

2015

MINNESOTA
**WATERFOWL
HUNTING**

REGULATIONS



MNDNR

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Waterfowl Hunters

Future hunters are relying on you to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species...do your part.



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**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

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Minnesota State Duck Stamp



Harlequin duck
Painting by Scot Storm, Minnetonka

Funds raised through the sale of Minnesota state duck stamps pay for waterfowl research, management and habitat thereby improving conditions for the state's resident and migrating waterfowl.

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Cover photo of canvasbacks by Carol Henderson.

LICENSE INFORMATION

GENERAL

Resident and nonresident waterfowl hunters 16 years old or older must have one of the following licenses:

FEE	License	Age
\$13.50	Resident Senior Citizen Small Game	65 and older
\$ 5	Resident Youth Small Game	16 and 17
\$22	Resident Small Game	18 to 64
\$19	Resident 72 hour Small Game	18 to 64
\$38	Resident Individual Sports	18 and older
\$52	Resident Combination Sports	18 and older
\$93	Resident Individual Super Sports	18 and older
\$117	Resident Combination Super Sports	18 and older
\$**	Resident lifetime small game renewal	
\$**	Resident lifetime sports renewal	
\$ 5	Nonresident Youth Small Game	16 and 17
\$75	Nonresident 72 hour Small Game	18 and older
\$102	Nonresident Small Game	18 and older

Prices shown do not include additional fees charged for issuing licenses.

Special goose permit (residents ages 18-64 and all non residents) required for the August and September season. (\$4)

Sandhill crane permit required for NW crane season (residents and non-residents). (\$3)

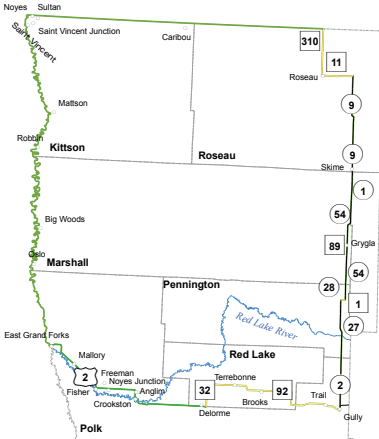
- * An electronically-issued federal stamp is valid for 45 days. Pictorial stamps, when received by mail, must be signed and in the possession of the hunter.
- ** Price varies depending on age at purchase. Lifetime license applications are available by calling toll free 1-888-646-6367 or online at mndnr.gov
(Persons hunting waterfowl on commercial shooting preserves are required to have both a federal and a state duck stamp validation in addition to a small game license. The only exception is when taking only marked, pen-reared mallards.)
- A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons age 16 and older.
- HIP certification is required for any licensed waterfowl or migratory bird hunter. (See HIP information page 6.)
- A Minnesota state waterfowl stamp is required for residents age 18 to 64 and nonresidents age 16 and over. (Note: 72 hour licenses include the state waterfowl stamp).

Note: There are licensing exceptions for landowners, military personnel and others. See the *2015 Hunting Regulations Handbook* for a complete listing of license requirements.

SANDHILL CRANE AND EARLY GOOSE SEASONS

NORTHWEST GOOSE AND SANDHILL CRANE ZONE

Early season Canada goose hunting (Sept. 5-22) near water prohibited within the boundary.



AUGUST CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT ACTION

Intensive Harvest Zone Only

Season Dates: Aug. 8-23, 2015

Daily Bag Limit: 10 Canada Geese

Possession Limit: None

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. All other restrictions are the same as for the regular goose season, including nontoxic shot requirements, refuges, plugged shotguns, baiting, no electronic calls, etc.

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE HUNT

Season dates: Sept. 5-22

Daily Bag limit: Intensive Harvest Zone—10
Remainder of state—5

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

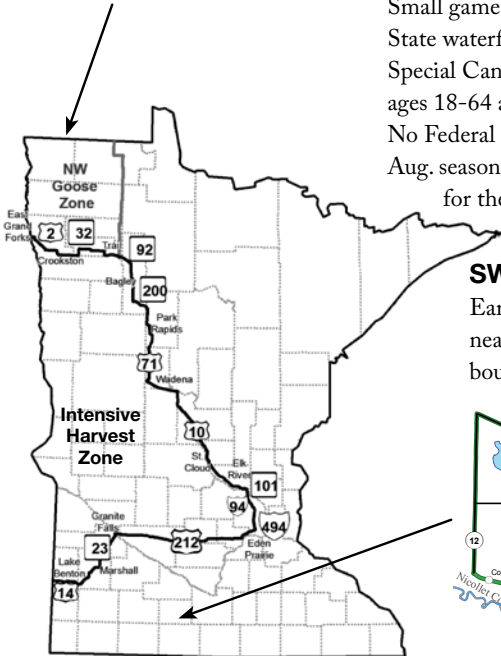
License Requirements (both seasons):

Small game license

State waterfowl stamp (\$7.50)

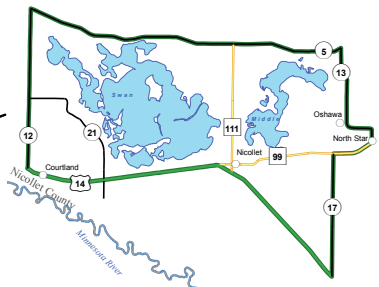
Special Canada goose permit (\$4, residents ages 18-64 and all nonresidents).

No Federal Duck stamp is required for the Aug. season. A federal stamp is required for the Sept. and regular goose seasons.



SWAN LAKE AREA

Early season hunting (Sept. 5-22) near water prohibited within the boundary. See page 9 for details.



2015 SEASONS, DATES AND BAG LIMITS

DUCKS/COOTS

DUCKS, COOTS, MERGANSERS, MOORHENS (GALLINULES)		SEASON DATES
North Zone	See map, page 8	Sept. 26-Nov. 24
Central Zone	See map, page 8	Sept. 26-Oct. 4; Oct. 10-Nov. 29
South Zone	See map, page 8	Sept. 26-Oct. 4; Oct. 15*-Dec. 4

* October 15 is the start of the MEA conference.

Duck bag limits: 6 ducks daily; may not include more than any combination of the following:

- 4 mallards (2 hen mallard), 3 scaup, 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, 2 redheads,
- 2 canvasbacks, 1 black duck. If not listed up to 6 ducks of a species may be taken.

Coot and moorhen (gallinule) bag limits: Daily bag limit is 15. Shooting hours are the same as for the regular waterfowl season.

Merganser bag limit: Daily bag limit is 5, no more than 2 of which may be a hooded merganser.

