



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2007

Summary



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



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
Environment Canada
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**

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

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye will be instituted in Nova Scotia in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

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.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following Website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers at 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 Long-tailed Ducks**, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodstock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 22	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. 22	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 6 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 1 to Oct. 6 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. 22	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

* "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).
** Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, 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, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.