PENNSYLVANIA GUIDE TO MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS 2012-13

Ducks, Mergansers & Coots Daily Bag & Possession Limits

Ducks: 6 daily, 12 in possession of any species except for the following restrictions: daily limit may not include more than 4 mallards including 2 hen mallards, 1 black duck, 2 pintails, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 4 scoters and 4 scaup. Possession limit may not include more than 8 mallards including 4 hens, 2 black ducks, 4 pintails, 2 mottled ducks, 2 fulvous whistling ducks, 6 wood ducks, 4 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 8 scoters and 8 scaup.

Mergansers: 5 daily, 10 in possession, not more than 2 hooded mergansers daily or 4 in possession.

Coots: 15 daily, 30 in possession.

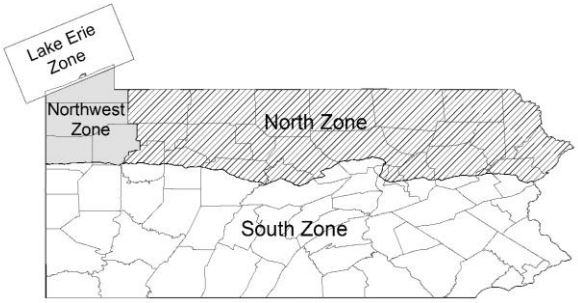
DUCKS, MERGANSERS & COOTS HUNTING ZONES AND OPEN SEASON DATES

Lake Erie Zone – Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie shoreline: **Oct. 22 - Dec. 29**

Northwest Zone - The area bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and including all of Erie and Crawford counties and all of Mercer and Venango counties north of I-80: **Oct. 6 – Dec. 14**

North Zone - The area east of the Northwest Zone and north of I-80 to Route 220, north from I-80 to I-180, north and east of I-180 from Route 220 to I-80, north of I-80 from I-180 to the Delaware River: **Oct. 6 - Oct. 20 & Nov. 13 - Jan. 5**

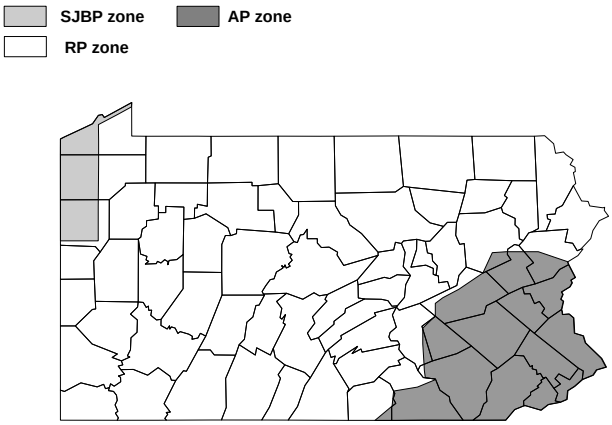
South Zone - All of state not in the Lake Erie, Northwest and North Zones: **Oct. 13 – Oct. 20 & Nov. 15 - Jan. 15**



Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (Ducks, Mergansers, Canada Geese, Coots and Gallinules): September 15 & September 22. See September Canada Goose Season for area description.

Atlantic Brant (Statewide): **Oct. 6-Dec. 3** (2 brant daily, 4 in possession).

PENNSYLVANIA GOOSE HUNTING ZONES



Resident Population (RP) Goose Hunting Zone: All of Pennsylvania **except** for the SJBP Zone **and** the AP Zone.

Southern James Bay Population (SJBP) Goose Hunting Zone: The area north of I-80 and west of I-79 including in the city of Erie west of Bay Front Parkway to and including the Lake Erie Duck zone (Lake Erie, Presque Isle and the area within 150 yds of Lake Erie Shoreline).

Atlantic Population (AP) Goose Hunting Zone: The area east of route SR 97 from Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of US Route 30, south of US Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I-81, east of I-81 to intersection of I-80, south of I-80 to New Jersey state line.

Canada Goose open seasons, daily bag & possession limits

AP Goose Hunting Zone - **Nov. 13 – Nov. 24 & Dec. 13 - Jan. 26** (3 geese daily). Note: on SGL 46 (Middle Creek) 1 goose daily, 2 in possession.

SJBP Goose Hunting Zone - **Oct. 6 - Nov. 24 & Dec. 10 - Jan. 18** (3 geese daily).

