

MINNESOTA HUNTING REGULATIONS

WATERFOWL 2010

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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ON THE COVER



Painting by Mark Kness, Albert Lea, MN

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.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES

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(651) 296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • mndnr.gov

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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 the September season. (\$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 1-888-646-6367 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.)

Notes:

- There are licensing exceptions for landowners, military personnel and others. See pages 15-16 and 33 of the 2010 Hunting Regulations Handbook for a complete listing of license requirements.
- Youth age 15 and under are required to obtain a free license before hunting small game, except on youth waterfowl day.

YOU MUST BE HIP CERTIFIED

Before hunting waterfowl or migratory game birds (except sandhill cranes), 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 1,500 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 1,500 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. Additional convenience fees are 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

Carlos Avery WMA Controlled Hunt Zone—A special restricted access hunt will be held in the pool 2 portion of the sanctuary at Carlos Avery WMA in Anoka County. Two blinds will be available by drawing on Saturday and Tuesday mornings through the waterfowl season.

Applications will be accepted for groups of up to 4 with preference given to groups with at least one youth hunter (age 17 and under) or one senior hunter (age 65 and over). Minnesota Waterfowl Association will conduct drawings for blinds two weeks prior to each week of hunting. For rules, application form and dates go to:

<http://www.mndnr.gov/averyhunt>,

<http://www.mnwaterfowl.com/>, or

call Carlos Avery WMA Headquarters at 651-296-5200



GENERAL WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

NEW FOR 2010

General

NEW

- Persons leaving waters of the state must drain boating-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the watercraft and associated equipment on public roads. Drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft on public roads.

NEW

- From Sept. 4 through Oct. 10, sandhill cranes may be harvested in a portion of northwest Minnesota (see map, page 24). The following regulations apply:
 - All hunters are required to obtain a sandhill crane hunting permit, available anywhere hunting and fishing licenses are sold for \$3.50. No other licenses, permits, or stamps are required. If sandhill crane hunters are also hunting Canada geese during the September Canada goose season, the special Canada goose permit (\$4), along with the required licenses and stamps are necessary.
 - Sandhill cranes may not be taken on or within 100 yards of surface water during the early Canada goose season (Sept. 4-22). Shooting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset until duck season opens on Oct. 2, then shooting hours for sandhill cranes are the same as for waterfowl. Sandhill crane hunters must use shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells and non-toxic shot is required. Bag limits are 2 per day with possession limits of 4 sandhill cranes. To transport sandhill cranes, both feet and a feathered head must remain attached.

NEW

- There are a number of changes to this year's Canada goose season. See page 21 for details.

NEW

- The daily bag limit for pintail has been increased to two.

NEW

- Youth age 15 and under are required to obtain a free license before hunting small game or waterfowl. HIP certification is also required to hunt waterfowl with the free license.

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 14 and 30 of the *2010 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

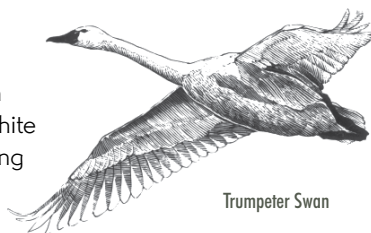
It is unlawful to take geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, or sandhill cranes with lead shot or while having any lead shot in possession. This restriction includes muzzle loading shotguns and taking pen-reared mallards on commercial shooting preserves. Only steel shot, copper-, nickel-, or zinc-plated 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. 2) to 4 p.m. through Saturday Oct. 9, and until sunset thereafter. See sunrise/sunset tables inside back cover.

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 watercraft restrictions), 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."
- 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.
- Persons leaving waters of the state must drain boating-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the watercraft and associated equipment on public roads. Drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft on public roads.

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 9, 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 AND GAMEBIRDS

A person may not possess or transport unlawfully taken migratory game birds. Migratory game birds must be transported in an undressed condition (ducks and mergansers with head and wing attached; geese with wing attached; and others with a fully-feathered head and both feet 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 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
Beltrami Big Stone, Lac qui Parle and Swift	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*, Upper Twin 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	Round	Murray
Patterson	Carver	South Badger	Murray
Tiger	Carver	North Badger	Murray
Big Rice	Cass	Swan	Nicollet
Augusta	Cottonwood	Little Rice	St. Louis
Dog	Crow Wing	Big Rice	St. Louis
Anka	Douglas	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.

