



Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

**AUGUST 2020
TO JULY 2021**



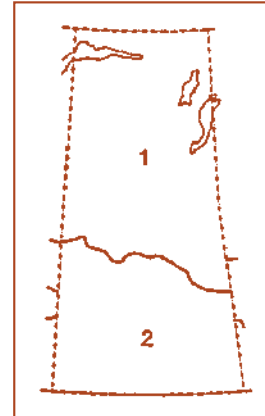
To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- 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.



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 and 44 to 46, Saskatoon and Regina-Moose Jaw.

If you need more information to determine in which hunting districts you are located, please visit www.environment.gov.sk.ca/hunting or contact the Ministry of Environment of the province.

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).

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).

IMPORTANT UPDATE TO THE HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR SASKATCHEWAN

The daily bag limit for Northern Pintails increases to 8 birds per day, and the possession limit increases to 24. Northern Pintails are included in the aggregate limit for ducks of 8 in the daily bag and 24 in the possession limit.

Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is open to Sandhill Crane hunting; the daily bag and possession limits for Sandhill Cranes apply.

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).



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.

Waterfowler Heritage Days

Waterfowler Heritage Days are intended for young hunters under 18 years of age. These days allow young people, a few days before or during the hunting seasons, to:

- develop safe hunting habits in a supervised and structured environment;
- be guided by adult hunters who serve as mentors and pass on their skills and knowledge;
- learn more about wildlife conservation.

The following rules are in effect during Waterfowler Heritage Days:

- Young hunters can hunt without having a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit or Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp.
- Young hunters must comply with all safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations.

- Young hunters must be accompanied by a licensed mentor (who is not a minor).
- Adults acting as mentors:
 - must have a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp;
 - may not hunt or carry a firearm;
 - may accompany no more than two young hunters.
- Only young hunters are allowed to hunt when Waterfowler Heritage Days fall outside of the regular open seasons.

NOTE

In Saskatchewan, during Waterfowler Heritage Days, and following the rules of these days, young hunters and mentors may participate in the falconry season.

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.
- Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

To reduce your exposure to contaminants in meat, make sure, before cooking it, to:

- remove the shot from birds hunted with lead shot;
- remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds.

Cranes

Where the Regional Director of the Prairie Region 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.

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.

WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY AND OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in Saskatchewan
	Ducks, Geese, Coots, Snipe and Sandhill Cranes	Ducks, Geese, Coots, Snipe and Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North) and No. 2 (South)	Sept. 5 to Sept. 7 and Oct. 10 to Oct. 12 <i>(b)</i>	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 <i>(a), (b)</i>

- (a)* Falconry season open September 1 to December 16.
- (b)* 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.

Note: The open season for Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese in District No. 2 (South), and the portion of District No. 1 (North) consisting of Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 and 67 to 69, from the opening date up to and including October 14, inclusive, includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise until noon, local time, and, after that period, from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. The open season for Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese province-wide includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limit	Ducks	Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily Bag	8	20	8 <i>(a)</i>	5	10	10
Possession	24	No limit	24 <i>(b)</i>	15	30	30

- (a)* Not more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese.
- (b)* Not more than 15 may be White-fronted Geese.

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 SASKATCHEWAN CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

District	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
No. 1 (North) and No. 2 (South)	March 15 to June 15	Recorded bird calls <i>(a)</i>

- (a)* “Recorded bird calls” refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

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).

You may also direct your questions to:

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

115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
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**

Canada