



Department of Environmental Conservation



# New York Hunting & Trapping

2020-2021 Official Summary of the Laws & Regulations

For complete rules and regulations see [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html)

## Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

HuntFishNY Mobile App \* 1-866-426-3778 \* [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

Most regulations are in effect September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021

### 2020 REGULAR & BOWHUNTING DEER SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

**NORTHERN ZONE**

- Early Bowhunting--All WMUs Sept. 27 - Oct. 23
- Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C Oct. 14 - Oct. 23
- Regular Oct. 24 - Dec. 6
- Late Bowhunting--Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 5A, 5C, 5G, and 6H Dec. 7 - Dec. 13

**SOUTHERN ZONE**

- Early Bowhunting Oct. 1 - Nov. 20
- Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C Nov. 7 - Nov. 20
- Regular (opens Saturday) Nov. 21 - Dec. 13
- Late Bowhunting Dec. 14 - Dec. 22

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S)**

- Regular--Bowhunting Only Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

**SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C)**

- Regular--Bowhunting Only Oct. 1, 2020 - Jan. 31, 2021
- Special Firearms--(Permit Req.) Jan. 4 - Jan. 31, 2021

**Crossbows**

May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.

May not be used to hunt deer:

- during the Youth Firearms Season; or
- anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

**Antler Point Restrictions**

During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.

**No Deer Hunting**

**Youth Firearms Season**

Season Dates  
Oct. 10 - 12, 2020

**Area Open**  
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs

**Eligible Hunters**  
Youth 14-15 years of age

**Bag Limit**  
One deer (antlered or antlerless)

**Tags**  
Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only); Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

### 2020 MUZZLELOADING DEER SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

**Northern Zone**

- Deer of Either Sex Oct. 17 - Oct. 23
- Deer of Either Sex Dec. 7 - Dec. 13
- Antlered Only Oct. 17 - Oct. 23
- Deer of Either Sex Dec. 7 - Dec. 13
- Antlered Deer Only Oct. 17 - Oct. 23

**Southern Zone**

- Deer of Either Sex Dec. 14 - Dec. 22

**Antler Point Restrictions**

During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.

**No Muzzleloading Season**

**Crossbows**

- May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloading Seasons.
- May not be used to hunt deer anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

### 2020 BLACK BEAR SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

**Northern Zone**

- Early Bear Sept. 19 - Oct. 16
- Bowhunting Sept. 19 - Oct. 23
- Crossbow Oct. 14 - Oct. 23
- Muzzleloading Oct. 17 - Oct. 23
- Regular Oct. 24 - Dec. 6

**Southern Zone**

- Early Bear Sept. 12 - Sept. 27
- Early Bowhunting Oct. 1 - Nov. 20
- Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C Nov. 7 - Nov. 20
- Regular Nov. 21 - Dec. 13
- Late Bowhunting Dec. 14 - Dec. 22
- Late Muzzleloading Dec. 14 - Dec. 22
- Westchester County (3S) Regular--Bowhunting Only Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

**Bowhunting Only WMUs**

**No Bear Hunting**

**Crossbows**

- May be used to hunt bear during the early bear seasons, muzzleloading seasons, and the regular firearms seasons.
- May not be used to hunt bear anytime in WMUs 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

