

# Proposals to amend the **Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations** **Hunting seasons 2022-2023 and 2023-2024** Consultation document

Canadian Wildlife Service  
**Waterfowl Technical Committee**  
**CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report**  
Number 56



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

Unless otherwise specified, you may not reproduce materials in this publication, in whole or in part, for the purposes of commercial redistribution without prior written permission from Environment and Climate Change Canada's copyright administrator. To obtain permission to reproduce Government of Canada materials for commercial purposes, apply for Crown Copyright Clearance by contacting:

Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Public Inquiries Centre  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fontaine Building  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3  
Telephone: 819-938-3860  
Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)  
Email: [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

Cover Image : © 2021 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print image, "On Golden Pond – Common Goldeneye" by Ric Sluiter.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 2022

Aussi disponible en français

For more information on migratory birds, please visit the Government of Canada's website:  
[www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-conservation.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-conservation.html)

### **Cover Art**

The 2021 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp image, entitled “On Golden Pond – Common Goldeneye” features the Common Goldeneye duck. It is a creation of the Canadian wildlife artist Ric Sluiter.

Through a special partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada receives the revenues from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits. The conservation stamp is also sold to stamp and print collectors and those interested in contributing to habitat conservation. Wildlife Habitat Canada has provided over \$55 million in grants to more than 1,500 habitat conservation projects across Canada since the development of the program in 1985. Since 2012, Wildlife Habitat Canada has helped to restore, enhance and conserve 1.3 million acres of wildlife habitat ([www.whc.org](http://www.whc.org)).

For more information on Wildlife Habitat Canada or the conservation stamp and print program, please call Wildlife Habitat Canada at 613-722-2090 (in the Ottawa region) or toll-free at 1-800-669-7919, or consult the website at [www.whc.org](http://www.whc.org).



# Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations

## Consultation Document Hunting Seasons 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

### Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Technical Committee CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report - Number 56

#### Authors

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Technical Committee, and edited by Renée Bergeron in the Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division of the National Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

#### Recommended citation for this report

Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee. 2022. *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations. Consultation document. Hunting Seasons 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.* CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 56. Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa.

#### Consultation

The public consultation period is from January 15 to February 14, 2022. During this period, public comments are solicited on the proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* for the establishment of the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 migratory game birds hunting regulations.

Comments regarding the regulation-setting process or other concerns relating to national migratory birds should be sent to the Director of Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division at the National Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada at the following postal address:

351 St. Joseph Boulevard, Gatineau QC K1A 0H3 or by email:  
[MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca)

Comments regarding the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 proposed hunting regulations specific to a region should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada, at the following postal addresses:

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

Quebec Region: 801-1550 d'Estimauville Avenue, Québec QC G1J 0C3

Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Toronto ON M3H 5T4

Prairie Region: 9250 - 49th Street NW, 2nd Floor, Edmonton AB T6B 1K5

Northern Region: 5019 - 52nd Street, P.O. Box 2310, Yellowknife NT X1A 2P7

Pacific Region: RR1, 5421 Robertson Road, Delta BC V4K 3N2

This report may be downloaded from the following website:

[www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations/report-series.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations/report-series.html)

# Table of Contents

<b>BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SCHEDULE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUNTING REGULATIONS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>AMERICAN BLACK DUCK INTERNATIONAL HARVEST STRATEGY.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT OF OVERABUNDANT GEESE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Regulatory Proposals for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>PROPOSED CHANGES TO HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR THE 2022-2023 AND THE 2023-2024 SEASONS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Prince Edward Island.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Nova Scotia.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>New Brunswick .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Quebec change .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Ontario .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Manitoba .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Saskatchewan .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Alberta.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>British Columbia .....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Yukon Territory .....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Northwest Territories .....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Nunavut .....</i>	<i>8</i>
<b>HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MALLARDS IN PRAIRIE CANADA .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ELIMINATING SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT FOR THE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD – HUNTING PERMIT (BOTH PHYSICAL AND ELECTRONIC FORMS).....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>STATUS UPDATE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF THE <i>MIGRATORY BIRDS REGULATIONS</i> .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IS ALLOWING THE TEMPORARY POSSESSION OF DEAD MIGRATORY BIRDS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING PERMIT – OPTIMIZING AVAILABILITY TO ALL CANADIANS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PLEASE REPORT BIRD BANDS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Appendix A. Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting .....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Appendix B. Summaries of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations by Province and Territory, 2021-2022 Hunting Season.....</i>	<i>17</i>

## Background

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is responsible for the conservation of migratory birds in Canada and the management of the sustainable hunting of migratory game birds. The hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed and amended biennially by ECCC, with input from provinces and territories, as well as from various other stakeholders. The population status of migratory game birds is assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the regulations are appropriate, and amendments can be made between review periods, if necessary, for conservation reasons.

As part of the regulatory process to amend the hunting regulations, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produces a series of regulatory reports:

The first report, *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada*, contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds and thus provides the scientific basis for informing management decisions that ensure the long-term sustainability of their population. Every two years, ECCC reviews hunting regulations and publishes the population status report. However, CWS analyzes population trends on a yearly basis to evaluate the status of migratory game bird populations.

The second report, *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*, outlines the proposed changes to the hunting regulations for the next two hunting seasons, as well as proposals to amend the overabundant species regulations and 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 (see Appendix A to this report or visit [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations/establishing-national-objectives-guidelines.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations/establishing-national-objectives-guidelines.html)). The consultation document is published every second year, concurrently with the revision of hunting regulations.

The third report, *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada*, summarizes the hunting regulations that were approved for the next two hunting seasons. The report is published every second year, concurrently with the revision of hunting regulations.

The three reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input on the development of hunting regulations in Canada. They are also available on the ECCC website: [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations/report-series.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations/report-series.html).

Regulatory proposals described in the current document, if approved, would be in place starting in September 2022 and remain in effect through winter 2024. It is also proposed to amend the special conservation measures for overabundant geese for spring 2023 and spring 2024. (Note that the regulations for spring 2022 were made into law as part of the fall 2019 process).

## Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The schedule for the development of hunting regulations is based on the requirement to have the hunting regulations made into law by July:

- September through November – The *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* report, containing biological information on migratory game birds, is developed. In January, it is distributed and posted on the Government of Canada's website.
- October and November – CWS regional offices develop proposals for hunting regulations in consultation with the provinces and territories and interested stakeholders.
- January – The *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* report containing the regulation proposals is posted on the Government of Canada's website and distributed to allow for public consultation.

- July – Hunting regulations become law.
- July – The *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada* report, containing the approved hunting regulations, is distributed and posted on the Government of Canada's website.
- August – Summaries of migratory birds hunting regulations are available with the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits at Canada Post outlets, independent vendors and on the Government of Canada's website.

Migratory game bird hunters are made aware of the migratory game bird hunting regulations at the same time as they receive information on season dates and bag and possession limits, when they purchase their hunting permits.

## **American Black Duck International Harvest Strategy**

The American Black Duck International Harvest Strategy was adopted in 2012 by the CWS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The objectives of the Strategy, based on the principles of adaptive harvest management, are to:

- maintain a Black Duck population that provides consumptive and non-consumptive use commensurate with habitat carrying capacity;
- maintain societal values associated with the hunting tradition; and
- maintain equitable access to the Black Duck resource.

As such, the Strategy is designed to identify appropriate Black Duck harvest levels in Canada and the U.S. based on the size of the breeding populations of Black Ducks and sympatric Mallards while maintaining equity in Black Duck harvests between the two countries. However, recognizing incomplete control of harvest through regulations, it allows the realized harvest in either country to vary between 40% and 60% of the annual continental harvest.

The Strategy, used to determine the appropriate Black Duck harvest regulations, was first implemented in 2013–2014. It consists of four pre-defined regulatory packages in Canada and three in the U.S. Country-specific harvest opportunities are determined from a set of expected harvest rate distributions defined as regulatory alternatives. Canada developed four regulatory packages (liberal, moderate, restrictive and closed) with the Canadian moderate alternative defined as the 1997 to 2010 mean harvest rate (the reference package). The Canadian packages are as follows:

- Liberal: 30% increase in harvest rate over the 1997–2010 mean harvest rate;
- Moderate: 1997–2010 mean harvest rate (3.5% per year [mean harvest rate for adult males]);
- Restrictive: 30% decrease in harvest rate below the 1997–2010 mean harvest rate; and
- Closed: no Black Duck harvest allowed.

The optimal Canadian policy recommendation for the 2021-2022 hunting season is the liberal regulatory package. This recommendation is based on long-term trends in Black Duck and Mallard breeding populations in eastern Canada as well as the estimated effects of hunting on the Black Duck population. Mallards are included in the Strategy because this species hybridizes and competes with Black Ducks on the breeding grounds and may therefore negatively affect the Black Duck population. According to data collected by the CWS and USFWS, the current level of harvest has only a low effect on population levels. The liberal package is therefore the optimal alternative.

Each regulatory package, however, must be implemented for at least three years before changes to the regulatory package will be considered, due to variability in annual harvest rates. In the interim, CWS will continue to monitor harvest rate in addition to the breeding population to ensure that the Strategy continues to meet the objectives stated above.

# Management of Overabundant Geese

## Regulatory Proposals for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

The special conservation measures for Snow Geese, Ross's Geese and the Manitoba Temperate-breeding population of Canada Geese that were implemented in spring 2021 were proposed in the fall of 2019, and made into law in June 2020. Those measures will continue to be in effect in spring 2022. They are posted on the Government of Canada's website :

[www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries.html).

**It is proposed to** extend the special conservation season for Temperate-breeding Canada Geese in Manitoba, beginning in spring 2023. There is no proposed changes for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

See the section below for more details about this proposal.

## Proposed Changes to Hunting Regulations for the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 Seasons

The Canadian Wildlife Service and the provinces and territories have jointly developed the regulatory proposals presented here. To facilitate the comparison of changes proposed in this text with current regulations, the summaries of the 2021-2022 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations are available in Appendix B to this report and at:

[www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries/ontario.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries/ontario.html).

### Newfoundland and Labrador

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 hunting seasons.

