

MINNESOTA HUNTING REGULATIONS

WATERFOWL 2009



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TABLE of CONTENTS

Harvest information Program (HIP) 3

License information 3

General waterfowl regulations 6

Blinds for hunters with disabilities 12

Illustrated ducks of Minnesota 13

Seasons and bag limits 20

Youth waterfowl hunt 20


Special goose hunts (early/late) 21

State refuges open to goose hunting. 24

Shooting hours (sunrise/set) inside back cover

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ON THE COVER



Funds raised through the sale of Minnesota state duck stamps pay for waterfowl research, management and habitat thereby improving conditions for the state's resident and migrating waterfowl.

Painting by Scot Storm, Freeport, MN

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES

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www.mndnr.gov

LICENSE INFORMATION

GENERAL

A resident waterfowl hunter 16 years or older and all nonresident waterfowl hunters must carry:

1. Minnesota Waterfowl Stamp* validation (\$7.50), (residents ages 18–64)
 2. a federal Migratory Bird Hunting electronic validation (\$17) or pictorial Conservation Stamp signed in ink across the face (\$15) **
 3. proof of Minnesota HIP registration and
 4. one of the following licenses
- | | |
|---------|---|
| \$19 | Resident Small Game License |
| \$29.50 | Resident Individual Sports License |
| \$38.50 | Resident Combination Sports (small game hunting, husband-wife angling) |
| \$12.50 | Resident Senior Citizen Small Game (65 years or older) |
| \$12.50 | Youth Small Game (ages 16–17) |
| \$12.50 | Nonresident youth small game (under 18) |
| \$84.50 | Nonresident small game license |
| \$*** | Lifetime Small Game License (federal, state waterfowl stamps required) |
| \$*** | Lifetime Individual Sports License (federal, state waterfowl stamps required) |

Prices shown do not include additional fees charged for issuing licenses.

There is no issuing fee for state stamps issued simultaneously with a license.

Special goose permit (ages 18–64) required for September and December seasons (\$4)

*License validations for State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps are now legal for hunting without the pictorial stamp. State stamp validations are not required for residents under age 18 or age 65 or older.

**An electronically-issued federal stamp is valid for 45 days. Pictorial stamps, when received by mail, must be signed and in the possession of the hunter.

***Price varies depending on age at purchase. Lifetime license applications are available by calling toll free (888) 646-6367 or online at mndnr.gov

(Persons hunting waterfowl on commercial shooting preserves are required to have both a federal and a state duck stamp validation in addition to a small game license. The only exception is when taking only marked, pen-reared mallards.)

Note: There are licensing exceptions for landowners, military personnel and others. See pages 19-20 and 37 of the 2009 Hunting Regulations Handbook for a complete listing of license requirements.

YOU MUST BE HIP CERTIFIED

Before hunting waterfowl or migratory game birds, you must be Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified by answering “yes” when asked whether you intend to hunt migratory birds at the time you buy your small game or sports license. If you don’t, you can still answer “yes” at a later date at no cost by getting a HIP receipt at any electronic license sales location. Evidence of compliance will be noted on your license as “HIP Certified” and must be carried while hunting migratory birds.

WHY HIP?

Using information gathered with HIP, DNR waterfowl biologists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are developing more reliable estimates of the number of all migratory birds harvested throughout the country.

FIREARMS SAFETY CERTIFICATE

Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1979 must have a Firearms Safety Certificate, Apprentice Hunter Validation, a previous hunting license with a firearms safety indicator or other evidence of successfully completing a hunter safety course to obtain a license to take wild animals with firearms in Minnesota.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSES

WHERE CAN I BUY A LICENSE OR STAMP?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issues licenses through 1,800 license agent locations throughout Minnesota – sporting goods stores, hunting and fishing supplies stores and some discount chains.

Federal migratory waterfowl stamps validations will be available at all of Minnesota's 1,800 electronic license vendors. The electronic validation for the federal stamp is valid for up to 45 days until the customer receives the pictorial stamp by mail, when it must be signed and kept in possession.

HOW DO I BUY A LICENSE ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE?

Licenses may be purchased via the DNR website at **mndnr.gov** or by calling toll free (888) 665-4236. An additional \$3.50 convenience fee is added for sales via the internet or telephone.

SUGGESTED SHOT SIZE SELECTION FOR WATERFOWL

	MINIMUM	TYPICAL HUNTING CONDITIONS	MINIMUM DESIRED PATTERN DENSITY (hits / 30-inch circle)
SMALL / MEDIUM DUCKS	6 steel* 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3 - 4 steel 4 - 6 bismuth 4 - 6 tungsten alloy	120
LARGE DUCKS	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3 steel 4 bismuth 4 - 6 tungsten alloy	90
SMALL GEESE	2 steel 4 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1 - BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
LARGE GEESE	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB - BBB steel 1 - BB bismuth 2 - BB tungsten alloy	50

*Close range — less than 35 yards

Note: Small shot (#6) is excellent for swatter loads for finishing cripples.

Pattern testing should be done at the distance typical of your hunting conditions. Pattern testing is as important for the waterfowl hunter as sighting in is for the deer hunter.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

What hunters should know about bird flu

Avian influenza (AI) occurs naturally in wild birds, especially waterfowl, gulls and shorebirds. There are many different strains of the disease, most of which only affect birds. However, the emergence of a particular Asian strain of this virus in 1996 and subsequent spread in Asia, Africa, and Europe has killed thousands of wild birds, millions of domestic poultry and over 200 humans.

More information on avian influenza, is available online at:

Minnesota DNR: www.mndnr.gov/hunting/waterfowl/avian_flu.html

State of Minnesota: www.birdflu.state.mn.us

Federal: www.pandemicflu.gov

GENERAL WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

NEW FOR 2009



General

- Motor restriction on feeding and resting areas: electric motors with battery power of 12 volts or less are allowed in select feeding and resting areas. (pg. 10)
- Uncased firearms: firearms may be transported without a case in motorized boats under certain circumstances, see page 8 for details.
- Placing decoys: a person may now place decoys in public waters or on public lands more than two hours before lawful shooting hours for waterfowl, decoys cannot be left unattended for more than three hours.



Duck daily bag limits

- Canvasback limit: One
- Scaup limit: Two



Canada goose regulations

- September goose hunting: a person may now hunt geese during the September goose season on or within 100 yards of surface water in the southeast and metro goose zones. Persons may not hunt geese during the September goose season within 100 yards of surface water in the northwest goose zone, Carlos Avery WMA and Swan Lake area (see maps, page 22-23).
- The daily bag limit for September goose seasons, including youth waterfowl day, is 5 Canada geese statewide.

LICENSE VALIDATION/APPRENTICE HUNTER

- License validations for state migratory waterfowl stamps are legal for hunting without the pictorial stamp. Purchasers can request the optional pictorial stamp for an additional \$2 but it is not required for hunting.
- Apprentice hunter validation is now available for Minnesota residents who would normally be required to possess a firearms safety certificate to hunt small game or deer. See pages 18 and 34 of the 2009 Hunting and Trapping Regulations handbook for details.

DEFINITIONS

- **“Migratory game birds”** means ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens (gallinules), woodcock, rails, snipe, and mourning doves.
- **“Migratory waterfowl”** means ducks, geese, and mergansers.
- **“Undressed bird”** means ducks and mergansers with one fully feathered wing and head attached or geese with one fully feathered wing attached.

