

2022-23 MAINE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Please reference the *Maine 2022-23 Summary of Hunting Laws* for more details, available at mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws.



MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

For the purpose of this section, migratory game birds include and are limited to species in the following families: 1. Anatidae (wild ducks, geese, and brant); 2. Rallidae (rails, coots, moorhens and gallinules); and 3. Scolopacidae (woodcock and snipe). Except as expressly provided in the regulations, it is unlawful to hunt, capture, kill, take, possess, transport, buy or sell any migratory game bird or part thereof.

LICENSES

To hunt in Maine, you need to have one of the 30+ hunting licenses available. These vary by category of game, equipment used, resident status, age, and other factors.

Go to mefishwildlife.com to see which license type is right for you, and to read what the license allows, when it allows it, and what permits are included or need to be purchased separately.

STAMPS

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and up must purchase state waterfowl permits and federal duck stamps. 16-year-olds still hunting on a junior license may hunt on a youth day, but need a Federal duck stamp.

Migratory waterfowl permits are not required to hunt Crow, Woodcock, Common Snipe, Sora & Virginia Rails, or Gallinules. A pheasant permit is required to hunt pheasant in York and Cumberland counties.

OPERATION GAME THIEF

Call 1-800-ALERT US (253-7887) to report game law violations. Caller identification protected. Rewards paid. Poachers are thieves — help us stop them.



SUNDAY HUNTING IS ILLEGAL IN MAINE

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS:

1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.



BAND RECOVERY REPORTS

Anyone finding a band or recovering one while hunting should log onto:

reportband.gov

Results will provide better estimates of survival and harvest rates and will reduce high costs associated with banding studies.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

If you plan to hunt woodcock, ducks, geese, snipe, rails, or coots, you are required to indicate on your license your intention of doing so at the time you purchase your license. The information will be used by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.).

ETHICS ARE WHAT WE DO WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING

In the Maine woods, rarely will anyone be there to notice your ethical behavior, but the landowner and the hunters that follow will greatly appreciate it. Ethical behavior is vital to Maine's sporting future, and it encourages landowners to keep their property open for all to enjoy. So remember: always respect the rights of landowners, and please *ask first*.

OUTDOOR PARTNERS LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM

For \$15.00, you can become an Outdoor Partner and support the MDIFW landowner relations program, which works to preserve and enhance access, helps landowners with access issues, and promotes responsible, ethical sporting behavior.

Members also receive discounts from retail partners, discounted subscriptions, and day passes, as well as an Outdoor Partners decal and entry into a drawing to win one of six \$500 gift cards. You can join at any time — either as an add-on to your license purchase or at mefishwildlife.com.



