



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: January 19, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2021
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually prescribes migratory bird hunting season frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the maximum number of birds that may be taken and possessed. Federal frameworks are negotiated with states via the Flyway Councils. The approach to set annual migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits relies on biological data from the previous year to set hunting season dates and project appropriate harvest limits for each game species. This is possible because the USFWS and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Department) have decades of data from population surveys, banding, and harvest surveys for many migratory game bird species that is used to develop models and harvest strategies to predict population change and inform harvest management decisions. These frameworks are adjusted to influence harvest regulations based on the previous year's monitoring information and regulatory decisions. This process gives biologists time to analyze survey data from the USFWS's regulatory decisions and allows time for public comment.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey was cancelled, including Michigan's Breeding Waterfowl Survey. To address this, the USFWS adjusted protocols that inform duck hunting regulations based on model predictions of breeding populations and habitat conditions. In most cases, system models specific to each decision framework have been used to predict breeding population sizes from the available information (e.g., 2019 observations). For some system state variables, the USFWS used updated time series models to forecast 2020 values based on the most recent information. Overall, the confidence in models remains high even without 2020 survey estimates because of the long-term data that is available. The Department's recommendations for the 2021-22 migratory bird seasons are based on these modeled predictions of waterfowl population status and habitat conditions, and public input including discussion with the Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC) at their January 7 and 9, 2021 meetings.

Biological

Since 1991, Michigan has collaborated with other states, the USFWS, and Canadian agencies in conducting aerial surveys of breeding ducks and geese. Spring mallard population estimates from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are included in estimates of mid-continent mallard abundance. These population estimates are needed for establishing annual waterfowl hunting season frameworks for the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways. As discussed above, Michigan's 2020 Breeding Waterfowl Survey was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the USFWS used long-term datasets to predict breeding populations and habitat conditions.

Flyway Councils are advised by flyway technical committees consisting of state and provincial biologists. These technical committees evaluate species and population status, harvest, and hunter-participation data during the development of the Flyway Council recommendations. The USFWS then evaluates the Flyway Councils' recommendations, considering species status and biology, cumulative effects of regulations, and existing regulatory policy. Likewise, the Department's Waterfowl Workgroup and the CWAC review information on species status and habitat conditions when developing recommendations for waterfowl hunting seasons.

Social

The Department develops recommendations based on Waterfowl Workgroup discussions with the CWAC. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's CWAC meeting was held virtually and split into three sessions on January 7 and January 9, 2021, where they made recommendations for the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons. The Department's recommendations are the same as those made by the CWAC.

The Department's Waterfowl Workgroup established goals for duck hunting seasons that include maintaining Michigan's waterfowl hunting heritage by increasing hunter recruitment and retention, simplifying regulations with maximum hunting opportunity, and ensuring that seasons encompass maximum duck numbers and abundant species.

Biannually, the Department mails Waterfowl Harvest Surveys to a sample of waterfowl hunters to estimate hunting activity and determine opinions and satisfaction with hunting regulations. The Department last conducted the Waterfowl Harvest Survey after the 2018 waterfowl hunting season.

Economic

Businesses located in communities near well-known waterfowl hunting areas receive economic benefits from waterfowl hunting trips.

Youth Waterfowl Season and Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel
Waterfowl Hunting Days

The Department recommends that the Federal youth waterfowl hunting season remain the third weekend in September (September 18 and 19, 2021). These dates are consistent with 2020, avoid overlap with the Liberty Hunt, and ensures duck abundance during the youth hunting days.

The Department recommends holding the Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season (September 18 and 19, 2021). These dates are consistent with 2020, which was the first year of this new opportunity for veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel. States may designate two days as “Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to regular duck seasons. Waterfowl regulations and bag limits set for the Youth Waterfowl Season will apply to the Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days. Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel are required to possess documentation of verification afield and must present upon request of a Michigan conservation officer, Tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

Holding this hunt concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season provides simplified regulations and better enforcement.

Early Teal Season

The Department recommends:

- September 1-16 statewide
- Daily bag limit of six teal and a possession limit of 18, which is three times the daily limit
- Hunting hours begin at sunrise

The Department and the CWAC recommend opening the early teal season as early as possible due to the greatest abundance of teal in Michigan during that time. Blue-winged teal are some of the earliest duck species to migrate each fall. Available information on teal migration in Michigan indicates that the peak of fall blue-winged teal migration is late August – early September. The Department and CWAC recommend utilizing the entire 16 days allowed under Federal frameworks.

