

REGISTERING a Big Game Kill

Required for Bear, Deer, and Wild Turkey taken in North Carolina

- Before moving the animal from the site of kill (where the animal fell), validate your Big Game Harvest Report Card by punching or cutting in the appropriate crosshair symbol that correctly identifies the big game animal harvested.
- Register by reporting the harvest within 24 hours and record the authorization number on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Reporting must be done within 24 hours of kill and before the animal is skinned, dressed, or dismembered for consumption.
- If the animal is left unattended before registering, it must be identified with your name, hunting license number and date of kill. An example would be if you leave it hanging in a cooler.
- If you leave an animal with a processor or taxidermist, donate it to Hunters for the Hungry or give it to someone else, you must have the authorization number attached to the carcass. The processor or taxidermist needs to keep a record of species and sex of animals received and name and address of hunter.

To register, choose one of the following options and have your Big Game Harvest Report Card and pen ready.



- Call toll-free 800-446-8663.
- Go online to ncwildlife.org.
- Visit a participating wildlife service agent location.

SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS

RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

Oct. 16 (at sunrise) – Feb. 28

Opossum: No bag limits

Raccoon daily limit 3; No possession or season limits

General Restrictions

- Field possession limit while hunting is the same as the daily bag limit. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp or residence.
- Axes and saws may not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.
- It is unlawful to shoot raccoon during the daytime, west of U.S. 1, except in Richmond County.
- It is unlawful to carry firearms or climbing irons when training dogs during closed seasons, except under special field-trial regulations.

SQUIRREL

Gray and Red (statewide): Oct. 16 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits

Fox Squirrel: Oct. 16 – Dec. 31

Daily limit 1; Possession 2; Season 10

In the following counties:

Alleghany	Edgecombe	Moore	Scotland
Anson	Greene	New Hanover	Stokes
Ashe	Harnett	Onslow	Surry
Bladen	Hoke	Pender	Watauga
Brunswick	Johnston	Pitt	Wayne
Cumberland	Jones	Richmond	Wilkes
Duplin	Lenoir	Sampson	

RABBIT

Nov. 18 – Feb. 28 (hunting and box-trapping*)

Daily limit 5; No possession or season limits

*A trapping license is not required to box-trap rabbits, but a valid hunting license is necessary.

QUAIL

Nov. 18 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 6; Possession 12; Season, no limit

GROUSE

Oct. 16 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

BOBCAT

Oct. 16 – Feb. 28

No limits

GROUNDHOG, NUTRIA, COYOTE, SKUNK (STRIPED), ARMADILLO AND FERAL SWINE (HOGS)

There is no closed season or bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls for coyotes and feral swine.

- Feral swine may be hunted at night with lights.
- Coyotes may be hunted at night except in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. In those five counties, the following apply:
 - hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
 - all coyote hunting requires a permit
 - permits can be obtained at ncwildlife.org or by calling 1-888-248-6834
 - all coyote harvests must be reported.

See page 62 for more information about coyote hunting in the five counties listed above.

PHEASANT

Nov. 18 – Feb. 1 (male pheasant only)

Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

FOX

Year Round (including Sundays)

- Must be taken with dogs only; no limits.
 - Local laws may restrict hunting foxes with dogs. Visit ncwildlife.org/foxseasons for restrictions.
- Nov. 18 – Jan. 1 (archery season); Nov. 19 - Jan. 2 (firearm season)
- Daily limit 2; Season 10
- This season applies as follows:
- In those counties and parts of counties east of I-77 where local laws do not prohibit the taking of foxes or that do not have established fox seasons and Mitchell and Caldwell County.
 - Foxes taken during this hunting season shall not be bought or sold.
 - In Caldwell County, foxes may be taken by firearms only.

Jan. 6 – 27, 2018

Daily limit 2; Season 10

- Foxes may be taken in the counties listed below by legal weapons and may be sold after being properly tagged (refer to page 10 for more information on fox tags):

Clay	Henderson	Tyrrell
Graham	Macon	
- Hunters must possess fox tags prior to harvesting foxes during this season.

There is no open weapons hunting season in any other county except where provided by local laws. To see if your county has a hunting season on foxes, visit ncwildlife.org/foxseasons, or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.

EXTENDED SEASON FOR TAKE BY FALCONRY

Oct. 16 – Feb. 28 (Applies only to rabbits)
 Outside of Regular Season Dates:
 Rabbits: Daily limit 3; Possession limit 6
 Regular species bag limits apply during regular seasons.

