2018 – 2019 SEASON DATES & BAG LIMITS

	SEASON DATES	BAG	POSSESSION
Sora Rail	Sep. 1 – Nov. 7	5	15
Virginia Rail	Sep. 1 – Nov. 7	10	30
Snipe	Sep. 1 – Dec. 15	8	24
Woodcock	Oct. 4 – Nov. 24	3	9
Ducks[A]			
Berkshire:	Oct. 8 – Nov. 24	6*	18*
	Dec. 3 – Dec. 22	6*	18*
Central:	Oct. 9 – Nov. 24	6*	18*
	Dec. 11 – Jan. 1	6*	18*
Coastal:	Oct. 12 – Oct. 20	6*	18*
	Nov. 12 – Jan. 10	6*	18*
American Coot	Same as ducks	15	45
Mergansers[B]	Same as ducks	5*	15*
Regular Goose (except Snow & Blue)			
Berkshire:	Oct. 10 – Nov. 24	3	9
	Dec. 3 – Dec. 13	3	9
Central:	Oct. 9 – Nov. 24	2	6
	Dec. 11 – Jan. 1	2	6
Coastal:	Oct. 12 – Oct. 20	2	6
	Nov. 12 – Jan. 10	2	6
Early Canada Goose (Statewide)[C]	Sep. 4 – Sep. 21	15	45
Late Canada Goose (Central Zone)	Jan. 15 – Feb. 15	5	15
(North Coastal Zone)	Jan. 15 – Feb. 15	5	15
Snow & Blue Goose	Same as ducks	15	45
Late Snow & Blue Goose (Central / North Coastal Zones)	Same as Late Canada Goose	15	45
Sea Ducks[D]	Nov. 19 – Jan. 26	5**	15***
Brant (Coastal Zone Only)	Nov. 19 – Jan. 26	2	6
Falconry (Ducks & Coot only, no geese)	Oct. 8 – Feb. 8	3*	9*
Youth Waterfowl Hunt (Statewide)	Sep. 22 & Oct. 6	See "Youth Waterfowl Hunt"	

* Singly or in the aggregate
** Singly or in the aggregate, no more than 4 scoter, 4 eider (but no more than 1 hen), 4 long-tailed duck [oldsquaw] in the daily bag.
*** No more than 12 scoter, 12 eider (but no more than 3 hens), 12 long-tailed ducks [oldsquaw] in possession.

A. The daily bag may contain no more than 6 ducks, and no more than 4 of any species not additionally restricted (see below):

American Black Duck	2	Hooded Merganser	2	Redhead	2
Canvasback	2	Mallard	4 (only 2 female)	Scaup	2
Fulvous Whistling	1	Mottled	1	Wood Duck	3
Harlequin	NONE	Northern Pintail	1	All other duck species	4

Possession limits are triple the daily bag. (e.g., Mallards — possession limit is 12 of which only 6 may be female).

B. Daily bag of mergansers may not include more than 2 hooded mergansers; no more than 6 hooded in possession.

C. For Early Canada Goose season only. Hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

D. Scoter, eider, and long-tailed duck [oldsquaw] may be hunted only in coastal waters and rivers and streams seaward of the first upstream bridge. They count as regular ducks in the Berkshire and Central zones.

Visit **mass.gov/dfw/migratory-bird-hunting** for more information.

Youth Waterfowl Hunter: Dan Holmes; Front cover: Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

During the Youth Waterfowl Hunt season dates, only waterfowl hunters ages 12–17 may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers and geese. All youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter with a valid MA waterfowl stamp. One firearm only. Adult hunter may not hunt and may carry firearm only when unloaded and cased. No license or waterfowl stamps required for Youth Waterfowl season hunters aged 12–14. License and MA waterfowl stamp required for 15 year old Youth Waterfowl season hunters. License, MA waterfowl stamp, and federal waterfowl stamp required for Youth Waterfowl season hunters aged 16–17. All other migratory game bird regulations and bag limits apply.

