

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge
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<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/cameron-prairie/>

Information Bulletin



For Immediate Release
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Lacassine NWR: Special Black-bellied Whistling Duck Season October 3-11, 2026

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge will be open for the special black-bellied whistling duck (BBWD) season on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from sunrise to 2 pm during the October 3-11 BBWD season. The daily bag limit is 4 birds. Hunters must report their effort and harvest to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) within 15 days after the season closes. A free LDWF-issued BBWD special permit is required and may be obtained at louisianaoutdoors.com. Approved non-toxic shot is required for all hunting during this season. Because this special season overlaps alligator season, active alligator hunts will be in progress throughout the refuge.

Waterfowl hunting is permitted south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and between the Mermentau River and the east bank of Lacassine Bayou, excluding the Duck Pond Area and Unit B. A federal order prohibits waterfowl hunting in the portion of Lacassine Bayou that flows through the refuge. The Lacassine Pool is not open to the BBWD special season.

On designated hunt days (Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays), hunters may enter the refuge and launch boats beginning at 4 am. Hunting may begin at sunrise and must conclude by 2 pm. Until 2 pm on hunt days, all Waterfowl Hunt Units and Areas at Lacassine are closed to all visitors except permitted waterfowl and alligator hunters.

Conditions within the hunt units may vary from year to year based on weather, vegetation growth, and tides. Motorboat travel can be hazardous, as many refuge lakes are only 12 to 24 inches deep. Hunters should be familiar with their vessel and motor limitations to ensure safe navigation. Only portable blinds are permitted, and all boats, blinds, shotgun shells, and decoys must be removed at the end of each hunt day.

Because this season coincides with alligator season, active alligator sets may be present along canals, bayous, ponds, and lakes. Hunters should avoid crossing any lines and must not disturb or tamper with alligator sets or equipment. Alligator hunters will be checking their lines daily.

All refuge hunters must follow Louisiana waterfowl regulations, possess a signed refuge hunting permit, and submit a completed Migratory Bird Hunt Report Form after each hunt. The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex 2026–27 Hunting Regulations brochure, or its printed online version, serves as the required permit when signed and carried. The hunting brochure may be downloaded from www.fws.gov/refuge/lacassine by selecting the “Southwest Louisiana Hunting Regulations” link. Hunt report forms may be obtained from hunt check station kiosks near parking areas and boat launches.

Printed hunt brochures may be picked up, while supplies last, at Lacassine NWR office; the LDWF office in Lake Charles; Cajun Grocery in Hayes; Gary’s Landing in Lowry; Cajun Fast Mart; Fisherman’s Headquarters in Carlyss; and Brown’s Grocery in Hackberry. You may also have a signed digital copy on your phone. For additional information, please call 337-774-5932.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com or <https://www.facebook.com/SouthwestLouisianaComplex>, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.