To improve waterfowl identification, the Department recommends no change to hunting hours (i.e., early teal season begin at sunrise rather than the usual half hour before sunrise for migratory bird hunting hours). Identifying duck species is difficult under low light conditions. The Canada goose season dates overlap the proposed teal season and goose hunting hours begin one half hour before sunrise. Very few (if any) enforcement issues have occurred related to these different opening hours, yet the Wildlife Division

and Law Enforcement Division will continue to work together to mitigate hunter confusion through public education and communication with hunters while in the field, while providing maximum recreational opportunity.

The Department will continue to educate hunters on the identification of teal and provide information to help guide them to hunting locations where they are likely to encounter teal to ensure a successful teal season.

Duck Seasons

The USFWS offered a 60-day season and six-duck daily limit framework for 2021-22. The Department developed the following duck season dates for 2021 based on feedback from CWAC, analysis of data on hunter opinions, migration timing, and hunter success.

The recommended dates for the 2021 duck season are:

- North Zone: September 25 to November 21 and November 27 to November 28
- Middle Zone: October 2 to November 28 and December 11 to December 12
- South Zone: October 9 to December 5 and January 1 to January 2

Duck Bag Limits

The daily bag limit for ducks will be six ducks with the following species-specific restrictions: four mallards (no more than two hens), three wood ducks, two black ducks, two redheads, two canvasbacks, two scaup for 45-days and one scaup for 15-days, and one northern pintail. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take five mergansers, only two of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for ducks, coots, and mergansers.

Similar to 2020, there is a split scaup bag limit. Scaup harvest restrictions are implemented under a Scaup Harvest Strategy which is based on the current scaup population model and an objective to achieve 95 percent of the maximum, long-term cumulative harvest. Based on a restrictive regulatory alternative selected for the 2020 hunting season and a 2020 model prediction of 3.53 million scaup, the optimal regulatory choice for the 2021 hunting season for all four Flyways is the restrictive regulatory alternative. This restrictive framework allows for a 60-day season with a limit of two birds for 45 days and one bird for 15 days. The 45 and 15-day segments must be consecutive hunting days.

Based on fall diving duck abundance measures from Lake St. Clair and western Lake Erie as well as an analysis of scaup harvest in Michigan, the Department recommends the following dates for the hybrid scaup bag limits which reflect a two-bird limit for the first 45 days of the season in the North Zone and a one-bird limit for the first 16 days of the season in the Middle and South Zones (an additional day of a one-bird limit is

included so that a bag limit change doesn't occur during a weekend). The Department believes that this will maximize scaup harvest opportunity in each zone:

- North Zone: September 25 to November 8 (two-bird limit); November 9 to November 21 and November 27 to November 28 (one-bird limit)
- Middle Zone: October 2 to October 17 (one-bird limit); October 18 to November 28 and December 11 to December 12 (two-bird limit)
- South Zone: October 9 to October 24 (one-bird limit); October 25 to December 5 and January 1 to January 2 (two-bird limit)

Goose Seasons

The Department recommends goose season dates based on Canada goose population goals, feedback from the CWAC, and surveys of waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunters expressed their desire for additional opportunities to hunt ducks and geese on the same days. The recommended season dates provide for overlap of goose and duck seasons.

Federal goose frameworks for the Mississippi Flyway are similar to 2020, except for a liberalization of Canada goose daily bag limits. 2021-22 Canada goose hunting frameworks now allow for a 107-day Canada goose season with a daily bag limit of five for the entire season. Previously, only three Canada geese were allowed per day after September. The possession limit remains to be three times the daily limit for geese.

While few other goose species are harvested in Michigan, the Department makes recommendations that allow goose hunters to take these species if they have the opportunity. The recommended dates for the season for white, blue, and Ross' geese, white-fronted geese, and brant are the same as the Canada goose seasons in each respective zone and goose management unit (GMU). The daily bag limits for white, blue, and Ross' geese is 20. To maximize opportunity, the Department is again recommending a dark goose aggregate daily bag limit for Canada geese, white-fronted geese, and brant of five, only one of which can be a brant.

