

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:

6230

6234

WATERFOWL, MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS, AND REFUGES

6240

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Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to waterfowl and migratory game bird hunting, and hunting in refuges.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: Taking Game Birds; Game**
1.3 **Refuges and Controlled Hunting Zones**

1.4 **6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.**

1.5 [For text of subp 1, see M.R.]

1.6 Subp. 2. **Bemidji Game Refuge, Beltrami County.** The Bemidji Game Refuge
1.7 in Beltrami County is open to:

1.8 [For text of item A, see 40 SR 105]

1.9 B. ~~Canada~~ goose hunting ~~during the early goose season~~ September 3 to 18,
1.10 except on Lake Bemidji, the Mississippi River, and Stump Lake;

1.11 [For text of items C and D, see M.R.]

1.12 [For text of subps 3 and 4, see M.R.]

1.13 Subp. 5. **Clay County Game Refuge, Clay County.** The Clay County Game
1.14 Refuge in Clay County is open to:

1.15 [For text of item A, see 40 SR 105]

1.16 [For text of items B and C, see M.R.]

1.17 D. ~~Canada~~ goose hunting ~~during the early goose season~~ September 3 to 18.

1.18 [For text of subps 6 to 8, see M.R.]

1.19 Subp. 9. **Elizabeth and German Lake Game Refuges, Isanti County.** The
1.20 Elizabeth and German Lake Game Refuges in Isanti County are open to all hunting and
1.21 trapping, except waterfowl. The refuges are open for goose hunting ~~during the early~~
1.22 ~~goose season~~ September 3 to 18. Youth who are accompanied by a nonhunting adult and
1.23 participating in a mentoring program approved by the commissioner may hunt waterfowl
1.24 on youth waterfowl day.

2.1 [For text of items A to D, see M.R.]

2.2 [For text of subp 10, see M.R.]

2.3 Subp. 11. **Evansville Game Refuge, Douglas County.** The Evansville Game
2.4 Refuge in Douglas County is open to:

2.5 [For text of item A, see M.R.]

2.6 B. ~~Canada goose hunting during the early goose season~~ September 3 to 18; and

2.7 [For text of item C, see M.R.]

2.8 [For text of subp 12, see 40 SR 105]

2.9 Subp. 13. **Fox Lake Game Refuge, Martin County.** The Fox Lake Game Refuge in
2.10 Martin County is open to:

2.11 [For text of items A and B, see M.R.]

2.12 C. ~~special goose hunts~~ hunting September 3 to 18;

2.13 [For text of items D and E, see M.R.]

2.14 [For text of subps 14 to 32, see M.R.]

2.15 Subp. 33. **Ocheda Lake Game Refuge, Nobles County.** The Ocheda Lake Game
2.16 Refuge in Nobles County is open to:

2.17 [For text of items A to C, see M.R.]

2.18 D. ~~Canada goose hunting during the early season~~ September 3 to 18 and from
2.19 the first Saturday in December through the end of the statewide goose season, except that
2.20 hunting is prohibited within 100 yards of surface water during the early goose season; and

2.21 [For text of item E, see M.R.]

2.22 [For text of subps 34 to 38, see M.R.]

3.1 Subp. 39. **Rochester Refuge, Olmsted County.** The Rochester Refuge in Olmsted
3.2 County is open to:

3.3 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl other than geese. Geese may be taken
3.4 ~~during the early goose season~~ only September 3 to 18;

3.5 [For text of items B to D, see M.R.]

3.6 [For text of subp 40, see M.R.]

3.7 Subp. 41. **St. James Game Refuge, Watonwan County.** The St. James Game
3.8 Refuge in Watonwan County is open to:

3.9 [For text of item A, see M.R.]

3.10 B. ~~special goose hunts~~ hunting September 3 to 18.

3.11 [For text of subp 42, see M.R.]

3.12 Subp. 43. **Schoolcraft Game Refuge, Hubbard County.** The Schoolcraft Game
3.13 Refuge in Hubbard County is open to:

3.14 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest
3.15 November 4 and after the close of the 100 Series firearms deer season;

3.16 [For text of items B and C, see M.R.]

3.17 [For text of subps 44 to 48, see M.R.]

3.18 [For text of subp 49, see 40 SR 105]

3.19 [For text of subps 50 to 53, see M.R.]

