

2005 - 2006

TEXAS WATERFOWL DIGEST

*Texas Hunting Regulations For Ducks,
Mergansers, Coots, Geese and Cranes*



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EDITORIAL OFFICES:

3000 South IH 35, Suite 120, Austin, Texas 78704

Phone: (512) 912-7000 Fax: (512) 707-1913; E-mail: magazine@tpwd.state.tx.us

ADVERTISING SALES OFFICES:

STONEWALLACE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.:

Jim Stone, Advertising Director, (512) 912-7007, E-mail: jim.stone@tpwd.state.tx.us;

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PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

This digest is a summary of rules adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission under authority of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 64, Subchapter C for the taking of migratory game birds. Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. For more information on federal regulations contact: Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), P.O. Box 329, Albuquerque, NM 87103. Telephone (505) 248-7889. Consult the 2005-2006 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual for additional information on hunting in Texas. *The Texas Waterfowl Digest* is published annually by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. The inclusion of advertising is considered a service to readers and is not an endorsement of products nor concurrence with advertising claims. Copyright © 2005 by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. No part of the contents of this magazine may be reproduced by any means without the permission of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine.

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For 24-hour reporting of violations, you may call: (800) 792-GAME.

For additional information on hunting and fishing regulations or other subjects related to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department call our toll-free number: (800) 792-1112, menu 5

Cover Photo © John R. Ford

Percentage of Ducks Surveyed by Each Central Flyway State During Midwinter Waterfowl Survey 1997 - 2005

Each year during the first full week of January, biologists from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, along with biologists from each of the continental 48 states, fly waterfowl surveys. The goal of the surveys is to create a “snapshot” that will help assess winter waterfowl numbers and distribution across the nation. This survey gives TPWD biologists the ability to create an accurate index of the late-winter distribution and species composition of duck and goose populations across Texas.

By January of each year, Texas clearly harbors the vast majority of the ducks in the Central Flyway (Figure 1). Over the last 9 years Texas has averaged a population of 3.6 million ducks. And the trend is upward for both the Central Flyway percentage as well as for the total number of ducks that winter in Texas (See Figure 2 on page 4). One often-stated belief is that ducks are simply stopping short of Texas for various reasons. However midwinter data for all 10 states in the Central Flyway does not support that assumption.

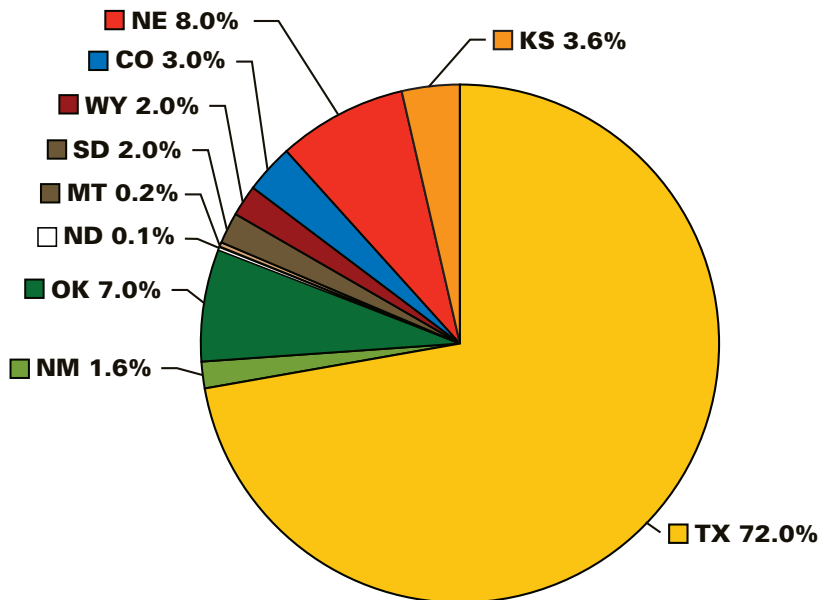
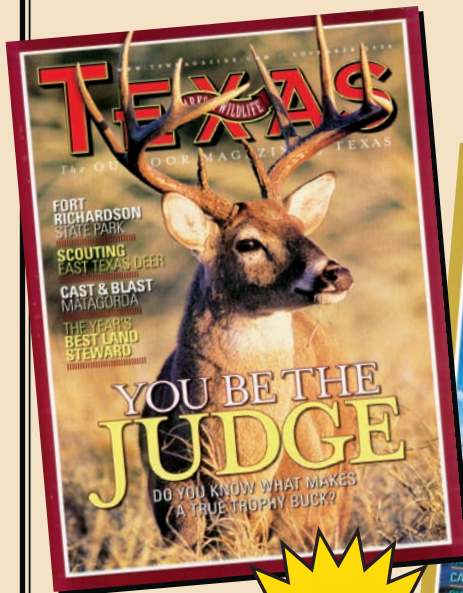


Figure 1: Nine-year Central Flyway Midwinter All-duck Average
4,888,503

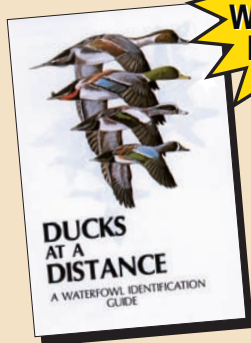
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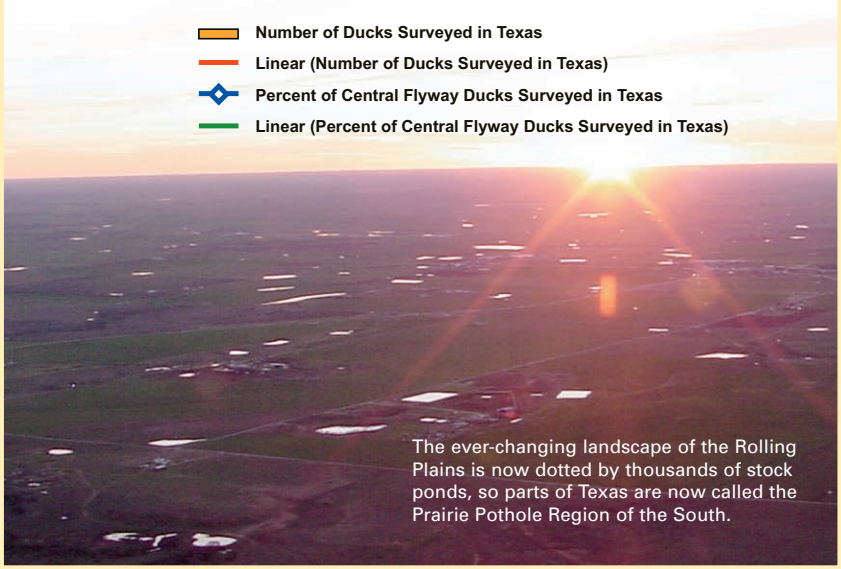
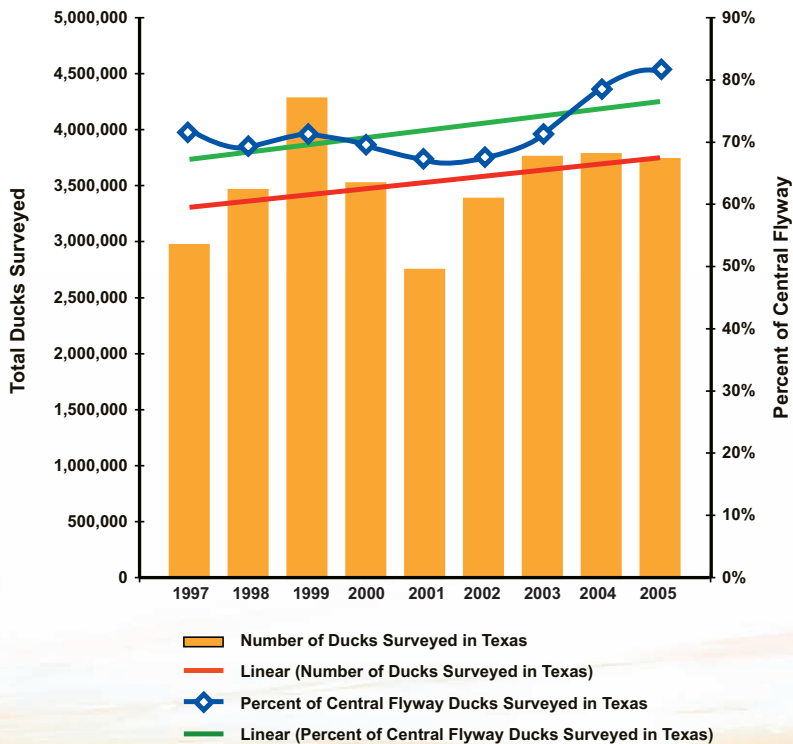
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Texas Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Results All Ducks (Figure 2)



