



HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ANNUAL LIMIT
DEER					
	Youth Deer Hunt Day	Sept. 30, 2023	See full regulations for more information.	1 antlered deer statewide OR antlerless deer in the Wildlife Management Zone(s) specified on the permit.	
Deer (Big Game)	Archery	Zones 10-14: Oct. 2 – Nov. 25, 2023	See full regulations for more information.	2 antlered deer + antlerless deer by permit	
	Paralegic	Zones 1-9: Oct. 16 – Nov. 25, 2023			
	Shotgun	Nov. 2 – Nov. 4, 2023			
	Primitive Firearms	Nov. 27 – Dec. 9, 2023			
		Dec. 11 – Dec. 30, 2023			

BLACK BEAR					
Black Bear (Big Game)	Zones 1-14	Sept. 5 – Sept. 23, 2023 Nov. 6 – Nov. 25, 2023 Nov. 27 – Dec. 9, 2023	See full regulations for more information.		1

UPLAND GAME BIRDS*					
Crow	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Apr. 10, 2023 and July 1, 2023 – Apr. 10, 2024 (M, F, Sat only)	—	—	—
Pheasant	Youth Hunt Zones 1-14	Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, and Oct. 7, 2023 Oct. 14 – Dec. 30, 2023	2	4	No limit
Quail	Zones 11-14	Oct. 14 – Dec. 30, 2023	4	8	No limit
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1-14	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25, 2023	3	6	15
Wild Turkey (Big Game)	Youth Hunt: Zones 1-13 Spring: Zones 1-13 Fall: Zones 10-13*** Fall: Zones 1-9***	April 22, 2023 (special restrictions apply**) April 24 – May 20, 2023 Oct. 2 – Nov. 25, 2023 Oct. 16 – Nov. 25, 2023	See full regulations for more information.		

* Crow, pheasant, and quail hunting are closed during shotgun deer season. Migratory game birds (includes waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, rails): Seasons and bag limits set annually. For Migratory Game Bird Regulations visit mass.gov/migratory-game-bird.

** Must have completed the Youth Turkey Hunt program.

*** Shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, and archery from Oct. 16 – 28, 2023.

RABBIT, HARE & SQUIRREL					
Cottontail Rabbit	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2, 2023 – Feb. 28, 2023 Oct. 14, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024	5	10	—
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2, 2023 – Feb. 28, 2023 Oct. 14, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024	2	4	—
Gray Squirrel	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2, 2023 – Feb. 28, 2023 Sept. 5, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024	5	10	—

Rabbit, hare, and squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.

FURBEARERS					
Bobcat	Zones 1-8	Jan. 2 – Mar. 8, 2023 and Dec. 20, 2023 – Mar. 8, 2024	—	—	—
Coyote	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Mar. 8, 2023 and Oct. 14, 2023 – Mar. 8, 2024	—	—	—
Fox (red or gray)	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28, 2023 and Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024	—	—	—
Opossum	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Jan. 31, 2023 and Oct. 2, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024	—	—	—
Raccoon	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Jan. 31, 2023 and Oct. 2, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024	3	See full regulations for more information.	

All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during shotgun deer season, except for coyotes. Special restrictions apply.

The following species may be taken year-round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

Falconers may hunt pheasant, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and gray squirrel from the respective opening day through March 15th.

TRAPPING

OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	
Beaver ¹	Jan. 1 – April 15, 2023 and Nov. 1, 2023 – April 15, 2024
Bobcat ^{1,2} , Coyote ¹ , Fox ¹ , Weasel	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 2023
Fisher ¹	Nov. 1 – Nov. 22, 2023
Mink ¹ , River Otter ¹	Nov. 1 – Dec. 15, 2023
Muskrat, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2023 and Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024

1 – Pelt checking/reporting required.

2 – Bobcats may only be trapped or salvaged in Wildlife Management Zones 1-8.



TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
(800) 632-8075

www.mass.gov/ole

2023 - 2024 SEASON DATES & BAG LIMITS

	SEASON DATES	BAG	POSSESSION
Sora Rail	Sep. 1 – Nov. 7	5	15
Virginia Rail	Sep. 1 – Nov. 7	10	30
Snipe	Sep. 1 – Dec. 16	8	24
Woodcock	Oct. 2 – Nov. 22	3	9
Ducks ^a			
Berkshire:	Oct. 9 – Nov. 25	6*	18*
	Dec. 11 – Dec. 30	6*	18*
Central:	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25	6*	18*
	Dec. 12 – Jan. 6	6*	18*
Coastal:	Oct. 14 – Oct. 21	6*	18*
	Nov. 28 – Jan. 27	6*	18*
	Jan. 9 – Jan. 27 (Scaup with 2-bird daily bag, Coastal Zone only)		
American Coot	Same as ducks	15	45
Mergansers	Same as ducks	5*	15*
Regular Goose (except Snow & Blue)			
Berkshire:	Oct. 10 – Nov. 25	3	9
	Dec. 11 – Dec. 14		
Central:	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25	2	6
	Dec. 12 – Jan. 6	2	6
Coastal:	Oct. 14 – Oct. 21	2	6
	Nov. 29 – Jan. 27	2	6
Early Canada Goose (Statewide) ^b	Sep. 1 – Sep. 22	15	45
Late Canada Goose			
Berkshire:	Jan. 1 – Feb. 15	5	15
Central:	Jan. 15 – Feb. 12	5	15
Northern portion of Coastal Zone	Jan. 29 – Feb. 15	5	15
Snow & Blue Goose	Same as ducks	15	45
Late Snow & Blue Goose (Central Zone / Northern portion of Coastal Zone)	Same as Late Canada Goose	15	45
Sea Ducks ^c	Same as ducks (Included as part of 6-duck daily bag limit)	4**	12**
Brant (Coastal Zone Only)	Dec. 12 – Jan. 15	1	3
Falconry (Ducks & Coot only, no geese)	Oct. 9 – Feb. 9	3*	9*
Youth Waterfowl Hunt (Statewide)	Sep. 23 & Oct. 7	Same As Regular Seasons	
Active Military & Veteran Waterfowl Hunt (Statewide)	Sep. 23 & Jan. 29	Same As Regular Seasons	

