



2017-2018 SYLLABUS OF STATE AND FEDERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS IN VERMONT

Pursuant to V.S.A. Title 10, Part 4, Section 4082(b) as amended, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board has adopted the Migratory Bird Regulations set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which became a part of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Regulations, Title 10, App. Sec. 23.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING CONSERVATION STAMPS

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and over must carry a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and a valid Vermont Migratory Waterfowl Stamp. The federal stamp must be signed in ink across the face. State and federal stamps are not required to take woodcock and snipe. The Vermont Migratory Waterfowl Stamp is valid for the calendar year. Federal stamps are available at US Post Offices, federal refuges, or online at www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (H.I.P.) All migratory bird hunters must register with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.) in each state they purchase a hunting license, including Vermont. Call Toll Free 1-877-306-7091 (Monday–Friday, 7:45 am to 4:30 pm EST) or visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com to register and obtain your H.I.P. permit number.

RESTRICTIONS No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- 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.

- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of hunters.
- By 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. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

CLOSED SEASON No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

SHOOTING HOURS No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting as prescribed.

DAILY BAG LIMIT No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one’s car, hunting camp, home, etc.

POSSESSION LIMIT No person shall possess more migratory game birds taken in the United States than the possession limit or the aggregate possession limit, whichever applies.

WANTON WASTE No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) their automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

TAGGING 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, hunter’s address, the total number of birds involved, by species, and the dates such birds were killed.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

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

DRESSING No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

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.

IMPORTATION For information on the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the 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 in 20.63), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person. If you kill migratory game birds in Canada and return to the U.S. by boat, you must report to the nearest U.S. Customs or port of entry to report your entry and complete a "Declaration for the importation of Fish or Wildlife". You may import up to one possession limit of your own birds.

DUAL VIOLATION Violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

REFERENCE Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

CAUTION: More restrictive regulations apply at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. For information, contact Missisquoi Refuge phone 802-868-4781. Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Nulhegan Basin, follows state regulations and has no special regulations.

NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED No person shall take waterfowl or coots while possessing loose shot or shot shells loaded with shot other than nontoxic shot, and then of a shot size no larger than approved size T.

NONTOXIC SHOT DEFINITION Steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-iron-nickel, tungsten-iron-nickel-tin, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-iron-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, and copper-clad iron as approved by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See 50 CFR 20. Copper-plated lead shot is not nontoxic shot.

LEG BAND REPORTING Please report band recoveries online at WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV or by sending your information to: Bird Banding Lab, 12100 Beach Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708. *The call center supporting the 1-800-327-BAND toll-free phone number will be discontinued on July 2, 2017.*

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS - SEPTEMBER 23 & 24

On September 23 and 24, 2017, hunters 17 years of age and younger on those dates may hunt ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots within the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones according to the following provisions. Youths must be 15 years of age or younger to participate in the Connecticut River Zone.

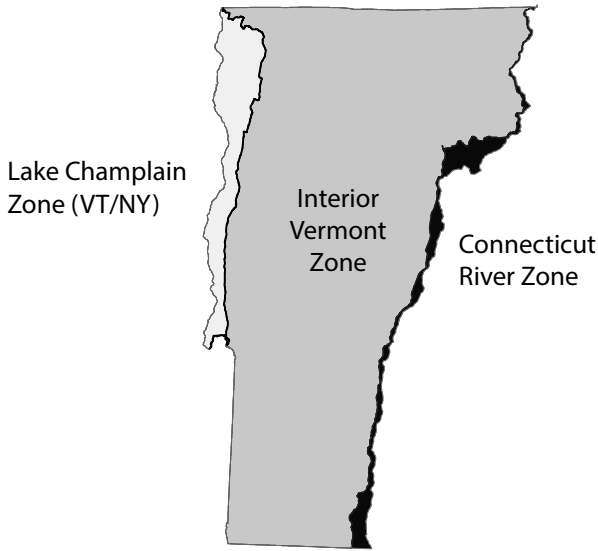
- Each youth hunter must be properly licensed to hunt in Vermont and must be accompanied by an adult, 18 years of age or older, who is also properly licensed to hunt in Vermont.
- Adults may not hunt waterfowl or carry a firearm while accompanying youth engaged in hunting waterfowl.
- Youths ages 16 and 17 are required to be in possession of state and federal duck stamps.
- Ducks, geese, mergansers and coots may be taken by youth hunters on September 23 and 24 in accordance with the bag limit numbers and species restrictions listed on the BAG LIMIT CHART located on the other side except the daily limit for Canada geese is 3.
- Shooting hours on September 23 shall be between 6:09 AM and 6:45 PM. Shooting hours on September 24 shall be between 6:10 AM and 6:43 PM.

