



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

Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

HuntFishNY Mobile App * 1-866-426-3778 * 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

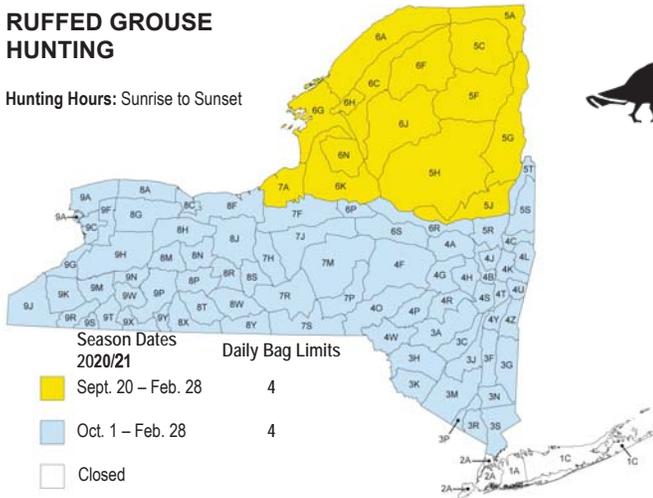
- Deer, Bear and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

Take It * Tag It * Report It

1-866-426-3778
or the
HuntFishNY Mobile App
www.dec.ny.gov

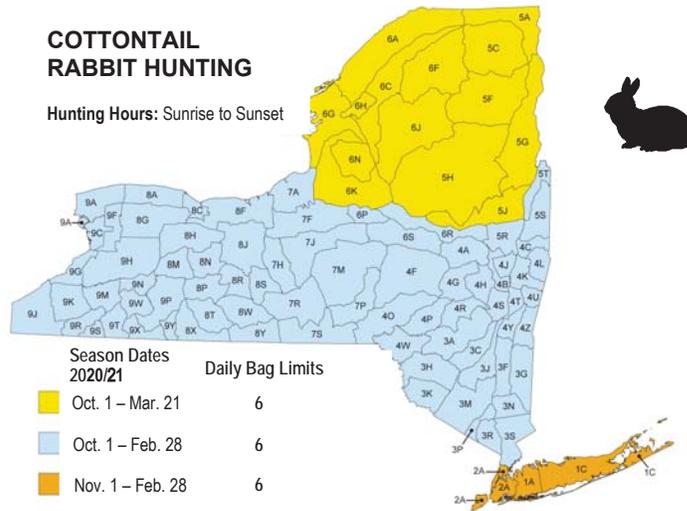
RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



COTTONTAIL RABBIT HUNTING

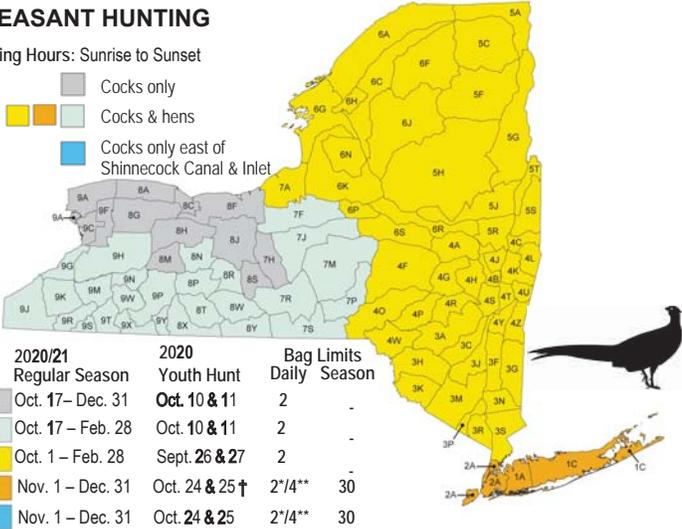
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



PHEASANT HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

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

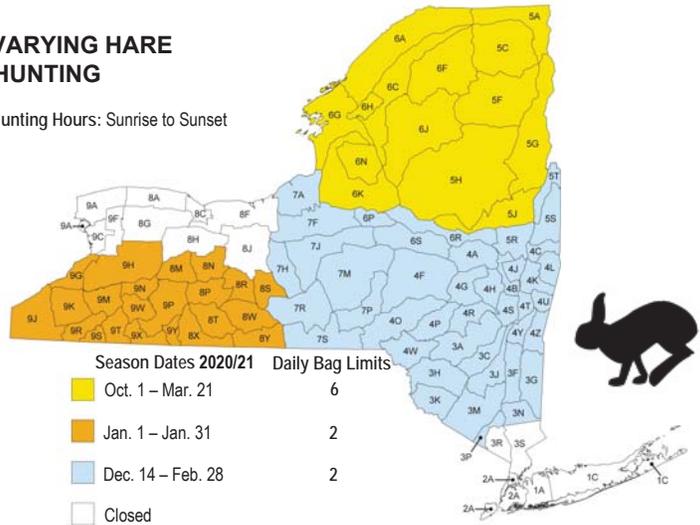


†No Youth Hunt in WMU 2A / *Youth Hunt / **Regular Hunt

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.



