

FINAL NEW JERSEY 2025-26 MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS

May 13, 2025

PRIMARY WATERFOWL SEASONS

NORTH ZONE

Ducks: Oct. 18 – Oct. 25 Nov. 22 – Jan. 22

Scaup: 1st 40 days (1 bird)

Scaup: Last 20 days (2 birds)

Brant: Nov. 22 – Nov. 29 Dec. 13 – Jan. 8

Canada Goose: Nov. 27 – Nov. 29 Dec. 23 – Jan. 22

Youth Waterfowl Day: Oct. 11

SOUTH ZONE

Ducks: Oct. 18 – Oct. 25 Nov. 22 – Jan. 22

Scaup: 1st 40 days (1 bird)

Scaup: Last 20 days (2 birds)

Brant: Nov. 22 – Nov. 29 Dec. 13 – Jan. 8

Canada Goose: Nov. 27 – Nov. 29 Dec. 23 – Jan. 22

Youth Waterfowl Day: Oct. 11

COASTAL ZONE

Ducks and Canada goose:

Nov. 22 – Jan. 30

Scaup: 1st 40 days (1 bird)

Scaup: Last 20 days (2 birds)

Brant: Nov. 22 – Nov. 29 Dec. 24 – Jan. 19

Youth Day: Nov. 15

SPECIAL WATERFOWL SEASONS

Youth Days

North Zone Oct. 11

South Zone Oct. 11

Coastal Zone Nov. 15

Statewide Veterans & Active Military Day: Nov. 8

Statewide Joint Youth and Veterans & Active Military Day: Jan. 31

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, 3 pintails, 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): 1, 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. 1 - 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. 23 – Feb. 14

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

LIGHT GOOSE

Regular Season

Statewide: Oct. 16 – Feb. 14

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

Conservation Order

Statewide: Feb. 16 – Apr. 4

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

Special regulations

WOODCOCK

North Zone: Oct. 18 – Oct. 25

Oct. 28 – Nov. 29

South Zone: Nov. 8 – Dec. 6

Dec. 20 – Jan. 1

Daily bag limit: 3

RAILS AND GALLINULE

Sept. 1 – Nov. 20

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

Clapper rail: 10

Gallinule: 1

SNIPE

Sept. 6 – Jan. 8

Daily bag limit: 8

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

Aug. 11 – Nov. 29

Dec. 15 – Mar. 21

Daily bag limit: None