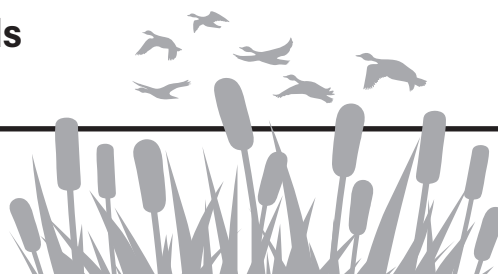




Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

August 2024
to July 2025



Notice: Avian influenza virus 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 2024 federal permit is also valid for the 2025 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.

Refer to the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* for restrictions and requirements for items such as baiting, hunting methods and equipment.

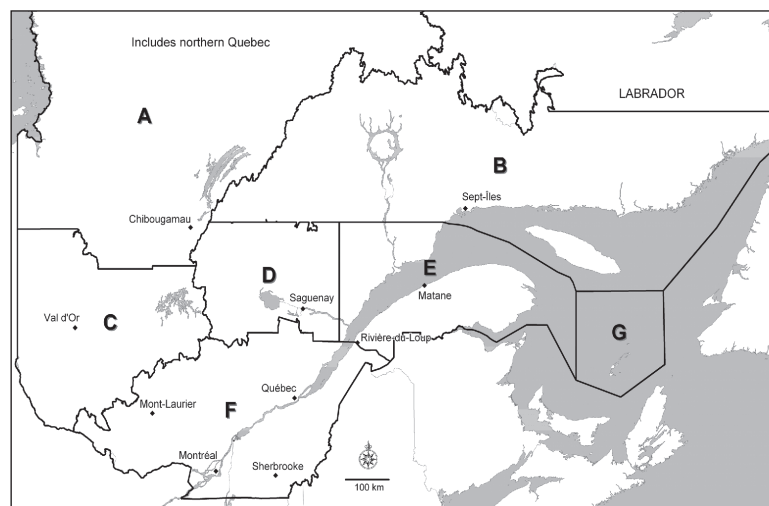
Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory and municipality where you will be hunting.

Restrictions such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses for the discharge of firearms may be applicable.

You can purchase your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit by visiting the Government of Canada website (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca). Hunters may carry their Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) permit either in physical (paper) or electronic formats (such as on a mobile device). Electronic MGBH permits must be in the PDF format provided by the e-permitting system (a photograph or screenshot of your permit is not valid). It is the hunter's responsibility to be able to show all required permits to a game officer immediately upon request.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

A national consultation process has been developed which includes a report on the population status of migratory game birds and a consultation document that provide an opportunity to participate in developing the 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 permitting system, free of charge. The Youth MGBH permit is not available for purchase from independent vendors or Canada Post.

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.

Important Updates to the Hunting Regulations for Quebec

The daily bag limit for American Black Ducks has been increased from 2 to 6 per day in all locations within hunting district F, thus removing the previous restrictions of 2 birds per day in locations south of Route 148 and west of Highway 15.

The American Woodcock hunting season has been advanced to earlier dates in hunting districts B, C, D, E and F. In 2024, in these districts the season opens on September 7 and closes on December 21, with no changes to the length of the season (106 days), daily bag and possession limits.

Enforcement



Federal game officers enforce the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) and its associated regulations throughout Canada. This law regulates human activities, such as hunting, that could adversely affect wildlife conservation. Game officers may use warnings, administrative monetary penalties, tickets or prosecutions to enforce the provisions of the MBCA and its regulations. The fines and penalties that may be imposed reflect the seriousness of the offence(s). Individuals may be subject to a fine range for a first offence associated to sections of the MBR, 2022 designated for the purposes of paragraph 13(1)(c) of the MBCA, 1994 on summary conviction of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$300,000, or imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or both.

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 (NWA) that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Refer to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* to know which NWAs allow hunting and for the restrictions or requirements when conducting this activity.

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 is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). 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 4 for non-residents of Canada	24
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District B	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 14 to September 30, for ducks other than Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks 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 28	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)
		December 29 to January 14, only for Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks 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	6	
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 14 to September 25	10	No limit
		September 26 to December 28	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 14 to December 28	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 7 to December 21	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24
	Snipe	September 14 to December 28	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
Districts C and D	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 14 to December 28	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 13 The season is open only on farmland.	10	No limit
		September 14 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 14 to December 28	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 7 to December 21	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24
	Snipe	September 14 to December 28	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District E	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 14 to October 20 October 21 to December 28 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.	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 13 The season is open only on farmland.	10	No limit
		September 14 to September 25		
		September 26 to December 16	5	
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 14 to December 28	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 7 to December 21	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24
	Snipe	September 14 to December 28	10	30
	Mourning Doves	No open season	N/A	N/A
District F	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 21 to October 20	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, 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 January 4 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 PHZ 21.	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal)	
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 6 to September 20 The season is open only on farmland.	10	No limit
		September 21 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 21 to January 4	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	September 21 to January 4	4	12
	Woodcock	September 7 to December 21	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24
	Snipe	September 21 to January 4	10	30
	Mourning Doves	September 21 to January 4	8	24

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District G	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), combined	September 28 to October 31 This is not an open season for Eiders or Long-tailed Ducks. November 1 to December 26	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)
		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 28 to December 26	5	No limit
	Geese (other than Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), combined	September 28 to December 26	5	15
	Coots and Gallinules, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Woodcock	September 28 to December 26	8 for residents of Canada 4 for non-residents of Canada	24
	Snipe	September 28 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 14 to December 28	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 13 The season is open only on farmland. September 14 to December 28	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.
		March 1 to May 31 The season is open only on farmland.			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese may be used.
District E	Snow Geese	September 1 to September 13 The season is open only on farmland. September 14 to December 28	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.
		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 20 The season is open only on farmland. September 21 to January 4	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.
		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.

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
District G	Snow Geese	September 28 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