



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SEASONS FOR RAILS, GALLINULES, WOODCOCK, SNIPE, SEA DUCKS IN THE NORTHEAST
AND FOR WATERFOWL, COOTS, AND LITTLE BROWN CRANES IN ALASKA

Basic seasons and bag limits for the 1961-1962 hunting of rails, gallinules, Wilson's snipe and woodcock; for scoter, eider and old-squaw ducks in open coastal waters of the Northeast; and for waterfowl, coots, and little brown cranes in Alaska were announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Rails and Gallinules

Because there are no significant changes in the overall populations of rails and gallinules, the 1961-62 season framework for these species is the same as last year. Within the outside dates of September 1 through January 15, States in the Atlantic Flyway may select seasons of 70 consecutive full days while the Mississippi and Central Flyway States may select 50 consecutive full days for rails and gallinules. The daily bag and possession limit on sora rails is 25. For other rails and gallinules, singly or in the aggregate, the daily bag is 15 and the possession limit 30 in the Atlantic Flyway. In the Mississippi and Central Flyways, the daily bag and possession limit on other rails and gallinules is 15, singly or in the aggregate. Shooting hours are from sunrise until sunset.

In the Pacific Flyway, because of lack of hunter interest in rails, no season is prescribed for them. In that Flyway, gallinules are counted with coots and a season and bag limit for them will be established there when the waterfowl and coot regulations are adopted later.

Wilson's Snipe

Except in Alaska (for the Alaskan snipe season, see Seasons in Alaska below), States may select an open season of 30 consecutive full days with a daily bag and possession limit of 8 between the outside dates of September 1 through January 15. Shooting hours in these States are from sunrise to sunset.

Woodcock

Singing ground counts of breeding woodcock this year show only a moderate increase in the populations of this popular game bird on its eastern and western

ranges. Because there is no significant change in its status, seasons and bag limits are the same as a year ago. However, this year the States in which woodcock are hunted may select this season within the outside dates of September 1 and January 15. It will be 40 consecutive full days in length with the daily bag of 4 and the possession limit of 8. Shooting hours are from sunrise until sunset.

Sea Ducks in Northeast

A special season from October 1 through January 8 for scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks in open coastal waters beyond outer harbor lines is again established in the six northeastern States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island. The daily bag is 7 and possession limit 14, singly or in the aggregate of all species. During the open season for other ducks, these scoter, eider and old-squaw limits are in addition to the bag limits for other ducks. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines in these six States and in all other States in the Atlantic Flyway, scoter, eider and old-squaw ducks may be taken only during the open season for other ducks.

Seasons in Alaska

The State of Alaska will have an option of 105 consecutive full days for brant, coot, ducks (except canvasback and redhead) and geese between the dates of September 1 through January 8, or two periods totaling 95 full days (they need not be of equal length).

Bag and possession limits will be:

Ducks: Daily bag of 5 and a possession limit of 10; in addition, a daily bag of 15 and a possession limit of 30, singly or in the aggregate of the following species: Eider, harlequin, old-squaw, scoter, and American and red-breasted mergansers. No open season on canvasback and redhead ducks.

Geese: Daily bag of 6 and possession limit of 12 of which not more than 3 daily, singly or in the aggregate, and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, may be Canada geese or subspecies of Canada geese and white-fronted geese.

Brant: Daily bag and possession limit of 3.

Coots: Daily bag and possession limit of 15.

Alaska again will have a Wilson's snipe season of 45 consecutive full days with a daily bag and possession limit of 8. The dates will be selected between September 1 and January 8.

An open season of 30 consecutive full days for the taking of little brown cranes in Alaska was prescribed for the period September 1 - 30. The daily bag will be 2 and the possession limit 4.

In all cases in Alaska, shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

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