NON-TOXIC SHOT REQUIRED

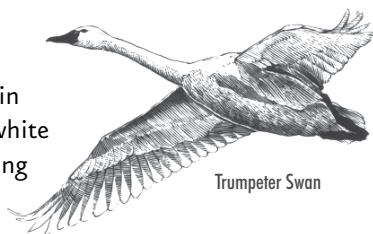
It is unlawful to take geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, or moorhens with lead shot or while having any lead shot in possession. This restriction includes muzzle loading shotguns and taking pen-reared mallards on commercial shooting preserves. Only steel shot, copper-, nickel-, or zinc-plated steel shot, bismuth tin shot, tungsten-alloys or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for ducks and geese are one-half hour before sunrise (except 9 a.m. on Oct. 3) to 4 p.m. through Saturday Oct. 10, and until sunset thereafter. See sunrise/sunset tables on page 39.

DON'T SHOOT A SWAN

Both tundra and trumpeter swans are found in Minnesota and are not legal game birds. All-white trumpeter swans weigh up to 23 pounds. Young swans are gray in color.



OPENING DAY POSSESSION LIMIT

On the opening day of the season, no person may possess more freshly killed migratory game birds than is allowed by the daily bag limit.

RETRIEVAL

A person may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in the daily bag limit.

TAKING IN OPEN WATER

A person may not take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails in open water unless that person is:

- a) within a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal the person or boat, or
- b) pursuing or shooting wounded birds (while in compliance with the watercraft restrictions listed below), or
- c) on a river or stream that is not more than 100 yards in width.

WATERCRAFT

- A person using watercraft to take migratory waterfowl must comply with the provisions for “Taking in Open Water” specified above.
- Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a floating watercraft if the craft is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled by paddle, oars, or pole.
- Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a watercraft propelled by motor or sails only if the motor is shut off and the sails are furled and the watercraft has stopped.
- While on the water and traveling to or from a site the person intends to hunt, unloaded and uncased firearms may be transported in a boat or other watercraft capable of being propelled by motor or sail. Firearms must be transported unloaded and cased in such watercraft:
 - Within Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey counties
 - Within an area where firearms discharge has been prohibited
 - Within the boundaries of a home rule, charter or statutory city with a population of 2,500 or more.
 - As otherwise restricted by game refuge, shining or night vision laws
- All watercraft (including boats used for duck hunting during the duck season) are required to carry and have readily accessible, one U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved **wearable** (Type I, II, or III) personal flotation device (PFD or life preserver) for each person on board. **In addition, boats 16 feet or longer** (except canoes and kayaks) must carry at least one USCG approved Type IV throwable device (boat cushion or ring buoy) for the boat. Due to change in federal requirements, **boat cushions are no longer acceptable as primary life saving devices.**
- During open waterfowl seasons, a person may not leave an unattended boat used for hunting waterfowl in public waters between sunset and one hour before sunrise unless the boat is adjacent to private land under control of the person and the water does not contain a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal a hunter or a boat.
- A duck boat does not have to be licensed during the Waterfowl Hunting Season for waterfowl hunting only.

BLINDS AND SINK BOXES

- No person may erect a blind in public waters or on public land more than one hour before the open season for waterfowl.
- No person may take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails using a sink box or in public waters from a permanent artificial blind. A sink box is a structure that allows a hunter to partially hide beneath the water surface.

- Any blind on public land or in public waters when not in use is considered public and not the property of the person who constructed it. Any use of threat or force against another person to gain possession of a blind is unlawful.

DECOYS

- No person may place decoys on public lands or in public waters more than two hours before legal shooting hours for waterfowl.
- No person may leave decoys on public waters between sunset and two hours before legal shooting hours or leave decoys unattended during other times for more than three consecutive hours, except decoys may be left in waters adjacent to private land under control of the hunter where there is not sufficient natural vegetation growing in the water to partially conceal a hunter. A person may not leave decoys in public waters between sunset and one hour before shooting hours if the decoys constitute a navigational hazard.

MOTORIZED DECOY RESTRICTIONS

From the opening day of the duck season (and on Youth Waterfowl Day) through Saturday October 10, a person may not use a motorized decoy or other motorized device designed to attract migratory waterfowl. On water bodies and lands fully contained within state wildlife management area boundaries, a person may not use motorized decoys or motorized devices designed to attract migratory waterfowl at any time during the duck season. This restriction applies whether the motor is running or not. Devices without motors, such as wind-powered spinning-wing decoys, are not restricted under this law.

WHITEFISH NETTING SEASON OPEN

The whitefish netting season on Leech Lake and other lakes is open during duck season. Be careful when venturing near buoys.

POSSESSING AND TRANSPORTING MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

A person may not possess or transport unlawfully taken migratory game birds. Migratory waterfowl must be transported in an undressed condition (ducks and mergansers with head and wing attached; geese with wing attached) at all times until delivery to either the taker's residence or a commercial processing facility.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREAS

The following areas have been designated Migratory Waterfowl Feeding and Resting Areas. When posted as such during the open waterfowl season no person may use any motor-propelled watercraft or aircraft except electric trolling motors with battery power of 12 volts or less may be used on lakes as indicated by the asterisk (*) in the table below.

COUNTY	LAKES
Aitkin, Crow Wing Beltrami Big Stone, Lac qui Parle and Swift	Birch Lake Puposky Lake* and Little Puposky Lake* Part of Marsh Lake, Thielke Lake
Blue Earth Carver Cass	Cottonwood Lake Tiger Lake* Big Rice, Goose, Mud Lakes
Clearwater Faribault Freeborn	Upper Rice Lake Part of Minnesota Lake* Bear Lake*
Grant and Douglas Itasca Jackson	Part of Lake Christina Rice Lake (near Max) and Nature's (Squaw) Lake Part of South Heron Lake* and all of North Heron Lake* except Winzer Bay and North Marsh
Kandiyohi LeSueur McLeod	Wagonga Lake* and Lake Lillian* Dora, Diamond, Henry, Rice, Sanborn and Scotch lakes Bakers Lake* and the unnamed lake* in Sec. 28, Twp. 114N., R. 29 W. (Penn Twp.)
Nicollet Otter Tail	Oakleaf Lake That part of Lake Lizzie, also known as Rush Lake, located in Sec. 3–9, Twp. 136 N., R. 42 (Lida Twp.); and Mud Lake in Aastad Twp.
Polk Pope Scott Sibley Traverse	Turtle Lake* Lake Nelson* and Lake Johanna Pleasant Lake Washington Lake and Mud Lake in Washington Lake Twp. Part of Mud Lake*

AIRBOATS PROHIBITED ON LAKES DESIGNATED FOR WILDLIFE USE

The use of airboats is prohibited at all times on the following lakes, which have been designated for wildlife management purposes, except as specifically authorized:

LAKE	COUNTY	LAKE	COUNTY
White Elk	Aitkin	Towner	Grant
Fish	Anoka	Heron	Jackson
Cottonwood	Blue Earth	Sanborn	LeSueur
Perch	Blue Earth	Pierce	Martin
Eagle	Blue Earth	Onamia	Mille Lacs
Rice	Blue Earth	Maria	Murray
Hanska	Brown	South Badger	Murray
Patterson	Carver	North Badger	Murray
Tiger	Carver	Swan	Nicollet
Big Rice	Cass	Little Rice	St. Louis
Augusta	Cottonwood	Big Rice	St. Louis
Dog	Crow Wing	Sand	Sibley
Jennie	Douglas	Rice	Steele/Dodge
Christina	Douglas/Grant	Hassel	Swift
Rice	Faribault	Buffalo	Waseca
Minnesota	Faribault	Goose	Waseca
Bear	Freeborn	Willis	Waseca
Lower Twin	Freeborn	Pelican	Wright
Geneva	Freeborn	Smith	Wright
Upper Twin	Freeborn	Curtis	Yellow Medicine
Ash	Grant	Spellman (N. and S.)	Yellow Medicine

