Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2021 TO JULY 2022

To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp affixed to or printed on the permit.

These two documents are issued by the federal government and are valid in all provinces and territories.

The 2021 federal permit is also valid for the 2022 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese.

Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Municipalities may have additional restrictions on discharging firearms. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

You can purchase and print your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit by visiting the *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit* web page on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit.html).

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

A national consultation process has been developed to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in developing the migratory birds hunting regulations. For more information, consult the *Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series* web page on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/consultation-process-regulations.html).

Enforcement

The *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* authorize game officers to use administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) to enforce the provisions of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, 1994 (MBCA) and its associated regulations.

The fine regime and penalty provisions in the MBCA and the *Designation of Regulatory Provisions for Purposes of Enforcement (Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994) Regulations* allow courts to impose penalties that reflect the seriousness of offences following a conviction pursuant to the MBCA or its associated regulations.

For more information on AMPs and the fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act.html).

Game officers enforce the federal MBCA throughout Canada. This law regulates human interventions, such as hunting that could adversely affect long-term wildlife conservation. For any questions, please contact Wildlife Enforcement by telephone or by email at the contact information at the end of this hunting summary.

Waterfowler Heritage Days

Waterfowler Heritage Days are intended for young hunters under 18 years of age. These days provide opportunities for young people, for a few days before or during hunting seasons, to:

- develop safe hunting habits in a supervised and structured environment;
- be guided by adult hunters who serve as mentors and pass on their skills and knowledge;
- learn more about wildlife conservation.

The following rules are in effect during Waterfowler Heritage Days:

- Young hunters can hunt without having a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit or Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp.
- Young hunters must comply with all safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations.
- Young hunters must be accompanied by a licensed mentor (who is not a minor).
- Adults acting as mentors:
  - must have a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp;
  - may not hunt or carry a firearm;
  - may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds, except for woodcock.
- **Non-toxic shot must also be used** to hunt Mourning Dove.
- Within National Wildlife Areas that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all types of hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

To reduce your exposure to contaminants in meat, make sure, before cooking it, to:

- remove the shot from birds hunted with lead shot;
- remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds.

Species at Risk

Barrow's Goldeneye is listed in the *Species at Risk Act* as a species of special concern, and **the daily bag and possession limit is 1 bird**.

CRIME STOPPERS

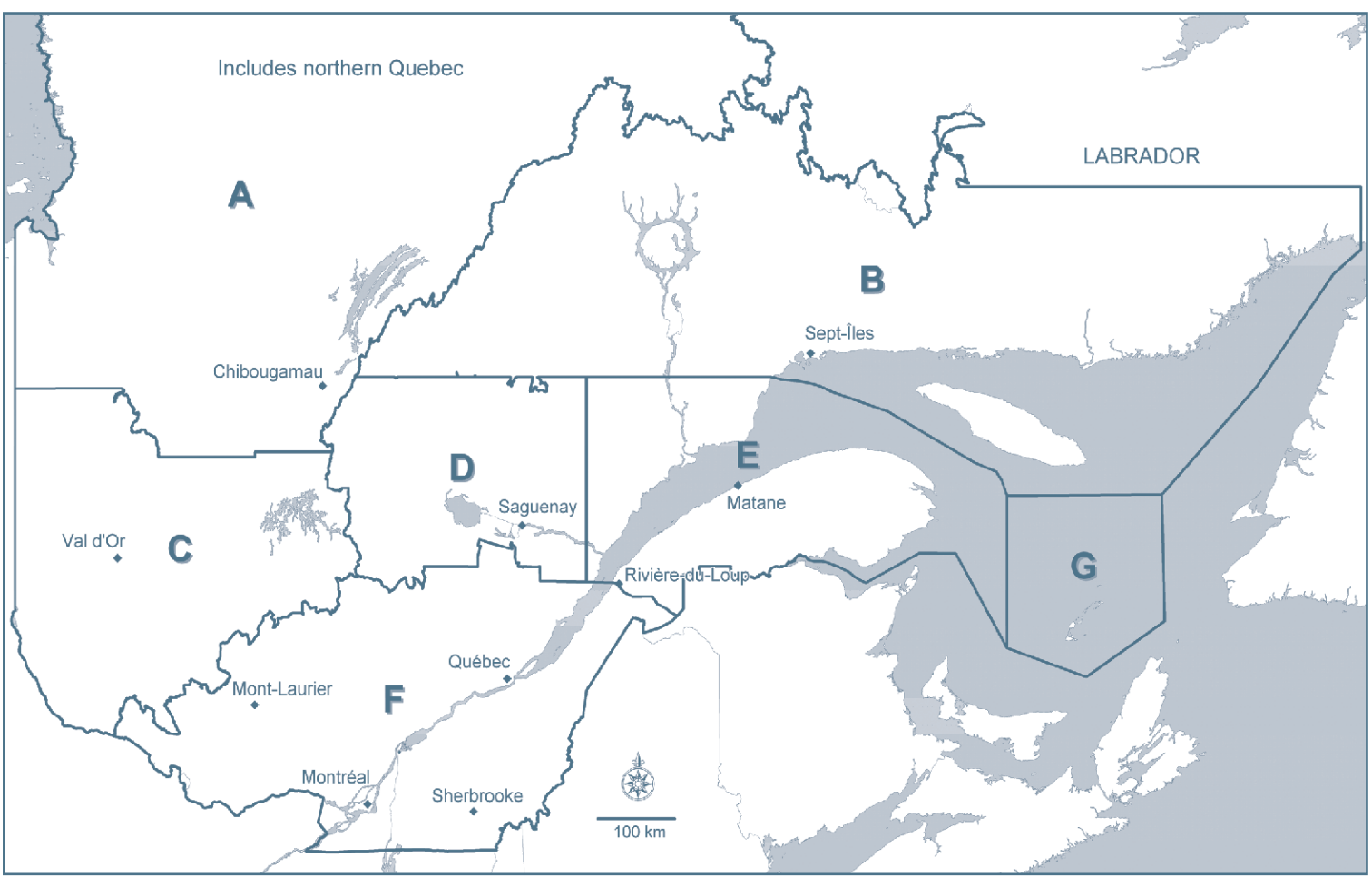
Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call "Échec au crime" in the province of Quebec at 1-800-711-1800 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) elsewhere in Canada. Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS AND OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks, Sora or Rails)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons				
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), Geese, Woodcock and Snipe, as well as Coots, Gallinules and Mourning Doves	Ducks (other than Eiders, Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks), Geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and Snow Geese) and Snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	Coots and Gallinules	Woodcock and Mourning Doves
District A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 *(d)*
District B	Sept. 11 *(d)*	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	Oct. 1 to Jan. 14 *(b)*	No open season	Sept. 11 to Dec. 25 *(d)*
Districts C, D, and E	Sept. 11 *(d)*	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 *(c)*	Sept. 1 to Sept. 17 *(a)*; Sept. 18 to Dec. 16	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	No open season	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 *(d)*
District F	Sept. 18	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8 *(c)*	Sept. 6 to Sept. 24 *(a)*; Sept. 25 to Dec. 21	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8	Sept. 25 to Jan. 8	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1
District G	Sept. 18 *(d)*	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14	No open season	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26 *(d)*

