

# PROPOSED MARYLAND MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR THE 2019-20 HUNTING YEAR

## SPECIAL EARLY RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

***Federal framework:*** A 15-day special season may be held between September 1 – 15 in the eastern zone and a 25-day season between September 1 - 25 in the western zone.

### Proposed Season Dates

Eastern Zone            Sep. 2 - Sept 14

Western Zone           Sep. 2 - Sept 25

Daily Bag Limit: Eight in both zones. Possession limit is three times the daily limit.

Eastern Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line.

Western Hunt Zone: Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery and Washington Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of 301 to the Virginia line.

Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may be used. Shooting hours in both zones are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

## SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

***Federal framework:*** States may select a 16-day season to be held between September 1 and 30. Teal season may not run concurrently with other seasons (resident Canada goose) that allow special considerations, such as modified shooting hours or unplugged guns.

Proposed Season Dates      Sep. 16 – Sep. 30

Daily Bag Limit: Six blue-winged or green-winged teal, singly or in aggregate. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

September Teal Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line. Shooting hours for teal during this season are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

## DUCKS, COOTS and MERGANSERS

***Federal Framework: A 60-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 and January 31.***

Proposed Season Dates      Oct. 12 - Oct. 19  
                                         Nov. 16 - Nov. 29  
                                         Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Black Duck                      Nov. 16 - Nov. 29  
                                         Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Duck Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is six. The six-duck limit shall consist of no more than five sea ducks (no more than four long-tailed ducks, four scoters or four eiders), two mallards (no more than one hen mallard), three wood ducks, two scaup, one pintail, two redheads, two hooded mergansers, two canvasbacks, two black ducks (during black duck open season), one fulvous tree duck and one mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the six-duck limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In addition to the duck bag limit hunters may take fifteen coots per day. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

**Note: In the designated sea duck zone, sea ducks may only be taken during the special sea duck season dates (Nov. 2 - Jan. 10).**

### SEA DUCKS (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck and Eiders)

***Federal Frameworks: A special 60-day season may be selected between September 15 and January 31 with a five-bird daily bag limit (no more than four long-tailed ducks, four scoters or four eiders) within established sea duck hunting areas. This bag limit is in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed four scoters, four eiders or four long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.***

Proposed Season Dates:      Nov. 2 - Jan. 10

Daily Bag Limit:              Five (no more than four scoters, four long-tailed ducks or four eiders) per day

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

***Federal Framework:*** States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday or other non-school day when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to fourteen days before or after any regular duck season framework, within any split of a regular duck season or within any other open season on migratory birds.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 2 and Feb. 8

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is six. The six-duck limit shall consist of no more than five sea ducks (no more than four long-tailed ducks, four scoters or four eiders), two mallards (no more than one hen mallard), three wood ducks, two scaup, one pintail, two redheads, two hooded mergansers, two canvasbacks, two black ducks, one fulvous tree duck and one mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the six-duck limit. In addition, youth hunters may take one Canada goose in the Atlantic Population Hunt Zone or five Canada Geese in the Late Resident Canada Goose Hunt Zone, two brant, 25 light geese and fifteen coots. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

Any licensed hunter 16 years old or younger may participate during these one-day hunts. Youth of this age who are exempt from the Maryland hunting license requirements may also participate. Youth waterfowl hunters must possess a receipt showing they purchased a \$9 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp. A Federal Migratory Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of youth hunters who are 16 years old. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, at least 21 years of age, who holds a valid Maryland hunting license or is exempt from the hunting license requirements. The accompanying adult may call waterfowl, assist with decoys and retrieve downed birds, but may not possess a hunting weapon.

## ATLANTIC POPULATION CANADA GEESE

***Federal Framework: AP Zone:*** A 30-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a one-bird daily bag limit. These seasons also include white-fronted geese. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 21, 2019 - Jan. 4, 2020  
Jan. 17, 2020 - Feb. 5, 2020

Bag Limit: One per day

[AP Zone](#): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, St. Mary’s, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George’s County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

## AF RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

**Federal Framework:** *An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a five-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into three segments.*

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 23 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Mar. 10

Daily Bag Limit: five per day\*

RP Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

\*Includes Canada geese, cackling geese and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.

## **ATLANTIC BRANT**

**Federal Framework:** *States may select a 30-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31, with a two-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.*

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 28 - Jan. 31

Daily Bag Limit: two per day

## **LIGHT GEESE**

**Federal Framework:** *States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.*

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 1 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Feb. 8

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day\*\* No possession limit.

\*\*Includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese singly or in aggregate.

## **LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER**

**Federal Framework:** *The conservation order allows new methods of taking light geese, allows shooting hours for light geese to end one-half hour after sunset and imposes no daily bag limits for light geese. Control activities may be conducted only when all waterfowl (including light goose) and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.*

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 2 - Dec. 14  
Feb. 10 - Apr. 15

Daily Bag Limit: No Limit, no possession limit

**RP Zone:** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line. The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.

**Special Regulations during Light Goose Conservation Order Season:**

(1) Participating hunters must possess a \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit while hunting light geese during this season; (2) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells; (3) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light geese; and (4) Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

*Note: Shooting hours for regular waterfowl seasons are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset except for (1) Resident Canada geese during September seasons when shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and (2) for light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season when shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. All season dates are inclusive. There is no possession limit for light geese; for all other waterfowl, the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).*

**WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS (Doves, Rails, Snipe and Woodcock)**

**Note: The USFWS recently approved compensatory days for webless migratory game birds for states including Maryland, where Sunday hunting for migratory game birds is prohibited by state law. Prior to this change, Sundays counted against the maximum number of days in states where Sunday hunting is prohibited by state law. Beginning with the 2018-19 hunting season, the federal framework will allow a maximum number of hunting days, rather than calendar days for webless migratory game birds. States were granted compensatory days for waterfowl hunting seasons in 1997.**

**MOURNING DOVE**

**Federal Framework: States may select a 90-day season between September 1 and January 31 with a 15-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.**

Proposed Season Dates:      Sep. 2 - Oct. 19  
                                         Oct. 26 - Nov. 29  
                                         Dec. 21 - Jan. 10

Daily Bag Limit:              Fifteen per day

## **KING AND CLAPPER RAIL**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 10-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 2 - Nov. 21

Daily Bag Limit: Ten per day (No more than one King rail)

## **SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 25-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 2 - Nov. 21

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day

## **COMMON SNIPE**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 107-day season between September 1 and January 31 with an 8-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 30 - Jan 31

Daily Bag Limit: Eight per day

## **WOODCOCK**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 45-day season between October 1 and January 31 with a three-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 24 - Nov. 29  
Jan. 11 - Jan. 25

Daily Bag Limit: Three per day

For additional information on population status, regulations, where to hunt, and more go the DNR Waterfowl Page at [http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt\\_Trap/waterfowl/index.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt_Trap/waterfowl/index.asp).