

SUMMARY OF ALABAMA LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE HUNTING OF MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

**ALL LAND IN ALABAMA POSTED BY LAW – HUNTING IS BY
LANDOWNER PERMISSION ONLY. LANDOWNER OR AGENT
MAY IMPOSE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS.**

NOTICE – The material below is only a summary. Hunters should be aware that other laws and regulations may apply.

Special Teal: September 10-25 – 4 a day – 8 in possession;
Special Canada Goose season: September 1-15 – 5 Canada
Geese a day – 10 in possession. Special Snow/Blue Goose
Season – October 29 - November 13 ONLY in Escambia and
Monroe Counties - 5 Snow/Blue – 10 in possession.

REGULAR WATERFOWL SEASONS

DUCK, COOT AND MERGANSER

November 25-26 and December 3 - January 29.

GOOSE All Geese (including the SJBZ Zone) Statewide –
September 24 - October 5 and
December 3 - January 29.

BAG LIMITS

DUCK 6 ducks a day and may include no more than 4
Mallards (no more than 2 of which may be a female),
3 Wood Ducks, 1 Mottled Duck, 1 Black Duck, 2
Redhead, 2 Pintail, 1 Canvasback and 2 Scaup. The
possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

MERGANSERS

5 a day, only 2 may be a Hooded Merganser. The
possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

COOT 15 a day – 30 in possession

GOOSE The bag limit of 5 shall not include more than 2 Canada
Geese or 2 White-Fronted Geese. The possession limit of
5 shall include no more than 4 Canada Geese and White-
Fronted Geese in aggregate.

**Each Hunter is Required to Have in Their Possession
the Necessary State Hunting License and Signed
State and Federal Duck Stamps**

HUNTING LICENSES

- **Resident** – State, \$24.20
- **Non-Resident** – Annual All Game, \$277.70; Annual Small Game, \$90.85; Ten-day Trip All Game, \$171.65; Ten-day Trip Small Game, \$55.50; Three-day Trip All Game, \$121.15; Three-day Trip Small Game, \$40.35.
- **Federal Duck Stamp** - \$15.00
- **State Duck Stamp** - \$6.00

LEGAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR HUNTING:

It shall be lawful to use only the following weapons and ammunition while hunting.

Long Bows; Compound Bows; or Crossbows. Shotguns of 10 gauge or smaller plugged with one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells and using T size steel shot or smaller or with other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved shot and sizes.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The use of non-toxic shot for waterfowl hunting in Alabama is required statewide.

NOTICE: The possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl is illegal.

Time for Hunting Duck, Coot, Merganser, and Goose:

In the area north of Battleship Parkway, west of Alabama Highway 225, south of CSX Railroad tracks, and east of the west bank of the Mobile River: Monday through Thursday shooting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon; and, Friday through Sunday shooting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Remainder of the state: Shooting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.

**State laws and regulations that are the same
as Federal rules shown are NOT relisted.**

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS:

In addition to State regulations, the following Federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting, and storing of migratory game birds.

NOTICE – The material below is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal regulations (50 CFR), which may be accessed at:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_08/50cfr20_08.html

A reader friendly overview of waterfowl hunting and baiting is available at:

http://www.fws.gov/le/HuntFish/waterfowl_baiting.htm

RESTRICTIONS.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified limitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement) or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

CLOSED SEASON. No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

SHOOTING OR HAWKING HOURS. No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting or hawking as prescribed.

DAILY BAG LIMIT. No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

WANTON WASTE. All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

TAGGING: No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature.
2. The hunter's address.
3. The total number of birds involved, by species.
4. The dates such birds were killed.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

DRESSING. No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a commercial preservation facility.

SHIPMENT. No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

IMPORTATION. For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

STAMP. The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and over must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or duck stamp, signed in ink across the face.

DUAL VIOLATION. Violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

CAUTION: More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact Senior Resident Agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement, 3763 Highway 14, Millbrook, AL 36054. Telephone: (334) 285-9600

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days will be on February 11-12, 2012. The regular waterfowl season shooting hours, bag limits, and legal arms and ammunitions apply to the special days. Individuals must follow the listed rules to participate in the scheduled youth waterfowl hunts:

- (1) Up to two (2) youth participants must be accompanied by an adult supervisor. The adult supervisor, who may not hunt, is to remain within arm's length of the youth at all times.
- (2) Youth is defined as those individuals who have not reached their sixteenth birthday.
- (3) Adult is defined as those individuals twenty-five years old or older or the parent of the youth who are in possession of all state hunting licenses and state and federal waterfowl stamps that are required to hunt waterfowl. Possession of the mandatory hunting licenses and stamps is required.
- (4) Only one firearm will be allowed per youth. Only the youth hunters will be permitted to utilize the firearm for hunting. The adult is expected to review with each youth the rules of firearm safety and hunter ethics and to ensure they are followed.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

All licensed waterfowl hunters are required to complete a Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey and be provided proof of certification with your license. The certification is free but must be available for inspection while hunting.

REPORT BANDS 1-800-327-BAND www.reportband.gov

To properly manage migratory birds, biologists must know migration patterns, harvest and survival rates, and ecological processes. Reporting banded bird recoveries will help provide the needed information. All band reports are very important. Call 1-800-327-BAND (2263) or www.reportband.gov to report a recovery. Your help will greatly benefit waterfowl.

2011-2012



ALABAMA WATERFOWL HUNTING GUIDE



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