

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/environment-climate-change/articles/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 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/environment-climate-change/articles/migratory-game-bird-hunting.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.

If you are hunting on private lands within an area with a settled land claim, you must ask permission first.

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/environment-climate-change/articles/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 the Northwest Territories, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds.
- Within National Wildlife Areas (NWA) that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory and upland game birds. Refer to Schedule 1.1 of the *Wildlife Area Regulations* to know which NWAs allow hunting and what restrictions or requirements apply.

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

- remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds.

Open Seasons and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in the Northwest Territories

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Throughout the Northwest Territories	All ducks, combined	September 1 to December 10	25 for residents of Canada	No limit for residents of Canada
			8 for non-residents of Canada	16 for non-residents of Canada
	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant, combined	September 1 to December 10	15 for residents of Canada	No limit for residents of Canada
			5 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 2 may be White-fronted Geese)	10 for non-residents of Canada (not more than 4 may be White-fronted Geese)
	Coots	September 1 to December 10	25	No limit
	Snipe	September 1 to December 10	10	No limit for residents of Canada
				20 for non-residents of Canada

Special Measures for Overabundant Species in the Northwest Territories

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Banks Island and the portions of Victoria Island and of the Queen Elizabeth Islands that are in the Northwest Territories	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 10	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.
		May 1 to June 30			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.
Throughout the Northwest Territories except Banks Island, Victoria Island and Queen Elizabeth Islands	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese, combined	September 1 to December 10	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.
		May 1 to May 28			Electronic bird calls of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be used.

Hunting Hours: No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one 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.

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Report your migratory bird bands:
Call 1-800-327-BAND (2263)
to leave a message or visit:
reportband.gov

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