The ever-changing landscape of the Rolling Plains is now dotted by thousands of stock ponds, so parts of Texas are now called the Prairie Pothole Region of the South.

It all comes down to this.



I've been counting the days until duck season starts since...well, since the last season ended. And now, it's finally here. So when I call in a flock of mallards, the last thing I need is for my gear to let me down. That's why my hunting adventures always begin at Bass Pro Shops®.

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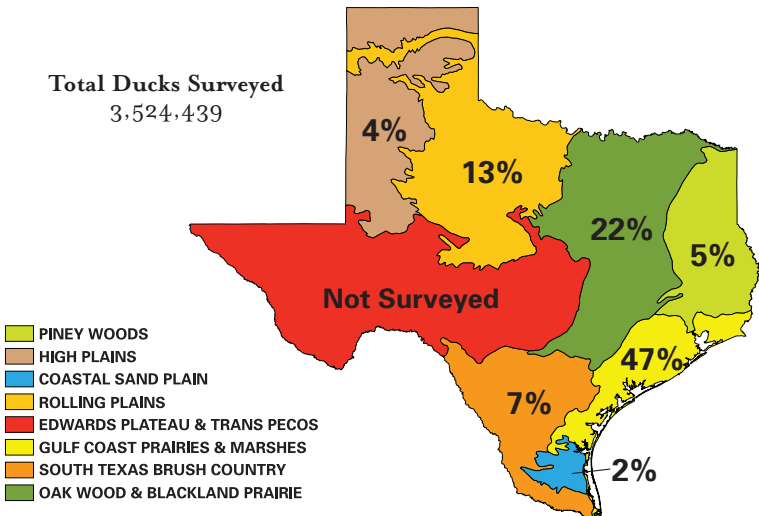
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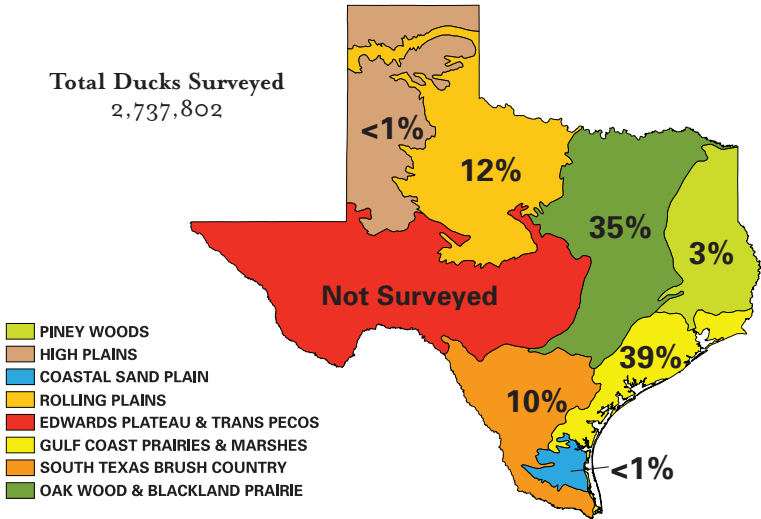
Historically, the Midwinter Waterfowl Survey in Texas covered the playa lakes of the Panhandle; the bays, marshes and rice prairies of the Gulf Coast and the major reservoirs in East Texas. In 1997, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists redesigned the Midwinter Waterfowl Survey to capture a greater proportion of the state and also implemented changes that improved the validity of survey results. The new survey methodology has allowed for a more accu-

rate depiction of habitat conditions, waterfowl numbers and distribution within the state. In fact, the Midwinter Waterfowl Surveys in Texas are now considered by many to be the best surveys in the nation. The following figures show that, from year to year, there can be significant distribution shifts from one ecoregion to the next. Such shifts can be attributed to the dynamic nature of habitat conditions and, potentially, to hunting pressure.

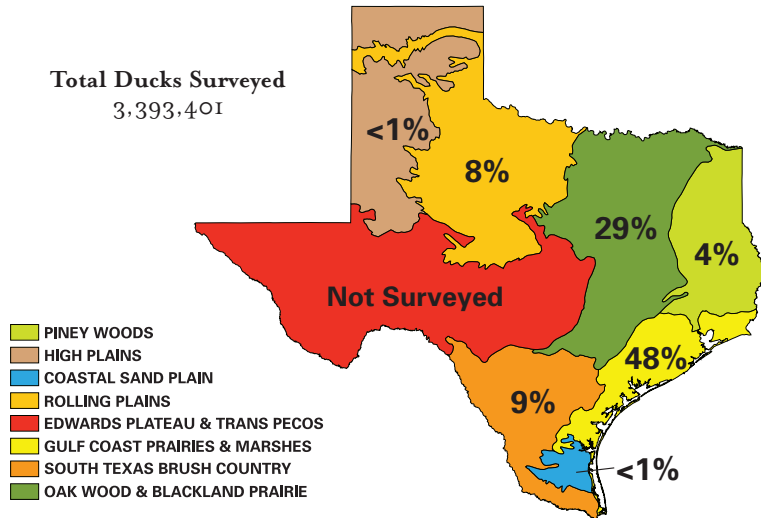
PERCENTAGE OF DUCKS SURVEYED BY ECOREGION - 2000



