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Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada

July 2008

**Canadian Wildlife Service
Waterfowl Committee**

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 24

Canada 

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Editors:

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Cynthia Pekarik, Renée Bergeron and Kathryn M. Dickson of the National Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

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Comments:

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other concerns relating to national migratory game birds should be sent to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa, ON. K1A 0H3.

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

Atlantic Region: 17 Waterfowl Lane, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, NB. E4L 1G6.

Quebec Region: 1141 route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, QC. G1V 4H5.

Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, ON. M3H 5T4.

Prairie & Northern Region: Twin Atria No. #2, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB. T6B 2X3.

Pacific & Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta, BC. V4K 3N2.

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Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories and a range of other stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produces three reports each year. The November report, *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada*, contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds and provides the scientific basis for management. The December report, *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*, outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (Appendix B of the December Report). These two reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input to the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report, *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada*, issued in July, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process of developing regulations in Canada requires that any changes be made in the form of final proposals by early March of each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge of the breeding conditions or production forecasts for the coming year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years. However, in some cases, the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes are needed in the national approach to ensure the conservation of migratory game birds. **In such cases the Canadian Wildlife Service issues a bulletin updating the regulations.**

Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule is based on the requirement that annual hunting regulations be made into law by early June of each year:

- Early November – The November report, containing biological information, is distributed by CWS–Species Populations and Standards Management (SPASM).

- November and December – Jurisdictions develop proposals for hunting regulations in coordination with CWS Regional Directors.
- December 10 – CWS Regions provide to CWS SPASM the proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justifications) for the upcoming year, as well as any other information that should be included in the December report, including advance notice on items for future years. Descriptions of zone changes are sent by CWS Regions to the Surveyor General of Canada Lands for review, approval and translation.
- Early January – CWS–SPASM distributes the December report containing the regulation proposals to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation.
- February 21 – Replies from consultations are due at CWS Regional Directors' offices, which then ensure distribution to the provinces and territories.
- Mid-January through mid-February – CWS Regions work with the provinces and territories to finalize the regulatory proposals.
- March 10 – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries, are sent by CWS Regional Directors to CWS Compliance Promotion and Regulatory Development (CPRD).
- April through May – CWS–CPRD prepares legal documents and obtains approvals of the regulatory proposals.
- Early June – Hunting regulations become law.
- July 15 – Hunting regulations summaries are available at Canada Post outlets and on the Environment Canada Web site.
- End of July – CWS–SPASM finalizes the July report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulations summaries.
- End of August – CWS–CPRD makes regulation consolidations available to CWS Regions.

Note to American Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development takes place earlier in Canada than in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than early March of each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

2008 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS: Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2008 is provided for areas for which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these and other 2008 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the November 2008 report, *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada*.

DUCKS

British Columbia

(Breault, CWS, pers. comm.)

Snowpack conditions were at near-normal levels across the B.C. Interior during the winter of 2007–2008. Water levels on low-elevation wetlands were similar to those of 2007 across the Interior but below the 1996–2007 average. April was very cold across the region (April was one of the coldest in the last 50 years), which delayed the spring snowmelt and resulted in a substantial number of mid- and low-elevation wetlands being frozen in early May. Breeding habitat conditions were overall similar to those of May 2007: poor in the Southern and Central Interior and good in the Northern Interior.

Two major surveys have been used to estimate trends in duck populations in British Columbia: a large-scale (11 million hectare) aerial survey of the B.C. Interior and a replicated series of ground counts covering selected wetlands of the Southern and Central Interior Plateau of B.C. Because of funding constraints and in response to changing program demands, ground counts were modified in 2007 to focus on managed and protected wetlands. Ground count results can no longer be used as a long-term index of duck abundance in the B.C. Interior and they are not reported here.

Aerial surveys of breeding waterfowl were conducted in the Central Interior Plateau of British Columbia in May 2006, 2007 and 2008 over an area in excess of 10 million hectares. The survey used a strip-transect total count method similar to the one used for the mid-continent breeding waterfowl survey, although all waterfowl sightings are geo-referenced and associated with a unique habitat type (i.e. stream, wetland, river, lake, agricultural field) and ecological unit (ecosection) to allow for the subsequent determination of ecosystem-specific, habitat-to-species relationships and the development of landscape use models. Waterfowl population

estimates are calculated separately for each ecosection and also for the entire survey area. We estimated the presence of 408 028 breeding waterfowl in the surveyed portion of the B.C. Interior in May 2008, with Mallard being the most abundant species (20% of the total). This is 32% lower than the 537 888 breeding waterfowl estimated in May 2007.

Prairie Canada

(Caswell and Schuster 2008)

The prairie, parkland and boreal regions of Western Canada are surveyed annually in May as part of the cooperative United States Fish and Wildlife Service–Canadian Wildlife Service (USFWS–CWS) Waterfowl Population and Habitat Survey. The survey area covers most of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and parts of the Northwest Territories (strata 13-18; 20-40; 75-77). The number of ponds - which are only measured in the southern portion (strata 20-40, 75 and 76) of this survey area - decreased 39% from 2007 to 3.055 million ponds, which is 11% below the long-term average (1955-2007). Pond counts were 27%, 46% and 31% lower in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta respectively compared to 2007. The total number of ducks in the Canadian Prairies decreased by 5.9% to 10.1 million, which remained 2.2% above the long-term average. Declines in the total number of ducks (all species) occurred in the southern part of the survey area (-13.7%), with northern areas increasing by 8%. Mallards increased 2.2% over 2007, but overall levels remained 8% below the long-term average. Northern Pintail numbers decreased by 33.2% from their 2007 levels to about 1.027 million, and were 57.9% below the long-term average. The 46% decline of Northern Pintails in the Southern prairies was partially offset by a 40% increase in the northern areas. Scaup numbers increased by 22.2% from last year- however they remained 37.6% below the long-term average. Canvasbacks declined by 47.7% in the southern prairies and overall were down 38% from 2007, and 12.6% below the long-term average.

Eastern Canada

(Gilliland, Bordage, and Ross, CWS, pers. comm.)

In Eastern Canada, breeding waterfowl populations are monitored annually through the Eastern Waterfowl Survey.

Newfoundland and Labrador. Spring conditions in eastern Newfoundland were dominated by cool temperatures and fog. Conditions were warm in central and western Newfoundland and Labrador and ice melt occurred earlier than normal. The survey was undertaken between 15 May and 2 June. Although Black Duck numbers increased throughout the 1990s, their numbers declined

between 2000 and 2005. In 2008, counts were higher than in 2005 but were below the long-term average density. Unusual numbers of 3+ bird groups were observed on the island, and especially in Labrador. Most of these groups were comprised of males which suggests the occurrence of pre-moulting aggregations within the survey area. Canada Geese experienced a similar drop in numbers in 2000, and have been increasing since 2005. Current density is well above their long-term average. Ring-necked Duck densities have been variable. Their densities are below the peak densities observed in 2002 and 2006, but well above the long-term average. The numbers of American Green-wing Teal declined in 2003 but their current density is above the long-term average.

Quebec. Spring came late in Quebec after a winter with record snowfall in many regions. However spring proved to be typical despite slightly lower than average temperatures. The thaw date of Lake Saint Jean, which gives an indication of spring conditions in the survey region, took place on May 7, one day earlier than the long term average (1916-2007). Generally, conditions during the 2008 survey in the boreal forest were very good. A helicopter survey took place on May 1-2. The total number of breeding duck pairs observed in the boreal forest was the fourth highest since the first survey in 1990 (a drop of 1% compared to last year). The number of Black Ducks – the most abundant species – was 4% higher compared to last year, in the part of the survey done from a helicopter. According to this, the Black Duck population could be 44% more abundant in 2008 than the average from 1990 to 1999 (Bordage, CWS, pers. comm.) however these results must be integrated with the counts done from fixed-wing aircraft, before drawing any final conclusions.

Ontario. Spring 2008 arrived quickly throughout Ontario with unseasonably warm temperatures during mid-April. This appears to have advanced the waterfowl nesting phenology, particularly in the southern part of the province where larger flocks of drakes, particularly of large dabblers, were more common than usual during the survey. By late April, weather conditions became cooler and wetter, and temperatures were either at, or slightly below normal throughout central and northeastern Ontario in May. Vegetational phenology was generally normal with little leaf-out except in central Ontario where growing leaves may have had some effect on visibility. Numbers appeared up for almost all species including the Black Duck which showed an approximate 20% increase since 2004 when the same series of plots were flown. Water levels were generally very good as snow fall was high in much of the survey area and approached record levels in the south. Weather conditions during nest initiation were quite variable with more precipitation than average,

including snow storms with freezing conditions late in May in the north. These may have had some negative impact on nesting success (Ross, CWS, pers. comm.).

GEESE

Geese and Swans in the Western Canadian Arctic (Hines, CWS, pers. comm.)

Lesser Snow Geese (Western Arctic Population)

More than 95% of Snow Geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest on Banks Island. Numbers here have increased from about 100 000 birds in 1960 to over half a million birds in 2002. The remaining 5% of the population nest in small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island migratory bird sanctuaries and, more recently, on the North Slope of Alaska. The mainland populations in the Canadian arctic have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. Aerial surveys of the two mainland nesting areas in June 2008 suggested that the nesting effort at both the Kendall Island and Anderson River bird sanctuaries was good compared to many years in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Reports from biologists on Banks Island, indicate that the spring was relatively early and that lemmings (which act as buffer prey and when numerous, greatly enhance goose nesting success) were common. Therefore, overall, production is expected to be at least average on Banks Island this year.

