

## 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.

### EARLY WATERFOWL SEASONS

**SPECIAL TEAL:** **September 10-25** (6 a day) The possession  
limit is three times the daily bag limit. Shooting hours  
shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset  
each day.

### REGULAR WATERFOWL SEASONS

**DUCK, COOT AND MERGANSER:**

**November 25 - November 26**  
**December 3 - January 29**

**GEESE:** **September 1 - September 30**  
**November 25 - November 26**  
**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, 2 Canvasback and 3 Scaup.

**GEESE:** **September 1 - September 30**

The aggregate bag limit of 5 dark geese (Canada,  
White fronted, Brant) shall not include more than 1  
Brant. Additionally, an aggregate bag limit of 5 light  
geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) may be harvested per day.

**November 25 - November 26**  
**December 3 - January 29**

Dark Geese (Canada, White-fronted, Brant) - 5 a Day.  
The aggregate bag limit of 5 shall not include more than  
3 Canada Geese or 1 Brant.

Light Geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) – The aggregate bag  
limit shall be 5 a day.

**MERGANSERS:**

5 a day, only 2 may be a Hooded  
Merganser.

**COOT:** 15 a day

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

### HUNTING LICENSES

- **Resident** – Annual All Game, \$26.20; Small Game, \$17.45
- **Non-Resident** – Annual All Game, \$301.85; Annual Small  
Game, \$98.65; Ten-day Trip All Game, \$186.50; Ten-day  
Trip Small Game, \$60.25; Three-day Trip All Game, \$131.65;  
Three-day Trip Small Game, \$43.75.
- **Federal Duck Stamp** - \$25.00
- **State Duck Stamp** - \$11.00

### LEGAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR 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.

The possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl is illegal.

#### **NOTICE:**

**That area of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta encompassed by Interstate  
10 from the intersection of Highway 90 (Mobile Causeway), East to  
the western channel of the Apalachee River as marked by boundary  
signs, North to the intersection of Highway 90 (Mobile Causeway),  
West along Highway 90 (Mobile Causeway) to the intersection  
of Interstate 10 depicts the Apalachee Refuge boundaries and is  
closed to hunting and the operation of all gas-powered motors from  
November 12, 2016 through February 11, 2017.**

**That area of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta known as Big Bateau Bay  
shall be closed to the operation of all gas-powered motors from  
November 12, 2016 through February 11, 2017.**

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

That area north of Highway 90 (Battleship Parkway), west of Alabama  
Highway 225, south of CSX Railroad tracks, and east of the west bank of  
the Mobile River, shooting days and hours shall be:

**Monday and Tuesday:** Closed to Waterfowl Hunting

**Wednesday through Sunday:** Shooting Hours shall be  
one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 P.M.

**NOTICE:** Corp. of Engineers lands and waters in Pickens, Greene,  
and Sumter: shooting hours as stated on ACOE permits.

Remainder of the State- Shooting hours shall be from 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](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](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.

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

**DAILY BAG LIMIT.** The number birds of each species that any  
person may take or possess in the field during any one day.

**POSSESSION LIMIT.** The possession limit is three times the daily  
bag limit for all waterfowl species. The possession limit is the number  
of birds that any person may possess in total at home or in storage.

**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 Nov. 19, 2016 & Feb. 4, 2017. 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's supervisor 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](http://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](http://www.reportband.gov) to report a recovery. Your help will greatly benefit waterfowl.

## 2016-2017



# ALABAMA WATERFOWL HUNTING GUIDE



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

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