

Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2026–2027



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Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64082
 816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 636-441-4554



To report poaching or game-law violations, call

Operation Game Thief

800-392-1111

**Rewards are available for information
 leading to the arrest of game-law violators.
 You can remain anonymous.**

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What's New for 2026?

- Permit prices have increased to keep pace with the rising costs of goods and services. See Page 6.
- The Migratory Bird Hunting Permit has been replaced by a Resident Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and a Nonresident Migratory Bird Hunting Permit. See Page 6.
- Duck hunting zone boundaries have changed slightly for the 2026–2030 seasons. See Page 15.
- Duck season date formulas have changed for the 2026–2030 seasons. See Page 15.

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Permits and Stamps

Permit and Stamp Requirements

All hunters age 16 or older must carry the appropriate permits in either paper, department-issued plastic, or electronic format to pursue, take, possess, and transport migratory game birds in Missouri. The permits you need depend upon whether you are a resident or nonresident hunter and the game birds that you plan to hunt.

Ducks, Geese, and Coots

Three permits are required:

- 1 Small Game Hunting Permit
- 2 Migratory Bird Hunting Permit
- 3 Federal Duck Stamp

Doves, Rails, Snipe, and Woodcock

Two permits are required:

- 1 Small Game Hunting Permit
- 2 Migratory Bird Hunting Permit

Snow, Blue, and Ross's Geese During the Conservation Order

One permit is required:

- 1 Conservation Order Permit

Small Game Hunting Permits

The Conservation Department offers a variety of small game hunting permits for residents and nonresidents. Only one small game hunting permit is needed to hunt migratory game birds.

Some hunters are not required to possess a small game hunting permit.

- If you are a resident landowner (as defined in Rule 3 CSR 10-20.805 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*), you do not need a small game hunting permit to hunt on your own land.
- If you are a Missouri resident 65 or older, you do not need a small game hunting permit.
- If you are an honorably discharged resident or nonresident veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater; a member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; or if you were a prisoner of war during military service, you do not need a small game hunting permit. However, you must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or orders showing your assignment.

Permit Requirements for Young Hunters

If you are 15 or younger, you do not need any permits to hunt migratory game birds in Missouri. However, you must:

- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967;
- Or possess a valid hunter-education card.

Note: During Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, you must hunt in the immediate presence of an adult, regardless of whether or not you have a valid hunter-education card. See Page 13.

Hunter-Education Requirement

You must complete an approved hunter-education program in Missouri or another state to buy firearms hunting permits unless:

- You were born before Jan. 1, 1967.
- You are 15 or younger and hunting in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.
- You are using an Apprentice Hunter Authorization. See Page 5.
- You have a developmental disability. See Rule 3 CSR 10-5.205 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

A hunter-education card need not be displayed when buying permits if certification can be verified online. If this is not possible, some hunters will need to contact the Conservation Department to provide proof of hunter-education certification. Once in Missouri's permit database, hunters won't have to submit this information again.

You must be 11 years or older to enroll in Missouri's hunter-education course. For more information on hunter education, visit mdc.mo.gov/huntereducation.

MO Hunting App

The Conservation Department's free MO Hunting app offers a quick, easy, and convenient option for carrying your permits afield. The app, which is available for Android and Apple mobile devices, allows you to:

- See all the hunting, fishing, and trapping permits you have purchased — even if they were purchased from a traditional vendor or by telephone.
- Carry valid, electronic permits afield, including a Federal Duck Stamp.

To log in to MO Hunting, you'll need your date of birth and Conservation Number. This nine-digit number can be found on any current or previous permit. For help locating your Conservation Number, call 573-522-0107 during regular business hours, or go to short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkH.

MO Hunting is available in the Google Play and Apple App stores. You can also get MO Hunting and learn more about the app at short.mdc.mo.gov/Zi2.

Who May Purchase Resident Permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting and purchasing permits.
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; must carry orders showing such assignment while hunting and purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status, such as a student ID, while hunting. **Note:** Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them in person, over the phone, or through the mail from Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Where to Purchase Permits

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits. Use your credit card to pay. No surcharges will be assessed. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately or use the free MO Hunting app (see Page 4). Your permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Where to Purchase Duck Stamps

- You may buy duck stamps at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits or from retail permit vendors. An electronic duck stamp (e-Stamp) will be issued to you, and a physical (paper) duck stamp will be mailed to you sometime after March of the following year. The e-Stamp may be used immediately and is valid for the entire season. You no longer need to sign and carry a physical duck stamp after the purchase of an e-Stamp. The cost to purchase an e-Stamp in Missouri is \$32, which includes a \$7 handling fee. If you do not receive your physical duck stamp by June of the following year, please contact Amplex customer service at 800-852-4897.
- Traditional (paper) duck stamps may be purchased for \$25 at some U.S. Post Offices. Please contact the office before you visit to ask if duck stamps are available. Before hunting, you must validate a traditional duck stamp by signing your name across the face of the stamp.
- Duck stamps are not sold at waterfowl hunting areas.
- Most permit vendors do not sell traditional (paper) duck stamps. However, all permit vendors offer e-Stamps.

Replacing Permits

If you lose your permit, simply download the MO Hunting app to your Android or Apple mobile device, log in with your date of birth and Conservation Number, and a valid, electronic version of your permit will appear on the app. Active, valid permits can be reprinted at home for free at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits. Replacement permits can also be purchased from any vendor for \$3.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 or older who do not have a valid hunter-education card may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- First purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization;
- Then purchase permits for the season they want to hunt; and
- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Social Security Number Requirement

Federal Statute 42 U.S.C. § 666 and Missouri Revised Statute 454.403 require buyers of Missouri hunting, fishing, and trapping permits to provide their Social Security number. Individuals who do not have a Social Security number will be required to affirm that information. Falsifying a Social Security number may result in revocation of privileges or criminal charges. Social Security numbers are securely stored and used in support of the Missouri Department of Social Service's child support enforcement.

Permit Prices

Resident Small Game Hunting Permit

This permit allows you to take birds (except turkeys), mammals (except black bears, deer, and elk), frogs, and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.

Cost..... \$11.50

Resident Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit

This permit allows the same privileges as the Resident Small Game Hunting Permit, plus it allows you to take fish, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, and live bait.

Cost..... \$22.50

Resident National Guard and Reserve Service Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit

This permit allows the same privileges as the Resident Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit. It is for Missouri residents who are mobilized (or have been in the past 12 months) and are serving on full-time active duty in the National Guard (federal status) or U.S. Reserves.

Cost.....\$5.50

To apply for this permit:

- Go online at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJ9.
- Call 573-522-0107.
- Write to National Guard Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Nonresident Small Game Hunting Permit

This permit allows you to take birds (except turkeys), mammals (except black bears, deer, elk, and furbearers), and frogs.

Cost..... \$108.50

Daily Small Game Hunting Permit

This permit allows you to take birds (except turkeys), mammals (except black bears, deer, elk, and furbearers), and frogs. It is valid for a single day only, but you may purchase additional daily permits to hunt additional days.

Cost..... \$16

Resident Conservation Order Permit

This is the only permit you need to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

Cost.....\$5.50

Nonresident Conservation Order Permit

This is the only permit you need to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

Cost..... \$54

Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit

This permit allows the same privileges as the Small Game Hunting Permit, Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Conservation Order Permit. Black bear, deer, elk, and turkey hunting privileges are not included. A Federal Duck Stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.

Age 15 or younger..... \$320
Age 16–29 \$465.50
Age 30–39 \$407
Age 40–59 \$349
Age 60 or older..... \$40.50

To apply for this permit:

- Go online at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJ4.
- Call 573-522-0107.
- Email Lifetime.Permit@mdc.mo.gov.

Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit

This permit allows the same privileges as the Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit, Trout Permit, Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Conservation Order Permit. Black bear, deer, elk, and turkey hunting privileges are not included. A Federal Duck Stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.

Age 15 or younger..... \$640
Age 16–29 \$930.50
Age 30–39 \$814.50
Age 40–59 \$698
Age 60 or older..... \$81.50

To apply for this permit:

- Go online at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJ4.
- Call 573-522-0107.
- Email Lifetime.Permit@mdc.mo.gov.

Federal Duck Stamp

This stamp is required of all resident and nonresident waterfowl hunters, age 16 or older. You may buy e-Stamps online and traditional (paper) stamps at some U.S. Post Offices (see Page 5). Paper stamps must be signed in ink across the face.

e-Stamp..... \$32
Paper stamp..... \$25

Resident Migratory Bird Hunting Permit

This permit is required of all resident migratory bird hunters (including landowners), age 16 or older.

Cost.....\$8

Nonresident Migratory Bird Hunting Permit

This permit is required of all nonresident migratory bird hunters (including landowners), age 16 or older.

Cost..... \$60



Dove Season

Dates

Sept. 1–Nov. 29, 2026

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Limits

- Mourning doves, white-winged doves, and Eurasian collared-doves count toward daily and possession limits.
- The daily bag limit is 15 doves, combined total of all three species.
- The possession limit is 45 doves, combined total of all three species.

DOVE SEASON

Allowed

- Shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller and manufactured or modified so as not to hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Hunting dogs
- Motor boats or sailboats may be used, but only if the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and the boat's progress has stopped.
- Other methods are allowed by state and federal regulations. Please consult Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for more information.

Prohibited

- Rifles and pistols
- Firearms that propel a single projectile at one discharge
- Punt guns, battery guns, swivel guns, fully automatic firearms, traps, snares, nets, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, and stupefying substances
- Motor vehicles and aircraft. Paraplegics and people missing one or both legs may hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- Sink boxes and any other type of low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Electronic calls and electronically activated calls
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Live decoys
- Bait (see Page 36)

Permits

Two permits are required. See Page 6 for permit details.

- 1 Small Game Hunting Permit
- 2 Migratory Bird Hunting Permit

Hunters Provide Valuable Dove Data by Reporting Bands

Mourning doves are one of the most widely distributed and abundant game birds in North America. Survival and harvest information is critical for understanding how hunting regulations affect mourning dove populations. Banding is an important tool for obtaining this information.

Captured doves are fitted with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) band inscribed with an identification number. Hunters should examine their mourning doves for leg bands. By reporting banded doves (see Page 38), you help manage this important migratory bird resource.

Missouri also is cooperating with the USFWS in collecting mourning dove wings from hunters. Randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove during the first week of the season and mail the wings (postage free) to the USFWS. Hunters using high-use public areas also may be asked to provide dove wings. Data from the wings, in combination with information from banded birds, is used to establish hunting regulations.

Dove Hunting on Public Land

Dove hunting fields on conservation areas are planted in sunflowers, wheat, millet, buckwheat, corn, or a combination of crops. Maps of areas that have dove fields are available from the Conservation Department's website at short.mdc.mo.gov/Z5J. For additional information, contact the regional office for the area you want to hunt.

Some Dove Hunting Areas Require Nontoxic Shot

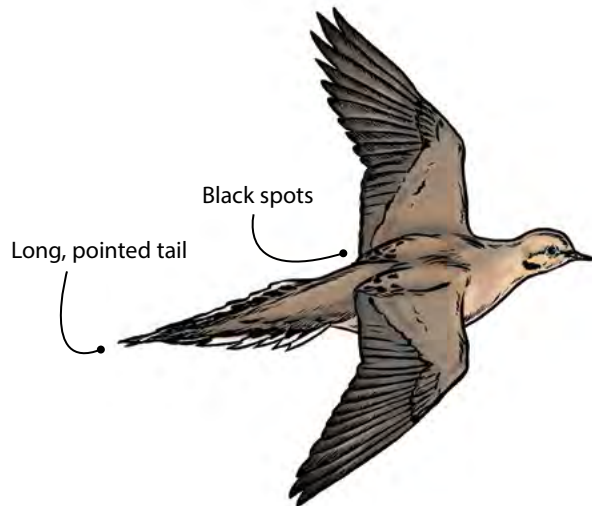
Research shows that doves, waterfowl, and many other species suffer from lead poisoning after consuming pellets from spent shotgun shells. **The use or possession of lead shot for hunting doves is prohibited at the conservation areas listed below. In addition, see Page 38 for a list of conservation areas where lead shot is prohibited for all shotgun hunting.**

- Bilby Ranch Lake
- Blue Spring Branch
- Bois D'Arc
- Busch (August A.)
- Capps Creek
- Crowley's Ridge
- Davisdale
- Fort Crowder
- Harmony Mission Lake
- Lamine River
- Logan (William R.)
- Maintz Wildlife Preserve
- Pacific Palisades
- Park (Guy B.)
- Peabody
- Pony Express Lake
- Reed (James A.) Memorial Wildlife Area
- Reform
- Shawnee Trail
- Sloan (Dr. O. E. and Eloise)
- Stockton Lake Management Lands
- Talbot (Robert E.)
- Truman Reservoir Management Lands (Bethlehem)
- Weldon Spring
- Whetstone Creek
- White (William G. and Erma Parke) Memorial Wildlife Area

Dove Identification

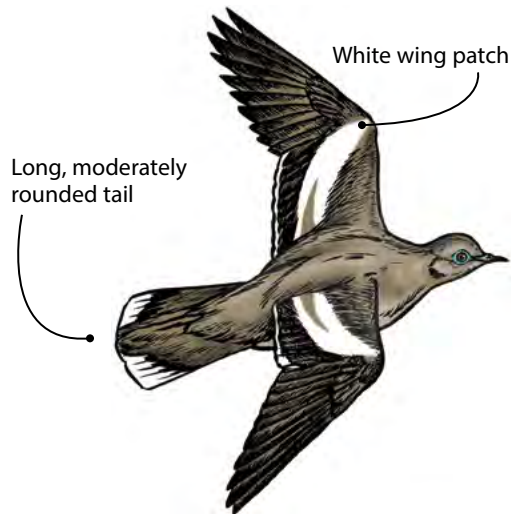
Mourning dove

- Grayish-brown
- Faster wing beat, more erratic flight path than white-winged dove
- 12 inches from tip of beak to end of tail
- Call is a soft, inflected *cooAHoo* followed by several *coos*



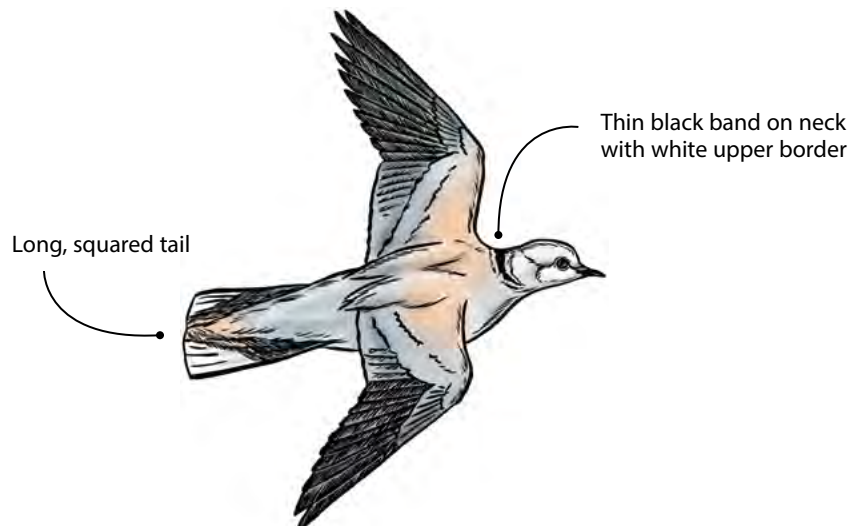
White-winged dove

- Grayish-brown
- Slightly larger than mourning dove
- Call is a soft *hoohoo hoohoo* with the final note descending



Eurasian collared-dove

- Gray
- 13 inches from tip of beak to end of tail
- Call is a three-part *coo* with similar tone to a domestic pigeon



Rail, Snipe, and Woodcock Seasons

RAIL, SNIFE, AND WOODCOCK SEASONS



Virginia rail

NOAH MOUL / CORBIS

📅 Dates

- **Sora and Virginia Rails:** Sept. 1–Nov. 9, 2026
- **Wilson's (Common) Snipe:** Sept. 1–Dec. 16, 2026
- **American Woodcock:** Oct. 18–Dec. 1, 2026

🕒 Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

🚫 Limits

- **Sora and Virginia Rails:** 25 daily (combined total of both species)
- **Wilson's (Common) Snipe:** Eight daily
- **American Woodcock:** Three daily
- Possession limits are three times the daily bag limits for rails, snipe, and woodcock.

✅ Allowed

- Shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller and manufactured or modified so as not to hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Hunting dogs
- Motor boats or sailboats may be used, but only if the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and the boat's progress has stopped.
- Other methods are allowed by state and federal regulations. Please consult Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for more information.

📄 Permits

Two permits are required. See Page 6 for permit details.