Note: The use of outboard motors (including electric trolling motors) or motorized water vehicles (including amphibious vehicles) is prohibited on most wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas or national wildlife refuges. See page 107 of the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations for more details.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

REPORT YOUR BANDS. CALL 1-800-327-BAND

Each year, state and federal waterfowl biologists mark thousands of waterfowl with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report recovered bands receive specific information on where and when the bird was banded while providing important information for waterfowl management. Bands may be reported by calling 1-800-327-BAND (2263) or online at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Invasive species such as purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels can damage habitat for fish, waterfowl and other wildlife. It is illegal to transport most aquatic plants and zebra mussels in or on boats, trailers, or decoys in boats, when on public roads. However, waterfowl hunters may use emergent aquatic plants, such as cattails and bulrushes, cut above the waterline, for building blinds. How to help:

- Switch to elliptical, bulb-shaped or strap decoy anchors that won't easily collect submerged aquatic plants.
- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and mud that are attached to decoy lines or anchors and waders
- Drain the water from boats and equipment before leaving the lake access.



BLINDS FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES

The Lac qui Parle, Talcot Lake, Swan Lake and Whitewater Wildlife Management Areas have a number of duck or goose hunting blinds for hunters with disabilities. For more information, write to: Lac qui Parle WMA 14047 20th St. NW Watson, MN 56295; Nicollet area wildlife office (Swan Lake WMA) 501 Ninth St. Nicollet, MN 56074, Talcot Lake WMA, 40249 County Road 7, Dundee MN, 56131; Whitewater WMA 15035 Highway 74, Altura MN, 55910.

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MALLARD

Length—24"

Weight—2.75 lbs.



drake

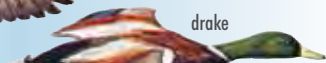


hen



hen

drake



drake



eclipse drake



hen

The mallard is the state's most common duck. Typical Minnesota harvest: 270,000.

BLACK DUCK

Length—24"

Weight—2.75 lbs.



drake



hen



eclipse drake

hen

drake



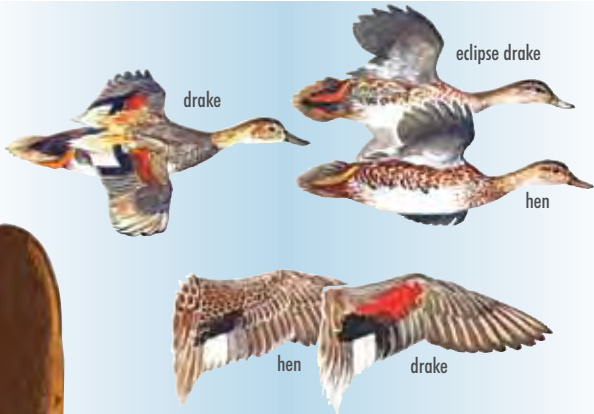
hen

drake

Primarily found in the Atlantic Flyway and, to a lesser extent, the Mississippi. There is a small breeding population in northeast Minnesota. Typical Minnesota harvest: 1,000.

GADWALL

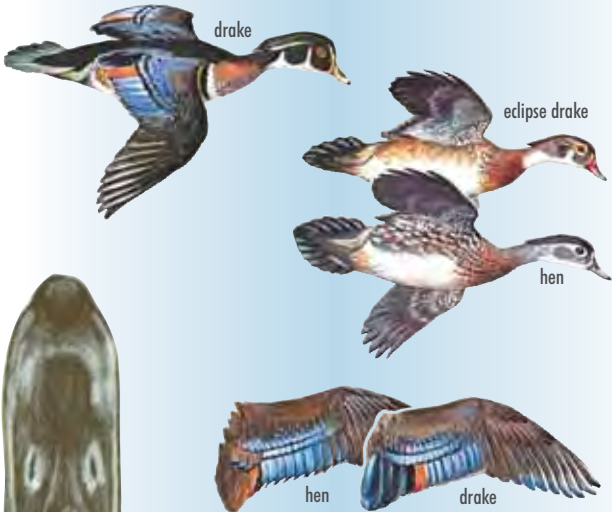
Length—21”
Weight—2 lbs.



Often called “gray mallards” or “gray ducks,” gadwalls are one of the earliest migrants. Typical Minnesota harvest: 36,000.

WOOD DUCK

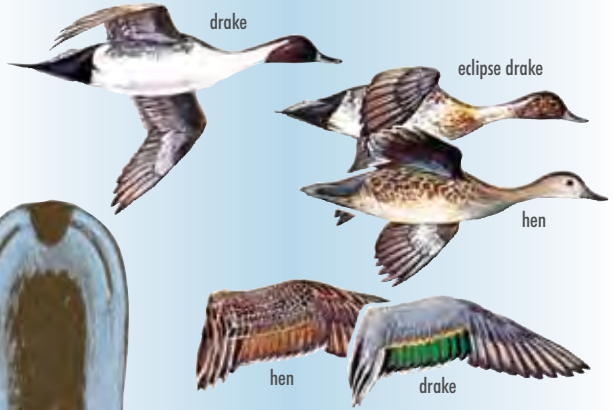
Length—18.5”
Weight—1.5 lbs.



Found in all flyways; most numerous in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways. Typical Minnesota harvest: 125,000.

PINTAIL

Length—26"
Weight—1.75 lbs.



These ducks use all four flyways but are most plentiful in the west. Populations are in a long-term decline, likely related to habitat changes on their Canadian breeding grounds. Typical Minnesota harvest: 15,000.

HOODED MERGANSER

Length—18"
Weight—1.5 lbs.



Often seen in pairs or very small flocks. Typical Minnesota harvest: 9,000.

SCAUP

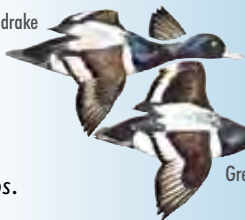
Greater Length—18.5"

Weight—2 lbs.

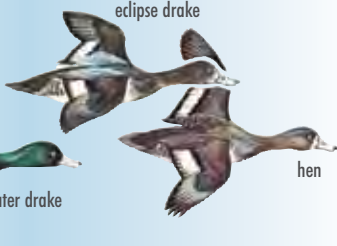
Lesser Length—17"

Weight—1.75 lbs.

Lesser drake



Greater drake



hen



drake



hen

Lesser



hen

drake

Greater



hen

drake

Except for the wing marks, greater and lesser scaup appear nearly identical in the field. The North American breeding population was at an all time low in 2005. Biologists continue to study the declining population. Typical Minnesota harvest: 30,000.

RINGNECK

Length—17"

Weight—1.5 lbs.



drake

eclipse drake



hen



drake



hen



hen

drake

Similar in appearance to scaup but more often found in fresh marshes and wooded ponds. Flocks of up to 200,000 stage on north central Minnesota refuges. Typical Minnesota harvest: 80,000.

CANVASBACK

Length—22"

Weight—3 lbs.



drake



hen



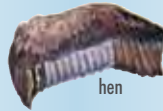
drake



eclipse drake



hen



hen



drake

Tend to favor open-water areas.
Normally late to start south.
Typical Minnesota harvest: 3,000.

REDHEAD

Length—20"

Weight—2.5 lbs.



drake



hen



drake



eclipse drake



hen



hen



drake

Range coast to coast with the largest numbers in the Central Flyway. Often found associating with canvasback.
Typical Minnesota harvest: 14,000.

CANADA GOOSE

Length—25-43"

Average annual Minnesota harvest: 249,000. About 36 percent of the harvest occurs during the September season.



