

2024-25 MAINE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Please reference the *Maine 2024-25 Summary of Hunting Laws* for more details, available at mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

For the purpose of this section, migratory game birds include and are limited to species in the following families: 1. Anatidae (wild ducks, geese, and brant); 2. Rallidae (rails, coots, moorhens and gallinules); and 3. Scolopacidae (woodcock and snipe). Except as expressly provided in the regulations, it is unlawful to hunt, capture, kill, take, possess, transport, buy or sell any migratory game bird or part thereof.

LICENSES

To hunt in Maine, you need to have one of the 30+ hunting licenses available. These vary by category of game, equipment used, resident status, age, and other factors.

Go to mefishwildlife.com to see which license type is right for you, and to read what the license allows, when it allows it, and what permits are included or need to be purchased separately.

STAMPS

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and up must purchase state waterfowl permits and federal duck stamps. 16-year-olds still hunting on a junior license may hunt on a youth day, but need a Federal duck stamp.

Migratory waterfowl permits are not required to hunt Crow, Woodcock, Common Snipe, Sora & Virginia Rails, or Gallinules. A pheasant permit is required to hunt pheasant in York and Cumberland counties.

OPERATION GAME THIEF

Call 1-800-ALERT US (253-7887) to report game law violations. Caller identification protected. Rewards paid. Poachers are thieves — help us stop them.



SUNDAY HUNTING IS ILLEGAL IN MAINE

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS:

1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.



BAND RECOVERY REPORTS

Anyone finding a band or recovering one while hunting should log onto: reportband.gov

Results will provide better estimates of survival and harvest rates and will reduce high costs associated with banding studies.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

If you plan to hunt woodcock, ducks, geese, snipe, rails, or coots, you are required to indicate on your license your intention of doing so at the time you purchase your license. The information will be used by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.).

ETHICS ARE WHAT WE DO WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING

In the Maine woods, rarely will anyone be there to notice your ethical behavior, but the landowner and the hunters that follow will greatly appreciate it. Ethical behavior is vital to Maine's sporting future, and it encourages landowners to keep their property open for all to enjoy. So remember: always respect the rights of landowners, and please *ask first*.

OUTDOOR PARTNERS LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM

For \$15.00, you can become an Outdoor Partner and support the MDIFW landowner relations program, which works to preserve and enhance access, helps landowners with access issues, and promotes responsible, ethical sporting behavior.

Members also receive discounts from retail partners, discounted subscriptions, and day passes, as well as an Outdoor Partners decal and entry into a drawing to win one of six \$500 gift cards. You can join at any time – either as an add-on to your license purchase or at mefishwildlife.com.



2024-25 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTER'S LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