- 1 Small Game Hunting Permit
- 2 Migratory Bird Hunting Permit

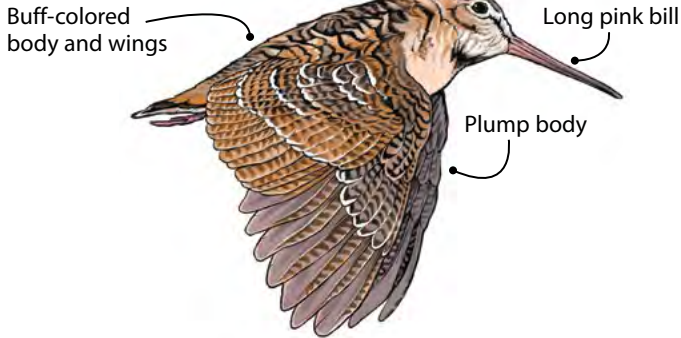
❌ Prohibited

- Rifles and pistols
- Firearms that propel a single projectile at one discharge
- Punt guns, battery guns, swivel guns, fully automatic firearms, traps, snares, nets, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, and stupefying substances
- Lead shot is prohibited at some conservation areas. See Page 38.
- Motor vehicles and aircraft. Paraplegics and people missing one or both legs may hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- Sink boxes and any other type of low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Electronic calls and electronically activated calls
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Live decoys
- Bait (see Page 36)

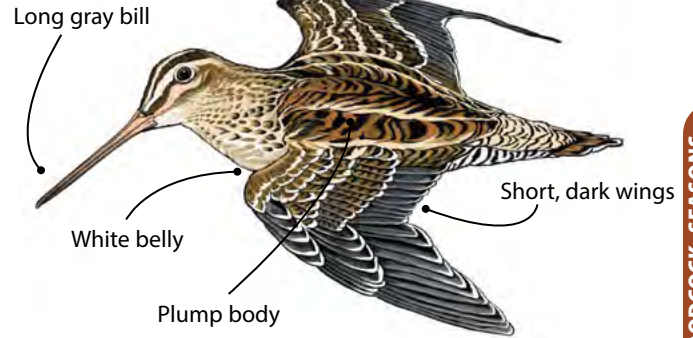
Rail, Snipe, and Woodcock Identification

LEGAL during migratory bird season

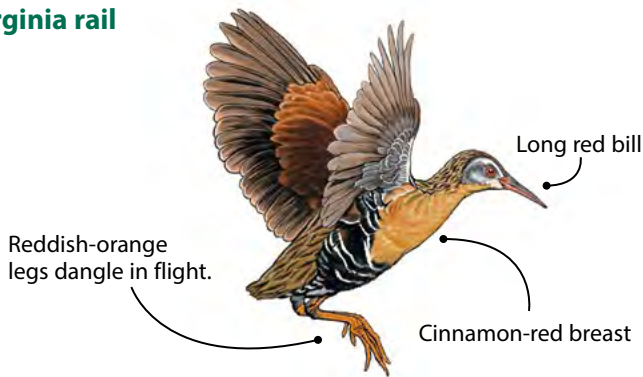
American woodcock



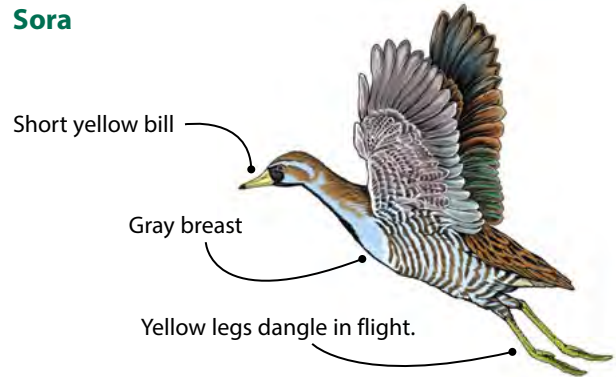
Wilson's (common) snipe



Virginia rail

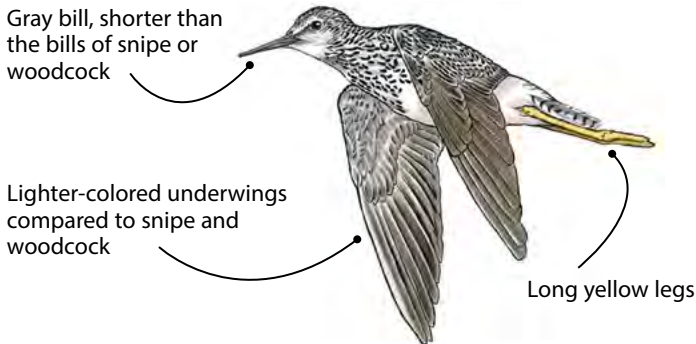


Sora



ILLEGAL

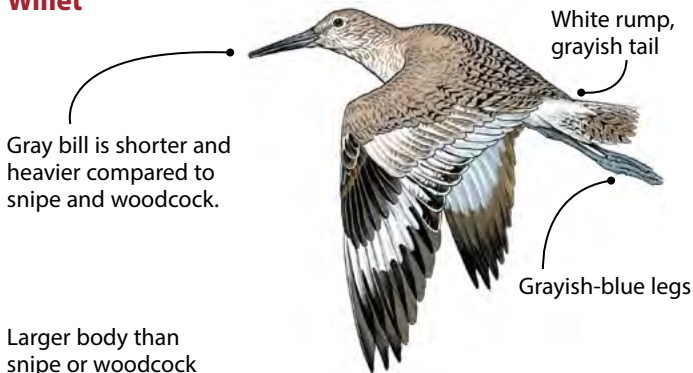
Lesser and greater yellowlegs



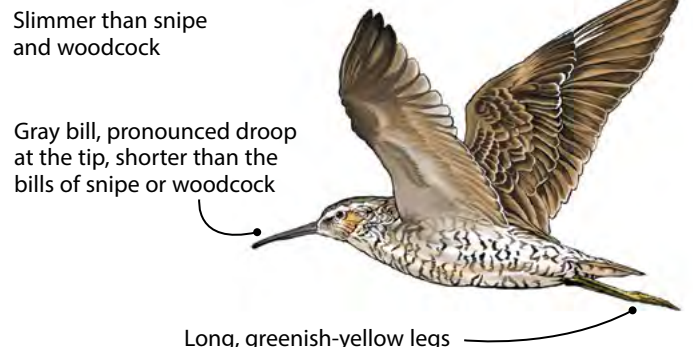
Long-billed and short-billed dowitchers



Willet



Stilt sandpiper



RAIL, SNIFE, AND WOODCOCK SEASONS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID BESENGER

Teal Season



Blue-winged teal

JIM RATHER

WATERFOWL SEASONS

Dates

Sept. 12–20, 2026

Shooting Hours

Sunrise to sunset

Allowed

- Shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller and manufactured or modified so as not to hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Hunting dogs
- Motor boats or sailboats may be used, but only if the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and the boat's progress has stopped.
- Other methods are allowed by state and federal regulations. Please consult Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for more information.

September Teal Season Framework

The September teal season is based on blue-winged teal breeding populations. A 16-day season is offered when the population estimate is at or above 4.7 million. A nine-day season is offered when the population estimate is lower than 4.7 million but at or above 3.3 million. If the population estimate is below 3.3 million, a September teal season will not be offered. The 2025 blue-winged teal population estimate of 4.4 million is below the threshold of 4.7 million, resulting in a nine-day season for 2026.

Limits

- Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal count toward daily and possession limits.
- The daily bag limit is six teal, combined total of all three species.
- The possession limit is 18 teal, combined total of all three species.

Prohibited

- Lead shot and other shot that has not been listed as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see Page 37.
- Rifles and pistols
- Firearms that propel a single projectile at one discharge
- Punt guns, battery guns, swivel guns, fully automatic firearms, traps, snares, nets, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, and stupefying substances
- Motor vehicles and aircraft. Paraplegics and people missing one or both legs may hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- Sink boxes and any other type of low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Recorded or electronically amplified bird calls are prohibited, but you may use mechanical calls that are turned on and off by an electronic switch. See Page 31.
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Live decoys
- Bait (see Page 36)

Permits

Three permits are required. See Page 6 for permit details.

- 1 Small Game Hunting Permit
- 2 Migratory Bird Hunting Permit
- 3 Federal Duck Stamp

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Dates

To participate, you must be age 15 or younger. An adult 18 years or older must accompany you. Adults may not hunt ducks during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, but they may participate in other open seasons.

- **North Zone:** Oct. 24–25, 2026
- **Middle Zone:** Oct. 31–Nov. 1, 2026
- **South Zone:** Nov. 21–22, 2026

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Limits

Six ducks daily with species restrictions of:

- Four mallards (no more than two hens)
- Three pintails
- Three wood ducks
- Two black ducks
- Two canvasbacks
- Two hooded mergansers
- Two redheads
- Two scaup (greater and lesser combined)
- One mottled duck

15 coots daily

20 light geese daily (snow, blue, and Ross's geese)

Three Canada geese and brant daily (combined total of both species)

Two white-fronted geese daily

Possession limits are three times the daily bag limits for ducks, coots, Canada geese, brant, and white-fronted geese. Light geese have no possession limit.

Allowed

- Shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller and manufactured or modified so as not to hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Hunting dogs
- Motor boats or sailboats may be used, but only if the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and the boat's progress has stopped.
- Other methods are allowed by state and federal regulations. Please consult Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for more information.

Prohibited

- Lead shot and other shot that has not been listed as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see Page 37.
- Rifles and pistols
- Firearms that propel a single projectile at one discharge
- Punt guns, battery guns, swivel guns, fully automatic firearms, traps, snares, nets, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, and stupefying substances
- Motor vehicles and aircraft. Paraplegics and people missing one or both legs may hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- Sink boxes and any other type of low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Recorded or electronically amplified bird calls are prohibited, but you may use mechanical calls that are turned on and off by an electronic switch. See Page 31.
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Live decoys
- Bait (see Page 36)

Permits

You do not need a permit to participate in Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

- If you have a hunter-education card, the adult who accompanies you does not need a hunter-education card or a hunting permit.
- If you don't have a hunter-education card, the adult who accompanies you must be hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967. The adult also must have a Missouri small game hunting permit or be exempt.

Duck and Coot Seasons

Dates

- **North Zone:** Oct. 31–Dec. 29, 2026
- **Middle Zone:** Nov. 7–Dec. 13, 2026, and Dec. 19, 2026–Jan. 10, 2027
- **South Zone:** Nov. 26–29, 2026, and Dec. 7, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Limits

Six ducks daily with species restrictions of:

- Four mallards (no more than two hens)
- Three pintails
- Three wood ducks
- Two black ducks
- Two canvasbacks
- Two hooded mergansers
- Two redheads
- Two scaup (greater and lesser combined) for first 45 days; one scaup for last 15 days (see below)
- One mottled duck

15 coots daily

Possession limits are three times the daily bag limits for ducks and coots.

Allowed

- Shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller and manufactured or modified so as not to hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Hunting dogs
- Motor boats or sailboats may be used, but only if the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and the boat's progress has stopped.
- Other methods are allowed by state and federal regulations. Please consult Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for more information.

Prohibited

- Lead shot and other shot that has not been listed as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see Page 37.
- Rifles and pistols
- Firearms that propel a single projectile at one discharge
- Punt guns, battery guns, swivel guns, fully automatic firearms, traps, snares, nets, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, and stupefying substances
- Motor vehicles and aircraft. Paraplegics and people missing one or both legs may hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- Sink boxes and any other type of low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Recorded or electronically amplified bird calls are prohibited, but you may use mechanical calls that are turned on and off by an electronic switch. See Page 31.
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Live decoys
- Bait (see Page 36)

Permits

Three permits are required. See Page 6 for permit details.

- 1 Small Game Hunting Permit
- 2 Migratory Bird Hunting Permit
- 3 Federal Duck Stamp

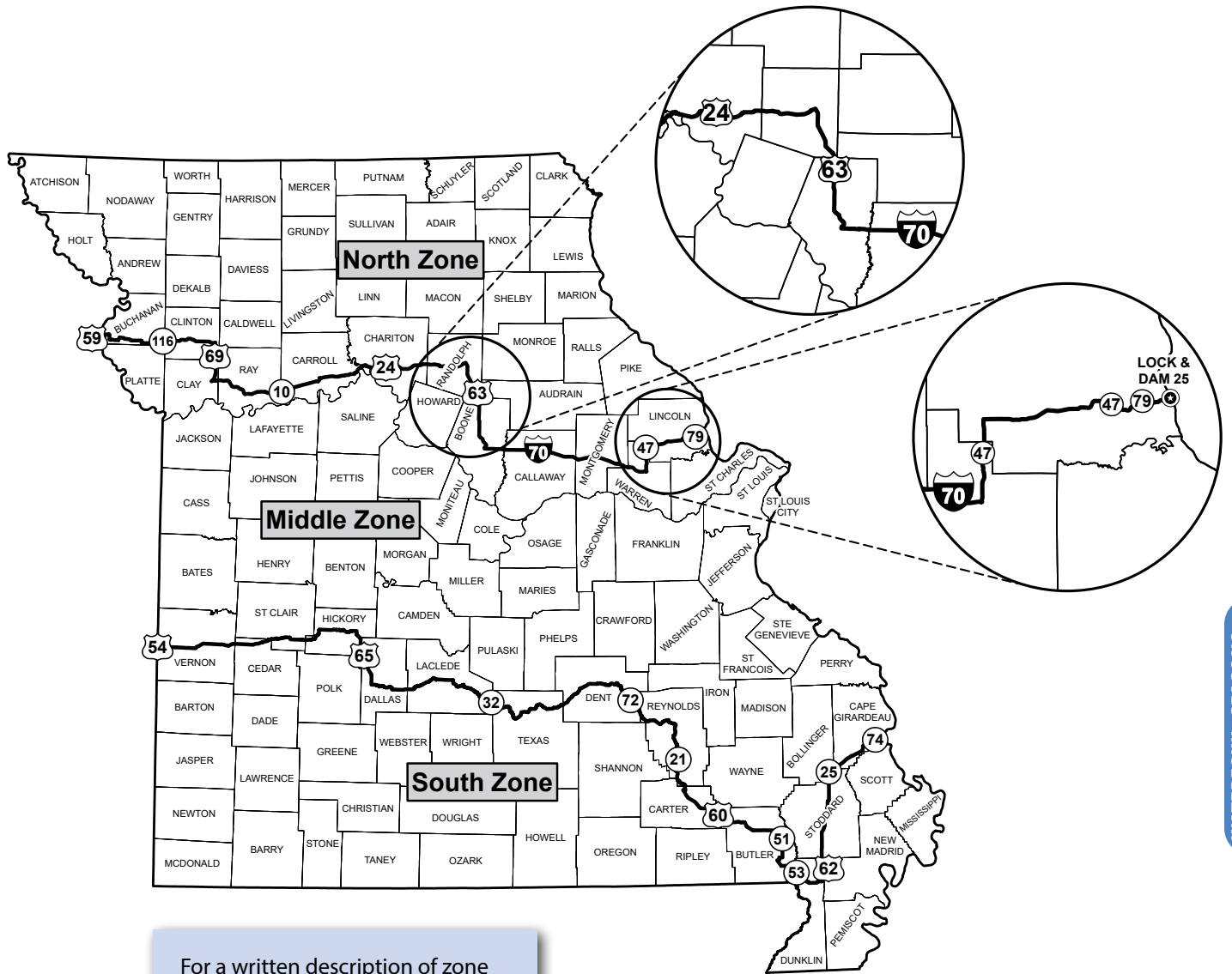
Scaup Daily Limits

	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
North Zone		
Oct. 31–Dec. 14	2	6
Dec. 15–29	1	3
Middle Zone		
Nov. 7–Dec. 13 and Dec. 19–26	2	6
Dec. 27–Jan. 10	1	3
South Zone		
Nov. 26–29 and Dec. 7–Jan. 16	2	6
Jan. 17–31	1	3

Duck Season Date Formulas

Duck season date formulas were approved by the Conservation Department for 2026 through 2030. The formulas are intended to best accommodate hunter preferences, including those of hunters with varying levels of experience and those who hunt in different types of habitat, target different species, and employ different hunting styles. The department considered input from more than 9,000 individuals who completed opinion surveys and nearly 400 hunters who attended one of the department's 13 waterfowl hunter workshops.

Duck Hunting Zones and Season Formulas



For a written description of zone boundaries, see Page 30.

WATERFOWL SEASONS

Zone	Liberal (60 Days)	Moderate (45 Days)	Restrictive (30 Days)
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opens on the last Saturday in October for a continuous 60 days 	<p>No formula; season dates will be established after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces moderate or restrictive seasons.</p>	
Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opens on the Saturday nearest Nov. 6 Closes on the Monday nearest Dec. 15 for five days Opens for the days remaining to complete a 60-day season 		
South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opens on Thanksgiving Day for four days Closes through Dec. 6 Opens Dec. 7 through Jan. 31 (as late as the federal framework allows) 		

Each year's regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days), and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to: [fws.gov/project/adaptive-harvest-management](https://www.fws.gov/project/adaptive-harvest-management).

