

NORTHEAST'S Best Archery Bucks From The 2007 Season!



Mark Thomas, Massachusetts



Gerald Simkonis, Pennsylvania



Marvin Yamonaco, New York

Year after year many of the Northeast's best bucks fall to the region's bowhunters. Archery hunters enjoy extended seasons that range from September through January, and in many cases also include fairly liberal bag limits, particularly in the southern northeast states.

In addition, archers get to hunt during the peak of the rut in some northeast states, providing great opportunities for mature bucks. Archers also enjoy access to suburban properties that are often limited to bowhunting

only, further improving the archers' odds of bumping into a big racked monster! According to the Northeast Big Buck Club, the region's record keeping and scoring organization, bowhunters harvested more than 450 bucks that make the NBBC record book during the 2007 season (bucks that score 100" or better gross Boone & Crockett). It was quite a year for bowhunters in most northeastern states, but three states in particular really dominated the region's bow seasons. Here is a roundup of the best bucks taken during the most recent archery season.

Plus - Best Counties to Bow-hunt in 2008...

by Jeff Brown

Northeast's Best Archery Bucks of 2007

It is important to note that all scores and rankings reflect Northeast Big Buck Club records, with supplemental information provided by other local scoring organizations. What follows is the final tally of the best bucks from the 2007 archery seasons, at least as of the close of the NBBC's awards period (May, 2008). It is also worth noting that we are taking a regional view, including the six New England states, plus New York and Pennsylvania in this particular article.

For the last several seasons, it seems that at least one or two new archery state records are set. In 2005 we saw new non-typical bow records for Maine and Massachusetts. In 2006 we had new typical bow records for New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. And in 2007 there were new official state records in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. That is quite a streak for the region, pointing to ever-improving opportunities to arrow top-end trophy bucks.

Certainly archers continue to take many of the best racks of the season in each state year after year. Let's take a closer look at the

best from 2007.

As you can see from these scores, when viewed as a "region" the Northeast produced some very impressive bucks during this past archery season. And when looking at the previous season (2006) you can see that the top end bucks in each season are consistently reaching into the 200-class range. You will also notice that Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York consistently produce more bucks in the top fifteen, and more of the "best" bucks. Both PA and MA established new state records for non-typical bow bucks in 2007, while RI (typical), MA (typical) and NY (non-typical) set records in 2006. It is also interesting to note that while Rhode Island and Connecticut both make appearances in the top fifteen each year, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont have not done so recently. So if you are after top-end archery bucks in 2008, take a good look at New York and Pennsylvania, and don't forget southern New England (particularly Massachusetts).

Now that we have looked at the region, let's take a deeper look at the state-by-state roundup of the best bow-bucks from 2007, plus some insight regarding where the best bucks are likely to come from in 2008!

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New England's Best Archery Bucks of 2007

Rank	Gross	Net	State	Category/Points	Hunter
1.	212 6/8"	209 1/8"	Pennsylvania	Non-Typical 36-Point	Gerald Simkonis*
2.	201 2/8"	183 3/8"	Pennsylvania	Non-Typical 22-Point	Scott Brun
3.	183 0/8"	180 4/8"	New York	Non-Typical 22-Point	Marvin Yamonaco
4.	179 0/8"	165 5/8"	Massachusetts	Non-Typical 12-Point	Mark Thomas *
5.	172 6/8"	163 2/8"	Massachusetts	Typical 10-Point	Fred Cristina
6.	170 5/8"	165 0/8"	Pennsylvania	Typical 12-Point	Adam Stout
7.	165 0/8"	160 4/8"	Pennsylvania	Non-Typical 14-Point	Matthew Thens
8.	164 5/8"	158 1/8"	Massachusetts	Typical 10-Point	James Kelly
9.	162 1/8"	152 3/8"	Rhode Island	Non-Typical 11-Point	Mike Henry Jr.
10.	161 4/8"	157 1/8"	New York	Non-Typical 11-Point	Thomas Mitchell Jr.
11.	158 0/8"	155 0/8"	Connecticut	Typical 10-Point	John Miller
12.	157 7/8"	155 0/8"	Massachusetts	Typical 8-Point	Justin Davis
13.	157 0/8"	153 6/8"	Pennsylvania	Non-Typical 18-Point	David Shaulis
14.	155 1/8"	148 0/8"	New York	Typical 10-Point	Mark Kent
15.	155 1/8"	141 0/8"	Massachusetts	Non-Typical 11-Point	Dave Zani

By way of comparison to the previous year, here are the gross B&C scores for the biggest archery bucks taken in the Northeast during the 2006 season.

