

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada

July 2002

Canadian Wildlife Service
Waterfowl Committee

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 6



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Editor:

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Audrey Gachet and Kathryn M. Dickson (CWS, National Office).

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Comments:

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other items relating to national migratory game bird concerns should be sent to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

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Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produces three reports each year. The November report *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds, and thus provides the scientific basis for management. The December report *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting*. These two reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input to the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada*, issued in July, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process for development of regulations in Canada requires that any changes be as final proposals by early March each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge about the breeding conditions and production forecasts of the current year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years, but in some cases the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes in the national approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. **In this case, the Canadian Wildlife Service would issue a bulletin updating these regulations.**

Revised Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule is based on the requirement to have the annual hunting regulations made into law by early June each year:

- ◆ Early November – The November report, containing biological information, is distributed by CWS-HQ.
- ◆ November and December – Jurisdictions develop proposals for hunting regulations in coordination with CWS Regional Directors.

- ◆ December 15 – CWS Regions provide to CWS-HQ proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justification) for the upcoming year, as well as any other information that should be included in the December report, including advance notice on items for future years. Descriptions of zone changes are sent by CWS Regions to the Surveyor General, for review, approval and translation.
- ◆ Early January – CWS-HQ distributes the December report, containing regulation proposals, to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation.
- ◆ February 22 – Replies from consultation are due at CWS Regional Directors' offices, who ensure distribution to the provinces and territories.
- ◆ Mid-January through early March – CWS Regions work with the provinces and territories to finalize regulation proposals.
- ◆ March 11 – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries, are sent by CWS Regional Directors to CWS-HQ.
- ◆ April through May – CWS-HQ undertakes the process to prepare legal documents and obtain approvals of regulatory proposals.
- ◆ June – Final hunting regulations, adjusted if necessary to account for public comment, become law.
- ◆ July 15 – Hunting regulation summaries are available at Canada Post Outlets.
- ◆ End of July – CWS-HQ finalizes the July report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulation summaries.
- ◆ End of August – Regulation consolidations are available to CWS Regions.

Note to United States Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development in Canada is earlier than that in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than early March each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

2002 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS - Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2002 is provided for areas from which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these, and other, 2002 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the November 2002 report, Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada.

DUCKS

British Columbia (*Breault and Watts, 2002*)

The Cooperative Wetland Survey is an inter-agency project initiated in 1987 that aims to characterize abundance of breeding and migrating waterfowl in the wetlands of Interior of British Columbia. The survey involves six replicated counts of waterbirds on each of approximately 400 wetlands located on private property, native, provincial and federal lands. Approximately 290 of these wetlands have been monitored consistently since 1988. For analytical purposes, those wetlands are referred to as "Trend Wetlands", as they allow long-term comparisons of waterfowl abundance over a fixed amount of habitat.

The winter of 2001/2002 was characterised by high snowpacks at high elevations throughout southern British Columbia. However, mild late-winter temperatures resulted in a gradual thawing of the snow and there was little surface runoff at lower elevations. The weather for early May was wet and cold and water levels on low elevation wetlands were generally down from the last two years (which were also dry years). Breeding habitat conditions were below average this year and worse than in the previous 4 years. The cold spring conditions were likely associated with delayed breeding for some species and with an accumulation of migrants (primarily diving ducks) throughout the southern half of the province (the northern half remaining frozen for most of May). This set of conditions likely resulted in lower counts for breeders (especially early nesting species) due to delayed and/or reduced breeding effort and in a build up of total ducks (especially diving ducks) due to the slow northward migration.

The total number of ducks observed on Trend Wetlands in 2002 was 17% higher than in 2001, and 15% higher than the (1988-2001) Long-Term Average (LTA). Total diving ducks were 24% above 2001 levels and 29% above the LTA. Total dabbling ducks were 1% higher than in 2001 and 11% lower than the LTA. The total

number of duck breeding pairs was 7% higher than in 2001 and 10% lower than the LTA. For diving ducks, the number of breeding pairs was 18% higher than in 2001 and 2% lower than the LTA. The total number of dabbling duck pairs was 3% lower than in 2001 and 20% lower than the LTA. Canada Geese total numbers were 10% lower than in 2001 and 37% above the LTA. The number of breeding pairs of Canada Geese was 44% higher than in 2001 and 8% lower than the LTA.

The counts are believed to reflect the third consecutive year with dry conditions in Central BC. As the current survey primarily targets a fixed number of mostly permanent wetlands, it is not suited to track habitat increases (e.g., additional wetlands) resulting from greater abundance of water. Survey results are not adjusted to an annual index of pond availability, and therefore the results do not discriminate between stable populations that have dispersed over new wetlands and truly declining populations. Work is currently under way to present the current data in terms of waterfowl density for wetlands of different sizes and for various ecological regions of the province. This information will be linked to a provincial estimate of wetland abundance (by size class) to produce province-wide breeding population estimates.

Prairie Canada (*Caswell and Schuster, 2002; Wilkins and Otto, 2002*)

May pond numbers in Prairie Canada decreased by 48% in 2002 compared to last year. There were 58% fewer ponds compared to the long term average (LTA) (1961-01). In 2002, the number of May ponds in Prairie Canada and Prairie USA combined for a total of 2.7 million, a decrease of 41% compared to last year. The number of ponds was 45% below the LTA.

Preliminary estimates indicate that total duck numbers in May 2002 in the traditional survey area were 14% below last year, and 6% below the LTA. There were significant declines in the Prairies, only partially compensated for by increases in the north. For the first time in several years, many of the major duck species are below their LTAs. Northern pintails remain of serious concern, being 58% below the LTA.

Eastern Canada (*Bordage, Bateman pers. comm.*)

The boreal region of eastern Canada has been surveyed by helicopters since 1990 as part of the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). From 1990-2001, trend analysis of breeding ground survey results showed significant increases range-wide for pairs of black ducks, mallards, wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, hooded mergansers, common goldeneyes, green-winged teal and Canada geese. The increase for black ducks was seen in strata 1, 2 and 3 (Atlantic Highlands, eastern and central Boreal Shield respectively), while there was no

change in stratum 4 (western Boreal Shield). Mallard trends showed significant increases in strata 1 and 4. In the Atlantic Highlands, pairs of hooded mergansers, wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, common mergansers and green-winged teal also increased significantly. There were significant declines range-wide over the period in blue-winged teal and bufflehead numbers but these two species are uncommon breeders in the boreal region of eastern Canada. (Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, 2001).

The helicopter survey was carried out once again in 2002, in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. Ice-out and snow-melt were early in the Maritime Provinces in 2002 following warm temperatures in March. Cold temperatures in April and May resulted in late vegetation phenology. However, Black Duck nesting phenology appeared to be close to optimum for the survey based on the pair to single ratio. Ice-out and snow melt was late in Labrador and the survey was delayed to wait for appropriate timing.

In Quebec, the winter was mild, March and April were warm, but the temperature dropped during the survey in May and stayed cold up to the last day of the survey, June 3rd, when there was heavy snow. Many lakes were still frozen during the survey. Weather conditions were fair to poor throughout nesting and the early part of the brood-rearing period, which could have a negative effect on reproduction.

Preliminary analyses of the 2002 survey counts are now underway. Black Duck numbers were similar to those of recent years in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The mean density on plots in Nova Scotia was 36.8 indicated pairs per 100km² compared to the 2001 value of 37.9 and the 1990-2001 average of 24.5. In New Brunswick the mean density in 2002 was 36.8 indicated pairs per 100 km² compared to the 2001 value of 26.8 and the 1992-2001 average of 21.2. The 2001 value for New Brunswick was low due to the unusual spring weather conditions. Preliminary estimates for 2002 are now being calculated for Newfoundland and Labrador.

The data is also now being analyzed for Quebec and Ontario. Preliminary estimates indicate that Black Duck numbers in Quebec appear to be about the same as last year and should be above the long-term average (Bordage, pers. comm.). The same situation was observed for most duck species.

GEESE

Geese and Swans in the western Canadian Arctic (Hines, pers. comm.)

Lesser Snow Geese (Western Arctic Population)

More than 95% of snow geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest at Banks Island. The number of snow geese nesting on Banks Island increased from the 1960 to 1995 but the population trend since 1995 (when the last air photo survey was done) is unknown.

