

A Great Egret with long legs and a long neck stands in a swampy area. It is positioned behind a tree trunk that is partially submerged in the water. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The background is filled with dense, green vegetation, including tall grasses and other plants. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

The News Reporter's

OUTDOORS

Hunting, Fishing
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Columbus County

September 8, 2022

Co-existing with black bears in North Carolina

What you need to know to be Bear-Wise

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has seen a spike in black bear reporting. This comes as no surprise since the state's bear population has grown over the past 50 years and the residential footprint has grown. People are moving closer into bear habitat and creating increased opportunities for bears to approach their property, specifically by leaving out food sources.

Colleen Olfenbittel, the Wildlife Commission's black bear and furbearer biologist, offers some advice about how to co-exist with black bears. She points to BearWise, a national educational program the Wildlife Commission employs that was developed by bear biologists.

"Most bears that wander into a residential area will quickly retreat to their natural habitat, particularly if no food source is around. By following the six BearWise Basics the public can prevent potential conflicts and live responsibly with bears."

The six BearWise basics are:

- Never feed or approach a bear. Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people to look for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs.

- Secure food, garbage and recycling. Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food or garbage. Store bags of trash inside cans in a garage, shed or other secure area; or use garbage cans or trash containers with a secure latching system or that are bear resistant. Place trash outside as late as possible on the morning of trash pick-up — not the night before.

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Birdseed, other grains and hummingbird feeders have high calorie content making them very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.

- Never leave pet food outdoors. Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.

- Clean and store grills. Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed, including drip trays. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area, like a garage or shed.

- Alert neighbors to bear activity. If you see bears in the area or evidence of bear activity, tell your neighbors and share

information about how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it's up to us to adapt to living near bears.

When asked about other tips, Olfenbittel reiterated a few best practices.

"Attract birds and other pollinators rather than bears by removing bird feeders and using native plants, natural foods, shelter, water and safe nesting sites. Consider using a bear-resistant trash container, altering your current container to become bear-resistant, or securing your current trash container in building and putting it out the morning of pick-up. And lastly, talk to neighbors and consider becoming a recognized BearWise community or business. BearWise communities commit to co-existing responsibly with bears, securing all potential food sources and knowing when and how to report bear activity."

North Carolina's bear populations are concentrated in the Mountains and Coastal Plain, but the population is expanding into the Piedmont and sightings are increasingly common, usually in May, June and July. This is the time when young bears, called yearlings, are looking for a new home after being pushed away by the adult female as she begins breeding again.

"While these young bears, typically males, may appear to be wandering aimlessly around, they are not necessarily lost," Olfenbittel said. "Most are simply exploring their new surroundings and will move on, particularly if they are left alone and there is no food around."

In almost all cases, the Wildlife Commission advises that the best option is a hands-off approach, allowing the bear to leave on its own.

The Wildlife Commission does not trap and relocate bears. There are no remote places to move bears and relocation can be treacherous for the bear, as they are unfamiliar with the new place and the food resources, causing them to attempt the journey back to where they were captured, which they consider home. During that journey, they encounter lots of dangers, including crossing busy roads, often resulting in vehicle-bear collisions. However, relocation is not needed, as human activities and behavior are usually the cause of the problem and the best solution is to implement the BearWise Basics.

For more information about living responsibly with black bears visit BearWise.org. For questions regarding bears and other human-wildlife interactions,



BearWise Basics suggest using trash containers with a secure latching system or that are bear resistant.

contact the Commission's NC Wildlife Helpline, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., at 866-318-2401 or email HWI@ncwildlife.org.



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Dove hunting season opens

Wildlife Commission officials remind hunters of regulatory and safety measures

The 2022-23 dove hunting season will be separated into three segments: Sept. 3 - Oct. 1, Nov. 5 - Nov. 26, and Dec. 10 - Jan. 31.

The 2022-23 hunting season for mourning and white-winged doves opens on Saturday, Sept. 3. This is big news for hunters who enjoy hunting migratory game birds. It's also an opportunity for officials from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to remind seasoned and novice hunters the importance of being properly licensed, to observe state and federal regulations and to follow safe hunting practices.

Dove hunting season will be separated into three segments: Sept. 3 - Oct. 1, Nov. 5 - Nov. 26, and Dec. 10 - Jan. 31. The daily bag limit is 15 mourning or white-winged doves, either as single species or combined, and shooting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise to sun-



set. Hunting of migratory game birds, including doves, by any method is not allowed on Sundays. It is illegal to dove hunt with a shotgun that can hold more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.

Migratory game bird hunters, including lifetime license holders, are required to register in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). HIP is a survey method developed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to collect more reliable estimates of migratory game bird harvests throughout the country. New this year, HIP certification is available July 1 – April 1 and

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Leave young wildlife alone: If you care, leave them there

Taking young rabbits out of your yard and into your home will likely put their health in danger and likely do more harm than good.

Well-meaning people often put young wildlife's health in danger when they intervene in a wild animal's natural process of growing up.

As people tend to gardens and play in their yards, they may stumble upon young bunnies, fawns and fledgling birds mistakenly thought to be abandoned. The natural response for most people will be to help, but in the majority of cases, one or both parents is a short distance away searching for food and will only return when the coast is clear.

"Wild parents can't hire a babysitter, so most young animals spend a lot of time on their own well before they can fend for themselves," said Falyn Owens, extension biologist at the

Wildlife Commission. "When the mother returns, sometimes many hours later, she expects to find her young where she left them."

Owens advises that if you truly feel the animal needs help, the best thing you can do is leave it alone (or put it back) and call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

Rabbits

Newborn rabbits (kits) spend their first few weeks hiding in plain sight, in shallow holes tucked among clumps of thick grass, under shrubs, or in the middle of open lawns. Rabbit nests can be hard to spot, often resembling a small patch of dead grass. Female rabbits (or does) actively avoid their nests, only visiting once or twice a day for a few minutes, to avoid attracting the attention of hungry predators.

