



Summary of the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations

August 2026
to July 2027



Notice: Avian influenza (bird flu) is a contagious virus that mainly affects domestic and wild birds. Follow safety guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading the virus and to protect your health when handling wild game. Learn more at ["Avian influenza in wild birds - Canada.ca"](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/avian-influenza-wild-birds.html).

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

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

The MGBH Permit is valid anywhere in Canada where and when there is an open season to hunt migratory game birds.

Hunting Zones

Zone No. 1: the portion of Manitoba lying north of latitude 57°N and the portion lying east of longitude 94°W and north of latitude 56°N

Zone No. 2: the portion of Manitoba lying between Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1 and the line commencing at the intersection of the boundary between Manitoba and Saskatchewan and latitude 53°N; from there easterly along that parallel of latitude to the east shore of Lake Winnipegosis; from there southeasterly along the shoreline of that lake to the northern limit of Township 43; from there easterly along the northern limit of that township to the boundary between Manitoba and Ontario

Zone No. 3: the portion of Manitoba lying between Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 2 and Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4

Zone No. 4: Provincial Game Hunting Areas No. 22, 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 27, 28, 29, 29A, 30, 31, 31A, 32, 33, 34, 34A, 34B, 34C, 35, 35A, 36 and 38 as described in Manitoba's *Hunting Areas and Zones Regulation*, M.R. 220/86, made under *The Wildlife Act*, C.C.S.M., c. W130

Hunting Restrictions and Requirements

For more information on restrictions and requirements to hunt migratory game birds, please refer to the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* and/or consult ["Migratory game bird hunting - Canada.ca"](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/migratory-birds-regulations-2022.html), which includes a frequently asked questions page.

The Canadian *Firearms Act* outlines the requirements for the licensing, possession, storage and transportation of firearms. Learn more at [rcmp.ca/en/firearms](https://www.rcmp.ca/en/firearms).

Most provinces and territories have additional requirements to hunt and/or carry firearms. Check the provincial/territorial and municipal regulations where you will be hunting. Restrictions such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses for the discharge of firearms may apply.

The province of Manitoba requires spring Canada Goose, Snow Goose and Ross's Goose hunters to obtain a free electronic license, available at manitoba.licensing.ca.

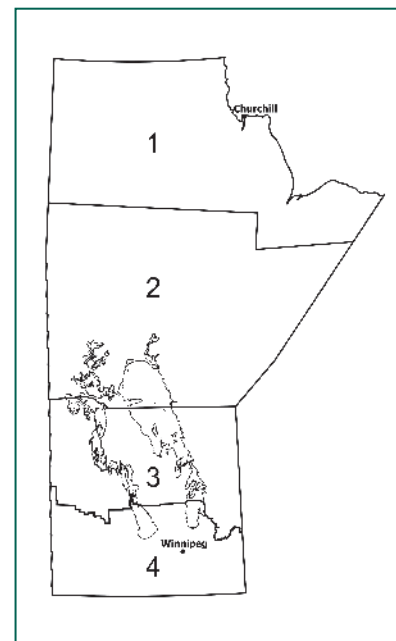
The province of Manitoba has restrictions on foreign resident hunters. For more information, please refer to gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/wildlife/mbwaterfowl.html.

You can purchase an electronic MGBH Permit through the Regulatory Services Platform (psr-rsp.az.ec.gc.ca).

Hunters must carry their MGBH Permit with them at all times when hunting or when in possession of unpreserved migratory game birds. Permits obtained online may be presented as an electronic PDF or as a printed copy. A provincial or territorial licence may also be required. It is the hunter's responsibility to be able to show all required permits to a game officer immediately upon request.

As of the 2027–2028 hunting season, Environment and Climate Change Canada will no longer print physical (paper) copies of the hunting regulation summaries. They will continue to be available online at ["Hunting regulations for migratory birds: provincial and territorial summaries - Canada.ca"](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/hunting-regulations-migratory-birds-provincial-territorial-summaries.html).

The physical MGBH Permits may be phased out as early as the 2027–2028 hunting season. Hunters will be invited to obtain their MGBH Permit through the Regulatory Services Platform.



