

2020

MICHIGAN WATERFOWL DIGEST

Reserved Hunt Application Period: Aug. 1-28, 2020

Rules apply from Sept. 1, 2020 - Feb. 14, 2021



2020 Michigan Waterfowl Stamp
(see pg. 5)

CHANGES

- Scaup daily bag limit changes during season.
- Nayanquing Point will have reserved hunting opening weekend.
- **NEW!** Veterans and Active Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting days Sept. 19-20.
- Due to the potential need for physical distancing related to COVID-19, Managed Waterfowl Hunt Area drawing procedures may be significantly different in 2020.

Reserved waterfowl hunt drawing results
posted Sept. 21.

Visit Michigan.gov/Waterfowl



RAP (Report All Poaching) - Call or Text - 800-292-7800

To receive hunting application reminders via text message, text, "MIDNR HUNTAPP" to "468311"

Michigan.gov/Waterfowl

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

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The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish.

The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information visit Michigan.gov/NRC.

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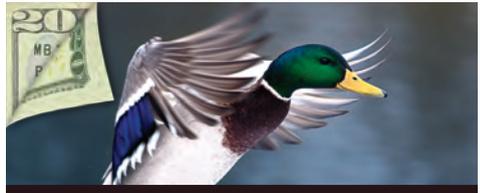
NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: Michigan.gov/DNRLaws.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended (MIPA 453 and MIPA 220), Title of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, if you desire additional information, please write Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 305-4th Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

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YOU HELP PROTECT MICHIGAN'S WILD PLACES.

Your licenses help provide nearly \$61 million a year to conserve wildlife, public lands and waters. Because of you, habitats have been restored and populations of deer, elk, waterfowl, turkey and other game species have been preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

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Waterfowl Management

How Waterfowl Regulations Are Set

Migratory game bird management in the U.S. is a cooperative effort between state and federal governments. Migratory bird treaties with Canada and Mexico govern the management of migratory birds in the U.S., distinguishing those species that can be hunted from those that can't and establishing limits on hunting season dates and season lengths. Authority lies with the federal governments in the respective countries. For waterfowl management, the U.S. and Canada are divided into four flyways; the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific (Michigan lies within the Mississippi flyway). In the U.S., the Flyway Councils, consisting of representatives from state and provincial game-management agencies, recommend regulations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for waterfowl and for most migratory, shore, and upland game birds.

Flyway technical committees, consisting of state and provincial biologists, advise the councils. These technical committees evaluate species and population status, harvest, and hunter-participation data during the development of the council recommendations. The FWS evaluates the council recommendations, considering species status and biology, cumulative effects of regulations, and existing regulatory policy, and develops final regulations. (Content modified from www.flyways.us).

Once final federal regulations are known, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) analyzes population and migration data, studies hunter opinions, and meets with the Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC). The DNR uses the input from the CWAC and hunters across the state to develop recommendations for waterfowl hunting seasons that are then presented to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC then makes the final decisions for waterfowl hunting regulations in Michigan.

Waterfowl Monitoring

Population surveys and monitoring programs are critical parts of successful waterfowl management in North America. Survey efforts are cooperative in nature and rely on partnerships between federal, state, and provincial agencies, as well as private organizations and hunters throughout the continent. Results from these surveys are crucial inputs for many waterfowl population models, and they help to guide biologists in setting and evaluating harvest management and habitat management programs.

The success of these monitoring efforts - and ultimately the success of waterfowl management throughout North America - is dependent upon cooperation at all levels, from the hunters who go afield to the agencies and organizations that are charged with managing this important wildlife resource.

The Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey is the most extensive and most important of North America's waterfowl population surveys. This survey is a cooperative effort of the FWS, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and state, provincial, and tribal agencies. It currently covers more than 2.1 million square miles of the northern U.S. and Canada and includes most of the primary duck nesting areas in North America. Michigan has been participating in this survey annually since 1991 and uses the information collected to estimate breeding waterfowl populations and wetland abundance. The Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey has been cancelled for 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Habitat conditions play a very important role in annual and long-term changes in duck populations. In addition to counting ducks and geese during the breeding waterfowl survey, aerial survey crews also count wetlands and assess habitat conditions over the key breeding areas in North America.

Banded ducks and geese are highly prized by hunters, but bands play an important role in waterfowl management as well. When hunters harvest a banded bird and report it, biologists can determine valuable information about movement patterns, harvest, and survival rates. The DNR bands thousands of ducks and geese each year to assist in this effort.

Harvest surveys help waterfowl managers understand how many ducks and geese are being harvested by hunters each year—and when and where they are being taken. This information, provided by hunters, is important for setting season lengths and bag limits that match the current size of waterfowl populations. This helps to ensure that our waterfowl resources—and the hunting tradition—will be around for future generations to enjoy. (Content modified from www.flyways.us).

The Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC)

CWAC is a 20-member group made up of 13 at-large members and seven major waterfowl hunting organizations. The CWAC mission is to provide feedback to the DNR on existing and proposed waterfowl regulations and waterfowl hunting issues. CWAC members are charged with presenting views and concerns that represent stakeholders from their areas of the state or their organization and disseminating information learned at CWAC meetings back to those stakeholders. For more information about CWAC, its members, and how to apply, visit Michigan.gov/DNRMeetings.

Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License

When you purchase a waterfowl hunting license, you are also contributing to wetland conservation in Michigan. Nine dollars of each license goes directly toward wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands and other lands to be managed for the benefit of waterfowl. An additional \$1.93 of every license is used to operate, maintain, and develop managed waterfowl areas in Michigan.

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

A federal migratory bird hunting stamp (commonly referred to as a federal duck stamp) is required to hunt waterfowl. Money generated by the sale of federal duck stamps goes directly into protecting wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The federal duck stamp is considered one of the most successful conservation programs ever. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

Michigan Waterfowl Stamp Program

The Michigan Duck Hunters Association (MDHA), in cooperation with the Michigan DNR, introduces the 2020 Michigan duck stamp and print. This year's stamp, by wildlife artist Chris Smith, features a flock of Canada geese coming into a decoy spread.



The MDHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to waterfowl and wetland conservation. Proceeds from stamp sales will be used to fund MDHA projects, with 10 percent used to match DNR funding for purchasing wetlands. To learn more about the waterfowl stamp program and how you can support conservation efforts in Michigan through the purchase of collector's edition waterfowl stamps and prints, please visit

Michigan.gov/Waterfowl and click on Additional Resources then Michigan Waterfowl Stamp Program. The stamp is a voluntary purchase and does not replace the state waterfowl hunting license. MDHA will mail waterfowl hunters a free copy of the standard edition stamp (subject to availability) if they send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a copy of their MI waterfowl hunting license to: MDHA Waterfowl Stamp Program, P.O. Box 186, Kawkawlin, MI 48631.



Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits 2020 - 2021

Zone/Species		Areas/Season Dates	Bag Limits		Notes
			Daily	Poss.	
North					
Ducks		Sept. 26 - Nov. 22 and Nov. 28-29	6	18	a, b
Coots		Sept. 26 - Nov. 22 and Nov. 28-29	15	45	b
Mergansers		Sept. 26 - Nov. 22 and Nov. 28-29	5	15	a, b
Geese	Dark Goose (Canada, Brant and White-Fronted)	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16	5	15	c
			5	15	d
	Light Goose (Snow, Blue, and Ross's)	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16	20	60	
Middle					
Ducks		Oct. 3 - Nov. 29 and Dec. 12-13	6	18	a, b
Coots		Oct. 3 - Nov. 29 and Dec. 12-13	15	45	b
Mergansers		Oct. 3 - Nov. 29 and Dec. 12-13	5	15	a, b
Geese	Dark Goose (Canada, Brant and White-Fronted)	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16	5	15	c
			5	15	d
	Light Goose (Snow, Blue, and Ross's)	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16	20	60	
South					
Ducks		Oct. 10 - Dec. 6 and Dec. 26-27	6	18	a, b
Coots		Oct. 10 - Dec. 6 and Dec. 26-27	15	45	b
Mergansers		Oct. 10 - Dec. 6 and Dec. 26-27	5	15	a, b
Geese	Dark Goose (Canada, Brant and White-Fronted)	Sept. 1-30, Oct. 10 - Dec. 6, Dec. 26-27, and Jan. 23 - Feb. 8, 2021 Excluding some GMUs; see page 10	5	15	c
			5	15	d
	Light Goose (Snow, Blue, and Ross's)	Sept. 1-30, Oct. 10 - Dec. 6, Dec. 26-27 and Jan. 23 - Feb. 8, 2021 Excluding some GMUs; see page 10	20	60	
STATEWIDE					
Early Teal		Sept. 1-16; see page 11	6	18	
Common Snipe		Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	8	24	b
Virginia Rail and Sora Rail		Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	25	75	b
Moorhens (Gallinules)		Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	1	3	b

Notes

- (a) See Daily Limit for Ducks and Mergansers on page 7.
- (b) See the Veterans and Active Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl and Youth Hunting Weekend, section, see pages 14 and 15 for requirements.
- (c) From September 1-30, the Dark goose aggregate daily bag limit for Canada geese, White-fronted geese, and Brant is 5, which only 1 can be a Brant.*
- (d) After September 30, the daily limit for dark geese is 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a Brant.*

* Note also applies to the South Zone- Local Goose Management Units. See page 10.

Daily Limit for Ducks and Mergansers

The daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species; however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 of which may be hens), no more than 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail and 1 or 2 scaup (depending on season date – see Table below). In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit is 3 times the daily limit for ducks and mergansers. As part of the total daily limit for ducks as described above the daily limit for scaup for the zones and dates specified shall be as follows:

Zone or Management Unit	Dates	Daily Limit
North Zone	Sept. 26 - Nov. 9	No more than 2 scaup
	Nov. 10 - Nov. 22 and Nov. 28-29	No more than 1 scaup
Middle Zone	Oct. 3 - Nov. 16	No more than 2 scaup
	Nov. 17-29 and Dec. 12-13	No more than 1 scaup
South Zone	Oct. 10 - Oct. 25	No more than 1 scaup
	Oct. 26 - Dec. 6 Dec. 26-27	No more than 2 scaup

Dark Goose (Canada, white-fronted and brant) Aggregate Daily Bag Limit

Canada geese, white-fronted geese (or specklebellies), and brant are now part of a dark goose aggregate daily bag limit. From Sept. 1-30, the bag limit for Canada geese, white-fronted geese and brant is 5 in any combination, only one of which can be a brant. After Sept. 30, the daily limit for dark geese is 5, only three of which can be Canada Geese and 1 of which can be a brant. See page 9 for more information.

Continued ▶

Hunting Zones and GMUs



Dark Goose Aggregate Bag Limit



Canada Goose
Photo by: Jeremy Joswick



Greater White-Fronted Geese (front)
with Canada Goose
Photo by: Andrea Rose



Brant
Photo by: Lauren Vaughn

In simpler terms, hunters can harvest 5 dark geese per day in September, only one of which can be a brant. All 5 dark geese harvested could be Canada geese. After September 30, hunters can still harvest 5 dark geese per day, however, only 3 can be Canada geese, and only one can be a brant. 3 Canada geese can be harvested daily after Sept. 30 and the remainder of the aggregate daily bag limit can be filled with 2 white-fronted geese or a white-fronted goose and a brant.

Date	Canada Geese	White-fronted Geese	Brant	Total Dark Geese
Sept. 1-30	As many as 5 (if no other dark geese have been harvested)	As many as 5 (if no other dark geese have been harvested)	Only 1 (must add to total dark goose bag limit)	5 Total Dark Geese
Oct. 1 – Feb. 14, 2021	As many as 3	As many as 5 (if no other dark geese have been harvested)	Only 1 (must add to total dark goose bag limit)	5 Total Dark Geese



Snow Goose (left) and Ross's Goose (right)
Photo by: Jeff Steinmetz



Blue Morph Snow Goose (front) with Canada Geese (back)
Photo by: Lauren Vaughn

South Zone - Local Goose Management Units (GMU)

Season dates differ from South Zone goose season dates on pages 6-7 for Allegan County and Muskegon County Wastewater System GMUs.

GMU/Species	Areas/Season Dates	Bag Limits		Notes
		Daily	Poss.	
Allegan County GMU				
Dark Goose (Canada, Brant and White-Fronted)*	Sept. 1-30,	5	15	c
	Nov. 7-14, Nov. 26 - Dec. 6, and Dec. 19 - Feb. 14, 2021	5	15	d
Light Goose (Snow, Blue, and Ross')	Sept. 1-30, Nov. 7-14, Nov. 26 - Dec. 6, and Dec. 19 - Feb. 14, 2021	20	60	
Muskegon County Wastewater System GMU				
Dark Goose (Canada, Brant and White-Fronted)	Oct. 17 - Dec. 22	5	15	d
Light Goose (Snow, Blue, and Ross')		20	60	

Notes

*See pg. 9 for more information on the dark goose aggregate bag limit.
 (c) From September 1-30, the Dark goose aggregate daily bag limit for Canada geese, White-fronted geese, and Brant is 5, which only 1 can be a Brant.
 (d) After September 30, the daily limit for dark geese is 5, only 3 of which can be Canada geese and 1 of which can be a Brant.

Allegan County GMU

Fennville Farm Unit of the Allegan State Game Area is closed to goose hunting Sept. 1-30, Dec. 25, and Mondays during the GMU season.



Muskegon County Wastewater System GMU

Early Teal Season

Species: blue-winged teal and green-winged teal

Dates: Sept. 1-16 statewide

Daily Bag Limit: 6 teal

Possession Limit: 18 teal

Shooting Hours: sunrise to sunset

These species of small ducks, especially blue-winged teal, are some of the earliest duck species to migrate each fall. Hunters can take teal during the regular duck season, but during this special early season, they are the only ducks hunters can harvest. Hunters are strongly encouraged to study their duck identification skills for this season. **Don't shoot if you aren't sure of your target.** Shooting hours for this season are from sunrise to sunset (different from the regular duck season).

Visit Michigan.gov/Waterfowl and click on Early Teal Season to access more information about the season.

Teal Hunting Tips

- Teal will readily decoy; use them to bring birds in closer to aid in identification.
- Pass shooting is not recommended.
- Teal prefer shallow waters and along shallow margins of ponds and lakes.
- Look for areas with lots of mud flats and sparse vegetation.
- Avoid forested wetlands, where you are likely to encounter wood ducks.

Early Teal Season Shooting Hours (Time Zone A)
See page 18 for time zone A location information.

