

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

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WATERFOWL HUNTING FRAMEWORKS MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN LAST SEASON

Waterfowl regulation frameworks for States to use in selecting their 1968-69 hunting seasons are more restrictive than last year, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

"We do not want to gamble with the future of duck hunting," Secretary Udall said. "The picture as a whole is not one of strong flights of ducks."

The Secretary pointed out that weather conditions were poor on the northern prairie pothole country of Canada and the U.S., where many of the favored game ducks breed.

Extremely dry habitat caused reduced duck production and will mean smaller fall migration flights. Popular species such as mallards, canvasbacks, redheads and pintails will be moving southward in the smallest numbers in recent years.

The regulations permit seasons and bag limits commensurate with the duck resource and the need to insure future breeding stocks.

The most severe hunting restrictions aimed at protecting these species were issued for the Mississippi flyway. States in the flyway may select either a hunting season of 30 days and a bag limit of 3 (not more than 1 mallard), or a season of 20 days and a bag limit of 3 (not more than 2 mallards). Last year the season was 40 days with a bag limit of 4 (not more than 2 mallards).

The Central flyway season was reduced 20 days, with the bag remaining the same. Season and bag limits were reduced less in the Pacific and Atlantic flyways, which are less affected by the breeding situation in drought-stricken areas.

Another highlight of the new regulations is the elimination of bonus bags on scaup because of the extra hunting pressure this placed on other species. To provide as much recreation as possible from this underharvested game bird, however, special scaup seasons are permitted in areas where this species is prevalent.

A late season on mallard drakes only will be tested in a high plains area of Wyoming, Montana and Colorado to check ability of hunters in shooting only mature greenheads. The area's regular season will be reduced one week in exchange for the drakes only shooting.

A flyway-by-flyway description of frameworks is attached.

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN NOT FOR RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC

OR TO NEWS MEDIA BEFORE SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 1968

Summary of 1968-69 Regulations Frameworks for
Waterfowl, Coots, Cranes, Snipe and Gallinules

In considering amendments to regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Secretary of the Interior has approved frameworks which prescribe season lengths, bag limits, shooting hours, and dates within which States may select 1968-69 seasons for hunting waterfowl, coots, and gallinules; cranes in parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, and Oklahoma; and for common snipe in the Pacific Flyway. Frameworks are summarized below.

GENERAL

States may select split seasons for ducks within any option, subject to a 10 percent penalty in days, and split seasons for geese without penalty.

States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways are reminded that if they did not select their gallinule season in July, they should do so at the time of their waterfowl selections. Frameworks for gallinule for these three Flyways were approved by the Secretary on June 28 and are:

gallinules

Outside dates - Sept. 1-Jan. 15; season length--not more than 70 consecutive days; shooting hours - 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset daily; limits--15 daily, 30 in possession.

Those States and portions of States in the Pacific Flyway will be allowed a coot and gallinule season running concurrently with the season selected for ducks, with a daily bag and possession limit of 25 coots and gallinules, singly or in the aggregate.

gallinules in
the Pacific
Flyway

Basic shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset in all Flyways for all species.

shooting hours

Dates within which States may select open seasons; the length of open season; bag limit options; and other special provisions are listed below by Flyway.

Any State may select a special scaup-only hunting season not to exceed 16 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 5 and a possession limit of 10 scaup subject to the following conditions:

special scaup season

1. Any such special season must fall between October 1 and January 31, inclusive.
2. Such special season must fall outside the open season for any other ducks except sea ducks.
3. Such season be limited to described areas mutually agreed upon between the State and the Bureau prior to August 27.
4. Agreed upon open areas must be described and delineated under State hunting regulations.
5. Shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Between October 5, 1968, and January 15, 1969, States in this Flyway may select concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of: (a) 40 consecutive days; or a split season totaling 36 days with basic limits on ducks of 4 daily and 8 in possession; or (b) 50 consecutive days; or a split season totaling 45 days with basic limits on ducks of 3 daily and 6 in possession; and the limits on coots are 10 daily and 20 in possession under either option.

