

— 2008 - 2009 —
TEXAS
WATERFOWL
DIGEST

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



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WILDLIFE

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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 the 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, (505) 248-7889. Consult the 2008-2009 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual for additional information on hunting in Texas. The Texas Waterfowl Digest is published annually by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. The inclusion of advertising is considered a service to readers and is not an endorsement of products nor concurrence with advertising claims. Copyright © 2008 by the 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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Call (800) 327-BAND; www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/bblretrv/webrec.cfm

MAKE HUNGER YOUR NEXT TARGET!

Support Hunters for the Hungry program. For more information, call (800) 992-9767.

STOP POACHING!

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

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

Cover illustration by Orville Rice/TPWD

THE HUNTER'S CHOICE BAG LIMIT

The USFWS has granted approval for the Central Flyway to conduct a multi-year trial of the Hunter's Choice bag limit that began with the 2006-2007 season. The purpose of the Hunter's Choice Bag Limit is to limit or reduce harvest on those species needing additional protection while maintaining full hunting opportunity (season length and bag limit) on more abundant species or stocks of ducks (e.g., drake mallards). With Hunter's Choice, individuals will be allowed to choose one bird from a list of species that have a combined aggregate bag of one, but their total daily bag limit does not have to include one of these aggregate bag limit birds. For example, a hunter could harvest five drake mallards instead of taking four drake mallards plus a single duck from the aggregate list.

The Hunter's Choice Bag Limit:

- Five ducks, with the following species and sex restrictions
 - Scaup, redhead, wood duck — two.
 - Only one from the following aggregate bag: one hen mallard, or one pintail, or one canvasback, or one "dusky duck" (mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids).
 - All other ducks not listed — five.

Objectives of the Hunter's Choice Bag Limit:

- Limit harvest on species needing special harvest management consideration.
- Maintain hunting opportunity on abundant species, especially drake mallards.
- Minimize season closures and provide an alternative to seasons-within-seasons.
- Reduce complexity of regulations and bag limit changes.
- High compliance and enforceability of regulations.
- Limit inadvertent or unintentional violations.
- Compatible with either experienced or novice and new hunters.
- Encourage hunter participation (recruitment and retention).
- Ability to evaluate effects on direct harvest to various species or stocks of ducks.
- Influence hunter behavior, including duck ID skills, species selection and ethical behavior.
- Encourage hunter's knowledge, support and ownership in duck harvest management and multiple species management objectives.

AVIAN FLU GUIDE

What is avian flu?

Avian influenza is caused by a virus that infects domestic poultry and wild birds (primarily geese, ducks and shorebirds). Each year, there is a bird flu season just as there is for humans.

Is avian flu a threat to me?

Avian flu has not been found in North America, and surveillance is ongoing across the U.S. and Canada. Texas and the entire country will be part of an early detection and surveillance program. Even if the virus is found, it does not signal the beginning of a human pandemic.

Common-sense safety and hygiene practices are essential when bird watching or handling wild bird feeders or equipment.

- Avoid touching wildlife. If there is contact with wildlife, do not rub eyes, eat, drink or smoke before washing hands with soap and water.
- Use disposable or washable gloves when cleaning or handling backyard feeders, bird baths or other equipment. Wash hands thoroughly after handling.
- Contact your state, county, tribal or local natural resource agency if a sick or dead animal is found.

Is it safe to hunt?

It is perfectly safe to hunt waterfowl. There are no confirmed cases of wild birds transmitting the virus to humans. However, hunters should avoid risk. The USGS National

Wildlife Health Center has issued guidance to follow routine precautions when handling wild birds. The Center recommends these steps:

- Do not handle obviously sick birds or birds found dead.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game. Wash hands with soap and water (or with alcohol-based hand products), and thoroughly clean knives and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling or cleaning birds.
- Cook all game meat thoroughly (155 to 165 degrees F) to kill disease organisms and parasites.

Is it safe to feed and/or observe wild birds?

There is no reason to believe that backyard birds are a threat to public health. The risk of humans contracting avian influenza from feeding wild birds or visiting wetlands is very low. As a general rule, people should observe wildlife, including wild birds, from a distance. This protects both the people and the animal.

Additional Information

For more information on avian influenza, visit the following Web sites:

- <www.usda.gov/birdflu>
- <www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp>
- <www.pandemicflu.gov/>

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 10 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 AND CROSSBOW EQUIPMENT

Long-bows, recurved bows, compound bows, or crossbows.

LEGAL SHOTGUN

Shotguns not larger than 10-gauge, fired from the shoulder, and incapable of holding more than three shells. Shotguns capable of holding more than three 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 three 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 BIRD PRESERVATION FACILITY

A stationary facility designed and constructed to store or process game animals and game birds.

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 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.