"We hear from concerned people every spring who say they've found an abandoned

nest of bunnies, when in fact the kits are just fine and quietly waiting for the doe to return," Owens said. "If they appear to be healthy and unharmed, the best thing you can do is to cover up the nest and walk away. The mother won't return until well after you have left the area."

Fawns

Newborn deer also spend nearly all their time hiding for the first few weeks of their life. After nursing, the doe gives a signal and her fawns instinctively split up to find a quiet place to lay down and stay put. They will usually stay curled up for several hours while the doe ventures away to feed. Fawns rely on a dappled coat and no scent, which make it difficult for predators to find them.

If you find a fawn that is calm



and appears uninjured, leave it be and check on it the next day. If it is still there and bleating loudly, appears thin, injured or has visible diarrhea, contact a licensed fawn rehabilitator for

advice.

"If a fawn has already been moved from where it was found but only a little time has passed, return it immediately," Owens

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Leave alone

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said. “A doe will usually try to find her missing fawn for about 48 hours before she gives up. After 48 hours have passed, or the fawn has been given any food, contact a fawn rehabilitator as soon as possible.”

Songbirds

Knowing the difference between a nestling and a fledgling can help you make the right decision if you see a young bird on the ground. Nestlings don’t have their feathers yet and can’t survive outside of their nest for long. Fledglings have their feathers and are able to walk, hop, or fly short distances; they might appear helpless, but have already left the nest are being cared for by the parents — typically at a distance.

ground, return it to the nest as quickly as possible, if you’re able to find it,” Owens said. “If the entire nest has fallen, you can place it back in the tree, or even construct a makeshift nest.”

be left alone in most cases. They are busy with the important tasks of learning to fly and survive on their own. If a fledgling

any immediate danger, leave them to it. Like human toddlers, young birds need tons of practice to gain the muscles and coordination to become graceful adults. Keeping cats inside and dogs on leash are the best way to assure these young birds make it through this vulnerable learning stage.

Obey the Law

Leaving young wildlife alone is not only part of being a responsible steward of nature, but it is also the law.

“Taking most wild animals out of the wild and into your possession

chances that a young wild animal will survive in human care are slim at best. Even those that live long enough to be released won’t have developed the skills to survive on their own.”

Owens also stresses the importance of never feeding young wildlife, which can lead to irreversible harm, and is often fatal for the animal.

“When in doubt, contact a professional before you do anything,” she advises. “Each spring, wildlife rehabilitators take in a lot of young that are malnourished, sick, or injured from well-meaning people trying to provide care.”

And one final piece of advice: It’s best to leave the animal where you found it, even if someone has picked it up or touched it.

Wild parents almost never abandon their young, even if they detect human scent.

— Contributed by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission



“If you find a nestling on the ground, return it to the nest as quickly as possible, if you’re able to find it,” Owens said. “If the entire nest has fallen, you can place it back in the tree, or even construct a makeshift nest.” Fledglings, however, should be left alone in most cases. They are busy with the important tasks of learning to fly and survive on their own. If a fledgling is in any immediate danger, leave them to it. Like human toddlers, young birds need tons of practice to gain the muscles and coordination to become graceful adults. Keeping cats inside and dogs on leash are the best way to assure these young birds make it through this vulnerable learning stage.



NORTH CAROLINA RULES FOR IMPORTATION OF DEER CARCASSES AND CARCASS PARTS

Importation of whole carcasses from any member of the family Cervidae (e.g., deer, elk, moose, or reindeer/caribou) from any state, Canadian province, or foreign country outside of North Carolina is prohibited. Anyone transporting cervid carcass parts into North Carolina must follow processing and packaging regulations, which only allow the importation of:

- Meat that has been boned out such that no pieces or fragments of bone remain;
- Caped hides with no part of the skull or spinal column attached;
- Antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or cleaned skulls free from meat, or brain tissue;
- Cleaned lower jawbone(s) with teeth or cleaned teeth; or
- Finished taxidermy products and tanned hides.

All carcass part(s) or container of cervid meat or carcass parts must be labeled or identified with the:

- Name and address of individual importing carcass parts;
- State, Canadian province, or foreign country of origin;
- Date the cervid was killed; and
- Hunter’s license number, permit number, or equivalent identification from the state, Canadian province, or foreign country of origin.

These rules are intended to prevent the unintentional transportation and release of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) into the environment. CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk, moose and reindeer/caribou, and can have devastating long-term effects to cervid herds and hunting. The infectious agent of CWD can contaminate new environments by way of disposal of carcass tissues, particularly those of the brain and spine. The number of states that have documented CWD continues to increase. As of March 31, 2022, North Carolina had its first documented case of CWD in a deer from Yadkin County.

VISIT [NCWILDLIFE.ORG/CWD](https://ncwildlife.org/cwd) FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CERVID CARCASS AND PARTS IMPORTATION RULES.