**Youth Firearms Season**

Season Dates  
Oct. 10 - 12, 2020

**Area Open**  
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs

**Eligible Hunters**  
Youth 14-15 years of age

**Allagany State Park prohibits bear hunting**

### FALL TURKEY SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Season Bag Limit: 1 bird of either sex

**Fall 2020**

- Oct. 1 - Oct. 14
- Oct. 17 - Oct. 30
- Nov. 21 - Dec. 4
- Closed

### SPRING TURKEY SEASON (no map)

Hunting Hours  
One half - hour before sunrise to noon

**Area Open**  
All of upstate New York north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary

**Season Dates**  
May 1 - May 31

**Season Bag Limits**  
Two bearded turkeys (one bird per day)

**SPRING YOUTH HUNT**  
Season Dates  
April 24 - 25, 2021

**Area Open**  
Same as regular spring season Plus Suffolk County (WMU 1C)

**Eligible hunters**  
Youth 12 - 15 years of age

### How To Properly Fill Out Your Carcass Tag and Report Your Harvest

**Carcass Tag**

REG SEASON DEER - RES

Doc# 1234-5678-9013 2020-21

Issue Date 05/31/1982

Issue # 314114431000 Issued 09/24/2020 10:52 AM

**Fill out BOTH sides immediately upon harvest.**

1. Fill in the date, location, biological and season information on the front of your tag.

2. Mark or cut out month & day of kill AND sign the back of your tag.

3. Report your harvest! See details below.

**Use pen or permanent marker.**

**It's as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!!**

Hole for attaching to your game

### Reporting Your Game Harvest

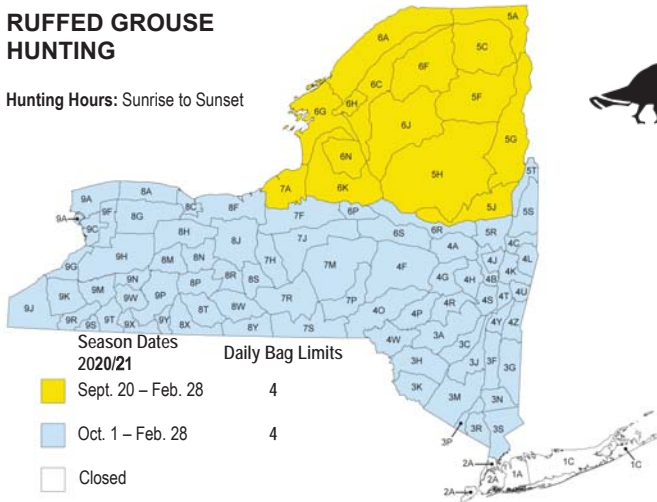
- Deer, Bear and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

### Take It \* Tag It \* Report It

1-866-426-3778  
or the  
**HuntFishNY Mobile App**  
[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

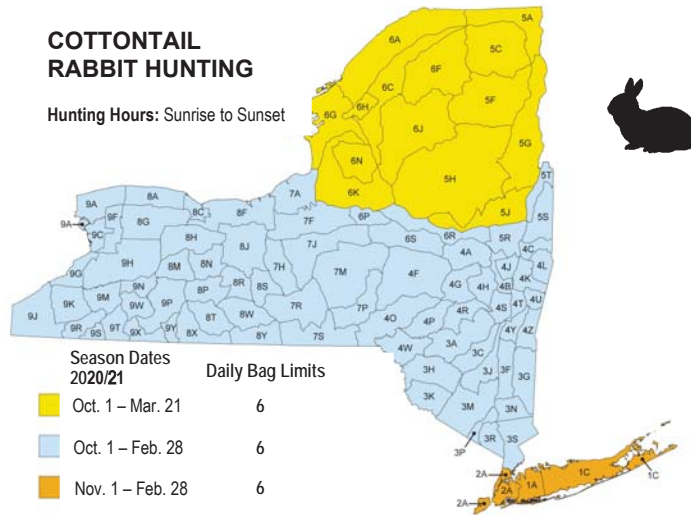
## RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## COTTONTAIL RABBIT HUNTING

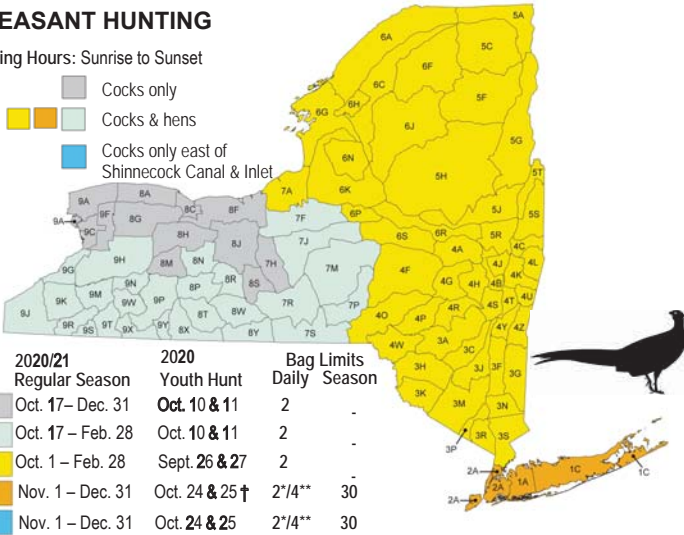
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## PHEASANT HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet

