

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERIOR ANNOUNCES SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BANDTAILS, WOODCOCK, RAILS, GALLINULES, SNIPE AND DOVES

Hunting regulations for band-tailed pigeons, woodcock, rails, gallinules, common snipe and doves this fall and winter will be nearly the same as last year, the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today.

Surveys by the Bureau and State wildlife agencies showed little change in populations of most of these game birds.

States in the Eastern dove management unit are offered a bag limit for mourning doves of 18 daily and 36 in possession, in an experiment to measure the effect of hunting regulations on this species.

An experimental nine-day open season for band-tailed pigeons will be held again in adjoining areas of New Mexico and Arizona.

The bag limit on mourning doves has been reduced to 10 daily and 20 in possession (from 12 daily and 24 in possession) in the Central management unit.

Because of a slight decrease in the white-wing dove population, the season was reduced to two half-days in Texas, but daily bag and possession limits remain at 10 and 20.

Following are the frameworks that were announced.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

(In Washington, Oregon, and California)

Between September 1, 1969, and January 15, 1970, Oregon and Washington may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days; California may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days for each of the two following areas:

outside dates
and State
areas

1. In the Counties of: Butte, Del Norte, Glen, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity; and
2. The remainder of the State.

counties

In all three States, the daily bag and possession limit is 8 and the daily shooting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

limits and
shooting hours

(In New Mexico and Arizona)

An experimental open season for band-tailed pigeons is continued for New Mexico and Arizona in accordance with the following conditions: Open season dates will be from October 11 through October 19; the daily bag limit is 5 and the possession limit is 10; shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset daily: PROVIDED, That every hunter must have been issued and carry on his person while hunting band-tailed pigeons, a properly validated band-tailed pigeon hunting permit issued by the game department of each respective State for the open season in that State. Such special band-tailed pigeon hunting permits will be issued by the State in which hunting is to be done. Permits issued by either State will be valid in that State only. PROVIDED further, That this season shall be open only in the area described, delineated, and designated as such, by the States of New Mexico and Arizona in their respective hunting regulations.

New Mexico and
Arizona season
dates/ limits
shooting hours

restrictions

WOODCOCK

Between September 1, 1969, and January 31, 1970, each State in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways, may select a season of not more than 65 days with the daily bag being 5 and the possession limit 10. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset in all States. A State may select a split woodcock season without penalty in the total number of days.

outside dates
flyways

limits and
shooting hours
option

RAILS

Between September 1, 1969, and January 15, 1970, the following named States may select a season on king, clapper, sora, and Virginia rails, according to the following requirements: The States of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, may select a season of not more than 70 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 7 and a possession limit of 14 on clapper and king rails singly or in the aggregate of these two species.

outside dates

species
named States

season length

clapper and
king rails

The States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, may select a season of not more than 70 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 15 and a possession limit of 30 on clapper and king rails singly or in the aggregate of these species.

named States

season length and
bag limits on
clapper and king
rails

The season will remained closed on clapper and king rails in all other States.

closure

In addition to the seasons and limits for king and clapper rails prescribed for those States named above, all States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of not more than 70 consecutive days for sora and Virginia rails with a daily bag and possession limit of 25 singly or in the aggregate of these two species. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

flyways
sora and Virginia
rails/limits
shooting hours

No season is prescribed on rails in the Pacific flyway.

closure

GALLINULES

States may select an open season for gallinules according to the following option: States may select an open season not to exceed 70 consecutive days between the outside dates of September 1, 1969, and January 15, 1970, with limits not to exceed 15 daily and 30 in possession. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

option
outside dates
limits and
shooting hours

COMMON SNIPE (WILSON'S)

Between September 1, 1969, and January 31, 1970, each State in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of not more than 50 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 8 and a possession limit of 16 with shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

outside dates
flyways
season length
bag limits
shooting hours

The Pacific Flyway States may select a season on snipe at the time they select their waterfowl season. Such season must fall within the dates and shooting hours prescribed for waterfowl. Season lengths and limits to be the same in all flyways.

Pacific Flyway
snipe season

WHITE-WINGED DOVES

In Arizona, an open season is prescribed for the entire State. The daily bag and possession limit is 25. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. Dates will conform with the dates for mourning doves.

Arizona
limits and
shooting hours

In California, an open season is prescribed only for the counties of: Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino. The daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20 white-winged and mourning doves singly or in the aggregate of both kinds. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset. Dates and limits will conform with those for mourning doves.

California
3 counties
bag limits

shooting hours

In Nevada, an open season is prescribed only for the counties of Clark and Nye. The daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20 white-winged and mourning doves singly or in the aggregate of both kinds. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset. Dates and limits will conform with those for mourning doves.

Nevada
limits

shooting hours

In New Mexico, an open season is prescribed for the entire State. The daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20 white-winged and mourning doves, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset. Dates will conform to those for mourning doves.

New Mexico
bag limits

shooting hours

In Texas, an open season of 2 half-days between September 1 and September 14, only for the following counties: Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata. The daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20. Shooting hours are from 12 o'clock noon until sunset.