3.20 Subp. 54. [See repealer.]

3.21 [For text of subp 55, see 40 SR 105]

3.22 [For text of subps 56 to 60, see M.R.]

3.23 [For text of subps 61 and 62, see 40 SR 105]

4.1 [For text of subp 63, see 40 SR 1019]

4.2 **6230.0600 DESCRIPTIONS OF CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES.**

4.3 [For text of subps 1 and 2, see M.R.]

4.4 **Subp. 3. Lac qui Parle zones, Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties.**

4.5 A. On the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area in Chippewa and Lac qui
4.6 Parle Counties, the controlled hunting zone includes the following:

4.7 The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 SW 1/4) and the Southeast
4.8 Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section 32, Township 119
4.9 North, Range 42 West, and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4
4.10 NE 1/4) and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4) of Section 5,
4.11 Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Lac qui Parle County.

4.12 And also the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4), the East Half of the
4.13 Southwest Quarter (E 1/2 SW 1/4) and the West Half of the West Half of the Southeast
4.14 Quarter (W 1/2 W 1/2 SE 1/4) of Section 12, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, ~~the~~
4.15 ~~Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4), the Northeast Quarter~~
4.16 ~~(NE 1/4) except that part lying northeasterly of State Highway 7, the East Half of the~~
4.17 ~~Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 SE 1/4), and those parts of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4)~~
4.18 ~~owned by the state and posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled Hunting~~
4.19 ~~Zone," all in Section 1, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa County.~~

4.20 ~~And also all state owned land posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled~~
4.21 ~~Hunting Zone" located between U.S. Highways 7 and 59 and County State-Aid~~
4.22 ~~Highways 32 and 33, Chippewa County, in Sections 6 and 7, Township 118 North,~~
4.23 ~~Range 41 West, and Section 36, Township 119 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa~~
4.24 ~~County.~~

4.25 [For text of items B and C, see M.R.]

4.26 [For text of subps 4 to 8, see M.R.]

4.27 **6230.0700 LAC QUI PARLE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**

4.28 [For text of subp 1, see M.R.]

4.29 **Subp. 2. Hunting stations.**

4.30 [For text of item A, see M.R.]

5.1 B. From the third Thursday in October through November 30, waterfowl
 5.2 and small game hunters ~~may reserve~~ must use designated hunting stations ~~according~~
 5.3 ~~to regulations available at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area headquarters.~~
 5.4 ~~Reservation dates may not be changed.~~ as available on a first-come, first-served basis.

5.5 [For text of item C, see M.R.]

5.6 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

5.7 [For text of subps 4 and 5, see M.R.]

5.8 Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

5.9 [For text of subps 7 to 9, see M.R.]

5.10 **6234.0800 HUNTING BY FALCONRY.**

5.11 [For text of subps 1 to 3, see M.R.]

5.12 Subp. 4. **Open season and hours for migratory game birds.** Woodcock, sora
 5.13 and Virginia rails, mourning dove, and common snipe may be taken by falconry from
 5.14 September 1 to December 16. Ducks, coots, and moorhens (Gallinules) may be taken by
 5.15 falconry ~~from the Saturday nearest October 1 to the Saturday nearest January 14~~ during
 5.16 the open seasons as prescribed in part 6240.0640, subpart 1, and statewide from December
 5.17 12 to January 26, 2017. Geese may be taken by falconry during any open goose season.
 5.18 Crows may be taken by falconry during the open season. Falconry hours are from one-half
 5.19 hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the regular waterfowl season when falconry
 5.20 hours are the same as waterfowl shooting hours.

5.21 **6240.0200 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS FOR TAKING AND POSSESSION OF**
 5.22 **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.**

5.23 Subpart 1. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours for migratory waterfowl, coots,
 5.24 gallinules, rails, and snipe are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except as follows:

5.25 A. ~~on the opening day of the duck season, shooting hours begin at 9:00 a.m.; and~~

6.1 B- from the opening day of the duck season to ~~the Saturday nearest~~ October 8⁷,
 6.2 shooting hours end at 4:00 p.m.

6.3 Subp. 2. **Possession limits.** The possession limit is ~~twice~~ three times the daily limit,
 6.4 except for rails where the daily and possession limits are the same. All restrictions specific
 6.5 to a species or gender apply.

6.6 [For text of subp 3, see M.R.]

6.7 Subp. 4. [See repealer.]

6.8 [For text of subps 5 and 6, see M.R.]

