2026-2027
Digest of Migratory Game Bird Regulations



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2026-27 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS

GEESE and BRANT:

*Canada Geese:

September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026
November 13, 2026 – November 29, 2026
December 4, 2026 – December 6, 2026
December 9, 2026 – January 31, 2027
Daily limit 5, possession limit 15.

Brant:

November 13, 2026 – November 29, 2026
December 4, 2026 – December 6, 2026
December 9, 2026 – January 31, 2027
Daily limit 1, possession limit 3.

White-fronted Geese:

November 13, 2026 – November 29, 2026
December 4, 2026 – December 6, 2026
December 9, 2026 – January 31, 2027
Daily limit 3, possession limit 9.

Snow, Blue, and Ross' Geese:

November 13, 2026 – November 29, 2026
December 4, 2026 – December 6, 2026
December 9, 2026 – January 31, 2027
Daily limit 20, no possession limit will be in effect.

* - ***Roebuck Lake (Leflore County) is closed to Canada goose hunting.***

MOURNING and WHITE-WINGED DOVES

Statewide

September 5, 2026 – October 4, 2026
October 24, 2026 – November 22, 2026
December 26, 2026 – January 24, 2027
Daily limit 15 singly or in aggregate, possession limit 45 singly or in aggregate.

TEAL (Early Season): September 19, 2026 – September 27, 2026
Daily limit 6, possession limit 18. All teal species are legal for harvest.

WOODCOCK: December 18, 2026 – January 31, 2027
Daily limit 3, possession limit 9.

SNIPE: November 14, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Daily limit 8, possession limit 24.

GALLINULES (Common and Purple): September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026
November 22, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Daily limit 15 singly or in aggregate, possession limit 45 singly or in aggregate.

RAILS: September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026
November 22, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Daily limit is 15 for King and Clapper rails singly or in aggregate, possession limit 45 singly or in aggregate; daily limit is 25 for Sora and Virginia rails singly or in aggregate, possession limit 75 singly or in aggregate.

CROWS: November 7, 2026 – February 28, 2027. *No daily bag limit.*

DUCKS, MERGANSERS, and COOTS: November 27, 2026 – November 29, 2026
December 4, 2026 – December 6, 2026
December 9, 2026 – January 31, 2027

Ducks:
A total daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 3 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 1 mottled duck, and 2 black ducks. The daily bag limit for scaup is 1 scaup per day ***Nov. 27 – Nov. 29****, and* ***Dec. 4 – 6, and Dec. 9 - 17****; and is 2 scaup per day* ***Dec. 18 – Jan. 31****. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.*

Mergansers:
A total daily bag limit of 5, only 2 may be hooded mergansers. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Coots:
Daily limit is 15 per day. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Possession Limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds, except on opening day, unless otherwise noted.

YOUTH, VETERANS, AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNT DAYS:
February 6 - 7, 2027

Bag limits and shooting hours during youth, veterans, and active military waterfowl hunt days are the same as during the regular season. Only youth age 15 and under, veterans, and active military personnel are permitted to hunt during these special waterfowl hunt days, and youth must be accompanied by an adult age 21 or older who is licensed to hunt waterfowl in Mississippi.

SHOOTING HOURS:
Shooting hours for all migratory game birds are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the Light Goose Conservation order, which allows hunting light geese until 30 minutes after sunset.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER:
October 1, 2026 – November 12, 2026
November 30, 2026 – December 3, 2026
February 1, 2027 – February 5, 2027
February 8, 2027 – March 31, 2027

Hunters must have a free permit to participate in the Light Goose Conservation Order, along with a valid Mississippi hunting license and Mississippi waterfowl stamp. Permits are available online at https://www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/light-goose-permit-application. Each hunter must provide their name, mailing address, email, and phone number to receive a permit. For a list of specific regulations during the Light Goose Conservation Order, visit www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl or call 601-432-2199.

PUBLIC WATERFOWL HUNTING AREAS

Regulations on some public hunting areas may be different than statewide regulations, and may be different from other public areas. Before hunting public lands, check the specific area's regulations for closed areas, shooting hours, open dates, and other restrictions. Contact the managing agency for more information.