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.



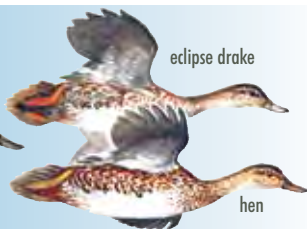
drake



hen



drake



eclipse drake

hen



hen

drake

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.



drake



hen



drake



eclipse drake

hen



hen

drake

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

PINTAIL

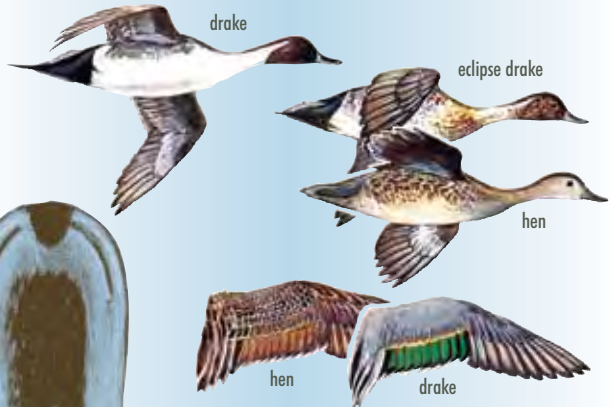
Length—26"

Weight—1.75 lbs.



drake

hen



These ducks use all four flyways but are most plentiful in the west. Typical Minnesota harvest: 15,000.

HOODED MERGANSER

Length—18"

Weight—1.5 lbs.



drake

hen



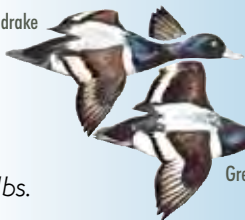
Often seen in pairs or very small flocks. Typical Minnesota harvest: 9,000.

SCAUP

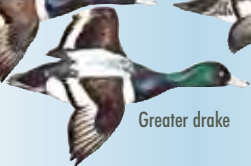
Greater Length—18.5"
Weight—2 lbs.

Lesser Length—17"
Weight—1.75 lbs.

Lesser drake



Greater drake



eclipse 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

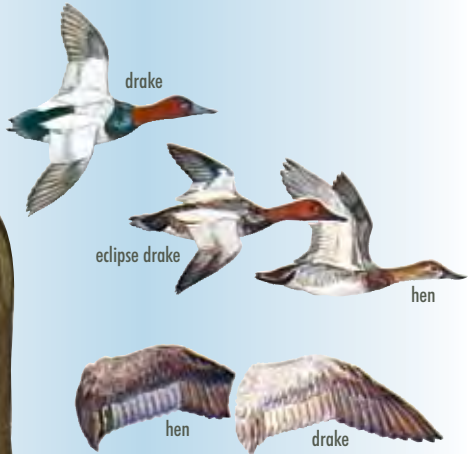


drake

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

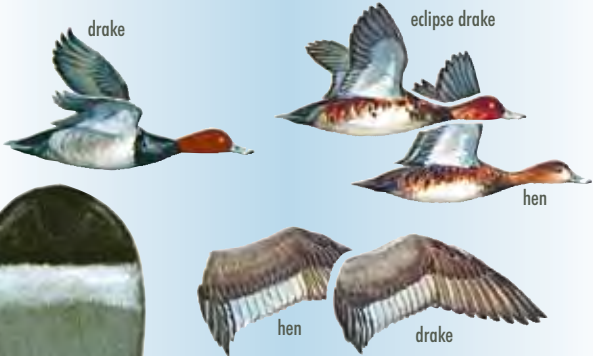
Length—22"
Weight—3 lbs.



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

REDHEAD

Length—20"
Weight—2.5 lbs.