### Prince Edward Island

Three measures are proposed to increase harvest of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese during a period taking place before the Canada Geese North Atlantic population migrants arrive in the Atlantic Provinces. These measures have been considered effective in controlling population growth of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese, and as such reduce conflicts with humans, damage to crops and risks to public safety. Similar measures are being proposed for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

- ADVANCE THE OPENING DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON

**It is proposed to** advance the opening date for the September goose season to an earlier fixed date of September 1st while maintaining the season length as currently in effect (proposed season: Sept. 1 to Sept. 14). This action will continue to allow an opportunity to harvest Temperate-breeding Canada Geese while affording additional protection to migrant Canada Geese from the North Atlantic Population. No changes are proposed for the late fall season.

- INCREASE THE DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR CANADA GEESE DURING THE SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON

The current daily bag limit for geese is 5. An additional 3 Cackling Geese or Canada Geese, or any combination, may be taken daily currently during the September goose season. **It is proposed to** increase from 3 to 5 the additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination, that may be taken daily during the September goose season. This would result in the daily bag limit being 10 for



Cackling and Canada Geese during the September goose season (increase from 8 to 10). The proposed daily bag limit would be the same as that already in place for Quebec and Ontario.

- INCREASE THE POSSESSION LIMIT FOR GEESE

**It is proposed to** increase the possession limit from 16 to 20.

## **Nova Scotia**

Three measures are proposed to increase harvest of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese during a period taking place before the Canada Geese North Atlantic population migrants arrive in the Atlantic Provinces. These measures have been considered effective in controlling population growth of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese, and as such reduce conflicts with humans, damage to crops and risks to public safety. Similar measures are being proposed for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

- ADVANCE THE OPENING DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON

- Hunting Zone 1

**It is proposed to** advance the opening date for the September goose season to an earlier fixed date of September 1st (proposed season: Sept. 1 to Sept. 14) while maintaining the season length as currently in effect. This action will continue to allow an opportunity to harvest Temperate-breeding Canada Geese while affording additional protection to migrant Canada Geese from the North Atlantic Population. No changes are proposed for the late fall season.

- Hunting Zone 2

**It is proposed to** advance the opening date for the September goose season to an earlier fixed date of September 1<sup>st</sup> and reduce the season length (proposed season: Sept. 1 to Sept.14). The days lost would be moved to the front of the late season with a proposed season of October 16 to January 15. This measure will continue to allow an opportunity to harvest Temperate-breeding Canada Geese while affording additional protection to migrant Canada Geese from the North Atlantic Population.

- INCREASE THE DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR CANADA GEESE DURING THE SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON

The current daily bag limit for geese is 5. An additional 3 Cackling Geese or Canada Geese, or any combination, may be taken daily currently during the September goose season. **It is proposed to** increase from 3 to 5 the additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination, that may be taken daily during the September goose season. This would result in the daily bag limit being 10 for Cackling and Canada Geese during the September goose season (increase from 8 to 10). The proposed daily bag limit would be the same as that already in place for Quebec and Ontario.

- INCREASE THE POSSESSION LIMIT FOR GEESE

**It is proposed to** increase the possession limit from 16 to 20.

## **New Brunswick**

Three measures are proposed to increase harvest of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese during a period taking place before the Canada Geese North Atlantic population migrants arrive in the Atlantic Provinces. These measures have been considered effective in controlling population growth of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese, and as such reduce conflicts with humans, damage to crops and risks to public safety. Similar measures are being proposed for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

- ADVANCE THE OPENING DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON

- Hunting Zone 1

**It is proposed to** advance the opening date for the September goose season to an earlier fixed date of September 1<sup>st</sup> and reduce the season by up to 7 days (proposed season: Sept. 1 to Sept 14). The days lost would be moved to the end of the late season with a proposed season of October 15 to January 14. This measure would maximize allowable hunting days while affording additional protection to migrant Canada Geese from the North Atlantic Population and harmonize with the duck season closing date.

- Hunting Zone 2

**It is proposed to** advance the opening date for the September goose season to an earlier fixed date of September 1<sup>st</sup> and reduce the season by up to 7 days (proposed season: Sept. 1 to Sept 14). The days lost would be moved to the end of the late season with a proposed season of October 1 to December 31. This measure would maximize allowable hunting days while affording additional protection to migrant Canada Geese from the North Atlantic Population and harmonize with the duck season closing date.

- INCREASE THE DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR CANADA GEESE DURING THE SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON

The current daily bag limit for geese is 5. An additional 3 Cackling Geese or Canada Geese, or any combination, may be taken daily currently during the September goose season. **It is proposed to** increase from 3 to 5 the additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination, that may be taken daily during the September goose season. This would result in the daily bag limit being 10 for Cackling and Canada Geese during the September goose season (increase from 8 to 10). The proposed daily bag limit would be the same as that already in place for Quebec and Ontario.

- INCREASE THE POSSESSION LIMIT FOR GEESE

**It is proposed to** increase the possession limit from 16 to 20.

### Quebec change

- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE TO RESTRICTIONS FOR THE DAILY BAG LIMIT DURING WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS IN QUEBEC

**It is proposed to** correct an error. The restriction of not more than 3 birds that may be taken daily during the Waterfowler Heritage Day should apply to all species or groups of species, including Canada Geese and Cackling Geese.

### Ontario

- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE TO HARMONIZE THE DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR CANADA AND CACKLING GEESE DURING THE LATE SEASON IN THE SOUTHERN HUNTING DISTRICT

**It is proposed to** increase the daily bag limit from 5 to 10 for Canada and Cackling Geese in Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 95 in the Southern Hunting District during the late February/early March season to correct an administrative oversight. This change will align the daily bag limit in WMU 95 with those for other WMUs without daily bag limit restrictions for Canada and Cackling Geese in the Southern Hunting District. Please note that this regulatory change only applies in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted by provincial regulations.

- ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT TO HARMONIZE THE TERMINOLOGY IN THE MIGRATORY BIRDS REGULATIONS WITH THE PROVINCIAL REGULATION

Part 6 of Schedule 1 to the Ontario Regulation 663/98 Area Descriptions made under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* group general locations in the province into "Wildlife Management Units".

While this Regulation was not translated into French, outreach documents produced by the province of Ontario translate the term, “Wildlife Management Unit” as “Unité de Gestion de la Faune”. In Part VI of Schedule 1 to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* in the French language version, however, the term used to identify each “Wildlife Management Unit” is “Secteur de Gestion de la Faune”. **It is proposed to** replace “secteur” by “unité” to address the discrepancy between the wording in the Ontario provincial outreach documents and the federal regulations to avoid any confusion.

## Manitoba

- EXTEND THE SPECIAL CONSERVATION SEASON FOR THE OVERABUNDANT TEMPERATE-BREEDING CANADA GEESE IN SPRING IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA

**It is proposed to** extend the spring conservation season for overabundant Temperate-breeding Canada Geese in southern Manitoba (Game Bird Hunting Zones 3 and 4). The current season takes place from March 1 to 31. The proposed season dates are March 1 to April 10, effective in spring 2023. The daily bag limit and possession limit would remain unchanged. The intent of the special conservation season is to increase harvest rates to slow the growth of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese in Manitoba. These geese cause significant agricultural and private property damage in southern Manitoba and pose significant risks to human safety, both through risk of aircraft and vehicular collisions.

In response to concerns about the size and rapid growth of the Temperate-breeding Canada Goose population in southern Manitoba, and associated environmental and agricultural issues, the population was designated as overabundant in 2020, and a conservation season was established from March 1-31, 2021 (CWS 2019). The season dates were selected based on migration chronology of three goose populations that migrate through Manitoba in spring. Data on migration timing was obtained using geolocators attached to representative members of each population (Neufeld 2021). Since that time, sample sizes have increased, due to recaptures during banding operations and through recoveries by hunters. Based on updated analyses of spring migration chronology from 2017-2020 (n=51 Temperate-breeding Canada Geese, n=81 Southern Hudson Bay Canada Geese, n=34 Cackling Geese), 53% of the Temperate-breeding Canada Goose population, and only 12% of the Cackling Goose population, and 14% of the Southern Hudson Bay Canada Goose population are estimated to have arrived in Manitoba by April 10. By March 31, only 28% of the Temperate-breeding Canada Goose population is estimated to have arrived in southern Manitoba. The additional period of harvest proposed will expose a larger segment of the population to harvest, and permit two additional weekends of hunting. A survey of hunter harvest during the inaugural spring conservation season (2021) revealed that 34% of the total spring harvest (2956, 95% CL: 2444, 3468) occurred in the last five days of March, and 47% of the total harvest occurred on weekend days (8 in total). While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented participation by non-resident hunters, there were only 704 hunters that participated in the season in 2021 (1090 licenses were acquired). Given the relatively low hunter participation and low seasonal harvest per hunter (4.20 geese, 95% CL: 3.47, 4.93), and considering a high proportion of harvest occurs on weekends, the addition of 10 days (including 2 weekends) will help maximize the overall harvest, and will contribute towards the objective of increasing the harvest of this population.

The impact on other populations is expected to be negligible, but the effect of the season will continue to be monitored using estimates of annual survival and harvest rates, and their trends, which are available from long-term banding programs in place for each population. In addition, overall harvest and hunter participation would be monitored using a survey of spring conservation season participants, conducted by Manitoba Wildlife, Fisheries and Resource Enforcement Branch. The size and trend of the Temperate-breeding Canada Goose population would also be monitored using data from the annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey.

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation and Keystone Agricultural Producers have both expressed their support for an evidence-based extension of the spring season to address overabundance of Temperate-breeding Canada Geese in southern Manitoba.

## References

CWS. 2019. Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations. CWS Waterfowl Committee, Regulatory Report Number 53. 70 pp.

Neufeld, L. 2021. Comparing migration ecology among geographically distinct populations of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) and Cackling Geese (*Branta hutchinsii*). Unpublished master's thesis. University of Manitoba, 109 pp.

