

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:	6230
	6234
2021 WATERFOWL AND SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING, GAME REFUGES, LAC QUI PARLE WMA, AND FEEDING AND RESTING AREAS	6240

PUBLISHED 08-02-2021

EFFECTIVE 08-02-2021

EXPIRES 01-30-2022

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to the 2021 waterfowl and sandhill crane hunting, 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: 2021 Waterfowl and Sandhill**
1.3 **Crane Hunting, Game Refuges, Lac qui Parle WMA and Feeding and Resting Areas**

1.4 **6230.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

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

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

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

1.9 **6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.**

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

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

1.13 *[For text of item A, see State Register, volume 45, page 34]*

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

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

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

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

1.20 *[For text of item A, see State Register, volume 45, page 34]*

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

1.22 D. ~~Canada~~ **Canada** goose hunting during the early goose season.

1.23 *[For text of subparts 6 to 10, see Minnesota Rules]*

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

2.3 A. trapping;

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

2.5 C. deer and bear hunting by firearms.

2.6 [For text of subpart 12, see State Register, volume 45, page 34]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.1 A. trapping; and

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

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

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

3.6 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest November
3.7 4 and after the close of the 100 series firearms deer season;

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

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

3.10 [For text of subpart 49, see State Register, volume 45, page 34]

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

3.12 Subp. 54. [See repealer.]

3.13 [For text of subpart 55, see State Register, volume 45, page 34]

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

3.15 [For text of subparts 61 to 63, see State Register, volume 45, page 34]

3.16 **6230.0600 DESCRIPTIONS OF CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES.**

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

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

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

3.21 The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 SW 1/4) and the Southeast
3.22 Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section 32, Township 119 North,
3.23 Range 42 West, and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4 NE 1/4)

4.1 and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4) of Section 5, Township
4.2 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Lac qui Parle County.

4.3 And also the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4), the East Half of the
4.4 Southwest Quarter (E 1/2 SW 1/4) and the West Half of the West Half of the Southeast
4.5 Quarter (W 1/2 W 1/2 SE 1/4) of Section 12, Township 118 North, Range 42 West,
4.6 ~~the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4), the Northeast Quarter~~
4.7 ~~(NE 1/4) except that part lying northeasterly of State Highway 7, the East Half of the~~
4.8 ~~Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 SE 1/4), and those parts of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4)~~
4.9 ~~owned by the state and posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled Hunting~~
4.10 ~~Zone," all in Section 1, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa County.~~

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

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

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

4.17 **6230.0700 LAC QUI PARLE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**

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

4.19 Subp. 2. **Hunting stations.**

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

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

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

4.26 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

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

4.28 Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

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

5.2 **6234.0800 HUNTING BY FALCONRY.**

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

5.4 Subp. 4. **Open season and hours for migratory game birds.** Woodcock, sora and
 5.5 Virginia rails, mourning dove, and common snipe may be taken by falconry from September
 5.6 1 to December 16. Ducks, coots, and moorhens (Gallinules) may be taken by falconry ~~from~~
 5.7 the Saturday nearest October 1 to the Saturday nearest January 14 during the open seasons
 5.8 as prescribed in part 6240.0640, subpart 1, and from December 11, 2021, through January
 5.9 24, 2022. Geese may be taken by falconry during any open goose season. Crows may be
 5.10 taken by falconry during the open season. Falconry hours are from one-half hour before
 5.11 sunrise to sunset, ~~except during the regular waterfowl season when falconry hours are the~~
 5.12 ~~same as waterfowl shooting hours.~~

5.13 **6240.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

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

5.15 Subp. 1a. **Early goose season.** "Early goose season" means goose seasons ~~beginning~~
 5.16 ~~before open~~ September 16 4 through September 19.

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

5.18 **6240.0200 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS FOR TAKING AND POSSESSION OF**
 5.19 **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.**

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

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

6.1 ~~B. during the early teal season from the opening day of the duck season to the~~
6.2 ~~Saturday nearest October 8, shooting hours end at 4:00 p.m. September 4 through September~~
6.3 ~~8, when shooting hours are sunrise to sunset for teal.~~

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 A. the area of the Mississippi River and backwaters within the boundary beginning
6.16 at the intersection of U.S. Highway 61 and the Minnesota border in Dakota County; thence
6.17 along U.S. Highway 61 to U.S. Highway 63; thence along U.S. Highway 61/63 to U.S.
6.18 Highway 61; thence along U.S. Highway 61 to U.S. Highway 14; thence along U.S. Highway
6.19 61/14 to Interstate 90; thence along Interstate 90/U.S. Highway 61/14 to State Trunk Highway
6.20 (STH) 16; thence along STH 16 to STH 26; thence along STH 26 to the state's southern
6.21 boundary; thence along the southern boundary to the eastern boundary; thence along the
6.22 eastern boundary to the point of the beginning: hunting is allowed not more than 100 feet
6.23 from any shoreline, including islands, from boats that must be at anchor;

