

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission**Proclamation 23-03****Migratory Gamebird Hunting Seasons and Regulations**

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee Code Annotated 70-4-107 and 70-5-108, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission hereby proclaims the following migratory bird hunting regulations effective June 4, 2023.

Season dates and limits are not considered final until the final federal frameworks are published annually.

Section I. Hunting Zones

For the purpose of sandhill crane hunting regulations, the State of Tennessee is hereby divided into two (2) hunting zones, as follows:

1. Southeast Crane Zone: That area of Tennessee south of Interstate 40 and east of State Highway 56.
2. Statewide: The entire state of Tennessee, including the Southeast Crane Zone.

Section II. Season Dates and Daily Bag Limits

Seasons close at the end of legal shooting hours on the day listed.

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of migratory gamebirds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed. Species bag limits for all migratory gamebirds are set at the maximum allowed by Federal regulation.

Species

1. Woodcock – Phase 1 - Open 23 consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in November. Phase 2 – Open January 10 - January 31. The daily bag limit is 3 birds/day.
2. Snipe – November 14 through February 28 with a daily bag limit of 8 birds/day.
3. Crow – Phase 1 – June 11 – July 12 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday only); Phase 2 – September 1 – September 5 (no day restriction); Phase 3 – Second Friday in September– December 20 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only); Phase 4 January 1 – February 28 (no day restriction). There is no daily bag limit for crow.
4. Wood duck and Teal – Open five consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in September with a daily bag limit of 6 birds/day, no more than 2 of which may be wood ducks
5. Teal – Open 4 consecutive days beginning the day after the close of the wood duck and teal season with a daily bag limit of 6 birds/day.
6. Moorhens, Gallinules, Virginia Rail, and Sora Rail - September 1 – November 9. Moorhens and gallinules have an aggregate daily bag of 15 birds/day and Virginia and Sora rails have an aggregate daily bag limit of 25 birds/day.

7. Dove – Phase 1: September 1 – September 28; Phase 2: 23 consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in October; Phase 3: December 8 – January 15. The daily bag limit of doves is 15 birds/day. There is no limit on Eurasian collared doves; however, any doves not readily identifiable as Eurasian collared doves will be considered mourning doves and count towards the mourning dove daily bag limit.
8. Ducks, Mergansers, Coots (Statewide) – Phase 1 - November 25 – November 26; Phase 2 – December 5 – January 31. The daily bag limit of ducks is 6 birds/day which may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be a female), 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, and 1 mottled duck. The daily bag limit for scaup is 1 scaup on November 25, November 26, and December 5 through December 17 then 2 scaup from December 18 through January 31. The daily bag limit of merganser is 5 birds/day, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The daily bag limit of coots is 15 birds/day.
9. Youth Waterfowl - Open the first two Saturdays of February only, statewide. Only youth hunters from 6-16 years of age may harvest coots, gallinules, moorhens, ducks, mergansers, and geese during the Youth Waterfowl hunt days. Non-hunting adults at least 21 years of age shall accompany the youth hunter(s) into the field during the youth waterfowl season and must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult however adults and other persons accompanying youths shall not hunt during these youth waterfowl hunts. Adults not accompanied by youths 6-16 may still harvest geese during those dates.
10. Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days - Open statewide the first two Sundays of February only. Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate and harvest coots, gallinules, moorhens, ducks, mergansers, and geese. During the Veterans and Active Military Personnel waterfowl season, non-veteran or nonactive-duty personnel may be present; however, only veterans or active military persons may hunt. When other migratory gamebird seasons are open during the Veterans and Active Military Personnel waterfowl season, any properly licensed youth or adult not accompanied by veterans or active military may harvest legal game.
11. White-fronted Geese (Statewide) – Phase 1 – November 25 – November 26; Phase 2 – December 5– February 11. The daily bag limit of white-fronted geese is 3 birds/day.
12. Light Geese (Blue, Snow, and Ross's Geese), Canada Goose, and Brant (Statewide) - Phase 1 – Opens September 1 and closes one (1) day after the third Saturday in September with a daily bag limit of five (5) Canada geese, one (1) brant, and twenty (20) light geese. Phase 2 open for 11 consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in October. Phase 3 – November 25 - 26; Phase 4 – December 5 – February 11. The daily bag limit is three (3) Canada geese, one (1) brant, and twenty (20) light geese per day in Phase 2, Phase 3, and Phase 4.
13. Light Goose Conservation Season – February 12 – March 31. A Light Goose Conservation Season Permit and valid hunting license (from any state) are required for all hunters 16 years of age or older to participate in this season. The following provisions are allowed during the Light Goose Conservation Season hunt days only: unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, shooting 30 min before official sunrise, shooting until 30 min after official sunset, and no daily bag or possession limit.
14. Sandhill Crane (Southeast Crane Zone) – December 2 – January 30, except the season is closed January 12-14. Southeast Crane Zone tags are valid South of Interstate 40 and east of State Highway 56 only. Each harvested crane must be accompanied by a completed kill tag (each tag allows harvest of 1 crane) and be checked in by the end of the calendar day of harvest by any Agency approved check-in method. The daily bag, season bag, and possession limit for sandhill cranes is based on the number of tags awarded to an individual.

