

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 Refuges](#) & the [Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge](#) provide habitat for migratory birds and diversity of 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 Peninsula fox squirrel, bald eagles, and countless mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, and other birds.

In 2011 there were no changes to the mileage of either refuge. We are reporting 11.42 miles along the coast line under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at these two refuges. In 2011, visitation saw a slight increase over the previous year. Over 200,000 visitors including wildlife observers, photographers, hunters, anglers, and students came to the refuges 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 collect information about anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers in the U.S. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau). 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 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau). 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).

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