While no Michigan Canada goose population estimate is available for 2020 due to the cancelled Breeding Waterfowl Survey, the last several years' estimates have been near the upper goal range of 175,000-225,000. Federal frameworks for Canada geese in the Mississippi Flyway are liberal and allow for 107 days of hunting, the maximum allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The recommended season dates and bag limits take advantage of the most days and highest bag limits possible. September dates of the Canada goose season are timed so that resident geese are most susceptible to harvest. This is a good tool to maintain Michigan's Canada goose population at or near the goal range, which will help address human-geese conflicts.

The Department and the CWAC recommend the following dates for goose seasons:

- North Zone: September 1 to December 16
- Middle Zone: September 1 to December 16

- South Zone: September 1 to September 30; October 9 to December 5; January 1 to January 9, 2022; and February 5 to February 14, 2022
- Allegan Goose Management Unit: September 1 to September 30; November 6 to November 13; November 25 to December 5; and December 18 to February 13, 2022
- Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit: October 16 to December 23

Waterfowl Hunting Zones

In April 2020, the commission approved a boundary change between the Middle and South waterfowl zones that moved Saginaw Bay into the Middle Zone. The regulation was approved in 2020 for implementation in 2021. This boundary change will go into effect for the 2021 waterfowl hunting season.

Falconry

For the falconry season, the recommended dates for the additional days outside the gun hunting seasons for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens are January 3 to January 16, 2022 and February 24 to March 10, 2022. The daily and possession limits remain unchanged. The Department continues to discuss falconry dates with the Michigan Hawking Club.

Woodcock

The Upland Gamebird Program has been interested in making grouse (September 15) and woodcock openers concurrent to maximize hunting opportunity. Federal frameworks for woodcock hunting have previously prevented this, however a change in the 2021-22 frameworks now allow for this overlap of season dates. The Department recommends that the statewide open season for woodcock be a total of 45 days beginning on September 15.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 01 of 2021
FOR INFORMATION ONLY
Page 7
January 19, 2021

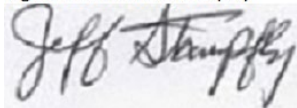
Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's January calendar and may be eligible for approval on March 11, 2021.

Signature of Jared Duquette



Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division

Signature of Jeff Stampfly



Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division

Signature of Jim Dexter



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

Signature of Gary Hagler



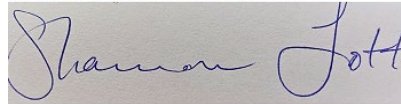
Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Signature of Ron Olson



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Signature of Shannon Lott



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 01 of 2021

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective March 12, 2021, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

1.2 Definitions.

Sec. 1.2 (1) Definitions in part 3 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.301; part 401, wildlife conservation, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.40101 to 324.40119; and part 435, hunting and fishing licenses, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.43501 to 324.43561, and in this order shall have the same meanings in this order. Additional definitions for terms used in this order are as defined in this section.

(2) "Advanced illness" means a medical or surgical condition with significant functional impairment that is not reversible by curative therapies and that is anticipated to progress toward death despite attempts at curative therapies or modulation, the time course of which may or may not be determinable through medical prognostication.

(3) "Antlered deer" means a deer having at least 1 antler that extends 3 inches or more above the skull. For the purposes of determining if an antler extends 3 or more inches above the skull, the measurement shall be taken on the longest antler beginning at the line where the antler and pedicel join, along the back of the antler, following the curve, if any, to the tip of the longest antler point. For the purposes of this section, "pedicel" means the bone of the skull to which the antler is attached.

(4) "Antlerless deer" means a deer without antlers or a deer with antlers where the longest antler extends less than 3 inches above the skull.

(5) "CWD management zone" means an area defined in chapter XII of this order subject to Michigan's surveillance and response plan for chronic wasting disease.

(6) "Core CWD area" means an area defined in chapter XII for the control and surveillance of chronic wasting disease.

(7) "Deer and elk feeding" shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40102 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40102.

(8) "Feed" shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40102 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40102.

(9) "Game" means any animal designated as game under the authority of section 40110 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.40110, and any of the following animals: badger, bear, beaver, bobcat, brant, coot, coyote, crow, deer, duck, elk, fisher, Florida gallinule, fox, geese, hare, Hungarian partridge, marten, mink, moose, muskrat, opossum, otter, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, ruffed grouse, sharptailed grouse, skunk, snipe, sora rail, squirrel, Virginia rail, weasel, wild turkey, wolf, woodchuck, and woodcock. "Game" does not include privately owned cervidae species located on a cervidae livestock facility registered under 2000 PA 190, MCL 287.951 to 287.969.