PERCENTAGE OF DUCKS SURVEYED BY ECOREGION - 2001

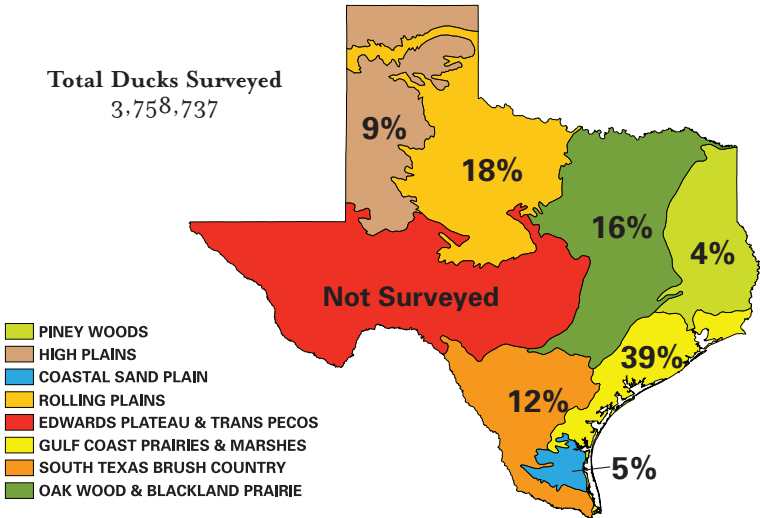


PERCENTAGE OF DUCKS SURVEYED BY ECOREGION - 2002



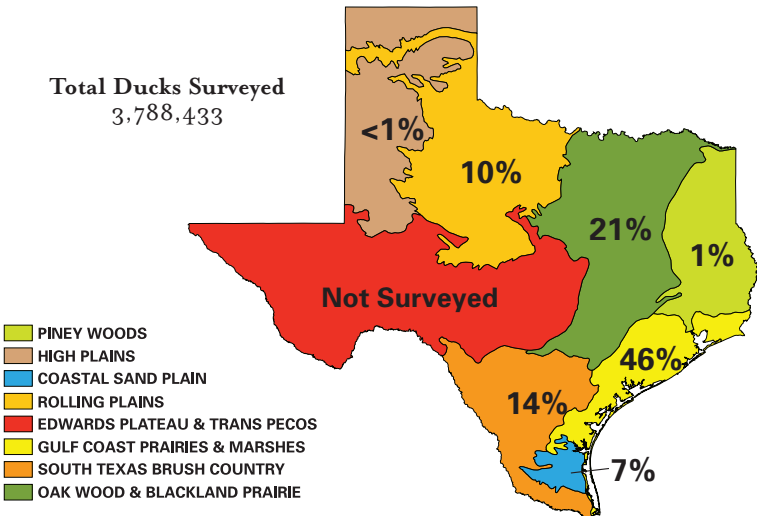
PERCENTAGE OF DUCKS SURVEYED BY ECOREGION - 2003

Total Ducks Surveyed
3,758,737



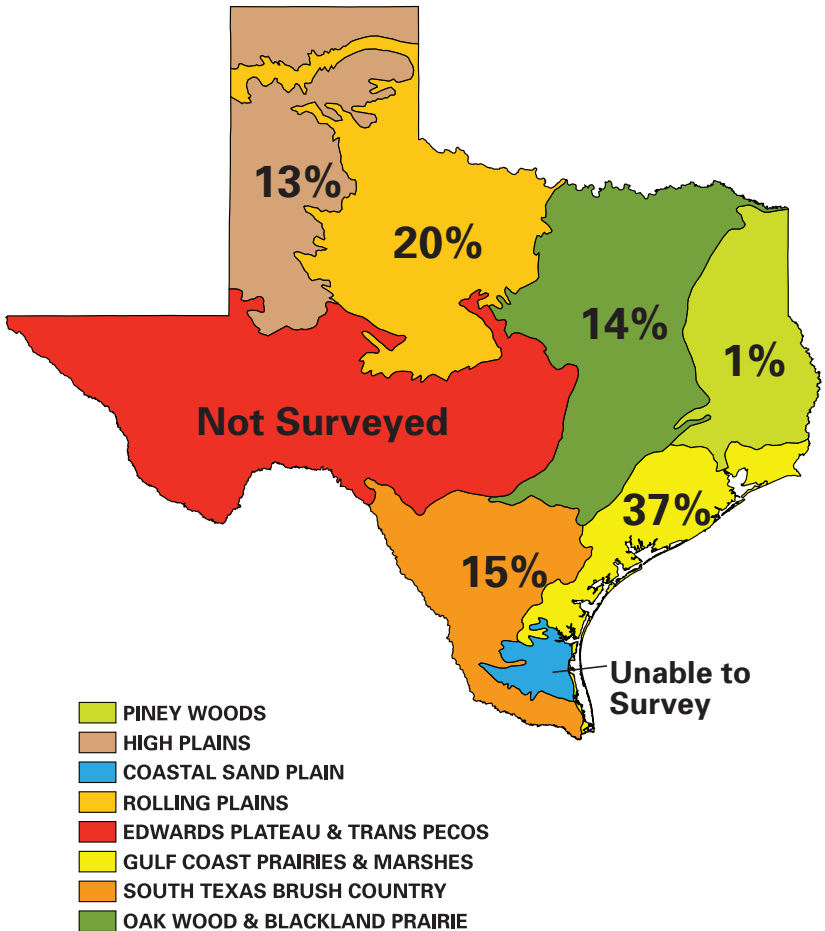
PERCENTAGE OF DUCKS SURVEYED BY ECOREGION - 2004

Total Ducks Surveyed
3,788,433



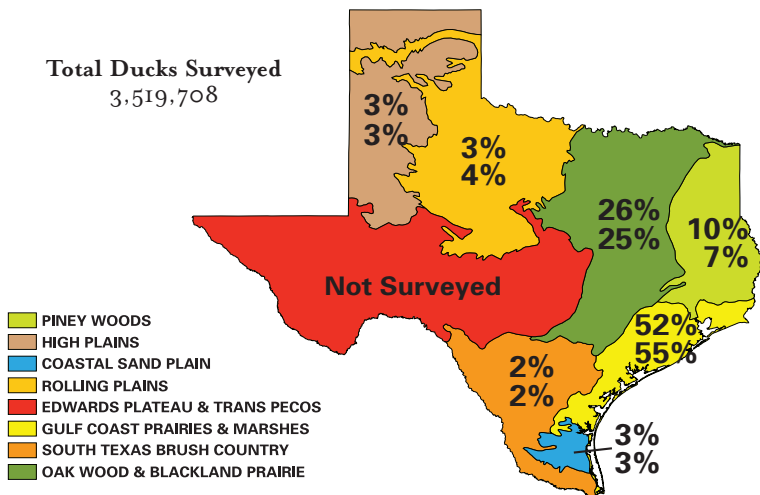
PERCENTAGE OF DUCKS SURVEYED BY ECOREGION - 2005

Total Ducks Surveyed
3,754,932



PERCENTAGE OF DUCKS HARVESTED AND ACTIVE WATERFOWL HUNTERS BY ECOREGION 1982 - 2005

Total Ducks Surveyed
3,519,708



In addition to the Midwinter Waterfowl surveys, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in association with other conservation agencies, collects detailed information on the waterfowl harvest and hunter participation. This map shows the relationship between duck harvest and active Texas waterfowlers by ecoregion. The data suggests that duck hunters in the Pineywoods annually harvest more ducks per person than anywhere else in the state, whereas duck hunters along the Gulf Coast annually harvest the lowest number of ducks per active hunter. Note that these numbers reflect each ecoregion as a whole, and certainly there are areas within each ecoregion that sustain much higher (or lower) harvest rates.