outside dates, ducks & coots

The daily bag limit on ducks shall not include more than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; (c) 2 black ducks; and (d) 2 mallards. The possession limit on ducks shall not include more than: (a) 4 wood ducks; (b) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; (c) 4 black ducks; and (d) 4 mallards.

limit restriction, ducks

The limit on mergansers is 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which only 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

mergansers

That portion of the State of New York (Lake Champlain area) lying east and north of the Delaware and Hudson railroad tracks running south from the Canadian line to Whitehall, New York and east to the New York-Vermont State line will take the waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours selected by Vermont. The State of New York may select open season dates for the Long Island area independent of the season for the rest of the State.

reciprocal, New York with Vermont

States in this Flyway may select their goose seasons and limits (except snow geese) within the following framework:

Between October 5, 1968, and January 26, 1969, for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New Jersey.

outside dates
geese

Between November 16, 1968, and January 26, 1969, for the States of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

In the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, excluding the Back Bay area, the open season on geese (except snow geese) shall not exceed 70 days, with a daily bag limit of 2, and a possession limit of 4.

season length
and limits,
geese

In the Back Bay area of Virginia and in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, the open season on geese (except snow geese) shall not exceed 50 days, with a daily bag limit of 1, and a possession limit of 2.

Between October 5, 1968, and January 26, 1969, all States in this Flyway may select a season for brant not to exceed 70 days with daily bag and possession limit of 6. There will be no open season for taking geese and brant in McIntosh and Liberty Counties of Georgia.

brant season
and limits

Shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power is permitted during regular and special seasons in those coastal waters and in rivers and streams lying seaward from the first upstream bridge in the States of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut; and in those coastal waters of New York State lying in Long Island and Block Island Sounds and associated bays eastward from a line running between Miamogue Point in the town of Riverhead to Red Cedar Point in the Town of Southampton, including any ocean waters of New York lying south of Long Island.

cripples,
pursuing &
shooting

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

Between October 1, 1968, and January 15, 1969, States in this Flyway may select concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of: (a) 30 consecutive days or a split season totaling 27 days with a basic limit of 3 daily and 6 in possession; or (b) 20 consecutive days or a split season totaling 18 days with basic limits of 3 daily and 6 in possession; and a daily bag limit on coots of 10 and a possession limit of 20.

outside date
options for
season length
and limits of
ducks & coot

The limit on mergansers is 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

mergansers

The daily bag limit of ducks in all States choosing the longer season option shall not include more than: (a) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; (b) 1 mallard; (c) 2 wood ducks; and (d) 2 black ducks. The possession limit shall not include more than: (a) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; (b) 2 mallards; (c) 4 wood ducks; and (d) 4 black ducks.

limit
restriction,
ducks

The daily bag limit of ducks in all States choosing the shorter season option shall not include more than: (a) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; (b) 2 mallards; (c) 2 wood ducks; and (d) 2 black ducks. The possession limit shall not include more than: (a) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; (b) 4 mallards; (c) 4 wood ducks; and (d) 4 black ducks.

limit
restriction,
ducks

Between September 28, 1968, and January 12, 1969, States in this Flyway may select an open season on geese totaling 70 days with a daily bag and possession limit of 5; and that there shall be no open season for taking Canada geese in Issaquena, Sharkey, and Washington Counties of Mississippi; and there shall be no open season on Canada geese in the States of Arkansas and Louisiana.

outside date
limits, geese

In all States except Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri, the daily bag and possession limits shall not include, in the alternative, more than: (a) 2 Canada geese; or (b) 2 white-fronted geese; or (c) 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose. In the States of Illinois and Missouri, the daily bag limit shall not include, in the alternative, more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 of each; the possession limit shall not include, in the alternative, more than: (a) 2 white-fronted geese; or (b) 4 Canada geese; or (c) 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate. In Wisconsin, the daily bag limit may not include more than 1 Canada goose and the possession limit not more than 2 Canada geese except in the Horicon Zone where the possession limit is only 1 Canada goose.

limit
restrictions
geese

In the States of Illinois and Wisconsin, the kill of Canada geese shall be limited to 20,000 birds in each State.

quota limit
Canada geese
in Ill. & Wisc.