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

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

7.3 **6240.0250 TAKING MOURNING DOVES.**

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

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

7.7 **6240.0610 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY.**

7.8 Subpart 1. **Dates, eligibility, and license requirements.** Ducks, mergansers, coots,
7.9 moorhens, and ~~Canada~~ dark or light geese may be taken statewide on Youth Waterfowl
7.10 Hunting Day Weekend, September 11 and 12, by resident and nonresident hunters ~~15~~ 17
7.11 years of age or younger. An adult resident or nonresident mentor 18 years of age or older,
7.12 who is authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, must accompany the youth hunter at
7.13 all times during the hunt. The accompanying adult may not hunt. No hunting license or state
7.14 waterfowl stamps are required, except all youths age 16 and older must have a federal
7.15 migratory bird stamp.

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

7.18 Subp. 3. **Bag limits.** The daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens
7.19 is as allowed by federal rule. The daily bag limit for geese is five ~~Canada~~ dark geese and
7.20 20 light geese.

7.21 **6240.0630 TAKING SANDHILL CRANE.**

7.22 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Sandhill cranes may be taken from September 18 through
7.23 October 24.

8.1 Subp. 2. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours for sandhill cranes are one-half hour before
8.2 sunrise to sunset.

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

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

8.6 B. Sandhill cranes may be taken by bow and arrow or shotgun with nontoxic shot
8.7 approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A person may not take sandhill
8.8 cranes with a rifle or handgun.

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

8.10 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only with:

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

8.13 (2) a small-game license, unless the hunter is exempted.

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

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

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

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

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

9.5 **6240.0640 TAKING COOTS, MOORHENS, DUCKS, AND MERGANSERS.**

9.6 Subpart 1. **Open season.**

9.7 A. Coots, moorhens, ducks, and mergansers may be taken as follows:

9.8 (1) in the North Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2,
9.9 during the 60-day period from September 25 through November 23;

9.10 (2) in the Central Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4,
9.11 during the 60-day period that includes September 25 through October 3 and October 9
9.12 through November 28; and

9.13 (3) in the remainder of the state during the 60-day period that includes
9.14 September 25 through October 3 and October 9 through November 28.

9.15 B. Blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon teal may be taken statewide from
9.16 September 4 through September 8.

9.17 Subp. 2. **Daily limits.** In any one day, a person may not take more than six ducks,
9.18 five mergansers, and a total of 15 coots and moorhens. The daily limit of ducks, other than
9.19 mergansers, may not include more than four mallards, including two female mallards; one
9.20 pintail; two redheads; three wood ducks; two black ducks; and two canvasback. The limit
9.21 of scaup is one per day through October 14 and two per day the remainder of the duck
9.22 season. The daily limit of mergansers may not include more than two hooded mergansers.

9.23 **6240.0950 TAKING GEESE.**

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

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

10.3 B. in the North Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2, September
 10.4 25 through December 24;

10.5 C. in the Central Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4,
 10.6 September 25 through October 3 and October 9 through December 29; and

10.7 D. in the South Waterfowl Zone described in part 6240.0620, subpart 3, September
 10.8 25 through October 3 and October 9 through December 29.

10.9 Subp. 2. **Daily limit.** From September 4 through September 19, the bag limit for dark
 10.10 geese is five combined and the bag limit for light geese is 20 combined. Beginning September
 10.11 25, a person may not take more than five dark geese or 20 light geese during any open
 10.12 season. Dark geese are Canada, brant, and white-fronted geese. Light geese are snow, blue,
 10.13 and Ross's geese.

10.14 **6240.1850 REFUGES OPEN TO TAKING GEESE.**

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

10.16 **Subp. 2. Game refuges.**

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

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

11.1 Subp. 3. **Waterfowl refuges.**

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

11.3 B. The Mud-Bardwell Waterfowl Refuge in Martin County is open to Canada
 11.4 goose hunting from the Saturday on or nearest ~~November 1~~ October 9 to the end of the
 11.5 goose season. ~~There is no goose hunting within 100 yards of Mud and Bardwell Lakes.~~

11.6 **6240.2000 MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREA**
 11.7 **RESTRICTIONS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

11.16 J. Traverse County: Mud Lake.; and

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

11.18 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0400, subpart 54; 6230.0700, subparts 3 and
 11.19 6; 6240.1150, subpart 2; 6240.1200, subparts 3, 4, and 5; and 6240.1800, subpart 1, are
 11.20 repealed.

11.21 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0100,
 11.22 6230.0400, 6230.0600, 6230.0700, 6234.0800, 6240.0100, 6240.0200, 6240.0250, 6240.0610,
 11.23 6240.1850, and 6240.2000, expire January 30, 2022. After the emergency amendments

- 12.1 expire, the permanent rules as they read before those amendments again take effect, except
12.2 as they may be amended by permanent rule. Minnesota Rules, parts 6240.0630, 6240.0640,
12.3 and 6240.0950, expire January 30, 2022.