The information gets even more interesting if you consider the hunter distribution and Midwinter Waterfowl Survey data together. For example, if you look back at the figure for duck distribution from the 2005 Midwinter Waterfowl Survey, you will find that 48% (1.8 million) of the ducks occurred in the High Plains, Rolling Plains and South Texas Brush Country. However, only 9% of the state's active duck hunters occur in these three regions. Conversely, 37% (1.3 million) of the ducks occurred in Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion, where 55% of the state's active hunters reside. It is likely that year-to-year changes in habitat conditions just within the state of Texas are affecting the numbers of ducks hunters are seeing in the skies.

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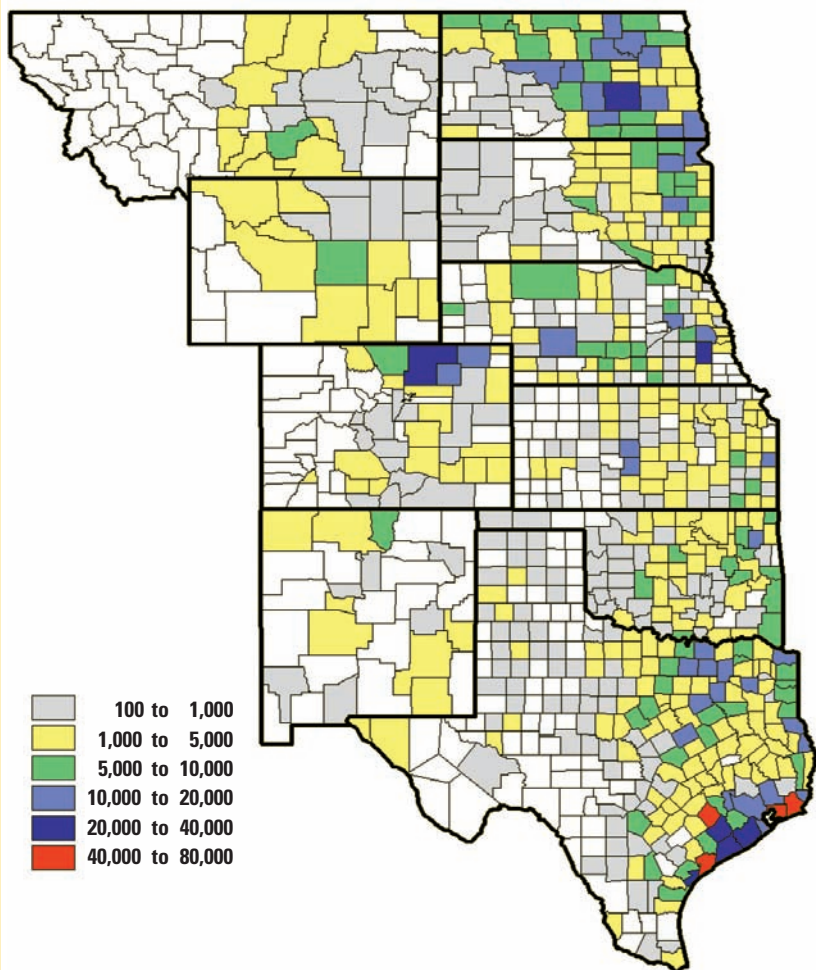
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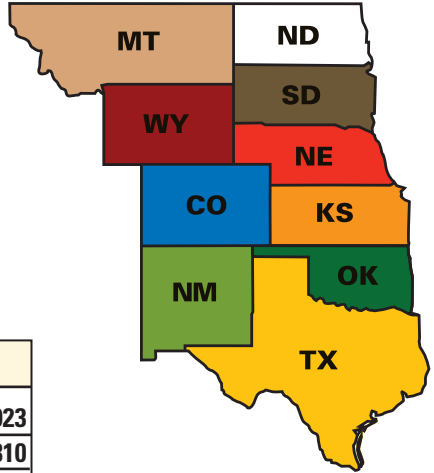


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CENTRAL FLYWAY AVERAGE DUCK HARVEST 1990 - 2005



State Totals	
Texas	899,563
North Dakota	322,902
Nebraska	225,215
South Dakota	189,911
Oklahoma	183,526
Kansas	157,782
Colorado	103,967
Montana	35,556
New Mexico	30,989
Wyoming	30,006



Peak Harvest Counties	
Colorado (Texas)	51,923
Chambers (Texas)	44,810
Calhoun (Texas)	42,705

The map of the entire Central Flyway on the facing page shows the average estimated duck harvest by county for the last several years. It is important to notice that the bulk of the duck harvest in the Central Flyway takes place in Texas. This map also illustrates that the states at the terminal ends of the flyway account for the majority of the duck harvest, which takes place at the beginning and at the end of migration.

The mid-latitude states and “short-stopping” is not the reason for poor duck hunting seasons in parts of Texas.

There are many factors that go into the final equation for a successful Texas duck hunting season, but without question the two most important factors are annual spring habitat conditions on the breeding grounds and winter habitat conditions within the state of Texas.

TEXAS HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS AND GEESE

DEFINITIONS

BAITED AREA – Any area where salt, grain or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered, if that salt, grain or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such areas will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain or other feed.

BAITING – The direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

DAILY BAG LIMIT – The maximum number of birds as specified for each species which may be taken during the legal shooting hours of any one day.

LIGHT GEESE – Snow (including blue) and Ross' geese.

DARK GEESE – All other geese including Canada and white-fronted.

LAWFUL ARCHERY EQUIPMENT – Longbow, recurved bow or compound bow. Crossbows are unlawful.

LEGAL SHOTGUN – Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder, and incapable of holding more than 3 shells. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells must be plugged with a one-piece filler which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun, so the gun's total capacity does not exceed 3 shells.

LIVESTOCK – Cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats and hogs.

MANIPULATION – The alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops, including but not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning and herbicide treatments. Manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – All wild species of ducks, mergansers, geese, brant, coots, rails, gallinules, plovers, Wilson's snipe or jacksnipe, woodcock, mourning doves, white-winged doves, white-tipped (white-fronted) doves, red-billed pigeons, band-tailed pigeons, shorebirds of all varieties and sandhill cranes.

NATURAL VEGETATION – Any non-agricultural, native or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or propagule. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the planting is considered natural vegetation.

NORMAL AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE –

A normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation or livestock feeding conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NORMAL SOIL STABILIZATION PRACTICE

A planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

POSSESSION LIMIT – The maximum number of birds that can be possessed at one time.

