

# Proposals to Amend the **Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations - Hunting Seasons 2024-25 and 2025-26**

Consultation document



Canadian Wildlife Service  
Waterfowl Technical Committee  
CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory  
Report **Number 59**



Environment and  
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Canada

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For more information on migratory birds, please visit the Government of Canada's website:  
[Migratory bird conservation - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/migratory-bird-conservation)

### **Cover Art**

The 2023 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp image, entitled “Boreal Mist – Ring-necked ducks” features the Ring-necked duck. It is a creation of the Canadian wildlife artist Isabelle Collin.

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# Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations

## Consultation Document Hunting Seasons 2024-25 and 2025-26

### Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Technical Committee CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report - Number 59

#### Authors

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Technical Committee. The main author of this document is Renée Bergeron of the Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division in the Wildlife Management Directorate of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

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#### Consultation

The public consultation period is from January 13 to February 12, 2024. During this period, public comments are solicited on the proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* for the establishment of the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 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 in the Wildlife Management Directorate 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 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 proposed hunting regulations specific to a region should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Regional Operations Directorate, 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:

[Migratory birds regulatory report series.](#)

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## 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 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, 2022*. 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 of this report or visit the web site [Establishing national regulations for migratory game bird hunting: objectives and guidelines - Canada.ca](#)). 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: [Migratory birds regulatory report series](#).

Regulatory proposals described in the current document, if approved, would be in place starting in September 2024 and remain in effect through winter 2025. There is no proposed change to the special conservation measures for overabundant geese for spring 2025 and spring 2026 (note that the regulations for spring 2024 were made into law as part of the fall 2021 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.
- September and October – 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) based on the value of Black Ducks to both countries and the ability of each country to affect harvest. The objectives of the Strategy, based on the principles of adaptive harvest management (AHM), 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.

In 2022, the strategy was evaluated by partners to ensure that its objectives were achieved. Based on this evaluation, a number of parameters used in the AHM framework were updated. First, the spatial extent of spring survey data used to calculate the abundance of breeding Black Ducks in the integrated population model expanded from the core survey area (Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey [WBPHS] strata 51, 52, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, and 72) to eastern Canada (WBPHS strata 51–53, 56, 62–72). Second, the definition of an “indicated pair” changed from 1.5 to 1.0 based on an updated analysis of observation data from Quebec and New Jersey from 1990-2009. Prior to 2023, one “indicated pair” was defined as 1.5 pairs based on sex-specific observations that showed approximately 50% of historical observed groups of two birds were male-male and 50% were male-female. For the “indicated pair” calculation, a male-female group equals one “indicated pair” while a male-male group equals two; therefore, two “unknown sex” bird groups equaled 1.5. Updated analysis of observation data showed that this calculation is now 1.0. Third, the effect of Mallard competition on Black Ducks has been removed from the AHM framework based on an evaluation of the Mallard competition model versus a model with only random effects. These results showed no appreciable difference in the predictive capacity of the Mallard model and, as such, the parameter that accounts for Mallard competition has been removed. Fourth, band reporting rates were updated, which subsequently updated the value of the harvest additivity parameter.

The strategy continues to identify appropriate Black Duck harvest levels in Canada and the U.S. based on the size of the breeding population while maintaining equity in the harvest 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 before a strong penalty is applied under the parity constraint. During the evaluation of the strategy in 2022, the parity constraint was also assessed, which showed that the current difference in predicted harvest rates between Canada and the U.S. would trigger a strong restriction penalty to U.S. hunters, even though Canada is under a liberal regulatory option. Given this result does not align with the original intent of the parity constraint, for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 policy optimization, the parity constraint was temporarily modified so that if one country was under its most liberal regulatory package, the other country would not be penalized by the constraint. To further address the parity issue, Canada is also proposing to modify its province-specific Black Duck harvest regulations implemented under the Liberal regulatory package.

The strategy, used to determine the appropriate Black Duck harvest regulations, 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 has 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 regulatory 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.

As part of the evaluation of the strategy, each regulatory package is evaluated after at least three years of implementation before changes to that specific regulatory package will be considered. Over the past five years, province-specific harvest regulations implemented under the Liberal regulatory package have not been able to achieve the expected 30% increase in harvest rate for Black Ducks in Canada. As a result, it is proposed to modify the harvest regulations for Black Ducks in each province in an attempt to increase harvest rate to levels prescribed within the strategy. As per the strategy, 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.

The optimal Canadian policy recommendation for the 2024-2025 hunting season is the liberal regulatory package. This recommendation is based on long-term trend in the Black Duck breeding population in eastern Canada as well as the estimated effect of hunting on 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.

## **Management of Overabundant Geese**

### **Seasons 2024-2025 and 2025-2026**

There is no proposed change for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese as well as Temperate-breeding Canada Goose population in southern Manitoba.

The special conservation measures for Snow Geese, Ross's Geese and the Manitoba Temperate-breeding population of Canada Geese that were implemented in past regulatory cycles will continue to be in effect in spring 2024. They are included in Appendix B and posted on the Government of Canada's website : [Hunting regulations for migratory birds: provincial and territorial summaries - Canada.ca](https://www24.international.gc.ca/birds/birds-eng.aspx)

## **Proposed Changes to Hunting Regulations for the 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 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 2023-2024 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations are available in Appendix B of this report and posted on the Government of Canada's website: [Hunting regulations for migratory birds: provincial and territorial summaries - Canada.ca](https://www24.international.gc.ca/birds/birds-eng.aspx)



## Newfoundland and Labrador

- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK INTERNATIONAL HARVEST STRATEGY – UPDATED HUNTING REGULATIONS UNDER THE LIBERAL REGULATORY PACKAGE

**It is proposed to** remove the late season American Black Duck harvest restrictions (not more than four ducks in the daily bag limit) throughout Newfoundland and allow the harvest of six American Black Ducks per day for the entire proposed 107-day season. These changes are consistent with the target harvest rate of American Black Ducks under the liberal regulatory package as per the International Black Duck Harvest Strategy. Current American Black Duck hunting regulations in Canada result in a harvest rate much lower than the maximum allowed in the liberal package. This proposal was supported by the Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Working Group, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils, as well as, at the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee meeting in October 2023. Similar increases are also proposed for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as well as for Quebec and Ontario.

- INCREASE SEASON LENGTH AND CHANGE GENERIC SEASON DATES TO FIXED DATES FOR DUCK, GEESE AND SNIPE

**It is proposed to** change all waterfowl (ducks and geese) and snipe opening and closing hunting season dates in Newfoundland and Labrador from generic dates to fixed calendar dates. Further, it is proposed to increase the number of waterfowl and snipe hunting days to the maximum allowable of 107 days. These measures would allow for up to seven more hunting days. Further, one additional day is added to compensate for the removal of the Waterfowl Heritage Day. Finally, it is proposed to add an eider season to Western Labrador Zone. The proposed season dates by hunting zone for Newfoundland and Labrador are presented in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. All these changes would simplify the regulations and provide more hunting opportunities for hunters. It is not expected that these changes would result in an appreciable increase in harvest and will be monitored through the National Harvest Survey. This proposal was supported by the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee at a meeting in October 2023.

Table 1: Proposed changes to the season dates in Newfoundland hunting zones for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 hunting seasons

Species	Current Opening and Closing Season Dates	Proposed Opening and Closing Season Dates
<b>Northwestern Coastal NFL Zone</b>		
Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	November 1 to February 14	November 1 to February 15
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers	October 10 to January 23	October 10 to January 24
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31
All geese	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31
Snipe	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31
<b>Northern Coastal NFL Zone / Southern Coastal NFL Zone / Southwestern Coastal NFL Zone / Northeastern Coastal NFL Zone / Avalon-Burin Coastal NFL Zone</b>		
Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	November 25 to March 10	November 24 to March 10
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers	October 10 to January 23	October 10 to January 24
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31
All geese	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31
Snipe	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31

<b>Inland NFL Zone</b>		
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers	October 10 to January 23	October 10 to January 24
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31
All geese	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31
Snipe	The third Saturday of September to the last Saturday of December	September 16 to December 31

Table 2. Proposed changes to the season dates in Labrador hunting zones for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 hunting seasons

<b>Species</b>	<b>Current Opening and Closing Season Dates</b>	<b>Proposed Opening and Closing Season Dates</b>
<b>Northern Labrador Zone</b>		
Scoters	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Eiders	The last Saturday of September to the first Sunday after January 7	September 26 to January 10
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
All geese	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Snipe	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
<b>Western Labrador Zone</b>		
Scoters	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Eiders	No open season	September 1 to December 16
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
All geese	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Snipe	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
<b>Southern Labrador Zone</b>		
Scoters	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Eiders	November 1 to February 14	November 1 to February 15
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
All geese	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Snipe	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
<b>Central Labrador Zone</b>		

Scoters	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Eiders	i) The last Saturday of October to the last Saturday of November ii) The first Saturday of January to the last day of February	October 25 to November 30 December 21 to February 28
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
All geese	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16
Snipe	The first Saturday of September to the third Saturday of December	September 1 to December 16

**Prince Edward Island**

- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK INTERNATIONAL HARVEST STRATEGY – UPDATED HUNTING REGULATIONS UNDER THE LIBERAL REGULATORY PACKAGE

**It is proposed to** remove the late season American Black Duck harvest restrictions (not more than four ducks in the daily bag limit) throughout Prince Edward Island and allow the harvest of six American Black Ducks for the entire proposed 107-day season. These changes are consistent with the target harvest rate of American Black Ducks under the liberal regulatory package as per the International Black Duck Harvest Strategy. Current American Black Duck hunting regulations in Canada result in a harvest rate much lower than the maximum allowed in the liberal package. This proposal was supported by the Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Working Group, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils, as well as, at the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee meeting in October 2023. Similar increases are also proposed for Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as well as for Quebec and Ontario.

