

Special Early Teal-Wood Duck Season Guidelines

Reference: 90 FR 40178, August 18, 2025 (page 40187)

“In considering the Councils’ recent recommendations for special early teal–wood duck seasons, we recognized that our special early teal– wood duck season guidelines were developed over multiple **Federal Register** publications, including August 28, 2014 (79 FR 51402 at 51403–51404); August 21, 2001 (66 FR 44010 at 44011); August 21, 1991 (56 FR 41608 at 41608); August 9, 1988 (53 FR 29897 at 29899); and July 29, 1981 (46 FR 38868 at 38868), and were not described completely in one publication. Thus, we are providing our special early teal–wood duck season guidelines here completely for ease of reference.

The Service’s early teal–wood duck season guidelines allow special early teal–wood duck seasons in Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee when the spring blue-winged teal population estimate from the [Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (WBPHS)] WBPHS traditional survey area is at least 3.3 million birds. The season lengths are 5 days. Season days must occur in September prior to the regular duck season. The daily bag limit may not exceed six teal and wood ducks in the aggregate, of which no more than two may be wood ducks. A special early teal–wood duck season is not allowed in Florida, Kentucky, or Tennessee if that State offers a special early teal season.

Four additional teal-only days may be added to the special early teal-wood duck seasons when the blue-winged teal population estimate is greater than 4.7 million birds. The additional teal-only days must be in September, contiguous with the special early teal–wood duck seasons, and before the regular duck seasons. The daily bag limit during the teal-only days is six teal in the aggregate.

When the blue-winged teal population estimate is less than 3.3 million birds, all available applicable data will be considered and more restrictive limits or a closed season may be prescribed as determined to be appropriate for special early teal-wood duck seasons.”