

Migratory Game Bird Status and Proposed Hunting Seasons for 2022-23

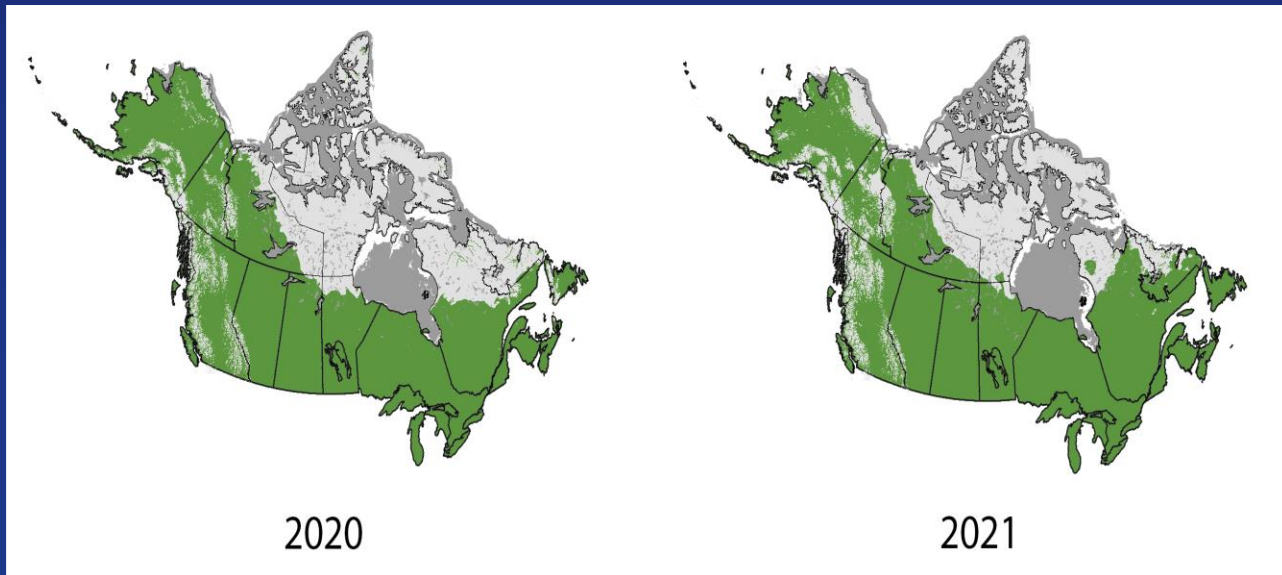


2021 Population Surveys and Banding

- **USFWS and partners were unable to conduct survey and banding operations in Canada due to border closures related to COVID-19 human health restrictions.**
- **As a result, direct observations of most waterfowl populations and habitat conditions in spring/summer 2021 were not available to biologists.**
- **Most stateside surveys and banding activities were conducted normally in 2021.**
- **Regulatory decisions will be made based upon modeled population estimates using the most recent information available.**

2021 General Habitat Conditions

- Limited data available because of COVID. The Canadian border remained closed until late summer.
- Snow and ice cover maps from satellite photography show less extensive coverage in 2021 than 2020 which suggested average spring weather conditions.



2021 Breeding Duck Estimates from the Eastern Survey Area (millions)

Species	2021	2020	% Change from 2020	% Change from LTA
Mallard	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Black Duck	0.54	0.50	similar	-31
Wood Duck*	1.02	0.94	+7	similar
Green-winged Teal	0.34	0.35	similar	similar
Ring-necked Duck	0.71	0.70	similar	similar
Common Goldeneye	0.59	0.58	similar	similar



Multi-Stock Duck Harvest Recommendation

- **Based on available data, the optimal choice for the 2022-23 Atlantic Flyway regular duck season is the liberal regulatory alternative (60 days/6 ducks including species restrictions).**



Status of Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Geese



- Breeding Pair Survey (mid-June)- Not conducted in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID.
- Pre-season Banding- Not conducted in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID.
- A model, based on spring weather, predicted slightly above average production in 2021.

AP Pair Estimate and Hunting Implications

- Population model predicts 153,000 breeding pairs for 2022 (95%CI 92,000-235,000).
 - - 2021 - 110,000 pairs
 - 2020 - 105,000 pairs
 - 2019 - 119,000 pairs*
 - 2018 – 112,000 pairs*
- *breeding pair survey data
- Federal Framework remains in the restrictive package (30 days/ 1 bird per day) for 2022-23 in all Atlantic Flyway AP hunt zones.

