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Maine Migratory Game Bird Hunting Schedule 1978

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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Migratory Game Bird Hunting Schedule 1978



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MIGRATORY GAME BIRD REGULATIONS

In accordance with the Revised Statutes of 1964, Title 12, Chapter 319, Section 2352, the following regulations have been adopted governing the lawful hunting and possession of migratory game birds. For the purpose of this regulation, migratory game birds include and are limited to species in the following families: (1) Anatidae (wild ducks, geese, and brant); (2) Rallidae (rails, coots, and gallinules); and Scolopaciidae (woodcock and snipe). Except as expressly provided in these regulations, it shall be unlawful to hunt, capture, kill, take, possess, transport, buy or sell any migratory game bird or part thereof.

1. HUNTING METHODS

It shall be lawful to hunt migratory game birds by the aid of dogs, artificial decoys, manually or mouth-operated bird calls, with longbow and arrow, or by the practice of falconry, or with shotgun (not larger than No. 10 gauge and incapable of holding more than three shells) fired from the shoulder. Every other method is unlawful.

It shall be lawful to hunt migratory game birds from floating craft (except a sinkbox), including those capable of being propelled by motor, sail and wind, or both, only when (1) the motor of such craft has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, as the case may be, and (2) the progress or motion of the craft in the water has ceased and the craft is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled solely by paddle, oars, or pole.

It shall be lawful to use a motor or sail on a craft as a means of retrieving or picking up dead or injured birds.

All migratory game birds, including waterfowl, may be taken on or over standing crops (including aquatics), flooded standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as a result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting and in addition, all migratory game birds, except waterfowl, may be taken on or over lands where shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as a result of valid agricultural operations or procedures.

2. TRANSPORTATION

Any person, without a permit, may transport lawfully killed and possessed migratory game birds into, within, or out of any State, or export such birds to a foreign country during and after the open seasons in the State where taken, subject to the conditions and restrictions specified in this part.

If such birds are dressed, one fully feathered wing must remain attached to each bird so as to permit species identification while being transported between the place where taken and the personal abode of the possessor or between the place where taken and a commercial preservation facility.

Any package or container in which such birds are transported shall have the name and address of the shipper and of the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of birds contained therein clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

3. POSSESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCESSING, TRANSPORTATION, OR STORAGE

No hunter who legally takes and possesses any migratory game birds shall place or leave any such birds in the custody of any other person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage) unless such birds have a tag attached signed by the hunter stating his address, the total number and kinds of birds, and the date such birds were killed.

No person may receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as provided above.

No hunter who legally takes and possesses any migratory game birds shall place or leave such birds at any place for storage (including temporary storage) other than at his personal abode unless such birds are tagged as provided above. Legally possessed migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be deemed to be in storage or temporary storage.

Any commercial picking establishment or cold-storage or locker plant receiving, possessing, or having in custody any migratory game birds shall maintain accurate records showing the numbers and kinds of such birds, the dates received and disposed of, and the names and addresses of the persons from whom such birds were received and to whom such birds were delivered. The records required to be maintained shall be retained by the person or persons responsible for their preparation and maintenance for a period of 1 year following the close of the open season on migratory game birds prescribed for the State in which such picking establishment or cold-storage or locker plant is located.

4. TERMINATION OF POSSESSION

For the purposes of this part, the possession of birds legally taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a commercial cold-storage or locker plant for transportation by the postal service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

5. WOUNDED LIVE MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit.

6. POSSESSION OF PLUMAGE

Any person, without a permit, may possess and transport for his own use the plumage and skins of lawfully taken migratory game birds.

7. WANTON WASTE OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this regulation without any visible means to retrieve and without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in his daily bag limit. The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power will be permitted on those coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams lying seaward from the first upstream bridge.

8. OPEN SEASONS, LIMITS, AND OTHER PROVISIONS

Migratory game birds may be taken only in accordance with the open seasons, the daily bag limits, possession limits, and within the shooting hours as stated herein.

No person may take in any one day more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies. No person may possess more birds lawfully taken than the possession limit or the aggregate possession limit, whichever applies. No person on the opening day of the season may possess any migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, and no person may possess any freshly killed migratory game birds during the closed season.