Sept. 2020	A.M.	P.M.	Sept. 2020	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:58	8:07	9	7:06	7:53
2	6:59	8:05	10	7:07	7:52
3	7:00	8:04	11	7:08	7:50
4	7:01	8:02	12	7:09	7:48
5	7:02	8:00	13	7:10	7:46
6	7:03	7:59	14	7:11	7:45
7	7:04	7:57	15	7:12	7:43
8	7:05	7:55	16	7:13	7:41

Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas

Explore Michigan’s Wetland Wonders! There are seven premier managed waterfowl hunt areas located in southern Michigan that offer first-class waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Daily drawings are conducted locally for free hunting-zone permits throughout the season (see drawing schedules below). Normal managed-area drawings may be canceled late in the season if extreme weather results in low hunter participation. Area managers will post amended check-station hunting rules a minimum of two days prior to any changes. Late in the season, hunters may wish to call area headquarters to verify that drawings will be held. Use of waders, decoys, calls, retrievers and small boats and motors is recommended. Special rules are enforced, including shell limits, shot size limits, hunting party size, etc. See below for additional details. For more information visit Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders.

Due to the need for physical distancing related to Covid-19, check station procedures including registering for hunts and selecting hunting zones will be significantly different in 2020. We strongly advise hunters to check current status by visiting Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders or contacting the Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas.

Daily and annual permits are no longer required at managed waterfowl hunt areas.

Waterfowl Reserved Hunts - some hunts of the opening weekend of duck season are by reservation, see pages 16-17 for application information.

Area	County, Nearest Town	Phone	Youth Hunting Dates ¹	Drawing Dates and Times
Fennville Farm	Allegan, Fennville	269-561-2258	Nov. 7 non-reserved Dec. 5 (PM) non-reserved	Morning hunts: Sat. at 5:30 AM, except Dec. 5 Afternoon hunts: Sun., at 11:00 AM and Dec. 5 youth priority draw No drawings on Mondays and Wednesdays. Self registration will be available Tues., Wed., Thurs., and Fri. Closed for goose hunting Mondays, Sept. 1-30 and Dec. 25. Permits for morning drawings are valid until closing shooting hours.
Fish Point	Tuscola, Unionville	989-674-2511	Oct. 10 (PM) reserved Nov. 7 non-reserved	Morning hunts: Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Sun. at 5:30 AM No afternoon hunts available in 2020, except for Reserved Hunts opening weekend of duck season. Permits for morning drawings are valid until closing shooting hours. Self-registration opportunities will also be available every day except opening weekend and Mondays.
Muskegon County Wastewater	Muskegon, Twin Lake	231-788-5055 Call for opening dates	Oct. 31 non-reserved	Morning hunts: Tues. and Sat. 5:30 AM Afternoon hunts: Thurs. at 11:00 AM Hunts continue through November; no longer closed November 15-30. Permits for morning drawings are valid until closing shooting hours.
Nayanquing Point	Bay, Linwood	989-697-5101	Oct. 10 (PM) reserved Oct. 24 non-reserved	Morning hunts: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., and Sun. at 5:30 AM No afternoon hunts available in 2020, except for Reserved Hunts opening weekend of duck season. Permits for morning drawings are valid until closing shooting hours. Self-registration opportunities will also be available every day except opening weekend and Tuesdays.
Point Mouillee	Monroe, Rockwood	734-379-9692	Nov. 8 non-reserved	Morning hunts: Tues., Sun., and Oct. 10 at 5:30 AM Afternoon hunts: Thurs., at 11:00 AM Open hunting each day of season on most of game area. Permits for morning drawings are valid until closing shooting hours.
Shiawassee River	Saginaw, St. Charles	989-865-6211	Oct. 10 (PM) reserved Nov. 7 non-reserved	Morning hunts: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. and Sun. at 5:00 AM No afternoon hunts available in 2020, except for Reserved Hunts opening weekend of duck season. Permits for morning drawings are valid until closing shooting hours. Self-registration opportunities will be available every day except opening weekend and Thursdays.
St. Clair Flats (Harsens Is.)	St. Clair, Algonac	810-748-9504	Oct. 10 (PM) reserved Nov. 6 non-reserved	Morning hunts: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Sun. at 5:30 AM No afternoon hunts available in 2020, except for Reserved Hunts opening weekend of duck season. Permits for morning drawings are valid until closing shooting hours.
Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)	Saginaw, Saginaw	989-777-5930	Nov. 1 (AM) non-reserved	Morning hunts: Tues., Sat., and Sun. at 5:30 AM Afternoon hunts: Thurs., 12:00 PM (except Thanksgiving) Note: Please go to www.fws.gov/refuge/shiawassee/ prior to your hunt to see updates and Refuge specific regulations. There will not be a reserved hunt at Shiawassee NWR for the 2020 season.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend will be Sept. 19-20, 2020 statewide for properly licensed youth 16 years of age and younger. Youth 10-16 years of age must have a base license and be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone 18 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian. Youth who are hunting with a base apprentice license must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older who possesses a non-apprentice base license and waterfowl license. Youth under 10 years of age must also be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age, and the youth and adult must meet all provisions of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. Ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens may be harvested; accompanying adults are not permitted to harvest these species during the hunt unless hunting during the September portion of the Canada goose hunting season. The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular waterfowl hunting season. Youth 16 years of age also must possess a waterfowl license and a federal duck stamp.

Veterans Preference Drawings at Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas



Veterans preference drawings will take place on November 10 or 11, 2020 for properly licensed resident active-duty U.S. military personnel and veterans. The following documentation along with a valid Michigan driver's license or voter registration card will be accepted as proof of status:

military ID, leave papers, duty papers, military orders, copy of DD Form 214, enhanced driver's license, or documentation from the Veterans Administration regarding disability status. If you were discharged from the Army or Air Force National Guard, you may provide a copy of NGB Form 22 or NGB Form 23.

To be eligible for the Veterans preference draw, single hunters must be active-duty military personnel or a veteran; party hunters must have at least one member in their party that is active-duty military or a veteran. The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular waterfowl hunting season. Participants must also possess a waterfowl license and a federal duck stamp.

- Fish Point – November 11
- Harsens Island – November 10
- Muskegon County Wastewater – November 10

- Nayanquing Point – November 11
- Pointe Mouillee – November 10
- Shiawassee River – November 11
- Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge - November 10

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

A new opportunity is available this year for veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel. The Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days will take place statewide on September 19-20, concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season. Ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens may be harvested. The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular waterfowl hunting season. 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. The following documentation along with a valid Michigan driver’s license or voter registration card will be accepted as proof of status: military ID, leave papers, duty papers, military orders, copy of DD Form 214, enhanced driver’s license, or documentation from the Veterans Administration regarding disability status. Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel must possess a waterfowl license and a federal duck stamp.

Proposed 2021 Duck Season Opening Dates

Proposed dates are ONLY if federal regulations do not change. Final season dates will not be set until the spring prior to that year’s duck season.

Year	North Zone	Middle Zone	South Zone
2021	September 25	October 2	October 9



MiOFO is a cooperative partnership which provides outdoor recreation opportunities for individuals with health challenges; and coordinates support networks that facilitate recovery through connecting with nature.

2020 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt Drawing

Hunters selected in the waterfowl reserved hunt drawing may harvest any waterfowl species with an open season during their reserved hunt.