The remaining western arctic snow geese nest at small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island migratory bird sanctuaries. The mainland populations have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. Air photo surveys were carried out both on Banks Island and the mainland in 2002 and the results of those surveys should provide good estimates of current population levels.

In 2002, the snow melt on the mainland of the Western Arctic was relatively early and timing of snow melt was about average on Banks Island. Photo survey crews reported a good nesting effort by snow geese on Banks Island but only relatively small numbers of geese appeared to be nesting at Anderson River or Kendall Island. Given the numerical dominance of Banks Island geese in the overall Western Arctic Population, average or above average productivity is expected from the population this year.

Greater White-fronted Geese (Mid-continent Population)

In the Western Arctic, white-fronted geese nest mainly on the mainland. During aerial surveys in the Mackenzie Delta and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula area in June, we observed larger than usual numbers of raptors (short-eared owls, rough-legged hawks, and snowy owls) indicating relatively high vole and lemming populations were present. Goose reproductive success is usually enhanced by the presence of this buffer prey. The relatively early snow melt plus abundant buffer prey should lead to at least average or somewhat above average productivity in this area in 2002.

Canada Geese (Short-grass Prairie Population)

On the Western Arctic mainland, productivity of Canada Geese normally parallels that of White-fronted Geese and thus should be average or above average. Many of the Short-grass Prairie Population of geese nest on western Victoria Island where the timing of snow melt was much later than on the mainland. Thus, Canada

Geese from the Western Arctic might be expected to experience about average reproductive success overall.

Tundra Swans (Eastern Population)

The Mackenzie Delta Region and nearby parts of the Western Arctic mainland are one of the most important breeding areas for Tundra Swans in North America. Surveys carried out in this region in 2002 revealed nearly twice as many swans nesting in our study plots than in 2001 (when spring was very late). Overall population has probably not changed much however. Therefore, at least average or perhaps above average production should be expected for Tundra Swans from this region in 2002.

Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese (*Baranyuk, pers. comm.*)

The colony of lesser snow geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists who have documented a decline from 120,000 nesting birds in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes, 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because all of these birds migrate through western Canada in fall and spring and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta (BC) and the nearby Skagit Delta (WA). V. Baranyuk reported a good year in 2002 for snow geese on the island. The main colony has 30,000 nests (similar to last year) with high nest success (also similar to last year).

Geese in the central Canadian Arctic (*Alisauskas, pers. comm.*)

Overall conditions were somewhat late in the region of Queen Maud Gulf. At Karrak Lake, the mean nest initiation date from 1991 through 2001 was 11 June for Ross's Geese, and 9 June for Lesser Snow Geese. This year nest initiation will be about one week later than average, because of late arrival on the nesting grounds. Collections and dissections suggested that arriving birds were in poorer shape than usual. Nesting densities appear to be down, but nest success is expected to be good.

Geese in the eastern Canadian Arctic (*Mallory, Dickson, pers. comm.*)

The spring of 2002 was variable with respect to thaw and breakup across Nunavut, in contrast to the generally early spring of 2001. Indications are that spring was later as one moved further west (e.g. Southampton Island). Considerable amounts of open water were found off of eastern Southampton Island, and southern and eastern Baffin Island as early as April. By June, abundant open water remained off of southern Baffin Island, but ice cover was relatively heavy in Foxe Basin. Canada geese were numerous along eastern Baffin Island, with the first birds observed in Frobisher Bay by the third week of

May. Eggs and geese were being harvested by hunters near Qikiqtarjuaq by 8 June 2002. However, nesting was relatively late on Southampton Island, with no eggs laid by 10 June.

A survey flight conducted around the Foxe Basin, from June 29 through July 3, suggested below average reproductive effort for geese in that region, presumably due to delayed migration and late arrival on the breeding grounds.

Greater Snow Geese (*Hughes, Gauthier pers. comm.*)

The preliminary estimate of the size of the 2002 spring population, counted during staging in the St. Lawrence River valley, was $616,019 \pm 65,181$ (95% C.I.). Including 13,118 geese not photographed, the total population size is initially estimated at 629,137 geese. This is the result from the first of two photographic surveys conducted on April 20 and May 8 respectively.

The coverage by the spring photographic survey was excellent, with multiple aircraft used and apparent good timing. Thus, the population estimate for 2002 should be fairly good. The estimate will be verified and examined in historical context in the November 2002 report by CWS.

At Bylot Island, where there is a field crew conducting an intensive study of greater snow goose reproduction, spring arrived early compared to recent years. While this would often indicate a good breeding year, in 2002 the very late spring along the migratory route delayed arrival of geese at the nesting grounds. However, geese were able to begin nesting immediately on their arrival, and so nest initiation was only about 2-3 days later than average. On the other hand, average clutch size appears to be below average. In general, the nesting effort now seems to be good, or at least similar to last year.

Breeding Conditions for Geese nesting in Hudson-James Bay Lowlands (*Abraham, pers. comm.*)

In the southern portion of the Hudson-James Bay Lowlands, snow thaw was about average, despite colder than average temperatures, possibly due to light accumulations over the winter 2001-2002 and a few brief warm spells in late April and early May. In the northern portion of the region snow thaw was later than normal, however, or at least interrupted. In 2002, Akimiski Island was located near the transition from the average to the late conditions. The study areas had remaining snow and ice. In the month of May, cold temperatures returned and significant new snow fell and accumulated. The study area on the mainland at Burntpoint Creek had far more snow cover than observed last year and there was no open water. The interior of the James Bay mainland was mostly snow free in early May whereas snow cover remained in the coastal search areas where marsh conditions appeared similar to those on Akimiski Island.

Southern James Bay Canada Geese (Walton, Ross and Hughes, 2002; Walton and Abraham, 2002)

The 2002 surveys were flown on 25-27 May under good to excellent weather conditions. Phenologically this was an exceptionally late year, particularly on Akimiski Island where large amounts of ice and snow were visible in the bush and on the larger lakes during the survey. Peak hatch on Akimiski Island was 10 June (range of 3 June to 18 June) and the timing of nest initiation was much more variable than in most years. Mainland geese usually nest about one week earlier than those on Akimiski Island, and difference may be greater this year.

The 2002 spring population estimate for SJB Canada geese was 76,291, down from 102,671 last year. The estimate of non-breeders also decreased. Moulting migrant giant Canada geese were not likely a factor again this year; large movements did not occur until early June.

The accuracy of this year's estimate is difficult to determine, given the very cold spring, particularly on Akimiski Island. The cold weather may have led to reduced breeding effort. Conditions during arrival and pre-laying were below average. Hatch was not highly synchronous and initial and hatch clutch sizes were both relatively low (respectively 3.94 and 3.82) compared to the 1993-2001 range (initial clutch size, 3.51-4.79; hatch clutch size, 3.11-4.63, Leafloor et al. 2000). The number of nests hatching at least one gosling was the lowest recorded (51.9%). Smaller clutch sizes and high predation rates during the 2002 nesting season resulted in relatively low production on Akimiski Island.

Mississippi Valley Canada Geese (Walton, Ross and Hughes 2002)

The survey was flown on 30 May and June 2, under good to excellent conditions. All lines were completed well before eggs began to hatch along the Hudson Bay coast (peak hatch estimated around 28 June; Abraham, pers. comm.). Breeding phenology was substantially delayed by a very cold spring near the coast (Strata 1 and 2) where there was extensive snow and ice which led to much flooding of the habitat.

The spring population estimate was 544,020, a 40% increase from 2001. The estimated number of nests (143,274), however, was 13% lower than in 2001. As happened last year, the earliest flocks of moulting migrants were observed at Moosonee beginning around 24 May, but major movements did not occur until early June and thus are not thought to affect the estimate.

As indicated for SJB Canada Geese, the accuracy of this year's population estimate is difficult to assess. The extreme nature of the spring's weather could have caused nest abandonment in some areas. It is suspected that nesting phenology differed greatly among survey strata with Stratum 3 being much more advanced than the others nearer the coast. This stratum was surveyed late in the

nesting period, so results could be biased low as geese remained closer to nests; this year's density estimate for Stratum 3 is the second lowest on record. Given its great size, low counts would have a major impact on the overall population estimate.

Eastern Prairie Canada Geese (Humburg, Teland, Foster and Lubinski, 2002)

EPP breeding phenology in 2002 was later than in any recent year. Temperatures were considerably lower than in 2001 and compared to average. Range-wide, large lakes remained partially frozen in mid-June; however, shallow lakes were open and nest sites were available.

