



# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2020  
TO JULY 2021



### To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp affixed to or printed on the permit.

These two documents are issued by the federal government and are valid in all provinces and territories.

### The 2020 federal permit is also valid for the 2021 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Municipalities may have additional restrictions on discharging firearms. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

If you are hunting on private lands (Inuit Owned Lands), ensure you have permission from the Regional Inuit Association.

You can purchase and print your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit by visiting the *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit* web page on the Government of Canada website ([www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)).

### Consultation process and migratory birds regulatory reports

A national consultation process has been developed to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in developing the migratory birds hunting regulations. For more information, consult the *Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series* web page on the Government of Canada website ([www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)).

### Enforcement

In June 2017, the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* came into force. In particular, these regulations authorize game officers to use administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) to enforce the provisions of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) and its associated regulations.

In July 2017, amendments to the fine regime and penalty provisions in the MBCA and the *Designation of Regulatory Provisions for Purposes of Enforcement (Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994) Regulations* came into force. In particular, these amendments allow courts to impose penalties that reflect the seriousness of offences following a conviction pursuant to the MBCA or its associated regulations.

For more information on AMPs and the new fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website ([www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)).



Game officers enforce the federal MBCA throughout Canada. This law regulates human interventions, such as hunting that could adversely affect long-term wildlife conservation. For any questions, please contact Wildlife Enforcement by telephone or by email at the contact information at the end of this hunting summary.

### Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds.
- Within National Wildlife Areas that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all types of hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

### Species at Risk

**Barrow's Goldeneye** is listed in the *Species at Risk Act* as a species of special concern, and **the daily bag and possession limit is 1 bird.**

### CRIME STOPPERS

Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling 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 SEASON IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, Geese, Coots and Snipe
Throughout Nunavut	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10 (a)

(a) Recorded Snow Goose and Ross's Goose calls may be used when hunting Snow Geese and Ross's Geese; any species of migratory birds for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese and Ross's Geese with those calls.

## OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. See the table below for details.

### MEASURES IN NUNAVUT CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Throughout Nunavut	Aug. 15 to Aug. 31 May 1 to June 30	Recorded bird calls (a) Recorded bird calls (a)

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

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limit	Ducks Residents of Canada	Ducks Non-residents of Canada	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant Residents of Canada	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant Non-residents of Canada	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Coots	Snipe Residents of Canada	Snipe Non-residents of Canada
Daily Bag	25 (a)	8 (a)	15 (c)	5 (e)	50	25	10	10
Possession	No limit (b)	24 (b)	No limit (d)	15 (d), (f)	No limit	No limit	No limit	30

(a) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 6, of which

(i) not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks and 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, in the area west of 80°15'W longitude; and

(ii) not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks, 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, and 1 may be Blue-winged Teal, in the area east of 80°15'W longitude.

(b) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 18, of which

(i) not more than 6 may be American Black Ducks and 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, in the area west of 80°15'W longitude; and

(ii) not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and 2 may be Blue-winged Teal, in the area east of 80°15'W longitude.

(c) In that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, not more than 5 may be Canada Geese or Cackling Geese or any combination of them.

(d) Except in the portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 20.

(e) Not more than 2 may be White-fronted Geese.

(f) Not more than 6 may be White-fronted Geese. In that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, there is no limit on Canada Geese and Cackling Geese.

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.

**The information presented here is a summary of the law. If there is a discrepancy between the law and this summary, the law prevails. For more information, consult the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, the frequently asked questions for hunters, and other information on the Government of Canada website ([www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)).**

**You may also direct your questions to:**

**Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Canadian Wildlife Service**

5019, 52 Street

P.O. Box 2310

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2P7

Tel.: 1-800-668-6767

[ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca)

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:  
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) TO LEAVE A MESSAGE OR GO TO:  
[WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)**

**Canada**