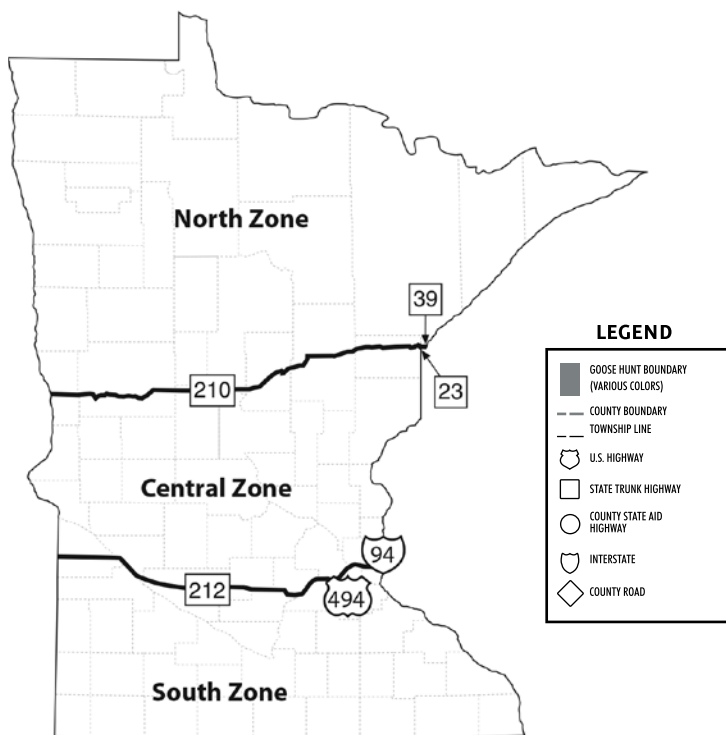
The possession limit for all migratory birds is three times the daily bag limit.

GEESE

	DATES	BAG LIMITS
North zone*	Sept. 26-Dec. 23	
Dark geese		3 combined
Light geese		20
Central zone*	Sept. 26-Oct. 4; Oct. 10-Dec. 28	
Dark geese		3 combined
Light geese		20
South zone*	Sept. 26-Oct. 4; Oct. 15-Jan. 2	
Dark geese		3 combined
Light geese		20
August Canada goose	Aug. 8-23 (Intensive harvest zone only)	10
September Canada goose	Sept. 5-22	10 Intensive harvest zone 5 Remainder of state

* Dark geese include Canada, white-fronted and brant; light geese include snow geese, Blue geese and Ross's.

REGULAR SEASON DUCK AND GOOSE ZONES



YOUTH HUNT

On Sept. 12, 2015, waterfowl hunters age 15 and younger, when accompanied by a non-hunting adult (age 18 and older, no license required) may take ducks, Canada geese, mergansers, coots and moorhens from one-half hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. Motorized decoy restrictions are in effect. Bag limits are the same as the regular duck season. Five Canada geese may be taken statewide. Hunters ages 13 to 15 must have a firearms safety certificate or apprentice hunter validation in their possession. All other migratory bird hunting regulations apply.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for sandhill crane, rail, snipe, ducks and geese are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. from the opening day of duck season through Friday Oct. 9, and until sunset thereafter. See youth hunt and early goose season for additional hours.

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

	SEASON DATES	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Mourning doves	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	15	45
Woodcock	Sept. 19 - Nov. 2	3	9
Sora and Virginia rail	Sept. 1 - Nov. 2	25 (in aggregate)	75 (in aggregate)
Common snipe (Wilson's or Jacksnipe)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 2	8	24
Sandhill crane*	Sept. 12 - Oct. 18	1	3

* Northwest goose and crane zone only, page 6.

SPECIAL FALCONRY SEASON

Dates:

- Ducks, coots and moorhens may be taken by falconry from Sept. 26-Dec. 4 only when they may be taken by firearm and from Dec. 12 through Jan. 26, 2016 statewide.
- Geese may be taken by falconry during any open goose season. Woodcock, rail doves and snipe may be taken by falconry from Sept. 1 to Dec. 16.

Bag limits and hours:

- Three daily combined and nine in possession combined.
- Falconry hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except after Sept. 26, when they are the same as the waterfowl shooting hours.

SURFACE WATER RESTRICTIONS

“Surface water” includes, but is not limited to wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams. Temporarily flooded cropland, pasture, or other temporarily flooded areas (unless contiguous with lakes, wetlands, rivers or streams) are not included. This restriction does not apply to youth participating in the youth waterfowl hunt or in other areas as specifically authorized by the commissioner.

A person may not hunt geese during the September goose season within 100 yards of surface water in the following areas:

- Northwest Goose and Sandhill crane zone
- Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area
- Swan Lake Area
- Ocheda Lake Game Refuge

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)

Before hunting waterfowl or migratory game birds (except sandhill cranes), **you must be Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified** by answering “yes” when asked whether you intend to hunt migratory birds at the time you buy your small game or sports license. If you don’t, you can still answer “yes” at a later date at no cost by getting a HIP receipt at any electronic license sales location. Evidence of compliance will be noted on your license as “HIP Certified” and must be carried while hunting migratory birds.

WHY HIP?

Using information gathered with HIP, DNR waterfowl biologists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are developing more reliable estimates of the number of all migratory birds harvested throughout the country.

FIREARMS SAFETY CERTIFICATE

Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1979 must have a Firearms Safety Certificate, Apprentice Hunter Validation, a previous hunting license with a firearms safety indicator or other evidence of successfully completing a hunter safety course to obtain a license to take wild animals with firearms in Minnesota.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSES

WHERE CAN I BUY A LICENSE OR STAMP?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issues licenses through 1,500 license agent locations throughout Minnesota—sporting goods stores, hunting and fishing supplies stores and some discount chains.

Federal migratory waterfowl stamps validations will be available at all of Minnesota’s 1,500 electronic license vendors. The electronic validation for the federal stamp is valid for up to 45 days until the customer receives the pictorial stamp by mail, when it must be signed and kept in possession.

HOW DO I BUY A LICENSE ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE?

Licenses may be purchased via the DNR website at mndnr.gov or by calling toll free (888) 665-4236. Additional convenience fees are added for sales via the internet or telephone.

Avoid Spreading Invasive Species



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, and zebra mussels can do irreparable damage to wetlands

and wildlife habitat—and faucet snails carry parasites that infect and eventually kill waterfowl. It is illegal to transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species in or on boats, trailers, or other equipment, such as decoys and waders. However, waterfowl hunters may use emergent aquatic plants, such as cattails and bulrushes, cut above the waterline, for building blinds or camouflage. Take these steps to prevent the spread of AIS:

- Clean aquatic plants, zebra mussels, snails, and mud from boat, motor, trailer, waders or hip boots, decoy lines, anchors, push poles, hunting dogs, and ATVs. Drain the water from boats and equipment and leave drain plugs out when transporting.
- Dry everything for at least 5 days before hunting in other waters.
- Use elliptical, bulb-shaped, or strap decoy anchors to help reduce snagging submergent aquatic plants.