BEAVER

There is an open season for taking beaver with firearms or bow and arrow during any open season for the taking of wild animals, provided that permission has been obtained from the owner or lessee of the land on which the beaver is being taken.

CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES

Oct. 1 – Mar. 31
 No limits.
 This applies to domestically raised birds (mallard ducks and upland game birds) only.
 No wild turkey may be taken.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Migratory Birds Protected Federal laws protecting migratory birds (songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl) take precedence over state laws. Before any migratory birds may be taken or killed during the closed season, a federal permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Substantial penalties for violations apply. Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Permits Section in Atlanta, Ga. at 404-679-7070 for information. During the May 1–Aug. 31 time period, depredation permits issued directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission are available when Canada geese are depredating in commercial agriculture situations. Contact the Commission at 919-707-0050 for more information. Federal seasons and bag limits on migratory game birds are adopted as state regulations.

Colonial Water Bird Nesting Areas Coastal islands and beach areas posted as “Colonial Water Bird Nesting” areas are being managed for our nesting populations of pelicans, terns, gulls, herons and egrets. Special regulations apply. Access is prohibited on these areas from April 1–Aug. 31, except by special permit. Dogs are not allowed on these areas during this time period. Access on these areas from Sept. 1–March 30 will be allowed as authorized by the landowner.

CROW SEASONS

Season	Bag Limits
Aug. 1, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week.	No restriction
June 6, 2018-July 30, 2018-Wednesday Friday and Saturday of each week.	
Crows may also be hunted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Independence Day; except when these days fall on a Sunday.	

ATTENTION HUNTERS: Please report all bird bands online at www.reportband.gov
 Be aware that starting July, 2017, **the toll-free telephone number that had previously been available to report bird bands is being discontinued.** People calling this toll-free number will be directed to report their bird bands using the REPORTBAND website or by mail.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – HUNTING STAMPS AND PRIVILEGES

Harvest Information Program (HIP) All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (doves, rails, gallinules, moorhens, woodcock, snipe or waterfowl) in North Carolina are required to have certification of participation in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Certification can be obtained free of charge by going online at ncwildlife.org, calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent.

Migratory Bird Hunting And Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older, must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or federal duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. (Hunters under age 16 may voluntarily purchase a duck stamp and help preserve wetlands for waterfowl.) Refer to page 9 for more information.

North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a license having the North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege. The North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege is required in addition to the federal duck stamp. Refer to the “License Types” section on page 5 of this digest for information on which licenses include this privilege license.

North Carolina Duck Stamp Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year’s duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes; call 888-248-6834 for more information.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – SEASONS

Shooting Hours: Unless otherwise specified, shooting hours for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Possession Limits: Possession Limits for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are 3 times the daily limit unless otherwise specified.

Nontoxic Shot Requirements In North Carolina, no person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel or other approved nontoxic materials. On posted waterfowl impoundments on game lands, it is unlawful to hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting; except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Nontoxic shot is required for the taking of captive-reared mallards on shooting preserves, in field trials and during bona fide dog-training activities.

DOVE (includes Mourning Dove and White-winged Dove)

Sep. 2 – Oct. 7 & Nov. 22 – Jan. 15
 Daily limit 15; either singly or in the aggregate for mourning doves and white-winged doves

RAILS (includes King, Clapper and Virginia Rails and Sora)

Sep. 2 – Oct. 21 & Nov. 3 – Nov. 22
 Daily Limit 15 King or Clapper Rails either singly or in the aggregate
 Daily Limit 25 Virginia Rails or Sora either singly or in the aggregate

GALLINULE AND MOORHEN

Sep. 2 – Oct. 21 & Nov. 3 – Nov. 22
 Daily Limit 15 Gallinules and Moorhens either singly or in the aggregate

WOODCOCK

Dec. 14 – Jan. 27
Daily Limit 3

COMMON SNIPE

Nov. 14 – Feb. 28
Daily Limit 8

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON (includes Green-winged teal, Blue-winged teal and Cinnamon teal)

Sep. 13 – Sep. 30
Daily Limit 6
The September Teal Season is open only in that area east of U.S. Highway 17.

DUCKS

Oct. 4 – 7, Nov. 11 – Dec. 2 & Dec. 16 – Jan. 27
Daily limit 6 with the following restrictions: no more than 4 mallards (2 hen mallards), 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. The season on black and mottled ducks is closed until Nov. 18.