RP Goose Hunting Zone - **Oct. 27 – Nov. 24, Dec. 11 – Jan. 15, & Feb. 1 – Feb. 28** (5 geese daily).

September Canada Goose Season – Statewide **September 1- 25** (8 daily, 16 in possession) except:

(1) In the SJBP Zone the daily limit is 3, possession limit 6.

(2) In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of SR 18, SR 18 south to SR 618, SR 618 south to US Route 6, US Route 6 east to US Route 322/SR 18, US Route 322/SR 18 west to intersection of SR 3013, SR 3013 south to the Crawford/Mercer County line. The daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 2; except on SGL 214 where the season is closed to September goose hunting.

(3) Canada geese may be taken on Pymatuning State Park Reservoir and an area to extend 100 yards inland from the shoreline of the reservoir, excluding the area east of SR 3011 (Hartstown Road). The daily bag limit is 3, possession limit of 6.

(4) In the area of Lancaster and Lebanon counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to Lebanon-Berks county line, west of Lebanon-Berks county line and the Lancaster-Berks county line to SR 1053 (also known as Peartown Road and Greenville Road), west of SR 1053 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, the daily bag limit is 1, possession limit 2; except on SGL 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) where the season is closed.

Note: 2 and 4 do not apply to youth participation on youth waterfowl days Sept. 15 and Sept. 22, when regular season regulations apply. Hunting hours for all migratory birds, **including Canada geese**, close at sunset on the 2 youth waterfowl days.

Snow Goose open seasons, daily bag & possession limits

AP Goose Hunting Zone - Regular Season: **Oct. 27 - Jan. 26** (25 daily, no possession limit).
Conservation Season (permit required): **Jan. 28-April 26** (25 daily, no possession limit).

SJBP Goose Hunting Zone - Regular Season: **Oct. 27 – Jan. 18** (25 daily, no possession limit).
Conservation Season (permit required): **Jan. 19 - April 26** (25 daily, no possession limit).

RP Goose Hunting Zone - Regular Season: **Oct. 27 - Feb. 28** (25 daily, no possession limit).
Conservation Season (permit required): **March 1 - April 26** (25 daily, no possession limit).

Snow Goose Conservation Season - At the time of the publication of these regulations, the PGC planned to again hold a conservation season for snow geese in 2013. Season dates will vary by goose hunting zone as listed above. In all zones there is a daily bag limit of 25 snow geese, and no possession limit. Additional hunting methods of electronic calls, electronic decoys, and extended hunting hours to 1/2 hour after sunset will again be permitted. A free permit is required for hunters to participate in the conservation season, along with a federal duck stamp, migratory game bird license and general PA hunting license. Further information on when and how to apply for permits will be announced in the news media and on the PGC website.

No Open Season: Tundra and Trumpeter Swans and Harlequin Ducks. Mute swans are non-native and not protected under state or federal law. Hunters may harvest mute swans. Mute swans have an orange bill with a black fleshy knob on top at the feather line.

Webless Migratory Bird Seasons and Daily Limits

Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Species	Open Season	Daily Limit
Doves[A]	Sept. 1 – 29	15
	Oct. 27 - Nov. 24	15
	Dec. 26 - Jan. 5	15
Woodcock	Oct. 13 - Nov. 24	3
Common Snipe (Wilson's)	Oct. 13 - Nov. 24	8
Rails (Sora and Virginia only) [B]	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	3[C]
Gallinules	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	3

[A] During the Sept. 1-29 portion of the dove season, hunting hours are noon to sunset. During the other portions of the season, hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

[B] No open seasons on other rails.

[C] Singly or aggregate combinations.

For information on falconry seasons for migratory game birds, refer to the PGC website at www.pgc.state.pa.us.

Licenses Required, in addition to a Pennsylvania hunting license, to hunt ducks and geese:

Persons 16 and older – Federal Duck Stamp, signed in ink across its face, and Migratory Game Bird License (HIP).
Persons 12 through 15 – Migratory Game Bird License (HIP).

Voluntary: Pennsylvania Duck Stamp – helps finance wetland acquisition and development and waterfowl education.

