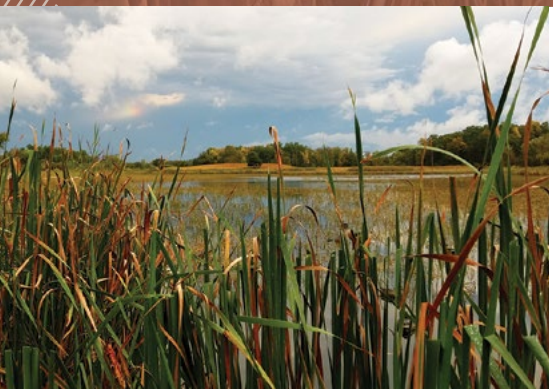
Effective September
2020
through April 30, 2021

MINNESOTA WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

www.mndnr.gov/hunting

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#huntmn

WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Future hunters are relying on you to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species ... do your part.

- ✔ CLEAN aquatic plants, animals and mud from all gear, boats, clothing, dogs and vehicles.
- ✔ DRAIN all water from boats and equipment and leave drain plugs out when transporting.
- ✔ DRY everything for at least 5 days before hunting in other waters.

Learn more at www.mndnr.gov/ais

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Minnesota State Duck Stamp

Funds raised through the sale of Minnesota state duck stamps pay for waterfowl research, management and habitat thereby improving conditions for the state's resident and migrating waterfowl.

Snow geese painting by Michael Sieve, Rushford, Minnesota

Cover photo by Pat Rivers. Wetland photo by Chris Scharenbroich. Ringneck duck photo by Carrol Henderson.

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LICENSE INFORMATION

GENERAL

Resident and nonresident waterfowl hunters 16 years old or older must have one of the following licenses: (Prices do not include additional issuing fees.)

FEE	LICENSE	AGE
$13.50	Resident Senior Citizen Small Game	65 and older
$5	Resident Youth Small Game	16 and 17
$22	Resident Small Game	18 to 64
$19	Resident 72-hour Small Game	18 to 64
$41	Resident Individual Sports	18 and older
$57	Resident Combination Sports	18 and older
$100	Resident Individual Super Sports	18 and older
$126	Resident Combination Super Sports	18 and older
Prices vary by age	Resident lifetime small game	
Prices vary by age	Resident lifetime sports	
$5	Nonresident Youth Small Game	16 and 17
$75	Nonresident 72-hour Small Game	18 and older
$102	Nonresident Small Game	18 and older

In addition:

- A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons age 16 and older. An electronically-issued federal stamp is valid for 45 days. Pictorial stamps, when received by mail, must be signed and in the possession of the hunter.
- HIP certification is required for any licensed waterfowl or migratory bird hunter. (See HIP information page 10.)
- A Minnesota state waterfowl stamp is required for residents age 18 to 64 and nonresidents age 16 and over. (72-hour licenses include the state waterfowl stamp.)
- Special goose permit (residents ages 18-64 and all nonresidents) required for the September season, $4.
- Sandhill crane permit required for northwest crane season (residents and nonresidents) $3.
- Persons hunting waterfowl on commercial shooting preserves are required to have both a federal and a state duck stamp validation in addition to a small game license. The only exception is when taking only marked, pen-reared mallards.
- There are licensing exceptions for landowners, military personnel and others. See the *2020 Hunting Regulations Handbook* for a complete listing of license requirements.

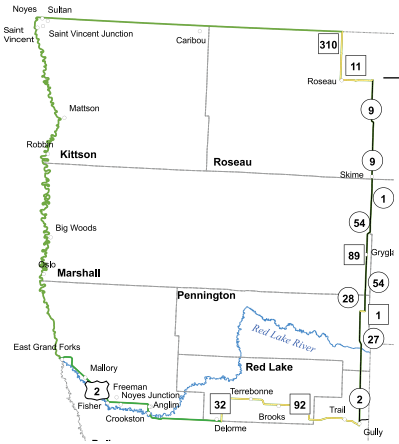
SANDHILL CRANE AND EARLY GOOSE SEASONS

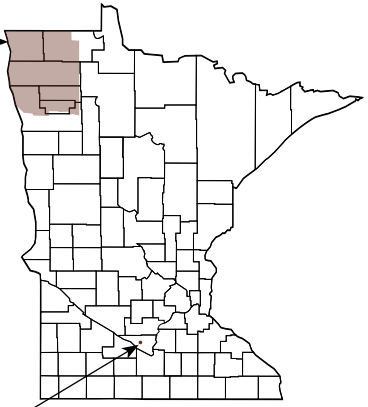
No hunting for geese or cranes within 100 yards of surface water in the northwest goose and crane zone from September 5 through 20.

Sandhill Crane and Early Goose Requirements

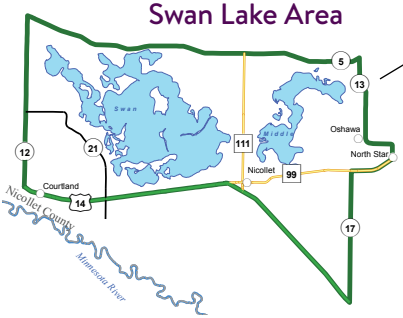
SANDHILL CRANE SEASON	EARLY GOOSE SEASON
Open area: Northwest goose and crane zone	Open area: Statewide
Season dates: Sept. 19 - Oct. 25	Season dates: Sept. 5 - 20
Daily limit: 2 sandhill crane	Daily limit: 5 dark geese; 20 light geese
Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset except from Sept. 26 - Oct. 9, shooting hours end at 4 p.m.	Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
License: Small game	License: Small game
Stamps: Not required	Stamps: State waterfowl stamp ($7.50) Federal Duck Stamp ($25)
Permit: Sandhill crane permit ($3): all hunters	Permit: Special goose permit ($4): residents 18-64 and all non-residents

Northwest Goose and Sandhill Crane Zone





Swan Lake Area



Swan Lake Area and Northwest Goose Zone

Early season goose hunting (Sept. 5 - 20) near water prohibited within the boundary. See Surface Water Restrictions on page 9 for details.

2020 SEASON DATES AND DAILY LIMITS

Ducks and Coots

DUCKS, COOTS, MERGANSERS, MOORHENS (GALLINULES)	SEASON DATES
North Zone (See map on page 8)	Sept. 26 - Nov. 24
Central Zone (See map on page 8)	Sept. 26 - Oct. 4; Oct. 10 - Nov. 29
South Zone (See map on page 8)	Sept. 26 - Oct. 4; Oct. 17 - Dec. 6

Duck: Daily limit is 6. No more than any of the following species: 4 mallards (2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail.

One scaup may be taken per day through October 22; 2 scaup per day through the remainder of the season in each zone.

If not listed up to 6 ducks of a species may be taken.