- Hunting conditions may vary (e.g., water levels, crop conditions), and hunters are encouraged to call area headquarters for the most up-to-date conditions.
- Managed waterfowl hunt areas enforce special rules (e.g., shell limits, shot sizes, use of motion-winged decoys). Consult area maps or contact area headquarters for information.

Application Information

- The Reserved Hunt Application Period is August 1-28, 2020.
- You may apply, only once, for the license drawing at a license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at mdnr-eligence.com. It costs \$5 to apply.
- You will need one of the following forms of customer identification:
 - Valid Michigan driver's license or non-resident driver's license
 - State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
 - DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at mdnr-eligence.com).
- A base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their waterfowl license only after they have obtained a base license for the year. **An application may be purchased prior to obtaining a base license.**
 - ◊ A non-resident 7-day or a non-resident 3-day small game license allows the purchase of a waterfowl license without the purchase of a base license.

IMPORTANT: You are responsible for submitting a valid application and obtaining a DNR application receipt that states your customer ID and hunt choice. Do not accept a receipt that is not legible. Check this receipt for accuracy and retain as proof that you applied. Ensure any application errors are corrected prior to the application deadline. Applicants who submit an invalid application will be ineligible for the drawing.

- For application assistance, call 517-284-WILD (9453).
- You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results online.

Drawings results will be posted at Michigan.gov/HuntDrawings on Sept. 21.

2020 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt Choices

Location ^a and Contact	Hunt Date ^b	Hunt Hours	Hunts Available	Hunt No. ^c
Harsens Island 810-748-9504	Oct. 10	AM	35	0001
	Oct. 10	PM Youth ^d	35	0002
	Oct. 11	AM	35	0003
	Oct. 11	PM	35	0004
Shiawassee River State Game Area (SGA) 989-865-6211	Oct. 10	AM	40	0005
	Oct. 10	PM Youth ^d	40	0006
	Oct. 11	AM	40	0007
	Oct. 11	PM	40	0008
Fish Point 989-674-2511	Oct. 10	AM	35	0009
	Oct. 10	PM Youth ^d	35	0010
	Oct. 11	AM	35	0011
	Oct. 11	PM	35	0012
Nayanquing Point 989-697-5101	Oct. 10	AM	35	0013
	Oct. 10	PM Youth ^d	35	0014
	Oct. 11	AM	35	0015
	Oct. 11	PM	35	0016

^a Successful applicants must be accompanied by one to three appropriately licensed hunters. Maximum party size is four hunters, but no more than two adults per party during youth hunts.

^b No changes or cash refunds are permitted.

^c Number of hunts in 2020 is subject to change.

^d Rules for reserved PM youth hunts: Anyone may apply. Maximum party size is four hunters with no more than two adults per party. On the day of the hunt, the hunting parties must have at least one licensed youth 16 years of age or younger. A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter 10-16 years of age to participate unless accompanied by a licensed adult meeting all other reserved hunt requirements. Youth hunters under 10 must be accompanied by a qualified Mentored Youth Hunting Program mentor.

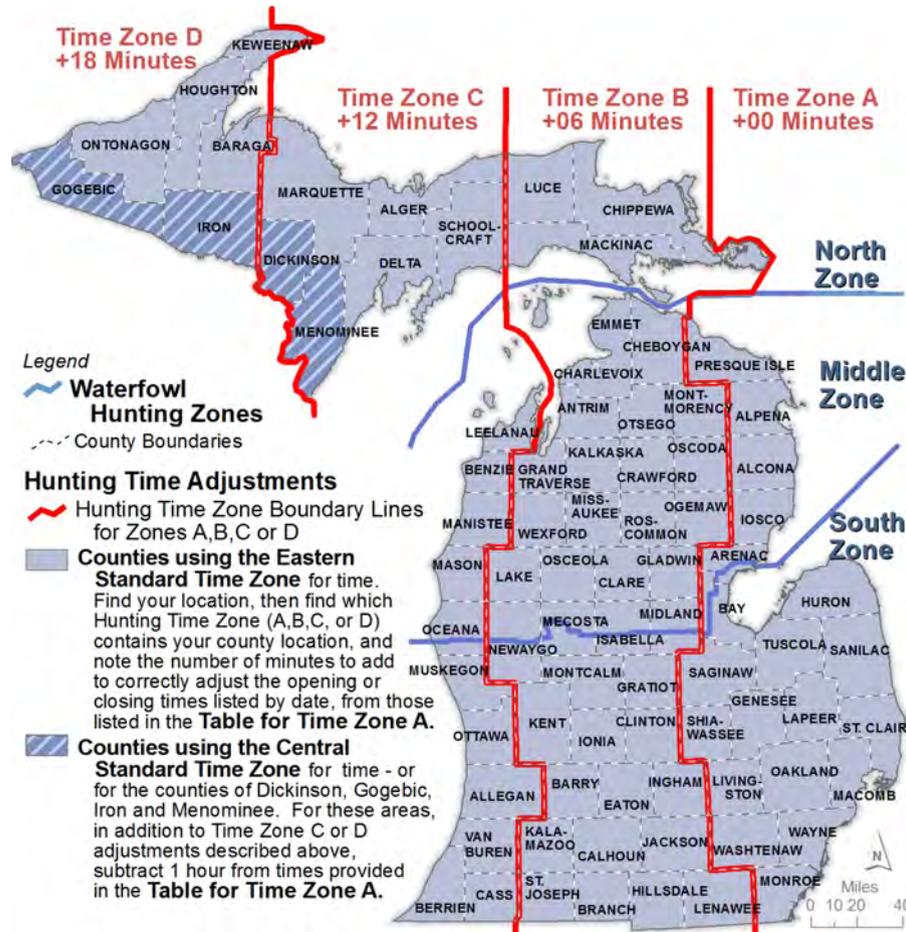
Successful Applicants

Age	9 and younger	10-15	16 +
Must Possess:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentored youth license Migratory bird youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base license Migratory bird youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base license Waterfowl hunting license Federal migratory bird hunting stamp

To avoid delays at check stations, hunters are urged to purchase all permits and licenses in advance of their reserved hunt at any license agent or online.

Hunting Zones and Time Zones

Michigan is divided into waterfowl (duck, coot, moorhen, and goose) hunting zones: North, Middle, and South; see map below. The North zone includes all of the Upper Peninsula. The dividing line between the Middle zone and South zone is a line beginning at the Wisconsin border in Lake Michigan, due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and southeasterly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, southeasterly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to M-20, east along M-20 to US-10 Business Route (BR) in the city of Midland, east along US-10 BR to US-10, east along US-10 to I-75/US-23, north along I-75/US-23 to the US-23 exit at Standish, east along US-23 to the centerline of the AuGres River, then southerly along the centerline of the AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canada border.



Shooting Hours Time Zone A

The map on page 18 includes hunting-hour time zones and time adjustments needed for zones B, C, and D. Actual times for Time Zone A are shown in the table below. Hours in the table are one half hour before sunrise to sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time). Shooting hours for the early teal season differ; see page 11.