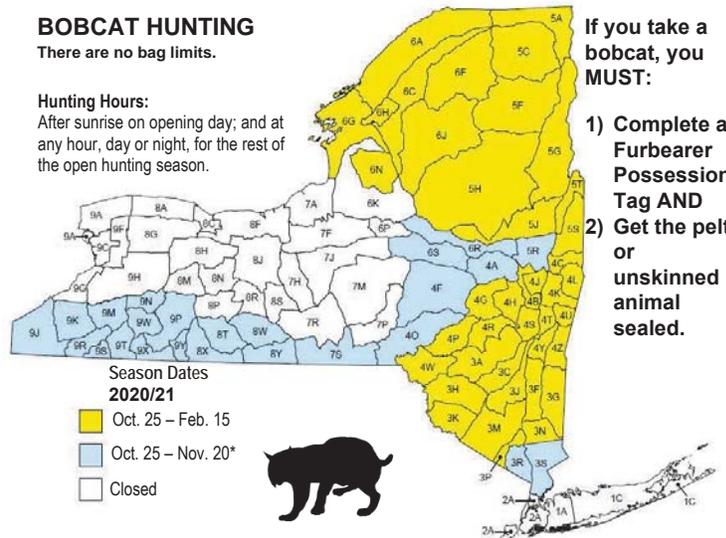
BOBCAT HUNTING

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:

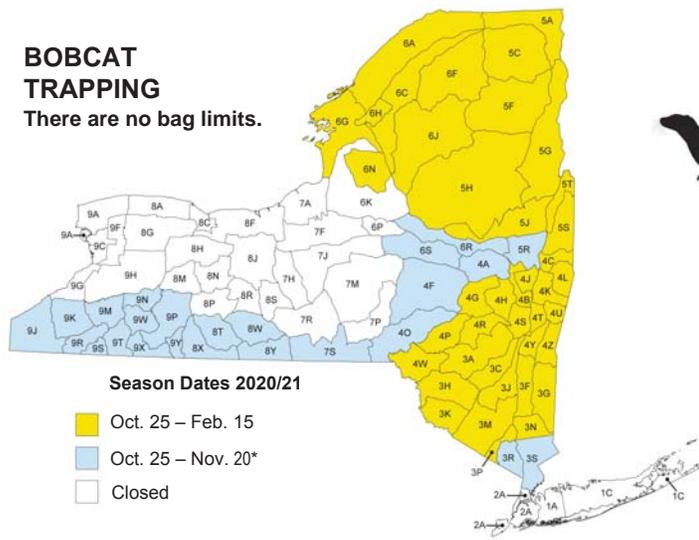
- 1) Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag AND
- 2) Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.



*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



Season Dates 2020/21

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

There are no bag limits.

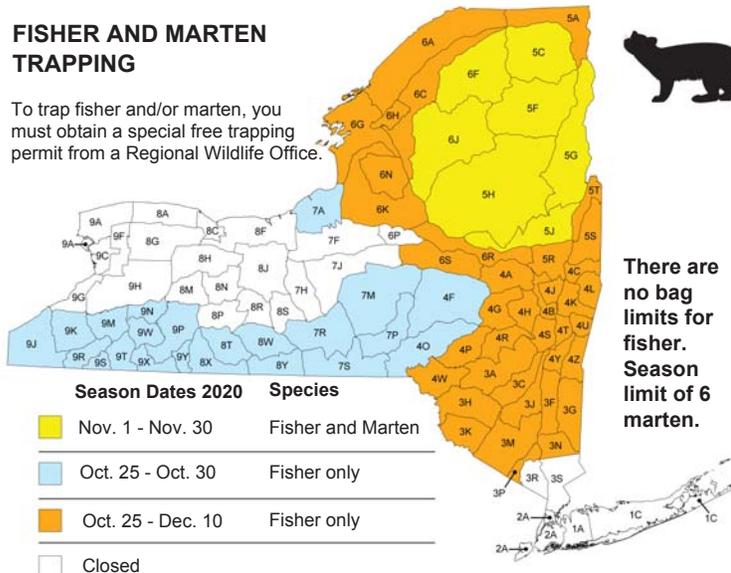
Reminder

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.