The 2002 estimate of 216,300 geese ($\pm 26,400$) was similar to the estimate in 2001 ($215,400 \pm 28,400$), similar to most years since the mid-1980s, and exceeds the EPP Plan objective of 200,000 geese. The number of geese observed in pairs did not change from last year and numbers represented by single birds ($66,800 \pm 10,700$) increased from 2001 ($38,600 \pm 8,800$). Although the number of pairs plus singles ($152,000 \pm 19,100$) increased from 2001 levels to the highest level since 1992, it remained within the EPP Plan range of the threshold criterion for "average" hunting seasons. Numbers of geese in groups ($64,600 \pm 20,200$) were similar to 2001 ($93,100 \pm 23,500$) and accounted for 30% of the EPP.

Nesting effort indicated by the 2002 breeding survey was higher than expected in light of the delay in phenology. Possible explanations include recruitment of breeders from production in 1997-99, good body condition, and timing of the survey which was earlier than usual relative to nesting phenology. The fall flight should be no lower than in 2001.

North Atlantic Canada Geese (Bateman, pers. comm.)

In 1998 and 1999, the NAP Canada Geese were surveyed using two methods: 1) a CWS survey designed for comparison with surveys conducted in 1980, 1993 and 1994, and 2) the spring USFWS transect survey that has been expanded to include Newfoundland and Labrador (Strata 66 and 67 respectively). The CWS survey indicated that, in 1999, the estimated density of Canada goose pairs was 8.1 per 100 km². This was considerably higher than the densities from comparable surveys conducted in 1980, 1993 and 1994, which ranged from 5.5 to 5.7 pairs per 100 km² (Bateman, 2000).

Initial comparisons of the two surveys indicated that the results were comparable, so beginning in 2000, only the latter survey was conducted. Subsequent comparisons of the results from the two surveys demonstrated that they were less similar than first thought. The trend in the size of the breeding population of NAP Canada Geese remains an important data gap hindering management decisions for this population.

The Black Duck Joint Venture helicopter survey in stratum 2 samples about 75 percent of the NAP breeding range. The trend, from 1990 to 2001, for Canada Geese in stratum 2 is significantly increasing. Beginning in 2001 additional plots were surveyed in stratum 2 to provide better coverage of the NAP breeding range.

Atlantic Canada Geese (Harvey, Rodrigue, Bordage, Cotter, pers. comm.)

The tenth consecutive annual survey of Canada Geese in northern Quebec was conducted in June 2002. The survey covered the three regions shown previously to include the highest densities of nesting geese (interior Ungava, coastal Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay, and the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula). A fourth region in the boreal forest at the latitude of James Bay was last included in this survey in 1996, but the area was covered as part of the eastern Canada transect survey by the USFWS beginning in 2000.

On the Ungava Peninsula, habitat conditions indicated a late spring thaw in 2002. Inland areas were 30-40% snow-covered at the time of the survey (June 16-26) and most lakes and ponds were frozen. In coastal habitat, little snow cover remained, however, medium-large lakes and ponds were frozen.

The estimated number of breeding pairs was 164,840 (SE = 15,169), an increase of 12% compared to last year. The proportion of indicated pairs observed as singles was the lowest recorded during 1993-2002, indicating reduced nesting effort this year. The total population estimate was 973,600 (SE= 107,308), an increase of 39% compared to last year. However, the total population estimate contains large numbers of moult migrant geese from other populations and should be interpreted cautiously.

Cotter (pers. comm.) reported that, in northern Quebec, the number of nests is down compared to last year, and nest initiation was late. In the principal study area over 300 nests were found, with a median clutch size of 3 eggs. Predation appears to be about 30%. Hatch is predicted to take place July 5 through 15.

In the boreal forest, where Canada geese are counted as part of an annual helicopter survey program supported by the Black Duck Joint Venture, the number of breeding pairs observed in 2002 appeared to be comparable to last year (Bordage, pers. comm.). However, this result must be confirmed through completion of the analyses. Many nests with eggs were found during the survey, which could indicate good production in that part of the range even though the spring was late and the weather stayed cold during the entire incubation period. The region covered by the BDJV surveys is at the southern limit of the nesting range of AP Canada geese.

Black Duck Harvest Strategy

A Canada / United States Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group has been established to make recommendations on how the two countries should approach future regulations for hunting of American Black Ducks. The group is co-chaired by the Chief of the Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Chief of the Surveys and Assessment Branch, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An adaptive harvest management methodology is being explored. Adaptive harvest management implies an approach in which uncertainty about systems dynamics are managed under a strategy that includes learning as an explicit objective, and uses feedback from any given management cycle to improve models and decision processes for future cycles. In regulating waterfowl harvest, managers face four fundamental sources of uncertainty:

- 1) environmental variation - represents the temporal and geographical variation in weather and other key features of waterfowl habitats;
- 2) partial controllability - the ability of managers to control harvest only under certain limits. The harvest from a particular set of harvest regulations cannot be predicted with certainty because of variation in weather, timing of migration, hunter effort, and other factors;
- 3) partial observability - the ability to estimate key population parameters (population size, survival, productivity, etc.) only within the precision afforded by existing monitoring programs;
- 4) structural uncertainty - an incomplete understanding of biological processes governing population dynamics. A familiar example is the long-lasting debate about whether hunting mortality of waterfowl is additive to other sources of mortality or whether populations compensate for hunting mortality with reduced natural mortality

Adaptive harvest management is expected to reduce uncertainty and clarify the relationship between hunting regulations, harvest, and Black Duck populations. Thus, the working group study involves the construction of several population models that address different hypotheses about factors affecting the population dynamics of Black Ducks, as well as the development of a mathematical optimization process to help guide regulatory decisions. A final report on the feasibility of using Adaptive Harvest Management for the American Black Duck is planned for 2003.

A scientific team based in the Georgia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit is developing the population models. Model sets were first separated into four production and four survival submodels for a total of 16 different models. The four factors identified as having a

potential impact on Black Duck Populations were: a) under the production submodels, 1. competition with Mallards, and 2. breeding habitat changes; b) under the survival submodels, 3. compensatory or additive hunting mortality, and 4. wintering habitat changes. Population models that included breeding and wintering habitat changes were relatively ineffective compared to the other models. Therefore, the current focus is only on the four models using Mallard (competition or not) and Harvest (compensatory or additive mortality) factors.

Among the key components the working group believes which are important are: the division of the Black Duck population into breeding, wintering, and harvest area-based management units; the combination of several data sources such as the CWS helicopter survey plots with linear fixed-wing aircraft survey transects; devising the best ways to eventually integrate habitat information; and the integration of data relative to the eastern Mallard population. The solution of these technical issues will require extension of the existing methodologies for adaptive resource management. Initial population models allow for three breeding populations and six harvest areas, density dependence or no density dependence, a Mallard effect on Black Ducks and no Mallard effect on Black Ducks. These initial models are based on a population index derived from the CWS helicopter survey plot data.

The Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group intends to keep the appropriate regulatory consultation bodies in Canada and United States informed of progress as the adaptive management study continues. These bodies will also be informed if alternative strategic frameworks for Black Duck hunting regulations come under consideration.

Progress on the adaptive management study can be found on the following Web site:
<http://fisher.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/index.html>

Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

Issue

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. Assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of Mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and of Greater Snow Geese were completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled “*Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*” (Abraham and Jefferies 1997) and “*The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*” (Batt 1998). The working groups concluded that the primary causes of the increase of Snow Goose populations were human induced. Improved nutrition from agricultural practices and safety in refuges

have resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates of Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the vegetation communities on which they and other species rely at staging areas and on the breeding grounds. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become permanently inhospitable. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing populations.