SELECTED SECTIONS OF MAINE INLAND FISH AND WILDLIFE LAWS (see hunting law booklet for all laws)

Sec. 2461 (cond.). The provisions of this and the two following paragraphs apply to the waters of Kennebec River, known as Merrymeeting Bay, bounded as follows: From the high tension wires at Chop's Point to the first dam on the Androscoggin River, to the first road bridge on the Muddy, Cathance, Abbagadasset, and Eastern rivers and the Richmond-Dresden bridge on the Kennebec River, being in the counties of Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and Lincoln.

No duck decoys or artificial cover which is termed a stationary blind, or parts thereof, used for hunting purposes shall be left or allowed to remain in the waters of Merrymeeting Bay at any time between 1 hour after legal shooting time and 1 hour before legal shooting time.

No power boat may be operated in Merrymeeting Bay in excess of 10 miles an hour except within buoyed channels.

Sec. 2466-A (cond.). It is unlawful to shoot, or shoot at, or near, any wildfowl decoy of another person, with a rifle, pistol, or shotgun with a ball, slug, or buckshot. "Near" means the area encompassed by the set of decoys and including the area 50 yards away from the outer perimeter of the set of decoys.

Sec. 2468 (cond.). It is unlawful to hunt with firearms during the open season on deer (except when hunting waterfowl from a boat or blind or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys) unless wearing an article of hunter orange clothing which is in good and serviceable condition and which is visible from all sides.

DUCK STAMP

Federal law provides that no person who has attained the age of 16 years shall take any migratory waterfowl (wild ducks, geese, or brant) unless he has on his person an unexpired federal migratory bird hunting stamp ("duck stamp"), validated by his signature written across the face of the stamp in ink.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION AT ONE TIME
DUCKS			
North Zone (defined below)	Oct. 2 (sunrise) -- Nov.20	4	8
South Zone	Oct. 2 (sunrise) -- Oct. 21 Nov. 10 ----- Dec. 9	4 4	8 8
The daily limit of ducks shall not include more than two black ducks or two wood ducks. The possession limit shall not include more than four black ducks or four wood ducks. The daily and possession limits can include one canvasback or one redhead. See note below on bonus seasons on blue-winged teal and scaup.			
MERGANSERS	Zones and seasons same as ducks, above.	5	10
The daily limit of mergansers shall not include more than one hooded merganser. The possession limit shall not include more than two hooded mergansers.			
AMERICAN COOTS (or mudhen)	Zones and seasons same as ducks, above.	15	30
CANADA GEESE	Oct. 2 (sunrise) -- Dec. 10	3	6
SNOW GEESE (including blue geese)	Oct. 2 (sunrise) -- Dec. 10	2	4
BRANT	No open season		
SCOTER (or sea coot)	Oct. 2, 1978 --	7	14
EIDER, OLD SQUAW	Jan. 16, 1979	(in aggregate)	

The special sea duck season is for all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge; in all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season on ducks.

WOODCOCK	Oct. 2 -- Nov. 15	5	10
WILSON'S SNIBE	Sept. 1 -- Dec. 16	8	16
RAILS (Sora & Virginia)	Sept. 1 -- Nov. 9	25	25
GALLINULES	Sept. 1 -- Nov. 9	15	30
CROWS	Aug. 16 -- Nov. 15, 1978	no limit	

BONUS SEASONS: During the first nine days of the regular duck season in both zones, two blue-winged teal may be taken daily in addition to the regular daily limit on ducks. Also in addition to the daily bag limit on ducks, two scaup may be taken daily during the regular duck season in coastal waters and the waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge — except on the Androscoggin River, where the boundary is the Topsham-Brunswick bridge; on the Kennebec, the Randolph-Gardiner bridge; and on the Penobscot, the Bangor-Brewer bridge. The scaup bonus also applies to all tidal waters bounded by state highways 182 and 200 north of U.S. Highway 1 in Hancock County.

SHOOTING HOURS: Shooting hours on migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset except that duck, goose, coot, and merganser hunting begins at sunrise statewide on Oct. 2.

