United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MGBHM–2026–02
August 27, 2026

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING MEMORANDUM:
2026–2027 SEASONS IN CERTAIN STATES

SUBJECT: 2026–27 migratory game bird hunting seasons in certain States.

PURPOSE: This Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) memorandum provides the seasons, hours, areas, and daily bag and possession limits for hunting migratory birds in certain States in the Atlantic (Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virgin Islands, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia) and Mississippi (Illinois, Indiana) Flyways. See State regulations for hunting seasons in States not provided in this memorandum.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) implements the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703–712) and pursuant regulations in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at part 20. The hunting regulations in 50 CFR 20 subpart K provide for the Service to establish the authorization conditions (conditions or limits) for seasonal migratory game bird hunting and to communicate these conditions in a MGBH memorandum. The MGBH memorandum sets forth the conditions. States may authorize migratory game bird hunting provided the State establishes hunting seasons in accordance with the Federal conditions. This memorandum provides the hunting seasons for those States that requested we publish these.

POLICY: In August 2026, we published in the *Federal Register* a notice making available the MGBH memorandum containing the authorization conditions for seasonal migratory game bird hunting and supporting information. Upon consideration of the conditions, season selections received from the States, and the States' request that we publish these selections, the Service establishes the following hunting seasons for certain States and migratory game birds for the 2026–27 fall-winter general hunting season. Taking of migratory birds is prohibited unless specifically provided for in this memorandum and other applicable State and Federal regulations consistent with 50 CFR 20.

KEVIN LILLY Digitally signed by KEVIN LILLY Date: 2026.08.27 11:39:36 -04'00'

Kevin Lilly,
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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General provisions

Migratory Game Bird Seasons in the Atlantic Flyway: In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, if Sunday hunting of migratory birds is prohibited statewide by State law or regulation, all Sundays are closed to the take of all migratory game birds.

Seasons, limits, and shooting hours for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Subject to the applicable provisions of the preceding sections of this part, areas open to hunting, respective open seasons (dates inclusive), shooting and hawking hours, and daily bag and possession limits for the species designated in this section are prescribed as follows:

Shooting and hawking hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

CHECK COMMONWEALTH REGULATIONS FOR AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND ANY ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS.

(a) *Puerto Rico*.

Restrictions: In Puerto Rico, the season is closed on the ruddy duck, white-cheeked pintail, West Indian whistling duck, fulvous whistling duck, masked duck, purple gallinule, American coot, Caribbean coot, white-crowned pigeon, and plain pigeon.

Closed Areas: Closed areas are described in the August 31, 2026, MGBH memorandum.

		Limits	
Species	Season dates	Bag	Possession
Doves and Pigeons:			
Zenaida, white-winged, and mourning doves (1)	Sept. 6–Nov. 3	30	90
Scaly-naped pigeons	Sept. 6–Nov. 3	5	15
Ducks	Nov. 15–Dec. 2 &	6	18

Species	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
	Jan. 10–Jan. 26	6	18
Common Gallinules	Nov. 15–Dec. 22 &	6	18
	Jan. 10–Jan. 26	6	18
Snipe	Nov. 15–Dec. 22 &	8	24
	Jan. 10–Jan. 26	8	24

(1) The daily bag limit for Zenaida, white-winged, and mourning doves is in the aggregate and may include not more than 10 Zenaida and 3 mourning doves. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

(b) *Virgin Islands*.

Species	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Zenaida doves	Closed	--	--
Ducks	Closed	--	--

Seasons, limits, and shooting hours for doves and pigeons

Subject to the applicable provisions of the preceding sections of this part, areas open to hunting, respective open seasons (dates inclusive), shooting and hawking hours, and daily bag and possession limits for the species designated in this section are prescribed as follows:

Shooting and hawking hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset except as otherwise noted. Area descriptions were published in the August 31, 2026, MGBH memorandum.

CHECK STATE REGULATIONS FOR AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND ANY ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS.

(a) *Doves*.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, the seasons listed below are for mourning and white-winged doves. The daily bag and possession limits are in the aggregate for the two species.

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
ATLANTIC FLYWAY			
Delaware	Sept. 1–Sept. 27 &	15	45
	Nov. 23–Nov. 29 &	15	45
	Dec. 7–Jan. 31	15	45
Florida	Sept. 26–Oct. 18 &	15	45
	Nov. 14–Dec. 6 &	15	45
	Dec. 19–Jan. 31	15	45

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Georgia	Sept. 5–Oct. 11 &	15	45
	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	15	45
	Dec. 19–Jan. 31	15	45
Maryland:			
12 noon to sunset	Sept. 1–Oct. 17	15	45
one-half hour before sunrise to sunset	Oct. 24–Nov. 27 &	15	45
	Dec. 19–Jan. 9	15	45
North Carolina	Sept. 5–Oct. 10 &	15	45
	Nov. 7–Nov. 28 &	15	45
	Dec. 16–Jan. 30	15	45
Pennsylvania	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 &	15	45
	Dec. 18–Jan. 2	15	45
Rhode Island	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 &	15	45
	Oct. 17–Dec. 15	15	45
South Carolina	Sept. 5–Oct. 3 &	15	45
	Nov. 13–Nov. 28 &	15	45
	Dec. 18–Jan. 31	15	45
Virginia:			
12 noon to sunset	Sept. 5 only	15	15
one-half hour before sunrise to sunset	Sept. 6–Oct. 24 &	15	45
	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	15	45
	Dec. 19–Jan. 18	15	45
West Virginia:			
12 noon to sunset	Sept. 1 only	15	15
one-half hour before sunrise to sunset	Sept. 2–Oct. 11 &	15	45
	Nov. 2–Nov. 15 &	15	45
	Dec. 7–Jan. 10	15	45
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY			
Illinois (1)	Sept. 1–Nov. 14 &	15	45
	Dec. 26–Jan. 9	15	45
Indiana	Sept. 1–Oct. 18 &	15	45

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
	Nov. 1–Nov. 29 &	15	45
	Dec. 19–Dec. 31	15	45

(1) In Illinois, shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

Seasons, limits, and shooting hours for rails, woodcock, and snipe

Subject to the applicable provisions of the preceding sections of this part, areas open to hunting, respective open seasons (dates inclusive), shooting and hawking hours, and daily bag and possession limits for the species designated in this section are prescribed as follows:

Shooting and hawking hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset except as otherwise noted. Area descriptions were published in the August 31, 2026, MGBH memorandum.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, the daily bag and possession limits for sora and Virginia rails are in the aggregate, and the daily bag and possession limits for clapper and king rails are in the aggregate.

CHECK STATE REGULATIONS FOR AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND ANY ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS.