## Saskatchewan

- REMOVE DAILY BAG LIMIT RESTRICTION ON WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

**It is proposed to** increase the daily bag limit for White-fronted Geese from 5 to 8 birds per day, and, likewise, increase the possession limit from 15 to 24. Currently, there is a bag limit of 8 dark geese (Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese combined) of which no more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese. Removing the restriction for White-fronted Geese is intended to simplify hunting regulations and provide additional opportunity by allowing an aggregate bag limit of 8 dark geese per day. The effect of the regulatory change on White-fronted Geese harvest in Canada is expected to be low and within acceptable limits that ensure sustainability of the population. A similar measure is being proposed for Alberta.

Lincoln estimates, population estimates derived from harvest and harvest rate estimates, suggest that White-fronted Goose populations have increased greatly over the past several decades (~300% since the 1970s); adult survival rates have also increased over the same time period. Harvest rates over the most recent 10-year period are roughly half of what they were in the 1970s, when the population was less than a third of what it is today. Thus, the population has grown under existing harvest rates, and any additional harvest caused by this regulatory change is not expected to have a noticeable effect on population dynamics of midcontinent White-fronted Geese. Currently, 25-30% of the harvest of midcontinent White-fronted Geese takes place in Alberta and Saskatchewan combined; the remainder takes place in Central and Mississippi Flyway States. Based on an analysis of historic frequency of daily bags of Canada and Cackling Geese with a bag limit of 8, the change is expected to result in an increase of harvest of no more than 10 % in Alberta and Saskatchewan, approximately 7,000 White-front Geese, or a 2 % increase in harvest continentally. At current harvest rates, a 2 % increase would amount to an increase of 0.1% in harvest rate. Given the annual variation and precision in harvest parameters, it is possible that an increase in harvest at the level predicted will not be detectable. However, harvest estimates from Canada's National Harvest Survey, and harvest and survival rates derived from banding efforts will continue to be monitored for potential effects of this regulation change.

## Alberta

- REMOVE BAG LIMIT RESTRICTION ON WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

**It is proposed to** increase the daily bag limit for White-fronted Geese from 5 to 8 birds per day, and, likewise, increase the possession limit from 15 to 24. Currently, there is a bag limit of 8 dark geese (Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese combined) of which no more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese. Removing the restriction for White-fronted Geese is intended to simplify hunting regulations and provide additional opportunity by allowing an aggregate bag limit of 8 dark geese per day. The effect of the regulatory change on White-fronted Geese harvest in Canada is expected to be low and within acceptable limits that ensure sustainability of the population. A similar measure is being proposed for Saskatchewan.

Lincoln estimates, population estimates derived from harvest and harvest rate estimates, suggest that White-fronted Goose populations have increased greatly over the past several decades (~300% since the 1970s); adult survival rates have also increased over the same time period. Harvest rates over the most recent 10-year period are roughly half of what they were in the 1970s, when the population was less than

a third of what it is today. Thus, the population has grown under existing harvest rates, and any additional harvest caused by this regulatory change is not expected to have a noticeable effect on population dynamics of midcontinent White-fronted Geese. Currently, 25-30% of the harvest of midcontinent White-fronted Geese takes place in Alberta and Saskatchewan combined; the remainder takes place in Central and Mississippi Flyway States. Based on an analysis of historic frequency of daily bags of Canada and Cackling Geese with a bag limit of 8, the change is expected to result in an increase of harvest of no more than 10 % in Alberta and Saskatchewan, approximately 7,000 White-front Geese, or a 2 % increase in harvest continentally. At current harvest rates, a 2 % increase would amount to an increase of 0.1% in harvest rate. Given the annual variation and precision in harvest parameters, it is possible that an increase in harvest at the level predicted will not be detectable. However, harvest estimates from Canada's National Harvest Survey, and harvest and survival rates derived from banding efforts will continue to be monitored for potential effects of this regulation change.

### **British Columbia**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 hunting seasons.

### **Yukon Territory**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 hunting seasons.

### **Northwest Territories**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 hunting seasons.

### **Nunavut**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 hunting seasons.

## **Harvest Management Plan for Mallards in Prairie Canada**

- INTRODUCTION

The Harvest Management Plan for Mallards in Prairie Canada was developed jointly by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the governments of the Prairie Provinces in 2021. Based on long-term declines in hunter numbers, and the small contribution that prairie Canada makes to continental Mallard harvests, this plan aims to prevent unnecessary amendments to the schedule of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (hunting regulations), and it will be used to determine the appropriate Mallard harvest regimes.

Mallards are the most commonly harvested duck species in all Prairie Provinces, and they have consistently accounted for more than half of the total duck harvest across the region since 1969. By comparison, no other species of duck accounts for more than 10% of the harvest. Harvest management of Mallards in prairie Canada has been guided by the Prairie Canada Mallard Harvest Strategy (Canadian Wildlife Service 1993), which was drafted following a period of prolonged drought on the prairies, and during an era of much larger hunter numbers. Since the 1970s, major changes have occurred in waterfowl hunter numbers and harvest; active waterfowl hunters in prairie Canada have declined by 73%, from a high of almost 165,000 in 1976, to less than 42,000 in 2018. Over the same time-period, Mallard harvest has declined by 77%, from a high of 1.15 million, to less than 300,000 in 2018.

The old Prairie Canada Mallard Harvest Strategy was recently updated to better document:

- 1) the use of harvest rate thresholds and minimum population size thresholds for making harvest management decisions, similar to the way they are used in goose management plans;
- 2) annual monitoring requirements; and
- 3) develop a regionally consistent, transparent approach to the regulation of duck hunting in prairie



Canada.

- MALLARD HARVEST REGIMES

The Harvest Management Plan is designed to identify appropriate Mallard harvest levels in Canada based on population abundance estimates and harvest rates. The management plan consists of two pre-defined regulatory packages:

*Liberal Regime*

When the 3-year running average of the WBPHS (strata 20-40, 75-77) exceeds 3.4 million Mallards, and the 3-year average harvest rate of adult male Mallards banded and shot in prairie Canada is below 5%, liberal harvest regulations will remain in place, or will be prescribed at the next opportunity for regulatory changes. Changes will be in place for at least one regulatory cycle (2 years).

Liberal regulations are defined as:

- a daily bag limit of 8 ducks, for residents and non-residents, 8 of which may be Mallards of either sex
- a maximum season length of 107 days

*Restrictive Regime*

When the 3-year running average of the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (WBPHS; strata 20-40, 75-77) falls below 3.4 million Mallards, and the 3-year average of the harvest rate of adult male Mallards banded and shot in prairie Canada exceeds 5%, restrictive harvest regulations will be prescribed at the next opportunity for regulatory changes. Restrictions on bag limit, hunting season dates, or a combination of the two will be imposed, commensurate with the proportion that the harvest rate threshold has been exceeded. Changes will be in place for at least one regulatory cycle (2 years).

There are two distinct restrictive regimes, and they are defined as:

*Restrictive-1*

Any combination of:

- non-resident daily bag limit of 2-7 ducks (2-7 of which may be Mallards of either sex) and a non-resident season length of 31-107 days

*Restrictive-2*

Any combination of:

- resident daily bag limit of 2-7 ducks (2-7 of which may be Mallards of either sex) and a resident season length of 31-107 days;
- closure of the non-resident season.

Restrictive hunting regulations will only be considered in the event of historically low populations of breeding Mallards, coupled with unusually high harvest levels, which collectively have never been experienced over the monitoring history of this population (Figure 1). In the event of restrictive regulations, non-residents (i.e., non-Canadian residents) will incur restrictions first. Non-residents account for about half the total duck harvest in prairie Canada, and provincial policies (Manitoba Department of Mines, Energy, and Natural Resources 1979, Alberta Fish and Wildlife 1982, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment 2017) prioritize resident hunting opportunity. Following the National Guidelines for Establishing Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations (Canadian Wildlife Service 1982), regulations will not discriminate by provincial/territorial residency of Canadian hunters.

- MONITORING

For population monitoring purposes, Mallard abundance estimates from strata 20-40 and 75-77 from the WBPHS will be used as an index of population size. Mallard populations in prairie Canada undergo annual fluctuations in response to variation in wetland conditions. The lowest 3-year mean population size was 3.4 million (1984-86), and this will represent the low population threshold for the purposes of this harvest management plan, below which hunting restrictions may be considered (Figure 1). Importantly,

the history of monitoring indicates that the population was able to recover to historically high levels after reaching this low in the mid-1980s. The current 3-year mean population size (2017-2019) is 5.49 million Mallards.

Adult male Mallards, banded in prairie Canada in July and August, and recovered in prairie Canada between September 1 and December 21 will be used for monitoring harvest rates. Harvest rates of Mallards in prairie Canada peaked in the late 1960s at 5-6%, declined until the early 1990s, and have been relatively stable at about 1% since then (Figure 1). On a continental scale, harvest rates of adult male Mallards banded in prairie Canada have been relatively stable at about 10% since the early 2000s, but have been greater than 20% during their peak. To determine sample size requirements for Mallard banding to support this harvest management plan, we conducted simulations of precision across various sample sizes using a threshold harvest rate of 5%, and a band reporting rate of 90%. Simulations revealed a coefficient of variation of 10% with ~2500 bandings, and associated 95% CL around a 5% harvest rate were estimated to be  $\pm 0.9\%$  at 2500 bandings. Therefore, the objective is to band 2500 adult male Mallards each year, distributed across prairie Canada.

Harvest rates and breeding population indices will be updated on a biennial basis, and the harvest management plan will be reviewed and, if necessary, updated or modified every 5 years.