Greater White-fronted Geese (Mid-continent Population)

In the western Arctic, White-fronted Geese nest mainly on the mainland. Information collected during aerial surveys in the Mackenzie Delta and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula area in June 2008 indicated relatively large numbers of non-breeders. It is expected that production of White-Fronted Geese should be no better than average in 2008.

Canada Geese and Cackling Geese (Short-grass Prairie Population)

Canada Geese and Cackling Geese are far less abundant on the western Arctic mainland than are White-fronted Geese. Nevertheless, productivity of Canada Geese appears to have paralleled that of white-fronts in this area in the past, so average production is expected in 2008. The expected productivity on Victoria Island, where many short-

grass prairie Canada/Cackling Geese in the western Arctic breed, is unknown.

Tundra Swans (Eastern Population)

The Mackenzie Delta Region and nearby parts of the western Arctic mainland are one of the most important breeding areas for Tundra Swans in North America. Surveys carried out in this region in 2008 indicated about 60% of pairs present were nesting, well above the long term average but similar to 2007 when productivity was high. Good numbers of nesting swans and a relatively early nesting season should result in at least average production this year.

Black Brant

The mainland of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is one of the most important nesting areas for Pacific Flyway brant in the Canadian Arctic, and more than 6000 adult brant were present on the mainland in 1995-98 (Hines and Wiebe 2006).

Since the 1970s, the Black Brant population on the mainland of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region has apparently increased in some areas but declined by 80–90% at the Anderson River Bird Sanctuary, which was once the most important nesting area for Black Brant in Canada. Up to 1200 nesting pairs occurred at Anderson River in the 1970s but numbers declined to 100-200 nesting birds in 2005-2007 (Hines, unpublished data). Apparently, in recent years, brant nests at Anderson River have been heavily attacked by predators, especially barren-ground grizzly bears. As well, there is evidence that habitat quality and quantity has been reduced at Anderson River, possibly because of saltwater inundation of the outer delta during storm surges (Armstrong 1998). Investigations currently being written up by the Canadian Wildlife Service staff are evaluating habitat loss and grizzly bear predation as possible causes of long-term numerical declines of Black Brant and Snow Geese at Anderson River (Hines, CWS, pers. comm.).

Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese

(Baranyuk, Wrangel Island Reserve, Russia, pers. comm.)

The colony of Lesser Snow Geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists. They have documented a decline in nesting bird numbers: from 120 000 in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes et al. 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because these birds migrate through Western Canada in spring and fall, and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta of B.C. and the nearby Skagit Delta, Washington. The 2008 spring breeding population of Wrangel Island Snow Geese was 140 000 to 150 000 birds, similar to the 140 000 estimate

for 2007. Breeding conditions in 2008 were poorer than in recent years with much snow, rain and wind during the spring. The main colony supported 10 000 to 12 000 nests, compared to 40 000 nests last year. Dump nesting was common, gulls were more common than in previous years and nesting success is predicted to be lower than the long-term average.

Pacific Canada Geese

(Breault, CWS, pers. comm.)

Breeding Pacific Canada Goose are surveyed in the course of the two major surveys used to estimate trends in duck populations in British Columbia: the large-scale (11 million hectare) aerial survey of the B.C. Interior and the replicated series of ground counts covering selected wetlands of the Southern and Central Interior Plateau of B.C. Because of funding constraints and in response to changing program demands, ground counts were modified in 2007 to focus on managed and protected wetlands.

Ground count results can no longer be used as a long-term index of Pacific Canada Goose abundance in the B.C. Interior and they are not reported here.

Aerial surveys of breeding waterfowl were conducted in the Central Interior Plateau of British Columbia in May 2006, 2007 and 2008 over an area covering in excess of 10 million hectares. The survey used a strip-transect total count method similar to the one used for the mid-continent breeding waterfowl survey, although all waterfowl sightings are geo-referenced and associated with a unique habitat type (i.e. stream, wetland, river, lake, agricultural field) and ecological unit (ecosection) to allow for the subsequent determination of ecosystem-specific, habitat-to-species relationships and the development of landscape use models. Pacific Canada Goose population estimates are calculated separately for each ecosection and also for the entire survey area. We estimated the presence of 2 431 Pacific Canada Geese in the surveyed portion of the B.C. Interior in May 2008, 60% less than the 5 470 estimated in May 2007.

Geese in the Central Canadian Arctic

(Alisauskas, EC-S&T, pers. comm.)

Based on general impressions of conditions in the central Canadian Arctic, timing of nesting appears to have taken place in 2008 within 2 days of the long-term average. Preliminary estimates for both Ross's Geese and Lesser Snow Geese suggest a mean nest initiation date of June 12 compared to a long-term average of June 10 or 11 for 1991 to 2007. The record late date of June 17 2007 for Ross's Geese at Karrak Lake resulted in only 7% juveniles among Ross's Geese migrating through Saskatchewan in the fall of 2007; similarly, late nesting by other species resulted in only 5%

juveniles among both Snow and White-fronted Geese in 2007. Notwithstanding favourable weather for the rest of the incubation and brood-rearing periods, the percentage of juveniles in the 2008 fall flight of Ross's Geese through Saskatchewan, predicted from the mean 2008 nest initiation date, is expected to be close to the long-term average of about 20-30%. Likewise, production of Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese and short-grass prairie Canada Geese/Cackling Geese from Queen Maud Gulf should also be average in 2008.

Population estimates for nesting Ross's Geese and Lesser Snow Geese are not yet available for 2008. Nevertheless, population growth over the longer term seems unabated for Ross's Geese, but has slowed down for Lesser Snow Geese at Karrak Lake. For example, the number of light geese that nested on Karrak Lake in 2007 was about 1.16 million, with record breeding numbers of Ross's Geese (800 984), although Lesser Snow Geese declined by 38% from 579 858 in 2006 to 358 029 in 2007. Much of the decline in nesting Snow Geese was related to the very late nesting conditions of 2007, which resulted in fewer Snow Geese attempting to nest. From 1993 to 2007, the long-term average rate of annual population growth at Karrak Lake was 11% for Ross's Geese and 6.5% for Lesser Snow Geese. The combined long-term average was 8.6%.

Greater Snow Geese

(Lefebvre, CWS, and Gauthier, Laval University, pers. comm.)

Since 1965, Canadian Wildlife Service has conducted its annual spring survey on Greater Snow Geese during their migration in southern Quebec. This year, the photographic inventory of the population was carried on April 25, 2008, using five aircraft. The preliminary estimate of the size of the 2008 spring population was 1 004 000 ± 124 000 geese, almost the same level as last year (1 019 000 ± 75 000) and at a relatively stable level since 1999, the year special conservation measures were implemented.

A field team is currently conducting an exhaustive study of Greater Snow Goose reproduction on Bylot Island. Spring snow melt at the Bylot Island colony was very early (actually one of the earliest snow-melts in the last 20 years) due to a thin snow pack and very warm temperatures in May. This situation apparently prevailed over most of Baffin Island. As a result, when geese arrived on Bylot Island, most nest sites were already snow-free and thus they could initiate laying very rapidly. The peak laying date, based on a preliminary sample of nests, was June 10, which is 2 days earlier than the long-term average and 6 days earlier than last year.

The density of geese in the colony is very high, and is the highest recorded since at least 2003. Mean clutch size is 3.98, above the long-term average of 3.71. At the mid-incubation visit, only 13% of the nests (n = 207) had been predated, which is quite low. This suggests that nesting success should be very high. The predation rate is low, probably because of the large reproductive effort of geese and the high abundance of lemmings, which provide ample food for predators. There are some indications that lemmings are very abundant in several areas of Baffin Island, suggesting that the lemming peak is widespread. Consequently, the preliminary forecast for the productivity of Greater Snow Geese this year is very good and we should expect a fall flock that is greater than the long-term average.

Breeding Conditions for Geese in West Hudson Bay, McConnell River Region, Nunavut

(Caswell, CWS, pers. comm.)

Research on the McConnell River nesting light goose was completed in 2007. Peak hatch dates between 2003 and 2007 are summarized as follows: 2003 (June 14-15), 2004 (July 6-7), 2005 (June 24-25), 2006 (June 23-24), 2007 (June 28-29).

For 2008, a photo survey crew found that Ross's Geese and Snow Geese at McConnell River were hatching (and had hatched) on June 28; it therefore appears that nesting chronology at west Hudson Bay is similar to 2007, and probably slightly later than the average for the past 5 years.

Southern James Bay Canada Geese

(Brook and Hughes 2008a)

The 2008 survey was flown May 15, 16 and 21 under fair weather conditions. Spring was later than in recent years in northern Ontario. However, a warmer than average latter half of April resulted in the spring melt being only slightly later than in 2007.

The 2008 spring population estimate for the Southern James Bay population of Canada Geese was 110 409, which is similar to the five-year average and slightly above 2007. Assessments of nesting effort and hatching success indicated that 2008 should be an average to above average production year for this population.

Mississippi Valley Canada Geese

(Brook and Hughes 2008b)

The 2008 survey was flown under fair weather conditions on June 3-5. The timing of the survey was

good, and all transects were completed at the start of the second week of incubation.

Spring conditions on the breeding grounds were very late compared to recent years, with snowmelt occurring on a timeline closer to the long-term average. A spring blizzard in late April set spring phenology back and appears to have affected the breeding effort. The spring breeding population estimate was 305 190, which was down substantially from 2007 and the 2002-2007 average; however the total population estimate for 2008 was above average at 626 358, suggesting a drop in breeding effort rather than in breeding bird abundance.