Regulation

Several management actions are being undertaken concurrently to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One action involves increasing the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of conservation measures. Beginning in 1999 an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations created special conservation measures during which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use special methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Quebec and Manitoba. The dates and locations where special conservation measures were implemented were determined through consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities. Beginning in spring 2001, Saskatchewan and Nunavut also implemented special conservation measures. In 2002, there was a new provision allowing the use of electronic snow goose calls during the regular fall seasons in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Evaluation

Evaluation plans are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities. For example, across the Arctic in 2001, close to 7,655 Lesser Snow Geese and 2,272 Ross' Geese were marked with neck bands, bringing the total number of birds banded to 22,364 Lesser Snow Geese and 12,541 Ross' Geese since 1997 (D. Caswell, pers. comm.). The main objectives are to obtain colony- specific estimates of harvest and survival rates, document timing and pattern of fall and spring migration, and obtain population and production estimates. Investigations of the condition of staging and breeding habitats continued in 2001 along the west coast of Hudson Bay, where the effects of geese on habitats are well documented, and assessments were also carried out at

other major Snow Goose colonies. These efforts are continuing in 2002.

Results of the evaluation show that the special conservation measures begun in 1999 have been successful in increasing harvest rates for Greater Snow Geese. The estimated harvest rates of adults (based on regular-season harvest in Canada and the U.S., and including the special conservation seasons in effect in Canada only) were 14, 18 and 24%, respectively, for the 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 seasons. These rates are much higher than during 1985-1997 (average harvest rate of 6%), a period of rapid population growth, and higher than harvest rates during 1975-1984 (11%) when the population was relatively small and stable. If the special conservation seasons were excluded, the harvest rate of adults would have been about 10% (G. Gauthier, unpubl.).

For Lesser Snow Geese, the harvest rate by hunters in Canada is much less than that achieved here for Greater Snow Geese. A maximum of 5,000 additional birds were taken by sport hunters in Canada in 2001 as part of the conservation measures. However, the continental program shows signs of success; preliminary analyses indicate that survival rates of mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese have been reduced during the years of special conservation measures. Since 1999, adult survival rates at most mid-continent colonies were between 60% and 70%. In contrast, the survival rate was over 80% at a western colony not affected by the spring seasons (CWS unpubl. data).

Future steps

The analyses indicate that progress is being made to control the growth of Greater and Lesser Snow Goose populations through use of the special conservation measures, and that continuation of these measures will be necessary in the short term to help achieve desired population and habitat goals. Over the next few months the progress made to-date will be evaluated. Following that, recommendations about future steps will be proposed for consultation.

Hunting Regulations for the 2002-2003 Season

The regulations in effect for 2002/2003 are shown in Appendix A. The amendments were approved by the Governor in Council on June 14, 2002.

Newfoundland and Labrador

There are no regulatory changes being made for the 2002-2003 season.

Prince Edward Island

There are no regulatory changes being made for the 2002-2003 season. Waterfowler Heritage Day is being held on September 21, province wide.

Nova Scotia

The opening date for hunting ducks and geese is moved to October 1 in Zone 1 and the season will close on December 31. This change is not expected to have a significant impact on the harvest of black ducks or NAP Canada Geese but will allow hunters more recreational opportunity prior to the winter freeze and increase access to early migrating species such as Blue-winged Teal and American Wigeon. This change makes the opening date concurrent with neighbouring New Brunswick. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on September 14, province wide.

New Brunswick

Zone 2 has been eliminated and the area combined with Zone 3. Zone 2 was an extremely small zone originally established so that wetlands shared with Nova Scotia had a common opening, however, Zone 2 was no longer required now that Nova Scotia's Zone 1 is opening concurrently with adjacent New Brunswick Zone 3. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on September 14, province wide.

Quebec

Atlantic Population Canada Goose

Restrictions to address the declining population of Canada Geese in the Atlantic Population (AP) have been in place since 1995. To the extent possible, the Canada Goose hunting season was closed in all parts of North America where AP Canada Geese are known to be hunted at some time during the migration and wintering periods. However, population and production surveys in recent years have an increase in the population with projections for a continuing increase, despite probable poor production of young in 2002. All jurisdictions are making joint plans for a staged return to normal regulations as growth in the population allows. In Quebec, hunters will once again be allowed to harvest Canada Geese through the migratory peak.

Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye

To protect the eastern Barrow's Goldeneye, a population designated as a Species of Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), early closures of the hunting season (after October 21) for both goldeneye species are being

implemented in designated parts of Districts E and F.

Waterfowler Heritage Days

Waterfowler Heritage Days (WHD) will take place one week before the official season opening date for hunting in the district in question. During these WHD, people are allowed to harvest ducks, geese, coots, gallinules, American Woodcock and snipes. The daily bag limit for novice hunters is still three birds in total. Within this limit, the specific limit for each species must be respected.

Ontario

Atlantic Population Canada Goose

Restrictions to address the declining population of Canada Geese in the Atlantic Population (AP) have been in place since 1995. To the extent possible, the Canada Goose hunting season was closed in all parts of North America where AP Canada Geese are known to be hunted at some time during the migration and wintering periods. Population and production surveys of AP Canada Geese in recent years have indicated an increase in the population with projections for a continuing increase, despite probable poor production of young birds in 2002. All jurisdictions are making joint plans for a staged return to normal regulations as soon as the population growth allows. In 2002, there will be reinstatement of a full regular season for Canada Goose hunting in eastern Ontario.

Giant Canada Goose

Populations of Giant Canada Geese have been expanding dramatically throughout southern Ontario. Further, northern Ontario now has growing populations of these geese plus large numbers of moult-migrants from the south. Early and late seasons for Canada Geese have been established in most WMUs throughout southern Ontario to help reduce the nuisance and associated crop depredation problems

Early goose seasons are being implemented on Manitoulin Island and the nearby mainland (WMUs 42, 43, and 44) from September 5 to 20, inclusive, to increase harvest and to provide more opportunities for northern hunters who have a very short hunting season due to weather. There will be a bag and possession limit of five and ten birds respectively. In Southern District, an early goose season is proposed for Pelee Island (WMU 95) from September 3 to 17 inclusive. In WMU 94, which has born the brunt of harvest restrictions relating to Southern James Bay population geese, the bag and possession limits are being increased to two and four respectively after October 31.

Yellow Rail

Yellow Rail is removed from the list of hunted species in Ontario.

Manitoba

General Migratory Game Bird Season

The opening of the general migratory game bird season in Game Bird Hunting Zones (GBHZs) 3 and 4 for non-resident hunters will be on the fourth Monday in September (in 2002, this will be September 23). Waterfowler Heritage Days will be held September 1 through 7, 2002.

Snow Goose Season

Snow goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting snow geese, and if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, a hunter may also take any migratory game bird for which there is a concurrent open season.

Saskatchewan

Snow Goose Season

Snow goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting snow geese, and if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, a hunter may also take any migratory game bird for which there is a concurrent open season.

Alberta

There are no regulatory changes being made for the 2002/2003 season.

British Columbia

Giant Canada Goose

Over the last few years, a number of strategies including the introduction of multiple hunting seasons (“split seasons”) have been implemented in the southern part of the province to increase the harvest of Giant Canada Geese. The current opening and closing dates for each split season will be maintained in Management Districts 3 and 8. There are some adjustments to the opening and closing dates for the split seasons in Management Districts 1 and 2.

Band-tailed Pigeon

A restrictive Band-tailed Pigeon season is being re-introduced in Hunting Districts 1 and 2, and in

Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 of Hunting District 3. The restrictive season will open on September 15th and close on September 30th 2002, with bag and possession limits of 5 and 10 birds respectively.

Waterfowler Heritage Days

Waterfowl Heritage Days are being held in many areas throughout the province; see the Regulation Summaries (Appendix A).

Nunavut

Snow Goose Season

Snow goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting snow geese, and if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, a hunter may also take any migratory game bird for which there is a concurrent open season.

Northwest Territories

There are no regulatory changes being made for the 2002-2003 season.

Yukon Territory

There are no regulatory changes being made for the 2002-2003 season.

Review of the Migratory Birds Regulations

Although the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed annually with regard to hunting seasons and bag limits, there are a number of other changes needed to modernize and improve the regulations in accordance with the recent amendments to the *Migratory Birds Convention*, and with other issues that have arisen. CWS undertook a review of these regulations in 1989 and again in 1991. In each case, some problems were resolved, but others remain. It is hoped that through the comprehensive review now being conducted, major improvements can be made. The following table summarizes the main topics now under consideration in the regulation review. Numerous smaller changes will also be proposed. Documentation concerning this review, including information on how the public may have input into the process, will be made available.

For more information, please contact: Hélène Lévesque, Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3.

