



Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons 2011-2012

2011-2012 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp

"Misty Autumn Sunrise"
by Jim Taylor



Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp

This stamp must be purchased by any person hunting migratory game birds (doves, rails, coots, snipe, woodcock, and waterfowl) in Maryland, without exception. The Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit is issued in conjunction with the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp. Hunters must possess the printed receipt showing proof of purchase of the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp and HIP permit while hunting migratory game birds.

Light Goose Conservation Order Season

The greater snow goose population has grown to over 1 million birds. Because of their damage to staging and migration habitat and agricultural crops, wildlife managers now allow certain hunting methods to be used to reduce greater snow goose numbers. During the 2012 Light Goose Conservation Order Season hunters may use unplugged shotguns, electronic calls of light geese, and extended shooting hours (one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset). Hunters are required to purchase a \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit to participate in this special season and have the permit receipt in their possession while hunting light geese. The \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit can be obtained from any DNR sport license agent, online at <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/>, or by phone (1-800-918-2870). Participants are also required to possess a valid Maryland hunting license (or a resident Delaware license) and a 2011-2012 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp. A federal duck stamp is not required for participation in the Conservation Order season.

National Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, October 29 and November 5, 2011

Hunters age 15 or younger may participate in the National Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days if they possess a valid license (or are exempt from the license requirement) and a printed receipt showing the proof of purchase of the 2011-2012 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp. Youth waterfowl hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (or exempt from license requirement), unarmed adult age 21 or older. The bag limits for the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days are: 6 ducks, 2 Canada geese, 2 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots. The 6 duck bag limit (including mergansers) may include no more than: 5 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, 4 mallards (max. 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 scaup, 1 canvasback, 1 black duck, 1 fulvous tree duck, and 1 mottled duck.

Special Notice for Waterfowl Hunters

In Maryland, it is unlawful to hunt waterfowl with the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed that constitutes a lure or enticement). An area is considered by law to be baited for 10 days after removal of the bait. Furthermore, waterfowl may not be hunted in areas where seed-producing agricultural plants have been manipulated (e.g., mowed, knocked-down, etc.). It is also unlawful to hunt waterfowl in areas where small grains have been top sown or broadcast on top of the soil, leaving the grain available to feeding birds. Before hunting can occur over areas where small grains have been top sown or broadcast, all seed must have germinated and growth must have occurred, or the seed has been covered by soil, or completely removed by other means at least 10 days prior to hunting. **Strict Liability, What Hunters Should Know-** Maryland's baiting regulation is more restrictive than federal regulations. In Maryland's migratory bird baiting regulation it is not necessary for a hunter to know that an area is baited to be in violation. A violation of this regulation is considered a 'strict liability' offense. It is incumbent upon the hunter to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the hunting area is not or has not been baited. The Maryland DNR recommends the following:

1. The hunter should become familiar with normal farming practices in the area (consult with USDA State Extension Specialist);
2. The hunter should make inquiries of the waterfowl hunting guide, farmer, and/or landowner regarding the farming practices and any possible baiting on or near the hunting area;
3. The hunter should thoroughly inspect the hunting area prior to hunting. Leave the hunting site if you find grain or feed in an area and are uncertain about why it is there.

Dove Hunting Fields on Public Lands Information

See the DNR website at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Publiclands/pdfs/dovefields.pdf>

Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Information

See the DNR website at http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Licenses/offshore_intro.asp for maps and descriptions of the Sea Duck and Offshore Hunting Zones.

Blind Site Licensing (Squatter's Day)

Squatter's Day for blind site licensing occurs each year on the first Tuesday in August. The date for the 2012-2013 season is August 7, 2012.

Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Location
Canada Goose- Early Resident Season, Eastern Hunt Zone	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15	8	16	Eastern Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line.
Special Hunting Methods for Resident Canada Geese During the September Season Only: Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells and electronic calls may be used to take Resident Canada geese. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.				
Canada Goose- Early Resident Season, Western Hunt Zone	Sept. 1 - Sept. 24	8	16	Western Hunt Zone: Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of 301 to the Virginia line.
Canada Goose- Migratory Atlantic Population	Nov. 19 - Nov. 25, Dec. 15 - Jan. 28	2*	4	AP Goose Hunt Zone: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.
Canada Goose- Late Resident Season	Nov. 16 - Nov. 25, Dec. 15 - Mar. 3	5*	10	Late Resident Goose Hunt Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line. (http://www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/AP_RP_Hunt_Zones.asp)
*Note: Bag Limit may include Canada geese, cackling geese, and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.				
Light Goose	Oct. 8 - Nov. 25, Dec. 12 - Jan. 28	25**	No Limit	All Counties
Light Goose Conservation Season Special Permit Required	Nov. 28 - Dec. 10 Jan. 30 - April 14	No Limit**	No Limit	Light Goose Conservation Season Zone: (not open in special sea duck zone) Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.
Special Hunting Methods for Light Goose Conservation Order Season: Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells and electronic calls of light geese may be used. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. **Note: Bag Limit may include greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese singly or in aggregate.				
Brant	Nov. 17 - Nov. 25, Dec. 12 - Jan. 28	2	4	All Counties
Teal- September Season	Sept. 16 - Sept. 30	4***	8	September Teal Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia State line.
***Note: Bag limit includes blue-winged or green-winged teal singly or in aggregate. Shooting hours for teal during this season are from sunrise to sunset.				
Ducks- (Except Black Duck)	Oct. 15 - Oct. 22, Nov. 12 - Nov. 25, Dec. 13 - Jan. 28	See Duck Daily Bag Limit****		All Counties
Black Duck	Nov. 12 - Nov. 25, Dec. 13 - Jan. 28	See Duck Daily Bag Limit****		All Counties
****Duck Daily Bag Limit: The daily bag limit of ducks is 6. The 6-duck limit (including mergansers) shall consist of no more than; 5 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, 4 mallards (max. 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 scaup, 1 canvasback, 1 black duck (during the black duck season), 1 fulvous tree duck, and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin ducks) may be taken up to the 6 -duck limit. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. In addition to the duck bag limit hunters may take 15 coots per day. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.				
Sea Ducks (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Eiders) In Special Sea Duck Zone Only	Oct. 1 - Jan. 28	5 (no more than 4 scoters)	10 (no more than 8 scoters)	Special Sea Duck Zone (http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/wildlife/sdzmap.pdf)
Note: Sea ducks taken outside the sea duck zone during the regular duck season count toward the regular duck daily bag limit.				
Mourning Doves	Sept. 1 - Oct. 8, Nov. 12 - Nov. 25, Dec. 21 - Jan. 7	15	30	All Counties
King & Clapper Rails	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	10 (no more than 1 King Rail)	20 (no more than 2 King Rails)	All Counties
Sora & Virginia Rails	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	25	25	All Counties
Woodcock	Oct. 29 - Nov. 25, Jan. 12 - Jan. 28	3	6	All Counties
Common Snipe	Sept. 28 - Nov. 25, Dec. 12 - Jan. 28	8	16	All Counties
Note: No open season for gallinules and moorhens.				
Crow	Aug. 15 - Mar. 15 Wed. - Sat. Only	No Daily Bag Limit	No Possession Limit	All Counties

Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for migratory game birds are one half hour before sunrise to sunset with these exceptions:

- The first dove season segment (9/1-10/8)- 12 noon to sunset.
- The Sept. teal season- sunrise to sunset.
- The Sept. Resident Canada goose season- one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- Light Goose Conservation Season- one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Possession Limit

Possession limit for all migratory game birds is twice the daily bag limit, unless otherwise noted in this guide.

Migratory Game Bird Tagging Requirements

If you are giving, putting or leaving migratory game birds at any place or in the possession of another person, you must tag each bird with the following information: (a) hunter's signature, (b) hunter's address, (c) total number and species of birds killed, and (d) dates the birds were killed. Tagging is required even if someone else is transporting the bird for you or the bird has been left for cleaning, storage (even temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy purposes.

Keys to Aid Hunters in Identification of Live Decoys

It is a violation of State and Federal regulation to hunt waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks, geese, or swans 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.