Eastern Prairie Canada Geese

(Raedeke et al. 2008)

After three early to average springs, breeding phenology in 2008 was slightly later than average. Water levels in lakes and streams appeared slightly below average.

The 2008 EPP estimate of 256 600 ± 33 600 was similar ($P=0.061$) to the 2007 estimate of 217 500 ± 22 900 geese and the previous five year average of 235 500 geese. The estimate of geese represented by singles declined from the record estimate of 82 500 ± 12 000 in 2007 to 55 500 ± 9,800 in 2008 ($P<0.01$), while the estimate of pairs increased from 70 900 ± 11 400 in 2007 to 105 600 in 2008 ($P<0.001$). Since 1972, the estimate of pairs has exceeded 100 000 in only two other years, 1991 (101 200 ± 15 200) and 2004 (103 600 ± 16 200), both of which were characterized by very late springs and low productivity. The estimate of 95 500 ± 28 200 geese in groups was similar ($P=0.058$) to the 2007 estimate of 64 100 ± 15 900 and the five year average of 92 000 ± 25 700.

The two-year average of 157 300 geese represented as singles and pairs is well above the two-year average minimum of 75 000 that would warrant more restrictive regulations.

North Atlantic Canada Geese

(Gilliland, CWS, pers. comm.)

The North Atlantic Canada Goose breeding population is surveyed as part of the Eastern Waterfowl Survey (see section on Eastern Canada on page 2 of this report). The Canadian helicopter survey crew reported that Canada Geese experienced a similar drop in numbers in 2000, and have been increasing since 2005. Current density is well above the long-term average. Nests were more common than normal and clutch sizes appeared to be higher than average. Three recently hatched broods were observed on the Northern Peninsula. In addition, many groups of non-breeders were observed which suggests good production in 2007.

We observed several depredated nests that may have been a result of coyote depredations.

Atlantic Canada Geese

(Harvey, Maryland Department of Wildlife and Heritage, and Rodrigue, Bordage, and Cotter, CWS, pers. comm.)

The sixteenth consecutive annual survey of Canada Geese in northern Quebec was conducted between June 13-18 2008. The survey covered the three regions known to shelter the highest densities of nesting Atlantic Canada geese (interior Ungava, coastal Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay, as well as the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula). A fourth region, in the boreal forest at the latitude of James Bay, was last included in this survey in 1996, but the area has been covered by the USFWS as part of the Eastern Canada transect survey since 2000.

Harvey and Rodrigue reported that spring temperatures in 2008 were above normal and that very little snow remained on the breeding grounds in June.

The estimated number of breeding pairs was 169 699 (standard error (SE) = 14 331) in 2008 compared to 195 709 (SE = 16 621) in 2007. The proportion of indicated pairs observed as single geese (61%) was relatively high, suggesting a strong breeding effort.

The total population estimate (breeding pairs and grouped birds) was 988 977 birds (SE = 81 129) in 2008 compared to 1 221 779 birds (SE = 104 191) in 2007. The total population estimate includes moulting migrant geese from several populations and should be interpreted with caution.

In 1996 a recruitment study was initiated on Atlantic Population Canada Geese nesting on the Ungava Peninsula (Nunavik) in northern Quebec. In 2008 four sites located in the coastal lowlands along Ungava Bay were ground-searched for nests on June 9-10.

Snowmelt was earlier than average in 2008. The mean nest initiation date (average of all four sites) in 2008 was May 24, which is 19 days earlier than last year; this is the fourth earliest year on record, the average being May 28. The total number of nests found and the mean clutch size for all six sites was 65 and 4.7, respectively. Clutch size in 2008 was the highest since the beginning of the survey, with the long-term average being 4.0. In conclusion, productivity of Atlantic Population Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula should be good in 2008.

In the boreal forest Atlantic Population Canada Geese are counted as part of the helicopter component of the Eastern Waterfowl Survey. In 2008 the population (27 015 breeding pairs) was 15% higher than that of last year, representing the highest numbers observed since the survey began in

1990 (Bordage, CWS, pers. comm.). The thaw occurred on Lake Saint Jean, which indicates spring conditions in the area covered by the survey, on May 7, one day prior to the long-term average (1916-2007). The area covered by the Eastern Waterfowl Survey is at the southern limit of the nesting range of Atlantic Population Canada Geese.

American Black Duck Harvest Strategy

Progress on the development of an international American Black Duck harvest strategy based on the principles of adaptive harvest management (AHM) has been published in previous CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports. To summarize, in fall 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CWS agreed to work towards finalizing an adaptive harvest management approach to determine appropriate levels of harvest for American Black Ducks in Canada and the U.S., based on breeding ground survey information. Models were initially based on wintering ground surveys, so certain technical adjustments will have to be made. These models are now being updated with breeding pair information.

Meanwhile, Canada and the U.S. (including CWS, USFWS, eastern provinces and states of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways) have continued to work on an interim international harvest strategy. An agreement has now been reached on a strategy to be employed by both countries over the next three hunting seasons (2008-09 to 2010-11), while allowing time for the development of a formal strategy based on the principles of Adaptive Harvest Management. The interim harvest strategy is prescriptive, in that it would call for no substantive changes in hunting regulations unless the Black Duck breeding population, averaged over the most recent 3 years, exceeds or falls below the long-term average breeding population by 15% or more (the long-term average breeding population is defined as the average composite estimate for the entire survey area between 1998 and 2007 inclusive). It would allow additional harvest opportunity (commensurate with the population increase) if the 3-year average breeding population exceeds the long-term average by 15% or more, and would require reduction of harvest opportunity if the 3-year average falls below the long-term average by 15% or more. The strategy is designed to share the Black Duck harvest equally between the two countries; however, recognizing incomplete control of harvest through regulations, it will allow realized harvest in either country to vary between 40 and 60%. We propose to adopt this interim international Black Duck harvest

strategy for the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons.

The American Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group will continue to keep the appropriate regulatory consultative bodies in Canada and the U.S. informed of progress as tools are developed for implementation of adaptive harvest management for American Black Ducks. More details on the adaptive management study can be found on the following Web site: <http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/>.

Conversion to Generic Dates System

As proposed in the *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations: December 2007*, the season dates for hunting migratory game birds have been converted to a system of fixed dates and “generic” descriptions nationwide. Fixed dates are used where it does not matter on which day of the week seasons open or close, and generic dates (e.g. first Saturday in September) are used where it is considered important to maintain traditional seasons opening or closing on specific days of the week. The benefits of this approach are that it will provide hunters with greater predictability of future hunting season dates and reduce the quantity of regulatory amendments required each year to Schedule 1 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Any future changes in season dates will be restricted to those needed for conservation and management purposes.

Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

Issue

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. Assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and Greater Snow Geese have been completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled *Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1997) and *The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1998). These working groups concluded that the increase in Snow Goose populations was primarily human induced. Improved farming practices supplying a steady food source along with the safety of refuges have resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates in Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they

are affecting the plant communities at staging areas and breeding grounds on which they and other species rely. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support migrating and breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing Snow Goose populations.

Increasing numbers of spring migrant Greater Snow Geese are being observed on the tidal marsh habitats in and around Restigouche County, New Brunswick. CWS, in concert with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, is examining the possibility of establishing special conservation measures in New Brunswick to assist efforts already in place in Quebec to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce the population size of Greater Snow Geese. Consultations will be continued to determine whether the special measures in place in Quebec should be extended to include northwestern New Brunswick.

Regulation

Several concurrent management measures are being undertaken to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One measure attempts to increase the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of special conservation measures. Beginning in 1999, an amendment to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* created special conditions under which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use exceptional methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Quebec and Manitoba. Beginning in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The dates and locations of application of these special conservation measures were determined in consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities.

Evaluation

Evaluation plans are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities.

For Lesser Snow Geese, the original objectives were to increase the continental harvest to approximately 0.8 to 1.2 million birds annually (Rockwell et al. 1997). These projections were later challenged as being too conservative, and annual harvest requirements of 1.4 to 3.4 million birds were projected on the basis of updated information (Cooke et al. 2000; Rockwell and Ankney 2000). Annual continental harvests of mid-continent light geese, which includes approximately 100 000 Ross's Geese, declined from about one million birds in 1999 to about 700 000 birds in 2006 (USFWS and CWS, unpublished data), and have not met the objectives in any year. Photographic surveys of some nesting colonies of Lesser Snow Geese suggest that the population may have stabilized between surveys spread over the past decade. However, analyses of banding data indicate that adult survival is still high. Lesser Snow Geese remain extremely abundant and continue to have negative effects on Arctic habitats. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the special measures for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese is underway.

In the case of Greater Snow Geese, the population objective adopted by the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* was 500 000 birds, down from the nearly 1.0 million birds present in 1999. A recent evaluation demonstrated that special measures (for which the spring season was key) have been successful in reducing the annual survival rate for adults from about 83% to about 72.5% (Calvert et al. 2007). This is reflected in the spring counts, which show the population to have stabilized at between 800 000 and 1 000 000 birds; nevertheless, this is still well above the goal. Models show that without a spring harvest, the population would quickly begin to grow again (Gauthier and Reed 2007) as a result of climatic changes that favour good breeding conditions in the Arctic as well as improved feeding conditions (corn and other crops) on wintering and staging grounds. At the same time, it appears that the harvest in Canada has been maximized.