| LEGAL HUNTING HOURS | | LEGAL HUNTING HOURS | | | |
|---------------------|------|---------------------|----------|------|-------|
| DATE | OPEN | CLOSE | DATE | OPEN | CLOSE |
| 9/2/24 | 5:29 | 7:09 | 11/18/24 | 6:07 | 4:03 |
| 9/3/24 | 5:30 | 7:07 | 11/19/24 | 6:08 | 4:03 |
| 9/4/24 | 5:32 | 7:05 | 11/20/24 | 6:10 | 4:02 |
| 9/5/24 | 5:33 | 7:04 | 11/21/24 | 6:11 | 4:01 |
| 9/6/24 | 5:34 | 7:02 | 11/22/24 | 6:12 | 4:00 |
| 9/7/24 | 5:35 | 7:00 | 11/23/24 | 6:13 | 4:00 |
| 9/9/24 | 5:37 | 6:56 | 11/25/24 | 6:16 | 3:58 |
| 9/10/24 | 5:39 | 6:54 | 11/26/24 | 6:17 | 3:58 |
| 9/11/24 | 5:40 | 6:52 | 11/27/24 | 6:18 | 3:57 |
| 9/12/24 | 5:41 | 6:51 | 11/28/24 | 6:20 | 3:57 |
| 9/13/24 | 5:42 | 6:49 | 11/29/24 | 6:21 | 3:56 |
| 9/14/24 | 5:43 | 6:47 | 11/30/24 | 6:22 | 3:56 |
| 9/16/24 | 5:46 | 6:43 | 12/2/24 | 6:24 | 3:55 |
| 9/17/24 | 5:47 | 6:41 | 12/3/24 | 6:25 | 3:55 |
| 9/18/24 | 5:48 | 6:39 | 12/4/24 | 6:26 | 3:55 |
| 9/19/24 | 5:49 | 6:37 | 12/5/24 | 6:27 | 3:54 |
| 9/20/24 | 5:50 | 6:35 | 12/6/24 | 6:28 | 3:54 |
| 9/21/24 | 5:52 | 6:33 | 12/7/24 | 6:29 | 3:54 |
| 9/23/24 | 5:54 | 6:30 | 12/9/24 | 6:31 | 3:54 |
| 9/24/24 | 5:55 | 6:28 | 12/10/24 | 6:32 | 3:54 |
| 9/25/24 | 5:56 | 6:26 | 12/11/24 | 6:33 | 3:54 |
| 9/26/24 | 5:58 | 6:24 | 12/12/24 | 6:34 | 3:54 |
| 9/27/24 | 5:59 | 6:22 | 12/13/24 | 6:35 | 3:54 |
| 9/28/24 | 6:00 | 6:20 | 12/14/24 | 6:35 | 3:55 |
| 9/30/24 | 6:03 | 6:17 | 12/16/24 | 6:37 | 3:55 |
| 10/1/24 | 6:04 | 6:15 | 12/17/24 | 6:38 | 3:55 |
| 10/2/24 | 6:05 | 6:13 | 12/18/24 | 6:38 | 3:56 |
| 10/3/24 | 6:06 | 6:11 | 12/19/24 | 6:39 | 3:56 |
| 10/4/24 | 6:07 | 6:09 | 12/20/24 | 6:39 | 3:57 |
| 10/5/24 | 6:09 | 6:07 | 12/21/24 | 6:40 | 3:57 |
| 10/7/24 | 6:11 | 6:04 | 12/23/24 | 6:41 | 3:58 |
| 10/8/24 | 6:12 | 6:02 | 12/24/24 | 6:41 | 3:59 |
| 10/9/24 | 6:14 | 6:00 | 12/25/24 | 6:42 | 4:00 |
| 10/10/24 | 6:15 | 5:58 | 12/26/24 | 6:42 | 4:00 |
| 10/11/24 | 6:16 | 5:56 | 12/27/24 | 6:42 | 4:01 |
| 10/12/24 | 6:17 | 5:55 | 12/28/24 | 6:42 | 4:02 |
| 10/14/24 | 6:20 | 5:51 | 12/30/24 | 6:43 | 4:03 |
| 10/15/24 | 6:21 | 5:49 | 12/31/24 | 6:43 | 4:04 |
| 10/16/24 | 6:23 | 5:48 | 1/1/25 | 6:43 | 4:05 |
| 10/17/24 | 6:24 | 5:46 | 1/2/25 | 6:43 | 4:06 |
| 10/18/24 | 6:25 | 5:44 | 1/3/25 | 6:43 | 4:07 |
| 10/19/24 | 6:27 | 5:43 | 1/4/25 | 6:43 | 4:08 |
| 10/21/24 | 6:29 | 5:39 | 1/6/25 | 6:42 | 4:10 |
| 10/22/24 | 6:30 | 5:38 | 1/7/25 | 6:42 | 4:11 |
| 10/23/24 | 6:32 | 5:36 | 1/8/25 | 6:42 | 4:12 |
| 10/24/24 | 6:33 | 5:35 | 1/9/25 | 6:42 | 4:13 |
| 10/25/24 | 6:34 | 5:33 | 1/10/25 | 6:41 | 4:15 |
| 10/26/24 | 6:36 | 5:32 | 1/11/25 | 6:41 | 4:16 |
| 10/28/24 | 6:38 | 5:29 | 1/13/25 | 6:40 | 4:18 |
| 10/29/24 | 6:40 | 5:27 | 1/14/25 | 6:40 | 4:19 |
| 10/30/24 | 6:41 | 5:26 | 1/15/25 | 6:39 | 4:21 |
| 10/31/24 | 6:43 | 5:24 | 1/16/25 | 6:38 | 4:22 |
| 11/1/24 | 6:44 | 5:23 | 1/17/25 | 6:38 | 4:23 |
| 11/2/24 | 6:45 | 5:21 | 1/18/25 | 6:37 | 4:25 |
| 11/4/24 | 5:48 | 4:19 | 1/20/25 | 6:36 | 4:27 |
| 11/5/24 | 5:49 | 4:17 | 1/21/25 | 6:35 | 4:29 |
| 11/6/24 | 5:51 | 4:16 | 1/22/25 | 6:34 | 4:30 |
| 11/7/24 | 5:52 | 4:15 | 1/23/25 | 6:33 | 4:31 |
| 11/8/24 | 5:53 | 4:14 | 1/24/25 | 6:32 | 4:33 |
| 11/9/24 | 5:55 | 4:13 | 1/25/25 | 6:31 | 4:34 |
| 11/11/24 | 5:58 | 4:10 | 1/27/25 | 6:30 | 4:37 |
| 11/12/24 | 5:59 | 4:09 | 1/28/25 | 6:28 | 4:38 |
| 11/13/24 | 6:00 | 4:08 | 1/29/25 | 6:27 | 4:40 |
| 11/14/24 | 6:02 | 4:07 | 1/30/25 | 6:26 | 4:41 |
| 11/15/24 | 6:03 | 4:06 | 1/31/25 | 6:25 | 4:43 |
| 11/16/24 | 6:04 | 4:05 | | | |

