



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System,
a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit
of wildlife and people.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
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<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/mattamuskeet>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mattamuskeet

National Wildlife Refuge

September Canada Goose Hunting Regulations

Welcome to Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

The 50,180 acre Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (NWR/Refuge) was established in 1934 primarily to preserve wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl. The Refuge's predominant feature is the 40,000-acre Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in North Carolina.

Mattamuskeet NWR is open to hunting in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, which govern activities on national wildlife refuges. Public hunting is permitted on the Refuge as described below. A Refuge issued permit is required to hunt on the refuge.

September Canada Goose Hunt

Permits are required to hunt on Mattamuskeet NWR. **A separate permit is needed for the Late Season Waterfowl hunts, Youth Waterfowl hunts, or Disabled Waterfowl hunts.**

Hunt days are Monday through Saturday during the North Carolina September Canada goose season. Canada goose hunting is allowed throughout the refuge except for those areas designated as closed on the map.

Canada geese may only be taken with shotguns using approved non-toxic shot. Bag limits are the same as those prescribed by the State.

Obtaining a Permit

Refuge hunting permits must be purchased on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Each hunter is required to pay a \$15.00 user fee to hunt during the September Canada Goose season. Permits will be available from August 1st through the last day of hunting. Hunters must carry on their person a paper or electronic copy of their permit.

Permits are not transferable. Both adult and youth hunters require a permit.

Youth

Youth hunters (under 16) must carry and possess evidence of completion of a State-approved hunter safety course. They must be supervised by a validly licensed adult at least 21 years of age. Each adult may supervise up to two youth, remaining in sight and normal voice contact at all times.

Access

Permitted hunters will be authorized access from one hour before legal shooting time until one hour after legal shooting time. Vehicles are restricted to designated roads only (see map). Access to open hunting areas behind road gates will be by foot, bicycle, and/or boat only. Boats are allowed on the lake during the September Canada Goose Hunt.

Disabled sportsmen with valid proof of disability should contact the refuge office prior to arrival if special arrangements are needed.

Hunters are reminded that the land adjacent to the refuge is privately owned and entering or hunting on this land is at the discretion of the landowner.

General Regulations and Enforcement

Hunters, including youth, must carry a valid refuge permit while hunting. In addition to the proper North Carolina hunting licenses and signed Federal duck stamp, goose hunters must have the HIP certification.

Shooting hours are in accordance with State regulations.

Hunting is restricted to the use and possession of non-toxic shot shells only.



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Decoys may only be put out on the morning of the hunt and must be removed daily. Portable blinds are permitted but must be removed daily.

Hunters using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents by Refuge or State law enforcement officers.

The use of retrieving dogs is permitted, but dogs must be under voice command at all times.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.

Prohibited Activities

- Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of any type of bait (food, salt, other minerals or other substances that lures or attracts animals)
- Use of ATV's and any other unlicensed and unregistered vehicles
- Shooting on, from, or across any of the four designated vehicle access roads (see map)
- Use of artificial lights, including vehicle headlights, to observe, locate, or take wildlife
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Taking or possession of any plants and wildlife (other than Canada geese)

- Littering - if you pack it in, pack it out!
- Camping or open fires
- Overnight parking
- Trapping

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