



Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2023
TO JULY 2024



Notice: Avian influenza virus (AIV) is a contagious viral infection that can affect domestic and wild birds throughout the world. Guidelines have been developed to prevent or mitigate the spread of this virus, and for precautionary measures to take when handling wild game. For more information, please refer to www.canada.ca/Avian-flu and the *Wildlife and Avian Influenza – Handling Guidelines to Protect Your Health* web page on the Government of Canada website.

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

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

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

The 2023 federal permit is also valid for the 2024 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 your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit by visiting the Government of Canada website (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca)

It is no longer required to sign the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit (both physical and electronic forms). This allows you to carry your permit in a digital format, such as on a mobile device. If you choose to carry your permit on your mobile device, it must be in the PDF format provided by the e-permitting system (a photograph or screenshot of your permit is not valid). It is also your responsibility to be able to show the permit to a game officer immediately upon request.

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.

Youth Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) Permit

Hunters who are minors (less than 18 years old) have the option to hunt with a Youth MGBH permit. The Youth MGBH permit, as well as the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation stamp, can only be obtained through our online purchasing system, free of charge. The Youth MGBH permit is not available for purchase from independent vendors.

The Youth MGBH permit provides young hunters with the opportunity to practice their skills under the supervision of an adult mentor (in possession of a MGBH Permit) throughout the full open season and the special conservation season, and provides Youth MGBH Permit holders with their own daily bag and possession limits.

Mentors must possess their own MGBH permit, must have held such a permit in a previous year, and may accompany no more than two youth hunters. Mentors may carry a firearm, and may hunt. For more information on the new rules pertaining to hunting migratory game birds in the modernized *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*, please consult the Government of Canada *Migratory Game Bird Hunting* website.

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.



Game officers enforce the federal MBCA throughout Canada. This law regulates human activities such as hunting that could adversely affect long-term wildlife conservation. Individuals may be subject to a minimum penalty of \$5000 if they are found liable for committing an offence on summary conviction. For any questions, please contact Wildlife Enforcement by the telephone or email found with the regional office address at the end of this summary.

Shot

- Lead shot is toxic to wildlife and the environment.
- In the Northwest Territories, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting 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.

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

Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in the Northwest Territories

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Throughout the Northwest Territories	All ducks, combined	September 1 to December 10	25 for residents of Canada	No limit for residents of Canada
			8 for non-residents of Canada	16 for non-residents of Canada
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to December 10	15 for residents of Canada	No limit for residents of Canada
			5 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 2 may be White-fronted Geese)	10 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 4 may be White-fronted Geese)
	Coots	September 1 to December 10	25	No limit
	Snipe	September 1 to December 10	10	No limit for residents of Canada
				20 for non-residents of Canada

Special Measures for Overabundant Species in the Northwest Territories

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Banks Island and the portions of Victoria Island and of the Queen Elizabeth Islands that are in the Northwest Territories	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 10	50	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting those species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		May 1 to June 30			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
Throughout the Northwest Territories except Banks Island, Victoria Island and Queen Elizabeth Islands	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 10	50	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting those species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		May 1 to May 28			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.

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, 2022*, the frequently asked questions for hunters, and other information on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).

You may also direct your questions to:

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

Regional Office

5019, 52 Street
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2P7
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

Report your Migratory Bird Bands:
Call **1-800-327-BAND (2263)** to leave a message or go to:
www.reportband.gov

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