



## Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

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) 426-6434  
[www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html)**

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 Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise 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 to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

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.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

#### 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 WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers	Additional seasons for Oldsquaw**, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 24	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. 24	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 2 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 14	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 24	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	No additional season	Jan. 2 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 14	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

\* "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.  
 "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.



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