Regulation topic	Changes under consideration	Reasons
Permit Simplification - Salvage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove permit requirements for people who temporarily possess birds for compassionate, sanitary, and similar reasons as long as the birds are delivered to designated authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More practical
New Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New permits for educational, rehabilitation, and zoo purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conformity to provisions of revised <i>Migratory Birds Convention</i>
Layout of regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combine <i>Migratory Birds Regulations</i> with <i>Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations</i> List species covered by the regulations in a schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use common definition and approach in similar areas, such as permits Clarity about which species are protected, and resolve the status of introduced species such as the mute swan
Baiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define conditions when migratory game birds may be fed, consistent with the conservation principles of the <i>Migratory Birds Convention</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tighten prohibition against baiting for hunting, while avoiding excessive permit issuance in areas where hunting is not permitted
Wastage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit the wastage of migratory birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of the intrinsic value of wildlife
Aboriginal co-management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make regulations consistent with Land Claim Agreements and amendments to the <i>Migratory Birds Convention</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable adoption of regulatory capacity in co-management while preserving federal objectives
Aviculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 2-level aviculture permit: commercial and hobby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplify common aviculture permits while increasing control over the keeping of rare species and the taking of birds from the wild

Other Amendments to the Migratory Birds Regulations

Management of the Murre Hunt in Newfoundland and Labrador

The *Migratory Birds Convention* was signed by Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) and the United States of America in 1916. The purpose in concluding the *Convention* was to prohibit in the two countries the indiscriminate taking of birds, their nests and eggs. Particular problems which were curbed by this agreement were large scale commercial and sport hunts, as well as the taking of birds for the millinery trade.

The *Convention* protected most bird species, controlled the harvest of others, and prohibited the commercial sale of all species. The *Convention* created three categories of migratory birds: game birds (such as ducks, geese, cranes), insectivorous birds (perching birds such as robins, sparrows, wrens, and woodpeckers), and non-game birds (such as loons and seabirds, including murre). The *Convention* also established a closed season, with limited exceptions, on the hunting of migratory game birds from March 10 to September 1 throughout Canada and the United States.

The hunting of murre is a long established tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador, where the birds have been taken for subsistence purposes for hundreds of years. However, because murre are considered non-game species under the *Migratory Birds Convention*, the murre hunt became inconsistent with the *Convention* when Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949. Beginning in 1993, murre hunt seasons and bag limits were established for conservation purposes through a special Administrative Order under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*.

In order to address the gap in the *Convention* with respect to the murre hunt, as well as to resolve other issues, Canada negotiated amendments to the *Migratory Birds Convention*, known as the Parksville Protocol, in 1995. Under the terms of the Protocol, the harvest of murre by residents of Newfoundland and Labrador is authorized and will be controlled at sustainable levels in much the same manner as waterfowl harvesting is currently regulated. However, there are some differences. Under the new regulations, which came into effect for the 2000-2001 hunting season, murre may be hunted from a boat under power. At the current time, there is no plan to require the use of non-toxic shot for murre hunting. If there are demonstrated valid concerns about public health or the effects of secondary ingestion, the mandatory non-toxic shot requirement would be considered in future.

CWS has reviewed the need to require all murre hunters to purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. Without the Permit there is no direct way of knowing how many people hunt murre or how many birds are taken, elements that are important to any game

management program to provide assurance against over-harvest and to ensure the continuation of the hunt into the future. Recognizing the importance of harvest data gathered from permit holders, CWS has introduced a requirement for murre hunters to purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit beginning in the 2001 hunting season. The total cost of the Permit is \$17.00, which includes the mandatory Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp (\$8.50). As this is the same Permit that is presently required to hunt ducks, geese and snipe, a large percentage of murre hunters would not be affected. Wildlife Habitat Canada has agreed that additional funds derived from the sale of the Stamp to murre hunters would be earmarked for management and applied research activities related to murre conservation.

If you have any comments, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service, 6 Bruce St., Mount Pearl, NF A1N 4T3 (709-772-5585 or 709-535-0601; E-mail: cws.nfandlab@ec.gc.ca).

Motion-winged and motorized decoys

Motion-winged decoys are increasingly popular for waterfowl hunting, and there are many reports of their ability to significantly increase hunter success. Because of the increasing use of such decoys, but few actual estimates of the effect on harvest rates, the Canadian Wildlife Service began a study in the fall of 2001 to evaluate hunter success. While the study is not yet completed, the preliminary results indicate a dramatic increase in success when using motorized decoys. The increase was especially evident when hunting in fields, and although success did not increase as markedly during marsh hunting, the effect was still significant (Dale Caswell, pers. comm.). Final results of this study will be reported in the future.

A Missouri survey of hunters' opinions about motorized decoys (David Graber, pers. comm.) found that 58.2% of hunters approved of the use of motion-winged decoys only if there were no affect on the season length or bag limit. Of the remaining hunters, 10% were not in favour, based on feelings about fair chase, and another 10.2% were not in favour because they it felt it detracted from traditional duck hunting methods. About 9.5% of hunter surveyed were in favour of the use of motorized decoys, even if the seasons were affected. The final 12.1% had no opinion.

At this time CWS has not reached any conclusion, and will continue to evaluate the need to regulate the use of motion-winged or other motorized decoys.

Non-Toxic Shot

The *Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations* have been amended to require the use of non-toxic shot for hunting most migratory game birds (including ducks, geese, brant, cranes, rails, gallinules, coots, and snipe) in all areas of Canada beginning September 1, 1999. However, three

species of migratory game birds – woodcock, band-tailed pigeons and mourning doves – are exempted from the ban, except in National Wildlife Areas where possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game.

The following non-toxic shot types have been approved for use in Canada: bismuth shot, steel shot, tin shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-matrix shot, and tungsten-polymer shot. Last year, tungsten-nickel-iron shot was added to the list of acceptable non-toxic shot types.

Amendments to Other Regulations

Wildlife Area Regulations

It is proposed that the *Wildlife Area Regulations* be amended in the coming year to extend the boundaries of the following National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) to conserve important habitat for migratory birds and other species: Alaksen, Qualicum and Columbia NWAs in British Columbia; St. Clair, Long Point and Prince Edward Point NWAs in Ontario; Isles de l'Estuaire NWA in Quebec; and Chignecto NWA in Nova Scotia. Establishment of the Suffield National Wildlife Area in Alberta is also proposed.

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations

It is proposed that the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* be amended in the coming year to establish Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) in New Brunswick, enlarge Isles-aux-Hérons MBS in Quebec, de-list Wascana Lakes MBS in Saskatchewan, and adjust the legal boundaries of the Anderson River MBS in the Northwest Territories.

Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations

It is proposed that the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations, Schedule I* (fauna and flora listed in the Appendices of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species or Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES) be amended in the coming year following the Convention of the Parties meeting in November 2002.

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Appendix A.

2002 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory

are available on the CWS national Web site at:

<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/pub/summ/index.html>

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1201
Lewisporte, Newfoundland
A0G 3A0
Tel.: (709) 535-0601
Fax: (709) 535-2743**

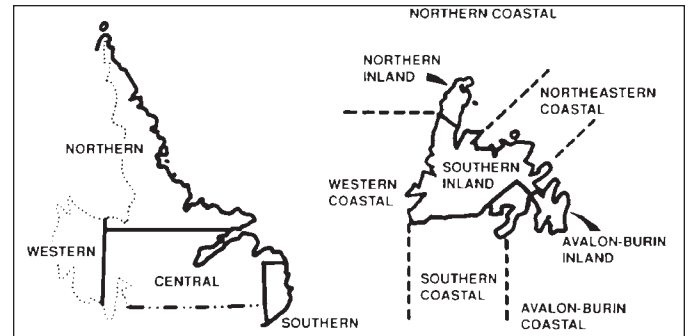
Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. The season length and bag limit restrictions implemented in 1998 for eiders, Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw or hounds), scoters, and mergansers remain in effect.

Attention murre (turr) hunters: In the 2002-03 season, **all** hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murre (turrs). Season length and bag limits for hunting murre remain in effect. The non-toxic shot regulation described below does not apply to murre/turres.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Hunting Zones



“Coastal” refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters
All Coastal Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	Fourth Saturday of November to the last day of February
All Inland Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	No open season

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	6(c)	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	12(d)	10	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.

(c) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.