Canada Goose

SNOW GOOSE

Length—25-38"

Black grin patch on bill is found only on Snow Geese.



Snow Goose

BLUE SNOW GOOSE

Length—25-30"

The "Blue" goose is a variation of the Lesser Snow Goose species.

Average annual Minnesota harvest of snow geese and blue geese: 3,000.



"Blue" Snow Goose

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Length—25-30"

The pinkish bill, white patch on front of head and dark bars on the belly identify this species. Uncommon in Minnesota, the average annual harvest is fewer than 200 birds.



White-Fronted Goose



Life vests now come in styles that make it easy to shoulder a gun.

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

2009 SEASON DATES and BAG LIMITS

DUCKS/COOTS

SEASON
DATES

DUCKS, COOTS, MERGANSERS, MOORHENS (GALLINULES)

Oct. 3 - Dec. 1

Duck bag limits: 6 ducks daily; may not include more than any combination of the following: 4 mallards (only 1 hen mallard), 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. If not listed up to 6 ducks of a species may be taken. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Coot and moorhen (gallinule) bag limits: Daily bag limit is 15. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Merganser bag limits: Daily bag limit is five, no more than 2 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

SEASON
DATES

DAILY
LIMIT

POSSESSION
LIMIT

Mourning doves

Sept. 1 - Oct. 30

15

30

Woodcock

Sept. 19 - Nov. 2

3

6

Sora and Virginia rail

Sept. 1 - Nov. 4

25 (in aggregate)

25 (in aggregate)

Common Snipe
(Wilson's or Jacksnipe)

Sept. 1 - Nov. 4

8

16

Youth Hunt: On Sept. 19, 2009, waterfowl hunters age 15 and younger, when accompanied by a non-hunting adult (age 18 and older, no license required) may take ducks, Canada geese, mergansers, coots and moorhens from one-half hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. Motorized decoy restrictions are in effect. Bag limits are the same as the regular duck season. Five Canada geese may be taken statewide. There are no license requirements, except hunters ages 13 to 15 must have a firearms safety certificate or apprentice hunter validation in their possession. All other migratory bird hunting regulations apply.

SPECIAL FALCONRY SEASON

Dates:

Ducks, coots and moorhens may be taken by falconry from Oct. 3, 2009 to Jan. 16, 2010.

Geese may be taken by falconry during any open goose season. Woodcock, rails and snipe may be taken by falconry from Sept. 1 to Dec. 16.

Bag limits and hours:

Three daily combined and six in possession combined.

Falconry hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except after Oct. 3, when they are the same as the waterfowl shooting hours.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for ducks and geese are one-half hour before sunrise (except 9 a.m. on Oct. 3) to 4 p.m. through Saturday Oct. 10, and until sunset thereafter. See youth hunt and early goose season for additional hours.

GEESE	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMITS	POSSESSION LIMITS	
SNOW, BLUE and ROSS' GEESE	Oct. 3 - Dec. 28	20 combined	40 combined	
WHITE-FRONTED GEESE	Oct. 3 - Dec. 27	1	2	
BRANT GEESE	Oct. 3 - Dec. 28	1	2	
CANADA GEESE				
West-Central zone	Oct. 15 - Oct. 18 Oct. 24 - Nov. 29	2	4	
West zone	Oct. 3 - Dec. 1	2	4	
Remainder of state (includes SE zone)	Oct. 3 - Dec. 11	2	4	
SEPTEMBER (EARLY) CANADA GOOSE HUNT Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset				
<div>See ① below</div>	Statewide	Sept. 5 - 22	5	10
	(The Lac Qui Parle State Game Refuge is closed to goose hunting during the September goose season.)			
DECEMBER (LATE) CANADA GOOSE HUNT Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset				
<div>See ① below</div>	West central zone (map, page 22)	No late goose season		
	Southeast zone (map, page 22)	Dec. 19 - 28	2	4
	Remainder of state (includes all zones not listed above)	Dec. 12 - 21	5	10

- ① A special \$4 permit is required to hunt Canada geese during the special September and late December seasons. One permit is good for both seasons. All persons must have the permit to participate in these hunts, except residents under age 18 or age 65 and older and persons hunting on their own property. The permit is available from ELS license agents and the DNR License Center or by telephone. There is no deadline for purchasing a permit.

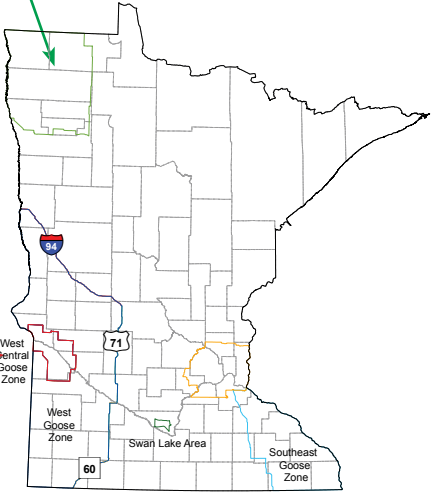
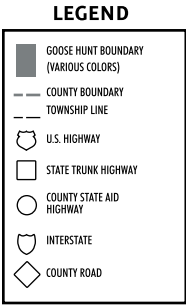
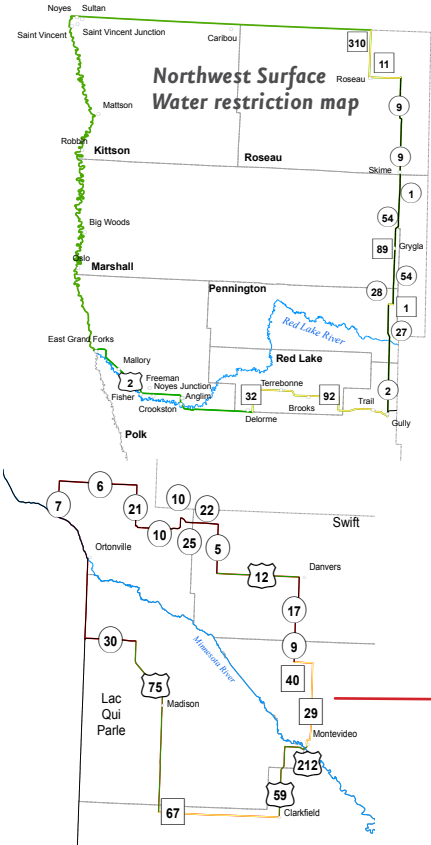
SURFACE WATER RESTRICTIONS (EARLY GOOSE SEASON)

“Surface water” includes, but is not limited to wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams. Temporarily flooded cropland, pasture, or other temporarily flooded areas (unless contiguous with lakes, wetlands, rivers or streams) are not included. This restriction does not apply to youth participating in the youth waterfowl hunt or in other areas as specifically authorized by the commissioner.

Taking geese from public roads and their rights-of-way is prohibited in the metro goose area during the early and late goose seasons. A map of the area is available online at mndnr.gov.

See additional restrictions on page 23.

