

DNR: Wisconsin natural resources board approves 2021 migratory bird hunting season framework and regulations

Posted on Wednesday, Apr 14, 2021

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

MADISON, Wis. – Thanks to input from hunters and new scientific research, changes are coming to the 2021 migratory bird hunting season. Today the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) voted unanimously for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to move forward with proposed rules for the 2021 migratory bird season framework and regulations.

Highlights from the [approved season structure](#) include:

- A new duck zone structure for the 2021 season. A new Open Water Zone has been created in the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan, and the former Mississippi River Zone has been absorbed into the South Zone.
- The South Canada Goose Zone has a daily bag limit of three Canada geese during the first portion of the season, and a daily bag limit of five Canada geese during the Holiday Hunt.
- Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's season framework, there will be a scaup bag limit of one scaup for 15 days and two scaup for 45 days.

“The 2021 season frameworks are based on the most current scientific data, as well as on input from the public, conservation and hunting groups and results from a waterfowl hunter survey,” said Taylor Finger, DNR migratory bird ecologist. “We used all the tools in our toolbox to collect public input while adhering to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Virtual meetings and expanded online outreach increased our engagement with our customers. In total, we received more than

1,500 comments regarding the 2021 waterfowl season proposals.”

The public plays a crucial role in setting the waterfowl season structure. View the 2021 public input results and comments [here](#). Learn more about waterfowl hunting [here](#).

Early season dates are as follows:

Early Species Season	Open	Close	Limit
Early Teal	Sept. 1	Sept. 9	Six birds per day, sunrise-sunset shooting hours
Early Goose	Sept. 1	Sept. 15	Five birds per day
Mourning Dove	Sept. 1	Nov. 29	15 birds per day
Woodcock	Sept. 25	Nov. 8	Three birds per day

Duck season dates and bag limits are as follows. Opening day shooting hours will begin one-half hour before sunrise for all regular waterfowl hunting seasons.

Duck Season	First Open	First Close	Second Open	Second Close
Youth Hunt	Sept. 18	Sept. 19		
North Zone	Sept. 25	Nov. 23		
South Zone	Oct. 2	Oct. 10	Oct 16	Dec. 5
Open Water Zone	Oct. 16	Dec. 14		

The daily bag limit statewide is six ducks, including no more than:

Duck Bag Limits	
Species	Daily limit (total daily bag limit is six ducks of any species)
Mallard	4 (of which only 2 may be a hen)
Black Duck	2
Canvasback	2
Wood Duck	3

Pintail	1
Redhead	2
Merganser	5
Any duck species not specifically listed	6

There is a 60-day restrictive scaup bag limit (federal restriction; 15 days at one scaup/day and 45 days at two scaup/day):

60-day Restrictive Scaup Bag Limit		
Zone	Period	Scaup/day limit
North Zone	Sept. 25 - Oct. 9	One/day
	Oct. 10 - Nov. 23	Two/day
South Zone	Oct. 2 - Oct. 10	One/day
	Oct. 16 - Oct. 21	One/day
	Oct. 22 - Dec. 5	Two/day
Open Water Zone	Oct. 16 - Oct. 30	One/day
	Oct. 31 - Dec. 14	Two/day

Regular goose season dates are as follows (92 days total):

Regular Goose Season Dates						
Zone	First Open	First Close	Second Open	Second Close	Third Open	Third Close
Daily Bag Limit	3 Canada geese/day	3 Canada geese/day	3 Canada geese/day	3 Canada geese/day	5 Canada geese/day	5 Canada geese/day
North Zone (3 Canada geese/day entire season)	Sept. 16	Dec. 16				
South Zone	Sept. 16	Oct. 10	Oct. 16	Dec. 5	Dec. 20	Jan. 4, 2022

Mississippi Zone (3 Canada geese/day entire season)	Oct. 2	Oct. 10	Oct. 16	Jan. 4		
--	--------	---------	---------	--------	--	--