Youth Duck Hunting Opportunity

Carlos Avery WMA Controlled Hunt Zone—A special restricted access hunt will be held in the pool 2 portion of the sanctuary at Carlos Avery WMA in Anoka County. Two areas will be available by drawing on Saturday and Tuesday mornings through the waterfowl season. Applications will be accepted for groups of up to 4 with preference given to groups with at least one youth hunter (age 17 and under) or one senior hunter (age 65 and over). Minnesota Waterfowl Association will conduct drawings for blinds two weeks prior to each week of hunting. For rules, application form and dates go to:

<http://www.mndnr.gov/averyhunt>,
<http://www.mnwaterfowl.com/>, or
call Carlos Avery WMA Headquarters at
651-296-5200



GENERAL WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

NEW FOR 2015

Ducks may now be transported with only a fully-feathered wing attached.

The daily bag limit for canvasback is two per day.

Trolling motors with battery power of 12 volts or less are allowed on the following Migratory Waterfowl Feeding and Resting areas in Le Sueur County: Dora, Diamond and Sanborn lakes. See page 12.

LICENSE VALIDATION/APPRENTICE HUNTER

License validations for state migratory waterfowl stamps are legal for hunting without the pictorial stamp. Purchasers can request the optional pictorial stamp for a fee but it is not required for hunting.

Apprentice hunter validation is available for residents and non-residents who would normally be required to possess a firearms safety certificate to hunt small game or deer. See pages 10 and 17 of the *2015 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* for details.

DEFINITIONS

- **“Migratory game birds”** means ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens (gallinules), woodcock, rails, snipe, sandhill cranes, and mourning doves.
- **“Migratory waterfowl”** means ducks, geese, and mergansers.
- **“Undressed bird”** means ducks, or geese or other migratory game birds with one fully feathered wing attached.

R.T. Dillon, fwgna.org



Aquatic Invasive Species Alert

The invasive faucet snail is an increasing threat to waterfowl populations and could be inadvertently spread on waterfowl hunting equipment. Snails can attach directly to equipment, hide within mud, and attach to aquatic plants. These small snails (up to 1/2 inch, but usually smaller) are a co-host for a parasite that kills diving ducks and coots. They caused thousands of waterfowl in Minnesota to die in recent years. They are designated as a prohibited invasive species and are illegal to transport. Hunters are required to remove faucet snails and other prohibited invasive species from boats, waders, push poles, decoys and decoy anchors before leaving the water access to avoid their spread. Faucet snails can live out of water for more than 30 days, so double checking for snails and cleaning off equipment before reuse is also strongly recommended. Visit mndnr.gov/AIS for more information about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

NON-TOXIC SHOT REQUIRED

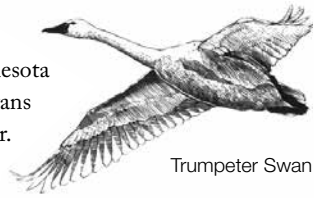
It is unlawful to take geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, or sandhill cranes with lead shot or while having any lead shot in possession. Only shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for coots, ducks, geese, moorhens, sandhill cranes (NW zone only) rails and snipe are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. from Sept. 26 through Friday Oct. 9, and until sunset thereafter. See sunrise/sunset tables inside back cover.

DON'T SHOOT A SWAN

Both tundra and trumpeter swans are found in Minnesota and are not legal game birds. All-white trumpeter swans weigh up to 23 pounds. Young swans are gray in color.



Trumpeter Swan

OPENING DAY POSSESSION LIMIT

On the opening day of the season, no person may possess more freshly killed migratory game birds than is allowed by the daily bag limit.

RETRIEVAL

A person may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in the daily bag limit.

TAKING IN OPEN WATER

A person may not take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails in open water unless that person is:

- a) within a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal the person or boat, or
- b) pursuing or shooting wounded birds (while in compliance with watercraft restrictions), or
- c) on a river or stream that is not more than 100 yards in width, or
- d) hunting on one of the following water bodies:
 1. Mississippi River from the Highway 61 bridge at Hastings to the Iowa border: hunting is allowed from anchored boats not more than 100 feet from any shoreline, including islands.
 2. Lake Pepin, Lake of the Woods, and Lake Mille Lacs: open water hunting is allowed from boats that must be anchored.
 3. Lake Superior: open water hunting is allowed on the MN waters north and east of the Minnesota/Park Point peninsula as long as boats remain anchored.

WATERCRAFT

- A person using watercraft to take migratory waterfowl must comply with the provisions for “Taking in Open Water.”
 - Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a floating watercraft if the craft is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled by paddle, oars, or pole.
 - Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a watercraft propelled by motor or sails only if the motor is shut off and the sails are furled and the watercraft has stopped.
- While on the water and traveling to or from a site the person intends to hunt, unloaded and uncased firearms may be transported in a boat or other watercraft capable of being propelled by motor or sail. Firearms must be transported unloaded and cased in such watercraft:
 - Within Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey counties.
 - Within the boundaries of a home rule, charter or statutory city with a population of 2,500 or more.
 - As otherwise restricted by game refuge, shining or night vision laws
- All watercraft (including boats used for duck hunting during the duck season) are required to carry and have readily accessible, one U.S. Coast Guard approved **wearable** (Type I, II, or III) personal flotation device or life preserver for each person on board. **In addition, boats 16 feet or longer** (except canoes and kayaks) must carry at least one coast guard approved throwable device (boat cushion or ring buoy) for the boat. **Boat cushions are not acceptable as primary life saving devices.**
- During open waterfowl seasons, a person may not leave an unattended boat used for hunting waterfowl in public waters between sunset and one hour before sunrise unless the boat is adjacent to private land under control of the person and the water does not contain a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal a hunter or a boat.
- A waterfowl boat does not have to be licensed during the waterfowl hunting season for waterfowl hunting only.
- Persons leaving waters of the state must drain boating-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the watercraft and associated equipment on public roads. Drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft on public roads.

BLINDS AND SINK BOXES

- No person may erect a blind in public waters or on public land more than one hour before the open season for waterfowl.

- No person may take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails using a sink box or in public waters from a permanent artificial blind. A sink box is a structure that allows a hunter to partially hide beneath the water surface. Layout boats are not considered sink boxes.
- Any blind on public land or in public waters when not in use is considered public and not the property of the person who constructed it. Any use of threat or force against another person to gain possession of a blind is unlawful.
- Hunters may use aquatic emergent plants, such as cattails and bulrushes, cut above the waterline, for building blinds.

DECOYS

- No person may place decoys on public lands or in public waters more than two hours before legal shooting hours for waterfowl.
- No person may leave decoys on public waters between sunset and two hours before legal shooting hours or leave decoys unattended during other times for more than three consecutive hours, except decoys may be left in waters adjacent to private land under control of the hunter where there is not sufficient natural vegetation growing in the water to partially conceal a hunter. A person may not leave decoys in public waters between sunset and one hour before shooting hours if the decoys constitute a navigational hazard.

MOTORIZED DECOY RESTRICTIONS

Motorized decoys may not be used statewide from the opening day of the duck season (and on Youth Waterfowl Day) through Saturday Oct. 10. Motorized decoys may not be used on on water bodies and lands fully contained within state wildlife management area boundaries at any time during the duck season. This restriction applies whether the motor is running or not. Remote controls for motorized decoys are legal.

