



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mattamuskeet

National Wildlife Refuge

Late Season Waterfowl 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.

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
85 Mattamuskeet Road
Swanquarter, NC 27885

252/926 4021

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/mattamuskeet>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

<https://www.fws.gov>

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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.

Late Season Waterfowl Hunt

Waterfowl hunting will be authorized by permit only within the waterfowl hunt area on Mattamuskeet NWR as designated on the map.

A separate permit is needed for the September Canada Goose hunt.

The waterfowl hunt dates will be scheduled as two-day paired hunts on Tuesday - Wednesdays and Friday – Saturdays during the late waterfowl season. Youth waterfowl hunts will be held by permit only on the Youth Waterfowl Days set by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Permit Application

Prospective hunters must apply for permits through Recreation.gov. Successfully drawn applicants are required to pay a \$15.00 user fee per person per day to be collected prior to hunting. The application period for waterfowl hunts is September 1-October 31.

Hunters selected in the drawing will be notified with instructions on how to submit the user fee to receive their permit. Selected hunters may bring two guests to participate in the hunt. User fees from each hunter must be received before the permits are issued. Hunters must carry on their person a paper or electronic version of the permit. Only licensed hunters who have paid the user fee may be in the blind. No additional observers are allowed.

Disabled hunters can apply for the disabled accessible hunt blind. Youth hunters can apply for the Youth Waterfowl Days or the regular season hunts.

Permits are not transferable.

Youth

Youth hunters (under 16) must carry a valid refuge hunt permit and have passed a State-approved hunter safety course. They must be supervised by an adult who is at least 21 years of age. Each adult may supervise up to two youth and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the youth.

Hunters aged 16-17 must possess a valid license, duck stamp, and HIP certification as well as refuge hunt permit.

Access

All waterfowl hunters must check-in at the refuge headquarters between 4:30 – 5 am each day. During check-in, user fees will be collected, permits issued, blind assignments made, and check-out instructions provided. Unclaimed permits as of 5 am of each hunt date will be allotted to standby hunters via a lottery system.

Access to hunt area is by vehicle on East Main Road and then via foot or non-motorized boat.

Hunting is restricted to the assigned blind. Only crippled birds may be shot from outside the blind.



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General Regulations and Enforcement

In addition to the proper North Carolina hunting licenses and signed Federal duck stamp, waterfowl hunters must have the HIP certification.

Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until 12 noon.

Bag limits are the same as those prescribed by the State.

Waterfowl may only be taken with shotguns. Hunting is restricted to the use and possession of non-toxic shot shells only. There is a 30 shell limit per hunter per day.

Decoys may only be put out on the mornings of the hunt and 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

- Use of ATV's and any other unlicensed and unregistered vehicles
- Use of motorized boats
- Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of any type of bait (food, salt, other minerals or other substance that lures or attracts animals) is prohibited on the refuge
- Blocking roads, trails, or fire lanes
- Camping
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Taking or possession of any plants and wildlife (other than waterfowl)
- Littering
- Overnight parking
- Open Fires
- Trapping
- Using artificial lights (including vehicle headlights) to locate, observe, or take wildlife

