

- number when registering the harvest through a cooperator agent, the telephone reporting system or the online reporting system.
- Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by phone will be given their Harvest ID numbers during the call. If the hunter harvests a big game animal before receiving the Big Game Harvest Report Card in the mail, the hunter must immediately, upon receipt of the Big Game Harvest Report Card, record the authorization number for the reported harvest on the line above the Harvest ID number he or she used when reporting the harvest.
- Big game animals may be field dressed before being registered. Field dressing includes bleeding and removal of digestive, respiratory and circulatory organs, but the hunter may not mutilate the carcass in a manner that obscures the identity, age or sex.
- When a kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from being transported as an entire carcass, the animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered.
- When a hunter harvests an animal in a remote area and plans to remain in the area for longer than a day, the 24-hour time is extended until the hunter leaves the area. However, the hunter must immediately register the animal upon leaving the remote area.
- Bear and deer (except those deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season) may be registered in one of four ways:
  - By calling the toll-free phone number, 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663). A touch tone telephone is required.
  - By using the Internet and clicking the "Report a Harvest" link located on the NCWRC home page ([www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)).
  - By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife service agent location ([www.ncalvin.org/WildlifeServiceAgentMVC](http://www.ncalvin.org/WildlifeServiceAgentMVC)).
  - By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife cooperator agent.

- Wild turkeys and deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season can only be registered through the toll-free telephone, on-line at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or at a participating wildlife service location.
- Hunters should report each harvest only ONCE. For example, if you have reported your harvest over the telephone, you should not also register your harvest with an agent or on the Internet.

**Recording the Authorization Number** When a successful hunter registers a big game harvest, the hunter will be issued an authorization number for the animal. The hunter shall then record the authorization number in the space provided, immediately adjacent to the validation mark that has been cut or punched out on the Big Game Harvest Report Card. This record shall thereafter constitute the authorization for continued possession of the carcass. It shall be unlawful for a person to possess a Big Game Harvest Report Card on which the species validation mark has been cut or punched out, but on which the authorization number has not been recorded, unless the animal is in the person's possession or it has been identified by with your name, hunting license number and date of kill.

**Identifying an Unattended Kill** Persons killing a big game animal and leaving it unattended must identify the carcass with their name, hunting license number and date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, it need only be identified with the authorization number.

**Reporting for License-Exempt Hunters** Persons who are by law exempt from the Big Game Hunting License requirement shall obtain a License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card from a wildlife service agent at no cost. Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate the License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card and report the big game kill using the same registration methods listed above.

**Deer Management Assistance Program Harvest Reporting**

Persons harvesting deer under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements described in the instructions they have received as a participant in the DMAP.

## REGISTERING a Big Game Kill

### Required for Bear, Deer, and Wild Turkey taken in North Carolina

- Before moving the animal from the site of kill (where the animal fell), validate your Big Game Harvest Report Card by punching or cutting in the appropriate crosshair symbol that correctly identifies the big game animal harvested.
- Register by reporting the harvest within 24 hours and record the authorization number on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Reporting must be done within 24 hours of kill and before the animal is skinned, dressed, or dismembered for consumption.
- If the animal is left unattended before registering, it must be identified with your name, hunting license number and date of kill. An example would be if you leave it hanging in a cooler.
- If you leave an animal with a processor or taxidermist, donate it to Hunters for the Hungry or give it to someone else, you must have the authorization number attached to the carcass. The processor or taxidermist needs to keep a record of species and sex of animals received and name and address of hunter.

To register, choose one of the following options and have your Big Game Harvest Report Card and pen ready.

- Call toll-free 800-446-8663.
- Go online to [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org).
- Visit a participating wildlife service agent location.
- Visit a wildlife cooperator agent. This service is not available for reporting Wild Turkey, and Urban Archery Deer.



## SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS

### RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

Oct. 17 (at sunrise) – Feb. 28

Opossum: No bag limits

Raccoon daily limit 3: No possession or season limits

#### General Restrictions

- Field possession limit while hunting is the same as the daily bag limit. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp or residence.
- Axes and saws may not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.
- It is unlawful to shoot raccoon during the daytime, west of U.S. 1, except in Richmond County.
- It is unlawful to carry firearms or climbing irons when training dogs during closed seasons, except under special field-trial regulations.