Goose Seasons



Canada goose

JIM RATHERT

WATERFOWL SEASONS

Dates

- **Early Season** (Canada geese and brant only): Oct. 3–11, 2026
- **Regular Season** (all legal species): Nov. 11, 2026–Feb. 6, 2027

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Allowed

- Shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller and manufactured or modified so as not to hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Hunting dogs
- Motor boats or sailboats may be used, but only if the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and the boat's progress has stopped.
- Other methods are allowed by state and federal regulations. Please consult Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for more information.

Goose Season Rationale

The early goose season in October is timed to take advantage of molt-migrant Canada geese returning to the state. The regular goose season is timed to provide concurrent duck and goose hunting as well as late-season goose hunting after the duck season closes. Hunters pursuing light geese (snow, blue, and Ross's geese) can take advantage of more liberal hunting methods after the Conservation Order begins on Feb. 7, 2027.

Limits

- 20 light geese (snow, blue, and Ross's geese)
- Three Canada geese and brant (combined total of both species)
- Two white-fronted geese
- Possession limits are three times the daily bag limits for Canada geese, brant, and white-fronted geese. Light geese have no possession limit.

Prohibited

- Lead shot and other shot that has not been listed as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see Page 37.
- Rifles and pistols
- Firearms that propel a single projectile at one discharge
- Punt guns, battery guns, swivel guns, fully automatic firearms, traps, snares, nets, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, and stupefying substances
- Motor vehicles and aircraft. Paraplegics and people missing one or both legs may hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- Sink boxes and any other type of low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Recorded or electronically amplified bird calls are prohibited, but you may use mechanical calls that are turned on and off by an electronic switch. See Page 31.
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Live decoys
- Bait (see Page 36)

Permits

Three permits are required. See Page 6 for permit details.

- 1 Small Game Hunting Permit
- 2 Migratory Bird Hunting Permit
- 3 Federal Duck Stamp

Light Goose Conservation Order

Dates

Feb. 7–April 30, 2027

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Limits

During the Conservation Order there is no daily bag or possession limit for light geese (snow, blue, and Ross's geese).

Allowed

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller. During the Conservation Order, you may use shotguns that are capable of holding more than three shells.
- Electronic calls and electronically activated calls
- Hunting dogs
- Motor boats or sailboats may be used, but only if the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and the boat's progress has stopped.
- Other methods are allowed by state and federal regulations. Please consult Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for more information.

Permits

One permit is required. See Page 6 for permit details.

- 1 Conservation Order Permit

Prohibited

- Lead shot and other shot that has not been listed as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see Page 37.
- Rifles and pistols
- Firearms that propel a single projectile at one discharge
- Punt guns, battery guns, swivel guns, fully automatic firearms, traps, snares, nets, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, and stupefying substances
- Motor vehicles and aircraft. Paraplegics and people missing one or both legs may hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- Sink boxes and any other type of low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Live decoys
- Bait (see Page 36)

Falconry

Dates

Doves

- **Statewide:** Sept. 1–Dec. 16, 2026, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Ducks and Coots

- **Statewide:** Sept. 12–20, 2026, from sunrise to sunset
- **North Zone:** Oct. 24–25, 2026, and Oct. 31–Dec. 29, 2026, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- **Middle Zone:** Oct. 31–Nov. 1, 2026; Nov. 7–Dec. 13, 2026; and Dec. 19, 2026–Jan. 10, 2027, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- **South Zone:** Nov. 21–22, 2026; Nov. 26–29, 2026; and Dec. 7, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- **Statewide:** Feb. 11–March 10, 2027, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Limits

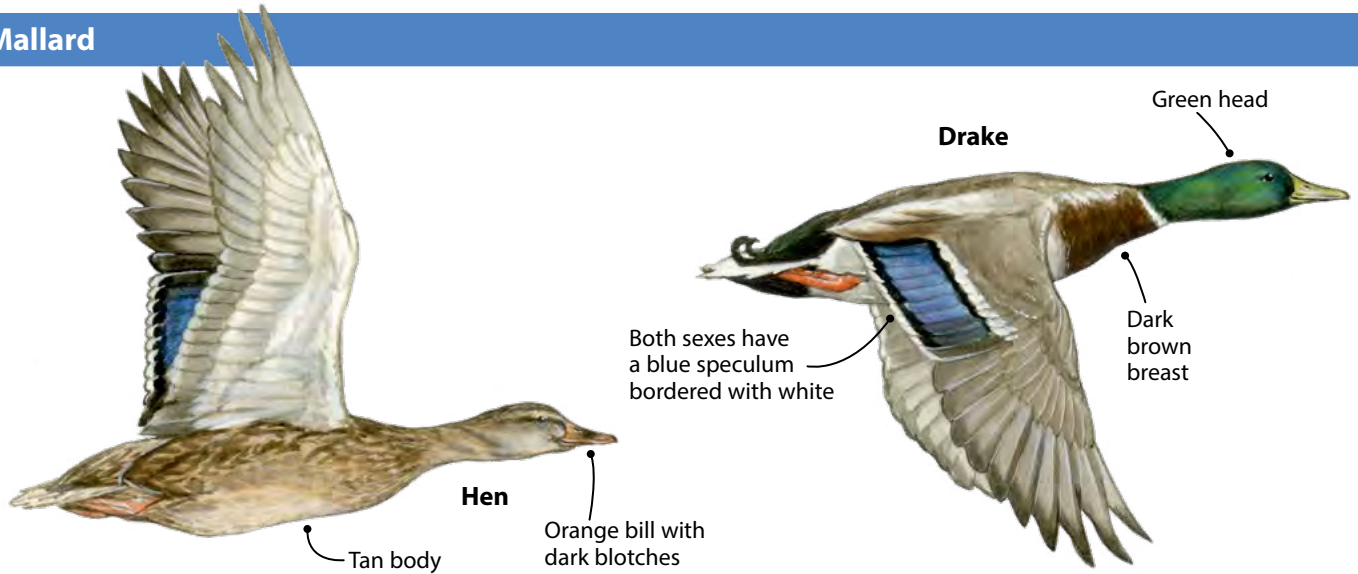
- The daily bag limit is three birds, combined total of doves, ducks, and coots.
- The possession limit is nine birds, combined total of doves, ducks, and coots.

Additional Regulations

This is an incomplete listing of falconry regulations. For a complete listing, see Rule 3 CSR 10-9.442 in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, which can be found online at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.

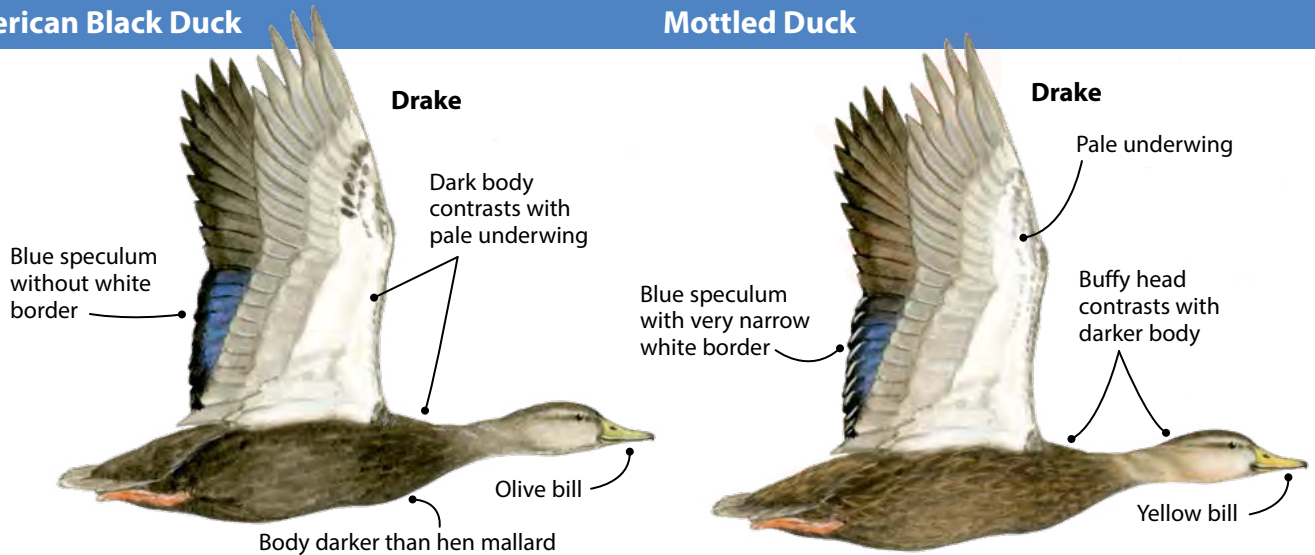
Duck Identification

Mallard

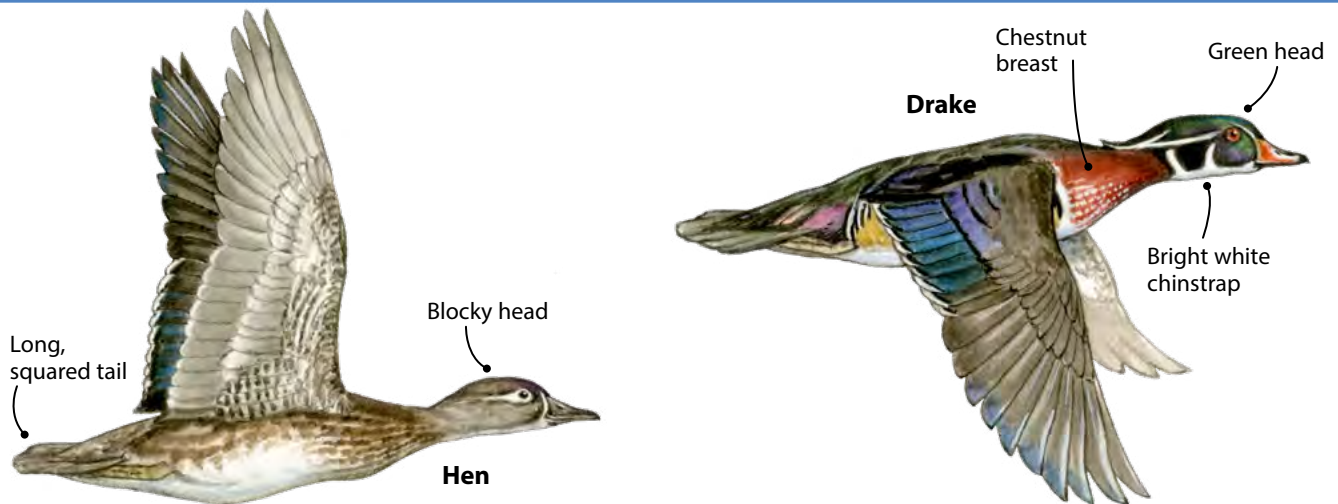


American Black Duck

Mottled Duck

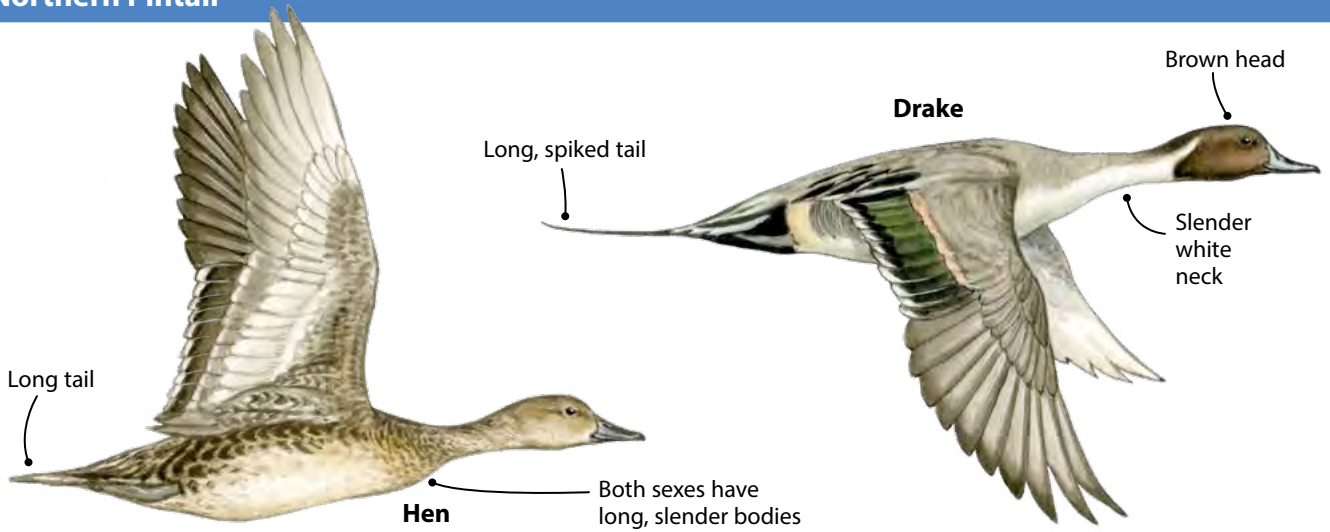


Wood Duck

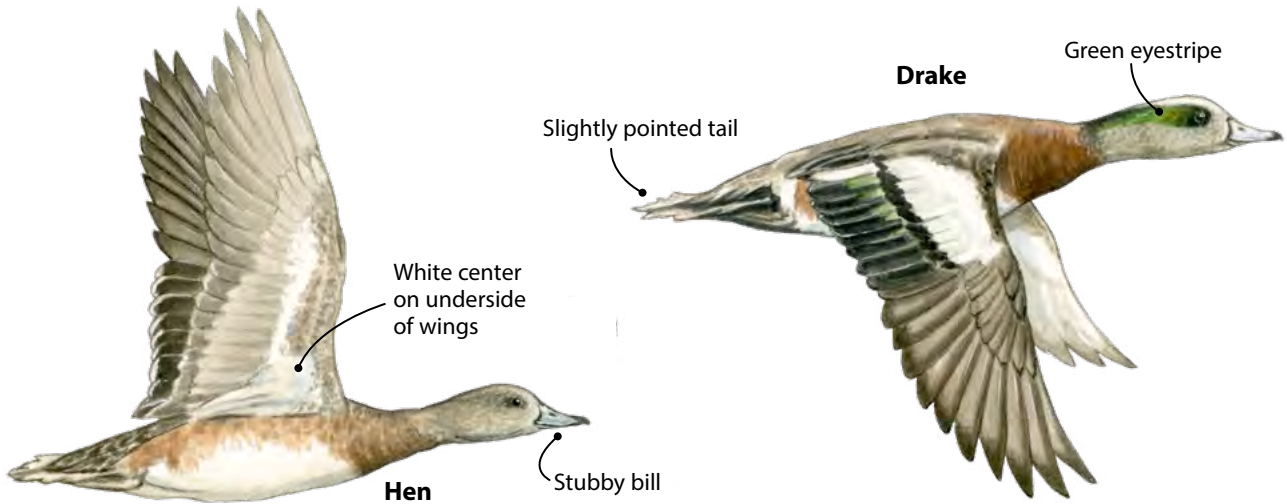


WATERFOWL SEASONS

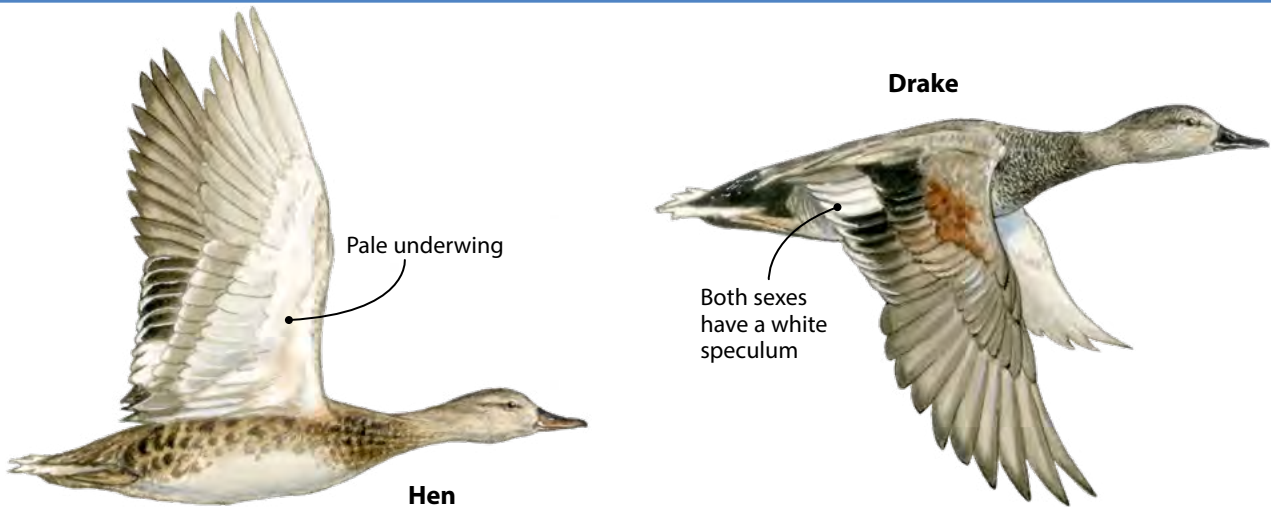
Northern Pintail



American Wigeon

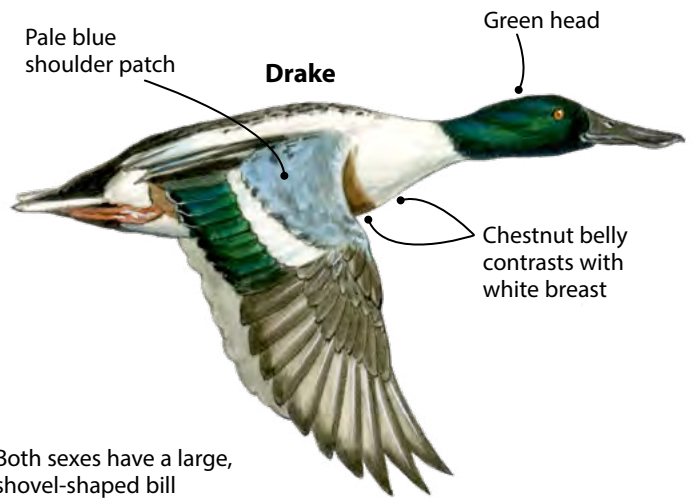
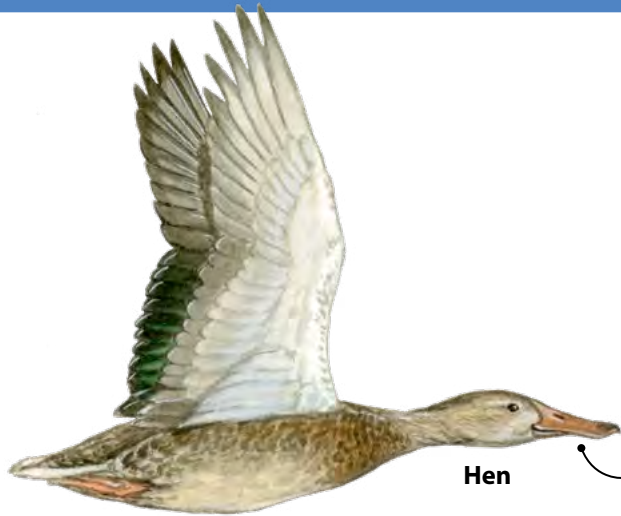


