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WATERFOWL HUNTING DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 1954-55 SEASON

Hunting regulations which will be in effect during the 1954-55 season for the shooting of migratory waterfowl were issued today by Acting Secretary of the Interior Fred G. Aandahl.

The schedules released today contain the bag and possession limits, as well as the dates of the seasons and the shooting hours which were selected by the various State game administrators.

As announced on August 10, the general framework period extended from October 1, 1954, to January 10, 1955. This year, however, an option was permitted in all flyways extending the season as late as January 20. States choosing closing dates later than January 10 were required to apply a penalty of two days for every one day the season was extended. Georgia was the only State to accept this option, setting a closing date of January 19.

States in the Atlantic and the Central flyways were given the choice of a continuous season of 60 days or two periods of 27 days; Mississippi Flyway States were offered a straight 55-day season or two split seasons of 25 days each; while States in the Pacific Flyway could choose an 80-day consecutive season or two split seasons of 36 days each.

In submitting the regulations in their final form to Acting Secretary Aandahl for signature, Fish and Wildlife Service Director John L. Farley pointed out that this is the seventh season the regulations have been made on a flyway basis and in most flyways shooting days this season are double those in 1948, the first year of actual flyway regulation. In that year the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways had 30 days each, while the Central had 35, and the Pacific received 40.

Some highlights of the new regulations are as follows:

In the Atlantic Flyway, Delaware and Maine selected split seasons of 27 days each. Delaware's season will run from November 1 to 27 and from December 15 to January 10. Maine will have from October 4 to 30 and from November 19 to December 15. In New York State, Long Island and that part of Westchester County lying south of the Hutchinson River Parkway will have a season on waterfowl (except brant) and coot running from November 3 to January 1; the brant season will be from November 3 to December 2. In the rest of New York, waterfowl (except brant) and coot may be shot from October 16 to December 14; brant from October 16 to November 14. In Pennsylvania, on the Delaware River and in the counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware, the season will be from November 3 to January 1 to conform to the season selected by New Jersey. The brant season in that area also conforms to New Jersey's and will run from October 15 to November 13.

Shooting hours for waterfowl, coot, woodcock, and jacksnipe in the Atlantic Flyway will be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that on the opening day of the season (or the first day of the split seasons), shooting will not begin until 12 o'clock noon. In Maryland, shooting hours on woodcock and jacksnipe on each day of the season shall be from sunrise to sunset. In New Jersey, on the first day of the season, woodcock hunting may not start before sunrise, and jacksnipe hunting may not start before 12 o'clock noon.

In the Mississippi Flyway, all States except Louisiana took the straight 55-day season.

Shooting hours for waterfowl and coot in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois (except in Alexander County), Iowa (except as noted below), Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee will be one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset, except that on the first day of the season, or the first day of each split season, shooting will not begin until 12 o'clock noon. On that part of the Missouri River within the boundaries of the State of Iowa, the closing hour for hunting waterfowl and coot will be sunset. Iowa chose this hour of closing in order that their shooting time would conform with the closing hour selected by the State of Nebraska in which a part of the Missouri River also lies. Shooting until sunset will prevail in Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Shooting hours for waterfowl and coot in Alexander County, Illinois, will be from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. In Wisconsin, on the first day of the season, waterfowl, coot, jacksnipe, and woodcock hunting may not start before 1 p.m.

In the Central Flyway, all States selected the 60-day straight season.

Shooting hours will be the same as last year--one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except on the opening day of the season when shooting begins at 12 o'clock noon.

In the Pacific Flyway, California will have a split season running from October 9 to November 13 and from December 6 to January 10, except a small portion adjacent to the Colorado River where the season will conform to the dates selected by Arizona which are October 23 to January 10. The area in Nevada generally consisting of Lake Mead will also have the same waterfowl season as Arizona.

Shooting hours in the Pacific Flyway will be the same as last year, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except on the opening day of the season, or the first day of a split season, when shooting begins at 12 o'clock noon.

