

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD REGULATIONS

MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE 2003-2004 SEASON

[None]

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Migratory game birds are all wild species of ducks, geese, brant, coots, gallinules, rails, snipe, woodcock, and mourning and white-winged doves. There is no open season in Florida on brant, purple gallinule or harlequin duck. Other migratory game birds may be taken only during seasons specified in this digest or the brochure *Migratory Game Bird Regulations for Waterfowl and Coot Seasons*.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that may be taken or possessed during the legal shooting hours of any one day. No person may possess more than one daily bag limit of freshly killed birds while in the field or while returning from the field. No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: (a) the hunter's signature, (b) the hunter's address, (c) the total number of birds involved, by species, and (d) the dates such birds were killed. No person may possess freshly killed birds during the closed season. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services. No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, **except** doves and band-tailed pigeons, (*Columba fasciata*), unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited. All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

LAWFUL MEANS AND METHODS

Shotguns not larger than 10-gauge (shotguns capable of holding more than three shells must be plugged to a three-shell capacity with a one-piece filler which cannot be

removed without disassembling the gun), long and compound bows and arrows, falconry, dogs, artificial decoys and manual or mouth-operated bird calls.

Hunting is permitted in the open or from a blind or other type of concealment (except a sinkbox) or from a floating craft.

NONTOXIC SHOT

Nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must be used when hunting ducks, geese, and coots in all areas of the state. The possession of shotshells loaded with any type shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron, or other nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is prohibited when hunting ducks, geese and coots in Florida.

UNLAWFUL MEANS AND METHODS

The following may not be used to take or attempt to take migratory game birds:

- Trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- A shotgun capable of holding more than three shells that is not plugged to a three-shell capacity with a one-piece filler, which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.
- A sinkbox (a low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- Hunting from or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.
- Hunting from or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furlled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.

- By the aid of baiting (placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering salt, grain, or other feed that could lure birds to, on, or over an area) or hunting on or over any baited area. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations state that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after removal of the bait. A hunter must "know or reasonably should know" that an area is baited to be in violation.

- Violations of state migratory bird hunting regulations are also federal violations.

- Additional federal hunting regulations may apply on federal public hunting areas.

PERMIT, STAMP, AND LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All persons taking or attempting to take migratory game birds are required to have a valid Florida Hunting License, Sportsman's License, Lifetime Hunting License, Lifetime Sportsman's License or Five-year Hunting License and a **free migratory bird permit**. In addition to a hunting license and migratory bird permit, hunters taking or attempting to take ducks or geese are required to have a Florida waterfowl permit (\$3 plus issuance fee), and a Federal Duck Stamp (\$15). Persons possessing a Florida Resident Sportsman's License, Lifetime Sportsman's License, or Lifetime Hunting License need only the migratory bird permit and the Federal Duck Stamp to take or attempt to take ducks or geese. The Sportsman's License, Lifetime Sportsman's License, and Lifetime Hunting License include the Florida waterfowl permit. Federal Duck Stamps are available at U.S. Postal Service offices, as well as some retail sporting goods stores and county tax collectors' offices, and on-line at: <http://duckstamps.fws.gov/huntquick.html>. All other licenses and permits are available at county tax collectors' offices or their subagents. In addition, Florida licenses and permits may be purchased 24 hours a day with a credit card by calling toll-free 1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (1-888-486-8356) or on-line through the FWC's web site at www.floridaconservation.org. A convenience charge of up to \$3.95 will be added in both cases.

Exemptions: Residents 65 years of age or older, Georgia residents 65 years of age or older possessing a Georgia Honorary Hunting and Fishing Certificate and proof of age, residents totally and permanently disabled possessing a disability license and any resident who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who is not stationed in this state, while home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders are only required to have the Federal Duck Stamp. Resident senior citizens, Georgia senior citizens, resident disabled and servicemen home on leave are exempt from hunting license, migratory bird permit and Florida waterfowl permit requirements.

Children under 16 years of age are exempt from hunting license, migratory bird permit, Florida waterfowl permit and Federal Duck Stamp requirements.

AREAS WITH OUTBOARD MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

The restrictions and prohibitions on the use of internal combustion outboard motors (including airboats) for Lake Iamonia and Carr Lake in Leon County, and Lake Miccosukee in Leon and Jefferson counties will not begin until the regular duck and coot season. Outboard motors and airboats may be used on these lakes during the special early duck season.

RAIL AND COMMON MOORHEN

Season: September 1 through November 9
Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Bag Limits:
Clapper and King Rails -- daily limit 15, possession limit 30 (singly or in aggregate).
Sora and Virginia Rails -- daily limit 25, possession limit 25 (singly or in aggregate).
Common Moorhen -- daily limit 15, possession limit 30
Purple Gallinule -- no open season.

SPECIAL EARLY DUCK SEASON

Season: September 20 through September 24.
Legal to Take: Wood Ducks and Teal
Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Bag Limit: No more than four ducks per day, **only two of which may be wood ducks**; possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. These bag limits are for the special early duck season only. Taking or attempting to take coots or any species of duck other than wood ducks and teal is prohibited. Hunting is permitted every day in Leon County during the special early duck season.

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON ON LAKE SEMINOLE

Season: September 20 through September 24. Canada geese may be taken only in the Florida waters of Lake Seminole in Jackson County that are south of SR 2, north of the Jim Woodruff Dam, and east of SR 271.

Legal to Take: Canada Geese
Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Bag Limit: daily limit 5; possession limit 10.

MOURNING AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Season: First Phase -- October 4 through October 27.

