



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

SECRETARY CHAPMAN ANNOUNCES 1951  
WATERFOWL HUNTING RULES

Liberalized migratory waterfowl hunting regulations for 1951 will give hunters from 5 to 10 additional shooting days in which to harvest the year's anticipated surplus crop of ducks and geese, according to an announcement made today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

Bag and possession limits for ducks, however, will remain the same as last year, the Secretary stated. Some minor changes for geese have been made in two flyways.

Amended regulations for migratory waterfowl, hunting during the 1951 season were approved by Secretary Chapman in accordance with a law of Congress making effective treaties relating to birds migrating between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service following extensive biological investigations, and after consultations with the State game administrators.

Briefly stated by Albert M. Day, Service Director, the major changes are these:

The States in the Atlantic Flyway will have a 45 day open season this year, an increase of 5 days. Those selecting a split season will have two periods of 18 days. In this flyway for the first time since 1946, there will be a 10-day brant shooting period with a daily bag and possession limit of 3. The coot bag limit has been reduced from 15 to 10. (Bag limit of 4 ducks and 8 in possession remains the same.)

In the Mississippi flyway the season has been increased by 10 days to give 45 consecutive days or a split season of 18 days each. (This restores the 5-day cut imposed last year and adds 5 additional days.) The bag limit for geese has been raised from 4 to 5 a day or in possession, thus permitting a hunter to kill or possess one additional snow goose or one additional blue goose. (Bag limit of 4 ducks and 8 in possession remains unchanged).

In the Central flyway the length of the season has been increased to 50 days, or a split season of 20 days each. Last year this flyway had 45 days or two periods of 18 days. (Bag limit of 5 ducks and 10 in possession remains the same.)

The Pacific flyway States also received an increase of 5 days to 60 days, or a split season of 24 days each. This year the 6-geese limit permits the taking of

3 brant if no Canada or whitefronted geese are taken. (The daily bag and possession limit of 6 ducks is unchanged.) In Alaska the bag limit for ducks has been increased to 5 and the possession limit to 10.

Mr. Day directed attention to the fact that the regulations have been amended this year to make the prohibition against the use of bait in taking birds more specific. As amended, birds may not be taken within one-half mile of any place where corn or similar feed is placed or exposed "during or within two weeks prior to the open season." The purpose of the two-week provision is to overcome the continued effect of "luring" the birds to a place even after the bait has been consumed. The now standard prohibition against the taking of birds by the use of corn or similar feed still remains in the regulation. This amendment is virtually the same as the Canadian prohibition against baiting and is, in part, as follows: "Migratory game birds may not be taken within one-half mile of any place where salt or any feed that may attract such birds is placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or present at any time during or within two weeks prior to the open seasons on such birds."

In submitting the recommendations for the 1951 season to Secretary Chapman, Director Day said, "Favorable conditions on the northern breeding grounds this summer have made the country-wide liberalization possible. We hope these longer seasons will give gunners in every section of the country good opportunities for shooting, regardless of unpredictable weather conditions."

Director Day explained that the breeding ground surveys of 1951 "included all the significant nesting grounds on the North American continent. In cooperation with 25 States, the Canadian Wildlife Service, all Canadian Provinces, Ducks Unlimited, and the Wildlife Management Institute, the surveys included aerial and ground studies from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah and California and north to the Arctic coast of Canada and Alaska. Studies of production were continued to the last few days of July. Climatic conditions during the breeding season were generally favorable."

The daily shooting hours for ducks, geese, brant and coot will be the same as last year—from one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset. On the opening day of the season—including each first day of the split seasons—waterfowl and coot may not be hunted prior to 12 o'clock noon. In Wisconsin the opening day of the season for waterfowl and coot will start at 1:00 p.m. Shooting hours for woodcock will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except as noted for New York State.

The regulation which prohibits the use of automatic-loading or repeating shotguns capable of holding more than three shells still continues in effect. An amendment which went into effect three years ago provides that the plug in such a shotgun must be incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.