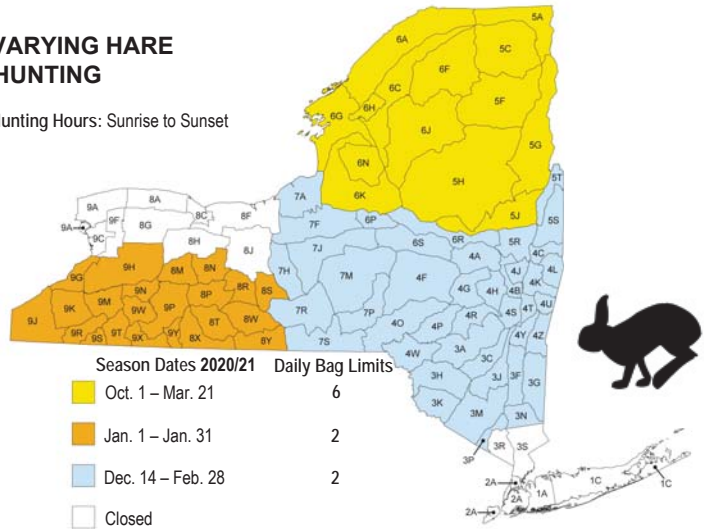


†No Youth Hunt in WMU 2A / \*Youth Hunt / \*\*Regular Hunt

Junior hunters (ages 12-15) must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. Only the junior hunter may carry a firearm.

## VARYING HARE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## GRAY, BLACK & FOX SQUIRREL HUNTING

Daily bag limit of 6 total, regardless of species.

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



Long Island: Nov. 1 – Feb. 28

All other areas of New York: Sept. 1 – Feb. 28

Red squirrels are unprotected, and may be hunted at any time without limit.

## BOBWHITE QUAIL HUNTING

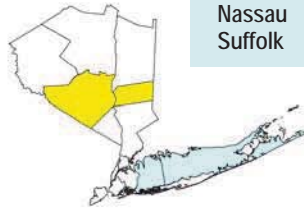
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



### Counties

- Orange
- Putnam
- Nassau
- Suffolk

Season Dates 2020/21	Bag Limits	
	Daily	Season
Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	4	10
Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	6	40
Closed		



## RACCOON, FOX, SKUNK, OPOSSUM, & WEASEL HUNTING

Long Island: Nov. 1 – Feb. 25

All other areas of New York: Oct. 25 – Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. They may be hunted during the day or night, except weasel which may only be hunted from sunrise to sunset.

## COYOTE HUNTING

Statewide except Long Island and New York City:

Oct. 1 – Mar. 28

There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.



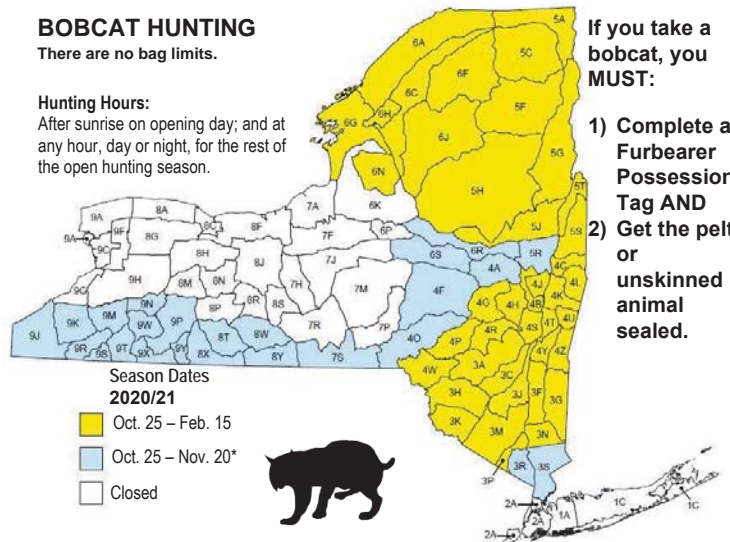
## BOBCAT HUNTING

There are no bag limits.

Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open hunting season.

If you take a bobcat, you MUST:

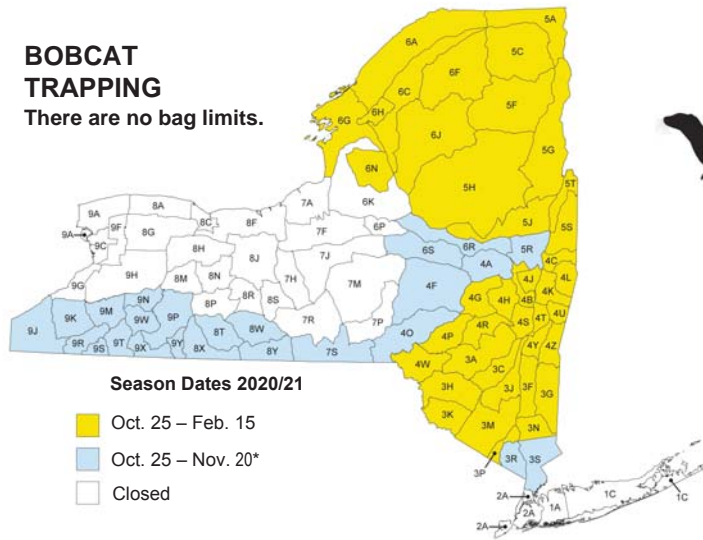
- 1) Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag AND
- 2) Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.



\*A free special harvest expansion area permit is no longer required. You must still have a valid hunting license.

## BOBCAT TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.



Season Dates 2020/21

- Oct. 25 – Feb. 15
- Oct. 25 – Nov. 20\*
- Closed

\*A free special harvest expansion area permit is no longer required

## RIVER OTTER TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.



Season Dates 2020/21

- Nov. 1 – Apr. 7
- Nov. 10 – Feb. 28
- Closed

There are no bag limits.

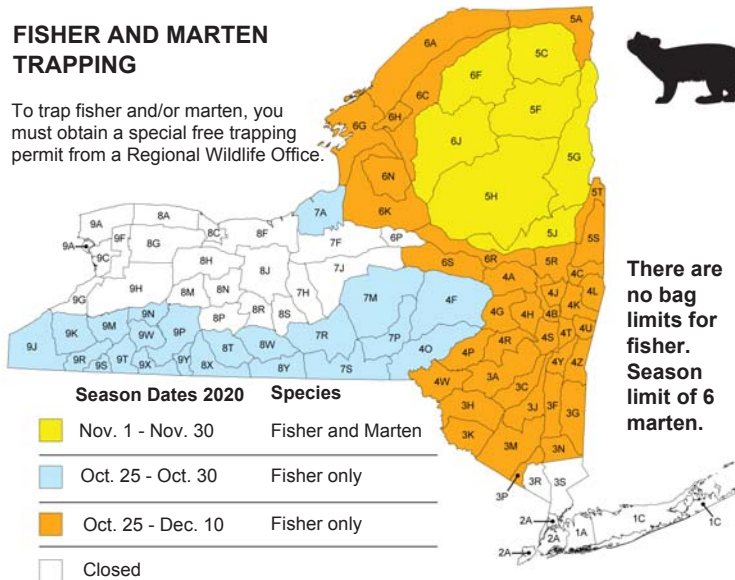
## Reminder

If you take a fisher, marten, bobcat, or river otter, YOU MUST

1. Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag AND
2. Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

## FISHER AND MARTEN TRAPPING

To trap fisher and/or marten, you must obtain a special free trapping permit from a Regional Wildlife Office.