WHITEFISH NETTING SEASON OPEN

The whitefish netting season on Leech Lake and other lakes is open during duck season. Be careful when venturing near buoys.

For Your Information

Report Your Bands. Call 1-800-327-BAND

Each year, state and federal waterfowl biologists mark thousands of waterfowl with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report recovered bands receive specific information on where and when the bird was banded while providing important information for waterfowl management. Bands may be reported by calling 1-800-327-BAND (2263) or online at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL.


POSSESSING AND TRANSPORTING MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND GAME BIRDS

Ducks and all other migrating game birds must be transported with a fully-feathered wing attached except:

- Doves may be fully dressed.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREAS

The following areas have been designated Migratory Waterfowl Feeding and Resting Areas. When posted as such during the open waterfowl season no person may use any motor-propelled watercraft except trolling motors with battery power of 12 volts or less on lakes as indicated by the asterisk (*) in the table below.

COUNTY	LAKES
Beltrami	Puposky Lake* and Little Puposky Lake*
Big Stone, Lac qui Parle and Swift	Part of Marsh Lake, Thielke Lake
Blue Earth	Cottonwood Lake
Carver	Tiger Lake*
Cass	Big Rice, Goose, Mud Lakes
Clearwater	Upper Rice Lake
Faribault	Part of Minnesota Lake*
Freeborn	Bear Lake*, Upper Twin Lake*
Grant and Douglas	Part of Lake Christina
Itasca	Rice Lake (near Max) and Nature's (Squaw) Lake
Jackson	Part of South Heron Lake* and all of North Heron Lake* except Winzer Bay and North Marsh
Kandiyohi	Wakanda Lake* and Lake Lillian*
 LeSueur	Dora*, Diamond*, Henry, Rice, Sanborn* and Scotch lakes
McLeod	Bakers Lake* and the unnamed lake* in Sec. 28, Twp. 114N., R. 29 W. (Penn Twp.)
Nicollet	Oakleaf Lake
Otter Tail	That part of Lake Lizzie, also known as Rush Lake, located in Sec. 3-9, Twp. 136 N., R. 42 (Lida Twp.); and Mud Lake in Aastad Twp.
Polk	Turtle Lake*
Pope	Nelson Lake* and Lake Johanna
Scott	Pleasant Lake
Sibley	Washington Lake and Mud Lake in Washington Lake Twp.
Traverse	Part of Mud Lake*

AIRBOATS PROHIBITED ON LAKES DESIGNATED FOR WILDLIFE USE

The use of airboats is prohibited at all times on the following lakes, which have been designated for wildlife management purposes, except as specifically authorized. Additional motorized restrictions may be posted at access points.

Lake	County
White Elk	Aitkin
Fish	Anoka
Cottonwood	Blue Earth
Perch	Blue Earth
Eagle	Blue Earth
Rice	Blue Earth
Hanska	Brown
Lake 14	Big Stone
Patterson	Carver
Tiger	Carver
Big Rice	Cass
Augusta	Cottonwood
Bolstad Slough	Cottonwood
Dog	Crow Wing
Anka	Douglas
Jennie	Douglas
Christina	Douglas/Grant
Rice	Faribault
Minnesota	Faribault
Bear	Freeborn
Lower Twin	Freeborn
Geneva	Freeborn
Upper Twin	Freeborn
Ash	Grant
Denton Slough	Grant
Towner	Grant
Heron	Jackson

Lake	County
Teal	Jackson
 Middle	Kandiyohi
Sanborn	LeSueur
Pierce	Martin
Onamia	Mille Lacs
Maria	Murray
Round	Murray
South Badger	Murray
North Badger	Murray
Swan	Nicollet
 Mud	Otter Tail
 Upper Lightning	Otter Tail
 Simon	Pope
Little Rice	St. Louis
Big Rice	St. Louis
Sand	Sibley
Cedar	Stearns
Rice	Steele/Dodge
Hassel	Swift
Buffalo	Waseca
Goose	Waseca
Willis	Waseca
Pelican	Wright
Smith	Wright
Curtis	Yellow Medicine
Spellman (N. and S.)	Yellow Medicine

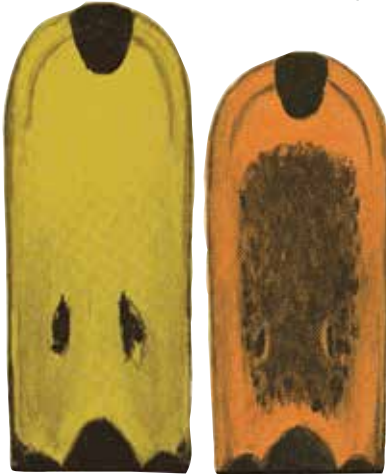
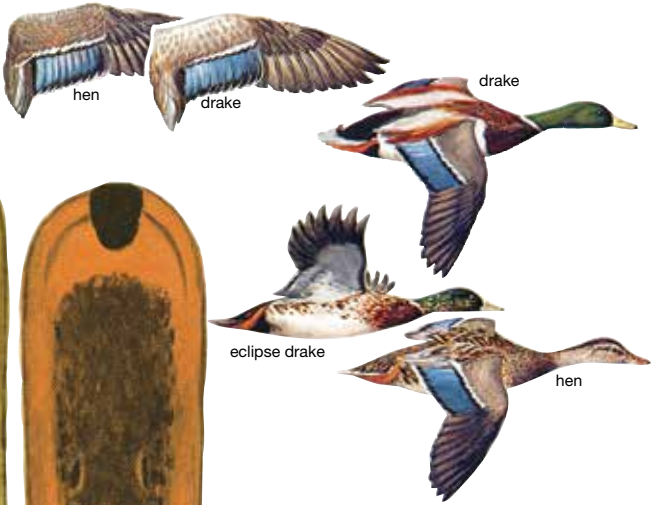
Note: The use of outboard motors (including electric trolling motors) or motorized water vehicles (including amphibious vehicles) is prohibited on most wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas or national wildlife refuges. See page 96-121 of the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations for more details.

ILLUSTRATED DUCKS AND GEESE OF MINNESOTA

NOT ALL SPECIES ARE DEPICTED

MALLARD

Length—24"
Weight—2.75 lbs.



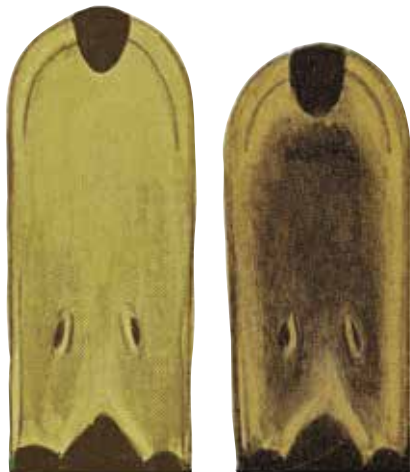
drake

hen

The mallard is the state's most common duck. Typical Minnesota harvest: 270,000.

