



Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

August 2025
to July 2026



Notice: Avian influenza virus (bird flu) 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 (MGBH) 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.

Hunting Districts

1. Provincial Management Units (PMUs) Nos. 1-1 to 1-15 inclusive
2. PMUs Nos. 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive
3. PMUs Nos. 3-12 to 3-20, and 3-26 to 3-44 inclusive
4. PMUs Nos. 4-1 to 4-9, and 4-14 to 4-40 inclusive
5. PMUs Nos. 5-1 to 5-15 inclusive
6. PMUs Nos. 6-1 to 6-30 inclusive
7. PMUs Nos. 7-2 to 7-58 inclusive
8. PMUs Nos. 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26 inclusive



For more information on restrictions and requirements for hunting migratory game birds, please refer to the [Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022](#) (MBR), and/or consult the Government of Canada [Migratory Game Bird Hunting](#) website, which includes a [frequently asked questions](#) page.

The Canadian [Firearms Act](#) outlines the requirements for the storage, transportation and possession of firearms, as well as details requirements for licensing and registration of certain firearms. 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 an electronic MGBH Permit by visiting the Government of Canada website (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca).

Hunters may carry their 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 provides 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 Permit

The Youth MGBH Permit is an option available to hunters who are minors (under the age of 18 years old on the day the permit is issued). The Youth MGBH Permit, as well as the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, are free of charge and **can only be obtained through the e-permitting system (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca).**

The Youth MGBH Permit provides young hunters with the opportunity to practice their skills under the supervision of an adult hunter (known as a mentor) and allows them to have their own daily bag and possession limits.

Mentors must possess their own MGBH Permit, must have held a MGBH Permit in a previous year, and may accompany no more than two Youth MGBH Permit holders at a time. Mentors may carry a firearm and may hunt.

Many provinces and territories have additional licence requirements and restrictions for hunters who are minors and/or for mentors. Please consult the applicable provincial/territorial regulations.

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 designated for the purposes of paragraph 13(1)(c) of the MBCA 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 British Columbia, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds other than Band-tailed Pigeons, Eurasian Collared Doves, and Mourning Doves.
- 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.

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 British Columbia

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District No. 1	All ducks, combined	October 11 to January 25	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 6 to September 16 (only in PMUs 1-1, 1-2 and 1-4 to 1-7)	10	30
		October 11 to November 23		
		November 24 to December 19 (only in PMUs 1-3 and 1-8 to 1-15)		
		December 20 to January 11		
		January 12 to January 25 (only in PMUs 1-3 and 1-8 to 1-15)		
		February 10 to March 10 (only in PMUs 1-1, 1-2 and 1-4 to 1-7)		
	White-fronted Geese	October 11 to January 25	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	October 11 to January 25	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	October 11 to January 25	10	30
	Snipe	October 11 to January 25	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	September 15 to September 30	5	15

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District No. 2	All ducks, combined	October 11 to January 25	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 6 to September 16	10	30
		October 11 to November 23		
		December 20 to January 11		
		February 10 to March 10		
	White-fronted Geese	October 11 to January 25	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	October 11 to January 6	10 (not more than 5 may be Ross's Geese). An additional 5 Snow Geese may be killed or taken in PMUs 2-4 and 2-5.	30 (not more than 15 may be Ross's Geese). An additional 15 Snow Geese may be possessed in PMUs 2-4 and 2-5.
		February 20 to March 10		
	Brant	March 1 to March 10 (only in PMU 2-4)	3	9
	Coots	October 11 to January 25	10	30
	Snipe	October 11 to January 25	10	30
District No. 3	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	September 15 to September 30	5	15
District No. 3	All ducks, combined	September 8 to December 23	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 8 to September 20	10	30
		October 1 to December 23		
		March 1 to March 10		
	White-fronted Geese	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Snipe	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	September 1 to September 30	5	15
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	September 15 to September 30 (only in PMUs 3-13 to 3-17)	5	15
District No. 4	All ducks, combined	September 8 to December 23	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	White-fronted Geese	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 8 to December 23	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Snipe	September 8 to December 23	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	September 1 to September 30	5	15
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District No. 5	All ducks, combined	September 13 to December 25	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 13 to December 25	10	30
	White-fronted Geese	September 13 to December 25	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 13 to December 25	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 13 to December 25	10	30
	Snipe	September 13 to December 25	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A
District No. 6	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	10	30
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	White-fronted Geese	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	5	15
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	5	15
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	10	30
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Snipe	September 1 to September 30 (only in PMUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 and 6-15 to 6-30)	10	30
		October 1 to November 30		
		December 1 to January 15 (only in PMUs 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14)		
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
District No. 7	All ducks, combined	September 1 to November 30	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 1 to November 30	10	30
	White-fronted Geese	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 1 to November 30	10	30
	Snipe	September 1 to November 30	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A
District No. 8	All ducks, combined	September 23 to January 7	8 (not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks)	24 (not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails, not more than 12 may be Canvasbacks, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye in any combination and not more than 6 may be Harlequin Ducks)
	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, combined	September 20 to November 28	10	30
		December 20 to January 5		
		February 21 to March 10		
	White-fronted Geese	September 23 to January 7	5	15
	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 23 to January 7	5	15
	Brant	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Coots	September 23 to January 7	10	30
	Snipe	September 23 to January 7	10	30
	Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves, combined	September 1 to September 30	5	15
	Band-Tailed Pigeons	No open season	N/A	N/A

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 on migratory game bird hunting](#), 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
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
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