6.9 Subp. 7 Taking in open water. A person may take migratory waterfowl, coots,
 6.10 gallinules, rails, and snipe in open water on the following waters of Minnesota with the
 6.11 restrictions given:

6.12 A. Mississippi River from the U.S. Highway 61 bridge at Hastings to the Iowa
 6.13 border and lying between the main railroad track and the Minnesota-Wisconsin border:
 6.14 hunting is allowed not more than 100 feet from any shoreline, including islands, from
 6.15 boats that must be at anchor;

6.16 B. Lake Pepin, Lake of the Woods, and Lake Mille Lacs: hunting is allowed
 6.17 from boats that must be at anchor; and

6.18 C. Lake Superior north and east of Minnesota/Park Point peninsula: hunting is
 6.19 allowed from boats that must be at anchor.

6.20 **6240.0250 TAKING MOURNING DOVES.**

6.21 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Mourning doves may be taken during the ~~60-day~~ 90-day
 6.22 period beginning September 1.

6.23 [For text of subp 2, see M.R.]

7.1 **6240.0610 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY.**

7.2 Subpart 1. **Dates, eligibility, and license requirements.** Ducks, mergansers, coots,
7.3 moorhens, and Canada geese may be taken statewide on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day,
7.4 Saturday, September 10, by resident and nonresident hunters 15 years of age or younger.
7.5 An adult resident or nonresident mentor 18 years of age or older, who is authorized by
7.6 the youth's parent or guardian, must accompany the youth hunter at all times during the
7.7 hunt. The accompanying adult may not hunt. No hunting license or waterfowl stamps are
7.8 required.

7.9 [For text of subps 2 and 3, see M.R.]

7.10 **6240.0630 SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING.**

7.11 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Sandhill cranes may be taken from September 10 through
7.12 October 16.

7.13 Subp. 2. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours for sandhill crane are one-half hour before
7.14 sunrise to sunset, except beginning on the opening day of duck season, shooting hours are
7.15 the same as the duck season as described in part 6240.0200, subpart 1.

7.16 Subp. 3. **Open area; methods.**

7.17 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only in the Northwest Goose Zone as described
7.18 in part 6240.0860.

7.19 B. Taking sandhill cranes September 3 to 18 is prohibited on or within 100
7.20 yards of all surface waters.

7.21 C. Sandhill cranes may be taken by bow and arrow or shotgun with nontoxic
7.22 shot approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A person may not take
7.23 sandhill cranes with a rifle or handgun.

7.24 Subp. 4. **License and permit requirements.**

8.1 A. Sandhill crane may only be taken under:

8.2 (1) a valid permit issued by the commissioner for a fee of \$3; and

8.3 (2) a small game license, unless exempted.

8.4 B. A hunter must have the permit in possession when taking or possessing
8.5 sandhill cranes.

8.6 C. Hunters must not have had small or big game hunting privileges revoked
8.7 within one year of purchasing a sandhill crane permit.

8.8 Subp. 5. **Bag limits.** A person may not take more than one sandhill crane per day or
8.9 have more than three sandhill cranes in possession.

8.10 Subp. 6. **Penalties.** Violation of this part or the conditions of any permit issued
8.11 under this part results in revocation of the permit and any other penalty provided by
8.12 state or federal law.

8.13 Subp. 7. **Game refuges and waterfowl refuges.** All state refuges closed to
8.14 migratory waterfowl hunting are closed to taking sandhill crane under this part. All
8.15 waterfowl refuges closed by posting to taking ducks or geese during any portion of the fall
8.16 waterfowl seasons are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part.

8.17 **6240.0640 TAKING COOTS, MOORHENS, AND DUCKS.**

8.18 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Coots, moorhens, and ducks may be taken as follows:

8.19 A. in the North Waterfowl Zone, as described in subpart 3, during the 60-day
8.20 period from September 24 to November 22;

8.21 B. in the Central Waterfowl Zone, as described in subpart 3, during the 60-day
8.22 period that includes September 24 to October 2 and October 8 to November 27; and

8.23 C. in the remainder of the state during the 60-day period that includes
8.24 September 24 to October 2 and October 15 to December 4.

9.1 Subp. 2. **Daily limits.** In any one day, a person may not take more than six ducks,
9.2 five mergansers, and a total of 15 coots and moorhens. The daily limit of ducks, other than
9.3 mergansers, may not include more than four mallards including two female mallards; two
9.4 pintail; two redheads; three scaup; three wood ducks; one black duck; and two canvasback.
9.5 The daily limit of mergansers may not include more than two hooded mergansers.