All times listed through October 31 are Eastern Daylight Time; after that date, they are Eastern Standard Time (for Bangor).

The following are general dates for the 2024-2025 season. Please reference the *Maine 2024-25 Summary of Hunting Laws*, available at mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws.

2024-25 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

| SPECIES | SEASON | | LIMITS | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|----|
| | FIRST DAY | LAST DAY | DAILY BAG | POSSESSION | |
| Crows* | Wildlife Management Districts 1 - 6 | August 1, 2024 | September 20, 2024 | No Limit | |
| | | February 6, 2025 | April 15, 2025 | | |
| | Wildlife Management Districts 7 - 29 | August 1, 2024 | September 20, 2024 | | |
| | | January 22, 2025 | March 31, 2025 | | |
| Common Snipe** | | September 2, 2024 | January 3, 2025 | 8 | 24 |
| Woodcock** | | September 28, 2024 | November 19, 2024 | 3 | 9 |
| Rails (Sora And Virginia)*** | | September 2, 2024 | November 21, 2024 | 25 <i>Single or in aggregate</i> 25 | |
| Canada Goose (Early) | North Zone | September 2, 2024 | September 25, 2024 | 8 | 24 |
| | South Zone | September 2, 2024 | September 25, 2024 | 10 | 30 |
| | Coastal Zone | September 2, 2024 | September 25, 2024 | 10 | 30 |
| Canada Goose <i>Regular, White-Fronted Geese</i> | North Zone | October 1, 2024 | December 9, 2024 | 2 | 6 |
| | South Zone | October 1, 2024 | October 12, 2024 | | |
| | | October 30, 2024 | December 25, 2024 | 3 | 9 |
| | Coastal Zone | October 5, 2023 | October 12, 2024 | | |
| | | October 26, 2024 | January 7, 2025 | | |
| Snow Geese <i>Including Blue Geese</i> | | October 1, 2024 | January 31, 2025 | 25 | |
| Ducks <i>Including Black Ducks, American Coot, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Scaup, Sea Ducks, Teal, Mergansers, Pintails, Ring-Necked Duck</i> | North Zone | September 23, 2024 | November 30, 2024 | 6 | 18 |
| | South Zone | October 1, 2024 | October 12, 2024 | | |
| | | October 30, 2024 | December 25, 2024 | | |
| | Coastal Zone | October 5, 2024 | October 12, 2024 | | |
| | | November 7, 2024 | January 7, 2025 | <i>Species-specific bag limits may be found on page 37. All duck species not listed under exceptions on page 37 have a daily bag limit of 4 and possession limit of 12.</i> | |
| Brant | North Zone | September 23, 2024 | October 26, 2024 | 1 | 3 |
| | South Zone | October 1, 2024 | October 12, 2024 | | |
| | | October 30, 2024 | November 20, 2024 | | |
| | Coastal Zone | October 5, 2024 | October 12, 2024 | | |
| | | December 12, 2024 | January 7, 2025 | | |

