

# Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

August 2025 to July 2026



**Notice:** Avian influenza virus (bird flu) 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 (MGBH) 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 2025 federal permit is also valid for the 2026 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese.

## Hunting Zones

**Zone No. 1:** Provincial 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:** Provincial 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).

For more information on restrictions and requirements for hunting migratory game birds, please refer to the [Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022](#) (MBR), and/or consult the Government of Canada [Migratory Game Bird Hunting](#) website, which includes a [frequently asked questions](#) page.

The Canadian [Firearms Act](#) outlines the requirements for the storage, transportation and possession of firearms, as well as details requirements for licensing and registration of certain firearms. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory and municipality where you will be hunting. Restrictions such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses for the discharge of firearms may be applicable.

**You can purchase an electronic MGBH Permit by visiting the Government of Canada website ([www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca](http://www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca)).**

Hunters may carry their MGBH Permit either in physical (paper) or electronic formats (such as on a mobile device). Electronic MGBH Permits must be in the PDF format provided by the e-permitting system (a photograph or screenshot of your permit is not valid). It is the hunter’s responsibility to be able to show all required permits to a game officer immediately upon request.

## Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

A national consultation process has been developed which includes a report on the population status of migratory game birds and a consultation document that provides an opportunity to participate in developing the hunting regulations. For more information, consult the [Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series](#) web page on the Government of Canada website.

## Youth Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit

The Youth MGBH Permit is an option available to hunters who are minors (under the age of 18 years old on the day the permit is issued). The Youth MGBH Permit, as well as the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, are free of charge and **can only be obtained through the e-permitting system ([www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca](http://www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca)).**

The Youth MGBH Permit provides young hunters with the opportunity to practice their skills under the supervision of an adult hunter (known as a mentor) and allows them to have their own daily bag and possession limits.

Mentors must possess their own MGBH Permit, must have held a MGBH Permit in a previous year, and may accompany no more than two Youth MGBH Permit holders at a time. Mentors may carry a firearm and may hunt.



Many provinces and territories have additional licence requirements and restrictions for hunters who are minors and/or for mentors. Please consult the applicable provincial/territorial regulations.

## Enforcement



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

## Shot

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

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

- remove the 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 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 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 residents of Canada 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 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 residents of Canada 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.

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 on migratory game bird hunting](#), 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**  
9250-49th Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 1K5  
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)