

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERIOR ANNOUNCES SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BANDTAILS, WOODCOCK, RAILS, GALLINULES, SNIPE AND DOVES

Hunting regulations for band-tailed pigeons, woodcock, rails, gallinules, common snipe and doves this fall and winter will be nearly identical to last year's rules, the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today.

Surveys by the Bureau and State wildlife agencies showed little change in the populations of most of these game birds.

Changes from 1967 regulations include:

1. In Texas, the daily bag and possession limits for white-winged doves were reduced to 10 and 20 from 12 and 24 because of a decrease in white-wing population there. The season remains at 4 half-days.
2. An experimental 9-day open season for band-tailed pigeons will be held in adjoining areas of New Mexico and Arizona. The limit is 5 daily, 10 in possession.
3. The framework date for Wilson's snipe is extended from January 15 to January 31.
4. Because of a decrease of mourning doves in Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California (Western Management Unit), the limits there will be 10 daily and 20 in possession reduced from last year's 12 and 24.

Following are the frameworks as approved by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall:

MOURNING DOVES

Between September 1, 1968, and January 15, 1969, States may select seasons conforming to the following conditions:

outside dates
for all Mgmt.
Units

Eastern Management Unit: (all States east of the Mississippi River and Louisiana)

1. Shooting hours are from 12 o'clock noon until sunset: shooting hours
2. A daily bag limit of 12 and a possession limit of 24; bag limits
3. An open season of not more than 70 half days which may run consecutively or be split into not more than three periods. season lengths

Central Management Unit: (Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming)

1. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset in all States except Texas; shooting hours
2. A daily bag limit of 12 and a possession limit of 24; bag limits
3. An open season of not more than 60 consecutive full days in all States except Texas; or season lengths
4. Split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 60 full days in all States except Texas. season lengths

In New Mexico, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds, are 12 and 24.

New Mexico's
special
limits

Texas will again be permitted to select open seasons for each of two established geographical areas subject to the following conditions:

1. In the Northern Area, an open season of not more than 60 consecutive half days between September 1, 1968, and January 15, 1969. Shooting hours are 12 o'clock noon until sunset. Texas'
Northern Area
2. In the Southern Area, an open season of not more than 60 consecutive half days between September 21, 1968, and January 15, 1969. Shooting hours are 12 o'clock noon until sunset. Provided, That in the Counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy, the season shall be for only 56 consecutive half days which shall open with the 60 half day season selected for the Southern Area. Texas'
Southern Area

WHITE-WINGED DOVES

In Arizona, an open season is prescribed for the entire State. Arizona
The daily bag and possession limit is 25. Shooting hours are
from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset. Dates will conform
to the dates for mourning doves.

In California, an open season is prescribed only for the California
Counties of: Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino. The
daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20 white-
winged and mourning doves, singly or in the aggregate of both
kinds. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until
sunset. Dates and limits will conform to those for mourning
doves.

In Nevada, an open season is prescribed only for the Counties Nevada
of Clark and Nye. The daily bag limit is 10 and the possession
limit is 20 white-winged and mourning doves, singly or in the
aggregate of both kinds. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour be-
fore sunrise until sunset. Dates and limits will conform to
those for mourning doves.

In New Mexico, an open season is prescribed for the entire New Mexico
State. The daily bag limit is 12 and the possession limit
is 24 white-winged and mourning doves, singly or in the
aggregate of both kinds. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour
before sunrise until sunset. Dates will conform to those
for mourning doves.

In Texas, an open season of 4 half-days, September 1, 2, 7, and Texas
8, is prescribed only for the following Counties: Brewster,
Brooks, Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth,
Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick,
Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata.
The daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20.
Shooting hours are from 12 o'clock noon until sunset.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

(In Washington, Oregon, and California)

Between September 1, 1968, and January 15, 1969, Oregon and outside dat
Washington may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days; and area
California may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days for
each of the two following areas:

1. In the Counties of: Butte, Del Norte, Glen, Humbolt,
Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra,
Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity; and
2. The remainder of the State.

In all three States the daily bag and possession limit is 8 limits and
and the daily shooting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until shooting
sunset. hours

(In New Mexico and Arizona)

A special experimental open season for band-tailed pigeons is prescribed for New Mexico and Arizona in accordance with the following conditions: Open season dates will be from September 28 through October 6; a daily bag limit of 5 and possession limit of 10; shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset daily; Provided, That every hunter must have been issued and carry on his person while hunting band-tailed pigeons a properly validated special band-tailed pigeon hunting permit issued by the game department of each respective State for the open season in that State. Such special band-tailed pigeon hunting permit will be issued upon application to the State game department of the State in which hunting is to be done. Permits issued by either State will be valid in that State only. Provided further, That this special experimental season shall be open only in the area described, delineated, and designated as such by the States of New Mexico and Arizona in their respective hunting regulations.

WOODCOCK

Between September 1, 1968, and January 31, 1969, each State in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of not more than 65 days with daily bag limit of 5 and possession limit of 10. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset in all States except in New York, where daily shooting hours are from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. official prevailing time. A State may select a split woodcock season without penalty in the total number of days.

RAILS

(King, Clapper, Sora, and Virginia)

Between September 1, 1968, and January 15, 1969, the following named States may select a season on king, clapper, sora, and Virginia rails, according to the following requirements: The States of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland may select a season of not more than 70 consecutive days with daily bag limit of 7 and 14 in possession of clapper and king rails, singly or in the aggregate of these two species.

The States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia may select a season of not more than 70 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 15 and 30 in possession of clapper and king rails, singly or in the aggregate of these two species.

The season will remain closed on clapper and king rails in all other States. species closure

In addition to the seasons and limits for king and clapper rails prescribed for those States named above, all States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of not more than 70 consecutive days for sora and Virginia rails with daily bag and possession limit of 25, singly or in the aggregate of these two species. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. sora and Virginia rail season

No season on rails is prescribed in the Pacific Flyway. exception

GALLINULES

States may select an open season for gallinules according to the following option: States may select an open season not to exceed 70 consecutive days between the outside dates of September 1, 1968, and January 15, 1968, with limits not to exceed 15 daily and 30 in possession. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. option for gallinules

COMMON SNIPE (WILSON'S)

Between September 1, 1968, and January 31, 1969, each State in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of not more than 50 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 8 and a possession limit of 16 with shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset. outside dates, limits, and shooting hours

Pacific Flyway States will select seasons on snipe at the time waterfowl seasons are selected. Such seasons must fall within the dates and shooting hours, prescribed for waterfowl. Season lengths and limits will be the same in all Flyways. snipe season in Pacific Flyway

Western Management Unit: (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington)

1. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset; shooting hours
2. A daily bag limit of 10 and a possession limit of 20; bag limits
3. An open season of 50 full days which may run concurrently or be split into not more than three periods. season length

In Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, and in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, California, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds, are 10 and 20. special limits