In Missouri, the kill of Canada geese in the Swan Lake Area shall be limited to 25,000 birds, and that Missouri may select separate open seasons of 70 days for each of the following 3 areas: (1) Swan Lake Area; (2) Squaw Creek Area (same descriptions as last year); and (3) the remainder of the State. Canada geese may be taken only during the first 30 days of the open season selected for the Squaw Creek Area. The daily bag limit in this area is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit 2.

limit of
Canada geese
in Missouri

Geese taken in the States of Illinois and Missouri may not be transported, shipped, or delivered for transportation or shipment by common carrier, the postal service, or by any person except as the personal baggage of the hunter taking the birds.

restriction
on transport-
ing geese in
Ill. & Mo.

When it has been determined by the Director that the quota of Canada geese allotted for the State of Illinois and Missouri Swan Lake Area will have been killed in these States respectively, the season for taking Canada geese therein will be closed by the Director upon giving public notice through local information media at least 48 hours in advance of the time and day of closing.

special
closure for
geese in
Ill. & Mo.

CENTRAL FLYWAY

Between October 5, 1968, and January 12, 1969, States in this Flyway may select concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of: (a) 30 consecutive days or a split season totaling 27 days with basic limits on ducks of 4 daily and 8 in possession; or (b) 40 consecutive days or a split season totaling 36 days with basic limits on ducks of 3 daily and 6 in possession; and the limits on coots is 10 daily and 20 in possession under either option.

seasons on
ducks and
coots, limits

The limit on mergansers shall be 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

mergansers

The daily bag limit of ducks shall not include more than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; and (c) 2 mallards. The possession limit shall not include more than: (a) 4 wood ducks; (b) 1 canvasback or 1 redhead; and (c) 4 mallards.

limit
restrictions,
ducks

Between December 14, 1968, and January 12, 1969, in the Central Flyway portion of Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado, a special season of 23 consecutive days prescribed for mallard drakes

special drake
season

only with a daily limit of 4 and possession limit of 8, with shooting hours from sunrise to sunset. Provided, the State shortens its regular duck season by 7 days, and such season ends by December 13, 1968.

Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming will select open seasons on waterfowl and coots in accordance with the frameworks for the Pacific Flyway as follows: (a) those portions of the States of Colorado and Wyoming lying west of the Continental Divide; (b) that portion of New Mexico lying west of the Continental Divide plus the entire area of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation; and (c) the Montana Counties of Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher, and Park and all Counties west thereof.

Colorado, New Mexico, Mont. and Wyoming

In the Colorado Counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande, and those portions of Saguache, Hinsdale, and Mineral Counties lying east of the Continental Divide, an experimental open season on ducks and coots under a special permit is prescribed from October 1 through October 18, 1968, with a daily bag limit of 70 points. Daily shooting hours are from sunrise until sunset. A daily bag limit of from 2 to 7 ducks and coots in the aggregate and the specific daily limit depending upon the sexes and species taken as determined by the following point system: Mallard drakes each have a value of 10 points, mallard hens a value of 40 points, and all other ducks and coots a value of 30 points. The limit will be reached when the point value for the duck or coot last taken during the day, when added to the sum of the point values for ducks or coots already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 70 points. The possession limit shall consist of two legal daily bag limits.