Coot and moorhen (gallinule) daily limits: Daily limit is 15.

Merganser daily limit: Daily limit is 5, no more than 2 of which may be a hooded merganser.

Early Goose Season (Statewide)

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY LIMITS
Canada, white-fronted, brant	Sept. 5 - 20	5 combined
Snow, blue snow and Ross's		20

Regular Goose Season

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY LIMITS
Canada, white-fronted, brant	North Zone (See map on page 8) Sept. 26 - Dec. 25	3 combined
Snow, blue snow and Ross's		20
Canada, white-fronted, brant	Central Zone (See map on page 8) Sept. 26 - Oct. 4; Oct. 10 - Dec. 30	3 combined
Snow, blue snow and Ross's		20
Canada, white-fronted, brant	South Zone (See map on page 8) Sept. 26 - Oct. 4; Oct. 17 - Jan. 6	3 combined
Snow, blue snow and Ross's		20

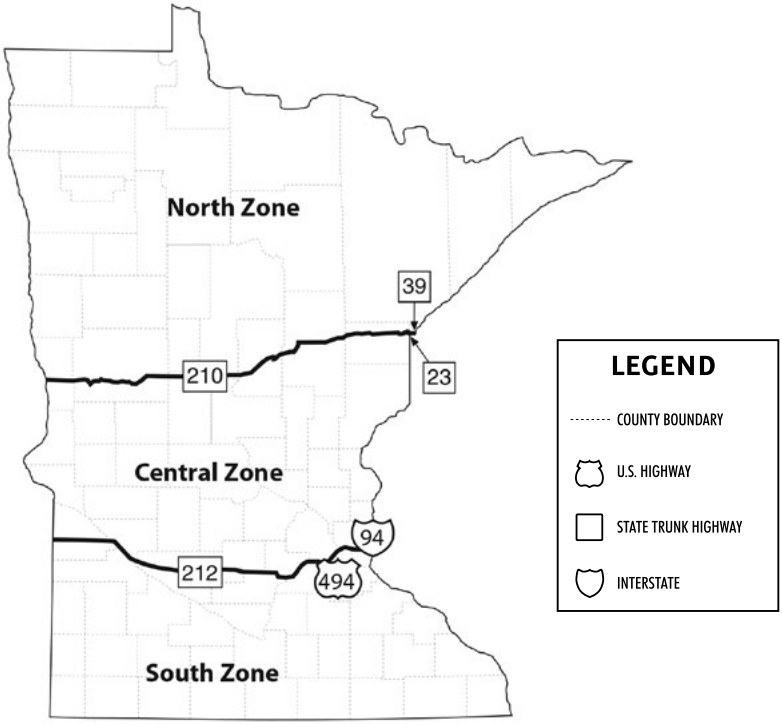
POSSESSION LIMIT

The possession limit for all migratory birds is three times the daily limit.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for sandhill crane, rail, snipe, ducks, coots, moorhens and mergansers and geese are ½ hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. from the opening day of duck season through Friday, October 9, and until sunset thereafter. See youth hunt and early goose season for additional hours.

Regular Season Duck and Goose Zones



Other Migratory Birds

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Mourning doves	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15	45
Woodcock	Sept. 19 - Nov. 2	3	9
Sora and Virginia rail	Sept. 1 - Nov. 2	25 (in aggregate)	75 (in aggregate)
Common snipe (Wilson's)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 2	8	24
Sandhill Crane (Northwest goose and crane zone only)	Sept. 19 - Oct. 25	2	6

SPECIAL FALCONRY SEASON

Dates:

- Ducks, coots, mergansers and moorhens may be taken by falconry from September 26 through December 6 only when they may be taken by firearm and from December 12 through January 25, 2021 statewide.
- Geese may be taken by falconry during any open goose season. Woodcock, rail, doves and snipe may be taken by falconry from September 1 through December 16.

Daily limits and hours:

- Three daily combined and nine in possession combined.
- Falconry hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset, except beginning September 26, when they are the same as the waterfowl shooting hours.

SURFACE WATER RESTRICTIONS

"Surface water" includes, but is not limited to wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams. Temporarily flooded cropland, pasture, or other temporarily flooded areas (unless contiguous with lakes, wetlands, rivers or streams) are not included. This restriction does not apply to youth participating in the youth waterfowl hunt or in other areas as specifically authorized by the commissioner.

A person may not hunt geese or cranes during the September goose season within 100 yards of surface water in the following areas:

- Northwest Goose and Sandhill Crane Zone
- Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area
- Swan Lake Area
- Ocheda Lake Game Refuge

YOUTH HUNT

On September 12-13, 2020, waterfowl hunters age 17 and younger, when accompanied by a non-hunting adult (age 18 and older) may take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots and moorhens from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily limits are the same as the regular duck and September goose seasons. Hunters ages 13 to 17 must have a firearms safety certificate or apprentice hunter validation in their possession. Youth hunters age 16 and 17 must have a Federal Duck Stamp and a youth small game license. All other migratory bird hunting regulations apply.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)

Before hunting waterfowl or migratory game birds (except sandhill cranes), **you must be Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified** by answering "yes" when asked whether you intend to hunt migratory birds at the time you buy your small game or sports license. If you don't, you can still answer "yes" at a later date by getting a HIP receipt at any electronic license sales location online or by telephone. Evidence of compliance will be noted on your license as "HIP Certified" and must be carried while hunting migratory birds.

WHY HIP?

Using information gathered with HIP, DNR waterfowl biologists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are developing more reliable estimates of the number of all migratory birds harvested throughout the country.

FIREARMS SAFETY CERTIFICATE

Anyone born after December 31, 1979 must have a Firearms Safety Certificate, Apprentice Hunter Validation, a previous hunting license with a firearms safety indicator or other evidence of successfully completing a hunter safety course to obtain a license to take wild animals with firearms in Minnesota.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSES

WHERE CAN I BUY A LICENSE OR STAMP?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issues licenses through 1,500 license agent locations throughout Minnesota—sporting goods stores, hunting and fishing supplies stores and some discount chains.

Federal migratory waterfowl stamp validations will be available at all of Minnesota's 1,500 electronic license vendors. The electronic validation for the federal stamp is valid for up to 45 days until the customer receives the pictorial stamp by mail, when it must be signed and kept in possession.

HOW DO I BUY A LICENSE ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE?

Licenses may be purchased via the DNR website at **www.mndnr.gov** or by calling 888-665-4236. Additional convenience fees are added for sales via the internet or telephone.

Avoid Spreading Invasive Species

It is illegal to transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, snails or other prohibited invasive species in or on boats, trailers, or other equipment such as decoys and waders. Waterfowl hunters may use emergent aquatic plants, such as cattails and bulrushes, cut above the waterline, for building blinds or camouflage.