UPDATED 5/2022

Sunrise and Sunset Table

AT CHARLOTTE, N.C., EASTERN STANDARD TIME

	AUG. 2021	SEP. 2021	OCT. 2021	NOV. 2021	DEC. 2021	JAN. 2022	FEB. 2022	MAR. 2022	APR. 2022	MAY. 2022	JUN. 2022	JUL. 2022
DATE	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.
01	6:32/8:26	6:56/7:49	7:18/7:06	7:44/6:28	7:14/5:11	7:32/5:22	7:22/5:52	6:52/6:18	7:10/7:44	6:32/8:09	6:10/8:32	6:12/8:41
02	6:33/8:25	6:56/7:48	7:19/7:05	7:45/6:27	7:15/5:11	7:32/5:23	7:21/5:53	6:51/6:19	7:08/7:45	6:31/8:10	6:09/8:33	6:13/8:41
03	6:34/8:24	6:57/7:47	7:19/7:03	7:46/6:26	7:16/5:11	7:32/5:24	7:20/5:53	6:50/6:20	7:07/7:46	6:30/8:10	6:09/8:33	6:13/8:41
04	6:34/8:23	6:58/7:45	7:20/7:02	7:47/6:25	7:17/5:11	7:32/5:25	7:20/5:54	6:48/6:21	7:05/7:47	6:29/8:11	6:09/8:34	6:13/8:41
05	6:35/8:22	6:59/7:44	7:21/7:01	7:48/6:24	7:17/5:11	7:32/5:25	7:19/5:55	6:47/6:21	7:04/7:48	6:28/8:12	6:09/8:35	6:14/8:41
06	6:36/8:21	6:59/7:42	7:22/6:59	7:49/6:23	7:18/5:11	7:32/5:26	7:18/5:56	6:46/6:23	7:03/7:48	6:27/8:13	6:08/8:35	6:14/8:41
07	6:37/8:20	7:00/7:41	7:23/6:58	7:50/6:22	7:19/5:11	7:32/5:27	7:17/5:57	6:44/6:24	7:01/7:49	6:26/8:14	6:08/8:36	6:15/8:41
08	6:37/8:19	7:01/7:39	7:23/6:57	7:51/6:22	7:20/5:11	7:32/5:28	7:16/5:58	6:43/6:25	7:00/7:50	6:25/8:15	6:08/8:36	6:16/8:40
09	6:38/8:18	7:01/7:38	7:24/6:55	7:52/6:21	7:21/5:11	7:32/5:29	7:15/5:59	6:42/6:25	6:59/7:51	6:24/8:15	6:08/8:37	6:16/8:40
10	6:39/8:17	7:02/7:37	7:25/6:54	7:53/6:20	7:21/5:11	7:32/5:30	7:14/6:00	6:40/6:26	6:57/7:52	6:23/8:16	6:08/8:37	6:17/8:40
11	6:40/8:16	7:03/7:35	7:26/6:53	7:54/6:19	7:22/5:11	7:31/5:31	7:13/6:01	6:39/6:27	6:56/7:52	6:22/8:17	6:08/8:38	6:17/8:39
12	6:41/8:15	7:04/7:34	7:27/6:51	7:55/6:19	7:23/5:12	7:31/5:32	7:12/6:02	6:38/6:28	6:55/7:53	6:21/8:18	6:08/8:38	6:18/8:39
13	6:41/8:14	7:04/7:34	7:28/6:50	7:56/6:18	7:23/5:12	7:31/5:33	7:11/6:03	6:37/6:29	6:54/7:54	6:20/8:19	6:08/8:38	6:19/8:39
14	6:42/8:12	7:05/7:31	7:28/6:49	7:57/6:17	7:24/5:12	7:31/5:34	7:10/6:04	6:35/7:30	6:52/7:55	6:20/8:19	6:08/8:39	6:19/8:38
15	6:43/8:11	7:06/7:29	7:29/6:47	7:58/6:17	7:25/5:12	7:31/5:35	7:09/6:05	6:33/7:31	6:51/7:56	6:19/8:20	6:08/8:39	6:20/8:38
16	6:44/8:10	7:07/7:26	7:30/6:46	7:59/6:16	7:25/5:13	7:30/5:36	7:08/6:06	6:32/7:31	6:49/7:56	6:18/8:21	6:08/8:39	6:20/8:37
17	6:44/8:09	7:07/7:26	7:31/6:45	7:00/6:15	7:26/5:13	7:30/5:37	7:07/6:07	6:31/7:32	6:48/7:57	6:17/8:22	6:08/8:40	6:21/8:37
18	6:45/8:08	7:08/7:25	7:32/6:44	7:01/6:15	7:26/5:14	7:29/5:38	7:06/6:08	6:30/7:33	6:47/7:58	6:17/8:22	6:08/8:40	6:22/8:36
19	6:46/8:06	7:09/7:24	7:33/6:42	7:02/6:14	7:27/5:14	7:29/5:39	7:05/6:09	6:29/7:34	6:46/7:59	6:16/8:23	6:08/8:40	6:22/8:36
20	6:47/8:05	7:10/7:22	7:34/6:41	7:03/6:14	7:28/5:14	7:29/5:40	7:03/6:10	6:28/7:35	6:44/8:00	6:15/8:24	6:09/8:41	6:23/8:35
21	6:47/8:04	7:11/7:21	7:34/6:40	7:04/6:13	7:28/5:15	7:28/5:41	7:02/6:11	6:27/7:36	6:43/8:01	6:15/8:25	6:09/8:41	6:24/8:34
22	6:48/8:03	7:11/7:19	7:35/6:39	7:05/6:13	7:28/5:16	7:28/5:42	7:01/6:12	6:24/7:36	6:42/8:01	6:14/8:25	6:09/8:41	6:25/8:34
23	6:49/8:01	7:12/7:18	7:36/6:38	7:06/6:13	7:29/5:16	7:27/5:43	7:00/6:13	6:22/7:37	6:41/8:02	6:14/8:26	6:10/8:42	6:26/8:33
24	6:50/8:00	7:13/7:16	7:37/6:36	7:07/6:12	7:29/5:17	7:27/5:44	6:59/6:14	6:21/7:38	6:39/8:03	6:13/8:27	6:09/8:42	6:26/8:33
25	6:50/7:59	7:13/7:15	7:38/6:35	7:08/6:12	7:30/5:17	7:26/5:45	6:57/6:15	6:20/7:39	6:38/8:04	6:12/8:28	6:10/8:41	6:27/8:32
26	6:51/7:57	7:14/7:13	7:39/6:34	7:09/6:12	7:30/5:18	7:25/5:46	6:56/6:16	6:18/7:40	6:37/8:05	6:12/8:28	6:10/8:41	6:27/8:31
27	6:52/7:56	7:15/7:12	7:40/6:33	7:10/6:11	7:30/5:19	7:25/5:47	6:55/6:17	6:17/7:40	6:36/8:06	6:11/8:29	6:10/8:41	6:28/8:30
28	6:53/7:55	7:16/7:11	7:41/6:32	7:11/6:11	7:31/5:19	7:24/5:48	6:54/6:18	6:15/7:41	6:35/8:06	6:11/8:30	6:11/8:42	6:29/8:29
29	6:53/7:53	7:16/7:09	7:42/6:31	7:11/6:11	7:31/5:20	7:23/5:49		6:14/7:42	6:34/8:07	6:11/8:30	6:11/8:42	6:30/8:29
30	6:54/7:52	7:17/7:08	7:43/6:30	7:12/6:11	7:31/5:21	7:23/5:50		6:12/7:43	6:33/8:08	6:10/8:31	6:12/8:42	6:30/8:28
31	6:55/7:51		7:44/6:29		7:31/5:21	7:22/5:51		6:11/7:44		6:10/8:32		6:31/8:27