COOTS

Season dates same as ducks
Daily limit 15 coots

MERGANSERS

Season dates same as ducks
Daily limit 5 mergansers with no more than 2 hooded mergansers

SEA DUCKS (in special sea duck area only)

Nov. 20 – Jan. 27
Daily limit 5 with no more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks and 4 eiders

- The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and long-tailed ducks), except during the regular duck season shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas. During the regular season, this bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks, and they must be included in the regular duck season daily bag and possession limits.
- Because sea ducks are limited to 60 days of hunting exposure in any area, there will be certain dates and locations where sea ducks may or may not be taken. Please see the following:

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON

Sep. 1 – Sep. 30
Daily bag 15

- In that area west of U.S. Highway 17 only, expanded hunting methods are allowed for Canada geese. These include: shooting hours are extended to ½ hour after sunset, unplugged guns are allowed, electronic calls are permitted. This applies to this area only during the month of September.

DARK GEESE (includes Canada geese and White-fronted geese)
see Goose Zone Map on Page 55

Resident Population Zone

Oct. 4 – Oct. 14, Nov. 11 – Dec. 2 & Dec. 16 – Feb. 10
Daily bag 5

Southern James Bay Zone

Oct. 4 – Nov. 3 & Nov. 11 – Dec. 30
Daily bag 5

Northeast Hunt Zone (by permit only)

Jan. 12 – Jan. 27
Daily bag 1
Refer to ncwildlife.org/permithunt for information.

TUNDRA SWAN (by permit only)

Nov. 11 – Jan. 31
Bag limit 1 per season with special permit

A limited number of permits will be issued to hunt tundra swans. Permits will be issued by a random drawing authorizing each permit holder to harvest one tundra swan. The following regulations apply.

- The permit and tag are not transferrable and are valid only for the person whose name appears on the permit. It is unlawful to possess a swan permit or tag while hunting that was assigned to another person, or to alter the permit or tag in any way other than cutting out the proper month and day of kill.
- The permit must be canceled by cutting out both the month and day of kill immediately at the time and place of the kill.
- The permit must be affixed to the harvested swan in accordance with instructions provided with the permit.
- The permit must be carried on one's person while hunting or, if in possession of a swan, the permit must be affixed to the swan.

Every hunter receiving a swan permit will also receive a questionnaire. If the hunter does not return that completed questionnaire to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1, that hunter will be ineligible for a tundra swan permit the following season. Refer to ncwildlife.org/permithunt for information.

<p>General Duck Season Open Special Sea Duck Season Closed (Oct. 4 – Oct. 7 & Nov. 11 – Nov. 19)</p>	<p>General Duck Season Closed Special Sea Duck Season Open (Dec. 4 – Dec. 15)</p>	<p>General Duck Season Open Special Sea Duck Season Open (Nov. 20 – Dec. 2 & Dec 16 – Jan. 27)</p>
<p>Sea ducks cannot be taken in the special sea duck area, but can be taken everywhere else. The general bag limit of six ducks with no more than four scoters, four long-tailed duck and four eiders applies. Although sea ducks may not be taken in the special sea duck area during this time, other ducks may be taken in this area.</p>	<p>Sea ducks can be taken only in the special sea duck area, but cannot be taken in other locations. The special sea duck bag limit applies and consists of five sea ducks with no more than four scoters, four long-tailed ducks and four eiders.</p>	<p>Sea ducks can be taken anywhere. Hunters should remember that the special sea duck limit applies when hunting in the special sea duck area and the general bag limit applies when hunting in all other areas. When both seasons overlap, the special sea duck bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks.</p>

BEFORE YOU SHOOT...

Know the Differences between Red Wolves and Coyotes

While they may look similar, coyotes and red wolves are considered two different species with different levels of protection. Red wolves (*Canis rufus*) are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. Red wolves are also state listed as a threatened species. No hunting, trapping or harassing of red wolves is allowed except when permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While coyotes (*Canis latrans*) may be taken statewide on private lands day or night and on state lands during daytime in the rest of the state, on private lands in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties, coyote hunting is daytime only and requires a permit. Apply for a coyote hunting permit online at www.ncwildlife.org/coyote or call 1-888-248-6834. Any coyote shot in the five-county area must be reported to the Wildlife Resources Commission, as detailed on the permit, within 24 hours. If a red wolf is shot incidentally, you must report the shooting to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Wildlife Resources Commission at 1-800-662-7137 within 24 hours. **Know your target before you shoot.**



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF USFWS

RED WOLVES ARE:

- Approximately 5' long from nose to tail
- Mostly brown and buff colored with some black on back; often reddish color behind ears, on muzzle and toward back of legs
- Tall, pointed ears
- Long, slender legs with large feet