2020/2021	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.		Feb.	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
1	6:28	8:07	7:00	7:15	6:36	5:26	7:12	5:01	7:32	5:10	7:16	5:46
2	6:29	8:05	7:01	7:13	6:37	5:25	7:13	5:01	7:32	5:11	7:15	5:47
3	6:30	8:04	7:02	7:11	6:38	5:24	7:14	5:00	7:32	5:12	7:14	5:48
4	6:31	8:02	7:03	7:09	6:40	5:22	7:15	5:00	7:32	5:13	7:13	5:50
5	6:32	8:00	7:04	7:08	6:41	5:21	7:16	5:00	7:32	5:14	7:12	5:51
6	6:33	7:59	7:05	7:06	6:42	5:20	7:17	5:00	7:32	5:15	7:11	5:52
7	6:34	7:57	7:06	7:04	6:43	5:19	7:18	5:00	7:32	5:16	7:10	5:53
8	6:35	7:55	7:07	7:03	6:45	5:18	7:19	5:00	7:31	5:17	7:08	5:55
9	6:36	7:53	7:08	7:01	6:46	5:17	7:20	5:00	7:31	5:18	7:07	5:56
10	6:37	7:52	7:10	6:59	6:47	5:16	7:21	5:00	7:31	5:19	7:06	5:57
11	6:38	7:50	7:11	6:58	6:48	5:15	7:22	5:00	7:31	5:20	7:05	5:59
12	6:39	7:48	7:12	6:56	6:50	5:14	7:22	5:00	7:30	5:21	7:03	6:00
13	6:40	7:46	7:13	6:54	6:51	5:13	7:23	5:00	7:30	5:22	7:02	6:01
14	6:41	7:45	7:14	6:53	6:52	5:12	7:24	5:00	7:30	5:23	7:01	6:03
15	6:42	7:43	7:15	6:51	6:53	5:11	7:25	5:00	7:29	5:24	6:59	6:04
16	6:43	7:41	7:16	6:49	6:55	5:10	7:25	5:01	7:29	5:25		
17	6:44	7:39	7:18	6:48	6:56	5:09	7:26	5:01	7:28	5:27		
18	6:46	7:38	7:19	6:46	6:57	5:08	7:27	5:01	7:28	5:28		
19	6:47	7:36	7:20	6:45	6:58	5:07	7:27	5:02	7:27	5:29		
20	6:48	7:34	7:21	6:43	6:59	5:07	7:28	5:02	7:26	5:30		
21	6:49	7:32	7:22	6:42	7:01	5:06	7:28	5:03	7:26	5:32		
22	6:50	7:30	7:24	6:40	7:02	5:05	7:29	5:03	7:25	5:33		
23	6:51	7:29	7:25	6:39	7:03	5:05	7:29	5:04	7:24	5:34		
24	6:52	7:27	7:26	6:37	7:04	5:04	7:30	5:04	7:24	5:35		
25	6:53	7:25	7:27	6:36	7:05	5:03	7:30	5:05	7:23	5:37		
26	6:54	7:23	7:28	6:34	7:06	5:03	7:30	5:05	7:22	5:38		
27	6:55	7:22	7:30	6:33	7:08	5:02	7:31	5:06	7:21	5:39		
28	6:56	7:20	7:31	6:31	7:09	5:02	7:31	5:07	7:20	5:40		
29	6:57	7:18	7:32	6:30	7:10	5:02	7:31	5:08	7:19	5:42		
30	6:58	7:16	7:33	6:29	7:11	5:01	7:31	5:08	7:18	5:43		
31			7:35	6:27			7:32	5:09	7:17	5:44		

Waterfowl Hunting at State Parks, Recreation Areas, and Scenic Sites

Unless noted here, in state law, or posted on location, state parks are not open to waterfowl hunting, but state recreation areas are open to waterfowl hunting.

Portions of the following state parks and scenic sites are **open** to waterfowl hunting:

- Algonac State Park
- Bay City State Park
- Coldwater Lake State Park
- Craig Lake State Park
- Duck Lake State Park
- Grand Mere State Park
- Hartwick Pines State Park
- J. W. Wells State Park
- Laughing Whitefish Falls State Park
- Mitchell State Park
- Negwegon State Park
- North Higgins Lake State Park
- Old Mission Point State Park
- Onaway State Park
- Palms Book State Park
- Port Crescent State Park
- Sleeper State Park
- South Higgins Lake State Park
- Sturgeon Point State Park
- Thompson's Harbor State Park
- Van Buren State Park
- Van Riper State Park
- Wagner Falls Scenic Site
- Warren Dunes State Park

The following state parks and recreation areas are **closed** entirely to waterfowl hunting from Sept. 1-7. **All or portions are open after Labor Day:**

- Cheboygan State Park
- Fayette State Park
- Fisherman's Island State Park
- Fort Custer Recreation Area
- Hoeft State Park
- Indian Lake State Park
- Island Lake Recreation Area
- Leelanau State Park
- Ludington State Park
- McLain State Park
- Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area
- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
- Rifle River Recreation Area
- Silver Lake State Park
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park
- Wilderness State Park
- Sterling State Park

Portions of the following state parks and recreation areas are **closed** to waterfowl hunting from Sept. 1-7. **Portions are open after Labor Day:**

- Holly Recreation Area
- Pinckney Recreation Area
- Sleepy Hollow State Park
- Seven Lakes State Park

Portions of the following state recreation areas are **closed** to waterfowl hunting from Sept. 1 -15. **Portions are open beginning Sept. 16:**

- Brighton Recreation Area
- Ortonville Recreation Area
- Ionia Recreation Area
- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area
- Lake Hudson Recreation Area
- Waterloo Recreation Area

Portions of the following state recreation areas are **closed** to waterfowl hunting from Sept. 1-15: **Portions are open beginning Sept. 16:**

- Fort Custer Recreation Area
- Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area
- Island Lake Recreation Area

Portions of the following state recreation areas are **closed** to waterfowl hunting:

- Highland Recreation Area
- Yankee Springs Recreation Area
- Proud Lake Recreation Area

Contact your local DNR Parks and Recreation or Wildlife office for more information.

Mandatory Penalties for Certain Hunting Violations

Species	Fine	Jail	Revocation of License
Waterfowl	\$500 per animal	5-90 days	--



License and Waterfowl Stamp Requirements

To hunt migratory waterfowl in Michigan, by age, you must have the following:

Required Licenses by Age	Cost				
	Age: Up to 9	Junior Age: 10-15	Resident Age: 16+	Nonresident Age: 16+	Resident Senior Age: 65+
Base License^{1,2}	--	\$6.00	\$11.00*	\$151.00*	\$5.00
Mentored Youth License	\$7.50	--	--	--	--
Mentored Bird Youth (HIP)	Free	Free	--	--	--
Waterfowl License (HIP)	--	--	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp	--	--	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00

* Hunters 16 years of age (including nonresidents) may purchase a base license for \$6.00.

¹ A nonresident 7-day small game license allows the purchase of a waterfowl license without the purchase of a base license.

² A nonresident 3 day small game license allows the purchase of a waterfowl license without the purchase of a base license.

U.S. Military Personnel

Hunting license fees are waived for all full time active-duty U.S. military personnel who have maintained resident status, except for hunting licenses obtained through a drawing. The individual must present military ID, leave papers, duty papers, military orders, or other evidence verifying that he or she is a member of the military, along with a valid Michigan driver's license or voter's registration card.