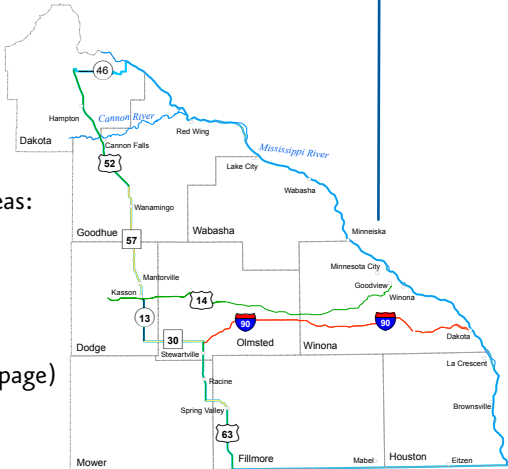
CANADA GOOSE MAPS

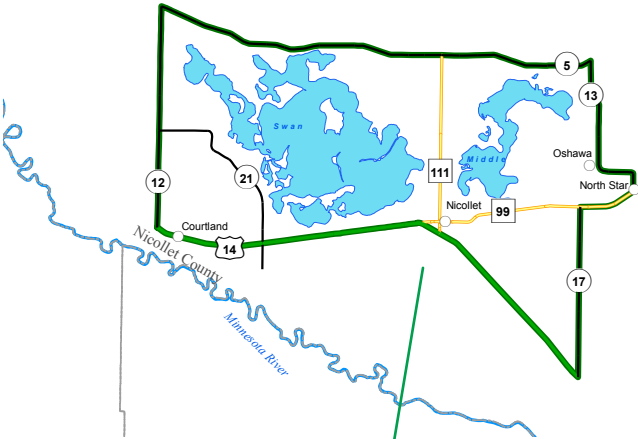


SURFACE WATER RESTRICTIONS

A person may not hunt geese during the September goose season within 100 yards of surface water in the following areas:

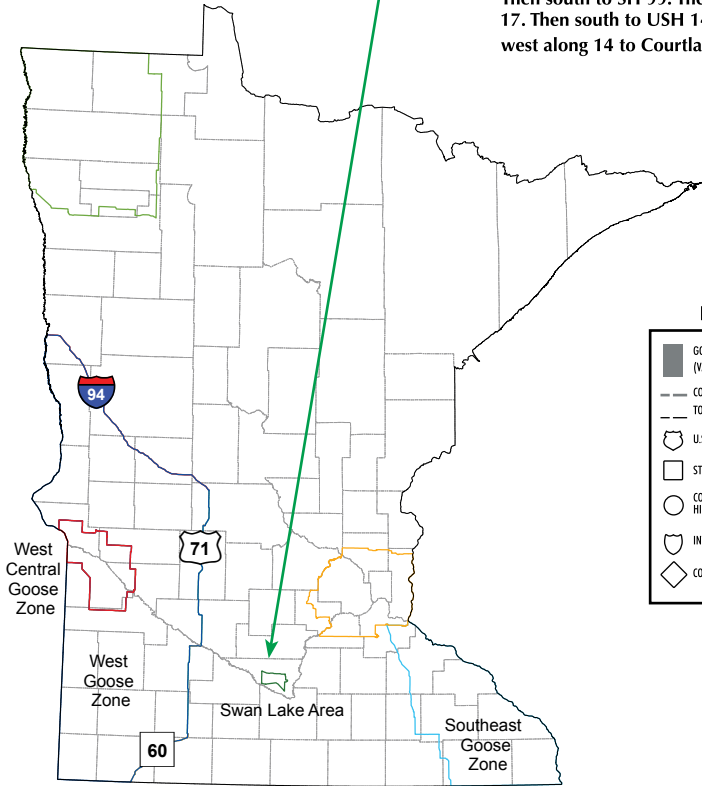
- Northwest Goose Zone (see map this page)
- Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area
- Swan Lake Area (see map next page)





Swan Lake Area
Early Season
Hunting near
water prohibited
within the
boundary.

Starting at Courtland north along CSAH 12 to CSAH 5. Then east to CSAH 13. Then south to SH 99. Then west to CSAH 17. Then south to USH 14. North and west along 14 to Courtland.



LEGEND

- GOOSE HUNT BOUNDARY (VARIOUS COLORS)
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP LINE
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY
- COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY
- INTERSTATE
- COUNTY ROAD

State Refuges Open to Goose Hunting

COUNTY	REFUGE	OPEN SEASON
Beltrami	Bemidji Game Refuge (except Lake Bemidji, Miss. River and Stump Lake)	Canada geese Sept. 5 - 22
Benton	Sauk Rapids-Rice* Goose Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Chisago	Linn Lake Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Clay	Clay County Game Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 5 - 22
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge	Goose hunters with disabilities. Contact refuge
Dakota	Vermillion Game Refuge	Goose Dec. 12 - 21
Dodge	Claremont Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Douglas	Douglas County Goose Refuge *	Waterfowl hunting
	Evansville Game Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 5 - 22
Freeborn	Moscow Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Grant	Ashby Goose Refuge	Ducks Oct. 3 - Dec. 1
Isanti	Elizabeth Lake Game Refuge	Youth Mentoring Program only
	German Lake Game Refuge	Youth Mentoring Program only
Martin	Fox Lake Game Refuge**	Goose hunting Oct. 3 - 5
	Mud-Bardwell Game Refuge**	Canada geese Dec. 19 - 21 Canada geese Oct. 31 - Dec. 21
Mower	Austin Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Nicollet	Swan Lake No. 2 Game Refuge (south island only)	Waterfowl hunting
Nobles	Ocheda Lake Game Refuge***	Youth Waterfowl Day Canada geese Sept. 5 - 22, Dec. 12 - 21
Olmsted	Rochester Game Refuge	Goose Sept. 5 - 22
Otter Tail	Otter Tail County Goose Refuges *	Waterfowl hunting
Pine	Pine County Unit 2 Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Sherburne	Sand Dunes Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Stearns	Stearns County Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting (south of Kimball)
Steele	Rickert Waterfowl Refuge except Myron Buelow Waterfowl Sanctuary WMA	Canada geese Sept. 5 - 22
Stevens	Harstad Slough Waterfowl Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 5 - 22
Washington	St. Croix River Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
	Stillwater Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Watsonwan	Saint James Game Refuge	Goose hunting Oct. 3 - 5

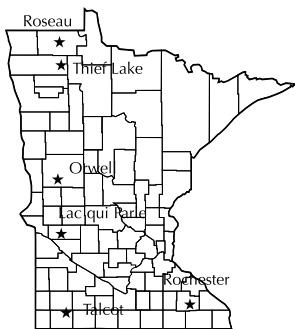
* No hunting from roads or rights of way

**No hunting within 100 yards of Fox, Temperance, Mud and Bardwell Lakes

***No hunting within 100 yards of surface water during September season

CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl or small game hunting, as specified, is restricted to designated hunting stations in the portions posted as controlled hunting zones on or adjacent to the Lac qui Parle, Roseau River, Thief Lake, Talcot Lake, and Orwell Wildlife Management Areas, and the Rochester Game Refuge.



GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

The following regulations apply to persons within all the controlled hunting zones during the open Canada goose seasons or as otherwise specified:

- No more than one hunting party, consisting of no more than three hunters, may occupy any hunting station at one time.
- Waterfowl hunters must have their guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station.
- The hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl is limited to a distance within 10 feet of each designated hunting station, except hunters may retrieve downed birds away from a posted station if they comply with all other refuge and trespass regulations.
- On public lands, dogs must be on a leash except within 10 feet of stations or while retrieving, and must be under control at all times.
- All persons occupying a hunting station must meet all license requirements to hunt waterfowl in Minnesota.
- No person may leave any refuse, offal, or feathers on public lands in the controlled hunting zone or in any parking lot or designated overnight use area on the management area.
- No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or possessed at any of the hunting stations on public lands.
- No person may loiter between the designated hunting stations on public lands.
- On public lands, after each party member has bagged a limit of Canada geese or expended their limit of shells (if applicable), the party must promptly leave the station.
- No trailers of any kind are allowed in designated parking lots.