NORTH AND SOUTH ZONES DEFINED: The NORTH ZONE for waterfowl hunting is Wildlife Management Units 1,2, and 3, being that area of the State of Maine lying northerly of a line formed by and including the townships of Weston; Bancroft; Reed; Macwahoc; Molunkus; T.1,R.6; Grindstone; T.1,R.8; T.1,R.9; T.A,R.10; T.B,R.10; T.B,R.11; Bowdoin College Grant East; Bowdoin College Grant West; Greenville; Shirley; East Moxie; The Forks; Bowtown; Pierce Pond; T.3,R.4; Dead River; Carrabasset Valley; Kingfield; Freeman; New Vineyard; Strong; Temple; Washington; Carthage; Roxbury; Andover; Newry; Riley. The SOUTH ZONE is Wildlife Management Units 4,5,6,7, and 8, being that area of the state lying southerly of the line described in the preceding paragraph.

STEEL SHOT REQUIREMENTS: On the waters of Merrymeeting Bay, as defined in the next paragraph, and within a 150 yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters, no person shall hunt ducks, geese, or coots while possessing 12-gauge shotshells loaded with any metal other than steel shot or such material as may be approved by the Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The waters of the Kennebec River known as Merrymeeting Bay are bounded as follows: from the high tension wires at Chop's Point to the first dam on the Androscoggin River, to the first road bridge on the Muddy, Cathance, Abbagadasset, and Eastern rivers and the Richmond-Dresden bridge on the Kennebec River, being in the counties of Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and Lincoln.

GEESE ON CERTAIN AREAS: On Sep. 1, 1978, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife proposed to adopt the following regulation:

It shall be unlawful to hunt or to have in possession Canada geese within the boundaries of the following areas from sunrise on Oct. 2, 1978, to sunset on Oct. 7, 1978: Pond Farm Wildlife Management Area, Maxfield & Howland; Ruffingham Wildlife Management Area, Montville & Searsmont.

If adopted, public notice of the new regulation would be published before Oct. 2.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTERS TIME AND TIDE TABLE -- 1978