Base License

All hunters are required to have a base license before purchasing other licenses. The base license provides funding for habitat and conservation work on both public and private land, and supports the work of conservation officers and field staff to ensure safe, legal hunting practices are followed. The base license is valid for hunting small game. A non-resident 7-day or a non-resident 3-day small game license allows the purchase of a waterfowl license without the purchase of a base license. Additional licenses are required to hunt other species. Hunters are encouraged to carry their base license at all times when hunting. A base license is not required to purchase a fishing license or limited-license hunt applications.

Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License

All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older must purchase a Michigan waterfowl hunting license in addition to a valid base license, including those hunting on their own enclosed farmland. Purchase of a waterfowl license includes registration with the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program.

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

To hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.), hunters must register with the federal Migratory Bird HIP. HIP registration is free and included automatically with the purchase of a Michigan waterfowl license or woodcock stamp, indicated by the HIP endorsement “Migratory Bird Hunter” printed on the license or stamp. Purchasers will also be asked HIP survey questions regarding their migratory bird harvest during the previous year. Waterfowl hunters under 16 years of age must register with HIP by obtaining the free “Migratory Bird Youth” product from a license agent or online at mdnr-eligence.com. A current-year HIP endorsement must be carried when hunting migratory birds.

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps, commonly known as “duck stamps,” are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). A federal duck stamp is required for all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. A duck stamp is not required for rail, snipe, or woodcock hunting. Duck stamps may be obtained at post offices or hunters may purchase the federal duck stamp at DNR license agents or online at mdnr-eligence.com. A small service fee of \$2.50 will apply for all DNR license agent and online purchases. The purchaser will be issued a “temporary duck stamp,” which serves as a valid federal duck stamp for 45 days or until the purchaser receives the official federal duck stamp via U.S. mail. The federal stamp must be signed across its face with your name in ink.

Mentored Youth Hunting (MYH) Program

The MYH program allows youth hunters 9 years of age and younger to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years of age, has hunting experience, and possesses a valid Michigan license to hunt other than an apprentice license. The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game including waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall), deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species. It also allows the ability to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk, and fall turkey. The mentor is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow, and crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the youth hunter must be within arm’s length of the mentor at all times. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored youth must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the youth. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the youth hunter while in the field.

Apprentice Hunting

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice (APC) license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The base apprentice license is available to residents and nonresidents.

Continued ►

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice's parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. "**Accompanied by**" requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

To Purchase a License

You must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid **Michigan driver's license or non-resident driver's license**
- State of **Michigan ID card** (issued by the Secretary of State)
- **DNR Sportcard** (issued through license agents or at mdnr-elicense.com). If the information on your DNR Sportcard from a previous year is still accurate, you should continue to use it.

All hunters born after January 1, 1960 must present their hunter safety certificate or previous hunting license (other than an apprentice license) to purchase their licenses.

Hunters must possess qualifying credentials and/or identification that may be required for certain license purchases.

When hunting, you must carry your license and present upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer. Hunters are encouraged to carry their base license at all times when hunting and the identification used to purchase that license.

- It is illegal to use another person's hunting license.

To qualify for any adult resident hunting license, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Reside in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state. The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not a qualification for a resident license.
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university and reside in the state during the school year.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and be officially stationed in Michigan.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and maintain residency in Michigan.

Joint State-Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

No person shall take or attempt to take migratory game birds (including woodcock):

- With a trap, snare, net, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With any firearm except a 10-gauge or smaller shotgun capable of holding no more than three shells. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells shall be plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.
- With the use of any single-projectile shotshell. Bows and arrows, including crossbows, are legal for waterfowl hunting.
- By the use or possession of more than one gun for each person in the hunting party.
- From, or with the aid or use of, a car or other motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft, except that hunters with disabilities who have been issued a DNR permit to take game from a standing vehicle may use a stationary motor vehicle, or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat, power boat or other craft having a motor attached, any sailboat, or any floating craft or device of any kind propelled or towed by power or sail, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress ceased. A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft while under power or until forward progress has ceased. A loaded gun shall not be transported in an automobile, aircraft, motorboat or sailboat, motor bike, tractor, ORV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- From a sinkbox. (A sinkbox is a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.)
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls, imitations of bird calls, bird sounds, or imitations of bird sounds. Use of electronically or mechanically operated decoys that do not produce bird sounds or calls is not prohibited.

- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. Non-food imitations—for example, plastic corncobs—are not prohibited.

Importation

For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 - 20.66 or contact Senior Resident Law Enforcement Agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3800 Packard Road, Suite 160, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn, and the head and feet removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

Possession and Transportation Limits

You may not possess or transport more than the daily limit of migratory birds at or between the place where taken and (1) your automobile or principal means of land transportation, or (2) your personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging, or (3) a commercial preservation facility, or a post office or common carrier facility, whichever one you arrive at first.

Tagging; Fully Feathered Wing

No person shall give, put, or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- The hunter's signature.
- The hunter's address.
- The total number of birds involved by species.
- The dates such birds were killed.
- Current base or sportsperson license number.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged. You may not transport any dressed or plucked bird unless one fully feathered wing is attached.

Shipment

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (1) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (2) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent and (3) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Hunting or Hawking Hours

No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to hunting and hawking as prescribed. Reminder: during the hours closed to hunting, a hunter shall not possess a firearm or bow and arrow unless the firearm is unloaded in the barrel and all arrows are placed in a quiver.

Daily Limit

No person shall take or attempt to take in any one day more than one daily limit.

Possession of Live Birds

Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Wanton Waste

You may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve it and include it in your daily bag limit.

Decoys, Blinds, Raised Platforms

- You may not leave decoys set out between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. in waters of the Great Lakes and connecting waters, and lakes wholly enclosed by publicly owned lands.
- You may not erect or use a hunting blind on any public waters without permanently affixing to the exterior, in waterproof letters not less than 3 inches high, the name and address of the person who placed it there. Any unoccupied blind on the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair may be used by the first person to occupy it each day.
- You may not leave any hunting blind or part thereof anchored or affixed to the bottomlands of any public waters within the state of Michigan prior to Aug. 15 or later than Jan. 16.
- You may not hunt waterfowl with a firearm from a raised platform except over submerged bottomlands. Blinds or platforms constructed over public waters must meet marking and removal requirements.
- You may not use or occupy a blind on the waters of the state that does not comply with marking and placement requirements.
- Contact the Plainwell DNR office (269-685-6851) regarding blind rules for Allegan County.

Dual Violations

Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

Federal Refuges

You may not possess or carry firearms or bow and arrow or hunt or kill any game during the open season for hunting and taking of migratory game birds on any national wildlife refuge when posted to prohibit unauthorized entry, except on that portion of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County and

Continued ►

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in Wayne and Monroe counties on which duck or goose hunting is authorized by a daily hunting permit issued by the FWS.

Caution

More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, One Federal Dr., Fort Snelling, MN 55111, phone: 612-713-5320.

Reference

Hunters should consult the actual federal regulations related to migratory game birds, which are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

Falconry Season

Falconry is a permitted method of hunting migratory game birds. Rails, snipe, woodcock, geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens may be taken during the established firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units. In addition, ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens may be taken statewide by falconry from December 28, 2020 to January 10, 2021 and February 24 to March 10, 2021. The daily limit is three birds of single or combined species. Possession limit is nine birds.