- INCREASE SEASON LENGTH FOR DUCKS

**It is proposed to** increase the number of duck hunting dates to the maximum allowable of 107 days throughout Prince Edward Island. The seasons would be increased by 15 days (Table 3). These changes would provide more hunting opportunities for hunters. It is not expected that the increase in season length would result in an appreciable increase in harvest and will be monitored through the National Harvest Survey. This proposal was supported by the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee at a meeting in October 2023.

Table 3. Proposed changes to the season dates throughout Prince Edward Island for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 hunting seasons

Species	Current Opening and Closing Season Dates	Proposed Opening and Closing Season Dates
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	October 1 to December 31	October 1 to January 15
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	October 1 to December 31	October 1 to January 15

## Nova Scotia

- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK INTERNATIONAL HARVEST STRATEGY – UPDATED HUNTING REGULATIONS UNDER THE LIBERAL REGULATORY PACKAGE

**It is proposed to** remove the late season American Black Duck harvest restrictions (not more than four ducks in the daily bag limit) throughout Nova Scotia and allow the harvest of six American Black Ducks for the entire proposed 107-day season. These changes are consistent with the target harvest rate of American Black Ducks under the liberal regulatory package as per the International Black Duck Harvest Strategy. Current American Black Duck hunting regulations in Canada result in a harvest rate much lower than the maximum allowed in the liberal package. This proposal was supported by the Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Working Group, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils, as well as, at the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee meeting in October 2023. Similar increases are also proposed for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick as well as for Quebec and Ontario.

- INCREASE SEASON LENGTH FOR DUCKS AND ADVANCE EIDER SEASON

**It is proposed to** increase the number of duck hunting dates to the maximum allowable of 107 days throughout Nova Scotia. The duck seasons would be increased by up to eight days. It is also proposed to change the eider season to align open season dates between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (Table 4). These changes would provide more hunting opportunities for hunters. It is not expected that these measures would result in an appreciable increase in harvest and will be monitored through the National Harvest Survey. This proposal was supported by the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee at a meeting in October 2023.

Table 4. Proposed changes to the season dates in Nova Scotia hunting zones for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 hunting seasons

Species	Current Opening and Closing Season Dates	Proposed Opening and Closing Season Dates
<b>Zone No 1</b>		
Eiders	November 9 to January 7	November 2 to December 31
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks and Scoters	October 1 to January 7	October 1 to January 15
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	October 1 to January 7	October 1 to January 15
<b>Zone No 2</b>		
Eiders	November 17 to January 15	November 2 to December 31
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks and Scoters	October 8 to January 15	October 8 to January 22
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	October 8 to January 15	October 8 to January 22

## New Brunswick

- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK INTERNATIONAL HARVEST STRATEGY – UPDATED HUNTING REGULATIONS UNDER THE LIBERAL REGULATORY PACKAGE

It is proposed to remove the late season American Black Duck harvest restrictions (not more than four ducks in the daily bag limit) throughout New Brunswick and allow the harvest of six American Black Ducks for the entire proposed 107-day season. These changes are consistent with the target harvest rate of American Black Ducks under the liberal regulatory package as per the International Black Duck Harvest

Strategy. Current American Black Duck hunting regulations in Canada result in a harvest rate much lower than the maximum allowed in the liberal package. This proposal was supported by the Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Working Group, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils, as well as, at the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee meeting in October 2023. Similar increases are also proposed for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia as well as for Quebec and Ontario.

- INCREASE SEASON LENGTH FOR DUCKS AND ADVANCE EIDER SEASON

**It is proposed to** increase the number of duck hunting dates to the maximum allowable of 107 days throughout New Brunswick. The duck seasons would be increased by up to 15 days. It is also proposed to change the eider season to align open season dates within New Brunswick and between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Table 5). These changes would provide more hunting opportunities for hunters. It is not expected that these measures would result in an appreciable increase in harvest and will be monitored through the National Harvest Survey. This proposal was supported by the Atlantic Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee at a meeting in October 2023.

Table 5. Proposed changes to the season dates in New Brunswick hunting zones for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 hunting seasons

Species	Current Opening and Closing Season Dates	Proposed Opening and Closing Season Dates
<b>Zone No 1</b>		
Eiders	November 6 to January 4	November 2 to December 31
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks and Scoters	October 15 to January 4 February 1 to February 24	October 15 to January 5 February 1 to February 24
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	October 15 to January 14	October 15 to January 29
<b>Zone No 2</b>		
Eiders	November 2 to December 31	No change
Common and Redbreasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks and Scoters	October 1 to December 31	October 1 to January 15
Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Longtailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	October 1 to December 31	October 1 to January 15

## Quebec

- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK INTERNATIONAL HARVEST STRATEGY – UPDATED HUNTING REGULATIONS UNDER THE LIBERAL REGULATORY PACKAGE

**It is proposed to** increase the daily bag limit from two to six Black Ducks per day in all locations within hunting district F, thus removing the current restriction of two birds per day in locations south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15. Opening and closing season dates will not change. These changes are consistent with the target harvest rate of American Black Ducks under the liberal regulatory package as per the International Black Duck Harvest Strategy. Current American Black Duck hunting regulations in Canada result in a harvest rate much lower than the maximum allowed in the liberal package. This proposal was supported by the Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Working Group, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils, as well as, at the provincial stakeholder’s meeting (*Table de concertation sur la gestion des oiseaux migrateurs gibier*) in September 2023. Similar increases are also proposed for the Atlantic provinces and Ontario.

- ADVANCE THE OPENING DATE FOR AMERICAN WOODCOCK HUNTING SEASON

**It is proposed to** advance the opening date of the American Woodcock hunting season for hunting districts B, C, D, E and F to the first Saturday after August 31, with no change to the length of the season (106 days), and to close the season on the first Saturday after December 14 (i.e. season would be from September 7 to December 21, 2024). The current season runs from the first Saturday after September 14 to the first Saturday after December 28 for districts C, D, E and F (i.e. from September 21 to January 4, 2024) and from the first Saturday after September 7 to the first Saturday after December 21 for district B (i.e. from September 14 to December 28, 2024). No changes are proposed to the daily bag and possession limits.

Data from the [American Woodcock Singing-Ground Survey](#) indicate a relatively stable population trend (non-significant short-, medium- and long-term decline) in Quebec, and a much higher breeding bird density than the average density for North-Eastern states/provinces. The average number of singing males per route in 2023 was 4.25 in Quebec, almost 50% higher than the average for all participating North-Eastern states/provinces (2.62 singing males per route; Seamans and Rau 2023). Despite a healthy population and liberal hunting regulations (106-day hunting season; daily bag limit of eight woodcocks), the [Canadian National Harvest Survey](#) indicates a marked decline in woodcock harvested in Quebec in recent decades. The estimated annual harvest has fallen from around 20,000 woodcocks in the early 2000s to less than 8,000 since 2018. Hunting effort is also very limited, with fewer than 2,500 active woodcock hunters, including fewer than 1,000 hunters who report having harvested at least one woodcock in 2022. By comparison, the eastern states of the U.S., with their moderate hunting regulations (45-day hunting season; daily bag limit of three woodcocks) harvested over 65,400 woodcocks in 2022, for 36,500 active hunters. Maine alone accounts for nearly a third (20,400 woodcocks) of this harvest. In both Quebec and the northern U.S., harvest data show that the peak harvest occurs between the second and third weeks after the season opens, with harvest success directly linked to the timing of fall foliage.

Recent telemetry data from a major collaborative study on American Woodcock migration (<https://www.woodcockmigration.org>) confirms that woodcock breeding in Quebec begin their migration on October 22 on average, and have mostly left the province by the first week of November (Environment and Climate Change Canada, unpublished data). In short, despite a 106-day open season, Quebec woodcock hunters can expect a 35–45-day window of hunting because of the timing of migration.

Bringing forward the hunting season in Quebec from mid-September to early September would offer better hunting opportunities before peak migration. This proposal is not expected to have a marked effect on the number of harvested birds or population size.

This proposal was presented to the provincial stakeholder's meeting (*Table de concertation sur la gestion des oiseaux migrants gibier*) and to the technical committee of the Atlantic Flyway Council, both held in September 2023, and received the support of both committees.

### Literature Cited

Seamans, M. E. and Rau, R. D. 2023. American Woodcock Population Status, 2023. – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland. 21.

- CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SANDHILL CRANE SEASON IN QUEBEC

**A proposal** for the establishment of a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Quebec in hunting districts C and D is under consideration for a future round of amendments. An evaluation by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) determined that Sandhill Cranes could be hunted sustainably in Quebec. A summary of the evaluation is provided below. A similar proposal is also being issued for Ontario. The Eastern population of Sandhill Crane is currently hunted in three U.S. states (Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama). The Mid-Continent population is also sustainably hunted in Canada's three prairie provinces

(Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and in the Yukon. The earliest possible implementation date for the season would be September 2026.

A Sandhill Crane hunting season would provide a new harvesting opportunity for hunters in Quebec, and an additional tool to help alleviate crop damage problems caused by cranes. The introduction of a Sandhill Crane hunting season has been the subject of repeated requests from hunting and agricultural organizations in Quebec for several years.

As a person or organization interested in the management of migratory game bird hunting in Canada, your comments are invited on this proposal. Your comments can be forwarded to the following address : [MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca)

### **Population Status of Sandhill Cranes in Quebec**

There are two main populations of Sandhill Crane in Canada: The Mid-Continent population and the Eastern population. The Mid-Continent population numbers close to a million individuals, and its range covers Alaska and the central states/provinces of North America. The core breeding area for the Eastern population is the Great Lakes region.

