



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCES 1948 DUCK HUNTING RULES

Migratory waterfowl hunting regulations for the 1948 season designed to meet the varying conditions in the different flyways were announced today by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug.

The amended regulations were approved by President Truman after adoption by Secretary Krug in accordance with a law of Congress making effective treaties relating to birds migrating between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service following biological investigations and consultations with State game administrators.

In submitting the recommendations for the 1948 season to the Secretary, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "The Service is justified in taking another stride forward in regulation by flyways this year because more reliable data became available from the most extensive investigations ever conducted by Service personnel in Canada, Mexico, the Carribean area, and the United States.

"After analyzing these data and giving consideration to the suggestions of State game administrators whose departments have made many investigations into the status of migratory game birds independently and in cooperation with the Service, regulations were drawn up to meet the varying conditions in the different flyways. The most liberal hunting provisions prevail in the flyways where the supply of birds have increased most and where hunting pressure is less acute."

The Atlantic flyway states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida were offered within a framework the choice of a continuous season of 30 days or a split season of 12 days each.

A continuous season of 30 days or a split season of 12 days each was also offered to the Mississippi flyway states of Minnesota, Wisconsin,

Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The Central flyway states of Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas could choose, within this pattern, a continuous season of 35 days or a split season of 14 days each.

In the Pacific flyway states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona, the choice was between a continuous season of 40 days or a split season of 17 days each.

Daily shooting hours have been slightly changed this year. Ducks, geese, brant, coot, rails and gallinules may be taken daily from one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset; woodcock, mourning or turtle doves, white-winged doves, and band-tailed pigeons from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset — with certain exceptions as shown in the tables.

On the opening day of the season and including the first day of each split season, waterfowl and coot may not be hunted prior to 12 o'clock noon. This regulation was in effect last year.

The daily shooting period for mourning doves in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset.

Bag and possession limits for ducks in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyway states will remain the same as last year—4 a day and 8 in possession.

In the Pacific and Central flyway states, however, the limits have been raised to 5 a day and 10 in possession.

The daily bag and possession limit for geese in Central and Mississippi flyway states will be 4, including in such limit either 2 Canada geese (including Hutchins or cackling geese) or 2 white-fronted geese, or one of each.

The Pacific flyway states will have a daily bag and possession limit of 5 geese. In this limit may be any combination not exceeding 2 of Canada geese or its subspecies (including Hutchins or cackling geese), white-fronted geese, or brant.

The Atlantic flyway states have been allowed a daily bag and possession limit of one Canada goose or its subspecies.

The bag limit on coots has been reduced from 25 to 15 birds a day, and not more than that number in possession, because investigations have disclosed a reduction in the coot population.

Because rails, also, appear to have decreased, the Service recommended that the open season should not exceed 60 days. Special provision has been made on clapper rails in a few states. The bag limit on sora has been reduced from 25 to 20 birds a day.

An increase in the supply of woodcock justifies a 30-day season on this species. The bag and possession limits remain the same as last year.

Although the Service gave careful consideration to requests for an open season on jacksnipe, investigations revealed that the population of this species was still insufficient to warrant a shooting season. The jacksnipe is abundant in only a few localized wintering areas.

Closed seasons on certain other species will continue as follows:

On wood ducks in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming;

On snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison counties in Montana; in Colorado, Idaho, and Wyoming, and on snow geese and brant in states in the Atlantic flyway;

On Ross' geese and swans;

On mourning doves in those states where now closed.

Although the Mississippi flyway states will be open to the hunting of Canada geese, no shooting of this species will be permitted in that part of Alexander County, Illinois, which was established as a closed area by Presidential proclamation on October 1, 1947. This includes the Horseshoe Lake area in southern Illinois.

So that sportsmen can transport to their homes ducks and geese killed on the last day of the season at some distant point, the Service has recommended that shipments from Canada and Mexico be permitted as late as 5 days following the close of the season in the province or state where taken. In the United States hunters can make interstate shipments up to 48 hours following the close of the shooting season in the state where taken.

In connection with such transportation or importation, dressed birds, as a means of identification, are now required to have the head, head plumage, and feet attached.

The regulation which prohibits the use of automatic-loading or repeating shotguns capable of holding more than three shells still continues in effect. A new amendment this year, however, provides that the plug in such a shotgun must be incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.

The post-season period for possession of migratory game birds remains the same as last year--90 days.

The regulations do not authorize the taking of waterfowl by means of bait or with the aid of live duck or goose decoys.

