencing deer damage with an approved operational plan
 - The permit may only be issued to the landowner, the lessee or an employee.
 - Antlerless only

Deer Cooperator Permit



Process

- Application and Acknowledgement form
- Background Check- Applicants may not have been convicted of any natural resource's violation with the past five years
- Information Packet & Reference Materials sent to applicant
- Applicants must successfully pass a written test and a shooting proficiency test
- \$100 fee
- Once approved permit holders need to submit an Operational Plan for approval prior to any operations
- DNR has 30 days to review the operational plan and either issue the permit or return for revisions.

Written Test

- An individual applying for either the Agricultural or Standard Deer Cooperator Permit is required to successfully complete a written test with a passing score of 80%
- The written test for both permits may contain questions related to:
 - Basic deer ecology
 - Firearm knowledge and safety
 - Deer cooperator permit requirements
 - Other questions necessary to determine an individual's ability to adequately assess, describe and implement a deer handling operation
- The Standard Deer Cooperator Permit may also include questions related to:
 - Current Statutes and regulations pertaining to wildlife, weapons and equipment details.
 - Deer data methodology
 - Lethal and non-lethal deer management alternatives

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Shooting Proficiency

- An individual applying for an Agricultural Deer Cooperator Permit is required to successfully complete a shooting proficiency test with an NRA certified instructor.
 - 9 of 10 shots in 2" circle 100 yards (centerfire rifle).
 - 9 of 10 shots in 2" circle 50 yards (rimfire rifle).
 - 9 of 10 shots in 4" circle 100 yards (shotgun).
- The NRA Certified Instructor must verify targets by signing, dating, and indicating instructor number on the target. Serial number of firearm, suppressor (if one is to be used), and ammunition used must also be included on the target.
- Validated targets shall be submitted DNR.

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An operational plan shall be submitted to the Service by January 1 for a 30-day review. We strongly encourage permittees to submit their plan early in case corrections need to be made.

The plan shall include:

- A description of the deer problem and what deer control efforts have been previously utilized
- Documentation of community support to include letters from local officials and nearby residents
- Requested number of deer to be removed
- Written permission from any landowner(s) who is not the permittee
- Letter of authorization from the County Office of Law permitting discharge of firearms including approval for shooting at night
- Hours of operation
- A complete list of shooters who must pass a background check and the shooting proficiency test

Operation plan requirements continued:

- Deer data collection protocols
- Full list of equipment to be used including serial numbers of firearms and suppressors
- A map of the location including positions, shooting distances, bait, tree stands, and vehicles
- Tagging and reporting process-all deer must be processed for consumption or donated to a local food bank. Any deer taken on public land must be donated to a local food bank
- Deer processor name (if applicable) and disposition of meat
- Copies of any applicable permits or certifications

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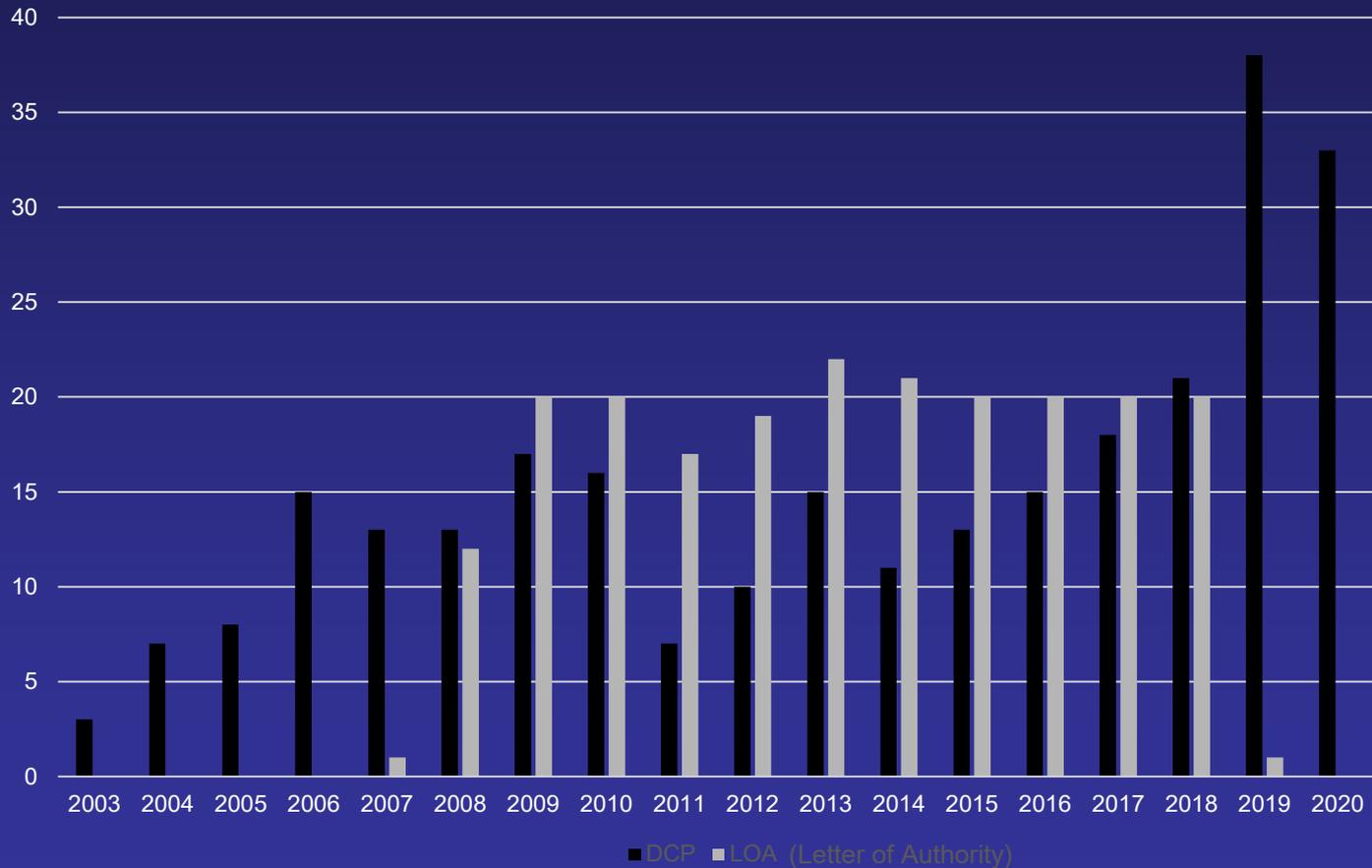


Reporting

- Permit holders operating between February 1 – March 31 must return final reports by April 15
- Year-round public safety permits are required to submit reports quarterly
- Antlers are required to be turned into a Wildlife and Heritage Service office within 10 days