* Boldface type = Daylight Savings Time (November 7, 2021 – March 13, 2022)

To determine sunrise and sunset times for the following N.C. locations:
Add or subtract minutes as indicated below from the Sunrise and Sunset Table at top of this page:

County	Differs from Charlotte
Alamance County.....	-4.00
Alexander County.....	+3.00
Alleghany County.....	+3.00
Anson County.....	-3.00
Ashe County.....	+5.00
Avery County.....	+6.00
Beaufort County.....	-14.00
Bertie County.....	-14.00
Bladen County.....	-10.00
Brunswick County.....	-12.00
Buncombe County.....	+8.00
Burke County.....	+4.00
Cabarrus County.....	-1.00
Caldwell County.....	+4.00
Camden County.....	-17.00
Carteret County.....	-17.00
Caswell County.....	-4.00
Catawba County.....	+2.00
Chatham County.....	-6.00
Cherokee County.....	+13.00
Chowan County.....	-15.00
Clay County.....	+12.00
Cleveland County.....	+3.00
Columbus County.....	-10.00
Craven County.....	-15.00
Cumberland County.....	-8.00
Currituck County.....	-17.00
Dare County.....	-18.00
Davidson County.....	-1.00
Davie County.....	0.00
Duplin County.....	-12.00
Durham County.....	-6.00
Edgecombe County.....	-12.00
Forsyth County.....	-1.00
Franklin County.....	-9.00
Gaston County.....	+2.00
Gates County.....	-14.00
Graham County.....	+12.00
Granville County.....	-7.00
Greene County.....	-12.00
Guilford County.....	-3.00
Halifax County.....	-11.00
Harnett County.....	-8.00
Haywood County.....	+9.00
Henderson County.....	+7.00
Hertford County.....	-14.00
Hoke County.....	-7.00
Hyde County.....	-17.00
Iredell County.....	+1.00
Jackson County.....	+10.00
Johnston County.....	-8.00
Jones County.....	-14.00
Lee County.....	-6.00
Lenoir County.....	-13.00
Lincoln County.....	+2.00
Macon County.....	+10.00
Madison County.....	+8.00
Martin County.....	-14.00
McDowell County.....	+6.00
Mecklenburg County.....	0.00
Mitchell County.....	+7.00
Montgomery County.....	-3.00
Moore County.....	-5.00
Nash County.....	-10.00
New Hanover County.....	-13.00
Northampton County.....	-12.00
Onslow County.....	-14.00
Orange County.....	-5.00
Pamlico County.....	-16.00
Pasquotank County.....	-17.00
Pender County.....	-13.00
Perquimans County.....	-16.00
Person County.....	-5.00
Pitt County.....	-13.00
Polk County.....	+6.00
Randolph County.....	-3.00
Richmond County.....	-5.00
Robeson County.....	-8.00
Rockingham County.....	-2.00
Rowan County.....	-1.00
Rutherford County.....	+5.00
Sampson County.....	+10.00
Scotland County.....	-6.00
Stanly County.....	-2.00
Stokes County.....	0.00
Surry County.....	+2.00
Swain County.....	+11.00
Transylvania County.....	+8.00
Tyrrell County.....	-17.00
Union County.....	-1.00
Vance County.....	-8.00
Wake County.....	-8.00
Warren County.....	-9.00
Washington County.....	-15.00
Watauga County.....	+5.00
Wayne County.....	+11.00
Wilkes County.....	+3.00
Wilson County.....	-11.00
Yadkin County.....	+1.00
Yancey County.....	+7.00

For a safe boating experience, always wear a life vest

North Carolina requires anyone younger than 13 to wear an appropriate life vest when on a recreational vessel that is underway. Anyone riding a personal watercraft or being towed by one must also wear an appropriate life vest.

Both state and federal regulations require that a Type I, II or III personal flotation device in good condition and of appropriate size be accessible for each person onboard a recreational vessel, including canoes, kayaks, rowboats and other non-motorized craft. (Sailboards, racing shells, rowing sculls, racing canoes and racing kayaks are exempt from this requirement.)

“Accidents can happen quickly and without warning,” said Major Chris Huebner of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the state’s boating safety

coordinator. “In those situations, there often isn’t time to grab a life vest and put it on properly before you are in the water. The best preparation is to wear it whenever you are underway. A life vest can be a life saver when it’s worn. It also gives you the ability to assist others who may be in danger.”

When choosing a life vest for a child, always check for:

- U.S. Coast Guard approved label
- Matching it to the child’s current weight
- Making sure it is snug but comfortable

For more information on life vest requirements or how to enroll in a free boating education course, click here or call (919) 707-0031.

— Contributed by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

TYPES OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Type I

A Type I PFD is an approved device designed to turn an unconscious person in the water from a face downward position to a vertical or slightly backward position, and to have more than 20 pounds of buoyancy.

