



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release AUGUST 31, 1959

#### DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 1959-60 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS

The Department of the Interior today announced the hunting dates which State game administrators have selected for the shooting of wild ducks, geese, coots, brant, and Wilson's snipe during the 1959-60 season.

Within the prescribed framework of October 7, 1959, through January 8, 1960, as announced by the Department on August 17, the States were permitted to choose the specific dates most desirable to them, based on the number of days given to each flyway.

Seasons, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits had to be curtailed this year because severe drought conditions on the northern breeding grounds of ducks limited the birds' reproductive success.

States in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways were offered concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of 40 consecutive days with a bag and possession limit of 4 and 8 for ducks and 4 and 8 for coots, or 50 consecutive days with a bag and possession limit of 3 and 6 for ducks and 3 and 6 for coots.

Atlantic Flyway. The States of Delaware, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, and South Carolina selected a duck season of 40 consecutive days with a daily bag of 4 ducks and 4 coots and a possession limit of 8 for each.

The States of Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia elected to accept the optional plan for a 50-day straight season with the daily bag limit reduced to 3 ducks and 3 coots, and a possession limit of 6 for each.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire selected split seasons, based on the 50-day option, with the customary 10 percent penalty in the number of shooting days. This gives them a daily bag limit of 3 ducks and 3 coots, and a possession limit of 6 for each.

Mississippi Flyway. The States of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee selected a 40-day straight season with a daily bag limit of 4 ducks and 4 coots, and the possession limit of 8 and 8.

The States of Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, and Wisconsin took the 50-day straight season option, with the reduced daily bag limit of 3 ducks and 3 coots, and a possession limit of 6 and 6. The only State in this flyway to select a split season, with the 10 percent penalty in number of shooting days, was Indiana, based on the 50-day option.

Central Flyway. States could select concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of 50 consecutive days with a bag and possession limit of 4 and 8 for ducks and 4 and 8 for coots, or 60 consecutive days with a bag and possession limit of 3 and 6 for ducks and 3 and 6 for coots.

The States of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Texas selected the 50-day straight season with a daily bag limit of 4 ducks and 4 coots, and possession limit of 8 and 8.

The States of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming elected to take the optional plan of a 60-day straight season with the daily bag limit reduced to 3 ducks and 3 coots and a possession limit of 6 and 6.

No States in this flyway will have a split season.

Pacific Flyway. States will have an open season on ducks, geese (except Ross's geese), coots, and gallinules of 94 days, from October 7 through January 8, with the exception of Nevada which does not open its season until October 9.

In addition to specifying the hunting seasons desired for migratory waterfowl, coots, and Wilson's snipe, the game departments of Alabama, Michigan, and Wisconsin have recommended seasons on rails and gallinules to open concurrently with their seasons on waterfowl and coots, as follows: Alabama, November 25 - January 3 for rails and gallinules (except coots); December 7 - January 15 for woodcock; Michigan, Zones 1, 2, and 3, October 7 - November 15 for rails and gallinules (except coots), Zones 1 and 2, October 1 - November 9 for woodcock, Zone 3, October 20 - November 9, for woodcock; Wisconsin, October 7 - November 25 for rails and gallinules (except coots), October 1 - November 9 for woodcock. Bag and possession limits, singly or in the aggregate, for rails and gallinules, 15 and 15; 4 and 8 for woodcock.

In the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island, the season for taking scoters, eider, and old-squaw ducks beyond outer-harbor lines will be from October 1 to January 8, inclusive. In areas other than those beyond outer-harbor lines, these species may be taken only during the open season for other ducks. In the States listed, the daily bag and possession limits for sea ducks, singly or in the aggregate, is 7 and 14, respectively.

Because goose production was not adversely affected this year, there has been no restriction for these birds as compared with last year. Longer shooting seasons for geese than ducks, therefore, were permitted in the three eastern flyways. As a result, some States opened their goose season in advance of their duck season.