Colorado Counties

experimental duck and coot season

limits

Between October 1, 1968, and January 15, 1969, States in this Flyway may select an open season on geese totaling 75 days with a daily bag and possession limit of 5, but not more than 1 Ross' goose.

outside dates limits, geese

In the Central Flyway portions of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico, the daily bag and possession limit is 2 geese. In Nebraska, Kansas, and in that portion of South Dakota lying west of U. S. Highway 281 and south of U. S. Highway 34; that portion of Texas lying west of U. S. Highway 81; and all of Oklahoma except Alfalfa, Bryan, Johnston, and Marshall Counties, the daily bag and possession limit shall not include more of the following species than: (a) 1 Ross' goose and (b) in the alternative, 1 white-fronted goose; or 1 white-fronted goose and 1 Canada goose; or 2 Canada geese.

limits

In that portion of North Dakota lying west of State Highway 3, the daily bag limit shall not include more than (a) 1 Ross' goose and (b) in the alternative, not more than 2 white-fronted geese; or 2 Canada geese; or 1 of each. In that portion of North Dakota lying east of State Highway 3, the daily bag limit may not include more than (a) 1 Ross' goose and (b) in the alternative, not more than 1 Canada goose; or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose; or 2 white-fronted geese. The possession limit shall not include more than: (a) 1 Ross' goose, and (b) 2 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate of these species. limits

In that portion of South Dakota lying east of U. S. Highway 281, north of State Highway 34, except those portions of Roberts County east of U. S. Highway 81 and Grant County, north of U. S. Highway 12; and in Alfalfa, Bryan, Johnston, and Marshall Counties, Oklahoma, the daily bag limit shall not include more than: (a) 1 Ross' goose, (b) 1 Canada goose, and (c) 1 white-fronted goose; and the possession limit shall not be more than: (a) 1 Ross' goose and (b) in the alternative, not more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada and 1 white-fronted goose, or 1 white-fronted goose. South Dakota limits, geese

In that portion of Texas lying east of U. S. Highway 81, the daily bag limit shall not include more than: (a) 1 Ross' goose and (b) in the alternative, not more than 1 Canada goose or 1 white-fronted goose; and the possession limit not more than: (a) 1 Ross' goose and (b) in the alternative, not more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada and 1 white-fronted goose. Texas limits, geese

No open season is prescribed for the taking of geese in portions of Conejos, Alamosa, Rio Grande, and Mineral Counties of Colorado (as described by Colorado). closed area, Colorado

Open seasons are prescribed for taking little brown cranes with a daily bag limit of 2 and a possession limit of 4, and with shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset, in the following described areas: little brown cranes

(a) 30 consecutive days from October 1 through October 30, 1968, in the Central Flyway portion of Colorado excluding the San Luis Valley area.

(b) 57 consecutive days between November 2 and December 28, 1968, in New Mexico Counties of Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt, and in that portion of the State of Texas lying west of a line from the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio, Val Verde County; thence northward following U. S. Highway 277 to the junction with U. S. Highway 87

at San Angelo, Tom Green County; thence northwesterly following U. S. Highway 87 to the junction with U. S. Highway 287 at Dumas, Moore County; thence northwesterly following U. S. Highway 287 to the point of intersection with the Texas-Oklahoma State line in Dallam County.

little brown
cranes cont'd

(c) 30 consecutive days between November 9 and December 8, 1968, in the North Dakota Counties of Kidder and Stutsman and in those portions of the South Dakota Counties of Campbell, Walworth, Potter, Dewey, and Corson lying west of U. S. Highway 83, north of U. S. Highway 212, and east of the Promise Road, State Highway 20, U. S. Highway 12, and State Highway 63.

(d) 30 consecutive days between December 14, 1968, and January 12, 1969, in that portion of Texas lying west of a line from San Angelo along U. S. Highway 277 to Abilene, then State Highway 351 from Abilene to Albany and U. S. Highway 283 from Albany to the point of intersection with the Texas-Oklahoma State line in Wilbarger County; and east of a line from San Angelo along U. S. Highway 87 to the junction of Highways 87 and 287 at Dumas, Moore County, and then along U. S. Highway 287 from Dumas to the point of intersection with the Texas-Oklahoma State line in Dallam county; and in that portion of Oklahoma lying west of U. S. Highway 183 and south of U. S. Highway 66 (Interstate 40).

