Refer to the “License Types” section on page 5 of this digest for information on which licenses include this privilege license.

**North Carolina Duck Stamp** Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year’s duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes; call 888-248-6834 for more information.

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – SEASONS**

### CROW SEASONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
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**Waterfowl and Webless Migratory** Dates, bag limits and shooting hours for doves, other webless migratory game birds and resident Canada geese will be available by Aug. 1. Dates, bag limits and shooting hours for waterfowl will be available by Sept. 1. To obtain information on these dates, bag limits and shooting hours, call the following toll-free number: 800-675-0263, or see our website at ncwildlife.org. Wildlife service agents will receive posters containing this information, and the information also will be distributed through local news media.

**Youth Waterfowl Day** Waterfowl hunting outside of the regular season is allowed on the day officially designated as “Youth Waterfowl Day.” Youth must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by a properly licensed adult at least 18 years of age. Legal species include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules and coots. The accompanying adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons open on Youth Waterfowl Day. Call 800-675-0263 after Sept. 1 for the date. Canada goose bag limits and any additional restrictions on Youth Waterfowl Day vary by the applicable hunt zone. See the Canada Goose Hunt Zone section for information about the Northeast Goose Hunt Zone. Any youth harvesting a tundra swan must have a valid swan permit.

**WATERFOWL**

**TUNDRA SWAN** A limited number of permits will be issued to hunt tundra swans. Permits will be issued by a random drawing authorizing each permitholder to harvest one tundra swan. The following regulations apply:

- The permit and tag are not transferable and are valid only for the person whose name appears on the permit. It is unlawful to possess a swan permit or tag while hunting that was assigned to another person, or to alter the permit or tag in any way other than cutting out the proper month and day of kill.
- The permit must be canceled by cutting out both the month and day of the kill immediately at the time and place of the kill.
- The permit must be affixed to the harvested swan in accordance with instructions provided with the permit.
- The permit must be carried on one’s person while hunting or, if in possession of a swan, the permit must be affixed to the swan. Every hunter receiving a swan permit will also receive a questionnaire. If the hunter does not return that completed questionnaire to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1, that hunter will be ineligible for a tundra swan permit the following season.

See the Wildlife Resources Commission’s Permit Hunting Opportunities publication for instructions on obtaining a swan permit.

**SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREA**

The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and oldsquaw), except during the regular duck season, shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas. During the regular season, this bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks, and they must be included in the regular duck season daily bag and possession limits.

**SEPTEMBER TEAL ZONE** That area located east of U.S. 17 is designated as the “September Teal Zone.” Teal seasons occurring prior to Oct. 1 apply to this area only.

**CANADA GOOSE HUNT ZONES**

The state is divided into Canada goose hunt zones. See the map on page 54 for zone descriptions. For the hunt dates, bag limits or other restrictions that may apply in each zone, please call 800-675-0263 after Sept. 1, or visit our website at ncwildlife.org.

As with other migratory game birds, it is unlawful to hunt or possess Canada geese without having HIP certification as well as other applicable state and federal licenses and stamps in your possession.

**GADDY GOOSE REFUGE**

It is unlawful to harass or take any Canada goose during established goose hunting seasons that occur after Oct. 1 each year in the Gaddy Goose Refuge in Anson County. The Gaddy Goose Refuge is that area in Anson County starting at the N.C. 109 bridge over the Pee Dee River and following N.C. 109 south to SR 1650; west on S.R. 1650 to S.R. 1649; west on S.R. 1649 to U.S. 52; south on U.S. 52 to S.R. 1652; west on S.R. 1652 to S.R. 1641; west on S.R. 1641 to N.C. 742; northwest on N.C. 742 to Lanes Creek; north along Lanes Creek to the Rocky River; downstream on the Rocky River to the Pee Dee River; and downstream along the Pee Dee River to the beginning of the N.C. 109 bridge.

**Nontoxic Shot Requirements** In North Carolina, no person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel or other approved nontoxic materials. On posted waterfowl impoundments on game lands, it is unlawful to hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting; except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Nontoxic shot is required for the taking of captive-reared mallards on shooting preserves, in field trials and during bona fide dog-training activities.

**SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds. **No persons shall take migratory game birds:**

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order...