(d) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

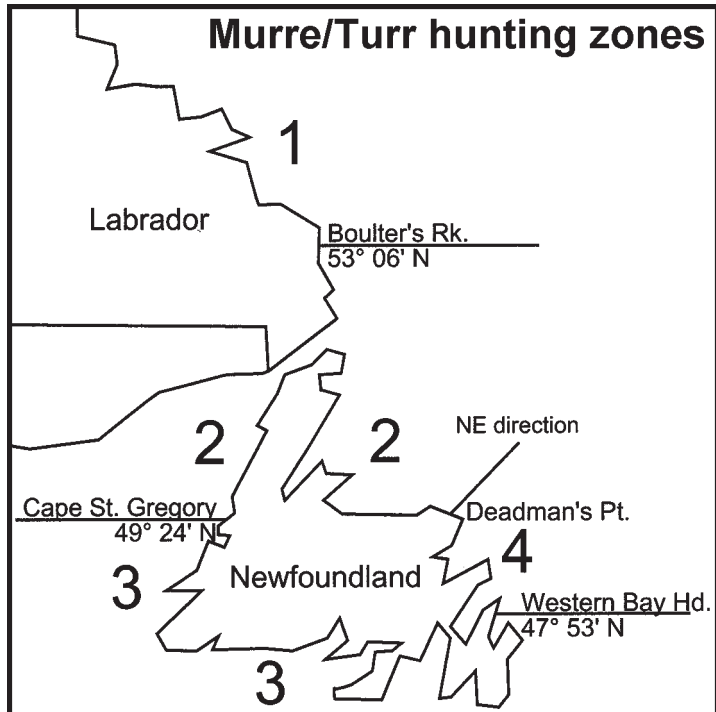
Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks and eiders), geese, and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Central Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters, and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6	6(a)	5	10
Possession	12	12(b)	10	20

(a) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
 (b) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.

NOTE:
 Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.



OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND IN LABRADOR (Murre/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 2 to December 18
Zone No. 2	October 9 to January 24
Zone No. 3	November 23 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 1 to January 7 January 29 to March 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND IN LABRADOR (Murre/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily Bags	20
Possession	40



**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
 CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
 17 Waterfowl Lane
 P.O. Box 6227
 Sackville, New Brunswick
 E4L 1G6
 Tel.: (506) 364-5032
 Fax: (506) 364-5062

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. 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 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), snipe, and geese	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	September 21(a)	First Monday of October to second Saturday of December	Last Monday in September to second Saturday in December

(a) Waterfowler Heritage Day.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be Mallards, Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than eight may be Mallards, Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue
signs marking National
Wildlife Areas and Migratory
Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
5th Floor, Queen's Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 2N6
Tel.: (902) 426-1188
Fax: (902) 426-4457**

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers 1-800-422-8477.

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers	Additional season for Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 14(a)	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	No additional season	No additional season	No additional season	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 14(a)	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 14(a)	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	No additional season	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

(a) Waterfowler Heritage Day.

* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis;

"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3; and

"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4), and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
 17 Waterfowl Lane
 P.O. Box 6227
 Sackville, New Brunswick
 E4L 1G6
 Tel.: (506) 364-5032
 Fax: (506) 364-5062

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as the 1:00 P.M. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Hunting Zones

Zone No.1

Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

Zone No. 2

The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. 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 SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, and snipe	Additional season for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	September 14(a)	October 15 to January 4	February 1 to February 23	September 16 to November 30
Zone No. 2	September 14(a)	October 1 to December 17	No additional season	September 16 to November 30

(a) Waterfowler Heritage Day.

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw,* eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6(c)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	12(d)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than six may be American Black Ducks.

(c) Not more than four may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25, not more than four eiders may be taken daily.

(d) Not more than eight may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25, not more than eight eiders may be possessed.

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.



**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.*



*In Quebec, these signs also identify no-hunting zones.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the retrieval of birds, description of hunting districts and non-hunting areas, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
1141, route de l'Église
P.O. Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Quebec
G1V 4H5
Tel. (418) 648-7225
Fax (418) 649-6475
URL: www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html

A provincial hunting permit for small game is required to hunt migratory birds in Quebec. Hunters interested in the possibility of participating in a conservation harvest of Snow Geese should keep their 2002-2003 federal permits.

Non-residents of Canada hunting woodcock have a lower daily bag limit than Canadian hunters.

In Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area, the bag limit for Snow Geese is 12 per day.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in Quebec for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

NEW THIS YEAR: The opening hunting date for ducks is September 21 for Districts B,C,D, and E; September 28 for districts F,G,H, I, and J. The hunting period for Canada Geese is lengthened for Districts A,C,D,F,G,H, and I. The closing date for goldeneyes in District F is October 21, between St. Irénée and St. Fidèle (see note). The daily bag for goldeneyes is 6 in district E. If decoys are used when hunting Snow Geese with recorded bird calls, decoys must be white.

OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese (other than Snow Geese), woodcock and snipe	Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin, and Oldsquaw* ducks), geese (other than Canada and Snow geese) and snipe	Canada Geese	Eiders and Oldsquaw*	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock
A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10
B	Sept. 14(d)	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26	Oct. 1 to Jan. 14(b)	No open season	Sept. 7 to Dec. 22
C and D	Sept. 14(d)	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26	Sept. 6 to Sept. 20(a) Sept. 21 to Dec. 21	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26	No open season	Sept. 14 to Dec. 26
E	Sept. 14(d)	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26(c)	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26	No open season	Sept. 14 to Dec. 26
F, G, H, and I	Sept. 21(d)	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26(c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 27(a) Sept. 28 to Dec. 21	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26	Sept. 21 to Dec. 26
J	Sept. 21(d)	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14	No open season	Sept. 28 to Dec. 26

(a) In Districts C, D, F, that part of District G (only lying north of route #138 and lying south of route #132), H, and I, hunting for Canada Geese is allowed only on farmland.

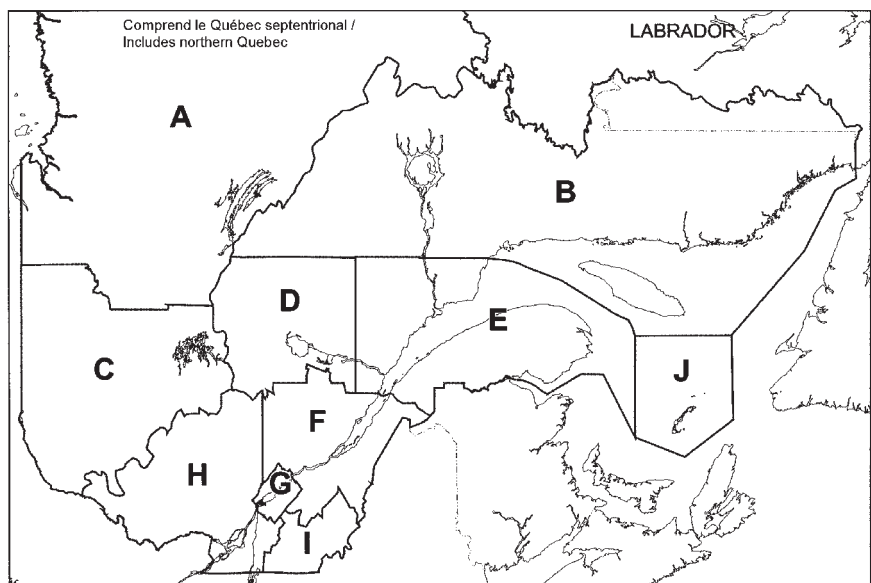
(b) In District B along the North Shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting seasons for eiders and Oldsquaw are from October 1 to October 24 inclusive and from November 15 to February 5 inclusive.

(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 in Provincial Hunting Zone # 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrows and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 between Pointe Jureux (St. Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (St. Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone # 21.

(d) In Districts F,G,H, and I, hunting for coots and gallinules is allowed during Waterfowler Heritage Day.