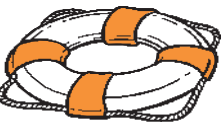


Type II

A Type II PFD is an approved device designed to turn an unconscious person in the water from a face downward position to a vertical or slightly backward position, and to have more than 15.5 pounds of buoyancy.

Type III

A Type III PFD is an approved device designed to have more than 15.5 pounds of buoyancy. While the Type III PFD has the same buoyancy as the Type II PFD, it has less turning ability. It does, however, allow greater wearing comfort and is particularly useful when water skiing, sailing, hunting, or engaged in other water sports.



Type IV

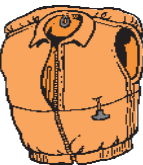
A Type IV PFD is an approved device designed to be thrown to a person in the water. It is not designed to be worn. It is designed to have at least 16.5 pounds of buoyancy. The most common Type IV PFD is a buoyant cushion. A ring buoy is also a Type IV PFD.



All Type I, II, and III PFDs must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, in good and serviceable condition, readily accessible, and of appropriate size for the wearer. Type IV PFDs must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, in good and serviceable condition, and immediately available.

Type V

A Type V PFD must be Coast Guard approved. It is a restricted device that is acceptable only when the wearer is engaged in the activity for which the device is intended. Some restricted PFDs must be worn to be acceptable. Always check the label of a restricted PFD; the label will show the water sports for which the PFD is authorized and will list all other restrictions.



NORTH CAROLINA BOATING CHECKLIST

Subject	Personal Watercrafts (PWCs)	Boats Less Than 16 Feet	Boats 16 Feet to Less Than 26 Feet	Related Information
Float Plan (PDF) *	✓	✓	✓	1. Required for PWC operators 14 years of age or older. No person under 14 years of age may operate a PWC. Persons 14 years of age or older may also operate without a boating education certificate if physically accompanied on the PWC by an adult at least 18 years of age and meets the requirements of G.S. 16.2 .
Boater Education Certificate On Board	✓ 1 & 2	✓ 2	✓ 2	
Certificate of Number Registration On Board	✓	✓	✓	2. In North Carolina, any person born on or after January 1, 1988 must complete a NASBLA approved boating education course before operating any vessel propelled by a motor of 10 HP or greater on public waterways. G.S. 75A-16.2
Validation Decals Displayed	✓	✓	✓	
PFDs: Type I, II, or III for each person on board	✓ 3	✓ 4	✓ 4	3. Those on personal watercraft (PWCs) must wear an approved personal flotation device (life jacket) at all times.
PFD: Type IV	n/a	n/a	✓	
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher	✓	✓	✓	4.Children under 13 years of age must wear an approved life jacket while underway. **
Ignition Safety Switch	✓ 5	✓ 9	✓ 9	
Backfire Flame Arrestor	✓	✓ 6	✓ 6	5. Safety kill switch lanyard must be attached to operator.
Ventilation System	✓	✓	✓	
Muffler	✓	✓	✓	6. Required on inboards and stern drives only.
Horn, Whistle, or Bell	✓	✓	✓	
Daytime Visual Distress Signals	n/a	n/a	✓ 7	7. Required only when boating on federally controlled waters.
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals	✓ 8	✓ 7	✓ 7	
Navigation Lights	✓ 8	✓	✓	8. Certain items are not applicable to PWCs because PWCs are not allowed to operate between sunset and sunrise.

9. Safety kill switch and lanyard not required but recommended.
* Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF files.
** Definition of underway.

Kids MUST Wear Life Vests

North Carolina law requires children younger than 13 years of age to wear an appropriate life vest whenever they are on a recreational vessel that is underway. When choosing a life vest for a child, always check for a U.S. Coast Guard approved label.

The life vest must be a proper fit, with youth sizes corresponding to weight ranges.

For more information about boating safety or to enroll in a free boating education course, go to www.ncwildlife.org.



The Wildlife Resources Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all wildlife programs are administered for the benefit of all North Carolina citizens without prejudice toward age, sex, race, religion or national origin. Violations of this pledge may be reported to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Equal Employment Office, Personnel Office, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606. Telephone (919) 707-0031.



Let the hunting begin....



Eastern Bear Season

Zone 5: Nov. 14, 2022-Jan. 2, 2023

Small Game

Armadillo: No closed season

Beaver: Refer to Regulations Digest

Bobcat: Oct. 17, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023

Coyote: No closed season

Crow: Aug. 3, 2022-Feb. 25, 2023 and June 7-July 29, 2023. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week. Crows may also be hunted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Independence Day; except when these days fall on a Sunday.

Feral Swine: No closed season

Fox: refer to ncwildlife.org/fox-seasons

Groundhog: No closed season

Grouse: Oct. 17, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023

Nutria: No closed season

Pheasant (male only): Nov. 19, 2022-Feb. 1, 2023

Quail: Nov. 19, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023

Rabbit: Oct. 17, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023

Raccoon and Opossum: Oct. 17, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023

Skunk (striped): No closed season

Squirrel — gray and red: Oct. 17, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023

Squirrel — fox: Oct. 17, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023

Waterfowl
General duck season: Oct. 28-29, 2022; Nov. 5-26, 2022; and Dec. 17, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023



Deer Season

Archery: Sept. 10-Sept. 30, 2022

Blackpowder: Oct. 1-Oct. 14, 2022

Gun: Oct. 15, 2022-Jan. 2, 2023

Mergansers: Same as general duck season

Coots: Same as general duck season

September Teal (includes green-winged, blue-winged and cinnamon teal): Sept. 13-30, 2022 (East of U.S. 17)

Canada Goose (September season): Sept. 1-30, 2022 (statewide)

Doves and other webless migratory game birds

Mourning doves and white winged dove: Sept. 3-Oct. 1, 2022; Nov. 5-26, 2022; and Dec. 10, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023