(10) "Migratory game bird" means a bird as defined by 50 C.F.R. §20.11 (1988).

(11) "Modified bow" means a bow, other than a crossbow, that has been physically altered so that the bow may be held, aimed, and shot with one arm.

(12) "New world camelids" means animals belonging to the genus llama and vicuna of the family camelidae of the order artiodactyla including, but not limited to, the llama, alpaca, vicuna, and guanaco.

(13) "Physical therapist" means the same as defined in article 15 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17801.

(14) "Physician" the same as defined in article 15 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17001.

(15) "Raptor" means any bird species of the orders strigiformes, accipitriformes, and falconiformes.

(16) "Residence" shall have the same meaning as defined by section 40103 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40103.

(17) "Limited firearms deer zone" means that area south of a line beginning at a point on the Wisconsin-Michigan boundaryline directly west of the west end of highway M-46; then east to M-46 and east along M-46 to its junction with freeway US-131; then south along freeway US-131 to M-57; then east along M-57 to its intersection with Montcalm road on the Kent-Montcalm county line; then south along that county line and the Ionia-Kent county line to its intersection with M-44; then east along M-44 to its intersection with M-66; then north along M-66 to its intersection with M-57; then east along M-57 to its intersection with M-52; then north along M-52 to its intersection with M-46; then east along M-46 to its intersection with M-47; then north along M-47 to its junction with US-10; then east along US-10 to its junction with I-75; then north along I-75 and US-23 to its junction with beaver road, Kawkawlin township, Bay county; then east along beaver road to Saginaw bay; then north 50 degrees east to the international boundary with Canada.

(18) "Waterfowl hunting north zone" or "north zone" means all of the Upper Peninsula.

(19) "Waterfowl hunting middle zone" or "middle zone" means ~~that area of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line in Lake Michigan, due west of the mouth of Stoney creek in section 31, T14N R18W, Oceana county, then easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stoney creek to Scenic drive, easterly and southerly on Scenic drive to Stoney lake road in section 5, T13N R18W, Oceana county, easterly on Stoney lake and Garfield roads to highway M-20 (Hayes road) in section 33, T14N R17W, Oceana county, easterly on highway M-20 through Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, and Midland counties to highway US-10 business route in the city of Midland, easterly on highway US-10 business route to highway US-10 at the Bay county line, easterly on highway US-10 to highway I-75/US-23, northerly on highway I-75/US-23 to the highway US-23 exit at Standish, easterly on highway US-23 to the center line of the Au Gres river, southerly along the center line of the Au Gres river to Saginaw bay of Lake Huron, and from that point on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the international boundary with Canada in Lake Huron.~~

(a) ~~Effective for the start of the 2021 waterfowl hunting season, "Waterfowl hunting middle zone" or "middle zone" means that area of the lower peninsula located north of a line beginning at the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line in Lake Michigan, directly due west of the mouth of Stoney creek in section 31, T14N R18W, Oceana county, then proceed easterly and southerly along the centerline of Stoney creek to its intersection with Scenic drive, southerly on Scenic drive to Stoney lake road in section 5, T13N R18W, Oceana county, easterly on Stoney lake road then both west and east Garfield roads (name change only; not an intersection) then crossing highway US-31 to state highway M-20 (north of the town of New Era; also locally named Hayes road) in section 33, T14N R17W, Oceana county, easterly on M-20 through Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, and Midland counties to highway US-10 business route in the city of Midland, easterly on US-10-BR to highway US-10 at the Bay county line, easterly on US-10 then crossing US-75 to state highway M-25 (west of the town of Bay City), easterly along M-25 into Tuscola county then northeasterly and easterly on M-25 through Tuscola county into Huron county, turning southeasterly on M-25 (near the town of Huron city; also locally named north Shore road) to the centerline of Willow creek in section 4, T18N R14E, Huron county, then northerly along the centerline of Willow creek to the mouth of Willow creek into Lake Huron, then directly due east along a line from the mouth of~~

Willow creek heading east into Lake Huron to a point due east and on the Michigan/USA-Canadian border.

