

**2018-2019  
Digest of Migratory Game Bird Regulations**



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## **2018-19 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS**

### **GEESE and BRANT:** (Open Statewide\*)

#### Canada Geese:

September 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018

*Daily limit 5, possession limit 15 during September season.*

November 9, 2018 – November 25, 2018

November 30, 2018 – December 2, 2018

December 5, 2018 – January 27, 2019

*Daily limit 3, possession limit 9.*

#### Brant:

November 9, 2018 – November 25, 2018

November 30, 2018 – December 2, 2018

December 5, 2018 – January 27, 2019

*Daily limit 1, possession limit 3.*

#### White-fronted Geese:

November 9, 2018 – November 25, 2018

November 30, 2018 – December 2, 2018

December 5, 2018 – January 27, 2019

*Daily limit 3, possession limit 9.*

#### Snow, Blue, and Ross' Geese:

November 9, 2018 – November 25, 2018

November 30, 2018 – December 2, 2018

December 5, 2018 – January 27, 2019

*Daily limit 20, no possession limit will be in effect.*

\* - ***Roebuck Lake (Leflore County) is closed to Canada goose hunting.***

### **MOURNING and WHITE-WINGED DOVES**

#### North Zone:

September 1, 2018 – October 7, 2018

October 27, 2018 – November 7, 2018

December 22, 2018 – January 31, 2019

*Daily limit 15 singly or in aggregate, possession limit 45 singly or in aggregate.*

#### South Zone:

September 1, 2018 – September 9, 2018

October 6, 2018 – November 7, 2018

December 15, 2018 – January 31, 2019

*Daily limit 15 singly or in aggregate, possession limit 45 singly or in aggregate.*

**TEAL:** September 15, 2018 – September 30, 2018

*Daily limit 6, possession limit 18. All teal species are legal for harvest.*

**WOODCOCK:** December 18, 2018 – January 31, 2019

*Daily limit 3, possession limit 9.*

**SNIPE:** November 14, 2018 – February 28, 2019  
*Daily limit 8, possession limit 24.*

**MOORHENS and GALLINULES:** September 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018  
November 23, 2018 – January 1, 2019  
*Daily limit 15 singly or in aggregate, possession limit 45 singly or in aggregate.*

**RAILS:** September 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018  
November 23, 2018 – January 1, 2019  
*Daily limit is 15 for King and Clapper rails singly or in aggregate, possession limit 45 singly or in aggregate; daily limit is 25 for Sora and Virginia rails singly or in aggregate, possession limit 75 singly or in aggregate.*

**CROWS:** November 3, 2018 – February 28, 2019. *No daily bag limit.*

**DUCKS, MERGANSERS, and COOTS:** November 23, 2018 – November 25, 2018  
November 30, 2018 – December 2, 2018  
December 5, 2018 – January 27, 2019

*Ducks:*

*A total daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 3 scaup, 2 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 1 mottled duck, and 2 black ducks. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.*

*Mergansers:*

*A total daily bag limit of 5, only 2 may be hooded mergansers. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.*

*Coots:*

*Daily limit is 15 per day. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.*

**Possession Limit** is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds, except on opening day, unless otherwise noted.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT DAYS:** November 17, 2018 and February 2, 2019

Bag limits and shooting hours during youth waterfowl hunt days are the same as during the regular season. Only youths age 15 and under are permitted to hunt ducks during the youth waterfowl hunt days, and youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult age 21 or older.

**SHOOTING HOURS:**

Shooting hours for all migratory game birds are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the Light Goose Conservation order, which allows hunting light geese until 30 minutes after sunset.

## **LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER:**

October 1, 2018 – November 8, 2018

January 28, 2019 – February 1, 2019

February 3, 2019 – March 31, 2019

Hunters must have a free permit to participate in the Light Goose Conservation Order, along with a valid Mississippi hunting license and Mississippi waterfowl stamp. Permits are available online at [www.mdwfp.com/LightGooseConservationPermit](http://www.mdwfp.com/LightGooseConservationPermit). Each hunter must provide their name, mailing address, email, and phone number to receive a permit. For a list of specific regulations during the Light Goose Conservation Order, visit [www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl](http://www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl) or call 601-432-2199.