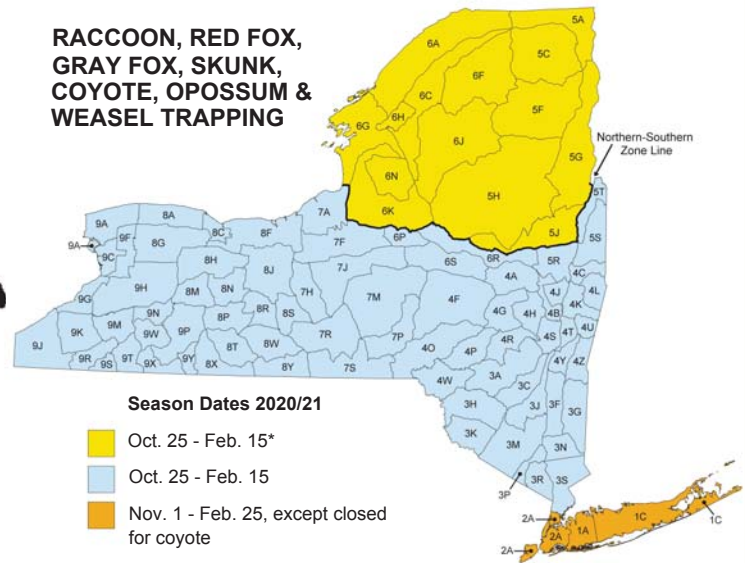


Season Dates 2020 Species

- Nov. 1 - Nov. 30 Fisher and Marten
- Oct. 25 - Oct. 30 Fisher only
- Oct. 25 - Dec. 10 Fisher only
- Closed

There are no bag limits for fisher. Season limit of 6 marten.

## RACCOON, RED FOX, GRAY FOX, SKUNK, COYOTE, OPOSSUM & WEASEL TRAPPING



Season Dates 2020/21

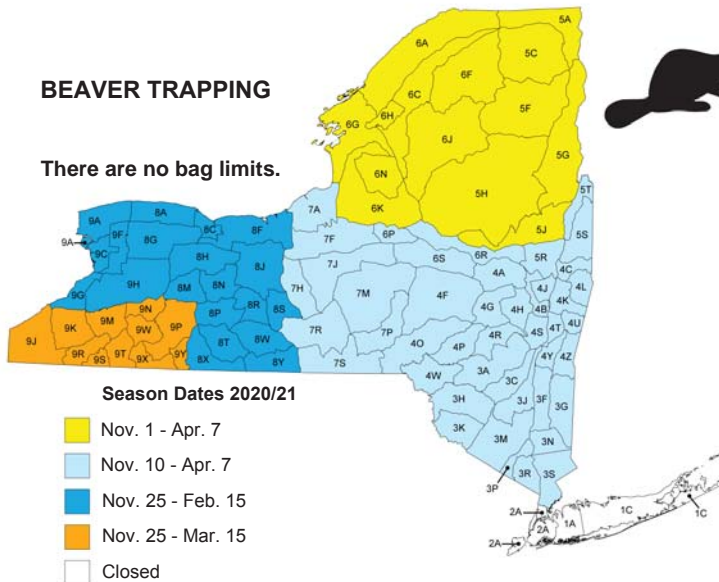
- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15\*
- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

There are no bag limits for these species.

\* In the Northern Zone body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

