



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



SHANNON LOTT
ACTING DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 14, 2023

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2023
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 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.

The Department's recommendations for the 2023-24 migratory bird seasons are based on the 2022 State and Federal assessments of waterfowl population status and habitat conditions, and public input including discussion with the Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC) at their January 14, 2023 meeting.

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 included in the models for establishing annual waterfowl hunting season frameworks for the Mississippi and Central Flyways. Michigan conducted the 2022 Breeding Waterfowl Survey in late April to mid-May. The 2022 statewide wetland abundance estimate of 493,144 wetlands was two percent below the 2021 estimate and two percent above the long-term average. May 2022 Great Lakes water levels remained above long-term averages and only slightly lower than 2021 levels. May 2022 water levels were three inches, 10 inches, 14 inches, and 13 inches above long-term averages for Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie, respectively. Based on wetland abundance, Great Lakes water levels, and drought indices, wetland conditions were considered "excellent" for breeding

waterfowl statewide except for “good” conditions on the Lake Michigan shoreline in the Upper Peninsula and portions of the northwestern Lower Peninsula which experienced dry conditions throughout spring 2022.

The 2022 estimate of total ducks was 202,026, which was 79 percent below the 2021 estimate and 68 percent below the long-term average. The 2022 estimate for mallards was 138,713, which was 55 percent below the 2021 estimate and 59 percent below the long-term average. The 2022 estimate for Canada geese was 196,204, which was 34 percent below the 2021 estimate and 16 percent below the long-term average.

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. The CWAC met on January 14, 2023 to make recommendations for the 2023-24 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 2020 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 16 and 17, 2023). These dates are consistent with 2022, avoid overlap with the Liberty Hunt, and ensures duck abundance during the youth hunting days.

The Department recommends continuing to hold the Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season (September 16 and 17, 2023). These dates are consistent with 2022. 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 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 1-15 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 through early September. The Department and CWAC recommend September 1-15, which is one day less than allowed by Federal Frameworks, to avoid overlap with the Youth Waterfowl Season and Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days. This will improve law enforcement and reduce confusion from hunters.

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.

Duck Seasons

The USFWS offered a 60-day season and six-duck daily limit framework for 2023-24. The Department developed the following duck season dates for 2023 based on feedback from CWAC, analysis of data on hunter opinions, migration timing, and hunter success.

The recommended dates for the 2023 duck season are:

- North Zone: September 30 to November 26 and December 2 to December 3
- Middle Zone: October 7 to December 3 and December 16 to December 17
- South Zone: October 14 to December 10 and December 30 to December 31

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 2022, 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 2022 hunting season and a 2022 survey result of 3.60 million scaup, the optimal regulatory choice for the 2023 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 and is consistent with 2022:

- North Zone: September 30 to November 13 (two-bird limit); November 14 to November 26 and December 2 to December 3 (one-bird limit)
- Middle Zone: October 7 to October 22 (one-bird limit); October 23 to December 3 and December 16 to December 17 (two-bird limit)
- South Zone: October 14 to October 29 (one-bird limit); October 30 to December 10 and December 30 to December 31 (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 unchanged from 2022. 2023-24 Canada goose hunting frameworks allow for a 107-day Canada goose season with a daily bag limit of five for the entire season. The possession limit is 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 the 2022 population estimate was within the Department's long-term desired abundance range (175,000-225,000 birds), the estimates for the previous six years were all above the desired range. Therefore, we continue to make full use of hunting season days and daily limits available within Federal hunting season regulation frameworks and this decision is supported by high goose abundance and productivity over the last several years. 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 help 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 September 30 and October 7 to December 22
- South Zone: September 1 to September 30; October 14 to December 10; December 30 to January 7, 2024; and February 3 to February 12, 2024
- Allegan Goose Management Unit: September 1 to September 30; November 4 to November 12; November 25 to December 3; and December 16 to February 12, 2024
- Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit: October 17 to December 23

Falconry

For the falconry season, the recommended dates for the additional days outside the gun hunting seasons for ducks, mergansers, coots, and common gallinule are January 1 to January 14, 2024 and February 24 to March 10, 2024. The daily and possession limits remain unchanged.