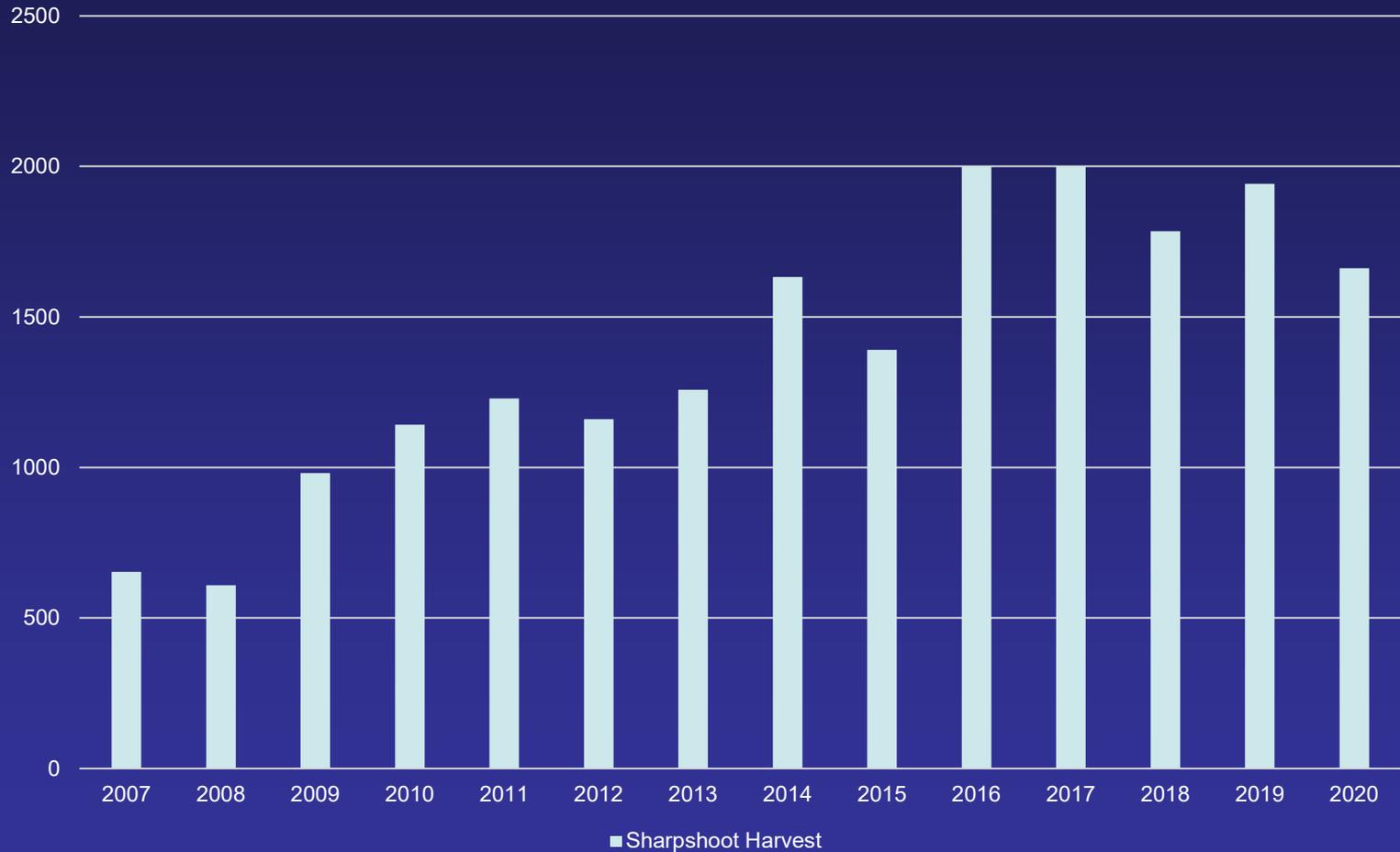
Deer Cooperator Permit

Number of LOA's and DCP's Issued Annually, 2003-2020



Deer Cooperator Permit

LOA-DCP Annual Harvest, 2007 - 2020



Deer Cooperator Permit



2021 Permits

- 35 active Deer Cooperator Permits
 - 4 Agricultural Permits
 - 31 standard Deer Cooperator Permits
- 42 operational plans
 - 12 of the operational plans are year-round permits issued under the public safety provision
 - To date 1,545 deer have been taken under the authority of a DCP

Deer Cooperator Permit

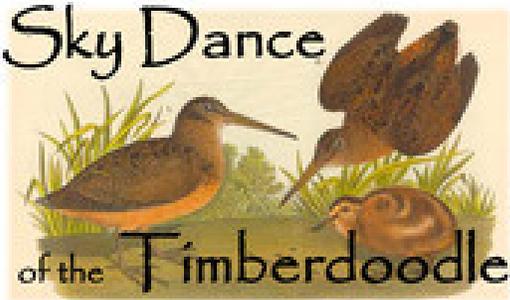
Questions ?





The Young Forest Project

GROWING WILDLIFE HABITAT TOGETHER

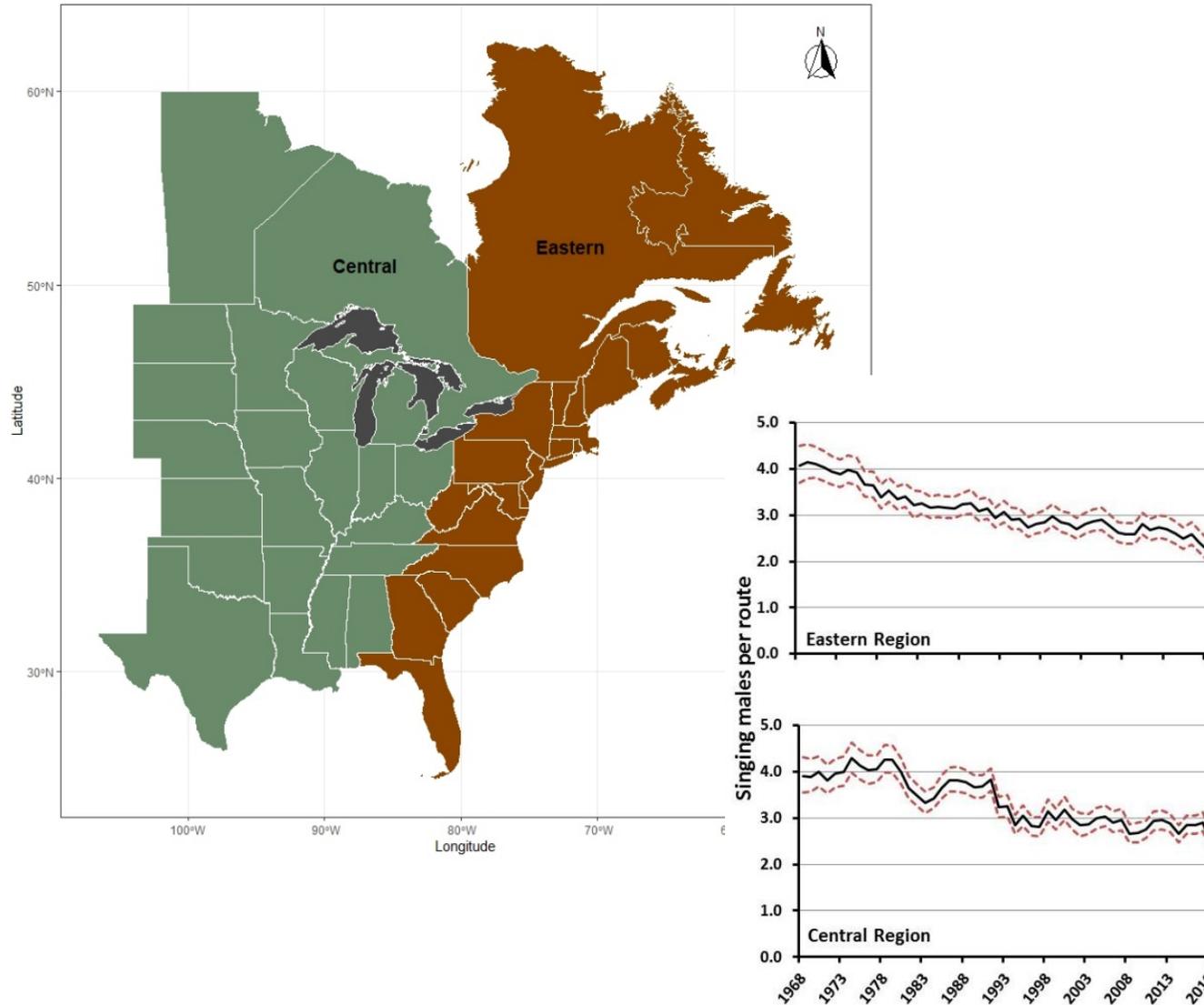


Saturday, April 7, at 7:00 pm
at Greenwood Furnace State Park.
*Program begins at the Visitor Center.
Please bring a flashlight.*