- ✔ **Clean** aquatic plants, animals and mud from your boat, trailer, waders or hip boots, push poles, clothing, decoy and lines, dogs, and ATV or truck.
- ✔ **Drain** all water from boats and equipment and leave drain plugs out when transporting.
- ✔ **Dry** everything for at least five days before hunting in other waters.

Use elliptical, bulb-shaped or strap decoy anchors to reduce snagging aquatic plants.

CLEAN IN
CLEAN OUT

Youth Duck Hunting Opportunity

Carlos Avery WMA Controlled Hunt Zone—A special restricted access hunt will be held in the Pool 2 portion of the sanctuary at Carlos Avery WMA in Anoka County. Two areas will be available by drawing on Saturday and Tuesday mornings until the beginning of the firearm deer season. Applications will be accepted for groups of up to four with preference given to groups with at least one youth hunter (age 17 and under) or one senior hunter (age 65 and over). Drawings for blinds will be conducted two weeks prior to each week of hunting.

For rules, application form and dates go to:

www.mndnr.gov/averyhunt

Or call the Carlos Avery WMA Headquarters at: 651-539-3323

ANYONE CAN REGISTER TO BE AN ORGAN, EYE & TISSUE DONOR

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DONATE LIFE

www.DonateLifeMN.org

GENERAL WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

NEW FOR 2020

- The daily limit for scaup is one per day through October 22 and two per day the remainder of the duck season in each zone.
- The limit of sandhill crane (sandhill crane zone only, see page 6) is increased to two per day with six in possession.

LICENSE VALIDATION/APPRENTICE HUNTER

License validations for state migratory waterfowl stamps are legal for hunting without the pictorial stamp. Purchasers can request the optional pictorial stamp for a fee but it is not required for hunting.

Apprentice hunter validation is available for residents and non-residents who would normally be required to possess a firearms safety certificate to hunt small game or deer. See the *Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* for details.

DEFINITIONS

- **"Migratory game birds"** means ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens (gallinules), woodcock, rails, snipe, sandhill cranes, and mourning doves.
- **"Migratory waterfowl"** means ducks, geese, and mergansers.
- **"Undressed bird"** means ducks, or geese or other migratory game birds with one fully-feathered wing attached.

Aquatic Invasive Species Alert: Faucet Snail

The faucet snail carries a parasite that has killed thousands of diving ducks and coots in Minnesota. Faucet snails can be moved to new lakes on waterfowl hunting equipment—they can attach to your gear, be hidden in mud, or attached to plants. You can help prevent the spread of faucet snails by taking a few moments to check your boat, waders, push poles, decoys, and decoy anchors before leaving the water access:

- ✔ **Clean** aquatic plants, animals and mud from all gear, boats, clothing, dogs and vehicles.
- ✔ **Drain** all water from boats and equipment, and leave drain plugs out when transporting.
- ✔ **Dry** everything for at least five days before hunting in other waters.
- ✔ **Check** your gear before you go back out to hunt—faucet snails can live out of water for more than five days.

Visit **www.mndnr.gov/AIS** for more information.

NON-TOXIC SHOT REQUIRED

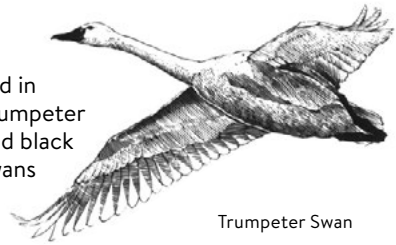
It is unlawful to take geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, or sandhill cranes with lead shot or while having any lead shot in possession. Only shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for coots, ducks, geese, moorhens, sandhill cranes (Northwest Goose and Sandhill Crane Zone only) rails and snipe are ½ hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. from September 26 through Friday, October 9, and until sunset thereafter. See sunrise/sunset tables inside back cover.

DON'T SHOOT A SWAN

Both tundra and trumpeter swans are found in Minnesota and are not legal game birds. Trumpeter swans are entirely white with a black bill and black legs. They weigh over 25 pounds. Young swans are gray-brown in color.



Trumpeter Swan

OPENING DAY POSSESSION LIMIT

On the opening day of the season, no person may possess more freshly killed migratory game birds than is allowed by the daily limit.

RETRIEVAL

A person may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in the daily limit.

TAKING IN OPEN WATER

A person may not take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails in open water unless that person is:

a) within a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal the person or boat, or

b) pursuing or shooting wounded birds (while in compliance with watercraft restrictions), or

c) on a river or stream that is not more than 100 yards in width, or

d) hunting on one of the following water bodies:

1. Mississippi River from the Highway 61 bridge at Hastings to the Iowa border: hunting is allowed from anchored boats not more than 100 feet from any shoreline, including islands.
2. Lake Pepin, Lake of the Woods, and Lake Mille Lacs: open-water hunting is allowed from boats that must be anchored.
3. Lake Superior: open water hunting is allowed on the Minnesota waters north and east of the Minnesota/Park Point peninsula as long as boats remain anchored.

WATERCRAFT

- A person using watercraft to take migratory waterfowl must comply with the provisions for "Taking in Open Water."
  - Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a floating watercraft if the craft is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled by paddle, oars, or pole.
  - Migratory waterfowl may be taken from a watercraft propelled by motor or sails only if the motor is shut off and the sails are furled and the watercraft has stopped.
- While on the water and traveling to or from a site the person intends to hunt, unloaded and uncased firearms may be transported in a boat or other watercraft capable of being propelled by motor or sail. Firearms must be transported unloaded and cased in such watercraft:
  - Within Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey counties.
  - Within the boundaries of a home rule, charter or statutory city with a population of 2,500 or more.
  - As otherwise restricted by game refuge, shining or night vision laws.
- All watercraft (including boats used for duck hunting during the duck season) are required to carry and have readily accessible, one U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable (Type I, II, or III) personal flotation device or life preserver for each person on board. In addition, boats 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks) must carry at least one coast guard approved throwable device (boat cushion or ring buoy) for the boat. Boat cushions are not acceptable as primary lifesaving devices.
- During open waterfowl seasons, a person may not leave an unattended boat used for hunting waterfowl in public waters between sunset and one hour before sunrise unless the boat is adjacent to private land under control of the person and the water does not contain a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal a hunter or a boat.
- A waterfowl boat does not have to be licensed when used for waterfowl hunting.
- Persons leaving waters of the state must drain boating-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the watercraft and associated equipment on public roads. Drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft on public roads.

BLINDS AND SINK BOXES

No person may erect a blind in public waters or on public land more than one hour before the open season for waterfowl.

- No person may take migratory waterfowl, coots, or rails using a sink box or in public waters from a permanent artificial blind. A sink box is a structure that allows a hunter to hide beneath the water surface. Layout boats are not considered sink boxes.

