



☒ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☒

PROCLAMATION

Gordon S. Myers, Executive Director, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, acting pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-291.2(f) and §113-291.1(f) and authority duly delegated by the Wildlife Resources Commission, hereby declares the 2017-2018 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Extended Falconry Hunting Seasons to become effective on the dates and times as follows:

SPECIES- Webless Migratory	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Mourning Dove & White-winged Dove	September 2 – October 7 November 22 – November 25 November 27 – January 15	15
King & Clapper Rails	September 2 – October 21 November 3 – November 22	15
Sora & Virginia Rails	September 2 – October 21 November 3 – November 22	25
Gallinule & Moorhens	September 2 – October 21 November 3 – November 22	15
Woodcock	December 14 – January 27	3
Common Snipe	November 14 – February 28	8
SPECIES- Waterfowl	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Canada Goose	September 1 – 30 (statewide) Allow the following west of U.S. 17 only: 1. extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset 2. use of unplugged guns 3. use of electronic calls	15
September Teal	September 13 — 30 (East of U.S. 17 only)	6

Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	October 4-7 November 11 – December 2 December 16 – January 27 [black and mottled duck season closed until Nov. 18]	6 ducks with no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks, 2 scaup, 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck (season on black and mottled ducks is closed until November 18), and 1 fulvous whistling duck. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. 5 mergansers (with no more than 2 hooded mergansers 15 coots
Sea Ducks (In special sea duck area only)	November 20 – January 27	5 sea ducks (In special sea duck area only). In other areas, sea ducks are part of the regular duck bag limit. Includes eiders, scoters and long-tailed ducks. No more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks and 4 eiders per day may be taken in either season.
Dark Geese (Includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese)	Resident Population Hunt Zone: Oct. 4 – 14, Nov. 11 – Dec. 2 and Dec. 16 – Feb. 10 Southern James Bay Hunt Zone: Oct. 4 – Nov. 3 and Nov. 11 – Dec. 30 Northeast Hunt Zone: Jan. 12 – Jan. 27 (by permit only)	5 in the Resident Hunt Zone 5 in the Southern James Bay Zone 1 in the Northeast Hunt Zone
Light Geese (Includes snow and blue geese, and Ross' geese)	October 10 – Feb. 10 February 12 – March 31 (by permit only) [From February 12 – March 31 only, electronic calls and unplugged guns are allowed; there are no bag or possession limits; and shooting hours are extended to ½ hour after sunset]	25, no possession limit
Brant	December 16 – January 27	1
Tundra Swan	November 11 - January 31 (by permit only)	1 (6,250 permits will be issued)

<p>Youth Waterfowl Days (Includes ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots and tundra swans.) The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan, or a Canada goose in the Northeast Hunt Zone.</p>	<p>February 3 and February 10 Youth are age 17 or younger and must adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth under the age of 16 that have obtained North Carolina Hunter Certification must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older; and - Youth under the age of 16 that have not successfully completed North Carolina Hunter Certification must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 18 or older; and - Youth aged 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. <p>The adult must not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.</p>	<p>Same as listed above</p>
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NOTES:

- 1) Shooting hours for all migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset, except as noted in the above table.
- 2) There shall be no hunting of migratory game birds by any method on Sundays.
- 3) Possession limit is three times the daily bag for all species, except as noted in the above table.
- 4) Falconers may hunt during the Webless Migratory and Waterfowl Seasons, but the daily bag limit for falconry is three and the possession limit is nine, singly or in aggregate. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the gun bag limit.
- 5) On Youth Waterfowl Days youth age 17 or younger may hunt on any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas.

Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMITS
Mourning Dove & White-winged dove	October 14 – October 28	3, see NOTES
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	December 2 – January 6	3, see NOTES
Woodcock	November 4 – December 2 & February 1 – 28	3, see NOTES
Ducks, mergansers and coots	October 24 – November 4 and January 29 – February 17	3, see NOTES

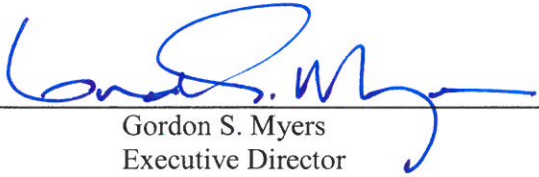
NOTES:

- 1) The falconry daily bag limit is three migratory game birds singly or in the aggregate. The taking of harlequin ducks is prohibited. Falconers may also hunt during the applicable gun seasons. Daily bag and possession limits of three and nine, respectively, apply while hunting during the gun season and extended falconry seasons.

- 2) Possession limits are three times the daily bag for all species singly or in aggregate.
- 3) Hunting hours for all migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset.
- 4) There shall be no hunting of migratory game birds by any method on Sundays.

Any person who violates this Proclamation also violates applicable law and is subject to sanctions provided by law.

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

By  _____ 4-27-2017
Gordon S. Myers _____ **Date**
Executive Director