### SQUIRREL

Gray and Red (statewide): Oct. 17 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits

Fox Squirrel: Oct. 17 – Dec. 31

Daily limit 1; Possession 2; Season 10

In the following counties:

Alleghany	Edgecombe	Moore	Scotland
Anson	Greene	New Hanover	Stokes
Ashe	Harnett	Onslow	Surry
Bladen	Hoke	Pender	Watauga

Brunswick	Johnston	Pitt	Wayne
Cumberland	Jones	Richmond	Wilkes
Duplin	Lenoir	Sampson	

**RABBIT**

Nov. 19 – Feb. 28 (hunting and box-trapping\*)  
Daily limit 5; No possession or season limits

\*A trapping license is not required to box-trap rabbits, but a valid hunting license is necessary.

**QUAIL**

Nov. 19 – Feb. 28  
Daily limit 6; Possession 12; Season, no limit

**GROUSE**

Oct. 17 – Feb. 28  
Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

**BOBCAT**

Oct. 17 – Feb. 28  
No limits

**GROUNDHOG, NUTRIA, COYOTE, SKUNK (STRIPED), ARMADILLO AND FERAL SWINE (HOGS)**

There is no closed season or bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls for coyotes and feral swine.

- Feral swine may be hunted at night with lights.
- Coyotes may be hunted at night except in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. In those five counties, the following apply:  
-hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset  
-all coyote hunting requires a permit  
-permits can be obtained at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or by calling 1-888-248-6834  
-all coyote harvests must be reported.

See page 60 for more information about coyote hunting in the five counties listed above.

**PHEASANT**

Nov. 12 – Feb. 1 (male pheasant only)  
Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

**FOX**

Year Round (including Sundays)

- Must be taken with dogs only; no limits.
- Local laws may restrict hunting foxes with dogs. See the “Fox Season Hunting and Trapping Laws” publication at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.

Nov. 12 – Jan. 2 (archery season); Nov. 19 - Jan. 2 (firearm season)  
Daily limit 2; Season 10

This season applies as follows:

- In those counties and parts of counties east of I-77 where local laws do not prohibit the taking of foxes or that do not have established fox seasons and Mitchell and Caldwell County.
- Foxes taken during this hunting season shall not be bought or sold.
- In Caldwell County, foxes may be taken by firearms only.

Jan. 7 – 28, 2017

- Foxes may be taken in the counties listed below by legal weapons and may be sold after being properly tagged (refer to page 10 for more information on fox tags):

Clay	Macon
Graham	Tyrrell
Henderson	

- Hunters must possess fox tags prior to harvesting foxes during this season.

There is no open weapons hunting season in any other county except where provided by local laws. To see if your county has a hunting season on foxes, visit [ncwildlife.org/foxseasons](http://ncwildlife.org/foxseasons), or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.

**EXTENDED SEASON FOR TAKE BY FALCONRY**

Oct. 7 – Feb. 28 (Applies only to rabbits)  
Outside of Regular Season Dates:  
Rabbits: Daily limit 3; Possession limit 6  
Regular species bag limits apply during regular seasons.

**BEAVER**

There is an open season for taking beaver with firearms or bow and arrow during any open season for the taking of wild animals, provided that permission has been obtained from the owner or lessee of the land on which the beaver is being taken.

**CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES**

Oct. 1 – Mar. 31  
No limits.  
This applies to domestically raised birds (mallard ducks and upland game birds) only.  
No wild turkey may be taken.

**MIGRATORY BIRDS**

**Migratory Birds Protected** Federal laws protecting migratory birds (songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl) take precedence over state laws. Before any migratory birds may be taken or killed during the closed season, a federal permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Substantial penalties for violations apply. Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Permits Section in Atlanta, Ga. at 404-679-7070 for information. During the May 1– Aug. 31 time period, depredation permits issued directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission are available when Canada geese are depredating in commercial agriculture situations. Contact the Commission at 919-707-0050 for more information. Federal seasons and bag limits on migratory game birds are adopted as state regulations.

**Colonial Water Bird Nesting Areas** Coastal islands and beach areas posted as “Colonial Water Bird Nesting” areas are being managed for our nesting populations of pelicans, terns, gulls, herons and egrets. Special regulations apply. Access is prohibited on these areas from April 1–Aug. 31, except by special permit. Dogs are not allowed on these areas during this time period. Access on these areas from Sept. 1–March 30 will be allowed as authorized by the landowner.

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – HUNTING STAMPS AND PRIVILEGES**

**Harvest Information Program (HIP)** All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (dove, rails, woodcock, snipe or waterfowl) in North Carolina are required to have certification of participation in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Certification can be obtained free of charge by going online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent.

**Migratory Bird Hunting And Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp)** The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older, must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or federal duck stamp,