Non-Toxic Shot Rules

Use of non-toxic shot is required statewide for all waterfowl hunting. When you hunt to take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, rails, or snipe anywhere in the state of Michigan, you may not possess or use shotshells loaded with a material other than non-toxic steel, bismuth, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten matrix, or other shot determined by the FWS to be non-toxic. Waterfowl hunters using muzzleloaders must also use FWS-approved non-toxic shot. Shells loaded with lead shot may be used to hunt other small game species, including woodcock; however, we recommend using non-toxic shot for the hunting of all small game species. **NOTE:** Check area rules and the DNR website for non-toxic shot regulations for non-waterfowl hunting on managed waterfowl areas.

Float Hunting

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowner(s) bordering the waterway and their invited guests. Float hunters need permission to enter lands protected by the Recreational Trespass Act. You may float-hunt public lands open to hunting.

Safety Zones Around Buildings

No person may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence or cabin, or any barn or other building used in connection with a farm operation, without obtaining the written permission of the owner, renter or occupant of the property.

Waterfowl Hunting Closures

Each are posted to alert hunters that they are off-limits to hunting:

- In Grand Traverse County: Boardman Lake and those waters of the Boardman River lying north of Airport Road and south of the 8th Street Bridge are closed to waterfowl hunting.
- In Roscommon County: Mud Lake, Lake St. Helen and the South Branch of the Au Sable River connecting these two lakes are closed to public waterfowl hunting.
- There are also other closed areas in the state.



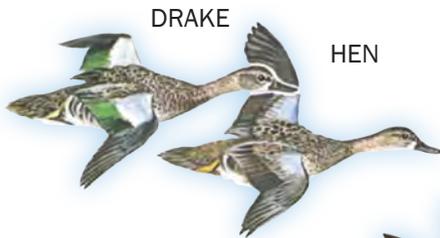
Identifying Ducks

Skill at identifying ducks in flight is important, especially because several duck species have special daily limit restrictions (see page 7) and the early teal season allows only teal to be harvested (see page 11).

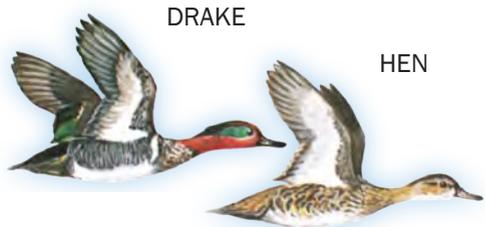
Blue-winged Teal - These small puddle ducks fly in small compact flocks with rapid, erratic flight patterns. A drake's call is a high-pitched peeping, and hens give nasal quacks. Both sexes have blue patches on the upper surface of wings.

Green-winged Teal - The smallest of ducks, they have a low and erratic flight pattern. They have an iridescent green patch on their wings. A drake's call is a whistle, and hens have a slight quack.

Blue -Winged Teal

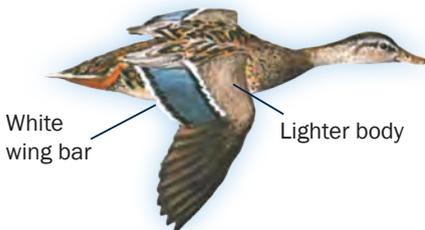


Green -Winged Teal



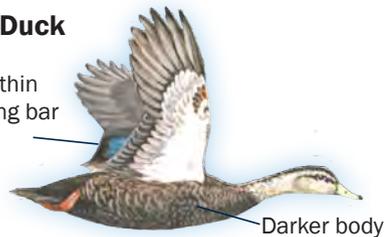
Mallard Hen/Black Duck - Both birds have white underwings, but the black duck's darker body contrasts more sharply with the underwing than does the brown body of the female mallard. Mallards have white wing bars on both edges of the blue speculum. The black duck usually has none or only a thin white bar on the back edge of the speculum.

Mallard Hen



Black Duck

None or thin white wing bar



Wood Duck - This medium-sized duck frequents wooded ponds, streams, and marshes statewide, especially early in the season. Drakes are very colorful, and both hens and drakes have colorful wings with blue, maroon, and silver hues. Calls are whistles and squeals.

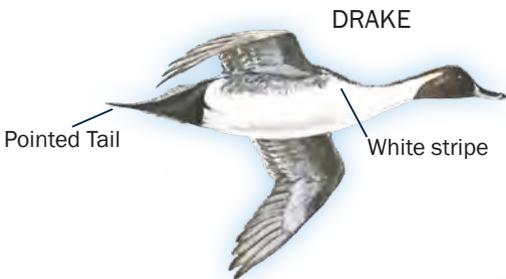


DRAKE



HEN

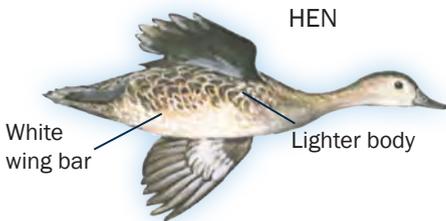
Pintail - These puddle ducks frequent marshes. They are about the size of a mallard but slimmer in appearance. Few are well-colored before December, and most appear gray. The female wing speculum is cinnamon-colored, while the male speculum is green with a white trailing edge.



