



2009-2010 Delaware Migratory Game Bird Season Summary



SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
MOURNING DOVE	Sep 1 – Sep 26 Oct 19 – Oct 31 Dec 10 – Jan 9	15	30 ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET
KING & CLAPPER RAILS *singly or in combination of the two species	Sep 4 – Nov 12	10*	20
SORA & VIRGINIA RAILS *singly or in combination of the two species	Sep 4 – Nov 12	25*	25
WOODCOCK	Nov 23 – Dec 12 Dec 24 – Jan 2	3	6
COMMON SNIPE	Nov. 23 – Dec 12 Dec 24 – Jan 2	8	16
MOORHENS & GALLINULES	Sep 4 – Nov 12	15	30
CROWS *Thurs., Fri., & Sat. only	Jun 25 – Mar 27*	No Limit	No Limit
SEADUCKS	Sep 22 – Jan 23*	7**	14**

*Season dates apply to Special Sea Duck Area only (See Description Inside). Sea ducks may only be harvested outside of the Area during the regular duck season.
**Daily bag limit for Scoters is 4 birds/day (8 in possession). Bag limit and possession limit may be in addition to regular duck bag limit for sea ducks harvested within the Special Sea Duck Area. Sea ducks harvested outside this Area count towards the regular 6 duck daily bag limit

LEGAL SHOOTING HOURS ARE ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET 2009-2010 SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE

Day	SEP.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		JAN		FEB.		MAR.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	5 30	6 33	5 58	5 45	6 30	5 02	7 02	4 40	7 22	4 50	7 09	5 23	6 35	5 54
2	5 31	6 32	5 59	5 44	6 31	5 00	7 03	4 40	7 22	4 51	7 08	5 24	6 34	5 56
3	5 32	6 30	6 00	5 42	6 32	4 59	7 04	4 39	7 22	4 52	7 07	5 25	6 32	5 57
4	5 33	6 29	6 01	5 40	6 33	4 58	7 05	4 39	7 22	4 53	7 06	5 26	6 31	5 58
5	5 34	6 27	6 02	5 39	6 34	4 57	7 06	4 39	7 22	4 53	7 05	5 27	6 29	5 59
6	5 35	6 25	6 03	5 37	6 35	4 56	7 07	4 39	7 22	4 54	7 04	5 29	6 28	6 00
7	5 36	6 24	6 04	5 36	6 36	4 55	7 08	4 39	7 22	4 55	7 03	5 30	6 26	6 01
8	5 37	6 22	6 05	5 34	6 37	4 54	7 09	4 39	7 22	4 56	7 02	5 31	6 25	6 02
9	5 38	6 21	6 06	5 33	6 38	4 53	7 10	4 39	7 22	4 57	7 01	5 32	6 23	6 03
10	5 39	6 19	6 07	5 31	6 40	4 52	7 10	4 39	7 21	4 58	7 00	5 33	6 22	6 04
11	5 39	6 17	6 07	5 30	6 41	4 51	7 11	4 39	7 21	4 59	6 59	5 34	6 20	6 05
12	5 40	6 16	6 08	5 28	6 42	4 50	7 12	4 40	7 21	5 00	6 58	5 36	6 19	6 06
13	5 41	6 14	6 09	5 27	6 43	4 50	7 13	4 40	7 21	5 01	6 57	5 37	6 17	6 07
14	5 42	6 13	6 10	5 25	6 44	4 49	7 14	4 40	7 20	5 02	6 55	5 38	6 16	6 08
15	5 43	6 11	6 11	5 24	6 45	4 48	7 14	4 40	7 20	5 03	6 54	5 39	6 14	6 09
16	5 44	6 09	6 13	5 22	6 46	4 47	7 15	4 41	7 20	5 04	6 53	5 40	6 12	6 10
17	5 45	6 08	6 14	5 21	6 47	4 46	7 16	4 41	7 19	5 06	6 52	5 41	6 11	6 11
18	5 46	6 06	6 15	5 20	6 48	4 46	7 16	4 41	7 19	5 07	6 50	5 42	6 09	6 12
19	5 47	6 05	6 16	5 18	6 50	4 45	7 17	4 42	7 18	5 08	6 49	5 44	6 08	6 13
20	5 48	6 03	6 17	5 17	6 51	4 45	7 17	4 42	7 18	5 09	6 48	5 45	6 06	6 14
21	5 49	6 01	6 18	5 15	6 52	4 44	7 18	4 43	7 17	5 10	6 46	5 46	6 05	6 15
22	5 49	6 00	6 19	5 14	6 53	4 43	7 18	4 43	7 17	5 11	6 45	5 47	6 03	6 16
23	5 50	5 58	6 20	5 13	6 54	4 43	7 19	4 44	7 16	5 12	6 44	5 48	6 01	6 17
24	5 51	5 56	6 21	5 11	6 55	4 42	7 19	4 44	7 16	5 13	6 42	5 49	6 00	6 18
25	5 52	5 55	6 22	5 10	6 56	4 42	7 20	4 45	7 15	5 15	6 41	5 50	5 58	6 19
26	5 53	5 53	6 23	5 09	6 57	4 41	7 20	4 46	7 14	5 16	6 40	5 51	5 57	6 20
27	5 54	5 52	6 24	5 08	6 58	4 41	7 20	4 47	7 13	5 17	6 38	5 52	5 55	6 21
28	5 55	5 50	6 25	5 06	6 59	4 41	7 21	4 47	7 13	5 18	6 37	5 53	5 53	6 22
29	5 56	5 48	6 26	5 05	7 00	4 40	7 21	4 47	7 12	5 19			5 52	6 23
30	5 57	5 47	6 27	5 04	7 01	4 40	7 21	4 48	7 11	5 20			5 50	6 24
31			6 28	5 03	7 21	4 49	7 21	4 49	7 10	5 22			5 49	6 25