OUTDOOR
PARTNERS

2022-23 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTER'S LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS			LEGAL HUNTING HOURS		
DATE	OPEN	CLOSE	DATE	OPEN	CLOSE
9/1/22	5:27 AM	7:12 PM	11/17/22	6:05 AM	4:05 PM
9/2/22	5:29 AM	7:10 PM	11/18/22	6:06 AM	4:04 PM
9/3/22	5:30 AM	7:08 PM	11/19/22	6:08 AM	4:03 PM
9/5/22	5:32 AM	7:05 PM	11/21/22	6:10 AM	4:01 PM
9/6/22	5:33 AM	7:03 PM	11/22/22	6:12 AM	4:01 PM
9/7/22	5:34 AM	7:01 PM	11/23/22	6:13 AM	4:00 PM
9/8/22	5:36 AM	6:59 PM	11/24/22	6:14 AM	3:59 PM
9/9/22	5:37 AM	6:57 PM	11/25/22	6:15 AM	3:59 PM
9/10/22	5:38 AM	6:55 PM	11/26/22	6:17 AM	3:58 PM
9/12/22	5:40 AM	6:52 PM	11/28/22	6:19 AM	3:57 PM
9/13/22	5:42 AM	6:50 PM	11/29/22	6:20 AM	3:56 PM
9/14/22	5:43 AM	6:48 PM	11/30/22	6:21 AM	3:56 PM
9/15/22	5:44 AM	6:46 PM	12/1/22	6:23 AM	3:56 PM
9/16/22	5:45 AM	6:44 PM	12/2/22	6:24 AM	3:55 PM
9/17/22	5:46 AM	6:42 PM	12/3/22	6:25 AM	3:55 PM
9/19/22	5:49 AM	6:38 PM	12/5/22	6:27 AM	3:54 PM
9/20/22	5:50 AM	6:36 PM	12/6/22	6:28 AM	3:54 PM
9/21/22	5:51 AM	6:34 PM	12/7/22	6:29 AM	3:54 PM
9/22/22	5:52 AM	6:33 PM	12/8/22	6:30 AM	3:54 PM
9/23/22	5:53 AM	6:31 PM	12/9/22	6:31 AM	3:54 PM
9/24/22	5:55 AM	6:29 PM	12/10/22	6:32 AM	3:54 PM
9/26/22	5:57 AM	6:25 PM	12/12/22	6:33 AM	3:54 PM
9/27/22	5:58 AM	6:23 PM	12/13/22	6:34 AM	3:54 PM
9/28/22	5:59 AM	6:21 PM	12/14/22	6:35 AM	3:55 PM
9/29/22	6:01 AM	6:19 PM	12/15/22	6:36 AM	3:55 PM
9/30/22	6:02 AM	6:17 PM	12/16/22	6:37 AM	3:55 PM
10/1/22	6:03 AM	6:16 PM	12/17/22	6:37 AM	3:55 PM
10/3/22	6:06 AM	6:12 PM	12/19/22	6:39 AM	3:56 PM
10/4/22	6:07 AM	6:10 PM	12/20/22	6:39 AM	3:56 PM
10/5/22	6:08 AM	6:08 PM	12/21/22	6:40 AM	3:57 PM
10/6/22	6:09 AM	6:06 PM	12/22/22	6:40 AM	3:57 PM
10/7/22	6:11 AM	6:05 PM	12/23/22	6:41 AM	3:58 PM
10/8/22	6:12 AM	6:03 PM	12/24/22	6:41 AM	3:59 PM
10/10/22	6:14 AM	5:59 PM	12/26/22	6:42 AM	4:00 PM
10/11/22	6:16 AM	5:57 PM	12/27/22	6:42 AM	4:01 PM
10/12/22	6:17 AM	5:56 PM	12/28/22	6:42 AM	4:01 PM
10/13/22	6:18 AM	5:54 PM	12/29/22	6:42 AM	4:02 PM
10/14/22	6:19 AM	5:52 PM	12/30/22	6:43 AM	4:03 PM
10/15/22	6:21 AM	5:50 PM	12/31/22	6:43 AM	4:04 PM
10/17/22	6:23 AM	5:47 PM	1/2/23	6:43 AM	4:06 PM
10/18/22	6:25 AM	5:45 PM	1/3/23	6:43 AM	4:07 PM
10/19/22	6:26 AM	5:44 PM	1/4/23	6:43 AM	4:08 PM
10/20/22	6:27 AM	5:42 PM	1/5/23	6:43 AM	4:09 PM
10/21/22	6:28 AM	5:40 PM	1/6/23	6:42 AM	4:10 PM
10/22/22	6:30 AM	5:39 PM	1/7/23	6:42 AM	4:11 PM
10/24/22	6:32 AM	5:35 PM	1/9/23	6:42 AM	4:13 PM
10/25/22	6:34 AM	5:34 PM	1/10/23	6:41 AM	4:14 PM
10/26/22	6:35 AM	5:32 PM	1/11/23	6:41 AM	4:15 PM
10/27/22	6:36 AM	5:31 PM	1/12/23	6:41 AM	4:16 PM
10/28/22	6:38 AM	5:29 PM	1/13/23	6:40 AM	4:18 PM
10/29/22	6:39 AM	5:28 PM	1/14/23	6:40 AM	4:19 PM
10/31/22	6:42 AM	5:25 PM	1/16/23	6:39 AM	4:21 PM
11/1/22	6:43 AM	5:24 PM	1/17/23	6:38 AM	4:23 PM
11/2/22	6:45 AM	5:22 PM	1/18/23	6:37 AM	4:24 PM
11/3/22	6:46 AM	5:21 PM	1/19/23	6:37 AM	4:25 PM
11/4/22	6:47 AM	5:19 PM	1/20/23	6:36 AM	4:27 PM
11/5/22	6:49 AM	5:18 PM	1/21/23	6:35 AM	4:28 PM
11/7/22	5:51 AM	4:16 PM	1/23/23	6:34 AM	4:31 PM
11/8/22	5:53 AM	4:14 PM	1/24/23	6:33 AM	4:32 PM
11/9/22	5:54 AM	4:13 PM	1/25/23	6:32 AM	4:33 PM
11/10/22	5:56 AM	4:12 PM	1/26/23	6:31 AM	4:35 PM
11/11/22	5:57 AM	4:11 PM	1/27/23	6:30 AM	4:36 PM
11/12/22	5:58 AM	4:10 PM	1/28/23	6:29 AM	4:38 PM
11/14/22	6:01 AM	4:08 PM	1/30/23	6:27 AM	4:40 PM
11/15/22	6:02 AM	4:07 PM	1/31/23	6:26 AM	4:42 PM
11/16/22	6:04 AM	4:06 PM			

All times listed through October 31 are Eastern Daylight Time; after that date, they are Eastern Standard Time (for Bangor).

The following are general dates for the 2022-2023 season. Please reference the *Maine 2022-23 Summary of Hunting Laws*, available at mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws.