Area	Sora and Virginia Rails	Clapper and King Rails	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bag limit	25	15	3	8
Possession limit	75	45	9	24
ATLANTIC FLYWAY				
Connecticut (1)	Sept. 1–Oct. 15 & Oct. 23–Nov. 27	Sept. 1–Oct. 15 & Oct. 23–Nov. 27	Oct. 22–Dec. 12	Sept. 1–Oct. 10 & Oct. 17–Jan. 8
Delaware (2)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Nov. 23–Dec. 6 & Dec. 25–Jan. 24	Sept. 29–Dec. 6 & Dec. 25–Jan. 31
Florida	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Dec. 18–Jan. 31	Nov. 1–Feb. 15
Georgia	Sept. 11–Sept. 14 & Sept. 26–Nov. 30	Sept. 11–Sept. 14 & Sept. 26–Nov. 30	Dec. 5–Jan. 18	Nov. 15–Feb. 28
Maine (3)	Closed	Closed	Sept. 26–Nov. 17	Sept. 1–Nov. 20
Maryland (1)	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	Oct. 24–Nov. 27 & Jan. 11–Jan. 27	Sept. 26–Jan. 28
Massachusetts (4)	Sept. 1–Nov. 6	Closed	Oct. 1–Nov. 21	Sept. 1–Dec. 15

Area	Sora and Virginia Rails	Clapper and King Rails	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bag limit	25	15	3	8
Possession limit	75	45	9	24
New Hampshire	Closed	Closed	Oct. 1–Nov. 14	Sept. 15–Nov. 14
New Jersey (2)(5):				
North Zone	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	Oct. 24–Oct. 31 & Nov. 3–Dec. 5	Sept. 5–Jan. 7
South Zone	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	Nov. 7–Dec. 5 & Dec. 19–Dec. 31	Sept. 5–Jan. 7
New York (6)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Closed	Oct. 1–Nov. 14	Sept. 1–Nov. 9
North Carolina	Sept. 5–Nov. 25	Sept. 5–Nov. 25	Dec. 10–Jan. 30	Oct. 27–Feb. 27
Pennsylvania (7)	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	Closed	Oct. 17–Dec. 8	Oct. 17–Dec. 8
Rhode Island (8)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Oct. 17–Nov. 30	Sept. 1–Nov. 9
South Carolina	Sept. 10–Sept. 15 & Sept. 26–Nov. 28	Sept. 10–Sept. 15 & Sept. 26–Nov. 28	Dec. 18–Jan. 31	Nov. 14–Feb. 28
Vermont	Closed	Closed	Sept. 26–Nov. 9	Sept. 26–Nov. 9
Virginia (2)(9)	Sept. 5–Oct. 24 & Nov. 10–Nov. 29	Sept. 5–Oct. 24 & Nov. 10–Nov. 29	Nov. 11–Dec. 1 & Dec. 26–Jan. 18	Sept. 28–Nov. 29 & Dec. 19–Jan. 31
West Virginia (10)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Closed	Oct. 17–Nov. 21 & Nov. 30–Dec. 8	Sept. 1–Dec. 16
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY				
Illinois (11)	Sept. 5–Nov. 13	Closed	Oct. 17–Nov. 30	Sept. 5–Dec. 20
Indiana (12)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	Closed	Oct. 15–Nov. 28	Sept. 1–Dec. 16

(1) In *Connecticut* and *Maryland*, the daily bag limit for clapper and king rails is 10 and may include no more than 1 king rail. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

(2) In *Delaware*, *New Jersey, and Virginia*, the limits for clapper and king rails are 10 daily and 30 in possession.

(3) In *Maine*, the daily bag and possession limit for sora and Virginia rails is 25.

(4) In *Massachusetts*, the limits for sora are 5 daily and 15 in possession; the limits for Virginia rails are 10 daily and 30 in possession.

(5) In *New Jersey*, the season for king rail is closed by State regulation.

(6) In *New York*, the limits for sora and Virginia rails are 8 daily and 24 in possession. Seasons for sora and Virginia rails and snipe are closed on Long Island.

(7) In *Pennsylvania*, the limits for sora and Virginia rails are 3 daily and 9 in possession.

(8) In *Rhode Island*, the limits for sora and Virginia rails are 3 daily and 9 in possession, the limits for clapper and king rails are 1 daily and 3 in possession, and the limits for snipe are 5 daily and 15 in possession.

(9) In *Virginia,* the limit for king rail is 1 daily and 3 in possession.

(10) In *West Virginia and Nebraska*, the limits for sora and Virginia rails are 10 daily and 30 in possession.

(11) In Illinois, shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset.

(12) In Indiana, the season on Virginia rails is closed.

Seasons, limits, and shooting hours for waterfowl, coots, and gallinules

Subject to the applicable provisions of the preceding sections of this part, areas open to hunting, respective open seasons (dates inclusive), shooting and hawking hours, and daily bag and possession limits for the species designated in this section are prescribed as follows:

Shooting and hawking hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except as otherwise noted. Area descriptions were published in the August 31, 2026, MGBH memorandum.

CHECK STATE REGULATIONS FOR AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND ANY ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS.

(a) *Gallinules*.

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
ATLANTIC FLYWAY			
Delaware	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	15	45
Florida (1)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	15	45
Georgia	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	15	45
	Dec. 12–Jan. 31	15	45
New Jersey	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	1	3
New York:			
Long Island	Closed	--	--
Remainder of State	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	15	45
North Carolina	Sept. 5–Nov. 25	15	45

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Pennsylvania	Sept. 1–Nov. 20	3	9
South Carolina	Sept. 10–Sept. 15 &	15	45
	Sept. 26–Nov. 28	15	45
Virginia	Sept. 5–Oct. 24 &	15	45
	Nov. 10–Nov. 29	15	45
West Virginia	Oct. 3–Oct. 11 &	15	45
	Dec. 2–Jan. 31	15	45

(1) The season applies to common gallinules only.

(b) *Early (September) Duck Seasons*.
Note: Unless otherwise specified, the seasons listed below are for teal only.

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
ATLANTIC FLYWAY			
Delaware (1)	Sept. 5–Sept. 13	6	18
Florida (2)	Sept. 19–Sept. 23	6	18
Georgia	Sept. 12–Sept. 20	6	18
Maryland (1)	Sept. 17–Sept. 26	6	18
North Carolina (1)	Sept. 10–Sept. 19	6	18
South Carolina (3)	Sept. 19–Sept. 27	6	18
Virginia (1):			
Area East of Interstate 95	Sept. 19–Sept. 27	6	18
Area West of Interstate 95	Sept. 22–Sept. 27	6	18
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY			
Illinois (3)	Sept. 5–Sept. 13	6	18

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Indiana (3)	Sept. 5–Sept. 13	6	18

(1) Area restrictions. See State regulations.

(2) In *Florida*, the daily bag limit is six wood ducks and teal in the aggregate, of which no more than two may be wood ducks. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

(3) Shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset.