For quick reference, the open seasons and bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations are presented in tabular form in the attached schedules.

x x x

Atlantic Flyway States

	Ducks and Coots	Geese(ex- cept snow geese)	Brant	Wilson's Snipe
Daily bag limits	See footnote 2/	2	6	8
Possession limits	See footnote 2/	4	6	8
Shooting hours-Footnote 1/				
Seasons in:				
Connecticut.....	(Oct.24-Oct.31) (Nov. 27-Jan.2)	(Oct.24-Nov. 9) (Nov. 27-Jan.2)		Closed season
Delaware.....	Nov. 17-Dec. 26	Nov. 4-Jan. 2		Nov. 17-Dec. 16
District of Columbia.	Closed season	Closed season		Closed season
Florida.....	Nov. 30-Jan. 8	Nov. 21-Jan. 8		Dec. 5-Jan. 3
Georgia.....	Nov. 30-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8		Dec. 10-Jan. 8
Maine.....	(Oct. 9-Nov. 7) (Nov. 21-Dec.5)	Oct. 9-Dec. 7		Oct. 9-Nov. 7
Maryland.....	Nov. 20-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8		Nov. 20-Dec. 19
Massachusetts.....	(Oct. 20-Nov. 11) (Dec. 14-Jan. 4 )	(Oct. 20-Nov. 20) (Dec. 14-Jan. 5 )		Oct. 20-Nov. 18
New Hampshire.....	(Oct. 9-Oct. 30) (Nov. 20-Dec. 12)	(Oct. 9-Oct. 30) (Nov. 20-Dec.21)		Oct. 9-Nov. 7
New Jersey.....	Nov. 14-Dec. 23	Oct. 24-Dec. 22		Nov. 14-Dec. 13
New York 3/.....	Oct. 16-Dec. 4	Oct. 16-Dec. 14		Oct. 16-Nov. 14
North Carolina.....	Nov. 20-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8		Nov. 26-Dec. 25
Pennsylvania 4/.....	Oct. 24-Dec. 12	Oct. 24-Dec. 12		Oct. 24-Nov. 21
Rhode Island.....	Nov. 20-Jan. 8	Nov. 20-Jan. 8		Nov. 20-Dec. 19
South Carolina.....	Nov. 30-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8		Dec. 10-Jan. 8
Vermont.....	Oct. 10-Nov. 28	Oct. 10-Dec. 8		Oct. 10-Nov. 8
Virginia.....	Nov. 20-Jan. 8	Nov. 20-Jan. 8		Nov. 26-Dec. 25
West Virginia.....	Nov. 20-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8		Nov. 20-Dec. 19

1/ On the opening day of the season for ducks and coots in all Flyways (including both opening days of a split season) shooting will begin at 12 o'clock noon. Whenever the opening day of any season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe is concurrent in a State with the opening day of the season on ducks and coots in that State, shooting hours on all species will start at 12 o'clock noon. On all other open days for ducks and coots and during the entire season (including opening days) on geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe the shooting hours will be sunrise to sunset: Provided, That if the open season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe in a State is in progress at the time the season in that State opens on ducks and coots, shooting on those species (geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe) will start at sunrise.

Atlantic Flyway States--Continued

Footnotes--Continued

2/ In the States of Delaware, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, and South Carolina, the daily bag limit is 4 ducks and 4 coots and the possession limit is 8 ducks and 8 coots. In the States of Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia, the daily bag limit is 3 ducks and 3 coots and the possession limit is 6 ducks and 6 coots. In all States in the Flyway, the daily bag or possession limit on ducks may not include more than 1 canvasback or 1 red-head or 1 ruddy duck and 1 hooded merganser and 2 wood ducks. Except in Massachusetts the daily bag may not contain more than 1 wood duck and in Pennsylvania the daily bag or possession limit may not contain more than 1 wood duck. In addition to the limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is 5, possession limit 10, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

3/ New York: In the Counties of Nassau and Suffolk and that part of Westchester County lying south of the Hutchinson River Parkway, the seasons for ducks and coots are Nov. 14-Dec. 23; for geese and brant Oct. 24-Dec. 22; and for Wilson's snipe Nov. 14-Dec. 13. The daily bag limit is 4 ducks and 4 coots and the possession limit is 8 ducks and 8 coots. No change in other bag and possession limits.