- Any blind on public land or in public waters when not in use is considered public and not the property of the person who constructed it. Any use of threat or force against another person to gain possession of a blind is unlawful.
- Hunters may use aquatic emergent plants, such as cattails and bulrushes, cut above the waterline, for building blinds.

DECOYS

- No person may place decoys on public lands or in public waters more than two hours before legal shooting hours for waterfowl.
- No person may leave decoys on public waters between sunset and two hours before legal shooting hours or leave decoys unattended during other times for more than three consecutive hours, except decoys may be left in waters adjacent to private land under control of the hunter where there is not sufficient natural vegetation growing in the water to partially conceal a hunter. A person may not leave decoys in public waters between sunset and one hour before shooting hours if the decoys constitute a navigational hazard.

MOTORIZED DECOY RESTRICTIONS

Motorized decoys may not be used statewide from the opening day of the duck season through Saturday, October 10. Motorized decoys may not be used on water bodies and lands fully contained within state wildlife management area boundaries at any time during the duck season. This restriction applies whether the motor is running or not. Remote controls for motorized decoys are legal.

WHITEFISH NETTING SEASON OPEN

The whitefish netting season on Leech Lake and other lakes is open during duck season. Be careful when venturing near buoys.

USE OF AERATION SYSTEMS

Aeration systems may not be used to create open water areas to attract or delay the migration of wild waterfowl on public waters. Aeration systems means a bubbler, fan, water circulation or similar system used to increase dissolved oxygen or maintain open water.

Report Your Bands at www.reportband.gov

Each year, state and federal waterfowl biologists mark thousands of waterfowl with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report recovered bands receive specific information on where and when the bird was banded while providing important information for waterfowl management.

Bands may be reported online at **www.reportband.gov**

POSSESSING AND TRANSPORTING MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND GAME BIRDS

Ducks and all other migratory game birds must be transported with a feathered wing attached. Exception: doves may be fully dressed.

MIGRATORY FEEDING AND RESTING AREAS

The following areas have been designated Migratory Waterfowl Feeding and Resting Areas. Use of motor-propelled watercraft is restricted to the following:

Watercraft using trolling motors with battery power of 12 volts or less are allowed during the open waterfowl season on the lakes listed below.

COUNTY	LAKES
Beltrami	Puposky Lake and Little Puposky Lake
Carver	Tiger Lake
Faribault	Part of Minnesota Lake
Freeborn	Bear Lake, Upper Twin Lake
Jackson	Part of South Heron Lake, all of North Heron Lake except Winzer Bay and North Marsh
Kandiyohi	Wakanda Lake, Lake Lillian
LeSueur	Dora, Diamond, Sanborn
McLeod	Bakers Lake and the unnamed lake (Penn Marsh) in Sec. 28, Twp. 114N, R 29W. (Penn Twp.)
Polk	Turtle Lake
Pope	Nelson Lake
Traverse	Part of Mud Lake

No motor-propelled watercraft are allowed during the open waterfowl season on the lakes listed below.

COUNTY	LAKES
Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Swift	Part of Marsh Lake, Thielke Lake
Blue Earth	Cottonwood Lake
Long Lake	Cottonwood Lake
Cass	Big Rice, Goose, Mud Lakes
Clearwater	Upper Rice Lake
Grant and Douglas	Part of Lake Christina
Itasca	Rice Lake (near Max) and Nature's Lake
LeSueur	Henry, Rice and Scotch lakes
Nicollet	Oakleaf Lake
Otter Tail	That part of Lake Lizzie, also known as Rush Lake, located in Sec. 3-9, Twp. 136 N., R. 42 (Lida Twp.); and Mud Lake in Aastad Twp.
Pope	Lake Johanna
Scott	Pleasant Lake
Sibley	Washington Lake and Mud (Erin) Lake in Washington Lake Twp.

OUTBOARD MOTOR USE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS

The use of outboard motors (including electric trolling motors) or motorized water vehicles (including amphibious vehicles) is prohibited on most state wildlife management areas, federal waterfowl production areas or national wildlife refuges. See the *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations* for more details.

AIRBOAT USE ON DESIGNATED WILDLIFE LAKES

The use of airboats is prohibited at all times on the following lakes, which have been designated for wildlife management purposes, except as specifically authorized. Additional motorized restrictions may be posted at access points.

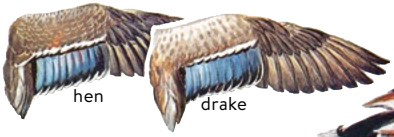
COUNTY	LAKE
Aitkin	White Elk
Anoka	Fish
Blue Earth	Cottonwood
Blue Earth	Perch
Blue Earth	Eagle
Blue Earth	Rice
Brown	Hanska
Big Stone	Lake 14
Carver	Patterson
Carver	Tiger
Cass	Big Rice
Cottonwood	Augusta
Cottonwood	Bolstad Slough
Cottonwood	Long Lake
Crow Wing	Dog
Douglas	Anka
Douglas	Jennie
Douglas/Grant	Christina
Faribault	Rice
Faribault	Minnesota
Freeborn	Bear
Freeborn	Lower Twin
Freeborn	Geneva
Freeborn	Upper Twin
Grant	Ash
Grant	Denton Slough
Grant	Towner
Jackson	Heron
Jackson	Teal
Kandiyohi	Middle
LeSueur	Sanborn

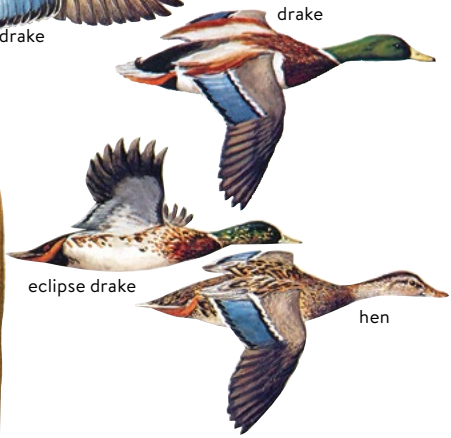
COUNTY	LAKE
Lyon	Mahlke Marsh
Martin	Pierce
Mahnomen	Beaulieu
McLeod	Eagle
McLeod	Ward
Mille Lacs	Onamia
Murray	Maria
Murray	Round
Murray	South Badger
Murray	North Badger
Nicollet	Swan
Otter Tail	Mud
Otter Tail	Upper Lightning
Pope	Simon
St. Louis	Little Rice
St. Louis	Big Rice
Sibley	Sand
Stearns	Cedar
Steele/Dodge	Rice
Swift	Hassel
Waseca	Buffalo
Waseca	Goose
Waseca	Willis
Watonwan	Sulem
Wright	Pelican
Wright	Smith
Yellow Medicine	Curtis
Yellow Medicine	Spellman (North and South)
Yellow Medicine	Timm Lake

ILLUSTRATED DUCKS AND GEESE OF MINNESOTA (NOT ALL SPECIES ARE DEPICTED)

MALLARD

Length 24"
Weight 2.75 lbs.