(c) *Special Early Canada and Cackling Geese Seasons*.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, the daily bag and possession limits for Canada and cackling geese are in the aggregate.

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
ATLANTIC FLYWAY			
Connecticut (1)(2):			
North Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	15	45
South Zone	Sept. 15–Sept. 30	15	45
Delaware (3):			
Outside of Special Teal Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
Inside of Special Teal Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 4 &	15	45
	Sept. 5–Sept. 13 &	15	45
	Sept. 14–Sept. 25	15	45
Florida	Sept. 5–Sept. 27	5	15
Georgia	Sept. 5–Sept. 27	5	15
Maine:			
North Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
South Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
Maryland (1)(2):			
Eastern Unit	Sept. 1–Sept. 15	8	24
Western Unit	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	8	24
Massachusetts	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
New Hampshire	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	5	15

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
New Jersey (1)(2)(4)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	15	45
New York (5):			
Lake Champlain Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	8	24
Northeastern Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
East Central Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
Hudson Valley Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
West Central Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
South Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	15	45
Western Long Island Zone	Closed	--	--
Central Long Island Zone	Sept. 8–Sept. 30	15	45
Eastern Long Island Zone	Sept. 8–Sept. 30	15	45
North Carolina (6)(7)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	15	45
Pennsylvania (8)(9)(10):	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	8	24
Rhode Island (1)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	15	45
South Carolina	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	15	45
Vermont:			
Lake Champlain Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	8	24
Interior Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	8	24
Connecticut River Zone (11)	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	5	15
Virginia (12)	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	10	30
West Virginia	Sept. 1–Sept. 13	5	15

(1) Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

(2) In Connecticut, Maryland and New Jersey, the use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells is allowed.

(3) In Delaware, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, the use of unplugged shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells is allowed, and the use of electronic calls is allowed outside the Special Teal Zone from September 1 through September 25 and inside the Special teal zone from September 5 through September 13 only.

(4) In New Jersey, the use of electronic calls is allowed.

(5) In New York, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, the use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells is allowed, and the use of electronic

calls is allowed, except during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days in Lake Champlain, Northeastern, and Southeastern Goose Hunting Areas. During the designated Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days in these areas, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, shotguns must be capable of holding no more than three shotshells, and electronic calls are not allowed. See State regulations for further details.

(6) In North Carolina, the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls is allowed in the area west of U.S. Highway 17 only.

(7) In North Carolina, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in the area west of U.S. Highway 17 only.

(8) In Pennsylvania, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset from September 1 to September 18 and September 21 to September 25. On September 19, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(9) In Pennsylvania, the area south of State Route (SR) 198 from the Ohio State line to intersection of Interstate 79 (I–79), west of I–79 to SR 358, north of SR 358 to the Ohio State line: The season dates are September 1 to September 12. The daily limit is one Canada goose with a possession limit of three geese. The season is closed on State Game Lands 214. Note: this restriction does not apply to youth participation on youth waterfowl hunting days when regular season regulations apply.

(10) In Pennsylvania, in the area of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I–76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to the Lebanon-Berks County line, west of the Lebanon-Berks County line and the Lancaster-Berks County line to SR 1053, west of SR 1053 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike I–76, the daily bag limit is one goose with a possession limit of three geese. On State Game Lands No. 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area), the season is closed. However, during youth waterfowl hunting days, regular season regulations apply.

(11) In Vermont, the season in the Connecticut River Zone is the same as the New Hampshire Inland Zone season, set by New Hampshire.

(12) In Virginia, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset from September 1 to September 18 in the area east of I–95. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset from September 1 to September 21 in the area west of I–95. Also, the use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells is allowed when early duck seasons are closed.

(d) *Waterfowl and Coots*.

Light Geese: Includes lesser snow (including blue) geese, greater snow geese, and Ross's geese.

Dark Geese: Includes Canada geese, cackling geese, white-fronted geese, brant (except in California, Oregon, Washington, and the Atlantic Flyway), and all other goose species except light geese.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, the daily bag and possession limits for Canada and cackling geese are in the aggregate.

Atlantic Flyway

Flyway-Wide Restrictions

Duck Limits: The daily bag limit of 6 ducks may include no more than 4 mallards (2 female mallards), 1 scaup (except as footnoted below), 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling-duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, and 3 eiders [and no more than 1 may be a hen eider]). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Note: Notwithstanding the provisions of this part, the shooting of crippled waterfowl from a

motorboat under power will be permitted in *Connecticut*, *Delaware*, *Georgia*, *Maine*, *Maryland*, *Massachusetts*, *New Hampshire*, *New Jersey*, *New York*, *North Carolina*, *Rhode Island*, *South Carolina*, and *Virginia* in those areas described, delineated, and designated in their respective hunting regulations as special sea duck hunting areas.

Harlequin Ducks: All areas of the Flyway are closed to harlequin duck hunting.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit is 5 mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

		Limits	
Area	Season dates	Bag	Possession
Connecticut:			
Ducks and Mergansers (1):			
North Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	6	18
	Nov. 7–Nov. 11 &	6	18
	Nov. 14–Jan. 9	6	18
South Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 12 &	6	18
	Nov. 11–Nov. 11 &	6	18
	Nov. 14–Jan. 19	6	18
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (AFRP) Unit	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	5	15
	Nov. 21–Feb. 13	5	15
North Atlantic Population (NAP) High Unit			
North Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	2	6
	Nov. 10–Jan. 9	2	6
South Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 12 &	2	6
	Nov. 9–Jan. 14	2	6
Late Season	Jan. 15–Feb. 13	5	15
Atlantic Population (AP) Unit	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	3	9
	Nov. 21–Dec. 14	3	9
Special Season	Dec. 15–Feb. 13	5	15
Light Geese:	Oct. 1–Jan. 9 &	25	--
	Feb. 16–Mar. 10	25	--
Brant:			
North Zone	Dec. 7–Jan. 9	1	3
South Zone	Dec. 16–Jan. 19	1	3
Delaware:			
Ducks (3)	Oct. 31–Nov. 7 &	6	18
	Nov. 25–Nov. 29 &	6	18

