

**EXTENDED SEASON FOR TAKE BY FALCONRY**

Oct. 16 – 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.

**CROW SEASONS**

Season	Bag Limits
Aug. 1, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week.	No restriction
June 6, 2018-July 30, 2018-Wednesday Friday and Saturday of each week.	
Crows may also be hunted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Independence Day; except when these days fall on a Sunday.	

**ATTENTION HUNTERS:** Please report all bird bands online at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)  
 Be aware that starting July, 2017, **the toll-free telephone number that had previously been available to report bird bands is being discontinued.** People calling this toll-free number will be directed to report their bird bands using the REPORTBAND website or by mail.

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

**Harvest Information Program (HIP)** All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (doves, rails, gallinules, moorhens, 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, signed in ink across the face. (Hunters under age 16 may voluntarily purchase a duck stamp and help preserve wetlands for waterfowl.) Refer to page 9 for more information.

**North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege** Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a license having the North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege. The North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege is required in addition to the federal duck stamp. 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**

**Shooting Hours:** Unless otherwise specified, shooting hours for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

**Possession Limits:** Possession Limits for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are 3 times the daily limit unless otherwise specified.

**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.

**DOVE** (includes Mourning Dove and White-winged Dove)

Sep. 2 – Oct. 7 & Nov. 22 – Jan. 15  
 Daily limit 15; either singly or in the aggregate for mourning doves and white-winged doves

**RAILS** (includes King, Clapper and Virginia Rails and Sora)

Sep. 2 – Oct. 21 & Nov. 3 – Nov. 22  
 Daily Limit 15 King or Clapper Rails either singly or in the aggregate  
 Daily Limit 25 Virginia Rails or Sora either singly or in the aggregate

**GALLINULE AND MOORHEN**

Sep. 2 – Oct. 21 & Nov. 3 – Nov. 22  
 Daily Limit 15 Gallinules and Moorhens either singly or in the aggregate