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

2010 SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

DUCKS/COOTS

SEASON
DATES

DUCKS, COOTS, MERGANSERS, MOORHENS (GALLINULES) Oct. 2 - Nov. 30

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, 2 pintails, 1 black duck, 1 canvasback. 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. 25 - Nov. 8	3	6
Sora and Virginia rail	Sept. 1 - Nov. 8	25 (in aggregate)	25 (in aggregate)
Common snipe (Wilson's or Jacksnipe)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 8	8	16
Sandhill crane*	Sept. 4 - Oct. 10	2	4

* Northwest goose zone only, page 24

Youth Hunt: On Sept. 18, 2010, 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. 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. No licenses or stamps are required.

SPECIAL FALCONRY SEASON

Dates:

- Ducks, coots and moorhens may be taken by falconry from Oct. 2, 2010 to Jan. 15, 2011.
- 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. 2, 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. 2) to 4 p.m. through Saturday Oct. 9, 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. 2 - Dec. 25	20 combined	40 combined
White-fronted geese	Oct. 2 - Dec. 25	1	2
Brant geese	Oct. 2 - Dec. 25	1	2
Canada geese	Oct. 2 - Dec. 25	3	6
Rochester zone (see map)	Oct. 2 - Dec. 7 Dec. 16 - Jan. 2	3	6
* September (Early) Canada Goose Hunt Statewide	Sept. 4 - 22	5	10

* A special \$4 permit is required to hunt Canada geese during the special September season. All persons must have the permit to participate in this hunt, 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. Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

SURFACE WATER RESTRICTIONS

"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.

See additional restrictions on page 24.



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, live wells, 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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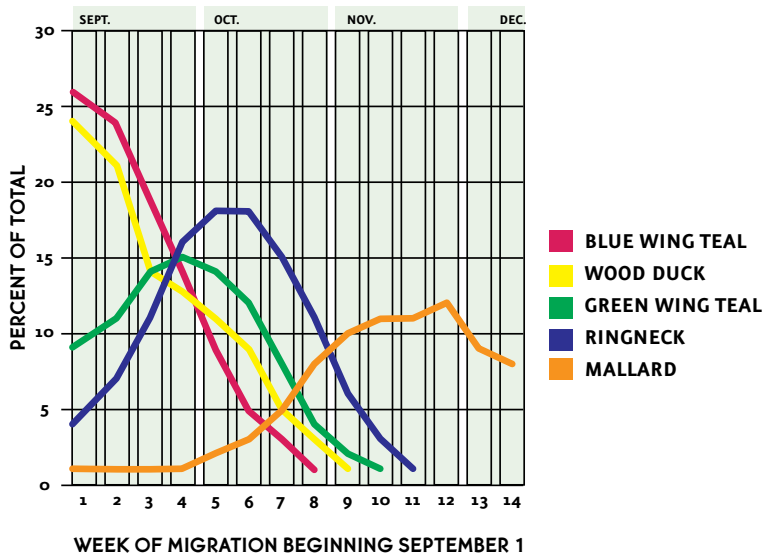


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FALL MIGRATION

Upper Mississippi Region



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.

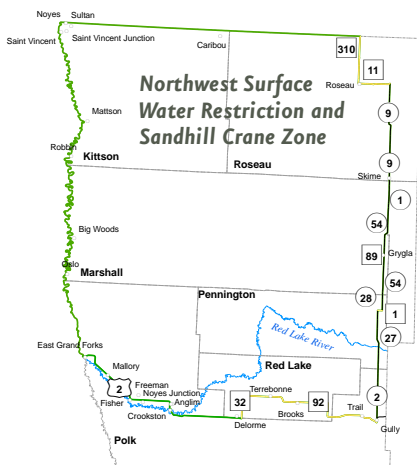
Subtending is simply knowing how much of a duck or goose is covered by the end of your barrel at various distances when the shotgun is mounted. The most important distance to be able to determine is your effective range.

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.

