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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ANNOUNCE HUNTING DATES FOR DOVES, WOODCOCK, RAILS, GALLINULES

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today that the hunting regulations which will be in effect during the 1956-57 season for the shooting of doves, woodcock, rails, and gallinules have been approved in their final form.

The regulations released today contain the specific dates of the hunting seasons for the various States, together with bag and possession limits. As announced on July 11, the dates of September 1, 1956, through January 10, 1957, (exclusive of woodcock) were specified by the Department of the Interior as the "outside" dates within which framework the States have selected the season dates most desirable to them.

General shooting hours (based on standard time in the areas where hunting is permitted) will be as follows:

Rails and Gallinules--One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Woodcock--One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except in New York where woodcock may be taken in each of the three areas described in the regulations from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first day of the respective seasons and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day thereafter.

Mourning or Turtle Doves--Shooting hours in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. In those other States which have a dove shooting season--Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming--these birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

The seasons for hunting rails and gallinules in Alabama, Michigan, and North Dakota will be established at a later date.

As no changes in the seasons, daily bag and possession limits for band-tailed pigeons in the States of California, Oregon and Washington have been effected, the conditions governing the taking of these birds in 1956 remain as prescribed in regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior on July 9, 1954 (19 F.R. 4426) reading as follows:

"(4b) Band-tailed pigeons. In California, the open season on band-tailed pigeons in the counties of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, and Tehama shall be from October 1 to October 31; in the remainder of the State, December 1 to December 31. In Oregon and Washington, the open season on band-tailed pigeons shall be from September 1 to September 30. Daily bag and possession limit, six."

For quick reference, the open seasons, bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations are presented in tabular form in the attached schedules. However, since the State Conservation Departments are permitted to adopt regulations which may be more restrictive than the Federal regulations, persons who plan to hunt these birds should first obtain a copy of the current State regulations.

(1) Atlantic Flyway States

	Rails and gallinules		Woodcock
	Sora	All others (singly or in aggregate)	
Daily bag limit . . . . .	25	10	4
Possession limit . . . . .	25	20	8
Seasons in--			
Connecticut <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	Sept. 1-Oct. 20		Oct. 27-Dec. 5
Delaware . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Nov. 15-Dec. 24
District of Columbia . . . . .	No open season		No open season
Florida . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Nov. 20-Dec. 29
Georgia . . . . .	Sept. 20-Nov. 28		Dec. 11-Jan. 19
Maine <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	Sept. 20-Nov. 28		Oct. 1-Nov. 9
Maryland . . . . .	Sept. 1-Oct. 20		Nov. 15-Dec. 24
Massachusetts <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	Oct. 20-Dec. 28		Oct. 20-Nov. 20
New Hampshire <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Oct. 1-Nov. 9
New Jersey . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Oct. 20-Nov. 28
New York <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		SEE FOOTNOTE 2/
North Carolina . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Nov. 22-Dec. 31
Pennsylvania . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Oct. 8-Nov. 16
Rhode Island <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	Oct. 1-Dec. 9		Nov. 1-Nov. 30
South Carolina . . . . .	Oct. 1-Dec. 9		Dec. 11-Jan. 19
Vermont . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Oct. 1-Nov. 9
Virginia . . . . .	Sept. 15-Oct. 31		Nov. 19-Dec. 28
West Virginia . . . . .	Oct. 12-Dec. 20		Oct. 12-Nov. 20
Puerto Rico . . . . .	Dec. 15-Feb. 12		No open season

<sup>1/</sup> Scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island from Sept. 16-Dec. 31; in such waters in Massachusetts from Sept. 15-Dec. 30; and in such waters in Connecticut and New York from Oct. 1-Dec. 31. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines in such States, such birds may be taken only during the open season for other ducks. In the States mentioned 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.

<sup>2/</sup> New York: The seasons for hunting woodcock are as follows: In the counties of Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates, and Chautauqua (Area 1)--Oct. 22-Nov. 23; in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk (Area 2)--Nov. 1-Nov. 23; in the remainder of the State (Area 3)--Oct. 15-Nov. 23.

The shooting hours during which woodcock may be taken in each of the three areas described shall be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) on the first day of the respective seasons and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) on each day thereafter.

(2) Mississippi Flyway States

	Rails and gallinules	Woodcock	
	Sora	All others (singly or in aggregate)	
Daily bag limit. . . . .	25	15	4
Possession limit . . . . .	25	15	8
Seasons in--			
Alabama . . . . .	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/		Dec. 12-Jan. 20
Arkansas . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Nov. 15-Dec. 24
Illinois . . . . .	No open season		Nov. 17-Dec. 17
Indiana . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Oct. 20-Nov. 28
Iowa . . . . .	No open season		No open season
Kentucky . . . . .	Nov. 19-Jan. 10		Nov. 19-Dec. 28
Louisiana . . . . .	Oct. 1-Dec. 9		Dec. 12-Jan. 20
Michigan . . . . .	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/		SEE FOOTNOTE 2/
Minnesota . . . . .	Sept. 15-Nov. 23		Oct. 6-Nov. 14
Mississippi . . . . .	Oct. 6-Dec. 14		Dec. 10-Jan. 18
Missouri . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Nov. 10-Dec. 19
Ohio . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9		Oct. 1-Nov. 9
Tennessee . . . . .	Nov. 2-Jan. 10		Nov. 22-Dec. 31
Wisconsin . . . . .	Oct. 1-Dec. 9		Oct. 1-Nov. 9

1/ The seasons for hunting rails and gallinules in Alabama and Michigan will be prescribed at a later date.

