

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 6230

6234

**2020 HUNTING FOR WATERFOWL AND SANDHILL CRANE;
GAME REFUGES; LAC QUI PARLE WMA; AND FEEDING
AND RESTING AREAS 6240**

PUBLISHED 06-15-2020

EFFECTIVE 06-15-2020

EXPIRES 01-30-2021

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to the 2020 waterfowl hunting seasons, sandhill crane hunting season, game refuges, Lac qui Parle WMA, and feeding and resting areas.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2020 Hunting for Waterfowl**
1.3 **and Sandhill Crane; Game Refuges; Lac qui Parle WMA; and Feeding and Resting**
1.4 **Areas**

1.5 **6230.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

1.6 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.7 Subp. 1a. **Early goose season.** "Early goose season" has the meaning given in part
1.8 6240.0100, subpart 1a.

1.9 *[For text of subparts 2 and 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.10 **6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.**

1.11 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

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

1.14 *[For text of item A, see State Register, volume 44, page 107]*

1.15 B. ~~Canada~~ goose hunting during the early goose season, except on Lake Bemidji,
1.16 the Mississippi River, and Stump Lake;

1.17 *[For text of items C and D, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.18 *[For text of subparts 3 and 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.19 **Subp. 5. Clay County Game Refuge, Clay County.** The Clay County Game Refuge
1.20 in Clay County is open to:

1.21 *[For text of item A, see State Register, volume 44, page 107]*

1.22 *[For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.23 D. ~~Canada~~ goose hunting during the early goose season.

2.1 [For text of subpart 6, see Minnesota Rules]

2.2 [For text of subpart 7, see State Register, volume 44, page 900]

2.3 [For text of subparts 8 to 10, see Minnesota Rules]

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

2.6 A. trapping;

2.7 B. ~~Canada~~ goose hunting during the early goose season; and

2.8 C. deer and bear hunting by firearms.

2.9 [For text of subpart 12, see State Register, volume 44, page 107]

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

2.12 [For text of items A and B, see Minnesota Rules]

2.13 C. ~~special goose hunts~~ goose hunting during the early goose season;

2.14 [For text of items D and E, see Minnesota Rules]

2.15 [For text of subparts 14 to 32, see Minnesota Rules]

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

2.18 [For text of items A to C, see Minnesota Rules]

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

2.22 [For text of item E, see Minnesota Rules]

3.1 [For text of subparts 34 to 40, see Minnesota Rules]

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

3.4 A. trapping; and

3.5 B. ~~special goose hunts~~ goose hunting during the early goose season.

3.6 [For text of subpart 42, see Minnesota Rules]

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

3.9 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest November
3.10 4 and after the close of the 100 series firearms deer season;

3.11 [For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]

3.12 [For text of subparts 44 to 48, see Minnesota Rules]

3.13 [For text of subpart 49, see State Register, volume 44, page 107]

3.14 [For text of subparts 50 to 53, see Minnesota Rules]

3.15 Subp. 54. [See repealer.]

3.16 [For text of subpart 55, see State Register, volume 44, page 107]

3.17 [For text of subparts 56 to 60, see Minnesota Rules]

3.18 [For text of subparts 61 to 63, see State Register, volume 44, page 107]

3.19 [For text of subpart 64, see State Register, volume 44, page 900]

3.20 Subp. 65. **Butterball Game Refuge, St. Louis County.** The Butterball Game Refuge
3.21 in St. Louis County is open November 25 through May 15 for trapping of any species for
3.22 which there is an open season.

4.1 Subp. 66. Little Rice Game Refuge, St. Louis County. The Little Rice Game Refuge
 4.2 in St. Louis County is open November 25 through May 15 for trapping of any species for
 4.3 which there is an open season.

4.4 **6230.0600 DESCRIPTIONS OF CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES.**

4.5 [For text of subparts 1 and 2, see Minnesota Rules]

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

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

4.9 The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 SW 1/4) and the Southeast
 4.10 Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section 32, Township 119 North,
 4.11 Range 42 West, and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4 NE 1/4)
 4.12 and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4) of Section 5, Township
 4.13 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Lac qui Parle County.