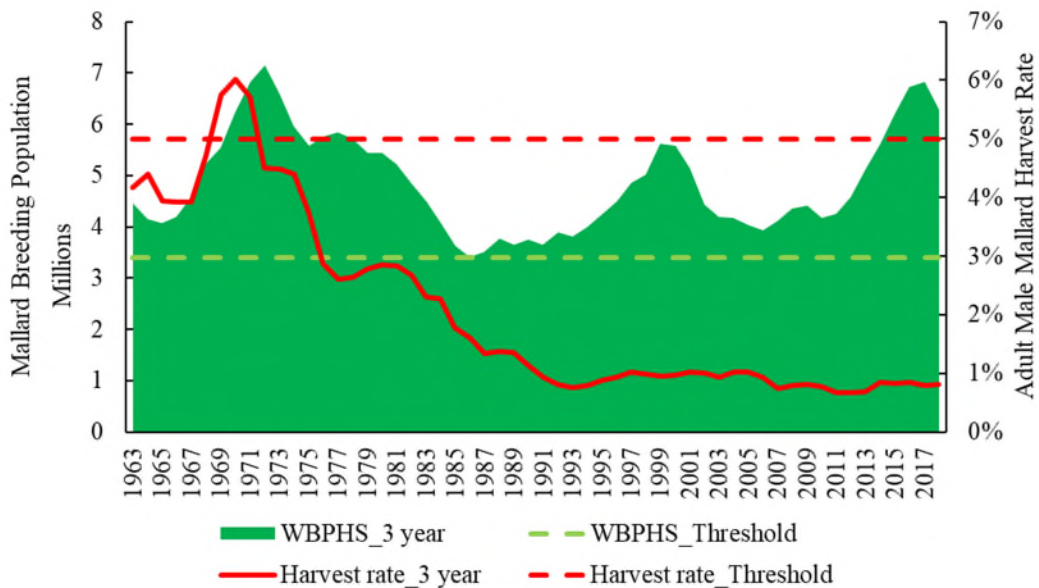


Figure 1. Trends in breeding population size (3-year mean) and harvest rate (adult male; 3-year mean) of Mallards in prairie Canada, in relation to the proposed population threshold (3.4 million) and harvest rate (5%), 1963-2019.

- OBTAIN A COPY OF THE HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

To request a copy of the Harvest Management Plan for Mallards in Prairie Canada or submit comments, please send an email to : [MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca)

- REFERENCES

Alberta Fish and Wildlife. 1982. Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta, 26pp.

Canadian Wildlife Service. 1982. Establishing national regulations for migratory game bird hunting: objectives and guidelines. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations/establishing-national-objectives-guidelines.html>

Canadian Wildlife Service. 1993. Prairie Canada Mallard Harvest Strategy, 16pp.

Manitoba Department of Mines, Energy, and Natural Resources. 1979. Wildlife Policy- General. 4pp.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. 2017. Game Allocation Framework. 8 pp.

## **Eliminating signature requirement for the Migratory Game Bird –Hunting permit (both physical and electronic forms)**

Environment and Climate Change Canada is proposing to eliminate the signature requirement for the Migratory Game Bird Hunting permit (MGBH permit) from the *Migratory Birds Regulations (MBR)*. The expected implementation date of this proposed regulatory amendment would be summer 2022, before August 1, 2022, which is when the MGBH permits become available for sale.

The MBR require that all permits be signed in order for them to be valid. Therefore, everyone who purchases a MGBH permit (physical or electronic) is required to sign it. The MGBH permits are available for purchase either as hard copies (available at many Canada Post outlets and some independent vendors), or electronically through an e-permitting system. The sale of permits electronically (which was put in place in 2014), reduces costs to ECCC associated with the printing, distribution and administration of the physical MGBH permits.

This proposal aims to reduce the administrative costs for the MGBH Permitting program and enhance users experience by removing the need to print the permit (necessary step in order to sign it). It would also be an incentive for hunters to obtain their MGBH permits online through the MGBH e-permitting system, which in turn would improve data for the National Harvest Survey for migratory game bird hunting and provide additional tools for wildlife Enforcement officers.

Your comments are solicited on this proposal.

## **Status update on the modernization of the *Migratory Birds Regulations***

Implemented in 1918, the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (MBR or Regulations) have never been comprehensively updated or revised. As such, the Department is currently undertaking the process of amending the Regulations to:

- increase clarity and facilitate interpretation and compliance by updating outdated language, incorporating current legal standards, eliminating errors, inconsistencies and ambiguities, and restructuring the Regulations;
- ensure that the MBR recognize Aboriginal and treaty harvesting rights according to section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- improve the ability to effectively manage migratory birds in Canada, in particular, by moving from all migratory bird nests being protected year round, for as long as the nests exist, to protection when they have a conservation value for migratory birds, as well as clarifying and introducing provisions to support current and new policy on migratory game bird hunting management;
- address enforcement issues

Consultations were held in 2013-14 with Indigenous groups regarding proposed amendments to the MBR relating to recognition of their section 35 rights and with hunters and hunting organizations regarding the management of migratory game bird hunting. Consultations were also held in 2017 with hunters and hunting organizations on baiting.

These comments were all considered in the development of the regulatory proposal that was published in the [Canada Gazette, Part I](#), on June 1, 2019. A public comment period then took place from June 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019. All comments received are being carefully considered by Environment and Climate Change Canada in the development of the final regulations.

It is anticipated that the final Regulations will be published in the Canada Gazette, Part II in spring 2022 and come into force in July of the same year.

Please note that until such time as the modernized regulations come into force, the current Migratory Birds Regulations remain in place.

## **The Government of Canada Is Allowing the Temporary Possession of Dead Migratory Birds**

The Government of Canada wants to inform the public of a variance to paragraph 6(b) of the Migratory Birds Regulations, to allow for the temporary possession of found dead migratory birds, which is in effect until August 20, 2022 ([Public notice: allowing temporary possession of dead migratory birds - Canada.ca](#)).

As public participation in the study of dead migratory birds is necessary to help conduct surveys on avian viruses, it is permitted to temporarily possess dead migratory birds to allow for swift delivery of such birds to provincial or territorial authorities for analysis. The Government of Canada is responsible, under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, to ensure that migratory birds are protected and conserved, and testing dead birds is believed to be the most effective method available for the detection of avian viruses.

What to do if you find a dead migratory bird:

Contact the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre by visiting the website at [CWHC-RCSF : Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative - Réseau canadien pour la santé de la faune](#) or by telephoning 1-800-567-2033.

Visit the Public Health Agency of Canada website for guidance on precautions to take when handling wild birds [Fact Sheet: Guidance on Precautions for the Handling of Wild Birds - Canada.ca](#)

## **Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit – Optimizing availability to all Canadians**

Point of sale options for Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) permits have evolved over time in order to increase service and optimize availability to hunters. MGBH permits along with the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation (CWHC) Stamps can be purchased:

1. Electronically at [www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/en/](http://www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/en/)
2. At select Canada Post corporation outlets (physical permit) - <https://www.canadapost.ca>
3. At some independent vendors (physical permit) - <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/list-vendors.html>

The MGBH e-Permitting system provides hunters additional convenience and benefits compared to the traditional outlets. The system is accessible to hunters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hunters can purchase a permit including the CWHC stamp online from the comfort and safety of their home, download immediately from the checkout complete page as well as receive electronic copies of the stamp and permit by email. They can print the permit anywhere, and once signed is valid immediately. MGBH permits that were purchased online can also be reprinted if lost or damaged. There have been versions of the Electronic system since 2014 and every year the number of permits purchased online continues to

increase. The current version was successfully launched on August 1, 2019, and since then there have been additional enhancements to increase user satisfaction and to promote a robust MGBH e-Permitting system.

It should also be noted that the MGBH e-permitting purchasing system makes it easier for hunters to respond to the questions on the permit, which help inform the National Harvest Survey. Data from this and other CWS surveys are used to assess the status of migratory game bird populations in Canada, their productivity, their survival rates, and the amount of harvest they can sustain. This information also provides data to inform hunting regulations and harvest management plans for future years.

Physical MGBH Permits continue to be distributed and sold through some Canada Post outlets and a select number of independent vendors. Canada Post is the original MGBH permit vendor and continues to offer them in over 4,000 postal outlets. ECCC works closely with Canada Post to promote communication with outlets and manage inventory and distribution. There are also approximately 50 independent vendors across seven provinces that sell the physical MGBH permits. Examples of vendors include Canadian Tire and Cabela's as well as small local convenience stores and registry offices.

## **Please Report Bird Bands**

- NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING PROGRAM

The North American Bird Banding Program is jointly administered by Canada's Bird Banding Office and the United States' Bird Banding Laboratory. The program relies on the public to report their observations or recoveries of bird bands and other bird markers to the Bird Banding Office. These data help scientists and wildlife managers better understand, monitor and conserve migratory bird populations by providing information on the distribution and movement of species. Although over 1.2 million birds are banded in the US and Canada each year, only about 10 percent of game bird bands are recovered. Your contribution is important!

- HOW TO REPORT BAND

If you see a marked bird you may contribute to the program by reporting birds [online](#) or call toll-free 1-800-327-BAND (2263) to leave a message. Visit the [Report a Banded Bird web page](#) for more details or contact the Bird Banding Office at:

Bird Banding Office  
National Wildlife Research Centre.  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Carleton University  
1125 Colonel By Drive (Raven Rd)  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Email: [ec.bbo.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.bbo.ec@canada.ca)  
Telephone: 613-998-0524

- CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

After your information has been submitted, you will receive a certificate of appreciation by email which will tell you the species of bird, where and when it was banded, its age, whether it was male or female, and who banded it. We will tell the bander where and when the bird or band was found and its condition.



# Appendices

## Appendix A. Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting

(Revised June 1999 and updated December 2001 by the Canadian Wildlife Service Executive Committee)

### A. Description of Regulations

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* are part of the regulations respecting the protection of migratory birds in general, as mandated by the *Migratory Birds Convention*. According to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, the Governor in Council may make regulations providing for:

1. The periods during which, or the geographic areas in which, migratory birds may be killed.
2. The species and number of migratory game birds that a person may kill in any period when doing so is permitted by regulation.
3. The manner in which migratory game birds may be killed and the equipment that may be used.
4. The periods in each year during which a person may have in their possession migratory game birds killed during the season when the taking of such birds was legal, and the number of birds that may be possessed.

This document deals with these four aspects of regulation, although the *Migratory Birds Regulations* deal with other areas as well.

