

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/>