

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCES 1947 DUCK HUNTING RULES

Waterfowl hunting regulations designed to bring about a very substantial reduction in the kill of ducks and geese during the 1947 shooting season were announced today by Acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

"Further reductions in the hunting season and bag limits are necessary this year to stem the noticeable decrease in waterfowl which has occurred during the past three years," asserted the Secretary. "If the sport of wildfowling is to continue, we must regulate the take to less than the season's increase."

States east of a line extending north and south from the western boundary of Minnesota to and including Louisiana were offered the choice of 30 consecutive days or a split season of 24 days--two periods of 12 days each. States on the other side of this line were permitted to choose a season of 35 consecutive days or a split season of 28 days--two periods of 14 days each.

This division of the country was made because nesting conditions on the Canadian and Alaskan breeding grounds which feed birds into the Pacific and Central flyways were far better than in those areas of Canada which send the migrants south in the fall along the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways.

To insure further protection for waterfowl, the daily shooting hours have been reduced to the period from sunrise to one hour before sunset, and on the first day of each waterfowl and coot season hunting is not permitted prior to 12 o'clock noon, including the first day of each split season. In addition the duck bag limit has been reduced to 4 a day and 8 in possession.

Adopted by Acting Secretary Chapman in accordance with an act of Congress making effective treaties relating to birds migrating between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the amended regulations were approved by President Truman on July 31. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service after biological investigations and consultations with State game administrators.

Salient features of the 1947 regulations include the following:

The daily bag limit for geese has been increased to 5 in California, Oregon, and Washington primarily for snow geese which are in abundance, but such limit may include not exceeding 2 Canada geese, white-fronted geese or brant. In all other States the daily bag limit of 4 has been retained but in Alaska, Puerto Rico, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada this limit may include only 2 Canadian or white-fronted geese or 1 of each, and in the other States but 1 Canadian or 1 white-fronted goose.

A daily bag limit of 7 and a possession limit of 14 has been established for scoters (sea coots), which birds are chiefly hunted in waters off the New England Coast and New York.

This year the Mississippi flyway States will be open to the hunting of Canada geese. The season in these States was closed last year but this flight of birds has shown sufficient improvement in numbers to justify a restoration of shooting privileges.

The season for brant on the Atlantic Coast has been closed because of the unsatisfactory status of this species.

At the suggestion of the State game departments, a closed season has been prescribed for snow geese in Colorado, for wood ducks in New Jersey and West Virginia, and for mourning doves in Minnesota. A short open season for doves has been provided in Nebraska.

Changes have also been made in the seasons for scoters, doves, rails and gallinules, woodcock, and band-tailed pigeons in a number of States.

The post-season period for possession of migratory game birds remains the same as last year--90 days.

The regulations do not authorize the taking of waterfowl by means of bait or with the aid of live duck or goose decoys.

OPEN SEASONS

Waterfowl and Coot.--The open seasons on waterfowl and coot (except wood ducks in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming; snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana, in Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming, and snow geese and brant in States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean; Ross' geese; and swans) in the several States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia,
December 8 to January 6.

Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, October 7 to October 20 and December 23 to January 5.

California and Oregon, October 21 to November 3 and December 23 to January 5.

Colorado, Idaho, and Wyoming, October 7 to October 20 and December 2 to December 15.

Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, November 18 to December 17.

Delaware and New York, including Long Island, October 21 to November 1 and December 2 to December 13.

Illinois, Missouri, and West Virginia, November 4 to December 3.

Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin, October 21 to November 19.

Kansas, November 4 to December 8.

Maine and New Hampshire, October 7 to October 18 and December 2 to December 13.

Maryland, November 4 to November 15 and December 23 to January 3.

Michigan and Minnesota, October 7 to November 5.

Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, and Utah, October 21 to November 24.

North Dakota and South Dakota, October 7 to November 10.

Rhode Island, December 2 to December 31.

Texas, November 4 to November 17 and December 16 to December 29.

Washington, October 21 to November 3 and December 16 to December 29.

Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.

Alaska, in Fur Districts 1 and 3 as defined in the regulations governing the taking of game in Alaska, adopted May 15, 1944 (9 F.R. 5270) October 1 to November 4; in the remainder of Alaska, September 1 to October 5.

Scoters.--Locally known as sea coots may be taken in all areas during the applicable seasons for other ducks in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York, and otherwise may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine from October 6 to December 16, in New York from September 16 to December 13, in New Hampshire from September 1 to October 6, in Connecticut and Massachusetts from September 16 to November 17 and in Rhode Island from September 16 to December 1.

Coot.--In Lake and McHenry Counties, Illinois, October 1 to October 12 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and thereafter during the seasons and hours provided for ducks.

Rails and Gallinules (except Coot).--The open season on rails and gallinules (except coot) shall be from September 1 to November 30, both dates inclusive, except as follows:

Alabama, November 20 to January 31.

Illinois, in Lake and McHenry Counties, October 1 to October 12 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and thereafter during the seasons and hours provided for ducks.

Maine, October 7 to October 18 and December 2 to December 13.

