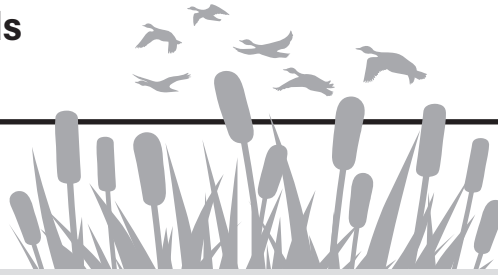




Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

August 2024
to July 2025



Notice: Avian influenza virus 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 2024 federal permit is also valid for the 2025 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.manitobaecensing.ca/.

Hunting Zones

Zone No. 1 means the portion of Manitoba lying north of latitude 57°N and the portion lying east of longitude 94°W and north of latitude 56°N.

Zone No. 2 means the portion of Manitoba lying between Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1 and the following line: commencing at the intersection of the boundary between Manitoba and Saskatchewan and latitude 53°N; from there easterly along that parallel of latitude to the east shore of Lake Winnipegosis; from there southeasterly along the shoreline of that lake to the northern limit of Township 43; from there easterly along the northern limit of that township to the boundary between Manitoba and Ontario.

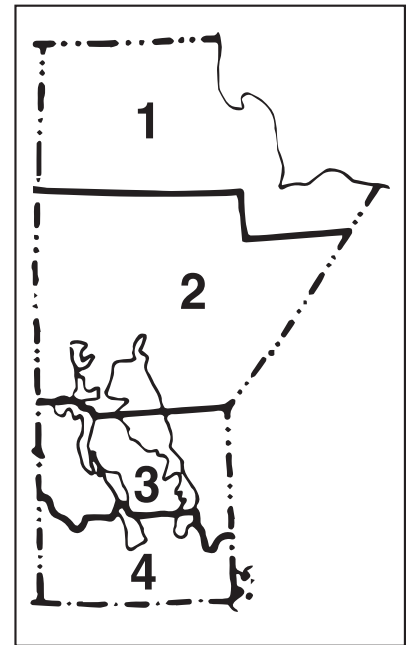
Zone No. 3 means the portion of Manitoba lying between Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 2 and Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4.

Zone No. 4 means Provincial Game Hunting Areas No. 22, 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 27, 28, 29, 29A, 30, 31, 31A, 32, 33, 34, 34A, 34B, 34C, 35, 35A, 36 and 38 as described in *Manitoba's Hunting Areas and Zones Regulation*, M.R. 220/86, made under *The Wildlife Act*, C.C.S.M., c. W130.

Refer to the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* for restrictions and requirements for items such as baiting, hunting methods and equipment.

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 and municipality where you will be hunting. Restrictions such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses for the discharge of firearms may be applicable. The province of Manitoba has introduced new restrictions on foreign resident hunters. For more information, please refer to www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/wildlife/mbwaterfowl.html.

You can purchase your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit by visiting the Government of Canada website (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca). Hunters may carry their Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) permit either in physical (paper) or electronic formats (such as on a mobile device). Electronic MGBH permits must be in the PDF format provided by the e-permitting system (a photograph or screenshot of your permit is not valid). It is the hunter's responsibility to be able to show all required permits to a game officer immediately upon request.



Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

A national consultation process has been developed which includes a report on the population status of migratory game birds and a consultation document that provide an opportunity to participate in developing the 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 permitting system, free of charge. The Youth MGBH permit is not available for purchase from independent vendors or Canada Post.

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



Federal game officers enforce the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) and its associated regulations throughout Canada. This law regulates human activities, such as hunting, that could adversely affect wildlife conservation. Game officers may use warnings, administrative monetary penalties, tickets or prosecutions to enforce the provisions of the MBCA and its regulations. The fines and penalties that may be imposed reflect the seriousness of the offence(s). Individuals may be subject to a fine range for a first offence associated to sections of the MBR, 2022 designated for the purposes of paragraph 13(1)(c) of the MBCA, 1994 on summary conviction of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$300,000, or imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or both.

Shot

- Lead shot is toxic to wildlife and the environment.
- In Manitoba, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds other than woodcock.
- Within National Wildlife Areas (NWA) that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Refer to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* to know which NWAs allow hunting and for the restrictions or requirements when conducting this activity.

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). 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 Manitoba

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1	All ducks, combined	September 1 to October 31	8	24
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to October 31	8	24
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to October 31	8	24
	Woodcock	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Snipe	September 1 to October 31	10	30
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 2	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only September 8 to November 30	8	24
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 8 to November 30	8 for residents of Canada 5 for non-residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada 15 for non-residents of Canada
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only September 8 to November 30	8	24
	Woodcock	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Snipe	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only September 8 to November 30	10	30

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 3	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	8	24
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	8	24
			8 for residents of Canada 5 for non-residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada 15 for non-residents of Canada
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to December 6	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	8	24
	Woodcock	September 8 to December 6	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada 12 for non-residents of Canada
			10	30
Snipe	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	10	30	
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	8	24
			8 for residents of Canada 8 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 4 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in any combination)	24 for residents of Canada 24 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 12 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in any combination)
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	8 (plus an additional 4 in Provincial Game Hunting Area 38)	24
			8 for residents of Canada 5 for non-residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada 15 for non-residents of Canada
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to December 6	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	8	24
	Woodcock	September 8 to December 6	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada 12 for non-residents of Canada
	Snipe	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only September 24 to December 6	10	30

Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Manitoba

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	August 15 to August 31	50	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
		September 1 to October 31			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.
		April 1 to June 15			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 2	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	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.
		September 8 to November 30			
		March 15 to May 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 3	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 16, for residents of Canada only September 17 to December 6	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.
		March 15 to May 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Canada Geese may be used. While hunting Canada Geese with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
	Canada Geese	March 1 to April 10	8	24	Electronic bird calls of Canada Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 16, for residents of Canada only September 17 to December 6	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.
		March 15 to May 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Canada 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.
	Canada Geese	March 1 to April 10	8	24	Electronic bird calls of Canada Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.

Note: During the period that begins on the first day of an open season up to and including the second Sunday of October set out in the above table "Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds" in respect of Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese or Brant,— in those parts of Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4 or in Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14 and 14A, that portion of Area 16 south of the north limit of Township 33 and Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A and 25 —hunters that are non-residents of Canada may only hunt those species from half an hour before sunrise until noon local time.

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