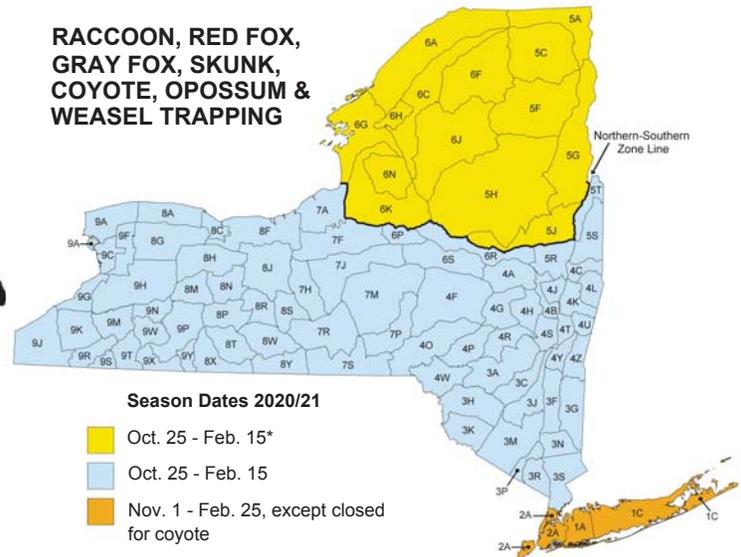


Season Dates 2020 Species

- 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

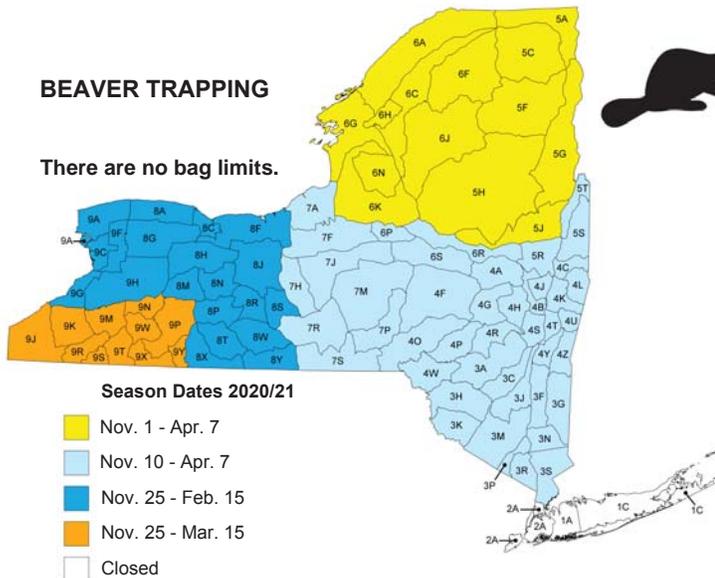
- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15*
- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

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.