Tracking data from Sandhill Cranes collected between 2019 and 2022 in agricultural areas of the western half of Quebec revealed that cranes present in this area belong to the Eastern Population (ECCC, unpublished data). There is a Sandhill Crane Management Plan for the Eastern Population, whose primary objective is to manage this crane population to a sustainable level, set between 30,000 and 60,000 individuals, which is compatible with societal values and habitat conditions in the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways (Ad Hoc Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Committee, 2010). The Eastern Sandhill Crane population has been monitored by an annual fall staging survey coordinated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Pierce and Fronczak 2023). This survey shows an increasing trend of 4.4% annually since 1979. In addition, the most recent three-year average (2020-2022) of 97,385 cranes (Seamans 2023) is 62% above the population target of 60,000 set in the management plan.

In Quebec, the number of breeding pairs estimated by the ECCC-Canadian Wildlife Service's Eastern Waterfowl Survey shows an average growth rate of 11% per year since 1990, and the most recent 3-year average is 9,920 pairs (ECCC, unpublished data).

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Southern Quebec (2010-2014) revealed a considerable increase and extent of Sandhill Crane nesting evidence in the province, from a single occupied survey plot (0.04%) during the first atlas field campaign (1984-1989) to 424 occupied plots (10.5%) during the second atlas field campaign (2010-2014; Lepage, 2019).

According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), the Sandhill Crane population in Quebec increased by an average of 8% annually between 1970 and 2021 (Smith et al. 2023).

Casabonat Amat et al (2022) analyzed three separate datasets and concluded that the probability of occupancy of Sandhill Cranes in southern Quebec has increased significantly from 2004 to 2019; these authors expect birds to nest more densely or expand their range eastwards into unoccupied and available habitats in the coming years.

All metrics used to monitor Sandhill Crane abundance in Quebec indicate that Sandhill Cranes are doing very well, with a positive population trend, with increasing density and expanding distribution across the province.

### **Sustainable Harvest Management and Proposed Framework**

ECCC believes that it is possible to implement a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Quebec that would be consistent with the levels prescribed by the harvest strategy outlined in the Eastern Population Management Plan (Ad Hoc Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Committee, 2010).

One of the objectives of this management plan is to provide crane hunting opportunities when crane numbers exceed 60,000. Following this plan and considering that this population is estimated to exceed 60,000 individuals, three U.S. states have established hunting seasons for the Eastern population of Sandhill Cranes (Kentucky in 2015, Tennessee in 2017 and Alabama in 2023). These three states closely monitor the harvest via a tag system, where every bird shot must be tagged and reported. In 2022-23, American hunters harvested 1,085 Sandhill Cranes from the Eastern population (Seamans, 2023), i.e., 1% of the estimated population.

In the absence of a similar harvest monitoring system in Canada, ECCC is proposing a harvest framework for Quebec which would meet the criteria of the management plan's harvest strategy for this population. The framework is designed to achieve an allocated annual harvest of 500-1000 Sandhill Cranes, based on a peak fall staging population of 18,000 individuals in Quebec. This level of harvest represents between 0.5 and 1% of the entire Eastern population, which corresponds to a sustainable harvest under current conditions, and is consistent with the recommended management targets in the Eastern Population Harvest Strategy (Ad Hoc Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Committee, 2010).

The harvesting framework currently proposed is as follows: Sandhill Crane hunting would be limited to hunting districts C and D, and restricted to farmland. The hunting season would last 14 days, starting on the first Saturday after September 11, which coincides with the opening date of the duck hunting season in both districts. The daily bag limit would be one (1) crane, and the possession limit would also be one (1) crane. Harvesting would be permitted for Canadian residents only. The proposed districts (C and D) were chosen because of the high abundance of cranes in agricultural areas during fall migration, offering an attractive harvesting opportunity as well as ensuring that harvest does not disproportionately impact local breeding cranes.

### **Potential Non-target Species**

Few species can be confused with the Sandhill Crane, given its size, morphology and particular ecology. The three main species that could be confused with the Sandhill Crane are the Whooping Crane, the Great Blue Heron and the Canada Goose. The Whooping Crane is designated as endangered under the Species at Risk Act (<https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/species/34-33>). Its larger size, white plumage and black wing tips make it easily distinguishable from other species, including Sandhill Cranes. In addition, there is only one historical record of this species in Quebec (May 2005), significantly reducing the risk of accidental harvesting. The Great Blue Heron, apart from its smaller size and different silhouette in flight, does not commonly frequent farmland where harvest would be permitted. The Canada Goose is also relatively easy to distinguish from the Sandhill Crane, but its harvest is permitted in Quebec, and the hunting season proposed here would overlap entirely with the Canada Goose hunting season. ECCC therefore considers the risk of harvesting non-target species during Sandhill Crane hunting activities to be relatively low. ECCC will, however, develop identification tools to be provided to hunters to help them differentiate Sandhill Cranes from non-target species.

### **Benefits Associated with Opening a Hunting Season for Sandhill Cranes**

The opening of a Sandhill Crane hunting season would provide hunters in Quebec with an opportunity to sustainably harvest a species that has been expanding its range and increasing in population size for several years. This hunting season could also serve as an additional tool for farmers to mitigate the risk of crop damage. While the proposed hunting season may slow the growth of Sandhill Cranes in Quebec, ECCC does not expect a hunting season, as proposed, to decrease the current population size or influence the distribution of cranes in the province, thus Sandhill Crane viewing opportunities would be maintained where cranes currently occur.

### **Harvest and Population Monitoring**

Sandhill Crane harvest monitoring will be carried out mainly via the ECCC National Harvest Survey, as is done in other provinces and territories.



Population monitoring in Quebec will be conducted using two surveys. The first survey is the Fall Staging Survey which was initiated in 2023 to provide peak fall counts of Sandhill Cranes in strategic migratory stopover sites in Quebec. These staging areas correspond mainly to farmland in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue (hunting district C) and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (hunting district D) regions. This survey also enables estimates of recruitment and productivity of the population. The breeding population will continue to be monitored by the established Eastern Waterfowl Survey. There are a number of additional surveys (e.g.: USFWS Eastern Population Survey, Breeding Bird Survey) that provide supplemental information that will support the management of cranes in Quebec and help ensure the sustainability of the Quebec harvest.

### **Monitoring of Hunting Season Implementation**

If implemented, the proposed hunting season will be monitored closely for the first four years following implementation (2026 to 2029). ECCC will collect data on harvest (number of active hunters, hunting success, total harvest, etc.) as well as information on hunter behavior. This information will be used to assess the harvest framework, ensuring that Sandhill Crane numbers in Quebec remain at a sustainable level. At the end of the four-year open season, modifications to the framework may be made to ensure the desired objectives are achieved, including a cancellation of the season if harvest is deemed unsustainable.

### **Literature Cited**

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- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE

**It is proposed to** correct a grammatical error in the French version of Table 2 of Part 5 of Schedule 3 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*. The terms “ces espèces” should be replaced by “cette espèce”.

### **Ontario**

- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK INTERNATIONAL HARVEST STRATEGY – UPDATED HUNTING REGULATIONS UNDER THE LIBERAL REGULATORY PACKAGE

**It is proposed to** increase the daily bag limit from four to six Black Ducks per day in the Hudson-James Bay, Northern and Central Hunting Districts. In the Southern Hunting District, the daily bag limit would

increase from two to six Black Ducks per day in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 60 to 87E and two to three Black Ducks per day in WMUs 88 to 95. Opening and closing season dates will not change. These changes are consistent with the target harvest rate of American Black Ducks under the liberal regulatory package as per the International Black Duck Harvest Strategy. Current American Black Duck hunting regulations in Canada result in a harvest rate much lower than the maximum allowed in the liberal package. This proposal was supported by the Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Working Group, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils as well as provincial stakeholders at the Ontario Waterfowl Advisory Committee meeting in September 2023. Similar increases are also proposed for the Atlantic provinces and Quebec.

- CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASON IN ONTARIO

**A proposal** for the establishment of a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Ontario in portions of the Northern and Central Districts as well as the Hudson and James Bay District is under consideration for a future round of amendments. An evaluation by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) determined that Sandhill Cranes could be hunted sustainably in Ontario. A summary of the evaluation is provided below. A similar proposal is also being considered for Quebec. The Eastern population of Sandhill Crane is currently hunted in three U.S. states (Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama). The Mid-Continent population is also sustainably hunted in Canada's three prairie provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and in the Yukon. The earliest possible implementation date for the season would be September 2026.

A Sandhill Crane hunting season would provide a new harvesting opportunity for hunters in Ontario, and an additional tool to help alleviate crop damage problems caused by cranes. The introduction of the Sandhill Crane hunting season has been the subject of repeated requests from hunting and agricultural organizations in Ontario since 2003.

As a person or organization interested in the management of migratory game bird hunting in Canada, your comments are invited on this proposal. Your comments can be forwarded to the following address: [MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:MbregsReports-Rapports-Omregs@ec.gc.ca).

### **Population Status of Sandhill Cranes in Ontario**

There are two main populations of Sandhill Crane in Canada: The Mid-Continent population and the Eastern population. The Mid-Continent population numbers close to a million individuals, and its range covers Alaska and the central states/provinces of North America. The core breeding area of the Eastern population is the Great Lakes region.

Tracking data from Sandhill Cranes in agricultural areas of Central and Eastern Ontario reveal that cranes present in this area belong to the Eastern Population (ECCC, unpublished data). There is a Sandhill Crane Management Plan for the Eastern Population, whose primary objective is to manage this crane population to a sustainable level, set between 30,000 and 60,000 individuals, which is compatible with societal values and habitat conditions in the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways (Ad Hoc Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Committee, 2010). The Eastern Sandhill Crane population has been monitored by an annual fall staging survey coordinated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Pierce and Fronczak 2023). This survey shows an increasing trend of 4.4% annually since 1979. In addition, the most recent three-year average (2020-2022) of 97,385 cranes (Seamans 2023) is 62% above the population target of 60,000 set by the management plan.