Canada's strategic plan for the 2005-2010 period lays out key directions for management of Greater Snow Geese (Bélanger and Lefebvre 2006). Among these are the following: maintain a good quality long-term survey to estimate the size of the continental population; monitor the response of the population to management measures; achieve the necessary harvest rates in Quebec; work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state governments toward increasing the harvest of Greater Snow Geese on wintering grounds in the United States; maintain good quality breeding and staging habitats in Quebec; maximize bird watching and hunting opportunities; and review crop damage prevention and compensation programs.

The special measures implemented in spring 2008 are posted on the CWS Web site: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/reg/abund_e.cfm.

CWS has previously stated its intention to fix the dates for special conservation measures in the Manitoba and Saskatchewan spring hunts for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese for the period from 2007-2008 to 2010-2011. This means that the regulations that were in effect during spring 2008 will likely remain in effect for spring 2009 (this will be confirmed in fall).

In Quebec and Nunavut, no changes were deemed necessary for the spring 2008 special measures. Note that fixed measures may also be considered in future for Nunavut and Quebec.

In fall 2008, the ability to use electronic Snow Goose calls for the hunting of Snow Geese is being extended to Alberta. This method is currently allowed in several other jurisdictions in Canada and in parts of the United States as a possible means of increasing the harvest. The restriction is that, if decoys are also used, they must represent Snow Geese. Field studies have demonstrated that the use of electronic Snow Goose calls during seasons that are open for dark geese (Canada and White-fronted Geese) does not result in the increased harvest of dark geese.

Hunting Regulations for the 2008-2009 Season

The regulations in effect for 2008-2009 are shown in Appendix A. The amendments were approved by the Governor-in-Council on June 19, 2008.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Waterfowler Heritage Days

The amendment to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to allow implementation of Waterfowler Heritage Days in Canadian jurisdictions has been described extensively in previous reports, and was approved on August 31, 2000. Since 2000, Waterfowler Heritage Days have been implemented in several provinces across Canada. In 2006, CWS received a request to implement Waterfowler Heritage Days in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on the second Saturday of September (September 13, 2008).

Waterfowler Heritage Days are intended to provide young hunters with the opportunity to

practise their skills and to reinforce the training acquired through provincial and federal safety courses in a safe, controlled environment. On Waterfowler Heritage Days, only fully qualified hunters under the age of majority, and within the age permitted by provincial hunting legislation, are permitted to hunt, provided they are accompanied by a licensed adult hunter who will provide guidance as a mentor. Young hunters participating in Waterfowler Heritage Days need not purchase a federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit (MGBHP) for the day but are required to carry proof of successful completion of all mandatory provincial or territorial safety testing requirements, including hunter and firearm training courses. If young hunters elect to hunt at other times during the hunting season, outside of the Waterfowler Heritage Days, they (along with all other hunters) are required to purchase the MGBHP.

Mentors must be at least 18 years of age and hold a valid MGBHP. Each mentor may accompany up to two qualified young hunters. Mentors are not permitted to carry a firearm or to hunt. Mentors provide guidance and advice on firearms safety and on hunting etiquette and methods such as site selection, decoy setup and removal, dog handling and bird retrieval.

Young hunters are encouraged to participate in Waterfowler Heritage Days. The days will provide a quality hunting experience in a structured, non-competitive environment. Mentors will have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge to younger hunters.

The regulation of age requirements for possession and use of firearms is dealt with by the federal government in the *Firearms Act*. In Newfoundland and Labrador, provincial regulations currently restrict hunting with a firearm to persons 16 years of age or older. Requirements are in place in provincial and federal regulations to ensure there is proper safety training, supervision, and testing before people may become hunters. The federal *Firearms Act* provides for minors to hold a license allowing the possession of firearms for hunting, target practice or instruction in the use of firearms. A minor's possession license may not be issued without the consent of a parent or guardian.

Given this framework, the amendment to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* comes into effect at the fulfillment of those programs to provide a safe, controlled introduction to waterfowl hunting for young people who have already completed all requisite training and testing. The overriding objective of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* is conservation of migratory game bird species, and knowledgeable, well-trained hunters are important contributors to this objective.

Prince Edward Island

Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on the third Saturday in September (September 20, 2008).

Nova Scotia

Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on the third Saturday in September (September 20, 2008).

New Brunswick

September Canada Goose Seasons

The September Canada Goose hunting season implemented in 2007 will continue in 2008. The dates for early September Canada Goose hunting season in New Brunswick in 2008 are the following:

September 2-12 in Zone 1
September 2-12 in Zone 2

Waterfowler Heritage Days

Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on the third Saturday in September (September 20, 2008).

Quebec

Barrow's Goldeneye

For conservation purposes, the targeted hunting of birds from the Eastern Canadian population of Barrow's Goldeneye is being eliminated, by imposing a maximum daily bag limit of one bird and a maximum possession limit of two birds in Quebec.

Districts F, G, H and I

In order to simplify the regulations, four former hunting districts in Quebec (Districts F, G, H and I) have been merged to form a single new District F. The former district J is now district G.

Canada Goose

In North America, the resident Canada Goose population grew rapidly during the 1990s. This significant increase has led managers to change the hunting regulations frequently for this population in order to reduce their numbers. In Quebec, the length of the goose hunting season since 2006 has been 107 days, the maximum number of days allowed under the existing regulations.

It was suggested that the goose hunting regulations be amended to increase the daily bag limit. This measure would promote increased hunting pressure on resident geese and should have limited

impact on the hunting of migratory geese. The criterion used for defining this impact is that fewer than 10% of band returns for a region may be from migratory geese. During September, the 10% criterion is adhered to overall, although the number of migratory geese harvested increases during the last five days of September. The daily bag limit for Canada Geese has been increased to 10 birds from September 1 to September 25.

Opening Date for Waterfowl Hunting

In 2007, CWS undertook to study the impact of advancing the waterfowl hunting opening date by looking at two criteria, namely waterfowl conservation and hunting pressure. Due to a significant decline in the number of hunters and the duck harvest in recent years, CWS believes that the impact on waterfowl resulting from advancing the opening date will be negligible or low except for the Blue-winged Teal. The status of this species will be watched.

The regulatory amendment will maintain the same number of hunting days as in 2007 but allow the opening of the season to take place earlier.

Ontario

Extending Duck Hunting Seasons to 107 Days

The *Migratory Birds Convention* allows for a maximum total season length of 107 days for waterfowl hunting in the United States and Canada. Given the large declines in hunter numbers and duck harvest in Ontario over the past 35 years, there is no reason to restrict season length to less than the maximum allowed under the Convention. In Ontario the current total season length for ducks is 106 days in the Hudson-James Bay District, 97 days in the Northern District, between 97 and 104 days in the Central District depending on the year and between 90 and 97 days in the Southern District. Beginning in the 2008-2009 season, the open season for ducks has been set at 107 days in the Central and Southern Districts.

Increasing Canada and Cackling Goose Daily Bag Limits during Special Seasons

Regulations for Canada Geese in Ontario seek to maintain a high level of harvest of the expanding temperate-breeding population (TBP) while limiting harvest of northern-breeding populations, mainly the Atlantic Population (AP) and the Southern James Bay Population (SJB). Harvest of TBP Canada Geese has been increased through implementation of special seasons with higher bag limits before and

after the regular waterfowl hunting season. Despite measures to date, the TBP continues to grow and expand its range. The maximum number of hunting days (107) allowed under the *Migratory Birds Convention* is already being used to increase harvest and limit growth of the TBP, so it was proposed that the daily bag limit be increased. The daily bag limit of Canada or Cackling Geese will be increased from 8 birds to 10 during special seasons in early September and in February in most Wildlife Management Units.

Special seasons are timed to occur when fewer northern migrant geese are present so the extra days and higher bag limits will not significantly increase harvest of these populations. Between 2000 and 2004, 181 banded AP geese were reported shot in southern Ontario. Of these, three (1.7%) were reported shot during the early special season (before September 22) and one (0.6%) was reported shot during the late special season in February. During the same years, 255 banded SJBP geese were reported shot in southern Ontario of which 35 (13.7%) were reported shot in early September and none in February. These data show that increasing the special season bag limit will have little impact on AP geese. The impact on SJBP geese could be greater; however, southern Ontario TBP's roughly doubling in size since 2000 is expected to provide significant buffering of the harvest of SJBP geese. Nevertheless, to limit any potential increase in harvest of SJBP geese, the current daily bag limit of eight would be maintained during special seasons in core SJBP areas where there are also regular season restrictions on daily bag limits, namely Wildlife Management Units 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 93 and 94.

Canada and Cackling Goose Season Length in Wildlife Management Unit 94

In the Southern District of Ontario, Wildlife Management Unit 94 has had, since the early 1990s, fewer hunting days for Canada Geese than other units (currently 69 days compared to 107 days in all other areas) and a smaller daily bag limit (two per day compared to five per day in most other areas). Season and bag restrictions in this area were put into place with the intent of protecting migrant SJBP geese. In spite of these severe restrictions, the number of SJBP geese has not increased over the past two decades. The TBP has grown substantially during that time, however, resulting in a growing number of complaints about nuisance geese in summer. A similar situation is found in several Mississippi Flyway states. Recent discussions among Mississippi Flyway biologists and managers have led to the conclusion that a better strategy to manage both populations is to remove most of the

restrictions on harvest with the expectation that the much larger TBP will buffer any negative impact on the smaller SJBP. For 2008-2009, the mid-season closure of Canada and Cackling Goose hunting will be removed in Wildlife Management Unit 94. As a precautionary measure, the daily bag limit will remain restricted at two birds per day for the regular season until the impact of the longer season can be evaluated. The situation will be monitored over the coming years, and increasing the bag limit will be considered if population and harvest data support such action.