To permit sportsmen to transport to their homes ducks and geese killed on the last day of the season at some distant point, shipments from Canada and Mexico can be made as late as 5 days following the close of the season in the province or State where taken. In the United States hunters can make interstate shipments up to 48 hours following the close of the shooting season in the State where taken.

The regulations permit the transportation out of and possession in another State during the period of the open season where killed, and for 90 days thereafter, of wild ducks and geese, which if dressed have the head, head plumage, and feet attached, taken in a flyway having a larger possession limit than in other flyways.

Any package in which such birds (or parts thereof) are transported must have the name and address of the shipper and of the consignee, together with an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of birds contained in the package, clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside.

The post-season period for possession of migratory game birds remains the same as in previous years--90 days.

For ease of reference, the open seasons, bag and possession limits prescribed by the new regulations are presented in tabular form by flyways, as in the attached table.

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(5) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT

| DUCKS                 | GESE (EXCEPT<br>SNOW GESE) | COOT | WOODCOCK        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 4 (1)                 | 2 (2)                      | 10   | 4               |
| 8 (1)                 | 2 (2)                      | 10   | 8               |
| DAILY BAG LIMITS      |                            |      |                 |
| POSSESSION LIMITS     |                            |      |                 |
| SEASONS IN (3)        |                            |      |                 |
| Connecticut (4)       | Nov. 16-Dec. 30            |      | Oct. 20-Nov. 19 |
| Delaware              | Nov. 9-Dec. 23             |      | Nov. 15-Dec. 14 |
| Florida               | Nov. 22-Jan. 5             |      | -----           |
| Georgia               | Nov. 22-Jan. 5             |      | Dec. 23-Jan. 21 |
| Maine (4)             | Oct. 5-Oct. 22<br>and      |      | Oct. 1-Oct. 31  |
| Maryland              | Nov. 23-Dec. 10            |      |                 |
| Massachusetts (4) (5) | Nov. 22-Jan. 5             |      | Oct. 5-Nov. 3   |
| New Hampshire (4)     | Oct. 26-Dec. 9             |      | Oct. 20-Nov. 19 |
|                       | Oct. 5-Oct. 22<br>and      |      | Oct. 1-Oct. 31  |
| New Jersey            | Nov. 16-Dec. 3             |      |                 |
| New York (4)          | Nov. 9-Dec. 23             |      | Oct. 20-Nov. 19 |
|                       | Oct. 19-Nov. 5<br>and      |      | See footnote 6  |
| North Carolina        | Dec. 7-Dec. 24             |      |                 |
| Pennsylvania          | Nov. 22-Jan. 5             |      | Dec. 12-Jan. 11 |
| Rhode Island (4)      | Oct. 12-Nov. 24            |      | Oct. 8-Nov. 6   |
| South Carolina        | Nov. 22-Jan. 5             |      | Nov. 1-Dec. 1   |
| Vermont               | Nov. 22-Jan. 5             |      | Dec. 12-Jan. 11 |
| Virginia              | Oct. 12-Nov. 25            |      | Oct. 1-Oct. 31  |
| West Virginia         | Nov. 22-Jan. 5             |      | Nov. 20-Dec. 19 |
| Puerto Rico           | Nov. 2-Dec. 16             |      | Oct. 13-Nov. 11 |
|                       | Dec. 15-Feb. 12            |      | -----           |