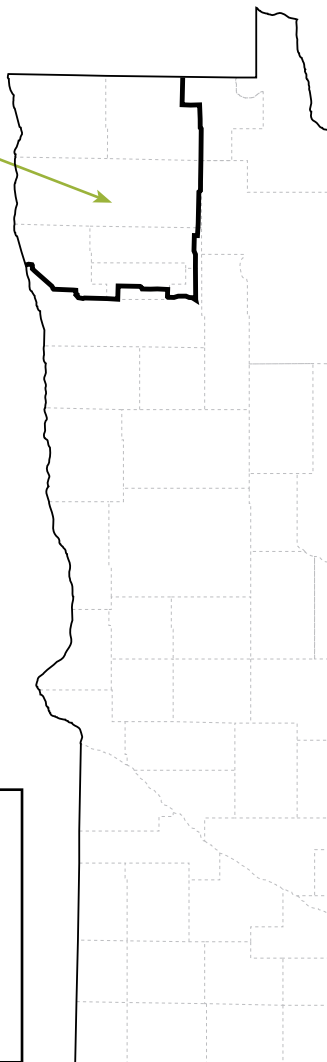
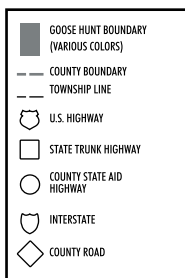


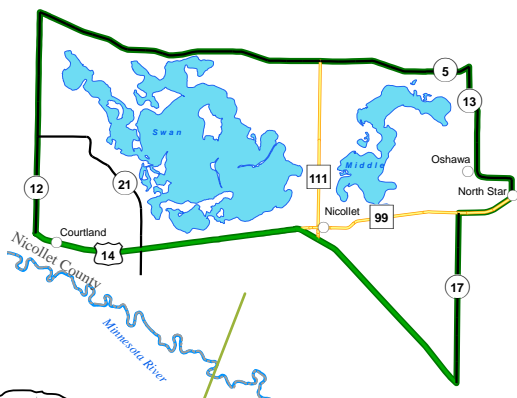
SURFACE WATER RESTRICTIONS

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

- Northwest surface water restriction (see map this page)
- Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area
- Swan Lake Area (see map next page)

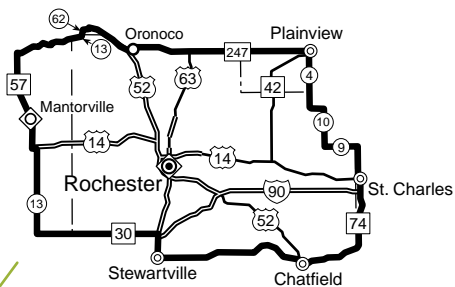
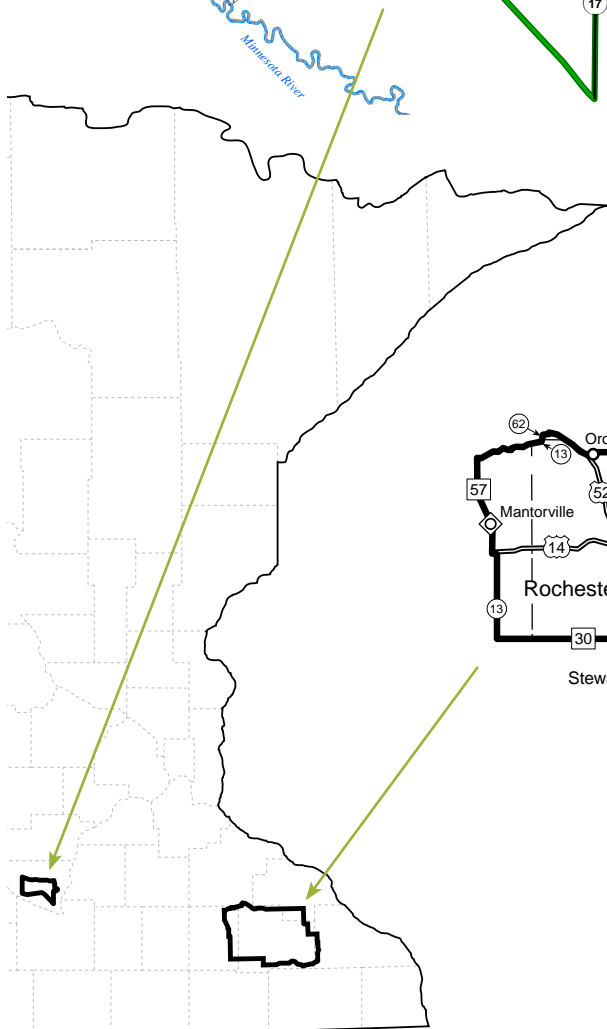
LEGEND





SWAN LAKE AREA

Early season hunting near water prohibited within the boundary.



