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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2013–2014

Summary



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, the description of hunting zones and other restrictions on hunting, please refer to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and *Migratory Birds Regulations*. These, along with other useful information for hunters, can be found on the Environment Canada website (www.ec.gc.ca), or you may contact:

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
801-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, Quebec G1J 0C3
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
Fax: 418-649-6591
enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

The hunting provisions of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, as well as a range of other interested stakeholders. Environment Canada has developed a consultation process for establishing hunting regulations for migratory birds, and annually publishes the Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series that can be found on the Environment Canada website (www.ec.gc.ca).

IMPORTANT UPDATES TO THE HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR QUEBEC

Increase in season length – Extended seasons for ducks, geese and snipe in many Hunting Districts.

Daily bag limit for Black Ducks – Is increased to 6, with the exception of the area in District F that is south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15.

Removal of possession limits for Canada Geese and Snow Geese.

Recorded Snow Goose calls may be used while hunting Snow Geese. Any species for which there is an open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese using these recorded calls.

Any combination of decoys can be used to hunt any migratory game bird for which there is an open season.

Additional area for hunting overabundant Snow Geese – In the municipality of Montmagny, during the spring season.

Species name change – The species name “Moorhen” has changed to “Gallinule.”

Barrow's Goldeneye is listed in the *Species at Risk Act* as a species of special concern and the **bag and possession limit of 1** remains in place. Hunters may obtain useful information on the Barrow's Goldeneye, especially on ways to tell this species apart from the Common Goldeneye, at the following website: www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En

For complete details regarding the 2013–2014 hunting season, please refer to the Open Season and Bag and Possession Limit tables below.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

In Quebec, **non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians can be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails)

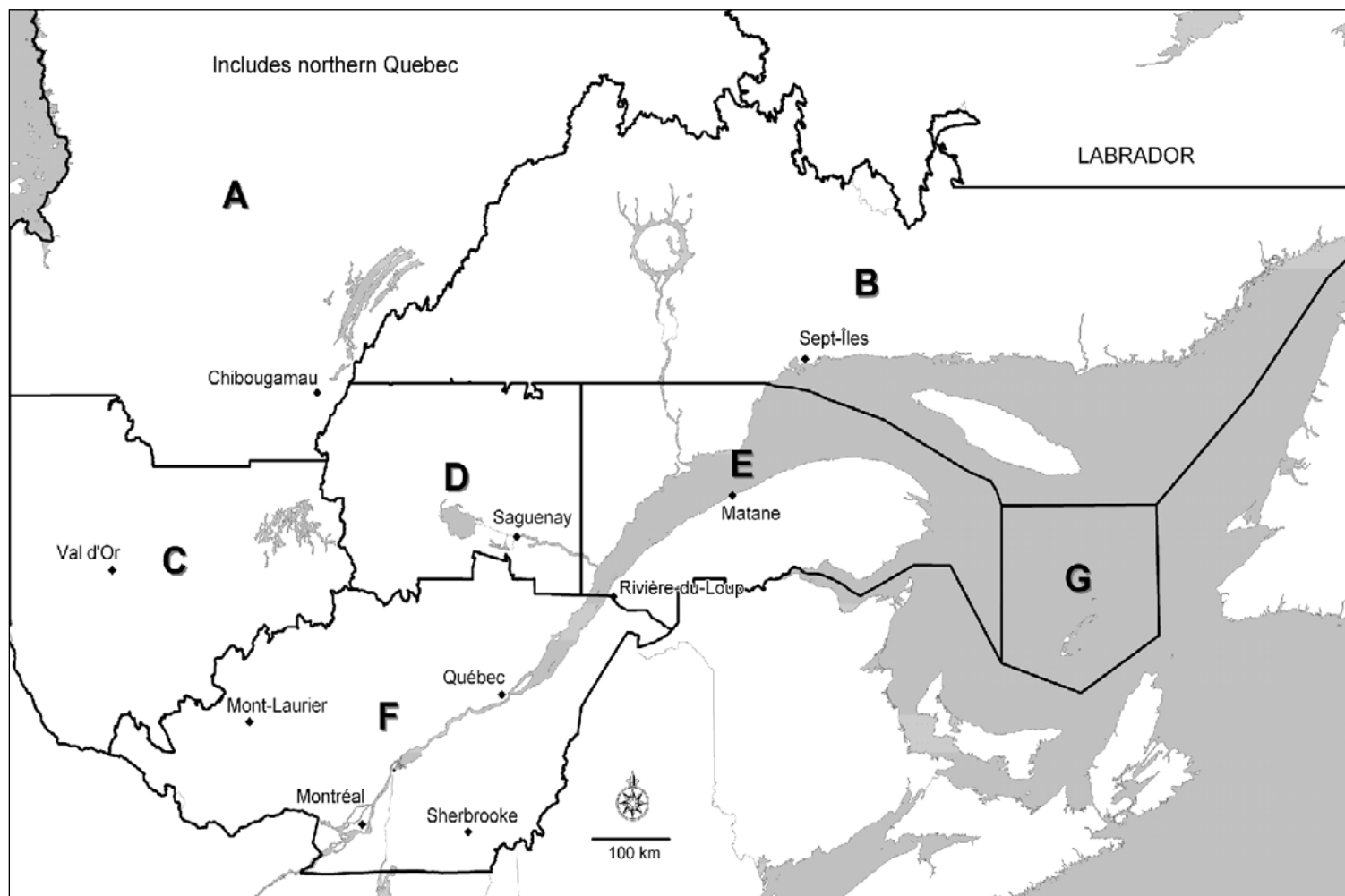
Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, woodcock and snipe, as well as coots and gallinules in District F WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin Ducks and Long-tailed Ducks), geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and Snow Geese) and snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock
District A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2013	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2013	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2013	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2013
District B	Sept. 7, 2013	Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013	Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013	Oct. 1, 2013, to Jan. 14, 2014(b)	No open season	Sept. 7 to Dec. 21, 2013
Districts C, D and E	Sept. 7, 2013	Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013(c)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 13, 2013(a) Sept. 14 to Dec. 16, 2013	Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013	No open season	Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013
District F	Sept. 14, 2013	Sept. 21, 2013, to Jan. 4, 2014(c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 20, 2013(a) Sept. 21 to Dec. 21, 2013	Sept. 21, 2013, to Jan. 4, 2014	Sept. 21, 2013, to Jan. 4, 2014	Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013
District G	Sept. 21, 2013	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26, 2013	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26, 2013	Nov. 1, 2013, to Feb. 14, 2014	No open season	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26, 2013