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(g)	5 (e)(g)	20 (e)	4 (g)	8 (f)(g)	10 (g)
Possession	12 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)	10 (e)	60 (e)	8	16 (f)	20 (e)

- (a) Not more than four Black Ducks and their hybrids (Black Duck dominant) may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in Districts A, B, C, D, E, F, and J.
- (b) Not more than two Black Ducks and their hybrids (Black Duck dominant) may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in Districts G, H, and I. Between November 1 and December 26, not more than four Black Ducks and their hybrids (Black Duck dominant) may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in Districts G, H, and I (only lying east of Gatineau River).
- (c) Not more than two Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in Districts A, B, C, D, E, and J.
- (d) Not more than one Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of two in Districts F, G, H, and I.
- (e) A person not required to hold a migratory game bird permit may take, in that portion of Quebec lying north of the 50th parallel of north latitude, 25 ducks, 30 Snow Geese, 10 snipe and 15 other geese (except Canada Geese) daily, with no possession limit.
- (f) For non-residents of Canada, not more than four woodcock may be taken daily, with a possession limit of 16.
- (g) Despite paragraph (e), not more than three birds in total may be taken on Waterfowler Heritage Days. The additional species restrictions described in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) continue to apply within this limit.

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2002–2003 federal permits.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to December 10	Recorded bird calls(e)(g)
District B	September 21 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(e)(g)
District C	April 1 to May 31(a), September 6 to September 20(a), and September 21 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(e)(g)
District D	April 1 to May 31(a), September 6 to September 20(a), and September 21 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(e)(g)
District E	April 1 to May 31(a) and September 21 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(e)(g) and bait or bait crop area(f)
Districts F, G, H, I	April 1 to May 31(a)(b)(c), September 6 to September 27(a)(d), and September 28 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(e)(g) and bait or bait crop area(f)
District J	September 28 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(e)(g)

- (a) Hunting is allowed only on farmland.
- (b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route #132 between Forgues Street at Berthier-sur-Mer and the eastern limit of Cap St-Ignace municipality.
- (c) In District G, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 metres north of highway No. 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route #132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.
- (d) In District G, north of Route #138 and south of Route #132, hunting is allowed only on farmland
- (e) “Recorded bird calls” refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
- (f) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.
- (g) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded bird calls, decoys must be white.

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue
signs marking National
Wildlife Areas and Migratory
Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5050, 867 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 4A6
(905) 336-6410**

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Note that hunting restrictions have been put in place for the Wolfe Island area to address concerns over the declining use of this area by waterfowl. As a result, hunting will be permitted in the Wolfe Island area only when hunters are on the island, on the shore, or in the marsh within 20 metres of the shore.

Hunting Districts



- 1. Hudson – James Bay District**
means that part of the Province of Ontario comprising Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 1D, 25, and 26 lying east of longitude 83°45' and north of latitude 51°.
- 2. Northern District**
WMU 1C, those parts of 1D, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45' and south of latitude 51°, and WMU 2–24, 27–41, and 45.
- 3. Central District**
WMU 42–44, 46–50, and 53–59.
- 4. Southern District**
WMU 60A and 61–95.

OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Common Moorhens, American Coots, Common Snipe, Geese (other than Canada Geese)	Canada Geese*	Woodcock
1. Hudson – James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15
2. Northern District	Sept. 10 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
3. Central District	Sept. 21 to Dec. 20	Sept. 5 to Dec. 20(a) Sept. 21 to Dec. 20(b)	Sept. 20 to Dec. 20
4. Southern District	Sept. 28 to Dec. 20(i)	Sept. 3 to Sept. 17(c)(i) and Sept. 11 to Dec. 28(d)(i) and Sept. 28 to Dec. 28(e)(i) and Nov. 1 to Jan. 4(f)(i) and Jan. 15 to Jan. 22(g)(i) and Feb. 22 to Feb. 28(h)(i)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 20(i)

(a) In Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 inclusive.

(b) In Wildlife Management Units 46 to 59 inclusive.

(c) In Wildlife Management Units 70 to 72 inclusive (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 73 to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 95 inclusive.

(d) In Wildlife Management Unit 64B, 65, and 69.

(e) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61 to 64A inclusive, 66 to 68 inclusive, 70 to 93 inclusive, and 95.

(f) In Wildlife Management Unit 94.

(g) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 68 to 93 inclusive.

(h) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 71 inclusive, 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 93 inclusive.

(i) No person shall hunt migratory birds on the following Sundays during the hunting season in the Southern District: from September 8 to December 22 inclusive, January 19, and February 23. These Sunday exclusions do not apply, and Sunday hunting is permitted, in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, in the Township of Haldimand in the County of Northumberland, and in that portion in Southern District of the County of Renfrew, other than the Township of Raglan. Sunday exclusions do not apply to falconers who may hunt only ducks on Sundays from September 29 to December 15 inclusive.

* See below for simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese* (other than Snow Geese) and Brant	Snow Geese	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), American Coots, Common Snipe and Common Moorhens	Woodcock
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)	5(d)(e)(f)(g)	10	10	8
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)	10(d)(e)(f)(g)	40	20	16

- (a) Not more than one Black Duck may be taken daily and not more than two Black Ducks may be possessed in Central and Southern Districts and not more than two Black Ducks may be taken daily and not more than four Black Ducks may be possessed in Hudson–James Bay and Northern Districts.
- (b) Not more than four Canvasbacks may be taken daily and not more than eight Canvasbacks may be possessed.
- (c) Not more than four Redheads may be taken daily and not more than eight Redheads may be possessed.
- (d) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than ten Canada Geese may be possessed in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 1D in Hudson–James Bay District, and in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 32 inclusive and 37 to 41 inclusive from September 10 to December 15 inclusive.
- (e) Not more than two Canada Goose may be taken daily and not more than four Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from November 1 to January 4 inclusive.
- (f) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than ten Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 inclusive and 93 from September 28 to October 31 inclusive.
- (g) Three additional Canada Geese may be taken daily and fourteen additional Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 36 and 45 from September 1 to September 9 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 70 to 72 inclusive (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 73 to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 94 inclusive from September 3 to September 17 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 64B, 65 and 69 from September 11 to September 27 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 60A, 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 68 to 93 inclusive from January 15 to January 22 inclusive, and 60A, 64, 65, (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 71 inclusive, 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 93 inclusive from February 22 to February 28 inclusive.

* See below for simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

SUMMARY OF CANADA GOOSE REGULATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ONTARIO

Daily Limit	8	8	3	5	5	2	8	8
Poss. Limit	24	24	10	10	10	4	24	24
Start	3 Sept.	11 Sept.	28 Sept.	1 Nov.	28 Sept.	1 Nov.	15 Jan.	22 Feb.
Close	17 Sept.	27 Sept.	31 Oct.	28 Dec.	28 Dec.	4 Jan.	22 Jan.	28 Feb.
WMU								
60A					X		X	X
61					X			
62					X			
63					X			
64A					X		X	X
64B		X			X		X	X
65		X			X		Except Prescott-Russell	Except Prescott-Russell
66					X			X
67					X			X
68					X		X	X
69		X			X		X	X
70	X				X		X	X
71	X				X		X	X
72A	Except Haldimand				X		X	
72B	X				X		X	X
73	X				X		X	X
74	X				X		X	X
75	X				X		X	X
76	X				X		X	X
77	X				X		X	X
78	X				X		X	X
79	X				X		X	X
80	X				X		X	X
81	X				X		X	X
82	X		X	X			X	X
83	X		X	X			X	X
84	X		X	X			X	X
85	X		X	X			X	X
86	X		X	X			X	X
87	X				X		X	X
88	X				X		X	X
89	X				X		X	X
90	Except South Walsingham				X		X	Except South Walsingham
91	X				X		X	X
92	X				X		X	X
93	X		X	X			X	X
94	X					X		
95	X				X			
Season Table Footnotes	c	d	e	e	e	f	g	h
Limits Table Footnotes	g	g	f			e	g	g

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue
signs marking National
Wildlife Areas and Migratory
Bird Sanctuaries.

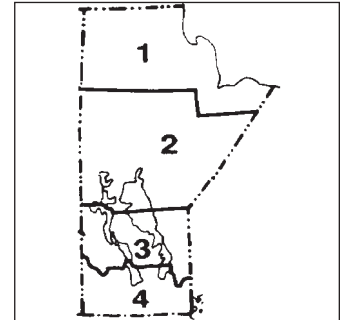


Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
Suite 160
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 4W2
(204) 983-5263**

Game Bird Hunting Zones



Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Area	Ducks and geese	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, coots, and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(c)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(c)
Zone 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c)
Zone 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c)	Sept. 23 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 16 to Nov. 30(c)
Zone 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c)	Sept. 23 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 16 to Nov. 30(c)

(a) In provincial Game Hunting Area (GHA) 6 and 6A only.