Add one hour for Daylight Savings Time if and when in use

<u>DUCKS</u>	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
DUCKS (REGULAR SEASON)	Oct 30 – Nov 11 Nov 23 – Dec 5 Dec 19 – Jan 30	6	12
SEPTEMBER TEAL Limited to designated teal zone (SEE INSIDE) *any combination of blue-winged and/or green-winged teal	Sep 2 – Sep 19	4*	8
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT Youth must be age 10-15 Daily bag limits apply for ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, Canada geese, snow geese, and brant.	Oct 17	6	12
DAILY BAG LIMITS AND POSSESSION LIMITS The daily limit of 6 ducks (excluding mergansers and coots) may include, in any combination, up to: 4 mallards, including no more than 2 hen mallards; 1 black duck; 1 pintail; 1 canvasback, 3 wood ducks; 2 redheads; 2 scaup, 6 teal; 6 shovellers; 6 gadwall; 6 wigeon; 6 goldeneye; 6 ring-necked ducks; 6 bufflehead; 6 ruddy ducks; 1 mottled duck; 1 fulvous whistling-duck; 4 scoters; 6 eiders; 6 long-tailed ducks. The possession limit is 2 times the daily limit. <u>The season on harlequin ducks remains closed.</u>			
COOTS	Same as Duck Season	15	30
MERGANSERS**	Same as Duck Season	5	10
**Daily bag limit may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers (4 in possession)			
<u>GEESE AND BRANT</u>			
CANADA GEESE (RESIDENT)	Sep 1 – Sep 25	15	30
CANADA GEESE (MIGRATORY) Including White-fronted geese	Nov 23 – Dec 5 Dec 19 – Jan 26	2	4
BRANT	Dec 4 – Jan 30	2	4
SNOW GEESE*** Including Ross' geese	Oct 1 – Jan 30	15	No Limit
SNOW GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER (STATEWIDE) SEE DETAILS INSIDE	Feb 1 – Apr 17	no bag or possession limits	
SNOW GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER (BOMBAY HOOK & PRIME HOOK NWRs)	Feb 1 – Mar 13	no bag or possession limits	
*** Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge open Mon., Wed., and Fri. with permission of Refuge Manager.			

Changes for the 2009-2010 Season:

The Snow Goose Conservation Order will open on February 1, 2010. During the Conservation Order (CO) unplugged shotguns and electronic calls may be used to harvest snow geese. In addition, shooting hours have been extended to ½ hour after sunset and daily bag & possession limits have been eliminated. Hunters who wish to participate in the CO must register for a free, annual permit, available by visiting <http://www.dehip.com> (after Jan 1st). Participants will be required to re-visit this website after the CO has closed to report their harvest to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

During the month of September, all hunters must use non-toxic shot when dove hunting on State Wildlife Areas. Note: these changes do not apply to hunting on private property or to State Wildlife Areas after the month of September.

The September Teal Season has been extended to a 16-day season. Teal may only be harvested within the established teal zone during this special season (See Map on next page). Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Resident Canada geese may be harvested within the teal zone when these two seasons overlap.

The season for Atlantic Brant has been restricted to a 50 day, 2-bird daily bag limit. Though the winter population estimate remained above 150,000 brant, productivity for 2009 was forecasted to be below average due to a very late spring on the breeding grounds.

The season for Canvasback is re-opened. The breeding population estimate for 2009 was 662,000 canvasbacks, a 35% increase from 2008 and a 16% increase from the long-term population average.

A moderate package with a 60-day, 2-bird daily bag limit has been adopted for Scaup. Season dates for scaup are the same as for the regular duck season.

