



◊ NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ◊

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

PROCLAMATION

Cameron Ingram, 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 2022-2023 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Extended Falconry Hunting Seasons for Migratory Game Birds to become effective on the dates and times as follows:

SPECIES- Webless Migratory	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Mourning Dove & White-winged Dove	September 3 – October 1, November 5 – November 26, and December 10 – January 31	15
King & Clapper Rails	September 3 – November 23	15
Sora & Virginia Rails	September 3 – November 23	25
Gallinule & Moorhens	September 3 – November 23	15
Woodcock	December 10 – January 31	3
Common Snipe	October 27 – February 28	8
SPECIES- Waterfowl	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Canada Goose	September 1 – September 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 – September 30 (East of U.S. 17 only)	6

Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	<p>Inland Duck Zone: October 21 – October 22, November 5 – November 26, and December 17 – January 31 [black and mottled duck season closed until Nov. 19]</p> <p>Coastal Duck Zone: October 28 – October 29, November 5 – November 26, and December 17 – January 31 [black and mottled duck season closed until Nov. 19]</p> <p>[Bag limits are the same in each duck zone]</p>	<p>6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks including no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 mallards with no more than 1 hen mallard, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck (season on black and mottled ducks is closed until November 19). Prior to January 9 the scaup daily bag limit is 1, on January 9 and after it is 2. The season on harlequin ducks is closed.</p> <p>5 mergansers (with no more than 2 hooded mergansers), 15 coots</p>
Sea Ducks	<p>October 28 – October 29, November 5 – November 26, and December 17 – January 31</p>	<p>Includes scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks. 4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks. Sea duck daily bag limits count toward the general duck daily bag limit of 6 ducks.</p>
Canada Geese (also includes white-fronted geese)	<p>Resident Population Hunt Zone: October 21 – October 29, November 5 – November 26, and December 17 – February 11</p> <p>Northeast Hunt Zone: December 28 – January 31</p>	<p>5 in the Resident Population Hunt Zone (includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate)</p> <p>1 in the Northeast Hunt Zone (includes Canada geese or white-fronted geese)</p>
Light Geese (Includes snow geese and Ross's geese)	<p>October 11 – February 11 February 13 – March 31 (by permit only) [From February 13 – 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]</p>	<p>25, no possession limit</p>
Brant	<p>December 17 – January 31</p>	<p>1</p>

Tundra Swan	November 5 - January 31 (by permit only)	1 per season (4,721 permits will be issued)
Youth Waterfowl Days (Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots.) The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan.	February 4 and February 11 (statewide) Youth are age 17 or younger and must adhere to the following: <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 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>	Same as listed above
Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days (Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots.) Participants must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan.	February 4 and February 11 (statewide) Veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than training) must adhere to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be properly licensed and have valid credentials; and - Must have HIP certification; and - Must have a federal duck stamp. 	Same as listed above

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.

Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMITS
Mourning Dove & White-winged dove	October 3 – October 15	3, see NOTES
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	December 10 – January 14	3, see NOTES
Woodcock	December 1 – December 10, and February 1 – February 25	3, see NOTES
Ducks, mergansers and coots	October 3 – October 15, and February 1 – February 11	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.

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By 
Cameron Ingram
Executive Director

4/25/2022
Date