NEW BAG LIMITS

The Early Canada Goose (Statewide) daily bag limit has been increased to 15 birds, and the Regular Goose (except Snow & Blue) daily bag limit for the Central and Coastal Zones has been decreased to 2 birds.

HIP SURVEY REQUIRED

ALL migratory game bird hunters must register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) each calendar year. Licensed woodcock, snipe, coot, and waterfowl hunters must complete a HIP survey online at mass.gov/massfishhunt or anywhere hunting licenses are sold. When purchasing a state waterfowl stamp, waterfowl hunters are automatically registered with HIP.

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road | Westborough, MA 01581
p: (508) 389-6300 | **e:** mass.wildlife@state.ma.us

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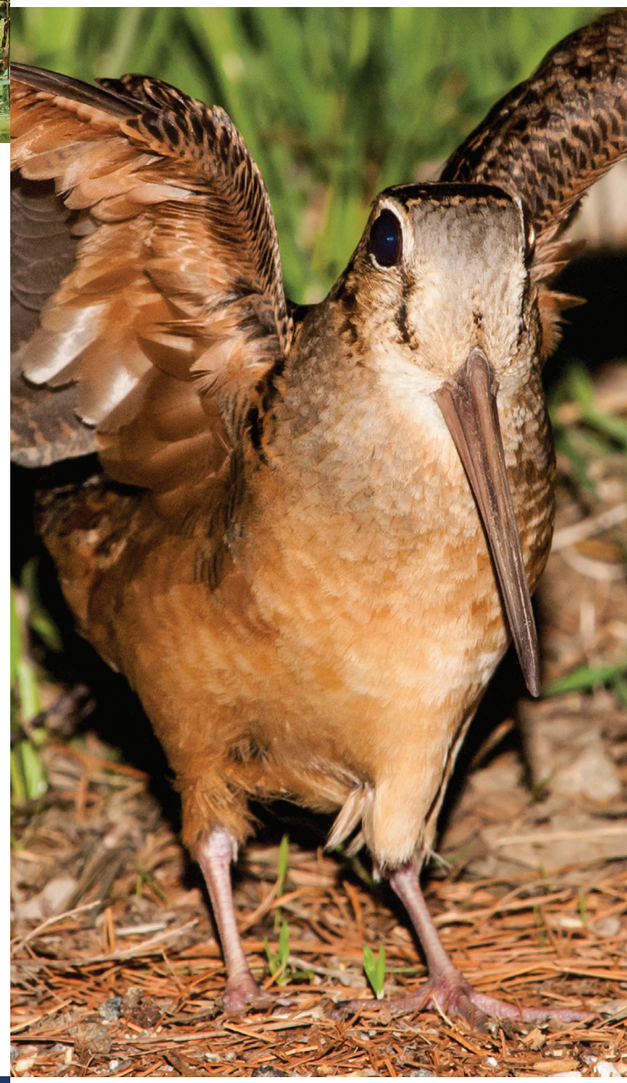
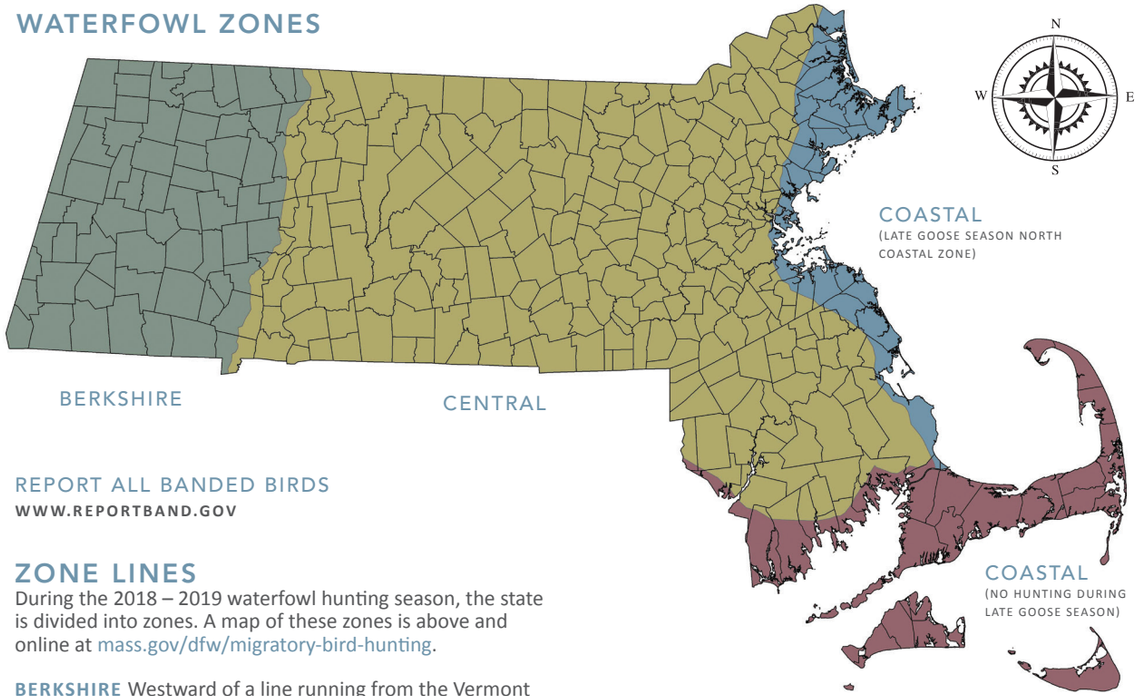
2018 – 2019 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD REGULATIONS