Join us for a program on one of the most bizarre and unknown native birds in Pennsylvania, the American Woodcock, also known as the "Timberdoodle." The program will begin at the Visitor Center, with a short talk about woodcocks. We will then walk a short distance to an area where the

Problem: large-scale, long term declines throughout the woodcock range.



Traditional data sources don't capture migration well:

- Singing ground survey
- Limited banding data
- Wing collections
- HIP surveys
- Local telemetry work

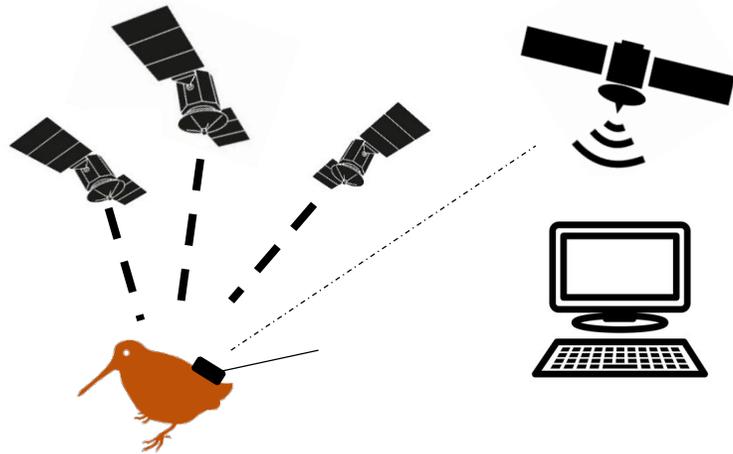
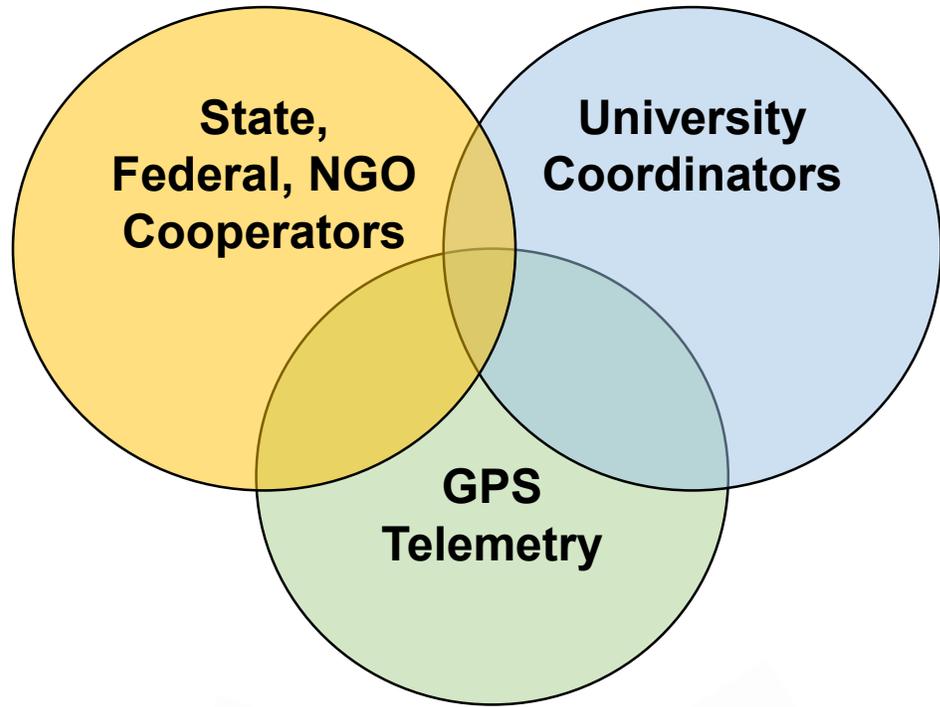
The Eastern Woodcock Migration Research Cooperative



And growing ...

Image: Patterson Clark/The Washington Post

Cooperative Goal: Support management of American Woodcock through research targeted at woodcock migration and the full annual cycle.



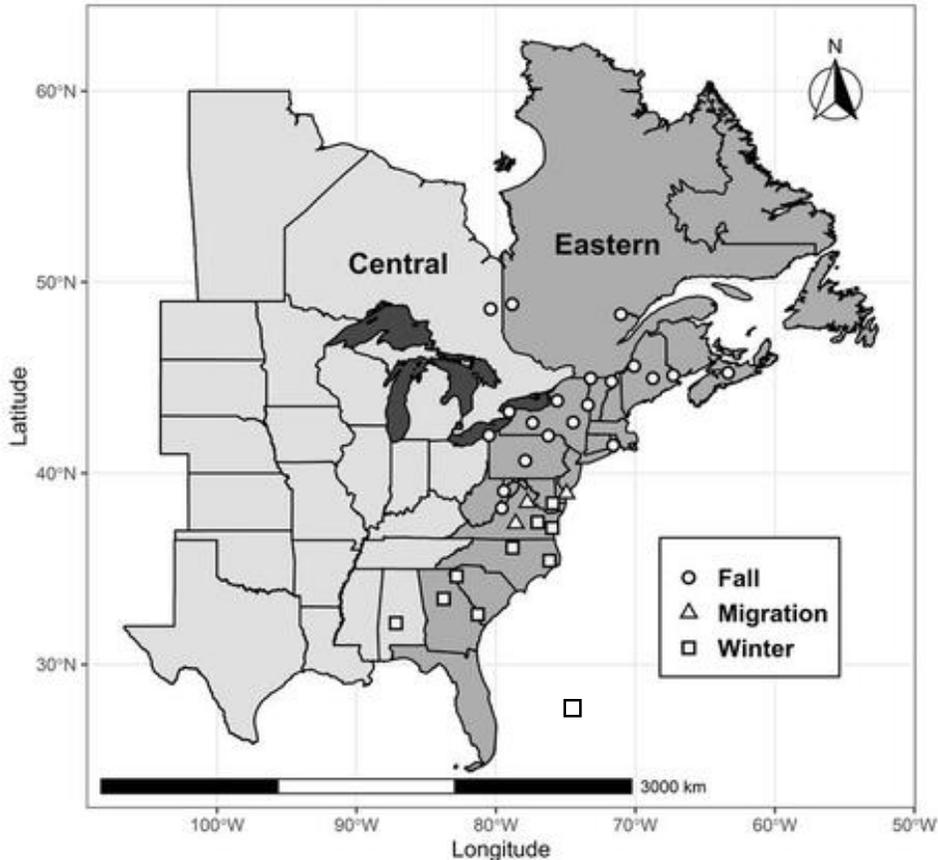


Capture Methods

- Mist Nets
- Night-lighting

To date **>430** GPS transmitters on woodcock in 14 states and 3 provinces.