Gadwall



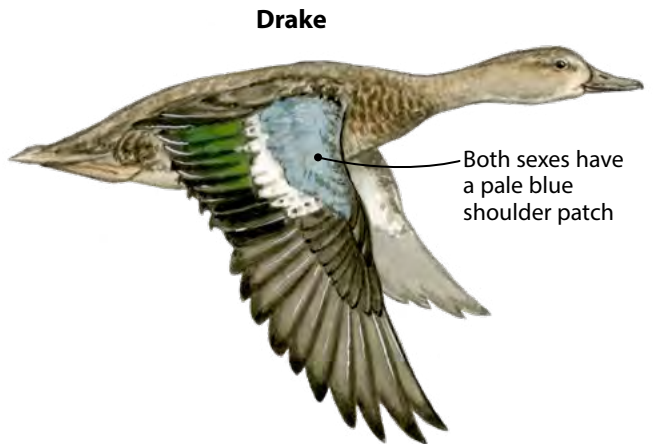
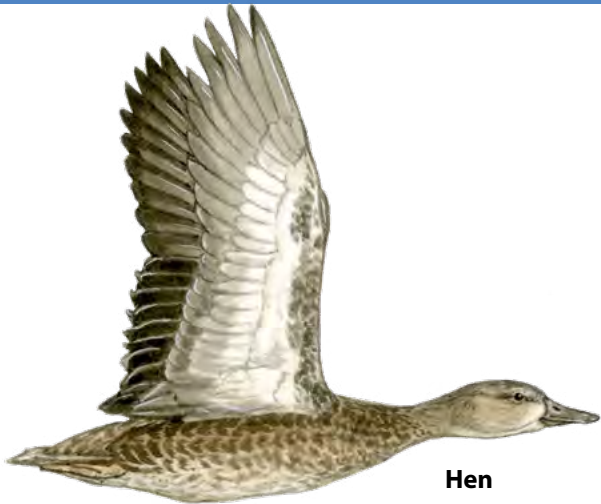
Duck Identification

Northern Shoveler



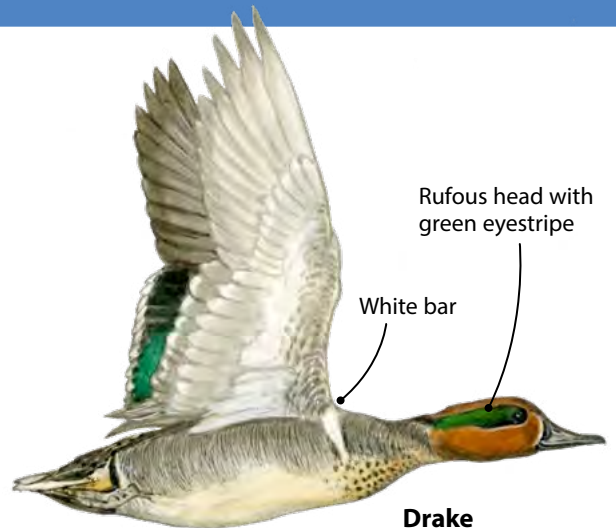
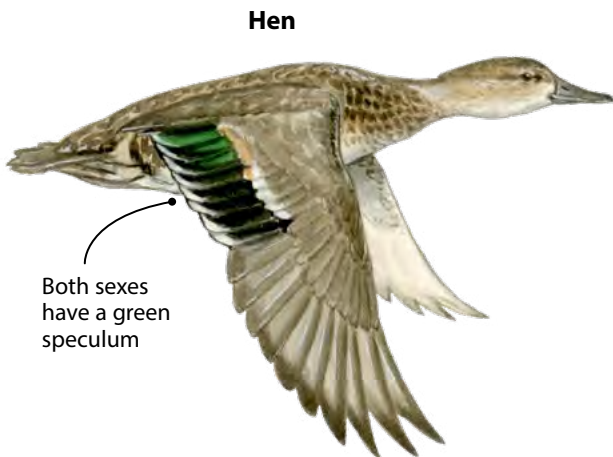
Blue-Winged Teal

Small size

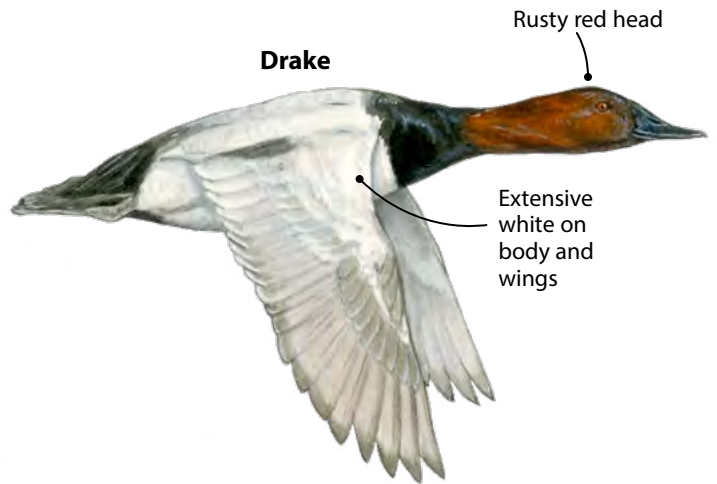
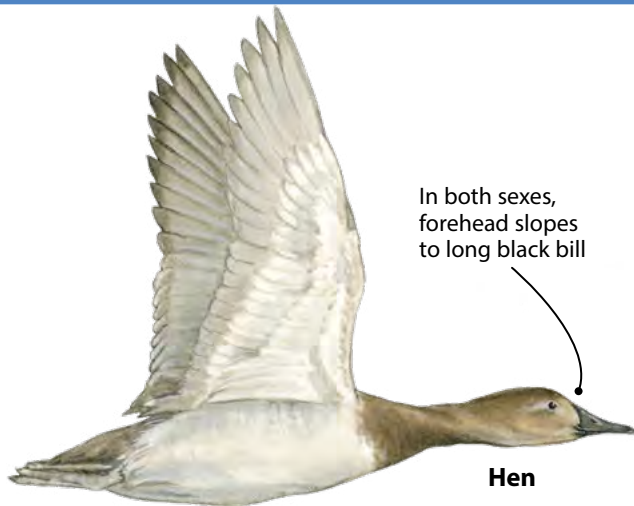


Green-Winged Teal

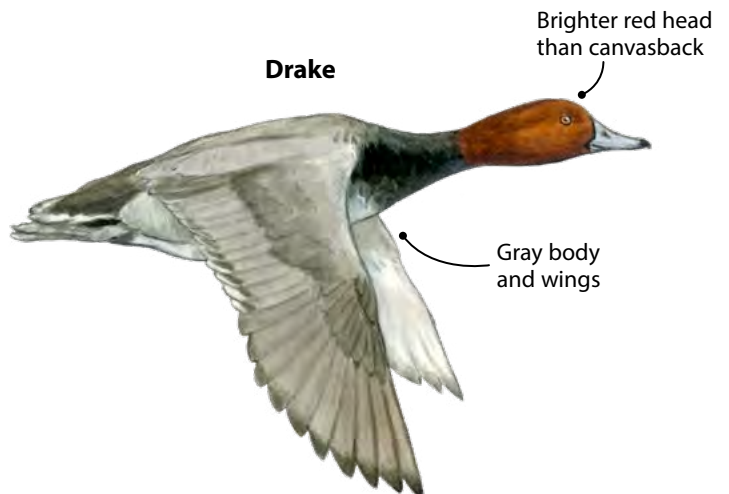
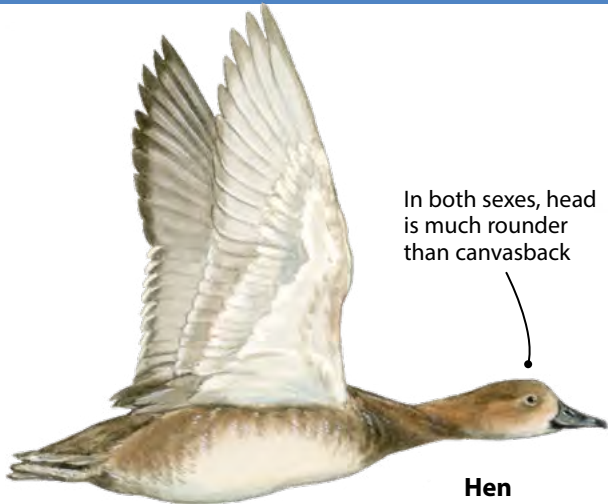
Small size



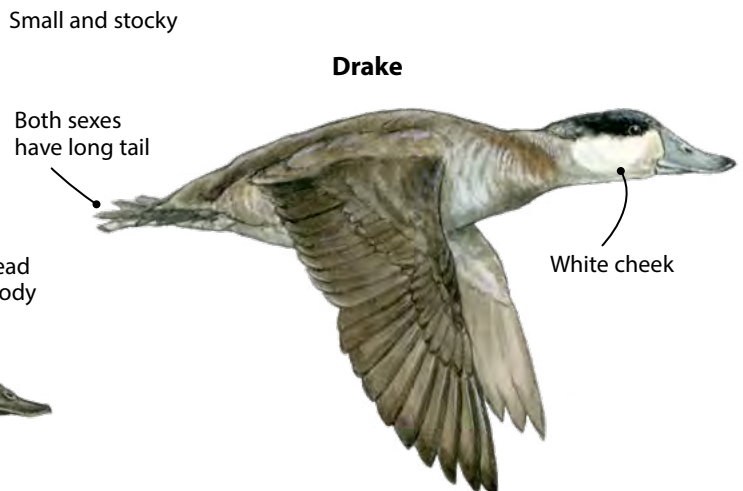
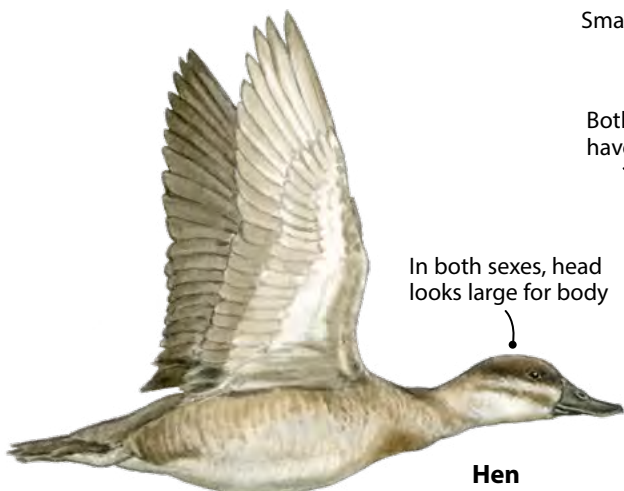
Canvasback



Redhead

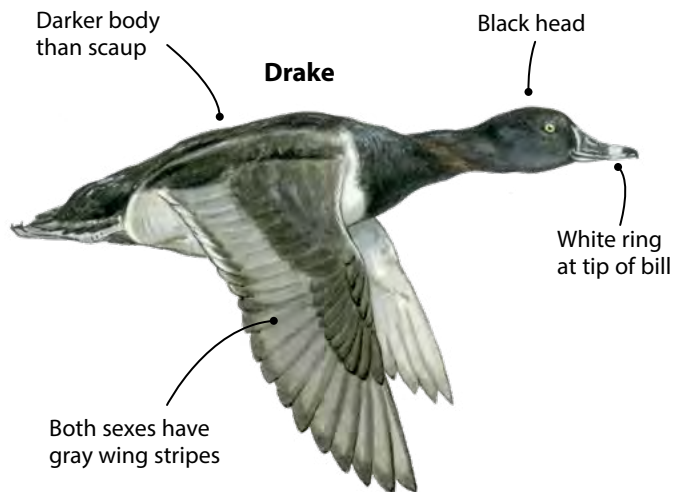
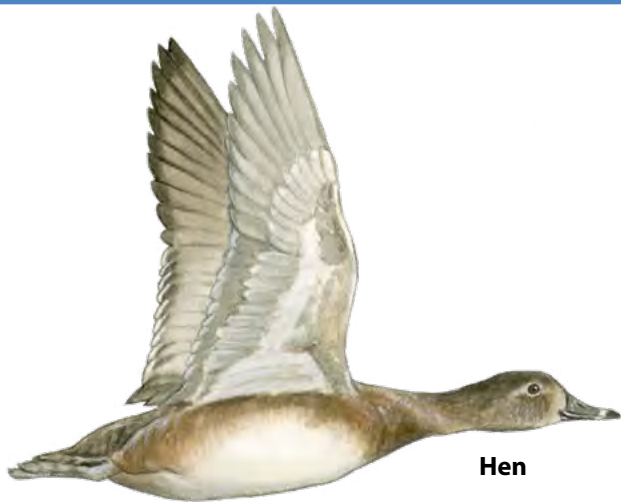


Ruddy Duck

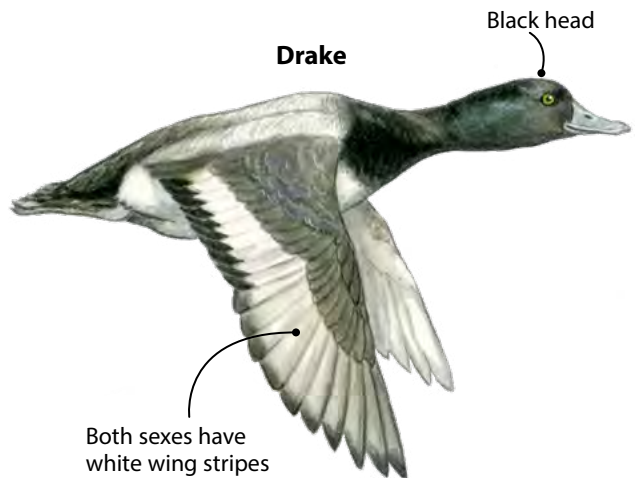
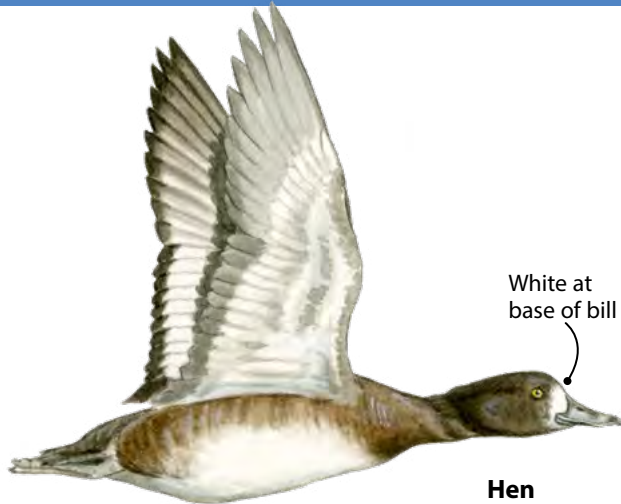