MASS**WILDLIFE**

WATERFOWL ZONES



REPORT ALL BANDED BIRDS

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ZONE LINES

During the 2018 – 2019 waterfowl hunting season, the state is divided into zones. A map of these zones is above and online at mass.gov/dfw/migratory-bird-hunting.

BERKSHIRE Westward of a line running from the Vermont boundary, southward along I-91 to Route 9, West on Route 9 to Route 10, South on Route 10 to Route 202 and South on Route 202 to the Connecticut line.

CENTRAL Eastward of the Berkshire zone line and westward of a boundary which will run from the New Hampshire line southward on I-95 to Route 1, South on Route 1 to I-93, South on I-93 to Route 3, South on Route 3 to Route 6, West on Route 6 to Route 28, West on Route 28 to I-195, West on Route I-195 to the Rhode Island line except that the waters and the lands 150 yards above the high water mark of the Assonet River to the Route 24 bridge and the Taunton River to the Center Street/ Elm Street bridge shall be in the Coastal Zone.

COASTAL Eastward and southward of the Central zone line to the coast.

NORTH COASTAL ZONE (late Goose season only) is that portion of the Coastal Zone lying north of the Cape Cod Canal and east of the Sagamore Bridge/Route 3 and extending north to the New Hampshire line. During the late Canada goose season, this section is open to hunting. The remainder of the Coastal Zone is closed.

***NOTE ABOUT SEA DUCKS:** Sea ducks may be hunted only in coastal waters and rivers and streams seaward of the first upstream bridge.

REGULATIONS

No one may take migratory game birds except during days and hours open to hunting. No one shall take more than one daily bag limit per day nor possess more than one daily bag limit in the field or while returning to vehicle, hunting camp, and/or home.

BAITING No person shall take migratory game birds by baiting (placing corn or any other food to constitute a lure or enticement) or hunting over a baited area. An area is considered baited for 10 days after removal of the bait. It is not necessary for the hunter to know that the area is baited to be in violation of this section.

BOW & ARROW Lawful for hunting migratory game birds. Use of crossbows allowed by those duly permitted.

DRESSING The head and one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to each migratory game bird while it is transported to the hunter's home or preservation facility.

DRIVING A person shall not hunt migratory game birds from or in connection with a motor driven land conveyance, aircraft, or any kind of motor or sail boat used in concentrating or driving birds either for himself or for others.

ELECTRIC CALLS No person shall take migratory game birds using pre-recorded calls or sounds or any electronic imitations of calls.

FALCONRY All permitted ducks and coot may be taken by falconry October 8 – February 8. No geese. Falconry closed Sundays.