Collected over 21,800 AMWO GPS locations over 4 years, logged >350,000 miles of woodcock movement paths



State/Province (Season)	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21*
ME (Fall)	6	7	-	6
ON (Fall)	-	2	3	-
QU (Fall)	-	5	10	7
NS (Fall)	-	-	7	-
NY (Fall)	-	9	30	-
PA (Fall)	-	12	12	12
RI(Fall)	-	15	15	15
VA (Fall/Winter)	-	10	42	25
VT (Fall)	-	-	-	18
WV (Fall)	-	-	4	1
FL (Winter)	-	-	-	5
NJ (Winter)	-	15	15	-
MD (Winter)	-	10	9	6
NC (Winter)	-	6	15	15
SC (Winter)	-	9	8	8
AL (Winter)	-	-	7	6
GA (Winter)	-	-	12	12
Total	6	100	189	136

*anticipated

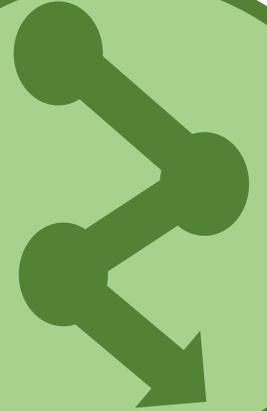


Migration

- Fall migration timing (harvest management)
- Spring migration timing (pop. monitoring)
- Spatial and individual effects on each.

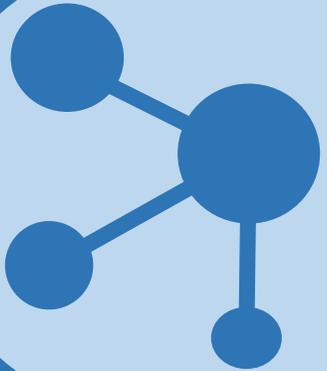
Habitat Use

- Resource selection during stopover.
- Major migration corridors

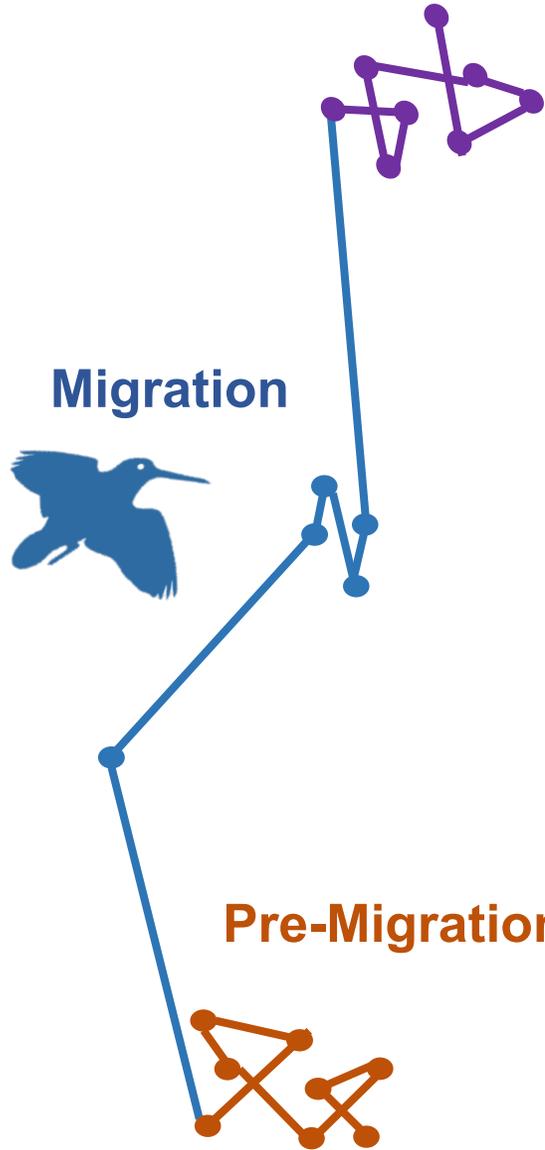


Population Connectivity

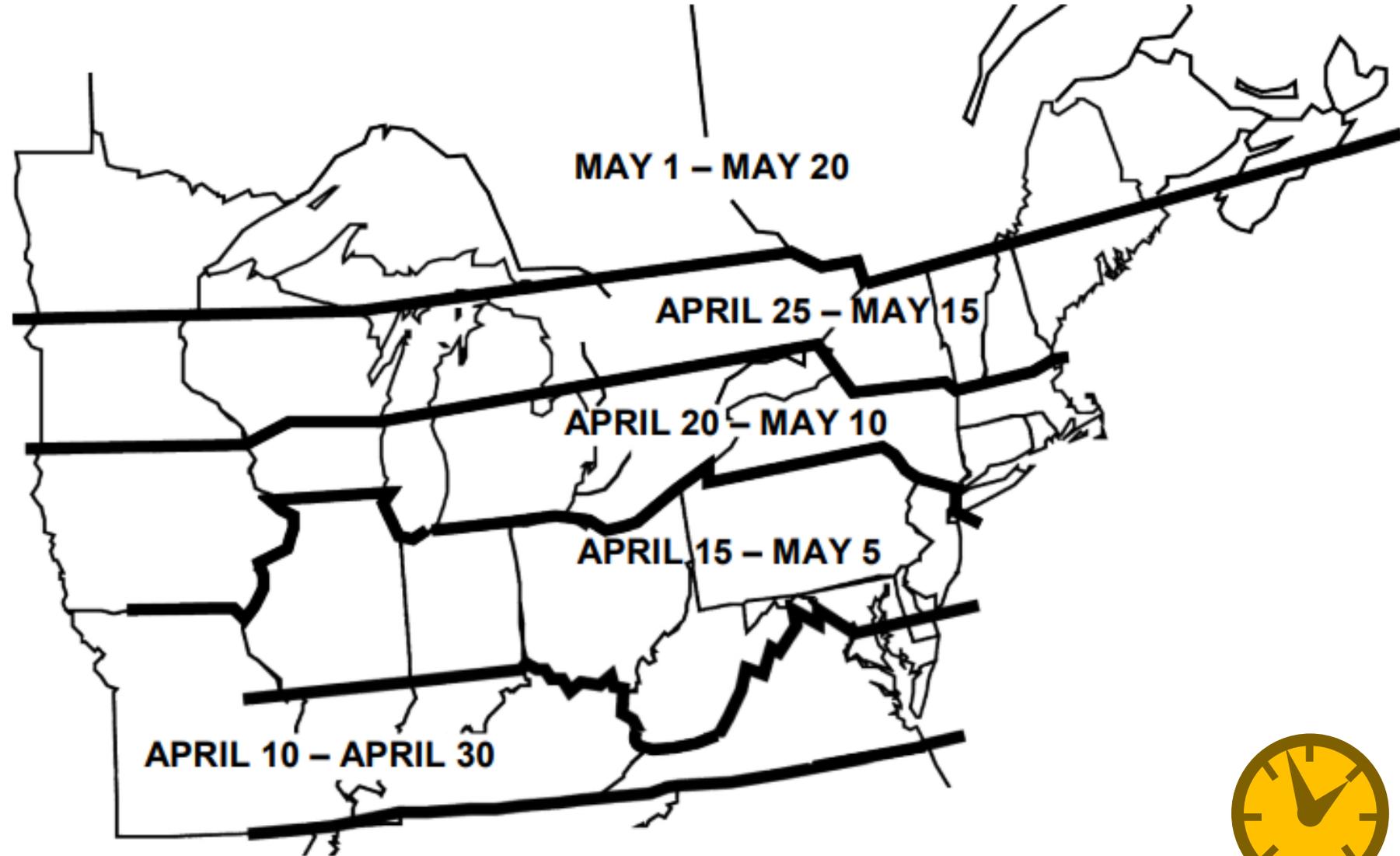
- Range-wide Migratory Connectivity
- Population structure