RESIDENT – A person who has lived in Texas for more than 6 months immediately before applying for a license and members of the United States Armed Forces (and their dependents) on active duty anywhere.

NON-RESIDENT – Any person who is not a resident.

SINKBOX – A low floating device concealing a person below the surface of the water.

WATERFOWL – Ducks (including teal), geese, mergansers and coots.

GENERAL RULES

License Requirements – All migratory game bird hunters must have a valid hunting license. Non-residents under 17 years of age are designated as residents and may hunt with a resident license. Hunters 17 years of age or older must have a driver's license or personal identification certificate (issued by the Department of Public Safety) on their person while hunting. Non-residents must have similar documents issued by the agency in the state or country of which the person is a resident that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS – A person is required to possess either an Annual Public Hunting Permit or a Daily Hunting Permit to hunt migratory game birds on certain state and federal lands and on private lands leased by the state for public hunting purposes. Youth under the age of 17 may hunt free of charge on these lands.

STAMP ENDORSEMENT

REQUIREMENTS – A person 17 years of age or older must possess a state waterfowl stamp endorsement receipt to hunt waterfowl in this state. Federal law also requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over to have a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called a Duck Stamp; available at most post offices and TPWD offices).

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS – The Harvest Infor-

mation Program (HIP) is a federally mandated program to improve information about the harvest of all migratory game birds. Anyone who purchases a hunting license or any migratory bird hunting stamp endorsements will be asked a few simple questions about their migratory bird hunting activities. For additional information about HIP, you may consult the TPWD Outdoor Annual, the TPWD Web site (www.tpwd.state.tx.us) or call (903) 675-1553.

FEES – Licenses, permits and stamp endorsement receipts (or replacements if they are lost or stolen) are available at TPWD offices, many sporting good stores, bait shops and other retailers, or by calling 1-800-TX-LIC-4-U.

HUNTING HOURS – One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

SHIPPING – When shipping migratory game birds the package must be marked with the name and address of the sender, the name and address of the persons to whom the birds are being shipped and the number of birds of each species contained in the package.

WANTON WASTE – A reasonable effort must be made to retrieve any killed or wounded birds and any wounded bird retrieved must be immediately killed and made a part of the bag limit. After retention, the birds must be kept in an edible condition.

Resident License Fees:

Combination Hunting and Fishing Licenses	
Hunting and Freshwater Fishing	\$47
Hunting and Saltwater Fishing	\$52
Hunting and All Water Fishing	\$57
Special Resident Hunting:	
(residents and non-residents under 17 yrs;	
and residents 65 yrs of age or older)	
Resident Hunting (all other residents)	\$23

Super Combo (combination Hunting and Fishing and all required state stamp endorsements)\$64

Non-resident License Fees:

General Non-resident Hunting	\$300
Non-resident Special Hunting	\$125
Non-resident 5-Day Special Hunting	\$45

Stamp Endorsements:

Texas Migratory Game Bird Stamp Endorsement	\$7
Texas Upland Game Bird Stamp Endorsement	\$7

Permits:

Annual Public Hunting Permit (17 yrs and over, see TPWD Public Hunting Booklet)	\$48
Daily Public Hunting Permit (17 yrs and over)	\$15

DONATION OR GIFT – A person may give, leave, receive or possess any species of legally taken migratory game birds, or parts of birds, that are protected by a bag or possession limit, if the birds are accompanied by a wildlife resource document from the person who killed the birds. For example, a document is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services. The document is not required of a person who lawfully killed the birds to possess the birds, or if the birds are transferred at the personal residence of the donor or donee. The document (which can be a hand-written tag) shall accompany the birds until the birds reach their final destination and must contain the following information:

- **the name, signature, address and hunting license number of the person who killed the birds;**
- **the name of the person receiving the birds;**
- **a description of the birds (number and type of species or parts);**
- **the date birds were killed; and**
- **the location where the birds were killed (ranch and county).**

LAWFUL HUNTING METHODS

Legal shotguns, lawful archery equipment, falconry, dogs, artificial decoys and manual or mouth-operated bird calls. Hunting is permitted in the open or from a blind or other type of concealment or from any floating craft (except a sinkbox) provided that all

motion resulting from sail or motor has ceased (sails furled and motor shut off). Powerboats and sailboats may be used to pick up dead or injured birds.

UNLAWFUL HUNTING METHODS

Any firearm other than a legal shotgun, trap, snare, net, crossbow, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance, live birds as decoys, recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, sinkbox or by means of baiting or hunting over a baited area. It is unlawful to hunt from or by means of motor-driven vehicles and land conveyances or aircraft of any kind except paraplegics and single or double amputees of legs may hunt from stationary motor-driven vehicles or land conveyances. It is unlawful to use motor-driven land, water or air conveyances or sailboats to concentrate, drive, rally or stir up any migratory game bird.

BAITING

A hunter **MAY** hunt any migratory game bird:

- **over standing crops, standing flooded crops and flooded harvest crops;**
- **at any time over natural vegetation that has been manipulated. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the planting is considered natural vegetation;**
- **where seeds or grains have been scattered as a result of normal agricultural practice;**
- **on or over a normal soil stabilization practice;**
- **on or over lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as a result of a nor-**

mal agricultural practice or pre-harvest manipulation of an agricultural crop, except waterfowl and cranes may not be hunted where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of:

- pre-harvest manipulation of an agricultural crop; or
 - livestock feeding;
- over crops or natural vegetation where grain has been inadvertently scattered as a result of entering or leaving a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds;
- using natural vegetation or crops to conceal a blind, provided that if crops are used to conceal a blind, no grain or other feed is exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered in the process.

A hunter MAY NOT:

- hunt migratory birds with the aid of bait, on or over any baited area;
- hunt over any baited area until 10 days after all baiting materials have been removed;
- hunt waterfowl or cranes over manipulated planted millet, unless the millet was planted not less than one year prior to hunting;
- hunt waterfowl or cranes over crops that have been manipulated, unless the manipulation is a normal agricultural post-harvesting manipulation in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

No person may place or direct the placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing, inducing or allowing any person to take or attempt to take any migratory game bird by the aid of baiting on or over the baited area.

NONTOXIC SHOT

No person, while hunting waterfowl anywhere in the state, may possess shotgun shells containing lead shot or loose lead shot for use in muzzleloaders. Approved shot includes steel, including copper, nickel or zinc coated steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer (i.e., molyshot), and any other non-toxic material approved by the director of the USFWS.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to dressed migratory game birds while being transported between the place taken and the personal residence of the hunter, the personal residence of another person receiving the dressed birds or a public cold storage plant. This regulation does not apply to doves taken in Texas. One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to all migratory game birds imported from Mexico.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit of freshly killed birds while in the field or while returning from the field to one's hunting camp, automobile or temporary lodging facility (see General Rules – Donation or Gift). For the first day of any season the possession limit is the daily bag limit. A person may possess additional migratory birds after they leave the field, if the additional birds they possess are tagged with a wildlife resource

document from the hunter who killed them. Migratory birds finally processed at the permanent address of the possessor are not considered part of the possession limit.