LAC QUI PARLE

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Lac qui Parle Controlled Hunting Zone during the regular Canada Goose Season for that zone:

RESERVATIONS AND PERMITS

- Waterfowl and small game hunters may reserve hunting stations in accordance with rules available at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area headquarters. For information, contact: Lac qui Parle WMA, 14047 20th St. NW, Watson, MN 56295.
- On public lands, no person may hunt migratory waterfowl or small game in the controlled hunting zone without first registering at the check station and obtaining an entry permit. There is a daily fee of \$3 per hunter 18 years and older.
- The transfer of entry permits to other hunters is prohibited.

HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

- Hunters are limited to 12 shells per trip in possession.
- Not more than six hunting groups per day may occupy a designated hunting station.
- Within one hour of hunt completion, each party member must submit any geese taken for inspection at the Lac qui Parle WMA headquarters and, if hunting on public lands, personally return their entry permit to the check station.
- Waterfowl and small game hunters are limited to three trips to the stations during the Canada goose season, either as a guest or a successful applicant, **except when vacant stations exist.**
- Waterfowl and small game hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of assigned hunting stations.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.

THIEF LAKE

The following regulations apply to waterfowl and small game hunters in the Thief Lake Controlled Hunting Zone (CHZ) during all open waterfowl seasons (including Early September and Late December Canada Goose and Youth Waterfowl Seasons). The restriction on small game hunting in the CHZ applies from the opening of the regular waterfowl season through October 22.

- Hunters must use designated hunting stations on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.

- Hunters are limited to 12 shells per trip in possession.
- Hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of the hunting stations.
- Selected blinds will be posted closed during the early September Canada Goose Season because of their proximity to open water.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated CHZ parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

ORWELL

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Orwell Controlled Hunting Zone during the Regular Goose Season:

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited.
- No person may enter the controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in the designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone.
- No persons other than those hunting at a station in the controlled hunting zone may occupy a numbered stall in a designated parking lot.
- Hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having a number corresponding to their parking stall number.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station during any two consecutive days or from one hour after the close of daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.
- All guns must be unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station.

ROCHESTER AND ROSEAU RIVER

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Rochester and Roseau River Controlled Hunting Zones during the open Goose Season:

- The wildlife manager may limit all persons to one day of hunting in every three. If hunting is limited, the manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of every person at each restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No one may be in a hunting station or designated parking lot from one hour after the close of the daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.

TALCOT LAKE

Closed Area

All waterfowl hunting is prohibited upon or from the 1.5 mile segment of State Trunk Highway 62 and its right-of-way along the south boundary of the Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge (between the Cottonwood County line on the west and County Highway 7 on the east).

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Talcot Lake controlled hunting zones during Canada Goose Seasons:

General Restrictions

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited on public land in the East and West Side Controlled Hunting Zones.
- The wildlife manager may limit persons to one day of hunting in every three. The manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of each person at a restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No persons may occupy a hunting station within a controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in a designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone. No persons other than those hunting at a hunting station may occupy a numbered stall or park in a designated parking lot.
- Waterfowl hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having numbers corresponding to their parking stall number.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Spring Snow Goose Season (Light Goose Conservation Action)

Minnesota again plans to participate in a cooperative light goose conservation action in March and April of 2010. This action is being taken in an attempt to reduce an overabundance of snow geese that is threatening their arctic breeding habitat. All participants must have a Light Goose Conservation Permit in their possession while attempting to take light geese. Details will be announced early in 2010.

SUMMARY of FEDERAL REGULATIONS



In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory gamebirds.

Caution: The following material is a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual federal regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas open to public hunting.

ILLEGAL HUNTING METHODS

You may not hunt migratory waterfowl...

- ...With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- ...From a sink box or any other low floating device that conceals you beneath the surface of the water.
- ...From a motorboat or sailboat, unless you shut the motor off or furl the sail and the vessel is no longer in motion.
- ...Using live birds as decoys.
- ...Using recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds or imitations of these calls and sounds.
- ...While possessing any shot other than approved nontoxic shot.
- ...With a shotgun that can hold more than three shells, unless you plug it with a one piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.
- ...From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft (if you are a paraplegic or are missing one or both

legs, you may hunt from a stationary car or other stationary motor-driven land vehicle or conveyance).

...By the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after removal of bait.

WANTON WASTE

You must make a reasonable effort to retrieve all migratory game birds that you kill or cripple and keep these birds in your actual custody while in the field. You must immediately kill any wounded birds that you retrieve and count those birds toward your daily bag limit. Birds must remain in your possession while in the field. You may not give your birds to another person in the field regardless of whether or not they are properly tagged.

TAGGING

You may not put or leave migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless you tag the birds with your signature, address, number of birds identified by species and the date you killed them.

RALLYING

You may not hunt migratory game birds that have been concentrated, driven, rallied or stirred up with a motorized vehicle or sailboat.

DRESSING

You may not completely field dress waterfowl before taking them from the field. The head and one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to the birds while you transport them to your home or to a facility that processes migratory game birds.

DUAL VIOLATION

A violation of a state migratory game bird regulation is also a violation of federal regulations.

PROTECTED BIRDS

Federal law prohibits the killing of nongame migratory birds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations can be found in 50 CFR Part 20. If you have additional questions about waterfowl hunting and the law, contact Division of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Building, P.O. Box 45, Fort Snelling, MN 55111. Telephone: (612) 713-5320.

MAKE THE SHOT

It's the responsible thing to do

Quick, clean, humane kills reduce unretrieved losses of waterfowl. Make the shot by following these five steps.

1.) Identify your effective range

Shoot crossing clay targets at predetermined distances. Your effective range is the distance at which you can consistently break six out of eight targets (75 percent).

2.) Pattern your gun

Pattern-testing shotguns and shot shells is as important to the waterfowl hunter as "sighting in" is to the deer hunter. Be sure to know how your equipment will perform at your effective range plus or minus ten yards.

3.) Know the distance

Learn to estimate distance over the barrel of your shotgun through subtending. Subtending is simply knowing how much of

a duck or goose is covered by the end of your barrel at various distances when the shotgun is mounted. The most important distance to be able to determine is your effective range.

4.) Focus on the bird

Flocks of waterfowl tend to confuse the eye and make it hard to concentrate on one bird. Focus on the head, or even just the bill, of a single bird.

5.) Set up for success

Plan decoys and pass shooting so birds drop in open water or open field rather than dense vegetation. Having only one or two hunters shooting at one time will also help. Rotate shooting opportunities among hunters in the blind.

Duck Recovery Plan

The challenge continues

Minnesota faces a waterfowl crisis. According to some estimates, our state's waterfowl carrying capacity declined 82 percent in the last 150 years. Wetland losses are often the first cause that comes to mind. But the causes run deeper than that. Grasslands needed for upland nesting ducks like mallards and teal have disappeared as well. The habitat that remains is often degraded by fragmentation, erosion, runoff and invasive species.

In April, 2006, the DNR released its Duck Recovery Plan. This document set forth several goals concerning waterfowl and waterfowl hunting in Minnesota. The most important were to reach an average spring breeding population of 1 million ducks, restore Minnesota's waterfowl harvest importance (at least 16 percent of the total harvest) in the Mississippi Flyway, and attain at least 140,000 waterfowl hunters.

To accomplish these objectives the DNR estimated that a net gain of an additional 600,000 acres of wetlands and 1.4 million acres of grasslands would be necessary. The additional 2 million acres of wetlands and grassland would come from habitat restorations.

In addition, the DNR projected that 1800 existing shallow lakes would have to be improved and managed. At the current rate of investment in 2006 the DNR estimated that it would take at least 50 years to fully accomplish the plan's goals. Broken down by year we would need to average a net gain of 40,000 acres of restored wetlands and grasslands annually.

