



# ◊ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ◊

M. Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

## PROCLAMATION

I, M. Kyle Briggs, Executive Director, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, acting pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-291.2(f) and §113-291.1(f) and authority duly delegated by the Wildlife Resources Commission, hereby declare the 2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Extended Falconry Hunting Seasons for Migratory Game Birds to become effective on the dates and times as follows:

| <b>SPECIES- Webless Migratory</b> | <b>SEASON DATES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mourning Dove & White-winged Dove | September 5 – October 10,<br>November 7 – November 28, and<br>December 16 – January 30                                                                                                               | 15                     |
| King & Clapper Rails              | September 5 – November 25                                                                                                                                                                            | 15                     |
| Sora & Virginia Rails             | September 5 – November 25                                                                                                                                                                            | 25                     |
| Gallinule & Moorhens              | September 5 – November 25                                                                                                                                                                            | 15                     |
| Woodcock                          | December 10 – January 30                                                                                                                                                                             | 3                      |
| Common Snipe                      | October 27 – February 27                                                                                                                                                                             | 8                      |
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                        |
| <b>SPECIES- Waterfowl</b>         | <b>SEASON DATES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b> |
| Canada Goose                      | September 1 – September 30 (statewide)<br><br>Allow the following west of U.S. 17 only:<br>1. extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset<br>2. use of unplugged guns<br>3. use of electronic calls | 15                     |
| September Teal                    | September 10 – September 19<br>(East of U.S. 17 only)                                                                                                                                                | 6                      |

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|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ducks, Mergansers and Coots                        | <p>Inland Duck Zone:<br/>October 15 – October 17,<br/>November 7 – November 28, and<br/>December 18 – January 30</p> <p>The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until November 21</p> <p>Coastal Duck Zone:<br/>October 23 – October 24,<br/>November 7 – November 28, and<br/>December 17 – January 30</p> <p>The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until November 21</p> <p>[Bag limits are the same in each duck zone]</p> | <p>Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks [no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks], 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck and 1 fulvous whistling duck. Prior to January 8 the scaup bag limit is 1, on January 8 and after it is 2. 5 mergansers (no more than 2 hooded mergansers), and 15 coots.</p> <p>The season on harlequin ducks is closed.</p> |
| Sea Ducks                                          | <p>October 23 – October 24,<br/>November 7 – November 28, and<br/>December 17 – January 30</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks.</p> <p>Sea duck daily bag limits count towards the general duck daily bag limit of 6 ducks.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Canada Geese (also includes White-fronted Geese)   | <p>Resident Population Hunt Zone:<br/>October 15 – October 24,<br/>November 7 – December 5, and<br/>December 17 – February 6</p> <p>Northeast Hunt Zone: December 28 – January 30</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>5 in the Resident Population Hunt Zone (includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate)</p> <p>2 in the Northeast Hunt Zone (includes Canada geese or white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Light Geese (Includes Snow Geese and Ross's Geese) | <p>November 7 – March 10</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>25, no possession limit</p> <p>After the closure of all other waterfowl seasons on February 6<sup>th</sup>, some expanded hunting methods for light geese are allowed. These include the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls only.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|             |                                          |                                             |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Brant       | December 28 – January 30                 | 1                                           |
| Tundra Swan | November 7 - January 30 (by permit only) | 1 per season (4,853 permits will be issued) |

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Youth Waterfowl Days             | <p>December 5 &amp; February 6 (statewide)</p> <p>Youth are age 15 or younger and must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.</p> <p>The adult cannot hunt unless they are participating in other seasons that are open on the special youth day, including Veteran/Military Day if applicable.</p>                                                                                                                     | <p>Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots with limits as listed above.</p> <p>The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan.</p>    |
| Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days | <p>December 5 &amp; February 6 (statewide)</p> <p>Veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than training) must adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Must be properly licensed and have valid credentials; and</li> <li>– Must have HIP certification; and</li> <li>– Must have a federal duck stamp.</li> </ul> | <p>Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots with limits as listed above.</p> <p>Participants must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan.</p> |

NOTES:

- 1) Shooting hours for all migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset, except as noted in the above table.
- 2) There shall be no hunting of migratory game birds by any method on Sundays.
- 3) Possession limit is three times the daily bag for all species, except as noted in the above table.
- 4) Falconers may hunt during the Webless Migratory and Waterfowl Seasons, but the daily bag limit for falconry is three and the possession limit is nine, singly or in aggregate. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the gun bag limit.

### Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds

| SPECIES                           | SEASON DATES                                             | BAG LIMITS   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mourning Dove & White-winged Dove | October 12 – October 24                                  | 3, see NOTES |
| Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens     | December 5 – January 9                                   | 3, see NOTES |
| Woodcock                          | December 1 – December 9, and<br>February 1 – February 20 | 3, see NOTES |
| Ducks, Mergansers and Coots       | October 1 – October 10, and<br>February 1 – February 6   | 3, see NOTES |

#### NOTES:

- 1) The falconry daily bag limit is three migratory game birds singly or in the aggregate. The taking of harlequin ducks is prohibited. Falconers may also hunt during the applicable gun seasons. Daily bag and possession limits of three and nine, respectively, apply while hunting during the gun season and extended falconry seasons.
- 2) Possession limits are three times the daily bag for all species singly or in aggregate.
- 3) Hunting hours for all migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset.
- 4) There shall be no hunting of migratory game birds by any method on Sundays.

Any person who violates this Proclamation also violates applicable law and is subject to sanctions provided by law.

#### NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

BY:  21-Apr-2026

M. Kyle Briggs  
Executive Director

Date