(20) "Waterfowl hunting south zone" or "south zone" means all of that area of the lower peninsula south of the line described in middle zone.

(21) "Zone 1" means all of the upper peninsula.

(22) "Zone 2" means all of that part of the lower peninsula north of a line beginning at the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line due west of the Lake Michigan shoreline which is north of Muskegon lake and due west of the western terminus of memorial drive at Scenic drive in Muskegon county, then easterly to said western terminus of memorial drive at Scenic drive, easterly on memorial drive to Ruddiman drive, northeasterly on Ruddiman drive to lake avenue, northeasterly on lake avenue to highway M-120 (also known as Holton road) in north Muskegon, northeasterly and then northerly on highway M-120 to highway M-20, easterly on highway M-20 to highway business route US-10 in the city of Midland, easterly on combined highway M-20 and highway business route US-10 to highway US-10 at the Midland-Bay county line, easterly on highway US-10 to Garfield road in Bay county, northerly on Garfield road to Pinconning road, easterly on Pinconning road to seven mile road, northerly on seven mile road to the Bay-Arenac county line (where seven mile road changes name to Lincoln school road), northerly on Lincoln school road (also known as county road 25) in Arenac county to highway M-61, easterly on highway M-61 to highway US-23, northeasterly then easterly on highway US-23 to the center line of the Au Gres river, southernly along the center line of the Au Gres river to Saginaw bay of Lake Huron, easterly 90° east for 7 miles into Saginaw bay, then northerly 78° east (dividing Arenac county islands from Huron county islands) to the international boundary line between the United States and the dominion of Canada.

(23) "Zone 3" means all that part of the lower peninsula south of the line described in zone 2.

(24) "Skull cap" means any part of the skull that includes the pedicel and the antlers originating from the frontal bones, that has been removed from the rest of the skull of the animal.

(25) "Core CWD surveillance area" means an area defined in chapter XII for the surveillance of chronic wasting disease.

3.415 Migratory birds open seasons, possession limit defined, exceptions.

Sec. 3.415. The migratory bird possession limit shall be three times the daily limit. The migratory bird hunting open seasons and exceptions are as shown in table 10:

**TABLE 10
MIGRATORY BIRD OPEN SEASONS**

Season and Species	Zone or Management Unit	Open Season
Ducks (regular season)	North Zone	September 26 25 to November 22 21 and November 28 27 to November 29 28
	Middle Zone	October 3 2 to November 29 28 and December 12 11 to December 13 12
	South Zone	October 10 9 to December 6 5 and December 26 to December 27 January 1 to January 2
Merganser		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Coots		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Common Moorhens (Gallinules)	Statewide	September 1 to November 9

Season and Species	Zone or Management Unit	Open Season
Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Brant, Snow Goose, and Ross' Goose	North Zone	September 1 to December 16
	Middle Zone	September 1 to December 16
	South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	September 1 to September 30, October 4 9 to December 6 5 , December 26 to December 27 January 1 to January 9, 2022 , and January 23 to February 8, 2024 February 5 to February 14, 2022
	Allegan County GMU	September 1 to September 30, November 7 6 to November 44 13 , November 26 25 to December 6 5 , and December 19 18 , 2021 0 to February 14 13 , 2022 4
	Muskegon County W.W. GMU	October 17 16 to December 22 23

3.415a Youth waterfowl hunting weekend, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours; exceptions.

Sec. 3.415a The youth waterfowl hunting weekend shall be 2 consecutive days starting the third Saturday in September and within the guidelines approved by the United States fish and wildlife service. Except for persons taking Canada goose during the September segment of the Canada goose season in each zone, the following rules shall apply to a person taking ducks, mergansers, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) on the youth waterfowl hunting weekend:

(1) Youth 16 years of age and under may take duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) provided the youth is licensed to take waterfowl as required by part 435, hunting and fishing licensing, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451. The daily and possession limit for each species shall be as provided in section 3.416.

(2) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter 10 through 16 years of age to go afield to hunt duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or moorhen unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older, regardless of property ownership. A youth less than 10 years of age must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age or older and meet the requirements of the mentored youth hunting program. An adult accompanying a youth waterfowl hunter may take other game for which the season is open while the youth is exercising the privileges of the youth waterfowl hunting weekend.

(3) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, local time.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of waterfowl, shall apply on youth waterfowl hunting weekend.