Sunday Hunting in Southern District

Beginning in 1998, Sunday hunting of migratory birds in areas of the Southern District already closed to hunting on Sundays by provincial regulations was also prohibited by federal regulations in order to use compensatory days for those Sundays to apply to special hunting seasons for Canada Geese. The intent was to apply additional harvest pressure on the TBP, whose numbers were increasing exponentially along with the level of damage and nuisance problems they caused. In 2006, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources re-instituted Sunday gun-hunting in all southern Ontario municipalities that consented to the change. CWS, desiring to harmonize federal and provincial regulations to the extent possible, similarly allowed Sunday hunting of migratory birds in some parts of the Southern District by lifting the prohibition put in place in 1998. In those areas that allow Sunday hunting of migratory birds, some special Canada and Cackling Goose seasons were discontinued in order not to exceed the maximum number of hunting days allowed under the *Migratory Birds Convention*.

Re-instituting Sunday hunting is beneficial for management of TBP Canada Geese. Sunday hunting is expected to result in an increase in the harvest of TBP Canada Geese for the following reasons: 1) the daily rate of band returns from this population is higher during the regular hunting season, even without Sundays, than during late special Canada Goose hunting seasons, and 2) by allowing Sunday hunting, the available number of hunting days for hunters who work or attend school from Monday to Friday will effectively be doubled.

However, because not all municipalities approved Sunday hunting, CWS did not consider that a blanket authorization of Sunday hunting throughout the Southern District would be desirable. Losing the use of compensatory days in areas that still would not allow Sunday hunting under provincial legislation would lead to a net decrease in opportunities to harvest Canada Geese. In 2006 and 2007, the following criteria were taken into consideration in deciding in which areas Sunday hunting for

migratory birds would be allowed:

- (1) Sunday hunting for migratory birds was allowed (or not) for entire provincial Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) only. No smaller divisions, such as individual municipalities, were considered.
- (2) In order to maintain the greatest possible hunting pressure on TBP Canada Geese, and considering point (1) above, Sunday hunting for migratory birds was allowed in WMUs where municipalities representing the majority of the land surface gave their consent to the change in provincial regulations. In these areas, special late Canada Goose seasons were discontinued and the length of the regular hunting season was adjusted so as not to exceed the maximum number of days allowed under the *Migratory Birds Convention*. In other WMUs, the federal prohibition on Sunday hunting remained in place, and special late Canada Goose seasons were maintained.

Initially, 79 southern Ontario municipalities consented to re-instituting Sunday hunting. Based on the above criteria, in the fall of 2006, the federal Sunday hunting prohibition was lifted in 13 WMUs (60-72). Following the setting of regulations for the 2006–2007 season, several more municipalities opted to allow Sunday hunting. In fall 2007, two more WMUs, 83 and 95, met criterion (2) above, and Sunday hunting of migratory birds was allowed. Following recent municipal decisions, at least two additional WMUs (73 and 75) will be eligible in 2008–2009. As more municipal governments review the Sunday hunting option and decide in favour, more WMUs will meet the above criteria. Conversely, some municipalities have reversed a previous decision to allow Sunday hunting and now prohibit it. All of this means that amendments to federal regulations would be required on a regular basis. In order to avoid the situation of continually amending federal regulations in response to municipal decisions to allow or disallow Sunday hunting, the criteria for making changes only in complete WMUs has been dropped and the lifting of the prohibition has been extended to all municipalities that have re-instituted Sunday hunting. Late (February) special Canada Goose-only seasons will be discontinued in those municipalities that allow Sunday hunting in order not to exceed 107 hunting days a year but will be maintained in municipalities that do not allow hunting on Sundays.

Manitoba

No regulatory changes are being made for the 2008–2009 season.

Saskatchewan

Greater White-fronted Geese

Permits sold to non-resident Canadians account for approximately 500 of the more than 18 000 migratory bird hunting permits sold in Saskatchewan. Non-resident Canadians harvest, on average, 2% of the Greater White-fronted Geese taken in the province. Saskatchewan supports the principle of equal access for all Canadian residents to the migratory bird resource. Until now, the bag limit for Saskatchewan residents was four Greater White-fronted Geese, whereas the limit for non-resident Canadians was three Greater White-fronted Geese.

Beginning in fall 2008 the bag limits for Saskatchewan residents and non-resident Canadians will be the same. The daily bag limit will be four birds and the possession limit will be twice the daily bag limit.

Canada and Cackling Geese

To allow equal access for all Canadian residents, the regulations have been amended to allow non-resident Canadians to hunt Canada Geese from September 1 through 9 in Hunting District No. 2 (South). Previously, hunting during this period in this district had been open to Saskatchewan residents only.

All Geese

The number of Saskatchewan residents and non-resident Canadians hunting in Saskatchewan has decreased from 50 000 in 1980 to fewer than 9 000. Saskatchewan wishes to provide additional recreational opportunities to Saskatchewan and non-resident Canadian hunters in an effort to increase or at least sustain current hunter numbers. In some parts of the province where hunting is currently restricted to mornings only, it was proposed that hunting hours be extended to allow all-day hunting for all goose species for Saskatchewan and non-resident Canadian hunters. This was proposed to apply throughout Hunting District No. 2, (South), and in Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47-59 and 67-69 of District 1 (North), and would be allowed throughout the open season beginning September 1. However, this amendment cannot be made until

related amendments are completed in the provincial legislation, and so this proposal has been deferred to the next regulatory cycle.

Alberta

Sandhill Crane Hunting

There currently is no hunting season for Sandhill Cranes in Alberta, although they are harvested in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and several jurisdictions in the United States. For the past several years, sportsmen in Alberta have requested a hunting season for Sandhill Cranes. A Sandhill Crane season represents an additional opportunity to hunt a recognized game species, which may encourage continued participation by migratory game bird hunters. The mid-continent population of Sandhill Cranes can support additional harvest, and the international management plan supports a hunting season in Alberta. However, the *General Status of Alberta Wild Species 2005* classifies the Sandhill Crane as a sensitive species in Alberta, because of the susceptibility to disturbance of cranes nesting in the boreal forest. At the same time, the report recognizes that the Sandhill Crane population in Alberta is doing very well with no concern about population status. Overall, the mid-continent population of Sandhill Cranes, which includes the Alberta-nesting birds, is increasing and is not at risk. With the support of the Central Flyway Council and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CWS and the province of Alberta are conducting further consultations regarding the potential for a Sandhill Crane hunting season in the future and are inviting public comments on the initiative.

Electronic Snow Goose Calls

In an effort to increase the harvest and potentially reverse the population growth rates of Snow Geese, jurisdictions throughout mid-continent North America have been encouraged to liberalize regulations to facilitate increased harvest of Snow Geese. The regulations have been amended to permit the use of Snow Goose call recordings in Alberta. Currently, the use of Snow Goose call recordings is also permitted in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. This amendment establishes consistent hunting regulations for Snow Geese across the Prairie Provinces. As is the case elsewhere, if those recordings are used with decoys, the decoys must represent Snow Geese only.

British Columbia

Canvasback, Northern Pintails, Harlequin Ducks and Goldeneyes

The current restrictive regulations on Canvasback, Northern Pintails, Harlequin Ducks and Goldeneyes will be maintained.

Duck, Coot, and Snipe Season, Snow Goose and Ross's Goose Season, and Greater White-fronted Goose Season

In Hunting Districts 1 and 2, the following minor date adjustments have been incorporated to the regular hunting season to provide for traditional weekend openings and to accommodate Waterfowler Heritage Days:

For Hunting District No. 1:

For Ducks, Coots and Snipe and for Snow and Ross's Goose seasons only:
October 11, 2008, to January 23, 2009

For Hunting District No. 2:

For Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5, for Snow Goose and Ross's Goose seasons only:
October 11, 2008, to January 4, 2009 and
February 20 to March 10, 2009

For Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive, and for Ducks, Coots and Snipe only:
October 11, 2008, to January 23, 2009

Pacific Population of Western Canada Goose

Over the last few years, a number of strategies, including the introduction of multiple seasons ("split seasons") have been implemented in the southern part of the province to increase the harvest of resident Canada Geese. The opening and closing date for each split season in Districts 3 and 8 will be maintained. Minor date adjustments to the regular and split season dates are being implemented in Hunting Districts 1 and 2 to provide for traditional weekend openings.

For Hunting District No. 1:

For Provincial Management Units 1-3 and 1-8 to 1-15 inclusive:
October 11, 2008, to January 23, 2009

For Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2 and 1-4 to 1-7 inclusive:
September 6 to September 14, 2008

October 11 to November 23, 2008
December 20, 2008 to January 11, 2009
February 10 to March 10, 2009

For Hunting District No. 2:

For Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive:
October 11, 2008, to January 23, 2009

For Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18 and 2-19:
September 6 to September 14, 2008
October 11 to November 23, 2008
December 20, 2008, to January 11, 2009
February 10 to March 10, 2009

For Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only:
September 10 to December 23, 2008

Waterfowler Heritage Days

The Waterfowler Heritage Days that were proposed in the *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations: December 2007* report are being implemented.

Nunavut

No regulatory changes are being made for the 2008-2009 season.

Northwest Territories

No regulatory changes are being made for the 2008-2009 season.

Yukon Territory

In June 2006 the Mayo District Renewable Resources Council sent a letter to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) requesting that the YFWMB research the conservation issues associated with changing the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to allow for an earlier season opening in portions of the Yukon. The potential to allow earlier opening dates for qualified northern residents was made possible by the 1995 protocol amending the *Migratory Birds Convention*.