The open seasons and the bag and possession limits prescribed by the regulations for ducks, geese, coot, brant, woodcock, and jacksnipe are presented in tabular form by flyways in the attached schedules.

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(5) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

Migratory Waterfowl and Coot

	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Geese (except snow geese)</u>	<u>Coot</u>	<u>Brant</u>	<u>Woodcock</u>	<u>Wilson's Snipe or Jacksnipe</u>
DAILY BAG LIMITS	4 (1)(2)	2	10	6	4	8
POSSESSION LIMITS	8 (1)(2)	4	10	6	8	8
SEASONS IN: (3)						
Connecticut (4)	Nov. 3 - Jan. 1			Nov. 3 - Dec. 2	Oct. 16 - Nov. 24	-----
Delaware	Nov. 1 - Nov. 27 and Dec. 15 - Jan. 10			Dec. 15 - Jan. 10	Nov. 15 - Dec. 24	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
Florida	Nov. 12 - Jan. 10			-----	Nov. 20 - Dec. 29	Dec. 24 - Jan. 7
Georgia	Dec. 9 - Jan. 19			Dec. 12 - Jan. 10	Dec. 11 - Jan. 19	Dec. 27 - Jan. 10
Maine (4)	Oct. 4 - Oct. 30 and Nov. 19 - Dec. 15			Oct. 4 - Oct. 30	Oct. 1 - Nov. 9	Oct. 4 - Oct. 18
Maryland (5)	Nov. 12 - Jan. 10			Nov. 12 - Dec. 11	Nov. 15 - Dec. 14	Nov. 15 - Nov. 29
Massachusetts (4)(6)	Oct. 27 - Dec. 25			Oct. 27 - Nov. 25	Oct. 20 - Nov. 20	Oct. 20 - Nov. 3
New Hampshire (4)	Oct. 12 - Dec. 10			Oct. 12 - Nov. 10	Oct. 1 - Nov. 9	Oct. 1 - Oct. 15
New Jersey (7)	Nov. 3 - Jan. 1			Oct. 15 - Nov. 13	Oct. 15 - Nov. 23	Nov. 3 - Nov. 17
New York (4)	See Footnote (8)			See Footnote (8)	See Footnote (9)	See Footnote (10)
North Carolina	Nov. 10 - Jan. 8			Dec. 10 - Jan. 8	Nov. 25 - Jan. 3	Nov. 25 - Dec. 9
Pennsylvania	See Footnote (11)			See Footnote (11)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 9	Oct. 1 - Oct. 15
Rhode Island (4)	Nov. 12 - Jan. 10			Nov. 12 - Dec. 11	Nov. 1 - Dec. 10	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
South Carolina	Nov. 12 - Jan. 10			Dec. 12 - Jan. 10	Dec. 2 - Jan. 10	Dec. 27 - Jan. 10
Vermont	Oct. 10 - Dec. 8			Oct. 10 - Nov. 8	Oct. 1 - Nov. 9	-----
Virginia	Nov. 12 - Jan. 10			Dec. 13 - Jan. 10	Nov. 20 - Dec. 29	Nov. 20 - Dec. 4
West Virginia	Nov. 10 - Jan. 8			Nov. 10 - Dec. 9	Oct. 1 - Oct. 16	Oct. 1 - Oct. 15
Puerto Rico	Dec. 15 - Feb. 12			-----	-----	-----

(5) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

(1) Daily bag limit and possession limit may include 1 hooded merganser only. Wood duck: Daily bag limit may include 1, possession limit 2, except in New Hampshire where daily bag and possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. No open season on wood ducks in West Virginia.

(2) In coastal waters, bays, sounds, estuaries and the salt water reaches of rivers along the coast of New Jersey and all States North and East thereof, the daily bag limit of ducks shall be 8, possession limit 16, providing such daily bag and possession limits contain not less than 4 and 8 scaup, respectively.

(3) District of Columbia: No open seasons but migratory game birds may be possessed therein in accordance with § 6.6(c).