The number of breeding cranes estimated by the ECCC-Canadian Wildlife Service's Eastern Waterfowl Survey in Quebec shows an average growth rate of 11% per year since 1990, and the most recent three-year average is 9920 pairs (ECCC, unpublished data). Estimates from the Ontario portion of the survey indicate a five-fold increase in the number of nesting cranes since the early 1990s (ECCC, unpublished data).

Results from the Second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA; 2001-2005) indicated a dramatic increase in breeding density and breeding extent in Ontario (Sutherland and Crins, 2010). Early results from the third iteration of the OBBA suggest that the Sandhill Crane population continues to expand (Birds Canada, 2023).

According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, the Sandhill Crane population in Ontario increased by an average of 12% annually between 1970 and 2021 and has continued to increase at 6% annually since 2011 (Smith et al. 2023).

All metrics used to monitor Sandhill Crane abundance in Ontario indicate that Sandhill Cranes are doing very well, with a positive population trend, with increasing density and expanding distribution across the province.

### **Sustainable Harvest Management and Proposed Framework**

ECCC believes that it is possible to implement a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Ontario that would be consistent with the levels prescribed by the harvest strategy outlined in the Eastern Population Management Plan (Ad Hoc Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Committee, 2010).

One of the objectives of this management plan is to provide crane hunting opportunities when crane numbers exceed 60,000. Following this plan and considering that this population is estimated to exceed 60,000 individuals, three U.S. states have established hunting seasons for the Eastern population of Sandhill Cranes (Kentucky in 2015, Tennessee in 2017 and Alabama in 2023). These three states closely monitor the harvest via a tag system, where every bird shot must be tagged and reported. In 2022-23, American hunters harvested 1,085 Sandhill Cranes from the Eastern population (Seamans, 2023), i.e., 1% of the estimated population.

In the absence of a similar harvest monitoring system in Canada, ECCC is proposing a harvest framework for Ontario which would meet the criteria of the management plan's harvest strategy for this population. The framework is designed to achieve an allocated annual harvest of 500-1000 Sandhill Cranes, based on a peak fall staging population of 14,000 individuals in Ontario. This level of harvest represents between 0.5 and 1% of the entire Eastern population, which corresponds to a sustainable harvest under current conditions and is consistent with the recommended management targets in the Eastern Population Harvest Strategy (Ad Hoc Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Committee, 2010).

The harvesting framework currently proposed is as follows: Sandhill Crane hunting would be limited to the Hudson-James Bay District and the following Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in the Northern and Central Districts only: WMUs 23, 24, 27-30, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 47 and 48. The proposed hunting season would begin September 1 in the Hudson-James Bay District and the first Saturday after September 11 in the aforementioned WMUs in Northern and Central Districts. The season would be 14 days long in all districts. The daily bag limit would be one (1) crane, and the possession limit would also be one (1) crane. Harvest would be permitted for Canadian residents only and hunting would be restricted to farmland only in Northern and Central District WMUs. The proposed hunting districts and WMUs and season dates were chosen because of the high abundance of cranes in agricultural areas during fall migration, offering an attractive harvesting opportunity and to ensure that harvest does not disproportionately impact local breeding cranes.

### **Potential Non-target Species**

Few species can be confused with the Sandhill Crane, given its size, morphology, and particular ecology. The three main species that could be confused with the Sandhill Crane are the Whooping Crane, the Great Blue Heron, and the Canada Goose. The Whooping Crane is designated as endangered under the Species at Risk Act (<https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/species/34-33>). Its larger size, white plumage and black wing tips make it easily distinguishable from other species, including Sandhill Cranes. In addition, observations of Whooping Cranes in Ontario are extremely rare, with only four observations in the province since 1871. Moreover, there have been no observations ever of Whooping Cranes in the areas considered

for a Sandhill Crane hunting season during the fall, significantly reducing the risk of accidental harvesting. The Great Blue Heron, apart from its smaller size and different silhouette in flight, does not commonly frequent farmland where harvest would be permitted. The Canada Goose is also relatively easy to distinguish from the Sandhill Crane, but its harvest is permitted in Ontario, and the hunting season proposed here would overlap entirely with the Canada Goose hunting season. The department therefore considers the risk of harvesting non-target species during Sandhill Crane hunting to be low. ECCC will, however, develop identification tools to be provided to hunters to help them differentiate Sandhill Cranes from non-target species.

### **Benefits Associated with Opening a Hunting Season for Sandhill Cranes**

The opening of a Sandhill Crane hunting season would provide hunters in Ontario with an opportunity to sustainably harvest a species for human consumption that has been increasing for several years. This hunting season could also serve as an additional tool for farmers to mitigate the risk of crop damage. While the proposed hunting season may slow the growth of Sandhill Cranes in Ontario, ECCC does not expect a hunting season, as proposed, to decrease the current population size or influence the distribution of cranes in the province, thus Sandhill Crane viewing opportunities would be maintained where cranes currently occur.

### **Harvest and Population Monitoring**

Sandhill Crane harvest monitoring will be conducted primarily via the ECCC National Harvest Survey, as is done in other provinces and territories. Population monitoring in Ontario will be conducted using two surveys. The first survey is the Fall Staging Survey which will be conducted annually starting in 2024 and will provide peak fall counts of Sandhill Cranes in Ontario. This survey will also enable estimates of recruitment and productivity of the population. The breeding population will continue to be monitored by the established Eastern Waterfowl Survey. There are a number of additional surveys (e.g.: USFWS Eastern Population Survey, Breeding Bird Survey) that provide supplemental information that will support the management of cranes in Ontario and help ensure the sustainability of the Ontario harvest.

### **Monitoring of Hunting Season Implementation**

If implemented, the proposed hunting season will be monitored closely for the first four years following implementation (2026 to 2029). ECCC will collect data on harvest (number of active hunters, hunting success, total harvest, etc.) as well as information on hunter behavior. This information will be used to assess the harvest framework, ensuring that Sandhill Crane numbers in Ontario remain at a sustainable level. At the end of the four-year open season, modifications to the framework may be made to ensure the desired objectives are achieved, including a cancellation of the season if harvest is deemed unsustainable.

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Seamans, M.E. 2023. Status and harvests of sandhill cranes: Mid-Continent, Rocky Mountain, Lower Colorado River Valley, and Eastern Populations. Administrative Report, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, Colorado. 12pp + tables and figures.

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- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE TO HUNTING ZONE DENOMINATION

**It is proposed to** add the term “provincial” in front of “Wildlife Management Unit” in Part 6 of Schedule 3 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* to clarify that those units are under provincial jurisdiction.

## Manitoba

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons. However, minor changes are proposed to correct errors in Part 7 of Schedule 3 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*.

- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES
- Hunting zone denomination

**It is proposed to** remove the term “provincial” in front of “Game Bird Hunting Zone”, those hunting zones are under federal jurisdiction.

- Correct grammatical errors

**It is proposed to** correct an error in Table 2. Replace “those” (species) by “that” (species).

## Saskatchewan

- REMOVE THE RESTRICTION OF HALF-DAY HUNTING FOR DARK GEESE

**It is proposed to** remove the current restriction of half-day hunting in Saskatchewan and allow all-day hunting for Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese. Hunting would be allowed from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset for the entire hunting season. Currently, the open season includes only that part of day from one half-hour before sunrise until noon, local time from the opening date up to and including October 14, and, after that period, from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. Allowing all-day hunting for dark geese for the entire season would be consistent with the hunting times for all other species of migratory game birds in Saskatchewan. The rationale for the half-day hunting was to provide refuge for dark geese for part of the day for conservation benefits and improved predictability and quality of hunts. However, given there is a possibility of disturbance of dark geese through hunting of other species for which there are open seasons and times, the benefit of half-day hunting is likely low. The effects of the regulation change will be monitored through the Canada National Harvest Survey and through survival and harvest rates derived from banding efforts.

- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE

**It is proposed to** correct a grammatical error in the French version of Table 2 in Part 8 of Schedule 3. The terms “...toute autre espèce d’oiseau migrateur dont c’est la saison de chasse peut chassée” should be replaced by “...toute autre espèce d’oiseau migrateur dont c’est la saison de chasse peut être chassée”.

## Alberta

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons. However, minor

changes are proposed to clarify Part 9 in Schedule 3 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*.

- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE TO HUNTING ZONE DENOMINATION

**It is proposed to** add the term “provincial” in front of “Wildlife Management Unit”, to clarify that those units are under provincial jurisdiction.

## **British Columbia**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons. However, minor changes are proposed to clarify the regulations and correct errors in Part 10 of Schedule 3 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*.

- ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO SPECIES NAMES

- **It is proposed to** make a clarification. The additional geese that may be killed in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 in the hunting district No. 2 exclude Ross’ Geese.

- **It is proposed to** clarify in the English version of Schedule 3 that the term “Goldeneyes” mentioned in the Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limit Table includes both Common Goldeneye and Barrow’s Goldeneye.

## **Yukon Territory**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons.

## **Northwest Territories**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons.

## **Nunavut**

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons.

## **Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit**

Since 2022, the Youth Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) permit is available to hunters who are minors (under the age of 18), providing the opportunity to youth to practice their skills under the supervision of an adult hunter throughout the hunting seasons, while enabling them to benefit from having their own daily bag and possession limits. Youth MGBH permits along with Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamps (CWHC stamps) are offered free of charge and are only available for order through the MGBH e-Permitting System.

The options to obtain MGBH permits have evolved over time to increase service and optimize availability to hunters. MGBH permits along with the CWHC stamps can be purchased:

1. [Electronically](#)
2. At select [Canada Post](#) corporation outlets (physical permit)
3. At some [independent vendors](#) (physical permit)

The MGBH e-Permitting system provides hunters additional convenience and benefits compared to purchasing the physical permit at traditional outlets. The system is accessible to hunters 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Hunters can order a Youth MGBH permit or purchase a MGBH permit including the CWHC stamp online from the comfort and safety of their home, download the permit immediately from the checkout complete page as well as receive electronic copies of the stamp and permit by email. The e-

permit is valid and can be used immediately either in the printed or electronic format. MGBH permits that were purchased online can also be reprinted if lost or damaged. If your permit (physical or electronic format) cannot be presented when requested by a game officer, you will be seen in contravention of the law. 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 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.