IMPORTATION LIMIT

It is illegal to import into the United States migratory game birds belonging to another person. The number of migratory game birds imported from Mexico may not exceed the export limit set by the Mexican state from which they were taken.

OPEN SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

(NOTE: Pintails and canvasbacks may only be taken from Dec. 22 – Jan. 29 in all zones with a bag limit of one each. The remainder of the season, taking of pintails and canvasbacks is prohibited.)

DUCKS, MERGANSERS AND COOTS

**HIGH PLAINS MALLARD MANAGEMENT UNIT:
Oct. 22 – 23 and Oct. 28 – Jan. 29.**

That area of the state lying west of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Del Rio, thence north along U.S. Hwy. 277 to Abilene, State Hwy. 351 and State Hwy. 6 to Albany, and U.S. Hwy. 283 to Vernon, thence east along U.S. Hwy. 183 to the Texas-Oklahoma state line.

SOUTH ZONE:

Nov. 5 – 27 and Dec. 10 – Jan. 29. That area of the state lying south of a line from the International Bridge and U.S. 277 Spur at Del Rio, thence east along U.S. 90 to San Antonio, thence east along IH 10 to the Texas-Louisiana state line.

NORTH ZONE:

Nov. 5 – 27 and Dec. 10 – Jan. 29. Remainder of the state.

DUCK DAILY BAG LIMIT: The daily bag limit for ducks is 6 and can include no more than 5 mallards, only 2 of which may be hens; 2 scaup (lesser scaup and greater scaup in the aggregate); 2 wood ducks; 2 redheads; and 1 “dusky duck” (includes mottled duck, Mexican-like duck and black duck); Also, 1 pintail and 1 canvas back (partial season).

MERGANSEER DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5 in the aggregate, to include no more than 1 hooded merganser.

COOT DAILY BAG LIMIT: 15

POSSESSION LIMIT: The possession limit for ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

SPECIAL DUCK, MERGANSEER AND COOT

SEASON FOR YOUTH HUNTERS: 2 additional days per zone for youth hunters 15 years of age or younger. Regular season bag limits apply **EXCEPT** pintails and canvasbacks may be taken during the special Youth Season. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. Adults may not hunt ducks, mergansers or coots (except for falconry) but may participate in other open seasons.

HIGH PLAINS MALLARD MANAGEMENT UNIT:

OCT. 15 – 16.

SOUTH ZONE: OCT. 29 – 30.

NORTH ZONE: OCT. 29 – 30.

2005-2006 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON DATES

(Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset)

DUCKS

(NOTE: Canvasback and pintail seasons are restricted by zone. See specific zone for season dates. Canvasback and pintail bag limit is 1 each when the season is open.

Zone	Hunt Type	Dates
High Plains Mallard Management Unit	Youth	Oct. 15-16
	Regular	Oct. 22-23 and Oct. 28-Jan. 29
North	Youth	Oct. 29-30
	Regular	Nov. 5-27 and Dec. 10 - Jan. 29
	Falconry	Jan. 30- Feb. 20
South	Youth	Oct. 29- 30
	Regular	Nov. 5 - 27 Dec. 10 - Jan. 29
	Falconry	Jan. 30- Feb. 20

DUCK DAILY BAG LIMIT: The daily bag limit for ducks is 6 and can include no more than 5 mallards, only 2 of which may be hens; 2 scaup (lesser scaup and greater scaup in the aggregate); 2 wood ducks; 2 redheads; and 1 "dusky duck" (includes mottled duck, Mexican-like duck and black duck); Also, 1 pintail and 1 canvas back (partial season).

PINTAIL AND CANVASBACKS: All zones: Dec. 22 - Jan. 29

POSSESSION LIMIT: Twice the daily bag limit.

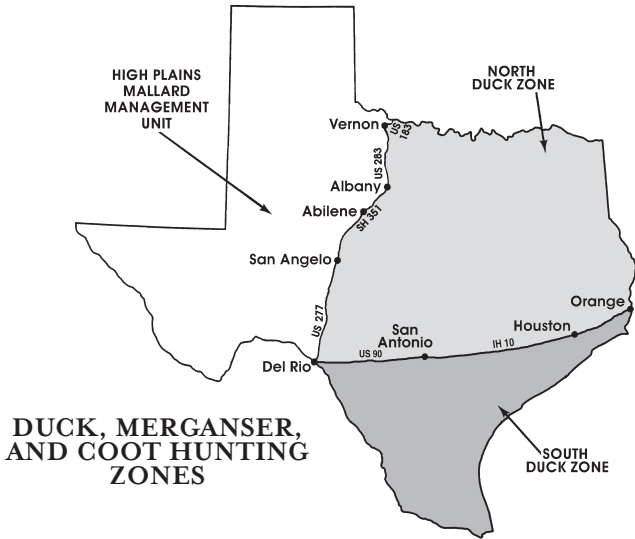
GEESE

Zone	Species	Dates
West	Light and Dark Geese	Nov. 5 - Feb. 7
	Light Geese (Conservation Order)	Feb. 8 - Mar. 26
East	Light Geese	Nov. 5 - Jan. 29
	White-fronted Goose	Nov. 5 - Jan 15
	Canada Goose	Nov. 5 - Jan. 29
	Light Geese Conservation Order	Jan. 30 - Mar. 26

WESTERN ZONE DAILY BAG LIMIT: Light geese - 20 in the aggregate; Dark geese - 3 Canada and 1 white-fronted goose.

EASTERN ZONE DAILY BAG LIMIT: Light geese - 20 in the aggregate; Dark geese - 3 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Twice the daily bag limit for dark geese, no possession limit for light geese.



GEESE

WESTERN ZONE:

That area of the state lying west of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Laredo, thence north following IH-35 and 35W to Fort Worth, thence northwest along U.S. Hwy. 81 and 287 to Bowie, thence north along U.S. Hwy. 81 to the Texas-Oklahoma state line.

SEASON DATES: Light and dark geese – Nov. 5 – Feb. 7

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Light geese – 20 in the aggregate; Dark geese – 3 Canada geese and 1 white-fronted goose.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Twice the daily bag limit for dark geese; no possession limit for light geese.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER:
Feb. 8 – March 26

EASTERN ZONE:

Remainder of the state.

SEASON DATES: Light Geese – Nov. 5 – Jan. 29; White-fronted Goose – Nov. 5 – Jan. 15; Canada Goose – Nov. 5 – Jan. 29.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER:
Jan. 30 – March 26

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Light geese – 20 in the aggregate; Dark geese – 3 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Twice the daily bag limit for dark geese; no possession limit for light geese.