DATE	LEGAL		TIME*	TIDES*		DATE	LEGAL		TIME*	TIDES*		DATE	LEGAL		TIME*	TIDES*	
	OPEN	CLOSE		HI	LO		OPEN	CLOSE		HI	LO		OPEN	CLOSE		HI	LO
Sep 23	5:58	6:33	4:54P	10:38A		Oct 30	5:43	4:32	9:35A	3:50P		Dec 5	6:29	4:00	2:43P	8:29A	
Sep 25	5:59	6:32	6:37A	12:39P		Oct 31	5:45	4:30	10:13A	4:30P		Dec 6	6:30	4:00	3:47P	9:35A	
Sep 26	6:01	6:30	7:39A	1:39P		Nov 1	5:46	4:29	10:52A	4:40A		Dec 7	6:31	4:00	4:56P	10:42A	
Sep 27	6:02	6:28	8:32A	2:34P		Nov 2	5:47	4:28	11:33A	5:21A		Dec 8	6:32	4:00	5:36A	11:53A	
Sep 28	6:03	6:26	9:20A	3:23P		Nov 3	5:49	4:26	12:17P	6:05A		Dec 9	6:33	4:00	6:39A	1:00P	
Sep 29	6:04	6:24	10:02A	4:07P		Nov 4	5:50	4:25	1:04P	6:52A		Dec 11	6:35	4:00	8:30A	2:55P	
Sep 30	6:05	6:22	10:39A	4:45P		Nov 6	5:53	4:22	2:56P	8:40A		Dec 12	6:36	4:00	9:21A	3:44P	
**Oct 2	6:08	6:19	11:49A	5:40A		Nov 7	5:54	4:21	3:59P	9:45A		Dec 13	6:37	4:00	10:05A	4:28P	
Oct 3	6:09	6:17	12:22P	6:13A		Nov 8	5:55	4:20	5:09P	10:55A		Dec 14	6:38	4:00	10:45A	5:09P	
Oct 4	6:10	6:15	12:59P	6:49A		Nov 9	5:57	4:19	5:55A	12:07P		Dec 15	6:39	4:00	11:25A	5:14A	
Oct 5	6:11	6:13	1:30P	7:27A		Nov 10	5:58	4:18	6:58A	1:13P		Dec 16	6:39	4:01	Noon	5:51A	
Oct 6	6:13	6:11	2:23P	8:12A		Nov 11	5:59	4:17	7:57A	2:14P		Dec 18	6:41	4:01	1:15P	7:06A	
Oct 7	6:14	6:10	3:13P	8:58A		Nov 13	6:02	4:14	9:37A	3:57P		Dec 19	6:41	4:02	1:55P	7:47A	
Oct 9	6:17	6:06	5:13P	10:55A		Nov 14	6:03	4:13	10:22A	4:43P		Dec 20	6:41	4:02	2:40P	8:32A	
Oct 10	6:18	6:04	5:58A	12:03P		Nov 15	6:05	4:12	11:04A	4:53A		Dec 21	6:42	4:03	3:28P	9:20A	
Oct 11	6:19	6:02	7:07A	1:15P		Nov 16	6:06	4:11	11:43A	5:34A		Dec 22	6:42	4:03	4:20P	10:13A	
Oct 12	6:20	6:01	8:13A	2:22P		Nov 17	6:07	4:11	12:24P	6:11A		Dec 23	6:43	4:04	4:55A	11:08A	
Oct 13	6:21	5:59	9:12A	3:22P		Nov 18	6:09	4:10	1:03P	6:52A		Dec 25	6:44	4:05	6:39A	1:01P	
Oct 14	6:23	5:57	10:07A	4:19P		Nov 20	6:11	4:08	2:29P	8:19A		Dec 26	6:44	4:06	7:30A	1:57P	
Oct 16	6:25	5:52	11:41A	5:30A		Nov 21	6:13	4:07	3:20P	9:09A		Dec 27	6:44	4:06	8:22A	2:49P	
Oct 17	6:26	5:52	12:26P	6:13A		Nov 22	6:14	4:06	4:14P	10:05A		Dec 28	6:45	4:07	9:11A	3:39P	
Oct 18	6:28	5:50	1:08P	6:58A		Nov 23	6:15	4:06	5:11P	11:03A		Dec 29	6:45	4:08	10:02A	4:29P	
Oct 19	6:29	5:49	1:50P	7:40A		Nov 24	6:16	4:05	5:50A	Noon		Dec 30	6:45	4:09	10:52A	4:38A	
Oct 20	6:30	5:47	2:34P	8:22A		Nov 25	6:18	4:04	6:42A	12:55P		Jan 1	6:45	4:11			
Oct 21	6:31	5:46	3:19P	9:08A		Nov 27	6:20	4:03	8:14A	2:33P		Jan 5	6:45	4:14			
Oct 23	6:34	5:42	5:04P	10:53A		Nov 28	6:21	4:03	8:59A	3:18P		Jan 10	6:44	4:20			
Oct 24	6:35	5:41	5:50A	11:52A		Nov 29	6:22	4:02	9:40A	4:04P		Jan 15	6:42	4:26			
Oct 25	6:37	5:39	6:50A	12:54P		Nov 30	6:24	4:02	10:24A	4:50P							
Oct 26	6:38	5:38	7:45A	1:52P		Dec 1	6:25	4:01	11:10A	4:57A							
Oct 27	6:39	5:36	8:35A	2:43P		Dec 2	6:26	4:01	11:59A	5:45A							
Oct 28	6:41	5:35	9:17A	3:30P		Dec 4	6:28	4:01	1:44P	7:31A							

*All times listed through Oct. 28 are Daylight Saving Time; after that date, they are Eastern Standard Time. Times listed are legal shooting hours for migratory game birds — ½ hour before sunrise to sunset except as noted below.

**Duck, goose, coot, and merganser hunting begins at sunrise on Oct. 2. (6:38 a.m.)

Sunday hunting is illegal in Maine.

TIDE CONVERSIONS: Tide information listed is for Portland. For Richmond (Merrymeeting Bay), add 2 hrs. 48 min.; for Sturgeon Island (Merrymeeting Bay), add 2 hrs.; for Bucksport, deduct 2 min.; for Jonesport, deduct 23 min.