Youth Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit

The Youth MGBH Permit is an option available to hunters who are minors (under 18 years old on the day the permit is issued). The Youth MGBH Permit and electronic CWHC Stamp are free of charge and **can only be obtained through the Regulatory Services Platform**.

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 requirements and restrictions for hunters who are minors and/or for their mentors.

Enforcement



Federal game officers enforce the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and its associated regulations. This law regulates human activities, such as hunting, that could adversely affect the conservation of migratory birds. Game officers may use warnings, administrative monetary penalties, tickets or prosecutions. Fines and penalties vary depending on the severity of the offence. Individuals found guilty of a summary conviction for a first offence are liable to a fine between \$5,000 and \$300,000, a maximum imprisonment term of six months, or both.

Crime Stoppers

Report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds or other offences related to migratory birds to Crime Stoppers online or at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your tip is anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward.

Shot

- Lead shot is toxic to wildlife and the environment.
- In Manitoba, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds, except for 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 Refer to Schedule I.1 of 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.

Open Seasons and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in Manitoba

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1	All ducks, combined	September 1 to October 31	8	24
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to October 31	8	24
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to October 31	8	24
	Woodcock	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Snipe	September 1 to October 31	10	30
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 2	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 8 to November 30		
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 8 to November 30	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			5 for non-residents of Canada	15 for non-residents of Canada
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to November 30	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 8 to November 30		
	Woodcock	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Snipe	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	10	30
		September 8 to November 30		

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 3	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 24 to December 6		
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 24 to December 6	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			5 for non-residents of Canada	15 for non-residents of Canada
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to December 6	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 24 to December 6		
	Woodcock	September 8 to December 6	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			4 for non-residents of Canada	12 for non-residents of Canada
	Snipe	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	10	30
		September 24 to December 6		
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4	All ducks, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 24 to December 6	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			8 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 4 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in any combination)	24 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 12 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in any combination)
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	8 (plus an additional 4 in Provincial Game Hunting Area 38)	24
		September 24 to December 6	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			5 for non-residents of Canada	15 for non-residents of Canada
	Sandhill Cranes	September 1 to December 6	5	15
	Coots	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	8	24
		September 24 to December 6		
	Woodcock	September 8 to December 6	8 for residents of Canada	24 for residents of Canada
			4 for non-residents of Canada	12 for non-residents of Canada
	Snipe	September 1 to September 23, for residents of Canada only	10	30
		September 24 to December 6		

Note to hunters who are non-residents of Canada: In Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4 or in Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14 and 14A, the part of Area 16 south of the north limit of Township 33 and Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A and 25, you may only hunt Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant from half an hour before sunrise until noon (local time) from the first day of an open season up to and including the second Sunday of October as shown in the table above.

Special Measures for Overabundant Species in Manitoba

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 1	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	August 15 to August 31	50	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
		September 1 to October 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting those species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		April 1 to June 15			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 2	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 7, for residents of Canada only	50	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting those species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		September 8 to November 30			
		March 15 to May 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 3	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 16, for residents of Canada only	50	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting those species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		September 17 to December 6			
		March 15 to May 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Canada Geese may be used. While hunting Canada Geese with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
	Canada Geese	March 1 to April 10	8	24	Electronic bird calls of Canada Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's 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.
Game Bird Hunting Zone No. 4	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to September 16, for residents of Canada only	50	No limit	Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. While hunting those species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
		September 17 to December 6			
		March 15 to May 31			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Canada Geese may be used. While hunting those species with those calls, any other species of migratory bird for which it is the open season may be hunted.
	Canada Geese	March 1 to April 10	8	24	Electronic bird calls of Canada Geese may be used. From March 15 to April 10, electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's 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.

Hunting Hours: No person shall hunt earlier than half an hour before sunrise or later than half an hour after sunset.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

There is a national consultation process which includes a report on the population status of migratory game birds and a proposal report that provides an opportunity to participate in developing the hunting regulations. To learn more, visit "[Migratory birds regulatory report series - Canada.ca](#)".

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

Contact us:
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service

Regional Office
510-234 Donald Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1M8
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 visit:
reportband.gov

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