(a) In Districts C, D, E and F, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.
(b) In District B, in the portion of the North Shore west of the Natashquan River, for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks, the hunting seasons are the periods beginning on October 1 and ending on October 24 and beginning on November 15 and ending on February 5.
(c) In District E, the open season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 20 in Provincial Hunting Zone No. 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the open season for Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 20 between Pointe Jureux (Saint-Irénée) and the Gros Cap à l'Aigle (Saint-Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone No. 21.
(d) Hunting for Mourning Doves is allowed only in District F.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limit	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) (combined)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese (combined)	Snow Geese	Other Geese (combined)	Coots and Gallinules (combined)	Woodcock	Snipe	Mourning Doves
Daily Bag	6 *(a)*, *(b)*, *(f)*	5 *(d)*, *(g)*	20 *(f)*	5 *(f)*	4 *(f)*	8 *(e)*, *(f)*	10 *(f)*	8 *(f)*
Possession	18 *(c)*, *(f)*	No limit	No limit	15 *(f)*	12 *(f)*	24 *(f)*	30 *(f)*	24 *(f)*

(a) In the portion of District F that is south of Route 148 and is west of Highway 15, not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(c) Not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(d) Up to 5 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily between September 1 and September 25.
(e) For non-residents of Canada, not more than 4 may be taken daily.
(f) Not more than 3 birds may be taken or possessed during Waterfowler Heritage Days, with the additional species restrictions described in notes *(a)* to *(c)* applying within the total.
(g) From September 26 to October 31, the daily bag limit is restricted to:
- 3 in Districts A, C, and the portion of District F that is west of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117;
- 2 in District D and the portion of District F that is east of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117;
- no change in Districts B, E, and G.

OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. See the table below for details.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 May 1 to June 30	Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)* Recorded bird calls *(d)*
District B	Sept. 18 to Jan. 1	Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)*
District C and D	Sept. 1 to Sept. 17 *(a)* Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 Mar. 1 to May 31 *(a)*	Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)* Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)* Recorded bird calls *(d)*
District E	Sept. 1 to Sept. 17 *(a)* Sept. 18 to Jan. 1 Mar. 1 to May 31 *(a)*	Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)*; bait crop area *(e)* Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)*; bait crop area *(e)* Recorded bird calls *(d)*; bait *(e)*
District F	Sept. 6 to Sept. 24 *(a)* Sept. 25 to Jan. 8 Mar. 1 to May 31 *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)*	Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)*; bait crop area *(e)* Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)*; bait crop area *(e)* Recorded bird calls *(d)*; bait *(e)*
District G	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Recorded bird calls *(d)*, *(f)*

(a) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.
(b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of the Montmagny municipality and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace municipality, other than in lots 4,598,472, 2,611,981 and 2,611,982 of the cadastre of Quebec (all located in Montmagny municipality).
(c) In District F, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 metres north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.
(d) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of Snow Geese.
(e) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.
(f) Any species of migratory bird for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese with recorded Snow Goose calls.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. If there is a discrepancy between the law and this summary, the law prevails.

For more information, consult the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, the frequently asked questions for hunters, and other information on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).

You may also direct your questions to:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
801-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, Québec G1J 0C3
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
Fax: 418-649-6591
ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL **1-800-327-BAND (2263)** TO LEAVE A MESSAGE OR GO TO:
WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

Canada

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