BLINDS A person shall not place a waterfowl blind or cause the same to be placed on or in the waters of the state earlier than the first Saturday of September of any year, and then only if the person's name and address are permanently and legibly affixed thereto, by waterproof paint or rustproof tag. Placement of signs for purposes of claiming duck blind locations has no basis in law and is unenforceable. A person shall remove his or her waterfowl blind, together with its contents and any surrounding debris, located on or in any waters of the state except Lake Champlain on or before May 15 of the following year. A waterfowl blind located on or in Lake Champlain shall be removed on or before February 15 of the following year.

FALCONRY REGULATION A person possessing a valid falconry permit may take migratory game birds only during open seasons and within designated shooting times as prescribed herein. Daily bag limit shall be a maximum of three legal migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate, not to exceed restrictive daily bag limits for certain species as listed herein. Possession limit shall be equal to three times the daily limit.

TRANSPORTATION While being transported, migratory birds must have at least one fully feathered wing or head attached. See **IMPORTATION** section.

Vermont Waterfowl Hunting Zones



[View a larger map online at: www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

Lake Champlain Zone: The U.S. portion of Lake Champlain and that area north and west of the line extending from the New York border along U.S. 4 to VT 22A at Fair Haven; VT 22A to U.S. 7 at Vergennes; U.S. 7 to VT 78 at Swanton; VT 78 to VT 36; VT 36 to Maquam Bay on Lake Champlain; along and around the shoreline of Maquam Bay and Hog Island to VT 78 at the West Swanton Bridge; VT 78 to VT 2 in Alburgh; VT 2 to the Richelieu River in Alburgh; along the east shore of the Richelieu River to the Canadian border.

Interior Vermont Zone: The portion of Vermont east of the Lake Champlain Zone and west of a line extending from the Massachusetts border at Interstate 91; north along Interstate 91 to U.S. 2; east along U.S. 2 to VT 102; north along VT 102 to VT 253; north along VT 253 to the Canadian border.

Connecticut River Zone: The remaining portion of Vermont east of the Interior Zone. Migratory bird hunting seasons and rules for this zone are announced by the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department under their "Inland Zone" rules.

Connecticut River Reciprocal Agreement: I. A person holding a Vermont resident hunting license which allows the taking of migratory waterfowl and coots, may take migratory game birds, as provided in RSA 209:5, except woodcock and snipe, from the Connecticut River zone, provided the state of Vermont grants the same right to a person holding a New Hampshire resident hunting license and waterfowl stamp which allows the taking of migratory game birds in the Connecticut River Zone in Vermont pursuant to Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 10, sec. 4009. II. The Connecticut River Zone in New Hampshire shall include that portion of New Hampshire lying west of the line defined by New Hampshire Route 63 from the Massachusetts border north to Route 12; Route 12 north to Route 12-A; Route 12-A north to Route 10; Route 10 north to Route 135; Route 135 north to U.S. Route 3; U.S. Route 3 north to the intersection with the Connecticut River.

LEGAL SHOOTING HOURS TABLE

Legal shooting hours for the taking of waterfowl begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset daily. Correct shooting hours are shown below.