2022-23 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS SEASONS & BAG LIMITS					
SPECIES		SEASON		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Crows*	Wildlife Management Districts 1 - 6	August 1, 2022	September 23, 2022	No Limit	
		February 6, 2023	April 15, 2023		
		August 1, 2023	September 23, 2023		
	Wildlife Management Districts 7 - 29	August 1, 2022	September 23, 2022		
		January 21, 2023	March 31, 2023		
		August 1, 2023	September 23, 2023		
Common Snipe**		September 1, 2022	January 3, 2023	8	24
Woodcock**		September 24, 2022	November 15, 2022	3	9
Rails (Sora And Virginia)***		September 1, 2022	November 21, 2022	25 Singly or in aggregate 25	
Canada Goose (Early)	North Zone	September 1, 2022	September 24, 2022	6	18
	South Zone	September 1, 2022	September 24, 2022	10	30
	Coastal Zone	September 1, 2022	September 24, 2022	10	30
Canada Goose <i>Regular, White-Fronted Geese</i>	North Zone	October 1, 2022	December 9, 2022	2	6
	South Zone	October 1, 2022	October 15, 2022		
		November 1, 2022	December 24, 2022		
	Coastal Zone	October 1, 2022	October 8, 2022	3	9
		October 27, 2022	January 7, 2023		
Snow Geese <i>Including Blue Geese</i>		October 1, 2022	January 31, 2023	25	
Ducks <i>Including Black Ducks, American Coot, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Scaup, Sea Ducks, Teal, Mergansers, Pintails, Ring-Necked Duck</i>	North Zone	September 26, 2022	December 3, 2022	6	18
	South Zone	October 1, 2022	October 15, 2022		
		November 1, 2022	December 24, 2022	Species-specific bag limits may be found on page 37. All duck species not listed under exceptions on page 37 have a daily bag limit of 4 and possession limit of 12.	
	Coastal Zone	October 1, 2022	October 8, 2022		
		November 8, 2022	January 7, 2023		
Brant	North Zone	September 26, 2022	November 22, 2022	2	6
	South Zone	October 1, 2022	October 15, 2022		
		November 1, 2022	December 13, 2022		
	Coastal Zone	October 1, 2022	October 8, 2022		
		November 19, 2022	January 7, 2023		

All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.

*Crows are neither migratory waterfowl or migratory game birds. The use of lead shot and the use of a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is permitted. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required. Use of electronic calls is permitted.

**Woodcock & Snipe are considered migratory game birds, not migratory waterfowl. The use of lead shot is permitted. The use of a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required.

***Rails are considered migratory game birds not migratory waterfowl. The use of lead shot and a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required.

2022-23 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SPECIES AND AREA		SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Special Falconry Season <i>In addition to the regular migratory bird season (on Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, American Coots.)</i>	North Zone	December 17, 2022	February 7, 2023	3	9
	South Zone	January 9, 2023	March 1, 2023	<i>Respectively, singly or in aggregate Species Restrictions Apply</i>	
	Coastal Zone	January 9, 2023	March 1, 2023		
Special Youth Waterfowl Hunts <i>All duck species except Harlequins, Barrow’s Goldeneye, and Moorhens and Gallinules – may be hunted on these days, including geese. For the Sept 24, Oct 22, Oct 29 and Dec 10 youth days, the goose limit is under the Regular Season limit. On youth waterfowl hunting days, scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken as part of the 6 bird daily limit on regular ducks. Also on these dates, 2 Black Ducks may be taken.</i>	North Zone	September 17, 2022 & December 10, 2022		<i>Special regulations apply to youth and accompanying adult. Please see Junior Hunters section.</i>	
	South Zone	September 24, 2022 & October 22, 2022			
	Coastal Zone	September 24, 2022 & October 29, 2022			

EXCEPTIONS

Harlequin Ducks, Barrow's Goldeneye, Moorhens & Gallinules

Closed Season

American Coots

In addition to the 6 duck daily bag limit, hunters may take 5 coots. It is unlawful to possess more than 15 coots at any time.

Northern Pintails, Mottled Ducks, Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Scaup and Hen Mallards, Hen Eiders

The daily limit on these species is 1 bird; possession limit is 3.

Black Duck, Redhead, and Canvasback

The daily limit on these species is 2 birds; possession limit is 6.

Mallards

The daily limit is 2, only one may be a hen; possession limit is 6, only 3 may be hens.

Mergansers (Common, Red-breasted and Hooded)

In addition to the 6 duck daily bag limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers in the aggregate, with a species specific limit of 5. It is unlawful to possess more than 15 mergansers at any time.

Sea Ducks (Scoter, Eider, and Long-Tailed Duck)

Hunters may take 4 sea ducks under the general 6 duck daily bag limit. No more than 3 scoter, eider (no more than 1 hen eider), or long-tailed duck.

Wood Ducks

The daily limit is 3 birds, possession limit is 9.