(5) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (1) Wood duck: No open season in West Virginia. In other States, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted mergansers 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no possession limit after opening day of the season.
- (2) Not more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose, and in addition 3 blue geese a day or in possession.
- (3) Brant: In Delaware and New Jersey Nov. 9-Nov. 18; Connecticut Nov. 16-Nov. 25; Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia Nov. 22-Dec. 1; Maine and New Hampshire Oct. 5-Oct. 14; Massachusetts Oct. 26-Nov. 4; New York Oct. 19-Oct. 28; Pennsylvania Oct. 12-Oct. 20; Vermont Oct. 12-Oct. 21; and West Virginia Nov. 2-Nov. 11. Daily bag and possession limit 3.
- (4) Scoter, eider and old-squaw ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York from Sept. 28-Dec. 31, and in Rhode Island from Sept. 28-Jan. 5. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines such birds may be taken during the open season for other ducks. In the above States only, the daily bag limit is 7 scoter, eider or old-squaw ducks singly or in the aggregate, and not exceeding 14 in possession singly or in the aggregate.
- (5) Only Canada geese or its subspecies may be taken in Massachusetts.
- (6) New York: East and north of Oswego River from Lake Ontario to its junction with the Oneida River, Oneida River to Oneida Lake, north shore of Oneida Lake to Barge Canal, Barge Canal to Rome, the main line of New York Central R.R. from Rome to Albany, and main line of Boston & Albany R.R. from Albany to Massachusetts State line, Oct. 8-Nov. 1, inclusive; west and south of the above described boundary (except Long Island) Oct. 19-Nov. 12, inclusive; that part of New York known as Long Island, Oct. 22-Nov. 15, inclusive; from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the opening day, and thereafter from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. in each of these zones.

(6) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT

| DUCKS | GEESE | COOT | WOODCOCK |
|-------|-------|------|----------|
|-------|-------|------|----------|

DAILY BAG LIMITS

4 (1) 5 (2) 10 4

POSSESSION LIMITS

8 (1) 5 (2) 10 8

SEASONS IN--

|               |                   |                 |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alabama       | Nov. 22-Jan. 5    | Dec. 1-Dec. 30  |
| Arkansas      | Nov. 22-Jan. 5    | Dec. 1-Dec. 30  |
| Illinois      | Oct. 26-Dec. 9(3) | -----           |
| Indiana       | Oct. 26-Dec. 9    | Oct. 15-Nov. 13 |
| Iowa          | Oct. 12-Nov. 25   | -----           |
| Kentucky      | Nov. 22-Jan. 5    | -----           |
| Louisiana     | See footnote 4    | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 |
| Michigan      | Oct. 12-Nov. 25   | See footnote 5  |
| Minnesota     | Oct. 5-Nov. 18    | Oct. 1-Oct. 30  |
| Mississippi   | See footnote 6    | Dec. 1-Dec. 30  |
| Missouri      | Oct. 26-Dec. 9    | Nov. 10-Dec. 9  |
| Ohio (7)      | Oct. 19-Dec. 2    | Oct. 8-Nov. 6   |
| Tennessee     | Nov. 22-Jan. 5    | -----           |
| Wisconsin (8) | Oct. 13-Nov. 25   | Oct. 1-Oct. 31  |

(1) Bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted mergansers 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no possession limit after opening day of the season.

(2) Including in such limit not more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.

(6) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (3) No open season for geese in that part of Alexander County, Ill., established as closed area by proclamation 2748 of Oct. 1, 1947 (12 F. R. 6521).
- (4) Louisiana: Excluding lands and waters of the State of Louisiana, lying easterly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana and latitude 31° North, but including any lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the aforesaid center line, Nov. 2-Dec. 16.
- (5) Michigan: Woodcock, Upper Peninsula, Oct. 1 to Oct. 20; Lower Peninsula, Oct. 15 to Nov. 5.
- (6) Mississippi: Excluding lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana and latitude 31° North, but including any lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the aforesaid center line, Nov. 22-Jan. 5.
- (7) Ducks, geese, coot on Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, Ohio, and one-quarter mile distant in any direction from said reservoir, Oct. 12-Nov. 24.
- (8) Wisconsin: On opening day the season for waterfowl and coot will start at 1 p.m.

