



2018-2019 Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide

The Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) is dedicated to improving waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunities on public and private lands throughout Alabama. WFF biologists strive to provide quality waterfowl hunting opportunities on our waterfowl management areas and science-based technical assistance to interested landowners and other entities regarding many aspects of waterfowl management. Waterfowl stewardship activities of WFF biologists also include conducting annual aerial waterfowl surveys, wood duck banding, and serving on waterfowl Flyway and other national committees to represent the interests of Alabama waterfowl hunters.

Notice: The material below is only a summary of Alabama Laws and Regulations relating to the hunting of Migratory Waterfowl. All land in Alabama is posted by law – Hunting is by landowner permission only. Landowner or agent may impose further restrictions.

WATERFOWL SEASONS

SPECIAL TEAL: Sept. 8-23 (6 per day) The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.

REGULAR WATERFOWL SEASONS

DUCK, COOT AND MERGANSER: NOV. 23-24, DEC. 1 - JAN. 27

GEESE: SEPT. 1-30, OCT. 13-27, NOV. 23-24, DEC. 1 - JAN. 27

BAG LIMITS

DUCKS: 6 ducks a day and may include no more than 4 Mallards (no more than 2 of which can be female), 3 Wood Ducks, 1 Mottled Duck, 2 Black Duck, 2 Redhead, 2 Pintail, 2 Canvasback and 3 Scaup.

GEESE: SEPT. 1-30 - The total bag limit of 5 dark geese (Canada, White-fronted, Brant) can not include more than 1 Brant. Additionally, a total bag limit of 5 light geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) may be harvested per day.

OCT. 13-27, NOV. 23-24, DEC. 1 - JAN. 27; Dark Geese: (Canada, White-fronted, Brant) - 5 a Day. The total bag limit of 5 shall not include more than 3 Canada Geese or 1 Brant. Light Geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) - The total bag limit shall be 5 a day.

MERGANSERS: 5 a day, only 2 may be a hooded Merganser.

COOT: 15 a day.

REGULAR WATERFOWL SEASONS

DUCK, COOT

AND MERGANSER:

November 23 - November 24

December 1 - January 27

GEESE:

September 1 - September 30

October 13 - October 27

November 23 - November 24

December 1 - January 27

HUNTING LICENSES

- Resident – Annual All Game, \$27.10; Small Game, \$18.00
- Non-Resident – Annual All Game, \$312.45; Annual Small Game, \$102.05; Ten-day Trip All Game, \$193.00; Ten-day Trip Small Game, \$62.30; Three-day Trip All Game, \$136.20; Three-day Trip Small Game, \$45.20.
- Federal Duck Stamp - \$25.00
- State Duck Stamp - \$11.00
- WMA Licenses - \$18.00
- H.I.P. - Free of Charge

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING

Days will be on Nov. 17, 2018 & Feb. 2, 2019. 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 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-one 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 / 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. Visit www.reportband.gov to report a recovery. Your help will greatly benefit waterfowl.

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.

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: 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 10, 2018 through February 9, 2019.

That area of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta known as Big Bateau Bay and Bay Grass shall be closed to the operation of all gas-powered motors from November 10, 2018 through February 9, 2019.

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

A reader friendly overview of waterfowl hunting and baiting is available at: www.fws.gov/le/HuntFish/waterfowl_baiting.htm

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.

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.

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 Federal 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. Government entities who would like to discuss potential boating access projects, partnerships, or eligibility requirements regarding Alabama's Boating Access Program should call the WFF Fisheries Section at 334-242-3471.

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 of 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.