## BEAVER TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.

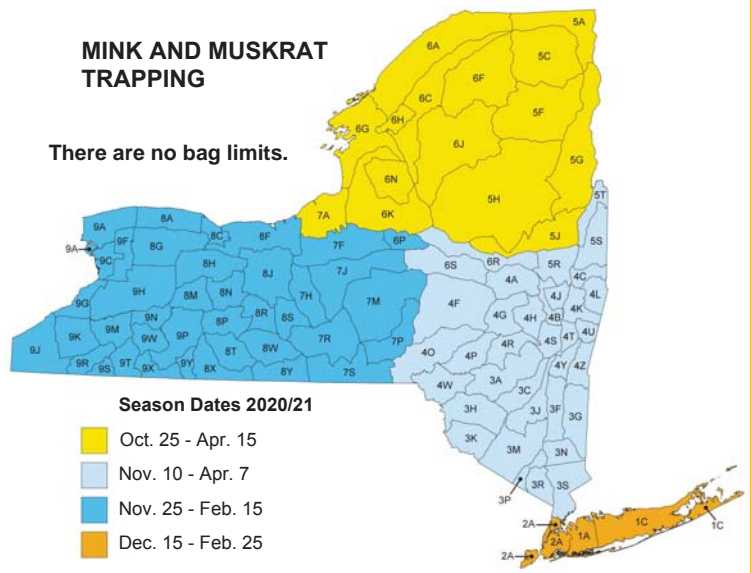


Season Dates 2020/21

- Nov. 1 - Apr. 7
- Nov. 10 - Apr. 7
- Nov. 25 - Feb. 15
- Nov. 25 - Mar. 15
- Closed

## MINK AND MUSKRAT TRAPPING

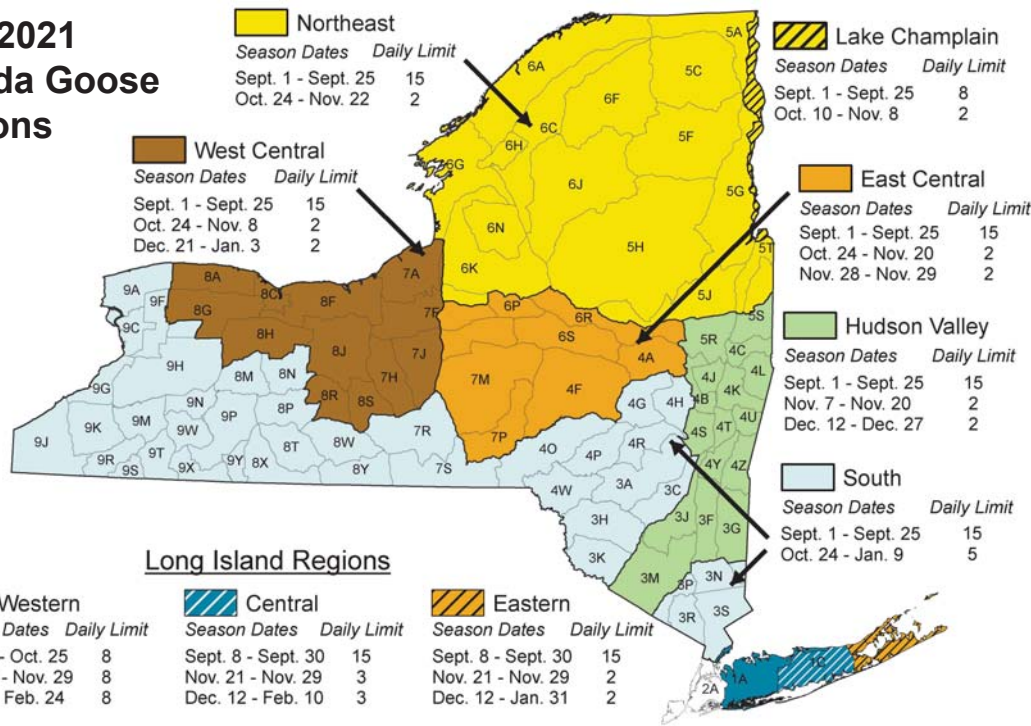
There are no bag limits.