Duck Identification

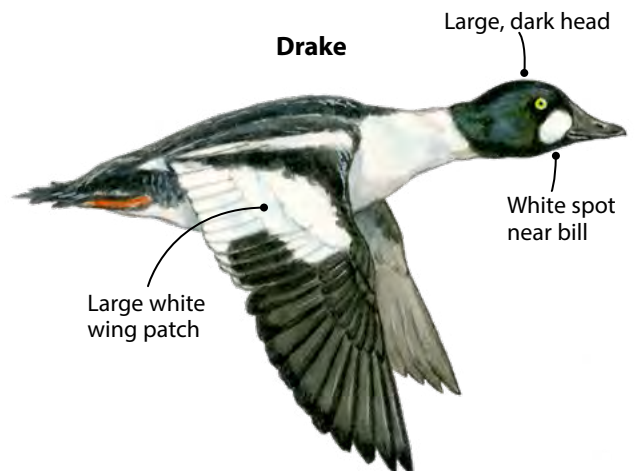
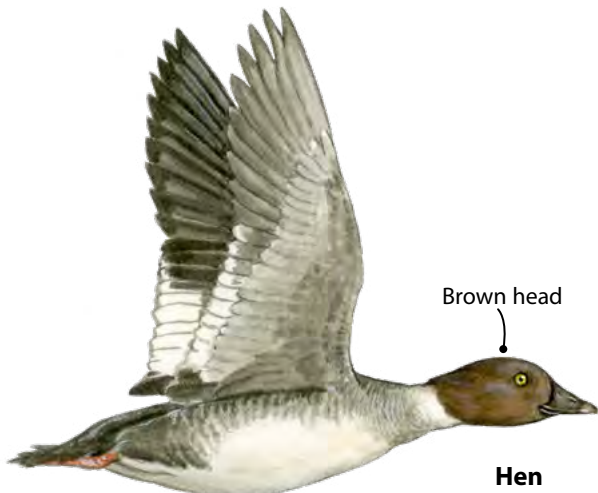
Ring-Necked Duck



Greater and Lesser Scaup

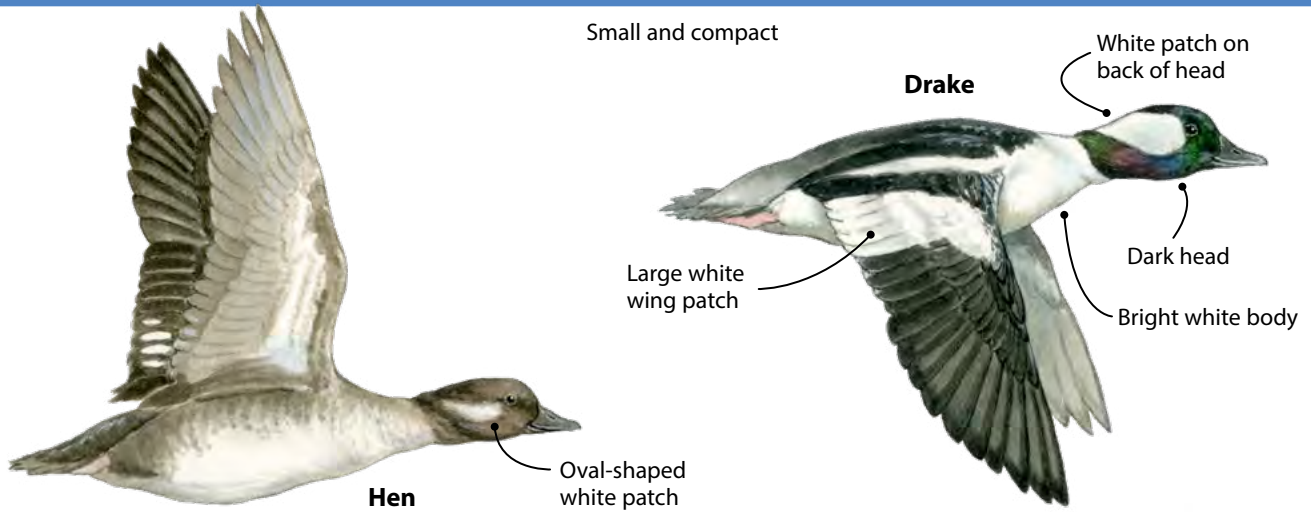


Common Goldeneye

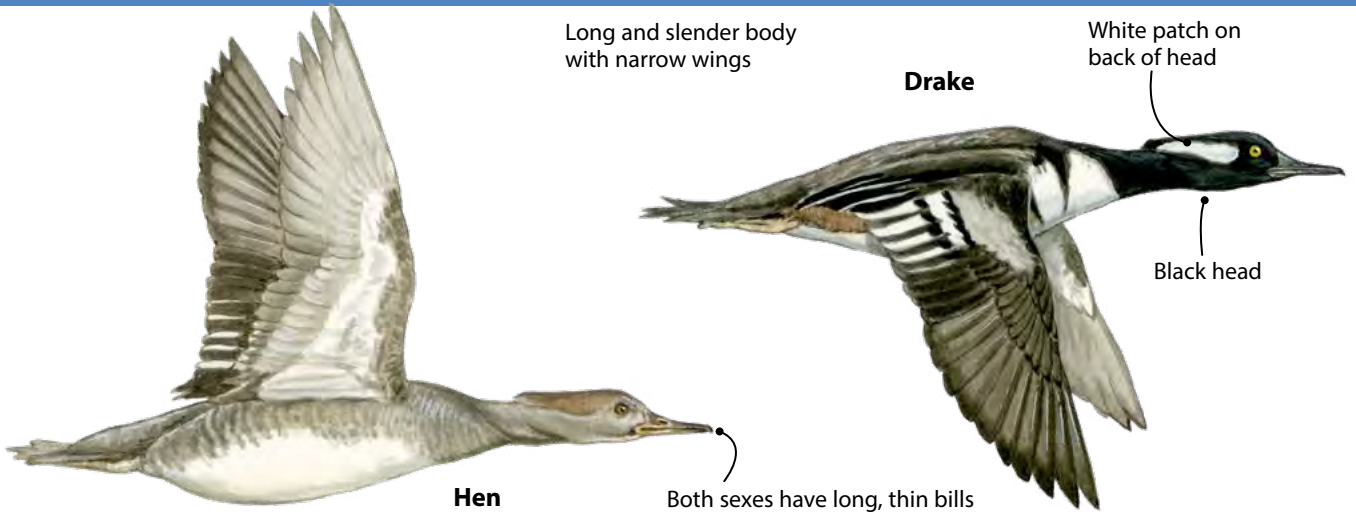


WATERFOWL SEASONS

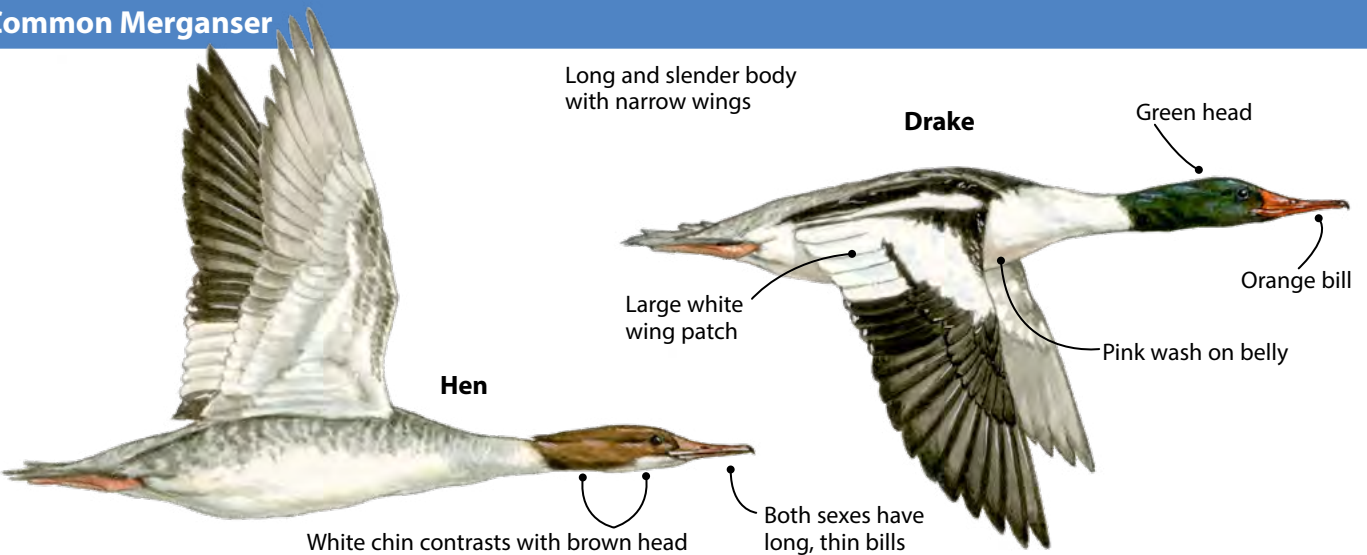
Bufflehead



Hooded Merganser



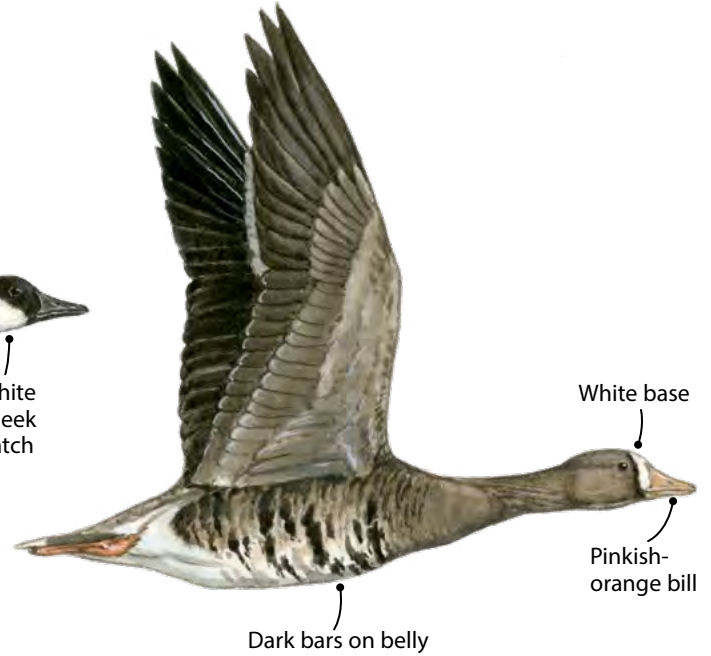
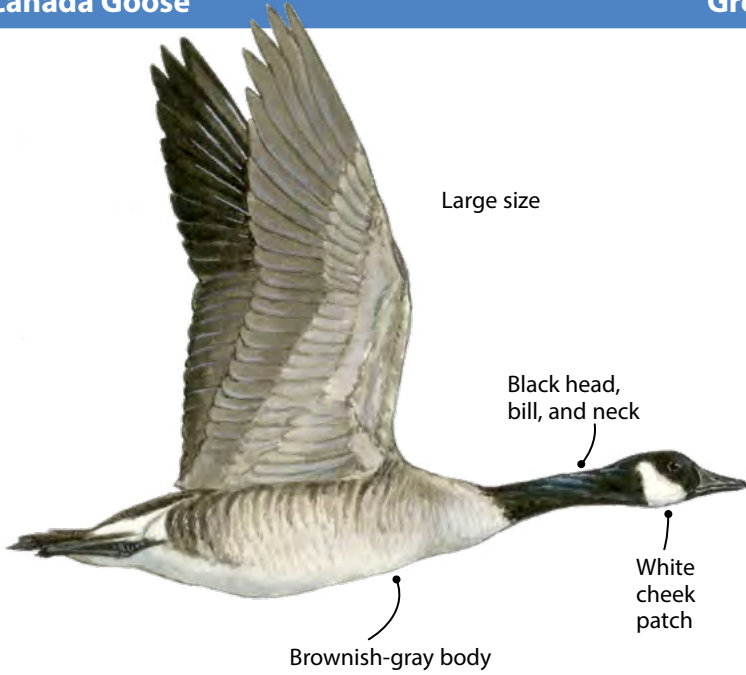
Common Merganser



Goose Identification

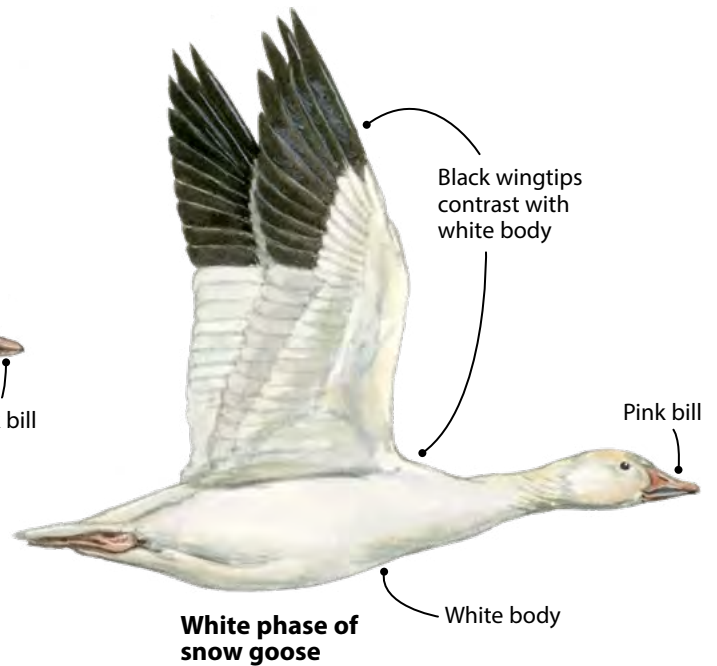
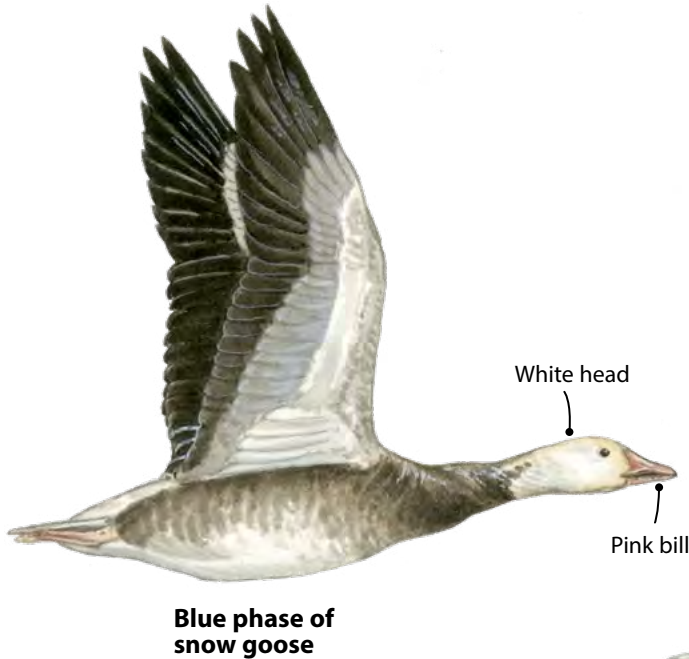
Canada Goose

Greater White-Fronted Goose

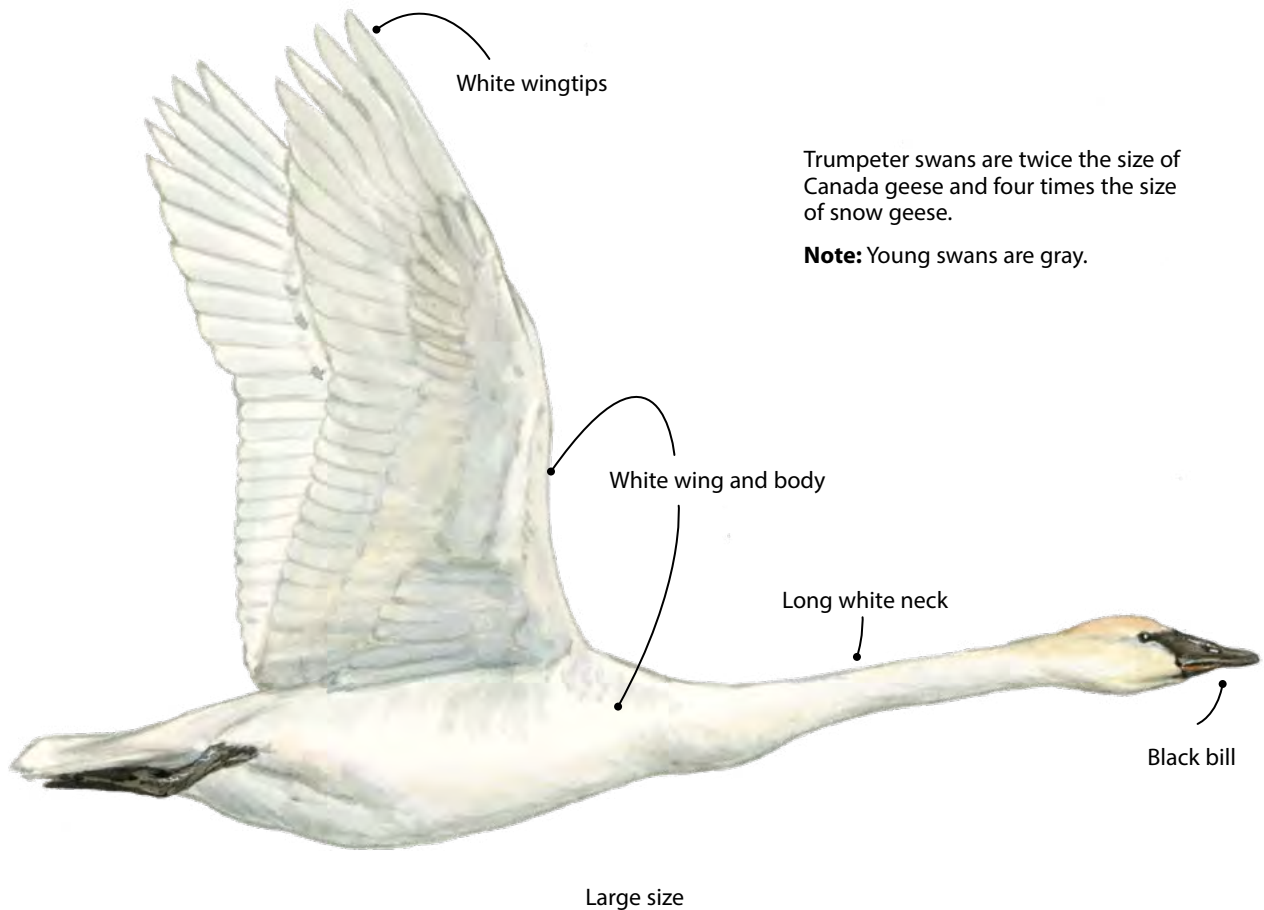


Snow Goose and Ross's Goose

Ross's geese appear nearly identical to white snow geese except Ross's geese are slightly smaller and have shorter bills.



