

License Requirements

All migratory game bird hunters must carry a valid New York State hunting license, except for persons not required to have a hunting license. All migratory game bird hunters in New York must also register annually with New York's Harvest Information Program (HIP) and carry proof of compliance whenever going afield. To register, call toll-free 1-888-4ASKHIP (1-888-427-5447) or visit the website: www.NY-HIP.com. **HIP registration is valid from July 1 – June 30 annually.**

Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his/her person a valid federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("duck stamp") signed in ink across the face. Stamps do not have to be attached to your license. Duck stamps are not required for hunting coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock or snipe. Duck stamps are not required of minors 12 to 15 years of age hunting migratory waterfowl in New York State.

Hunting Hours

All waterfowl may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all hunting zones. Canada geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during the September seasons, except on Youth Waterfowl Hunt days, when hunting hours end at sunset.

Non-Toxic Shot Requirement

Non-toxic shot is required for hunting waterfowl, everywhere in New York State. Possession or use of shells loaded with shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is strictly prohibited when hunting waterfowl.

Prohibitions on Methods of Take

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, crossbow, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 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 filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. **This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese during September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.**
- From a sink box (a low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a 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, with a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, 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 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. Motorboats and sailboats under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power except in the Special Sea Duck Area.
- 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 which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using recorded migratory bird calls or sounds or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls. **This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese in September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.**
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of 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 area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation. Migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as a result of the normal agricultural planting or harvesting.

Wanton waste/possession of live birds

- No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in his/her actual custody. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be killed immediately and included in the daily bag limit.



WATERFOWL

Season and Bag Limit Pocket Guide

2016-2017



Print of 2016-2017
Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp
Joseph Hautman, Artist

REPORT BANDED BIRDS!



Please report all banded birds you encounter to www.reportband.gov.

Bag Limits

The **daily bag limit** is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take or possess in the field during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese (no possession limit).

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks*	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada geese†	See other panel	See other panel
Snow Geese	25	No limit
Brant	2	6

*The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks) but may **not** include harlequin ducks and no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 pintail, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks or 2 hooded mergansers. For all other duck species found in New York, the daily limit is 6.

†Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily bag and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross' geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

Field possession limit

No more than one daily bag or aggregate daily bag limit of migratory game birds may be possessed or transported, tagged or untagged, at or between the place of taking and:

- His or her automobile or principal means of land transportation
- His or her personal abode or temporary place of lodging
- Migratory bird preservation facility
- Post office or common-carrier facility
- No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird and then transport the bird from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported.

Hunting Regulations and Zone Boundaries

The full hunting regulations and hunt zone boundary descriptions can be found in the annual hunting guide or online at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28175.html>

2016-2017 Waterfowl Seasons

Species	Western	Northeast	Lake Champlain	Southeast	Long Island
Youth Days ^a	Oct 1 & 2	Sept 17 & 18	Sept 24 & 25	Sept 17 & 18	Nov 12 & 13
Ducks ^b , Coots, Mergansers	Oct 22 - Dec 4, Dec 31 - Jan 15	Oct 8 - Oct 30, Nov 5 - Dec 11	Oct 12 - Oct 16, Oct 29 - Dec 22	Oct 1 - Oct 10, Nov 12 - Dec 31	Nov 24 - Nov 27, Dec 5 - Jan 29
Snow Geese ^c	Oct 1 - Apr 15	Oct 1 - Apr 15	Oct 12 - Dec 31, Jan 16 - Apr 15	Oct 1 - Apr 15	Nov 24 - Mar 10
Brant	Oct 1 - Nov 29	Oct 1 - Nov 29	Oct 5 - Dec 3	Oct 1 - Nov 29	Nov 24 - Nov 27, Dec 5 - Jan 29

2016-2017 Canada Goose Seasons

^aYouth Days are additional days for Junior Hunters only. Young hunters 12 to 15 years of age, possessing a junior hunting license, may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers, Canada geese, and brant on 2 special days in each zone. Daily bag limits for ducks are the maximum allowed during the regular duck season, and 3 per day for Canada geese. Young hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, but the adult may not shoot any birds unless the respective regular season is open.

^bSea ducks count toward the daily duck bag limit in all zones. Crippled sea ducks may be taken under power in the **Special Sea Duck Area** only.

^cSnow goose seasons include both the hunting season and conservation order dates.