Daylight Savings Time			November		
September	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
1	5:44	7:26	1	6:58	5:39
2	5:45	7:24	2	6:59	5:38
3	5:46	7:22	3	7:01	5:37
4	5:47	7:20	4	7:02	5:35
5	5:48	7:18	Eastern Standard Time		
6	5:50	7:16	5	6:03	4:34
7	5:51	7:15	6	6:05	4:33
8	5:52	7:13	7	6:06	4:32
9	5:53	7:11	8	6:07	4:30
10	5:54	7:09	9	6:09	4:29
11	5:55	7:07	10	6:10	4:28
12	5:56	7:05	11	6:11	4:27
13	5:58	7:04	12	6:13	4:26
14	5:59	7:02	13	6:14	4:25
15	6:00	7:00	14	6:15	4:24
16	6:01	6:58	15	6:17	4:23
17	6:02	6:56	16	6:18	4:22
18	6:03	6:54	17	6:19	4:21
19	6:04	6:52	18	6:21	4:20
20	6:06	6:51	19	6:22	4:19
21	6:07	6:49	20	6:23	4:19
22	6:08	6:47	21	6:24	4:18
23	6:09	6:45	22	6:26	4:17
24	6:10	6:43	23	6:27	4:16
25	6:11	6:41	24	6:28	4:16
			25	6:29	4:15
			26	6:31	4:15
			27	6:32	4:14
			28	6:33	4:14
			29	6:34	4:13
			30	6:35	4:13
			December	A.M.	P.M.
			1	6:36	4:12
			2	6:37	4:12
			3	6:38	4:12
			4	6:40	4:12
			5	6:41	4:12
			6	6:42	4:11
			7	6:43	4:11
			8	6:43	4:11
			9	6:44	4:11
			10	6:45	4:11
			11	6:46	4:11
			12	6:47	4:11
			13	6:48	4:12
			14	6:49	4:12
			15	6:49	4:12
			16	6:50	4:12
			17	6:51	4:13
			18	6:51	4:13
			19	6:52	4:13
			20	6:52	4:14
			21	6:53	4:14
			22	6:53	4:15
			23	6:54	4:15
			24	6:54	4:16
			25	6:55	4:17
			26	6:55	4:17
			27	6:55	4:18
			28	6:55	4:19
			29	6:56	4:20
			30	6:56	4:21
			31	6:56	4:21

2017-2018 VERMONT MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASONS

(regulations in effect September 1, 2017 through April 27, 2018)

Species	Lake Champlain Zone	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
Ducks, Coots and Mergansers	Oct. 11 - Oct. 15 Nov. 7 - Dec. 31	Oct. 11 - Dec. 9	Oct. 3 - Nov. 5 Nov. 22 - Dec. 17
Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 11 - Nov. 29	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 11 - Nov. 29	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 3 - Nov. 5 Nov. 22 - Dec. 27
Snow Geese (includes blue geese) Conservation Order (CO)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2017 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2018 Mar. 11 - Apr. 27, 2018	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2017 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2018 Mar. 11 - Apr. 27, 2018	Oct. 3 - Dec. 27 Mar. 11 - Apr. 27, 2018 <i>applies only to land, not CT River waters</i>
Brant	Oct. 7 - Nov. 5	Oct. 7 - Nov. 5	Oct. 3 - Nov. 5 Nov. 22 - Dec. 17
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14	
Common Snipe	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend - September 23 & 24

BAG LIMIT CHART

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species any person may take (or possess in the field) during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all waterfowl species except snow geese.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks *	6	18
Mergansers **	5	15
Coot	15	45
Brant	2	6
Woodcock	3	9
Common Snipe	8	24

* The daily limit of 6 ducks may include no harlequin, and no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 2 black ducks, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, and a 4-bird combined total of scoters, eiders, or long-tailed ducks.

** The daily limit of 5 mergansers is in addition to the regular duck bag, and together may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Canada Geese		
September Season		
Lake Champlain Zone	8	24
Interior Vermont Zone	8	24
Connecticut River Zone	5	15
Oct.-Dec. Season		
Lake Champlain Zone	3	9
Interior Vermont Zone	3	9
Connecticut River Zone	3	9
Snow Geese		
Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2017	25	No limit
Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2018	25	No limit
Mar. 11 - Apr. 27, 2018 (CO)	15	No limit

White-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily bag and possession limits.