Trumpeter Swan



Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese.

Note: Young swans are gray.



Trumpeter swans are protected by federal and state laws and may not be shot!

Managed Waterfowl Hunting Areas



WATERFOWL HUNTING AREAS

NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 13 conservation areas (see Page 28). Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from boat blinds. Most have ADA blinds. There are three ways to obtain a hunting location on a managed waterfowl hunting area:

- Properly licensed Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation. A reservation guarantees successful applicants a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area.
- Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl hunting area and draw for a spot in the morning drawing or “poor line.”

How the Morning Drawing Works

- Half of all available hunting locations at each area will go to hunters with a reservation. The other half will be allocated through the poor-line drawing.
- For the locations allocated by reservation, half of those will be allocated through a pre-season online drawing, and half will be allocated through an in-season online drawing. For example, if an area has 20 hunting locations, 10 will be allocated through the poor line, five through pre-season reservations, and five through in-season reservations.
- Applications for the pre-season drawing will be accepted from Sept. 1–18. Hunters may apply for pre-season reservations at up to three managed waterfowl hunting areas. The in-season drawing will occur once a week. Hunters may apply for one area each day during the weekly application period.
- All reservation holders, both pre-season and in-season, will be randomly assigned a pill number electronically after the weekly in-season drawings are completed.
- For the poor line, area staff will pull a pill to determine each hunting party’s place in line. Poor-line pill numbers are assigned through an automated drawing at Ted Shanks. Pill numbers from reservation holders who do not show will be included in the poor-line drawing.
- After the pills are drawn, the lowest number (from both poor-line hunters and reservation holders) gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting locations are assigned.
- On some days, there may be more hunters than hunting locations, so it’s possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

ADA Blind Rules

- Hunters may reserve ADA blinds using the pre-season and in-season online reservation system.
- Pre-season applications are accepted from Sept. 1–18, and ADA blind pre-season applicants may apply for up to five managed waterfowl hunting areas.
- ADA blind in-season drawings will occur once a week, and will allocate blinds not reserved through the pre-season application.
- When arriving at an area to claim a blind, hunters must show a Hunting Method Exemption or Department of Revenue hangtag. For additional information, visit short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4e.

Rules of the Morning Drawing

- You must be a Missouri resident and properly licensed to apply for a reservation.
- You must be properly licensed prior to participating in the poor-line drawing.
- Reservation holders must check in before official draw time, and adult hunters must present a form of photo identification other than their hunting license.
- All parties must register prior to draw time. Parties not registered before draw time will not be allowed to enter the drawing. If hunting locations remain after the drawing, they may be allocated to other hunters.
- Hunting party members may participate in only one morning drawing on the same day. Participation includes having another member submit a Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag for you in your absence.
- You may not be registered for more than one location or possess more than one valid Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag at the same time. You must check out prior to registering for another unit or area.
- Parties who have reserved an ADA blind are not eligible to enter the poor-line drawing unless they first forfeit their ADA blind reservation for that day.
- A maximum party size of four is allowed on managed waterfowl hunting areas (except during youth season). All observers and hunting or non-hunting youth count toward the maximum party size of four.
- All members of your party must hunt over the same decoy spread. You may not split your party into smaller parties or combine with other parties after the drawing.
- Your party must hunt in its assigned location, as designated during the morning drawing. Hunting in an unassigned location is prohibited.

For additional information on morning drawing procedures, visit short.mdc.mo.gov/Zxs.

Managed Waterfowl Hunting Areas

	Location	Wade-and-Shoot Hunting	Water Blinds	Field Hunting for Geese	Number of ADA Blinds	Boats for Blinds Only	Boat Launches	Camping	Closing Time
1	B.K. Leach — 4,307 acres Lincoln County 573-898-5905	✓	✓		1				1 p.m.
2	Bob Brown — 3,307 acres Holt County 573-658-2332	✓			0		✓	✓	1 p.m.
3	Duck Creek — 6,318 acres Bollinger, Stoddard, and Wayne counties 573-222-3337	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	1 p.m. closure in designated areas
4	Eagle Bluffs — 4,428 acres Boone County 573-445-3882	✓			1		✓		1 p.m.
Construction projects are in progress that may impact hunting opportunity during the 2026–2027 season. Call the area office for updates.									
5	Fountain Grove — 8,122 acres Linn and Livingston counties 660-626-1794	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	1 p.m. closure in designated areas
6	Four Rivers — 13,929 acres Vernon and Bates counties 417-853-4593	✓		✓	1		✓	✓	Sunset
7	Grand Pass — 5,301 acres Saline County 660-595-2444	✓			1		✓	✓	1 p.m.
8	Marais Temps Clair — 918 acres St. Charles County 573-898-5905	✓			1				1 p.m. closure; waterfowl hunting Fri.–Mon. only
9	Nodaway Valley — 3,881 acres Holt and Andrew counties 660-626-1797	✓	✓	✓	1		✓	✓	1 p.m. (west side) Sunset (east side)
10	Otter Slough — 4,866 acres Stoddard County 573-624-5821	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	1 p.m.
11	Schell-Osage — 8,633 acres Vernon and St. Clair counties 417-853-4595	✓	✓	✓	2		✓	✓	1 p.m. (A Pool) Sunset (rest of area)
Waterfowl hunting on Schell-Osage is closed for the 2026–2027 season pending completion of the wetland renovation project. Once completed, Waterfowl Hunting Only areas will be managed through the morning drawing. Call the area office for updates.									
12	Ted Shanks — 6,705 acres Pike County 573-248-2530	✓	✓		1		✓	✓	1 p.m.
13	Ten Mile Pond — 3,755 acres Mississippi County 573-649-2770	✓		✓	0		✓		Sunset

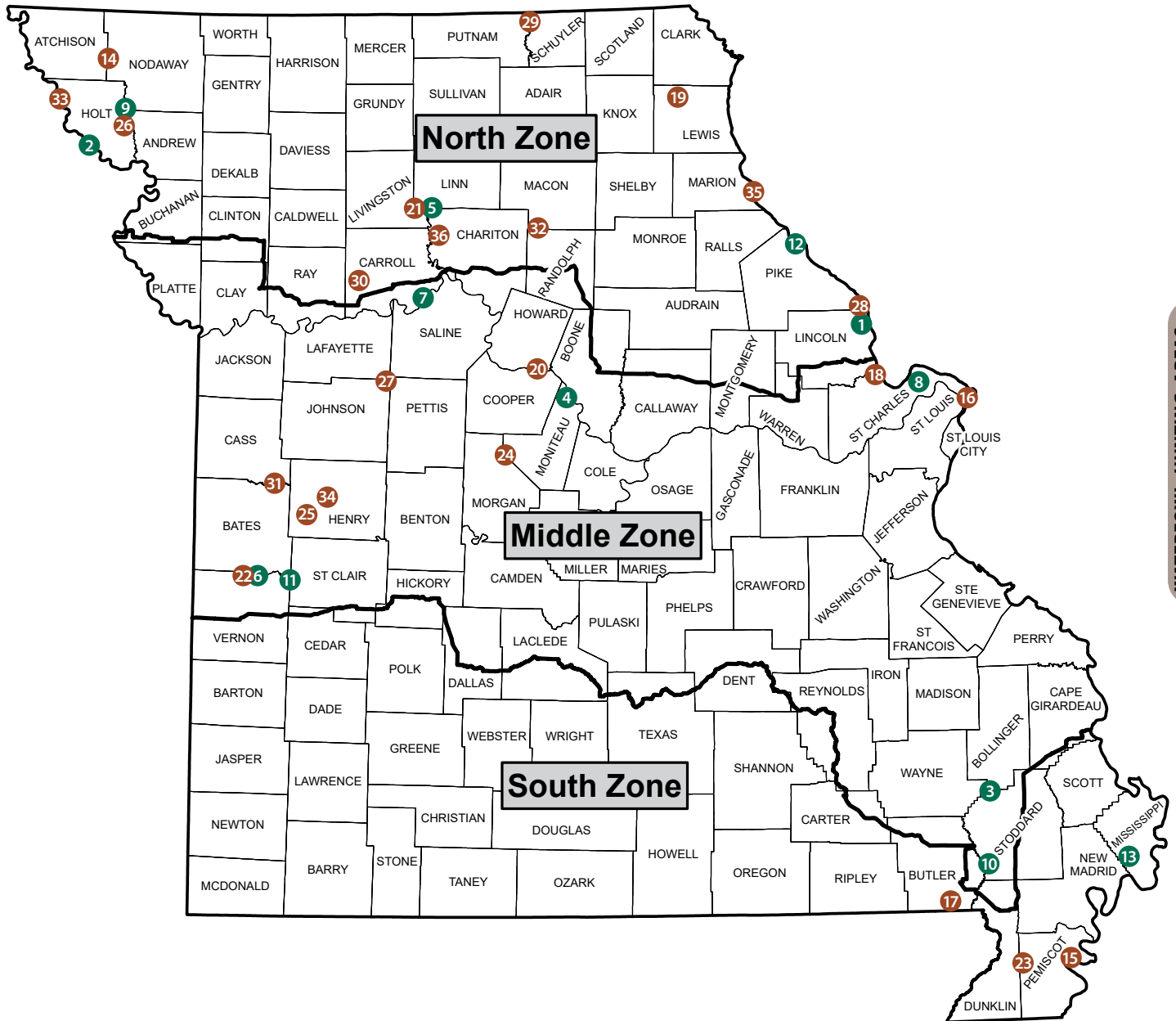
WATERFOWL HUNTING AREAS

Other Waterfowl Hunting Areas

The following Conservation Department areas offer waterfowl hunting in addition to the managed waterfowl hunting areas. Other opportunities can be found on Missouri's rivers, streams, and reservoirs. Please note:

- Some of the areas listed have special regulations for waterfowl hunting.
- At many of these areas, waterfowl habitat is dependent on precipitation or river levels.
- You are encouraged to scout the area before going out to hunt.
- For area-specific regulations, visit mdc.mo.gov/atlas.

- 14 Bilby Ranch Lake
- 15 Black Island
- 16 Columbia Bottom
- 17 Coon Island
- 18 Cuivre Island
- 19 Deer Ridge
- 20 Diana Bend
- 21 Fountain Grove (south of Grand River)
- 22 Four Rivers (Units 3 and 4)
- 23 Little River
- 24 Manito Lake
- 25 Montrose
- 26 Nodaway Valley (Mike Keller Memorial Marsh)
- 27 Perry (Ralph and Martha) Memorial
- 28 Prairie Slough
- 29 Rebel's Cove
- 30 Schifferdecker (W.L.) Memorial
- 31 Settle's Ford
- 32 Thomas Hill Reservoir
- 33 Thurnau (H.F.)
- 34 Truman Reservoir (Grand River Bottoms)
- 35 Upper Mississippi (Bay Island Unit)
- 36 Yellow Creek



Chapter 7

3 CSR 10-7.440 Migratory Game Birds and Waterfowl: Seasons, Limits

(1) Migratory game birds and waterfowl may be taken, possessed, transported, and stored only as provided in federal regulations and this Code.

(2) The head or one (1) fully feathered wing must remain attached to all waterfowl while being transported from the field to one's home or a commercial preservation facility.

(3) Seasons and limits are as follows:

(A) Mourning doves, Eurasian collared-doves, and white-winged doves may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from September 1 through November 29. Limits: fifteen (15) doves daily in the aggregate; forty-five (45) in possession;

(B) Sora and Virginia rails may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from September 1 through November 9. Limits: twenty-five (25) rails daily in the aggregate; seventy-five (75) in possession;

(C) Woodcock may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from October 18 through December 1. Limits: three (3) woodcock daily; nine (9) in possession;

(D) Wilson's snipe may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset from September 1 through December 16. Limits: eight (8) snipe daily; twenty-four (24) in possession;

(E) Blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon teal may be taken from sunrise to sunset from September 12 through September 20. Limits: six (6) teal daily in the aggregate; eighteen (18) in possession;

(F) Waterfowl Zones: The North Zone shall be that portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25 to Sandy Slough Road East; west on Sandy Slough Road East to Sandy Slough Road North; west on Sandy Slough Road North to Lincoln

Note: According to Rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the Code in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess Code violations is explained at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkV.

County Hwy. N; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to U.S. Hwy. 63; north on U.S. Hwy. 63 to U.S. Hwy. 24; west on U.S. Hwy. 24 to Mo. Hwy. 10; west on Mo. Hwy. 10 to U.S. Hwy. 69; north on U.S. Hwy. 69 to Mo. Hwy. 116; west on Mo. Hwy. 116 to U.S. Hwy. 59; south on U.S. Hwy. 59 to the Kansas border. The South Zone shall be that portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 74 to Mo. Hwy. 25; south on Mo. Hwy. 25 to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Mo. Hwy. 53; north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to the Kansas border. The Middle Zone shall be the remainder of Missouri not included in other zones;

(G) During years when the federal framework prescribes a sixty- (60-) day duck season, the North Zone season will open on the last Saturday in October, the Middle Zone season will open the Saturday nearest November 6 until the Monday nearest December 15, close on the Monday nearest December 15 for five (5) days, and then reopen for the remaining days, the South Zone season will open on Thanksgiving Day for four (4) days, close through December 6, and then reopen December 7 through January 31 (as late as the federal framework allows). During years when the federal framework prescribes a forty-five- (45-) day duck season or thirty- (30-)

day duck season, no season date formula will be used. A person possessing the appropriate state and federal permits may take ducks in accordance to the season lengths, bag limits, and species-specific opening and closing dates established annually by the Conservation Commission;

(H) Ducks and coots may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset as follows:

1. Ducks and coots may be taken from October 31 through December 29 in the North Zone; from November 7 through December 13 and December 19 through January 10 in the Middle Zone; and from November 26 through November 29 and December 7 through January 31 in the South Zone; and

2. Duck and coot limits are as follows: The daily bag limit of ducks is six (6) and may include no more than four (4) mallards (no more than two (2) of which may be female), three (3) wood ducks, two (2) redheads, two (2) hooded mergansers, three (3) pintail, one (1) mottled duck, two (2) canvasback, and two (2) black ducks. The possession limit is eighteen (18), including no more than twelve (12) mallards (no more than six (6) of which may be female), nine (9) wood ducks, six (6) redheads, six (6) hooded mergansers, three (3) pintails, three (3) mottled ducks, six (6) canvasbacks, and six (6) black ducks. The daily limit of scaup is two (2) and a possession limit for scaup is six (6) in the North Zone from October 31 through December 14, in the Middle Zone November 7 through December 13 and

December 19 through December 26, and in the South Zone November 26 through November 29 and December 7 through January 16. The daily limit of scaup is one (1) and a possession limit for scaup is three (3) in the North Zone December 15 through December 29, in the Middle Zone December 27 through January 10 and in the South Zone January 17 through January 31. The daily limit of coots is fifteen (15) and the possession limit for coots is forty-five (45);

(I) Geese may be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset as follows:

1. Blue, snow, and Ross's geese may be taken from November 11 through February 6 statewide;
2. White-fronted geese may be taken from November 11 through February 6 statewide;
3. Canada geese and brant may be taken from October 3 through October 11 and from November 11 through February 6 statewide; and
4. Goose limits are as follows: The daily bag limit is three (3) Canada geese and brant in aggregate, twenty (20) blue, snow, or Ross's geese, and two (2) white-fronted geese, statewide. The possession limit is nine (9) Canada geese and brant in aggregate and six (6) white-fronted geese. There is no possession limit for blue, snow, and Ross's geese;

(J) Ducks, geese, brant, and coots may be taken by youth hunters fifteen (15) years of age or younger from October 24 through October 25 in the North Zone; from October 31 through November 1 in the Middle Zone; and from November 21 through November 22 in the South Zone. The daily and possession limits for ducks, geese, and coots are the same as during the regular duck, goose, and coot hunting seasons. Any person fifteen (15) years or younger may participate in

the youth waterfowl hunting days without permit provided they are in the immediate presence of an adult eighteen (18) years of age or older. If the youth hunter does not possess a hunter education certificate card, the adult must be properly licensed (i.e., must meet any permit requirements that allow small game hunting) and have in their possession a valid hunter education certificate card unless they were born before January 1, 1967. The adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days;

(K) Shells possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide, and for other wildlife as designated by posting on public areas, must be loaded with material approved as nontoxic by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(L) Electronically activated mechanical calls may be used and possessed to pursue and take waterfowl and coots. Such calls shall not be capable of producing recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds;

(M) Persons who possess a valid conservation order permit may chase, pursue, and take blue, snow, and Ross's geese from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset from February 7 through April 30. Any other regulation notwithstanding, methods for the taking of blue, snow, and Ross's geese include using shotguns capable of holding more than three (3) shells, and with the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds, including electronically activated calls. An exception to the above permit requirement includes any person fifteen (15) years of age or younger, provided either 1) the person is in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult (must possess a conservation order permit)

who is eighteen (18) years of age or older and has in their possession a valid hunter education certificate card, or was born before January 1, 1967, or 2) the person possesses a valid hunter education certificate card. A daily bag limit will not be in effect February 7 through April 30 (See 3 CSR 10-5.436 and 3 CSR 10-5.567 for conservation order permit requirements); and

(N) Migratory game birds, to include only doves, ducks, mergansers, and coots, may be taken by hunters with birds of prey as follows (See 3 CSR 10-9.442 for additional provisions about falconry including season lengths and limits for wildlife other than migratory game birds. See 3 CSR 10-9.440 for falconry permit requirements):

1. Doves may be taken from September 1 through December 16 from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily limit: three (3) doves; possession limit: nine (9) doves, except that any waterfowl taken by falconers must be included within these limits; and
2. Ducks, mergansers, and coots may be taken from sunrise to sunset from September 12 through September 20 statewide, and from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset as follows: in the North Zone, October 24 through October 25, October 31 through December 29, and February 11 through March 10; in the Middle Zone, October 31 through November 1, November 7 through December 13, December 19 through January 10, and February 11 through March 10; and, in the South Zone, November 21 through November 22, November 26 through November 29, December 7 through January 31, and February 11 through March 10. Daily limit: three (3) birds singly or in the aggregate, including doves; possession limit: nine (9) birds singly or in the aggregate, including doves.

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Chapter 11

3 CSR 10-11.115 Closings

(1) Department areas are open to public use only from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily; however, hunting, fishing, trapping, dog training, camping, launching boats, and landing boats are permitted at any time in areas where these activities are authorized, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(5) On the following department areas, portions designated as Waterfowl Refuge are closed to all public use according to the dates listed below and as shown on the area map or the online conservation atlas. Portions of these designated areas may be open to other activities by posting.

(A) October 15 through March 1:

1. Brown (Bob) Conservation Area;
2. Coon Island Conservation Area;
3. Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area;
4. Fountain Grove Conservation Area;
5. Four Rivers (August A. Busch Jr. Memorial Wetlands at) Conservation Area;
6. Grand Pass Conservation Area;
7. Leach (B.K.) Memorial Conservation Area (Kings Lake and Bittern Basin);
8. Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area;
9. Montrose Conservation Area;
10. Nodaway Valley Conservation Area;
11. Perry (Ralph and Martha) Conservation Area;
12. Schell-Osage Conservation Area;
13. Settle's Ford Conservation Area;
14. Shanks (Ted) Conservation Area.

(B) October 15 through March 31:

1. Otter Slough Conservation Area;
2. Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area.

(C) October 15 through the end of the last segment of the appropriate zone's duck season:

1. Duck Creek Conservation Area (Pool 1 South);
2. Kendzora (Anthony and Beatrice) Conservation Area;
3. Leach (B.K.) Memorial Conservation Area (River Slough portion);
4. Otter Slough Conservation Area (Cypress Lake);
5. Stockton Lake Management Lands.

(D) October 15 through the end of the last segment of the appropriate zone's Canada goose season:

1. Duck Creek Conservation Area (Pool 1 North and Dark Cypress Swamp Refuge);
2. Little River Conservation Area;
3. Truman Reservoir Management Lands (Grand River Bottoms Wildlife Management Area).

(6) On the following department areas, portions designated as Waterfowl Hunting Only Zone are closed to all public use except waterfowl hunting, according to the dates listed below, and as shown on the area map or the online conservation atlas. Portions of these designated areas may be open to other activities by posting.

(A) From October 15–February 15:

1. Coon Island Conservation Area;
2. Duck Creek Conservation Area;
3. Fountain Grove Conservation Area;
4. Four Rivers Conservation Area (August A. Busch Jr. Memorial Wetlands);
5. Grand Pass Conservation Area;
6. Montrose Conservation Area;
7. Otter Slough Conservation Area (Waterfowl Hunt Zone 1); and
8. Schell-Osage Conservation Area.

(B) From October 15 through the end of the last segment of the appropriate zone's duck season:

1. Brown (Bob) Conservation Area;
2. Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area;
3. Leach (B.K.) Memorial Conservation Area;
4. Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area;
5. Nodaway Valley Conservation Area;
6. Otter Slough Conservation Area (Waterfowl Hunt Zone 2);
7. Shanks (Ted) Conservation Area.

(C) From November 1 through the end of the last segment of the appropriate zone's Canada goose season:

1. Little River Conservation Area; and
2. Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area (Waterfowl Hunt Zone 1).

(D) From November 15 through the end of the last segment of the appropriate zone's Canada goose season on Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area (Waterfowl Hunt Zone 2).

3 CSR 10-11.155 Decoys and Blinds

(1) Decoys and blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily and may not be left unattended between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Blinds may not be constructed on-site from woody vegetation except for willows (*Salicaceae spp.*).

3 CSR 10-11.180 Hunting, General Provisions and Seasons

(1) Hunting is permitted on department areas, except as further restricted by signs, area maps, or this chapter and except turkey, deer, and elk hunting are allowed as authorized in 3 CSR 10-11.181 Turkey Hunting, 3 CSR 10-11.182 Deer Hunting, and 3 CSR 10-11.190 Elk Hunting of this chapter. Unless otherwise provided in this chapter or by managed hunt, statewide permits, seasons, methods, and limits apply. A valid area daily hunting tag may be required in addition to statewide permits.

(2) Hunting may be further restricted on designated portions of department areas which include, but are not limited to, refuges, wildlife sanctuaries, shooting ranges, residences, work areas, campgrounds, and other public use or service areas.

(8) Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited for hunting on the following department areas:

- (A) Aspinwall Bend Conservation Area;
- (B) Black Island Conservation Area;
- (C) Brown (Bob) Conservation Area;
- (D) Cash (Ben) Memorial Conservation Area;
- (E) Church Farm Conservation Area;
- (F) Columbia Bottom Conservation Area;
- (G) Cooley Lake Conservation Area;
- (H) Coon Island Conservation Area;
- (I) Corning Conservation Area;
- (J) Deroin Bend Conservation Area;
- (K) Diana Bend Conservation Area;
- (L) Donaldson Point Conservation Area;
- (M) Duck Creek Conservation Area;
- (N) Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area;
- (O) Fountain Grove Conservation Area;
- (P) Four Rivers Conservation Area (August A. Busch, Jr. Memorial Wetlands);
- (Q) Franklin Island Conservation Area;
- (R) Frisbee Cutoff Access;
- (S) Frost Island Conservation Area;
- (T) Girvin (John L. and Georgia) Conservation Area;
- (U) Grand Pass Conservation Area;
- (V) Hornersville Swamp Conservation Area;
- (W) Leach (B. K.) Memorial Conservation Area;
- (X) Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area;
- (Y) Little River Conservation Area;

(Z) Lower Hamburg Bend Conservation Area;

- (AA) Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area;
- (BB) Marion Bottoms Conservation Area;
- (CC) Montrose Conservation Area;
- (DD) Nishnabotna Conservation Area;
- (EE) Nodaway Valley Conservation Area;
- (FF) Otter Slough Conservation Area;
- (GG) Perry (Ralph and Martha) Conservation Area;
- (HH) Platte Falls Conservation Area;
- (II) Plowboy Bend Conservation Area;
- (JJ) Rose Pond Conservation Area;
- (KK) Rush Bottoms Conservation Area;
- (LL) Schell-Osage Conservation Area;
- (MM) Settle's Ford Conservation Area;
- (NN) Seven Island Conservation Area;
- (OO) Shanks (Ted) Conservation Area;
- (PP) Swift Ditch Access;
- (QQ) Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area;
- (RR) Thurnau (H. F.) Conservation Area;
- (SS) Warbler Woods Conservation Area; and
- (TT) Wolf Creek Bend Conservation Area.

(12) On the portion of Nodaway River bordered by the portion of Nodaway Valley Conservation Area which has been designated a waterfowl refuge, all hunting is prohibited from October 15 through March 1.

(13) On Leach (B. K.) Memorial Conservation Area, hunting of wildlife other than waterfowl is allowed during prescribed seasons, except that from October 15 through the end of the appropriate zone's duck season other wildlife may be hunted only by archery methods and only in designated areas.

3 CSR 10-11.185 Dove Hunting

(1) Dove hunting is permitted on department areas in accordance with statewide regulations, except as further restricted in this chapter.

(2) On the following areas, during the month of September, dove hunters must possess a valid area daily hunting tag while hunting and must accurately report their harvest immediately upon completing their hunting trip:

(A) Dove hunting is permitted during legal shooting hours in accordance with statewide regulations:

1. Busch (August A.) Memorial Conservation Area
2. Bois D'Arc Conservation Area
3. Logan (William R.) Conservation Area
4. Pony Express Lake Conservation Area
5. Talbot (Robert E.) Conservation Area
6. White (William G. and Erma Parke) Memorial Wildlife Area

(B) Dove hunting is permitted by managed hunt during the first seven (7) days and during legal shooting hours for the entire dove hunting season:

1. Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area
2. Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area
3. Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area

(C) On Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, dove hunting is permitted only by managed hunt after 1:00 p.m. during the first seven (7) days of the dove hunting season and during legal shooting hours for the remainder of the season.

(D) On Reed (James A.) Memorial Wildlife Area, dove hunting is permitted only by managed hunt during the first seven (7) days of the dove hunting season, except that dove hunting is prohibited on Labor Day and the weekend immediately preceding. Shooting hours are from

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1:00 p.m. to sunset for the entire season.

(3) Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited for hunting doves on the following department areas:

- (A) Bilby Ranch Lake Conservation Area;
- (B) Blue Spring Branch Conservation Area;
- (C) Bois D'Arc Conservation Area;
- (D) Busch (August A.) Memorial Conservation Area;
- (E) Capps Creek Conservation Area;
- (F) Crowley's Ridge Conservation Area;
- (G) Davisdale Conservation Area;
- (H) Fort Crowder Conservation Area;
- (I) Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area;
- (J) Lamine River Conservation Area;
- (K) Logan (William R.) Conservation Area;
- (L) Maintz Wildlife Preserve;
- (M) Pacific Palisades Conservation Area;
- (N) Park (Guy B.) Conservation Area;
- (O) Peabody Conservation Area;
- (P) Pony Express Lake Conservation Area;
- (Q) Reed (James A.) Memorial Wildlife Area;
- (R) Reform Conservation Area;
- (S) Shawnee Trail Conservation Area;
- (T) Sloan (Dr. O.E. and Eloise) Conservation Area;
- (U) Stockton Lake Management Lands;
- (V) Talbot (Robert E.) Conservation Area;
- (W) Truman Reservoir Management Lands (Bethlehem);
- (X) Weldon Spring Conservation Area;
- (Y) Whetstone Creek Conservation Area; and
- (Z) White (William G. and Erma Parke) Conservation Area.

3 CSR 10-11.186 Waterfowl Hunting

(1) Waterfowl hunting is permitted on department areas except as further restricted in this chapter. Statewide permits, seasons, methods, and limits apply unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

(2) On Lake Girardeau Conservation Area, waterfowl hunting is prohibited.

(3) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited after 1 p.m. on designated portions of the following department areas:

- (A) Amarugia Highlands Conservation Area;
- (B) Brown (Bob) Conservation Area;
- (C) Coon Island Conservation Area;
- (D) Duck Creek Conservation Area;
- (E) Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area;
- (F) Fountain Grove Conservation Area;
- (G) Grand Pass Conservation Area;
- (H) King Lake Conservation Area;
- (I) Leach (B. K.) Memorial Conservation Area;
- (J) Little River Conservation Area;
- (K) Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area;
- (L) Nodaway Valley Conservation Area;
- (M) Otter Slough Conservation Area;
- (N) Reed (James A.) Memorial Wildlife Area;
- (O) Pony Express Lake Conservation Area;
- (P) Schell-Osage Conservation Area;
- (Q) Shanks (Ted) Conservation Area;
- (R) Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area.

(4) Waterfowl may be taken on the department areas listed below only by holders of a valid area Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag and only from a blind or in a designated area, except that hunters may retrieve dead birds and pursue and shoot downed cripples outside the designated area. Waterfowl hunters must check out immediately after the close of their hunting trip and prior to processing birds by accurate completion and return of the Daily Waterfowl

Hunting Tag to designated locations. These department areas are closed to waterfowl hunting on December 25:

- (A) Brown (Bob) Conservation Area;
- (B) Duck Creek Conservation Area;
- (C) Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area;
- (D) Fountain Grove Conservation Area;
- (E) Four Rivers (August A. Busch, Jr. Memorial Wetlands at) Conservation Area (Designated waterfowl hunting areas of Units 1 and 2);
- (F) Grand Pass Conservation Area;
- (G) Leach (B. K.) Memorial Conservation Area;
- (H) Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area;
- (I) Montrose Conservation Area;
- (J) Nodaway Valley Conservation Area;
- (K) Otter Slough Conservation Area;
- (L) Schell-Osage Conservation Area;
- (M) Shanks (Ted) Conservation Area;
- (N) Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area.

(5) On Thomas Hill Reservoir, waterfowl hunting is prohibited on the lands and waters of the main arm between Highway T and county road 462, three and one-half (3 1/2) miles north of Highway T from October 15 through the close of the waterfowl season.

(6) Waterfowl hunters must self-register at designated hunter record boxes prior to hunting by completing a Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag and accurately report harvest and check out immediately after the hunt on the following department areas:

- (A) Columbia Bottom Conservation Area;
- (B) Coon Island Conservation Area;
- (C) Fountain Grove (Southside Wetland Complex);
- (D) Four Rivers (August A. Busch, Jr. Memorial Wetlands at) Conservation Area (Units 3 and 4);
- (E) Nodaway Valley Conservation Area (Open Zone portion);
- (F) Settle's Ford Conservation Area.

(7) On Little River Conservation Area, waterfowl hunting is permitted only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays in designated pools by holders of a valid area daily hunting tag.

(8) On Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area—

(A) Teal hunting is allowed from sunrise to sunset during the prescribed teal hunting season;

(B) Goose hunting is allowed from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset during those portions of the prescribed goose hunting season that occurs outside of the prescribed duck hunting season, and from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset during the prescribed conservation order for light geese;

(C) Waterfowl hunting is allowed only until 1:00 p.m. and only on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday during the prescribed duck hunting season.

(9) Waterfowl may be hunted only during managed waterfowl hunts on the following department areas:

(A) Busch (August A.) Memorial Conservation Area;

(B) Cooley Lake Conservation Area;

(C) Reed (James A.) Memorial Wildlife Area.

(10) On Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area, waterfowl may be hunted only in designated areas and only during the appropriate zone's duck and Canada goose seasons.

(11) Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas; Draw Participation Requirements.

(A) Hunting party members may participate in only one (1) morning drawing on the same day and may only submit one (1) Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag per morning drawing. This includes having one (1) hunting party member submit a Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag for another hunting party member in their absence.

(B) A hunter must be properly licensed prior to participating in the

morning drawing or applying for a reservation.

(C) Hunting parties, including observers, may not exceed four (4), except during youth seasons.

(D) Hunters must qualify for Missouri resident permits or be exempt from purchasing Missouri permits to apply for reservations. Hunters do not need to be a Missouri resident to reserve an Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible blind.