Proposed 2022-23 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag limits



Notes:

- MD DNR's Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season proposals must remain within guidelines provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Frameworks.
- MD DNR does not have the authority to legalize Sunday Hunting for Migratory Game Birds. That authority rests with the Maryland General Assembly.
- DNR will collect public comment (from the online forum, email, mail, telephone, etc.) for review by the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee and Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Adjustments to seasons and bag limits will be considered at this time.
- Final season selections will be forwarded to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service by April 15.

“Regular” Duck Hunting Season

Federal Framework

60-day season between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and January 31 with a daily bag limit of 6 ducks (species restrictions).



Eastern Zone Seasons

Oct. 15, 2022 - Oct. 22, 2022
Nov. 12, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022
Dec. 15, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023

Western Zone Seasons

Oct. 1, 2022 - Oct. 15, 2022
Nov. 19, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022
Dec. 15, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023

Daily Bag Limit:

6 per day (including mergansers) but no more than 4 sea ducks (3 long-tailed ducks, 3 scoters, 3 eiders), 2 mallards (1 hen), 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 1 scaup*, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks (during black duck season), 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous tree duck.

- *Scaup hybrid season: Daily bag limit is 1 except between Jan.9, 2023 and Jan. 31, 2023 when 2 scaup per day may be harvested.*

Youth/Military Waterfowl Hunting Days



Federal Framework: States can hold 2 youth/military personnel days outside of regular duck season but within 14 days of the end framework dates (Sept. 21 and Jan. 31). Must be on weekends, holidays, or other non-school days.

Proposed Dates: Nov. 5, 2022 and Feb. 4, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 6 ducks (certain species bag restrictions), 1 Canada goose in the AP Zone or 5 Canada geese in the late RP Zone, 2 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots. 2 scaup.

Requirements: Youth hunter must be 16 years of age or younger and accompanied by an unarmed adult at least 21 years old. The adult may assist in calling, setting decoys, and retrieving downed birds. Military veterans (as defined in Section 101 of title 38, United States Code) of any age and members of the armed forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on Active duty (other than for training) can participate in these two hunt days.

Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Hunting Season



Federal Framework

A 30-day season between Nov. 15 and Feb. 5. Season may be divided into no more than 2 segments.

Proposed Season

Dec. 17, 2022 - Jan. 2, 2023

Jan. 13, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 1 per day

Atlantic Flyway Resident Population Canada Goose Hunting Season (AFRP Zone)

Federal Framework

80-day season between Nov. 15 and Mar. 10

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day

Proposed Season:

Nov. 19, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022

Dec. 12, 2022 - Mar. 7, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day



Atlantic Brant Hunting Season

Federal Framework

50-day season between the Saturday nearest Sept. 24 (Sept. 27) and Jan. 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

Proposed Season: Nov. 16, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022
Dec. 15, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 2 per day



Light Goose Hunting Season

Federal Framework

107-day season between Oct. 1 and Mar. 10 with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit

Proposed Season:

Oct. 1, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022

Dec. 12, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023

Feb. 4, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 25

No Possession Limit



Light Goose Conservation Order Season

Nov. 28, 2022 – Dec. 10, 2022

Feb. 1, 2023 – Feb. 3, 2023

Feb. 6, 2023 – Apr. 15, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: No daily bag or
possession limit



Special Sea Duck Season Eliminated



Federal Framework

- The Special Sea Duck Season is no longer an option in the Federal Frameworks.
- MD DNR has proposed retaining the Sea Duck Zone to allow hunting opportunity throughout its geographic extent during the regular duck season.
- Sea ducks may be harvested during the regular duck season as part of the regular daily bag limit.
- The daily bag limit for sea ducks in the regular duck season will be 4 with no more than 3 eiders, 3 scoters, or 3 long-tailed ducks.

Mourning Doves

Federal Framework

90 day season between Sept. 1 – Jan. 31

15 birds/day

No more than 3 season segments



Proposed Season:

Sept. 1, 2022 – Oct. 15, 2022

Oct. 22, 2022 – Nov. 25, 2022

Dec. 15, 2022 – Jan. 7, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 15 birds/day

Woodcock



Federal Framework

45 season between Oct. 1 - Jan. 31

3 birds/day

No more than 2 season segments

Proposed Season:

Oct. 19, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022

Jan. 9, 2023 - Jan. 23, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 3 birds/day

Thank you for taking the time to review this presentation and we hope you use our online forum to provide comment on these hunting seasons proposals

- Please Click [HERE](#) to view the Proposed 2022-23 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons.
- Please Click [HERE](#) for the public comment forum.