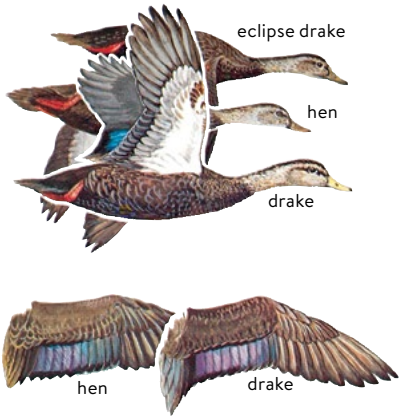
drake

hen

The mallard is the state's most common duck. Typical Minnesota harvest: 270,000.

BLACK DUCK

Length 24"
Weight 2.75 lbs.



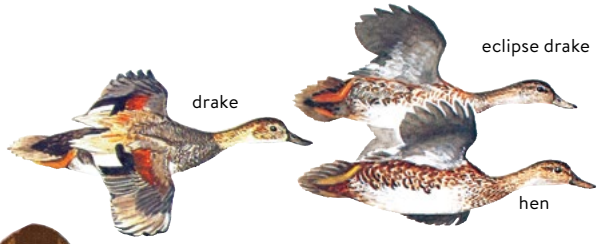
drake

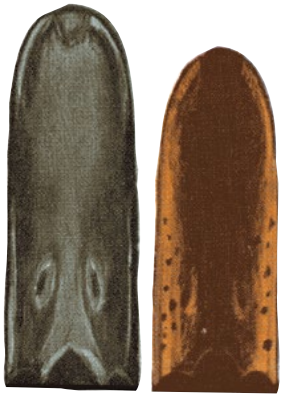
hen

Primarily found in the Atlantic Flyway and, to a lesser extent, the Mississippi. There is a small breeding population in northeast Minnesota. Typical Minnesota harvest: 1,000.

GADWALL

Length 21"
Weight 2 lbs.



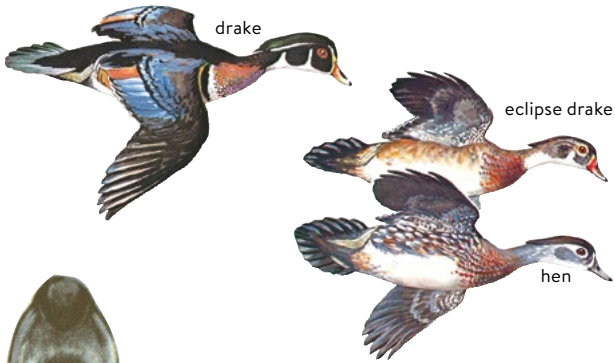


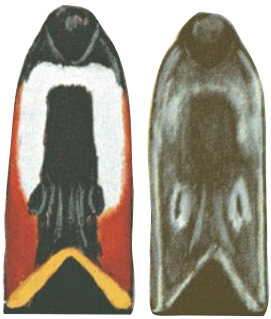
drake hen

Often called "gray mallards" or "gray ducks," gadwalls are one of the earliest migrants. Typical Minnesota harvest: 36,000.

WOOD DUCK

Length 18.5"
Weight 1.5 lbs.



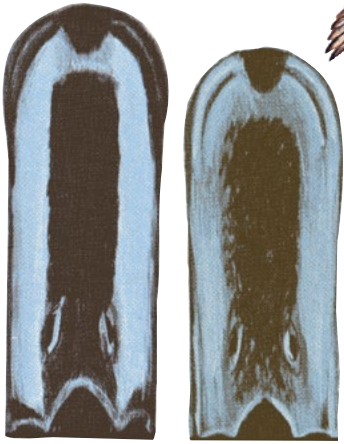


drake hen

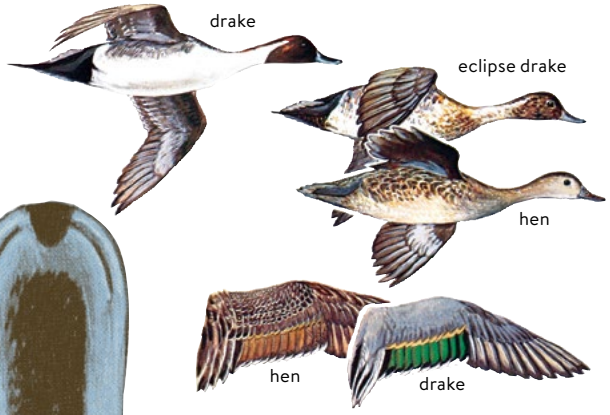
Found in all flyways; most numerous in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways. Typical Minnesota harvest: 125,000.

PINTAIL

Length 26"
Weight 1.75 lbs.



drake hen

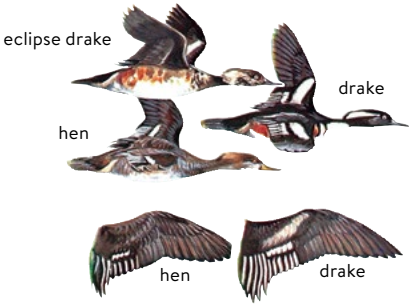


These ducks use all four flyways but are most plentiful in the west. Typical Minnesota harvest: 15,000.

HOODED MERGANSER

Length 18"
Weight 1.5 lbs.

drake hen

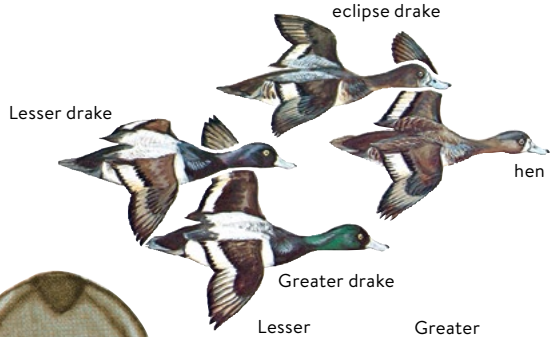


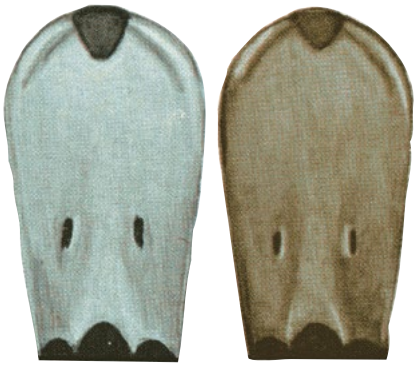
Often seen in pairs or very small flocks. Typical Minnesota harvest: 9,000.