(E) Hunting parties who have reserved an Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible blind are not eligible to enter an in-person drawing unless they first forfeit their Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible blind reservation for that day.

(F) Hunters may not be registered for more than one (1) location or possess more than one (1) valid Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag at the same time. Hunters must check out of one (1) location prior to registering for another location.

(G) Hunting parties must hunt in their assigned location, as designated during the morning drawing.

(H) Parties not registered or signed in prior to the draw time will not be allowed to enter the drawing. This includes parties with reservations.

(I) Individuals may not be added to a party once the party has drawn.

Chapter 12

3 CSR 10-12.125 Hunting and Trapping

(1) Hunting, under statewide permits, seasons, methods, and limits, is permitted except as further restricted in this chapter and except for deer and turkey hunting as authorized in the annual *Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet published in August and annual *Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet published in March, which are incorporated in this *Code* by reference. A printed copy of these booklets can be obtained from the

Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 and are also available online at www.missouriconservation.org. This rule does not incorporate any subsequent amendments or additions.

(C) Firearms hunting is prohibited on Maysville (Willow Brook Lake), except waterfowl hunting is permitted under statewide regulations.

(D) On the portion of Melvin Price Locks and Dam Pool 26, which has been designated a waterfowl refuge, shooting, hunting, and off-road vehicles are prohibited at all times.

(E) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. on Odessa (Odessa City Lake, Upper Odessa City Lake).

(F) On Springfield City Utilities (Fellows Lake).

1. Hunting of wildlife other than waterfowl is prohibited, except in designated areas, from October 15 through the end of the prescribed waterfowl season.

2. Waterfowl hunting is permitted except as further restricted in this chapter. Statewide permits, seasons, methods, and limits apply unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

3. Waterfowl hunting is permitted until 1:00 p.m. Waterfowl hunters must check out immediately after the close of their hunting trip and prior to processing birds by accurate completion and return of the daily waterfowl hunting tag to designated locations.

4. Blinds and/or blind sites shall be designated and allotted through a system of registration and drawing established by the department. Blinds must be constructed within fifty (50) yards of an assigned site only during the dates assigned by the department. Blinds may be constructed using willows (*Salicaceae*), cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and non-woody vegetation collected on-site.

Federal Regulations Summary

5. Waterfowl may be taken only by holders of a valid area daily waterfowl hunting tag and only from a designated blind or blind site, except that hunters may retrieve dead birds and pursue and shoot downed cripples. Blinds or blind sites may not be locked, transferred, rented, or sold. After 6:00 a.m., unoccupied blinds may be used by the first hunter to arrive.

6. Nonhunters are prohibited within the shooting areas during the waterfowl hunting season unless they are members of, and remain with, a party authorized to use the area, except that the north arm of the lake from a line extending from the point separating the north and south arms of the lake to the north end of the buoy line nearest the dam is open to fishing during all or part of the waterfowl season.

(G) All hunting is closed on Smithville Lake Waterfowl Refuge from October 15 through January 31 in units designated by posting.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit ecfr.gov, where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- 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.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.

- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as 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 birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

Baiting

No person shall take migratory game birds by the aid of baiting (placing grain, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or attraction), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the complete removal of bait. The following do not constitute baited areas or baiting: standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded,

or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; lands where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice; hunting from a blind or other place of concealment that is camouflaged with natural vegetation or vegetation from agricultural crops as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing or scattering of grain. Normal agricultural practices must be conducted in accordance with recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Cooperative Extension Service. A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing a crop. Waterfowl may not be hunted over freshly planted wildlife food plots where grain or seed has been distributed, scattered, or exposed because these plots are not normal agricultural plantings or normal soil stabilization practices. For doves only, grain or feed distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop on the land where it was grown does not constitute baiting.

Wanton Waste

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Opening Day of a Season

No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Field Possession Limit

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

Tagging Requirements

No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Custody of Birds of Another

No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Termination of Possession

Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

Gift of Migratory Game Birds

No person may receive, possess, or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were taken.

Transportation of Birds of Another

No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Species Identification Requirement

No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

Marking Package or Container

No person shall transport by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

Nontoxic Shot

Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting ducks, geese, and coots statewide, or doves, rails, snipe, and woodcock as designated by posting on public areas, must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of June 2026, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- Bismuth-tin
- Copper-clad iron
- Corrosion-inhibited copper
- Iron (steel)
- Iron-tungsten
- Iron-tungsten-nickel
- Tungsten-bronze (two types)
- Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- Tungsten-iron-polymer
- Tungsten-matrix
- Tungsten-polymer
- Tungsten-tin-bismuth
- Tungsten-tin-iron
- Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel

General Information

Conservation Areas Requiring Nontoxic Shot

Nontoxic shot is required for all hunting with shotguns on 46 conservation areas. These areas have large wetlands where waterfowl and shorebirds concentrate in the spring and fall.

Note: Waterfowl hunters must use nontoxic shot for all duck, goose, and coot hunting regardless of where they are hunting.

Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited on the following conservation areas:

- Aspinwall Bend
- Black Island
- Bob Brown
- Cash (Ben) Memorial
- Church Farm
- Columbia Bottom
- Cooley Lake
- Coon Island
- Corning
- Deroin Bend
- Diana Bend
- Donaldson Point
- Duck Creek
- Eagle Bluffs
- Fountain Grove
- Four Rivers
- Franklin Island
- Frisbee Cutoff Access
- Frost Island
- Girvin (John L. And Georgia)
- Grand Pass
- Hornersville Swamp
- Leach (B.K.) Memorial
- Little Bean Marsh
- Little River
- Lower Hamburg Bend
- Marais Temps Clair
- Marion Bottoms
- Montrose
- Nishnabotna
- Nodaway Valley
- Otter Slough
- Perry (Ralph and Martha)
- Platte Falls
- Plowboy Bend
- Rose Pond
- Rush Bottoms
- Schell-Osage
- Settle's Ford
- Seven Island
- Swift Ditch Access
- Ted Shanks
- Ten Mile Pond
- Thurnau
- Warbler Woods
- Wolf Creek Bend

Drone Use is Prohibited

Federal regulations and the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* prohibit the use of manned or unmanned aircraft (drones) to harass, capture, hunt, or kill wildlife. This includes flying aircraft over waterfowl in a manner that would cause them to take flight or that would disrupt their normal flight patterns. It also is illegal to assist other hunters by operating such aircraft.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Since 2022, outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have been detected in birds across all North American flyways. In Missouri, HPAI has been confirmed in both domestic poultry and wild birds. While the risk of HPAI infection to the public remains low, the virus spreads rapidly among birds through bird-to-bird contact. It can also be transmitted indirectly through contaminated surfaces and materials, including clothing, footwear, and equipment.

The Conservation Department is working closely with federal and state partners to monitor waterfowl and other wild birds for HPAI viruses. For more information, contact the Wildlife Health Program at wildlifehealth@mdc.mo.gov or visit mdc.mo.gov/HPAI.

Proper Handling of Game Birds

- Do not handle or eat birds that are obviously sick or birds that were found dead. Contact your local Conservation Department office if you find sick or dead birds.
- Work in a well-ventilated area when cleaning game birds to minimize exposure to airborne particles from dust, feathers, or dander.
- Wear rubber gloves.
- Wash hands and tools with soap and water or alcohol-based disinfectant after handling birds.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling birds.
- Keep game birds cool, clean, and dry.
- Cook birds to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever or other flu-like symptoms and let them know that you have had recent contact with wild birds.

Watch Your Wake

If you're using a boat motor in excess of 10 horsepower, you must keep the motor at a slow, no-wake speed on conservation areas.

When Hunting From a Boat

Boating safety is an important aspect of duck hunting. Follow these practices to ensure your hunt doesn't end in tragedy.

- When using a boat with a motor, including a layout boat, state statutes apply. See mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSPWeb/WaterPatrol.
- Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- Check the weather forecast. High winds can be dangerous.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- Carry a throwable flotation device.
- Transport firearms unloaded, cased, and with the action open.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.
- Exercise additional caution in flood waters.

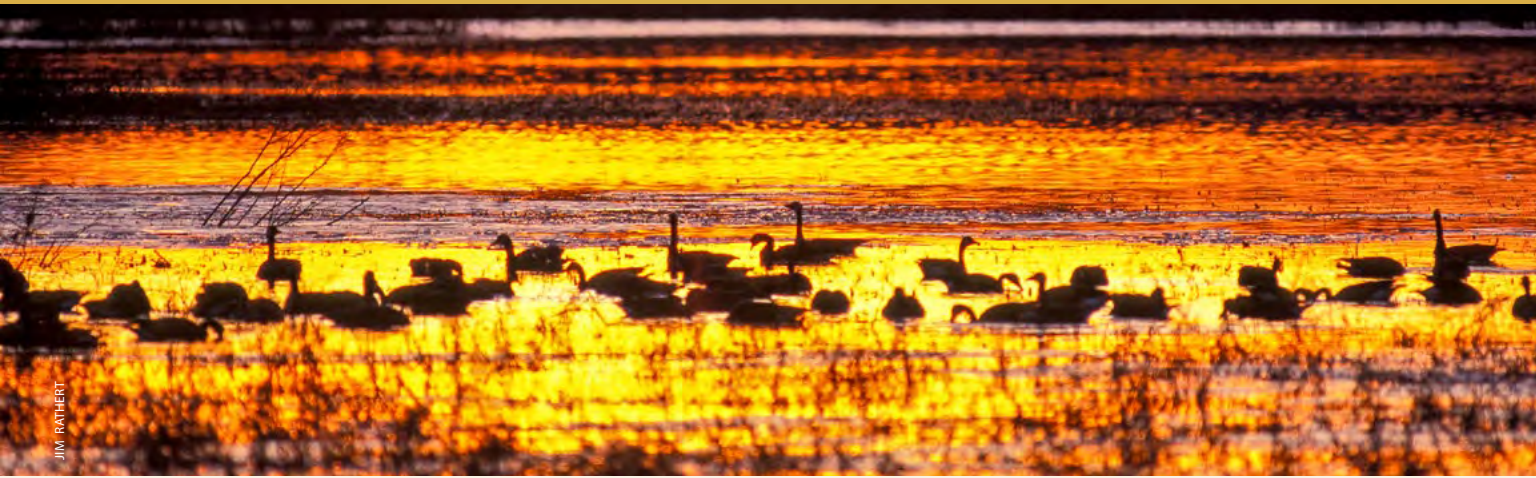
If your boat swamps or capsizes:

- Stay with the boat and use distress signals.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows at your sides.
- To stay afloat, place oars under your knees and back.
- If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

Report Your Bands

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, and harvest rates for a variety of migratory game birds. To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at reportband.gov. You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.

Sunrise and Sunset



JIM RATHERT

DAY	Sept. 2026		Oct. 2026		Nov. 2026		Dec. 2026		Jan. 2027		Feb. 2027		March 2027		April 2027	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	6:38	7:39	7:05	6:51	6:36	5:09	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:58	7:14	5:31	6:41	6:02	6:54	7:32
2	6:39	7:37	7:06	6:50	6:37	5:07	7:08	4:48	7:27	4:59	7:13	5:32	6:40	6:03	6:52	7:33
3	6:40	7:35	7:07	6:48	6:38	5:06	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00	7:13	5:33	6:38	6:04	6:51	7:34
4	6:41	7:34	7:07	6:47	6:39	5:05	7:10	4:47	7:27	5:01	7:12	5:34	6:37	6:05	6:49	7:35
5	6:42	7:32	7:08	6:45	6:40	5:04	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:02	7:11	5:35	6:35	6:06	6:48	7:36
6	6:43	7:31	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:03	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:03	7:10	5:36	6:34	6:07	6:46	7:37
7	6:43	7:29	7:10	6:42	6:42	5:02	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:04	7:09	5:38	6:32	6:08	6:45	7:38
8	6:44	7:28	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:01	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:05	7:08	5:39	6:31	6:09	6:43	7:39
9	6:45	7:26	7:12	6:39	6:44	5:00	7:15	4:47	7:26	5:05	7:06	5:40	6:29	6:10	6:42	7:40
10	6:46	7:25	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06	7:05	5:41	6:28	6:11	6:40	7:41
11	6:47	7:23	7:14	6:36	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07	7:04	5:42	6:26	6:12	6:39	7:42
12	6:48	7:21	7:15	6:35	6:48	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08	7:03	5:43	6:25	6:13	6:37	7:42
13	6:49	7:20	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:09	7:02	5:44	6:23	6:14	6:36	7:43
14	6:50	7:18	7:17	6:32	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:48	7:25	5:11	7:01	5:45	7:22	7:15	6:34	7:44
15	6:50	7:17	7:18	6:30	6:51	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:12	7:00	5:47	7:20	7:16	6:33	7:45
16	6:51	7:15	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:13	6:58	5:48	7:19	7:17	6:31	7:46
17	6:52	7:13	7:20	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:14	6:57	5:49	7:17	7:18	6:30	7:47
18	6:53	7:12	7:21	6:26	6:54	4:53	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15	6:56	5:50	7:16	7:19	6:29	7:48
19	6:54	7:10	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16	6:55	5:51	7:14	7:20	6:27	7:49
20	6:55	7:09	7:23	6:23	6:56	4:52	7:22	4:51	7:23	5:17	6:53	5:52	7:12	7:21	6:26	7:50
21	6:56	7:07	7:24	6:22	6:57	4:52	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:18	6:52	5:53	7:11	7:22	6:24	7:51
22	6:57	7:06	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:52	7:22	5:19	6:51	5:54	7:09	7:22	6:23	7:52
23	6:57	7:04	7:26	6:19	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:20	6:49	5:55	7:08	7:23	6:22	7:53
24	6:58	7:02	7:27	6:18	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:21	6:48	5:56	7:06	7:24	6:20	7:54
25	6:59	7:01	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:25	4:53	7:20	5:23	6:47	5:57	7:05	7:25	6:19	7:55
26	7:00	6:59	7:29	6:16	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24	6:45	5:58	7:03	7:26	6:18	7:56
27	7:01	6:58	7:30	6:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:25	6:44	5:59	7:02	7:27	6:17	7:57
28	7:02	6:56	7:31	6:13	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:55	7:18	5:26	6:42	6:01	7:00	7:28	6:15	7:58
29	7:03	6:54	7:32	6:12	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27			6:58	7:29	6:14	7:59
30	7:04	6:53	7:33	6:11	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:28			6:57	7:30	6:13	8:00
31			7:34	6:10			7:26	4:58	7:15	5:29			6:55	7:31		

These tables are for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. For example, St. Louis is 106 miles east: subtract 8 minutes; Kansas City is 133 miles west: add 10 minutes. Sunrise and sunset from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 and from March 14 to April 30 have been converted to daylight saving time.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Seasons at a Glance

Season	Dates	Shooting Hours	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Doves (Mourning, Eurasian Collared, and White-Winged)	Sept. 1–Nov. 29, 2026	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	15, combined total of all species	45, combined total of all species
Rails (Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 1–Nov. 9, 2026	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	25, combined total of all species	75, combined total of all species
Wilson’s (Common) Snipe	Sept. 1–Dec. 16, 2026	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	8	24
American Woodcock	Oct. 18–Dec. 1, 2026	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	3	9
Early Teal (Blue-Winged, Green-Winged, and Cinnamon)	Sept. 12–20, 2026	Sunrise to sunset	6, combined total of all species	18, combined total of all species
Early Canada Goose and Brant	Oct. 3–11, 2026	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	3, combined total of both species	9, combined total of both species
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Zone: Oct. 24–25, 2026 ▪ Middle Zone: Oct. 31–Nov. 1, 2026 ▪ South Zone: Nov. 21–22, 2026 	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	Same as during regular waterfowl seasons	Same as during regular waterfowl seasons
Ducks and Coots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Zone: Oct. 31–Dec. 29, 2026 ▪ Middle Zone: Nov. 7–Dec. 13, 2026, and Dec. 19, 2026–Jan. 10, 2027 ▪ South Zone: Nov. 26–29, 2026, and Dec. 7, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027 	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	6 ducks with species restrictions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 mallards (no more than 2 hens) ▪ 3 pintails ▪ 3 wood ducks ▪ 2 black ducks ▪ 2 canvasbacks ▪ 2 hooded mergansers ▪ 2 redheads ▪ 2/1 scaup* ▪ 1 mottled duck 	18 ducks (three times daily bag limit, varies by species) 45 coots
Geese (Canada, Brant, White-Fronted, Snow, and Ross’s)	Nov. 11, 2026–Feb. 6, 2027	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 Canada geese and brant, combined total of both species ▪ 2 white-fronted geese ▪ 20 light geese (snow, blue, and Ross’s geese) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 9 Canada geese and brant, combined total of both species ▪ 6 white-fronted geese ▪ No light goose possession limit
Light Goose Conservation Order	Feb. 7–April 30, 2027	One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset	No daily bag limit	No possession limit

*Two scaup for first 45 days of the season; one scaup for last 15 days. See Page 14.