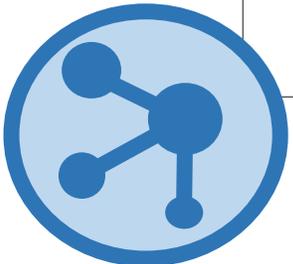
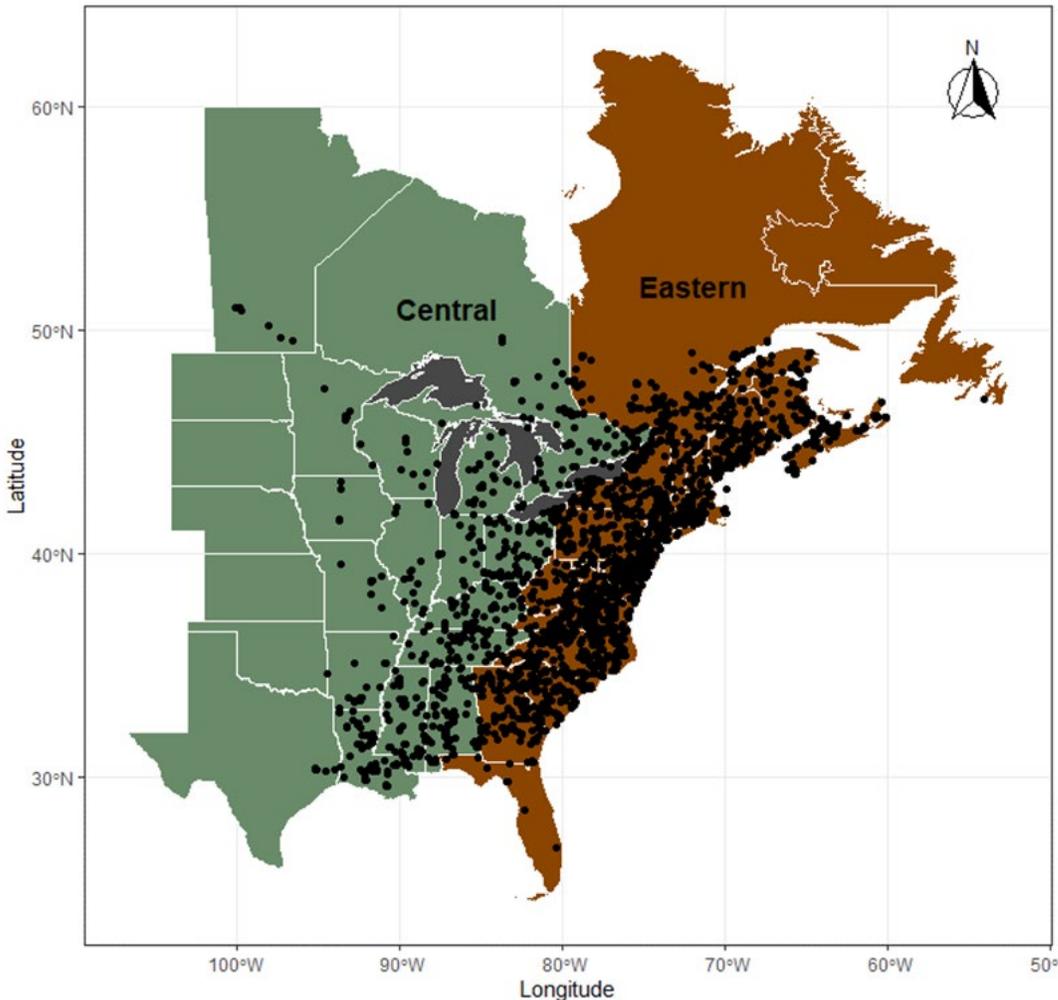
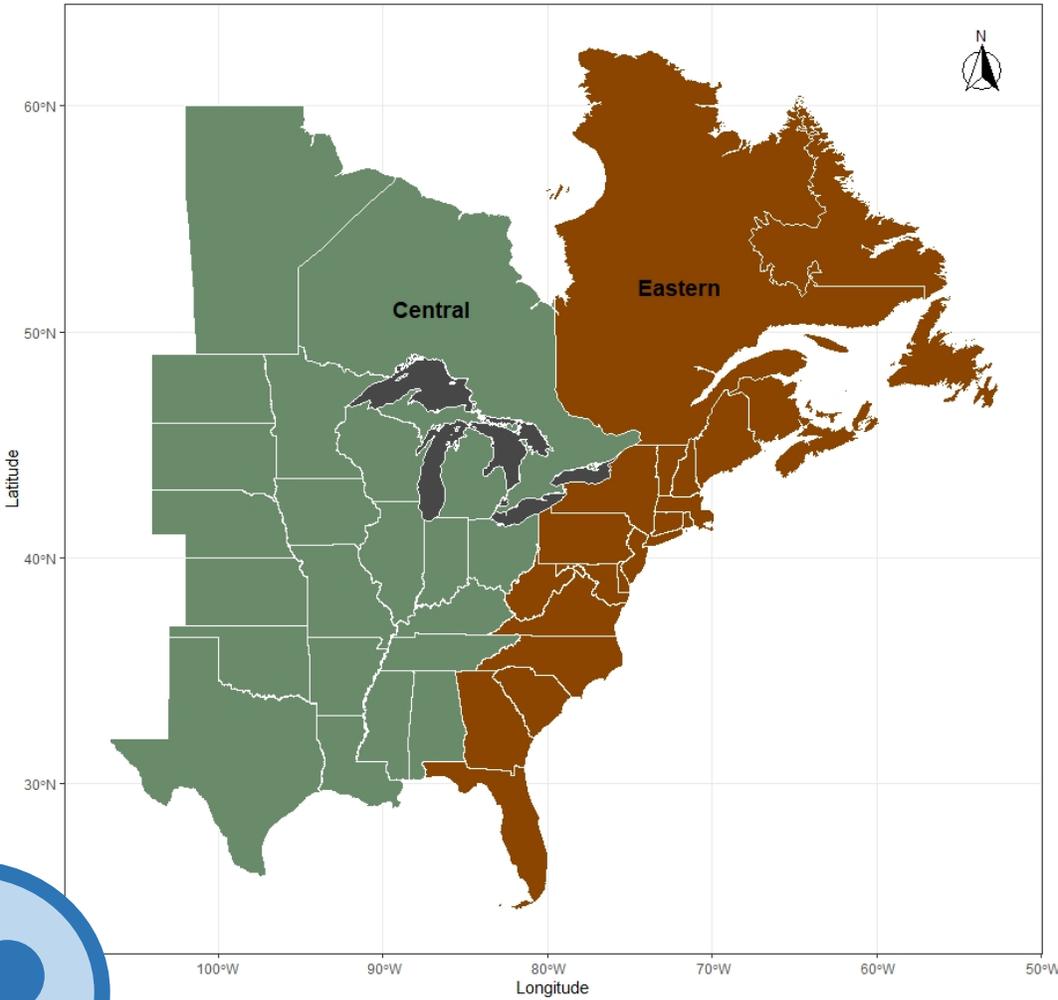
Post-Migration



Next steps: assessing timing of singing ground survey stratifications relative to timing of male migration and post-migration residency.