Second Phase -- November 15 through November 30.

Third Phase -- December 13 through January 11.

Shooting Hours: First Phase--12 Noon to sunset.

Second and Third Phase--One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Bag Limit: 12 doves daily, 24 in possession (including no more than four white-winged doves daily and eight in possession).

SNIPE

Season: November 1 through February 15.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Bag Limit: daily limit eight, possession limit 16.

WOODCOCK

Season: December 20 through January 18.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Bag Limit: daily limit three, possession limit six.

THE MIGRATORY BIRD PERMIT AND HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

Migratory game bird hunters in Florida are required to have the Migratory Bird Permit checked on their hunting licenses or a Migratory Bird Permit attached to their license. To get the box checked or to receive the permit, you just have to fill out a short questionnaire when you buy your hunting license. That's all it takes to validate your hunting license for hunting migratory game birds. It's free, but you have to do it if you're going to hunt ducks, geese, coots, common moorhens, rails, snipe, woodcocks, mourning doves or white-winged doves.

The information you provide when you obtain a Migratory Bird Permit is used in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's **Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.)**. H.I.P. is a system to enable biologists and managers to get a more accurate reading on how many migratory birds hunters take each year. H.I.P. will enable wildlife agencies to set season dates and bag limits to provide sportsmen with as much hunting opportunity as possible, because the agencies will be working with more accurate figures than ever before.

In the past, anti-hunting groups have cited the lack of accurate harvest information during their legal challenges of hunting seasons in some states. Information from H.I.P. will help preserve hunting and justify it as a valuable wildlife

management tool during future court challenges.

Some hunters will receive surveys later in the season to record the numbers and species of birds they take during migratory bird hunting seasons. If you receive one of the surveys in the mail, filling it out is optional but extremely important to the future of migratory bird hunting in Florida and the whole country.

Completing the H.I.P. questionnaire to get the H.I.P. box checked on your hunting license is required by federal law before you hunt migratory game birds. It is illegal to hunt migratory game birds if you don't take that step. Hunters who have Lifetime or Five-year licenses should contact their county tax collector's office or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for H.I.P. questionnaires. Others should fill out the questionnaire and turn it in when they purchase their hunting licenses. Exemptions to the H.I.P. requirement include migratory game bird hunters who are under 16 years old, 65 years old or older, military personnel who are home on leave, hunting on their own homestead property or their parents' or minor child's homestead property or certified totally and permanently disabled.

CROW REGULATIONS

Season: November 8 through January 18. Saturdays and Sundays only from May 8 through October 31.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Bag Limit: No bag or possession limits.

Permit, Stamp, and License Requirements: None

Lawful Means and Methods: Shotguns not larger than 10-gauge and incapable of holding more than three shells in magazine and chamber combined, center-fire and rimfire rifles and pistols, long and compound bows and arrows, crossbows, falconry, dogs, artificial decoys, live decoys, manual or mouth-operated calls, recorded calls or sounds, electrically amplified imitations of calls, and baiting.

Unlawful Means and Methods: Shotguns larger than 10 gauge, shotguns capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined, silencer-equipped or fully automatic firearms, center-fire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capacity of more than five rounds, arrows having explosive or drug administering heads, traps, snares, drugs, poisons, or hunting from a moving motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat, or using such vehicle, aircraft or boat to herd or drive birds.

WILDLIFE ALERT

Wildlife law violators are thieves who steal from you and your natural heritage. To report wildlife law violators, call the WILDLIFE ALERT toll-free number

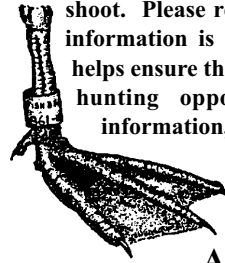
1-888-404-FWCC (1-888-404-3922); cellular *FWC or #FWC in specific areas. You may qualify for a Cash Reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

REPORT BAND NUMBERS TWO WAYS

1. BY PHONE: 1-800-327-BAND (1-800-327-2263)

2. OR INTERNET: <http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/bbl/then> follow the link entitled "How to Report a Bird Band."

You may report by telephone or on the Internet any banded ducks or other migratory game birds that you shoot. Please report these bands. Band recovery information is critical to good management and helps ensure that we can continue to provide duck hunting opportunities. By reporting this information, you will be able to find out when and where your bird was banded. The band is yours to keep. Thanks for your cooperation.



Attention Duck Hunters:

Only teal and wood ducks are legal to take during the special early duck season. **Mottled ducks**, also known as Florida ducks or Florida mallards, and teal use the same habitats in peninsular Florida. Mottled ducks are protected during the special early duck season. Know the difference! Mottled ducks are a large, mottled brown duck with a light-colored head and neck. They do not have the light blue wing patches that blue-winged teal have. Teal are much smaller and rapidly twist and turn in flight. No species of duck may be taken during the special early duck season except wood ducks and teal. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.

For additional information on federal hunting regulations or violations, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agents: Jacksonville - (904) 232-2580, St. Petersburg - (727) 570-5398, or Panama City - (850) 769-0552.

1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (1-888-486-8356)

Purchase Florida hunting or fishing licenses

24 hours a day with a credit card and a toll-free call,

(A \$3.95 convenience charge will be added).

This agency and the Department of Interior prohibit discrimination by race, color, nationality, age, sex or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility of this agency, write to: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, or to: Office of Human Relations, USFWS, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

2003-2004

Migratory Bird Regulations For Dove, Snipe, Woodcock, Rail, Moorhen, Crow and Early Waterfowl Seasons



FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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