Rank	Gross	Net	State	Category/Points	Hunter
1.	208 5/8"	196 2/8"	New York	Non-Typical 22-Point	Richard Gates *
2.	190 5/8"	179 6/8"	Pennsylvania	Non-Typical 17-Point	James Engleman
3.	188 1/8"	185 7/8"	New York	Non-Typical 15-Point	Mark Privitera
4.	185 7/8"	172 1/8"	Massachusetts	Typical 10-Point	Paul Buccaccio*
5.	174 1/8"	169 3/8"	New York	Non-Typical 16-Point	James Ebel
6.	172 7/8"	166 6/8"	Rhode Island	Typical 10-Point	Stephen Ponte*
7.	166 7/8"	149 0/8"	Massachusetts	Non-Typical 16-Point	Stephen Ingrassia
8.	165 4/8"	153 0/8"	Connecticut	Non-Typical 13-Point	Ted Reutter
9.	164 7/8"	154 2/8"	New York	Typical 10-Point	Daniel Nugent
10.	164 2/8"	157 1/8"	Connecticut	Typical 10-Point	Tim Hogan
11.	163 0/8"	160 5/8"	New York	Typical 10-Point	R. Scot Peck
12.	162 2/8"	157 0/8"	Massachusetts	Typical 10-Point	Ken Pereira
13.	162 0/8"	153 3/8"	Connecticut	Typical 9-Point	Mike Smolicz
14.	158 0/8"	154 0/8"	Pennsylvania	Non-Typical 15-Point	Raymond Myers
15.	158 0/8"	148 4/8"	Pennsylvania	Typical 11-Point	E. Di Pasquale

Note: Entries with an (*) broke existing archery state records.

Best Archery Bucks of 2007

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PENNSYLVANIA —



Scott Brun, Pennsylvania

The newest addition to the NBBC records, is producing big bow bucks in a big way! The impact of adding this state to the NBBC's regional representation of the Northeast is already demonstrated in our records across all categories, with archers well represented in this article. Gerald Simkonis topped the bow records in the Northeast for 2007 with his 212" monster non-typical from Allegheny County. It was the largest gross-scoring bow buck from the Northeast, and the second largest from any category (bow, firearm, muzzleloader) in 2007. Overall top counties from recent seasons include Allegheny, Westmoreland, Lehigh, Mifflin and Erie. Note that cross-bow hunting is legal here, and we do currently include cross-bow bucks (like Brun's monster from 2007) in our top fifteen listings. Given that this state has high deer populations and great trophy potential, you would do well to consider hunting it in 2008.

Best Places To Bow Hunt In PA

Best County for Bow Trophies: Allegheny (Best), Westmoreland (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Allegheny (Best), Westmoreland (2nd Best), Biggest Bow Buck: Gerald Simkonis, Allegheny County, 2007, 212 6/8" Gross, 209 1/8" Net

NEW YORK — This state continues to produce "shock and awe" each season, with three of the top five in 2006, and one entry in the top three for 2007 — that was Marvin Yamonaco's Livingston County 22-Point non-typical that scored 183" gross B&C. This state put nearly 40 bucks in the NBBC archery records in 2007, with a ½ dozen that scored 150" or better. It continues to be among the best in the region. Good bucks come from almost all counties in this state, and it is very difficult to pinpoint "the best" bow county. In the last few years the best bucks have come from Sullivan, Suffolk, Steuben, Livingston, Monroe, Wyoming, Dutchess and Tompkins counties. If this state is not currently on your list of top bowhunting destinations in the Northeast, that should change!

Best Places To Bow Hunt In NY

Best County for Bow Trophies: Steuben (Best),

Livingston (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Suffolk (Best), Steuben (2nd Best), Biggest Bow Buck: Richard Gates, Suffolk County, 2006, 208 5/8" Gross, 196 2/8" Net

MASSACHUSETTS — The Bay State set a new state record for archery typicals in 2006! Paul Buccaccio arrowed an unbelievable 185 7/8" gross and 172 1/8" net B&C 10-Point in Worcester County. This massive typical beat the previous state record typical bow buck by over 10" (Mark Thomas's 175 6/8" 10-Point from Norfolk County in 2004). And then Thomas turned around and set the non-typical bow record in 2007 with his 179" monster from Norfolk County! This 14-point netted 165 5/8" P&Y, and beat the previous record by 1". It seems this state establishes a new bow record just about every year! And regionally it does very well, dominating the top fifteen with five entries in 2007, and three the previous year. As we look at the records from the past few years, Worcester, Plymouth, Bristol, Middlesex and Norfolk counties are leading the pack for the biggest bucks — that represents most of the central and eastern part of the state. This state, along with New York and Pennsylvania, should be your target for bowhunting in 2008.