Migratory Connectivity: a key question surrounds whether management regions are distinct and should be managed as such.



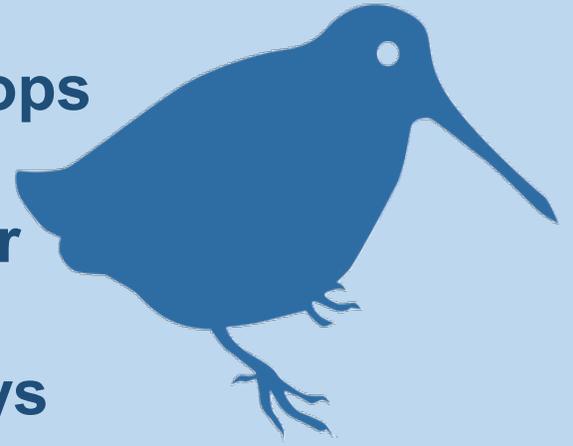
Migration by the Numbers (Fall 2018+2019):



Single Flight Dist.
Avg = 160.6 miles
Range: 10 to 630 miles

No. of Stopovers
Avg = 4.2 stops
Range: 0 to 11 stops

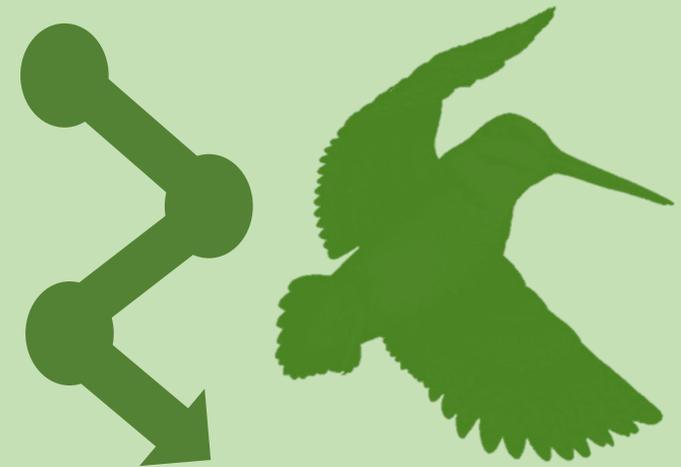
Length of Stopover
Avg = 4.85 days
Range 1 to 21 days