About a third of this new habitat would be from acquisition of new state wildlife management areas (WMAs). Roughly 10% would be from acquisition of new federal waterfowl production areas (WPAs). Over half would be from private land enrolled in habitat conservation programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

How well have we done?

The Conservation Lands Summary published by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) provides a useful statewide overview. The years 2006 and 2007 ended with 43,000 acres and 50,000 acres of additional habitat, respectively. Both years were above the average needed to reach the 50 year goal.

Habitat Acres	Net change
2005-2006	43,000
2006-2007	50,000
2007-2008	-42,000

While acquisition for WMAs and WPAs continued at the same pace in 2008, the loss of more than 70,000 acres of CRP resulted in a net loss of 42,000 acres for the year. The reason? Changes in the economic reality of farming and the end of contracts for many CRP parcels.

Work on shallow lakes continues to improve. Success stories like the habitat improvements at Lake Maria, a 425-acre historically important waterfowl lake in north central Murray County, are becoming more common. The project featured the installation of an electric fish barrier and electric pump by Ducks Unlimited (DU) that is used by DNR to induce draw downs to rejuvenate the lake's aquatic plants and invertebrates. Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife service and other partners helped make the Lake Maria project a success. The table of 2007 statewide shallow lake accomplishments illustrates the improvements in management. Yet our progress is still dwarfed by our ultimate objective of 1800 lakes.

Partnering with the Duck Unlimited Living Lakes Initiative as well as other conservation organizations like the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Delta Waterfowl, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy and others is extremely important to continued progress. The same is true of funding opportunities through federal grants, the state legislature, the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

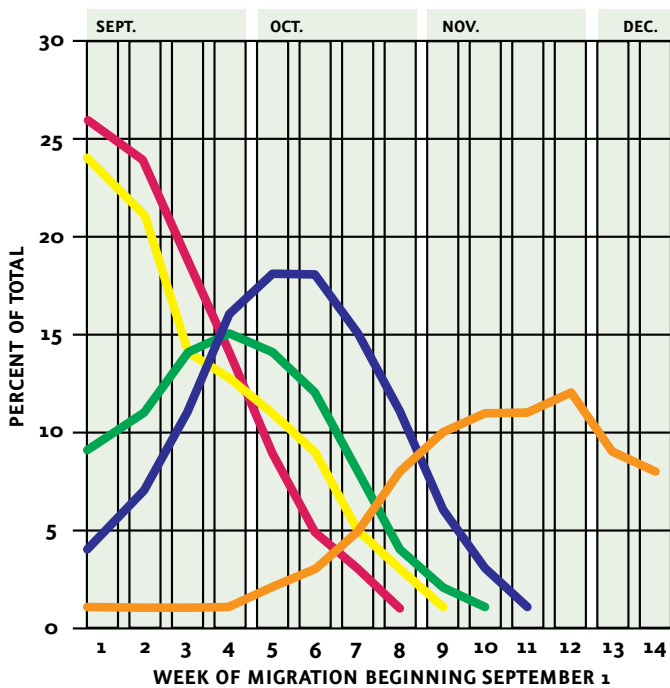
While we have shown that success can be achieved on individual projects, our current below average duck breeding population and harvest remind us of the enormity of the challenge before us.

2007 Shallow Lakes Management

PROJECT TYPE	#LAKES	#LAKES
Lake Surveys	131	60,200
Invertebrate and/or Fish Population Monitoring	16	14,810
DU and/or DNR Wild Rice Management & Monitoring	239	80,233
DNR Fish Barriers and/or Water Control Structure Projects	32	14,437
Waterfowl Surveys	39	81,204
Drawdown Lakes (includes partial season drawdowns)	43	10,659
Other Lake Projects	31	15,195
TOTAL	531	276,738 acres

Many of the projects noted are cooperative projects with other conservation partners.

FALL MIGRATION Upper Mississippi Region



- BLUE WING TEAL
- WOOD DUCK
- GREEN WING TEAL
- RINGNECK
- MALLARD

Common Goldeneye

Featured On 2009 State Duck Stamp

There are 26 waterfowl species common enough in Minnesota to be featured on our annual state waterfowl stamp. The common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) is featured on the 1987 and 2009 stamps.

As you might guess by their name, the goldeneye has brilliant gold eye, except that the hen's tends toward light yellow. Drakes and hens both have rather stout dark bills, with yellow feet and legs. Drakes have a small circular white spot to the rear of their bill. The hen's bill is tipped in yellow. On the wing, these larger birds (length 19 inches, weight 2.5 pounds) are predominately black and white. During flight, their wings make a distinctive whistling sound and they are often referred to as "whistlers."

Common goldeneyes are among the first ducks to appear in the spring. Older, paired birds arrive first, seeking nesting sites. Those that have not yet attained breeding age (at least two years old) arrive later.

Like wood ducks, hen goldeneyes nest in tree cavities as high as 60 feet above the ground although most are much lower. They also readily use artificial nest boxes. Around the last week of April, the hen lays about 10 olive green eggs in a down-lined depression at the bottom of the cavity. Incubation takes about 30 days.

Within twenty-four hours of hatching, the hen leaves the nest and calls her ducklings to make a leap of faith to the ground. Soon capable of diving, the young feed on aquatic insects and other animal matter.

Several broods will sometimes join up to form a group of as many as thirty ducklings in late July and early August, watched over by a single hen. This occurs as some hens leave the broods to molt. Ducklings are able to fly by the time they are sixty days old.

One third of the goldeneye population winters along the Atlantic, from Newfoundland to Florida, but concentrating from North Carolina to Long Island



Sound. One half winters on the Pacific, from the Aleutian Islands to Washington state, though some move as far south as California. The remainder is scattered throughout the Great Lakes and on the Mississippi River.

Like the wood duck, the common goldeneye is very hard to survey, so reliable estimates of their breeding population are difficult to ascertain. A continental population of about 1.25 million goldeneyes was estimated during the 1970s. That number is probably stable.

Over the years, the harvest of common goldeneyes in Minnesota has ranged from around 4,000 to as high as 19,000, but more typically ranges from 8,000 to 10,000 birds per year. Harvest in the U.S. averages about 80,000.

The Barrow's goldeneye, a very similar looking species, is much less abundant than the common goldeneye. Their breeding range spans from Alaska to British Columbia with a smaller population occurring in eastern Quebec and along the Atlantic coast.



DNR continues to monitor scaup losses on Winnie

An estimated 2,000 scaup (bluebills) died on Lake Winnibigoshish last fall as a result of a snail-carried parasite. The 2008 loss was less than the estimated 7,000 that died on the lake in 2007 of the same cause, said Jeff Lawrence, Wetland Wildlife Research Group Leader for the DNR in Bemidji.

The scaup from died from ingesting invasive faucet snails that were hosts to a small trematode that caused the birds to lose body fluids and die within a few days, Lawrence said. Trematodes have a complex life history and require intermediate hosts, such as snails, to develop.

About 200 dead scaup also were found on nearby Bowstring Lake, although the host faucet snail has not been found in Bowstring. Affected scaup may have picked up the parasite on Winnie and flown to Bowstring, where they died.

The 2007 report was the first instance of this trematode in northern Minnesota. Trematodes have caused substantial losses of ducks and coots on the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota since 2002. Scaup are affected more than other ducks because they feed more on snails. A few coots, redheads and a one white-winged scoter also died from the parasite last fall on Winnie, Lawrence said.