New options, features, and conveniences continue to be assessed and planned for future MGBH e-Permitting releases.

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 3,700 postal outlets. ECCC works closely with Canada Post to promote communication with outlets and manage inventory and distribution. There are also approximately 45 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 Environment and Climate Change Canada's Bird Banding Office and the United States Geological Service's 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 birds. 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 or find a bird band 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: [bbo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:bbo@ec.gc.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 status.



# Appendices

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

### *A. Description of Regulations*

The *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* 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, 2022* 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 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, 2023-2024 Hunting Season**

The hunting summaries are also available on the Government of Canada's website:  
[Hunting regulations for migratory birds: provincial and territorial summaries - Canada.ca](#)



## Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

### AUGUST 2023 TO JULY 2024



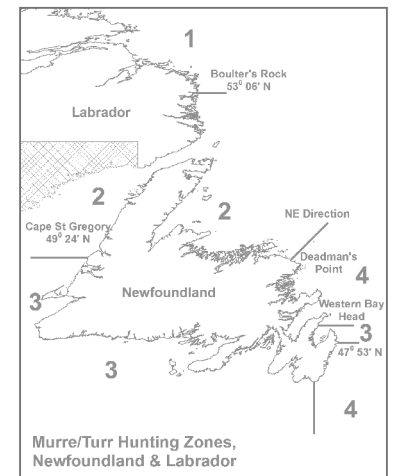
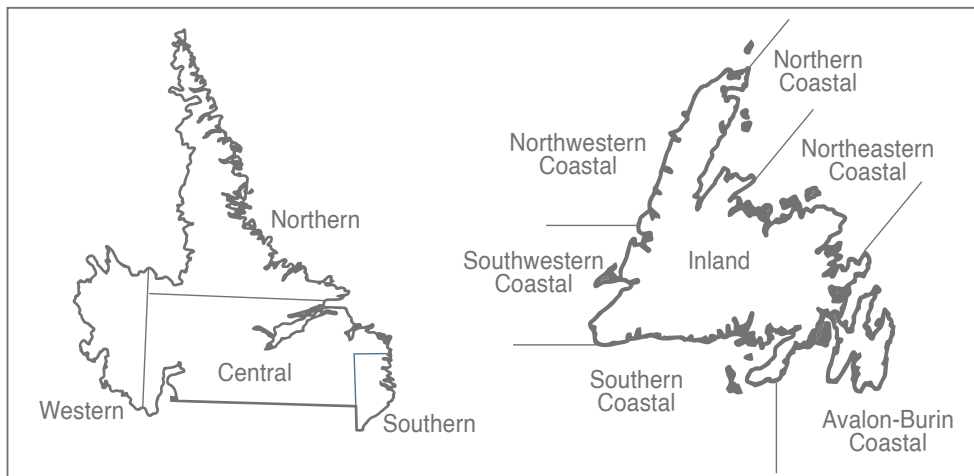
**Notice:** Avian influenza virus (AIV) is a contagious viral infection that can affect domestic and wild birds throughout the world. Guidelines have been developed to prevent or mitigate the spread of this virus, and for precautionary measures to take when handling wild game. For more information, please refer to [www.canada.ca/Avian-flu](http://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.

#### Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



**Northwestern Coastal Zone** bounded by a line drawn due west from Cape St. Gregory, and from there northward and eastward along the coast, ending in a boundary line drawn due northeast through Cape Bauld.

**Northern Coastal Zone** bounded by a line drawn due northeast from Cape Bauld, and from there southward along the east coast, ending in a boundary line drawn due northeast through Cape St. John.

**Southern Coastal Zone** bounded by a line drawn due west through Cape Ray, and from there southward and eastward along the coast, ending at a line drawn due south through Cape Rosey.

**Southwestern Coastal Zone** bounded by a line drawn due west from Cape St. Gregory, and from there southward along the coast, ending in a boundary line drawn due west through Cape Ray.

**Northeastern Coastal Zone** bounded by a line drawn due northeast through Cape Bonavista, and from there in a generally westerly direction along the coast, ending at a boundary line drawn due northeast through Cape St. John.

**Avalon-Burin Coastal Zone** bounded by a straight line drawn due south from Cape Rosey, and from there in a generally easterly and northerly direction along the coast, ending at a boundary line drawn due northeast from Cape Bonavista.

“Coastal” refers to the portion of the coast of the Island of Newfoundland, and of the adjacent offshore islands, lying less than 100 m from the mean ordinary high-water mark and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

**Newfoundland Inland Zone** means the portion of the Island of Newfoundland, and of the adjacent offshore islands, that is not within the portions described above.

**Northern Labrador Zone** means the portion of Labrador lying north of latitude 54°24'N and east of longitude 65°W.

**Western Labrador Zone** means the portion of Labrador lying west of longitude 65°W.

**Southern Labrador Zone** means the portion of Labrador lying south of latitude 53°06'N (Boulter Rock) and east of longitude 57°06'40"W.

**Central Labrador Zone** means the portion of Labrador that is not within the portions described above.

For more information on hunting districts, contact the provincial Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

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](http://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.

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is restricted; please consult the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* for restrictions regarding deposition of bait. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses.

### **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.

**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 because of motion as a result of its motor or its sails. 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, 2022*, and is required to hold a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and must be a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **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 Newfoundland and Labrador, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds other than Murres (Turrs).
- If a multi-species hunt occurs where Murres are being hunted in addition to other migratory game birds (e.g. waterfowl), it is prohibited to possess toxic shot. Hunters can still have mixed bird hunts as long as they possess and use only non-toxic shot.
- 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). 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 and Murre**  
**in Newfoundland and Labrador**

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Northwestern Coastal Newfoundland Zone	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	November 1 to February 14	6	12
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	October 10 to January 23	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 16 to December 30	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye) from September 16 to November 29	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
			6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks) from November 30 to December 30	
	All Geese, combined	September 16 to December 30	5	10
	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	20
Avalon-Burin Coastal Newfoundland Zone, Northeastern Coastal Newfoundland Zone, Northern Coastal Newfoundland Zone, Southern Coastal Newfoundland Zone, and Southwestern Newfoundland Coastal Zone	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	November 25 to March 10	6	12
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	October 10 to January 23	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 16 to December 30	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye) from September 16 to November 29	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
			6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks) from November 30 to December 30	
	All Geese, combined	September 16 to December 30	5	10
	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	20
Inland Newfoundland Zone	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	October 10 to January 23	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 16 to December 30	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye) from September 16 to November 30	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
			6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks) from November 30 to December 30	
	All Geese, combined	September 16 to December 30	5	10
	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	20
Northern Labrador Zone	All Eiders and Scoters, combined	September 2 to September 29, for Scoters only	6	12
		September 30 to December 16		
		December 17 to January 14, for Eiders only		
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 2 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 2 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
	All Geese, combined	September 2 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 2 to December 16	10	20
Western Labrador Zone	All Eiders, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	All Scoters, combined	September 2 to December 16	6	12
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 2 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 2 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)

	All Geese, combined	September 2 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 2 to December 16	10	20
Southern Labrador Zone	All Eiders and Scoters, combined	September 2 to October 31, for Scoters only	6	12
		November 1 to December 16		
		December 17 to February 14, for Eiders only		
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 2 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 2 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
	All Geese, combined	September 2 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 2 to December 16	10	20
Central Labrador Zone	All Eiders and Scoters, combined	September 2 to October 27, for Scoters only	6	12
		October 28 to November 25		
		November 26 to December 16, for Scoters only		
		January 6 to February 29, for Eiders only		
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 2 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 2 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
	All Geese, combined	September 2 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 2 to December 16	10	20
Murre Zone No. 1	Murres	September 1 to December 16	20	40
Murre Zone No. 2	Murres	October 6 to January 20		
Murre Zone No. 3	Murres	November 25 to March 10		
Murre Zone No. 4	Murres	November 3 to January 10		
		February 2 to March 10		

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

You may also direct your questions to:

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

**Regional Office**

6 Bruce Street  
Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador A1N 4T3  
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767  
[enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.reportband.gov)

**Canada**





# 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](http://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.

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](http://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.

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is restricted; please consult the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* 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.

## 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 Prince Edward Island, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds other than 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). 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 Prince Edward Island**

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Throughout Prince Edward Island	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	October 1 to December 31	6 (not more than 4 may be Eiders and not more than 4 may be Scoters)	12 (not more than 8 may be Eiders and not more than 8 may be Scoters)
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	October 1 to December 31	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye) from October 1 to November 30	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye)
			6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye and not more than a total of 4 may be American Black Duck and Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids in any combination) from December 1 to December 31	
	All geese, combined	September 1 to September 15	5 (plus an additional 5 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese in any combination)	20
October 1 to December 31			5, from October 1 to November 14	
3, from November 15 to December 31				
Woodcock	September 25 to December 9	8	16	
Snipe	October 1 to December 31	10	20	

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

You may also direct your questions to:

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

**Regional Office**

17 Waterfowl Lane

P.O. Box 6227

Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6

Tel.: 1-800-668-6767

[enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.reportband.gov)





# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2023  
TO JULY 2024



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## 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.

## Hunting Districts

**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.

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](http://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.

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is restricted; please consult the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*, 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.