3.415c Veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days, season established, limits defined, requirements, hunting hours, exceptions.

Sec. 3.415c The veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days shall be 2 consecutive days starting the third Saturday in September and within the guidelines approved by the United States fish and wildlife service. Except for persons taking Canada goose during the September segment of the Canada goose season in each zone, the following rules shall apply to a person taking ducks, mergansers, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) on the veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days:

(1) Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel shall possess afield documentation verifying that they are an active-duty member of the military or documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs verifying that they are a veteran. The documentation must be presented upon request of a Michigan conservation officer, tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

(2) Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel may take duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) provided the veteran or active military personnel is licensed to take waterfowl as required by part 435, hunting and fishing licensing, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451. The daily and possession limit for each species shall be as provided in section 3.416.

(3) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, local time.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of waterfowl, shall apply during the veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunt.

3.416 Migratory game birds; daily limit.

Sec. 3.416. The daily limit of migratory game birds for the seasons specified in section 3.415 shall be as follows:

(1) Ducks, daily limit. The daily limit shall be 6 ducks of which no more than 4 may be mallards, no more than 2 may be a hen mallard, no more than 2 may be black ducks, no more than 3 may be wood ducks, no more than 1 may be a pintail, no more than 2 may be redheads, and no more than 2 may be canvasbacks.

(a) As part of the total daily limit for ducks as described in section (1), the daily limit for scaup for the zones and dates specified shall be as follows:

Zone or Management Unit	Dates	Daily Limit
North Zone	September 26 25 to November 9 8	No more than 2 scaup
	November 10 9 to November 22 21 and November 28 27 to November 29 28	No more than 1 scaup
Middle Zone	October 3 2 to November 16 17	No more than 2 1 scaup
	November 17 October 18 to November 29 28 and December 12 11 to December 13 12	No more than 4 2 scaup
South Zone	October 10 9 to October 25 24	No more than 1 scaup
	October 26 25 to December 6 5 and December 26 to December 27 January 1 to January 2, 2022	No more than 2 scaup

(2) Merganser, daily limit. The merganser daily limit shall be 5 mergansers of which no more than 2 may be a hooded merganser.

(3) Dark geese (Canada, white-fronted and Brant), north, middle, and south zones, including GMUs, daily limit. ~~During September, in the north, middle, and south zones as described in sections 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9 of this order, respectively, and all GMUs as described in sections 12.702 and 12.703 the daily limit of dark geese shall be 5, only 1 of which can be a Brant. After September 30, the daily limit for dark geese shall be 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a Brant.~~

(4) Light geese (snow, blue and Ross), daily limit. The daily limit on light geese (snow, blue, and Ross) shall be 20.

(5) Coot, daily limit. The daily limit of coot shall be 15.

(6) Common moorhen (gallinule), daily limit. The daily limit of moorhen shall be 1.

3.422 Migratory birds, falconry, open seasons; daily limit, possession limit.

Sec. 3.422. (1) The open season for taking common snipe (jacksnipe), woodcock, and Virginia and Sora rails by falconry shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species as described in sections 3.415 and 3.420.

(2) The open season for taking geese shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units.

(3) The open season for taking duck, merganser, coot and common moorhen (gallinule) shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species, plus the season shall be open statewide ~~December 28, 2020 to January 10, 2021~~ **January 3 to January 16, 2022** and February 24 to March 10, 2022.

(4) The daily limit for migratory game birds taken by falconry shall be 3 birds combined, and the possession limit shall be 9 birds combined.

3.420 Common snipe, rails, and woodcock seasons; exceptions; king rails.

Sec. 3.420 (1) The statewide open season for woodcock shall be a total of 45 days beginning on **September 15.** ~~the Saturday closest to September 22.~~

(2) The open season for common snipe (jacksnipe), Virginia and sora rails shall be September 1 to November 9 statewide.

(3) There is no open season for king rails

3.424 September teal hunt; open season; areas defined.

Sec. 3.424 (1) The open season for teal shall be September 1 to September 16 statewide.

(2) All state parks shall be closed.

3.425 September teal hunt; daily limit; possession limit.

Sec. 3.425 (1) The daily limit for teal shall be 6 and the possession limit shall be three times the daily limit.

Issued on this 11th day of March, 2021.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Daniel Eichinger
Director

DE____ CR____