In April 2007 the YFWMB sent a letter to Environment Canada requesting that departmental staff work with the YFWMB to assess the merits and conservation impacts of the proposal and if appropriate pursue regulatory change. Staff at CWS worked with the YFWMB in 2007 to assess the merits and impacts of the proposal, and to investigate whether the necessary legal tools were available. Based on this review, the YFWMB

forwarded its recommendations to the Minister of Environment in December 2007.

CWS and the YFWMB are conducting further consultations regarding the following: 1) adding a third Yukon hunting district by dividing the southern zone at the 62nd parallel; 2) prohibiting the hunting of flightless birds; and 3) opening the waterfowl hunting season on August 15 in the zones north of 62 degrees north latitude, with the zone south of 62 degrees maintaining an opening date of September 1.

Trends in the sale of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits

(Gendron, CWS pers. comm.)

Information on the sale of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits was compiled for the time period of 1966-2007. Results indicated that sales increased from 1966 to 1978 and that they have declined ever since. However, in 2007 sales increased by 2.1% relative to 2006. In addition, 2006 sales also increased by 0.31% relative to 2005, making the overall increase of sales between 2005 and 2007 about 2.41%. This represents the largest increase in percentage of sales since the 1970s. The provinces that had the greatest increase in sales were Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Newfoundland.

Please Report Bird Bands

The North American Bird Banding Program relies on the public to report bird bands to our office. Reporting bird bands help scientists and wildlife managers continue to learn about, monitor and conserve our bird populations.

There are three ways to report bands to the Canadian Bird Banding Office: online at www.reportband.gov, by calling toll free 1-800-327-2263 (1-800-327-BAND), or by writing to:

Bird Banding Office
National Wildlife Research Centre
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0H3

By submitting your encounter reports online you will immediately receive banding data and you have the option to print your certificate of appreciation at home. Certificates and banding data will be sent by regular mail for encounters reported by phone or by mail.

The new Web address www.reportband.gov has replaced the postal address on new issue bands. The toll-free telephone number remains on bands. Hunters can still expect to find all issues of bands on waterfowl including bands without the web address or phone number. All bands can be reported online, by phone or by mail. Thank you for reporting your bird bands!

Updates to the Migratory Birds Regulations

Hunting from a vehicle for hunters with physical disabilities

The Canadian Wildlife Service is working with the Provinces and Territories to develop a proposal to amend the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to allow mobility-impaired hunters to hunt migratory birds from a stationary vehicle.

Amendment to allow for the temporary possession of migratory birds for disease testing

According to section 6(b) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, no person shall "have in his possession a live migratory bird, or a carcass, skin, nest or egg of a migratory bird except under authority of a permit therefore." In order to facilitate provincial, territorial, municipal and federal government employees, as well as the public, to assist in surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds found dead, the temporary possession of migratory birds is currently allowed under a ministerial order (issued under section 36 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*). As it is envisioned that surveillance of diseases in migratory birds will continue as an ongoing measure, Environment Canada is considering amending the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to exempt individuals from the possession prohibition, in defined cases of temporary possession for disease testing.

For more information on avian influenza surveillance, please visit the following Web site: <http://wildlife1.usask.ca/en/aiv/index.php>

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Appendix A

2008 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory

are also available on the CWS national Web site at:

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/reg/index_e.cfm



Environment
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Newfoundland and Labrador

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Watch for this loon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Environment Canada
Wildlife Enforcement Division
Lewisporte, Newfoundland and Labrador A0G 3A0
P.O. Box 1201
Tel.: 709-535-0601, Lewisporte
Tel.: 709-772-5585, St. John's
Fax: 709-535-2743
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. Migratory bird hunters hunting within Nunatsiavut should contact the Nunatsiavut Government (709-896-8582) for additional information on access to Labrador Inuit Lands and additional hunting regulations. A map of the Labrador Inuit Land Claim can be found at: www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/.

Migratory bird hunters: Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murre (turrs), and Mourning Doves.

The bag and possession restrictions for Barrow's Goldeneye implemented in 2007 remain in place in 2008.

Murre (turr) hunters: All hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murre. This hunt is only open to **residents** of Newfoundland and Labrador. Murre are the only migratory bird that can be legally hunted from a power boat. Any occupant of a boat who shoots or retrieves murre, or anyone who operates a boat to pursue murre, is hunting as defined in the Migratory Birds Regulations and is **required** to hold a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit.

Sunday hunting: The Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations allow hunting for migratory birds (ducks, geese, snipe, and murre) on Sundays; however, Sunday hunting has been prohibited by the province. In 2006, the province brought in new regulations that allow Sunday hunting during specific periods of the year. In 2008, the province will permit murre hunting on Sundays throughout the murre season, and permit hunting of ducks, geese, and snipe on Sundays after October 31. Please contact the province for further information on Sunday hunting.

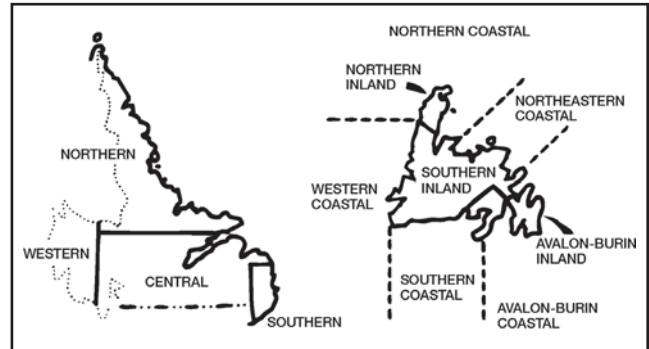
Waterfowler Heritage Days: Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed 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.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html.

Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



"Coastal" refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters
All coastal zones	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December; Waterfowler Heritage Day: Second Saturday of September	Fourth Saturday of November to the last day of February
All inland zones	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December Waterfowler Heritage Day: Second Saturday of September	No open season

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	6	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	12	10	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks** and eiders), geese, and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to first Saturday in January
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December Waterfowler Heritage Day: First Saturday in September	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Central Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

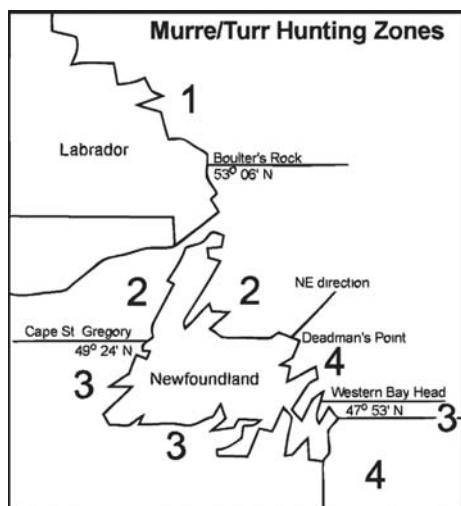
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters, and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	10	20

(a) Not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.



OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murre/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 16
Zone No. 2	October 6 to January 20
Zone No. 3	November 25 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 3 to January 10 and February 2 to March 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murre/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily bags	20
Possession	40



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Prince Edward Island

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

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Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Head of Enforcement
Environment Canada
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html**

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Prince Edward Island in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides 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.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible 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 may 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/id-mi/index.html.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), snipe, and geese	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	September 20	October 6 to December 13	September 29 to December 13

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow’s Goldeneye.
(b) Not more than eight may be Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow’s Goldeneye.



**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV**





Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Summary



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blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Head of Enforcement
Environment Canada
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Nova Scotia in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

In National Wildlife Areas located in Nova Scotia, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides 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.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible 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 may 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/id-mi/index.html.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-422-8477.

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers	Additional seasons for Long-tailed Ducks**, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodstock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 20	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	No additional season	No additional season	No additional season	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 20	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 20	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	No additional season	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis.

"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3.

"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4), and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).

** Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.



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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

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National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Head of Enforcement
Environment Canada
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures, the 1:00 P.M. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in New Brunswick in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

In National Wildlife Areas located in New Brunswick, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides 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. 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.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible 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 may 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/id-mi/index.html

Hunting Zones

Zone No. 1

Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

Zone No. 2

The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese (other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), and snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Additional season for Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	Sept. 20	Oct. 15 to Jan. 4	Sept. 2 to Sept. 12(a) and Oct. 15 to Jan. 4	Feb. 1 to Feb. 24	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2	Sept. 20	Oct. 1 to Dec. 18	Sept. 2 to Sept. 12(a) and Oct. 1 to Dec. 18	No additional season	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30

(a) In Zone No. 1 and Zone No. 2, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland from September 2 to September 12.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6(c)	5(e)	8	10
Possession	12(b)	12(d)	10(e)	16	20

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than six may be American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(c) Not more than four may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24; not more than four eiders may be taken daily.

(d) Not more than eight may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24; not more than eight eiders may be possessed.

(e) A total of three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily and a total of six additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be possessed from September 4 to September 14 inclusive.

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.



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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Summary



Watch for this loon on
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and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.*



*In Quebec, these signs also
identify no-hunting zones.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the retrieval of birds, description of hunting districts and non-hunting areas, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
1141, route de l'Église
P.O. Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4H5
Tel.: 1-800-463-4311
Fax: 418-649-6475
www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html

A provincial hunting permit for small game is required to hunt migratory birds in Quebec. While hunting, it is obligatory for hunters to carry their permits with them. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2008 federal permits.