DRAKE

Pointed Tail

White stripe

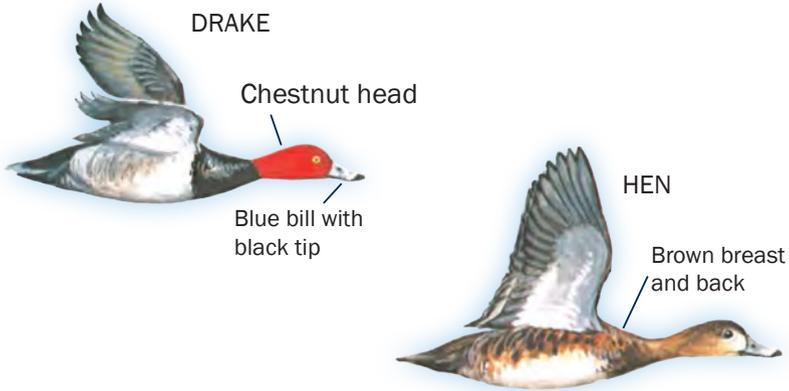


HEN

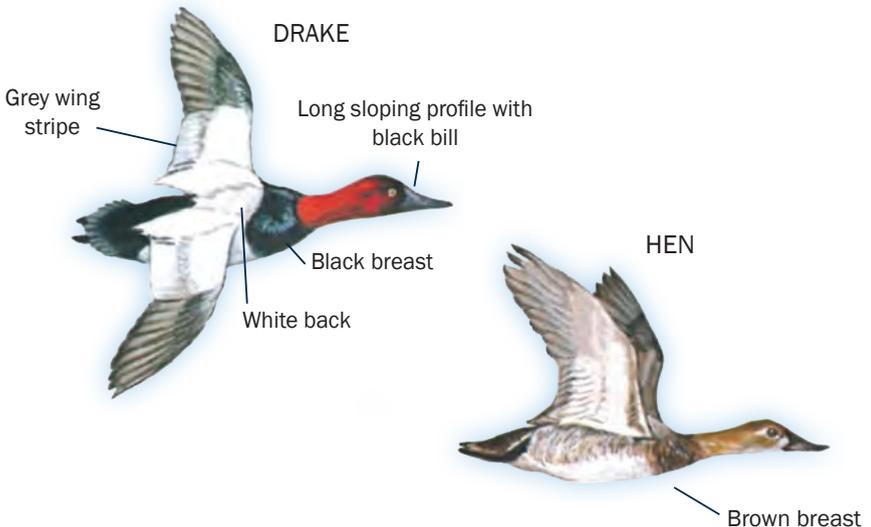
White wing bar

Lighter body

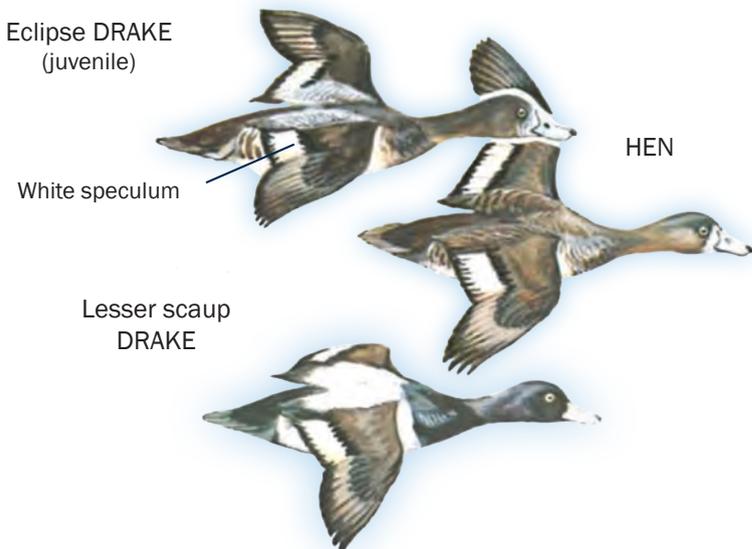
Redhead - This large diving duck has the shape of a mallard but is more uniformly brown or gray, with an unmarked gray wing speculum. Well-colored males have a chestnut red head. This bird frequents the open waters of large and small lakes, like the canvasback.



Canvasback - This large, mallard-sized diving duck has a characteristic wedge-shaped head and is usually found on the open waters of large and small lakes. Well-colored males have a red head.



Scaup - Also known as “bluebills,” these birds are medium-to-small diving ducks. Greater and lesser scaup appear nearly identical in the field; however, the white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the tip in the greater scaup, but only about halfway in the lesser.



Leg-Band Reporting

Every hunter can promote sound waterfowl management by promptly reporting all banded ducks and geese harvested, including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival, migration routes, and contribution to state harvest from different breeding grounds. To report bands, go online to reportband.gov. Please note that even if the band you recover is inscribed with a 1-800 telephone number you can only report it at reportband.gov.

Hunter Surveys

Some hunters are randomly selected each year to participate in state or federal harvest surveys, including collection of wings, tails, and other body parts. Accurate and complete reporting is essential for biologists to estimate the annual harvest and impact of hunting. Please do your part to help manage waterfowl by responding to surveys. The knowledge gained permits selection of annual regulations that maximize hunting opportunities while perpetuating healthy waterfowl populations for future hunters.

Commercial Hunting Guides on Public Land

All commercial hunting guides using state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are also required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit the DNR website at Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits or contact Casey Reitz at reitzc@michigan.gov or 517-284-6210 for more information. Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a federal special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any NF office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023; or Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Invasive plants and animals like phragmites, European frog-bit, and zebra mussels can cause significant harm to wildlife habitat, reduce hunting opportunities, and damage equipment.

Invasive species are often spread unintentionally. Microscopic organisms and aquatic vegetation readily attach to equipment, and without proper steps to remove them, are unknowingly transported from one lake, river, or wetland to another. To help prevent the spread of invasive species and protect waterfowl habitat, hunters should take the following precautions:

- CLEAN equipment (including waders, decoys, anchors, boats, and trailers) thoroughly between trips to keep from transporting undesirable plant fragments, seeds, or organisms from one site to another.
- DRAIN all water from boats, trailers, and equipment.
- DRY boats, gear, and equipment for 5 days (if possible) before transporting to another waterbody.
- Switch to anchor designs that prevent aquatic plants from becoming attached.
- Inspect all gear and equipment before and after use, including anchors, decoys and lines, blinds, waders, and clothing. Remove any plants, animals, or soils.
- Do not use invasive phragmites (common reed) as part of a blind because it is a prohibited species in Michigan and illegal to possess without a permit.
- Learn to identify common invasive species and report sightings to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at misiin.msu.edu.

Additional information about invasive species can be found at Michigan.gov/Invasives.

Dioxin Advisory Information

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and DNR determined that samples of wild game from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contained high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. Wild game tested include deer, turkey, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, wood duck and Canada goose. As a result, the MDHHS advises that hunters and their families follow these recommendations related to waterfowl:

- Do not eat the skin of Canada goose or wood duck harvested in or near the floodplain of the Tittabawassee River downstream of Midland and in or near the floodplain of the Saginaw River. The MDHHS recommends that you remove the skin of waterfowl before cooking and discard the liver and other internal organs.

Additional information regarding dioxin, dioxin-like compounds and wild-game advisories for the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River floodplains, including a map of the area covered by these advisories, is available on the MDHHS website at Michigan.gov/Dioxin.

General Precautions When Processing Waterfowl

- Harvest only waterfowl that act and look healthy.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling carcasses.
- Wear gloves while processing waterfowl.
- Remove and discard intestines soon after harvesting, and avoid direct contact with the intestinal contents.
- Wash hands, utensils, and work surfaces before and after handling any meat.
- Keep waterfowl cool (either with ice or refrigeration) below 45° F until processed, then refrigerate or freeze.
- Cook waterfowl to an internal temperature of 165° F.

Commercial Processor Registration

Commercial processors who accept wild game for processing and storage are now required to register with the DNR. Registration is free. To register, please visit Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits.

Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online. Customer Service Centers (CSC) are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga CSC

427 U.S. 41 North
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Bay City CSC

3580 State Park Drive
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Cadillac CSC

8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Crystal Falls Field Office

1420 W. U.S.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-875-6622

Detroit Metro CSC

1801 Atwater St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-396-6890

Escanaba CSC

6833 U.S. 2 41 and M-35
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-786-2351

Gaylord CSC

1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Lansing CSC

4166 Legacy Parkway
Lansing, MI 48911
517-284-4720

Marquette CSC

1990 U.S. 41 S.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Naubinway Field Office

P.O. Box 287
W11569 U.S. 2 East
Naubinway, MI 49762
906-477-6048

Newberry CSC

5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Norway Field Office

520 W. U.S. 2
Norway, MI 49870
906-563-9247

Plainwell CSC

621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon CSC

I-75 and M-18 S.
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Sault Ste. Marie CSC

P.O. Box 798
4131 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906-635-5281

Traverse City CSC

2122 South M-37
Traverse City, MI 49685
231-922-5280

Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/michigandnr

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife

Direct DNR website URLs:

Hunting: Michigan.gov/Hunting

Trapping/Fur Harvesting: Michigan.gov/Trapping

Pure Michigan Hunt: Michigan.gov/PureMichiganHunt

DNR Digests and Guides: Michigan.gov/DNRDigests

Mi-HUNT: Michigan.gov/MiHunt

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders

Invasive Species: Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies

Shooting Ranges: Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges

Emerging Diseases: Michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Division

525 W. Allegan St.

P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933

517-284-9453

Contact hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.