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

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

4.26 [For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]

4.27 [For text of subparts 4 to 8, see Minnesota Rules]

4.28 **6230.0700 LAC QUI PARLE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**

4.29 [For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]

5.1 Subp. 2. **Hunting stations.**

5.2 *[For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]*

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

5.7 *[For text of item C, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.8 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

5.9 *[For text of subparts 4 and 5, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.10 Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

5.11 *[For text of subparts 7 to 9, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.12 **6234.0800 HUNTING BY FALCONRY.**

5.13 *[For text of subparts 1 to 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

5.14 Subp. 4. **Open season and hours for migratory game birds.** Woodcock, sora and
5.15 Virginia rails, mourning dove, and common snipe may be taken by falconry from September
5.16 1 to December 16. Ducks, coots, and moorhens (Gallinules) may be taken by falconry ~~from~~
5.17 ~~the Saturday nearest October 1 to the Saturday nearest January 14~~ during the open seasons
5.18 prescribed in part 6240.0640, subpart 1, and statewide December 12 through January 25,
5.19 2021. Geese may be taken by falconry during any open goose season. Crows may be taken
5.20 by falconry during the open season. Falconry hours are from one-half hour before sunrise
5.21 to sunset, except during the regular waterfowl season when falconry hours are the same as
5.22 waterfowl shooting hours.

5.23 **6240.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

5.24 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.1 Subp. 1a. **Early goose season.** "Early goose season" means goose seasons ~~beginning~~
6.2 ~~before September 16~~ open September 5 through September 20.

6.3 *[For text of subparts 2 to 4, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.4 **6240.0200 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS FOR TAKING AND POSSESSION OF**
6.5 **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.**

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

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

6.9 B. ~~from the opening day of the duck season to the Saturday nearest~~ through October
6.10 8⁹, shooting hours end at 4:00 p.m.

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

6.14 *[For text of subpart 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

6.15 Subp. 4. **Use of motorized watercraft.** A person may use motorized watercraft in
6.16 the waterfowl feeding and resting area established on South Heron Lake during the early
6.17 goose season established in part 6240.1200.

6.18 *[For text of subparts 5 and 6, see Minnesota Rules]*

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

6.22 A. the area of the Mississippi River and backwaters within the boundary beginning
6.23 at the intersection of US Highway (US) 61 and the Minnesota boundary in Dakota County;
6.24 thence along US 61 to US 63; thence along US 61/63 to US 61; thence along US 61 to US

7.1 14; thence along US 61/14 to Interstate 90; thence along Interstate 90/US 61/14 to State
 7.2 Trunk Highway (STH) 16; thence along STH 16 to STH 26; thence along STH 26 to the
 7.3 state's southern boundary; thence along the southern boundary to the eastern boundary;
 7.4 thence along the eastern boundary to the point of the beginning: hunting is allowed not more
 7.5 than 100 feet from any shoreline, including islands, from boats that must be at anchor;

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

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

7.10 **6240.0250 TAKING MOURNING DOVES.**

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

7.13 *[For text of subpart 2, see Minnesota Rules]*

7.14 **6240.0610 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY.**

7.15 Subpart 1. **Dates, eligibility, and license requirements.** Ducks, mergansers, coots,
 7.16 moorhens, and ~~Canada~~ dark or light geese may be taken statewide on Youth Waterfowl
 7.17 Hunting Day Weekend, September 12 and 13, by resident and nonresident hunters ~~15~~ 17
 7.18 years of age or younger. An adult resident or nonresident mentor 18 years of age or older,
 7.19 who is authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, must accompany the youth hunter at
 7.20 all times during the hunt. The accompanying adult may not hunt. No hunting license or state
 7.21 waterfowl stamps are required, except all youth age 16 and older must have a federal
 7.22 migratory bird stamp.

7.23 Subp. 2. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to ~~4:00~~
 7.24 p.m. sunset.

8.1 Subp. 3. **Bag limits.** The daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens
8.2 is as allowed by federal rule. The daily bag limit for geese is five ~~Canada~~ dark geese and
8.3 20 light geese.

8.4 **6240.0630 TAKING SANDHILL CRANES.**

8.5 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Sandhill cranes may be taken from September 19 through
8.6 October 25.

8.7 Subp. 2. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours for sandhill cranes are one-half hour before
8.8 sunrise to sunset, except beginning on the opening day of duck season shooting hours are
8.9 the same as the duck season under part 6240.0200, subpart 1.

8.10 Subp. 3. **Open area; taking restrictions.**

8.11 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only in the Northwest Goose Zone described in
8.12 part 6240.0860, subpart 1.

8.13 B. Taking sandhill cranes is prohibited on or within 100 yards of all surface waters
8.14 during the early goose season.

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

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

8.19 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only under:

8.20 (1) a valid permit to take sandhill cranes issued by the commissioner for a
8.21 fee of \$3; and

8.22 (2) a small-game license, unless exempted.

9.1 B. A hunter must have a permit to take sandhill cranes in possession when taking
9.2 or possessing sandhill cranes.

9.3 C. A hunter must not have had small- or big-game hunting privileges revoked
9.4 within one year of purchasing a permit to take sandhill cranes.