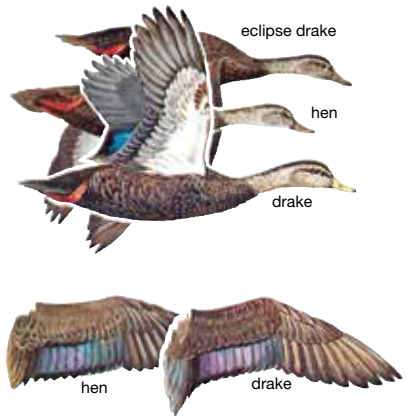
BLACK DUCK

Length—24"
Weight—2.75 lbs.



drake

hen



Primarily found in the Atlantic Flyway and, to a lesser extent, the Mississippi. There is a small breeding population in northeast Minnesota. Typical Minnesota harvest: 1,000.

GADWALL

Length—21"

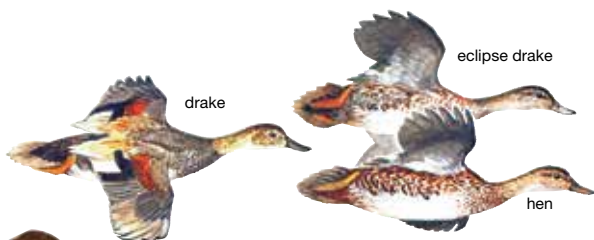
Weight—2 lbs.



drake



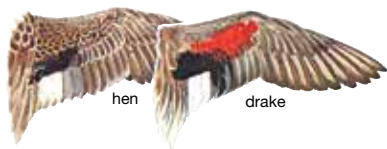
hen



drake

eclipse drake

hen



hen

drake

Often called “gray mallards” or “gray ducks,” gadwalls are one of the earliest migrants. Typical Minnesota harvest: 36,000.

WOOD DUCK

Length—18.5"

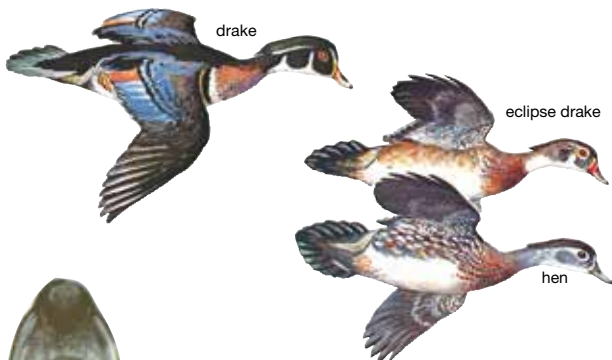
Weight—1.5 lbs.



drake



hen



drake

eclipse drake

hen



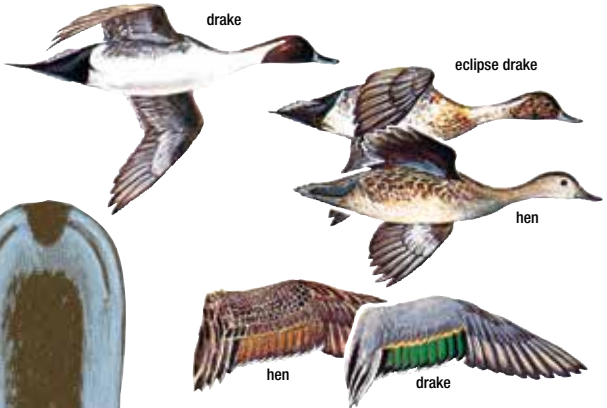
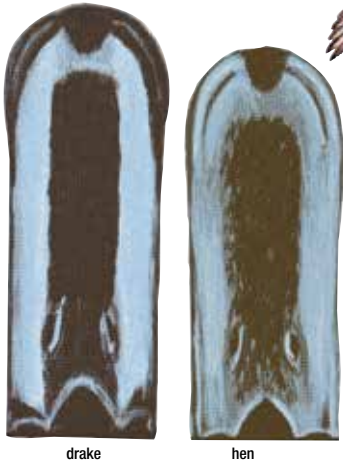
hen

drake

Found in all flyways; most numerous in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways. Typical Minnesota harvest: 125,000.

PINTAIL

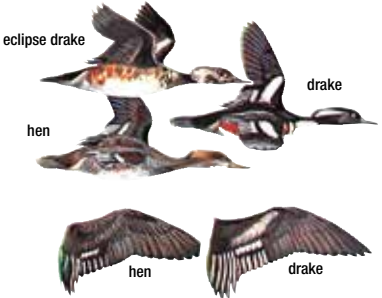
Length—26"
Weight—1.75 lbs.



These ducks use all four flyways but are most plentiful in the west. Typical Minnesota harvest: 15,000.

HOODED MERGANSER

Length—18"
Weight—1.5 lbs.

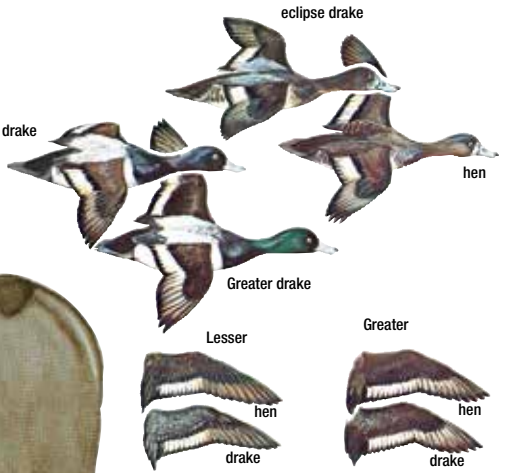
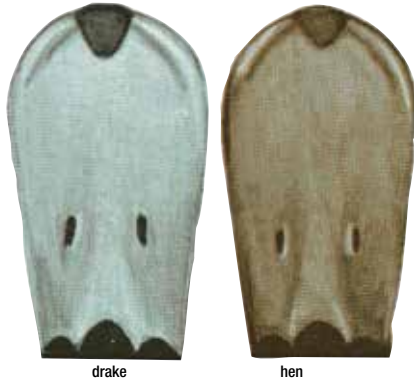


Often seen in pairs or very small flocks. Typical Minnesota harvest: 9,000.

SCAUP

GREATER Length—18.5"
Weight—2 lbs.

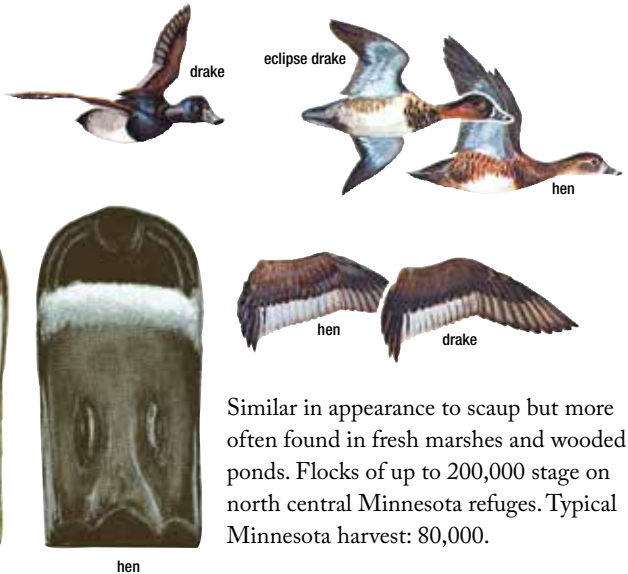
LESSER Length—17"
Weight—1.75 lbs.