4/ Pennsylvania: In the Counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware, and the Delaware River bordering on such counties, the seasons for ducks and coots will be Nov. 14-Dec. 23; for geese and brant Oct. 24-Dec. 22; and for Wilson's snipe Nov. 14-Dec. 12. The daily bag limit is 4 ducks and 4 coots and the possession limit is 8 ducks and 8 coots. No change in other bag and possession limits.

Mississippi Flyway States

	Ducks and Coots	Geese	Wilson's Snipe
Daily bag limits ...	See footnote 2/	5 2/	8
Possession limits ..	See footnote 2/	5 3/	8
Shooting hours 1/			
Seasons in:			
Alabama .....	Nov. 25 - Jan. 3	Oct. 31 - Jan. 8	Dec. 5 - Jan. 3
Arkansas .....	Nov. 30 - Jan. 8	Oct. 31 - Jan. 8	Dec. 10 - Jan. 8
Illinois .....	Oct. 30 - Dec. 8	Oct. 30 - Jan. 7	Oct. 30 - Nov. 28
Indiana .....	(Nov. 6 - Nov. 28) (Dec. 18 - Jan. 8)	Nov. 6 - Jan. 8	Nov. 6 - Dec. 5
Iowa .....	Oct. 20 - Dec. 8	Oct. 7 - Dec. 15	Oct. 20 - Nov. 18
Kentucky .....	Nov. 30 - Jan. 8	Oct. 31 - Jan. 8	Nov. 30 - Dec. 29
Louisiana .....	See footnote 4/	Oct. 31 - Jan. 8	Dec. 5 - Jan. 3
Michigan .....	Oct. 7 - Nov. 15	Oct. 7 - Dec. 15	Oct. 7 - Nov. 5
Minnesota .....	Oct. 7 - Nov. 25	Oct. 7 - Dec. 15	Oct. 7 - Nov. 5
Mississippi ...	See footnote 5/	Oct. 31 - Jan. 8	Dec. 10 - Jan. 8
Missouri .....	Nov. 6 - Dec. 25	Oct. 17 - Dec. 25	Nov. 6 - Dec. 5
Ohio .....	See footnote 6/	Oct. 16 - Dec. 24	Oct. 16 - Nov. 14
Tennessee .....	Nov. 30 - Jan. 8	Oct. 31 - Jan. 8	Dec. 1 - Dec. 30
Wisconsin.....	Oct. 7 - Nov. 25	Oct. 7 - Dec. 15	Oct. 7 - Nov. 5

1/ Shooting hours. On the opening day of the season for ducks and coots in all Flyways (including both opening days of a split season) shooting will begin at 12 o'clock noon. Whenever the opening day of any season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe is concurrent in a State with the opening day of the season on ducks and coots in that State, shooting hours on all species will start at 12 o'clock noon. On all other open days for ducks and coots and during the entire season (including opening days) on geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe the shooting hours will be sunrise to sunset: Provided, That if the open season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe in a State is in progress at the time the season in that State opens on ducks and coots, shooting on those species (geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe) will start at sunrise.

2/ In the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee the daily bag limit is 4 ducks and 4 coots and the possession limit is 8 ducks and 8 coots. In the States of Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, and Wisconsin the daily bag limit is 3 ducks and 3 coots and the possession limit is 6 ducks and 6 coots. In all States in the Flyway, the daily bag or possession limit on ducks may not include more than 1 canvasback or 1 redhead or 1 ruddy duck and 1 hooded merganser and 1 wood duck. Except in Minnesota the daily bag or possession limit may not include more than 1 canvasback or 1 redhead or 1 ruddy duck or 1 wood duck and 1 hooded mersanger. In addition to the limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mersangers is 5, possession limit 10, singly or in the aggregate or both kinds.