Spring migration similar, but more prolonged

Time Migrating Avg = 22 days
Range 1 to 72 days

Total Distance Avg = 911 miles
Range 19 to 2,023 miles



Griffith Neck Rd

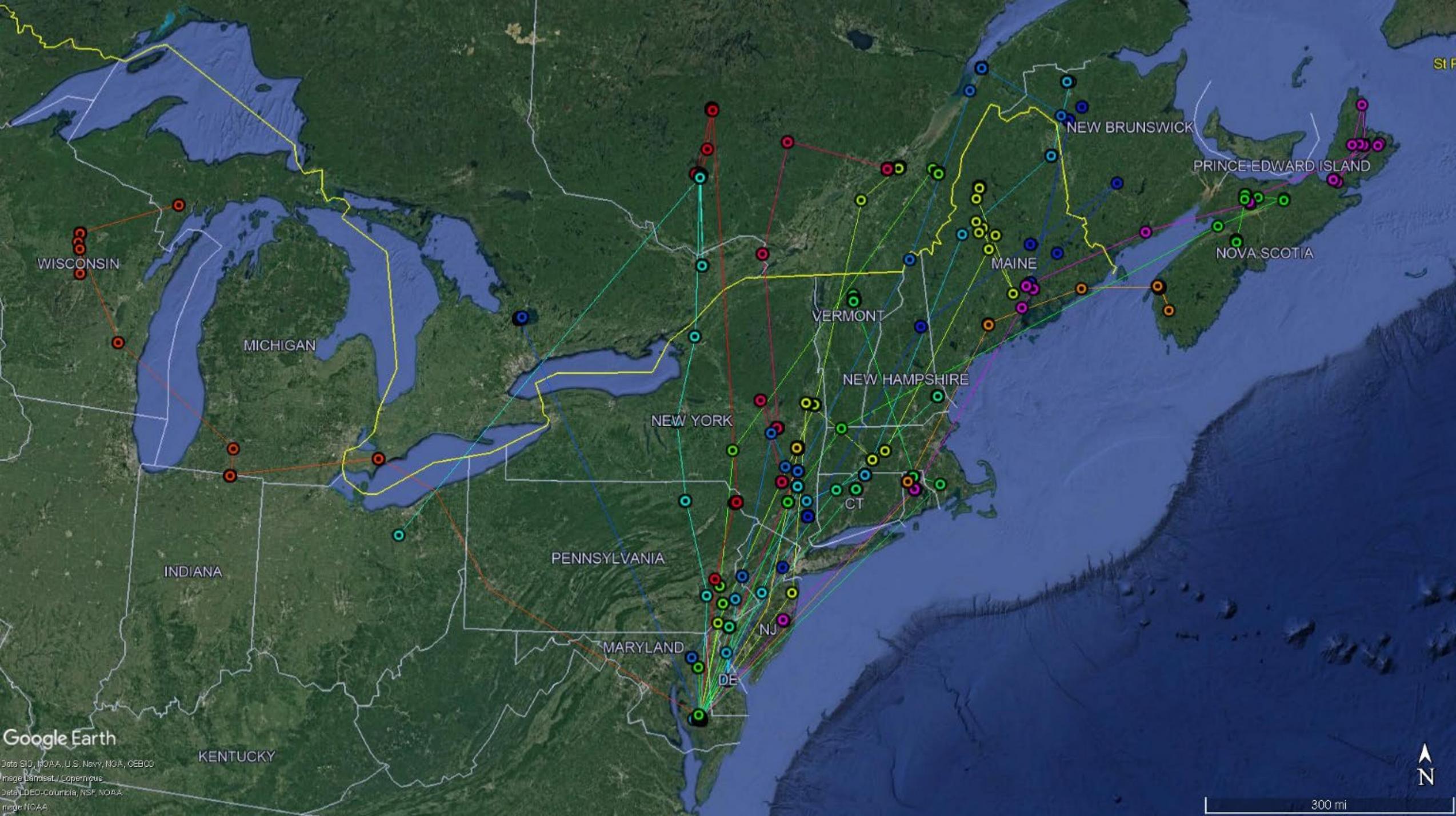




Island Pond

4000 ft

160



WISCONSIN

MICHIGAN

INDIANA

KENTUCKY

NEW YORK

PENNSYLVANIA

MARYLAND

DE

VERMONT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CT

NJ

NEW BRUNSWICK

PRINCE-EDWARD ISLAND

NOVA SCOTIA

MAINE

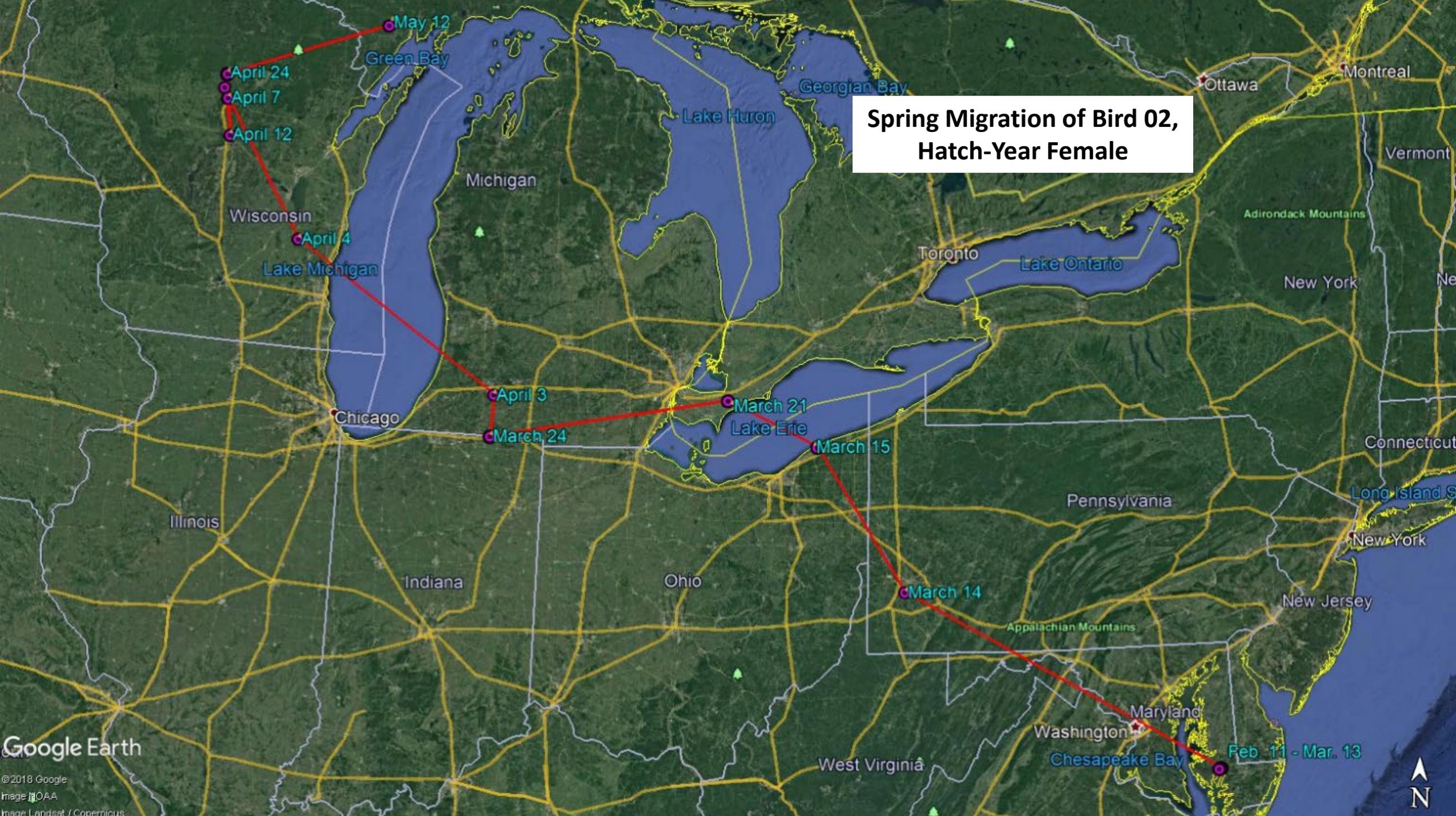
Google Earth

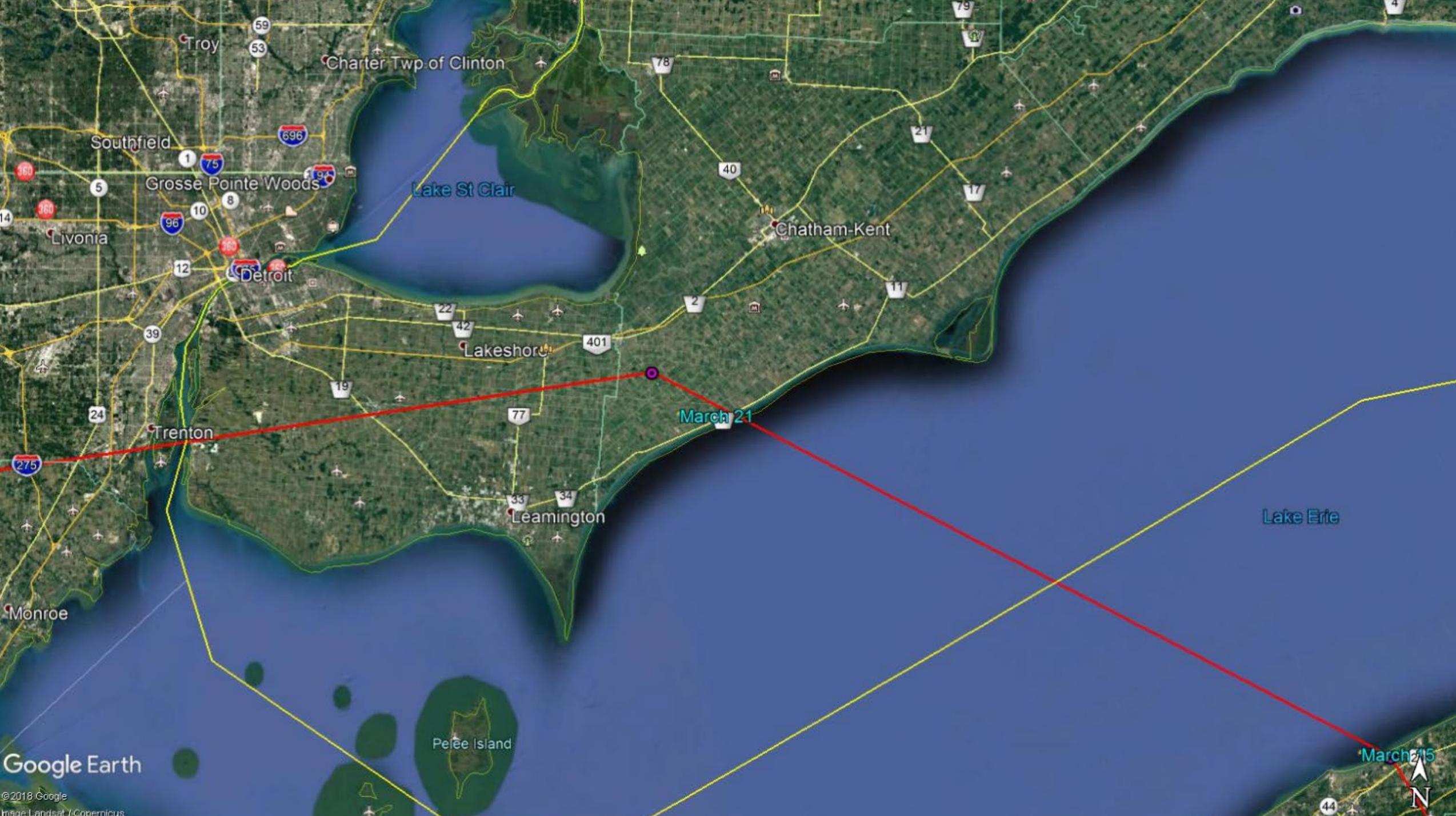
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA
Map © 2023