For ease of reference, the open seasons, bag and possession limits prescribed by these regulations are presented in tabular form by flyways, as follows:

(a) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

MOURNING OR  
TURTLE DOVE

WOODCOCK

RAILS AND GALLINULES

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT

DUCKS : GEESE (EXCEPT SNOW GEESE) : COOT : SORA : OTHERS

DAILY BAG LIMITS	4 (1)	1 (2)	15 (3)	20	4	10
POSSESSION LIMITS (10)	8 (1)	1 (2)	15 (3)	20	8	10

SEASONS:

Connecticut (9)	Nov. 12-Dec. 11	Sept. 15-Nov. 13	Oct. 28-Nov. 26	
Delaware	Oct. 29-Nov. 9 and Dec. 10-Dec. 21	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Nov. 15-Dec. 14	Sept. 16-Nov. 14
Florida	Dec. 10-Jan. 8	Sept. 15-Nov. 13 (6)		Dec. 18-Jan. 31 (4) (5)
Georgia	Dec. 10-Jan. 8	Sept. 1-Oct. 30 (6)	Dec. 23-Jan. 21	Dec. 18-Jan. 31 (5)
Maine (9)	Oct. 8-Oct. 19 and Nov. 26-Dec. 7	Oct. 8-Oct. 19 and Nov. 26-Dec. 7	Oct. 1-Oct. 30	
Maryland	Nov. 12-Nov. 23 and Dec. 28-Jan. 8	Sept. 1-Oct. 7	Nov. 15-Dec. 14	Sept. 1-Oct. 15
Massachusetts (9)	Oct. 29-Nov. 9 and Dec. 28-Jan. 8	Oct. 29-Nov. 28 (7)	Oct. 20-Nov. 18	
New Hampshire (9)	Oct. 8-Oct. 19 and Nov. 26-Dec. 7	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 1-Oct. 30	
New Jersey	Nov. 12-Dec. 11	Sept. 1-Oct. 30 (6)	Oct. 4-Nov. 2	
New York (9)	Oct. 15-Oct. 26 and Nov. 26-Dec. 7	Oct. 15-Oct. 26 and Nov. 26-Dec. 7	See note (8)	

(a) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

	<u>MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT</u>	<u>RAILS AND GALLINULES</u>	<u>WOODCOCK</u>	<u>MOURNING OR TURTLE DOVE</u>
	<u>DUCKS</u> : <u>GOOSE (EXCEPT : COOT</u> <u>SNOW GOOSE)</u>	<u>SORA</u> : <u>OTHERS</u>		
North Carolina	Dec. 10-Jan 8	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	_____	Sept. 16-Oct. 5 and Jan. 1-Jan. 20 (5)
Pennsylvania	Oct. 15-Nov. 13	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 9-Nov. 7	Oct. 9-Nov. 7
Rhode Island (9)	Dec. 10-Jan. 8	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Nov. 1-Nov. 30	_____
South Carolina	Dec. 10-Jan 8	Oct. 1-Nov. 29	_____	Sept. 16-Oct. 5 and Dec. 20-Jan. 8 (5)
Vermont	Oct. 15-Nov. 13	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 1-Oct. 30	_____
Virginia	Dec. 10-Jan. 8	Sept. 1-Oct. 30 (6)	Nov. 20-Dec. 19	Sept. 16-Oct. 30 (5)
West Virginia	Dec. 10-Jan. 8	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	_____	_____
Puerto Rico	Dec. 15-Feb. 12	Dec. 15-Feb. 12	_____	_____

(1) No open season on wood duck in Massachusetts, New Jersey or West Virginia. In other States bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted Mergansers 25; no possession limit except on opening day of season.

(2) One Canada goose or its subspecies, or 1 white-fronted goose, and in addition 3 blue geese a day or in possession.

(3) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora), gallinules, and coot.

(4) Mourning doves in Dade, Monroe, and Broward Counties, October 1 to October 31.

(5) Shooting hours for mourning doves in States indicated—12 o'clock noon until sunset.

(a) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (6) Clapper rail: in Nassau, Duval, and St. Johns Counties, Florida, September 15 to November 20, in the rest of the State November 24 to January 31; in Georgia, October 1 to November 30; in New Jersey, September 1 to November 15; and in Virginia, September 1 to November 30.
- (7) In Massachusetts, from October 29 to December 27.
- (8) New York, north and east of the tracks of the branch line of the New York Central Railroad from Oswego to Syracuse, the main line of the New York Central Railroad from Syracuse to Albany, and the main line of the Boston & Albany Railroad from Albany to the Massachusetts State line, October 11 to November 2; west and south of the line above described, October 18 to November 9; and that part of New York known as Long Island, November 1 to November 15; from 12 o'clock noon until sunset on the opening day in each of these zones, and thereafter in all of the aforesaid zones from 7:00 a.m. until sunset.
- (9) Scoters and elder ducks may be taken in all areas in Connecticut from November 12 to December 17; and in Maine and New Hampshire during the applicable seasons for other ducks. Such birds otherwise may be taken in open coastal waters only beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine from October 6 to December 16; in New Hampshire from September 1 to October 7; in Connecticut from September 18 to November 11; and in Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island from September 18 to December 17. In these States the daily bag limit is 7 scoters or elder ducks singly or in the aggregate and not exceeding 14 in possession singly or in the aggregate.
- (10) Migratory game birds of species for which no open season is provided in this schedule may be imported or transported into and possessed in this flyway only in the numbers prescribed for flyway States having an open season thereon.