9.5 Subp. 5. **Bag limits.** A person may not take more than two sandhill cranes per day or
9.6 have more than six sandhill cranes in possession.

9.7 Subp. 6. **Penalties.** Violating this part or the conditions of any permit issued under
9.8 this part results in revocation of the permit and any other penalty provided by state or federal
9.9 law.

9.10 Subp. 7. **Game and waterfowl refuges.** All state game refuges closed to
9.11 migratory-waterfowl hunting are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part. All
9.12 waterfowl refuges closed by posting to taking ducks or geese during any portion of the fall
9.13 waterfowl seasons are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part.

9.14 **6240.0640 TAKING COOTS, MOORHENS, DUCKS, AND MERGANSERS.**

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

9.17 A. in the North Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2, during
9.18 the 60-day period from September 26 through November 24;

9.19 B. in the Central Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4, during
9.20 the 60-day period that includes September 26 through October 4 and October 10 through
9.21 November 29; and

9.22 C. in the remainder of the state during the 60-day period that includes September
9.23 26 through October 4 and October 17 through December 6.

10.1 Subp. 2. **Daily limits.** In any one day, a person may not take more than six ducks,
10.2 five mergansers, and a total of 15 coots and moorhens. The daily limit of ducks, other than
10.3 mergansers, may not include more than four mallards, including two female mallards; one
10.4 pintail; two redheads; three wood ducks; two black ducks; and two canvasback. The limit
10.5 of scaup is one per day through October 22 and two per day the remainder of the duck
10.6 season. The daily limit of mergansers may not include more than two hooded mergansers.

10.7 **6240.0950 TAKING GEESE.**

10.8 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Geese may be taken:

10.9 A. statewide during the early goose season, which is a special season for which
10.10 a special-season goose license is required under Minnesota Statutes, section 97B.802;

10.11 B. in the North Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2, September
10.12 26 through December 25;

10.13 C. in the Central Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4,
10.14 September 26 through October 4 and October 10 through December 30; and

10.15 D. in the South Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 3, September
10.16 26 through October 4 and October 17 through January 6, 2021.

10.17 Subp. 2. **Daily limit.** From September 5 through September 20, the bag limit for dark
10.18 geese is five combined and the bag limit for light geese is 20 combined. Beginning September
10.19 26, a person may not take more than three dark geese or 20 light geese during any open
10.20 season. "Dark geese" means Canada, brant, and white-fronted geese. "Light geese" means
10.21 snow, blue, and Ross's geese.

10.22 Subp. 3. **Taking near water.**

10.23 A. Taking geese within the established September dates before the regular
10.24 waterfowl season opener is prohibited on or within 100 yards of all surface waters:

- 11.1 (1) in the Northwest Goose Zone established under part 6240.0860, subpart
- 11.2 1;
- 11.3 (2) in the Swan Lake Goose Zone established under part 6240.0860, subpart
- 11.4 2; and
- 11.5 (3) within the boundaries of the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area.

11.6 B. Taking geese on or within 100 yards of surface waters within the established
 11.7 September dates before the regular waterfowl season opener is allowed for youth hunters
 11.8 participating in youth waterfowl hunting days and on specific bodies of water in closed
 11.9 zones as described or shown on maps provided by the commissioner.

11.10 **6240.1850 REFUGES OPEN TO TAKING GEESE.**

11.11 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

11.12 **Subp. 2. Game refuges.**

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

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

11.20 *[For text of subpart 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

11.21 **6240.2000 MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREA**
 11.22 **RESTRICTIONS.**

11.23 *[For text of subparts 1 to 3, see Minnesota Rules]*

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

12.4 *[For text of items A to E, see Minnesota Rules]*

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

12.6 *[For text of items G and H, see Minnesota Rules]*

12.7 I. Pope County: Nelson Lake; ~~and~~

12.8 J. Traverse County: Mud Lake; and

12.9 K. Le Sueur County: Diamond Lake, Dora Lake, Sanborn Lake.

12.10 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0400, subpart 54; 6230.0700, subparts 3 and
 12.11 6; 6240.1150, subpart 2; 6240.1200, subparts 3, 4, and 5; and 6240.1800, subpart 1, are
 12.12 repealed.

12.13 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts
 12.14 6230.0100, 6230.0400, 6230.0600, 6230.0700, 6234.0800, 6240.0100, 6240.0200, 6240.0250,
 12.15 6240.0610, 6240.1850, and 6240.2000, and the repealer expire January 30, 2021. After the
 12.16 expedited emergency amendments expire, the permanent rules as they read before those
 12.17 amendments again take effect, except as they may be amended by permanent rule. Minnesota
 12.18 Rules, parts 6240.0630, 6240.0640, and 6240.0950, expire January 30, 2021.