## 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 Nova Scotia, 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 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). 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 Nova Scotia

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Zone No. 1	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders, and Scoters, combined	October 1 to November 8. This is not an open season for Eiders	5 (not more than 4 may be Scoters)	10 (not more than 4 may be Eiders and not more than 8 may be Scoters)
		November 9 to January 7	5 (not more than 2 may be Eiders, of which not more than 1 may be female, and not more than 4 may be Scoters)	
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	October 1 to January 7	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye) from October 1 to November 30	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
			6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks ) from December 1 to January 7	
	All Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15	5 (plus an additional 5 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese in any combination)	20
			October 1 to December 31	
Woodcock	October 1 to November 30	8	16	
Snipe	October 1 to November 30	10	20	
Zone No. 2	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	October 8 to November 16. This is not an open season for Eiders	5 (not more than 4 may be Scoters)	10 (not more than 4 may be Eiders and not more than 8 may be Scoters)
		November 17 to January 15	5 (not more than 2 may be Eiders, of which not more than 1 may be female, and not more than 4 may be Scoters)	
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	October 8 to January 15	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye) from October 8 to December 7	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
			6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks) from December 8 to January 15	
	All Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15	5 (plus an additional 5 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese in any combination)	20
			October 16 to January 15	
Woodcock	October 1 to November 30	8	16	
Snipe	October 1 to November 30	10	20	

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

You may also direct your questions to:

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Canadian Wildlife Service**

**Regional Office**

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**Canada**



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AUGUST 2023  
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## To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

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- 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.

## Hunting Zones

**Zone No. 1** means the portion of Saint John County lying south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, and the portion of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, including the islands of the Grand Manan 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** means 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 kilometer offshore.

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.

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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.

## 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

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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

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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.

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## Shot

- Lead shot is toxic to wildlife and the environment.
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- Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

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

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## 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

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## Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in New Brunswick

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Zone No. 1	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	October 15 to November 5. This is not an open season for Eiders.	6 (not more than 4 may be Scoters)	12 (not more than 4 may be Eiders and not more than 8 may be Scoters)
		November 6 to January 4	6 (not more than 2 may be Eiders, of which not more than 1 may be female, and not more than 4 may be Scoters)	
		February 1 to February 24. This is not an open season for Eider.	6 (not more than 4 may be Scoters)	
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	October 15 to January 14	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye) from October 15 to December 14 6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks) from December 15 to January 14	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
		All Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15 October 15 to January 14	5 (plus an additional 5 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese in any combination) 5
	Woodcock	September 15 to November 30	8	16
Snipe	October 15 to January 14	10	20	
Zone No. 2	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	October 1 to November 1. This is not an open season for Eiders.	6 (not more than 4 may be Scoters)	12 (not more than 4 may be Eiders and not more than 8 may be Scoters)
		November 2 to December 31	6 (not more than 2 may be Eiders, of which not more than 1 may be female, and not more than 4 may be Scoters)	
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters) combined	October 1 to December 31	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye) from October 1 to November 30 6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks) from December 1 to December 31	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)

All Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15	5 (plus an additional 5 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese in any combination)	20
	October 1 to December 31	5	
Woodcock	September 15 to November 30	8	16
Snipe	October 1 to December 31	10	20

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**The 2023 federal permit is also valid for the 2024 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese.**

### Hunting Districts

**District A:** Provincial Hunting Zones (PHZs) 17 and 22 to 24 inclusive.

**District B:** PHZs 19 south, 20 and 29 and the portion of PHZ 21 included in the electoral district of Duplessis that is situated opposite to PHZs 19 south and 20.

**District C:** PHZs 12 to 14 inclusive and 16.

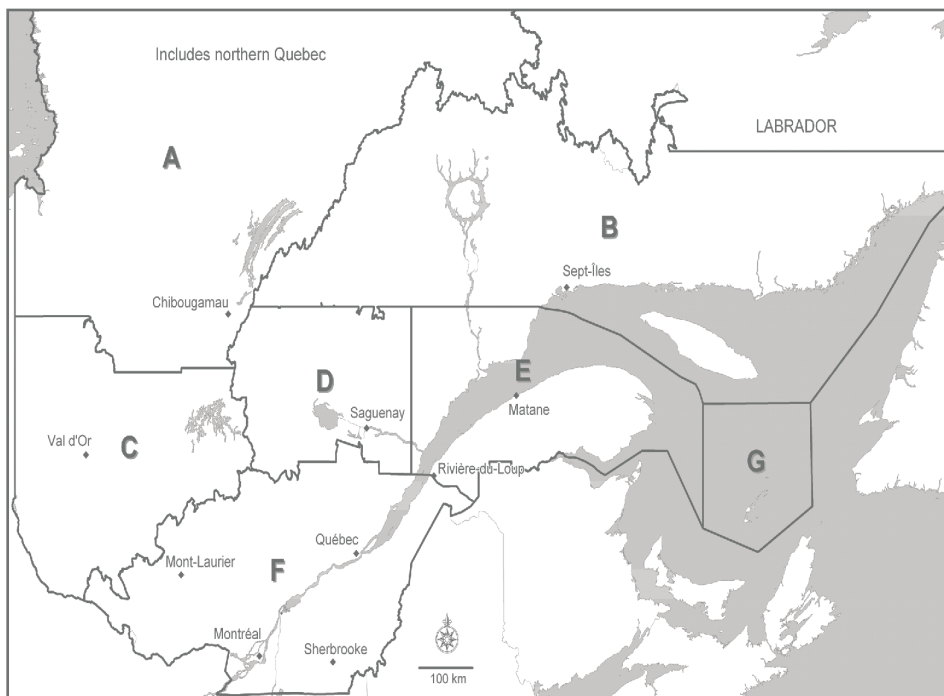
**District D:** the portion of PHZs 18, 21 and 28 lying west of longitude 70°00' W and the portion of PHZ 27 lying west of longitude 70°00' W and north of the latitude at the Saint-Siméon wharf to Route 381 and from there to the northern limit of PHZ 27.

**District E:** PHZ 1; the portion of PHZ 2 lying east of Route 185 to its intersection with du Loup River and lying east of a line running along the centre of that river to the north end of the Rivière-du-Loup wharf; the portion of PHZ 28 lying east of longitude 70°00' W; the portion of PHZ 27 lying east of longitude 70°00' W and north of the latitude at the Saint-Siméon wharf; and the portion of PHZ 18 and the waters of the Saguenay lying east of the limit of District D, including the portion of the waters of Chaleur Bay and the St. Lawrence River lying east of the ferry crossing from Saint-Siméon to Rivière-du-Loup to the boundaries of Districts B and G.

**District F:** the portion of PHZ 2 lying west of District E; PHZs 3 to 11 inclusive, 15 and 26; and the portion of PHZ 27 lying south of Districts D and E, including the portion of the waters of the St. Lawrence River lying west of District E.

**District G:** the lands and waters included in the County of the Magdalen Islands in Quebec.

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.



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## Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

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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 Quebec, 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 that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory 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.**
- **Harlequin Duck** is listed in the *Species at Risk Act* as a species of special concern. There is **no open season for this species.**

### Crime Stoppers

Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds or other offences related to migratory birds in the province of Quebec is asked to call "Échec au crime" at 1-800-711-1800. 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 Quebec

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District A	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 1 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 25	10	No limit
		September 26 to October 31	3	
		November 1 to December 16	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 1 to December 16	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
Woodcock		September 1 to December 16	8 for residents of Canada	24
			4 for non-residents of Canada	

	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
District B	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 16 to September 30, for ducks other than Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		October 1 to October 24		
		October 25 to November 14. This is not an open season for Eiders and Long-tailed ducks in locations that are on the North Shore and west of the Natashquan River.		
		November 15 to December 30	6	
		December 31 to January 14, only for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks		
		January 15 to February 5, only for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks in locations that are on the North Shore and west of the Natashquan River		
Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 16 to September 25	10	No limit	
	September 26 to December 30	5		
Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 16 to December 30	5	15	
Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A	
Districts C and D	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 16 to December 30	6 (not residents of Canada and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	24 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	4 for non-residents of Canada	
		September 16 to December 30	10	
	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	30
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	N/A	No limit
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
		September 16 to September 25		
		September 26 to October 31	3 (in District C)	
			2 (in District D)	
		November 1 to December 16	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 16 to December 30	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 16 to December 30	8 for residents of Canada	24
			4 for non-residents of Canada	
	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
District E	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 16 to October 20	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		October 21 to December 30. This is not an open season for Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in locations that are within PHZ No. 21 or are less than 100 m from that Zone.		
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	10	No limit
		September 16 to September 25		
		September 26 to December 16	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 16 to December 30	5	15
Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A	
	Woodcock	September 16 to December 30	8 for residents of Canada	24
			4 for non-residents of Canada	

	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
District F	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 23 to October 20	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal, and in locations south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15, not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		October 21 to January 6. This is not an open season for Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in locations between Pointe Jureux (Saint-Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (Saint-Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 and extending 2 km within Provincial Hunting Zone 21.	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal and, in locations south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15, not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks)	
District G	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 6 to September 22. The season is open only on farmland	10	No limit
		September 23 to September 25		
		September 26 to October 31	3 (in locations west of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117)	
			2 (in locations east of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117)	
		November 1 to December 21	5	
Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 23 to January 6	5	15	
Coots and Gallinules, combined	September 23 to January 6	4	12	
Woodcock	September 16 to December 30	8 for residents of Canada	24	
		4 for non-residents of Canada		
Snipe	September 23 to January 6	10	30	
Mourning Doves	September 16 to December 30	8	24	
District G	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 30 to October 31. This is not an open season for Eiders or Long-tailed Ducks.	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		November 1 to December 26		
		December 27 to February 14. This is an open season only for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks.	6	
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 30 to December 26	5	No limit
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 30 to December 26	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 30 to December 26	8 for residents of Canada	24
			4 for non-residents of Canada	
Snipe	September 30 to December 26	10	30	
Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A	

### Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Quebec

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
District A	Snow Geese	September 1 to December 16	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow 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.
		May 1 to June 30			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used.
District B	Snow Geese	September 16 to December 30	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow 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.
Districts C and D	Snow Geese	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow 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.
		September 16 to December 30			
		March 1 to May 31. The season is open only on farmland.			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used.