15. Sandhill Crane (Statewide) – December 2 – January 30. Statewide tags are valid statewide, including the Southeast Crane Zone, except during the three-day closure in that zone. The statewide season will remain open during the Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival; however, hunting is not allowed in the Southeast Crane Zone during that zone closure. Each harvested crane must be accompanied by a completed kill tag (each tag allows harvest of 1 crane) and be checked in by the end of the calendar day of harvest by any Agency approved check-in method. The daily bag, season bag, and possession limit for sandhill cranes is based on the number of tags awarded to an individual.

Section III. Hunting with Raptors Season Dates and Bag Limits

1. Daily bag limits for all permitted migratory game birds, except crow, must not exceed three (3) birds, singly, or in the aggregate when hunting with raptors.
2. Crow may be hunted only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during Phase 1 and Phase 2. There is no day of week restrictions during Phase 3.
3. Canada geese, brant, light geese (Snow, Blue, and Ross's), and white-fronted geese may be taken during season dates established in Section II.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Season Opens</u>	<u>Season Closes</u>	<u>Daily Bag Limit</u>
Crow – Phase 1	Jun. 11	Jul. 12	No Limit
Phase 2	Sep. 1	Dec. 20	No Limit
Phase 3	Jan. 1	Feb. 28	No Limit
Virginia and Sora Rail	Sep. 1	Dec. 14	3
Moorhen and Gallinule	Sep. 1	Dec. 12	3
Dove – Phase 1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	3
Dove – Phase 2	23 consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in October		3
Dove – Phase 3	Dec. 8	Jan. 30	
Wood Duck and Teal	Open five consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in September		3
Teal	Open 4 consecutive days beginning the day after the close of the wood duck and teal season		3
Ducks, Mergansers, Coots	Nov. 25	February 28	3

<u>Species</u>	<u>Season Opens</u>	<u>Season Closes</u>	<u>Daily Bag Limit</u>
Snipe	Nov. 14	Feb. 28	3
Woodcock	Nov. 1	Feb. 15	3

Section IV. No Fault Regulation for Hunting with Raptors

A falconry permittee whose hunting raptor accidentally kills wildlife out of season, or the wrong species or sex, shall leave the dead wildlife where it lies; except that the raptor may feed upon the wildlife prior to leaving the site of the kill.

Section V. Hunting Hours

For all migratory gamebird species hunting hours are the same as allowed in federal frameworks; 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset daily; except for opening day of the first phase of the dove season when shooting hours will begin at 12:00 noon; except for crows when shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset; and except for sandhill cranes when shooting hours are from sunrise until 3:00pm local time.

Section VI. Possession Limits

The possession limit for all migratory gamebirds is three (3) times the daily bag limit, except on opening day and the second day of the season when the possession limit is one (1) and two (2) times the daily bag limit, respectively. There is no possession limit for Snow, Blue and Ross's Geese except on opening day and the second day of the season when the possession limit is one (1) and two (2) times the daily bag limit, respectively. There is no daily bag or possession limit during the Light Goose Conservation Season.

Section VII. Amendment to Prior Proclamation

This proclamation repeals Proclamation No. 22-01 dated February 18, 2022.

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

Thomas Woods

Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission on the 21st day of April, 2023.

[Signature]
Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 5 day of May, 2023.



Elizabeth Uldrich
Notary Public

My commission expires September 7, 2026

Proclamation No. 23-03 received and recorded this 5th day of May, 2023; to be effective the 4th day of June, 2023.

Tre Hargett
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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