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. 4 - 22
Benton	Sauk Rapids-Rice* Goose Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Chisago	Linn Lake Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting
Clay	Clay County Game Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 4 - 22
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge	Goose hunters with disabilities. Contact refuge
Dakota	Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and WMA	Goose Dec. 13 - 25
Dodge	Claremont Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Douglas	Douglas County Goose Refuge * Evansville Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting Canada geese Sept. 4 - 22
Freeborn	Moscow Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Grant	Ashby Goose Refuge	Ducks Oct. 2 - Nov. 30
Isanti	Elizabeth Lake Game Refuge German Lake Game Refuge	Early goose season and youth participating in a designated hunting mentoring program only
Martin	Fox Lake Game Refuge** Mud-Bardwell Game Refuge**	Goose hunting Oct. 2 - 4 Canada geese Dec. 18 - 25 Canada geese Oct. 30 - Dec. 25
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. 4 - 22, Dec. 2 - 25
Olmsted	Rochester Game Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 4 - 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. 4 - 22
Stevens	Harstad Slough Waterfowl Refuge	Canada geese Sept. 4 - 22
Washington	St. Croix River Game Refuge Stillwater Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting Waterfowl hunting
Watsonwan	Saint James Game Refuge	Goose hunting Oct. 2 - 4

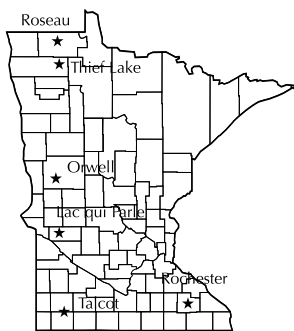
* No hunting from roads or rights of way

** 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 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 from Oct. 21-Nov. 30.

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.
- Within one hour of hunt completion, each party must return their entry permit to the check station and report number of geese harvested.
- 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.

The following regulations apply to waterfowl hunters in the Lac qui Parle Controlled Hunting Zone from December 1 through the close of the open Canada goose season for that zone.

- 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 assigned hunting stations.
- 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.

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 Youth Waterfowl Seasons). The restriction on

small game hunting in the CHZ applies from the opening of the regular waterfowl season through October 25.

- 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 2011. 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 2011.

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 birds

...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. A list of approved shot is available online at: www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/currentbirdissues/nontoxic.htm

...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.

POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess more migratory game birds taken in the United States than the possession limit of the aggregate possession limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess, have in custody or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his

personal abode or temporary transient place of lodging; or (c) migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office or (e) a common carrier facility.

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 migratory birds, see page 11, before taking them from the field.

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.

MOIST SOIL MANAGEMENT—A NEW INITIATIVE

Moist soil management is a wetland management technique that targets the shallow water (less than 12 inches deep) favored by feeding dabbling ducks such as teal and mallards. It involves intensively managing created, restored or enhanced wetlands by keeping the wetlands dry during a portion of the summer growing season and flooding during spring and fall.

The summer drawdown is used to promote the germination of annual plants or crops during the growing season. When flooded during the fall and following spring, ducks forage on the seeds and invertebrates that are available.

Moist soil management has been used effectively in many mid-latitude states such as Missouri to increase duck use during spring and fall migration, as well as provide hunting opportunities during the fall. In Missouri these units are typically several thousand acres in size in order to provide attractive habitat for waterfowl sanctuaries as well as managed hunting areas.

Potential benefits in Minnesota are likely to be different than those seen in mid-latitude states due to our shorter growing season, earlier freeze-up date, and greater mix of duck species in our fall harvest. However, the habitat provided by our large number of wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and shallow lakes can provide a synergy with moist soil management that will benefit both duck use and hunting opportunities.

Minnesota has already incorporated a small amount of moist soil management on a few major wildlife units such as Roseau River WMA, Thief Lake WMA, and Lac qui Parle WMA. Based on that work we know that moist soil management can be very effective in Minnesota although it generally requires a significantly higher investment such as pumps, dikes, and water control structures.