Except for the wing marks, greater and lesser scaup appear nearly identical in the field. The North American breeding population has rebounded in recent years. Minnesota harvest is at historic low levels and averages only about 10,000 birds.

RINGNECK

Length—17"
Weight—1.5 lbs.



Similar in appearance to scaup but more often found in fresh marshes and wooded ponds. Flocks of up to 200,000 stage on north central Minnesota refuges. Typical Minnesota harvest: 80,000.

CANVASBACK

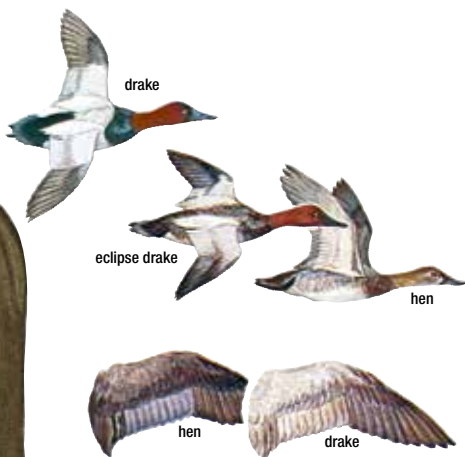
Length—22"

Weight—3 lbs.



drake

hen



drake

eclipse drake

hen

hen

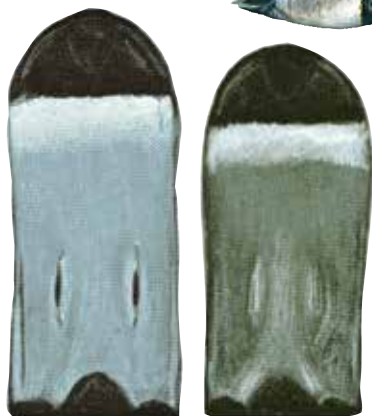
drake

Tend to favor open-water areas.
Normally late to start south.
Typical Minnesota harvest: 3,000.

REDHEAD

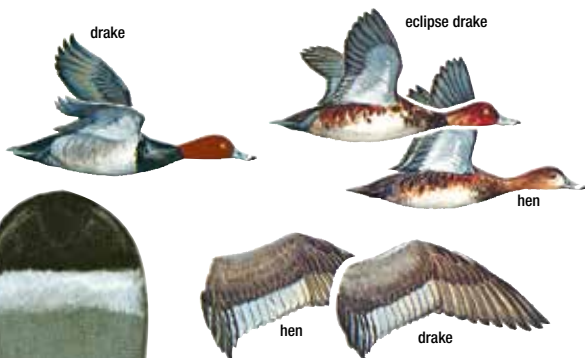
Length—20"

Weight—2.5 lbs.



drake

hen



drake

eclipse drake

hen

hen

drake

Range coast to coast with the largest numbers in the Central Flyway. Often found associating with canvasback.
Typical Minnesota harvest: 14,000.

BLINDS FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES



The Lac qui Parle, Talcot Lake, Swan Lake and Whitewater Wildlife Management Areas have a number of duck or goose hunting blinds for hunters with disabilities. For more information, write to: Lac qui Parle WMA 14047 20th St. NW, Watson, MN 56295; Nicollet area wildlife office (Swan Lake WMA) 501 Ninth St. Nicollet, MN 56074, Talcot Lake WMA, 40249 County Road 7, Dundee MN, 56131; Whitewater WMA 15035 Highway 74, Altura MN, 55910.

STATE REFUGES OPEN TO GOOSE HUNTING

COUNTY	REFUGE	OPEN SEASON
Beltrami	Bemidji Game Refuge (except Lake Bemidji, Miss. River and Stump Lake)	Canada geese Sept. 5-22
Clay	Clay County Game Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 5-22 ⁺
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge	Goose hunters with disabilities. Contact refuge.
Dakota	Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and WMA	Goose Dec. 14-Jan. 2
Dodge	Claremont Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Douglas	Evansville Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting Canada geese Sept. 5-22 ⁺
Freeborn	Moscow Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Isanti	Elizabeth Lake Game Refuge German Lake Game Refuge	Early goose season and youth participating in a designated hunting mentoring program only.
Martin	Mud-Bardwell Game Refuge**	Canada geese Oct. 31-Jan. 2
Nobles	Ocheda Lake Game Refuge***	Youth Waterfowl Day Canada geese Sept. 5-22, Dec. 5-Jan. 2
Olmsted	Rochester Game Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 5-22
Steele	Rickert Waterfowl Refuge except Myron Buelow Waterfowl Sanctuary WMA	Canada geese Sept. 5-22
Stevens	Harstad Slough Waterfowl Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 5-22 ⁺
Watsonwan	Saint James Game Refuge	Goose hunting Sept. 26-27

* No hunting from roads or rights of way

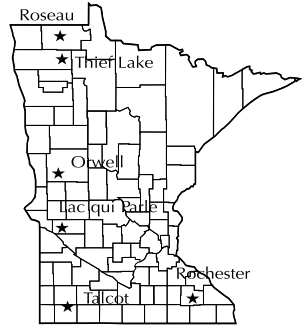
** No hunting within 100 yards of Mud and Bardwell lakes

*** No hunting within 100 yards of surface water during September season

+ Open to August harvest

CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl or small game hunting, as specified, is restricted to designated hunting stations in the portions posted as controlled hunting zones on or adjacent to the Lac qui Parle, Roseau River, Thief Lake, Talcot Lake, and Orwell Wildlife Management Areas, and the Rochester Game Refuge.



General Restrictions

The following regulations apply to persons within all the controlled hunting zones during the open Canada goose seasons or as otherwise specified:

- No more than one hunting party, consisting of no more than three hunters, may occupy any hunting station at one time.
- Waterfowl hunters must have their guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station.
- Hunters taking migratory waterfowl must be within 10 feet of each designated hunting station, except hunters may retrieve downed birds away from a posted station if they comply with all other refuge and trespass regulations.
- On public lands, dogs must be on a leash except within 10 feet of stations or while retrieving, and must be under control at all times.
- All persons occupying a hunting station must meet all license requirements to hunt waterfowl in Minnesota.
- No person may leave any refuse, offal, or feathers on public lands in the controlled hunting zone or in any parking lot or designated overnight use area on the management area.
- No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or possessed at any of the hunting stations on public lands.
- No person may loiter between the designated hunting stations on public lands.
- On public lands, after each party member has bagged a limit of Canada geese or expended their limit of shells (if applicable), the party must promptly leave the station.
- No trailers of any kind are allowed in designated parking lots.

