



Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

AUGUST 2020
TO JULY 2021



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

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

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

The 2020 federal permit is also valid for the 2021 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

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.



Hunting Zones

Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

If you need more information to determine in which zone you are located, please visit www.albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/season-wmus.html or contact the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

You can purchase and print your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit by visiting the *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit* web page on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).

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 (www.canada.ca).

IMPORTANT UPDATES TO THE HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR ALBERTA

Reduction in the number of hunting zones from 8 to 2. Previous zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 are changed to zone 1; previous zones 5, 6, 7 are changed to zone 2.

The daily bag limit for Northern Pintails increases to 8 birds per day, and the possession limit increases to 24. Northern Pintails are included in the aggregate limit for ducks of 8 in the daily bag and 24 in the possession limit.

Introduction of a Sandhill Crane season: A new Sandhill Crane season has been introduced to eastern portions of the province. Only PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 206, 208, , 220, 222, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500 of zone 1 and PWMUs 102, 104, 106, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150 to 152, 156, 158, 160, 162 to 164, 166 and 210 in zone 2 are included in the season for sandhill cranes.

Enforcement

In June 2017, the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* came into force. In particular, these 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.

In July 2017, amendments to 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* came into force. In particular, these amendments 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 new fine regime, consult the *About the Environmental Enforcement Act* web page on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).



Game officers enforce the federal MBCA throughout Canada. This law regulates human interventions, such as hunting that could adversely affect long-term wildlife conservation. For any questions, please contact Wildlife Enforcement by telephone or by email at the contact information at the end of this hunting summary.

Waterfowler Heritage Days

Waterfowler Heritage Days are intended for young hunters under 18 years of age. These days allow young people, a few days before or during the hunting seasons, to:

- develop safe hunting habits in a supervised and structured environment;
- be guided by adult hunters who serve as mentors and pass on their skills and knowledge;
- learn more about wildlife conservation.

The following rules are in effect during Waterfowler Heritage Days:

- Young hunters can hunt without having a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit or Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp.
- Young hunters must comply with all safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations.
- Young hunters must be accompanied by a licensed mentor (who is not a minor).
- Adults acting as mentors:
 - must have a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp;
 - may not hunt or carry a firearm;
 - may accompany no more than two young hunters.
- Only young hunters are allowed to hunt when Waterfowler Heritage Days fall outside of the regular open seasons.

Shot

- **Non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt all migratory game birds.
- Within National Wildlife Areas that allow hunting, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all types of hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds 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.

CRIME STOPPERS

Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling 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.

WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS AND OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open seasons in Alberta
	Ducks, Geese, Coots, Snipe and Sandhill Cranes (a)	Ducks, Geese, Coots, Snipe and Sandhill Cranes (a)
Zone* No. 1	Sept. 5 to Sept. 6 (b)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 (b), (c)
Zone* No. 2	Sept. 5 to Sept. 6 (b)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21 (b), (d)

* “Zone No. 1” means that part of Alberta included in Wildlife Management Units 200, 202 to 204, 206, 208, 216, 220 to 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 344, 346 to 360, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428 to 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446, 500 to 512, 514 to 532, 534 to 537, 539 to 542, 544, 841, and 936.
“Zone No. 2” means that part of Alberta included in Wildlife Management Units 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150 to 152, 156, 158, 160, 162 to 164, 166, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.

(a) Only PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 206, 208, 220, 222, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500 of Zone No. 1 and PWMUs 102, 104, 106, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150 to 152, 156, 158, 160, 162 to 164, 166, and 210 in Zone No. 2 are included in the season for Sandhill Cranes.
(b) Recorded Snow Goose and Ross’s Goose calls may be used when hunting Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese; any species of migratory birds for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese with those calls.
(c) Falconry season open from September 1 to December 16.
(d) Falconry season open from September 8 to December 21.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limit	Ducks	Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese	Coots	Snipe	Sandhill Cranes
Daily Bag	8 (a)	50	8 (c)	8	8	5
Possession	24 (b)	No limit	24 (d)	24	24	15

(a) For non-residents of Canada, not more than 2 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye or any combination of them.
(b) For non-residents of Canada, not more than 6 may be Barrow’s Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye or any combination of them.
(c) Not more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese.
(d) Not more than 15 may be White-fronted Geese.

OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. See the table below for details.

MEASURES IN ALBERTA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Throughout Alberta	March 15 to June 15	Recorded bird calls (a)

(a) “Recorded bird calls” refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

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*, 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**

9250-49 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 1K5
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) TO LEAVE A MESSAGE OR GO TO:
WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV**