All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.

*Crows are neither migratory waterfowl or migratory game birds. The use of lead shot and the use of a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is permitted. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required. Use of electronic calls is permitted.

**Woodcock & Snipe are considered migratory game birds, not migratory waterfowl. The use of lead shot is permitted.

The use of a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required.

***Rails are considered migratory game birds not migratory waterfowl. The use of lead shot and a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required.

2023-24 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

| SPECIES AND AREA | SEASONS | | LIMITS | | |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| | FIRST DAY | LAST DAY | DAILY BAG | POSSESSION | |
| Special Falconry Season <i>In addition to the regular migratory bird season (on Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, American Coots.)</i> | North Zone | December 16, 2024 | February 5, 2025 | 3 | 9 |
| | South Zone | January 8, 2025 | February 28, 2025 | <i>Respectively, singly or in aggregate Species Restrictions Apply</i> | |
| | Coastal Zone | January 8, 2025 | February 28, 2025 | | |
| Special Youth Waterfowl Hunts <i>All duck species except Harlequins, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Moorhens and Gallinules – may be hunted on these days, including geese. For youth days, the goose limit is under the Regular Season limit. On youth waterfowl hunting days, scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken as part of the 6 bird daily limit on regular ducks. Also on these dates, 2 Black Ducks may be taken.</i> | North Zone | September 14, 2024 & December 7, 2024 | | <i>Special regulations apply to youth and accompanying adult. Please see Junior Hunters section.</i> | |
| | South Zone | September 21, 2024 & October 19, 2024 | | | |
| | Coastal Zone | September 28, 2024 & October 26, 2024 | | | |

DAILY BAG LIMIT EXCEPTIONS

| | |
|--|--|
| Harlequin Ducks, Barrow's Goldeneye, Moorhens & Gallinules | Closed Season |
| American Coots | In addition to the 6 duck daily bag limit, hunters may take 5 coots. It is unlawful to possess more than 15 coots at any time. |
| Northern Pintails, Mottled Ducks, Fulvous Whistling Ducks, and Scaup | The daily limit on these species is 1 bird; possession limit is 3. |
| Black Duck, Redhead, Hen Mallards and Canvasback | The daily limit on these species is 2 birds; possession limit is 6. |
| Mallards | The daily limit is 4 (2 hen mallards); possession limit is 12 (6 hen mallards). |
| Mergansers (Common, Red-breasted and Hooded) | In addition to the 6 duck daily bag limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers in the aggregate, with a species specific limit of 5. It is unlawful to possess more than 15 mergansers at any time. |
| Sea Ducks (Scoter, Eider, and Long-Tailed Duck) | The daily limit is 3 by species (4 total sea ducks), possession limit is 9 by species (12 total seas ducks). Except that the daily bag limit for eiders is 2, not to exceed 1 hen eider; and possession limit for hen eiders is 3, with the total possession limit for all eiders being 9. |
| Wood Ducks | The daily limit is 3 birds, possession limit is 9. |