### B. Guiding Principles

Guiding principles for migratory bird hunting regulations include those laid out in the Guidelines for Wildlife Policy in Canada as approved by the Wildlife Ministers at the Wildlife Ministers Conference, September 30, 1982. In particular, the most relevant principles are:

1. The maintenance of viable natural wildlife stocks always takes precedence over their use.
2. Canadians are temporary custodians, not the owners, of their wildlife heritage.
3. Canadians are free to enjoy and use wildlife in Canada, subject to laws aimed at securing its sustainable enjoyment and use.
4. The cost of management essential to preserving viable populations of wildlife should be borne by all Canadians; special management measures required to permit intensive uses should be supported by the users.
5. Wildlife has intrinsic, social and economic values, but wildlife sometimes causes problems that require management.
6. Conservation of wildlife relies upon a well-informed public.

### C. Objectives of the Migratory Game Birds Hunting Regulations

1. To provide an opportunity for Canadians to hunt migratory game birds, by establishing hunting seasons. Guidelines for hunting regulations are described in Section D. Briefly, regulations should be based on a number of features specific to the geographic area under consideration. Factors such as the timing of arrival and departure of migrating birds, the status of local breeding populations, fledging of local broods and completion of the moult of successfully breeding females, and other special issues such as the status of species, should be used to determine the most effective hunting regulations. Sometimes regulations may need to be based on the species

of highest conservation concern.

2. To manage the take of migratory game birds at levels compatible with the species' ability to sustain healthy populations consistent with the available habitat throughout their range.
3. To conserve the genetic diversity within migratory game bird populations.
4. To provide hunting opportunity in various parts of Canada within the limits imposed by the abundance, migration and distribution patterns of migratory bird populations, and with due respect for the traditional use of the migratory game bird resource in Canada.
5. To limit the accidental killing of a migratory game bird species requiring protection because of poor population status, where there is a reasonable possibility that a hunter might confuse that species with another for which there is an open season.
6. To assist, at times and in specific locations, in the prevention of damage to natural habitat or depredation of agricultural crops by migratory game birds.

#### *D. Guidelines for the Regulations on Migratory Game Bird Hunting*

1. Regulations shall be established according to the requirements of the *Migratory Birds Convention* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.
2. Regulations shall address the principles of Section B and the objectives of Section C.
3. Unless needs dictate otherwise, hunting regulations will be changed as little as possible from year to year.
4. Regulations should be simple and readily enforceable.
5. Where a conflict arises between allocation of harvest among jurisdictions and the conservation of migratory game bird populations, the conservation objective shall take precedence.
6. When uncertainty exists about the status of a migratory game bird population, a precautionary approach will be taken in establishing sustainable hunting regulations.
7. Hunting regulations may not discriminate among Canadian hunters based on their province or territory of residence. This guideline does not preclude recognition of Aboriginal rights.
8. Regulations should be consistent in jurisdictions where important concentration areas for staging waterfowl straddle borders.
9. Where possible, regional, national and international harvest strategies will be developed among management agencies that share populations. Regulations will be designed to meet mutual targets for harvest, harvest rate or population size.
10. Specific regulation changes will be developed through a process of co-management and public consultation with other interested groups and individuals.
11. Hunting regulations should be consistent with terms of agreements in Aboriginal land claim settlements.

#### *E. Biennial Regulatory Process*

Regulations may be established in one of two ways: selection of a regulatory package from a pre-established set of possible packages, or through a biannual regulatory consultation process.

##### *Pre-established sets of regulatory alternatives:*

Regulatory alternatives may be pre-established according to the guidelines outlined in section D, with the selection made in any year based on a predetermined set of conditions. For example, a set of three regulatory packages with decreasing harvest rates could be described: liberal, moderate and restrictive. The criteria for selection among the alternatives could be based on the results of population surveys. This method would reduce the time required to conduct the usual process, simplify the implementation of multi-jurisdictional harvest strategies, and increase the predictability of regulations.

*Regulatory process:*

The Minister of the Environment must be in a position to proceed with any changes to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* for the purpose of managing hunting. As a policy decision, the hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed and amended biennially. To ensure that the regulations are made with the best possible advice, a broad process of consultation must be carried out. Reports produced as part of this process may be obtained from Regional Directors, Canadian Wildlife Service, or the Director of Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division at the national office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

1. The National office of the Canadian Wildlife Service publishes a status report on migratory game bird populations in January. This report describes the biological information available to determine the status of each population.
2. Regional officials (biologists and management) of the Canadian Wildlife Service and provincial and territorial wildlife officials consult with non-governmental organizations and interested individuals on issues related to hunting regulations, and every two years the CWS prepares regulatory submissions to amend the regulations. To ensure that all parties have access to the best possible biological information, the *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* report may be used as an aid.
3. The initial suggestions for regulation changes will be developed through regional consultation processes. These processes may vary among regions, but should include active participation by provincial and territorial wildlife agencies, wildlife co-management boards and affected stakeholders. The changes, with rationale and predicted effect (Section F), are described in a regulation report issued at the beginning of January from the national office entitled *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*. This report allows inter-regional and international consideration of proposed changes.
4. Public and organizational comments on the proposals outlined in the *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* report should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, or the Director of Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division at the national office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.
5. Final regulation proposals, incorporating input from the consultations, are submitted from the Regional Directors to the Director of Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division at the national office of the Canadian Wildlife Service, by the end of February.
6. The regulation proposals are moved, by the national office, through the regulatory process for consideration by the government beginning in June.
7. Population surveys are carried out throughout the year. From time to time, these surveys may show an unexpected change in migratory game bird populations that require a sudden revision to the national regulation proposals.
8. The final regulations, as approved by the Governor-in-Council, are described in a report entitled *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada*, which is distributed to all involved parties in July. Each purchaser of a migratory game bird hunting permit receives a summary of the regulations for that province.

*F. Items to Be Addressed in Regulatory Proposals*

Proposals to change migratory game bird hunting regulations should address the following questions:

1. What is the goal of the regulatory change?
2. How does the change address the objectives and guidelines set out in this document?
3. What is the predicted effect of the proposal? An analysis based on existing data sources should be included.
4. How will the actual effect of the regulatory change be measured?

The proposals should be as concise as possible, while still including the required elements. A simplified rationale would apply for regulations that carry out previously negotiated harvest strategies and agreements.

## **Appendix B. Summaries of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations by Province and Territory, 2021-2022 Hunting Season**

See the following pages for the summaries. The summaries are also available on the Government of Canada's website: [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries.html).



# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



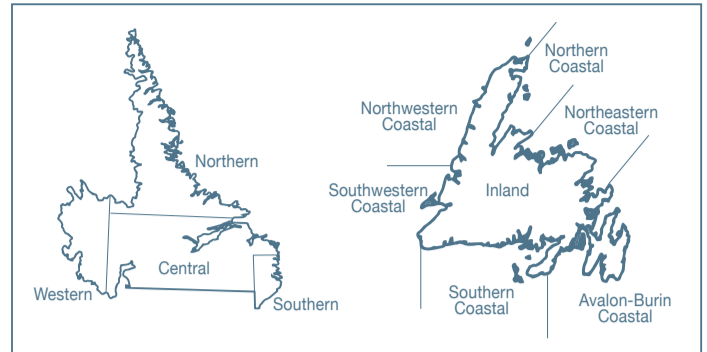
## To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- 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.

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.

## 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. For more information on hunting districts, contact the Provincial Ministry of Fisheries and Land Resources.

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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).

## 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

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

**Murre (turr) hunters:** This hunt is only open to **residents** of Newfoundland and Labrador. Murres are the only migratory bird that can be legally hunted from a boat that is moving due to its motor. Any occupant of a boat who shoots or retrieves murres, or anyone who operates a boat to pursue murres, is hunting as defined in the Migratory Birds Regulations, and is **required** to hold a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp.

## Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for murres (turrs).

## 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.

## 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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or “Échec au crime” in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY AND OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons on the Island of Newfoundland		
	Ducks, including Mergansers (other than Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), Geese and Snipe	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), Geese and Snipe	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters
Northwestern Coastal Zone	Sept. 11	Sept. 18 to Dec. 25	Oct. 10 to Jan. 23	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14
Southwestern, Southern, Avalon-Burin, Northeastern and Northern Coastal Zone	Sept. 11	Sept. 18 to Dec. 25	Oct. 10 to Jan. 23	Nov. 25 to Mar. 10
Newfoundland Inland Zone	Sept. 11	Sept. 18 to Dec. 25	Oct. 10 to Jan. 23	No open season

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limit	Ducks (other than Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	Mergansers	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily Bag	6 (a)	6	6	5	10
Possession	18 (b)	12	12	10	20

(a) Not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye and, during the period beginning on November 30 and ending on December 25, not more than four may be American Black Ducks.

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

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY AND OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in Labrador	
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks and Eiders), Geese and Snipe	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks and Eiders), Geese and Snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	Sept. 4	Sept. 4 to Dec. 18	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8
Western Labrador Zone	Sept. 4	Sept. 4 to Dec. 18	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Sept. 4	Sept. 4 to Dec. 18	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14
Central Labrador Zone	Sept. 4	Sept. 4 to Dec. 18	Oct. 30 to Nov. 27 Jan. 1 to Feb. 28

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limit	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers	Eiders and Scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily Bag	6 (a)	6	6	5	10
Possession	18 (a)	12	12	10	20

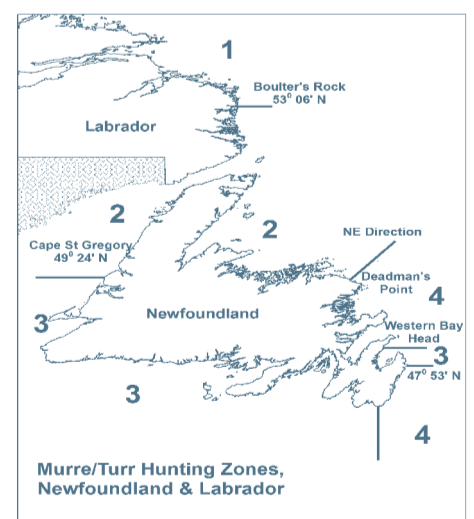
(a) Not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

## OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turres)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zone No. 2	Oct. 6 to Jan. 20
Zone No. 3	Nov. 25 to Mar. 10
Zone No. 4	Nov. 3 to Jan. 10 and Feb. 2 to Mar. 10

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turres)

Limit	Murres
Daily Bag	20
Possession	40



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  
6 Bruce Street  
Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador A1N 4T3  
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767  
[cc.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca](mailto:cc.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)







# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



## 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.

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.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

## 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

## Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

## Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for woodcock.
- 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.