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
	Dec. 16–Jan. 31	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2)	Nov. 25–Nov. 29 &	2	6
	Dec. 23–Jan. 31	2	6
Light Geese (4)	Nov. 25–Jan. 31 &	25	--
	Feb. 1–Feb. 6 &	25	--
	Feb. 8–Mar. 10	25	--
Brant	Dec. 19–Jan. 2 &	1	3
	Jan. 16–Jan. 30	1	3
Florida:			
Ducks (5)	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	6	18
	Dec. 12–Jan. 31	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada and Cackling Geese	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	5	15
	Dec. 1–Jan. 30	5	15
Light Geese	Same as for Ducks	15	--
Georgia:			
Ducks	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	6	18
	Dec. 12–Jan. 31	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2)	Oct. 10–Oct. 25 &	5	15
	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	5	15
	Dec. 12–Jan. 31	5	15
Light Geese	Same as for Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese	25	--
Brant	Closed	--	--
Maine:			
Ducks (6):			
North Zone	Sept. 28–Dec. 5	6	18
South Zone	Oct. 1–Oct. 10 &	6	18
	Oct. 29–Dec. 26	6	18
Coastal Zone	Oct. 3–Oct. 10 &	6	18
	Nov. 5–Jan. 5	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Coots	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
North Zone	Oct. 1–Dec. 9	2	6
South Zone	Oct. 1–Oct. 10 &	2	6
	Oct. 29–Dec. 26	2	6
Coastal Zone	Oct. 3–Oct. 10 &	3	9
	Oct. 24–Jan. 5	3	9
Light Geese	Oct. 1–Jan. 30	25	--
Brant:			
North Zone	Sept. 28–Oct. 31	1	3
South Zone	Oct. 1–Oct. 10 &	1	3
	Oct. 29–Nov. 21	1	3
Coastal Zone	Oct. 3–Oct. 10 &	1	3
	Dec. 10–Jan. 5	1	3
Maryland:			
Ducks and Mergansers (7)(8)			
Eastern Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	6	18
	Nov. 14–Nov. 27 &	6	18
	Dec. 15–Jan. 30	6	18
Western Zone	Oct. 3–Oct. 17 &	6	18
	Nov. 21–Nov. 27 &	6	18
	Dec. 15–Jan. 30	6	18
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
Resident Population (RP) Zone (9)	Nov. 21–Nov. 27 &	5	15
	Dec. 15–Mar. 10	5	15
AP Zone	Nov. 24–Nov. 27 &	2	6
	Dec. 15–Jan. 30	2	6
Light Geese (10)	Nov. 7–Nov. 27 &	25	--
	Nov. 30–Feb. 6 &	25	--
	Feb. 8–Mar. 10	25	--
Brant	Dec. 28–Jan. 30	1	3
Massachusetts:			
Ducks (11):			
Berkshire Zone	Oct. 12–Nov. 28 &	6	18
	Dec. 14–Jan. 2	6	18
Central Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 28 &	6	18
	Dec. 15–Jan. 2	6	18

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Coastal Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	6	18
	Nov. 27–Jan. 27	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada and Cackling Geese:			
NAP Zone:			
Central Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 28 & Dec. 15–Jan. 2	2	6
Late Season	Jan. 16–Feb. 13	5	15
Coastal Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	2	6
	Nov. 27–Jan. 27	2	6
Late Season (12)	Jan. 28–Feb. 13	5	15
Berkshire Zone	Oct. 12–Nov. 28	3	9
Late Season	Dec. 15–Feb. 13	5	15
Light Geese:			
Berkshire Zone	Oct. 12–Nov. 28 &	25	--
	Dec. 14–Jan. 2	25	--
Central Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 28 &	25	--
	Dec. 15–Jan. 2	25	--
Coastal Zone (12)	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	25	--
	Nov. 27–Jan. 27	25	--
Brant:			
Berkshire and Central Zones	Closed	--	--
Coastal Zone	Nov. 27–Dec. 31	1	2
New Hampshire:			
Ducks:			
Northern Zone	Oct. 2–Nov. 30	6	18
Inland Zone and Connecticut River	Oct. 13–Nov. 11 &	6	18
	Nov. 25–Dec. 25	6	18
Coastal Zone	Oct. 6–Oct. 12 &	6	18
	Nov. 26–Jan. 17	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada and Cackling Geese	Same as for Ducks	2	6
Light Geese	Same as for Ducks	25	--
Brant:			
Northern Zone	Oct. 2–Oct. 31	1	3
Inland Zone	Oct. 13–Nov. 11	1	3
Coastal Zone	Oct. 6–Oct. 12 &	1	3
	Nov. 26–Dec. 18	1	3

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
New Jersey:			
Ducks (13):			
North Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	6	18
	Nov. 14–Jan. 14	6	18
South Zone	Oct. 17–Oct. 24 &	6	18
	Nov. 21–Jan. 21	6	18
Coastal Zone	Nov. 21–Jan. 29	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
North Zone	Nov. 21–Nov. 30 &	3	9
	Dec. 19–Jan. 30	3	9
Special Season	Feb. 1–Feb. 15	5	15
South Zone	Nov. 21–Nov. 30 &	3	9
	Dec. 19–Jan. 30	3	9
Special Season	Feb. 1–Feb. 15	5	15
Coastal Zone	Nov. 21–Jan. 29	2	6
Special Season	Feb. 1–Feb. 15	5	15
Light Geese:			
North, South, and Coastal Zones	Nov. 7–Mar. 8	25	--
Brant:			
North Zone	Nov. 21–Nov. 28 &	1	3
	Dec. 12–Jan. 7	1	3
South Zone	Nov. 21–Nov. 28 &	1	3
	Dec. 12–Jan. 7	1	3
Coastal Zone	Nov. 26–Nov. 28 &	1	3
	Dec. 24–Jan. 23	1	3
New York:			
Ducks and Mergansers (14):			
Long Island Zone	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	6	18
	Dec. 12–Jan. 31	6	18
Lake Champlain Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 1 &	6	18
	Nov. 21–Dec. 27	6	18
Northeastern Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 29 &	6	18
	Dec. 12–Dec. 20	6	18
Southeastern Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 18 &	6	18
	Nov. 7–Dec. 27	6	18
Western Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 1 &	6	18
	Dec. 5–Jan. 10	6	18

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
Western Long Island (RP)	Nov. 7–Feb. 21	8	15
Central Long Island (NAP–L)	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	3	9
	Dec. 5–Feb. 3	3	9
Eastern Long Island (NAP–H)	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	2	6
	Dec. 5–Jan. 24	2	6
Lake Champlain (AP) Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 23	3	9
Late Season	Dec. 1–Jan. 4	5	15
Northeast (AP) Zone	Oct. 24–Nov. 29 &	3	9
	Dec. 12–Dec. 19	3	9
East Central (AP) Zone	Oct. 24–Nov. 20 &	3	9
	Dec. 5–Dec. 21	3	9
Hudson Valley (AP) Zone	Nov. 7–Dec. 21	3	9
West Central (AP) Zone	Nov. 7–Dec. 21	3	9
South (AFRP) Zone	Oct. 24–Jan. 11	5	15
Light Geese (15):			
Long Island Zone	Nov. 24–Mar. 10	25	--
Lake Champlain Zone	Oct. 1–Dec. 31 &	25	--
	Feb. 26–Mar. 10	25	--
Northeastern Zone	Oct. 1–Dec. 31 &	25	--
	Feb. 26–Mar. 10	25	--
Southeastern Zone	Nov. 24–Mar. 10	25	--
Western Zone	Nov. 24–Mar. 10	25	--
Brant:			
Long Island Zone	Jan. 2–Jan. 31	1	2
Lake Champlain Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 8	1	2
Northeastern Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 8	1	2
Southeastern Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 8	1	2
Western Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 8	1	2
North Carolina:			
Ducks (16)			
Coastal Zone	Oct. 23–Oct. 24 &	6	18
	Nov. 7–Nov. 28 &	6	18
	Dec. 17–Jan. 30	6	18
Inland Zone	Oct. 15–Oct. 17 &	6	18
	Nov. 7–Nov. 28 &	6	18
	Dec. 18–Jan. 30	6	18
Mergansers (17)	Same as for Ducks	5	15