9.6 Subp. 3. **Waterfowl zones.** Zones for ducks and geese are designated and described
9.7 as follows:

9.8 A. the North Waterfowl Zone is that portion of the state north of a line beginning
9.9 on Minnesota Highway 210 at the west boundary of that state; thence along Minnesota
9.10 Highway 210 to Minnesota Highway 23; thence along Minnesota Highway 23 to Minnesota
9.11 Highway 39; thence along Minnesota Highway 39 to the eastern border of the state;

9.12 B. the South Waterfowl Zone is that portion of the state south of a line extending
9.13 east from the South Dakota state line along U.S. Highway 212 to Interstate 494 and east
9.14 to Interstate 94 and east to the Wisconsin state line; and

9.15 C. the Central Waterfowl Zone is that portion of the state that is not included
9.16 in the North or South Waterfowl Zones.

9.17 **6240.0950 TAKING GEESE.**

9.18 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Geese may be taken as follows:

9.19 A. in the North Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0640, subpart 3,
9.20 during the period from September 24 to December 23;

9.21 B. in the Central Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0640, subpart 3,
9.22 during the period that includes September 24 to October 2 and October 8 to December 28;

9.23 C. in the South Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0640, subpart 3, during
9.24 the period that includes September 24 to October 2 and October 15 to January 4, 2017; and

9.25 D. statewide during the period that includes September 3 to 18.

10.1 Subp. 2. **Daily limit.** From September 3 to 18, the bag limit for dark geese is five
 10.2 combined and the bag limit for light geese is 20 combined. After September 18, a person
 10.3 may not take more than three dark geese or 20 light geese statewide. Dark geese include
 10.4 Canada, brant, and white-fronted geese. Light geese are snow, blue, and Ross's geese.

10.5 **6240.1850 REFUGES OPEN TO TAKING GEESE.**

10.6 [For text of subp 1, see M.R.]

10.7 **Subp. 2. Game refuges.**

10.8 ~~A. The following refuges are Saint James Game Refuge in Watonwan County is~~
 10.9 ~~open to goose hunting during the first two days of the regular goose season: Fox Lake~~
 10.10 ~~Game Refuge in Martin County and the Saint James Game Refuge in Watonwan County.~~

10.11 ~~B. The Fox Lake Game Refuge is open to goose hunting for the last seven~~
 10.12 ~~days of the statewide goose season. There is no goose hunting within 100 yards of Fox~~
 10.13 ~~and Temperence Lakes.~~

10.14 [For text of subp 3, see M.R.]

10.15 **6240.2000 MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREA**
 10.16 **RESTRICTIONS.**

10.17 [For text of subps 1 to 3, see M.R.]

10.18 **Subp. 4. Use of electric motors.** On the lakes listed in items A to J M, a person
 10.19 may use an electric motor with battery power of 12 volts or less within the designated
 10.20 migratory waterfowl feeding and resting area during the open waterfowl season:

10.21 [For text of items A to E, see M.R.]

10.22 F. Kandiyohi County: ~~Wagona~~ Wakanda Lake, Lake Lillian;

10.23 [For text of items G and H, see M.R.]

10.24 I. Pope County: Nelson Lake; and

- 11.1 J. Traverse County: Mud Lake;
- 11.2 K. Le Sueur County: Diamond Lake;
- 11.3 L. Le Sueur County: Dora Lake; and
- 11.4 M. Le Sueur County: Sanborn Lake.

11.5 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0400, subpart 54; 6230.0700, subparts 3
11.6 and 6; 6240.0200, subpart 4; 6240.1150, subpart 2; 6240.1200, subparts 3, 4, and 5;
11.7 and 6240.1800, subpart 1, are repealed.

11.8 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts
11.9 6230.0400, 6230.0600, 6230.0700, 6234.0800, 6240.0200, 6240.0250, 6240.0610,
11.10 6240.1850, and 6240.2000, and the repealer expire January 31, 2017. After the emergency
11.11 amendments expire, the permanent rules as they read prior to those amendments again
11.12 take effect, except as they may be amended by permanent rule. Minnesota Rules, parts
11.13 6240.0630, 6240.0640, and 6240.0950, expire January 31, 2017.