District E	Snow Geese	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	20	No limit	i) Electronic bird calls of Snow 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.
		September 16 to December 30			ii) Hunting with bait that is crops that are cut and left on the ground in the fall is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
		March 1 to May 31. The season is open only on farmland.			i) Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. ii) Hunting with bait in the spring is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
District F	Snow Geese	September 6 to September 22. The season is open only on farmland.	20	No limit	i) Electronic bird calls of Snow 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.
		September 23 to January 6			ii) Hunting with bait that is crops that are cut and left on the ground in the fall is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
		March 1 to May 31, the season is open only on farmland that is not within the following locations: i) south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of the municipality of Montmagny and the eastern limit of the municipality of Cap-Saint-Ignace, other than in lots 4 598 472, 2 611 981 and 2 611 982 of the cadastre of Quebec (located in the municipality of Montmagny); ii) north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line that is 1000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River; or, iii) 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.			i) Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. ii) Hunting with bait in the spring is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
District G	Snow Geese	September 30 to December 26	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow 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.

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

You may also direct your questions to:

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

**Regional Office**

801-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue  
Québec, Québec G1J 0C3  
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767  
Fax: 418-649-6591  
[enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.reportband.gov)

**Canada**



# 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](http://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.

### Hunting Districts

#### 1. Hudson–James Bay District

Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 1A, 1B, and the portions of WMUs 1D, 25, and 26 lying north of latitude 51° and east of longitude 83°45’.

#### 2. Northern District

WMU 1C, those portions of WMU 1D, 25 and 26 lying south of latitude 51° and west of longitude 83°45’, as well as WMUs 2 to 24 inclusive, 27 to 41 inclusive, and 45.

#### 3. Central District

WMUs 42 to 44 inclusive, 46 to 50 inclusive, and 53 to 59 inclusive.

#### 4. Southern District

WMUs 60 to 95 inclusive.

For more information on WMUs, contact the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and see this link: [www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-management-unit-wmu-map](http://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-management-unit-wmu-map).

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 WMUs and a list of municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.

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](http://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.

### 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 in all regions except Ontario. In Ontario, according to provincial law, a mentor may accompany no more than one youth. 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 Ontario, 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 that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all types of hunting, including the hunting of migratory 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**.
- There is no open season for **Harlequin Ducks, King Rails** and **Yellow Rails**.

### 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 Seasons and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in Ontario

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Hudson-James Bay District	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 1 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	5	No limit
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	50	No limit
	Geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, Snow Geese and Ross's Geese), combined	September 1 to December 16	5	15
	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Coots and Gallinules, combined	September 1 to December 16	10 (not more than 8 may be Coots and not more than 4 may be Gallinules)	30
	Woodcock	September 15 to December 16	8	24
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A

Northern District	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 10 to December 25		6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 9		10 (in WMUs 8, 10, 13, 36, 37, 39, 41 and 45)	No limit
		September 10 to December 16		5 (in other WMUs)	
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16		20	No limit
	Geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, Snow Geese and Ross's Geese), combined	September 1 to December 16		5	15
	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Coots and Gallinules, combined	September 10 to December 25		10 (not more than 8 may be Coots and not more than 4 may be Gallinules)	30
	Woodcock	September 15 to December 16		8	24
	Snipe	September 10 to December 25		10	30
Mourning Doves	No open season		N/A	N/A	
Central District	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 16 to December 31		6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15		10	No limit
		September 16 to December 16		5	
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16		20	No limit
	Geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, Snow Geese and Ross's Geese), combined	September 1 to December 16		5	15
	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Coots and Gallinules, combined	September 16 to December 31		10 (not more than 8 may be Coots and not more than 4 may be Gallinules)	30
	Woodcock	September 15 to December 16		8	24
	Snipe	September 16 to December 31		10	30
Mourning Doves	September 1 to November 30		15	45	
Southern District	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 23 to January 7		6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	In municipalities where hunting with guns on Sunday is <b>permitted</b> by provincial regulations.	September 7 to September 17	10 (in WMUs 60 to 81, 83, 86 to 92 and 95)	No limit
				8 (in WMUs 82, 84, 85, 93 and 94)	
			September 23 to December 27	5 (in WMUs 60 to 64, 66 to 81, 83, 86 to 92 and 95, from September 23 to October 27)	
				3 (in WMUs 65, 82, 84, 85 and 93, from September 23 to October 27)	
				5 (in WMUs 60 to 93 and 95 from October 28 to December 27)	
			3 (in WMU 94)		
		In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is <b>not permitted</b> by provincial regulations. Excluding any Sunday in these periods. If a municipality within a WMU allows Sunday hunting, the season is closed within that municipality.	September 7 to September 17	10 (in WMUs 60 to 81, 83, 86 to 92 and 95)	
				8 (in WMUs 82, 84, 85, 93 and 94)	
			September 23 to January 6	5 (in WMUs 60 to 64, 66 to 81, 83, 86 to 92 and 95, from September 23 to October 27)	
			3 (in WMUs 65, 82, 84, 85 and 93, from September 23 to October 27)		
	5 (in WMUs 60 to 93 and 95 from October 28 to January 6)				
	3 (in WMU 94)				
	February 24 to March 2	10 (in WMUs 60 to 81, 83, 86 to 92 and 95)			
		8 (in WMUs 82, 84, 85 and 93)			
		No open season in WMU 94			
Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 23 to January 7. This open season excludes Sundays in municipalities where hunting with guns on Sunday is <b>not permitted</b> by provincial regulations.		20	No limit	
February 24 to March 2, excluding Sundays, in municipalities where hunting with guns on Sunday is <b>not permitted</b> by provincial regulations. If a municipality within a WMU allows Sunday hunting, the season is closed within that municipality.					
Geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, Snow Geese and Ross's Geese), combined	September 23 to January 7		5	15	



Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Coots and Gallinules, combined	September 23 to January 7	10 (not more than 8 may be Coots and not more than 4 may be Gallinules)	30
Woodcock	September 15 to September 24. The season is only open in WMUs 60 to 67 and 69B.	8	24
	September 25 to December 20. The season is only open in WMUs 60 to 95.		
Snipe	September 23 to January 7	10	30
Mourning Doves	September 1 to November 30	15	45

### Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Ontario

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Southern District (only WMUs 65, 66, 67 and 69B)	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 23 to January 7	20	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 open season may be hunted.
		February 24 to March 2, excluding Sundays, in municipalities where hunting with guns on Sundays is <b>not permitted</b> by provincial regulations. If a municipality within a WMU allows Sunday hunting, the season is closed within that municipality.			
		March 1 to May 31			

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

You may also direct your questions to:

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

**Regional Office**

4905 Dufferin Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3H 5T4  
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767  
[enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

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## Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

### AUGUST 2023 TO JULY 2024



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- 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, 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 <https://www.manitobaecicensing.ca/>.

#### Hunting Zones

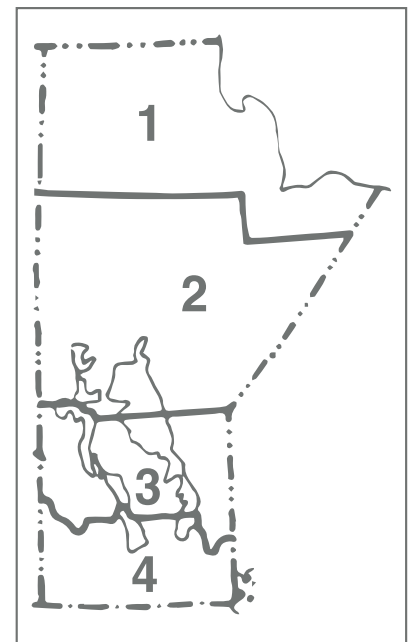
**Zone No. 1** means the portion of Manitoba lying north of latitude 57°N and the portion lying east of longitude 94°W and north of latitude 56°N.

**Zone No. 2** means the portion of Manitoba lying between Provincial 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 Provincial Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 2 and Provincial 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.

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.



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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 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 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). 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	8	24
		September 8 to November 30		
	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	24 for residents of Canada
			5 for non-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	8	24
		September 8 to November 30		
	Woodcock	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Snipe	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	10	30
September 8 to November 30				

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

### 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.
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 3	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 16, 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 17 to December 6			
		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 those 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	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 17 to December 6			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.
	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 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.	

**Note:** During the period that begins on the first day of an open season 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 and ends on the second Sunday of October, the period during which hunting — 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 — by non-residents of Canada for those species is prohibited begins at noon local time on any day and ends half an hour before sunrise the next day.

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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](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

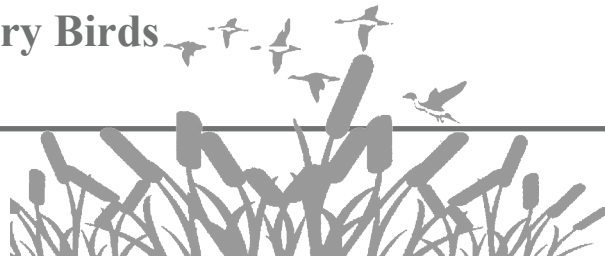
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## Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

### AUGUST 2023 TO JULY 2024



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#### 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.

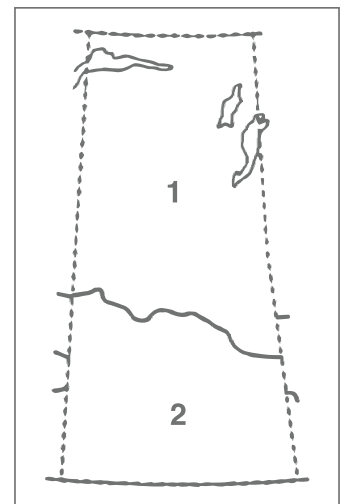
**The 2023 federal permit is also valid for the 2024 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese.**

#### Hunting Districts

**District No. 1 (North)** Provincial Wildlife Management Zones (WMZ) 43 and 47 to 76 inclusive.

**District No. 2 (South)** Provincial WMZ 1 to 42 and 44 to 46, and the Saskatoon and Regina–Moose Jaw Provincial WMZ.

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 licenses 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](http://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.

