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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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HUNTING RULES FOR DOVES, RAILS, AND GALLINULES ANNOUNCED

Hunting regulations which will be in effect during the 1951-52 season for the shooting of doves, rails, and gallinules in those States wherein permitted, and for waterfowl in Alaska, were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

The detailed regulations for migratory waterfowl hunting in the United States, however, will not be issued until the latter part of August, the Secretary stated.

The changes in the seasons on doves, rails, and gallinules resulted from special conferences held by the Fish and Wildlife Service with officials of the various State conservation agencies concerned.

Salient points of the amended regulations are as follows:

Due to a serious decline in the Rocky Mountain population of bandtailed pigeons, the season has been closed in Arizona and New Mexico; and, because of an inadequate supply of these birds of slow reproduction, the bag limit has been reduced from 8 to 6 in the Pacific Flyway States.

At the request of State game officials, the mourning dove season has been closed in Montana; in Utah it has been opened for 9 days in 8 counties. To further protect mourning doves in the southeastern States where they have been so hard hit during the past two years by a contagious disease called trichomoniasis, and by heavy losses resulting from the severe freezes of last winter, the bag limit in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway States has been reduced from 10 to 8 birds.

In Alaska the daily bag limit for ducks has been set at 4 and the possession limit at 8.

OPEN SEASONS FOR RAILS AND GALLINULES BY FLYWAYS

Atlantic Flyway States:

September 1 through October 30 in Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

September 1 through October 20 in Maryland.

September 15 through November 13 in Florida.

October 20 through October 30 in Massachusetts.

December 15, 1951, through February 12, 1952, in Puerto Rico.

In Maine and New York the season for these species will conform to those for migratory waterfowl.

In Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island, scoter, eider and old-squaw ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, from September 28 to December 31. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines, such birds may be taken during the open seasons for other ducks. In these States only, the daily bag limit is 7 scoter, eider or old-squaw ducks singly or in the aggregate, and not exceeding 14 in possession singly or in the aggregate.

(Shooting hours will be the same as last year, 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.)

Mississippi Flyway States:

September 1 through October 30 in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, and Ohio.

September 16 through November 14 in Minnesota.

October 15 through December 13 in Mississippi.

In Alabama, Michigan, and Wisconsin, the seasons for these species will be the same as those for migratory waterfowl.

Central Flyway States:

September 1 through October 30 in Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

Pacific Flyway States:

September 1 through October 30 in Arizona and Utah.

OPEN SEASONS FOR DOVES AND PIGEONS BY FLYWAYS

Atlantic Flyway States: (Mourning Doves)

Delaware, October 1-30.

Florida, in Dade, Monroe and Broward Counties, October 1 to 30; rest of State from December 15 to January 13.

Georgia, September 15-29, and January 15-29.

Maryland, October 5--November 3.

North Carolina, September 15-29 and January 1-15.

Pennsylvania, October 8--November 6.

South Carolina, September 16-30 and December 23--January 6.

Virginia, October 2-31.

Shooting hours for mourning doves in these States will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset.

Mississippi Flyway States: (Mourning Doves)

Alabama, December 17--January 15.
Arkansas, September 15--October 14.
Illinois, September 1-30.
Kentucky, September 15--October 14.
Louisiana, December 1-30..
Mississippi, December 15--January 13.
Missouri, September 1-30.
Tennessee, September 16-30 and October 16-30.

In all of the above States, except Illinois and Missouri, the shooting hours for mourning doves will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. In Illinois and Missouri, 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

Central Flyway States: (Mourning Doves)

Colorado, September 1--October 12.
Kansas, September 1-30.
Nebraska, September 1-30.
New Mexico, September 1--October 12. (Shooting hours for mourning doves will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset on first day of season; thereafter from sunrise to sunset.)
Oklahoma, September 1-30.

Texas, for mourning doves in the North Zone of Texas, September 1 to October 10, from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. In the South Zone, in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy Counties, September 14, 16, and 18 from 4 p.m. until sunset and November 15 to December 21, from 12 o'clock noon until sunset; in the remainder of the South Zone, from November 15 to December 24, from 12 o'clock noon until sunset; White-winged and mourning 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 14, 16, and 18 from 4 p.m. until sunset; no open season on white-winged doves in rest of State.

Pacific Flyway States: (Mourning Doves)

Arizona, September 1--October 15.
California, September 1-30.
Idaho--No open season on mourning doves in Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Shoshone, Kootenai, Clark, Fremont, Madison, Caribou, and Teton Counties; in rest of State, September 1 to 15.
Nevada, September 1-30.
Oregon, September 1-15.
Utah--Mourning doves in Tooele, San Juan, Beaver, Iron, Washington, Uintah, Millard, and Juab Counties, from September 1 to 9; no open season in rest of State.

White-winged dove in Arizona and in Imperial County, Calif., September 1 to 15.

Band-tailed pigeons may be hunted in only three States this year--California, Oregon, and Washington. California will again have a split season, from September 16 to 30, and December 17 to 31. Shooting dates in Oregon and Washington will extend from September 1 to 30.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Rails.--In all flyways, not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora) and gallinules.

Sora.--The daily bag and possession limit in all flyways is 25 birds, except in Florida where the limit is 15 singly or in the aggregate of all rails, including sora and gallinules.

Mourning or turtle doves.--In the States of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways wherein hunted, the bag and possession limit has been reduced from 10 to 8 birds; the limit of 10 birds in the States of the other two flyways remains the same as last year except in Texas where the daily bag and possession limit for mourning or white-winged doves is not over 10 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

Band-tailed pigeons.--Daily bag and possession limit has been reduced from 8 to 6 in California, Oregon and Washington--the only States having an open season.

REGULATIONS FOR ALASKA

In Alaska the seasons and bag limits for hunting ducks, geese and brant (except Ross' goose), and coot, are as follows:

In the Second and Fourth Judicial Divisions, September 1 to October 25; in the Third Judicial Division (except Kodiak-Afognak Island group), September 7 to October 31; in the First Judicial Division and the Kodiak-Afognak Island group October 1 to November 24; provided that scoter, eider and merganser ducks also may be taken in the Third Judicial Division west of 152° W. Longitude from September 7 to December 21, and in the Second and Fourth Judicial Divisions from September 1 to December 15.

The daily bag limit for scoters and eiders is 10 singly or in the aggregate of all kinds and the possession limit is not more than 20 singly or in the aggregate. The daily bag limit for American and red-breasted mergansers is 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds with no possession limit after the first day of the season. Limits for other ducks not over 4 a day with 8 in possession. Daily bag and possession limits for the following geese and brant; a bag limit of not more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 whitefronted geese, or (c) 2 brant or (d) 1 each of any two of these three kinds with a possession limit of not more than 2 each of any two of these kinds; in addition a daily bag limit of 4 snow or emperor geese singly or in the aggregate of both kinds, with a possession limit of not more than 8 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

DAILY SHOOTING HOURS

Rails, gallinules, mourning or turtle doves, and band-tailed pigeons.--The same as last year--from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except where noted.

For ducks, geese, and brant in Alaska.--The same as last year, one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset.

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