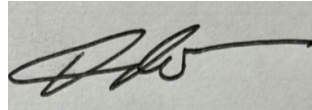
Pure Michigan Hunt

A Pure Michigan Hunt (PMH) winner may have first pick at a hunting location at a managed waterfowl area during the reserved hunt period. Reserved hunt period dates are limited at each managed waterfowl area and not all areas have reserved hunts, so if a PMH winner cannot participate on those dates because of a scheduling conflict, then they miss out on the opportunity. In order to give PMH winners the flexibility to take advantage of this hunting opportunity, the Department recommends allowing a PMH winner to have first pick of any hunt choice at a managed waterfowl area, if approved by the local area manager. They must give a minimum of 24 hours' notice to the managed waterfowl area they will be visiting.

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 February 28, 2023 calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 13, 2023.



Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division



David Shaw, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



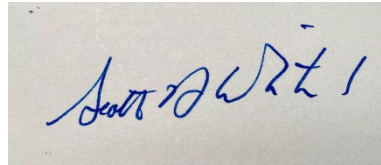
Jeffery J. Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Scott Whitcomb
Acting Natural Resources Deputy

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 4 of 2023

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 April 13, 2023, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

2.5 Hunting hours, exceptions; prohibited activities.

Sec. 2.5 (1) Except for the trapping of animals and as otherwise specified in this section, the hunting hours shall substantially conform to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset and shall be those starting times and ending times published in the Michigan hunting and trapping guide or in the respective state hunting guide for that animal.

(2) In addition to the daylight hunting hours specified in subsection (1) and 3.605, a person traveling afoot at night and in possession of only a bow and arrow, a crossbow, a pneumatic gun, a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller, a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol .269 caliber or smaller, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot larger than number 3, slug or cut shell, unless otherwise provided by law, may take within their specified open seasons raccoon, opossum, coyote, and fox. However, subject to MCL 324.43510, (2) and (3), a person hunting these species during the nighttime hunting hours shall not possess a loaded firearm, a cocked crossbow, or bow with a nocked arrow unless one or more of the following conditions apply: (a) The individual is hunting with the aid of dogs and is at the point of kill. (b) The individual is hunting with the aid of game call or predator call.

(3) A person shall not use a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol to take an animal during nighttime hunting hours as specified in subsection (2) in any state park or recreation area. Within the limited firearms deer zone as defined in section 1.2, a person may use a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol during nighttime hunting hours, as specified in subsection (2), only on private land.

(4) Except for woodcock and crow, the hunting and hawking hours for all waterfowl and migratory birds shall be as listed in the state waterfowl hunting guide. The hunting hours for woodcock shall substantially conform to sunrise to sunset and shall be as published in the Michigan hunting and trapping guide. The hunting hours for crow shall be as specified in subsection (1).

(5) The hunting hours for wild turkey during the spring season shall substantially conform to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset, and shall be those starting times and ending times published in the state hunting guide for wild turkey.

(6) The hunting hours for teal during the early season shall substantially conform to sunrise to sunset, and shall be those starting times and ending times as published in the waterfowl hunting digest.

(7) Subject to MCL 324.43510, (2) and (3), except during the hunting hours specified in this section and as otherwise provided by subsection (2), a person shall not possess afield a firearm unless it is unloaded in the barrel, or crossbow or a bow and arrow unless all arrows and bolts are placed in a quiver. A person may, to comply with section 4.1(2), kill a down and mortally wounded deer, bear, or elk using an otherwise legal means and may possess a loaded firearm, a cocked crossbow, or bow with nocked arrow only at the time and at the point of kill. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a person hunting under the authority of a wild turkey license during the spring wild turkey season may load and carry a loaded firearm afield while going to their hunting stand up to one hour prior to the spring wild turkey hunting hours.

2.12 Pure Michigan hunt; eligibility requirements, definition, open area, exceptions.

Sec. 2.12 (1) A Pure Michigan Hunt applicant must meet the age requirement and all other eligibility requirements established in statute to purchase a regular (not apprentice or mentored youth) hunting license to hunt bear, deer, or elk with a firearm.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, and subject to the requirements of applicable statutes, a Pure Michigan Hunt license shall include the opportunity to purchase:

- (a) One any-elk license (Michigan resident only).
- (b) One bear license (not valid for Drummond island BMU).
- (c) One spring turkey license.
- (d) One fall turkey license.
- (e) One antlerless deer license.
- (f) One base license.