PERSONAL RESIDENCE (PERSONAL ABODE)

One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place. The term does not include a temporary or transient place of residence or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent, or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure, or business trip.

POSSESSION LIMIT

The maximum number of a species of migratory game bird that may be lawfully possessed at one time.

RESIDENT

A person who has lived in Texas for more than six months immediately before applying for a license and members of the United States Armed Forces (and their dependents) on active duty anywhere. For information on proof of residency, go to the TPWD Web site, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/general/licenses.

NON-RESIDENT

Any person who is not a resident.

OPEN SEASON

The period of time when it is lawful to take, kill, or pursue, or attempt to take or kill migratory game birds.

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.

PUBLIC HUNTING

Waterfowl hunters utilizing public water are encouraged to contact a local TPWD Law Enforcement office or reservoir controlling authority for information on rules or permit requirements before hunting. On public hunting lands owned, administered, or lease by the state, a person is required to possess a valid hunting license and Annual Public Hunting Permit to hunt migratory game birds. Licensed supervised youth under the age of 17 may hunt free of charge on these lands. Check the *TPWD 2008-2009 Public Hunting Lands Map Booklet and Dove Supplement* available at all TPWD offices for more information or www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/.

STAMP ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

A person 17 years of age or older must possess a state migratory game bird stamp endorsement receipt to hunt waterfowl in this state. Federal law also requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older 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 Information 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, you may consult the *TPWD Outdoor Annual*, www.tpwd.state.tx.us or call (512) 389-4505.

FEES

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

HUNTING HOURS

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except dove during special white-wing dove area season.

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.

No person may pursue a wounded wildlife resource across a property line without the consent of the landowner of the property where the wildlife resource has fled. Under the trespass provisions of the Penal Code, a person on a property without the permission of the landowner is subject to arrest.

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

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)	\$6
Resident Hunting (all other residents)	\$23

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

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp).....	\$15
Annual Public Hunting Permit (17 yrs. and over, see TPWD Public Hunting Booklet)	\$48
Daily Public Hunting Permit (17 yrs. and over)	\$15

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 handwritten tag) shall accompany the birds until the birds reach their final destination and must contain the following information:

- 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). A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power.

UNLAWFUL HUNTING METHODS

Any firearm other than a legal shotgun, trap, snare, net, fishhook, poi-

son, 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. It is unlawful to hunt where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are or have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory wildfowl.

BAITING

A hunter MAY hunt migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots and cranes:

- on or over standing crops, standing flooded crops and flooded harvested 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;
- on or over a normal soil stabiliza-

tion practice;

- on or over lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as a result of a normal agricultural practice,

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, or 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 in the first year after planting;
- 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., moly-shot), and any other nontoxic material approved by the director of the USFWS.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Except for dove, 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 (personal abode) of the hunter, the personal residence of another person receiving the dressed birds or a migratory bird preservation facility. One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to all migratory game birds imported from Mexico until reaching the hunter's residence (personal abode) or a migratory bird preservation facility.

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* on page 8). 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.

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.

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 or revocation.

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. 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.

2008-2009 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON DATES

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

DUCKS

Zone	Hunt Type	Dates
High Plains Mallard Management Unit	Youth	Oct. 18-19
	Regular Gun	Oct. 25-26 and Oct. 31 - Jan. 25
North	Youth	Oct. 25-26
	Regular Gun	Nov. 1-30 and Dec. 13 - Jan. 25
	Falconry	Jan. 26 - Feb. 9
South	Youth	Oct. 25-26
	Regular Gun	Nov. 1-30 and Dec. 13 - Jan. 25
	Falconry	Jan. 26 - Feb. 9

DUCK DAILY BAG LIMIT: The daily bag limit shall be 5 ducks with the following species and sex restrictions - 2 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 wood duck; only 1 from the following aggregate bag: 1 hen mallard, or 1 pintail, or 1 canvasback, or 1 "dusky duck" (mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids); all other ducks not listed - 5.

MERGANSEER DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5 in the aggregate, to include no more than 2 hooded mergansers.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Twice the daily bag limit.

GEESE

Zone	Species	Dates
West	Light and Dark Geese	Nov. 8 - Feb. 8
	Light Geese (Conservation Order)	Feb. 9 - Mar. 29
East	Light Geese	Nov. 1 - Jan. 25
	White-Fronted Goose	Nov. 1 - Jan. 11
	Canada Goose	Nov. 1 - Jan. 25
	Light Geese (Conservation Order)	Jan. 26 - Mar. 29

WESTERN ZONE DAILY BAG LIMIT: Light Geese - 20 in the aggregate; Dark Geese - 4 Canada geese and 1 white-fronted goose.

EASTERN ZONE 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.