300 mi



Spring Migration of Bird 02, Hatch-Year Female





Charter Twp of Clinton

Lake St Clair

Chatham-Kent

March 21

Lake Erie

Leamington

March 15

Google Earth

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Image Landsat / Copernicus



46

8

14

Quinn

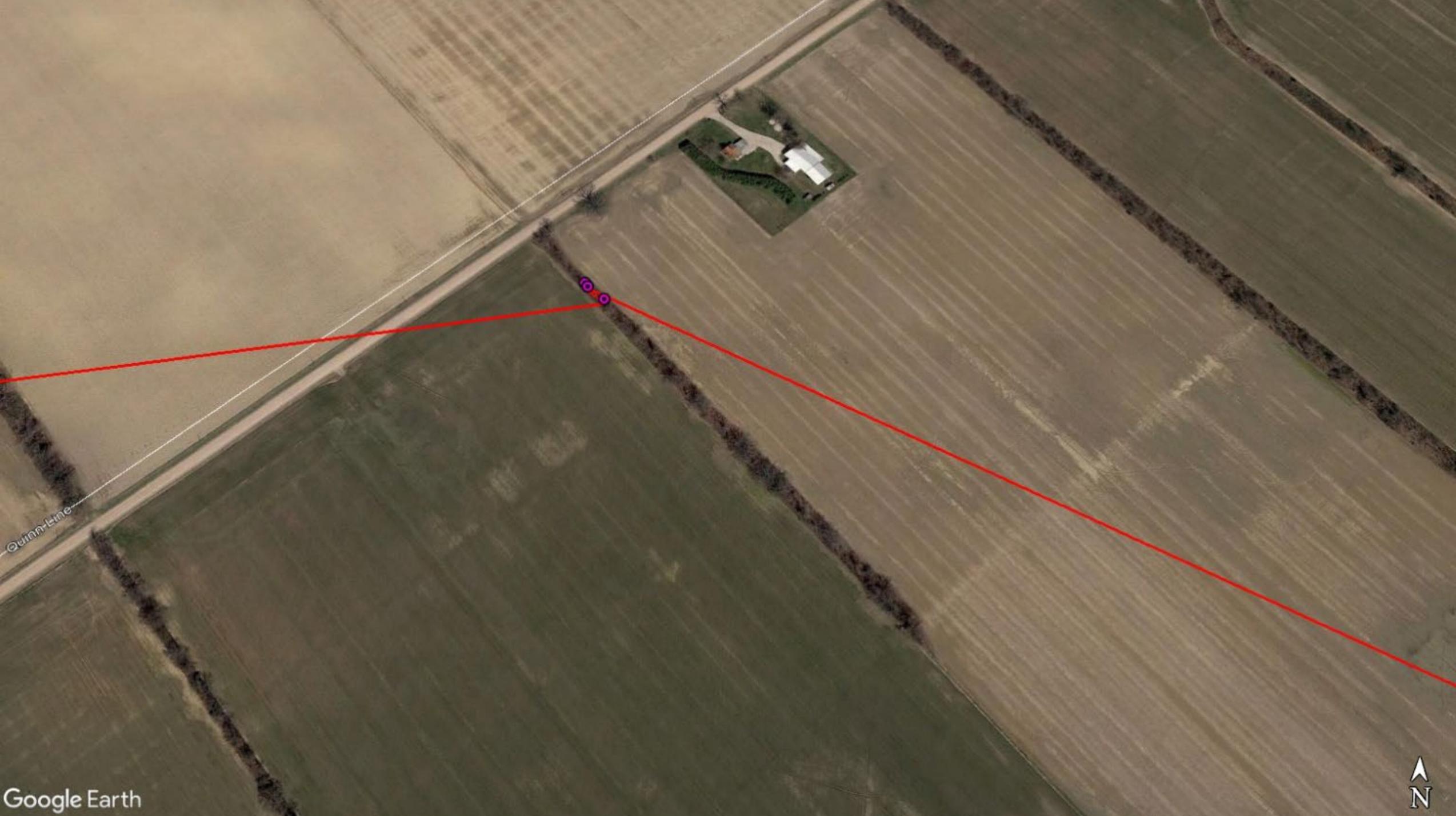
Wheatley Rd

Google Earth

©2018 Google
Image NOAA

Stevenson





Quinn Line



Visit project web page: woodcockmigration.org



**2022 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND DRAFT MONTHLY AGENDA**

JANUARY 19, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- Annual Election of the Chair and Vice Chair (Group)
- 2022-2024 Hunting Regulations Concepts (Karina Stonesifer)
- Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits (Bill Harvey and Josh Homyack)
- 2022 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto)

FEBRUARY 16, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- 2022 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto)
- 2022-2024 Hunting Regulations Concepts Update (Karina Stonesifer)

MARCH 16, 2022 – IN PERSON

- 2022-2024 Hunting Regulation Proposals – Commission’s Vote Required (Karina Stonesifer)
- Migratory Game Bird Proposals – Commission’s Vote Required (Bill Harvey and Josh Homyack)
- Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report (Bill Harvey)
- 2022 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto)
- Call for Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of the Year Nominations (Group Discussion)

APRIL 20, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- 2022 Legislative Session Outcome (Paul Peditto)
- WAC Legislative Concepts Review (Group Discussion)

MAY 18, 2022- NO MEETING SCHEDULED**JUNE 15, 2022 – IN PERSON**

- Wildlife and Heritage Service FY22 and FY23 Budget Update (Tim Larney)
- WHS Administration Update (Tim Larney)
- September 21, 2022 WAC Meeting Discussion (Group Discussion)

JULY 20, 2022 - NO MEETING SCHEDULED**AUGUST 17, 2022 - VIRTUAL**

- Natural Heritage Program Update (Jonathan McKnight)
- Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (Jonathan McKnight)
- WHS Information and Education Program Update (Karina Stonesifer)

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 – FIELD DAY OR BUSINESS MEETING OR NO MEETING**OCTOBER 19, 2022 - VIRTUAL**

- WHS Regional Operations Program Update (Harry Spiker)
- Waterfowl Population Update (Josh Homyack)
- 2023 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda – WAC Review

NOVEMBER 16, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- Presentation of 2021 Conservationist and Employee of the Year Award (Paul Peditto)
- WHS Game Program Update (Karina Stonesifer and staff)

DECEMBER 22, 2022 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED



Regulation Proposal: Season-long Tree Stand Placement on Public Lands

- Allow placement of tree stands two (2) weeks prior to, thru two (2) weeks following, the deer hunting season.
- State Forests and WMA's only, NO State Parks.
- Tree stand types would be those that are portable, not permanently affixed, and do not injure a tree.





R3 Encouragement

- 40% of MD hunters over the age of 50

2020 Hunter Age Data	Licenses	% Total
less than 20	13742	12%
20-29	17935	16%
30-39	19218	17%
40-49	17017	15%
50-59	21966	19%
60-69	15891	14%
70 and over	8401	7%





Area Synopsis

- Pennsylvania – 2 weeks prior to, thru 2 weeks following, the deer hunting season
- Virginia – September 15 thru January 31
- Delaware – August 15 thru February 15
- USF&W – (Select NWR) 2 weeks prior to, thru 1 week following, the deer hunting season
- Ohio – September 1 thru February 28
- Kentucky - 2 weeks prior to, thru 1 week following, the deer hunting season



Discussion