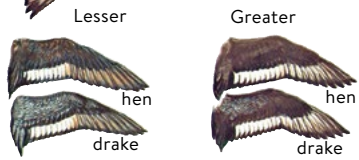
SCAUP

Greater:
Length 18.5"
Weight 2 lbs.

Lesser:
Length 17"
Weight 1.75 lbs.



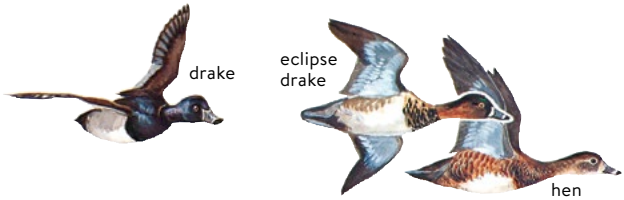




Except for the wing marks, greater and lesser scaup appear nearly identical in the field. The North American breeding population has rebounded in recent years. Minnesota harvest is at historic low levels and averages only about 10,000 birds.

RINGNECK

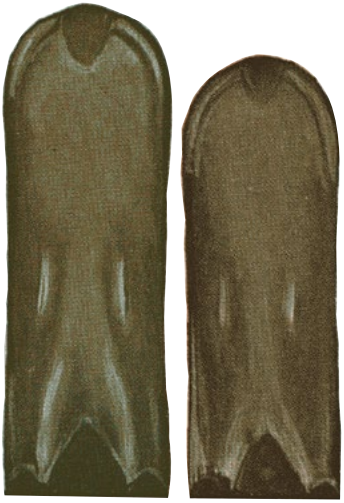
Length 17"
Weight 1.5 lbs.



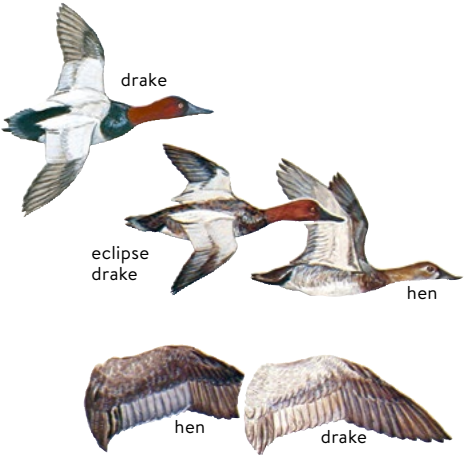
Similar in appearance to scaup but more often found in fresh marshes and wooded ponds. Flocks of up to 200,000 stage on north central Minnesota refuges. Typical Minnesota harvest: 80,000.

CANVASBACK

Length 22"
Weight 3 lbs.



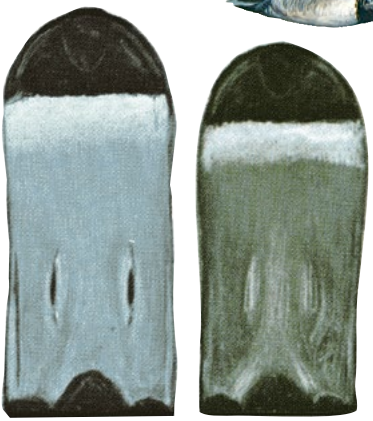
drake hen



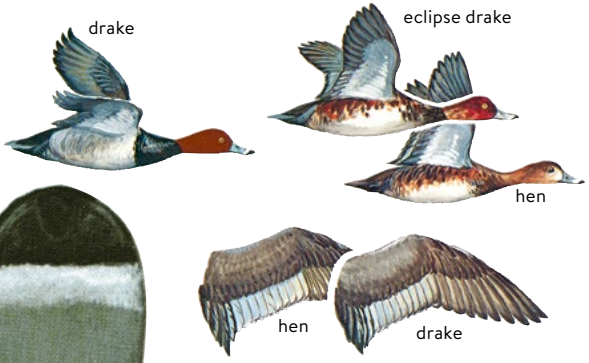
Tend to favor open-water areas.
Normally late to start south.
Typical Minnesota harvest: 3,000.

REDHEAD

Length 20"
Weight 2.5 lbs.

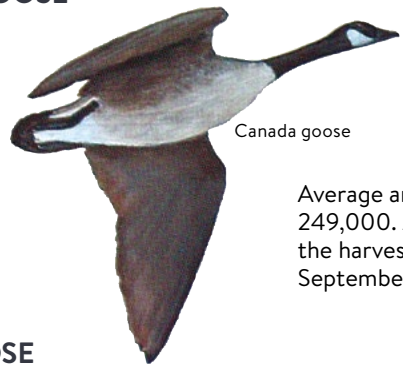


drake hen



Range coast to coast with the largest numbers in the Central Flyway. Often found associating with canvasback. Typical Minnesota harvest: 14,000.

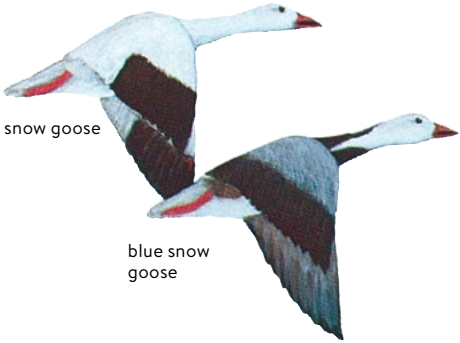
CANADA GOOSE
Length 25-43"



Average annual Minnesota harvest: 249,000. About 36 percent of the harvest occurs during the September season.

SNOW GOOSE
Length 25-38"

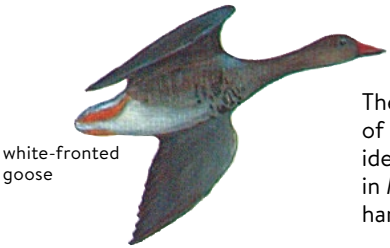
BLUE SNOW GOOSE
Length 25-30"



Black "grin patch" on bill is found only on snow geese.

The "blue" snow goose is a variation of the lesser snow goose species. Average annual Minnesota harvest of snow geese and blue snow geese: 3,000.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
Length 25-30"



The pinkish bill, white patch on front of head and dark bars on the belly identify this species. Uncommon in Minnesota, the average annual harvest is fewer than 200 birds.

BLINDS FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES

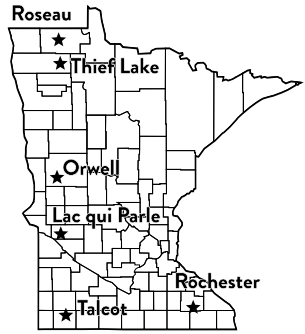
The Lac qui Parle, Talcot Lake, Swan Lake and Whitewater Wildlife Management Areas have a number of duck or goose hunting blinds for hunters with disabilities. For more information, write to:

- Lac qui Parle WMA, 14047 20th St. NW, Watson, MN 56295;
- Nicollet Area Wildlife Office (Swan Lake WMA), 501 Ninth St., Nicollet, MN 56074;
- Talcot Lake WMA, 40249 County Road 7, Dundee, MN 56131; Whitewater WMA, 15035 Highway 74, Altura, MN 55910;
- Thief Lake WMA, 42280 240th Ave. NE, Middle River, MN 56737;
- Roseau River WMA, 27952 400th St., Roseau, MN 56751.