The Department of Natural Resources has submitted a moist soil management project proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to begin expanding our work on wildlife management areas. In addition the Department is working with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District to find opportunities to combine moist soil management with flood reduction efforts in the Red River Valley. These efforts are a beginning that we hope to expand in the coming years, along with shallow lake and other habitat work, to improve waterfowl use and hunting in Minnesota.

WOOD DUCKS:

A Duck that Nests in Trees



The male wood duck is one of our more brilliantly colored ducks, with a green and purple head and crest, and a bright red eye. Females are also distinctly beautiful with a gray crest and white eye patch that makes them easy to distinguish from our other ducks. A small to medium sized duck, what wood ducks lack in size they make up for in beauty.

Wood ducks inhabit forested areas near water, including creeks and rivers, bottomlands, swamps, marshes, and farm ponds. They rely on mature trees to provide them cavities which they use as nest sites. Wood ducks are not able to excavate nest cavities on their own

and so must search for tree cavities that are suitable for nesting. These cavities are produced in a myriad of ways, including limb breakage, other tree injuries, and the work of pileated woodpeckers. Cavities suitable for wood ducks are more likely to form in large, mature trees. Small, young trees do not provide a large enough platform for the nest and hen. Therefore, wise forest management is important to wood ducks. Managers need to consider the availability of mature trees for wood ducks and other cavity-nesters.

During the nesting season, females select the nest site while the male

waits outside the cavity for her to reemerge. After the nest site is selected, the female wood duck lays her eggs, one at a time, and only one each day. When the female is done laying, she exits the cavity and calls to her male oo-eek, oo-eek! After about 9 days, the clutch is complete but this can vary.

Wood ducks will also use nest boxes as nest sites. In areas where nest sites are scarce, nest boxes can provide much needed nest sites. However, the placement of nest boxes is important; too many boxes too close together can be detrimental. The reason for this is that sometimes multiple females will lay eggs in the same nest site. When too many females lay in the same nest site, sometimes the nest is not incubated. Sometimes even if the nest is incubated, the eggs do not hatch because there are too many for one female to incubate alone. Therefore, when placing nest boxes, it is important to consider how boxes are placed so that you have the intended effect of helping them produce more young. That way, lots of ducklings can jump out of the box and head to your wetland.

Ducklings hatch after about 30 days and leave the nest box usually within 24 hours. When ducklings hatch, they are already pretty independent. They can walk, swim, and feed themselves from the very first day. The ducklings stay with the hen for a month or longer and she shows them food, alerts them to predators, and sometimes broods them to keep them warm. After 50-60

days their flight feathers are fully developed and they begin flying.

Wood ducks are not territorial like some of the other cavity-nesters, like for example, goldeneyes. Instead, wood duck males defend an area around their female. Some speculate that this might be because changing water levels in much of their range during the nesting season may make it difficult to secure changing resources. Whatever the reason is, the nest site or another physical location is not defended by the male.

In the fall, Minnesota wood ducks migrate south. One of the earlier migrants, they start leaving Minnesota as soon as mid-September. Wood ducks have been recorded flying as fast as 30 mph during migration. They head south to warmer climes where they can find food and open water during the winter. As an omnivore that eats seeds, fruits, and invertebrates (bugs), food is pretty scarce in Minnesota in the winter! However, they'll be back in the spring to start the whole cycle again. Because of their secretive nature and preference for wooded wetlands and rivers, wood duck populations can be difficult to survey. But most indications show that the population in Minnesota and nationally is stable and much improved from historic levels. Hunting seasons for wood ducks were closed most years prior to 1958 due to concern over low population levels. Nesting in trees seems to be a good strategy that has served the wood duck well.

SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASON IN MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will offer the first-ever hunting season for sandhill cranes this fall. Here is some additional information hunters need to be aware of before heading to the field.

What is the population status of sandhill cranes in the state?

Two distinct populations of sandhill cranes occur in Minnesota. Sandhill cranes in NW Minnesota are part of the mid-continent population; sandhill cranes in the remainder of the state are part of the Eastern population.

Why is the season only open in NW Minnesota?