A valid Migratory Game Bird License (HIP) is also required to hunt other migratory game birds, including doves, woodcock, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. If you purchased a HIP license last year, be sure to provide your last year's migratory game bird harvest results when asked. By answering these questions you will be entered into a pool of hunters from which samples for federal harvest surveys are drawn. Your responses to the questions improve efficiency and the quality of the information used to monitor the harvest of migratory birds for management purposes.

NEW PFD REGULATIONS: Effective Nov. 1, 2012, a person shall wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) during the cold weather months from November 1st through April 30th while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak. See http://fishandboat.com/boatcrs/pfd/faq-pfd-cold.htm for more information.

SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS

Notice: The material below is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal Regulations which may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. In addition to State regulations, the following Federal rules also apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds.

Restrictions: No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, revolver, swivel gun, shotgun largerthan 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft.
- From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the mo tor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 30 days after the removal of the bait.

For additional information on federal regulations, contact: Senior Resident Agent, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Elizabeth, NJ 07201; 1-908-787-1321

Closed Season: No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season. Waterfowl hunting is not permitted on Sundays.

Shooting or Falconry Hours: No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and falconry as prescribed.

Daily Bag Limit: No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

Field Possession Limit: No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

Wanton Waste: All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

Tagging: No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: the hunter's signature and address; the total number of birds involved, by species; and the dates such birds were killed. No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged.

Possession of Live Birds: Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Dressing: No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

Nontoxic Shot, Shot Size: NONTOXIC SHOT must be used while hunting ducks, geese and/or coots in Pennsylvania; the possession of lead shot while hunting ducks, geese and/or coots is unlawful. Shot for waterfowl hunting may not be larger than T size. Nontoxic shot types approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife are: Steel shot, steel shot with coating (1% of either copper, nickel, zinc chromate, or zinc chloride), bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix and tungsten-nickel (HEVI-SHOT), tungsten-bronze-iron shot, tungsten-tin-bismuth, and tungsten-tin-iron-nickel.

Decoys: The use of decoys powered or operated by batteries or any other sources of electricity are unlawful for use in Pennsylvania (except during the snow goose conservation seasons).

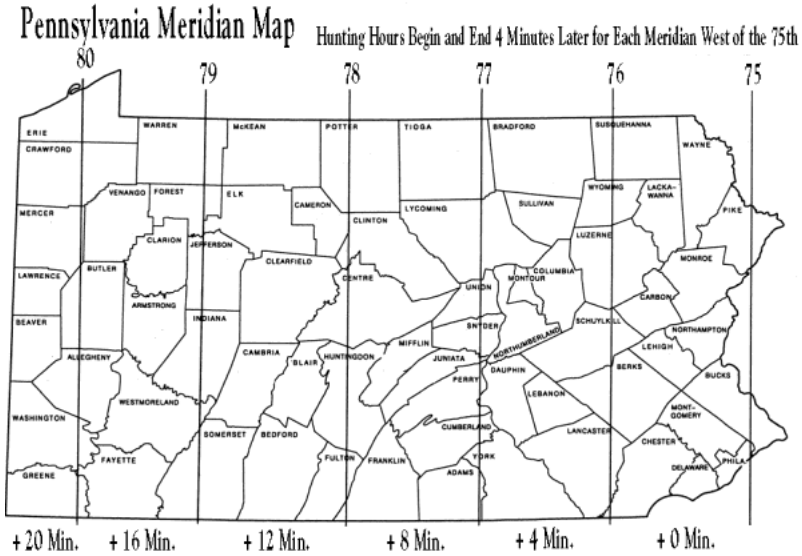
Baiting: The use of any sort of artificial substance or product as bait or an attractant is prohibited.

TIP Hotline: 1-888-PGC-8001, for reporting illegal kills of endangered species or multiple big game animals.

To report other violations please call nearest PGC regional office - Northwest: 1-814-432-3187, Southwest: 1-724-238-9523, Northcentral: 1-570-398-4744, Southcentral: 1-814-643-1831, Northeast: 1-570-675-1143, Southeast: 1-610-926-3136.

2012-13 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS Be sure to add the minutes from the Meridian Map to begin/end times.