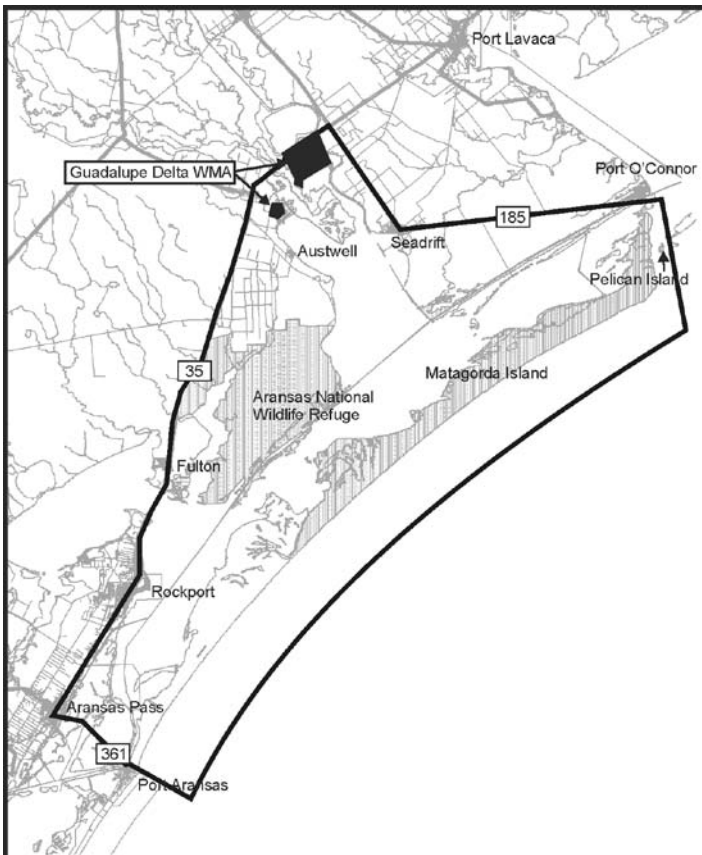
LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

During the Light Goose Conservation Order, the taking of light geese will be permitted by regulations established through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Conservation Order. Under the Conservation Order the following rules shall be in effect for the taking of light geese through **March 26, 2006.**

1. The use of electronic calls shall be legal.
2. Unplugged shotguns holding more than 3 shells will be legal.
3. There will be no daily or possession limits.
4. Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.
5. LIGHT GEESSE shall include only Snow (including blue) and Ross' geese.

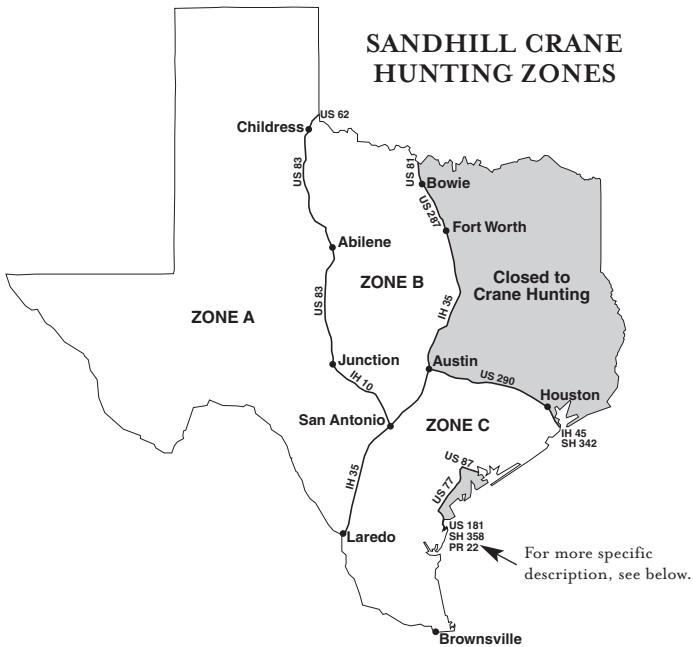
AREA CLOSED TO HUNTING

After March 5, 2006, it is unlawful to take light geese in Refugio, Calhoun and Aransas counties on the seaward side of a line beginning at the Gulf of Mexico at Port O'Connor (including Pelican Island), thence northwest along State Hwy. 185, thence southwest along State Hwy. 35 to Aransas Pass, thence southeast along State Hwy. 361 to the Port Aransas Channel, thence east along the Corpus Christi Channel, thence southeast along the Aransas Channel to the Gulf of Mexico. This closure does not apply to the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area.



SANDHILL CRANES

- Zone A:** Season: Nov. 5, 2005 – Feb. 5, 2006
 Daily Bag Limit: 3; Possession Limit: 6
- Zone B:** Season: Nov. 26, 2005 – Feb. 5, 2006
 Daily Bag Limit: 3; Possession Limit: 6
- Zone C:** Season: Dec. 24, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006
 Daily Bag Limit: 2; Possession Limit: 4



ZONE C CLOSED AREA DESCRIPTION: Everything to the Gulf of Mexico from a line beginning at the Kleberg–Nueces county line and the Gulf of Mexico, west along the county line to Park Road 22, to State Hwy. 358, to State Hwy. 286, north to IH 37, east to U.S. Hwy. 181, north and west to U.S. Hwy. 77 at Sinton, north and east along U.S. Hwy. 77 to U.S. Hwy. 87 at Victoria, east and south along U.S. Hwy. 87 to State Hwy. 35, north and east along State Hwy. 35 to the south end of Lavaca Bay Causeway, south and east along the shore of Lavaca Bay to the Port Lavaca Ship Channel, south and east along the Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico.

FALCONRY

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON:

Persons holding valid Texas falconry permits may take migratory game birds by means of falconry from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during open seasons listed herein and during the following Falconry Seasons. Ducks, mergansers and coots: Jan. 30-Feb.20, 2006 in both the North Zone and the South Zone. Falconry daily bag and possession limits shall not exceed 3 and 6 migratory game birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate.

VIOLATION AND PENALTY

Violation of state migratory game bird regulations also is a violation of federal regulations. A person who violates any state migratory game bird regulation is subject to: (1) a criminal penalty from \$25 to \$500 for each bird unlawfully taken or possessed; (2) civil restitution fee for each bird unlawfully taken or possessed; and (3) license suspension for up to 60 days or license revocation for one year.

No person may import into this state or possess a migratory game bird taken outside this state, unless the person possessing the migratory game bird produces upon demand by a game warden a valid hunting license, stamp, tag, permit or document for the state

or country in which the migratory game bird was legally taken. A person possessing a migratory game bird under this section must produce, upon demand by a game warden, a valid driver's license or personal identification certificate. In lieu of the requirements set forth in this subsection, a statement from the United States Customs Officer at the port of entry showing that the migratory birds were brought from Mexico is satisfactory.