## 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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY AND OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in Prince Edward Island			
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and Geese	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders, and Scoters) and Snipe	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders, and Scoters	Geese	Woodcock
Throughout Prince Edward Island	Sept. 18	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Sept. 7 to Sept. 20 Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Sept. 27 to Dec. 11

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limit	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 Bag	6 (a)	6 (c)	5 (e), (f)	8	10
Possession	18 (b)	12 (d)	16	16	20

(a) Not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye, and during the period beginning on December 1 and ending on December 31, not more than 4 may be Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, or any combination of them.

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

(c) Not more than four Scoters or 4 Eiders may be taken daily.

(d) Not more than eight Scoters or 8 Eiders may be possessed.

(e) Up to three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily from Sept. 7 to Sept. 20.

(f) Not more than three daily during the period beginning on November 15 and ending on December 31.

**Note:** For more information on hunting districts, contact the Prince Edward Island Ministry of Communities, Land and Environment.

**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**  
17 Waterfowl Lane  
P.O. Box 6227  
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6  
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)**





# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



## 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.

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.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

## 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)).

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is restricted; please consult the *Migratory Birds Regulations* for restrictions regarding deposition of bait. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures and minimum required distances from residences and businesses.

National Wildlife Areas located in Nova Scotia are administered under the Canada *Wildlife Act*. Refer to the schedule I.1 of the *Wildlife Area Regulations*, for area-specific rules.

## Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobe.com/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

## Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for woodcock.
- 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.

## 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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY AND OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in Nova Scotia			
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and Geese	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks and Eiders)	Eiders	Geese	Woodcock and Snipe
Zone No. 1	Sept. 18	Oct. 1 to Jan. 7	Nov. 9 to Jan. 7	Sept. 7 to Sept. 21 Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2	Sept. 18	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Nov. 17 to Jan. 15	Sept. 7 to Sept. 27 Oct. 22 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.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limit	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 Bag	6 (a)	5 (c) (d)	5 (g) (h)	8	10
Possession	18 (b)	10 (e) (f)	16	16	20

(a) Not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye. In Zone No. 1, during the period beginning on December 1 and ending on January 7, and in Zone No. 2, during the period beginning on December 8 and ending on January 15, not more than four may be American Black Ducks.

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

(c) Not more than four Scoters may be taken daily.

(d) Not more than two Eiders (1 female) may be taken daily.

(e) Not more than eight Scoters may be possessed.

(f) Not more than four Eiders may be possessed.

(g) In Zone No. 1, up to three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily from September 7 to September 21.

(h) In Zone No. 2, up to three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily from September 7 to September 27.

**Note:** For more information on hunting districts, contact the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry.

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**  
17 Waterfowl Lane  
P.O. Box 6227  
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6  
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)







# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



### 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.

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 Zones

#### Zone No. 1

Saint John County lying 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 area of the Tabusintac River Estuary in Northumberland County; Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open); and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

For more information on hunting zones, contact the New Brunswick Ministry of Energy and Resource Development.

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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).

### 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is restricted; please consult the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, for restrictions regarding deposition of bait. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures and minimum required distances from residences and businesses.

National Wildlife Areas located in New Brunswick are administered under the *Canada Wildlife Act*. Refer to the *Wildlife Area Regulations*, or to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

### Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobeqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

### Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for woodcock.
- 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.

### 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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

### WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY AND OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in New Brunswick				
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and Geese	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders, and Scoters) and Snipe	Geese	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, and Scoters	Eiders	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	Sept. 18	Oct. 15 to Jan. 14	Sept. 7 to Sept. 21 Oct. 15 to Jan. 4	Oct. 15 to Jan. 4 Feb. 1 to Feb. 24	Nov. 6 to Jan. 4	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2	Sept. 18	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Sept. 7 to Sept. 21 Oct. 1 to Dec. 18	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Nov. 2 to Dec. 31	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limit	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 Bag	6 (a)	6 (c) (d)	5 (g)	8	10
Possession	18 (b)	12 (e) (f)	16	16	20

(a) Not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye. In Zone No. 1, during the period beginning on December 15 and ending on January 14, and in Zone No. 2, during the period beginning on December 1 and ending on December 31, not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(c) Not more than 4 Scoters may be taken daily.

(d) Not more than 2 Eiders (1 female) may be taken daily.

(e) Not more than 8 Scoters may be possessed.

(f) Not more than 4 Eiders may be possessed.

(g) Up to 3 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily from September 7 to September 21.

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  
17 Waterfowl Lane  
P.O. Box 6227  
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6  
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)





# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



## 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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 spring special conservation harvest for Snow 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.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

## 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

## Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobeqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

**Shot**

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for woodcock.
- **Non-toxic shot must also be used** to hunt Mourning Dove.
- 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.

**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.

**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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) elsewhere in Canada. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

**WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS AND OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks, Sora or Rails)**

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons				
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), Geese, Woodcock and Snipe, as well as Coots, Gallinules and Mourning Doves	Ducks (other than Eiders, Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks), Geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and Snow Geese) and Snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	Coots and Gallinules	Woodcock and Mourning Doves
District A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 (d)
District B	Sept. 11 (d)	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	Oct. 1 to Jan. 14 (b)	No open season	Sept. 11 to Dec. 25 (d)
Districts C, D, and E	Sept. 11 (d)	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 (c)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 17 (a); Sept. 18 to Dec. 16	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	No open season	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 (d)
District F	Sept. 18	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8 (c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 24 (a); Sept. 25 to Dec. 21	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1
District G	Sept. 18 (d)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14	No open season	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26 (d)

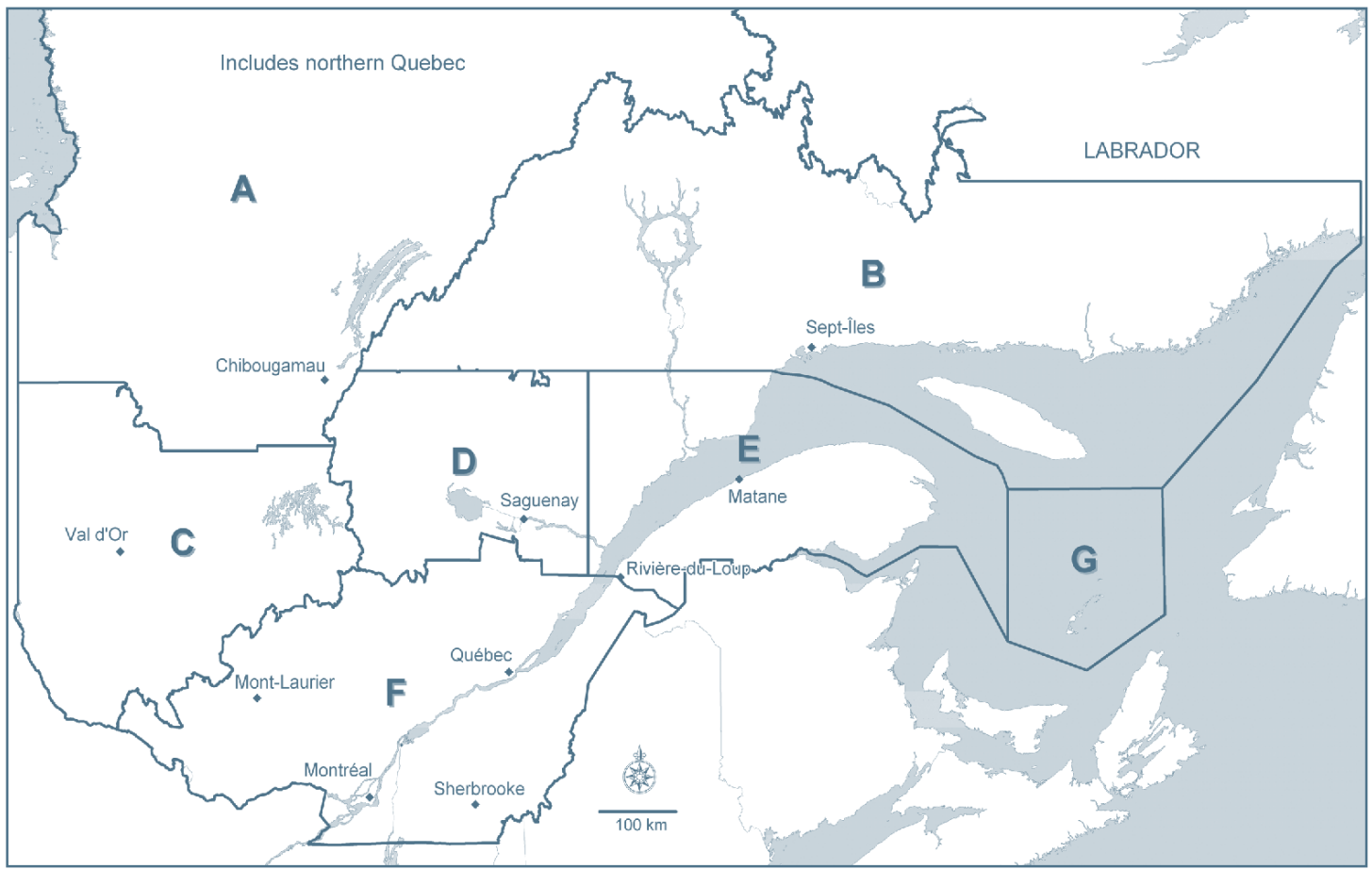
(a) In Districts C, D, E and F, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.

(b) In District B, in the portion of the North Shore west of the Natashquan River, for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks, the hunting seasons are the periods beginning on October 1 and ending on October 24 and beginning on November 15 and ending on February 5.

(c) In District E, the open season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 20 in Provincial Hunting Zone No. 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the open season for Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 20 between Pointe Jureux (Saint-Irénée) and the Gros Cap à l'Aigle (Saint-Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone No. 21.

(d) Hunting for Mourning Doves is allowed only in District F.