(3) Successful applicants shall be determined by a drawing. Pure Michigan Hunt drawing success does not affect or involve any preference points or ineligibility periods related to other hunting licenses or lifetime licenses.

(4) Three Pure Michigan packages shall be awarded each year allowing the successful applicant to purchase the above licenses for the prices established by the department pursuant to law.

(5) The nonrefundable application fee for a Pure Michigan Hunt license is \$5.00.

(6) Pure Michigan Hunt applicants may purchase multiple Pure Michigan Hunt applications.

(7) Licenses purchased by a successful Pure Michigan Hunt applicant shall be valid for the following:

- (a) Pure Michigan Hunt unit defined in section 12.999 for each game species.
- (b) During any open season for that species, with the appropriate hunting devices authorized by this order.
- (c) On any lands open to hunting for those licenses in section 2.12(2) with permission of the private landowner, if applicable.

(d) The party hunt leader with the first selection at any managed waterfowl area during the reserved hunt period, **or first selection of another hunt choice at any managed waterfowl area if approved by the local area manager. The party hunt leader with first selection of a hunt choice at any managed waterfowl area must give a minimum of 24 hours' notice to the managed waterfowl area they will be visiting.**

(8) A Pure Michigan Hunt applicant must meet all the requirements to participate in any season covered by the Pure Michigan Hunt license.

(9) Successful Pure Michigan Hunt applicants are not prohibited from:

- (a) Applying for a limited draw license authorized by any other provision of this order.
- (b) Purchasing a license authorized by other provisions of this order.
- (c) Utilizing a kill tag authorized by other provisions of this order.
- (d) Retention of any preference points or chances accumulated by other provisions of this order.

(10) Nonresidents are not eligible to purchase a Michigan elk hunting license.

(11) Successful Pure Michigan Hunt applicants may transfer authorization to purchase Pure Michigan Hunt licenses to individuals who satisfy eligibility requirements established for Pure Michigan Hunt applicants, and are eligible to purchase licenses for the hunts being transferred.

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 24 30 to November 20 26 and November 26 December 2 to November 27 December 3
	Middle Zone	October 8 7 to December 4 3 and December 17 16 to December 18 17
	South Zone	October 15 14 to December 11 10 and December 31 30 to January 1, 2023 December 31
Merganser		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Coots		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Common Gallinules	Statewide	September 1 to November 9
Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Brant, Snow Goose, and Ross' Goose	North Zone	September 1 to December 16
	Middle Zone	September 1 to September 30 and October 8 7 to December 23 22
	South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	September 1 to September 30, October 15 14 to December 11 10 , December 31 30 to January 8 7, 2023 2024 , and February 4 3 to February 13 12, 2023 2024
	Allegan County GMU	September 1 to September 30, November 5 4 to November 13 12 , November 26 25 to December 4 3 , and December 17 16 to February 13 12, 2023 2024
	Muskegon County W.W. GMU	October 15 17 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 gallinule on the youth waterfowl hunting weekend:

(1) Youth 16 years of age and under may take duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common 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 common gallinule 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 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 US 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 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 24 30 to November 7 13	No more than 2 scaup
	November 8 14 to November 20 26 and November 26 December 2 to November 27 December 3	No more than 1 scaup
Middle Zone	October 8 7 to October 23 22	No more than 1 scaup
	October 24 23 to December 4 3 and December 17 16 to December 18 17	No more than 2 scaup
South Zone	October 15 14 to October 30 29	No more than 1 scaup
	October 31 30 to December 11 10 and December 31 30 to January 1, 2023 December 31	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. 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.

(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 gallinule, daily limit. The daily limit of common gallinule shall be 1.

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

Sec. 3.422. (1) The open season for taking Wilson's snipe, 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 gallinule shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species, plus the season shall be open statewide January 21 to January 14, 2023 ~~2024~~ and February 24 to March 10, 2023 ~~2024~~.

(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.

3.424 September teal hunt; open season; areas defined.

Sec. 3.424 (1) The open season for teal shall be September 1 to September 15 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 13th day of April, 2023.

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

Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Shannon Lott
Acting Director