(7) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT

| DUCKS | GEESE | COOT |
|-------|-------|------|
|-------|-------|------|

DAILY BAG LIMITS

|       |           |    |
|-------|-----------|----|
| 5 (1) | 5 (2) (3) | 10 |
|-------|-----------|----|

POSSESSION LIMITS

|        |           |    |
|--------|-----------|----|
| 10 (1) | 5 (2) (3) | 10 |
|--------|-----------|----|

SEASONS IN--

Colorado

Oct. 19-Nov. 7

Kansas

and

Dec. 14-Jan. 2 (3)

Montana

Oct. 19-Dec. 7

Nebraska

Oct. 12-Nov. 30 (3)

New Mexico (4)

Oct. 19-Dec. 7

Oct. 12-Oct. 31

and

Dec. 17-Jan. 5

North Dakota

Oct. 5-Nov. 23

Oklahoma (5)

Oct. 19-Dec. 7

South Dakota

Oct. 5-Nov. 23

Texas (5) (6)

Nov. 9-Dec. 28

Wyoming

Oct. 12-Nov. 30 (3)

(1) Wood ducks: No open season in Colorado, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

In other States, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for

American and red-breasted mergansers 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no

possession limit after opening day of the season.

(2) Including in such limit not more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.

(7) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (3) No open season on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana, or in Colorado and Wyoming. No open season in Colorado on blue geese.
- (4) The bag and possession limit on geese in New Mexico is 3 which may include not more than 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 snow goose.
- (5) Woodcock: Oklahoma, Dec. 1 to Dec. 30; Texas, in the counties of Shelby, Nacogdoches, Angelina, Trinity, San Jacinto, Liberty, Chambers, and all counties south and east thereof, Dec. 23 to Jan. 21; no open season in rest of Texas. Daily limit 4, possession limit 8.
- (6) Texas: Black-bellied tree duck, no open season.

(8) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

| <u>MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT</u> |                       |      |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|--|
| DUCKS                               | GEESE AND BRANT       | COOT |  |
|                                     | (EXCEPT ROSS'S GOOSE) |      |  |
| 6 (1)                               | 6 (2)                 | 15   |  |
| 6 (1)                               | 6 (2)                 | 15   |  |

DAILY BAG LIMITS

POSSESSION LIMITS

SEASONS IN--

Arizona  
California  
Idaho  
Nevada  
Oregon  
Utah  
Washington

Alaska - (These seasons were announced on August 1. Bag limit of ducks is 5, and possession is 10.)

Nov. 7-Jan. 5  
See footnote 3  
Oct. 19-Dec. 17 (4)  
Oct. 19-Dec. 17  
Nov. 2-Dec. 31  
Oct. 12-Dec. 10  
Oct. 26-Dec. 24

- (1) Wood duck: No open season in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. In other Pacific Flyway States, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted mergansers, 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no possession limit after opening day of the season.
- (2) Including in such limit not more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 3 brant, or a mixed bag of (d) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose, or (e) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 2 brant, or (f) 1 white-fronted goose and 2 brant.

(8) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (3) Waterfowl and coot in those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties, Calif., east of U. S. Highway 95 from the Nevada line south of Blythe and east of the paved and graded road extending from Blythe to Ripley, Palo Verde and Ogilby south to its intersection with U. S. Highway 80, thence east to Yuma, Nov. 7 to Jan. 5; in rest of California, Oct. 26 to Dec. 24.
- (4) Idaho: Snowgeese, no open season. No open season on geese of any species in the following described area in Canyon County: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 30 and State Highway 45, in the city of Nampa, thence westerly along U.S. Highway 30 to its junction with State Highway 20, thence westerly along State Highway 20 to its junction with the Lake Lowell-Marsing road, thence southerly along the Lake Lowell-Marsing road to the south end of the west embankment of Lake Lowell, thence along the oil surfaced road bearing easterly to its junction with State Highway 45, thence northerly along State Highway 45 to its junction with U.S. Highway 30, the point of beginning.