2/ Michigan: The seasons for hunting woodcock in three zones as defined by State law, orders or regulations of the Michigan Department of Conservation, are as follows: Zone 1, Oct. 1-Nov. 1; Zone 2, Oct. 1-Nov. 9; and Zone 3, Oct. 20-Nov. 9.

(3) Central Flyway States

	Rails and gallinules	Woodcock
	Sora	All others (singly or in aggregate)
Daily bag limit . . . . .	25	15
Possession limit . . . . .	25	15
Seasons in--		
Colorado . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9	No open season
Kansas . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9	No open season
Montana . . . . .	No open season	No open season
Nebraska . . . . .	No open season	No open season
New Mexico . . . . .	Nov. 2-Jan. 10	No open season
North Dakota . . . . .	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/
Oklahoma . . . . .	Oct. 1-Dec. 9	Nov. 23-Jan. 1
South Dakota . . . . .	No open season	No open season
Texas . . . . .	Sept. 1-Nov. 9	Dec. 8-Jan. 16
Wyoming . . . . .	No open season	No open season

1/ The seasons for hunting rails, gallinules, and woodcock in North Dakota will be prescribed at a later date.

(4a) Mourning (turtle) doves

Daily bag and possession limit	:	8	:	Daily bag and possession limit	:	10
Seasons in--	:		:	Seasons in--	:	
Alabama 1/ . . . . .	:	[Oct. 1-Oct. 25 ]	:	Arizona 2/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 1-Oct. 4 ]
	:	[Dec. 12-Jan. 10 ]	:		:	[Dec. 8-Dec. 23 ]
Arkansas 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 1-Oct. 10 ]	:	California 2/ . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
	:	[Dec. 1-Dec. 15 ]	:	Colorado . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Connecticut . . . . .	:	No open season	:	Idaho . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Sept. 15
Delaware 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 20-Oct. 31 ]	:	Iowa . . . . .	:	No open season
	:	[Nov. 15-Nov. 27 ]	:	Kansas . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
District of Columbia . . . . .	:	No open season	:	Minnesota . . . . .	:	No open season
Florida 1/ . . . . .	:	[Oct. 13-Oct. 31 ]	:	Missouri . . . . .	:	[Sept. 1-Oct. 10 ]
	:	[Dec. 1-Jan. 5 ]	:		:	[Nov. 10-Nov. 19 ]
Georgia . . . . .	:	[Sept. 15-Sept. 29 ]	:	Montana . . . . .	:	No open season
	:	[Dec. 17-Jan. 10 ]	:	Nebraska . . . . .	:	No open season
Indiana . . . . .	:	No open season	:	Nevada . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Illinois . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Oct. 10	:	New Mexico . . . . .	:	[Sept. 1-Sept. 25 ]
Kentucky 1/ . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Oct. 25	:		:	[Oct. 1-Oct. 25 ]
Louisiana 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 21-Oct. 5 ]	:	North Dakota . . . . .	:	No open season
	:	[Dec. 1-Jan. 9 ]	:	Oklahoma . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Maine . . . . .	:	No open season	:	Oregon . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Maryland 1/ . . . . .	:	Sept. 15-Nov. 8	:	South Dakota . . . . .	:	No open season
Massachusetts . . . . .	:	No open season	:	Texas 1/ . . . . .	:	SEE FOOTNOTE 3/
Michigan . . . . .	:	No open season	:	Utah . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Mississippi 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 15-Oct. 5 ]	:	Washington . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
	:	[Nov. 10-Dec. 13 ]	:	Wyoming . . . . .	:	Sept. 1-Sept. 10
New Hampshire . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	
New Jersey . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	
New York . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	
North Carolina 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 10-Oct. 6 ]	:		:	
	:	[Dec. 14-Jan. 10 ]	:		:	
Ohio . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	
Pennsylvania . . . . .	:	Sept. 10-Oct. 19	:		:	
Rhode Island . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	
South Carolina 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 15-Oct. 4 ]	:		:	
	:	[Dec. 7-Jan. 10 ]	:		:	
Tennessee 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 1-Sept. 10 ]	:		:	
	:	[Oct. 1-Nov. 14 ]	:		:	
Vermont . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	
Virginia 1/ . . . . .	:	[Sept. 15-Oct. 27 ]	:		:	
	:	[Dec. 25-Jan. 5 ]	:		:	
West Virginia . . . . .	:	Oct. 12-Nov. 20	:		:	
Wisconsin . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	
Puerto Rico . . . . .	:	No open season	:		:	

1/ Shooting hours in States indicated, 12 o'clock noon (standard time) until sunset.

2/ The white-winged dove seasons in Arizona and in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties in California conform with the mourning (turtle) dove seasons in these States. In California, the daily bag and possession limit for white-winged and mourning doves is not more than 10 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds. In Arizona, the daily bag and possession limit on mourning and white-winged doves is 15, provided such limit contains not more than 10 mourning doves.

3/ Texas: Mourning doves in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, and Shelby counties and all counties north and west thereof, Sept. 1-Oct. 17. In remainder of State, Oct. 12-Nov. 28.