(a) In Districts C, D, E and F, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.

(b) In District B along the northern shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting seasons for eiders and Long-tailed Ducks are from October 1 to October 24, 2013, inclusive and from November 15, 2013, to February 5, 2014, inclusive.

(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye closes on October 21, 2013, in Provincial Hunting Zone 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye closes on October 21, 2013, between Pointe Jureux (St. Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (St. Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone 21.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bag	6(a)(b)(f)	5(d)(f)	20(f)	4(f)	8(e)(f)	10(f)
Possession	18(c)(f)	20(f)(g)	No limit	12(f)	24(f)	30(f)

(a) Not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks in District F (south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15).

(b) Not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(c) Not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(d) Up to 5 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily between September 1 and September 25, 2013.

(e) For non-residents of Canada, not more than 4 woodcocks may be taken daily.

(f) Not more than 3 birds may be taken or possessed during Waterfowler Heritage Days, with the additional species restrictions described in notes (a) to (c) applying within that total.

(g) No possession limit for Canada Geese.

OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted only during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2013 May 1 to June 30, 2014	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) Recorded bird calls(d)
District B	Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
Districts C and D	Sept. 1 to Sept. 13, 2013(a), and Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013 Mar. 1 to May 31, 2014(a)	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) Recorded bird calls(d)
District E	Sept. 1 to Sept. 13, 2013(a), and Sept. 14 to Dec. 28, 2013 Mar. 1 to May 31, 2014(a)	Recorded bird calls(d)(f); bait crop area(e) Recorded bird calls(d); bait(e)
District F	Sept. 6 to Sept. 20, 2013(a), and Sept. 21, 2013, to Jan. 4, 2014 Mar. 1 to May 31, 2014(a)(b)(c)	Recorded bird calls(d)(f); bait crop area(e) Recorded bird calls(d); bait(e)
District G	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26, 2013	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)

(a) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.

(b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of the municipality of Montmagny and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace municipality, other than in lots 4 598 472 and 2 611 981 in Montmagny municipality.

(c) In District F, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.

(d) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

(e) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.

(f) Any species of migratory bird for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese with recorded Snow Geese calls.

NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in the spring conservation harvest of Snow Geese should keep their 2013–2014 federal permits.