^a Singly or in the aggregate. ^{**} Singly or in the aggregate, but no more than 3 Scoter, 3 Eider (one female), 3 Long-tailed duck in the daily bag, 9 in possession, but no more than 9 Scoter, 9 Eider (3 females), 9 Long-tailed duck.

A. The daily bag may contain no more than 6 ducks, of which no more than 4 may be sea ducks* (see below):

American Black Duck	2	Mallard	4 (only 2 female)	Wood Duck	3
Northern Pintail	1	Redhead	2	Canvasback	2
Fulvous Whistling	1	Mottled	1	Harlequin	NONE
Scaup	1 (See Coastal Season)	Eider*	3 (only 1 female)	Scoter*	3
Long-tailed duck*	3				

Possession limits are triple the daily bag. (e.g., Mallards — possession limit is 12 of which only 6 may be female).

B. For Early Canada Goose season only, hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

C. Sea ducks count as regular ducks during the regular duck season in all Zones.

Visit mass.gov/migratory-game-bird for more information.

NEW BAG LIMITS

Mallard daily bag limit has increased from 2 to 4 (only 2 females). **Regular goose** (except Snow & Blue) in the Berkshire Zone has increased from 1 to 3. **Brant** in the Coastal Zone only has decreased from 2 to 1.

ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERAN WATERFOWL HUNT

Two statewide Active Military & Veteran Waterfowl Hunt season dates (Sep. 23, 2023 and Jan. 29, 2024) are open for waterfowl hunting by veterans and current members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty (other than for training). The term "veteran," is defined, per section 101 of title 38, United States Code, as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting. All regular season waterfowl regulations and bag limits apply.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

During the Youth Waterfowl Hunt season dates (Sep. 23, 2023 and Oct. 7, 2023), waterfowl hunters ages 12–17 may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers and geese. All regular season waterfowl regulations and bag limits apply. All youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter with a valid MA waterfowl stamp. One firearm only. Adult hunter may not hunt and may carry firearm only when unloaded and cased. No license, waterfowl stamps, or firearms identification card (FID) required for Youth Waterfowl season hunters aged 12–14. License, MA waterfowl stamp, and FID required for 15 year old Youth Waterfowl season hunters. License, MA waterfowl stamp, federal waterfowl stamp, and FID required for Youth Waterfowl season hunters aged 16–17.

HIP SURVEY REQUIRED

All migratory game bird hunters must register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) each calendar year. Licensed woodcock, snipe, coot, rail, and waterfowl hunters must complete a HIP survey online at mass.gov/massfishhunt or anywhere hunting licenses are sold. When purchasing a state waterfowl stamp, waterfowl hunters are automatically registered with HIP.

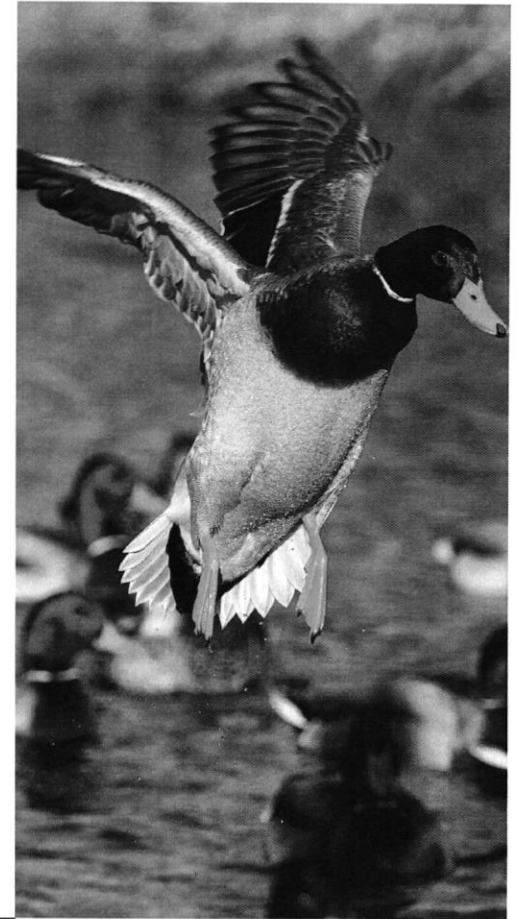
Cover photo: Drake mallard by MassWildlife/Bill Byrne

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2023 - 2024 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD REGULATIONS



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