Season Dates 2020/21

- Oct. 25 - Apr. 15
- Nov. 10 - Apr. 7
- Nov. 25 - Feb. 15
- Dec. 15 - Feb. 25

# 2020-2021 Canada Goose Seasons



WOODCOCK

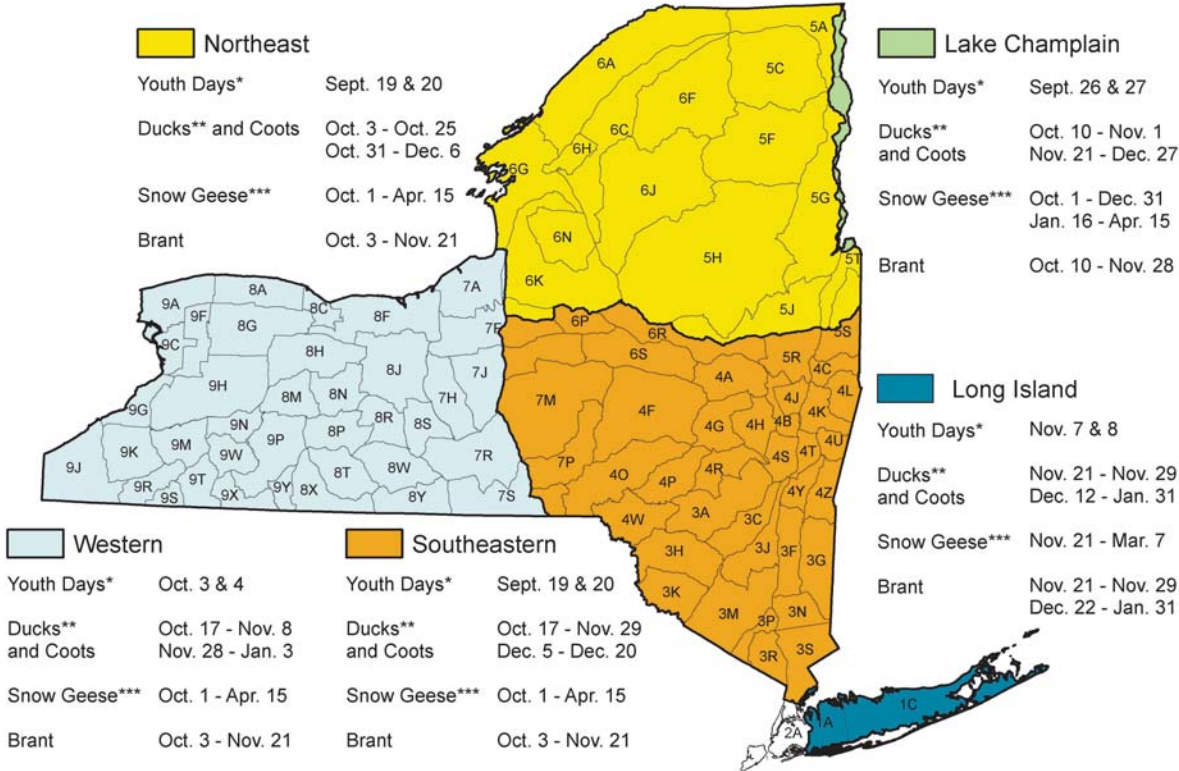
Oct. 1 - Nov. 14  
Closed



CROW

Sept. 1 - Mar. 31  
(Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays only)  
Closed

# 2020-2021 Waterfowl Seasons



SNIPE, RAILS AND GALLINULES

Sept. 1 - Nov. 9  
Closed

A migratory duck stamp is not required to hunt these three groups of birds.

HIP registration is required for each of these species except crow. To register: [www.newyorkhip.org](http://www.newyorkhip.org) or 1-888-427-5447.

\* Youth hunters, 12 to 15 years of age, possessing a junior hunting license and HIP registration, may hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, brant, gallinules, and coot on two (2) special days in each zone. Daily bag limits for all species are the same as those allowed during the regular hunting season for all species. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, but the adult hunter may only shoot migratory game birds if the respective hunting season is open for hunters of all ages.

\*\* Crippled sea ducks may be taken under power in the Special Sea Duck area, only. The Special Sea Duck Area is defined as the coastal waters of New York State lying in Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Great Peconic Bay and associated bays eastward from a line running between Miamogue Point in the Town of Riverhead to Red Cedar Point in the Town of Southampton, and any ocean waters of New York State lying south of Long Island.

\*\*\* Snow goose seasons include both the regular hunting season and the Conservation Order that runs from January 16 - April 15 in all zones (except Long Island).

## 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.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks <sup>a</sup>	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese	See map	* Three times the daily limit
Snow Geese <sup>b</sup>	25	No limit
Brant	2	6

a The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks) and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 2 mallards (1 of which may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 scaup (2 scaup are allowed during the special 20 days specified above for each zone), 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 no more than 6.

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