CLOSED AREAS

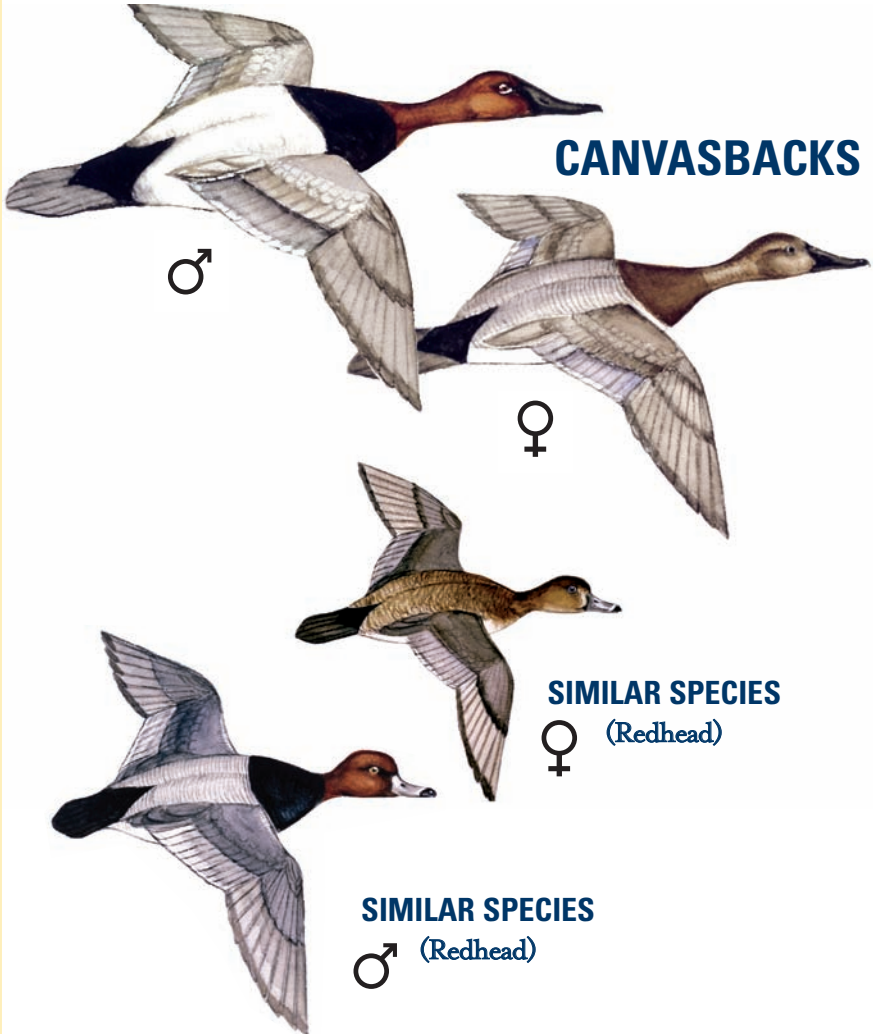
Unless otherwise specified, there are no open seasons on state wildlife preserves and sanctuaries, public roads and highways or their rights-of-way, or state-owned riverbeds in Dimmit, Uvalde or Zavala counties. More restrictive federal regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting.

CLOSED SEASONS

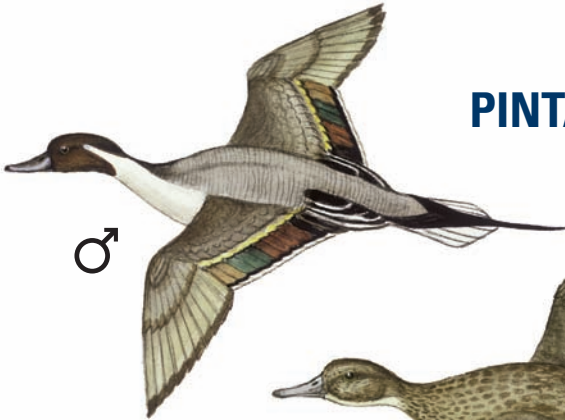
It is a violation to hunt a migratory game bird or possess a freshly killed migratory game bird listed in these rules at any time other than as provided in the "OPEN SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS" section. If no season is listed for a species, the season is closed.

WATERFOWL IDENTIFICATION

Restricted seasons on canvasbacks and pintails



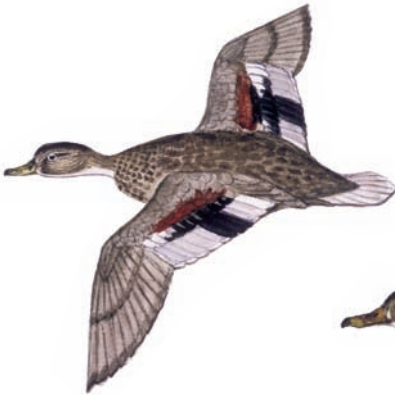
PINTAILS



♂

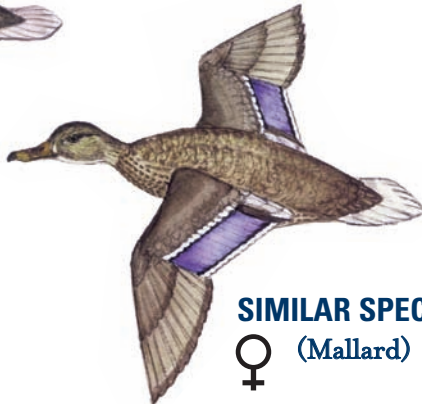


♀



SIMILAR SPECIES

♀ (Gadwall)



SIMILAR SPECIES

♀ (Mallard)

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MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS

Species	Hunt Type	Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	
Dove (North Zone)	Regular	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	15*	30	
	Falconry	Nov. 19-Dec. 25	3	6	
Dove (Central)	Regular	Sept. 1-Oct. 30 Dec. 26-Jan. 4	12*	24	
	Falconry	Nov. 19-Dec. 25	3	6	
Dove (South)	Regular	Sept. 23-Nov. 10 Dec. 26-Jan. 15	12*	24	
	Falconry	Nov. 19-Dec. 25	3	6	
Special White-winged Dove area	Special Season	Sept. 3,4,10,11	** (see below)	** (see below)	
	Regular	Sept. 23-Nov. 10 Dec. 26-Jan. 11			
	Falconry	Nov. 19-Dec. 25	3	6	
September Teal Season	Regular	Sept. 17-25	4	8	
King and Clapper Rails	Regular	Sept. 10-25 Oct. 29-Dec. 21	15	30	
	Falconry	Dec. 22-Jan. 27	3	6	
Sora and Virginia Rails	Regular	Sept. 10-25 Oct. 29-Dec. 21	25	25	
	Falconry	Dec. 22-Jan. 27	3	6	
Moorhens (Common Gallinules) and Purple Gallinules	Regular	Sept. 10-25 Oct. 29-Dec. 21	15	30	
	Falconry	Dec. 22-Jan. 27	3	6	
Woodcock	Regular	Dec. 18-Jan. 31	3	6	
	Falconry	Nov. 24-Dec. 17 Feb. 1-Mar. 10	3	6	
Common Snipe	Regular	Oct. 29-Feb. 12	8	16	
Sandhill Cranes: Zone A	Regular	Nov. 5-Feb. 5	3	6	
	Zone B	Regular	Nov. 26-Feb. 5	3	6
	Zone C	Regular	Dec. 24-Jan. 29	2	4

*In all zones, the daily bag limit can include no more than 2 white-tipped (white-fronted doves). The possession limit on white-tipped doves is twice the daily bag limit.

**Bag limits for the Special White-winged Dove Area: 12 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include no more than 4 mourning doves and 2 white-tipped (white-fronted doves). Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. Legal shooting hours are noon to sunset.



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