## Hunting Districts



### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limit	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) (combined)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese (combined)	Snow Geese	Other Geese (combined)	Coots and Gallinules (combined)	Woodcock	Snipe	Mourning Doves
Daily Bag	6 (a), (b), (f)	5 (d), (g)	20 (f)	5 (f)	4 (f)	8 (e), (f)	10 (f)	8 (f)
Possession	18 (c), (f)	No limit	No limit	15 (f)	12 (f)	24 (f)	30 (f)	24 (f)

(a) In the portion of District F that is south of Route 148 and is west of Highway 15, not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks.

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

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

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

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

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

(g) From September 26 to October 31, the daily bag limit is restricted to:

- 3 in Districts A, C, and the portion of District F that is west of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117;
- 2 in District D and the portion of District F that is east of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117;
- no change in Districts B, E, and G.

### 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 QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 May 1 to June 30	Recorded bird calls (d), (f) Recorded bird calls (d)
District B	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	Recorded bird calls (d), (f)
District C and D	Sept. 1 to Sept. 17 (a) Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 Mar. 1 to May 31 (a)	Recorded bird calls (d), (f) Recorded bird calls (d), (f) Recorded bird calls (d)
District E	Sept. 1 to Sept. 17 (a) Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 Mar. 1 to May 31 (a)	Recorded bird calls (d), (f); bait crop area (e) Recorded bird calls (d), (f); bait crop area (e) Recorded bird calls (d); bait (e)
District F	Sept. 6 to Sept. 24 (a) Sept. 25 to Jan. 8 Mar. 1 to May 31 (a), (b), (c)	Recorded bird calls (d), (f); bait crop area (e) Recorded bird calls (d), (f); bait crop area (e) Recorded bird calls (d); bait (e)
District G	Sept. 25 to Dec. 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 the western limit of the Montmagny municipality and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace municipality, other than in lots 4,598,472, 2,611,981 and 2,611,982 of the cadastre of Quebec (all located in Montmagny municipality).

(c) In District F, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 metres 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 Snow Geese.

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

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

**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**

801-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue

Québec, Québec G1J 0C3

Tel.: 1-800-668-6767

Fax: 418-649-6591

[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)**







# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



## 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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 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.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

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.

## 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

## Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 (includes Mourning Dove), except for woodcock.
- 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.

## 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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

## Waterfowler Heritage Days

Waterfowler Heritage Days are intended for young hunters under 18 years of age. These days provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.



## 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 portions of 1D, 25 and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45' and south of latitude 51°, as well as Wildlife Management Units 2 to 24 inclusive, 27 to 41 inclusive, and 45.

### 3. Central District

Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 inclusive, 46 to 50 inclusive, and 53 to 59 inclusive.

### 4. Southern District

Wildlife Management Units 60 to 95 inclusive.

For more information on Wildlife Management Units, contact the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS AND OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in Ontario				
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Gallinules, Coots, Snipe, Geese, Woodcock and Mourning Doves	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Gallinules, Coots, and Snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Geese (other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese)	Woodcock	Mourning Doves
1. Hudson-James Bay District	Sept. 4 (a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 15 to Dec. 16	No open season
2. Northern District	Sept. 4 (a)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 24	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 15 to Dec. 16	No open season
3. Central District	Sept. 11 (b)	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 15 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 (b)
4. Southern District	Sept. 18 (b)	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8	Sept. 9 to Sept. 19 (c); Sept. 9 to Sept. 19 (except for any Sunday within this period) (d); Sept. 25 to Dec. 29 (c); Sept. 25 to Jan. 8 (except for any Sunday within this period) (d); Feb. 26 to Mar. 5 (except for any Sunday within this period) (d), (e)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 29 (c); Sept. 25 to Jan. 8 (except for any Sunday within this period) (d), (e), (f), (g)	Sept. 15 to Dec. 20 (h); Sept. 25 to Dec. 20 (i)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 (b)

(a) Except for Mourning Doves.

(b) Non-toxic shot required.

(c) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted by provincial regulations.

(d) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted by provincial regulations.

(e) Except in Wildlife Management Unit 94.

(f) In Wildlife Management Unit 65, 66, 67 and 69B, recorded Snow Goose and Ross's Goose calls may be used when hunting those geese; any species of migratory bird for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Goose and Ross's Geese with those calls.

(g) Includes only Snow Goose and Ross's Goose.

(h) In Wildlife Management Units 60-67, 69B.

(i) In Wildlife Management Units 68, 69A, 70-95.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limit	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Other Geese	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Coot and Gallinules	Snipe	Woodcock	Mourning Doves
Daily Bag	6 (a)	5 (c), (d), (e), (f)	20 (g)	5	10 (h)	10	8	15
Possession	18 (b)	No limit	No limit	15	30	30	24	45

(a) Not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye. In the Southern District, not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks, and in the Hudson-James Bay District, Northern District and Central District, not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks.

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

(c) A total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from September 25 to January 8.

(d) A total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 65, 82, 84, 85 and 93 from September 25 to October 29.

(e) Up to five additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in the following Wildlife Management Units:

(i) 8, 10, 13, 36, 37, 39, 41 and 45 from September 1 to September 9;

(ii) 42 to 44 and 46 to 59 from September 1 to September 17;

(iii) 60 to 81, 83, 86 to 92, and 95 from September 9 to September 19; and 60 to 81, 83, and 86 to 92 from February 26 to March 5, in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted.

(f) Up to three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in

(i) Wildlife Management Units 82, 84, 85, 93 and 94 from September 9 to September 19; and

(ii) Wildlife Management Units 82, 84, 85 and 93 from February 26 to March 5, in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted.

(g) Up to 30 additional Snow Geese or Ross's Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in the Hudson-James Bay District.

(h) Not more than four may be Gallinules and not more than 8 may be Coots.

## 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 ONTARIO CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Wildlife Management Unit 65, 66, 67 and 69B	Mar. 1 to May 31 (a)	Recorded bird calls (b)

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

(b) "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](http://www.canada.ca)).**

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

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

4905 Dufferin Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3H 5T4  
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)**





# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

**AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022**



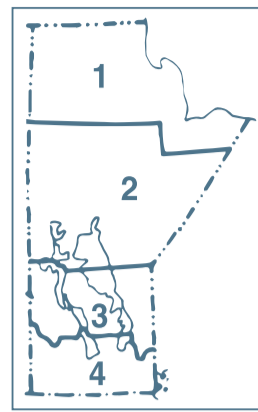
### To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- 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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, and Canada Geese. The Province of Manitoba requires spring Snow Goose and Ross's Goose hunters, and spring Canada Goose hunters to obtain a free electronic license, available at [www.gov.mb.ca/sd/fish\\_and\\_wildlife/wildlife/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/fish_and_wildlife/wildlife/index.html).

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.



### Game Bird Hunting Zones

If you need more information to determine in which zone you are located, please visit:

[www.gov.mb.ca/sd/fish\\_and\\_wildlife/wildlife/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/fish_and_wildlife/wildlife/index.html) or contact the Ministry of Sustainable Development.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

### 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

### Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobeqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

### Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for woodcock.
- 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.

### CRIME STOPPERS

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) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800.

Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

### WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS AND OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Game Bird Hunting Zone	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in Manitoba				
	Ducks, Geese, Coots, Snipe and Sandhill Cranes	Ducks, Geese, Coots and Snipe Residents of Canada	Ducks, Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese, Brant, Coots and Snipe Non-residents of Canada	Sandhill Cranes	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese Non-residents of Canada	American Woodcock
Zone No. 1	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7 (a)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 (a)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 (a)	N/A
Zone No. 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7 (a)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 (a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30 (a)	N/A
Zone No. 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7 (a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 6 (a)	Sept. 24 to Dec. 6	Sept. 1 to Dec. 6	Sept. 17 to Dec. 6 (a)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 6
Zone No. 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7 (a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 6 (a)	Sept. 24 to Dec. 6	Sept. 1 to Dec. 6	Sept. 17 to Dec. 6 (a)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 6

(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.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limit	Ducks Residents of Canada	Ducks Non-residents of Canada	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	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	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe	Woodcock Residents of Canada	Woodcock Non-residents of Canada
Daily Bag	8	8 (a)	50	8 (c)	5 (d) (e)	5	8	10	8	4
Possession	24	24 (b)	No limit	24	15 (f) (g)	15	24	30	24	12

- (a) In Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4, not more than 4 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks or any combination of them.  
 (b) In Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4, not more than 12 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks or any combination of them.  
 (c) In provincial Game Hunting Area 38, as described in the *Hunting Areas and Zones Regulation, 220/86*, of the Province of Manitoba, made under the *Wildlife Act* (C.C.S.M., c. W130), up to 4 additional Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese or Brant, or any combination of them, may be taken daily during the period beginning on September 1 and ending on September 23.  
 (d) Except in Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1, where the limit is 8.  
 (e) Except March 1-31, where the limit is 8 Canada geese.  
 (f) Except in Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1, where the limit is 24.  
 (g) Except March 1-31, where the limit is 24 Canada geese.

**NOTE:** The open season for non-residents of Canada in Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4 and in provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14 and 14A, that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the north limit of Township 33 and Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A and 25, as described in Manitoba's *Hunting Areas and Zones Regulation, 220/86*, of the Province of Manitoba, made under the *Wildlife Act* (C.C.S.M., c. W130), includes:

- in respect of Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date (September 24) up to and including the second Sunday of October (October 10), and, after that period, from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset; and
- in respect of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.

### OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2021*, also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. See the table below for details.

### MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Game Bird Hunting Zone	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be killed	Period during which Canada Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone No. 1	Aug. 15 to Aug. 31 and Apr. 1 to June 15		Recorded bird calls (a)
Zone No. 2	Mar. 15 to May 31		Recorded bird calls (a)
Zones No. 3 and No. 4	Mar. 15 to May 31	Mar. 1 to Mar. 31	Recorded bird calls (a)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2 and column 3.

**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**  
123, Main Street  
Suite 150  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4W2  
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**







# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



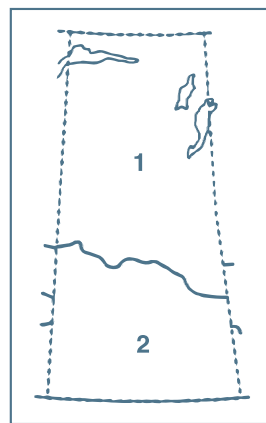
### To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- 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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 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 [www.saskatchewan.ca/hunting](http://www.saskatchewan.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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

### 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

### Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for 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.