Live decoys may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Captive-raised and domestic waterfowl that have been released that do not exhibit the natural wariness of man associated with a wild bird.

continued →

2011-2012 Hunting Season Dates for Waterfowl in Maryland		Wallet Size Waterfowl Seasons Card
Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit
Canada Goose	Nov. 19-25	2 per day
Migratory Atlantic Population	Dec. 15-Jan. 28	2 per day
AP Hunt Zone: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.	Nov. 19-25	2 per day
Late Resident Goose	Nov. 16-25	5 per day
Late Resident Goose Hunt Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line.	Nov. 16-25	5 per day
Light Goose	Oct. 8-Nov. 25	25 per day
Light Goose Conservation Season	Nov. 28-Dec. 10	no bag limit
Light Goose Conservation Season Special Permit Required	Jan. 30-April 14	no possession limit
Light Goose Conservation Season Special Permit Required AP Hunt Zone (not open in Special Sea Duck Zone)	Nov. 17-Nov. 25	2 per day
Brant	Nov. 17-Nov. 25	2 per day

- Waterfowl that do not leave the area when hands are clapped and/or a shotgun is discharged.
- Wounded waterfowl that have gone un-retrieved.
- Waterfowl whose wings are either pinioned or whose outer primary feathers have been cut or removed to render flight impossible.
- Captive-raised, domestic ducks and geese (such as Muscovy ducks, Egyptian geese, etc.) that are poor flyers because of their weight and wing development. If these birds do not exhibit the natural wariness of man associated with a wild bird, they may be considered a live decoy; and
- Live ducks, geese, or swans that are either tethered or penned at or near a hunting location.

As a waterfowl hunter you are responsible for determining whether your hunting area is influenced by live decoys.

Before hunting you should:

- Familiarize yourself with Federal and State waterfowl hunting regulations.
- Ask the landowner, his agent, lessee, or your host, guide, and hunting partners if captive-raised mallards or other domestic waterfowl have been released on the area and inspect the area for the presence of live decoys.
- Suspect the presence of live decoys if you see mallard ducks or domestic waterfowl moving toward or approaching a vehicle, boat, or person.
- Suspect the presence of live decoys if you see mallard ducks or domestic waterfowl displaying a lack of caution or that do not exhibit the natural wariness of man.
- Abandon your plans to hunt waterfowl if you find tame birds in the area and are uncertain about why they are there.

(These examples do not represent an all-inclusive list of live decoy conditions or circumstances.)

If you believe you have a live decoy problem, you should not hunt waterfowl at the location until 10 days after the removal of the problem birds. See the DNR website at http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/hunt_trap/waterfowl/identification/livedecoys.asp for additional information about live decoys.

Boating Safety Tips

Capsizing and falling overboard into cold water are major hazards for waterfowl hunters. As a responsible hunter, you need to be aware of the dangers and follow a few simple rules to make your hunt on the water safer. These rules are:

- Leave a float plan with someone at home, describing where you are going, who you are with and when you expect to return.
- Transport firearms to the boat unloaded, cased, muzzle first, with the action open.
- Always wear an approved and properly fitted Personal Flotation Device when in a boat.
- Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- Stow visual distress signals on board in a waterproof container.
- Know the weather forecast for the area. High winds can be dangerous. Cancel trip if water conditions aren't safe. Keep an AM radio handy for the latest updates.
- Never overload your boat. Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Always stay seated when shooting from an open boat.
- Never anchor from the stern.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore or safe harbor.
- If an accident occurs, STAY WITH THE BOAT and use distress signals.
- If wearing chest waders, use a belt to keep them from filling up with water.
- Unless the clothing is creating a hazard, do not remove extra clothing. It can help prevent hypothermia.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.

Wallet Size Waterfowl Seasons Card

Sunrise and Sunset (2011-2012)