For Your Information

Spring Snow Goose Season (Light Goose Conservation Action)

Minnesota again plans to participate in a cooperative light goose conservation action in March and April of 2016. This action is being taken in an attempt to reduce an overabundance of snow geese that is threatening their arctic breeding habitat. All participants must have a Light Goose Conservation Permit in their possession while attempting to take light geese. Details will be announced early in 2016.

LAC QUI PARLE

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Lac qui Parle Controlled Hunting Zone from Oct. 15-Dec. 30.

- Hunters must use designated hunting stations on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.
- Hunters are limited to 12 shells per trip in possession.
- Waterfowl and small game hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of assigned hunting stations.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated CHZ parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Note: A goose hunting guide for the Lac qui Parle controlled hunting zone will be available on the DNR website in late September. Hunters are encouraged to view this guide for regulations unique to the refuge, blind maps, and other helpful tips.

THIEF LAKE

The following regulations apply to waterfowl and small game hunters in the Thief Lake Controlled Hunting Zone (CHZ) during all open waterfowl seasons (including Early September and Youth Waterfowl Seasons). The restriction on small game hunting in the CHZ applies from the opening of the regular waterfowl season through Oct. 20.

- Hunters must use designated hunting stations on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.
- Hunters are limited to 12 shells per trip in possession.
- Hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of the hunting stations.
- Selected blinds will be posted closed during the early September Canada Goose Season because of their proximity to open water.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated CHZ parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

ORWELL

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Orwell Controlled Hunting Zone during the Regular Goose Season:

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited.
- No person may enter the controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in the designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone.
- No persons other than those hunting at a station in the controlled hunting zone may occupy a numbered stall in a designated parking lot.
- Hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having a number corresponding to their parking stall number.

- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station during any two consecutive days or from one hour after the close of daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.
- All guns must be unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station.

ROCHESTER AND ROSEAU RIVER

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Rochester and Roseau River Controlled Hunting Zones during the open Goose Season:

- The wildlife manager may limit all persons to one day of hunting in every three. If hunting is limited, the manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of every person at each restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No one may be in a hunting station or designated parking lot from one hour after the close of the daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.

TALCOT LAKE

Closed Area

All waterfowl hunting is prohibited upon or from the 1.5 mile segment of State Trunk Highway 62 and its right-of-way along the south boundary of the Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge (between the Cottonwood County line on the west and County Highway 7 on the east).

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Talcot Lake controlled hunting zones during Canada Goose Seasons:

General Restrictions

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited on public land in the East and West Side Controlled Hunting Zones.
- The wildlife manager may limit persons to one day of hunting in every three. The manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of each person at a restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No persons may occupy a hunting station within a controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in a designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone. No persons other than those hunting at a hunting station may occupy a numbered stall or park in a designated parking lot.
- Waterfowl hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having numbers corresponding to their parking stall number.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory gamebirds.



Caution: The following material is a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual federal regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas open to public hunting.

ILLEGAL HUNTING METHODS

You may not hunt migratory birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- From a sink box or any other low floating device that conceals you beneath the surface of the water.
- From a motorboat or sailboat, unless you shut the motor off or furl the sail and the vessel is no longer in motion.
- Using live birds as decoys.
- Using recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds or imitations of these calls and sounds.
- While possessing any shot other than approved nontoxic shot. A list of approved shot is available online at: www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/currentbirdissues/nontoxic.htm
- With a shotgun that can hold more than three shells, unless you plug it with a one piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft (if you are a paraplegic or are missing one or both legs, you may hunt from a stationary car or other stationary motor-driven land vehicle or conveyance).
- By the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after removal of bait.

POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess more migratory game birds taken in the United States than the possession limit or the aggregate possession limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess, have in custody or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary transient place of lodging; or (c) migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office or (e) a common carrier facility.

WANTON WASTE

You must make a reasonable effort to retrieve all migratory game birds that you kill or wound and keep these birds in your actual custody while in the field. You must immediately kill any wounded birds that you retrieve and count those birds toward your daily bag limit. Birds must remain in your possession while in the field. You may not give your birds to another person in the field regardless of whether or not they are properly tagged.

TAGGING

You may not put or leave migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless you tag the birds with your signature, address, number of birds identified by species and the date you killed them.

RALLYING

You may not hunt migratory game birds that have been concentrated, driven, rallied or stirred up with a motorized vehicle or sailboat.

DRESSING

You may not completely field dress migratory birds, except doves, see page 12, before taking them from the field.

DUAL VIOLATION

A violation of a state migratory game bird regulation is also a violation of federal regulations.

PROTECTED BIRDS

Federal law prohibits the killing of nongame migratory birds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations can be found in 50 CFR Part 20. If you have additional questions about waterfowl hunting and the law, contact Division of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5600 American Blvd, W. suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437-1458. Telephone: (612) 713-5320.

National Wildlife Refuge specific regulations may differ from state regulations.

Please consult the refuge specific hunting regulations where you plan to hunt or follow the link to find the individual refuge website at www.fws.gov

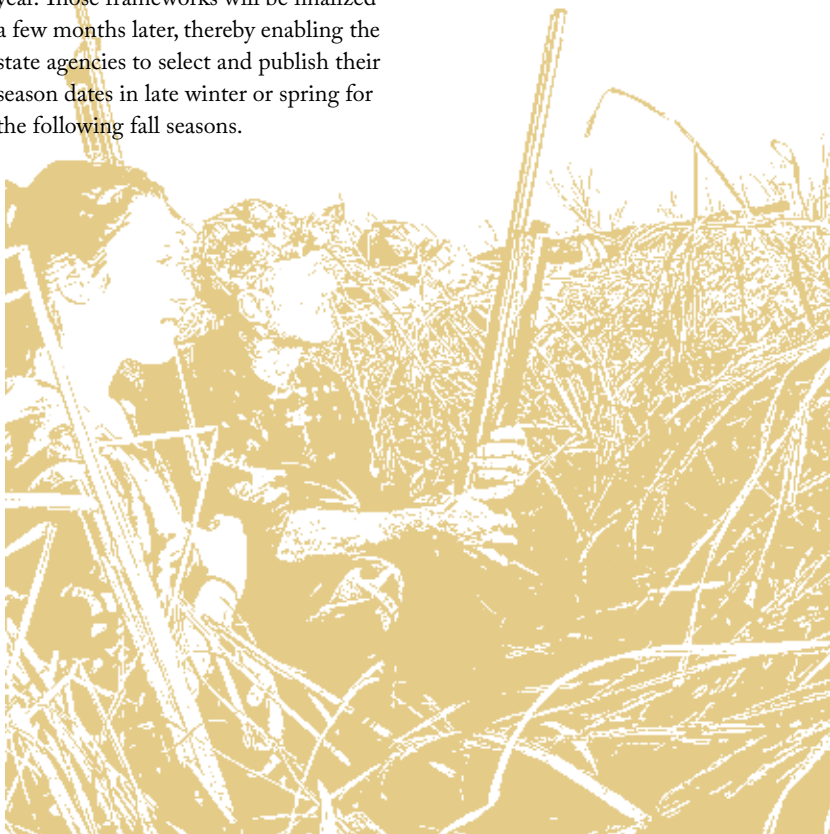
New Waterfowl Season-Setting Process Means More Planning Time for Hunters

Beginning in 2016-17, opening dates, bag limits and structures for duck and goose seasons will be available months earlier than they have in past years, thanks to a new regulations process adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Under the new process, proposed hunting season frameworks for a given year will be developed in the fall of the previous year. Those frameworks will be finalized a few months later, thereby enabling the state agencies to select and publish their season dates in late winter or spring for the following fall seasons.