## **PUBLIC WATERFOWL HUNTING AREAS**

**Regulations on some public hunting areas may be different than statewide regulations, and may differ from other public areas. Before hunting public lands, check the specific area's regulations for closed areas, shooting hours, open dates, and other restrictions. Contact the managing agency for more information.**

### **MDWFP Managed Areas**

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Phone</u>
1. Black Prairie WMA	Lowndes	(662) 272-8303
2. Canal Section WMA	Itawamba	(662) 862-2723
3. Charlie Capps WMA	Bolivar	(662) 335-2422
4. Howard Miller WMA	Issaquena	(662) 873-6958
5. William C. "Billy" Deviney WMA	Sunflower	(662) 335-2422
6. Lake Bogue Homa	Jones	(601) 928-3720
7. Lake George WMA	Yazoo	(662) 873-6958
8. Leroy Percy WMA	Washington	(662) 335-2422
9. Mahannah WMA	Issaquena	(601) 661-0294
10. Malmaison WMA	Leflore	(662) 453-5409
11. Muscadine Farms WMA	Washington	(662) 335-2422
12. Nanih Waiya WMA	Neshoba	(662) 724-2770
13. Neshoba County Lake	Neshoba	(601) 656-7376
14. Okatibbee WMA	Lauderdale	(601) 737-5831
15. O'Keefe WMA	Quitman	(662) 326-8029
16. Old River WMA	Pearl River	(601) 736-0066
17. Pascagoula WMA	George/Jackson	(601) 947-6376
18. Pearl River WMA	Madison	(601) 859-3425
19. Sardis Waterfowl WMA	Lafayette	(662) 487-1946
20. Shipland WMA	Issaquena	(601) 661-0294
21. Sky Lake WMA	Humphreys	(662) 335-2422
22. Sunflower WMA	Sharkey	(662) 873-6958
23. Trim Cane WMA	Oktibbeha	(662) 272-8303
24. Tuscumbia WMA	Alcorn	(662) 487-1946
25. Twin Oaks WMA	Sharkey	(601) 661-0294

26. Upper Sardis WMA	Lafayette	(662) 487-1946
27. Ward Bayou WMA	Jackson	(601) 947-6376

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Managed Areas**

28. Arkabutla Lake	Desoto	(662) 562-6261
29. Bay Springs Lake	Tishomingo	(662) 423-1287
30. Columbus Lake	Lowndes	(662) 327-2142
31. Enid Lake	Yalobusha	(662) 563-4571
32. Grenada Lake	Grenada	(662) 226-5911
33. Ross Barnett Reservoir	Rankin	(601) 856-6574
34. Sardis Lake	Panola	(662) 563-4531
35. Tenn-Tom Waterway	NE Miss.	(662) 327-2142

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges**

36. Bogue Chitto NWR	Pearl River	(985) 882-2000
37. Coldwater River NWR	Quitman	(662) 226-8286
38. Dahomey NWR	Bolivar	(662) 742-9331
39. Hillside NWR	Holmes	(662) 235-4989
40. Mathews Brake NWR	Leflore	(662) 235-4989
41. Morgan Brake NWR	Holmes	(662) 235-4989
42. Noxubee NWR	Noxubee	(662) 323-5548
43. Panther Swamp NWR	Yazoo	(662) 836-3005
44. St. Catherine Creek NWR	Adams	(601) 442-6696
45. Tallahatchie NWR	Tallahatchie	(662) 226-8286

### **HUNTING STATE LINE WATERS**

Mississippi has reciprocal license agreements with the states of Arkansas and Louisiana. It is the hunter's responsibility to know the state-line boundaries, as well as season dates and regulations for the state being hunted. These reciprocal agreements are found at the links below:

Mississippi/Arkansas Reciprocal License Agreement:

[http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4056/ar\\_reciprocal\\_license\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4056/ar_reciprocal_license_agreement.pdf)

Mississippi/Louisiana Reciprocal License Agreement:

[http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4070/la\\_reciprocal\\_license\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4070/la_reciprocal_license_agreement.pdf)

### **MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC WATERS**

Not all bodies of water in Mississippi are public. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is the state agency that makes the determination of public waterways in Mississippi. MDEQ can be contacted at (601) 961-5171 or [www.deq.state.ms.us](http://www.deq.state.ms.us) for a list of public waterways. Hunting may be allowed on public water if access is allowed without trespass and if not restricted by local, county, or city ordinances. Caution must be used while hunting public waterways during high water events to prevent trespassing. Floodwater which has overflowed the natural banks of a public waterway is not a part of the public waterway. It can be difficult to determine the dividing line between floodwater and a public waterway. A general rule

of thumb is to check gauge readings to know the current water level of the waterway and how that level relates to its flood stage.

### **REPORTING BIRD BANDS**

To report bird bands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov). You will receive information about the bird, and the band is yours to keep. The reporting site will ask for the band number and how, when, and where it was encountered. Information collected from the bands is very important, as it will be used help inform harvest rates and migration patterns.

### **NON-TOXIC SHOT**

Non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl and coot hunting in all areas of Mississippi. Hunters **MAY NOT** have lead shot in their possession while waterfowl and coot hunting.