MDWFP Managed Areas

Area	County	Phone
1. Alligator WMA	Bolivar/Coahoma	(662) 335-2422
2. Canal Section WMA	Itawamba	(662) 862-2723
3. Charlie Capps WMA	Bolivar	(662) 335-2422
4. Howard Miller WMA	Issaquena	(601) 661-0294
5. Deviney WMA	Sunflower	(662) 335-2422
6. Lake Bogue Homa	Jones	(601) 928-3720
7. Lake George WMA	Yazoo	(601) 661-0294
8. Leroy Percy WMA	Washington	(662) 335-2422
9. Mahannah WMA	Issaquena	(601) 661-0294
10. Malmaison WMA	Leflore	(662) 453-5409
11. Muscadine Farms WMA	Washington	(662) 335-2422
12. Nanih Waiya WMA	Neshoba	(662) 724-2770
13. Neshoba County Lake	Neshoba	(601) 656-7376
14. Okatibbee WMA	Lauderdale	(601) 737-5831
15. O'Keefe WMA	Quitman	(662) 326-8029
16. Old River WMA	Pearl River	(601) 736-0066
17. Pascagoula WMA	George/Jackson	(601) 947-6376
18. Pearl River WMA	Madison	(601) 859-3421
19. Riverfront	Bolivar	(662) 335-2422
20. Shipland WMA	Issaquena	(601) 661-0294
21. Sky Lake WMA	Humphreys	(662) 335-2422
22. Sunflower WMA	Sharkey	(601) 661-0294
23. Trim Cane WMA	Oktibbeha	(662) 272-8303
24. Tuscumbia WMA	Alcorn	(662) 487-1946
25. Twin Oaks WMA	Sharkey	(601) 661-0294
26. Upper Sardis WMA	Lafayette	(662) 487-1946
27. Ward Bayou WMA	Jackson	(601) 947-6376

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Managed Areas

26.	Arkabutla Lake	Desoto	(662) 562-6261
27.	Bay Springs Lake	Tishomingo	(662) 423-1287
28.	Columbus Lake	Lowndes	(662) 327-2142
29.	Enid Lake	Yalobusha	(662) 563-4571
30.	Grenada Lake	Grenada	(662) 226-5911
31.	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Rankin	(601) 856-6574
32.	Sardis Lake	Panola	(662) 563-4531
33.	Tenn-Tom Waterway	NE MS	(662) 327-2142

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges

34.	Bogue Chitto NWR	Pearl River	(985) 882-2000
35.	Coldwater River NWR	Quitman	(662) 226-8286
36.	Dahomey NWR	Bolivar	(662) 742-9331
37.	Hillside NWR	Holmes	(662) 235-4989
38.	Mathews Brake NWR	Leflore	(662) 235-4989
39.	Morgan Brake NWR	Holmes	(662) 235-4989
40.	Noxubee NWR	Noxubee	(662) 323-5548
41.	Panther Swamp NWR	Yazoo	(662) 836-3005
42.	St. Catherine Creek NWR	Adams	(601) 442-6696
43.	Tallahatchie NWR	Tallahatchie	(662) 226-8286

HUNTING STATE LINE WATERS

Mississippi has reciprocal license agreements with the states of Arkansas and Louisiana. It is the hunter's responsibility to know the state-lines boundaries and season dates and regulations for the state they are hunting. Reciprocal agreements with bordering states are found at the links below:
Mississippi/Arkansas Reciprocal License Agreement:
http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4056/ar_reciprocal_license_agreement.pdf
Mississippi/Louisiana Reciprocal License Agreement:
http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4070/la_reciprocal_license_agreement.pdf

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC WATERS

Not all bodies of water in Mississippi are public. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is the state agency that makes the determination of public waterways in Mississippi. They can be contacted at (601) 961-5171 or www.deq.state.ms.us for a list of public waterways. Hunting may be allowed on public water if access is allowed without trespass and if not restricted by local, county, or city ordinances. Caution must be used while hunting public water during high water events to prevent trespassing. Floodwater which has overflowed the banks of a public waterway is not a part of the public waterway. It can be difficult to determine the dividing line between floodwater and a public waterway. A practical rule-of-thumb is to confine your activity within the waters bounded by the tree line on each bank. If you do so, you will remain in the public waterway.

REPORTING BIRD BANDS

Bird bands may be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service online at www.reportband.gov. The site will ask where, when, and how the band was encountered. The person reporting the band will receive information about the bird, and the band is theirs to keep. Information collected from the bands is very important, as it will be used to determine harvest rates and migration patterns used in future management decisions.

NON-TOXIC SHOT

Non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl and coot hunting in all areas of Mississippi. Hunters **MAY NOT** have lead shot in their possession while waterfowl and coot hunting.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to taking, possessing, shipping, transporting, and storing migratory game birds. **The following material is only a summary.** Each hunter should also consult the federal regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20 and any other related federal regulations. More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges and Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas open to public hunting.