Non-residents of Canada hunting woodcock have a lower daily bag limit than Canadian hunters.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting 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.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada 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 whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

NOTE

The former districts G, H, and I have been combined with district F. In district F, please note that Route 155 and Highway 55 are now the boundary line for the different daily bag and possession for Black Ducks. The daily bag limit for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is 10 birds from September 1 to September 25, and the possession limit is 20 for the entire hunting season. Not more than one Barrow's Goldeneye or Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of two for all districts. 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 Internet address: www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/chasse/html/BarrowsGoldeneye.html. The opening hunting date for ducks is September 13 for districts B, C, D and E; September 20 for the new district F; and September 27 for the district G.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html.

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

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, woodcock, and snipe WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin Ducks, and Long-tailed Ducks), geese (other than Canada 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. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10
District B	Sept. 6	Sept. 13 to Dec. 25	Sept. 13 to Dec. 27	Oct. 1 to Jan. 14 ^(b)	No open season	Sept. 13 to Dec. 27
Districts C, D, and E	Sept. 6	Sept. 13 to Dec. 25 ^(c)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 12 ^(a) Sept. 13 to Dec. 16	Sept. 13 to Dec. 27	No open season	Sept. 20 to Dec. 27
District F	Sept. 13 ^(d)	Sept. 20 to Dec. 24 ^(c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 19 ^(a) Sept. 20 to Dec. 21	Sept. 20 to Jan. 3	Sept. 20 to Jan. 3	Sept. 20 to Jan. 3
District G	Sept. 20	Sept. 27 to Dec. 26	Sept. 27 to Dec. 26	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14	No open season	Sept. 27 to Dec. 26

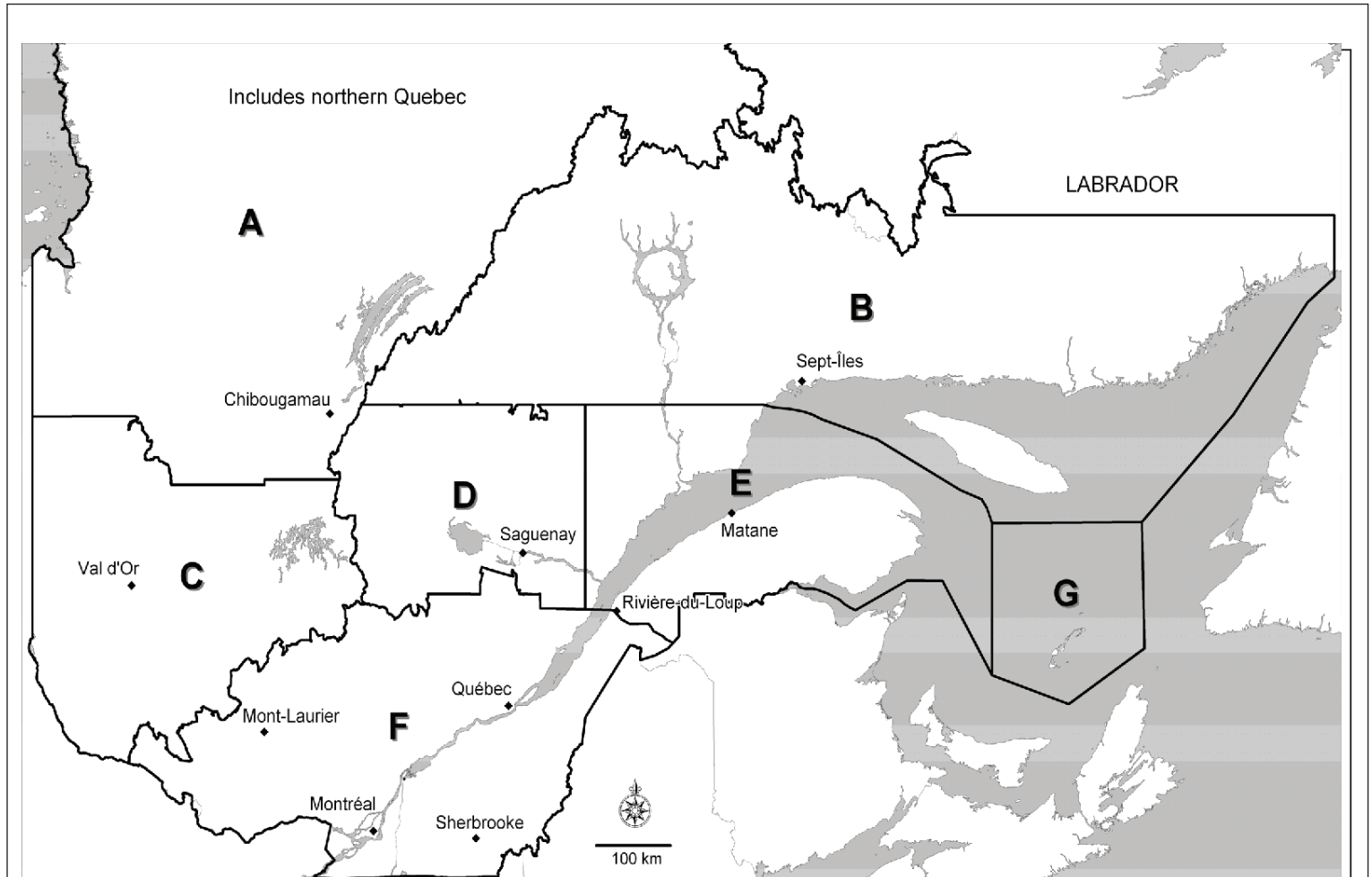
(a) In Districts C, D, E, and F, hunting for Canada Geese is allowed only on farmland.

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

(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 in Provincial Hunting Zone #21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 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.

(d) In District F, hunting for coots and gallinules is allowed during Waterfowler Heritage Day.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)(f)	5(d)(f)	20(f)	4(f)	8(e)(f)	10(f)
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)(f)	20	60	8	16	20

- (a) Not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in Districts A, B, C, D, E, F (east of Route 155 and Highway 55), and G.
- (b) Not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in District F (west of Route 155 and Highway 55). Beginning on November 1st, not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in District F (east of Gatineau River).
- (c) Not more than one Barrow's Goldeneye or Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of two.
- (d) Not more than 10 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese may be taken daily between September 1 and 25.
- (e) For non-residents of Canada, not more than four woodcock may be taken daily.
- (f) Not more than three birds in total may be taken on Waterfowler Heritage Days. The additional species restrictions described in paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) continue to apply within this limit.

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. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2008 federal permits.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to December 10	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District B	September 13 to December 27	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
Districts C and D	April 1 to May 31(a), September 1 to September 12(a), and September 13 to December 27	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District E	April 1 to May 31(a), September 1 to September 12(a), and September 13 to December 27	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
District F	April 1 to May 31(a)(b)(c), September 6 to September 19(a), and September 20 to January 3	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
District G	September 27 to December 26	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 Forgues Street at Berthier-sur-Mer and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace 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 1 000 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) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded Snow Goose calls, the decoys must represent only white phase Snow Geese in adult or juvenile plumage (white or grey).



REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV



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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Watch for this loon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
867 Lakeshore Road
P.O. Box 5050
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6
Tel.: 905-336-6410
www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife_e.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Note that south of the French and Mattawa Rivers, Sunday gun hunting is permitted by provincial regulations in some municipalities, but not all. Season dates for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese in the Southern District may differ between municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted and those where it is not. Hunters should consult the provincial regulations for information about Wildlife Management Unit boundaries and a list of municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Note that hunting restrictions have been put in place for the Wolfe Island area to address concerns over the declining use of this area by waterfowl. As a result, hunting will be permitted in the Wolfe Island area only when hunters are on the island, on the shore, in the shoreline marsh, or on a dock within 20 metres of the shore.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html.

Hunting Districts



1. Hudson-James Bay District

Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 1D, 25, and 26 lying east of longitude 83°45' and north of latitude 51°

2. Northern District

Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 1D, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45' and south of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2 to 24, 27 to 41, and 45

3. Central District

Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59

4. Southern District

Wildlife Management Units 60A and 61 to 95

OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Common Moorhens, American Coots, Common Snipe, and geese (other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Woodcock
1. Hudson–James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15
2. Northern District	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
3. Central District	Sept. 20 to Jan. 4(b)	Sept. 2 to Dec. 17	Sept. 20 to Dec. 20
4. Southern District	Sept. 27 to Jan. 11(c)	Sept. 4 to Sept. 14(f)(g), Sept. 27 to Dec. 31(d), Sept. 27 to Jan. 9(e)(g), Feb. 28 to March 7(e)(g)(h)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 20

(a) Except for American Black Ducks for which the open season is from September 10 to December 15 inclusive.

(b) Except for American Black Ducks for which the open season is from September 20 to December 20 inclusive.

(c) Except for American Black Ducks for which the open season is from September 27 to December 20 inclusive.

(d) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.

(e) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted.

(f) Excluding that part of the Township of South Walsingham, south of County Road 42, which includes Long Point.

(g) No person shall hunt Canada Geese or Cackling Geese by any means on Sundays during the hunting season in municipalities where Sunday hunting with a gun is not permitted by provincial regulations.

(h) Except in Wildlife Management Unit 94.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	White-fronted Geese and Brant	Snow Geese	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), American Coots, Common Snipe, and Common Moorhens	Woodcock
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)(d)	5(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)	5	10	10	8
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)(d)	24	10	40	20	16

(a) Not more than one American Black Duck may be taken daily and not more than two American Black Ducks may be possessed in Central and Southern districts and not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily and not more than four American Black Ducks may be possessed in Hudson–James Bay and Northern districts.

(b) Not more than four Canvasbacks may be taken daily and not more than eight Canvasbacks may be possessed.

