

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Migratory Bird Meeting
Virtual meeting
April 17, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Fish and Game Council was held on the above date.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman Frank Virgilio.

Chairman Virgilio read aloud the following notice: In accordance with P.L. 1975, c. 231 notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on April 12, 2024, and delivered to the designated newspapers for Fish and Wildlife, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Chairman Frank Virgilio
Councilman James DeStephano
Councilman Mitchell Jones
Councilman Ed Kertz
Councilman Rick Lathrop
Councilman Rob Pollock
Councilman Bob Puskas
Councilman Loren Robinson
Councilman Ken Whildin -Absent

Fish & Wildlife employees included: L. Barno, G. Kopkash, K. Springer, T. Nichols, and D. Bajek.

There were several members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Virgilio welcomed everyone to this meeting and reminded everyone this meeting is just for the Migratory Bird Season. All public comment should be on the agenda topic.

Migratory Bird Season:

Ted Nichols gave a presentation on the Migratory Bird Season and bag limits.

Council received a copy of the 2024 Migratory Bird Status and Season Recommendations.

Public comment received on the proposed season dates was presented to the Council.

Council discussion took place at this time.

Public Comment:

Barbara Sachau commented that she is against the migratory bird seasons and all hunting of birds.

Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion on the Migratory Bird Season.

Councilman Robinson made a motion to accept the Migratory Bird Season as presented, seconded by Councilman Jones. vote taken, 7- approve, 1- oppose. Motion carries.

Councilman Puskas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 am. Seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Vote taken; all approve.

Next meeting: May 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m. in-person at the Robbinsville Office.

PROPOSED NEW JERSEY 2024-25 MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS

March 13, 2024

PRIMARY WATERFOWL SEASONS

NORTH ZONE

Ducks: Oct. 12 – Oct. 19 Nov. 16 – Jan. 16

Scaup: Oct. 12 – Oct. 19 Nov. 16 – Dec. 24 (1 bird)
Dec. 25 – Jan. 16 (2 birds)

Brant: Nov. 16 – Nov. 30 Dec. 14 – Jan. 2

Canada Goose: Nov. 28 – Nov. 30 Dec. 26 – Jan. 25

Youth Waterfowl Day: Oct. 5

SOUTH ZONE

Ducks: Oct. 19 – Oct. 26 Nov. 23 – Jan. 23

Scaup: Oct. 19 – Oct. 26 Nov. 23 – Dec. 31 (1 bird)
Jan. 1 – Jan. 23 (2 birds)

Brant: Nov. 23 – Nov. 30 Dec. 14 – Jan. 9

Canada Goose: Nov. 28 – Nov. 30 Dec. 26 – Jan. 25

Youth Waterfowl Day: Oct. 12

COASTAL ZONE

Ducks and Canada goose:
Nov. 9 – Nov. 13 Nov. 28 – Jan. 31

Scaup: Nov. 9 – Nov. 13 Nov. 28 – Jan. 8 (1 bird)
Jan. 9 – Jan. 31 (2 birds)

Brant: Nov. 28 – Dec. 7 Dec. 14 – Jan. 7

Youth Day: Oct. 26

SPECIAL WATERFOWL SEASONS

Youth Days

North Zone: Oct. 5
South Zone: Oct. 12
Coastal Zone: Oct. 26

Statewide Veterans & Active Military Day: Nov. 2

Statewide Joint Youth and Veterans & Active Military Day: Feb. 1

Daily bag limits

Ducks: 6 ducks which may NOT include more than: 4 mallards (not more than 2 hen mallards), 2 black ducks, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 total sea ducks (no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders [1 hen], 3 long-tailed ducks), 1 black-bellied or fulvous whistling duck in aggregate; scaup: 1 scaup/day for first 40 days in each zone; 2 scaup/day for last 20 days.

Coot: 15

Mergansers: 5. Merganser limits are in addition to regular ducks.

Brant: 1

Canada geese (Regular season): 3, North and South Zones; 2, Coastal Zone

Canada goose bag limits include cackling geese and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.

Youth and Veterans & Active Military Days: To include ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots, and gallinules. Bag limits are the same as those allowed in the regular season in each zone except for scaup which is 2 scaup per day.

CANADA GOOSE

September Season (Statewide)

Sept. 2 - Sept. 30

Daily bag limit: 15 Canada geese

Special regulations

NOTE: THESE SPECIAL REGULATIONS ONLY APPLY TO THE SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON

CANADA GOOSE

Special Winter Season (Two Distinct Zones)

Jan. 27 – Feb. 15

Daily bag limit: 5 singly or in aggregate including cackling and white-fronted geese.

LIGHT GOOSE

Regular Season

Statewide: Oct. 17 – Feb. 15

Daily bag limit: 25, singly or in aggregate to include greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese.

Conservation Order

Statewide: Feb. 17 – Apr. 5

Daily bag limit: None; includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese

Special regulations

WOODCOCK

North Zone: Oct. 19 – Oct. 26
Oct. 29 – Nov. 30

South Zone: Nov. 9 – Dec. 7
Dec. 19 – Dec. 31

Daily bag limit: 3

RAILS AND GALLINULE

Sept. 2 – Nov. 21

Daily bag limits: Sora and Virginia rails: 25 total or in aggregate;

Clapper rail: 10

Gallinule: 1

SNIPE

Sept. 7 – Jan. 9

Daily bag limit: 8

CROWS (Mon., Thur., Fri., & Sat.)

Aug. 12 – Dec. 7

Dec. 16 – Mar. 15

Daily bag limit: None

For additional information on migratory game bird populations, regulations, where to hunt, and more, go NJ Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird web page

<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/waterfowl-and-migratory-birds-in-new-jersey/>