

2025/26 Migratory Bird Seasons

SPECIES- Webless Migratory	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Mourning Dove & White-winged Dove	September 1 – October 4, November 8 – November 29, and December 16 – January 31	15
King & Clapper Rails	September 1 – November 20	15
Sora & Virginia Rails	September 1 – November 20	25
Gallinule & Moorhens	September 1 – November 20	15
Woodcock	December 11 – January 31	3
Common Snipe	October 28 – February 28	8
SPECIES- Waterfowl	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Canada Goose	September 1 – September 30 (statewide) Allow the following west of U.S. 17 only: 1. extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset 2. use of unplugged guns 3. use of electronic calls	15
September Teal	September 11 – September 20 (East of U.S. 17 only)	6
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	<p>Inland Duck Zone: October 16 – October 18, November 8 – November 29, and December 19 – January 31</p> <p>The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until November 22</p> <p>Coastal Duck Zone: October 24 – October 25, November 8 – November 29, and December 18 – January 31</p> <p>The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until November 22</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 9 the scaup bag limit is 1, on January 9 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	October 24 – October 25, November 8 – November 29, and December 18 – January 31	4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks. Sea duck daily bag limits count towards the general duck daily bag limit of 6 ducks.
Canada Geese (also includes white-fronted geese)	Resident Population Hunt Zone: October 16 – October 25, November 8 – December 6, and December 18 – February 7 Northeast Hunt Zone: December 29 – January 31	5 in the Resident Population Hunt Zone (includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate) 1 in the Northeast Hunt Zone (includes Canada geese or white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate)
Light Geese (Includes snow geese and Ross's geese)	October 24 – February 7	25, no possession limit
Light Geese (Includes snow geese and Ross's geese) Conservation Order Season	February 9 – March 31 (by permit only) From February 9 – March 31 only, electronic calls and unplugged guns are allowed and shooting hours are extended to ½ hour after sunset]	there are no bag or possession limits
Brant	December 29 – January 31	1
Tundra Swan	November 8 - January 31 (by permit only)	1 per season (4,853 permits will be issued)

Youth Waterfowl Days	<p>December 6 & February 7 (statewide) Youth are age 15 or younger and must adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Youth under the age of 16 that have obtained North Carolina Hunter Education Certification must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older; and – Youth under the age of 16 that have not successfully completed North Carolina Hunter Education Certification must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 18 or older; and <p>The adult must not duck hunt but may participate 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.</p> <p>The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan.</p>
Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days	<p>December 6 and February 7 (statewide) 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"> – Must be properly licensed and have valid credentials; and – Must have HIP certification; and – Must have a federal duck stamp. 	<p>Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots.</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 6 – October 18	3, see NOTES
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	December 6 – January 10	3, see NOTES
Woodcock	December 1 – December 10, and February 2 – February 21	3, see NOTES
Ducks, mergansers and coots	October 1 – October 11, and February 2 – February 7	3, see NOTES