(4) Scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island from Sept. 16 - Dec. 31; in Connecticut and New York from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines such birds may be taken during the open season 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 of all kinds.

(5) Shooting hours on woodcock and jacksnipe on each day of the season in Maryland shall be sunrise to sunset.

(6) Only Canada geese or its subspecies may be taken in Massachusetts.

(7) New Jersey: On first day of the season, woodcock hunting may not start before sunrise and jacksnipe hunting may not start before 12 o'clock noon.

(8) Waterfowl (except brant) and coots: New York (except Long Island) and that part of Westchester County lying south of the Hutchinson River Parkway Oct. 16 - Dec. 14; brant, Oct. 16 - Nov. 14. Long Island and that part of Westchester County lying south of the Hutchinson River Parkway, brant Nov. 3 - Dec. 2, other waterfowl and coots Nov. 3 - Jan. 1.

(9) Woodcock: In that part of New York lying north of the line described below Oct. 8 - Nov. 7; on Long Island and also in that part of New York south of said line the season shall be Oct. 18 - Nov. 17. Beginning at a point at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of said river to the village of Pulaski; thence southerly along route 11 to its intersection with route 49 in the village of Central Square; thence easterly along route 49 to its junction with route 365 in the city of Rome; thence easterly along route 365 to the village of Trenton; thence easterly along route 28 to its junction with route 29 in the village of Middleville; thence easterly along route 29 to its junction with route 4; thence northerly along route 4 to its junction with route 22; thence easterly along route 22 to its junction with route 30-b; thence easterly along route 30-b to the New York-Vermont boundary.

(10) Jacksnipe: New York (except Long Island) Oct. 16 - Oct. 30; Long Island, Nov. 3 - Nov. 17. On first day of each such season hunting may not start before 12 o'clock noon.

(11) Pennsylvania: Waterfowl (except brant) and coots, Oct. 15 - Dec. 13; brant, Oct. 15 - Nov. 13, except in the counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware and the Delaware River bordering on such counties the season for waterfowl and coots shall be Nov. 3 - Jan. 1; brant, Oct. 15 - Nov. 13.

NOTE:--Red-breasted and American mergansers taken are to be included in bag limits on other ducks.

(6) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

Migratory Waterfowl and Coot

	<u>Ducks (except wood ducks)</u>	<u>Geese</u>	<u>Coot</u>	<u>Woodcock</u>	<u>Wilson's Snipe or Jacksnipe</u>
DAILY BAG LIMITS	4 (1)	5 (2)	10	4	8
POSSESSION LIMITS	8 (1)	5 (2)	10	8	8

SEASONS IN:

Alabama (3)	Nov. 17 - Jan. 10	Dec. 2 - Jan. 10	Dec. 27 - Jan. 10
Arkansas (3)	Nov. 17 - Jan. 10	Dec. 1 - Jan. 9	Dec. 1 - Dec. 15
Illinois (3)(4)(5)	Oct. 22 - Dec. 15	-----	-----
Indiana	Oct. 29 - Dec. 22	Oct. 15 - Nov. 23	Oct. 15 - Oct. 29
Iowa (3)	Oct. 15 - Dec. 8	-----	Oct. 15 - Oct. 29
Kentucky	Nov. 17 - Jan. 10	Nov. 20 - Dec. 29	Nov. 20 - Dec. 4
Louisiana	See Footnote 6	Dec. 2 - Jan. 10	Dec. 24 - Jan. 7
Michigan	Oct. 1 - Nov. 24	See Footnote 7	Oct. 1 - Oct. 15
Minnesota	Oct. 2 - Nov. 25	Oct. 2 - Nov. 10	Oct. 2 - Oct. 16
Mississippi (3)	See Footnote 8	Dec. 2 - Jan. 10	Dec. 27 - Jan. 10
Missouri (3)	Oct. 22 - Dec. 15	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31	Oct. 22 - Nov. 5
Ohio (9)	Oct. 18 - Dec. 11	Oct. 1 - Nov. 9	Oct. 18 - Nov. 1
Tennessee (3)	Nov. 17 - Jan. 10	Dec. 2 - Jan. 10	Dec. 27 - Jan. 10
Wisconsin (10)	Oct. 2 - Nov. 25	Oct. 2 - Nov. 10	Oct. 2 - Nov. 6