King and Clapper Rails: Sept. 3-Nov. 23, 2022

Sora and Virginia Rails: Sept. 3-Nov. 23, 2022

Gallinule and Moorhens: Sept. 3-Nov. 23, 2022

Woodcock: Dec. 10, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023

Common Snipe: Oct. 27, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023



Wild Turkey

April 8-May 6, 2023

(Youth Only)

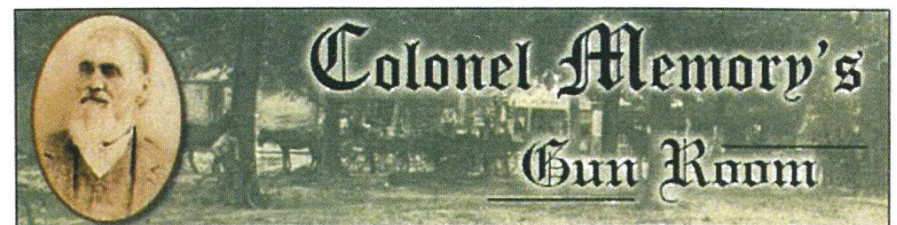
April 1-7, 2023

Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders, 3 long-tailed ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 mallards with no more than 1 hen mallard, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck and 1 fulvous whistling duck.

Prior to January 9 the scaup bag limit is 1, on January 9 and after it is 2.

The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until December 1.



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Dove hunting

Continued from page 3

expires June 30 each year. Hunters can purchase or renew their license and obtain their HIP certification online for immediate use in the field. Licenses can also be purchased through a Wildlife Service Agent or by phone at 888-248-6834, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday.

It is a violation of state and federal law to take migratory game birds with the use or aid of salt, grain, fruit or any other bait. Additionally, hunters need to be aware that an area is considered baited for 10 days following the removal of all salt, grain or other feed. Migratory game birds may be hunted in agricultural areas where grain has been distributed as the result of normal agricultural operations. Information regarding agriculture and planting techniques may be obtained from a local N.C. State Extension Center. Visit the agency's website to view an interactive map of game land dove fields.

Hunting safety is priority when in the field. Free hunter safety courses are available through the Wildlife Commission, and the agency's Home from the Hunt campaign offers hunter's online

resources focused on being safe during time spent outdoors.

Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers advise dove hunters to follow these safety tips:

- Adhere to established safe zones of fire.
- Ensure you have the correct ammunition for your firearm.
- Keep the muzzle of your firearm pointed in a safe direction
- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Do not shoot at low-flying birds.
- Do not place decoys on utility lines.

View more information about doves and download the 2022-23 North Carolina Regulations Digest.

— Contributed by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission



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Chipmunk range expands in North Carolina

As of last year, chipmunks in North Carolina were only known to live north and west of Wake County, however, a photograph of a chipmunk residing in Wilmington submitted to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission last May piqued biologists' curiosity. The Wildlife Commission asked for North Carolinians to report observations, and biologists soon realized the mammal's range had indeed expanded.

"Thanks to reported sightings of chipmunks this past year, we were able to confirm eight new counties for the chipmunk range map. We are excited about these results and want to extend our search," stated Andrea Shipley, a mammalogist with the Wildlife Commission. "We are specifically interested in sightings from counties east of I-95."

Chipmunks are found in both urban and rural habitats. The eastern chipmunk prefers open woodlands or forest edges, with

plenty of cover and dry hillsides for digging burrows. The chipmunk is most active in early morning and late afternoon, gathering and storing seeds, nuts, acorns and berries. Unlike squirrels, chipmunks spend most of their time foraging on the ground, climbing trees only occasionally.

Chipmunks have distinctive coloring – reddish brown fur, a black stripe down the center of its back and a set of two black stripes. They are smaller than squirrels, measuring eight to 10 inches long, including three to four inches of tail. The chipmunk's most distinguishing feature is its large cheek pouches, usually full of nuts or seeds to unload in an underground storage burrow.

Burrows provide protection from predators such as hawks, owls, foxes and snakes, and safe quarters during winter months, when cold weather brings on a state of deep sleep.



If you live in a county east of I-95 and observe a chipmunk or its habitat, please take a picture, note the location (GPS

coordinates preferred) and contact the Wildlife Commission's NC Wildlife Helpline, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.,

at 866-318-2401 or email HWI@ncwildlife.org.

— Contributed by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

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Wildlife Commission announces 2022 wild turkey harvest totals

Results from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's 2022 Wild Turkey Harvest Summary report shows that hunters statewide recorded 20,576 birds harvested statewide in 2022, including 1,777 birds that were taken during youth season. The total falls short of the past two years' record-breaking totals, however it remains strong compared to totals prior to 2020.

"COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders drove increased hunting pressure on the North Carolina landscape in 2020 and 2021, especially during turkey season. Although this year's harvest was a decrease, we continue to see high numbers of wild turkeys and steady reproductive numbers across the state," stated Hannah Plumpton, upland game bird biologist for the Wildlife Commission.

To put this year's wild turkey harvest in perspective, Plumpton compared this year's harvest to the average harvest of the last three years. Each season was five weeks, including one week for youth hunters



under the age of 18. The results concluded:

- Harvest statewide was 4% lower.
- Harvest during the week-long youth season decreased by 17%.
- Harvest in the coastal region increased by 6%.
- Harvest in the mountains decreased by 13%.
- Harvest in the piedmont decreased by 10%.

■ Harvest on game lands decreased by 9%.

The increase in harvest in the coastal region was also reflected in the top five counties where turkeys were harvested: Duplin (748), Bladen (569), Pender (565), Columbus (541) and Brunswick (518). No other counties had more than 500 turkeys harvested.

More information about this year's

wild turkey harvest by county, game land, and youth hunt can be viewed at the agency's website.