#### 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 Saskatchewan, 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.

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

- 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 Wildlife Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in an area of the province during the open season for Sandhill Cranes, either may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area for the remainder of that calendar 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). 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 Saskatchewan

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District No. 1 (North) and District No. 2 (South)	All ducks, combined	September 1 to December 16	8	24
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	8	24
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to December 16	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to December 16	10	30
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	30

## Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Saskatchewan

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
District No. 1 (North) and District No. 2 (South)	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	September 1 to December 16	20	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 June 15			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.

**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 WMZ 43, 47 to 59 and 67 to 69, from the opening date up to and including October 14 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.

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

You may also direct your questions to:

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

**Regional Office**

115 Perimeter Road  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4  
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**Canada**





# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2023  
TO JULY 2024



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**The 2023 federal permit is also valid for the 2024 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese.**

### Hunting Zones

**Zone No. 1:** Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 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:** WMUs 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

Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct provincial WMU during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to provincial WMUs 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).

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## Enforcement

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

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## Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in Alberta

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Zone No. 1	All ducks, combined	September 1 to December 16	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			8 for non-residents of Canada (not more than a total of 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination)	24 for non-residents of Canada (not more than a total of 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination)
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	8	24
	Sandhill Crane	September 1 to December 16 (WMUs 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)	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to December 16	8	24
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	8	24
Zone No. 2	All Ducks, combined	September 8 to December 23	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			8 for non-residents of Canada (not more than a total of 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination)	24 for non-residents of Canada (not more than a total of 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination)
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	8	24
	Sandhill Crane	September 8 to December 23 (WMUs 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)	5	15
	Coots	September 8 to December 23	8	24
	Snipe	September 8 to December 23	8	24

## Special Measures For Overabundant Species in Alberta

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Zone No. 1	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	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 June 15	50		Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
Zone No. 2	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	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 June 15	50		Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.

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**Canada** 



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#### 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



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.

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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. 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

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## Shot

- Lead shot is toxic to wildlife and the environment.
- In British Columbia, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds other than Band-tailed Pigeons, Eurasian Collared Doves and Mourning Doves. In 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.

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## Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in British Columbia

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit			
District No. 1	All ducks, combined	October 7 to January 21	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)			
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 2 to September 12 (only in PMUs 1-1, 1-2 and 1-4 to 1-7)	October 7 to November 19	10	30		
		November 20 to December 15 (only in PMUs 1-3 and 1-8 to 1-15)	December 16 to January 7				
		January 8 to January 21 (only in PMUs 1-3 and 1-8 to 1-15)	February 11 to March 10 (only in PMUs 1-1, 1-2 and 1-4 to 1-7)				
		White-fronted Geese	October 7 to January 21			5	15
		Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	October 7 to January 21			5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A			
	Coots	October 7 to January 21	10	30			
	Snipe	October 7 to January 21	10	30			
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A			
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	September 15 to September 30	5	15			

District No. 2	All ducks, combined	October 7 to January 21	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 2 to September 12	10	30
		October 7 to November 19		
		December 16 to January 7		
		February 11 to March 10		
	White-fronted Geese	October 7 to January 21	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	October 7 to January 2	10 (not more than 5 may be Ross's Geese). An additional 5 Geese may be killed or taken in PMUs 2-4 and 2-5	30 (not more than 15 may be Ross's Geese). An additional 15 Geese may be possessed in PMUs 2-4 and 2-5
		February 21 to March 10		
	Brant	March 1 to March 10 (only in PMU 2-4)	3	9
	Coots	October 7 to January 21	10	30
Snipe	October 7 to January 21	10	30	
Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A	
Band-Tailed Pigeons	September 15 to September 30	5	15	
District No. 3	All ducks, combined	September 8 to December 23	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 8 to September 20	10	30
		October 1 to December 23		
		March 1 to March 10		
	White-fronted Geese	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Snipe	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	September 1 to September 30	5	15
Band-Tailed Pigeons	September 15 to September 30 (only in PMUs 3-13 to 3-17)	5	15	
District No. 4	All ducks, combined	September 8 to December 23	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	White-fronted Geese	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Snipe	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	September 1 to September 30	5	15
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A

District No. 5	All ducks, combined	September 13 to December 25	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 13 to December 25	10	30
	White-fronted Geese	September 13 to December 25	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 13 to December 25	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 13 to December 25	10	30
	Snipe	September 13 to December 25	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A
District No. 6	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 30 (in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	10	30
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	White-fronted Geese	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	5	15
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	5	15
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	10	30
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Snipe	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	10	30
		October 1 to November 30		
December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)				
Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A	
Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A	

District No. 7	All ducks, combined	September 1 to November 30	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to November 30	10	30
	White-fronted Geese	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 1 to November 30	10	30
	Snipe	September 1 to November 30	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A
District No. 8	All ducks, combined	September 23 to January 7	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 20 to November 28	10	30
		December 20 to January 5		
		February 22 to March 10		
	White-fronted Geese	September 23 to January 7	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 23 to January 7	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 23 to January 7	10	30
	Snipe	September 23 to January 7	10	30
Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	September 1 to September 30	5	15	
Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A	

You may also direct your questions to:

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

**Regional Office**

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  
enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

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**Canada**





## Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

### AUGUST 2023 TO JULY 2024



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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.**

#### Hunting Zones

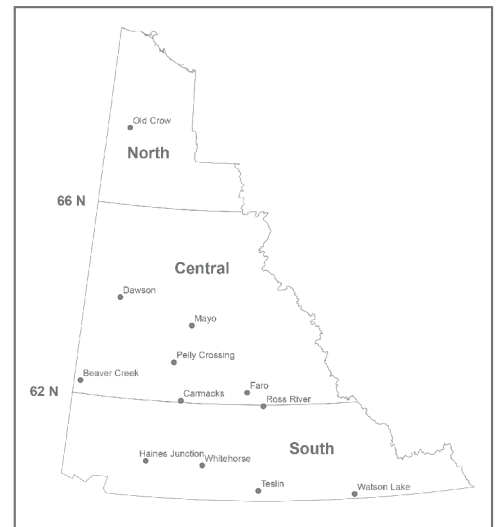
**Northern Yukon territory:** all that portion of Yukon lying north of latitude 66°N

**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

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](http://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.

#### 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.

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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 Yukon, 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.

### 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 Seasons and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in Yukon

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Northern Yukon	All ducks, combined	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	25	No limit
		September 1 to October 31		
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	15	No limit
		September 1 to October 31		
	Sandhill Cranes	No open season	N/A	N/A
Rails and Coots, combined	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	25	No limit	
	September 1 to October 31			
Snipe	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	10	No limit	
	September 1 to October 31			
Central Yukon	All ducks, combined	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	8	24
		September 1 to October 31		
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	5	15
		September 1 to October 31		
	Sandhill Cranes	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	2	4
September 1 to October 31				
Rails and Coots, combined	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	25	No limit	
	September 1 to October 31			
Snipe	August 15 to August 31, for residents of Yukon only	10	30	
	September 1 to October 31			
Southern Yukon	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	5	15
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to October 31	2	4
	Rails and Coots, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Snipe	September 1 to October 31	10	30

### Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Yukon

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Northern Yukon	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	August 15 to August 31, only for residents of Yukon	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 1 to October 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
		May 1 to May 28			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
Central Yukon	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	August 15 to August 31, only for residents of Yukon	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 1 to October 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
		May 1 to May 28			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.

Southern Yukon	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to October 31	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](http://www.canada.ca)).

You may also direct your questions to:

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

**Regional Office**

91780 Alaska Highway  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5X7  
Tel.: 867-393-6700  
Toll free: 1-800-668-6767  
[enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

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### 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.

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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

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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

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### 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

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### 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.

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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](http://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](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

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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 Nunavut, 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.

### 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). 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 Nunavut

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Throughout Nunavut except the portion of the islands and waters of James Bay south of latitude 55°N	All ducks, combined	September 1 to December 10	25 for residents of Canada 8 for non-residents of Canada	No limit for residents of Canada 24 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 5 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 2 may be White-fronted Geese)	No limit for residents of Canada 15 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 6 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 30 for non-residents of Canada
The portion of the islands and waters of James Bay south of latitude 55°N and west of longitude 80°15'W	All ducks, combined	September 1 to December 10	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 6 may be American Black Ducks)
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to December 10	15 for residents of Canada (not more than a total of 5 may be Canada Geese or Cackling Geese in any combination) 5 for non-residents of Canada (not more than a total of 2 may be White-fronted Geese)	No limit for residents of Canada 15 White-fronted geese and Brant, combined, for non-residents of Canada (not more than 6 may be White-fronted Geese) and no limit in respect of Canada Geese and Cackling Geese.
	Coots	September 1 to December 10	25	No limit
	Snipe	September 1 to December 10	10	No limit for residents of Canada 30 for non-residents of Canada
The portion of the islands and waters of James Bay south of 55°N latitude and east of 80°15'W longitude	All ducks, combined	September 1 to December 10	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal and not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to December 10	15 for residents of Canada 5 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 2 may be White-fronted Geese)	20 for residents of Canada 20 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 6 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 30 for non-residents of Canada



## Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Nunavut

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Throughout Nunavut	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 December 10			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.

**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, 2022*, 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**

**Regional Office**

5019, 52 Street

P.O. Box 2310

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2P7

Tel.: 1-800-668-6767

[enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.reportband.gov)

**Canada** 