

## HIGHWAY STATISTICS

### U. S. Fish and Wildlife

Stretched along the eastern coastline of Delaware and covering 26,000 acres near Smyrna and Milton, the [Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge](#) & the [Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge](#) provide habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. These refuges, which are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are only two of the 551 units and 150 million acres of the National Wildlife Refuge System, are a mosaic of fresh and saltwater wetlands, forests, fields, and Delaware Bay shoreline that provide habitat for tens of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds, the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, bald eagles, and countless other mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, and birds.

In 2006, we added 11.42 miles along the coastline under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife at these two refuges. Nearly 200,000 visitors including wildlife observers, photographers, hunters, anglers, and students come to these refuges each year to enjoy these natural resources. Features include walking trails, observation towers, photography blinds, roadside-viewing opportunities, a 12-mile auto tour, a seven-mile creek, festivals, lecture & environmental education programs, and interpretive displays and activities.

The [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau) collects information about anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers in the U.S. The 2006 Survey found that 395,000 Delaware residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older participated in wildlife-associated recreation in Delaware. While the total number of participants has fallen since 2001, the number of days spent participating in wildlife recreation has risen, as have expenditures on such recreation. In 2006, state residents and nonresidents spent \$299 million on wildlife recreation in Delaware, compared to \$148 million in 2001 (in \$2006).

Wildlife-watchers alone spent \$131 million on wildlife-watching activities in Delaware in 2006. Accounting for the multiplier effect of the direct expenditures, wildlife-viewing generated a total of \$203 million in economic activity and supported 1,975 jobs in Delaware in 2006 (Leonard, 2008), comprising 0.34% of the state's GDP (Bureau of Economic Analysis) and 0.36% of all jobs in the state (USA Counties).