



Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2023
TO JULY 2024



Notice: Avian influenza virus (AIV) is a contagious viral infection that can affect domestic and wild birds throughout the world. Guidelines have been developed to prevent or mitigate the spread of this virus, and for precautionary measures to take when handling wild game. For more information, please refer to www.canada.ca/Avian-flu and the *Wildlife and Avian Influenza – Handling Guidelines to Protect Your Health* web page on the Government of Canada website.

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

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

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

The 2023 federal permit is also valid for the 2024 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese.

Hunting Districts

District A: Provincial Hunting Zones (PHZs) 17 and 22 to 24 inclusive.

District B: PHZs 19 south, 20 and 29 and the portion of PHZ 21 included in the electoral district of Duplessis that is situated opposite to PHZs 19 south and 20.

District C: PHZs 12 to 14 inclusive and 16.

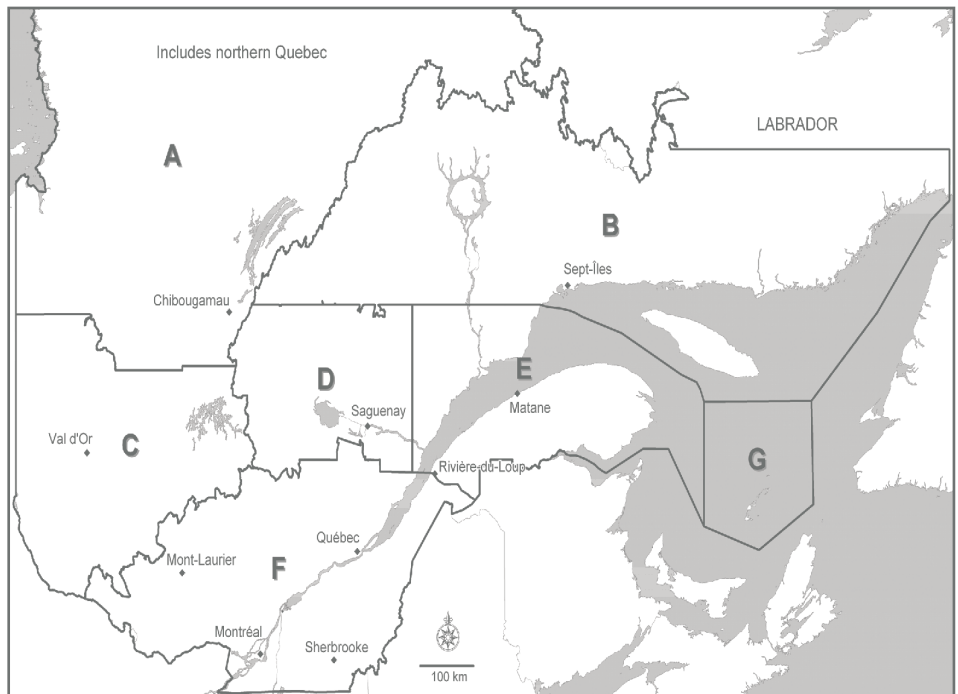
District D: the portion of PHZs 18, 21 and 28 lying west of longitude 70°00' W and the portion of PHZ 27 lying west of longitude 70°00' W and north of the latitude at the Saint-Siméon wharf to Route 381 and from there to the northern limit of PHZ 27.

District E: PHZ 1; the portion of PHZ 2 lying east of Route 185 to its intersection with du Loup River and lying east of a line running along the centre of that river to the north end of the Rivière-du-Loup wharf; the portion of PHZ 28 lying east of longitude 70°00' W; the portion of PHZ 27 lying east of longitude 70°00' W and north of the latitude at the Saint-Siméon wharf; and the portion of PHZ 18 and the waters of the Saguenay lying east of the limit of District D, including the portion of the waters of Chaleur Bay and the St. Lawrence River lying east of the ferry crossing from Saint-Siméon to Rivière-du-Loup to the boundaries of Districts B and G.

District F: the portion of PHZ 2 lying west of District E; PHZs 3 to 11 inclusive, 15 and 26; and the portion of PHZ 27 lying south of Districts D and E, including the portion of the waters of the St. Lawrence River lying west of District E.

District G: the lands and waters included in the County of the Magdalen Islands in Quebec.

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 your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit by visiting the Government of Canada website (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca)

It is no longer required to sign the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit (both physical and electronic forms). This allows you to carry your permit in a digital format, such as on a mobile device. If you choose to carry your permit on your mobile device, it must be in the PDF format provided by the e-permitting system (a photograph or screenshot of your permit is not valid). It is also your responsibility to be able to show the permit to a game officer immediately upon request.

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.

Youth Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) Permit

Hunters who are minors (less than 18 years old) have the option to hunt with a Youth MGBH permit. The Youth MGBH permit, as well as the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation stamp, can only be obtained through our online purchasing system, free of charge. The Youth MGBH permit is not available for purchase from independent vendors.

The Youth MGBH permit provides young hunters with the opportunity to practice their skills under the supervision of an adult mentor (in possession of a MGBH Permit) throughout the full open season and the special conservation season, and provides Youth MGBH Permit holders with their own daily bag and possession limits.

