

2021 – 2022 Federal Hunting Season Frameworks for Webless Species

| Species | Total days allowed | Number of segments allowed | Earliest opening date | Latest closing date | Daily Bag limit/ possession limit |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dove ¹ | 90 ² | 3 | September 1 st | January 31 st | 15/45 |
| Woodcock | 45 ² | 2 | September 13 th | January 31 st | 3/9 |
| Common snipe | 107 ² | 2 | September 1 st | February 28 th | 8/24 |
| King & Clapper rails ³ | 70 ² | 2 | September 1 st | January 31 st | 15/45 |
| Sora and Virginia rails ³ | 70 ² | 2 | September 1 st | January 31 st | 25/75 |
| Gallinules and Moorhens ³ | 70 ² | 2 | September 1 st | January 31 st | 15/45 |

¹ Includes mourning doves and white-winged doves. Does not include Eurasian collared dove which has no closed season or bag limits.

² Compensatory days for Sundays are allowed for webless species. Therefore, Sundays are not counted towards the total days selected.

³ Daily bag limit is either singly or in the aggregate.

2021 – 2022 Federal Hunting Season Frameworks for Waterfowl

| Species | Total days allowed | Number of segments allowed | Earliest opening date | Latest closing date | Daily Bag limit/ possession limit |
|---|--------------------|---|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| September Teal ^{1,2} | 16 ³ | 1 | September 1 st | September 30 th | 6/18 |
| Ducks | 60 ³ | No more than 3 segments in either duck hunting zone | Saturday nearest September 24 th (September 25 th) | January 31 st | 6/18 ⁴ |
| Coots | Same as ducks | Same as ducks | Same as ducks | Same as ducks | 15/45 |
| Mergansers | Same as ducks | Same as ducks | Same as ducks | Same as ducks | 5/15 ⁵ |
| Special Sea Duck Season (in special sea duck area only) | 60 ³ | 1 segment <u>or</u> must be set concurrently with the general duck season | September 15 th | January 31 st | 5/15 ⁶ |
| Canada goose (September season) | 30 ³ | 1 | September 1 st | September 30 th | 15/45 |
| Dark geese (Canada & White-fronted) – regular season (Resident Population Zone) | 80 ³ | 3 | October 1 st | March 10 th | 5/15 |
| Dark geese (Canada & White-fronted) - regular season (Northeast Hunt Zone) | 14 ³ | 2 | Saturday prior to December 25 th (December 18 th) | January 31 st | 1/3 |

2021 – 2022 Federal Hunting Season Frameworks for Waterfowl (continued)

| Species | Total days allowed | Number of segments allowed | Earliest opening date | Latest closing date | Daily Bag limit/ possession limit |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Light geese (Snow geese and Ross's geese) | 107³ | 3 | October 1st | March 10th | 25/no possession limit |
| Brant | 50³ | 2 | Saturday nearest September 24th (September 25th) | January 31st | 2/6 |
| Tundra Swan | 90³ | 1 | October 1st | January 31st | 1 per season by special permit |
| Youth Waterfowl Day(s)⁷ | States may select 2 days in each duck hunting zone as Youth Waterfowl Days in addition to their regular duck season. The day(s) must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The day(s) may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within the closed portion between season segments, or within any other open season on migratory birds. Youth hunters may not be over the age of 17. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules and would be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Tundra swans and Canada geese (in Northeast Hunt Zone) may only be taken by participants possessing the applicable permits. | | | | |
| Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s)⁷ | States may select 2 days in each duck hunting zone as Veteran/Military Waterfowl Days in addition to their regular duck season. This includes veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training). The day(s) may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within the closed portion between season segments, or within any other open season on migratory birds. The days can be held concurrently with Youth Waterfowl Days. Participants must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules and would be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Tundra swans and Canada geese (in Northeast Hunt Zone) may only be taken by participants possessing the applicable permits. | | | | |

- 1 Includes blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal.
- 2 The teal season can occur only in that area east of U.S. Highway 17.
- 3 Compensatory days for Sundays are allowed for waterfowl. Therefore, Sundays are not counted towards the total days selected.
- 4 Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 mallards with no more than 1 hen mallard, 2 black ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. In the Atlantic Flyway, states may choose to hold all of their 60 scaup hunting days with a 1-bird daily bag limit, or states may choose to have a "hybrid" scaup hunting season. Under a hybrid season, states may choose 40 days of scaup hunting with a 1-bird daily bag limit and 20 days of scaup hunting with a 2-bird daily bag limit (60 total days). The season on harlequin ducks is closed.
- 5 The daily bag limit for mergansers can include no more than 2 hooded mergansers
- 6 The daily bag limit for sea ducks in the special sea duck area only, shall include 5 sea ducks, with no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders and 4 long-tailed ducks.
- 7 There can be no more than 2 Youth Waterfowl Days and no more than 2 Veteran/Military Waterfowl Days.

Notes on Shooting hours and bag limits:

Federal guidelines allow for shooting hours to be ½ hour before sunrise to sunset for all species. However, federal guidelines do allow for shooting hours for Canada geese only during the month of September to extend to ½ hour after sunset. In addition to extended shooting hours, federal guidelines also allow the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls for Canada geese only during the month of September. The extended shooting hours, unplugged guns and electronic calls for Canada geese can occur only in areas that are closed to all other waterfowl hunting. The North Carolina Wildlife Commission may choose to restrict shooting hours, unplugged guns and electronic calls if desired.

Federal guidelines allow for the maximum daily bag limits as listed above. The North Carolina Wildlife Commission has the ability to choose a smaller bag limit if desired.

At this time, federal season frameworks listed herein are subject to change pending final approval by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.