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
RP Zone	Oct. 15–Oct. 24 &	5	15
	Nov. 7–Dec. 5 &	5	15
	Dec. 17–Feb. 6	5	15
Northeast Zone	Dec. 28–Jan. 30	2	6
Light Geese (18)	Nov. 7–Mar. 10	25	--
Brant	Dec. 28–Jan. 30	1	3
Pennsylvania:			
Ducks (19):			
North Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 24 &	6	18
	Nov. 17–Jan. 9	6	18
South Zone	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 &	6	18
	Nov. 18–Jan. 18	6	18
Northwest Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 27 &	6	18
	Dec. 21–Jan. 9	6	18
Lake Erie Zone	Nov. 2–Jan. 9	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2)(20):			
AP Zone	Nov. 21–Nov. 27 &	3	9
	Dec. 4–Jan. 18	3	9
RP Zone	Oct. 24–Nov. 27 &	5	15
	Dec. 15–Jan. 18 &	5	15
	Jan. 29–Feb. 20	5	15
Light Geese:			
AP Zone	Nov. 6–Mar. 10	25	--
RP Zone	Nov. 6–Mar. 10	25	--
Brant	Oct. 10–Nov. 13	1	3
Rhode Island:			
Ducks (21)	Oct. 9–Oct. 12 &	6	18
	Nov. 25–Nov. 29 &	6	18
	Dec. 5–Jan. 24	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada and Cackling Geese	Nov. 21–Nov. 29 &	2	6
	Dec. 5–Jan. 24	2	6
Special Season	Jan. 30–Feb. 13	5	15
Light Geese	Oct. 14–Jan. 24	25	--

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Brant	Dec. 26–Jan. 24	1	3
South Carolina:			
Ducks (22)(23)(24)	Nov. 14 &	6	18
	Nov. 21–Nov. 28 &	6	18
	Dec. 12–Jan. 31	6	18
Mergansers (22)	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2)(25)	Nov. 21–Nov. 28 &	5	15
	Dec. 12–Jan. 31 &	5	15
	Feb. 15–Mar. 1	5	15
Light Geese	Same as for Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese	25	--
Brant	Jan. 2–Jan. 31	1	3
Vermont:			
Ducks (26):			
Lake Champlain Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 1 &	6	18
	Nov. 21–Dec. 27	6	18
Interior Zone	Oct. 10–Dec. 8	6	18
Connecticut River Zone	Oct. 13–Nov. 11 &	6	18
	Nov. 25–Dec. 24	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
Lake Champlain Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 23	3	9
Late Season	Dec. 1–Jan. 4	5	15
Interior Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 23	3	9
Late Season	Dec. 1–Jan. 4	5	15
Connecticut River Zone	Oct. 13–Nov. 11 &	2	6
	Nov. 25–Dec. 24	2	6
Late season	Dec. 25–Jan. 4	5	15
Light Geese:			
Lake Champlain Zone	Oct. 1–Dec. 31 &	25	--
	Feb. 26–Mar. 10	25	--
Interior Zone	Oct. 1–Dec. 31 &	25	--
	Feb. 26–Mar. 10	25	--
Connecticut River Zone	Oct. 13–Nov. 11 &	25	--
	Nov. 25–Dec. 24	25	--
Brant:			

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Lake Champlain Zone	Oct. 10–Nov. 8	1	3
Interior Zone	Oct. 10– Nov. 8	1	3
Connecticut River Zone	Oct. 13–Nov. 11	1	3
Virginia:			
Ducks (27)(28)	Oct. 9–Oct. 12 &	6	18
	Nov. 18–Nov. 29 &	6	18
	Dec. 19–Jan. 31	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2):			
AP Zone	Nov. 24–Nov. 29 &	2	6
	Dec. 24–Jan. 31	2	6
RP Zone	Nov. 18–Nov. 29 &	5	15
	Dec. 19–Feb. 21	5	15
Light Geese (15)	Nov. 25–Mar. 10	25	--
Brant	Dec. 19–Dec. 31 &	1	3
	Jan. 15–Jan. 31	1	3
West Virginia:			
Ducks (29)(30)	Oct. 3–Oct. 11 &	6	18
	Nov. 7–Nov. 15 &	6	18
	Dec. 21–Jan. 31	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese (2)	Oct. 3–Oct. 18 &	5	15
	Nov. 7–Nov. 15 &	5	15
	Dec. 8–Jan. 31	5	15
Light Geese	Same as for Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese	5	15
Brant	Jan. 2–Jan. 31	1	3

(1) In Connecticut, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from November 14 through January 9 in the North Zone and from December 26 through January 19 in the South Zone.

(2) The daily bag and possession limits for Canada geese, cackling geese, and white-fronted geese are in the aggregate.

(3) In Delaware, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 12 through January 31.

(4) In Delaware, the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge snow goose season is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays only.

(5) In Florida, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 12 through January 31.

(6) In Maine, the daily bag limit may include no more than 4 of any species, with no more than 12 of any one species in possession. Scaup daily bag limit is one for the entire season. Eider daily bag limit is two.

(7) In Maryland, the black duck season is closed in the first (October) segment. Two black ducks may be harvested as part of the daily duck bag limit during the 2nd and 3rd season segments of the regular duck season in both the Eastern and Western Duck Zones. Additionally, the daily bag limit of six ducks may include no more than four sea ducks, of which no more than three may be scoters, eiders, or long-tailed ducks (no more than one hen eider). Where the Sea Duck Zone (defined by State regulation 08.03.07.04) is not overlain by the Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Zone (defined by State regulation 08.03.07.07), only sea ducks (scoters, long-tailed ducks, and eiders) may be taken during the regular duck season.

(8) In Maryland, during the regular duck season, the daily bag limit for scaup is one during all portions of the regular duck season that occur prior to January 8. The daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 8 through January 30 in both the Eastern and Western duck zones.