COYOTES ARE:

- Approximately 3' long from nose to tail
- Varying in color ranging from buff, brown, grey or black
- Longer, narrower muzzle

► ATTENTION COYOTE HUNTERS! ◀

We are asking hunters who harvest a coyote in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties to participate in the Canid Cooperator Program to help us monitor the coyote population in the area. Pull a tuft of hair from any coyote you harvest. Fill out a data sheet and submit it, along with the tuft of hair, to: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Wildlife Management Division, 1722 MSC, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Your information allows our biologists to better monitor coyote populations, make management decisions and evaluate the impact of coyote harvests in the five-county area. Learn more about the Canid Cooperator Program, and download a data sheet: www.ncwildlife.org/coyote.



ncwildlife.org/coyote

LIGHT GEESE (includes Snow geese, Blue geese and Ross' geese)

Regular Season

Oct. 10 – Feb. 10

Daily bag 25; no possession limit

Conservation Order Season (by permit only)

Feb. 12 – March 31

Daily bag none; no possession limit

- During the Conservation Order Season for light geese, expanded hunting methods are allowed. These include the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls. In addition, shooting hours are extended until ½ hour past sunset.
- To learn more or to apply for a permit after July 1, go to ncwildlife.org/lightgoose

BRANT

Dec. 16 – Jan. 27

Daily bag 1

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY(S)

Feb. 3 & Feb. 10

Waterfowl hunting outside the regular season is allowed on the day(s) officially designated as "Youth Waterfowl Day." Legal species include ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots. The youth must have a valid permit to hunt tundra swans and Canada geese (NE Hunt Zone only).

Youth under the age of 18 may participate in accordance with the guidelines listed below:

- Youth under the age of 16 who have obtained a Hunter Education Certification must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.
- Youth under the age of 16 who have not successfully completed a Hunter Education Course must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 18 or older.
- Youth age 16 & 17 must be properly licensed, must have HIP certification and a federal duck stamp and must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.
- Accompanying adults that are properly licensed may not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons on youth waterfowl days.

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASONS

DOVE (extended falconry season)

Oct. 14 – Oct. 28

Daily bag 3

KING, CLAPPER AND VIRGINIA RAIL, SORA, GALLINULE AND MOORHEN (extended falconry season)

Dec. 2 – Jan. 6

Daily bag 3

WOODCOCK (extended falconry season)

Nov. 4 – Dec. 2 & Feb. 1 – Feb. 28

Daily bag 3

DUCKS, MERGANSERS AND COOTS (extended falconry seasons)

Oct. 24 – Nov. 4 & Jan. 29 – Feb. 17

Daily bag 3

- Falconers may also hunt during the applicable gun seasons for migratory game birds. The daily bag and possession limits of 3 and 9 respectively, also apply while hunting during the gun seasons
- Falconry hours for all species are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset
- Falconry for migratory game birds is not allowed on Sunday
- Daily bag and possession limits are for all species singly or in the aggregate. For example, if the applicable seasons are open a daily bag may consist of 3 doves or 1 dove, 1 duck and 1 woodcock for a total of 3 migratory game birds

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds. **No persons shall take migratory game birds:**

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased except in pursuit of wounded waterfowl in special sea duck areas;
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;

- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl, coots and cranes**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

Wanton Waste of Migratory Game Birds No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Non-toxic Shot No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for blackpowder) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php

Opening Day of a Season No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Field Possession Limit No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Tagging Requirement No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Custody of Birds of Another No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Termination of Possession Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

Gift of Migratory Game Birds No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless

such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

Transportation of Birds of Another No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Species Identification Requirement No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

Marking Package or Container No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp. More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges opened to public hunting. For additional information on refuge-specific regulations see <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>

DEFINITIONS

Migratory Birds are birds protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds are listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section. 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan, and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected. However, a subset of migratory birds classified as migratory game birds may be hunted in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The list of migratory game birds includes species of ducks, geese (including brant), swans, doves and pigeons, cranes, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens, woodcock and snipe, if there is an open season.

Daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

Aggregate daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

Possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

Aggregate possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

Personal abode means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

Migratory bird preservation facility means:

- (1) Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or
- (2) Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
- (3) Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal agricultural operation means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

Baited area means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for 10 days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

Natural vegetation means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

NORTH CAROLINA

Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund

The Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund provides for the expansion of opportunities for youth to engage in outdoor recreational activities.

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