Maryland, September 1 to September 30.

Massachusetts, November 18 to December 17.

Minnesota, September 16 to November 30.

Mississippi, October 15 to December 30.

New York, including Long Island, October 21 to November 1 and December 2 to December 13.

Wisconsin, October 21 to November 19.
Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.
California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa,
Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, no open season.

Woodcock.--The open seasons on Woodcock shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arkansas and Oklahoma, December 1 to December 15.
Connecticut, October 28 to November 10.
Delaware and Maryland, November 15 to November 29.
Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, December 23 to January 6.
Indiana and West Virginia, October 16 to October 30.
Maine, in Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset,
Franklin, and Oxford Counties, October 1 to October 15; in remainder
of State, October 16 to October 30.
Massachusetts, November 3 to November 17.
Michigan, in Upper Peninsula, October 1 to October 15; in
remainder of State, October 15 to October 29.
Minnesota, October 11 to October 25.
Missouri, November 10 to November 24.
New Hampshire, in Coos, Carroll, and Grafton Counties,
October 1 to October 15; in remainder of State, October 16 to
October 30.
New Jersey, October 20 to November 3.
New York, north and east of the tracks of the branch line
of the New York Central Railroad from Oswego to Syracuse, the
main line of the New York Central Railroad from Syracuse to
Albany, and the main line of the Boston & Albany Railroad from
Albany to the Massachusetts State line, October 10 to October 24;
west and south of the line above described, October 20 to November 3;
and that part of New York known as Long Island, November 1 to
November 15; from 12 o'clock noon until sunset on the opening day
in each of these zones, and thereafter in all of the aforesaid zones
from 7:00 a.m. until sunset.
Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, October 10 to October 24.
Rhode Island, November 1 to November 15.
Vermont, in Bennington and Windham Counties and those portions
of Rutland and Windsor Counties south of U. S. Highway Route 4 from
West Haven to White River Junction, October 16 to October 30; in
remainder of State, October 1 to October 15.
Virginia, November 20 to December 4.

Mourning, or Turtle, Dove.--The open seasons on mourning, or turtle, dove
shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona, Kansas, Kentucky and Missouri, September 1 to October 30.
Alabama, November 27 to January 25.
Arkansas and Delaware, September 16 to November 14.
California, in Imperial County, October 1 to October 31;
in remainder of State, September 1 to September 30.
Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico, September 1 to October 12.

Florida, in Broward, Dade, and Monroe Counties, October 1 to October 31; in remainder of State, November 20 to January 18.
Georgia, December 3 to January 31.
Idaho and Oregon, September 1 to September 15.
Illinois and Oklahoma, September 1 to September 30.
Louisiana, December 1 to January 29.
Maryland, September 1 to October 15.
Mississippi, October 16 to October 31 and January 1 to January 31.
Nebraska, September 10 to September 24.
North Carolina, September 15 to September 30, and January 1 to January 31.
Pennsylvania, October 10 to October 24.
South Carolina, September 16 to October 9, and December 22 to January 13.
Tennessee, September 1 to October 30 from 12 o'clock noon to sunset.
Texas, in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Kendall, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Cherokee, Macogoches, and Shelby Counties, and all counties north and west thereof, September 1 to October 15; in remainder of State (but not including Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, LaSalle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kennedy, and Willacy Counties), October 20 to December 3; in these latter counties, September 12, 14, and 16, from 4 p.m. until sunset, and thereafter, October 20 to November 30, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
Virginia, September 16 to October 31.

White-winged Dove.--The open seasons on white-winged dove shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona, September 1 to September 15.
Texas, in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Kinney, Dimmit, LaSalle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kennedy, Willacy, Val Verde, Terrell, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, Culberson, Hudspeth, and El Paso Counties, September 12, 14, and 16, from 4 p.m. until sunset.

Band-tailed Pigeon.--The open seasons on band-tailed pigeon shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona and New Mexico, September 16 to October 15.
California, December 1 to December 31.
Oregon and Washington, September 1 to September 30.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

On the opening day of the season no person may possess any migratory game birds in excess of the daily limits herein prescribed.

Daily bag limits on ducks (except the American and red-breasted mergansers) are 4 in the aggregate of all kinds, including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck. Any person at any time may possess not more than 8 ducks including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck.

American and Red-breasted Mergansers.--Twenty-five singly or in the aggregate. No possession limit.

Scoters (sea coots).--Seven, and any person may possess not more than 14.

Geese and Brant (except snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana, in Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming, and snow geese and brant in States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean; and Ross' geese anywhere), as follows:

In Washington, Oregon, and California 5, including in such limit any combination not exceeding 2 of Canada geese (including Hutchins or cackling geese), white-fronted geese and brant.

In Alaska, Puerto Rico, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada 4, including in such limit not more than 2 Canada geese (including Hutchins or cackling geese), or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

Elsewhere than in the above States 4, including in such limit either 1 Canada goose (including Hutchins or cackling geese) or 1 white-fronted goose.

Any person may possess not more than the above bag limits of geese or brant.

xxx