STATE REFUGES OPEN TO GOOSE HUNTING

COUNTY	REFUGE	OPEN SEASON
Beltrami	Bemidji Game Refuge (except Lake Bemidji, Miss. River and Stump Lake)	Early goose Sept. 5 - 20
Clay	Clay County Game Refuge	Early goose Sept. 5 - 20
Dakota	Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and WMA	Goose Dec. 14 - Jan. 6
Dodge	Claremont Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Douglas	Evansville Game Refuge	Waterfowl hunting Early goose Sept. 5 - 20
Freeborn	Moscow Game Refuge	Goose hunting
Isanti	Elizabeth Lake Game Refuge German Lake Game Refuge	Early goose season and youth participating in a designated hunting/mentoring program only.
Martin	Mud-Bardwell Game Refuge. No hunting within 100 yards of Mud and Bardwell lakes.	Canada geese Oct. 10 - Jan. 6
Nobles	Ocheda Lake Game Refuge	Youth Waterfowl Weekend Early goose Sept. 5 - 20 (no hunting within 100 yards of surface water in September). Dec. 5 - Jan. 6
Olmsted	Rochester Game Refuge	Early goose Sept. 5 - 20
Steele	Rickert Waterfowl Refuge except Myron Buelow Waterfowl Sanctuary WMA	Early goose Sept. 5 - 20
Stevens	Harstad Slough Waterfowl Refuge	Early goose Sept. 5 - 20
Watonwan	Saint James Game Refuge	Goose hunting Sept. 26 - 27

CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES



Waterfowl or small game hunting, as specified, is restricted to designated hunting stations in the portions posted as controlled hunting zones on or adjacent to the Lac qui Parle, Roseau River, Thief Lake, Talcot Lake, and Orwell Wildlife Management Areas, and the Rochester Game Refuge.

General Restrictions

The following regulations apply to persons within all the controlled hunting zones during the open goose seasons or as otherwise specified:

- No more than one hunting party, consisting of no more than three hunters, may occupy any hunting station at one time.
- Waterfowl hunters must have their guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station.
- Hunters taking migratory waterfowl must be within 10 feet of each designated hunting station, except hunters may retrieve downed birds away from a posted station if they comply with all other refuge and trespass regulations.
- On public lands, dogs must be on a leash except within 10 feet of stations or while retrieving, and must be under control at all times.
- All persons occupying a hunting station must meet all license requirements to hunt waterfowl in Minnesota.
- No person may leave any refuse, offal, or feathers on public lands in the controlled hunting zone or in any parking lot or designated overnight use area on the management area.
- No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or possessed at any of the hunting stations on public lands.
- No person may loiter between the designated hunting stations on public lands.
- On public lands, after each party member has their daily limit of Canada geese or expended their limit of shells (if applicable), the party must promptly leave the station.
- No trailers of any kind are allowed in designated parking lots.

Spring Snow Goose Season

(Light Goose Conservation Action)

Minnesota again plans to participate in a cooperative light goose conservation action in February, March and April 2021. This action is being taken in an attempt to reduce an overabundance of snow geese that is threatening their arctic breeding habitat. All participants must have a Light Goose Conservation Permit in their possession while attempting to take light geese.

LAC QUI PARLE

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Lac qui Parle Controlled Hunting Zone from October 15 through the end of the goose season.

- Hunters must use designated hunting stations on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.
- Hunters are limited to 12 shells per trip in possession.
- Waterfowl and small game hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of assigned hunting stations.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated Controlled Hunting Zone parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

A goose hunting guide for the **Lac qui Parle Controlled Hunting Zone** will be available on the DNR website in late September. Hunters are encouraged to view this guide for regulations unique to the refuge, blind maps, and other helpful tips.

THIEF LAKE

The following regulations apply to waterfowl and small game hunters in the Thief Lake Controlled Hunting Zone during all open waterfowl seasons (including Early September and Youth Waterfowl Seasons). The restriction on small game hunting in the Controlled Hunting Zone applies from the opening of the regular waterfowl season through October 19.

- Hunters must use designated hunting stations on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Hunters are limited to one trip to the blinds before noon, and one trip after noon, per day.
- Hunters are limited to 12 shells per trip in possession.
- Hunters must have guns unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of the hunting stations.
- Selected blinds will be posted closed during the early September Canada Goose Season because of their proximity to open water.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any designated Controlled Hunting Zone parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

ORWELL

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Orwell Controlled Hunting Zone during the Regular Goose Season:

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited.
- No person may enter the controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in the designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone.
- No persons other than those hunting at a station in the controlled hunting zone may occupy a numbered stall in a designated parking lot.

- Hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having a number corresponding to their parking stall number.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station during any two consecutive days or from one hour after the close of daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.
- All guns must be unloaded and cased except within 10 feet of a hunting station.

ROCHESTER AND ROSEAU RIVER

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Rochester and Roseau River Controlled Hunting Zones during the open Goose Season:

- The wildlife manager may limit all persons to one day of hunting in every three. If hunting is limited, the manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of every person at each restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No person may be in a hunting station or designated parking lot from one hour after the close of the daily waterfowl shooting hours to 8 p.m.

TALCOT LAKE

Closed Area

All waterfowl hunting is prohibited upon or from the 1.5-mile segment of State Trunk Highway 62 and its right-of-way along the south boundary of the Talcot Lake Waterfowl Refuge (between the Cottonwood County line on the west and County Highway 7 on the east).

The following regulations apply to all persons in the Talcot Lake controlled hunting zones during Canada Goose Seasons:

General Restrictions

- Hunting, other than waterfowl, is prohibited on public land in the east and west side controlled hunting zones.
- The wildlife manager may limit persons to one day of hunting in every three. The manager will stamp the date on the Small Game Hunting License or Firearms Safety Certificate of each person at a restricted hunting station. Persons may hunt at any restricted station on the day stamped, but may not occupy a restricted station for the next two days. Restricted stations will be posted.
- No persons may occupy a hunting station within a controlled hunting zone except when their vehicle is occupying a numbered parking stall in a designated parking lot in the controlled hunting zone. No persons other than those hunting at a hunting station may occupy a numbered stall or park in a designated parking lot.
- Waterfowl hunters must hunt only at the hunting stations having numbers corresponding to their parking stall number.
- No person may park in or otherwise occupy any parking stall in the designated parking lot or occupy any hunting station from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds.

The following material is a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual federal regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas open to public hunting.