	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		April	
DAY	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	5:35	6:38	6:02	5:49	6:34	5:06	7:07	4:44	7:26	4:54	7:14	5:26	6:39	5:59	5:50	6:31
2	5:36	6:36	6:03	5:48	6:35	5:04	7:08	4:44	7:26	4:55	7:13	5:28	6:37	6:00	5:49	6:32
3	5:37	6:35	6:04	5:46	6:36	5:03	7:09	4:43	7:26	4:55	7:12	5:29	6:36	6:02	5:47	6:33
4	5:37	6:33	6:05	5:45	6:37	5:02	7:10	4:43	7:27	4:56	7:11	5:30	6:34	6:03	5:46	6:34
5	5:38	6:31	6:06	5:43	6:39	5:01	7:11	4:43	7:27	4:57	7:10	5:31	6:33	6:04	5:44	6:35
6	5:39	6:30	6:07	5:42	6:40	5:00	7:12	4:43	7:27	4:58	7:09	5:32	6:31	6:05	5:42	6:36
7	5:40	6:28	6:08	5:40	6:41	4:59	7:13	4:43	7:27	4:59	7:08	5:34	6:30	6:06	5:41	6:37
8	5:41	6:27	6:09	5:39	6:42	4:58	7:13	4:43	7:26	5:00	7:07	5:35	6:28	6:07	5:39	6:38
9	5:42	6:25	6:10	5:37	6:43	4:57	7:14	4:43	7:26	5:01	7:06	5:36	6:26	6:08	5:38	6:39
10	5:43	6:23	6:11	5:35	6:44	4:56	7:15	4:43	7:26	5:02	7:05	5:37	6:25	6:09	5:36	6:40
11	5:44	6:22	6:12	5:34	6:45	4:55	7:16	4:43	7:26	5:03	7:04	5:38	6:23	6:10	5:35	6:41
12	5:45	6:20	6:13	5:32	6:46	4:54	7:17	4:43	7:26	5:04	7:03	5:39	6:22	6:11	5:33	6:42
13	5:46	6:19	6:14	5:31	6:48	4:54	7:17	4:44	7:25	5:05	7:01	5:41	6:20	6:12	5:32	6:43
14	5:47	6:17	6:15	5:29	6:49	4:53	7:18	4:44	7:25	5:06	7:00	5:42	6:19	6:13	5:30	6:44
15	5:47	6:15	6:16	5:28	6:50	4:52	7:19	4:44	7:25	5:07	6:59	5:43	6:17	6:14		
16	5:48	6:14	6:17	5:27	6:51	4:51	7:20	4:44	7:24	5:08	6:58	5:44	6:16	6:15		
17	5:49	6:12	6:18	5:25	6:52	4:50	7:20	4:45	7:24	5:09	6:56	5:45	6:14	6:16		
18	5:50	6:10	6:19	5:24	6:53	4:50	7:21	4:45	7:24	5:10	6:55	5:46	6:12	6:17		
19	5:51	6:09	6:20	5:22	6:54	4:49	7:21	4:46	7:23	5:11	6:54	5:47	6:11	6:18		
20	5:52	6:07	6:21	5:21	6:55	4:48	7:22	4:46	7:23	5:13	6:53	5:48	6:09	6:19		
21	5:53	6:06	6:22	5:19	6:56	4:48	7:23	4:46	7:22	5:14	6:51	5:50	6:08	6:20		
22	5:54	6:04	6:23	5:18	6:58	4:47	7:23	4:47	7:21	5:15	6:50	5:51	6:06	6:21		
23	5:55	6:02	6:24	5:17	6:59	4:47	7:24	4:48	7:21	5:16	6:49	5:52	6:04	6:22		
24	5:56	6:01	6:25	5:15	7:00	4:46	7:24	4:48	7:20	5:17	6:47	5:53	6:03	6:23		
25	5:57	5:59	6:26	5:14	7:01	4:46	7:24	4:49	7:20	5:18	6:46	5:54	6:01	6:24		
26	5:58	5:57	6:28	5:13	7:02	4:45	7:25	4:49	7:19	5:19	6:44	5:55	6:00	6:25		
27	5:59	5:56	6:29	5:12	7:03	4:45	7:25	4:50	7:18	5:21	6:43	5:56	5:58	6:26		
28	5:59	5:54	6:30	5:10	7:04	4:45	7:25	4:51	7:17	5:22	6:41	5:57	5:57	6:27		
29	6:00	5:53	6:31	5:09	7:05	4:44	7:26	4:51	7:17	5:23	6:40	5:58	5:55	6:28		
30	6:01	5:51	6:32	5:08	7:06	4:44	7:26	4:52	7:16	5:24		5:53	5:53	6:29		
31			6:33	5:07			7:26	4:53	7:15	5:25			5:52	6:30		

When overboard without a PFD:

- Trapping air in hip boots and chest waders by bending your knees and raising your feet then lying back in the water can help you stay afloat.
- An oar under the knees and another behind the back and shoulders can be used to keep you floating.
- Decoys stuffed inside your jacket will provide buoyancy.



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CALL: 1-800-327-BAND to Report Banded Birds.



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Add one hour for Daylight Savings Time when in effect. These times are for reference only. Consult local newspaper or other media for actual times in your area. Source: Nautical Almanac, U.S. Naval Observatory