



# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

## BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

2001 ELMERTON AVENUE HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797 | (717) 787-5529

## 2024-25 Pennsylvania Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Each year the US Fish and Wildlife Service along with the states in the Atlantic Flyway meet to establish federal frameworks for migratory game bird seasons. These frameworks form the side boards that each state must set their season within. States can be more restrictive (less days or lower bag limits) but cannot be more liberal (more days or higher bag limits) than the federal frameworks allow.

Generally speaking, frameworks do not vary widely from year to year, but changes in habitat conditions or populations of migratory game birds may cause them to change. For 2024-25 seasons, there is one change to the frameworks. The Atlantic Population Canada goose season has been reduced from 45 to 30 days (the daily bag limit remains 3).

The following pages document the federal frameworks and the proposed seasons developed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Management staff. If you have questions or are interested in commenting on proposed seasons you have a few options listed below. **Please provide the species, zone (if applicable) and County/Counties you are specifically commenting on. Note, the comment period closes March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

- Questions or comments can be submitted to [waterfowlcomments@pa.gov](mailto:waterfowlcomments@pa.gov) or a letter can be mailed to Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Wildlife Management, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.
- An online Q&A session will be held on the proposed seasons on **March 7<sup>th</sup> at 1PM on the Pennsylvania Game Commission Facebook Page**. A recording will be available afterward.
- **A Waterfowl Open House will take place at the Pennsylvania Game Commission Northwest Regional Office, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323, on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-2PM.** Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with Game Commission Staff and see proposed seasons presented.



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### Duck Seasons

#### Proposed Duck Seasons

| Zone           | Proposed Season Dates                  | Bag Limits                     |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Lake Erie Zone | Nov. 4 – Jan. 11                       | Maximum allowed by Frameworks* |
| Northwest Zone | Oct. 12 – Nov. 29<br>Dec. 23 – Jan. 11 | Maximum allowed by Frameworks* |
| North Zone     | Oct. 12 – Oct. 26<br>Nov. 19 – Jan. 11 | Maximum allowed by Frameworks* |
| South Zone     | Oct. 12 – Oct. 19<br>Nov. 19 – Jan. 18 | Maximum allowed by Frameworks* |

\*Scaup bag limit shall be 2 for the last 20 days of the season in each zone except in the Lake Erie Zone where it shall be 2 for the first 20 days, the bag shall be 1 during the remainder of the season in each zone.

#### Frameworks for **Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots**

- Dates: September 21 – January 31
- 60-day season with 1 split (2 season segments) per zone
- Daily bag limit
  - Ducks: 6, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 hens), 2 scaup for 20 days and 1 scaup for 40 days, 2 black ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider).
  - Mergansers: 5
  - Coots: 15

#### Proposed Youth and Veterans and Active-Duty Military Days

- Statewide Youth Day
  - September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Youth, Veterans and Active-Duty Military Day
  - Lake Erie Zone
    - October 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Northwest Zone
  - September 28<sup>th</sup> North Zone
    - November 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - South Zone
    - November 9<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans and Active-Duty Military Day
  - Lake Erie, Northwest, and North Zones
    - January 18<sup>th</sup>
  - South Zone
    - January 25<sup>th</sup>



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### Goose Seasons

#### Proposed Early Canada Goose Seasons

| Zone       | Proposed Season  | Proposed Bag Limits |
|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Statewide* | Sep. 2 – Sep. 25 | 8/Day               |

\*Exceptions Listed Below:

- In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of I-79, west of I-79 to SR 358, north of SR 358 to the Ohio state line: the season dates are Sept. 2 – Sept. 14. The daily limit is 1 Canada goose with a possession limit of 3 geese. The season is closed on State Game Lands 214.
- In the area of Lancaster and Lebanon counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to Lebanon-Berks county line, west of Lebanon-Berks county line and the Lancaster-Berks county line to SR 1053 (also known as Peartown Road and Greenville Road), west of SR 1053 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76: daily bag limit of 1 Canada goose, possession limit 3; **except** on State Game Lands No. 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) where the season is closed.

#### Frameworks for **Early Canada Goose Seasons** (Statewide)

- Dates: September 2 – September 25
- Daily bag limit: 15 geese
- Hunting allowed ½ hour after sunset
- Frameworks allow the use of unplugged shotguns; however, this is prohibited by state statute.