ILLEGAL HUNTING METHODS

You may not hunt migratory waterfowl:

- 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 you 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 electrically amplified bird calls or sounds or imitations of these calls and sounds.
- While possessing any shot other than approved nontoxic shot. A list of approved shot is available online at: **http://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php**
- With a shotgun that can hold more than three shells, unless you plug it with a one piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft (if you are a paraplegic or are missing one or both legs, you may hunt from a stationary car or other stationary motor-driven land vehicle or conveyance).
- By the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after removal of bait.

POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess more migratory game birds taken in the United States than the possession limit or the aggregate possession limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess, have in custody or transport more than the daily limit or aggregate daily limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary transient place of lodging; or (c) migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office or (e) a common carrier facility.

WANTON WASTE

You must make a reasonable effort to retrieve all migratory game birds that you kill or wound and keep these birds in your actual custody while in the field. You must immediately kill any wounded birds that you retrieve and count those birds toward your daily limit. Birds must remain in your possession while in the field. You may not give your birds to another person in the field regardless of whether or not they are properly tagged.

TAGGING

You may not put or leave migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless you tag the birds with your signature, address, number of birds identified by species and the date you killed them.

RALLYING

You may not hunt migratory game birds that have been concentrated, driven, rallied or stirred up with a motorized vehicle or sailboat.

DRESSING

You may not completely field dress migratory birds (except doves) before taking them from the field. See page 16.

DUAL VIOLATION

A violation of a state migratory game bird regulation is also a violation of federal regulations.

PROTECTED BIRDS

Federal law prohibits the killing of nongame migratory birds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations can be found in 50 CFR Part 20. If you have additional questions about waterfowl hunting and the law, contact Division of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5600 American Blvd. W, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437-1458. Telephone: 612-713-5320.

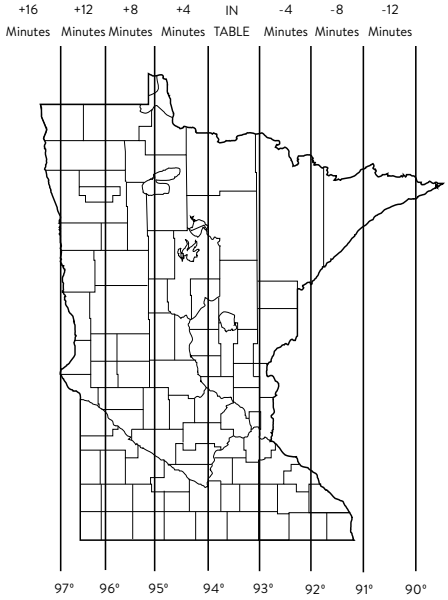
National Wildlife Refuge specific regulations may differ from state regulations

Please consult the refuge specific hunting regulations where you plan to hunt or follow the link to find the individual refuge website at **www.fws.gov**

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for most migratory game birds during the regular waterfowl season are ½ hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. through October 9, and until sunset thereafter.

Nine hunting time zones are shown on the Minnesota state map (right). Sunrise and sunset times to be used for hunting in the zone titled "In Table" are shown in the table (right). For other zones, add or subtract the minutes shown at the top of the map to the times shown in the table.



Source: U.S. Naval Observatory

Just wear it.

Waterfowlers are more likely to drown in a duck boat capsizing accident than they are to be accidentally injured in a firearms mishap.

For a free brochure on duck boat safety contact the Minnesota DNR. Call 888-MINNDNR or **email info@dnr.state.mn.us**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Sunrise/Sunset Table

Times shown in the table vary by specific location. For the exact time in your area check online at **www.dnr.state.mn.us/sunrise-sunset**

DATE	SEPT. RISE AM	SEPT. SET PM	OCT. RISE AM	OCT. SET PM	NOV. RISE AM	NOV. SET PM	DEC. RISE AM	DEC. SET PM
1	6:35	7:51	7:11	6:54	6:51	5:02	7:31	4:33
2	6:36	7:49	7:12	6:52	6:52	5:00	7:32	4:33
3	6:37	7:47	7:13	6:51	6:53	5:00	7:33	4:33
4	6:38	7:45	7:14	6:49	6:55	4:58	7:34	4:32
5	6:39	7:44	7:16	6:47	6:57	4:57	7:35	4:32
6	6:41	7:42	7:17	6:45	6:58	4:55	7:36	4:32
7	6:42	7:40	7:18	6:43	7:00	4:54	7:37	4:32
8	6:43	7:38	7:19	6:41	7:01	4:53	7:38	4:32
9	6:44	7:36	7:21	6:40	7:02	4:51	7:39	4:32
10	6:45	7:34	7:22	6:38	7:04	4:50	7:40	4:32
11	6:47	7:32	7:23	6:36	7:05	4:49	7:41	4:32
12	6:48	7:30	7:25	6:34	7:06	4:48	7:42	4:32
13	6:49	7:28	7:26	6:32	7:08	4:47	7:43	4:32
14	6:50	7:27	7:27	6:31	7:09	4:46	7:44	4:32
15	6:51	7:25	7:28	6:29	7:10	4:45	7:44	4:32
16	6:53	7:23	7:30	6:27	7:12	4:44	7:45	4:32
17	6:54	7:21	7:31	6:25	7:13	4:43	7:46	4:33
18	6:55	7:19	7:32	6:24	7:14	4:42	7:46	4:33
19	6:56	7:17	7:34	6:22	7:16	4:41	7:47	4:33
20	6:57	7:15	7:35	6:20	7:17	4:40	7:48	4:34
21	6:59	7:13	7:36	6:19	7:18	4:39	7:48	4:34
22	7:00	7:11	7:38	6:17	7:20	4:39	7:49	4:35
23	7:01	7:09	7:39	6:16	7:21	4:38	7:49	4:35
24	7:02	7:08	7:40	6:14	7:22	4:37	7:50	4:36
25	7:03	7:06	7:42	6:12	7:24	4:36	7:50	4:37
26	7:05	7:04	7:43	6:11	7:25	4:36	7:50	4:37
27	7:06	7:02	7:44	6:09	7:26	4:35	7:51	4:38
28	7:07	7:00	7:46	6:08	7:27	4:35	7:51	4:39
29	7:08	6:58	7:46	6:07	7:28	4:34	7:51	4:39
30	7:09	6:56	7:48	6:05	7:30	4:34	7:51	4:40
31			7:50	6:03			7:51	4:41

CALL US

Interpreters are available to answer all of your questions.

License, titling and registration: M-F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

General information: M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

888-MINNDNR or 651-296-6157

info.dnr@state.mn.us

mnwildlife mn_wildlife

TURN IN POACHERS

24-hour hotline; 800-652-9093

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-MINNDNR or 651-296-6157
www.mndnr.gov

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