



Photograph by Matt McDougall

contact the Eastern or Hawke's Bay offices.

Fish & Game issue permits to hunt game birds in 20 prime wetlands and reserves that contain over 130 ballotted hunting stands. Ballot applications are accepted September to November each year. For all permit and ballot information contact the Eastern or Hawke's Bay offices.

FISH & GAME MANAGED GAME BIRD HUNTING AREAS

It always pays to obtain landowner permission, especially on small streams and backwaters.

Rivers offer exciting hunting opportunities for all game bird species. Stalking backwaters and willow lined pools hopping to jump birds is a fun and exciting sport. Decoying works well as waterfowl like to fly along rivers in search of warm sheltered resting and feeding sites. If you find one of these areas return early in the morning and setup a decoy spread. Walking the river banks is a great day out and drifting down rivers in small boats or stalking the edges in a canoe is also popular. Most rivers have legal hunting access on the bed or water surface and many offer hunting access along the banks. It always pays to obtain landowner permission, especially on small streams and backwaters.

RIVERS

GAME BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS

Regulations are set to maximise hunter opportunity and to ensure sustainable management of species. Refer to your current game bird hunting guide book that you receive with your game bird hunting licence.

ACCESS TO GAME BIRD HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

Eastern and Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Regions have publicly accessible areas that provide game bird hunting opportunities. These include wildlife management reserves, coastal reserves, Department of Conservation reserves, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and Crown forest lands. Private land provides the bulk of game bird hunting. Permission is required from the landowners or managers, which will take time, but is well worth the effort. For an updated hunting access information sheet, including maps which are available as hard copy or via email contact the Eastern or Hawke's Bay offices.

MAIMAI CONSTRUCTION

A well maintained maimai reflects well on game bird hunters. A correctly positioned and constructed maimai will provide years of productive hunting. If you need any advice staff are happy to assist. A useful pamphlet on maimai construction guidelines is available.

JUNIOR HUNTER PROGRAMME

This programme provides junior hunters with a quality waterfowl hunting experience in one of the wildlife management reserves. If you are interested in helping one or two junior licence holders to become successful game bird hunters, obtain an application form from the Eastern office.

GAME BIRD HUNTING STARTER INFORMATION

Any new sport can be confusing at the beginning. To give you a good positive start we have produced a starter kit that summarizes what you need to know and where to get the information or skills.

GAME BIRD HABITAT ENHANCEMENT OR CREATION

Many game bird hunters are actively involved creating or enhancing habitat, either for it's conservation values or to improve hunting. Fish & Game staff have information on all aspects of wetland creation, enhancement including funding assistance and can provide specific advice for your project. Contact Eastern or Hawke's Bay offices for this information.



Private Bag 3010 Rotorua
Telephone: 07 357 5501
Facsimile: 07 357 5503
Email: admin@erfgc.co.nz

PO Box 7545 Taradale, Napier
Telephone: 06 844 2460
Facsimile: 06 844 2461
Email: hawksbay@fishandgame.org.nz

Website: www.fishandgame.org.nz
0800 LICENCE 0800 POACHING

Game Bird Hunting

Game Bird Hunting is an exciting and challenging sport that is well catered for in the Eastern and Hawke's Bay Regions. This huge area provides a wide range of habitats that are home to 10 species of game birds. Whether you hunt open waters on lakes or estuaries, decoy and call ducks into farm ponds, stalk willow lined streams for waterfowl, enjoy trying to outwit pheasants or testing your shotgun skills on fast flying quail, hunting enthusiasts will find extensive opportunities in these areas. The game bird hunting season starts on the first weekend in May and normally runs through to the end of August with the occasional special hunting weekend during the summer.



Pheasant Hunting Photograph by Paul Register

PINE FORESTS

Pine forests are great places to hunt pheasant and quail with some forests also containing wetlands and ponds where waterfowl can be hunted. Pheasant like edges where they feed or rest in the sun. Suitable edges can include different tree sizes, roads, fire breaks, skid sites, riverbanks or farmland. California quail like patches of mature weeds, like broom and buddlia in sunny locations near water, while Brown quail live in sunny dry areas of long grass, weeds and shrubs. We are fortunate to have game bird hunting access to huge areas of pine forests. Forest hunting method information is available from Eastern and Hawke's Bay offices

- To hunt Kaingaroa and Roroehu forests contact the Redwoods Forest and Visitor Centre to obtain an access permit - 07 346 2082.
- For Kinleith Forest access permits contact the Tokaroa Pig Hunting Club.
- For access to Pan Pac Forests in the Hawke's Bay contact Fish & Game for ballot details.

LAKES AND ESTUARIES

Lakes and estuaries are prime hunting locations. Mallards, swan, canada goose and paradise shelduck congregate on the open waters resting between flying out to feed. Shallow margins and tidal zones provide food for dabbling ducks like shoveler, grey and mallard. The most successful way to hunt these areas is to decoy and call birds in to the open water from daybreak until mid afternoon, or into sheltered edges in the evenings. Stalking the edges on foot or by canoe can also be productive and fun. Wetlands and marginal cover hold pukeko and pheasant. Most lakes and estuaries have legal hunting access on the bed or water surface and many offer hunting along the shoreline.