### **SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to taking, possessing, shipping, transporting, and storing migratory game birds. **The following material is only a summary.** Each hunter should also consult the federal regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20 and any other related federal regulations. More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges and Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas that are open to public hunting.

#### **Illegal Hunting Methods:**

No person shall hunt migratory game birds:

- ➔ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- ➔ From a sink box or any other low floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water.
- ➔ From a motorboat or sailboat, unless you shut the motor off or furl the sail and the vessel is no longer in motion.
- ➔ Using live birds as decoys.
- ➔ Using recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or imitations of these calls and sounds. Exception: Light Goose Conservation Order.
- ➔ With a shotgun that can hold more than three shells, unless the gun is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun so that the total capacity does not exceed three shells. Exception: Light Goose Conservation Order.

- ➔ From or with the aid or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt migratory game birds from any stationary motor vehicle or 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 or injury to the spinal cord.
- ➔ By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in range of the hunter.
- ➔ With the aid of bait (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over a baited area. Hunters should be aware a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of the bait. Changes in the federal baiting regulations eliminated the strict liability standard for baiting offenses. It is unlawful for anyone to hunt with the aid of bait “if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited.” Hunters should thoroughly inspect the field or marsh, question landowners and guides, and take other reasonable steps to verify the legality of their hunt.

**CLOSED SEASON:** No person shall take migratory game birds during a closed season.

**DAILY BAG LIMIT:** No person shall take more than one daily bag limit in any one day. This limit determines the number of migratory game birds a person may legally have in their possession while in the field or while in route back to their car, camp, home, or other destination.

**POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS:** Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

**WANTON WASTE:** Hunters must make a reasonable effort to retrieve all migratory game birds they kill or cripple and keep those birds in their custody while in the field.

**FIELD POSSESSION:** Birds must remain in your possession while in the field. No person shall give birds to another person in the field regardless of whether or not they are properly tagged.

**TAGGING:** No person shall give, put, or leave any migratory game bird at any place other than his/her personal abode or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

Hunter's Name: _____ Date: _____ Hunter's Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone Number: _____ Number of Birds by Species: _____ _____ Date of Harvest: _____ County: _____ Signature: _____
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No person or business shall receive or take into custody any migratory game bird belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged. To receive free Migratory Game Bird Tags, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to MDWFP, ATTN.: Migratory Game Bird Tags, 1505 Eastover Dr., Jackson, Mississippi 39211-6374.

**FIELD DRESSING:** No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and bandtail pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

**SHIPMENT:** No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

**WATERFOWL STAMPS:** All hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase state and federal waterfowl stamps to hunt waterfowl in Mississippi. The federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (federal duck stamp) must be signed in ink across the face. The state stamp may be in electronic form (paper confirmation), or the actual stamp. The state stamp must be signed in ink across the face to become valid. Both stamps and a valid Mississippi hunting license must be on your person while hunting. Waterfowl hunters who are exempt from purchasing a hunting license (and lifetime license holders) must still possess both state and federal waterfowl stamps.

**MIGRATORY BIRD HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP):** Each person hunting migratory game birds in Mississippi is required to register in the Mississippi HIP program and carry proof of registration. Any hunter may be HIP certified by any hunting/fishing license vendor free of charge. If a hunter is HIP certified, "MB" will be printed on their credit card style Sportsman's License, or "HIP" will be printed on their paper license receipt.

**DUAL VIOLATION:** Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

**For additional information on federal regulations contact:**

Senior Resident Agent  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
6578 Dogwood View Pkwy, Suite C  
Jackson, Mississippi 39213  
(601) 965-4469

MDWFP Law Enforcement  
1505 Eastover Drive,  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211-6374  
(601) 432-2400  
[www.mdwfp.com/law-enforcement.aspx](http://www.mdwfp.com/law-enforcement.aspx)

<b>IMPORTANT</b>
The rules and regulations in this publication have been approved by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. They are not intended to be a full and complete statement of the laws relating to migratory bird hunting. For further regulations and restrictions, see the Mississippi Code, or contact the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.



## **SUNRISE AND SUNSET**

Times for sunrise and sunset will vary slightly throughout the state on any given date, and each location's sunrise and sunset will also vary throughout the year. Please visit the link below for sunrise/sunset tables for specific hunting locations. Sunrise/sunset information can also be found for your current location by using various apps for your mobile device (MDWFP app, weather apps, etc.) or on some GPS devices.

Exact sunrise and sunset times for specific locations can be found online at the following links:

<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/grad/solcalc/>

[http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS\\_OneYear.php](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php)

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