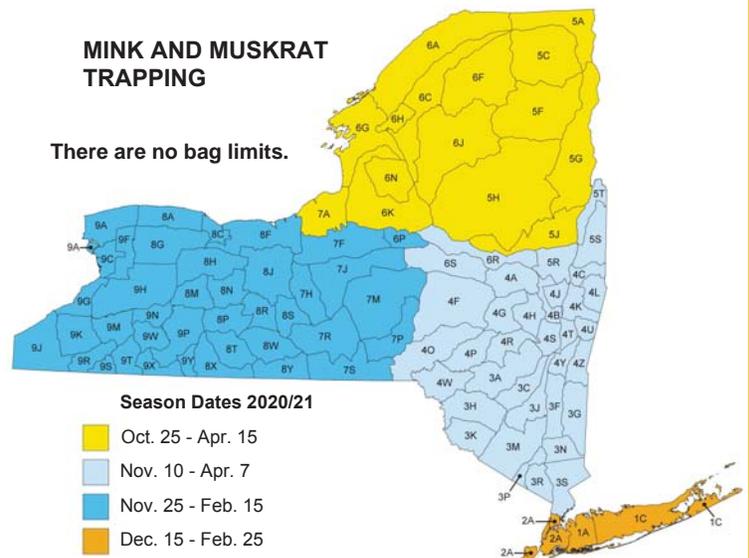


Season Dates 2020/21

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

MINK AND MUSKRAT TRAPPING

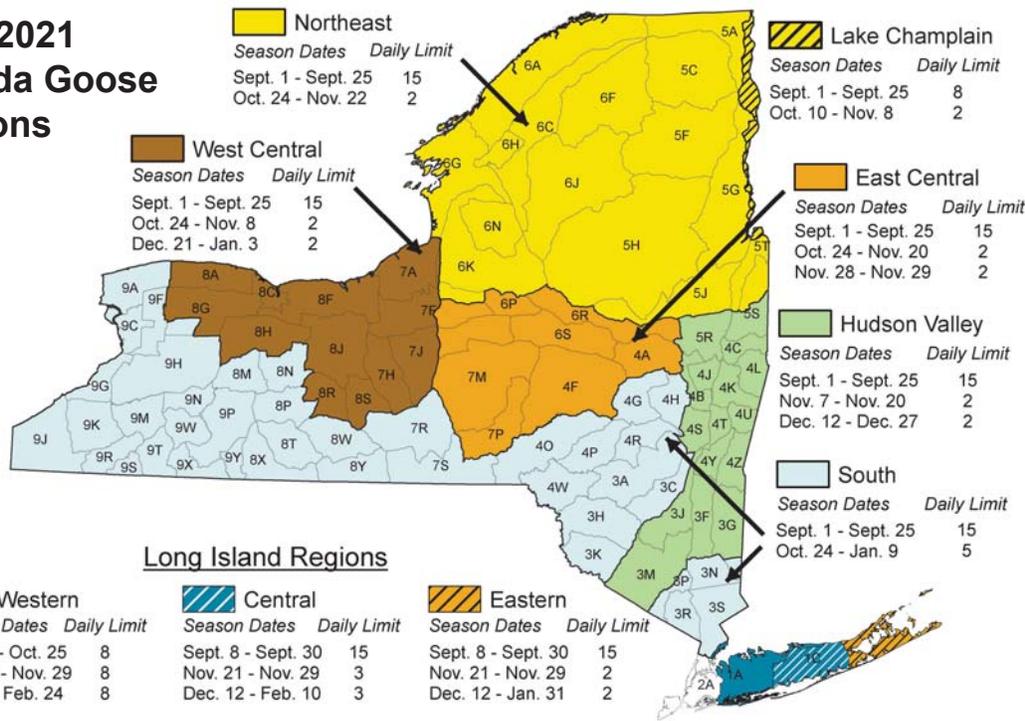
There are no bag limits.



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

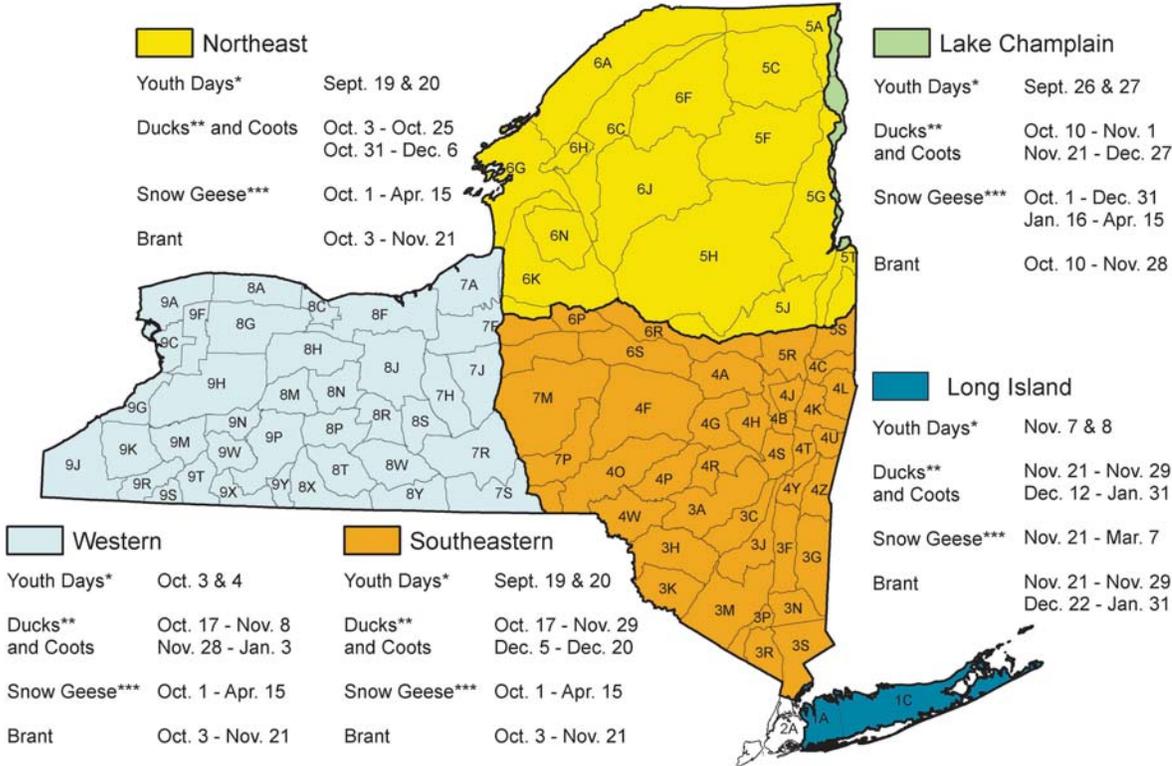


WOODCOCK
■ Oct. 1 - Nov. 14
■ Closed



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 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 ^a	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese	See map	* Three times the daily limit
Snow Geese ^b	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.