The Wildlife Commission posts annual harvest summaries on its website, for all game species, as well as live harvest reports, which are available anytime throughout the hunting season.

— *Contributed by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission*

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A collaborative approach to restore bog turtle populations

Like the bog turtle itself, bog turtle populations in North Carolina are very small. A collaborative effort between multiple conservation organizations hopes to change that by giving them a little help. Last June, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tangled Bank Conservation and Zoo Knoxville began a population augmentation process called head-starting. Head-starting involves raising turtles in captivity their first year to increase their size relative to wild hatchlings, thereby increasing their chances of survival in the wild upon release.

Head-starting is part of a much larger conservation effort for the bog turtle that includes habitat management and restoration, protection from unnaturally high-predation levels, collaboration with private landowners, addressing road mortality and land protection. Despite all these efforts, most populations are still in decline, and many have only a few adults remaining and even fewer or no young turtles, which is what prompted the Wildlife Commission to consider augmenting populations.

"Head-starting is one of many tools in the conservation toolbox for the bog turtle," stated Gabrielle Graeter, a conservation biologist with the Wildlife Commission. "Wildlife biologists hope the new initiative will help bog turtles be able to one day thrive on their own."

In June 2021, over 50 turtle eggs were retrieved from collection sites and transported to Zoo Knoxville to begin the head-starting process. Zookeepers incubated the eggs until the hatchlings emerged in August, then reared the baby turtles for 10 months.

Zoo Knoxville has a long legacy with bog turtle conservation, beginning in 1986 after the late Bern Tryon, then director of herpetology,



pioneered the head-starting program when they were discovered in Tennessee. Since then, Zoo Knoxville has been part of the reintroduction of more than 200 bog turtles into their native range. In 2021, Zoo Knoxville opened a state-of-the-art Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Campus (ARC), with a dedicated bio-secure room for the rearing of turtles slated for release.

"As a modern zoo, it's our job to do all we can to contribute to the conservation of our most endangered species," said Michael Ogle, Zoo Knoxville's curator of herpetology. "We are proud we could be a partner to ensuring a future for bog turtles in North Carolina."

This summer, wildlife biologists from the Wildlife Commission returned the turtles to the native habitats where they were collected as eggs. It was a special day, as baby turtles scampered away into the cool mud. Around the same time this summer, about 70 more eggs were collected to continue the head-starting process.

"Mountain bogs are rare ecosystems but are home to a number of rare species," said Adam Warwick, TNC's mountain stewardship coordinator. "There are very few mountain bogs today – likely just tenth of what there was before European settlement. That's why TNC protects, restores,

work."

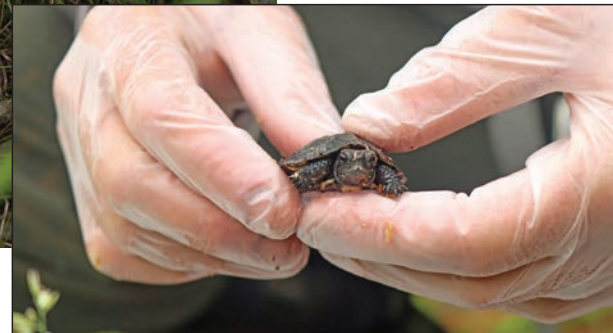
Wildlife Commission staff are collecting data and closely monitoring the success of the program.

"Over time, as we evaluate this project, we will learn more about the utility of head-starting with bog turtles and when it is most appropriate," said Graeter. "As we learn more, we will adjust our methods to ensure this project aligns with the state's conservation goals for the species. I am grateful to all the partners that have come together to help make this project happen!"

To fully evaluate the success of this project, monitoring will continue for decades due to how long it takes for the species to reach sexual maturity.

It will be a marathon effort, but one this group is committed to seeing through.

— *Contributed by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission*



and manages mountain bogs. Bog turtles are especially imperiled because they take six to seven years to reproduce and then only produce a small number of eggs. Turtle head-starting is an important component of TNC's mountain bog



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10 perfect places to watch the sunrise in North Carolina

Set your alarm and wake up early to enjoy a beach sunrise on the Outer Banks, or start the day atop Waterrock Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway. North Carolina State Parks offer a variety of nature activities.

— Contributed by Visit N.C.



Onslow County

Onslow County's rural coastal plains, towns and scenic beaches offer many opportunities to begin your day with a sunrise. Set your alarm and stroll onto the beach straight from your vacation rental or resort, or book an early morning fishing charter with Pogie's Fishing Center or Just Got Reel Inshore Charters and catch the views (and some fish) from the water. For a more primitive approach, camp under the stars – then step out of your tent to welcome a sunrise – on Bear Island in Hammocks Beach State Park. And after your early start, you're free to surf, kayak, bike or explore any one of Onslow County's countless outdoor adventures the rest of the day.



Cape Hatteras National Seashore

This is our state's easternmost point and the first to see the sunrise. Use any of the beach accesses to walk or wade with some of the more than 400 bird species. Once the sun is up, learn more about seashore ecology at Hatteras Island Ocean Center. Its interactive exhibits are interesting for visitors of any age.



Corolla

Here, wild horses will watch the sunrise with you. Historians believe they arrived with Spanish explorers hundreds of years ago. Today, the protected herds roam near where paved N.C. Highway 12 ends in Corolla, and travel then continues by foot or off-road vehicle on the beach. Horses can be anywhere – from surf to backyards – so keep your eyes open and maintain a distance of at least 50 feet. They are unpredictable when approached.