Aug. 26 - Sept. 1	5:59am - 7:31pm	**Oct. 28 - Nov. 3**	7:02am - 5:55pm	**Dec. 30 - Jan. 5**	6:53am - 4:39pm	**Mar. 3 – 9**	6:01am - 5:55pm
Sept. 2 - 8	6:05am - 7:30pm	**Nov. 4 – 10**	6:10am - 4:48pm	**Jan. 6 – 12**	6:52am - 4:51pm	**Mar. 10 – 16**	6:50am - 7:02pm
Sept. 9 - 15	6:12am - 7:09pm	**Nov. 11 - 17**	6:18am - 4:42pm	**Jan. 13 – 19**	6:51am - 4:58pm	**Mar. 17 – 23**	6:39am - 7:10pm
Sept. 16 - 22	6:19am - 6:57pm	**Nov. 18 - 24**	6:26am - 4:38pm	**Jan. 20 – 26**	6:48am - 5:06pm	**Mar. 24 – 30**	6:27am - 7:17pm
Sept. 23 - 29	6:25am - 6:45pm	**Nov. 25 - Dec. 1**	6:34am - 4:36pm	**Jan. 27 - Feb. 2**	6:43am - 5:14pm	**Mar. 31 - Apr. 6**	6:16am - 7:24pm
Sept. 30 – Oct. 6	6:32am - 6:34pm	**Dec. 2 - 8**	6:40am - 4:35pm	**Feb. 3 – 9**	6:37am - 5:23pm	**Apr. 7 - 13**	6:05am - 7:31pm
Oct. 7 - 13	6:39am- 6:23pm	**Dec. 9 - 15**	6:45am - 4:35pm	**Feb. 10 – 16**	6:29am - 5:31pm	**Apr. 14 – 20**	5:54am - 7:38pm
Oct. 14- 20	6:47am - 6:13pm	**Dec. 16 - 22**	6:49am - 4:37pm	**Feb. 17 – 23**	6:21am - 5:39pm	**Apr. 21 – 27**	5:44am - 7:45pm
Oct. 21 - 27	6:54am - 6:04pm	**Dec. 23 – 29**	6:52am - 4:40pm	**Feb. 24 - Mar. 2**	6:11am - 5:47pm		



For most of the September Canada goose season (excluding the 2 youth waterfowl days, Sept. 15 and Sept. 22) and the entire snow goose conservation season, hunting hours are from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. For all other Canada goose seasons, the youth waterfowl days, the snow goose regular season, and all other migratory game bird seasons (except for the first split of the mourning dove season), hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset. The accompanying table lists, by date, one half hour before sunrise and sunset times. To determine actual hunting hours for the September Canada goose season, add 30 minutes to the sunset times, except for Sept. 15 and Sept. 22 when the closing time is **sunset**. These adjustments are made in addition to those based on the meridian map.

Exceptions:

Blinds at Middle Creek and Pymatuning will not be operational during the September season. During the regular season, shooting days at Middle Creek are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to 1:30 p.m. Geese only: Nov. 13; and Jan. 17, 19, 22, 24, and 26. Geese and ducks: Nov. 15, 17 (youth-only day), 20, 22, and 24; Dec. 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 27, and 29; and Jan. 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, and 15. Shooting days at Pymatuning are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, one-half hour before sunrise to 12:30 p.m. Ducks: Oct. 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24 (youth-only day), 26, 27, 29, and 31; Nov. 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, and 30; and Dec. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 14. Geese: Oct. 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 31; Nov. 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 24 (youth-only day); Dec. 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, and 31; and Jan. 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 18.

Special youth-only waterfowl hunting days will be held at the controlled goose hunting areas at both Middle Creek (Nov. 17) and Pymatuning (Nov. 24) wildlife management areas. (Note: The youth-only restriction applies to the controlled goose hunting areas only; public hunting areas at Middle Creek and Pymatuning, and the Controlled Duck Hunting Areas at Pymatuning, remain open to everyone, including adults, on these dates.) Youth must hold a junior license and be accompanied by an adult, who may participate in the hunt by calling only. A special drawing of applications submitted by junior license holders will be held immediately before the regular drawing for goose blinds. Interested youth should use the same application on page 28 of the 2012-13 Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest. Only one application will be accepted per junior hunter.

This publication is only a guide. For official law see Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50 Part 20. For additional information on federal migratory bird hunting regulations, refer to the waterfowl page at www.pgc.state.pa.us.

Band Reporting: online at www.reportband.gov, or call TOLL-FREE, 1-800-327-2263.