(6) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (1) Closed season on wood ducks. Daily bag and possession limits may include 1 hooded merganser only.
- (2) Such limit may not include more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.
- (3) Shooting hours for waterfowl and coot in States indicated, one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset: Provided, That on the first day of the season, including each first day of the split seasons in Louisiana, the starting hour shall be 12 o'clock noon: Provided further, That on that part of the Missouri River within the boundaries of the State of Iowa the closing hour for hunting waterfowl and coot shall be sunset.
- (4) No open season for geese in that part of Alexander County, Illinois, described as closed area by regulation approved September 9, 1953 (18 F.R. 5495).
- (5) Shooting hours for waterfowl and coot in Alexander County, Illinois, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; in remainder of State, except on first day of season, one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset.
- (6) Louisiana: Excluding lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana and latitude 31° North, but including any lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the aforesaid center line, Nov. 1 - Nov. 25 and Dec. 17 - Jan. 10.
- (7) Woodcock: In three zones as defined by State law orders or regulations of the Michigan Department of Conservation--in Zone 1, Oct. 1 - Nov. 1; in Zone 2, Oct. 1 - Nov. 9; and in Zone 3, Oct. 20 - Nov. 9.
- (8) Mississippi: Excluding lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana and latitude 31° North, but including any lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the aforesaid center line, Nov. 17 - Jan. 10.
- (9) Ducks, geese and coot: On Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, Ohio, and one-quarter mile distant in any direction from said reservoir, Oct. 15 - Dec. 13.
- (10) Wisconsin: On the first day of the season, waterfowl, coot, jacksnipe, and woodcock hunting may not start before 1 p.m.

NOTE:--Red-breasted and American mergansers taken are to be included in bag limits on other ducks.

(7) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND COOT

Wilson's Snipe or Jacksnipe

Ducks Geese Coot

DAILY BAG LIMITS 5 (1) 5 (2) 10 8

POSSESSION LIMITS 10 (1) 5 (2) 10 8

SEASONS IN:

Colorado (3) Nov. 1 - Dec. 30 Nov. 1 - Nov. 15

Kansas Oct. 21 - Dec. 19 -----

Montana (3) Oct. 9 - Dec. 7 -----

Nebraska Oct. 8 - Dec. 6 -----

New Mexico (4) Nov. 12 - Jan. 10 -----

North Dakota Oct. 1 - Nov. 29 Oct. 1 - Oct. 15

Oklahoma Oct. 27 - Dec. 25 Dec. 1 - Dec. 15

South Dakota Oct. 1 - Nov. 29 Oct. 1 - Oct. 15

Texas (5) (6) Nov. 5 - Jan. 3 Dec. 20 - Jan. 3

Wyoming (3) Oct. 10 - Dec. 8 -----

(7) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (1) Daily bag and possession limits may include 1 hooded merganser only. No open season on wood ducks in Colorado, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. In other States, daily bag and possession limits may include 1 wood duck.
- (2) Except as provided in footnote 4, such limit may not include more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.
- (3) No open season on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana, or in Colorado and Wyoming. No open season in Colorado on blue geese, or on Canada geese in Johnson and Sheridan Counties, Wyoming, or within the drainage of the Wind River between Diversion Dam and Boysen Dam in Wyoming.
- (4) The daily bag limit and possession limit on geese in New Mexico is 3, which may include not more than 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or 2 white-fronted geese, or 2 snow geese.
- (5) Woodcock: Texas, in the counties of Shelby, Nacogdoches, Angelina, Trinity, San Jacinto, Liberty, Chambers, and all counties south and east thereof, Dec. 12 - Jan. 20; no open season in remainder of Texas. Daily bag limit 4, possession limit 8.
- (6) Texas: Black-bellied tree duck, no open season.