DUCK, MERGANSER AND COOT HUNTING ZONES



GOOSE HUNTING ZONES



OPEN SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

DUCKS, MERGANSERS AND COOTS HIGH PLAINS MALLARD MANAGEMENT

UNIT: Oct. 25 – 26 and Oct. 31 – Jan. 25. 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. 1–30 and Dec. 13 – Jan.

25. 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. 1–30 and Dec. 13 – Jan.

25. Remainder of the state.

DUCK DAILY BAG LIMIT: The daily bag limit shall be five ducks with the following species and sex restrictions — two scaup, two redhead, two wood duck — only one from the following aggregate bag: one hen

mallard, or one pintail or one canvasback, or one “dusky duck” (mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids), all other ducks not listed — five.

MERGANSEY DAILY BAG LIMIT: Five in the aggregate, to include no more than two hooded mergansers.

COOT DAILY BAG LIMIT: 15

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

SPECIAL DUCK, MERGANSEY, GOOSE AND COOT SEASON FOR YOUTH HUNTERS:

Two additional days per zone for youth hunters 15 years of age or younger. Regular season bag limits apply. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. Adults may not hunt ducks, mergansers, geese or coots (except for falconry) but may participate in other open seasons.

- High Plains Mallard Management Unit: Oct. 18–19
- South and North Zones: Oct. 25–26

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON

A person holding a valid Texas falconry permit 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. 26–Feb. 9, 2008, in both the North Zone and the South Zone. Falconry daily bag and possession limits shall not exceed three and six migratory game birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate.

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. 8 — Feb. 8.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Light geese — 20 in the aggregate; Dark geese — 4 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. 9 — March 29

EASTERN ZONE:

Remainder of the state.

SEASON DATES: Light Geese — Nov. 1 — Jan. 25; White-fronted Goose — Nov. 1 — Jan. 11; Canada Goose — Nov. 1 — Jan. 25.

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:
Jan. 26 — March 29

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.

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.

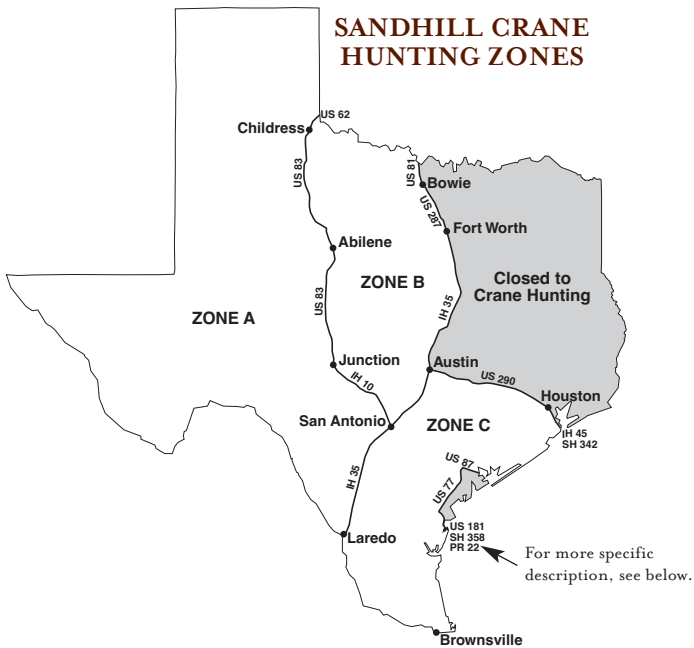
tx.ducks.org



**Working Hard for
Hunters on the
Breeding Grounds
and in Texas**

SANDHILL CRANES

- Zone A:** Season: Nov. 8, 2008 – Feb. 8, 2009
Daily Bag Limit: 3; Possession Limit: 6
- Zone B:** Season: Nov. 28, 2008 – Feb. 8, 2009
Daily Bag Limit: 3; Possession Limit: 6
- Zone C:** Season: Dec. 20, 2008 – Jan. 25, 2009
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.

AREA CLOSED TO HUNTING

After March 2, 2009, 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.



BE SURE BEFORE YOU SHOOT!

Many light waterbirds look alike.

PROTECTED NON-GAME SPECIES

Federal and state fines and jail time can apply if you shoot at these birds.

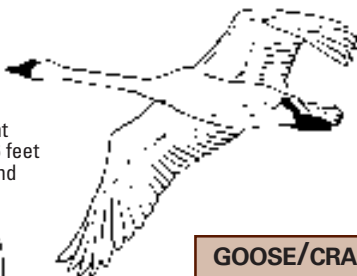


WHOOPING CRANES (endangered)

- White with black wingtips, red cap and red malar stripe
- Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight.
- Wingspan: 7 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with sandhill cranes.