Mentors must possess their own MGBH permit, must have held such a permit in a previous year, and may accompany no more than two youth hunters. Mentors may carry a firearm, and may hunt. For more information on the new rules pertaining to hunting migratory game birds in the modernized *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*, please consult the Government of Canada *Migratory Game Bird Hunting* website.

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.



Game officers enforce the federal MBCA throughout Canada. This law regulates human activities such as hunting that could adversely affect long-term wildlife conservation. Individuals may be subject to a minimum penalty of \$5000 if they are found liable for committing an offence on summary conviction. For any questions, please contact Wildlife Enforcement by the telephone or email found with the regional office address at the end of this summary.

Shot

- Lead shot is toxic to wildlife and the environment.
- In Quebec, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds other than woodcock. Within National Wildlife Areas that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory and upland game birds.
- Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

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**.
- **Harlequin Duck** is listed in the *Species at Risk Act* as a species of special concern. There is **no open season for this species**.

Crime Stoppers

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

Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in Quebec

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District A	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 1 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 25	10	No limit
		September 26 to October 31	3	
		November 1 to December 16	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 1 to December 16	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 1 to December 16	8 for residents of Canada	24
			4 for non-residents of Canada	

	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
District B	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 16 to September 30, for ducks other than Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		October 1 to October 24		
		October 25 to November 14. This is not an open season for Eiders and Long-tailed ducks in locations that are on the North Shore and west of the Natashquan River.		
		November 15 to December 30		
		December 31 to January 14, only for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	6	
		January 15 to February 5, only for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks in locations that are on the North Shore and west of the Natashquan River		
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 16 to September 25	10	No limit
		September 26 to December 30	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 16 to December 30	5	15
Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A	
Districts C and D	Woodcock	September 16 to December 30	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	30
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	N/A	N/A
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
		September 16 to September 25		
		September 26 to October 31	3 (in District C) 2 (in District D)	
		November 1 to December 16	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 16 to December 30	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 16 to December 30	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24
	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
District E	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 16 to October 20	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		October 21 to December 30. This is not an open season for Barrow’s Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in locations that are within PHZ No. 21 or are less than 100 m from that Zone.		
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	10	No limit
		September 16 to September 25		
		September 26 to December 16	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 16 to December 30	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 16 to December 30	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24

	Snipe	September 16 to December 30	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
District F	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 23 to October 20	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal, and in locations south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15, not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		October 21 to January 6. This is not an open season for Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in locations between Pointe Jureux (Saint-Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (Saint-Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 and extending 2 km within Provincial Hunting Zone 21.	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal and, in locations south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15, not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks)	
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 6 to September 22. The season is open only on farmland	10	No limit
		September 23 to September 25		
		September 26 to October 31	3 (in locations west of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117)	
			2 (in locations east of Highway 15 and its northerly extension consisting of Route 117)	
		November 1 to December 21	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 23 to January 6	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	September 23 to January 6	4	12
	Woodcock	September 16 to December 30	8 for residents of Canada	24
			4 for non-residents of Canada	
	Snipe	September 23 to January 6	10	30
	Mourning Doves	September 16 to December 30	8	24
District G	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 30 to October 31. This is not an open season for Eiders or Long-tailed Ducks.	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal)
		November 1 to December 26		
		December 27 to February 14. This is an open season only for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks.	6	
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 30 to December 26	5	No limit
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 30 to December 26	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 30 to December 26	8 for residents of Canada	24
			4 for non-residents of Canada	
	Snipe	September 30 to December 26	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A

Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Quebec

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
District A	Snow Geese	September 1 to December 16	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		May 1 to June 30			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used.
District B	Snow Geese	September 16 to December 30	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
Districts C and D	Snow Geese	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		September 16 to December 30			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used.
		March 1 to May 31. The season is open only on farmland.			

District E	Snow Geese	September 1 to September 15. The season is open only on farmland.	20	No limit	i) Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted. ii) Hunting with bait that is crops that are cut and left on the ground in the fall is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
		September 16 to December 30			
		March 1 to May 31. The season is open only on farmland.			i) Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. ii) Hunting with bait in the spring is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
District F	Snow Geese	September 6 to September 22. The season is open only on farmland.	20	No limit	i) Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted. ii) Hunting with bait that is crops that are cut and left on the ground in the fall is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
		September 23 to January 6			
		March 1 to May 31, the season is open only on farmland that is not within the following locations: i) south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of the municipality of Montmagny and the eastern limit of the municipality of Cap-Saint-Ignace, other than in lots 4 598 472, 2 611 981 and 2 611 982 of the cadastre of Quebec (located in the municipality of Montmagny); ii) north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line that is 1000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River; or, iii) 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.			i) Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. ii) Hunting with bait in the spring is permitted if the Minister has given consent.
District G	Snow Geese	September 30 to December 26	20	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used. While hunting that species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.

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, 2022*, 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

Regional Office

801-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, Québec G1J 0C3
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
Fax: 418-649-6591
enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

Report Your Migratory Bird Bands:
Call **1-800-327-BAND (2263)** to leave a message or go to:
www.reportband.gov

Canada