

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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DUCK HUNTERS WILL HAVE 45-DAY SEASON THIS YEAR

Bird Increases Lead to Liberalized
Regulations after 3 Years
of 30-Day Hunting

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After three years of 30-day open seasons and stringent regulations, duck hunters will have 45 days this year in each of the three zones under rules that also have changed the possession limit from one day's bag to two and legalized the taking of a few ducks fully protected the last two years.

New amendments to the regulations under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act have been approved by President Roosevelt after being adopted by Secretary Wallace. The changes are based on investigations of waterfowl conditions made by the Bureau of Biological Survey in this country, Canada, and Mexico.

In the northern zone the season on ducks, geese, Wilson's snipe or jack-snipe, and coot opens October 1 and closes November 14. In the intermediate zone the season is October 15 to November 28, and in the southern zone, November 15 to December 29. Dates are inclusive.

States in the northern zone include Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

In the intermediate zone are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York including Long Island, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The southern zone includes Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina,

Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

This season hunters may have three canvasbacks, redheads, buffleheads, or ruddy ducks in their daily bag of 10, or an aggregate of three birds of the different species. These birds have been on the protected list the last two years. The possession limit for these ducks is 6 of any single species or 6 in the aggregate.

"The slight easing of the restrictions," explained Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, "follows an increase in most species that has ~~pyramided~~ increased the last three years as a result of reduced annual kills, improved conditions on the northern breeding grounds, and the Federal refuge program. It should be remembered, however, that recent improvements follow many years of continuous decreases in the number of waterfowl, and that continuing regulations must be based on the needs and status of the birds."

"Present liberalizations," continued Dr. Gabrielson, "have been made to insure as fair a distribution of available hunting privileges as possible. It is expected that they will not result in any undue increases in the total annual kill."

Summary of Other Restrictions

Restrictions in this year's hunting regulations on migratory birds that have been continued from last year are summarized by the Survey as follows:

Baiting of waterfowl and doves and the use of live duck and goose decoys in hunting waterfowl are not authorized regardless of the distance between the bait or decoys and the shooter.

The 3-shell limit on repeating shotguns, either hand operated or auto loading, in effect the last three seasons, is continued this season. Hunters may use shotguns not larger than No. 10 gauge.

The daily bag limit on ducks is 10 in the aggregate the same as last season, but the possession limit has been doubled to 20 in the aggregate.

The daily bag on geese and brant of the kinds permitted to be killed is 5 in the aggregate of all kinds, and the possession limit has been increased to 10 in the aggregate.

No open season on snow geese and brant in Florida and States north thereof that border on the Atlantic Coast, and the closed seasons in any part of the United States on Ross's geese, wood ducks, and swans are continued.

Waterfowl and coot still may only be hunted in season from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Snipe, rails, gallinules (other than coot) woodcock, mourning doves, white-winged doves, and band-tailed pigeons may be hunted in season from 7 a.m. to sunset.

The daily bag limit on coot remains at 25, but this year a regulation prohibiting the rallying of these birds for hunting has been added.

Scoters, or sea coots, may be taken in open coastal water only beyond outer harbor lines in Maine and New Hampshire from September 15 to September 30, and in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, from September 15 to October 14. Thereafter they may be taken in these States from land and water during the waterfowl seasons.

Not more than two days' bag limit of lawfully taken and lawfully possessed ducks and geese may be transported in one calendar week. Transportation last season was limited to one day's bag.

In Alaska north of the Alaska range and the Kuskokwim-Bristol Bay Divide the waterfowl hunting season will open September 1 and close October 15; south of the Alaska Range and the Kuskokwim-Bristol Bay Divide and east of the Naknek River and Lake and the Katmai National Monument to the 141st meridian, September 16 to October 30; in southeastern Alaska from the 141st meridian south to Dixons Entrance, October 1 to November 14; and south and west of the Naknek River and Lake and Katmai National Monument to the tip of the Alaskan Peninsula, including all adjacent islands in the public domain and Kodiak Island, November 1 to December 15.

The daily bag limit for rails and gallinules, except sora and coot, is continued at 15 in the aggregate of all kinds. Bag limits for some of the other migratory game birds are as follows: sora, 15; coot, 25; Wilson's snipe or jack-snipe, 15; woodcock, 4; mourning doves and white-winged doves, 15 in the aggregate of both kinds; and band-tailed pigeons, 10. Possession limits at any one time may not exceed the daily bag limits.

The open season for rails and gallinules, except coot, is from September 1 to November 30, except in the following States:

Alabama, November 20 to January 31; Louisiana, November 1 to January 31; New York including Long Island, October 15 to November 28; Washington and Massachusetts, October 1 to November 30; Wisconsin, October 1 to November 14.

Season for Woodcock

Seasons for woodcock are as follows:

In New York north of the New York Central Railroad from Buffalo to Albany and the Boston and Albany Railroad from Albany to the Massachusetts State line, October 1 to October 31, and south thereof, October 15 to November 14. Long Island, N.Y., from November 1 to November 30.

October 1 to October 31, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

October 15 to November 14, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia.

November 15 to December 15, Arkansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Virginia.

October 21 to November 20, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

January 1 to January 31, Louisiana; October 10 to November 9, Maine; October 20 to November 19, Massachusetts; November 10 to December 10; Missouri; and October 17 to October 31, Wisconsin.

Dove-Hunting Seasons

Seasons prescribed for the States for shooting mourning doves are as follows:

September 1 to September 30 and December 20 to January 31, Alabama, in the counties of Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson, Shelby, Talladega, Clay, Randolph, and all counties north thereof; Georgia, in the counties of Troup, Merriweather,

Pike, Lamar, Monroe, Jones, Baldwin, Washington, Jefferson, Burke, and all counties north thereof; Mississippi, north of U. S. Highway 80; and South Carolina, in the counties of Aiken, Edgefield, McCormick, Greenwood, Abbeville, Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union, Fairfield, Chester, and York. In the remaining territory of these States the season is from November 20 to January 31.

September 1 to November 15, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia.

September 1 to September 30 and November 15 to December 31, Delaware and Maryland.

November 20 to January 31, Florida, except Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties, where the season is from October 1 to November 15.

September 1 to September 30, Illinois.

September 1 to October 31, Kentucky.

October 15 to December 31, Louisiana.

September 1 to September 30 and December 20 to January 31, North Carolina.

September 1 to October 31, Texas in the counties of Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Stonewall, Haskell, Throckmorton, Young, Jack, Wise, Denton, Collin, and Hunt, and all counties north thereof, and the counties of Parker, Tarrant, Dallas, Rockwall, Kaufman, Johnson, Hopkins, Delta, and Franklin. In the remainder of the State, September 15 to November 15.

The open season for white-winged doves is as follows:

August 1 to September 15, Arizona.

September 1 to October 31, Texas in the counties of Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Stonewall, Haskell, Throckmorton, Young, Jack, Wise, Denton, Collin, and Hunt, and all counties north thereof, and in the counties of Parker, Tarrant, Dallas, Rockwall, Kaufman, Johnson, Hopkins, Delta, and Franklin. In the remainder of the State, September 15 to November 15.

Open seasons for band-tailed pigeons are as follows:

October 16 to October 30, Arizona and Oregon.

December 1 to December 15, California.

October 1 to October 15, New Mexico.

September 16 to September 30, Washington.