**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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

### WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS 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. 4 to Sept. 6 and Oct. 9 to Oct. 11 (b)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 (a), (b)

(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 (a)	5	10	10
Possession	24	No limit	24 (b)	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 (a)

(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, 2021*, 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**  
115 Perimeter Road  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4  
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)**





# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



## 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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 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 Zones

Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations 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 provincial wildlife management units as presented in the Guide.

If you need more information to determine in which zone you are located, please visit: [www.albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/season-wmus.html](http://www.albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/season-wmus.html) or contact the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).

## 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

## Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

## Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds.
- 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.

## CRIME STOPPERS

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) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS AND OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open season
	Ducks, Geese, Coots, Snipe and Sandhill Cranes (a)	Ducks, Geese, Coots, Snipe and Sandhill Cranes (a)
Zone* No. 1	Sept. 4 to Sept. 5 (b)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 (b), (c)
Zone* No. 2	Sept. 4 to Sept. 5 (b)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21 (b), (d)

\* "Zone No. 1" means that part of Alberta included in Wildlife Management Units 200, 202 to 204, 206, 208, 216, 220 to 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 344, 346 to 360, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428 to 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446, 500 to 512, 514 to 532, 534 to 537, 539 to 542, 544, 841, and 936.

"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in Wildlife Management Units 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150 to 152, 156, 158, 160, 162 to 164, 166, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.

(a) Only PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 206, 208, 220, 222, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500 of Zone No. 1 and PWMUs 102, 104, 106, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150 to 152, 156, 158, 160, 162 to 164, 166, and 210 in Zone No. 2 are included in the season for Sandhill Cranes.

(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.

(c) Falconry season open from September 1 to December 16.

(d) Falconry season open from September 8 to December 21.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limit	Ducks	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily Bag	8 (a)	50	8 (c)	5	8	8
Possession	24 (b)	No limit	24 (d)	15	24	24

(a) For non-residents of Canada, not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye or any combination of them.

(b) For non-residents of Canada, not more than six may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye or any combination of them.

(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) 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 ALBERTA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Throughout Alberta	March 15 to June 15	Recorded bird calls (a)

(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](http://www.canada.ca)).

You may also direct your questions to:

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**  
**Canadian Wildlife Service**  
 9250-49 Street  
 Edmonton, Alberta T6B 1K5  
 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)







# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

**AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022**

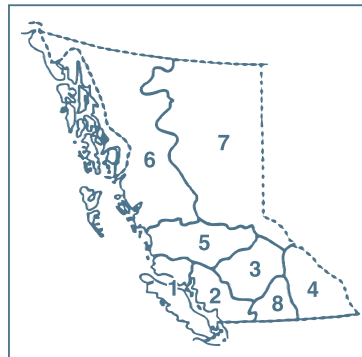


## To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- 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.

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.



For more information on hunting districts, contact the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

## Hunting Districts

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

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

## 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

## Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during 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.

## Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves.
- 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.

## CRIME STOPPERS

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) or “Échec au crime” in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS AND OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open season					
	Ducks and Geese	Ducks, Coots and Snipe	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Other Geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared-Doves
No. 1	Oct. 2 and Oct. 3	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21 (a); Sept. 4 to Sept. 12 (b), (c), (d); Oct. 9 to Nov. 21 (b), (c), (d); Dec. 18 to Jan. 9 (b), (c), (d); and Feb. 10 to Mar. 10 (b), (c), (d)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Oct. 2 and Oct. 3 (e), (f)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21 (c) (e)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 2 (e) and Feb. 20 to Mar. 10 (e)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21 (e), (g); Sept. 4 to Sept. 12 (c), (d), (e); Oct. 9 to Nov. 21 (c), (d), (e); Dec. 18 to Jan. 9 (c), (d), (e); and Feb. 10 to Mar. 10 (c), (d), (e)	Mar. 1 to Mar. 10 (c), (h)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30 (e)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 4 and Sept. 5	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23 (g); Sept. 10 to Sept. 20 (d); Oct. 1 to Dec. 23 (d); and Mar. 1 to Mar. 10 (d)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30 (i)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 4 and Sept. 5	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. 11 and Sept. 12	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. 4 and Sept. 5	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, except during Waterfowler Heritage Days (j); Oct. 1 to Jan. 13 (k)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, except during Waterfowler Heritage Days (j); Oct. 1 to Jan. 13 (k)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, except during Waterfowler Heritage Days (j); Oct. 1 to Jan. 13 (k)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 7	Sept. 1 and Sept. 2 (l); Sept. 11 and Sept. 12 (m)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30 (l); Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, except during Waterfowler Heritage Days (m)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30 (l); Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, except during Waterfowler Heritage Days (m)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30 (l); Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, except during Waterfowler Heritage Days (m)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 4 and Sept. 5	Sept. 23 to Jan. 5	Sept. 23 to Jan. 5	Sept. 23 to Jan. 5 (g); Sept. 20 to Nov. 28 (d); Dec. 20 to Jan. 5 (d); and Feb. 21 to Mar. 10 (d)	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30

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

(b) PMUs 1-1, 1-2, and 1-4 to 1-7 inclusive.

(c) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.

(d) For Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(e) PMUs 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive.

(f) Excluding Brant.

(g) For White-fronted Geese only.

(h) PMU 2-4 only.

(i) PMUs 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive.

(j) PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive.

(k) PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive.

(l) PMUs 7-19 to 7-22 inclusive, 7-31 to 7-36 inclusive, and 7-42 to 7-58 inclusive.

(m) PMUs 7-2 to 7-18 inclusive, 7-23 to 7-30 inclusive, and 7-37 to 7-41 inclusive.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limit	Ducks	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese)	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese)	Brant	Coots	Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared-Doves
Daily Bag	8 (a), (b), (c), (d)	5 (i)	5 (k), 10 (l)	3 (m)	10	10	5	5 (n)
Possession	24 (e), (f), (g), (h)	15 (j)	15 (k), 30 (l)	9 (m)	30	30	15	15 (n)

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

(b) Not more than two may be Canvasbacks.

(c) Not more than two may be Goldeneyes.

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

(e) Not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails.

(f) Not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks.

(g) Not more than six may be Goldeneyes.

(h) Not more than six may be Harlequin Ducks.

(i) In PMUs 2-4 and 2-5, up to 15 White Geese including not more than five Ross's Geese may be taken daily and in PMUs 2-2 and 2-3 and 2-6 to 2-19 inclusively, up to 10 White Geese including not more than 5 Ross's Geese may be taken daily.

(j) In PMUs 2-4 and 2-5, up to 45 White Geese including not more than 15 Ross's Geese may be possessed and in PMUs 2-2 and 2-3 and 2-6 to 2-19 inclusively, up to 30 White Geese including not more than 15 Ross's Geese may be possessed daily.

(k) For White-fronted Geese only.

(l) Any combination of Canada Geese and Cackling Geese.

(m) PMU 2-4.

(n) Any combination of Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared-Doves.

**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**  
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre  
R.R. 1, 5421 Robertson Road  
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2  
Tel.: 604-350-1950  
Toll free: 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)**





# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



**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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 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.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

**If you are hunting on private lands** within an area with a settled land claim, you must ask permission first.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

**Enforcement**

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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.

**CRIME STOPPERS**

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) or “Échec au crime” in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

**OPEN SEASON IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Area	Ducks, Geese, Coots and Snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	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.

**BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

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	8	15	5 (a)	50	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10 (a)	No limit	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than 2 White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than 4.

**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 THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES**

Area	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Banks Island, Victoria Island and Queen Elizabeth Islands	May 1 to June 30	Recorded bird calls (a)
Throughout Northwest Territories except Banks Island, Victoria Island and Queen Elizabeth Islands	May 1 to May 28	Recorded bird calls (a)

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

**NOTE:** 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)**







# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



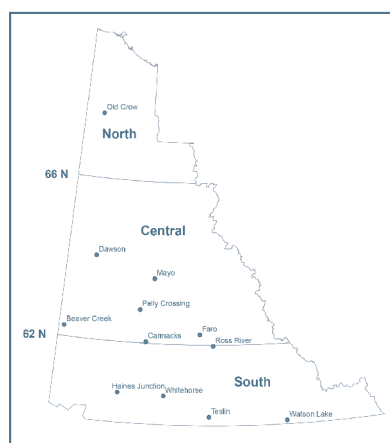
### To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- 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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 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 Zones

**Northern Yukon territory:** all that portion of Yukon lying north of latitude 66°N

**Central Yukon territory:** all that portion of Yukon lying between latitude 62° and 66°N

**Southern Yukon territory:** all that portion of Yukon lying south of latitude 62°N

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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).

### 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

### Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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.

### CRIME STOPPERS

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) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

### OPEN SEASONS IN YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and Coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory (a) Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory (a)	No open season	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory
Central Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory (a) Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory (a)	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of Yukon territory Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of Yukon territory
Southern Yukon territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 (a)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

(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.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN YUKON TERRITORY

Limit	Ducks	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and Coots	Snipe
Daily Bag	8 (a)	5 (b)	50	2	0 (c)	10
Possession	24 (a)	15 (b)	No limit	4	0 (c)	30 (d)

(a) Except that in Northern Yukon territory, 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(b) Except that in Northern Yukon territory, 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(c) Except that in Central Yukon territory and Northern Yukon territory, 25 Rails and Coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(d) Except that in Northern Yukon territory, there is no possession limit.

### 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 YUKON TERRITORY CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Throughout Yukon territory	May 1 to May 28	Recorded bird calls (a)

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

**NOTE:** 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**  
91780 Alaska Highway  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5X7  
Tel.: 867-393-6700  
Toll free: 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)







# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021  
TO JULY 2022



## 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 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 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.

**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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html)).**

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

## 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/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html)).

## Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties 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.

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* 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 fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (<https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html>).



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 of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800. 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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)**