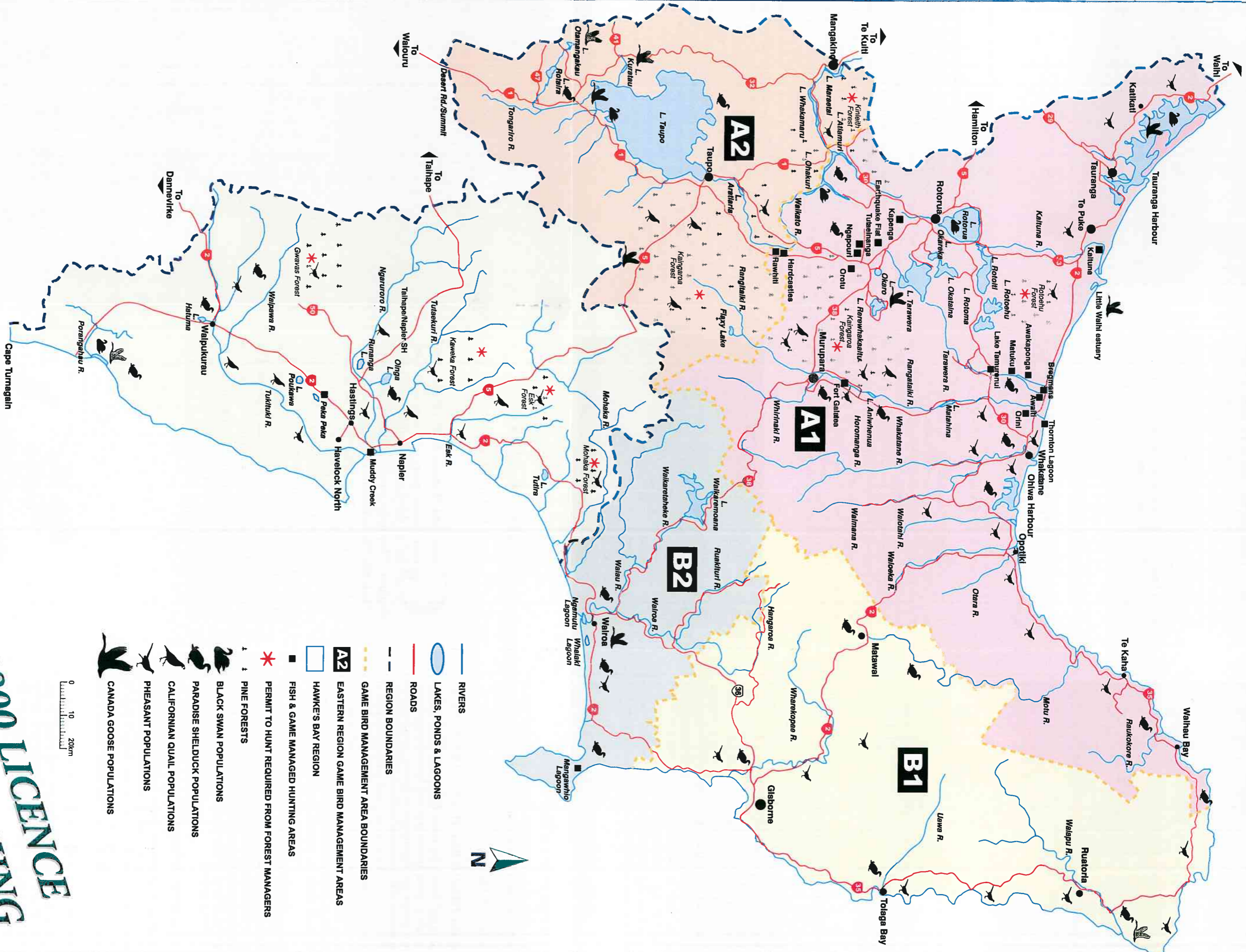


Retrieving Photograph by Natasha Body

Game Bird Hunting

GENERAL GAME BIRD HUNTING INFORMATION

You have 10 species of game birds to hunt in the Eastern and Hawke's Bay Regions. Each species offers hunters new challenges and experiences in a wide variety of terrain and conditions. Mallard duck are found throughout both regions in a wide range of habitats. Waterways and wetlands in coastal and farmland areas are especially productive. Pukeko are abundant in similar habitat to mallard ducks as well as horticulture areas. Grey duck are found in less developed areas around the lakes and upper sections of rivers. Shoveler duck prefer coastal areas but being highly mobile turn up anywhere. Paradise shelducks thrive in grasslands and cropping areas. Black swan live on most lakes and estuaries with high numbers found on Lake Rotorua, Lake Taupo and Tauranga Estuary. Canada goose have established 9 populations within the two regions. Pheasant can be found in most parts of our regions, thriving in coastal areas, riverbeds, horticulture and cropping lands, pine forests and around native forests. Brown quail live in long grasses and shrubs in pine forests, riverbeds and cropping areas close to the coast. California quail are scattered throughout the regions in pine forests, riverbeds, gullies and horticulture lands. Key game bird population areas are shown on the enclosed map with lower populations densities generally distributed throughout the regions.



- RIVERS
- LAKES, PONDS & LAGOONS
- ROADS
- REGION BOUNDARIES
- GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT AREA BOUNDARIES
- EASTERN REGION GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT AREAS
- HAWKE'S BAY REGION
- FISH & GAME MANAGED HUNTING AREAS
- PERMIT TO HUNT REQUIRED FROM FOREST MANAGERS
- PINE FORESTS
- BLACK SWAN POPULATIONS
- PARADISE SHELDUCK POPULATIONS
- CALIFORNIAN QUAIL POPULATIONS
- PHEASANT POPULATIONS
- CANADA GOOSE POPULATIONS



0800 LICENCE
0800 POACHING