



## ◻ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ◻

Gordon S. Myers, Executive Director

### PROCLAMATION

Gordon S. Myers, Executive Director, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, acting pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-291.2(f) and §113-291.1(f) and authority duly delegated by the Wildlife Resources Commission, hereby declares the 2016-2017 Early Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons, Waterfowl Seasons and Extended Falconry Hunting Seasons for Migratory Game Birds to become effective on the dates and times as follows:

SPECIES- Webless Migratory and Early- season Waterfowl	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Mourning Dove & White-winged Dove	September 3 – October 8, November 21 –January 14	15
King & Clapper Rails	September 1 – October 1 October 14 – November 21	15
Sora & Virginia Rails	September 1 – October 1 October 14 – November 21	25
Gallinule & Moorhens	September 1 – October 1 October 14 – November 21	15
Woodcock	December 15 – January 28	3
Common Snipe	November 14 – February 28	8
Canada Goose	September 1 – 30 (statewide)  Allow the following west of U.S. 17 only: 1. extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset 2. use of unplugged guns 3. use of electronic calls	15
September Teal	September 10 — 28 (East of U.S. 17 only)	6

<b>SPECIES-Waterfowl</b>	<b>SEASON DATES</b>
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	October 5-8 November 12 – December 3 and December 17 – January 28 [Black and mottled duck season closed until Nov. 19]
Sea Ducks (In special sea duck area only)	November 21 – January 28
Dark Geese (Includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese) To view a map of the goose hunt zones, refer to the Regulations Digest or <a href="http://www.ncwildlife.org">www.ncwildlife.org</a>	Resident Population Hunt Zone: Oct. 5 – 15, Nov. 12 – Dec. 3 and Dec. 17 – Feb. 11 Southern James Bay Hunt Zone: Oct. 5 – Nov. 4 and Nov. 12 – Dec. 31. Northeast Hunt Zone: Jan. 13 – Jan. 28 (by permit only)
Light Geese (Includes snow and blue geese, and Ross' geese)	October 11 – Feb. 11 February 13 – March 31 (by permit only) [From February 13 – March 31 only, electronic calls and unplugged guns are allowed; there are no bag or possession limits; and shooting hours are extended to ½ hour after sunset]
Brant	December 17 – January 28
Tundra Swan	November 12 - January 31 (by permit only)
Youth Waterfowl Days (Includes ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots and tundra swans.) The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan or a Canada goose (NE Hunt Zone only).	February 4 and February 11 Youth must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by a properly licensed adult. The adult must not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.

**NOTES:**

- 1) Shooting hours for all migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset, except for the extended hours for Canada geese west of U.S. 17.
- 2) These listed seasons do not include Sundays. There shall be no hunting of migratory game birds by any method on Sundays.
- 3) Possession limit is three times the daily bag for all species.
- 4) Falconers may hunt during the Early Migratory Game Birds Seasons, but the daily bag limit for falconry is three and the possession limit is nine, singly or in aggregate.

**Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEASON DATES</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>
Mourning Dove	October 15 – October 31	3
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	December 3 – January 7	3
Woodcock	November 5 – December 3 & February 1 – 28	3
Ducks, mergansers and coots	October 25 – November 5 and January 31 – February 18	3


**NOTES:**

- 1) The falconry daily bag limit is three permitted migratory game birds singly or in the aggregate. Regular early migratory game bird seasons bag limits for individual species do not apply.
- 2) Possession limits are three times the daily bag for all species singly or in aggregate.
- 3) Hunting hours for all migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset.
- 4) These listed seasons do not include Sundays. There shall be no hunting of migratory game birds by any method on Sundays.

5) The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the gun bag limit.

Any person who violates this Proclamation also violates applicable law and is subject to sanctions provided by law.

**NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

By  4-21-2016  
Gordon S. Myers Date  
Executive Director