#### Proposed Regular Canada Goose Seasons

| Zone                 | Proposed  | Proposed Bag Limit |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Atlantic Population  | Nov. 23 – Nov. 29<br>Dec. 23 – Jan. 18                      | 3/Day              |
| Resident Population* | Oct. 26 – Nov. 29<br>Dec. 16 – Jan. 18<br>Jan. 31 – Feb. 22 | 5/Day              |

\*Exceptions Listed Below:

- In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of I-79, west of I-79 to SR 358, north of SR 358 to the Ohio state line: the daily limit is 3 Canada geese with a possession limit of 9 geese.

#### Frameworks for **Regular Goose Seasons**

- Atlantic Population
  - Dates: October 26 – February 5
  - 30-day season with 1 split (2 season segments)
  - Daily bag limit: 3 geese
- Resident Population
  - Dates: October 26 – March 10
  - 80-day season with 2 splits (3 season segments)
  - Daily bag limit: 5 geese



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### Proposed Light Goose Seasons

| Zone                | Season             | Proposed           | Proposed Bag Limit |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Atlantic Population | Regular Season     | Oct. 1 – Jan. 25   | 25/Day             |
|                     | Conservation Order | Jan. 27 – April 25 | 25/Day             |
| Resident Population | Regular Season     | Oct. 22 – Feb. 22  | 25/Day             |
|                     | Conservation Order | Feb. 24 – April 25 | 25/Day             |

#### Frameworks for **Light Goose Seasons (Snow Geese, Blue Geese, and Ross's Geese)**

- Dates: October 1 – March 10
- 107-day season with 2 splits (3 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 25 geese

#### Frameworks for **Light Goose Conservation Order (Snow Geese, Blue Geese, and Ross's Geese)**

- May be open only when all other waterfowl seasons are closed
- Daily bag limit: Unlimited
- Electronic calls may be used
- Hunting allowed ½ hour after sunset
- Frameworks allow the use of unplugged shotguns; however, this is prohibited by state statute.

### Proposed Brant Seasons

| Zone      | Proposed Season   | Proposed Bag Limits |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Statewide | Oct. 12 – Nov. 15 | 1/Day               |

#### Frameworks for **Brant**

- Dates: September 21 – January 31
- 30-day season with 1 split (2 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 1 brant

## Webless Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Proposed Gallinule Seasons

| Zone      | Proposed Season  | Proposed Bag Limits |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
| Statewide | Sep. 2 – Nov. 21 | 3/Day               |

#### Frameworks for **Gallinules**

- Dates: September 2 – January 31
- 70-day season
- Daily bag limit: 15 gallinules



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### Proposed Virginia and Sora Rail Seasons

| Zone      | Proposed Season  | Proposed Bag Limits |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
| Statewide | Sep. 2 – Nov. 21 | 3/Day               |

### Frameworks for Virginia and Sora Rails

- Dates: September 2 – January 31
- 70-day season with 1 split (2 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 25 rails
- King and clapper rails are closed to harvest

### Proposed Snipe Seasons

| Zone      | Proposed Season                        | Proposed Bag Limits |
|-----------|--|---------------------|
| Statewide | Oct. 19 – Nov. 29<br>Dec. 16 – Dec. 24 | 8/Day               |

### Frameworks for Snipe

- Dates: September 2 – February 28
- 107-day season with 1 split (2 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 8 snipe

### Proposed American Woodcock Seasons

| Zone      | Proposed Season                        | Proposed Bag Limits |
|-----------|--|---------------------|
| Statewide | Oct. 19 – Nov. 29<br>Dec. 16 – Dec. 24 | 3/Day               |

### Frameworks for Woodcock

- Dates: September 13 – January 31
- 45-day season with 1 split (2 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 3 woodcock

### Proposed Mourning Dove Seasons

| Zone      | Proposed Season                      | Proposed Bag Limits |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Statewide | Sep. 2 – Nov. 29<br>Dec. 21 – Jan. 4 | 15/Day              |

### Frameworks for Mourning Doves

- Dates: September 2 – January 31
- 90-day season with 2 splits (3 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 15 doves