Mississippi Flyway States--Continued

Footnotes--Continued

3/ Geese: The bag or possession limit may not include in the alternative more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.

4/ Louisiana: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 26-Jan. 4: Provided, That for 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 to latitude 31°N., the season shall be Nov. 20-Jan. 8 and for these lands and waters the daily bag limit is 3 ducks and 3 coots and the possession limit is 6 ducks and 6 coots. No change in other bag or possession limits.

5/ Mississippi: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 20-Jan. 8: Provided, That for lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River from the northerly boundary of Louisiana to latitude 31°N., the season shall be Nov. 26-Jan. 4 and for these lands and waters the daily bag limit is 4 ducks and 4 coots and the possession limit is 8 ducks and 8 coots. No change in other bag or possession limits.

6/ Ohio: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 16-Nov. 24: Provided, That for Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile distant in any direction from said reservoir, the season shall be Oct. 24-Dec. 12 and for these lands and waters the daily bag limit is 3 ducks and 3 coots and the possession limit is 6 ducks and 6 coots. No change in other bag or possession limits.

Central Flyway States

	Ducks and Coots	Geese(except Ross's Geese)	Wilson's Snipe
Daily bag limits.....	See footnote 2/	See footnote 3/	8
Possession limits.....	See footnote 2/	See footnote 3/	8
Shooting hours.....	See footnote 1/	See footnote 1/	See footnote 1/
Seasons in:			
Colorado.....	Oct. 26-Dec. 14	Oct. 26-Jan. 8	Oct. 26-Nov. 24
Kansas.....	Oct. 17-Dec. 15	Oct. 7-Dec. 20	Oct. 17-Nov. 15
Montana.....	Oct. 16-Dec. 4	Oct. 16-Dec. 4	Closed season
Nebraska.....	Oct. 10-Dec. 8	Oct. 10-Dec. 23	Oct. 10-Nov. 8
New Mexico.....	Nov. 20-Jan. 8	Nov. 20-Jan. 8	Nov. 20-Dec. 19
North Dakota.....	Oct. 7-Nov. 25	Oct. 7-Dec. 19	Closed season
Oklahoma.....	Oct. 20-Dec. 18	Oct. 20-Jan. 2	Oct. 20-Nov. 18
South Dakota.....	Oct. 7-Dec. 5	Oct. 7-Dec. 13	Oct. 7-Nov. 5
Texas.....	Nov. 13-Jan. 1	Oct. 26-Jan. 8	Dec. 3-Jan. 1
Wyoming.....	Oct. 16-Dec. 14	Oct. 16-Dec. 29	Closed season

1/ Shooting hours. On the opening day of the season for ducks and coots in all Flyways (including both opening days of a split season) shooting will begin at 12 o'clock noon. Whenever the opening day of any season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe is concurrent in a State with the opening day of the season on ducks and coots in that State, shooting hours on all species will start at 12 o'clock noon. On all other open days for ducks and coots and during the entire season (including opening days) on geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe the shooting hours will be sunrise to sunset: Provided, That if the open season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe in a State is in progress at the time the season in that State opens on ducks and coots, shooting on those species (geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe) will start at sunrise.

2/ In the States of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Texas the daily bag limit is 4 ducks and 4 coots and the possession limit is 8 ducks and 8 coots. In the States of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming, the daily bag limit is 3 ducks and 3 coots and the possession limit is 6 ducks and 6 coots. In all States in the Flyway, the daily bag or possession limit on ducks may not include more than 1 canvasback or 1 redhead or 1 ruddy duck and 1 hooded merganser and 1 wood duck. Provided, There is no open season for wood ducks in New Mexico or for black-bellied tree ducks in Texas.