PACIFIC FLYWAY

States in this Flyway may, between October 5, 1968, and January 12, 1969, select concurrent open seasons on ducks, coots, and gallinules of: (a) 86 consecutive days or a split season totaling 77 days with basic limits on ducks of 5 daily and 10 in possession; or a daily bag and possession limit of 6 ducks; or (b) 72 consecutive days or a split season totaling 65 days with basic limits on ducks of 6 daily and 12 in possession; or a daily bag and possession limit of 7 ducks.

outside dates,
ducks, coots,
& gallinules

The daily bag limit shall not include more than 3 mallards under any option. The possession limit shall not include more than 3 mallards under the 6 and 6 or 7 and 7 options. The possession limit under the 5 and 10 and 6 and 12 options may not include more than 6 mallards.

restriction
on mallards

The bag and possession limits on ducks shall not include more than 2 canvasbacks.

restriction
on canvasback

The limit on mergansers is 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession shall be hooded mergansers; and the daily bag and possession limit on coots and gallinules is 25, singly or in the aggregate of these species.

mergansers
coots and
gallinules

In the Columbia Basin areas of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (same areas as last year), those States may select concurrent open seasons for ducks, coots, and gallinules of 100 consecutive days between October 5, 1968, and January 19, 1969, with basic limits on ducks of 6 daily and 12 in possession, of which not more than 4 daily and 8 in possession may be mallard ducks. The daily bag and possession limit for coots and gallinules is 25, singly or in the aggregate. In the Washington Counties of Adams, Franklin, Grant, Walla Walla, Lincoln, Douglas, Yakima, Benton, Klickitat, the goose season shall be concurrent with Columbia Basin duck season. In this area, the daily shooting hours for geese, ducks, coots, and gallinules shall be from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

Between October 5, 1968, and January 12, 1969, States in this Flyway may select an open season on geese of 93 days with a basic daily bag and possession limit of 6.

geese

In all States in the Flyway, the daily bag limit shall not include more than 3 geese of the dark species; and that in the entire States of Arizona and Utah; in Clark County, Nevada; in the Idaho Counties of Bear Lake, Bonneville, Caribou, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, and Franklin; and the Oregon Counties of Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill; and in those portions of the States of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico placed in the Pacific Flyway, the daily bag and possession limit shall not include more than 2 Canada geese.

limits,
geese

In that portion of California Fish and Game District No. 22 for which California selects the open season, the daily bag and possession limits shall not include more than 1 Canada goose.

No open season on snow, blue, and Ross' geese is prescribed in the Idaho Counties of Clark, Madison, Fremont, and Teton; nor the Montana Counties of Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison.

closed season
in Idaho and
Montana Counties

In all States in the Flyway, the daily bag and possession limit shall not include more than 1 Ross' goose.

limit for
Ross' goose

In the States of Washington and Idaho, the daily bag limit is 3 geese and the possession limit is 6.

The boundaries of the Tule Lake Area and the Colorado River Area in California remain the same as last year and seasons coincide with the adjacent areas of Oregon and Arizona, respectively. The remainder of the State of California waterfowl season is to be as selected under the appropriate option.

Tule Lake and
Colorado River
Areas

Between October 5, 1968, and February 23, 1969, States in this Flyway may select seasons on brant of 93 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 4 and a possession limit of 8.

brant

Between October 5, 1968, and January 31, 1969, States in this Flyway may select seasons on Wilson's snipe of 50 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 8 and possession limit of 16.

Wilson's snipe

In the State of Utah an open season for taking a limited number of whistling swans under special permit is prescribed with the following conditions: (a) the season to run concurrently with the season for ducks; (b) not more than 1,000 permits be issued authorizing each permittee to take 1 whistling swan; (c) permit forms and correspondingly numbered metal locking seals be furnished by the Bureau and issued by the Utah Department of Game and Fish without charge on an equitable basis.

whistling
swan