HUNTING HOURS 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset except during the pheasant or quail seasons on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail when hunting hours begin at sunrise. During Early Canada Goose season only, hunting hours end 1/2 hour after sunset.

IMPORTATION No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country except Canada unless such birds are dressed, drawn, and the head and feet removed. One fully-feathered wing must remain on each bird transported between port of entry and the hunter's home or preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another. For further information on migratory game birds killed in another country, consult Title 50 CFR 20.61-20.66.

LIVE DECOYS No person shall hunt migratory game birds with the aid of live decoys or domesticated fowl of any kind. Such fowl must be removed for 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and be confined in an enclosure which reduces the audibility of their calls and conceals them from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

NON-TOXIC SHOT Is required for all waterfowl and coot hunting. No lead shot in possession. Waterfowl hunters must use non-toxic shot up to and including BBB shot while hunting waterfowl.

PROHIBITED DEVICES No one shall hunt migratory birds using a sinkbox, trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, air gun, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES Anyone aboard a canoe or kayak from Sept. 15 – May 15 must wear a life jacket or vest.

SHIPMENT Any package containing migratory game birds must be marked on the outside with the name and address of the sender and recipient and number of birds, by species, contained inside.

SHOTGUN Migratory game birds may be hunted with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may not be used unless plugged with a one-piece filler which limits the gun's total capacity to 3 shells and which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

SHOTGUN DEER SEASONS During the shotgun seasons for deer (including Youth Deer Hunt on Sep. 29, 2018), dogs can be used for waterfowl, snipe, rail, and falconry hunting only on coastal waters and salt marshes. All hunters must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange (cap and vest) while hunting or in transit to their blind or boat during these periods. The orange may be removed once a hunter is in a blind or boat.

STAMPS Waterfowl stamps are required for most hunters who hunt any ducks (including sea ducks), geese, and brant. Stamps are not required for hunting woodcock, snipe, rails or coots. Waterfowl hunters aged 12–14 do not need stamps (or a license). Waterfowl hunters aged 15 or older must possess a MA waterfowl stamp. MA waterfowl stamps are valid from Jan 1 – Dec 31 and may be obtained online at mass.gov/massfishhunt or wherever hunting licenses are sold. Waterfowl hunters aged 16 and older are required to possess a federal waterfowl stamp. Federal stamps are valid from July 1 – June 30. Federal eDuck stamps may be obtained online at mass.gov/massfishhunt or wherever MA hunting licenses are sold. The Federal eDuck Stamp is a temporary stamp expiring 45 days from the date of purchase. Before the eDuck expires, a physical Federal Duck Stamp will be sent to customers via U.S. mail. Upon receipt of the physical Federal Duck Stamp, it must be signed across the face in ink and carried while waterfowl hunting. If a physical Duck Stamp does not arrive after a few weeks, contact Amplex at duckstamp@amplex.com or (800) 852-4897. Physical federal waterfowl stamps are also available at all National Wildlife Refuges and select post offices.

TAGGING Any migratory game birds not in the custody of the hunter must be tagged with the hunter's signature, address, total number of birds by species, and dates such birds were killed. No person shall receive or have in custody another's migratory game birds unless such birds are properly tagged.

VEHICLES/BOATS No person shall hunt migratory game birds from or with the aid of a motor vehicle or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft except that paraplegics may take game birds from a stationary motor vehicle or other land conveyance. Further, no person may hunt from or by means of any motor boat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sails furled and all progress therefrom has ceased. However, a hunter may pick up or retrieve dead or crippled birds from a craft under power and may shoot injured birds from powered craft in coastal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge.

WANTON WASTE Hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve all migratory birds killed or crippled. Cripples should be killed immediately, and, along with all other birds killed, must be retained by the hunter as part of the daily bag.

This brochure is a summary of migratory game bird hunting regulations. A violation of state regulations is also a violation of federal law. Special regulations may apply on National Wildlife Refuges. For more information on federal regulations, contact the Resident Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, 70 Everett Ave., Ste. 315, Chelsea, MA 02150, phone: (617) 889-6616.