(9) In Maryland, in Montgomery County, Prince George's, and Charles County portions of the Maryland Late Resident Canada Goose zone, the bag limits shall be five per day November 21 through November 23 and February 1 through March 10, and two per day November 24 through November 27 and December 15 through January 30. The possession limit shall be 3 times the daily bag limit.

(10) In Maryland, the light goose season will be open statewide in the first two segments. During the third segment, the light goose season will only be permitted in the Eastern Light Goose Hunt Zone (same as former Conservation Order zone). The following special methods may be used in the Eastern Zone from February 8 through March 10: (1) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells; (2) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light geese; and (3) Shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The Eastern Zone includes the following counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line. The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.

(11) In Massachusetts, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 7 through January 27 in the Coastal Zone.

(12) In Massachusetts, the February 1 through February 14 portion of the season in the Coastal Zone is restricted to the portion of the Coastal Zone north of the Cape Cod Canal.

(13) In New Jersey, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from December 26 through January 14 in the North Zone, January 2 through January 21 in the South Zone, and January 10 through January 29 in the Coastal Zone. Also, the daily bag limit for black-bellied whistling-duck or fulvous whistling-duck in the aggregate is one.

(14) In New York, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from December 1 through December 20 in the Northeast Zone, from December 22 through January 10 in the Western Zone, from December 8 through December 27 in the Southeast Zone, from January 12 through January 31 in the Long Island Zone, and from December 8 through December 27 in the Lake Champlain Zone.

(15) In New York and Virginia, the use of electronic calls and shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells are allowed for hunting of light geese on any day when all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed.

(16) In North Carolina, the season is closed for black ducks and mottled ducks October 15 through November 20. Also, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 8 through January 30.

(17) In North Carolina, the daily bag limit for mergansers is five of which no more than two may be hooded mergansers.

(18) In North Carolina, the use of electronic calls and shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells are allowed for hunting light geese February 8 through March 10.

(19) In Pennsylvania, during the regular duck season in the North Zone, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from December 18 through January 9. During the regular duck season in the South Zone, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from December 26 through January 18. During the regular duck season in the Northwest Zone, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from November 26 through November 27 and from December 21 through January 9. During the regular duck season in the Lake Erie Zone, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from November 25 through December 17.

(20) In Pennsylvania, the daily bag limit is three Canada geese with a possession limit of nine geese in the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio State line to the intersection of I–79, west of I–79 to SR 358, north of SR 358 to the Ohio State line. Also, areas in the public hunting sections of State Game Lands 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties that are outside the controlled goose hunting areas have a daily limit of one and a possession limit of three. Areas inside the controlled goose hunting areas of State Game Lands 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) have a season limit of one.

(21) In Rhode Island, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 5 through January 24.

(22) In South Carolina, the daily bag limit of six may not exceed one hooded merganser. Further, the black duck/mottled duck limit is as follows: (1) For areas east and south of I–95, either one black or one mottled duck in the daily bag in the aggregate; and (2) For areas west and north of I–95, either two black ducks, or one black duck and one mottled duck in the daily bag.

(23) In South Carolina, the daily bag limit for scaup is two on November 14, November 21 through November 28, and December 12 through December 22.

(24) In South Carolina, on November 14, only hunters 17 years of age or younger can hunt ducks [2 scaup], coots, and mergansers. The youth must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older who is properly licensed, including State and Federal waterfowl stamps. Youth who are 16 or 17 years of age who hunt on this day are not required to have a State license or State waterfowl stamp but must possess a Federal waterfowl stamp and migratory bird permit.

(25) In South Carolina, the daily bag limit may include no more than two white-fronted geese.

(26) In Vermont, the daily bag limit for scaup is two within the Lake Champlain Zone from December 8 through December 27 and from November 19 through December 8 within the Interior Zone. Within the Connecticut River Zone, during the regular duck season, the scaup bag limit will be one for the entire season.

(27) In Virginia, the season is closed for black ducks October 9 through October 12.

(28) In Virginia, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 12 through January 31.

(29) In West Virginia, the season is closed for eiders, whistling-ducks, and mottled ducks.

(30) In West Virginia, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from January 12 through January 31.

Mississippi Flyway

Flyway-Wide Restrictions

Duck Limits: The daily bag limit of six ducks may include no more than four mallards (no more than two of which may be females), one mottled duck, two black ducks, three pintails, two canvasbacks, two redheads, one scaup (except as footnoted below), and three wood ducks. The possession limit is

three times the daily bag limit.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit is five mergansers and may include no more than two hooded mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit, of which only two may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
Illinois:			
Ducks (1):			
North Zone	Oct. 24–Oct. 25 &	6	18
	Oct. 31–Dec. 27	6	18
Central Zone	Oct. 31–Dec. 13 &	6	18
	Dec. 19–Jan. 3	6	18
South Zone	Nov. 14–Dec. 6 &	6	18
	Dec. 19–Jan. 24	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Canada and Cackling Geese:			
North Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 15 &	5	15
	Oct. 24–Oct. 25 &	3	9
	Oct. 31–Jan. 26	3	9
Central Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 15 &	5	15
	Oct. 31–Dec. 13 &	3	9
	Dec. 19–Jan. 31	3	9
South Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 15 &	2	6
	Nov. 14–Jan. 31	3	9
White-fronted Geese:			
North Zone	Oct. 31–Jan. 26	2	6
Central Zone	Oct. 31–Dec. 13 &	2	6
	Dec. 19–Jan. 31	2	6
South Zone	Nov. 14–Jan. 31	2	6
Light Geese:			
North Zone	Oct. 24–Oct. 25 &	20	--
	Oct. 31–Jan. 26	20	--
Central Zone	Oct. 31–Dec. 13 &	20	--
	Dec. 19–Jan. 31	20	--
South Zone	Nov. 14–Jan. 31	20	--
Brant	Same as for Light Geese	1	3
Indiana:			
Ducks (2):			
North Zone	Oct. 24–Dec. 13 &	6	18

Area	Season dates	Limits	
		Bag	Possession
	Dec. 19–Dec. 27	6	18
Central Zone	Oct. 31–Nov. 8 &	6	18
	Nov. 21–Jan. 10	6	18
South Zone	Nov. 7–Nov. 8 &	6	18
	Nov. 28–Jan. 24	6	18
Mergansers	Same as for Ducks	5	15
Coots	Same as for Ducks	15	45
Dark Geese (3):			
North Zone	Sept. 5–Sept. 13 &	5	15
	Oct. 24–Nov. 1 &	5	15
	Nov. 21–Feb. 14	5	15
Central Zone	Sept. 5–Sept. 13 &	5	15
	Oct. 31–Nov. 8 &	5	15
	Nov. 21–Feb. 14	5	15
South Zone	Sept. 1–Sept. 13 &	5	15
	Nov. 7–Nov. 11 &	5	15
	Nov. 21–Feb. 14	5	15
White-fronted Geese:			
North Zone	Nov. 21–Feb. 14	2	6
Central Zone	Nov. 21–Feb. 14	2	6
South Zone	Nov. 21–Feb. 14	2	6
Light Geese:			
North Zone	Same as for Dark Geese	20	--
Central Zone	Same as for Dark Geese	20	--
South Zone	Same as for Dark Geese	20	--

(1) In *Illinois*, the daily bag limit for scaup is two during the last 45 days in each of the three Zones.