Sandhill cranes that breed and stage during fall in NW Minnesota are part of the midcontinent population. This population is managed via a cooperative management plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils. The Minnesota DNR requested a sandhill crane season in March 2010 and it was approved.

What types of hunting methods are most effective?

The most effective methods to hunt sandhill cranes involve scouting areas frequented by cranes and hunting either over decoys or by pass shooting. Sandhill crane decoys are commercially available and sandhill cranes will sometimes decoy to Canada goose field decoys. Pass shooting cranes can also be effective as birds fly from roosting areas to agricultural fields during the early morning or evening hours. Sandhill cranes will often respond to calls. Hunters should be aware that most sandhill crane hunting will occur on private land so scouting and obtaining landowner permission is necessary.

What types of shot size are most effective?

Although sandhill cranes appear very large in flight (>5 foot wingspan), their average weight is about 8-9 lbs, which is smaller than most adult Canada geese. Typical loads and shot sizes (BB, 1, 2) used for Canada geese are effective on cranes. Cranes are not as difficult to bring down as Canada geese due to their body structure (fewer feathers, down, body fat) but hunters will often shoot behind birds, which results in crippling, if they are distracted by their overall size (long neck and legs, large wingspan).



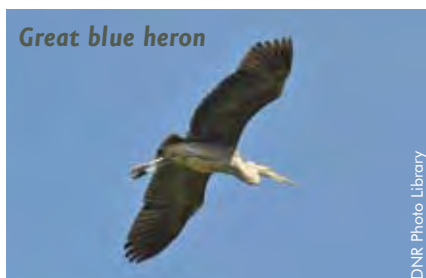
Sandhill cranes are legal to harvest from Sept. 4 through Oct. 10 in a portion of northwest Minnesota.

Are there any other species that look like sandhill cranes?

As with any hunting activity, hunters should be 100% certain of their target before attempting to harvest a sandhill crane. Sandhill cranes are large birds and many other species of birds have been mistaken for sandhill cranes, including great blue herons, egrets, pelicans, and swans. Whooping cranes are a federally endangered species and although rare in Minnesota, have been observed throughout the state.



Whooping cranes are an endangered species the hunters may encounter. They may not be harvested.



Non-legal species.



Non-legal species.

Are sandhill cranes good to eat?

Sandhill cranes are considered excellent table fare, particularly young of the year birds. Cranes can be prepared using any recipe suitable for Canada geese.

Are there any other concerns hunters should be aware of?

Hunters using retrieving dogs should be aware that injured cranes have been known to inflict serious injuries to dogs from their stout bills.

What types of monitoring will be done to evaluate the hunt?

Sandhill crane hunters should receive a harvest survey from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after the season. This survey will be used to monitor harvest levels and hunting activity.

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.

By following these practical guidelines hunters can significantly reduce their chance of exposure to a number of avian diseases, including salmonella and avian influenza:

- Do not handle or butcher birds that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while field dressing birds.
- Wear disposable or washable rubber gloves when field dressing game.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or disinfectant wipes immediately after handling game.
- Wash tools and working surface with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach.
- Cook all meat to an internal temperature of 165° F as measured by a meat thermometer.
- More information on avian influenza, is available online at:

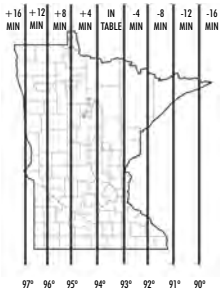
Minnesota DNR: www.mndnr.gov/hunting/waterfowl/avian_flu.html

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

Federal: www.pandemicflu.gov

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for ducks and geese are one-half hour before sunrise (except 9 a.m. on Oct. 2) to 4 p.m. through Oct. 9, 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	7:51	6:02	7:31	4:33
2	6:36	7:49	7:12	6:52	7:53	6:00	7:32	4:33
3	6:37	7:47	7:13	6:51	7:54	5:59	7:33	4:33
4	6:38	7:45	7:14	6:49	7:55	5:58	7:34	4:32
5	6:39	7:44	7:16	6:47	7:57	5:56	7:35	4:32
6	6:41	7:42	7:17	6:45	7:58	5:55	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



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