Hunters using state-built blinds on Wildlife Management Areas are required to pay a one-time, \$20 annual-use permit fee. Permits can be purchased at license agent locations or from the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 89 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE. **PERMITS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT LOTTERY STATIONS!**

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM – H.I.P

If you hunt migratory birds in Delaware **YOU MUST HAVE A H.I.P. PERMIT.** To obtain this free, annual permit, you may register by phone, toll free at 1-877-DELAHIP, or online at <http://www.dehip.com>

AVIAN INFLUENZA WHAT DELAWARE WATERFOWL HUNTERS SHOULD KNOW

Since 2006, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) staff have sampled over 6000 waterfowl and shorebirds in Delaware for Avian Influenza (AI), an infectious bird disease more commonly called ‘bird flu’. To date, the highly pathogenic strain of this disease has not shown up in North America and no cases of human infection have been reported from handling live, wild birds or hunter-killed birds. Hunters should be aware of and educated about AI, but not overly concerned about it at present. DFW personnel will again be conducting field examinations of hunter-killed birds during this year’s waterfowl season. Hunters will be asked for permission to examine their harvested birds. The bird will then be returned to the hunter for consumption or mounting. Hunters are advised not to handle any obviously sick or dead birds found while hunting and to report any groups of sick or dead birds to DFW at (302) 739-9912.

**TO REPORT BANDED BIRDS CALL 1-800-327-BAND OR
VISIT: www.reportband.gov**

Regulations all waterfowl hunters should know:

Baiting: You cannot hunt waterfowl by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for waterfowl. **The 10-day rule: A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain, or other feed has been completely removed.** This rule recognizes that waterfowl will still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. **Strict liability: Under Delaware regulations it is not necessary for a hunter to know that an area is baited to be in violation.** It is incumbent upon the hunter to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the hunting area is not or has not been baited.

Live Decoys: A person may not hunt waterfowl by the use or aid of live birds as decoys. Live decoys may include, but are not limited to: 1) captive raised and domestic waterfowl that have been released that do not exhibit the natural wariness of man associated with a wild bird, 2) waterfowl that do not leave the area when hands are clapped and/or a shotgun is discharged, 3) wounded waterfowl that go unretrieved, 4) waterfowl whose wings are either pinioned or whose outer primary feathers have been cut or removed to render flight impossible, 5) captive-raised, domestic ducks and geese (such as Muscovy ducks, Egyptian geese, etc.) that are poor fliers because of their weight and wing development, and 6) live ducks, geese, or swans that are either tethered or penned at or near a hunting location. **The 10-day rule: It shall be a violation of State and Federal regulations to hunt waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless the birds are, and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days before hunting, removed from the area or confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals the birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.**

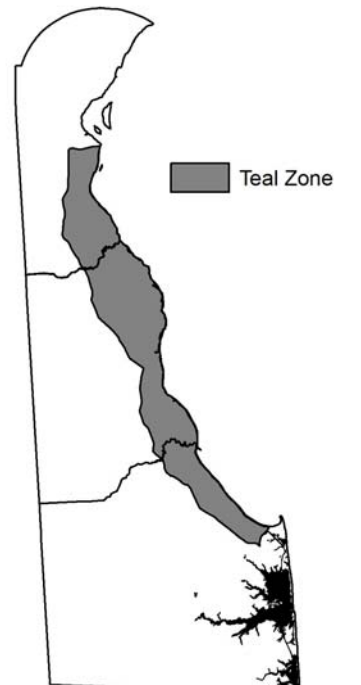
Rallying: You cannot hunt waterfowl that have been concentrated, driven, rallied, or stirred up with a motorized vehicle or sailboat.

Hunters should visit <http://www.fws.gov/le/HuntFish/HuntFishInfo.htm> for more information on migratory bird hunting regulations.

SEPTEMBER TEAL ZONE

Teal hunting during the September Teal Season is limited to a specific geographic area (See Map, right). The boundaries are coastal areas south of the C & D Canal to Lewes, and east of Routes 13, 113/113A, and 1.

Limited public lands are open. Call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (302) 739-9912 for details



SPECIAL SEA DUCK HUNTING AREA

Scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken not less than 800 yards (1/2) mile seaward from the Delaware Bay shore or the Atlantic Ocean shore beginning at an east-west line between Port Mahon and the Elbow Cross Navigation Light, south to the Delaware-Maryland line.

The shooting of crippled sea ducks from a motorboat under power will be permitted in the designated sea duck hunting area.

MUTE SWANS

Mute swans are nonnative & not protected under State or U.S. Law. Hunters may harvest Mute swans and they will not count as part of the daily bag. Mute swans have an **ORANGE BILL WITH A BLACK FLESHY KNOB ON TOP AT THE FEATHER LINE.** Mute swans **DO NOT FEED IN FIELDS** and will only be encountered **IN WETLANDS.**

NOTE! Native **Tundra swans** are **protected**, have a **black bill**, and are **commonly found in fields and wetlands.**