Dave Zani, Massachusetts

Best Places To Bow Hunt In MA

Best County for Bow Trophies: Worcester (Best), Middlesex (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Worcester (Best), Plymouth (2nd Best), Biggest Bow Buck: Paul Buccaccio, Worcester County, 2006, 185 7/8" Gross, 172 1/8" Net

CONNECTICUT — This state has a history for producing some of the best bucks taken by the region's archers. In fact three of the top fifteen bucks from the 2006 season came from this densely populated state, followed by just one buck that made this listing in 2007. Bowhunters do particularly well here because they can get access to smaller tracts of private land more readily than gun hunters can. And the bow season is quite liberal, running from mid-September to late January in some zones. In 2006 three

different bucks were taken that grossed over 160". But in 2007 the best bow buck topped out at 158" – a typical 10-Point taken by John Miller in Hartford County. Over the past three seasons the leading counties for monster archery bucks have been Fairfield, New London, Hartford, New Haven and Middlesex. This state continues to shine when it comes to bow bucks, and you can bet that 2008 will bring more of the same!

Best Places To Bow Hunt In CT

Best County for Bow Trophies: Fairfield (Best), Hartford (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Fairfield (Best), Middlesex (2nd Best) Biggest Bow Buck: Christopher Krista, New Haven County, 1998, 199 1/8" Gross, 187 3/8" Net

RHODE ISLAND –

If you are a frequent reader of this magazine you already know that this tiny state has a reputation for producing an incredible number of outstanding muzzleloader trophies. But archers in this state do quite well, and in the 2006 season a new state record was established for bow typicals. Stephen Ponte arrowed a 172 7/8" gross B&C 10-Point in Newport County in late November, besting the old record by more than 7" (Stephen Burchett's 165 2/8" 10-Point from Providence County in 1996). 2007 brought no new records, but did squeak into the top ten with Mike Henry's 160-class non-typical. Henry's buck ranks 3rd all-time for bow non-typicals in the state. Good bow bucks come from all counties in this small state, so planning your hunt for 2008 doesn't require a lot of analysis!



Mike Henry, Jr., Rhode Island

Best Places To Bow Hunt In RI

Best County for Bow Trophies: Washington (Best), Providence (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Providence (Best), Washington (2nd Best) Biggest Bow Buck: Stephen Ponte, Newport County, 2006, 172 7/8" Gross, 166 6/8" Net

VERMONT/MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE –

Northern New England is renowned for its rifle hunting, and more recently muzzleloaders have put up a number of quality smokepole bucks. But archers traditionally struggle to shoot top end bucks consistently here, given the terrain and the lower deer densities. In 2007 no bucks over 150" were recorded by the NBBC, but some nice bucks did make the book. In the past, Maine and New Hampshire have produced some monsters in the 180" plus category, but Vermont has struggled to break 160" for bow-killed bucks. These states are not the best destination for the serious archer. On the other hand, these states ARE consistently producing monster bucks in other season segments, so don't count

them out completely!

Best Places To Bow Hunt In NH

Best County for Bow Trophies: Rockingham (Best), Cheshire (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Rockingham (Best), Carroll (2nd Best) Biggest Bow Buck: Glenn Townsend, Rockingham County, 2000, 216 7/8" Gross, 208 2/8" Net

Best Places To Bow Hunt In ME

Best County for Bow Trophies: York (Best), Cumberland (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Cumberland (Best), York (2nd Best) Biggest Bow Buck: Bill Gardner, Cumberland County, 2005, 180 7/8" Gross, 178 0/8" Net

Best Places To Bow Hunt In VT

Best County for Bow Trophies: Windham (Best), Washington (2nd Best), Most 150-Class or Better Bow Bucks: Bennington (Best) Biggest Bow Buck: Ben Morse, Bennington County, 2005, 150 5/8" Gross, 143 2/8" Net

2007 Summary, and the Outlook for 2008

The 2007 archery season in the northeast was outstanding. It seems that each year brings us new state record bucks in this category as more hunters take advantage of the extended seasons and liberal bag limits offered for bowhunting. Continuous improvements in bowhunting equipment and technology are helping, and yet we are seeing greater success by traditional bowhunters as well. Given the growth of archery hunter numbers across the region, and the success they have been experiencing in recent years, it is safe to assume that the 2008 seasons will likely produce one or more new state records as well. In any case, we can certainly expect to see bowhunters taking some of the most impressive bucks in each state during the coming season. **To learn more about the big bucks taken in 2007 throughout New England, visit the Northeast Big Buck Club online at www.bigbuckclub.com, or contact them by phone at (508) 752-8762; and by email at jbhunts@aol.com.**

Note: The NBBC's 5th record book, **Northeast Trophy Whitetails V**, is available for purchase through the mail or via www.bigbuckclub.com. You can purchase your copy of this 339 page hardcover book through the mail by sending \$39 plus \$5.60 shipping to NBBC Book V, 390 Marshall Street, Paxton, MA 01612. **See page 39 for more details!**