(b) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

	<u>MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT</u>		<u>RAILS AND GALLINULES</u>		<u>WOODCOCK</u>	<u>MOURNING OR TURTLE DOVE</u>	
	<u>DUCKS</u> :	<u>GEESE</u> :	<u>COOT</u>	<u>SORA</u> :	<u>OTHERS</u>		
DAILY BAG LIMITS	4 (1)	4 (2)	15 (3)	20	15 (3)	4	10
POSSESSION LIMITS (9)	8 (1)	4 (2)	15 (3)	20	15 (3)	8	10
SEASONS:							
Alabama	Nov. 26-Dec. 25			Nov. 20-Jan. 18	Nov. 26-Dec. 25		Nov. 25-Jan. 8 (4)
Arkansas	Nov. 26-Dec. 25			Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Dec. 1-Dec. 30		Sept. 10-Oct. 24 (4)
Illinois	Oct. 29-Nov. 27 (5)	(6)		Sept. 1-Oct. 30 (5)			Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Indiana	Oct. 29-Nov. 27			Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 16-Nov. 14		
Iowa	Oct. 29-Nov. 27						
Kentucky	Dec. 10-Jan. 8			Sept. 1-Oct. 30			Sept. 1-Oct. 30
Louisiana	Nov. 12-Dec. 11			Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Dec. 23-Jan. 21		Sept. 16-Oct. 5 and Dec. 24-Jan. 12 (4)
Michigan	Oct. 15-Nov. 13			Sept. 1-Oct. 30	See note (7)		
Minnesota	Oct. 8-Nov. 6			Sept. 16-Nov. 14	Oct. 2-Oct. 31		
Mississippi	Dec. 10-Jan. 8			Oct. 15-Dec. 13	Dec. 1-Dec. 30		Sept. 16-Oct. 5 and Dec. 16-Jan. 4 (4)

(b-1)

(b) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT

RAILS AND GALLINULES

WOODCOCK

MOORING OR  
TURKLE DOVE

DUCKS : GESESE : COOT

SORA : OTHERS

Missouri	Oct. 29-Nov. 27	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Nov. 10-Dec. 9	Sept. 1-Oct. 30
Ohio	Oct. 29-Nov. 27 (8)	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 8-Nov. 6	
Tennessee	Dec. 10-Jan. 8			Sept. 10-Oct. 24 (4)
Missouri	Oct. 15-Nov. 13	Oct. 15-Nov. 13	Oct. 1-Oct. 30	

(1) Bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted Mergansers 25; no possession limit except on opening date of the season.

(2) Including in such limit either 2 Canada geese or its subspecies or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 of each.

(3) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora), gallinules, and coot.

(4) Shooting hours for mooring doves in States indicated--12 o'clock noon until sunset.

(5) Illinois, in Lake and McHenry Counties, coot, rails, and gallinules October 1 to October 12 from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. and thereafter during season and hours for ducks.

(6) No open season for geese in that part of Alexander County, Illinois, established as closed area by Proclamation 2748 of October 1, 1947 (12 F.R. 6521).

(7) Woodcock in Michigan, Upper Peninsula, October 1 to October 20, Lower Peninsula October 15 to November 3.

(8) Ducks, geese, coot on Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, Ohio, and one-quarter mile distant in any direction from said Reservoir, October 15 to November 13.

(9) Migratory game birds of species for which no open season is provided in this schedule may be imported or transported into and possessed in this flyway only in the numbers prescribed for flyway States having an open season thereon.