(2) In *Indiana*, the daily bag limit for scaup is two from November 8 through December 13 and from December 19 through December 27 in the North Zone, from November 27 through January 10 in the Central Zone, and from December 11 through January 24 in the South Zone.

(3) In *Indiana*, the daily bag limit for dark geese is five per day in the aggregate. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. White-fronted geese are excluded from this aggregation.

(e) *Youth and Veteran–Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days*.

The following seasons are open only to youth and veteran–active military personnel, except where noted. Youth must be accompanied into the field by an adult 18 years of age or older. This adult cannot duck hunt but may participate in other open seasons.

Limits: Bag limits may include ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, and gallinules. The bag and possession limits are the same as those allowed in the regular season except in States that are allowed a daily bag limit of 1 or 2 scaup during different portions of the season, in which case the daily bag limit is 2 scaup per day and the possession limit is 4 scaup. Flyway species and area restrictions

remain in effect.

Definitions

Youth: States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, youth hunters may not be older than 17 years of age. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). Swans may be taken only by participants possessing applicable swan permits.

Veteran–Active Military Personnel: Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, U.S. Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate. All hunters must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). Swans may be taken only by participants possessing applicable swan permits.

Area	Species	Season dates
ATLANTIC FLYWAY		
Connecticut (1)	Ducks, mergansers, coots, geese, and brant	Oct. 3 & Oct. 31
Delaware (2)(3)	Ducks, mergansers, coots, gallinules, geese, brant, and tundra swans	Oct. 24 & Feb. 7
Florida:	Ducks, mergansers, coots, common gallinules, Canada geese, and light geese	
Youth		Nov. 14 & Feb. 13
Veteran–Active Military Personnel		Feb. 6 & Feb. 7
Georgia	Ducks, mergansers, coots, gallinules, and dark geese	Nov. 14 & Nov. 15
Maine (1):	Ducks, mergansers, coots, geese, and brant	
North Zone		Sept. 19 & Dec. 12
South Zone		Sept. 19 & Oct. 17
Coastal Zone		Sept. 26 & Oct. 17
Maryland (4)(5)	Ducks, mergansers, coots, geese, brant, and light geese	Nov. 7 & Feb. 6
Massachusetts	Ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada and cackling geese, and light geese	Sept. 26 & Oct. 3
New Hampshire	Ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada and cackling geese, and brant	
Youth		Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Veteran–Active Military Personnel		Jan. 23 & Jan. 24

Area	Species	Season dates
New Jersey:	Ducks, mergansers, coots, gallinules, geese, and brant	
Youth:		
North Zone		Oct. 3 & Feb. 6
South Zone		Oct. 10 & Feb. 6
Coastal Zone		Nov. 14 & Feb. 6
Veteran–Active Military Personnel		Oct. 31 & Feb. 6
New York:	Ducks, mergansers, coots, dark geese, and brant	
Youth:		
Long Island Zone		Nov. 7 & Nov. 8
Lake Champlain Zone		Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Northeastern Zone		Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Southeastern Zone		Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Western Zone		Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Veteran–Active Military Personnel:		
Long Island Zone		Nov. 7 & Nov. 8
Northeastern Zone		Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Southeastern Zone		Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Western Zone		Nov. 7 & Nov. 8
North Carolina (3)	Ducks, mergansers, coots, geese, brant, and tundra swans	Dec. 5 & Feb. 6
Pennsylvania (6):	Ducks, mergansers, coots, gallinules, dark geese, and brant	
Youth:		
North Zone		Sept. 19 & Oct. 31
South Zone		Sept. 19 & Nov. 7
Northwest Zone		Sept. 19 & Sept. 26
Lake Erie Zone		Sept. 19 & Oct. 24
Veteran–Active Military Personnel:		
North Zone		Oct. 31 & Jan. 16
South Zone		Nov. 7 & Jan. 23
Northwest Zone		Sept. 26 & Jan. 16
Lake Erie Zone		Oct. 24 & Jan. 16
Rhode Island	Ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada and cackling geese, light geese, and brant	
Youth		Oct. 24 & Oct. 25

Area	Species	Season dates
Veteran–Active Military Personnel		Nov. 10 & Nov. 11
South Carolina	Ducks, mergansers, coots, gallinules, and geese	Feb. 6 & Feb. 13
Vermont (1)	Ducks, mergansers, coots, geese, and brant	Sept. 26 & Sept. 27
Virginia (3)	Ducks, mergansers, coots, dark geese, and tundra swans	Oct. 24 & Feb. 6
West Virginia (1)	Ducks, mergansers, coots, gallinules, geese, and brant	Sept. 19 & Oct. 31
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY		
Illinois (1):	Ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots	
North Zone		Oct. 17 & Oct. 18
Central Zone		Oct. 24 & Oct. 25
South Zone		Nov. 7 & Jan. 30
Indiana (7):	Ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots	
North Zone		Oct. 17 & Oct. 18
Central Zone		Oct. 24 & Oct. 25
South Zone		Oct. 31 & Nov. 1

(1) The season is open to youth hunters only.

(2) In Delaware, tundra swans may be taken only on February 1.

(3) In Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia, Nevada, and Utah, the daily bag limit may not include swans except by permit.

(4) In Maryland, youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older that holds a valid Maryland hunting license or is exempt from the hunting license requirements. One adult may take one or more young hunters, and that adult may call waterfowl, assist with decoys, and retrieve downed birds but may not possess a hunting weapon and may not participate in other seasons that are open on the youth waterfowl hunting days. Active military and honorably discharged veterans, of any age, that possess a valid Maryland hunting license or are exempt from the hunting license requirements may also hunt waterfowl on November 7, 2026, and February 6, 2027. Active military and honorably discharged veterans at least 21 years of age or older may possess hunting weapons and hunt while also providing assistance to eligible youth hunters.

(5) In Maryland, the bag limit for Canada and cackling geese is two in the AP Zone and 5 in the RP Zone.

(6) In Pennsylvania, the second youth day in each duck zone is open to youth, veterans, and active-duty military.

(7) In Indiana, the daily bag limit for scaup is one.

Seasons, limits, and shooting hours for swans

Subject to the applicable provisions of the preceding sections of this part, areas open to hunting, respective open seasons (dates inclusive), shooting and hawking hours, and daily bag and possession limits on the species designated in this section are as follows:

Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except as otherwise restricted by State regulations. Shooting and hawking hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except as otherwise noted. Area descriptions were published in the August 31, 2026, MGBH memorandum. Hunting is by State permit only.