Illegal Hunting Methods:

No person shall hunt migratory game 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 the hunter 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 electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or imitations of these calls and sounds. Exception: Light Goose Conservation Order.
- ➔ With a shotgun that can hold more than three shells, unless the gun is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun so that the total capacity does not exceed three shells. Exception: Light Goose Conservation Order.
- ➔ From or with the aid or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt migratory game birds from any stationary motor vehicle or motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.

- ➔ By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in range of the hunter.

- ➔ With the aid of bait (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over a baited area. Hunters should be aware a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of the bait. Changes in the federal baiting regulations eliminated the strict liability standard for baiting offenses. It is unlawful for anyone to hunt with the aid of bait "if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited." Hunters should thoroughly inspect the field or marsh, question landowners and guides, and take other reasonable steps to verify the legality of their hunt.

CLOSED SEASON: No person shall take migratory game birds during a closed season.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: No person shall take more than one daily bag limit in any one day. This limit determines the number of migratory game birds a person may legally have in their possession while in the field or while in route back to their car, hunting camp, home, or other destination.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS: Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

WANTON WASTE: Hunters must make a reasonable effort to retrieve all migratory game birds they kill or cripple and keep those birds in their custody while in the field.

FIELD POSSESSION: Birds must remain in your possession while in the field. No person shall give birds to another person in the field regardless of whether or not they are properly tagged.

TAGGING: No person shall give, put, or leave any migratory game bird at any place other than his/her personal abode or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

Hunter's Name:_____ Date:_____
Hunter's Address:_____
City:_____ State:_____ ZIP:_____
Phone Number: _____
Number of Birds by Species:_____
_____
Date of Harvest:_____ County:_____
Signature:_____

No person or business shall receive or take into custody any migratory game bird belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

FIELD DRESSING: No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except

doves and bandtail pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

SHIPMENT: No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

DUCK STAMPS: All hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase state and federal waterfowl stamps to hunt waterfowl in Mississippi. The Mississippi State Waterfowl Stamp may be in electronic form or the physical stamp. If used for hunting, the physical state stamp must be signed in ink across the face. Both stamps (or electronic proof of purchase) and a valid Mississippi hunting license (unless exempt from purchasing a license) must be on your person while hunting. Mississippi State Waterfowl Stamps are valid for one year from date of purchase. Federal Duck Stamps are valid from July 1 through the following June 30.

The Electronic Federal Duck Stamp, or E-Stamp, allows customers to buy Federal Duck Stamps online for immediate use. When you buy an E-Stamp, you will receive an electronic proof of purchase. This is unique to the purchaser and is valid as a Federal Duck Stamp across the nation. Your electronic proof of purchase may be printed out or downloaded onto your mobile device and must be carried on your person while hunting waterfowl. Physical Federal Duck Stamps will be mailed out to E-Stamp purchasers after March 10. Physical Federal Duck Stamps may also be purchased through the U.S. Postal Service. For more information on the Federal Duck Stamp, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp.php

MIGRATORY BIRD HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP): Each licensed hunter hunting migratory game birds in Mississippi is required to register in the Mississippi HIP program and carry proof of registration. Any hunter may be HIP certified by any hunting/fishing license vendor free of charge. If a hunter is HIP certified, "MB" will be printed on their credit card style Sportsman's License, or "HIP" will be printed on their paper license receipt.

DUAL VIOLATION: Violation of state migratory bird regulations also is a violation of federal regulations.

For additional information on federal regulations contact:

Senior Resident Agent
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Pkwy, Suite C
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
(601) 965-4469

MDWFP Law Enforcement
1505 Eastover Drive,
Jackson, Mississippi 39211-6374
(601) 432-2400
https://www.mdwfp.com/enforcement-education

IMPORTANT

The rules and regulations in this publication have been approved by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. They are not intended to be a full and complete statement of the laws relating to migratory bird hunting. For further regulations and restrictions, see the Mississippi Code, or contact the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Times for sunrise and sunset will vary slightly throughout the state. Please visit the link below for sunrise/sunset tables for your specific hunting locations. Sunrise/sunset information can also be found for your current location by using various apps for your mobile device (weather app, etc.) or on some GPS devices.

Exact sunrise and sunset times for your specific location can be found on the NOAA's website at the following link:

http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/grad/solcalc/

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