(b) Waterfowler Heritage Days.

(c) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Canada Geese	Snow and Ross' Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	5(e)(g)	20	5	8	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	15(f)(h)	80	10	16	20

(a) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(b) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than eight may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

(e) Except that in provincial GHA 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not take more than three Canada Geese daily.

(f) Except that in provincial GHA 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not possess more than nine Canada Geese.

(g) Except that in South Interlake Goose Management Area of Zone 4, residents and non-residents may not take more than three Canada Geese daily.

(h) Except that in South Interlake Goose Management Area of Zone 4, residents and non-residents may not possess more than nine Canada Geese.

NOTE:

The open season for hunting of geese by non-residents in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the North limit of township 33, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, of Game Bird Hunting Zone 3 includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date to October 4 inclusive, and on and after October 5 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2002–2003 federal permits.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone 1	August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(b) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded bird calls, decoys must be white.



**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

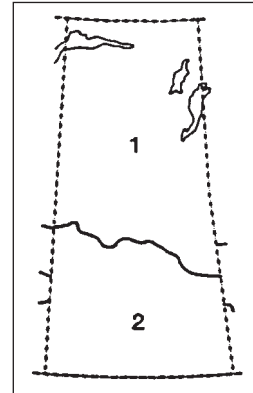


Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0X4
Tel. (306) 975-4919

Hunting Districts



District No. 1 (North)
Provincial Wildlife
Management Zones 43
and 47–74 inclusive.

District No. 2 (South)
Provincial Wildlife
Management Zones
1–42 inclusive and
44–46 inclusive.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

Snow goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting snow geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, any migratory bird for which there is an open season may also be taken. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2002–2003 federal permits.

OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Geese RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Sandhill Cranes
No. 1	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
No. 2	Sept. 8 to Dec. 16(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 16 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(c)

(a) Falconry season is open from September 8 to December 16 inclusive.

(b) Except White-fronted Geese; season for residents of Saskatchewan for White-fronted Geese is from September 8 to December 16 inclusive.

(c) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.

(d) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

NOTE:

The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Saskatchewan in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North) includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 19, inclusive, and on and after October 21 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, except in Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 21 and 37 to 41 inclusive, of District No. 2 (South), where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	20	5	10	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	60	10	20	20

(a) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than six may be Northern Pintails.

(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

Cranes

Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue
signs marking National
Wildlife Areas and Migratory
Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

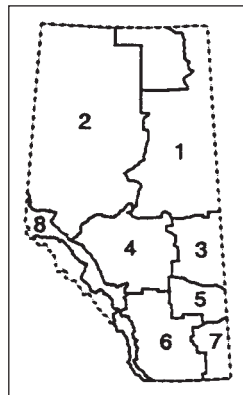
The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
4999-98 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta
T6B 2X3
(780) 951-8749

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

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.

OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks	Snow and Ross's geese	White-fronted and Canada geese	Coots and snipe	Falconry season for ducks, coots, and snipe
Zones 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8*	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zones 5, 6, and 7*	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 16

(a) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.

* "Zone No. 1" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501 to 506, 509-512, 514-519, 529, 530-532 and 841;

"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349, 350-360, 520-528, 534-537, 539, 540, 542 and 544;

"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202-204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260 and 500;

"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336-340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508 and 936;

"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160-163, 164 and 166;

"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302-306, 308, 310, 312 and 314;

"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148 and 150; and

"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416-418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436-442, 444-446.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	Snow and Ross's geese	White-fronted and Canada geese	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	20	20

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.

(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue
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Summary

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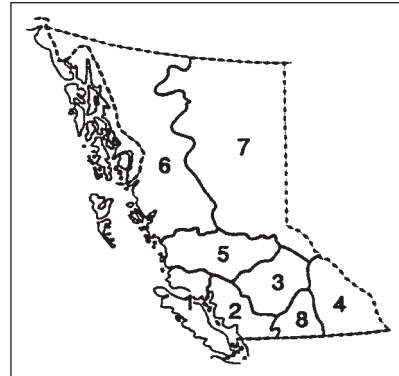
**Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
R.R.1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
(604) 940-4710**

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Districts



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

OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and geese	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Snow and Ross's geese	Other geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Oct. 5 and 6(p)(q) Nov. 2 and 3(b)(p)	Oct. 12 to Jan. 24	Oct. 12 to Jan. 24	Oct. 12 to Jan. 24(a) Sept. 15 to Oct. 23(b)(h) and Dec. 15 to Jan. 25(b)(h) and Feb. 15 to March 10(b)(h)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Oct. 5 and 6(p)(r) Sept. 7 and 8(j)(p)(s)	Oct. 12 to Jan. 24(g)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(j)	Oct. 12 to Dec. 1(d) and Feb. 8 to Mar. 10(d)	Oct. 12 to Jan. 24(e) Sept. 7 to Sept. 15(f)(h) and Oct. 12 to Nov. 24(f)(h) and Dec. 21 to Jan. 5(f)(h) and Feb. 8 to Mar. 10(f)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(c)(j)	Mar. 1 to Mar. 10(h)(i)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(t)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 10 and 11(p)	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(k) Sept. 12 to Nov. 20(l) and Dec. 20 to Jan. 5(l) and Feb. 21 to Mar. 10(l)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(u)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 10(p)	Sept. 11 to Dec. 25	Sept. 11 to Dec. 25	Sept. 11 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 5	Sept. 7 and 8(p)	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 23 and 24(n)(p)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 7	N/A	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 10 and 11(p)	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(o) Sept. 20 to Nov. 28(c) and Dec. 20 to Jan. 5(c) and Feb. 21 to March 10(c)	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30

- (a) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese only.
 (b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 only, and for Canada Geese only.
 (c) For Canada Geese only.
 (d) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.
 (e) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese only.
 (f) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese only.
 (g) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.
 (h) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.
 (i) Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.
 (j) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.
 (k) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-18 inclusive, and 3-30 to 3-44 inclusive for White-fronted and Canada Geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, and 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive for White-fronted Geese only.
 (l) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, and 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, and for Canada Geese only.
 (m) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.
 (n) Provincial Management Units 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.
 (o) For White-fronted Geese only.
 (p) Waterfowler Heritage Day.
 (q) For ducks, Snow Geese, and Ross's Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 1-3 and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, for Canada Geese.
 (r) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for Ducks and Canada Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.
 (s) For ducks and Canada Geese only.
 (t) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive only.
 (u) Provincial Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive only.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
Daily bags	8(a)(c)(e)(k)	5(g)(i)	10	10	5	5
Possession	16(b)(d)(f)(l)	10(h)(j)	20	20	10	10

- (a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
- (b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
- (c) Not more than four may be Canvasbacks.
- (d) Not more than eight may be Canvasbacks.
- (e) Not more than two may be goldeneyes.
- (f) Not more than four may be goldeneyes.
- (g) Not more than two may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
- (h) Not more than four may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
- (i) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of five Canada Geese can be taken daily.
- (j) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of 10 Canada Geese can be in possession daily.
- (k) Not more than two may be Harlequins.
- (l) Not more than four may be Harlequins.



**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

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Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue
Suite 101
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2002–2003 federal permits.

OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout Nunavut (a)	September 1 to December 10 (b)
(a) Except that the open season for Canada Geese on any of the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, is September 6 to September 24.	
(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.	

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots	Snipe	Snipe
					RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25(c)(g)	8(c)(g)	15(b)(e)	5(a)(b)(e)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(d)(h)	16(d)(h)	No limit(b)(f)	10(a)(b)(f)	No limit	No limit	20

- (a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.
- (b) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, not more than two Canada Geese may be taken daily, and not more than four may be possessed.
- (c) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks.
- (d) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks.
- (e) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, three Canada Geese, and five other geese.
- (f) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 50°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, ten Canada Geese, and ten other geese.
- (g) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Blue-winged Teal.
- (h) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks and four Blue-winged Teal.

NOTE:
No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

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Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

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Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue
Suite 101
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

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For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	September 1 to December 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25	8	15	5(a)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(a)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

NOTE:
 No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2002

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 5B7
(867) 667-4597**

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Hunting Areas

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°.

Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 66°.

OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	5(b)	2	0(c)	10
Possession	24(a)	15(b)	4	0(c)	30(d)

- (a) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
- (b) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
- (c) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
- (d) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

NOTE:

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.