

Massachusetts Hunting Season Summary

2026 Deer hunting seasons

Season	Zone	Date
Winter Deer Season	Zone 13 & 14 only	Jan. 1 – Feb. 14, 2026
Early Deer Season	Zone 13 & 14 only	Sept. 21 – Oct. 1, 2026
Archery Deer Season	Zone 1-14	Oct. 5 – Nov. 28, 2026
Paraplegic Hunt		Oct. 29–31, 2026
Shotgun Deer Season	Zone 1-14	Nov. 30 – Dec. 12, 2026
Primitive Firearms Deer Season	Zone 1-14	Dec. 14–31, 2026

2026 Other hunting seasons

Species	Zone	Dates
Black bear	Zones 1-14	Sept. 7 – Dec. 12, 2026
Wild turkey	Zones 1-13	April 27 – May 23, 2026 Oct. 5 – Nov. 28, 2026
Pheasant*	Zones 1-14	Oct. 17 – Dec. 31, 2026
Quail*	Zones 1-14	Oct. 17 – Dec. 31, 2026
Ruffed grouse	Zones 1-14	Oct. 17 – Nov. 28, 2026
Crow*	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1, 2026 – Apr. 10, 2026 (Mon, Fri, Sat only) July 1, 2026 – Apr. 10, 2027 (Mon, Fri, Sat only)
Bobcat*	Zones 1-8	Jan. 1 – Mar. 7, 2026 Dec. 21, 2026 – Mar. 8, 2027
Coyote	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1, 2026 – Mar. 7, 2026 Oct. 17, 2026 – Mar. 8, 2027
Cottontail rabbit*	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2026 Oct. 17, 2026 – Feb. 27, 2027
Fox (red or gray)*	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2026 Nov. 2, 2026 – Feb. 27, 2027
Gray squirrel*	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2026 Sept. 8, 2026 – Feb. 27, 2027
Opossum*	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1–31, 2026 Oct. 1, 2026 – Jan. 30, 2027
Raccoon*	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1–31, 2026 Oct. 1, 2026 – Jan. 30, 2027
Snowshoe hare*	Zones 1-14	Jan. 1, 2026–Feb. 28, 2026 Oct. 17, 2026–Feb. 27, 2027

*Closed during shotgun deer season.

2026 Youth hunts

	Date
Youth Deer Hunt	Oct. 2 and 3, 2026
Youth Pheasant Hunt	Sept. 5, 12, 19 and Oct. 3, 10, 2026
Youth Turkey Hunt (Zones 1-13)	April 25, 2026

For more information visit [Mass.gov/Hunting-Regulations](https://www.mass.gov/Hunting-Regulations).
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Massachusetts Hunting Season Summary

Migratory Game Bird Seasons

2026–2027 Duck seasons

Species	Berkshire	Central	Coastal
Ducks, mergansers, sea ducks	Oct. 12–Nov. 28 Dec. 14–Jan. 2	Oct. 10–Nov. 28 Dec. 15–Jan. 2	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 Nov. 27–Jan. 27

2026–2027 Goose seasons

Species	Berkshire	Central	Coastal
Canada goose (early)	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	Sept. 1–Sept. 25
Canada goose (regular)	Oct. 12–Nov. 28	Oct. 10–Nov. 28 Dec. 15–Jan. 2	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 Nov. 27–Jan. 27
Canada goose (late)	Dec. 15–Feb. 13	Jan. 16–Feb. 13	Jan. 28–Feb. 13*
Snow goose	Oct. 12–Nov. 28 Dec. 14–Jan. 2	Oct. 10–Nov. 28 Dec. 15–Jan. 2	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 Nov. 27–Jan. 27
Snow goose (late)	—	Jan. 16–Feb. 13	Jan. 28–Feb. 13*
Brant	—	—	Nov. 27–Dec. 31

*North coastal zone only

Other migratory gamebird seasons 2026–2027

Species	Berkshire	Central	Coastal
American coot	Oct. 12–Nov. 28 Dec. 14–Jan. 2	Oct. 10–Nov. 28 Dec. 15–Jan. 2	Oct. 10–Oct. 17 Nov. 27–Jan. 27
Species	Season dates		
American woodcock	Oct. 1–Nov. 21		
Sora rail	Sept. 1–Nov. 6		
Virginia rail	Sept. 1–Nov. 6		
Snipe	Sept. 1–Dec. 15		

Falconry and special hunts

- Falconry hunting season: Oct. 10, 2026–Feb. 9, 2027
- Youth Waterfowl Hunt: September 26 and October 3, 2026
- Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Hunt: September 26 and October 3, 2026

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