3/ Geese: The daily bag and possession limit on geese is 5, Provided, That throughout all the States in the Flyway the daily bag or possession limit on geese in no event may include more than (a) 1 white-fronted goose, or (b) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (c) 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose. In Wyoming the bag limit is 1 Canada goose except in Goshen County which shall have a bag limit of 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose. A closed season is prescribed on snow and blue geese in all of Wyoming and in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana. A closed season is prescribed on Canada geese and its subspecies in Moffat County, Colorado.

Pacific Flyway States

	Ducks	Geese (except Ross's geese)	Coots and Gallinules (singly or in aggregate)	Brant	Wilson's Snipe
Daily bag limits	5 <u>2/</u>	6 <u>3/</u>	25	3	8
Possession limits	10 <u>2/</u>	6 <u>3/</u>	25	3	8
Shooting hours - footnote <u>1/</u>					
Seasons in:					
Arizona <u>4/ 5/</u> .....			Oct. 7-Jan. 8	Closed season	Dec. 5-Jan. 3
California <u>4/</u> .....			Oct. 7-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8	Nov. 28-Dec. 27
Idaho .....			Oct. 7-Jan. 8	Closed season	Nov. 1-Nov. 30
Nevada <u>4/ 6/</u> .....			Oct. 9-Jan. 8	Closed season	Nov. 1-Nov. 30
Oregon .....			Oct. 7-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8	Oct. 31-Nov. 29
Utah .....			Oct. 7-Jan. 8	Closed season	Closed season
Washington .....			Oct. 7-Jan. 8	Nov. 10-Jan. 8	Nov. 1-Nov. 30

1/ Shooting Hours: On the opening day of the season for ducks and coots in all flyways (including both opening days of a split season) shooting will begin at 12 o'clock noon. This shall apply also to gallinules in the Pacific Flyway. Whenever the opening day of any season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe is concurrent in a State with the opening day of the season on ducks and coots, shooting hours on all species will start at 12 o'clock noon. On all other open days for ducks and coots and during the entire season (including opening days) on geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe the shooting hours will be sunrise to sunset: Provided, That if the open season on geese, brant, or Wilson's snipe in a State is in progress at the time the season in that State opens on ducks and coots, shooting on those species (geese, brant, and Wilson's snipe) will start at sunrise.

2/ Ducks: The daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 2 canvasbacks, or 2 redheads, or 2 ruddy ducks, or 2 of those species in the aggregate and 1 hooded merganser and 1 wood duck. In addition to the limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is 5, possession 10, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

Footnotes---Continued

3/ Geese: In the State of Washington the daily bag and possession limit is 3, and throughout all States in the Pacific Flyway the daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 3 of the dark species: Provided, That in Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bonneville Counties, Idaho; in Clark County, Nevada; in Mohave and Yuma Counties, Arizona; in California Fish and Game District No. 22 (as defined in the California Fish and Game Code); and in the entire State of Utah, the daily bag and possession limit may include not more than 1 Canada goose or its subspecies.

4/ In Clark County, Nevada; in Yuma and Mohave Counties, Arizona; and in California Fish and Game District No. 22, the season on Canada geese and their subspecies shall close at sunset December 13, 1959. Closed season on snow geese in Clark, Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties, Idaho.

5/ Arizona: Closed season on gallinules.

6/ Nevada: In that portion of Clark County lying south and east of a line beginning where U. S. Highway 91 intersects the Arizona-Nevada State line; thence southwesterly along U. S. Highway 91 to the town of Glendale; thence southwesterly along U. S. Highways 91 and 93 to Las Vegas; thence southeasterly along U. S. Highways 93, 95, and 466 to Railroad Pass and thence south along U. S. Highway 95 to its intersection with the California-Nevada State line the season shall open on October 7, 1959.