No losses have been reported on Lake Winnibigoshish or nearby lakes in the spring. Based upon history of waterfowl die-offs due to trematodes in other areas, Lawrence believes similar die-offs will reoccur on Lake Winnibigoshish in the future. "Right now, we don't have a good solution to prevent these losses," Lawrence said. "We do plan to continue monitoring and working with other agencies to look for any management options." Lake Winnibigoshish is designated as an infested water with faucet snails. Boaters and hunters are required to drain all water and remove submersed aquatic plants from boats and gear before leaving. They should also, clean sediment and snails from waders, decoys, anchors, and lines before reuse to avoid spreading invasive snails.

Avian trematodes are not known to be a health risk to humans, but the DNR continues to recommend that hunters not consume sick waterfowl and use standard precautions, such as wearing rubber gloves and thoroughly washing hands when cleaning waterfowl. Waterfowl should be thoroughly cooked. These trematodes are specific to ducks and snails and cannot reside in fish, nor can coming in contact with the lake water infect humans.

What can you do?

- Please ensure that you do not contribute to the spread of invasive species (see box, page 12).
- Report losses of more than 5 waterfowl or other birds to 1-888-MINN DNR.
- Additional information is available online at www.mndnr.gov/hunting/waterfowl/scaup.html.

Mentors make the difference

Five things to know about hosting new hunters

The number of participants in hunting and other outdoor recreation is decreasing nationwide. In Minnesota, we're holding our own, due in a large part to a wealth of public hunting opportunities, a strong hunting heritage, and the hard work of conservation groups like the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited and the DNR. However, the long-term trends are pretty clear – without more hunters, the future of waterfowl and waterfowl hunting could be in peril.

To really make a difference, we need current hunters to introduce youth and adults to waterfowl hunting and help them develop their skills. There are five critical factors in recruiting that apply to both youth and new adult hunters. They include:

Positive Introductory Experience – The best way to “hook” someone on the outdoors is by doing. Make first outings short and keep things interesting. Let them decide when the outing is over. Give them lots of positive reinforcement.

Access to Resources and Opportunities – The DNR web site (mndnr.gov) is a great place to find free maps and information on public lands open to hunting. Don't forget to knock on some doors. Landowners are often very receptive to a request for hunting access for the benefit of a youngster or someone new to the sport.



Access to Gear – As a mentor, you will probably have to provide much of the equipment for a youth or new hunter's initial hunt. Make sure their gear fits and take them shooting a few times before the first hunt. Getting them comfortable with the firearm and the hunting equipment will make that first experience more enjoyable.

Access to a Mentor - THAT'S YOU. If you don't show them the way, there is a good chance nobody else will. There is no substitute for you!

Social Support - THAT'S YOU again along with your hunting buddies, family, school and clubs. Help them create networks with others who share their new-found passion for the outdoors and waterfowl hunting.

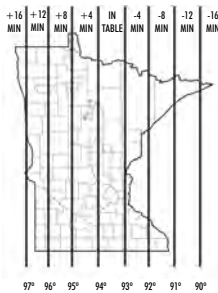
Make time this fall to take a family member, a colleague or someone in the neighborhood waterfowl hunting. Being a mentor is the most rewarding hunting experience you can have and, passing on your love of the hunt and passion for the outdoors is the greatest gift you can give.

Several state conservation organizations have developed programs that are designed to introduce youth to waterfowl and waterfowl hunting. Minnesota Waterfowl Association's Woodie Camp, Ducks Unlimited's Greenwing events and the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuges Young Waterfowler's program are just a few examples.

Find out more about these programs online at: www.mnwaterfowl.com, www.ducks.org/greenwings, or <http://www.deltawaterfowl.org/> Information about the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Young Waterfowler's program is available by telephone at (952) 858-0729. In addition there are a number of DNR sponsored youth oriented opportunities including Youth Waterfowl Day. More information about DNR programs is available online at: www.mndnr.gov/youthhunts

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for ducks and geese are one-half hour before sunrise (except 9 a.m. on Oct. 3) to 4 p.m. through Oct. 10, and until sunset thereafter.



Nine hunting time zones are shown on the Minnesota state map (left). Sunrise and sunset times to be used for hunting in the zone titled "In Table" are shown in the table (below). For other zones, add or subtract the minutes shown at the top of the map to the times shown in the table.

Source: U.S. Naval Observatory

Sunrise/Sunset Table

WHY DOES MINNESOTA SET EARLY-SEASON SHOOTING HOURS?

Early season shooting hours help manage duck harvest in areas with high harvest and high hunter numbers. They reduce harassment of newly arrived migrants, allow feeding and roosting patterns to be established and maintained, allow mixing of locally reared birds with lightly harvested migrants and extend hunting opportunity.

Note: Times shown in the tables vary by specific location. For the exact time in your area consult a local airport or check on line at <http://tycho.usno.navy.mil>

DAY	SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.	
	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM
1	6:35	7:51	7:11	6:54	6:51	5:02	7:31	4:33
2	6:36	7:49	7:12	6:52	6:53	5:00	7:32	4:33
3	6:37	7:47	7:13	6:51	6:54	4:59	7:33	4:33
4	6:38	7:45	7:14	6:49	6:55	4:58	7:34	4:32
5	6:39	7:44	7:16	6:47	6:57	4:56	7:35	4:32
6	6:41	7:42	7:17	6:45	6:58	4:55	7:36	4:32
7	6:42	7:40	7:18	6:43	6:59	4:54	7:37	4:32
8	6:43	7:38	7:19	6:41	7:01	4:53	7:38	4:32
9	6:44	7:36	7:21	6:40	7:02	4:51	7:39	4:32
10	6:45	7:34	7:22	6:38	7:04	4:50	7:40	4:32
11	6:47	7:32	7:23	6:36	7:05	4:49	7:41	4:32
12	6:48	7:30	7:25	6:34	7:06	4:48	7:42	4:32
13	6:49	7:28	7:26	6:32	7:08	4:47	7:43	4:32
14	6:50	7:27	7:27	6:31	7:09	4:46	7:44	4:32
15	6:51	7:25	7:28	6:29	7:10	4:45	7:44	4:32
16	6:53	7:23	7:30	6:27	7:12	4:44	7:45	4:32
17	6:54	7:21	7:31	6:25	7:13	4:43	7:46	4:33
18	6:55	7:19	7:32	6:24	7:14	4:42	7:46	4:33
19	6:56	7:17	7:34	6:22	7:16	4:41	7:47	4:33
20	6:57	7:15	7:35	6:20	7:17	4:40	7:48	4:34
21	6:59	7:13	7:36	6:19	7:18	4:39	7:48	4:34
22	7:00	7:11	7:38	6:17	7:20	4:39	7:49	4:35
23	7:01	7:09	7:39	6:16	7:21	4:38	7:49	4:35
24	7:02	7:08	7:40	6:14	7:22	4:37	7:50	4:36
25	7:03	7:06	7:42	6:12	7:24	4:36	7:50	4:37
26	7:05	7:04	7:43	6:11	7:25	4:36	7:50	4:37
27	7:06	7:02	7:44	6:09	7:26	4:35	7:51	4:38
28	7:07	7:00	7:46	6:08	7:27	4:35	7:51	4:39
29	7:08	6:58	7:46	6:07	7:28	4:34	7:51	4:39
30	7:09	6:56	7:48	6:05	7:30	4:34	7:51	4:40
31			7:50	6:03			7:51	4:41

DRIVE 'EM *Wild*



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR MINNESOTA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

When you purchase any of the four new license plates—or the popular loon plate—your \$30 annual contribution is matched dollar-for-dollar with private donations and dnr nongame wildlife checkoff funds. Together, these funds help purchase critical lands that improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants.

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