Continued on page 13

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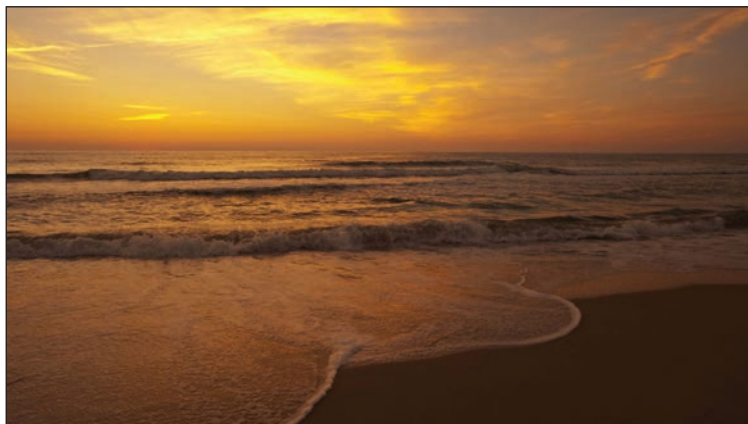
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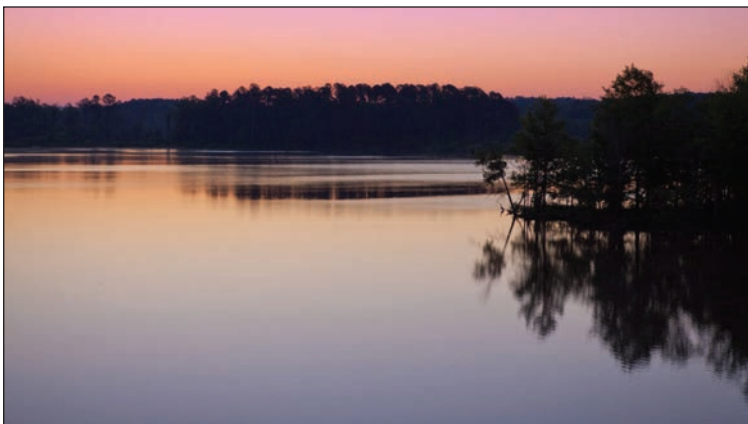
10 Places

Continued from page 12



Brunswick Islands

These are North Carolina's southernmost barrier islands. Oak Island has family-friendly activities, our state's youngest lighthouse, 60 public beach access sites and beautiful sunrises. Before summer sunrises, watch for nesting sea turtles. And winter brings another special sight: When the sun is low in the southern sky, the islands' east-west orientation means they're among the only places on Earth to see sunrises and sunsets from the same beach.



Jordan Lake

West of Raleigh and south of Durham, you'll find 13,900-acre B. Everett Jordan Reservoir. A popular boating, swimming and fishing site, it offers some of the best sunrise views near the Triangle. Head to the north side of the N.C. Highway 751 bridge or west side of the U.S. Highway 64 bridge, where there's parking at a boat launch.

Continued on page 14



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10 Places

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Morrow Mountain State Park

Head to the top of the park's namesake mountain, where you'll find parking and an easy 0.8-mile trail. Unobstructed views to the east look over Lake Tillery. Winter sunrises are later, about 7:30 a.m., so be at the park when it opens at 7 a.m., or stay at one of more than 100 campsites to be on time for earlier summer sunrises. Then you can spend the day touring a restored 19th-century doctor's home, swimming in the pool, or fishing from shore or boat.



Lake Norman

At 32,500 acres, Lake Norman is the largest body of water entirely in North Carolina. Its sunrises are as impressive, and they're best seen from a boat. Sail your vessel from one of the many launches to either Davidson or Reedy creeks, which flow east to west. If you don't have a boat, rent one, or drive to Beatties Ford launch in Denver, where the lake is wide and the best view is from the dock.

Linn Cove Viaduct

It's hard to find a bad Blue Ridge Parkway view, especially at the Linn Cove Viaduct, which wraps around the eastern face of Grandfather Mountain. View it and the sunrise from the visitors center at Milepost 304.4 or from one of the trails that goes under it. A short drive north is Blowing Rock, a small village with shopping, dining and plenty of cabins to rent, whether for a romantic getaway or family

Continued on page 15



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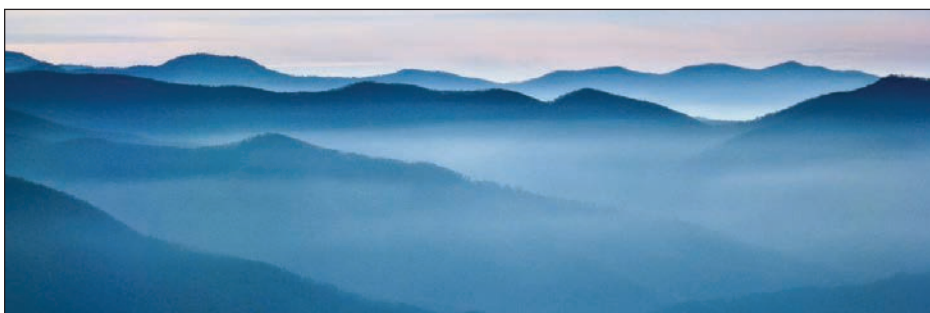
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10 Places

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reunion. Most have their own sunrise view.



Waterrock Knob

Attention sleepyheads: The sun rises later the farther west you travel. Enjoy an

September 8, 2022 — *The News Reporter's 2022 Outdoors* — Page 15

extra 30 minutes of shuteye by heading to Waterrock Knob instead of Hatteras. You'll find it at Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 451.2. Use the parking lot at the visitors center, which opens later and has a few ecology exhibits and a gift shop. You can see the sunrise there, or take the 1.2-mile moderate hike to the 6,292-foot peak, where you'll also see the Great Smoky Mountains and Maggie Valley.



Max Patch Bald

A livestock pasture in the 1800s, Max Patch Bald is covered with wildflowers in warmer months and offers 360-degree views that hikers take advantage of. You'll see the sunrise by Mount Mitchell, the highest point in the East, and the Great Smoky Mountains to the south. The easy 1.6-mile roundtrip hike uses the Appalachian Trail near Hot Springs.



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