“For example, spring 2015 waterfowl breeding survey data will be used to set the fall 2016 season,” says Steve Cordts, Minnesota DNR waterfowl specialist. “Hunters will have more planning time since seasons will be finalized much earlier.”

Continued on page 30



Continued from page 29

For the past few decades, regulations have been established using two separate processes: early season (e.g. mourning doves, rail, snipe, woodcock, September Canada goose, etc.) and late season (e.g. regular duck and goose seasons). The timing of these processes has allowed the use of current year breeding population surveys and harvest estimates to be evaluated prior to establishing the fall hunting seasons. This has meant that states have to wait until at least August to establish fall hunting seasons. But beginning in 2016, these processes will be combined into a single process that will establish migratory bird hunting seasons much earlier than the current system allows.

This new process will be implemented for the 2016-17 regulatory cycle. Assessments indicate that impacts from the change will be negligible.

How Waterfowl Seasons Are Set

Migratory game bird management is a cooperative effort of state and federal governments. For waterfowl management, the U.S. and Canada are divided into four flyways (Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific) based on historical abundance and migration routes of waterfowl. In the U.S., each flyway has a flyway council, which consists of representatives from state natural resource agencies.

Minnesota is one of 14 states in the Mississippi Flyway. Each year, the flyway councils recommend regulations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for

waterfowl and other migratory game bird hunting seasons.

State and provincial biologists who make up technical committees advise councils of species and population status, harvest, and hunter-participation data during the development of the council recommendations.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program, with advice from biologists in the regional offices, evaluates the council recommendations, considering species status and biology, cumulative effects of regulations, and existing regulatory policy, and makes recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regulations committee,

The regulations committee considers both the council and migratory bird program recommendations and then forwards its recommendations for annual regulations to the Fish and Wildlife Service Director.

Once regulatory proposals are approved, they are published in the Federal Register for public comment. After the comment period, final regulations are developed, which are then signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and migratory bird hunting seasons are opened.

In Minnesota, these regulations are then evaluated by DNR waterfowl staff with the Commissioner ultimately approving waterfowl seasons each year.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for most migratory game birds during the youth hunt and regular waterfowl season are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. through Oct. 9, and until sunset thereafter.

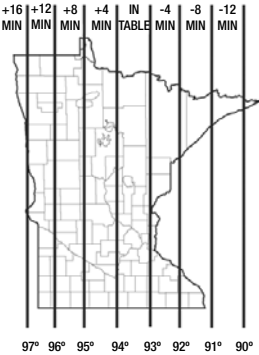
Why does Minnesota set early-season shooting hours?

Early season shooting hours help manage duck harvest in areas with high harvest and high hunter numbers. They reduce harassment of newly arrived migrants, allow feeding and roosting patterns to be established and maintained, allow mixing of locally reared birds with lightly harvested migrants and extend hunting opportunity.

Note: Times shown in the tables vary by specific location. For the exact time in your area consult a local airport or check online at mndnr.gov/sunrise-sunset

SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE

DAY	SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.	
	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM
1	6:35	7:51	7:11	6:54	6:51	5:03	7:31	4:33
2	6:36	7:49	7:12	6:52	6:52	4:00	7:32	4:33
3	6:37	7:47	7:13	6:51	6:54	4:59	7:33	4:33
4	6:38	7:45	7:14	6:49	6:55	4:58	7:34	4:32
5	6:39	7:44	7:16	6:47	6:57	4:56	7:35	4:32
6	6:41	7:42	7:17	6:45	6:58	4:55	7:36	4:32
7	6:42	7:40	7:18	6:43	6:59	4:54	7:37	4:32
8	6:43	7:38	7:19	6:41	7:01	4:53	7:38	4:32
9	6:44	7:36	7:21	6:40	7:02	4:51	7:39	4:32
10	6:45	7:34	7:22	6:38	7:04	4:50	7:40	4:32
11	6:47	7:32	7:23	6:36	7:05	4:49	7:41	4:32
12	6:48	7:30	7:25	6:34	7:06	4:48	7:42	4:32
13	6:49	7:28	7:26	6:32	7:08	4:47	7:43	4:32
14	6:50	7:27	7:27	6:31	7:09	4:46	7:44	4:32
15	6:51	7:25	7:28	6:29	7:10	4:45	7:44	4:32
16	6:53	7:23	7:30	6:27	7:12	4:44	7:45	4:32
17	6:54	7:21	7:31	6:25	7:13	4:43	7:46	4:33
18	6:55	7:19	7:32	6:24	7:14	4:42	7:46	4:33
19	6:56	7:17	7:34	6:22	7:16	4:41	7:47	4:33
20	6:57	7:15	7:35	6:20	7:17	4:40	7:48	4:34
21	6:59	7:13	7:36	6:19	7:18	4:39	7:48	4:34
22	7:00	7:11	7:38	6:17	7:20	4:39	7:49	4:35
23	7:01	7:09	7:39	6:16	7:21	4:38	7:49	4:35
24	7:02	7:08	7:40	6:14	7:22	4:37	7:50	4:36
25	7:03	7:06	7:42	6:12	7:24	4:36	7:50	4:37
26	7:05	7:04	7:43	6:11	7:25	4:36	7:50	4:37
27	7:06	7:02	7:44	6:09	7:26	4:35	7:51	4:38
28	7:07	7:00	7:46	6:08	7:27	4:35	7:51	4:39
29	7:08	6:58	7:46	6:07	7:28	4:34	7:51	4:39
30	7:09	6:56	7:48	6:05	7:30	4:34	7:51	4:40
31			7:50	6:03			7:51	4:41



Source: U.S. Naval Observatory

Nine hunting time zones are shown on the Minnesota state map (above). Sunrise and sunset times to be used for hunting in the zone titled "In Table" are shown in the table (right). For other zones, add or subtract the minutes shown at the top of the map to the times shown in the table.

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CRITICAL HABITAT

YEAR

Show Your Support

For Minnesota's Natural Resources

The new Critical Habitat license plate features previously unpublished work by Minnesota wildlife artist Les Kouba. When you purchase any of Minnesota's eight Critical Habitat license plates, your \$30 annual contribution is matched dollar-for-dollar with private donations and DNR nongame wildlife checkoff funds.



Call of the Moose Minnesota is a partnership between MN DNR and Les Kouba Outdoors. Portions of the proceeds from sales of Call of the Moose artwork and licensed products support DNR moose management and research.

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