(c) Not more than four Redheads may be taken daily and not more than eight Redheads may be possessed.

(d) Not more than one Barrow's Goldeneye may be taken daily and not more than two Barrow's Goldeneye may be possessed.

(e) A total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 1D in Hudson–James Bay District, and in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 31 and 37 to 41 from September 10 to December 16.

(f) A total of not more than two Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from September 27 to January 9.

(g) A total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 and 93 from September 27 to October 31.

(h) A total of five additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 36 and 45 from September 1 to September 9; in Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59 from September 2 to September 19; in Wildlife Management Units 60 to 81, 87 to 92 and 95 from September 4 to September 14; and in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted in Wildlife Management Units 60 to 81 and 87 to 92, from February 28 to March 7.

(i) A total of three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86, 93 and 94 from September 4 to September 14 and in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 and 93 from February 28 to March 7.



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Summary



Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

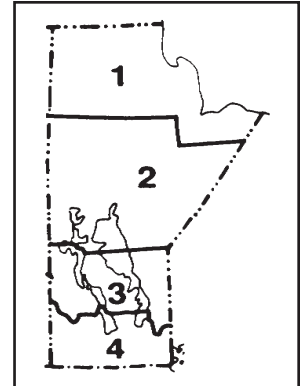


The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
 Suite 150
 123 Main Street
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4W2
 Tel.: 204-983-5263

www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Game Bird Hunting Zones



Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

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.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html.

OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Game Bird Hunting Zone	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, coots, and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone No. 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)
Zone No. 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone No. 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	4 th Monday of Sept. to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	3 rd Monday of Sept. to Nov. 30(b)
Zone No. 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	4 th Monday of Sept. to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	3 rd Monday of Sept. to Nov. 30(b)

(a) In provincial Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 6 and 6A only.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White- fronted geese, and Brant)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	20	5	5	8	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	80	15	10	16	20

(a) In Zone 4 for residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(b) In Zone 4 for residents, not more than eight may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

NOTE

The open season for hunting of geese by non-residents in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the north limit of township 33, Game Hunting Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date (4th Monday of September) up to and including the second Sunday of October, and thereafter geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

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

NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2008 federal permits.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone 1	April 1 to May 31 and August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls(a)(b)
Zones 2, 3, and 4	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(a)(b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese. If those recordings are used with decoys, the decoys must represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of these only.



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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

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Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4
Tel.: 306-975-4919

www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

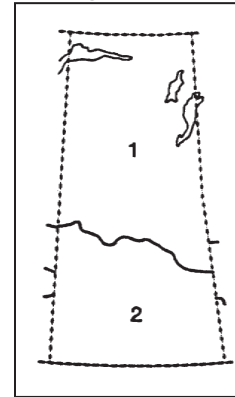
NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2008 federal permits.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html.

Hunting Districts



District No. 1 (North)
Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43 and 47 to 76 inclusive.

District No. 2 (South)
Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 1 to 42 inclusive and 44 to 46 inclusive.

OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(c)

(a) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16 inclusive.

(b) Except White-fronted Geese; the season for residents of Canada for White-fronted Geese is from September 10 to December 16 inclusive.

(c) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.

(d) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white phase snow geese.

NOTE

The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Canada in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North) includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 14, inclusive, and on and after October 15 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, except east of 106 degrees west longitude, where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all hunting until September 20.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	5	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	10	20	20

(a) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than six may be Northern Pintails.

(c) For residents of Canada, not more than four may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than three may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) For residents of Canada, not more than eight may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than six may be White-fronted Geese.

Cranes

Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.



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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV**





Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Summary



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The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
 4999-98 Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
 Tel.: 780-951-8891
www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Hunting Zones



Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html

OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese)	Coots and snipe	Falconry season for ducks, coots, and snipe
Zones 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8*	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zones 5, 6, and 7*	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23(b)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23

(a) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.

* "Zone No. 1" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501 to 506, 509 to 512, 514 to 519, 529 to 532, and 841.

"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349 to 360, 520 to 528, 534 to 537, 539 to 542, and 544.

"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500.

"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220 to 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508, and 936.

"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160, 162 to 164, and 166.

"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.

"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, and 150.

"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of these only.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese)	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	20	20

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.

(c) For Canadian residents, not more than five may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than three may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) For Canadian residents, not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than six may be White-fronted Geese.





Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Watch for this loon on
blue signs marking
National Wildlife Areas
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
R.R. 1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
Tel.: 604-940-4710
www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/en/index.shtml

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

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:

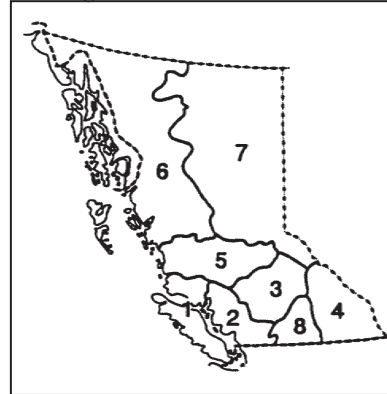
- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied 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.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html.

Hunting Districts



1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-15
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-19
3. PMU 3-12 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-44
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-14 to 4-40
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-30
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-58
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26

OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Snow and Ross's geese	Other geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Oct. 4 and 5	Oct. 11 to Jan. 23	Oct. 11 to Jan. 23	Oct. 11 to Jan. 23(a) Sept. 6 to 14(b)(c) Oct. 11 to Nov. 23 (b)(c) Dec. 20 to Jan. 11(b)(c) Feb. 10 to March 10(b)(c)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Sept. 6 and 7(e)(f) and Oct. 4 and 5(d)	Oct. 11 to Jan. 23(c)(g) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(e)	Oct. 11 to Jan. 4(h) Feb. 20 to March 10(h)	Oct. 11 to Jan. 23(i) Sept. 6 to Sept. 14(c)(j) Oct. 11 to Nov. 23(c)(j) Dec. 20 to Jan. 11(c)(j) Feb. 10 to March 10(c)(j) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(e)(k)	March 1 to March 10(c)(l)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(m)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 6 and 7	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(n) Sept. 10 to Sept. 20(o) Oct. 1 to Dec. 23(o) March 1 to March 10(o)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(p)	Sept 1. to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 6 and 7	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	No open season	No open season	Sept 1. to Sept. 30
No. 5	Sept. 13 and 14	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 6 and 7(q)(r)	Sept. 1 to 5 and Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(q)	Sept. 1 to 5 and Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(q)	Sept. 1 to 5 and Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(q)	No open season	No open season	No open season
		Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(r)	Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(r)	Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(r)			
No. 7	N/A	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 6 and 7	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(s) Sept. 20 to Nov. 28(k) Dec. 20 to Jan. 5(k) Feb. 21 to March 10(k)	No open season	No open season	Sept 1. to Sept. 30

(a) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-8 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, and 1-4 to 1-7 inclusive, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(c) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.

(d) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive, and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for Ducks, Canada Geese, and Cackling Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

(e) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.

(f) For Ducks, Canada Geese, and Cackling Geese only.

(g) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive, and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.

(h) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.

(i) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(j) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(k) For Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(l) Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.

(m) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive.

(n) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-18 inclusive, 3-30 to 3-35 inclusive, and 3-38 to 3-44 inclusive, for White-fronted, Canada, and Cackling geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, 3-36, and 3-37 for White-fronted Geese only.

(o) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, 3-36, and 3-37, for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(p) Provincial Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive.

(q) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.

(r) Provincial Management Units 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.

(s) For White-fronted Geese only.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
Daily bags	8(a)(c)(e)(k)	5(g)(i), 10(m)	10	10	5	5
Possession	16(b)(d)(f)(l)	10(h)(j), 20(m)	20	20	10	10

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.

(c) Not more than four may be Canvasbacks.

(d) Not more than eight may be Canvasbacks.

(e) Not more than two may be goldeneyes.

(f) Not more than four may be goldeneyes.

(g) Not more than two may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.

(h) Not more than four may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.

(i) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of five Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, can be taken daily.

(j) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of 10 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, can be in possession daily.

(k) Not more than two may be Harlequin Ducks.

(l) Not more than four may be Harlequin Ducks.

(m) For Snow Geese only and in Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.



REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV



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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 1E2
Tel.: 867-669-4730
www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2008 federal permits.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may 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/id-mi/index.html.

OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout Nunavut	September 1 to December 10(a)

(a) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white phase snow geese.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks	Ducks	Geese	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Snipe
	RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25(c)(g)	8(c)(g)	15(b)(e)	5(a)(b)(e)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(d)(h)	16(d)(h)	No limit(b)(f)	10(a)(b)(f)	No limit	No limit	20

- (a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.
- (b) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, a total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily, and not more than 10 may be possessed.
- (c) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks.
- (d) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks.
- (e) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, a total of five Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, and five other geese.
- (f) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, a total of 10 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, and 10 other geese.
- (g) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Blue-winged Teal.
- (h) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks and four Blue-winged Teal.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV**





Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Summary



Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
 5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
 Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 1E2
 Tel.: 867-669-4730
www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible 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 may 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/id-mi/index.html

OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	September 1 to December 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks	Ducks	Geese	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Snipe
	RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25	8	15	5(a)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(a)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2008

Summary



Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5B7
Tel.: 867-667-4597

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/theme.cfm?lang=e&category=6

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible 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 may 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/id-mi/index.html.

Hunting Areas

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°
 Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 66°

OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	5(b)	2	0(c)	10
Possession	24(a)	15(b)	4	0(c)	30(d)

- (a) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
- (b) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
- (c) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
- (d) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