NOTE:--Red-breasted and American mergansers taken are to be included in bag limits on other ducks.

(8) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

Migratory Waterfowl (Except Brant) (1) and Coot

	<u>Ducks</u>	Geese (except Ross's goose)	<u>Coot</u>	<u>Wilson's Snipe or Jacksnipe</u>
DAILY BAG LIMITS	9 (2)(3)	6 (4)	25	8
POSSESSION LIMITS	15 (2)(3)	6 (4)	25	8

SEASONS IN:

Arizona	Oct. 23 - Jan. 10	-----
California	See Footnote (5)	Dec. 6 - Dec. 20 (6)
Idaho (7)	Oct. 16 - Jan. 3	-----
Nevada	See Footnote (8)	Oct. 8 - Oct. 22
Oregon	Oct. 16 - Jan. 3	Oct. 16 - Oct. 30
Utah	Oct. 8 - Dec. 26	-----
Washington	Oct. 16 - Jan. 3	Oct. 31 - Nov. 14
Alaska (9)	-----	-----

(1) Brant: In California, Dec. 6 - Feb. 10. In Oregon and Washington, Dec. 1 - Feb. 10. Daily bag limit and possession limit 3.

(8) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (2) Daily bag limit 9, possession limit 15, provided such limits contain not less than 3 widegeons or 3 pintails or 3 in aggregate of both kinds. Daily bag limit and possession limit may not include more than 1 hooded merganser. Wood duck: No open season in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. In other Pacific Flyway States, daily bag limit or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only.
- (3) In the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, the daily bag limit and possession limit on ducks is 10, provided such limits contain not less than 3 widegeons or 3 pintails or 3 in aggregate of both kinds.
- (4) Not more than 3 of the dark species of geese may be included in daily bag or possession limits.
- (5) Waterfowl (except brant) and coot in those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties, California, east of U. S. Highway 95 from the Nevada line south of Blythe and east of the paved and graded road extending from Blythe to Ripley, Palo Verde and Ogilby south to its intersection with U. S. Highway 80, thence east to Yuma, Oct. 23 - Jan. 10; in remainder of California, Oct. 9 - Nov. 13 and Dec. 6 - Jan. 10.
- (6) California: Jacksnipe may not be hunted on first day of season before 12 o'clock noon.
- (7) Idaho: Closed season on snow geese in the counties of Clark, Fremont, Madison and Teton. No open season on geese of any species in the following described area in Canyon County: Beginning approximately 3/4 of a mile south of the city limits of Nampa at the junction of State Highway 45 and Deer Flat road; thence west along the oil-surfaced road approximately 2 miles; thence north along the oil-surfaced road approximately 2 miles to its junction with the Lone Star road; thence west along Lone Star road approximately 2 miles; thence north along the oil-surfaced road to its junction with State Highway 20; thence westerly along State Highway 20 to its junction with the Lake Lowell-Marsing road; thence southerly along the Lake Lowell-Marsing road to the south end of the west embankment of Lake Lowell; thence along the oil-surfaced road bearing easterly to its junction with State Highway 45; thence northerly along State Highway 45 to its junction with Deer Flat road, the point of beginning.
- (8) Nevada: Oct. 8 - Dec. 26 except that portion lying south and east of a line beginning at a point where Highway 91 intersects the Arizona-Nevada State line; thence following Highway 91 to its intersection with the Virgin River; thence following the north bank of the Virgin River in a southwesterly direction to its intersection with Highway 91; thence following Highway 91 to Las Vegas; thence following Highway 95 to its intersection with the California-Nevada State line where the season shall be Oct. 23 to Jan. 10.
- (9) See footnotes (1) (2) under schedule (4) Pacific Flyway States.

NOTE:--Red-breasted and American mergansers taken are to be included in bag limits on other ducks.

Revised
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