SWANS

- All white
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: more than 6 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Flocks of 2 to 10



(illustrations not to scale)

GOOSE/CRANE HUNTER DVD

Be Sure Before You Shoot helps goose and crane hunters identify their species and avoid taking non-game species in the field. This 17-minute DVD is available for \$5 from:

Lee Ann Linam - TPWD
200 Hoots Holler Road
Wimberley, TX 78676
(512) 847-9480

leeann.linam@tpwd.state.tx.us
Make checks payable to TPWD Nongame Fund.

WHITE IBIS

- White with black only on tips of wings
- Necks long; slender bill is curved down
- Wingspan: 3 feet
- Legs extend slightly beyond tail in flight
- Fly by flapping and gliding
- Found in groups up to about 30



GREAT BLUE HERON

- Stands four feet tall, is a dark grayish blue and has a wingspan of nearly six feet
- Necks long, typically folded in flight (extends neck near take-off and landing)
- Slow wingbeat
- Typically found singly or in pairs

WOOD STORKS

- White, with black tail and black along entire edge of wings
- Neck long, extended straight, bare and dark near head; heavy bill curved down
- Wingspan: 5 1/2 feet
- Long legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Flaps slowly, glides and soars
- Found singly or in groups of less than 10



Wood stork and white ibis illustrations from "A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas and Adjacent States," by Roger Tory Peterson. Copyright © 1960, 1963 by Roger Tory Peterson. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

PROTECTED NON-GAME SPECIES (CONT.)

WHITE PELICANS

- White wings with black edgings extending almost to body
- Necks long, folded in flight
- Wingspan: 8 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Long, yellow bill
- Often in flocks of 20 or more



GREAT EGRET

- An all-white heron with 4 1/2 foot wingspan and bright yellow beak
- In flight, the neck is not extended but their black legs extend beyond the tail
- Slightly smaller than sandhill cranes when standing

DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT

- Goose-sized with slender body, long neck and slender, hooked bill that is usually a tilted up while swimming
- Orange throat patch
- Dark, nearly totally black body.
- More rapid wing beat and longer tail than geese.

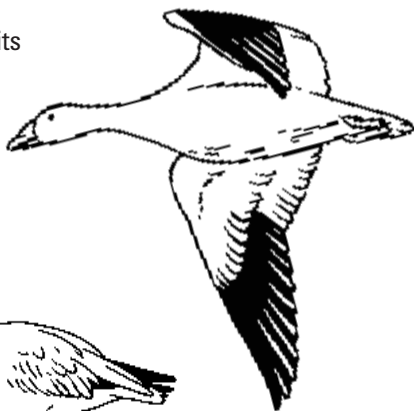
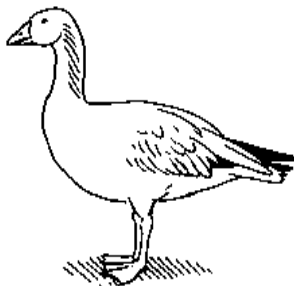


LEGAL GAME SPECIES

Check Texas regulations
for season dates and bag limits

SNOW GOOSE and ROSS'S GOOSE

- White with black wingtips
- Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet
- Short legs
- Rapid wingbeat
- Flocks of 20 to hundreds



SANDHILL CRANES

- Gray, with dark wingtips; may appear white in some light
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 5 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to hundreds



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. 20–Nov. 9 Dec. 26–Jan. 13	12*	24	
	Falconry	Nov. 19–Dec. 25	3	6	
Special White-winged Dove area	Special Season	Sept. 6, 7, 13, 14	** (see below)	** (see below)	
	Regular	Sept. 20–Nov. 9 Dec. 26–Jan. 9	12*	24	
	Falconry	Nov. 19–Dec. 25	3	6	
September Teal Season	Regular	Sept. 13–28	4	8	
King and Clapper Rails	Regular	Sept. 13–28 Nov. 1–Dec. 24	15 (in the aggregate)	30 (in the aggregate)	
	Falconry	Dec. 26–Jan. 31	3	6	
Sora and Virginia Rails	Regular	Sept. 13–28 Nov. 1–Dec. 24	25 (in the aggregate)	25 (in the aggregate)	
	Falconry	Dec. 26–Jan. 31	3	6	
Moorhens (Common Gallinules) and Purple Gallinules	Regular	Sept. 13–28 Nov. 1–Dec. 24	15 (in the aggregate)	30 (in the aggregate)	
	Falconry	Dec. 26–Jan. 31	3	6	
Woodcock	Regular	Dec. 18–Jan. 31	3	6	
	Falconry	Nov. 24–Dec. 17	3	6	
Common Snipe	Regular	Nov. 1–Feb. 15	8	16	
Sandhill Cranes: Zone A	Regular	Nov. 8–Feb. 8	3	6	
	Zone B	Regular	Nov. 28–Feb. 8	3	6
	Zone C	Regular	Dec. 20–Jan. 25	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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