

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Migratory Birds Protected Federal laws protecting migratory birds (songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl) take precedence over state laws. Before any migratory birds may be taken or killed during the closed season, a federal permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Substantial penalties for violations apply. Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Permits Section in Atlanta, Ga. at (404) 679-7070 for information. Federal seasons and bag limits on migratory game birds are adopted as state regulations.

Colonial Water Bird Nesting Areas Coastal islands and beach areas posted as “Colonial Water Bird Nesting” areas are being managed for our nesting populations of pelicans, terns, gulls, herons and egrets. Special regulations apply. Access is prohibited on these areas from April 1–Aug. 31, except by special permit. Dogs are not allowed on these areas during this time period. Access on these areas from Sept. 1–March 30 will be allowed as authorized by the landowner.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – HUNTING STAMPS AND PRIVILEGES

Harvest Information Program (HIP) All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (dove, rails, woodcock, snipe or waterfowl) in North Carolina are required to have certification of participation in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Certification can be obtained free of charge at any North Carolina wildlife service agent or through the mail if you are a lifetime license-holder and complete the HIP survey card mailed to you in early summer.

Migratory Bird Hunting And Conservation Stamp (Federal) The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older, must carry on his person a valid “Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp,” or federal duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. (Hunters under age 16 may voluntarily purchase a duck stamp and help preserve wetlands for waterfowl.)

North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a license having the North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege. The North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege is required in addition to the federal duck stamp. Refer to the “License Types” section on page 3 of this digest for information on which licenses include this privilege license.

North Carolina Duck Stamp Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year’s duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes; call (888) 248-6834 for more information.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – SEASONS

Nongame Migratory CROW SEASONS

Season	Bag Limits
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday of each week from June 1 through the last day of February plus Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. (Crows are listed as nongame migratory birds.) Seasons shown are valid through June 30, 2009.	No restriction

Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Dates, bag limits and shooting hours for doves, other webless migratory game birds and resident Canada geese will be available by Aug. 1. Dates, bag limits and shooting hours for waterfowl will be available by Sept. 1. To obtain information on these dates, bag limits and shooting hours, call the following toll-free number: (800) 675-0263, or see our Web page at <http://www.ncwildlife.org>. Wildlife service agents will receive posters containing this information, and the information also will be distributed through local news media.

Youth Waterfowl Day Waterfowl hunting outside of the regular season is allowed on the day officially designated as “Youth Waterfowl Day.” Youths must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age. Legal species include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules and coots. The accompanying adult may not hunt. Call (800) 675-0263 after Sept. 1 for the date. Canada goose bag limits on youth waterfowl day vary by the applicable hunt zone. In addition, youths must possess a valid permit to harvest Canada geese in the Northeast Hunt Zone and a valid permit to harvest tundra swans.

WATERFOWL

TUNDRA SWAN

A limited number of permits will be issued to hunt tundra swans.

Permits will be issued by a random drawing authorizing each permit-holder to harvest one tundra swan. The following regulations apply:

- The permit and tag are not transferable and are valid only for the person whose name appears on the permit. It is unlawful to possess a swan permit or tag while hunting that was assigned to another person, or to alter the permit or tag in any way other than cutting out the proper month and day of kill.
- The permit must be canceled by cutting out both the month and day of the kill immediately at the time and place of the kill.
- The permit must be affixed to the harvested swan in accordance with instructions provided with the permit.
- The permit must be carried on one’s person while hunting or, if in possession of a swan, the permit must be affixed to the swan.

Every hunter receiving a swan permit will also receive a questionnaire. If the hunter does not return that completed questionnaire to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1, that hunter will be ineligible for a tundra swan permit the following season. See the Wildlife Commission’s *Permit Hunting Opportunities* publication for instructions on obtaining a swan permit.

SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREA

The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and oldsquaw), except during the regular duck season, shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas. During the regular season, this bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks, and they must be included in the regular duck season daily bag and possession limits.

SEPTEMBER TEAL ZONE

That area located east of U.S. 17 is designated as the “September Teal Zone.” Teal seasons occurring prior to Oct. 1 apply to this area only.

CANADA GOOSE HUNT ZONES

The state is divided into Canada goose hunt zones. See the map on page 50 for zone descriptions. For the hunt dates that apply in each zone, please call (800) 675-0263. A special permit is needed to harvest Canada geese in the Northeast Hunt Zone. See the *Permit Hunting Opportunities* publication to apply. Every hunter receiving a Northeast Hunt Zone goose permit will also receive a questionnaire. If the hunter does not return that completed questionnaire to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1, that hunter will be ineligible for a Northeast Hunt Zone goose permit the following season.

As with other migratory game birds, it is unlawful to hunt or possess Canada geese without having HIP certification as well as other applicable state and federal licenses and stamps in your possession.

GADDY GOOSE REFUGE

It is unlawful to harass or take any Canada goose during established goose hunting seasons that occur after Oct. 1 each year in the Gaddy Goose Refuge in Anson County. The Gaddy Goose Refuge is that area in Anson County starting at the N.C. 109 bridge over the Pee Dee River and following N.C. 109 south to SR 1650; west on S.R. 1650 to S.R. 1649; west on S.R. 1649 to U.S. 52; south on U.S. 52 to S.R. 1652; west on S.R. 1652 to S.R. 1641; west on S.R. 1641 to N.C. 742; northwest on N.C. 742 to Lanes Creek; north along Lanes Creek to the Rocky River; downstream on the Rocky River to the Pee Dee River; and downstream along the Pee Dee River to the beginning of the N.C. 109 bridge.

Nontoxic Shot Requirements In North Carolina, no person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel or other approved nontoxic materials. On posted waterfowl impoundments on game lands, it is unlawful to hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting; except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Nontoxic shot is required for the taking of captive-reared mallards on shooting preserves, in field trials and during bona fide dog training activities.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds:

Restrictions No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than a 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece fill which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary 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 of or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure that substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of the hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited areas. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait.

Baiting Although state law prohibits take of migratory game birds within 300 yards of a baited area, federal law prohibits take on or over any baited area which could serve as a lure or attraction. This "zone of influence" may extend a much greater

distance. Substantial penalties for violations apply. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Resident in Charge in Raleigh, N.C. at (919) 856-4786.

Closed Season No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

Shooting or Hawking (Falconry) Hours No person shall take migratory game birds, except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

Daily Bag Limit (Falconry) No person shall take, in any one day, more than one daily bag limit.

Field Possession Limit No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp, home or elsewhere.

Wanton Waste All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

Tagging No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person, unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- the hunter's signature,
- the hunter's address,
- the total number of birds involved, by species, and
- the dates such birds were killed.

Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.

Possession of Live Birds Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Dressing No person shall completely field-dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed 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:

- the name and address of the person sending the birds,
- the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and
- the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Importation For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, parts 20.61 through 20.66. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in part 20.63), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

Nontoxic Shot Regulations No person shall take ducks, geese, brant, swans and coots while possessing shot other than steel or other approved shot.

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

Reference Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, part 20.

Caution More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact the specific National Wildlife Refuge you will be hunting on.