Federally authorized, State-issued permits are issued to individuals, and only the individual whose name and address appears on the permit at the time of issuance is authorized to take swans at the level allowed by the permit, in accordance with provisions of both Federal and State regulations governing the hunting season. The permit must be carried by the permittee when exercising its provisions and must be presented to any law enforcement officer upon request. The permit is not transferable or assignable to another individual, and may not be sold, bartered, traded, or otherwise provided to another person. If the permit is altered or defaced in any way, the permit becomes invalid.

Note: Successful permittees must immediately validate their harvest by that method required in State regulations.

CHECK STATE REGULATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND DELINEATIONS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY ON FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS AND FEDERAL INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

Area	Season dates	Limits
ATLANTIC FLYWAY		
Delaware	Nov. 7–Jan. 31	1 tundra swan per permit
North Carolina	Nov. 7–Jan. 30	1 tundra swan per permit
Virginia	Nov. 15–Jan. 31	1 tundra swan per permit

Extended seasons, limits, and hours for taking migratory game birds by falconry

Subject to the applicable provisions of the preceding sections of this part, areas open to hunting, respective open seasons (dates inclusive), hawking hours, and daily bag and possession limits for the species designated in this section are prescribed as follows:

Hawking hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset except as otherwise restricted by State regulations.

Area descriptions were published in the August 31, 2026, MGBH memorandum.

Limits: The daily bag limit may include no more than 3 migratory game birds in the aggregate. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. These limits apply to falconry during both regular hunting seasons and extended falconry seasons, unless further restricted by State regulations. The falconry bag and possession limits are not in addition to regular season limits.

Although many States permit falconry during the gun seasons, only extended falconry seasons are shown below. Please consult State regulations for details.

CHECK STATE REGULATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND DELINEATIONS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY ON FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS AND FEDERAL INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

Area	Extended falconry dates
ATLANTIC FLYWAY	
Delaware:	
Doves	Feb. 1–Feb. 17
Rails	Dec. 1–Jan. 6
Woodcock	Oct. 1–Oct. 29 & Feb. 6–Mar. 10
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	Feb. 3–Mar. 3
Brant	Feb. 1–Feb. 6 & Feb. 10–Feb. 15
Florida:	
Doves	Feb. 1–Feb. 17
Rails	Nov. 10–Dec. 16
Woodcock	Nov. 24–Dec. 17 & Feb. 1–Mar. 10
Gallinules	Nov. 10–Dec. 13
Ducks, light geese, mergansers, and coots	Nov. 3–Nov. 12 & Feb. 8–Mar. 8
Georgia:	
Ducks, mergansers, coots, Canada geese, light geese, gallinules, doves, and woodcock	Nov. 30–Dec. 6
Maine:	
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	
North Zone	Dec. 15–Feb. 4
South & Coastal Zones	Jan. 7–Feb. 27
Maryland:	
Doves	Jan. 9–Jan. 28
Rails	Nov. 20–Jan. 1
Woodcock	Oct. 1–Oct. 24 & Feb. 1–Mar. 10
Ducks	Feb. 1–Mar. 10
Brant	Feb. 2–Mar. 10
Massachusetts:	
Ducks and coots	Oct. 10–Feb. 9
New Hampshire:	
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	

Area	Extended falconry dates
Northern Zone	Dec. 1–Jan. 12
Inland Zone	Nov. 12–Nov. 24 & Dec. 25–Jan. 23
Coastal Zone	Jan. 27–Mar. 10
New Jersey:	
Woodcock	
North Zone	Oct. 1–Oct. 20 & Dec. 1–Jan. 30
South Zone	Oct. 1–Nov. 7 & Dec. 7–Dec. 18 & Jan. 1–Jan. 30
Ducks	
North Zone	Jan. 20–Mar. 10
South Zone	Jan. 22–Mar. 10
Coastal Zone	Jan. 30–Mar. 10
New York:	
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	
Long Island Zone	Nov. 1–Nov. 20 & Dec. 1–Dec. 11
Northeastern Zone	Oct. 1–Oct. 9 & Nov. 30–Dec. 11 & Dec. 21–Jan. 13
Southeastern Zone	Oct. 1–Oct. 9 & Oct. 19–Nov. 6 & Dec. 28–Jan. 13
Western Zone	Oct. 1–Oct. 9 & Nov. 2–Dec. 4 & Jan. 11–Jan. 13
North Carolina:	
Doves	Oct. 12–Oct. 24
Rails and gallinules	Dec. 5–Jan. 9
Woodcock	Dec. 1–Dec. 9 & Feb. 1–Feb. 20
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	Oct. 1–Oct. 10 & Feb. 1–Feb. 6
Pennsylvania:	
Doves	Nov. 28–Dec. 17
Rails	Nov. 21–Jan. 2

Area	Extended falconry dates
Woodcock and snipe	Sept. 1–Oct. 16 & Dec. 9–Jan. 2
Gallinules	Nov. 21–Dec. 31
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	
North Zone	Jan. 19–Mar. 10
South Zone	Nov. 17 & Jan. 19–Jan. 22 & Jan. 25–Mar. 10
Northwest Zone	Jan. 19–Mar. 10
Lake Erie Zone	Jan. 19–Mar. 10
Canada, cackling, and white-fronted geese	
AP Zone	Jan. 26–Mar. 10
RP Zone	Mar. 6–Mar. 10
South Carolina:	
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	Oct. 28–Nov. 20 & Dec. 1–Dec. 11
Virginia:	
Doves	Jan. 19–Jan. 31
Rails, gallinules	Oct. 25–Nov. 9 & Nov. 30–Dec. 20
Woodcock	Oct. 17–Nov. 10 & Dec. 2–Dec. 25 & Jan. 19–Jan. 31
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	Jan. 31–Feb. 7
Brant	Oct. 18–Dec. 18 & Jan. 1–Jan. 14
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY	
Illinois:	
Doves	Nov. 15–Dec. 1
Rails	Sept. 1–Sept. 4 & Nov. 14–Dec. 16
Woodcock	Sept. 1–Oct. 16 & Dec. 1–Dec. 16
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	Feb. 10–Mar. 10
Indiana:	
Doves	Oct. 19–Oct. 31 & Jan. 1–Jan. 4

Area	Extended falconry dates
Woodcock	Sept. 20–Oct. 14 & Nov. 29–Jan. 4
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	
North Zone	Sept. 27–Sept. 30 & Feb. 14–Mar. 10
Central Zone	Oct. 24–Oct. 30 & Feb. 17–Mar. 10
South Zone	Oct. 31–Nov. 6 & Feb. 17–Mar. 10