



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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HUNTING SEASONS IN MISSISSIPPI
AFFECTED BY FEDERAL REGULATION

Open seasons prescribed by the State of Mississippi for hunting mourning doves, woodcock, and gallinules have recently been affected by amendments to the regulations under the migratory-bird treaty act, according to an announcement by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the Federal law on the subject. The State game law of Mississippi provides that the State seasons on migratory game birds shall automatically conform with those prescribed under the Federal regulations.

The open season for mourning doves in Mississippi, prescribed by a recent amendment to the Federal regulations includes the month of September and the period from November 20 to January 31. Formerly the Federal season for doves in the State was from October 16 to January 31. The split season is designed to allow reasonable shooting in September on locally bred birds, and the later period from November 20 to January 31 will afford shooting on doves migrating from the North.

The woodcock season was shortened throughout the country to a maximum period of 31 days in any particular State. The new season prescribed on these birds in Mississippi limits the open season in the State to the month of December. Formerly the woodcock season in Mississippi comprised the months of November and December.

The gallinule season, formerly included in the season prescribed for waterfowl, has been placed with that on rails, and gallinules may now be hunted in Mississippi under the Federal regulations from September 1 to November 30. This amendment was occasioned by the fact that gallinules generally migrate with the rails and in many sections of the country are shot as "king rails." The bag limit on gallinules under the Federal regulations is combined with rails. The limit prescribed is 25 in the aggregate of all kinds (except sora and coots) but not more than 15 of any one species. Separate limits of 25 each are prescribed for sora and coots. The limit on woodcock is placed at 4 a day and on mourning doves at 25. The daily limits prescribed for other migratory game birds are 25 ducks, 8 geese, 8 brant, and 20 Wilson snipe.

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