(e) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

	<u>MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT</u>		<u>RAILS AND GALLINULES</u>		<u>MOURNING OR TURKLE DOVE</u>
	<u>DUCKS</u>	<u>GEESE</u>	<u>SOA</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	
DAILY BAG LIMITS	5 (1)	4 (2)	20	15 (3)	10
POSSESSION LIMITS (9)	10 (1)	4 (2)	20	15 (3)	10
REASONS:					
Colorado	Nov. 12-Dec. 16 (7)		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Sept. 1-Oct. 12
Kansas	Oct. 15-Oct. 28 and Nov. 12-Nov. 25		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Sept. 1-Oct. 30
Montana	Oct. 8-Oct. 21 and Nov. 12-Nov. 25 (7)				
Nebraska	Oct. 15-Nov. 18		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		
New Mexico (4)	Oct. 8-Oct. 21 and Dec. 23-Jan. 5		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Sept. 1-Oct. 12
North Dakota	Oct. 8-Nov. 11		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		
Oklahoma(5)	Oct. 29-Dec. 2		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Sept. 1-Sept. 30
South Dakota	Oct. 15-Nov. 18		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		
Texas (8)	Nov. 12-Dec. 16		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		See note (6)
Wyoming	Oct. 8-Oct. 21 and Nov. 30-Dec. 13 (7)		Sept. 1-Oct. 30		

(1) No open season on wood duck in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. In other States, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted Mergansers 25; no possession limit except on opening day.

(c) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (2) Including in such limit either 2 Canada geese or its subspecies or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 of each.
- (3) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora), and gallinules, and coot.
- (4) In New Mexico, band-tailed pigeons, south of Highway 60, September 16 to October 15; no open season in rest of State.
- (5) In Oklahoma, woodcock December 1 to December 30; daily limit 4, possession limit 8.
- (6) In Texas, mourning doves in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Kendall, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leen, Houston, Cherokee, Macgdoches, and Shelby Counties and all counties north and west thereof, September 1 to October 15; in remainder of State (but not including Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kennedy, and Willacy Counties), October 20 to December 3; in these latter counties, September 17, 19 and 21 from 4 p.m. until sunset, and October 20 to November 30, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- (7) No open season on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin and Madison Counties in Montana, or in Colorado or Wyoming.
- (8) In Texas, white-winged doves in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Kinney, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Willacy, Val Verde, Terrell, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, Culberson, Hudspeth, and El Paso Counties, September 17, 19, and 21 from 4 p.m. until sunset; no open season in rest of State.
- (9) Migratory game birds of species for which no open season is provided in this schedule may be imported or transported into and possessed in this flyway only in the numbers prescribed for flyway States having an open season thereon.

(d) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

	<u>MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT</u>		<u>RAILS AND GALLINULES</u>		<u>MOURNING OR TURTLE DOVE</u>	<u>BAND-TAILED PIGEON</u>
	<u>DUCKS : GEESE AND BRANT : (EXCEPT ROSS'S GOOSE)</u>	<u>COOT</u>	<u>SORA</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>		
DAILY BAG LIMITS	5 (1)	5 (2)	15 (3)	20	15 (3)	10
POSSESSION LIMITS	(8) 10 (1)	5 (2)	15 (3)	20	15 (3)	10
SEASONS:						
Arizona (4)	Oct 8-Oct 24 and	Nov 30-Dec 16	Sept 1-Oct 30		Sept 1-Oct 30	Sept 16-Oct 15
California	Oct 15-Oct 31 and	Dec 23-Jan 8			Sept 1-Sept 30 (5)	See Note (5)
Idaho	Oct 29-Nov 14 and	Dec 23-Jan 8 (6)			Sept 1-Sept 10	
Nevada	Oct 15-Nov 23				Sept 1-Oct 12	
Oregon	Oct 29-Nov 14 and	Dec 23-Jan 8			Sept 1-Sept 15	Sept 1-Sept 30
Utah	Oct 29-Dec 7		Sept 1-Oct 30			
Washington	Oct 15-Oct 31 and	Dec 23-Jan 8				Sept 1-Sept 30
Alaska	See note (7)					

(1) No open season on wood ducks in Arizona, Nevada and Utah. In other Pacific Flyway States and Alaska, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted Mergansers 25; no possession limit except on opening day of season.

(d) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- 2) In any combination not exceeding 2 of Canada geese or its subspecies, white-fronted geese, or brant.
- 3) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora), gallinules, and coot.
- 4) In Arizona the season on white-winged dove is September 1 to September 15. The daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit 10.
- 5) In California in the Counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Sacramento, Eldorado and all counties north thereof the season for band-tailed pigeon is from September 1 to September 15 and in the rest of the State from December 1 to December 15. The season for mourning dove in Imperial County is from October 1 to October 31.
- 6) In Idaho, no open season on snow geese, and no open season on geese of any other species in Canyon County except a strip one mile wide along the northeast side of the Snake River and a strip one mile wide on each side of the Boise River.
- 7) Alaska, in First Judicial Division October 1 to November 9; in Second and Fourth Judicial Divisions and the entire drainage of Tanana River in the Third Judicial Division September 1 to October 10; in the rest of the Third Judicial Division September 15 to October 24.
- 8) Migratory game birds of species for which no open season is provided in this schedule may be imported or transported into and possessed in this flyway only in the numbers prescribed for flyway States having an open season thereon.