Texas

counties
bag limits

MOURNING DOVES

Between September 1, 1969, and January 15, 1970, States may select seasons conforming to the following conditions:

outside dates

Eastern Management Unit: (all States east of the Mississippi River and Louisiana)

1. Shooting hours are from 12 o'clock noon until sunset;
2. The daily bag limit is 18 and the possession limit is 36.
3. An open season of not more than 70 half-days which may run consecutively or be split into not more than 3 periods.

shooting hours

limits

season lengths

Mourning Doves (Continued)

Central Management Unit: (Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming)

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| 1. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset in all States except Texas; | shooting hours |
| 2. A daily bag limit of 10 and a possession limit of 20; | bag limits |
| 3. An open season of not more than 60 consecutive full days in all States except Texas; or | season lengths |
| 4. Split season of not more than 3 periods totaling not more than 60 full days in all States except Texas. | split season |

In New Mexico, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds are 10 and 20. New Mexico

Texas will again be permitted to select open seasons for each of these two established geographical areas subject to the following conditions: Texas' special areas

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| 1. In the <u>Northern Area</u> , an open season of not more than 60 consecutive half-days between September 1, 1969, and January 15, 1970. Shooting hours from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. | northern area
season length
dates
shooting hours |
| 2. In the <u>Southern Area</u> , an open season of not more than 60 consecutive half-days between September 20, 1969, and January 15, 1970. Shooting hours are from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. PROVIDED, That in the counties of <u>Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy</u> , the season shall be for only 58 consecutive half-days which would open with the 60 half-day season selected for the southern area. | southern area
season length
dates
shooting hours
exception

season length |

Western Management Unit: (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington)

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| 1. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset; | shooting hours |
| 2. A daily bag limit of 10 and a possession limit of 20; | bag limits |
| 3. An open season of 50 full days which may run concurrently or be split into not more than 3 periods. | season length |

Mourning Doves - Western Management Unit (Continued)

In Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, and in Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds are 10 and 20. special limits

SCOTER, EIDER, AND OLD-SQUAW DUCKS (ATLANTIC FLYWAY)

The season for taking scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks is prescribed between September 25 and January 10 in all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut; and in those coastal waters of New York State in Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound, and the waters of Gardiner's Bay lying east of a line from the Long Beach Bay lighthouse to the most easterly point of Ram Head on Shelter Island and on to the Cedar Point light, including coastal waters on the south side of Long Island; and the States of New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, may upon their election, have such special season in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and/or in any tidal waters of any bay which are separated by at least one (1) mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation; and the State of Maryland, may at its election have such special season in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and/or in any tidal waters of any bay which are separated by at least 1200 yards of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation: PROVIDED, That any such areas have been described, delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas under the hunting regulations adopted by the respective States. outside dates special areas in the Atlantic coastal States Maryland (new)

Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset. The daily bag limit is 7 and the possession limit is 14, singly or in the aggregate of these species. In all other areas of these States and in all other States in the Atlantic Flyway, such ducks may be taken only during the open season for other ducks. shooting hours bag limits

During the regular season in the Atlantic Flyway, in addition to the bag limit on other ducks, a daily bag limit of 7 and a possession limit of 14 scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks, singly or in the aggregate of these species is permitted. regular season limit (bonus)

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS IN ALASKA

Alaska may select seasons on waterfowl, coots, and common snipe (Wilson's) within the outside dates of September 1 through January 26, subject to the following conditions: season dates

1. Daily shooting hours on all species are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset; shooting hours

Alaska (Continued)

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| 2. An open season of 61 consecutive full days for snipe; | season length |
| 3. In all the Pribilof, Kodiak (State Game Management Unit 8), and Aleutian Islands except Unimak Island, an open season of 105 consecutive days within the outside dates of October 14 and January 26 for brant, geese, ducks, and coots; | Pribilof, Kodiak, and Aleutian Islands/lengths |
| 4. In the remainder of Alaska including Unimak Island, an open season of 105 consecutive days within outside dates of September 1 and January 15 for brant, geese, ducks, and coots; | Remainder of Alaska and Unimak Island |
| 5. <u>Bag and Possession Limits:</u> | |
| (a) <u>Ducks:</u> A basic daily bag limit of 6 and a possession limit of 18 ducks collectively; in addition, a daily bag limit of 15 and a possession limit of 30 singly or in the aggregate of the following species: scoter, eider, old-squaw, harlequin, and American and red-breasted mergansers; | bag limits and possession limits on ducks

species |
| (b) <u>Geese:</u> A daily bag limit of 4 and a possession limit of 8, singly or in the aggregate of all species, except Emperor geese. In addition to these limits, there is a bag limit of 6 and a possession limit of 12 on Emperor geese; | bag limits and possession limits on geese |
| (c) <u>Brant:</u> A daily bag limit of 4 and possession limit of 8; | brant daily bag |
| (d) <u>Coots:</u> A daily bag and possession limit of 15; and | coot daily bag & possession limit |
| (e) <u>Snipe:</u> A daily bag limit of 8 and a possession limit of 16. | snipe daily bag & possession limit |

An open season of 45 consecutive full days for the taking of little brown cranes in Alaska is prescribed for the period from September 1 through October 15 with a daily bag limit of 2 and a possession limit of 4. Shooting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

cranes
season lengths
shooting hours